

# **CUIL**

## **A HISTORY AND A SURVEY**

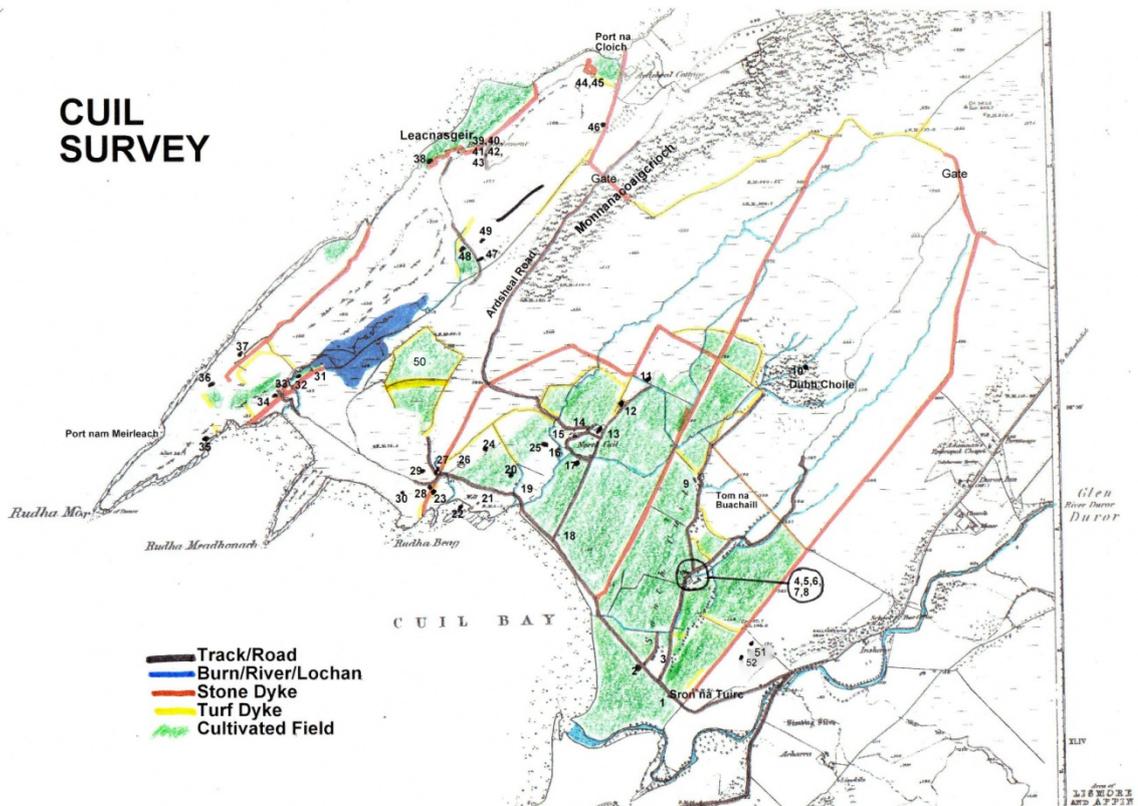


**Neill Malcolm**  
2012



Pont's Map: circa 1595

## CUIL SURVEY



### PLACES MARKED ON SURVEY

- |    |                  |     |                            |
|----|------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| 1. | A Vanished House | 27. | Rudha Beag: North Building |
| 2. | A Cairn          | 28. | Rudha Beag: South Building |

3.	1 South Cuil	29.	A Wishing Stone
4.	2 South Cuil	30.	A Stony Pit
5.	A mystery Solved	31.	Bothy & Dam at Lochan
6.	Remains of Building: 2 South Cuil	32.	Rudha Mor: Well
7.	Barn: 3 South Cuil	33.	Rudha Mor: North Building
8.	3 South Cuil	34.	Rudha Mor: South Building
9.	4 South Cuil	35.	Rudha Mor: Lime Kiln
10.	An Illicit Still	36.	Rudha Mor: Corn Drying Kiln
11.	House Platform: North Cuil	37.	Rudha Mor: Possible Enclosure
12.	House Platforms & Enclosure: North Cuil	38.	Leacnasgeir: Corn Drying Kiln
13.	Stackyard, Greenfield Farm: North Cuil	39.	Leacnasgeir: Byre Dwelling
14.	Barn, Greenfield Farm: North Cuil	40.	Leacnasgeir: Creel House
15.	Byre Dwelling: North Cuil	41.	Leacnasgeir: Shed
16.	Greenfield Farmhouse: North Cuil	42.	Leacnasgeir: Steading
17.	Greenfield: Enclosure & Small Building	43.	Leacnasgeir: Farmhouse
18.	Salmon Fishery: North Cuil	44.	Port na Cloich: West Building
19.	House at Mouth of North Cuil Burn	45.	Port na Cloich: East Building
20.	Balnagowan House: Corn Drying Kiln	46.	Dolomite Quarry
21.	Fisherman's Bothy	47.	Lower Corn Drying Kiln by Track
22.	Possible Fish Trap	48.	Upper Corn Drying Kiln by Track
23.	Boathouse	49.	Possible Enclosure by Track
24.	Red Herrings	50.	Field System
25.	A Split Stone	51.	Circular Depression: Inshaig Hill
26.	Enclosure North of Rudha Beag	52.	Rectangular Depression: Inshaig Hill

## INTRODUCTION

Several years ago I came across a pamphlet produced by the Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society giving the census index for Duror in 1841. The population of Cuil was given as 118 (actually 119). I was born and brought up in Cuil and knew that there were several ruins in the area and presumed that these, along with existing houses, housed the population. I gave it little thought but in 2007 I read in the Historic Scotland magazine about Scotland's Rural Past. This sounded interesting; I contacted them and went on a field training course in Wester Ross. Following this I decided that I could carry out a survey on Cuil and thought that it would be a simple matter, merely measuring up about a dozen ruins. But one thing led to another and by the time I had looked at all the available census reports (1841-1901), valuation rolls, old maps, photographs, historical documents etc. I had accumulated a lot of information. By this time I had not only surveyed the original dozen sites but had realised that there were a lot more! Walking the hill, looking at evidence of rig and furrow cultivation and dykes added to my knowledge of the area. Eventually I was able to put together the following report on my survey.

This survey would not have been possible without the help of many people. The archivists and archives of the Appin Historical Society, Argyll and Bute District and Lochaber District supplied a lot of information. My brother, Kim, who owns Cuil and farmed it for many years, and his son, James, who farms it now, added their knowledge including several sites I was not originally aware of. James also helped with clearing sites and carrying equipment across the hill in his quad. Ronnie Laing introduced me to the photographs of Erskine Beveridge and M.E.M. Donaldson and also supplied me with lots of documents which mentioned Cuil. Kerr Jamieson also supplied me with maps and passed on information about what he had noticed when walking across the hill. Chris Robinson of the Lochaber Local History Society lent me copies of William Morrison's *Map of the Forfeited Estate of Ardsheal* and the accompanying text. Maurice Mackenzie lent me his copy of *The Trial of James Stewart of Aucharn*. Dr. Paula Martin gave me useful information about lime kilns and fish traps. Robert Hay taught me a lot about historical agricultural practices and members of the Leacnasgeir Syndicate gave me much information about what they had done at the Back Settlement.

Thanks also go to Rosemary Stroyan for allowing me to take a close look at 4 South Cuil, to Helen Malcolm for 3 South Cuil and to Paul and Lesley Nicholl for Greenfield and John and Beth Connolly for allowing me to putter around the croft at 2 South Cuil. Jan Hamilton found several interesting holes in the ground for me to look at. Dr. Iain McNicol gave me information about Dr. Donald Livingston and Sandy McLachlan gave me much information about fishing. Malcolm Livingstone gave me a list of those baptised according to the old parish register between 1768 and 1819.

Friends and neighbours including my sister-in-law, Elspeth, Jeannie McLeod and Ian and

Marion Moir helped clear the bracken and brambles from several of the sites. Without the training, support and encouragement of Dr. Tertia Barnett and her team at SRP I might have found the enterprise too daunting. My son, Ian helped by proof reading the report and correcting typographical and grammatical errors. Last, but not least, my wife, Margaret, put up with my obsession about the project and helped immensely doing such things as holding the other end of the measuring tape in spite of the midges, helping clearing sites and generally being supportive.

Errors of commission or omission are my responsibility!

### HISTORY

Cuil is situated in the south-west part of the Ardsheal peninsula in the district of Duror which is in the mainland part of the parish of Lismore and Appin in the county of Argyll. Due to boundary changes in the 1970s it is now part of the Lochaber District in the Highland Region rather than Argyll and Bute. Gaelic dictionaries give the meaning of Cuil as recess, corner, niche, nook or, more poetically, a secluded place which seems more appropriate.

The history of Cuil began seven hundred million years ago when layers of mud were laid down in an ocean and by four hundred million years ago they had been compressed to form slate. Sixty to fifty million years ago when there were active volcanoes on Mull and Ardnamurchan the slate was lifted, turned and twisted. Magma broke through the mantle to form dykes and pipes. Twelve thousand years ago the ice age ended and Cuil as it now largely is started to appear through the receding glacier to reveal an area rich in geological formations. Since then the sea level has fallen leaving raised beaches in Cuil Bay and at the Back Settlement.

When humans first started to settle in the area is not known but just to the east of Cuil there is a standing stone in a field between Achara and the River Duror. It has been there for about five thousand years and it seems certain that people from Cuil would have been involved in its erection and have known its significance. But in Cuil there is no evidence of prehistory, no monoliths, no rock carvings, no hut circles. A curtain was drawn over Cuil for the next four and a half millennia with a very small window towards the end of the fifteenth century. In one of the stories in the Dewar Manuscripts it is mentioned that the Lord of the Isles had a hospitality house in Cuil. There were others nearby at Dalness in Glen Etive and Glasdrum on the north shore of Loch Creran. The tenant of the hospitality house paid no rent but had to entertain the Lord of the Isles and his entourage from time to time. On one occasion the tenant who was called MacTavish was informed that he would have to prepare a feast on a certain day. As luck would have it the River Etive was in spate and unfordable so the Lord of the Isles was delayed. Dugald Maclain Stewart (1<sup>st</sup> of Appin) told MacTavish (who was described as "but simple") that the visit would not take place and that he and his friends and neighbours could eat the feast that had been prepared. So when the Lord of the Isles turned up a few days later there was nothing for him to eat. Stewart had foreseen this and had prepared a feast between Kentallen Bay and Lettermore. As a reward he was given Cuil. MacDonald (Lord of the Isles) said:-

O! Big gluttonous MacTavish  
Whose ways are filthy;  
Though I have taken from you Cuil  
Dear, do not harm yourself.

Stewart had brought with him two people, one called Buchanan from Dumbarton and the other Colquhoun (or MacCombie) from Loch Lomondside. A family of Buchanans were still in Cuil according to the 1851 census and Colquhouns to the 1901 one. Just where the hospitality house was is not known.

It isn't until the end of the sixteenth century that we have anything else written about Cuil. On one of Timothy Pont's maps "Choul" is shown with Rudha Mor (not named) looking like a weird proboscis. There are salmon heading for the mouths of the River Duror and the Salachan burn. In the text Cuil is not mentioned but he does say "Salmond ar in thois smal rivers." Can we assume that salmon fishing was already established in the area? Also on this map are the names of places still found today such as Lagnaha, Achindarroch and Ardsheal. Keil is marked as Kilcholkill. The River Duror is named but the Salachan Burn is called Auo Quhoulyr (Abhainn Chultie). Blaeu's map of 1654 marks "Durrou" but not Cuil and the Ardsheal peninsula is not apparent. Duror is absent from Moll's map of 1714. We see on Roy's map of 1747 that there is a collection of houses in the region of South Cuil and

arable land between the North and South Cuil burns. Cuil itself is not mentioned but "Dourar," "Ardsheal," "Acher," "Kil-columb-Kill" and the Water of Coultie are. Murdoch Mackenzie's marine chart of 1775 shows "Cule" and "Ardshiel" with three houses in the region of South Cuil and one in North Cuil. These are representational and do not indicate the exact location of buildings. George Langland's *The Map of Argyllshire* (1801) shows "Cowls" with four buildings at North Cuil and three at South Cuil. Also shown are two buildings at the Back Settlement, the first mention of this place apart from a gravestone at the ruined late medieval church at Keil where "lies the corps (sic) of Dougald Stewart from Lechnasceire." Lechnasgeir is the Gaelic name of the place. It is not until we get to E.J. Bedford's marine charts of 1861 and 1867 that we get any accurate positioning of houses. The top of the first map runs just below North Cuil so that we have only named Rudha Mor, "Cul" Bay, S. "Cul" Farm and, near where the road into Cuil turns northward Salmon Fishery. The 1867 chart shows these places (Salmon Fishery is omitted) plus Rudha Mor na Cuil F(arm), N. Cuil, S. Cuil F(arm). With the first edition of the Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1871) we are now shown accurately the position and number of houses although one at the base of Rudha Beag and the Limekiln on Rudha Mor are missed. From census reports it seems that the Back Settlement originally included both Lechnasgeir and Port na Cloich but the recordings can be somewhat ambiguous.

Cuil is not mentioned in the First Statistical Account (1791) but in the second (1841) the author, Rev. Gregor McGregor, writes "the Bay of Cuil, about five miles north of the Sound of Shuna, is of a beautiful semicircular form, the cord being about a mile in length. It has a fine sandy beach, and is often frequented by large shoals of herring, whose visits to that quarter are of the greatest benefit to the inhabitants along the shore." Nowadays herring are a rarity. After the Battle of Inverlochy in 1645 Daniel Colquhoun was granted lands in Duror but it seems that most of the land remained in the hands of the Appin Stewarts until 1766 when the whole of the Appin Estate (which included most of the land between Lochs Creran and Leven) was sold to Hugh Seton of Touch (near Stirling) for £13,900. He was an improving landlord and caused the River Duror to be straightened and deepened in three places to reduce flooding, for a much needed bridge to be built over the Duror between Inshaig and Achara and for a stone dyke to be built between Cuil and Ardsheal. This dyke is still standing and topped by a late nineteenth century iron post and wire fence. Its north-west end is built from dolomite from a nearby quarry. Unfortunately Seton's activities in draining the Carse of Stirling led to his financial ruin and the Appin estates were sold in 1783 to the Marquess of Tweeddale. M.E.M. Donaldson in her *"Wanderings in the Western Highlands and Islands"* says that the Marquess of Tweeddale bought the estates as a speculation for £41,000 and then sold them on at an excellent profit to "another alien." She does not name this person but says, in discussing Cuil and the Back Settlement, that this alien did not only demand "the current rent to be paid but also the payment of all arrears, and, since the crofters were utterly unable to do this, they had to leave their homes not only here in the Back Settlement but round about Cuil also." This alien was Robert Downie who had made a fortune in Bengal and the price he paid was £59,000. On his death in 1841 and the death of his only son two years later the Appin estate was divided into three parts and his unmarried daughters drew lots. Marion Agatha drew Duror which comprised Keil, Cuil and possibly other parts of Duror nearby. She married James Macalpine-Leny and it remained in this family's hands until May 1932 when Cuil (but not the rest) was bought by Harold Malcolm whose son, Kim, is now the owner.

Prior to the census in 1841 the population of Cuil is not known but some names of occupants can be obtained from several sources. Also James Hunter in his book *Culloden and the Last Clansman* states that in the summer of 1746 eleven men from Cuil stubbornly disobeyed instructions to surrender their weaponry. One source names nine persons as being recruited to join the Appin Regiment in the 1745 rebellion but the book *No Quarter Given*, being the muster roll of the Jacobite Army, only gives five, four of whom were in the previous list. *The Trial of James Stewart in Aucharn in Duror of Appin* published in Edinburgh in 1753, a year after the Appin Murder, is an early example of spin doctoring! Here ten people are named but it is not certain if any of their descendants were here in 1841. The Episcopalian Robert Forbes, Bishop of Moray and Caithness, confirmed eighteen people from Cuil in July 1770 at Ballachulish. Three people from North Cuil and one from South Cuil had to pay two shillings each as tax on their horses in 1797. Gravestones at the ruined church of St. Columba at Keil

and at the cemetery at Annat in Strathappin give several names. The Valuation Rolls give us some idea of the tenants and landowners. But it is in 1841, the time of the first reliable census, that numbers become available. At that time it was 119 but unfortunately it does not define which part of Cuil a person lived in but does give occupations. However, the valuation of Downie's estate when he died in 1841 does tell us where eleven of the twenty-five heads of family lived. From then there was a decline with a levelling off between 1861 and 1881 until in 1901 (the date of the last available census) when the population had fallen to 41. The number of households fell from twenty-five in 1841 to eight in 1901. In 1935 there were four dwelling houses on South Cuil and one on North Cuil so the population had probably fallen further by then. Now there are fourteen on South Cuil and nine on North but, due to the diminished size of families the population is now only about fifty.

Looking at the census records one can see that some families were here for several decades but others were here one decade and gone the next. There were McLeans in Cuil in 1841 and one of their descendants was still here within living memory having died in about 1948. He was the only survivor from the previous century here after the Second World War. Where did they all go? Some seem to have died out such as the McColls from Port na Cloich who were here in 1841 but gone half a century later. Some must have emigrated and others were drawn to the urban centres of the Central Belt. Grandchildren born there are recorded in some of the later censuses. Some will have gone to work at the slate quarries in Ballachulish. Of the 119 people here in 1841 all but about 35 did not appear in the 1851 census. Miss Donaldson's alien proprietor's rent policies were showing their effect but the overall population had only fallen by seventeen. Many incomers had arrived from elsewhere in Duror or from Appin.

Over the centuries history has been quiet in Cuil, but dramas in the outside world have occasionally given the area a supporting role. Two months before the battle of Culloden on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1746 His Majesty's Sloop *Serpent* off Duror put ashore a boat and one of its crew was threatened by a highlander with a gun. Capt. Agnew wrote to Ludovic Cameron complaining about this as he presumed that Cameron lived at Cuil. It is more likely that Cameron lived at Caol and that Agnew did not realise the difference between Cuil and Caol which are pronounced alike. During his flight to France Charles Stewart of Ardsheal narrowly escaped capture and no doubt Cuil was searched by Hanoverian troops. One resident, Buchanan, nicknamed "The Duke," who had been at Culloden and was the swiftest man in the Prince's Army ran all the way to Glen Stockdale to warn Ardsheal and others that they had been betrayed and that a contingent of troops was on its way to arrest them. Later Buchanan complained that he had done much to help and was not going to put himself at risk by helping any more but did get another man and a boat to take Ardsheal to Cuilchenna Point in Lochaber.

There is a report that on the evening of Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 1786 John Dow MacColl from Cuil was aboard a boat between Balnagowan and Shuna when it was pursued by a small boat in which were Revenue Officers who suspected them of smuggling. In the ensuing skirmish another member of the boat was shot in the arm. The occupants of the boat were taken to court in Oban. No smuggled goods appear to have been found and what happened to the prisoners is not known except that Alexander Stewart of Invernahyle and James Stewart of Fasnacloich went bail for them at £200.

In 1851 Dr. Donald Livingston, whose father had been a road contractor and tenant in Cuil and who also had resided in North Cuil, wrote that conditions for the crofters and cottars was miserable, that they were in a state of or verging on bankruptcy due to the failure of the potato and the depression of the price of black cattle. Those store farmers who held sheep alone were doing reasonably well however. Few if any of the heritors resided in the area. He also commented that the state of the roads was very good. His practice extended over thirty miles and he wrote about the difficulties of crossing arms of the sea and that he had to walk rather than ride when crossing the hills to neighbouring glens. Only three out of ten could pay for his services and he said that he would be much better off staying at home if it were not for the suffering of humanity.

In October 1901 Julia McPherson who lived in South Cuil was the subject of a police report. She was found dead and the police was called from Ballachulish. When he arrived he said that the doctor should be sent for. Dr. McKay, whose favoured means of transport was a bicycle, came from Port Appin and decided that she had died natural causes.

Before the First World War boats used to come from the north of Ireland to collect seed potatoes. Greenfield may have got its name from the fact that surplus herring was used as fertiliser which increased the lushness of the grass. This habit continued into the twentieth century.

In October 1943 during the Second World War the American forces held a mock invasion in preparation for the D-Day landings. On stepping ashore many of the troops stopped to light cigarettes. My father talked to their commanding officer and told him that if they did that on the day they would be mown down. They were mown down on Utah and Omaha beaches but not because they lit cigarettes. My brother is reputed to have approached some of the troops and asked if they were gangsters. So much for our wartime understanding of America! However there must have been some light fingered people amongst them because two chickens that had been killed for my sixth birthday party and were hanging in an outside meat safe vanished over night. In the last dozen years the one remaining crofter lost six hens to a contingent of British Armed Forces!

Motor launches from the naval base at Fort William used to anchor in Cuil Bay on a weekly basis. One lost its anchor and chain which are still probably at the bottom of the bay. Motor Torpedo Boats would cruise rapidly in and near the Bay from time to time.

In 1951, as part of the Festival of Britain, the West Highland Festival was held in Cuil Bay from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July. Two plays were produced, *The Lost Cause* by Compton Mackenzie and *Murder in Lettermore* by Angus MacVicar. These were held in the field between Greenfield Farm and the Fisherman's Bothy. Apart from these plays there was an Exhibition of Music and Dancing. A pipe tune *Cuil Bay* was composed by Pipe-Major Ross of Edinburgh Castle for the occasion. Funds arising from this Festival went towards building the new Kentallen and Duror Community centre.

Agriculture has always been the main activity in Cuil. Many families were headed by a person designated as farmer, crofter, agricultural labourer or cottar. There were a few designated as quarrier but it usually cannot be known whether they worked at the slate quarries at Ballachulish, the granite quarry at Kentallen or the china clay quarry at Lagnaha. One man is said to have walked from Rudha Beag to Ballachulish, a distance of about nine miles each way.

Traces of rig and furrow (lazy beds) can be seen in most areas even those that had been ploughed by horse or tractor drawn plough for decades but it may need the right light at the right time of day and the right season to see these effects. Some areas are so steep that they must have been cultivated manually by using a cas chrom rather than a plough. The census reports show that there were farms at Leacnasgeir and South Cuil and two at North Cuil in 1851. There were also crofts at Port na Cloich, Rudha Mor and North Cuil and that several families were headed by cottars or agricultural labourers. In the earlier reports there were also herdsmen and dairymaids. In 1851 there were six labourers employed by South Cuil farm and four by Leacnasgeir. Over the years there were changes. South Cuil was divided into four holdings by 1861 and North Cuil reduced to two by 1871. Leacnasgeir was lived in by an agricultural labourer in 1861 and thereafter by shepherds, one of whom was also a foxhunter, or cottars. Rudha Mor vanishes from the census lists after 1881 and Port na Cloich after 1891. Leacnasgeir became vacant after 1908. By 1935 there was one farm covering North Cuil, Rudha Mor and the Back Settlement (Leacnasgeir and Port na Cloich) and three smallholdings and a croft on South Cuil. During the 1950s the tenants of South Cuil retired or died and their holdings were incorporated into larger units so that by the end of the decade there was a farm at Greenfield (North Cuil) and South Cuil was farmed by the tenant of Achara Farm. By the late 1980s the whole of Cuil became one farm with the exception of the croft at 2 South Cuil. Oats, potatoes and turnips were the main crops along with hay although on one occasion the tenant at 1 South Cuil planted carrots and the whole crop was sold to Barr's Store in Ballachulish. Until after the Second World War horses were used for ploughing, harrowing and reaping but in the late 1940s tractors were introduced. Livestock consisted of sheep and cattle, both beef and dairy. There was a stone fank at Greenfield which is no longer visible. In 1851 there were salmon fishers living at South Cuil. The foreman was also in the 1841 census but in 1861 was living at North Cuil. As mentioned above salmon fishing had probably been carried on here for centuries. People used to come to Cuil to learn how to manage the nets. There were nets near the mouth of the North Cuil burn, at the mouth of the Salachan burn and at the tips of Rudha Mor and Rudha

Meadhonach. All but the Salachan one are still in use but during a curtailed season to help with conservation of wild salmon. How they managed to dispose of their catches before the advent of the train in 1903 is uncertain but they were probably taken by boat to Oban or Fort William. The daily catch could be taken to the Duror station for the afternoon train and be in Billingsgate Market in London the next morning. Even when the local service had come to an end in 1966 the fisherman would drive to Bridge of Orchy station to send off his fish. Fortunately for the present fisherman he makes a decent living from catching prawns. His predecessors all had traditional clinker built boats with thole pins and square bladed oars and would row from net to net; the present fisherman has an aluminium boat with a powerful outboard motor -- much more practical seeing the wide distribution of his creels.

The first maps to show the location of houses with any degree of accuracy are two maritime charts surveyed by Capt. E.J. Bedford and published in 1861 and 1867. Of larger scale and showing more detail is the first edition of the Ordnance Survey. The survey was carried out in 1871 and published in 1877. This shows not only the location of each building but whether it was roofed or not. However it does not indicate the use of any building. Looking at this and the second edition of 1897 one can see which houses had become roofless and that there were considerable changes in the sizes and configuration of houses in South Cuil. It is interesting to note that both maps (and the maritime charts) failed to show the presence of one building at the base of Rudha Beag and the lime kiln on Rudha Mor. Combining the information from the maps with that from the censuses one can start to make headway with who lived where.

## **POPULATION**

Prior to the 1841 census we only have lists of some of the people who lived in Cuil during the previous century and before that we have just one name. This was someone called MacTavish who was the tenant of a hospitality house belonging to the Lord of the Isles at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Eleven men from Cuil and two from the "Milne of Cuil" resisted government attempts to get them to give up their arms after the Battle of Culloden. The milne (mill) was probably situated near the present day Old Mill. In Duror no obvious mill being identified in North or South Cuil. Other lists include those who might have been called as witnesses at the trial of James Stewart in relation to the Appin Murder and those who were confirmed by the Episcopalian bishop, Robert Forbes, at Ballachulish in July 1770. In 1797 four people from Cuil each had to pay two shillings as a tax on their horses. A few names can be gathered from gravestones in the graveyards at Keil and Annat, Strathappin. More names can be found in the old parish register where those baptised are listed.

M.E.M. Donaldson in her book *“Wanderings in the West Highlands and Islands”* says that when the Marquess of Tweeddale sold the Appin Estates to “another alien” the new proprietor insisted on all rents and arrears being paid which resulted in many people leaving Cuil which suggests that the population was higher at the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

From 1841 censuses were taken every ten years (with the exception of 1941). The last available census is the one for 1911. The enumerators, often schoolmasters, were supplied with indelible ink by the government but had to buy it. To make it go further the ink was often diluted which diminished its indelibility. In some places all that is left are blank sheets of paper but the reports for Cuil did not fare so badly although the 1841 and 1871 records are difficult to decipher. Fortunately the Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society published a summary of the 1841 census. Looking at the census reports in the Lochaber Archives it has been possible to draw up lists of the population. In some cases I have not been able to decipher what has been written and have had to make a guess or leave a blank.

With the exception of 1841 the censuses show in which part of Cuil a person lived. In 1841 everyone is described as living in Cuil but the inventory of Robert Downie’s estate after his death in that year lets us know where eleven families lived (see 1841 census). It also shows that there were twenty-five families living in Cuil but adds that there were six houses uninhabited. The enumerator adds that “about thirty men and twenty women have left this locality for the south (Glasgow) in search of employment since the beginning of April, but none have emigrated to the colonies for years past from this Quoad Sacra Parish.” That is, from Duror as a whole. The census was taken on 6<sup>th</sup> June of that year. It is only possible to determine the position of about two dozen of these houses; presumably several of the houses were of an ephemeral nature and have disappeared completely.

The census records show a decline in population from 119 (25 households) in 1841 to 111 in 1851 (21 households) to 75 in 1861 (15 households) to 56 in 1871 (11 households) to 60 in 1881 (13 households) to 57 in 1891 (9 households) to 41 in 1901 (8 households) and to 24 (6 households) in 1911. One hundred years ago nearly everyone was able to speak both Gaelic and English. Now there is one Gaelic speaker.

By 1935 there were five households plus the seasonally occupied fisherman’s bothy. Now there are 23 houses and the bothy in Cuil and a population of about 50.

Of the families present in 1841 only one was present a hundred years later. This was a descendant of Allan McLean who was born in Duror (1851 and 1861 censuses) or Morvern (1871) in about 1790. His son Malcolm was born in Duror about 1830 and his son Allan was born in South Cuil in 1863. He died a few years after the end of the Second World War. Paul McColl was here in 1841 although born in Glenelg parish. He leaves the census reports after 1881. Two people both called Donald McPherson, along with their wives Julia and Catherine were in the 1851 and 1901 censuses but many people were here one census and gone the next. In general, there was a quick turn over of people living here. This was probably the result of the insecurity of tenure that had prevailed before the Napier Report and subsequent crofting reforms.

Starting in the 1881 census children and grandchildren start appearing who were born in the greater Glasgow region. A very few people were born outside the Highland area in Scotland or in places such as England, Ireland and Jamaica.

There are no descendants of anyone living here a hundred years ago. The longest established resident came here in 1935 (Kim Malcolm) and there is only one person who was actually born in Cuil (me).

Nowadays many of the persons living in Cuil are retired or semi-retired but some are gainfully employed at farming, building restoration, market gardening and as an estate agent. There is one B&B and two holiday homes.





Dyke between Cuil and Ardsheal. Built in 1771.



Converging turf dykes, North Cuil.

The march dyke between Cuil and Ardsheal starts at Port na Cloich and runs inland in a south-westerly direction for 450 metres before turning left at 90 degrees to run up to the gate through which the old road, now a muddy track, to Ardsheal runs. After the gate the dyke

runs steeply uphill through the Ardsheal wood. At the top of the wood it continues as "a broken feal dyke" according to a map of the forfeited estates of Ardsheal drawn by William Morrison in 1773. This means that it continues as a turf dyke intermittently along the march between Cuil and Ardsheal following no obvious geographic feature until it meets with the stone march dyke between North and South Cuil at a point a bit below and south-west of the summit of the Ardsheal Hill. The iron post and wire fence which surmounts the first part of the dyke, probably added in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, continues following the line of the broken dyke being on one side of it or the other until a point (NM 9940/5669) where the stone dyke starts again along an irregular line eventually becoming the march between South Cuil and Inshaig. Along this length it is surmounted by an iron post and wire fence. There are the remains of a gate now filled in with tumbled stone at NM 9938/5595. At NM 9934/5576 the post and wire fence ends and is continued by a modern stob and wire fence on one side or other of the stone dyke which is a bit more broken in places but largely intact until its lower end which is about 50 metres from the road into Cuil. The last bit of it which was built of stone and was between the drives to two modern houses no longer exists. It ended at the River Duror. Why there is a break in the dyke between the Ardsheal wood and where it recommences is probably due to the expense of building it and lack of funds coming from the Commissioners of the Forfeited Estate of Ardsheal.

This dyke along all the march between the Appin Estate (of which Cuil was a part) and Ardsheal was first proposed in 1769 but agreement had to be obtained from the Commissioners of the Forfeited Estates. This was forthcoming as it would prevent encroachments and trespasses between one estate and its neighbour. However, by the summer of 1771 there was a problem in that Ardsheal was unable to pay its share because of insufficiency of free rents of the estate and was awaiting further instruction from the Commissioners. At that time Ardsheal had advanced £32:4:11d and Hugh Seton of Touch, the proprietor of the Appin Estate had advanced £63:7:7d. Seton said that what was built would speedily fall into disrepair if the dyke were not completed. It was completed, except for the gap mentioned above, by 1773 at "very great expense." Originally designed to be four and a half feet high with a proper coping of turf it was a very well built dyke being of dolomite from a nearby quarry at its western end. It remains intact though lower and without the turf coping which was probably replaced by the iron post and wire fence. This is still present.

On the south-west side adjacent to the dyke that runs up to the gate there is the remains of a turf dyke between nine and three and a half metres away. This is older than the stone dyke and probably represents the original boundary between Cuil and Ardsheal. Why the stone dyke did not follow the course of the turf dyke is a mystery. The eastern end of the stone dyke is also well built but of different stone of uncertain origin. The posts are held in position by lead poured molten into holes in the coping stones. A small number of these posts have been inspected but none tell us who the manufacturer was.

The other stone dykes include the head dyke for Greenfield Farm which runs inland from Rudha Beag in a north-easterly direction before turning at 90 degrees three times to meet with the North/South Cuil dyke. The head dyke for Leacnasgeir runs inland for a short distance from the sea and then runs along the bottom of the escarpment behind the farm buildings to end near a small bay. From the other side of this bay it runs along the bottom of the hill to the base of Rudha Mor where it turns south-easterly to link up with a series of turf dykes probably related to what was once Rudha Mor farm. In this area there are a number of turf dykes mostly enclosing areas showing evidence of rig and furrow cultivation. Similar dykes are found on the plateau inland from Rudha Meadhonach bay where the evidence of rig and furrow cultivation was not obliterated by ploughing by tractor after the Second World War. Within the Greenfield (North Cuil) head dyke there are several turf or turf over stone dykes probably relating to earlier land distribution. With the earth dykes, when they are adjacent to an arable area the side away from the arable is deeper than the other. Near Greenfield Barn, at NM 9787/5580, two earth dykes approach each other until, near a burn, they are only three metres apart. The southern dyke continues until it ends at a burn, the northern one stops about 15 metres short of the burn. On the outer side of each dyke there is evidence of rig and furrow cultivation in the past. Between the dykes this does not seem to have happened. I suspect that this configuration was to help bring in stock from the hill at various times of the year and to get the animals in some sort of manageable order.

Between North Cuil and the Back Settlement (Leacnasgeir) there is a stone boundary dyke

that starts at the eastern side of the base of Rudha Mor and runs inland to an artificial lochan. Its course through part of this can be determined by a line of pondweed. From the north end of the lochan it is difficult to tell its course until a turf dyke can be traced running up for about three hundred metres before joining "Seton's" dyke at the point where it turns at a right angle. The dyke between North and South Cuil starts at the road into Cuil near the mouth of the South Cuil burn. After a short run it turns at a slight angle and then runs straight until it meets the Cuil/Ardsheal dyke with the exception of a gap where it is replaced by the North Cuil burn. On the flat area of Cuil it is reduced to only one or two courses surmounted by or adjacent to a metal post and wire fence and it seems likely that much of the stone was used in building the four houses on South Cuil that were constructed between 1871 and 1883. On South Cuil there is a stone head dyke running from the South Cuil/Inshaig march north-westerly until it meets the track going inland from No. 4 South Cuil where it turns north-easterly and continues as a turf over stone dyke until it meets the North Cuil burn. At a point about 250 metres further on it turns north-westerly again for 180 metres until it meets the North/South Cuil march. Within this area there are again low turf dykes delineating evidence of rig and furrow cultivation. Again these probably relate to older agricultural divisions. Apart from Seton's dyke it is uncertain when the other dykes were built. It is probable that the stone head dykes were constructed at the time that the Age of Agricultural Improvement came to the area which was about the 1840s. The turf dykes are certainly older but just how much older is not known. The turf part of the march with Ardsheal was already broken in 1773 and must have been built originally long before that date.

#### **WOODS**

There are two main wooded areas. The Ardsheal Wood runs on both sides of the old track into Ardsheal from Cuil along a steep north-west facing hillside. The trees are mainly hazel, alder and birch with a few oaks. There is considerable evidence of coppicing here. There is also evidence of much coppicing in the wood in the north-east corner of South Cuil and the adjacent part of North Cuil where the trees are similar. Most of this wood is on a steep hillside. However in this area the wood has extended considerably when one looks at its extent of the first and second edition *Ordnance Survey* maps and at old photographs of the area such as those of Erskine Beveridge in 1883. This does not seem to be true of the Ardsheal Wood. In one area in South Cuil the wood has grown over an area showing rig and furrow cultivation in the past and has obviously been here for many years. Nearby alder has started to extend into a previous area of arable.



Spring time in the Ardsheal Wood. The original road into Ardsheal can be seen on the right. In other areas there are smaller woods some of which are probably of recent origin, not showing signs of coppicing whereas other small ones in other places do. There is no evidence of any of charcoal flats but it is probable that charcoal was made. Wood would have been used for making creels and panniers and, before the building of stone walled houses, at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the walls and roofs of houses as well as for fuel along with peat. Small woods in some areas have increased in extent and in others new woods are springing up. This reflects changes in agricultural practices resulting in less stock grazing the area allowing small trees to grow although there is evidence of many saplings being nipped in the bud, mainly by roe deer. Red deer are only very occasional visitors to Cuil. A change from a mainly cattle based economy to one based on sheep would also have resulted in there being more trees in the area.

### **FISHING**

Timothy Pont's map of circa 1595 shows fish heading for the mouths of the River Duror and the Water of Coultie (now known as the Salachan Burn). The accompanying text says that these rivers are good for salmon. One is tempted to presume that salmon fishing has been carried on here for over four hundred years.

When netting in the sea started is not known but the 1851 census shows that there were salmon fishers living at South Cuil in 1851 and the foreman, James Skinner who was born in Kennoway, Fife, appears in the 1841 census. He was still there in 1861 but was now living in North Cuil. The Fisherman's Bothy on North Cuil is shown on a marine chart of 1861. It was probably built originally along the lines of byre dwellings in the area with four rounded corners but specifically for fishing. It is shown on two of Erskine Beveridge's photographs of 1883 where the seaward ends are now square. Photographs from the 1950s show the inland ends to be rounded and it seems probable that the seaward end had been damaged, presumably in a gale and had been rebuilt in a more modern manner. Other changes have been made to the building over the years such as the addition of a gable on the seaward end with a chimney. Originally thatched (the style of thatching can be seen to have changed over the years) it now has a corrugated iron roof which replaced the thatch at the end of the 1950s when thatch and thatchers were almost impossible to find. One of Beveridge's photographs also shows nets drying near the foreshore of South Cuil as well as at the bothy and they are also shown here in a couple of M.E.M. Donaldson's photographs from the 1920s. Older members of the community remember them there from after the Second World War. These were nets belonging to a crofter from South Cuil. At one time in the past people used to come

to Cuil to learn how to set out the bag nets. The fishing season has been curtailed in recent years to try to help preserve wild salmon with nets only being put out for the latter part of the season only. Nets are now set near the mouth of the North Cuil burn and at the ends of Rudha Meadhonach and Rudha Mor. Mention has been made above about boats and disposal of the catches.

Valuation rolls, which start in 1858, show that the tenancy of the fishing changed from time to time. Benjamin Moir was the tenant in 1860, Mrs. Christie of Ballachulish Inn in 1865 and 1870, A.D. Anderson of Ardsheal in 1875 and 1880 and G.D. Anderson of Ardsheal in 1885 and 1890. Duncan McNicol of Bonawe Ferry, Taynuilt was tenant from 1895 to 1915 and Duncan McColl of Taynuilt from 1920 to 1945 after which his widow continued as tenant from then until 1960. At this time Archibald McLachlan (Baldy) took over and his son, Sandy, is still the tenant.

### **AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES**

Agricultural practices in Cuil have followed the pattern of elsewhere in the West Highlands. Traditionally, cattle formed the most important commodity in olden times in most of the Highlands. Black was the preferred colour. The current colour of Highland Cattle comes from Queen Victoria's preference for these over the traditional black ones. Local fairs for trading them were held near Port Appin on the Friday before the last Wednesday in October, at Appin on the Friday before Martinmas and at Duror on the Saturday before the last Wednesday in May and October. The Duror fairs were held at or near what is now called Pineapple House, formerly the Duror Hotel, and then called Tigh an Tuim. No doubt many of the cattle sold at these fairs found their way to the larger fairs held at Crieff and Falkirk. It is uncertain when these fairs died out but they were still occurring in 1884. Cattle were replaced by sheep as the main animal kept on farms. However, the *First Statistical Account* (circa 1785) says that cattle were mainly for common family life. It goes on to state that the number of sheep was daily on the increase. So it is probable that the change from a cattle based economy to an sheep based one had started before that time. By the time of the *Second Statistical Account* (circa 1840) the blackface sheep was being crossbred with the Cheviot or Leicester by Mr. Downie. Pigs were never a popular animal and certainly immediately after the Second World War no-one kept a pig. This was possibly due to what is written about them in the Book of Leviticus. It is probable that goats were kept at one time as they were elsewhere but I suspect that this was a long time ago as early photographs show plenty of trees. There are feral goats in Kingairloch on the other side of Loch Linnhe and there was a solitary billy on Eilean Balnagowan in Cuil Bay at the end of the Second World War.

Transhumance, the taking of stock to a distant summer pasture, probably was practiced at some time. There are references to be found of Cuil Shielings but where they were located remains a mystery.

The traditional crops were oats, barley (bere), potatoes and turnips (swedes), the latter being mainly for consumption by stock. Potatoes were introduced in the 18<sup>th</sup> century but were severely affected by the blight a hundred years later. It seems probable that population pressures caused very marginal land to be brought into cultivation at times. A good example of this is an area of rig and furrow on the south-east facing slope of the small glen leading from the north end of the artificial lochan to Port na Cloich. This is now overgrown by heather and the area was probably not used for long. Hugh Seton was an improving landlord but how much he did in Cuil is not certain. At some time after he bought the Appin estate various improvements started to be made by way of reclaiming land, draining, enclosing and top dressing. But by this time the population was beginning to decline so the pressure on the land to support the population was diminishing. There are many areas in Cuil where there is evidence of rig and furrow cultivation; the flat land at Port na Cloich and Leacnasgeir, to the west and north-west of Rudha Mor Farm, on a steepish slope at the north end of the Lochan inland from Rudha Mor, on the plateau inland from Rudha Meadhonach Bay, on the land

running up from the Fisherman's Bothy to above Greenfield, on the rising ground in the north-east and east parts of North and South Cuil and on the hill above South Cuil. On the plateau reversed S shaped rigs can be seen. The adjacent turf dyke also displays the reverse S shape. Most of these areas were probably never ploughed but faint undulations from rig and furrow can still be seen on many of the North and South Cuil fields which must have been ploughed for over a century. Sometimes rig and furrow cultivation is referred to as lazy bedding which term really refers to a way of propagating potatoes. At one time ground was prepared by use of a *cas chrom* which Dr. Johnson describes as "a narrow blade of iron fixed to a long and heavy piece of wood, which must be a foot and a half above the iron, a knee of flexure (sic) with an angle downwards" The handle is about five and a half feet long and made of naturally bent wood. Added to the soil taken from the furrows was manure, seaweed and old thatch all adding to the depth and fertility of the soil which was drained by the furrows designed so that they ran downhill. A single field might have furrows running in different directions in one part and another. The width of the rigs could vary within a single field and from one field to another. Simple ploughs drawn by one or two horses would also have been introduced later. By the time of the *Second Statistical Account* a ristle plough had been introduced so that one man with two horses could do what previously had needed five men with five horses. With improvement rig and furrow ceased to be the norm. Field drains were dug. Most of these were troughs filled with shingle from the shore. There seem to be very few tile drains which would, of course, have been much more expensive. Drains were probably not installed in sloping areas where the drainage was already adequate. It seems likely that parts of the North and South Cuil burns were straightened and deepened to reduce flooding about the same time. Like so many other things, in the absence of any estate records (they were burnt in 1959), it is not possible to give a date to when these drains were installed. However it seems possible that this was done at the time of the potato famine in the late 1840s when landlords were advised to take advantage of the Drainage Act which had been originally put forward to help with the famine in Ireland. The Scottish Highlands and Islands were as severely affected by the potato blight, the cause of the famine, as was Ireland.

Leacnasgeir, which probably had incorporated Rudha Mor Farm earlier, ceased to be a separate farm by 1861 and was dwelt in thereafter by shepherds, agricultural labourers or cottars and ceased to be lived in after 1909. Rudha Mor Farm ceased to be populated sometime after 1881. The difficulty of getting a plough to these areas probably contributed to the cessation of rig and furrow cultivation in these places. Sloping areas such as those found behind the flat area of North and South Cuil were probably cultivated by plough, but ploughing only taking place downhill. The horse and plough would then be taken to the top again for the next furrow. This brought about excess earth at the bottom of the field which would be taken back labouriously to the top. With the advent of the tractor in the late 1940s two areas were brought back into cultivation, the plateau field and the fields running up from the Fisherman's Bothy. Improvement also included the application of lime to the fields and this was probably largely supplied by the limekiln on Rudha Mor until the importation of lime from elsewhere became cheaper, probably after about 1880 when the railway came to Oban.

Until after the Second World War all farm work was done using horses. Often oats were broadcast by hand and potatoes placed individually by hand. In about 1948 the Department of Agriculture started to send round each year a tractor and driver to do the ploughing, harrowing and harvesting. It was not long before Greenfield bought a Fordson tractor but horses were still used for many functions. However some farmers continued with their old methods, one claiming that horse ploughed land was better cleaned by the seagulls than if more quickly ploughed by a tractor.

By the mid 1970s prices for agricultural products made it uneconomic to grow them and ploughing ceased, the fields being given over to rearing sheep and cattle.

Peat beds can be found in many parts of Cuil. It was used for fuel and it is probable that the top layer of turf would have been used to build walls and roofs of turf houses. The artificial lochan was created by damming a burn to flood a large area of peat beds into which cattle and sheep would wander and get stuck, often dying in the attempt to get out. Parts of the diggings can still be seen on the east side of the lochan. Other main beds are at the base of Rudha Mor and high on the hill of South Cuil. Peat has not been dug within living memory.

## **BUILDINGS**

No prehistoric buildings such as round houses have been positively identified in Cuil. It is probable that the rectangular shape of buildings found now in the West Highlands was something introduced by the Vikings and replaced the circular dwellings that had been present before. Until the start of the nineteenth century it is probable that most people lived in turf houses such as creel houses. These houses have walls of wattle outside of which there is a turf wall. The roofs were of turf and thatch, often bracken or heather. It is probable that each house required as much as an acre of sod for its walls and roof and three or four thousand pieces of coppiced poles and withies. They only lasted about ten years and the thatch and walls were then used as fertiliser and the timbers reused on new buildings. Often the stone footings were removed as well. As a result they have left little or no evidence of their existence.

The houses that now exist can be divided conveniently into two categories; those built before and those after the Age of Agricultural Improvement.

On North Cuil, Rudha Mor and the Back Settlement of the earlier houses only one remains roofed and in use. This is the Fisherman's Bothy. Of the others only four have walls which in part stand more than a metre high. In none of the ruins can windows or cruck slots be recognised. The walls of these buildings are composed of an inner and outer skin of stone, mainly small boulders presumably from the nearby shore, with earth or rubble infill. There is little evidence of masonry and no mortar appears to have been used.

With the others only the footings can be discerned. There are three platforms which probably supported houses in the past. Apart from dwelling houses a couple of shed-like structures are noted. From photographic evidence of Cuil and similar places in the vicinity it is probable that all the houses were thatched. One unroofed building marked on the *First Ordnance Survey Edition* has vanished and another, photographed by Erskine Beveridge in 1883, is on the point of being no longer seen. With one old building a new bothy was built on the site in the mid-1930s and it is not possible to say exactly where the original footings were situated.

On South Cuil major changes took place between the *First Ordnance Survey* (1871) and the time of one of Beveridge's photographs (1883). On what was labelled South Cuil Farm there were seven buildings. In the photograph only four can be seen and only one in the position of the earlier buildings. In other parts of South Cuil one building has completely vanished leaving no trace and there are changes in the size and number of buildings elsewhere.

Agricultural improvements had changed the format of the buildings built after 1850. At Leacnasgeir the new dwelling house was slated as was the steading and the same applies to Greenfield Farm. In both cases the house and the steading were separated. On South Cuil the byres were under the same roof as the dwelling area for Nos. 1 and 2. No 3. also had a byre attached but there was another across the track in its steading/byre building. The situation at No 4 is uncertain but a wooden byre was built sometime after 1935. With the exception of No 2. all these buildings are now non-agricultural dwellings. No 2. became derelict during the second world war and is now a walled garden. It seems to have had a byre attached and possibly a barn as well. All the houses on South Cuil had slate roofs. All but six of the sites date before the start of the twentieth century. These first four are the Mystery Solved (5), the Wooden Steading at 4 South Cuil (9), the Boathouse (23) and the Red Herrings (24). The other two are just outside the survey area and are the Circular Depression (50) and the rectangular depression (51) both on the Inshaig Hill.

All positions are made using a hand held GPS unit. Wherever possible an accuracy given as 10 metres or less was obtained. However repeat observation shows that some locations seem to change places by a bit more than this amount! Marine Charts are abbreviated to MC1 (1861) and MC2 (1867). Ordnance Survey maps are given as OS1 (1871), OS2 (1897) and OS3 (1976).

In many of the photographs either a metal rule or a walking pole can be seen. Both of these are one metre long.

**Site 1. A Vanished House, South Cuil. Position: NM 9822  
5470**

MC2 (1867) and OS1 (1871) show a roofed house at this position. It is not shown on OS2 (1897). It lay in a field that had been ploughed for many years and now there is no sign of any building here.

**Site 2. A Cairn. Position: NM 9812  
5476**

A mound about 16 metres in diameter and about 2 high is not marked on any maps. A large segment has been removed from the eastern part of the mound by a digger, probably about 40 years ago. It is covered by grass. The adjacent field is near the shore so it is unlikely to have been a field clearance cairn. However, there is a record of a Neolithic cairn about a mile away on the Keil Hill. No attempt has been made to clarify what is going on here.

**Site 3. 1 South Cuil. (Cuil Cottage). Position: NM 9819  
5485**



1 South Cuil about 1980, before renovations.

A roofed building is shown here on MC2 and OS1 along with a much smaller roofed building and an unroofed one. On OS2 a much larger roofed building is shown but no other buildings at the site. A photograph of Cuil Bay taken by Erskine Beveridge in 1883 shows the inland end of this building as it was before renovations were carried out in 1988. From this it is possible to deduce that the present building was constructed between 1871 and 1883 and that an addition which shows on OS2 was not present at the time of the photograph. This was the dairy. Another photograph taken in the early 1930s shows a slated building to the rear of the seaward end of the building. A few footings are still visible but no-one remembers any such building so presumably it was demolished not long after the photograph was taken. The house originally was a long one with a central dwelling portion and the two ends for agricultural use. The central part consisted of two rooms downstairs and two up reached by a central staircase. The room on the right as you enter had a range and the other room was the sitting room. Renovations of this room about 8 years ago strongly suggested that part of the previous building had been incorporated into the present one. This room and the two dormered bedrooms each had its own fireplace. At one time there had been some sort of porch at the back door. The inland end was single storeyed and contained a barn and an open ended implement shed which were separated by a head high stone wall. The barn had doors on opposite long walls as well as four ventilation slits one of which was blocked up when the dairy was added before 1897. Over the implement shed was a bothy reached by ladder from the barn. The floors were cobbled originally but cement was poured over the barn floor at some later date. The seaward end contained a calf house, stable and byre each being divided from its neighbour by a similar stone wall about five feet high. All originally had

been cobbled with byre drains but, as with the barn, cement had been poured over the floors of the stable and byre. The calf house had a window and single ventilation hole. The stable and byre had seven ventilation holes on the front wall and several on the back. Doors to each part were at the back. The stackyard used to be near the back of the barn but there is no longer any sign of it. The first addition at the front of the barn was a dairy with slate slabs as counters. About 1935 an addition was added at the back which contained a bath and lavatory and a scullery. Water from a catchment tank in the South Cuil burn was introduced at this time. Electricity came to the area in 1953. The back extension was increased in 1981 when a galley kitchen was added. A front porch had already been added the previous year. Starting in 1988 the two ends of the building were renovated to give added living accommodation and the rear extension was replaced in 2009 to give added space. During renovations it was revealed that all the lintels were of slate. The 1935 addition was demolished in 2009 and a larger extension added.

**Site 4.**

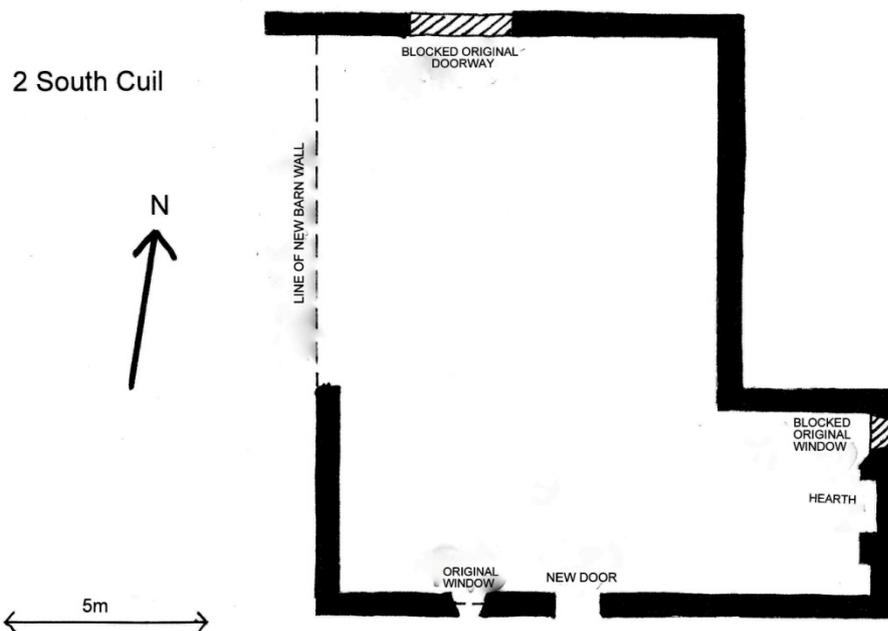
**2 South Cuil.**

**Position: NM 9833**

**5508**



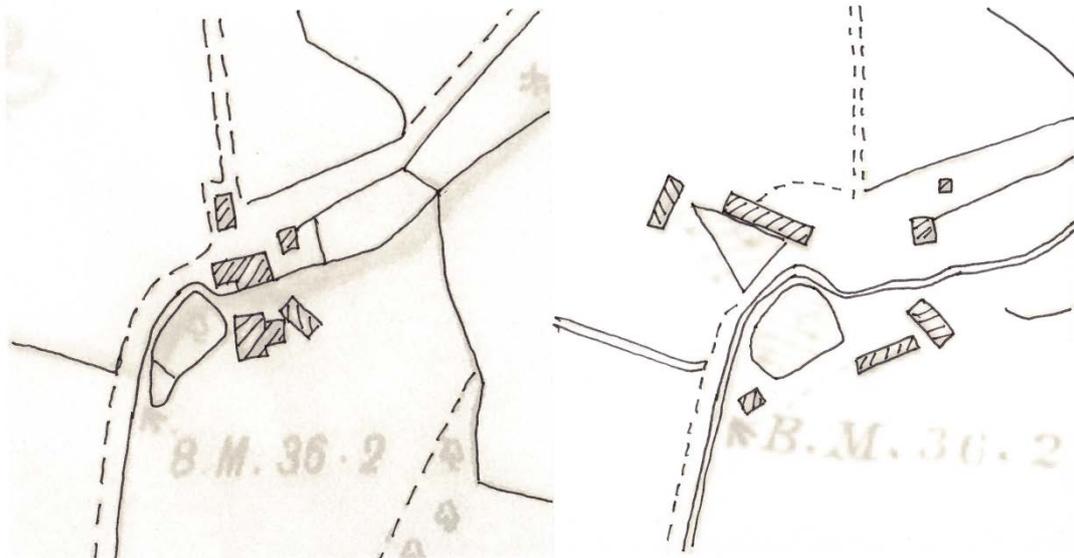
2 South Cuil: 1920s



Cartographic and photographic evidence shows that this house was also built between 1871 and 1883. It became ruinous during the Second World War and was converted to a walled garden about 15 years ago. However maps and photographs tell us that it was a T-shape, single storeyed building with the dwelling quarters at the front and the leg of the T being for agricultural use. It had three gables, the southern two enclosing the living quarters and the northern two a byre which had a small window at the front. Each gable of the living quarters had a fireplace and there was a window to the left of the southernmost fireplace which has been filled in. A large slate slab taken from the floor of the hearth can be found outside near the building. The byre window remains in its original position but with its conversion to a garden the position of the door has been altered and the other two front windows eliminated. At the base of the T there is a large, blocked up doorway and a large part of its north wall has been replaced by the wall of a modern barn. The roof of the leg of the T was at a slightly lower level than the rest of the house. The roofs were of slate. The lintels here are of granite and the stones used are slightly more squared than those used at the other houses on South Cuil. One wonders if these had come from the one of the houses designated as South Cuil Farm on MC2 and OS1.

The first (1871) and second (1897) editions of the Ordnance Survey show considerable differences between the position and number of buildings in the region of Numbers 2 and 3 South Cuil. These are shown in the accompanying maps.

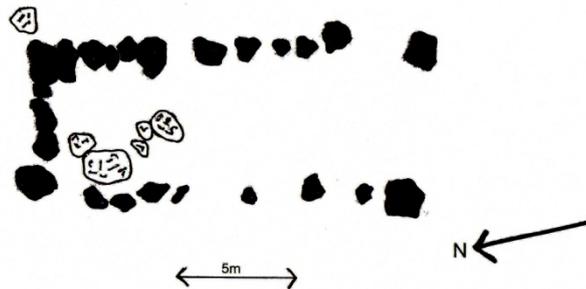
AREA OF 2 & 3 SOUTH CUIL  
 SHOWING DIFFERENCES  
 IN POSITION OF BUILDINGS  
 BETWEEN 1871 (RIGHT) AND  
 1897 (LEFT)



Site 5. Remains of Building, 2 South Cuil.

Position: NM 9840 5511

Remains of Building  
 2 South Cuil



The remains of a building can be found at the back of a modern barn during the construction of which part of the footings of the old building were removed leaving a very incomplete footprint. It shows on OS1 and it can be seen vaguely in the background of Erskine Beveridge's photograph of Cuil Bay. It was still present at the time of OS2 but disappears after that. Its use is unknown.

Site 6. A mystery solved, South Cuil Burn.

Position: NM 9833 5511



Here we find edging a portion of the South Cuil burn about a dozen well dressed blocks of red sandstone measuring about 60 by 40 by 35 cms. Three have recently fallen into the burn. The origin of these has been a mystery but it seems probable that these came from that part of Lord Strathcona's house in Glencoe (until recently the Glencoe Hospital) which was demolished in 1965 after it was taken over by the NHS. No other local source of such stone is known and the nearest quarry of red sandstone is at Corrie on the Island of Arran. Who arranged for them to be put in this position is unknown. But it was probably the tenant at the time.

**Site 7.**

**5514**

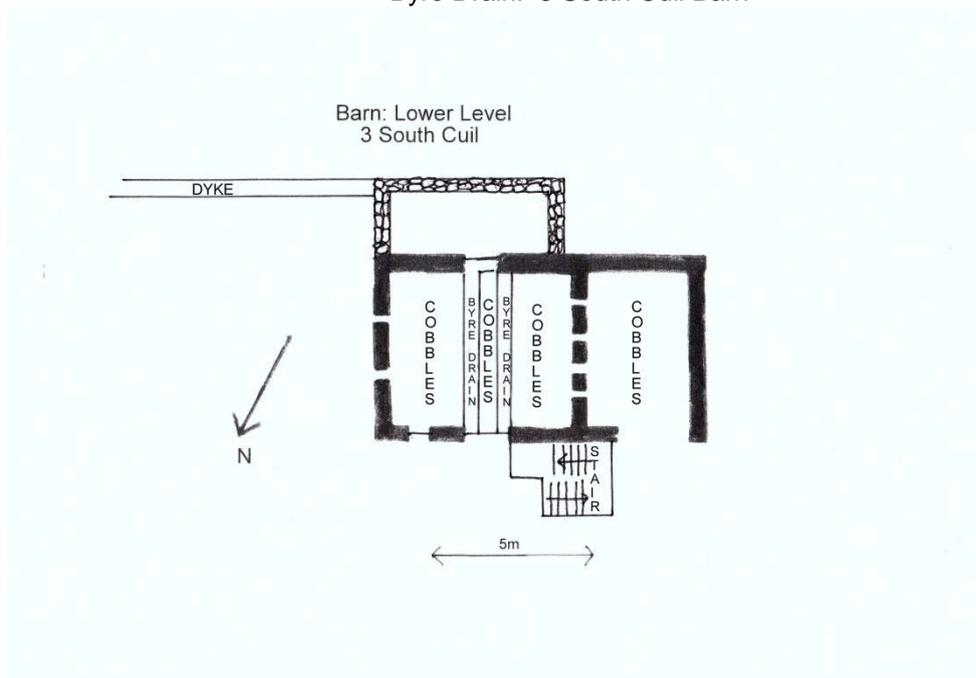
**Barn, 3 South Cuil.**

**Position: NM 9837**





Byre Drain: 3 South Cuil Barn



This barn was probably built at the same time as the neighbouring dwelling house. It is of two storeys and has a slate roof. On the ground level there is an open fronted implement shed and a byre or stable. These have cobbled floors and the byre contains a byre drain. At the back is an outshot (addition) which is now unroofed but must have had a sloping roof. There is evidence on the west wall of the roof line of another outshot and this shows in a photograph taken in the 1930s and was probably constructed of wood. Its exact size is uncertain. The byre has two small ventilation holes on its east wall, four between it and the shed and a window on its long south wall. It is entered by a door in the north wall. There is a short wall to the west of the barn along the edge of the South Cuil burn. To the east there is also a short wall which is probably the remains of one of the building shown on OS1 as part of South Cuil

Farm. The upper level contains a barn and was renovated about twenty years ago. While it has a large entry door there is no door on the opposite side. It is entered by an outside staircase which looks as if it were a later addition. There are ventilation slits on both short walls and two on the long south wall. High on the western wall is a window with slate lintel and sill. From the south-west corner a dyke runs for about five metres along the edge of the burn. At the east end of the building there is an enclosure which might represent the remains of one of the buildings present before the barn was built and major changes to what had been South Cuil Farm were made.

Site 8.

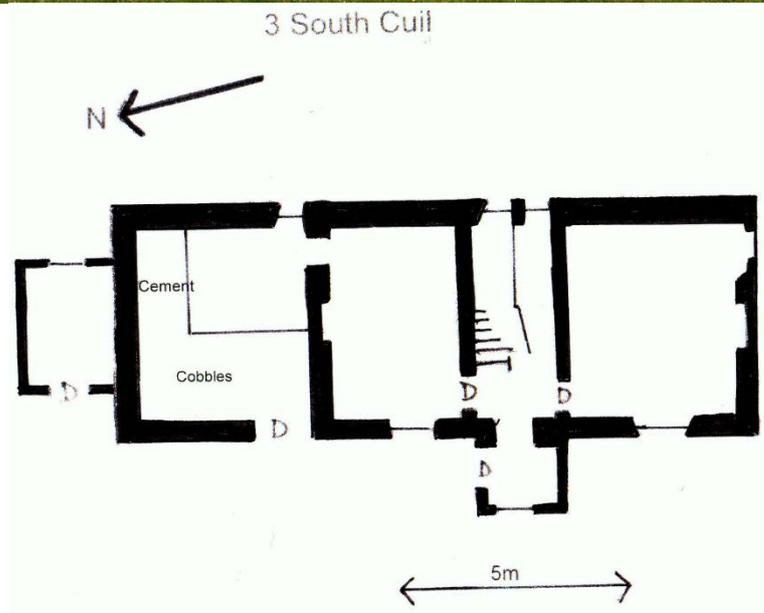
3 South Cuil.

Position: NM 9836

5514



3 South Cuil



This dwelling house was also built between 1871 and 1883 and can be seen in the background of Erskine Beveridge's photograph (1883). However in this photograph it can be seen that the dormer windows are absent and that the height of the slate roof is lower than

nowadays. So originally this building must have contained two or three rooms downstairs adjacent to which but entered through a separate door was a byre. There is only one chimney evident in the 1883 photograph but there are two now. The original one is at the south end of the building and has one chimney pot. The other is at the junction between the dwelling and the byre. This has two chimney pots but there is only a hearth in the downstairs room. Presumably another hearth upstairs has been obliterated. In the byre it can be seen that the building has been reroofed at some time as there are notches in the tops of the walls where rafters would have been set. Nowadays the rafters rest elsewhere. However looking at the gables there is no evidence of these having been raised. At some time prior to 1935 the dormers were added. These show in a postcard by Raphael Tuck and Sons of that date. In 1935 a bathroom and lavatory were also added when running water from a nearby burn was introduced. The upper storey is reached by a steep staircase and contains two bedrooms. The byre which is to the north retains its cobbled floor and byre drain. The roof is of slate. A wooden porch was added at sometime as well as a small lean-to of corrugated iron at the north end.

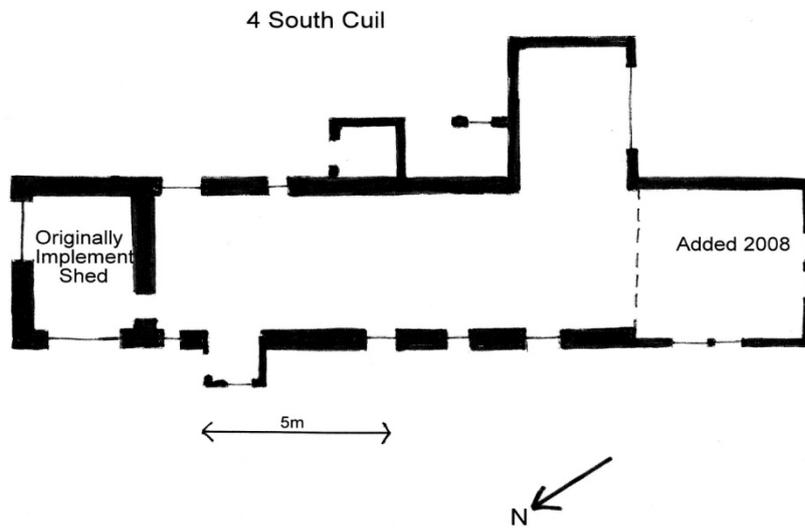
**Site 9.**  
**5550**

**4 South Cuil (Cala na Sith).**

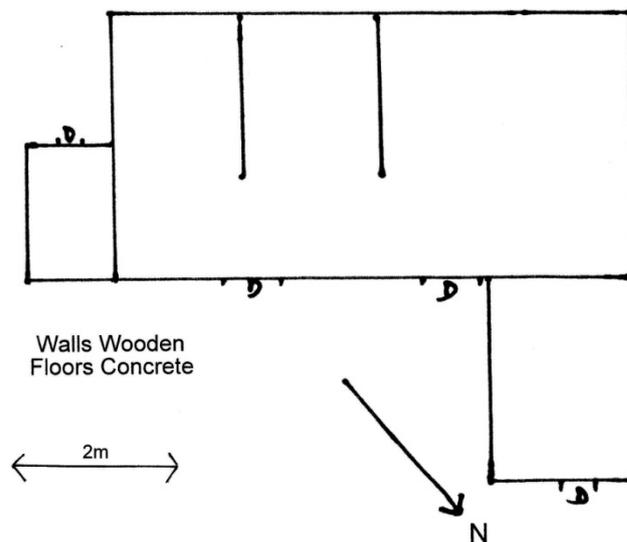
**Position: NM 9839**



Achadh nan Sgiath (built 1935) with 4 South Cuil on left and 3 South Cuil on right.



Wooden Steading: 4 South Cuil



This house does not show on the 1883 photograph but was probably built about the same time as the other houses on South Cuil. OS 1 and 2 show two buildings at this site but only one (and a shed) on OS3 (1976). A photograph taken in 1935 shows the house in the background with an open-fronted implement shed at the western end, a dormer window and two chimneys. There is no sign of the second building in the photograph. The roof is of slate. Since then it has been altered considerably. It was bought by the wife of the Third Lord of the

Admiralty in the mid-1950s who added a porch on the western wall. The implement shed was closed off and a doorway made into the main part of the house. At this time a porthole window was also added on this wall. Since then the current owner has added to an already present addition on the eastern wall and, three years ago, a further room at the south of the building. There were no farm buildings as part of this house but adjacent to the north at NM 9741 5552 there still remains the wooden building in which were the byres and stables. However, this does not show in a photograph taken in 1935. Two additions to this building, both wooden, have been made. The original wooden partitions between the byres and the stable remain intact. The roof is of sloping corrugated iron and the floor of concrete. To the south of the house there are two mounds. Both are covered by grass but the larger seems to be turf over stone whereas the other is just earth. One measures 8.2 metres by 1.8 metres and is 60 cms high; the other 4.4 by 1.2 and 50 cms high. Their position is NM 9840 5544. These, particularly the larger, may represent the site of a steading prior to the building of the wooden one.

**Site 10. An Illicit Still.**  
**5593**

**Position: NM 9887**

Beside a burn, up a steep slope, under an overhang, in a wood and at the bottom of a waterfall a drystone wall can be found. It measures 2.8 metres long by 1.0 metres high by 0.7 metres across. With the eye of faith it can be extended for about 2 metres at each end. Oral tradition says that there used to be an illicit still in this wood. I can think of no other reason for a wall to be in this position. When the still operated and by whom no-one knows. I was not able to find any of the produce!



Wall at foot of waterfall, South Cuil.

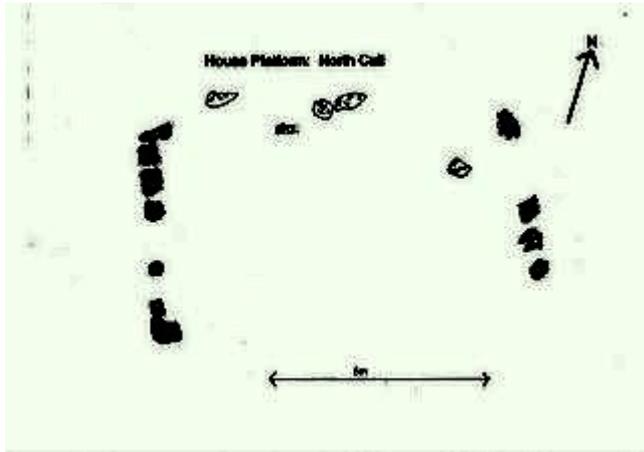


Waterfall, South Cuil. The wall is just behind the boulder on the right.

Site 11.  
5589

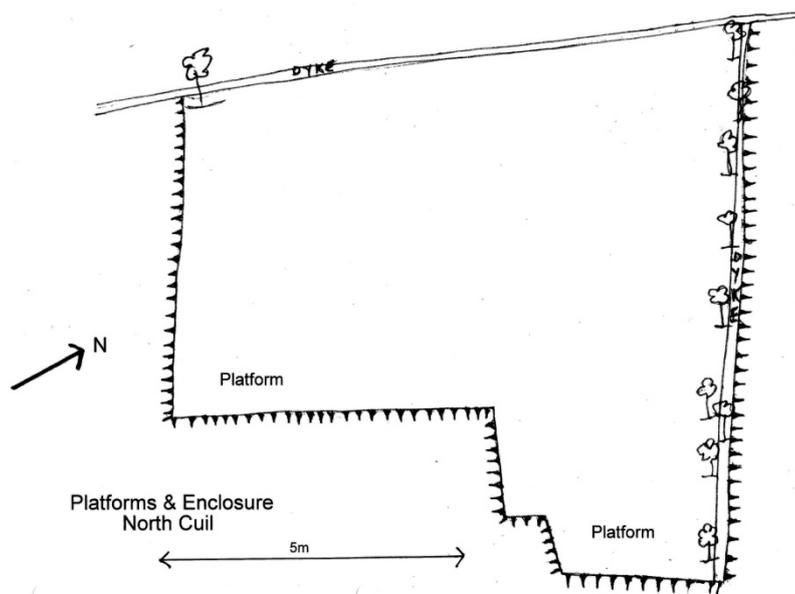
House Platform, North Cuil.

Position: NM 9827



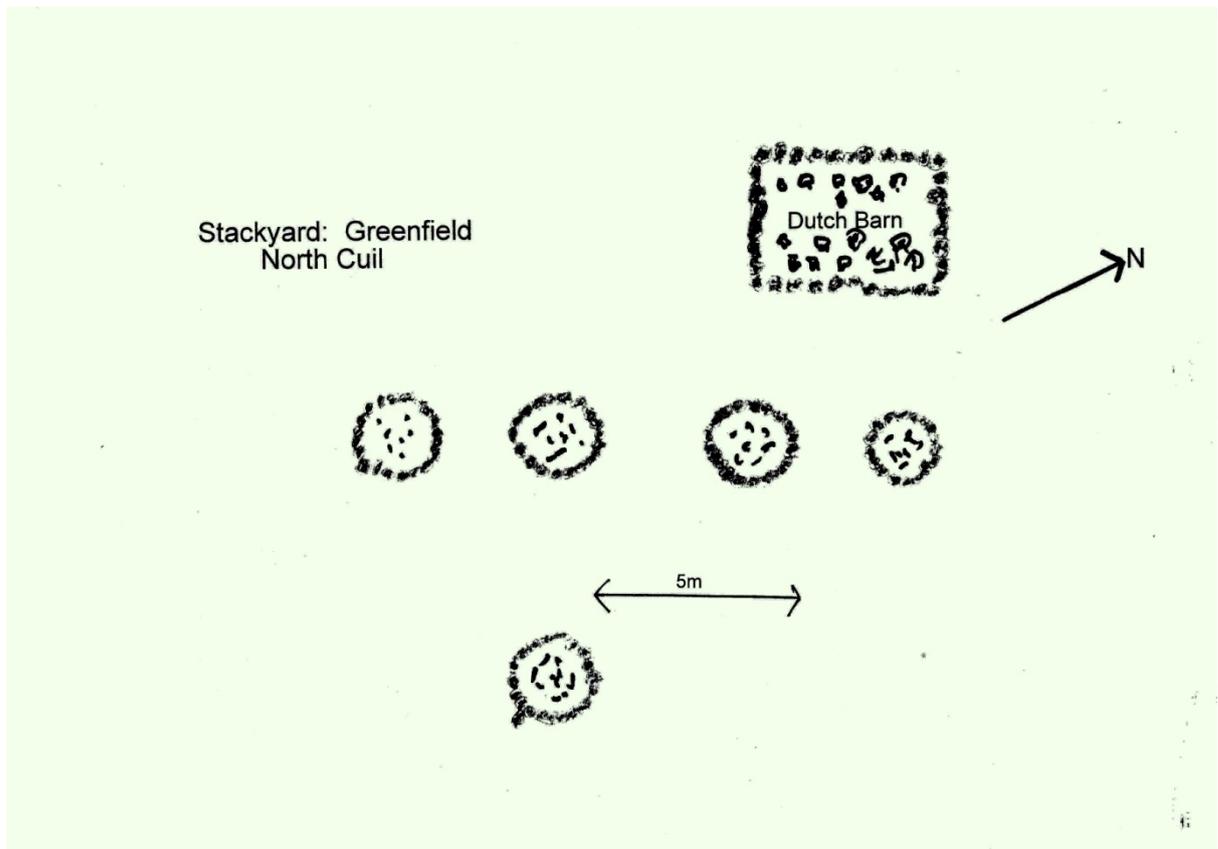
This platform is not shown on any map and consists of a roughly rectangular series of stones probably outlining the position of a house. Close by is the square concrete building of the power house for the private hydroelectric scheme for Achadh nan Sgiath. This was built in 1935 but has been inactive for many years and the power house is now ruinous. Water was stored in a reservoir in the hill above the powerhouse. So long as power was turned off at night electricity could be supplied for five days without rain after which the reservoir ran dry!

**Site 12. House Platforms and Enclosure, North Cuil. Position: NM 9815 5582**



OS1 shows the presence of an unroofed house at the south end of an enclosure. All that is left of this building is a platform where it had been. There is another platform at the north-east end which is not recorded by OS1 but probably represents the position of a second building here. Along the north-east boundary on the dyke there is an irregular row of trees but these do not seem to be of any great age.

**Site 13. Stackyard, Greenfield Farm, North Cuil. Position: NM 9808 5572**



Five stack stands can be identified here. They measure about 2.5 metres in diameter and are raised about 10 cms from the surrounding ground. Four are in a straight line. On top of these was laid brushwood and a tripod of tree trunks to help ventilate the stack of hay or oats. The stack was topped by either a tarpaulin or rushes held down by ropes with large stones at their ends. A little to the north is the base of a Dutch Barn built towards the end of the Second World War from logs which had washed up on the shore. It was used for storing hay and was demolished at the end of the 1950s. A little to the south there used to be a stone walled fank but this has completely disappeared and has been replaced by a wooden one.

**Site 13a. House Platform, Greenfield Farm, North Cuil. Position NM 9804 5568**

On the south side of the track leading to the barn at North Cuil opposite to where the fank had stood there is a raised area with enough stone at its edges to suggest that a building had been here at one time. It measures approximately 12.6 by 6.8 metres. Apart from some stones there are no obvious internal features.

**Site 14. Barn, North Cuil.**  
5568

**Position: NM 9796**

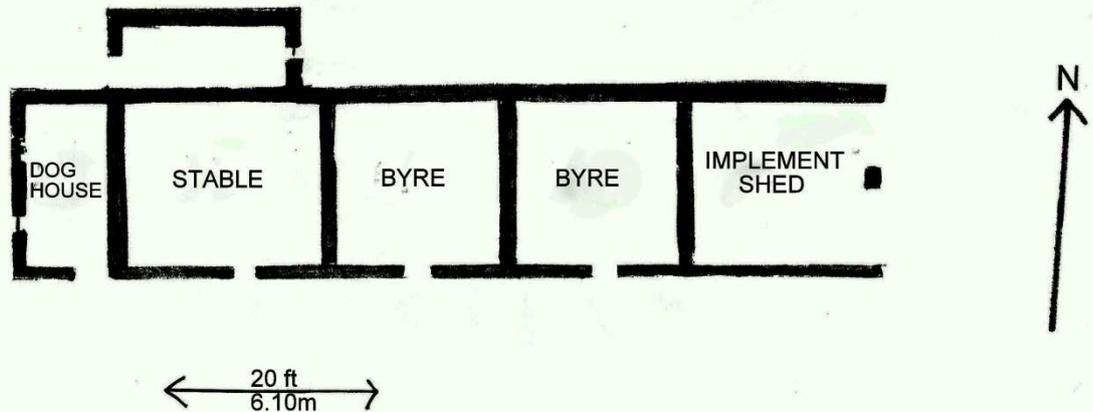


Barn, Greenfield Farm, North Cuil about 1935



Double flue in barn

Steading: Greenfield  
North Cuil

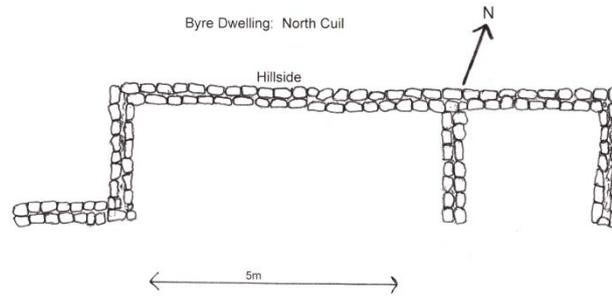


This building is shown on OS1, 2 and 3. It can be seen in the background of one of Erskine Beveridge's photographs of 1883. It is built into a hillside and is a typical Lochaber Bank Barn. It is a two storeyed building of a rectangular plan with a slate roof. It has been much altered over the past thirty years having been converted to a private dwelling. Originally the lower level contained a stable, two byres and an open fronted implement shed. At one time there were two buttresses on the south wall. These were not apparent in a photograph of about 1934 but can be seen in another of 1976. When the renovations were carried out they were removed. The entrances to the stable and byres were on the long south wall and the one to the shed, which is divided by a central pillar, is on the east. The lintel here is a steel girder. There are also two outshots. One is on the short west wall with an entrance on the south and the other on the north wall nearby. They are constructed of relatively poorly dressed, rounded stones whereas the main building is of better dressed, rectangular stone. In the outshot on the south wall there is a double flue but there is no external chimney and no sign of a fireplace, although the stones above the entrances to the flues are soot stained. Various explanations have been given to account for these flues. One is that it is possible that this chimney was used when tar and butter were boiled up to prepare a concoction for smearing sheep. Another is that there must have been a range here with two fire boxes. The third is that above the chimney was a contraption for smoking fish and meat. At one time this was used to keep the farm dogs. Both additions have steep slate roofs. The floors of the byres and the stable were cobbled with a central byre drain.

The upper level which is approached on the north side by ramps leading up from downhill contained a barn and, at the south end, a bothy. The barn was entered through a door on the north face adjacent to which was an addition which contained a paraffin driven engine for working the threshing machine which was within the barn. On the south wall there was a small doorway so that a cross current could be created during threshing. No ventilation slits in the barn or the byre and stable can be made out in the two old photographs of the building that I have come across. The barn floor had rectangular slots in it so that fodder could be passed easily to the byre or stable below.

Site 15. Byre Dwelling, North Cuil.  
5571

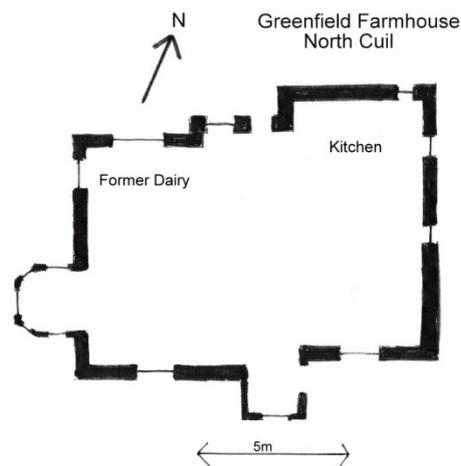
Position: NM 9790



This building can be seen in the background of the same photograph by Erskine Beveridge and in the background of photograph taken about 1934 and in an aerial photograph of 1976. In these it is roofed, the last photograph showing the roof to be of corrugated iron although it might be slate or wood in the first one. There was a central door with a window each side. Within living memory it has been used as a chicken house and as a stable for ponies but nowadays it is unroofed and the front wall is non-existent. The present ruins suggest that when first built it was a byre dwelling but old photographs suggest that it had been upgraded to a cottage. I suspect that many of the stones were used in renovating the adjacent barn. It is situated close to a steep hillside about 15 metres south-west of the Greenfield Barn.

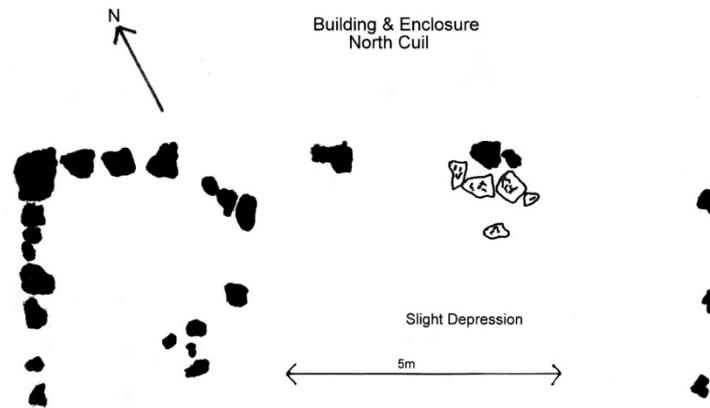
**Site 16.**            **Greenfield Farm House, North Cuil.**  
5565

**Position: NM 9793**



This farmhouse has obviously been altered and added to since it was originally built. Just when this was is uncertain but after the Age of Improvement. The name Greenfield first appears in the 1871 census but the tenant at that time was living in North Cuil twenty years before that. It may or may not have been a single storeyed house originally but obviously several additions have been made over the years. The dates of some of these such as the bow window and the flat-roofed area can be dated to the 1970s. The porch was added earlier but the original one was replaced by a more substantial one at a later date. The main body of the house appears to be in two parts but it is not possible to tell which part came first. What had been the dairy was an integral part of the house with an entry from the outside. Internally it has been much altered by several occupants in the past forty years. Apart from the flat roofed area three different roof lines can be seen.

**Site 17.      Small Building and Enclosure, Greenfield.      Position: NM 9797**  
**5561**



OS 1 and 2 show a small roofed building here with an accompanying enclosure. It is now reduced to a scattered number of stones but a rough outline of the enclosure and the building, probably a shed, can be made out. Possibly a larger house stood here at one time.

**Site 18. Salmon Fishery, North Cuil. Position: NM 9787**  
**5529**

MC1 and OS1 show an unroofed building here. Close by on MC1 are the words Salmon Fishery, suggesting that this building was connected with this activity. It cannot be seen on one of Erskine Beveridge's photographs of 1883 and presumably had fallen into disrepair by that date. Nothing remains of the building which was in a field that was ploughed for many years.

**Site 19. House at Mouth of North Cuil Burn. Position: NM 9771**  
**5553**



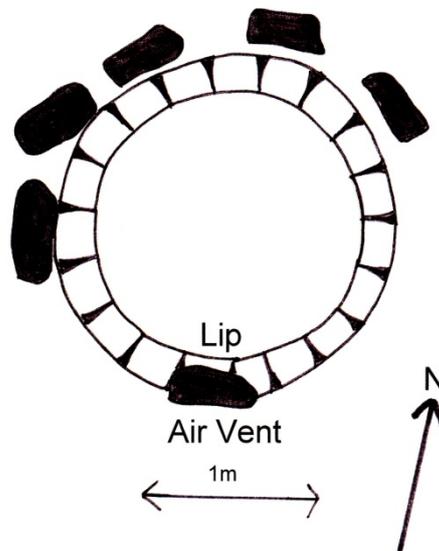
Photograph by Erskine Beveridge. 14<sup>th</sup> July 1883

This house is shown as roofed on OS1 but unroofed on OS2. It was photographed by Erskine Beveridge on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1883 and can be seen to be a small thatched building built of rounded stones, probably without mortar. Outside stand three children and their socks can be seen drying on a pole against one of the walls. It is said that it was abandoned following a winter storm when the sea came into the house. The site nowadays is a swampy area and only a few stones can be seen (with difficulty) to tell where it stood. I have not been able to identify the children.

**Site 20. Corn Drying Kiln in Garden of Balnagowan House. Position: NM 9770  
5557**



BALNAGOWAN HOUSE GARDEN  
CORN DRYING KILN



In the north-west corner of the garden of this modern timber house there is a corn drying kiln. The air vent can be seen on the outside of the kiln but not on the inside. The walls, which slope inwards from the top, are made of dressed stone. It contains an accumulation of debris which has not been cleared. The lip points to the south.

**Site 21. Fisherman's Bothy.**

**Position: NM 9756**

**5543**



Fisherman's Bothy  
Erskine Beveridge 1883  
RCAHMS Collection

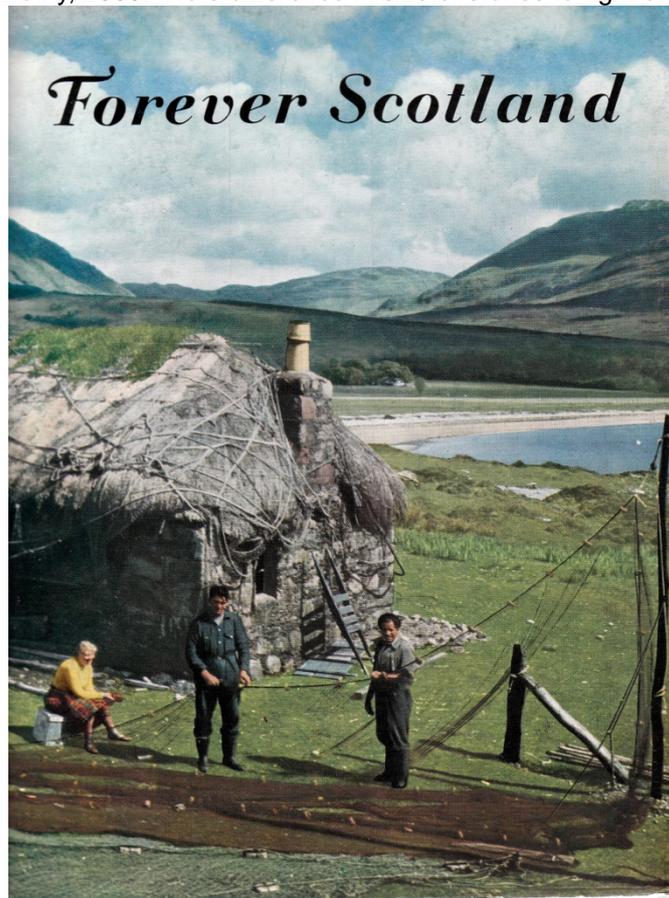
Photograph by Erskine Beveridge. 14<sup>th</sup> July 1883



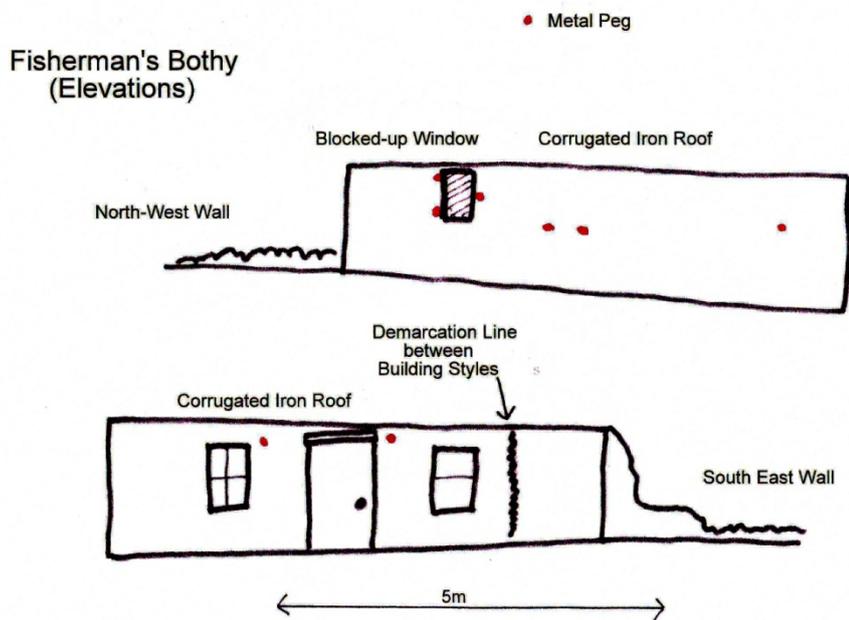
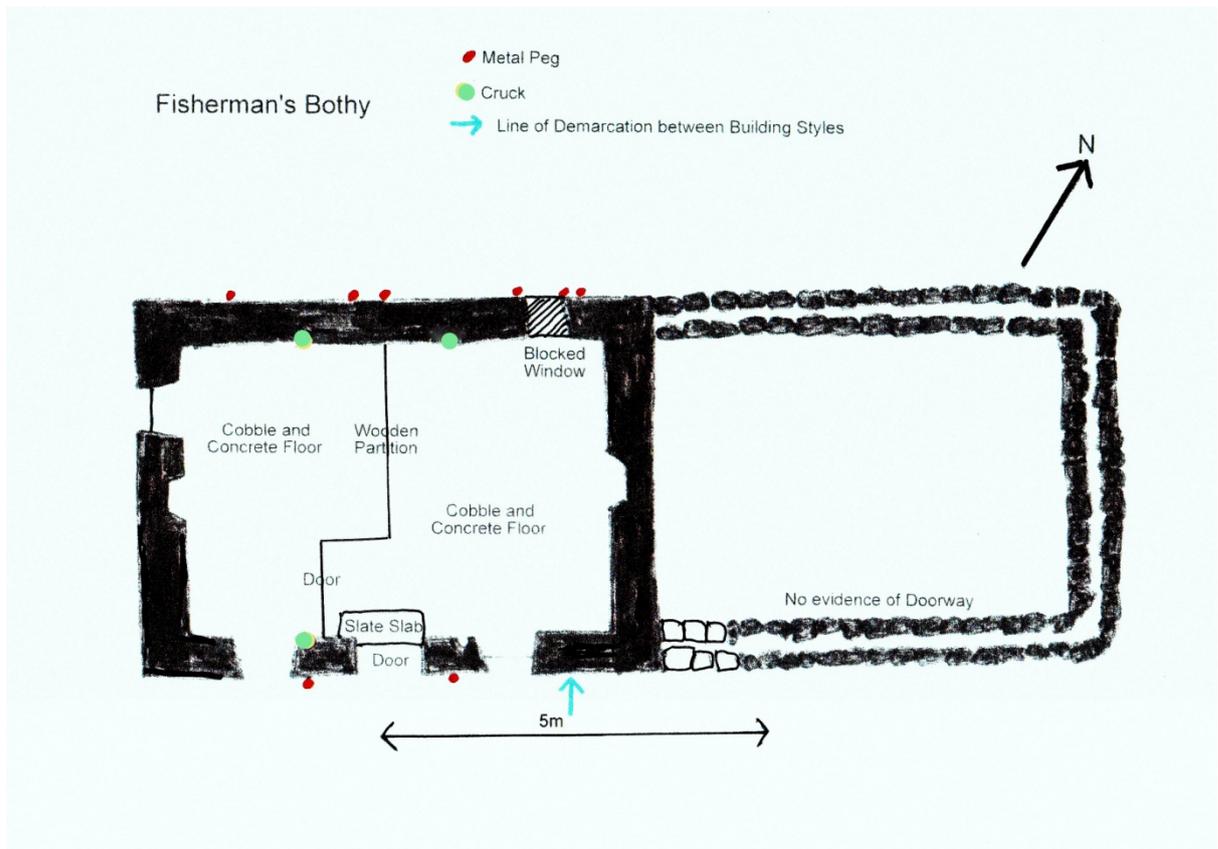
Fisherman's Bothy circa 1955. Note round corner on wall.



Fisherman's Bothy, 2009. Note difference in size of stones to right of right hand window.



Cover of Scotland's Magazine Annual, 1956.



This building is shown on MC1 and 2 and OS1, 2 and 3. It is situated about 20 metres from the high tide mark and about 2 metres above it. The sea has been known to come into the building during winter gales. Until the mid-1950s it was lived in during the salmon fishing

season. A photograph by Erskine Beveridge on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1883 shows it to be larger than it is now with two doors and two small chimneys, not much better than air vents, in the roof. It is thatched. The seaward corners are square. Two photographs taken in the early 1950s show the landward end to be unroofed with walls shoulder high and a couple of sheds within the walls. The seaward gable had been built up and included a chimney with a proper chimney pot. On these photographs it can be seen that the landward ends are rounded. Further examination of the building reveals two building styles. At the inland end the stones are larger, rounded and poorly dressed. The seaward end has smaller, more rectangular stones. It seems that the seaward end of the building had collapsed at some time prior to 1883 and had been rebuilt in a more modern manner. Originally it seems that the stonework was entirely drystone but in the rebuilt part lime mortar had been used. Some cement was added in the late 1960s. In the late 1950s the roof needed to be replaced and it was impossible to obtain thatch and, therefore, a corrugated iron roof was added. On the long sides, especially the back, iron pegs can be seen inserted into the wall. These were used to tie down the thatch. Internally three of the four crucks are still in place and the fourth cruck slot is unaltered. Internally there is a wooden partition. The lintels of the door and windows are sandstone, probably from a small nearby quarry. There is a fireplace at each end but the chimneys have been eliminated, that of the seaward end when the new roof was added and a tubular metal lum was used in its place. This was later removed. The landward chimney was eliminated long before this. The well marked on OS1 to the north-west of the bothy is now no longer in existence. It is said that the level of water in the well rose and fell with the tide.

**Site 22. Not a Fish Trap.**

**Position: NM 9745**

**5543**





Pooling water and line of stones (on left) between two skerries.

In between two skerries (tidal rocks) there are the remains of a line of stones. It probably has not changed much since it was photographed by Erskine Beveridge in 1883. As the tide falls water accumulates in the north-east corner. Structures like this are not uncommon on the west coast and are often considered to be fish traps but I am reliably told that this is not the case. What their function was remains a mystery.

**Site 23. Boathouse. Position: NM 9741**  
**5547**

On an aerial photograph of 1946 a small structure can be seen here. This was a wooden boathouse built about 1935 and destroyed by a winter gale at the very end of January 1951. Three concrete blocks are all that remain.

**Site 24. Red Herrings. Position: NM 9765**  
**5566**

In this area are found three round and one rectangular mounds of 0.25 to 0.5 metres in height and about 3 metres in diameter or 3 by 4 metres. Nearby there is a ditch which was converted from a natural burn in the 1970s and these mounds represent material that was excavated to form this ditch and do not represent any structure.

**Site 25. A Split Stone. Position: NM 9775**  
**5563**



A granite glacial erratic, measuring about 120 by 120 cms and 70 cms high, is split into two sections. It was originally larger but part of it has been removed leaving a bare edge where the remains of seven holes can be seen. In the crack between the remaining two parts six holes can be seen. Each hole is about 4 cms in diameter and 10 deep. They are situated about 15 cms apart. The holes were laboriously drilled using a cold chisel and once made they could be filled with dry wood and either water was poured over the stone or rain did the same job. The wood swelled and the stone split. Alternatively the stone could be split using long V-shaped metal "feathers" which were inserted into the holes and then a metal wedge was hammered into the "feather."

**Site 26. Enclosure North of Rudha Beag. Position: NM 9752 5561**

OS1 and 2 show an enclosure at this spot. A line of terracing along the side of the hill and a lynchet running at right angles from it can be made out. Until about 5 years ago an apple tree (with very sour fruit) stood here. It was always referred to as the Old Apple Tree sixty years ago. The lynchet is about 20 metres long and the terracing about 35.

**Site 27. North Building, Rudha Beag. Position: NM 9745 5559**



Surprisingly this building is not shown on any of the early maps but is shown as unroofed on OS3. I suspect that it was missed by Capt. Bedford when he surveyed the area as it was already ruinous by that time (1861) and that the Ordnance Survey copied his charting. It lies between a small burn and a track to the west. The Greenfield head dyke leads from the far side of the burn in a northerly direction. Apart from the seaward end which is about 60 cms high there are only remains of walls present along with a lot of tumbled stone both inside and outside the building. However there is enough of some of the corners to tell that these were rounded. No definite doorway can be made out. To the front and back are small enclosures bounded by low walls, stone to the east and turf to the west.

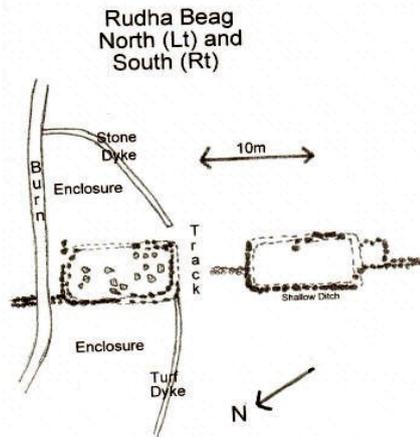
**Site 28. South Building, Rudha Beag.**

**Position: NM 9744**

**5558**



This building is shown as roofed on OS1 and 2. It is of rectangular outline with a small outshot at its seaward end. The walls are reduced to a single layer not intact in all places. It lies across the track from the previous site. To the seaward the head dyke runs to the sea at the east side of Rudha Beag. No internal structures can be detected. It is said that someone who lived here walked to the slate quarries in Ballachulish to work. I wonder if in fact he went to the granite quarries at Kentallen or the china clay quarry at Lagnaha



**Site 29.**      **A Wishing Stone.**  
5558

**Position:**      **NM 9737**



Another granite boulder, a glacial erratic, is said to have been used in the past as a wishing stone much to the irritation of the elders of the church. It measures about 280 by 160 cms and is about 70 cms high. It is now split into three parts and fifty years ago it was possible to see where a line of holes had been drilled to split it. These are no longer visible. It is probable that it was split for building purposes rather than by church elders in an attempt to destroy it!

**Site 30.**      **A Stony Pit.**  
5557

**Position:**      **NM 9732**



Here there is a circular depression in the ground measuring about two metres in diameter. The top is on a level with the surrounding ground in which there are scattered many stones. Within the depression there are also many stones and removal of some of these along with vegetation and soil suggest that this might be a very deteriorated corn drying kiln. The stones that form the circumference of this depression however are smaller than those found lining other corn kilns in the vicinity. Another explanation that has been put forward is that this could be the remains of a Neolithic burial cairn. Further clearing is probably not advisable and the site has been left as it is. No certain function can be ascribed and it could even be a natural feature and not anything built by mankind.

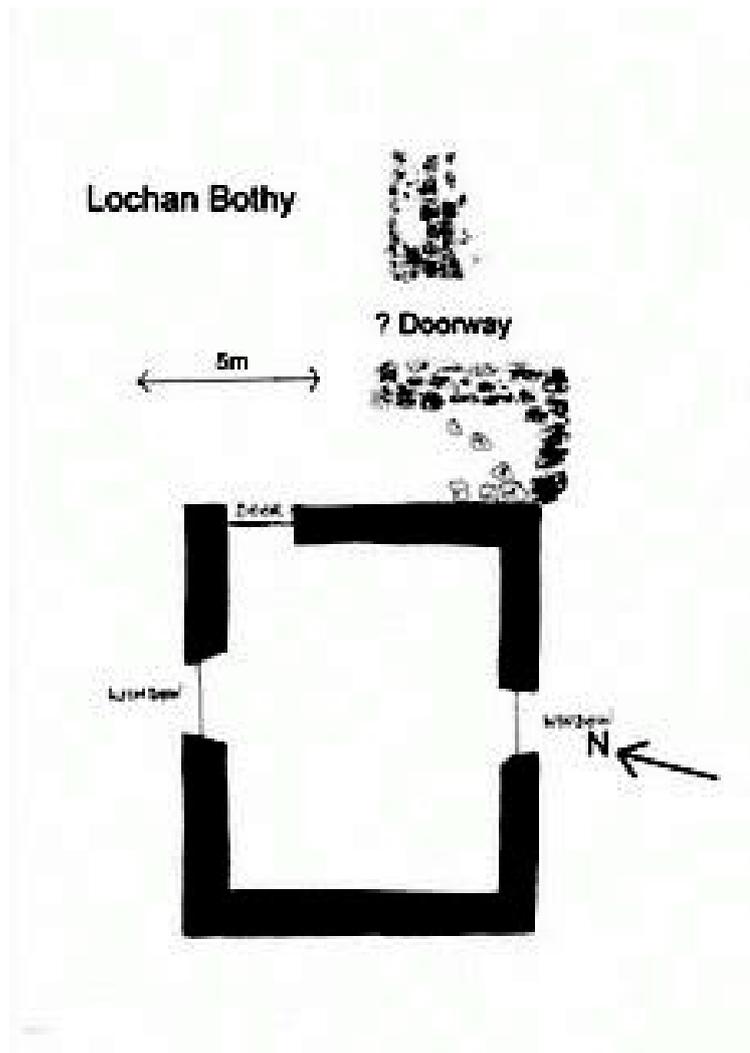
Near here at NM 9724 5554 there is a pile of stones, each about 4 to 10 cms in diameter, measuring about 23 by 12 metres and 1.0 metre high situated about 10 metres from the high water mark. I suspect that this is a result of tide and wind action

Between these two positions there is a 25 metre long line of small, intermittent grassy humps. Does this represent a very old turf dyke?

**Site 31. Bothy and Dam at Artificial Lochan.**

**Position: NM 9701 5602**





This bothy was built about 1935 on the site of a ruin which is shown on OS1 as roofed and OS 2 as unroofed. The present building is of drystone granite although some cement was added in the 1970s. Where exactly the previous building stood is uncertain but on the east side of the current building there is what looks like the remains of a doorway. A stone dyke runs from Rudha Mor Farm to the south-west corner of the building and continues from the north-east until it is submerged in the Lochan nearby. This Lochan, known locally as The Duck Pond, was created about 1935 to flood extensive peat beds in which stock often foundered. The dam was blown up about 1958 at the request of the tenant farmer who miscalculated the amount of charge needed which resulted in severe damage to the roof of the bothy. Pieces of corrugated iron can still be found at some distance. It was reroofed. Damage was also done to a Canadian canoe housed in the bothy. This was brought back from Canada by Harold Malcolm in 1902 and may be the first Canadian canoe to have been paddled on the Nile. The dam was rebuilt in the mid-1970s using at least one old bedstead! The bothy had a concrete floor added about that time and a wooden floor was added to create a second story reached by a wooden staircase. For many years it was used as a rustic holiday cottage.

**Site 32. Rudha Mor, Well.**  
5495

**Position: NM 9691**

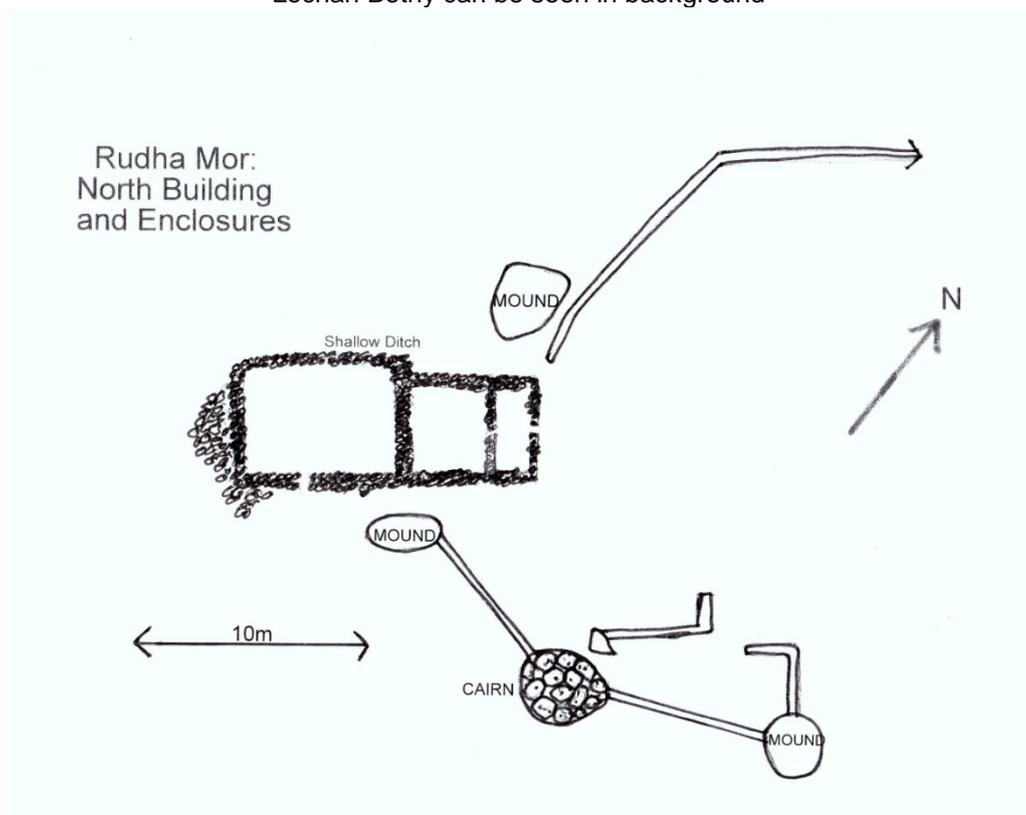
The well here was resurrected at the same time as the nearby bothy was upgraded. Latterly it has been neglected and most of the stone has been trampled into the ground by grazing cattle.

**Site 33. North Building, Rudha Mor.**

**Position: NM 9689**



Lochan Bothy can be seen in background



This building is shown as roofed on OS 1 but as unroofed on OS2. It is not shown on OS3. It lies on the line of a dyke that runs from the base of the east side of Rudha Mor to the Bothy at the artificial lochan. It is a byre dwelling with an internal wall dividing into two unequal parts. The walls are 60 to 70 cms thick for the dwelling and byre areas and 50 cms for the outshot.

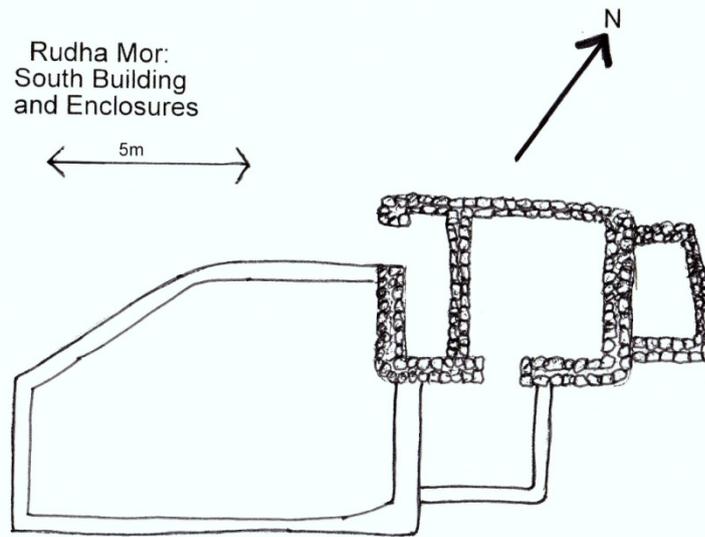
The walls have a maximum height of 90 cms down to the present level of the floor the original of which may lie a further 10 cms deeper. They are constructed of an inner and outer layer with rubble infill. The corners are rounded. Presumably the roof was of thatch and there would have been a central hearth. No cruck slots have been identified. Curiously I am not able to find a doorway into the byre part which is a little narrower than the dwelling part. No evidence of windows can be seen. A system of walls forming small enclosures are found adjacent to the building. During cleaning the site several broken bottles were found but were of recent origin. However in the middle of the floor of the dwelling area there are three slates, two to three centimetres thick, as well as several stones which form a line across the building but they are not parallel to the end walls and may just be tumbled stones. Probing of the remaining debris of the floor suggests that there may be stone floor at the depth of about ten centimetres. Further clearing of earth and debris should clarify this.

**Site 34.**  
**5596**

**South Building, Rudha Mor.**

**Position: NM 9687**





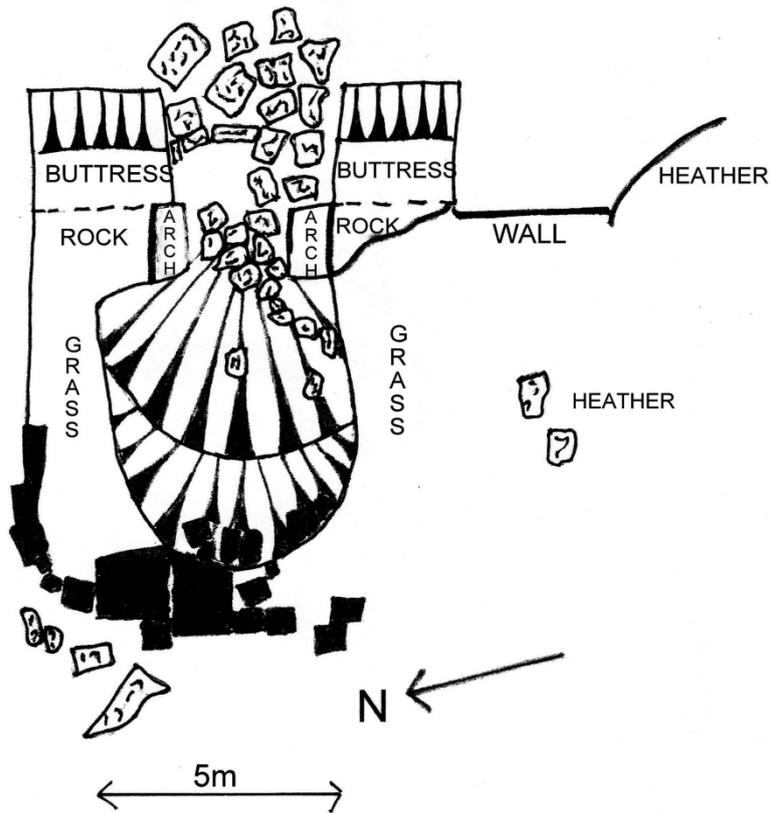
This too was a byre dwelling. It is shown on OS1 and 2 as unroofed and does not appear on OS3. An internal wall divided it into two portions and doorways can be made out for each part. There is a small outshot to the north-east and several walls form enclosures adjacent to the house. The walls have rounded corners and stand up to 1.3 metres high down to the present floor level. The original floor may be about 10 cms deeper. The walls are constructed of an inner and outer layer with rubble infill. They are 50 to 60 cms thick. Again, presumably the roof was of thatch. No cruck slots or windows have been identified. Three pieces of a broken cast-iron cauldron were found in the floor of the byre.

**Site 35. Limekiln, Rudha Mor.**

**Position: NM 9657 5574**



Limekiln: Rudha Mor





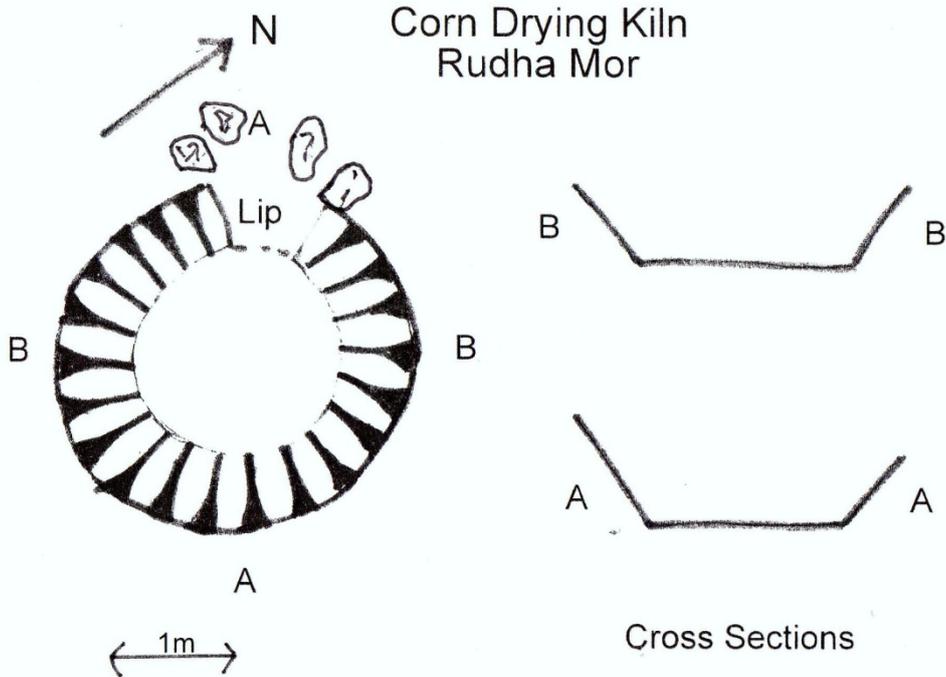
Looking down from Limekiln to flat area where boats could moor.

This is not shown on any map. It shows three phases of construction. The first stage is built into the hillside and contains the remains of the arch and pot. Within it is much tumbled stone. At the top there are several large stones and the pot of the kiln was probably stone lined. The construction is drystone. What is probably the second stage is a revetment immediately to the south holding back the adjacent hillside. This is well built with the use of much lime mortar. The third stage consists of two buttresses built onto the first stage to hold it up. These slope up at about 15 degrees. They are largely drystone with some lime mortar, more for the northern buttress than the southern. The kiln is built close to the sea but the shore here is extremely rocky. However, the remains of a quay can be made out a little above the low water mark. It consists of several large well dressed blocks of stone enclosing a flat area where boats could have moored or rested on the sea bed. Material could have been carried to the kiln up a steep slope. There is no evidence of there having been any mechanical means of lifting loads although there is a small area of spilt lime mortar or slurry. To the west of the kiln approximately at the same level as the top of the kiln is a quarry. However the stone here is Appin Quartzite not limestone but there are the remains of limestone quarries, largely worked out, just south-west of the limekiln at NM 9651 5568 and NM 9645 5568. Tradition says that limestone came from Lismore, presumably after all the local stone had been used. Near the quartzite quarry there are extensive peat beds. Who built the kiln and when and who worked it is not known. No-one in the area gave their occupation as a worker with lime in any of the censuses from 1841 to 1901. Lismore was the main supplier of lime to the West Highlands and the first large scale kiln was built there in 1804 so it was probably some time after, perhaps the second quarter of the nineteenth century, that this kiln was built. The coming of the railway to Oban in 1880 started the decline of the lime industry on Lismore as cheap lime could be imported easily from elsewhere so it is probably about this time that this kiln closed operations. Again it is not known if the lime produced was just for local use (probably) or for use elsewhere.

**Site 36. Corn Drying Kiln, Rudha Mor. Position: NM 9666**  
**5599**



Corn Drying Kiln  
Rudha Mor



This kiln is adjacent to a small quarry of Appin quartzite. The walls are of drystone construction and slope inwards from the top. The air vent is not visible and there is much soil within the kiln. The lip faces north-west. Nearby there are areas showing evidence of rig and furrow cultivation.

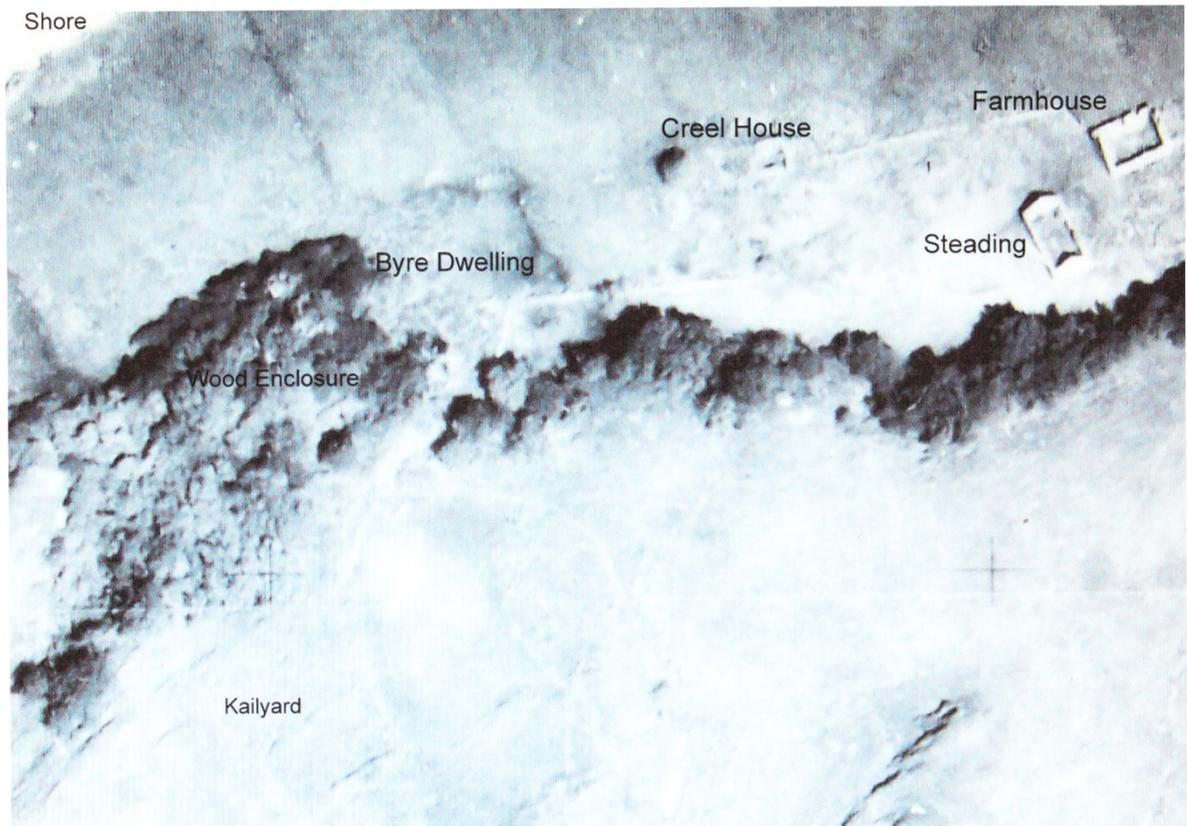
**Site 37.**  
**5607**

**Possible Enclosure.**

**Position: NM 9669**



Here there is a half-cup-shaped area about 9 by 6 metres. On the south-east side there is a broken stone dyke and within the cup many fallen stones but some of them are positioned in a line to suggest that there might have been some sort of enclosure here, possibly closed off by temporarily by wattle hurdles. Immediately to the east at NM 9670 5606 there are two parallel walls about 2.1 metres apart and running in an east-west direction for about 3.5 metres. The walls are of one to two thicknesses of stone. This looks as if it might have been some temporary shelter to be used from time to time. Many of the trees in the vicinity show signs of having been coppiced.



Aerial Photograph of Back Settlement (Leacnasgeir). 11th June 1968

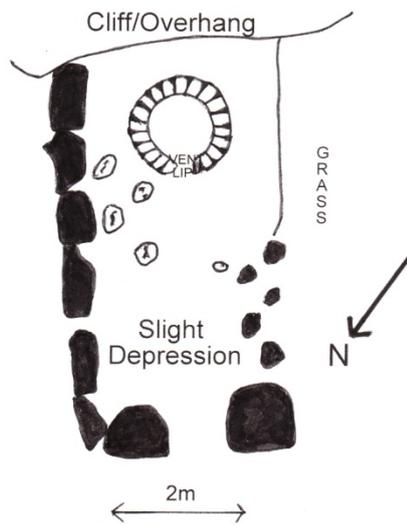
**Site 38. Corn Drying Kiln, Leacnasgeir (Back Settlement)  
5677**

**Position: NM 9747**



Note inner opening of air vent

Corn Drying Kiln  
Leachnasgeir



Two parallel lines of stones, 2 metres apart. Probably the footings of a shed.  
Like the two kilns already described this one is built of stone sloping in from the top. The

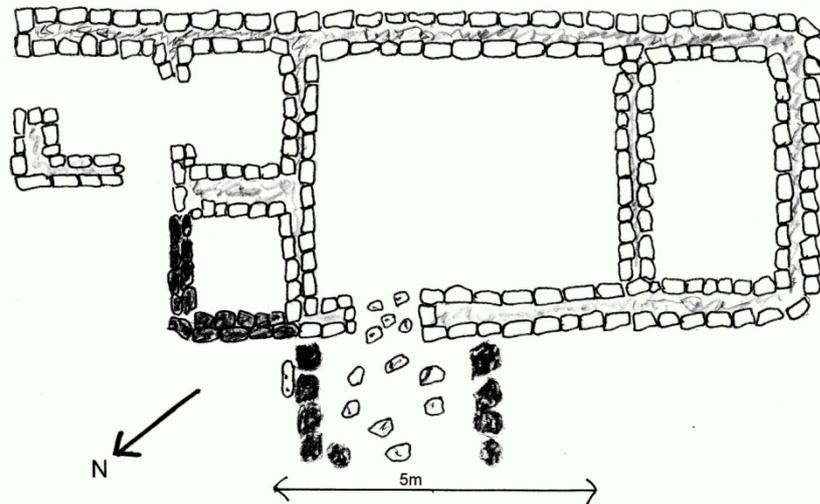
inner opening of the air vent is visible and extends for about 1 metre but the external opening is not visible. The lip faces north-west. It is built close to an overhang of rock. In front of it the remains of a platform can be seen and about eight metres to the south-west there are two lines of stone two metres apart with rock of the hill forming a third side. This looks as if it had been an open fronted storage shed, possibly with wattle walls. In the late 1970s this kiln was excavated to some extent leaving much as it is now.

**Site 39.**      **Byre Dwelling, Leacnasgeir.**  
5680

**Position:      NM    9758**



Byre Dwelling: Leacnasgeir



This building is shown on OS 1 and 2 as a roofed building. It is of a basic byre dwelling design with a large room and a smaller one. The walls are between 50 and 70 cms wide and up to a metre high in places. The entrance to the smaller room from the outside looks as if it might have been walled later as the long wall abuts the short wall but the corner does not appear to be integrated. There are several areas added on at the north-east end and what looks as if it had been a porch on the seaward side. On the hill above this building, centred on a position of NM 9752 5675 there is a series of turf dykes, between 60 and 80 cms wide and about 70 cms high enclosing a rectangular area about 15 by 28 metres with a dyke running from south-west to north-east across the centre of it. To the southwest there is another enclosure bounded on three sides by low stone dykes and to the seaward side by a naturally formed ha-ha. Within this there are several well-coppiced hazel stools.

**Site 40.**  
**5681**

**Creel (Turf) House, Leacnasgeir.**

**Position: NM 9757**



Ruin & Farmhouse, Leacnasgeir. M.E.M. Donaldson. Am Baile Collection. Highland Cour

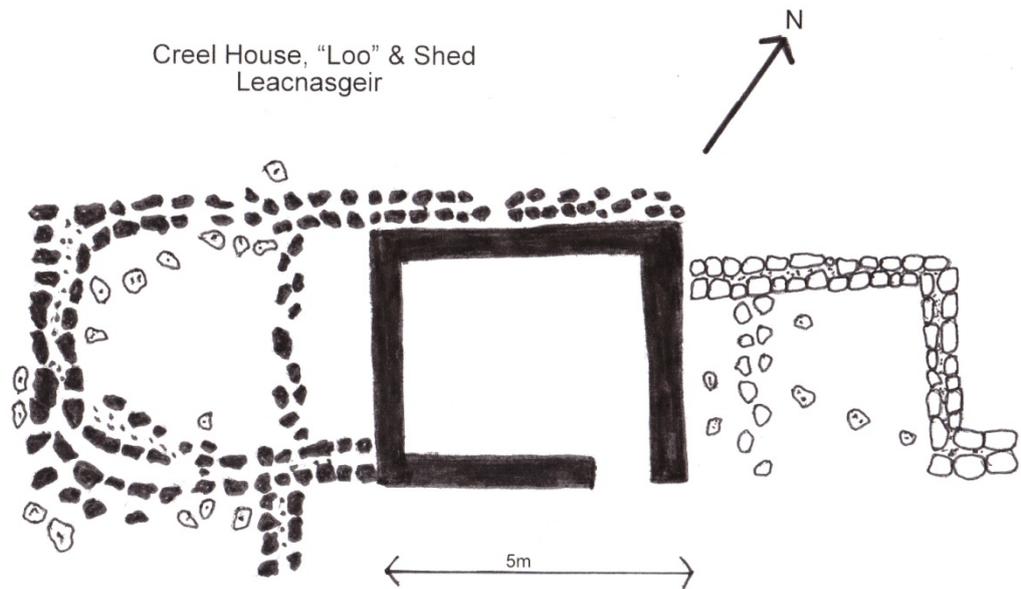
View of Ruin at Site of Creel House and Farmhouse on Miss Donaldson's first visit about 1920



Ruin at site of Creel House and Farmhouse, 2009



Corner of Creel House. Note double wall.



This building is also shown as roofed on OS 1 and 2 but unroofed on OS 3. The walls have been partially rebuilt in the past 40 years and part of this building is covered by a new half roof. It can be seen in a photograph taken by M.E.M. Donaldson about the end of the First World War. Here the two gable ends can be seen with the remains of thatch still attached. The door is still visible in its present position. This was probably the entrance to the dwelling part of the building. The south-west end of the building is now reduced to ground level.

Inspection of this area shows in one corner that there were what at first appear to be two external walls one inside the other. In other parts the walls are thick enough for there to have been two walls with the gap in-between being infilled. In front of the rebuilt part there is a narrow terrace of about 60 cms which continues as the remains of the seaward wall of the ruinous part. The outline of what is left suggests very strongly that this was originally a creel house. This has nothing to do with storing creels. It is one with wattle walls outside which would have been turf walls. A creel house required something like three or four thousand coppice poles and withies in its construction as well as needing up to an acre of sod for the walls and roof. This sort of house was the warmest in the Highlands until the introduction of central heating! This one must have deteriorated and been replaced by the stone building the remains of which can be seen in Miss Donaldson's photograph. Dr. Johnson stayed in such a house in Glen Moriston during his tour of the Western Highlands and Islands.

**Site 41. Shed, Leacnasgeir.**

**Position: NM 9758**

**5682**

This can be seen on OS 1 but not on later maps. It cannot be seen in Donaldson's photograph of about 1920. All that is left now is what appears to be a left and then right turn of the dyke that runs from the nearby steading to the byre dwelling adjacent. This represents two of the walls of what was probably a shed. A line of stones marks out a third wall and it would seem that this was an open fronted shed.

**Site 42. Steading, Leacnasgeir.**

**Position: NM 9760**

**5682**

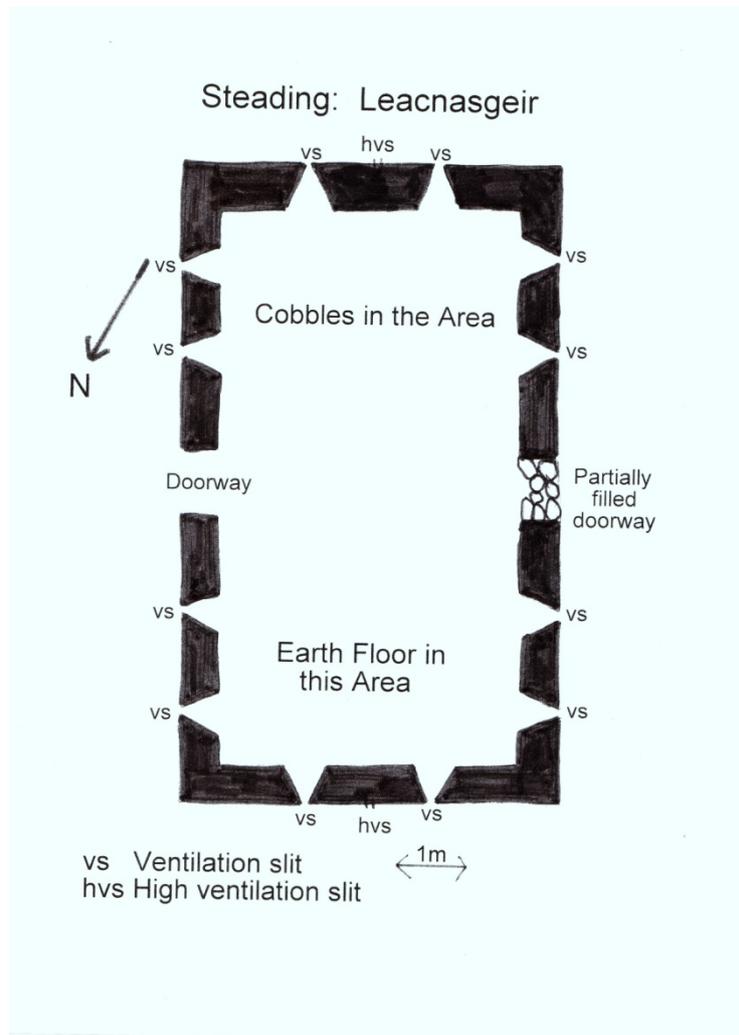


Taken on Miss Donaldson's first visit about 1920. The farmhouse is still roofed.



Am Bailé Collection: Highland Council  
Leachasgeir: Farmhouse & Steading: M.E.M. Donaldson  
Farmhouse and Steading on Miss Donaldson's second visit.





This building is shown as roofed on OS 1 and 2 but roofless on OS 3. It is also shown on MC 1 and 2. Donaldson's photographs of the 1920s show it to be roofless. In one of the earlier ones the roof timbers can be seen jutting up above the wall. In the later of her photographs no timbers can be seen. It was reroofed about six years ago and, on clearing the interior, many broken slates were found. It is situated eight metres from the dwelling house and is set at a right angle to it. The style of building shows that the Age of Agricultural Improvement had arrived. It is of well dressed stone with square corners. The quoins are more substantial than those of the adjacent dwelling house and much use of slate (and other types of stone) pinnings is made, again in contrast to the dwelling house walls. There are doors on the two long sides. The one on the south was partially blocked in until the summer of 2009 when it was unblocked and the opening filled with a wooden door. There are four ventilation slits on each long wall and two on each short wall along with a high one between these two. At the east end there is a cobbled floor with a byre drain, currently covered by a shingle floor. The byre drain does not run to the door but to a wall suggesting that it might be the remnant of a former building on the site. The west end of the floor is compressed earth or clay; this too is now covered by shingle. The back (inland) wall of the house is on a line with the short seaward end of the steading.

**Site 42a. Building Platform and ? Lamb Pen Position NM 9760 5680**

Here there is a rectangular, slightly raised area measuring 3.8 metres across by between 4.2 and 5.7 metres long depending on which stone one takes for a corner at the north-east end. At the south corner, which is rounded, the platform is raised about 50 cms above the surrounding ground. It looks as if this was a building platform. It is not shown on any map. Adjacent to this, hard by a steep hillside there is a square area bounded on three sides by a

line of single stones. The fourth side is formed by bare rock of the hillside. Its external dimensions are 1.5 metres by 1.4 metres. The purpose of this is not apparent, perhaps a lamb pen. The position of this is NM 9760 5679.

**Site 43. Farmhouse, Leacnasgeir.**  
**5783**

**Position: NM 9762**



Farmhouse. 1968.



Farmhouse 2010.



Possible outdoor oven.

As with the steading this house was built after the Age of Agricultural Improvement had arrived in the area but the quoins are smaller and much less use of pinnings is made compared to the steading. The rental of Back Settlement in 1841 was £42.1s.0d., much higher than any other holding in Cuil. This suggests that this house was built before that date. The census of 1851 states that the tenant was designated as a farmer of 231 acres with four labourers. His name does not appear in the previous or subsequent censuses and valuation rolls show that this property was leased by the tenant of North Cuil (Greenfield) from 1860. It is a one storey house with a Ballachulish slate roof, walls of well dressed stone, probably originally shore boulders in the main, with square corners. Lime mortar was used and it has been repointed in the last two summers with such mortar. It appears on OS 1, 2 and 3 as a roofed house. The earlier photographs of Miss Donaldson show it to still be roofed but a later one shows the roof to have been removed. The slates were neatly laid beside the building. It was said that the roof had been removed to avoid taxes. Miss Donaldson comments that the house was vacant when she first visited the area. The valuation roll of 1908 shows that this was when it was last occupied. The rent at that time was £3.0.0.

An aerial photograph taken in June 1968 shows it still to have been unroofed but the slates were put back later that year by two geologists who rented the ruined property. They were keen sailors and went out sailing on a stormy day at the end of November that year and were never seen again. Other geologists formed a syndicate which bought the house and steading in 1978 for £5,000 and this syndicate still makes use of the place as a holiday home

The house has a central door and two windows on the north-west side facing the sea and a small one in the middle of the opposite long wall. There are hearths at both ends. What inside divisions there might have been is no longer apparent. Here is no evidence that there was ever an attic. The original floor was of compressed earth at the south end and concrete at the north. Outside to the north-east there is the outline of a small outshot as well as a small square area which might have been an outside oven. Pieces of 19<sup>th</sup> century china was found when renovating the building and set aside but the whereabouts of these is not known.

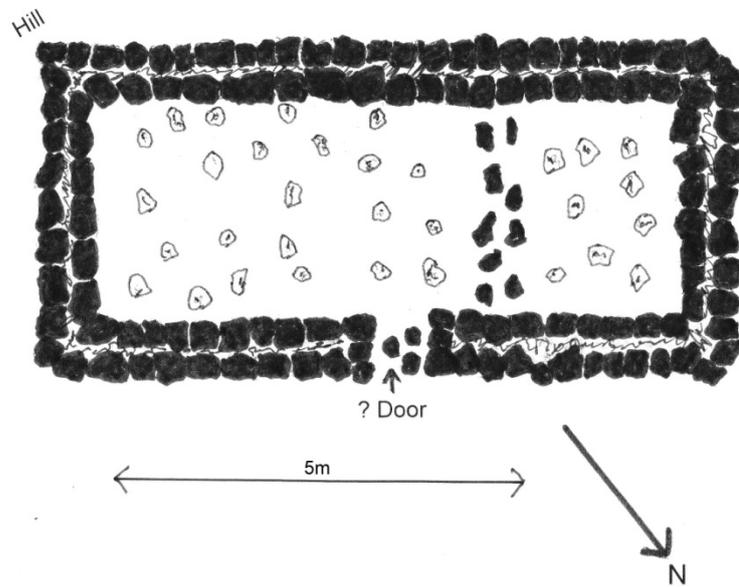
**Site 44. West Building, Port na Cloich.**

**Position: NM 9814**

**5708**



Port na Cloich: West Building





Small enclosure in stone dyke. Possibly a lamb pen.

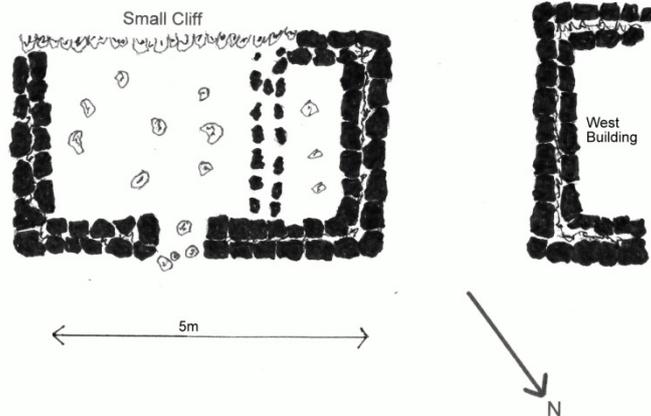
This building is shown on OS 1 and 2 as roofed but is not shown on OS 3. All that remains are the footings of the outside walls and the faint trace of an internal division suggesting that this was a byre-dwelling. The possible site of the doorway into the building can be made out. To the north-west is an enclosure bounded by stone walls. The north wall is covered by grass and forms a ha-ha. In the west corner of the wall there appears to have been a very small enclosure about 1.3 by 0.8 metres. It is possible that this was a lamb pen, a place where an orphaned lamb and a ewe could be placed in close proximity so that they adopted each other.

**Site 45.**            **East Building, Port na Cloich.**  
5705

**Position: NM 9812**



Port na Cloich: East Building



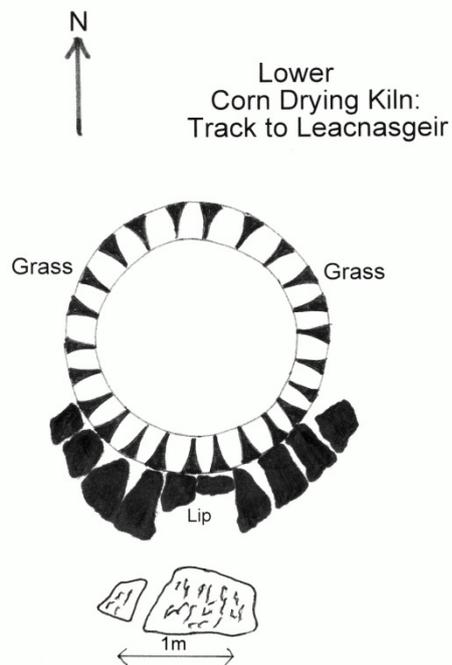
This building also shows on OS 1 and 2 as roofed but not at all on OS3. It is a little smaller than its western counterpart and it too has a faint outline of an internal stone division and a doorway. It is equally ruinous. Part of the back wall is actually the hillside into which it is built.

**Site 46. Dolomite Quarry.**  
**5685**

**Position: NM 9816**

Here is a quarry of dolomite (a form of limestone) which was used to build the adjacent stone dyke between Cuil and Ardsheal. A lease of an adjacent area to the south was taken by the Duror Rock Company in the late 1940s but it was never commercially exploited.

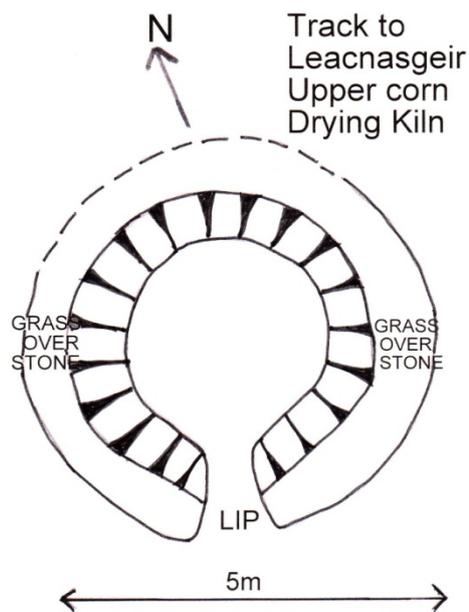
Site 47. Lower Corn Drying Kiln on Track to Leacnasgeir. Position: NM 9765 5641



This is not shown on any maps. It is situated at the edge of one of the tracks that led to Leacnasgeir and on the other side of the track is a steep area showing signs of rig and furrow cultivation. It is stone lined and part of the top of the wall can be seen at the front of the kiln either side of the lip which faces south. No air vent is visible and the interior is full of debris.

Nearby is small quarry (NM 9765/5642).

**Site 48. Upper Corn Drying Kiln on Track to Leacnasgeir. Position: NM 9764 5646**



Nearby, about 75 metres away and again not shown on any maps, this kiln measures about 4.0 metres in diameter. The bottom is on a downward slope and the depth of the kiln is about 70 cms. Nearby are two old beech trees and many birches which show signs of coppicing. No stone is visible lining the kiln which is covered by grass. On its southern edge there is a lip facing east about a metre across. Why should there be two kilns so close together? Perhaps one did not function properly.

**Site 49. Possible Enclosure. 5652**

**Position: NM 9771**



Here there is a small gully sloping downhill, about 25 metres long, across the mouth of which, 5-6 metres wide, is a line of several small boulders. Again there is evidence of coppicing of trees in the neighbourhood. It looks as if this may have been used as an enclosure for stock from time to time, the mouth being closed off by wattle hurdles.

**Site 50. Field System, Rudha Meadhonach Bay Plateau. Position: NM 9728  
5594**



Here there is a roughly hexagonal area enclosed on all but its south side by a turf dyke. Running east-west across the middle there is another turf dyke, slightly curved. To the south of this dyke the ground was taken back into cultivation for about 25 years after the end of the Second World War. In spite of this several systems of rig and furrow can be easily detected, their direction depending on the lie of the land. The rigs and furrows are straight. To the north of the transverse dyke it was not taken back into cultivation and the rigs and furrows show a reverse-S characteristic not seen anywhere else in the survey area. The point is Rudha Mor and the lime kiln can be made out (if you know exactly where to look!). The artificial lochan and bothy can be seen. The hills on the far side of Loch Linnhe are those of Ardgour and Kingairloch.

**Site 51. Circular Depression, Inshaig Hill. Position: NM 9874 5507**

About 40 metres east of the South Cuil/Inshaig boundary and 25 metres south of an old earth dyke there is a 3.2 metre diameter depression in the ground about 50 cms deep. There is a slight bank of about 20 cms on the south-west side about 2 metres in front of it. It has excellent views to the east up Glen Duror and to the south-west down Loch Linnhe. This is an observation post built by the Home Guard in 1940. Downhill from here there is .....

**Site 52. Rectangular Depression, Inshaig Hill. Position: NM 9858 5489**

This measures 6.7 metres east-west by 2.4 metres north-south. The southern edge takes in part of an old earth dyke in which two portions has been lowered. It is surrounded by a low earth wall about 20 cms high and 90 cms wide. It is about 50 cms deep. It is about 160 metres downhill from the circular depression. This was probably a defensive position to protect the observation post uphill. How three men each with five rounds of live ammunition could have put up much of a resistance had the enemy swarmed ashore is another matter.

<b>Site 53 a</b>	<b>Rectangular Depressions North Cuil Hill</b>	<b>Position: NM 9777 5601</b>
<b>b</b>		<b>NM 9764 5586</b>
<b>c</b>		<b>NM 9786 5603</b>
<b>d</b>		<b>NM 9786 5601</b>

There are four rectangular areas on the hillside north of the Barn at North Cuil. The first is between the Greenfield head dyke to the east and the track to Ardsheal on the west, measuring three metres across and five to ten metres long depending on where you take the measurement from and about a metre deep at its deepest end. The second one measures about twenty metres long by four metres wide and about one and a half metres deep. Half way along it there is a step down. Two more can be found close together just outside the Greenfield head dyke. One measures about 13 by 2.5 metres and the other a little downhill is

about the same size. The rock on the northern wall of the upper one looks as if it may have been quarried in the past. All four of these structures run north-east south-west. All look as if they have been deliberately dug out of the peaty ground with sides of variable height. Their purpose is unknown.

There are also two places where it seems that the hand of man may have been involved but it is not possible to say exactly what has been going on there.

In the South Cuil wood there is an area with several moderately large stones in a line about ten metres long which look as if they have been dressed by man. Perhaps they fell from the adjacent cliff, a part of which looks as if it might have been a small quarry. The position of these is NM 9881 5576.

Secondly, on the South Cuil hill there is a depression in the ground measuring about 6.5 metres by 4 metres but, again, it depends where you take the measurements from. On the long, north side the wall of the depression merges into the hillside and is about 2 metres high. On the south side it looks as if the wall has been banked up and is about half a metre high. The depression is situated at NM 9890 5624. Nearby at NM 9890 5620 there is a stone in which are two grooves, one 45 cms. long and the other about 40 cms. separated by about 10cms. The grooves are about 3 to 5 cms deep. There are also several linear scratches on this stone which measures about 1.0 by 1.0 metres. These are probably natural and not the result of attempts to quarry the stone. Another stone at NM 9885 5627, measuring about 5.5 by 2.6 metres has in it about ten smooth depressions which probably are not made by man but are naturally occurring but this deduction should be confirmed by an expert in this field. My reason for thinking this is that the depressions are more oval than circular and are of inconsistent size.

## **CONCLUSION**

While carrying out this survey I have learnt much about the area where I was born. In particular the nature and purpose of many of the sites, some of which had not been noted before, has been elucidated. No doubt further sites will be identified, especially in the wooded areas. Improvements in survey techniques such as GPR and Lidar aerial photography should be able to disclose a lot.

Several interesting topics have not been addressed in any detail; these include the zoology and botany. Cuil is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, mainly because of its geology. So far no one has written an article about it for the general reader.

It would be interesting to learn where people who lived in Cuil in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and earlier had gone to. I have made no attempt to look into emigration records. I have been contacted by descendants of one family from South Cuil and one from North Cuil.

One disappointment has been my inability to discover the whereabouts of the Lord of the Isles' Hospitality House mentioned in the History of Cuil. Of course, this may never have existed as we only know about it from a folk tale. But if it did there is no definite sign of it now although several possibilities have been put forward such as Greenfield Farmhouse and the small enclosure to the east of it. Perhaps something under the surface of the land may show up in the future.

## APPENDICES

**Lists of Persons from Cuil prior to 1841**  
**Valuation Rolls 1860 to 1970**  
**Census Reports 1841 to 1901**

### LISTS OF PERSONS FROM CUIL PRIOR TO 1841

#### Persons recruited by Charles Stewart of Ardsheal for the Jacobite Army. 1745

Allan Stewart  
John Stewart  
Duncan Carmichael  
Duncan MacCombie  
John MacCombie, Jr  
John MacCombie, Sr  
Samuel MacColl  
Donald MacIntyre  
Robert Stewart

#### Persons refusing to give up their weaponry after the battle of Culloden. 1746

Robert McAillean Stuart ( a Captain) Milne of Cuil	Robert John Stuart, his son
Allan Stuart	John McCombich,
Duncan McCombich	John Roy McCombich
Ewan McChannanich	Archibald McCombich
Euan Roy McIlmichel	Sorle More McColl
Gillespie McIntyre	John Dow McIntyre
Duncan McIntyre	

**Trial of James Stewart** (Seamus a' Ghlinne - James of the Glen) A early example of government spin doctoring!

Names mentioned in this book are in two lists. Firstly, "List of witnesses to be adduced for the proving the foregoing libel."

Robert Stewart son to Robert sr. miller in Cuil  
Duncan Stewart senior in Cuil  
Dugald Carmichael formerly in Cuil and now in Auchendarroch  
Duncan Stewart alias Roy-Stewart jnr. In Cuil  
Duncan Maccoll servant to Mildred Mccoll in Cuil

Secondly, "List of Witnesses summoned on the letters of exculpation at the instance of James Stewart of Aucharn against his Majesty's Advocates &c."

Duncan Maccoll, late in Auchindarroch, now in Cuil  
Robert Stewart miller in Cuil  
Hugh Macintyre pedlar there  
Duncan Stewart younger in Cuil  
Ewan Mccombich packman there  
Duncan Glass Maccoll in Cuil

#### Persons confirmed by Rt. Rev. Robert Forbes (Episcopalian) on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July 1770 (among the 432 confirmed at Ballachulish)

John Colquhoun	Mary MacLaurine	Duncan Bochanan
Katherine Colquhoun	Katherine MacKenzie	Sarah Colquhoun
Ewan Bochanan	Ann Bochanan	John MacColl
John Bochanan	Mary MacDonald	Allan Stewart
Ann Stewart	Betty Stewart	William MacOrderel
Ann McColl	Donald MacColl	Sarah MacColl

#### Names of persons owning taxable horses in 1797.

North Cuil: John McColl, Dugald McColl, Duncan Buchanan.

South Cuil: John McIntyre.

**Names of persons mentioned on tombstones in nearby cemeteries.**

**St. Columba's, Keil.**

Dugald McColl late tenant at Cuil, d.22.4.1813 aged 84 yrs  
Spouse Catherine McCoequedale  
Donald Colquhoun, d. at Cuil, 1835, aged 43 yrs. 3 sons Arch. Malcolm, Duncan  
and Ellen his wife. By dau. Janet and her husband Duncan Campbell  
By Allan McLean, Cull, and Margaret Colquhoun his spouse, son Lachlen McLean  
d.10.11.1839 aged 17 yrs. 1840  
By John Buchanan, Cuil, Appin, and Catherine Colquhoun his spouse, infant child  
d.22.10.1836 [in 1841 census]  
Burial place of John Colquhoun, tenant Cule, and his sister Mary Buchanan and  
his WIRLON (?Inscription indecipherable).  
By his son Dugd. Colquhoun, 1799  
John Livingston in Cuil, d.1860 aged 86 yrs, wife Mary Cameron, d.1855, aged  
72 yrs. (?) son Alexander, d. 1841 aged 24 yrs. [In 1851 census]  
By Duncan Colquhoun, tenant Cuil, Appin, memory of son John, d.22.5.1844  
aged 45 yrs. [Not in 1841 census]  
John Cameron, Cuil. D. 12,8,1847, aged 81 yrs. [Not in 1841 census]  
Dougald Stewart from Lechnasceire, 1791  
Many of the stones here do not have the name of a place on them so it is probable  
that some referred to people who had lived in Cuil. In particular one reads:-  
This stone is placed here by Malcom Livingston Taylor in memory of Isobel Campbell  
his spouse who departed this life the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 1810 aged 25 year.  
This is probably the Malcom Livingston, a tailor, who appears in the 1841 census  
aged 55.

**Annat Old Churchyard, Strathappin.**

By Duncan McLaren:- father John, late tenant Cuil, Duror, d.-.3.1847 aged 66yrs.  
Mother Mary McInnes. D.-.11.1826, aged 44yrs. A.D. 1849  
John Livingston, road contractor and tenant at Cuil, died 24.7.1832 aged 61 yrs  
Spouse Marjory Campbell - by son Dr. Livingston, Appin, 1837  
[Dr. Livingston was living in Cuil at 1841 census]  
John Carmichael, late at Cuil, 24 yrs. Who was shott at Achosrigan 7.2.1828  
by Donald McKichan, Oban. Erected by his parent, John  
Carmichael.

**Those baptised between 1768 and 1819 according to the old parish register.**

13/03/1768	Sarah, daughter of Hugh Buchanan and Anne Buchanan.
20/05/1770	Dond. Son to John Colquhoun and Dorothy Buchanan.
20/05/1770	Mary, daughter to John McColl and Mary Buchanan.
10/02/1771	Solomon, son to Dun: McColl.
18/11/1772	Euphan, daughter to John McIntyre and Katherine Buchanan.
16/12/1772	John, son to John McColl and Mary Buchanan.
27/06/1773	Charles, son to Dond. Stewart and Mary McColl.
16/11/1774	Dun: son to John McIntyre and Katherine Buchanan.
24/10/1784	Cath: dr: to Malcolm Colquhoun and Margaret McIntyre.
15/06/1785	Robert, natural son to John Morrison and Isbel McKenzie, Miln of Cuil.
01/09/1785	John, son to John McIntyre and Catherine Buchanan.
19/03/1786	John, son to John McColl and Euphie McColl.
23/03/1788	Gilbert, son to John McIntyre with Cathrine Buchanan.
17/02/1789	Mary, natural daughter to John Colquhoun and Mary McIlvera.
14/09/1790	Donald, son to John McIntyre and Catherine Buchanan.
01/12/1795	Agnes, daughter to Archd. Sinclair and Euphie McIntyre.
29/09/1802	Duncan, son to Dugald Colquhoun and Jean Keith. (South Cuil).
10/16/1811	Dugald, son to Donald McColl and Flora McColl.
12/02/1814	Dugald, son to Donald McColl and Flora McColl

*[This entry looks as if it has been lightly scored out]*

16/02/1816 Hugh, son to Alex. Stewart and Elizabeth McLaren.  
22/05/1818 Duncan, son to Alex. Stewart and Elizabeth McLaren.  
05/01/1819 Mary, daughter to Don. McIntyre and Sarah McLaren  
26/03/1822 Lachlan son to Allan McLean and Margt. Colquhoun  
09/11/1822 Margaret daughter to John Rankin and Ann McPherson, Lecknasgeir  
16/09/1823 Cathrine daughter to Donald McIntyre and Sarah McColl, South Cuil  
01/11/1826 Ann natural daughter to Neil Cameron, Kentallen and Mary  
Colquhoun, Cuil

## VALUATION ROLLS

Every fifth year from 1860 to 1970

### 1860

Owner James Macalpine-Leny

South Cuil

Duncan McPherson  
Duncan Colquhoun  
Charles McLean  
Allan McLean  
Donald McPherson

Cuil Fishings

Benjamin Moir

Lecknacoir & North Cuil

Donald McPherson

### 1865

Owner James Macalpine-Leny

North Cuil

Donald McPherson  
Duncan Colquhoun  
Charles McLean  
Allan McLean

South Cuil

Duncan McPherson

Lecknacoir

Donald McPherson

Cuil Fishing

Mrs. Christie (B. Moir crossed out)

Someone at a later date has crossed through the entry for North Cuil and corrected it in red ink indicating that Duncan Colquhoun, Charles McLean and Allan McLean actually rented land on South Cuil and that the evaluators had made an error. Who did this and when is not known.

### 1870

Owner Marion Agatha Macalpine-Leny

North Cuil & Lecknacoir

Donald McPherson

South Cuil

Duncan Colquhoun  
John Rankine  
Miss Mclean  
Allan McIntyre

Allan McLean  
Donald McPherson [a different one from North Cuil]  
Cuil Fishings  
Mrs. Christie, Ballachulish Inn

**1875**

Owner Marion Agatha Macalpine-Leny

North Cuil & Leckanacoir  
Donald McPherson  
South Cuil  
Duncan Colquhoun  
Donald Cameron  
Allan Mclean  
Donald McPherson  
Cuil Fishings  
A.D. Anderson of Ardsheal

**1880**

Owner Marion Agatha Macalpine-Leny

North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
Donald McPherson  
South Cuil  
Donald & John Colquhoun  
Donald Cameron  
Allan McLean  
Donald McPherson  
Cuil Fishings  
A.D. Anderson of Ardsheal

**1885**

Owner William Macalpine-Leny

North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
Alex & Donald McPherson  
Cottages, North Cuil  
Archibald Grant, shepherd  
Duncan McColl, labourer  
South Cuil  
Donald & John Colquhoun  
Donald Cameron  
Malcolm McLean  
Donald McPherson  
Cuil Fishings  
G.W. Anderson of Ardsheal  
Cuil Fishings House  
Hugh Cameron, fisherman

**1890**

Owner William Macalpine-Leny

North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
Alex & Donald McPherson

Cottages, North Cuil  
Vacant  
Duncan McColl

South Cuil  
Duncan & John Colquhoun  
Donald Cameron  
Malcolm McLean  
Donald McPherson

Cuil Fishings  
G.W. Anderson

Cuil Fishings House  
Vacant

**1895**

Owner William Macalpine-Leny

North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
Donald McPherson

Cottages, North Cuil  
Both Vacant

Cottages, Lecknacoir  
Jessie Cameron, cottar  
Vacant

Cuil Fishings  
Duncan McNicol

Cuil Fishings House  
Vacant

**1900**

Owner William Macalpine-Leny

North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
Alex & Donald McPherson

Cottage, North Cuil  
Ann Sinclair, widow

Cottages, Lecknacoir  
Jessie Cameron, cottar  
Vacant

South Cuil  
John Colquhoun  
Donald Rankin  
Malcolm McLean  
Donald McPherson

Cuil Fishings  
Duncan McNicol, Bonawe Ferry, Taynuilt

**1905**

Owner Trustees of the late William Macalpine-Leny

North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
Alex & Donald McPherson  
Cottages, North Cuil  
Vacant  
Ann Sinclair, widow  
Cottages, Lecknacoir  
Jessie Cameron, cottar  
Vacant  
South Cuil  
John Colquhoun  
Donald Rankine  
Malcolm McLean  
Donald McPherson  
Cuil Fishings  
Duncan McNicol, Bonawe

**1910**

Owner Trustees of the late William Macalpine-Leny

North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
James & Angus McNicol  
Cottages, North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
All vacant  
South Cuil  
James & Peter Campbell  
Barbara McCallum  
Allan McLean  
Hugh McPherson  
Cuil Fishings  
Duncan McNicol, Bonawe

**1915**

Owner Trustees of the late William Macalpine-Leny

North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
James & Angus McNicol  
Cottages, North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
All vacant  
South Cuil  
Duncan McKenzie  
Barbara McCallum  
Allan Mclean  
Hugh McPherson  
Cuil Fishings  
Duncan McColl, Bonawe

**1920**

Owner Lt. Col. W.H. Macalpine-Leny

North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
James & Angus McNicol  
Cottages, North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
All vacant  
South Cuil  
Duncan McKenzie  
Barbara McCallum  
Allan McLean  
Cuil Fishings  
Duncan McColl, Kirkton, Taynuilt

**1925**

Owner Lt. Col. W.H. Macalpine-Leny

North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
James & Angus McNicol  
Cottages, North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
All vacant  
South Cuil  
Angus McMillan  
Barbara McCallum  
Allan Mclean  
Duncan Campbell  
Cuil Fishings  
Duncan McColl

**1930**

Owner Lt. Col. W.H. Macalpine-Leny

North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
James & Angus McNicol  
Cottages, North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
All vacant  
South Cuil  
Alex Gunn  
Barbara McCallum  
Allan McLean  
Duncan Campbell  
Cuil Fishings  
Duncan McColl

**1935**

Owner            G. H. Malcolm

North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
Peter McKenzie  
Cottages, North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
All vacant  
South Cuil  
Alex Gunn  
Mrs. J.M. McInnes  
Allan McLean  
Duncan Campbell  
Cuil Fishings  
Duncan McColl

**1940**

Owner            G.H. Malcolm

North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
Peter McKenzie  
South Cuil  
Alex Gunn  
Grizelda Hawke  
Simon McRae  
Donald Campbell  
Cuil Fishings  
Duncan McColl

**1945**

Owner            G.H. Malcolm

North Cuil & Lecknacoir  
Peter McKenzie  
South Cuil  
Alasdair Gunn  
Grizelda Hawke  
Simon McRae  
Donald Campbell  
Cuil Fishings  
Mrs. Catherine McColl, Dochfour, Taynuilt

**1950**

Owner            G.H. Malcolm

Greenfield  
Peter McKenzie  
South Cuil  
Alasdair Gunn  
Archibald Campbell  
Simon McRae  
Donald Campbell

Cuil Fishings  
Mrs. Catherine McColl

**1955**

Owner G.H. Malcolm

Greenfield

Ian Muir

South Cuil

1. Archibald Campbell
2. Archibald Campbell
3. Donald Tyson
4. Donald Campbell

Cuil Fishings

Mrs. Catherine McColl

**1960**

Owner G.H. Malcolm

Greenfield

Ian Muir

South Cuil

1. Donald Tyson
2. Donald Tyson
3. Donald Tyson
4. Donald Campbell

Cuil Fishings

Archibald McLachlan

**1965**

Owner G.H. Malcolm

Greenfield

William Lees

South Cuil

1. Proprietor
2. Donald Tyson
3. Dugald Malcolm
4. Lady Jean Reid

Cuil Fishings

Not recorded

**1970**

Owner Mrs. M.I. Malcolm

Greenfield

William Lees

South Cuil

1. Proprietor
2. Donald Tyson
3. Dugald Malcolm
4. Lady Jean Reid

Cuil Fishings

Not recorded

1841 Census Surname Cuil	First name	Age	Comments	Where born
McPherson	Duncan	60	Farmer	not given for whole of Cuil
	Bell	55		
	Donald	20		
Stewart	Catherine	16	Farm servant	
McLean	Cicely	28		
	Mary	5		
	John	3		
Skinner Cameron	James	30	Salmon fisher	
	Donald	25	Salmon fisher	
	Archibald	20	Salmon fisher	
Fraser	Simon	10		
McColl	John	35	Labourer	
	Neil	30	Labourer	
	John	8		
	Nany	60		
	Mary	28		
McLaren	Donald	41	Tenant	
	Christina	30		
	Hugh	16		
	Catherine	14		
	Nancy	7		
	Mary	4		
	Donald	1		
Downie	Archibald	15	Labourer	
McLaren	Mary	40		
Livingston	Cathrine	30		
Downie	Margret	10		
	Mary	5		
	Cathrine	1		
McLaren	John	73		
	Nany	65		
	John	38		
	Duncan	10		
	John	10		
	Sally	8		
Cameron	John	74	Cottar	
	Ellen	8		
Stewart	Dugald	44	Watchmaker	

Colquhoun	Duncan	32	Farmer
	Ann	24	Farm servant
	Jean	11	Farm servant
	Sally	7	
	Nany	5	
	Cathrine	2	
McLaren	Margret	60	
McIntyre	Hugh	15	Servant
Livingston	Donald	35	Surgeon
	Marjory	70	
	Dorothy	40	Farm servant
Rankin	Flora	30	Domestic
McCorquodale	Marjory	5	
Campbell	Mary	20	Independent
McCorquodale	Duncan	35	Servant
	Mary	30	
	John	3	
	Catherine	1	
McLaren	Hugh	15	Servant
McKay	Donald	10	Servant
Rankin	John	55	Labourer
	Kathrine	48	
	Duncan	50	Labourer
Livingston	Malcom	55	Tailor
	Hugh	15	
	Catherine	14	
	Duncan	12	
	Malcom	5	
Livingston	John	67	Farmer
	Mary	60	
	Jean	17	
	Mary	14	
	Richel	12	
McColl	Paul	25	Quarrier
	Jean	23	
	Janet	7	
	John	4	
	Bell	1	
McLaren	John	58	Farmer
	Cathrine	45	Farm servant
	Cathrine	15	Farm servant
Carmichael	Duncan	14	Domestic
Stewart	Mary	70	Leaving Independent
McColl	Christy	30	Servant

McKenzie	John	45	Farmer
	Catherine	30	Farm servant
McColl	Donald	9	
	John	7	
Stewart	Hugh	3	
Colquhoun	Archibald	17	Landlord
	Janet	9	Farm servant
Colquhoun	Duncan	55	Farmer
	Margaret	35	Farm servant
	Christian	10	Farm servant
	John	8	
	Donald	6	
	Anne	4	
	Ewen	7	
Buchanan	John	35	Meason
	Cathrine	28	
	Hugh	10	
	John	5	
	Kitty	3	
	Mary	1	
Colquhoun	Anne	24	Housekeeper
McColl	John	10	
Cameron	Anne	1	
Colquhoun	Dugald	72	Crofter
	Jean	68	
	Minnie	22	
McLeod	Donald	8	
Colquhoun	John	5	
McLean	Allan	50	
	Margaret	45	
	Janet	14	
	Malcom	10	
McLaren	Duncan	15	
McIntyre	Sarah	45	
	Margaret	19	
	Janet	12	
	Sarah	9	

The enumerator adds that six houses were unoccupied, making a total of 31 houses in all. I have not been able to identify this many houses suggesting that several may have been ephemeral, possibly built of turf.

The inventory of the estate of Robert Downie at the time of his death in 1841 tells us that Duncan McPherson, Duncan Colquhoun Junior, Allan McLean, Duncan Colquhoun Senior and Malcolm Colquhoun were living at South Cuil; that John Livingston, Malcolm Livingston, John McLaren and Dr. D. Livingston were living at North Cuil, and that John McLaren and John McColl (possibly the father of Paul McColl) were living at the Back Settlement.

**1851 Census**

<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Where born</b>
<b>South Cuil</b>				
McLaren	Duncan	37	Agricultural labourer	Duror
	Catherine	24	Wife	Duror
	John	2	Son	Duror
Rankin	John	65	Agricultural labourer	Kilmallie
	Catherine	52	Wife	Morvern
	John	25	Quarrier	Kilmallie
	Ann	30	Quarrier's wife	Kilmallie
	Mary	2	Granddaughter	Duror
	Christy	2	Granddaughter	Duror
<b>North Cuil</b>				
Colquhoun	Duncan	48	Pauper (Farmer)	Duror
	Margaret	48	Wife	Duror
	Donald	15	Scholar	Duror
	Ann	13	Scholar	Duror
	Hugh	11	Scholar	Duror
	Duncan	7	Scholar	Duror
McPherson	Donald	38	Farmer 200 acres, 6 labourers	Appin
	Catherine	30	Wife	Perthshire
	Alexander	3	Son	Appin
	Donald	1	Son	Appin
	Isabella	67	Widow, formerly Inn Keeper	Fort William
	Robert	29		Appin
McDougall	Donald	30	Ploughman	Appin
Hastie	James	28	Shepherd	Appin
Johnston	Michael	50	Farm Servant	Ireland. Tyrone
McKenzie	Donald	14		Kilmallie
McIntyre	Catherine	21		Appin
	Ann	14		Appin
Colquhoun	Archibald	30	Pauper: blind	Duror
	Margaret	20	Sister: housekeeper & nurse	Duror
Livingston	John	77	Cottar	Duror
	Mary	70	Wife	Kilmallie
	Mary	25	Daughter: at home	Appin
McCallum	Alexander	7	Scholar	Appin
Skinner	James	41	Foreman Salmon Fisher	Kennoway, Fife
McKechnie	John	25	Salmon Fisher	Kilmore
Downie	Archibald	24	Salmon Fisher	Duror

## Cuil

Buchanan	John	51	Journeyman mason	Duror
	Catherine	48	Wife	Duror
	Hugh	20	Son: pauper: dumb	Duror
	John	14	Scholar	Duror
	Catherine	12	Scholar	Duror
	Mary	10	Scholar	Duror
	Female	8	Scholar	Duror
	Malcolm	5	Scholar	Duror
	Donald	2	Son	Duror
McLean	Charles	66	Superannuated excise officer	Kilmally
	Anna	54	Housekeeper	Kilmally
	Lachlan	28	Son	Glenorchy
	Lachlan	19	Scholar	Jamaica
Fletcher	Mary	22	Niece: house servant	Doune, Stirling
Cameron	Archibald	14	Herd	Duror
McColl	Duncan	56	Salmon fisher	Appin
	Mary	31	Wife	Appin
	Mary	6	Scholar	Appin
	Donald	4		Appin
	Margaret	2		Appin
McIntyre	Sarah	54	Cottar	Duror
	Catherine	60	Sister, pauper. Domestic servant	Duror
McLean	Allan	61	Farmer 16 acres, 1 labourer	Duror
	Margaret	59	Wife	Duror
	Catherine	25	Daughter	Duror
	Malcom	19	Son, employed on farm	Duror
	Margaret	17	Daughter, employed at home	Duror
	Margaret	96	Mother	Appin
McLaren	Lachlan	1	Grandson	Duror
Colquhoun	Duncan	48	Crofter, 16 acres, no labourers	Duror
	Agnes	48	Wife	Morvern
	Agnes	14	Daughter, employed at home	Duror
	Catherine	12	Scholar	Duror
	John	9	Scholar	Duror
Colquhoun	Dugald	84	Cottar	Duror
	Jean	82	Wife	Lismore
McPherson	Donald	31	Farmer, 18 acres, no labourers	Duror
	Julia	27	Wife	Ardgour
	Emily	5	Daughter	Duror
	John	3	Son	Duror
	Julia	1	Daughter	Duror
	Jessy	76	Mother, formerly farmer's wife	Lochaber
McIntyre	Sally	17	Servant	Glencoe
McMillan	John	24	Visitor	Ardgour

Stewart	Dugald	54	Watchmaker, finisher	Duror
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### Rumor

McColl	Neil	40	Crofter of 1 cow's grazing	Glenelg
	Sarah	31	Wife	Appin
	John	3		Appin
	Ann	1		Duror
	Effy	73	Lodger, pauper, domestic servant	Appin
Downie	Mary	50	Cottar	Appin
	Mary	15	Cottar's daughter, at home	Appin
	Catherine	13	Scholar	Duror
Livingston	Catherine	60	Sister, pauper, domestic servant	Appin
McLaren	Donald	45	Agricultural labourer	Duror
	Chirsty	40		Duror
	John	19	Scholar	Duror
	Sarah	17	At home	Duror
	Neil	15	Scholar	Duror
	Donald	13	Scholar	Duror
	Janet	11	Scholar	Duror
	Ann	70	Pauper, Farmer's wife	Appin

### Leacnasgeir

Rankin	Donald	63	Farmer, 231 acres, 4 labourers	Morvern
	Ann	89	Mother, formerly farmer's wife	Glencoe
	Duncan	45	Farmer's brother employed on farm	Morvern
	Peter	48	Farmer's brother employed on farm	Morvern
	Mary	22	House servant	Morvern
	Peter	15	Cousin, scholar	Killin, Perthshire

### Port na Cloich

McColl	Paul	40	Crofter, 5 acres	Glenelg
	Jane	36	Wife	Oban
	John	13	Son, at home	Duror
	Bell	9	Daughter, at home	Duror
	Duncan	5	Son	Duror
	Thomas	3	Son	Duror
	Ann	9mo	Daughter	Duror

The number of uninhabited houses is not recorded.

## 1861 Census

Surname	First Name	Age	Comments	Where Born
<b>South Cuil</b>				
McLaren	Alexander	27	Farmer: 12 acres employing 1 man & 1 boy	Ardgour
	Hannah	60	Farmer's sister	Ardgour
Black	Dugald	27	Ploughman	Appin
McInnes	Dugald	15	Herd	Appin
Black	Sarah	17	Domestic Servant	Appin
McIntyre	Sarah	72	Pauper, agricultural labourer	Achara
McLean	Allan	71	Farmer: 13 acres employing 1 man	Morvern
	Margaret	68	Farmer's wife	Appin
	Malcom	35	Son	Appin
	Mary	28	Daughter-in-law	Appin
Cameron	Margaret	28	Daughter	Kilmallie
McInnes	Female	16	Domestic servant	Kilmallie
Cameron	Donald	1	Farm servant's son	Appin
Colquhoun	Duncan	57	Farmer: 13 acres employing 1 man & 1 boy	Appin
	Agnes	56	Farmer's wife	Argyllshire
	Agnes	25	Daughter	Appin
	John	19	Son	Appin
<b>North Cuil</b>				
McPherson	Donald	41	Farmer: 18 acres	Appin
	Jully	37	Farmer's wife	Appin
	John	13	Son	Appin
	Hugh	3	Son	Appin
	Hannah	14	Daughter	Appin
	Jully	11	Daughter	Appin
	Mary	9	Daughter	Appin
	Bell	9 mo	Daughter	Appin
McColl	Nanny	27	Agricultural labourer Visitor	Appin
McPherson	Donald	47	Farmer: 60 acres employing 5 men	Appin
	Catherine	42	Farmer's wife	Perthshire
	Alexander	12	Farmer's son	Appin
	Dugald	10	Farmer's son	Appin
	Jane	8	Farmer's daughter	Appin
	Robert	6	Farmer's son	Appin
	Isabella	4	Farmer's daughter	Appin
	Julia	2	Farmer's daughter	Appin
Rankin	Hugh	18	Ploughman	Appin

McCorquodale	Duncan	19	Shepherd	Appin
Black	Jessie	22	Dairymaid	Appin
McNiven	Mary	14	Domestic servant	Appin
McPherson	Isabella	77	Mother	Lochaber
<b>Greenfield</b>				
Campbell	Dugald	29	Ploughman	Lismore
	Ann	34	Wife	Glencreran
	John	4		Appin
	Una ?	2		Glencreran
	Ann	5 mo		Appin
Skinner	James	60	Salmon fisher	Kennoway, Fife
Colquhoun	Duncan	17	Salmon fisher	Appin
Rankin	Alexander	17	Salmon fisher	Appin
McColl	Duncan	42	Salmon fisher	Appin
	Mary	41		Appin
	John	7		Appin
	Margaret	10		Appin
Colquhoun	Duncan	76	Pauper: agricultural labourer	Appin
	Margaret	58	Wife	Appin
Johnston	John	40	Stone quarrier	Appin
	Mary	33		Appin
<b>Rubha Mor</b>				
McLaren	Donald	50	Agricultural labourer	Appin
	Christina	51	Agricultural labourer	Appin
Livingston	Sally	9	Granddaughter	Appin
McLaren	Mary	N/A	Absent	
McColl	Neil	51	Fisherman	Knoydart
	Sally	38	Wife	Appin
	John	12	Son	Appin
	Ann	11	Daughter	Appin
	Alexander	7	Son	Appin
	Duncan	3	Son	Appin
<b>Back Settlement</b>				
McColl	Paul	51	Stone quarrier	Glenelg
	Jane	50		Oban
	Thomas	12		Appin
	Bell	21		Appin
	Agnes	10		Appin
	Donald	8		Appin
	Alexander	5		Appin
	John	4mo	Grandson	Appin
McPhail Campbell	Catherine	45	Agricultural labourer	Kilmore
	Duncan	27	Son: stone mason	Appin
	Janet	30	Daughter-in-law	Cowal

There were no uninhabited houses in this census.

### 1871 Census

Surname	First name	Age	Comments	Where born
<b>South Cuil</b>				
McLean	Allan	80	Farmer, 13 acres	Morvern
	Margaret	78	Wife	South Cuil
Colquhoun	Sarah	86	Pauper, visitor	South Cuil
McLean	Malcolm	39	Ploughman	South Cuil
	Mary	38	Wife	Glencoe
	Allan	8	Scholar	South Cuil
	Donald	6		South Cuil
	Lachlan	4		South Cuil
	Betsy	3		South Cuil
Colquhoun	Duncan	60	Farmer; 13 acres arable	South Cuil
	John	27	Son	South Cuil
	Catharine	26	Dairymaid	South Cuil
	Mary	21	General Servant	Kinlocheil
McPherson	Donald	51	Farmer: 12 acres arable	South Cuil
	Julia	47	Farmer's wife	Inverness, Trinalaig ?
	John	23	Farmer's son	South Cuil
	Mary	19	Dairymaid	South Cuil
	Hugh	12	Scholar	South Cuil
	Bell	11	Scholar	South Cuil
	Duncan	7	Scholar	South Cuil
<b>Greenfield</b>				
McPherson	Donald	57	Farmer of 50 ac. arable	Glencoe
	Catharine	51	Wife	Aberfeldy
	Donald	20	Son	Glencoe
	Jane	18	General servant	Greenfield
	Bell	14	Scholar	Greenfield
	Julia	11	Scholar	Greenfield
	Isabella	88	Mother: annuitant	Inverness: Blarcaoran
McCull	Ann	19	General servant	Argyll: Rhumore
	Niel	21	Agricultural servant?	Argyll: Lismore
Sommerville	Richard	16	Herd Boy	Glasgow
Robertson	Jessie	28	Visitor, annuitant	Argyll, Forrest Lodge
McCull	Duncan	56	Agricultural labourer	Inshaig
	Mary	52	Wife	Greenfield
	Mary	27	Daughter; general servant	South Cuil
	Duncan	2	Grandson	Ardgour
McLaren	Margaret	51	Annuitant	South Cuil
	Catherine	45	Annuitant	South Cuil

**Rhumore**

McLaren	Donald	75	Crofter	Achara
	Christian	67		Keil
	Neil	28		Back Settlement
McCallum	Hugh	3		Glasgow
	Ann	5		Rhumore
McColl	Sarah	60	Pauper	Achandarroch

**Cuil Bay**

McLean	Paul	55	Salmon Fisher	Argyll, Corran
Boyd	Thomas	25	Salmon Fisher	Argyll, Daisgeadh

**Leacnasgeir**

Cameron	Allan	52	Shepherd	Ardnamurchan: Gortanorna
	Margaret	45	Wife	Ardnamurchan: Gortanorna
	Peter	15	Scholar	Inverness-shire: Larachmor
	Archibald	13	Scholar	Inverness-shire: Larachmor
	Angus	11	Scholar	Inverness-shire: Larachmor
	Ann	9	Scholar	Inverness-shire: Larachmor
	Mary	5		Inverness-shire: Larachmor
	Christian	3		Inverness-shire: Larachmor

**Back Settlement**

McColl	Paul	56	Agricultural labourer	Glenelg
	Jane	55	Wife	Oban
	Alexander	15	Scholar	Back Settlement
McFarlane	John	10	Scholar	Back Settlement

This census shows that there were two uninhabited houses at Greenfield

## 1881 Census

Surname	First Name		Comments	Where Born
<b>South Cuil</b>				
Cameron	Donald	34	Farmer: 8 acres arable	Glenfintaig
	Elizabeth	30		Crieff
	Neil	2		Duror
	Christina	1 mo		Duror
Clark	Ann	29	Hotel keeper's wife; visitor	Kilmallie
McKay	John	52	Border, widower, general labourer formerly domestic servant, lunatic	Lismore
McDougall	Ann	31		Morar
McLean	Malcolm	52	Farmer	Duror
	Mary	49		Glencoe
	Allan	18	Farm servant	Duror
	Betty	12	Scholar	Duror
	Duncan	9	Scholar	Duror
	Margaret	5	Scholar	Duror
	Margaret	89	Annuitant	Duror
Colquhoun	Duncan	79	Farmer, 20 acres arable; hill land	Duror
	John	39	Son, farmer	Duror
	Christina	29	Daughter-in-law	Fortingall
	Catherine	40	Daughter: housemaid	Duror
	Ann	3	Granddaughter	Duror
	Isabella	2	Granddaughter	Duror
	Patterson	Joseph	31	Border: income from dividends
McIntyre	Christina	18	Domestic servant	Ardchattan
McPherson	Donald	61	Farmer	Appin
	Julia	56	Wife	Kilmallie
	Hugh	22	Son	Appin
	Isabella	20	Servant, domestic	Appin
	Duncan	16	Servant	Appin
<b>Greenfield</b>				
McPherson	Donald	67	Farmer: 400 acres, 80 arable, 3 men, 1 boy	Appin
	Catherine	63	Wife	Aberfeldy
	Alexander	30	Son	Appin
	Donald	29	Son	Appin
	Julia	20	Daughter	Appin
McColl	Ann	6	Granddaughter	Lismore
Buchanan	Neil	24	Ploughman	Lismore
McLean	Donald	16	Farm servant	Appin
McIntyre	Jessie	19	Dairymaid	Kilmallie

McCull	Mary	45	Agricultural labourer	Clachan, Argyll
	Duncan	21	Son: agricultural labourer	Glenduffil, Lanarkshire
	Mary	14	Daughter: agricultural labourer	Appin
Cameron	Hugh	28	Salmon fisherman	Morvern
McCull	Duncan	64	Salmon fisherman	Duror
	Mary	60	Wife	Appin
McLaren	Margaret	55	Relative	Appin
	Catherine	57	Relative	Appin
	Duncan	12	Grandson	Fort William
McKillop	Mary	3	Granddaughter	Glasgow

### Rhumore

McLaren	Donald	88	Crofter	Duror
	Christina	81	Wife	Appin
McIntyre	Ann	18	Grand'dter: domestic servant	Duror
McCallum	Hugh	15	Grandson, scholar	Glasgow
McCull	Sarah	67	Widow. pauper, imbecile	Lismore & Appin
	Ann	29	Daughter, gen:servant, domestic	Appin
Livingston	Sarah	48	Widow, formerly ?	Morvern

### Back Settlement

McCull	Paul	68	Crofter	Glenelg
	Alexander	23	Son, china quarrier	Duror
Gray	Jane	19	Servant, domestic	Greenock
Cameron	Allan	65	Shepherd	Ardnamurchan
	Mary	14	Daughter	Fort William
	Andrina	13	Granddaughter	Ballachulish
McCallum	Archibald	3	Grandson	Glasgow

This census also gives the number of windows in each house.

South Cuil	Cameron	4
	McLean	2
	Colquhoun	3
	McPherson	3
Greenfield	McPherson	4
	McCull	2
	Cameron	2
	McCull	2
Rhumore	McLaren	2
	McCull	1
Cuil	Livingston	3
Back Settlement	McCull	2

There were no uninhabited houses in this census.

### 1891 Census

Surname	First name	Age	Comments	Where Born
<b>South Cuil</b>				
Cameron	Donald	44	Farmer	Glenfintaig
	Elizabeth	40	Farmer's wife	Crieff
	Neil	11	Scholar	Cuil
	Christina	10	Scholar	Cuil
	Sarah	7	Scholar	Cuil
	Mary	5	Scholar	Cuil
McFarlane	Mary	18	Gen: Serv., domestic	Dalmally
McLaren	Duncan	18	Farm servant	Cuil
McKay	John	65	Farm servant	Lismore
McLean	Malcolm	62	Farmer	Duror
	Mary	58	Farmer's wife	Ballachulish
	Allan	27	Farmer's son	Duror
	Betsy	21	Farmer's daughter	Duror
	Margaret	15	Farmer's daughter	Duror
Colquhoun	John	49	Farmer	Duror
	Christina	42	Farmer's wife	Fortingall
	Isabella	12	Scholar	Duror
	Christina Jane	9	Scholar	Duror
	Duncan	7	Scholar	Duror
	Donald John	5		Duror
	John	4		Duror
	Duncan	91	Father: retired farmer	Duror
Carmichael	Donald	27	Ploughman	Lismore
McPherson	Donald	72	Farmer	Duror
	Julia	68	Farmer's wife	Kilmallie
	Hugh	30	Farmer's son	Duror
	Duncan	25	Farmer's son	Duror
Sinclair	Mary	14	Gen: serv., domestic	Glasgow
<b>North Cuil</b>				
Sinclair	Ann	44	Cottar	Ballachulish
	Ann	11	Daughter: scholar	Glasgow
	Neil	4	Son: scholar	Glasgow
McColl	Duncan	2	Son	Duror

McPherson	Alexander	41	Farmer	Appin
	Donald	39	Brother	Appin
	Catherine	72	Mother	Aberfeldy
	Isabella	34	Sister	Appin
	Catherine	29	Sister	Appin
Black Grant	Hugh	22	Ploughman	Lismore
	John	23	Cowhand	Lismore
McColl	Mary	21	Dairymaid	Lismore
	Catherine	11	Niece	Lismore
McColl	Duncan	73	Fisherman: salmon	Duror
	Mary	73	Salmon fisher's wife	Duror
McLaren	Ann	68	Formerly dairymaid	Duror

### Back Settlement

McLaren	Neil	49	Agricultural labourer	Duror
	Janet	41	Sister	Duror
	Hugh	24	Neph: tailor's apprentice	Glasgow
McInnes	John	47	Shepherd	Duror
	Mary	39		Duror
	Christine	11	Scholar	Duror
	Donald	10	Scholar	Duror
	John	9	Scholar	Duror
	Peter	4		
Scholar			Duror	
	Mary Ann	7	Scholar	Duror
	Alan	2		Duror
	Anne	4 mo		Duror
	John	71	Retired shepherd	Duror

There were no uninhabited houses in this census.

**1901 Census**

<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Where Born</b>
<b>South Cuil</b>				
Rankin	Duncan	49	Farmer	Ardchattan
	Jessie	49	Farmer's wife	Oban
	Duncan	23	Farmer's son	Oban
	Mary Ann	21	Farmer's daughter	Oban
	Samuel	16	Farmer's son	Duror
	John	14	Scholar	Oban
McLean	Malcolm	71	Farmer	Duror
	Mary	68	Farmer's wife	Duror
	Allan	37	Farmer's son	Duror
	Margaret	25	Farmer's daughter	Duror
	Mary	9	Granddaughter: scholar	Duror
Colquhoun	John	59	Farmer	Duror
	Christina	50	Farmer's wife	Fortingall
	Bella	21	Farmer's daughter	Duror
	Duncan	17	Farmer's son: worker	Duror
	Donald	15	Farmer's son: worker	Duror
	John	14	Scholar	Duror
	Dugald	10	Scholar	Duror
McKay	Christina	2 mo	Granddaughter	Duror
McPherson	Donald	82	Farmer	Duror
	Julia	76	Farmer's wife	Duror
	Hugh	37	Farmer's son: worker	Duror
	Mary	40	Farmer's daughter	Duror
McColl	John	70	Farm Servant	Ballachulish
<b>North Cuil</b>				
McPherson	Alexander	51	Joint Tenant	Duror
	Donald	49	Joint Tenant	Duror
	Katherine	37	Sister	Duror
McColl	Katherine J	20	Niece	Lismore
Graham	John	23	Ploughman	Skye
Cameron	Maurice	62	Shepherd: widower	Glencoe
Sinclair	Ann	52	Formerly Dairymaid	Ballachulish
	Duncan	12	Son	Duror
	Mary	2	Granddaughter	Paisley
McNicol	Duncan	50	Salmon Fisherman	Ardchattan
McCallum	John	52	Salmon Fisherman	Ardchattan
<b>Leacnasgeir</b>				
Cameron	Jessie	55	Cottar	Strontian

	Margaret	64	Annuitant, sister	Ardnamurchan
	Allan	57	General labourer, brother	Strontian
	Archibald	28	Railway navy	Glasgow
McLeod	Duncan	20	Mason's apprentice, boarder	Duror
Cameron	Donald	4	Grandson	Duror

### 1911 Census

#### North Cuil

McNicol	Duncan	60	Salmon Fisherman	Ardchattan
McCallum	John	62	Salmon Fisherman	Ardchattan
McPherson	Alexander	60	Farmer	Appin
	Donald	58	Farmer, brother	Appin
	Catherine	46	House-keeper, sister	Appin
McDonald	Catherine	18	Dairymaid	South Uist
McPherson	John	45	Ploughman	Kilninian
Lockhart	John	16	Cowherd	Skye

#### South Cuil

McPherson	Hugh	49	Crofter	Duror
	Mary	55	House-keeper, sister	Duror
Campbell	James	71	Crofter	Contin
	James	30	Working on croft, son	Appin
	Margaret	26	Working on croft, daughter	Appin
	MaryAnn	22	Dairy & housework, daughter	Appin
	Andrew	16	Working on croft, son	Appin
Newton	James	24	Farm Labourer, boarder	England
McLean	Allan	47	Crofter	Duror
	Mary	79		Ballachulish
McDonald	Mary	19	Domestic servant, niece	Duror
McCallum	Barbara	50	Farmer	Arisaig
	John A	19	Working on farm, son	Arisaig
	Hugh J	18	Working on farm, son	Arisaig
McIntyre	Bella	20	General servant	Tobermory
Barr	Robert	28	Farm labourer	England

#### Back Settlement

Uninhabited.