

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF URQUHART AND

GLENMORISTON.

FORT, DUN SCRIBEN. This fort is situated at a height of 700 feet O. D. just S. of Grottaig on a low crag that protrudes N. from a ridge separating the Grottaig Burn from Lochness. It is subrectangular on plan, measuring 60 feet in either direction within a ruinous stone wall. The entrance is in the S., the interior featureless.

NH 491235. xli.

N. V.

TISS, u, 195

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF  
URQUHART AND GLENMORISTON.

FORT, CRAIG MONY. This fort is situated on the tip of the high ridge that separates Glen Urquhart from Glen Coiltie. The ridge ends at a height of about 450 feet O. D. in a triangular promontory, the E. and NE. flanks of which are sheer cliffs. It is distant half a mile N. of Balmacaan House. The fort has been mutilated by the construction of paths, and all that can be distinguished is the ruin of a stone wall some 100 feet in length that runs across the neck at the W. of the promontory along the crest of an out-crop ridge at a distance of about 150 feet from the E. extremity. The wall probably turned E. at both ends to continue along the edges of the promontory, but only very slight traces of this remain. The entrance is obscured and the interior featureless.

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILMORACK.

FORT, CRAIG DHU. Craig Dhu is a conspicuous rocky bluff at the E. end of the ridge that runs SE. from Bad a' Chlamhain towards the left bank of the Beauly River, opposite Eskadale. The bluff, which attains a height of 500 feet above sea level, measures about 360 feet in length from N. to S. and from 80 feet to 100 feet in breadth, and is girded on all sides by low cliffs. The fort, which occupies the N. part of this feature, is formed by a crescentic wall 78 feet in length which crosses the surface of the bluff from E. to W. at a point 75 feet from the end extremity where the slight ruins of a corresponding wall can just be detected. The entrance was probably at the N. end. The interior is featureless.

450405. ix. (Unnoted).

N. V.

Emergency Surveys (1943), 149.

10 1240

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILMORACK.

FORT, DUN MOR, TIGHNALEAC. This fort is situated at a height of 550 feet O. D. on the summit of a small isolated crag half a mile NNW. of Tighnaleac, four and a half miles W. of Beauly. To N. and NW. the flanks of the knoll fall as cliffs, but to S. and SE. they slope gently down to marshy ground. The fort is oval on plan, measuring 70 feet in length from N. to S. by 63 feet transversely within a ruined stone wall. Enough facing stones remain to show that this varies from 15 feet to 18 feet in width. The entrance is in the SE. An outer wall, some 15 feet in thickness, starts on the edge of the cliff to the NE. and runs S., its inner face here 32 feet from the outer face of the inner wall. It curves across the slope until the two walls are 78 feet apart, and then climbs N. to end up close to the W. arc of the inner wall. The entrance is in the SE.

457452.   xx.

N. V.

Emergency Survey (1943), 145-6.

10 12378

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILMORACK.

FORT, DUN GARBHLAICH. This fort is situated at a height of 1,030 feet O. D. on a rocky eminence that stands up from the higher and broken ground N. of Farley, three and three quarter miles W. of Beauly. The upper part of the knoll is formed by a ridge of naked rock, the N. and W. flanks of which are precipitous, while to the NE. a gentle slope leads to a col from which the main massif is reached. Some 15 feet below to the SE. is a broad platform the S. and W. flanks of which are precipitous. The fort, which encloses both ridge and platform, is D-shaped on plan, measuring 80 feet in width from E. to W. by 60 feet transversely within the ruined stone wall. Sections of both faces are visible, indicating that the wall varies in thickness from 11 feet to 15 feet. The entrance is in the S. A well lies just within the E. sector of the wall but the interior is otherwise featureless.

466466. ii.

N. V.

E.S. (1943) 143-4

10 12375

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILMORACK.

FORT, DUN a' CHLIABHAIN. This structure is situated at a height of about 850 feet O. D. on the SW. extremity of a ridge which protrudes SW. from the higher ground above Drumindorsair, three miles W. of Beauly. The NW., SW. and SE. flanks of the ridge are steep and in parts precipitous, but the approach from the NE. is gradual. The fort is ovoid on plan, measuring 77 feet in length from NE. to SW. by 48 feet in maximum width within a stone wall that originally measured 10 feet to 12 feet in thickness. For the most part this now appears as a band of blocks and stones in which facing stones of both the faces can be observed. The entrance is in the E. At a distance of 35 feet outside the NE. arc of the wall the approach is traversed by an outer wall 50 feet in length. Some of the outer facing stones of this are visible but none of the inner ones. The fort has been within the plantation area of Farley Wood but the trees have been felled.

476460. x

N. V.

ES(1993), 143-4

10 12376



INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILMORACK.

FORT, DUN, FHAMHAIR. This fort is situated on the summit of a hill that attains an elevation of a little over 1,000 feet O. D. and forms part of the high ground on the left bank of the Beauly River W. of Beauly. The fort lies three quarters of a mile NNE. of Dun a' Chliabhaim (q. v.) and one and a quarter mile ENE. of Dun Garbhlaich (q. v.), and forms one of the remarkable concentration on the N. side of the lower part of the Beauly Valley. It is described <sup>I</sup> as a sub-rectangular structure, measuring about 135 feet in

I. P. S. A. S., xx (1885/86), 342.

length and 108 feet in breadth within a stone wall 10 feet thick, with an entrance in the NE.

485470. ii.

N. V.

PS

10 12377

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF URQUHART AND

GLENMORISTON.

FORT, AN TORR, GLEN URQUHART. This fort is situated at a height of 420 feet O. D. 200 yards N. of Mill of Tore on a promontory 70 feet below the steep W. and S. flanks of which the River Enrick runs out of the broad, open section of Glen Urquhart, which includes Loch Meigle into the narrow pass at Strathnacro. The remains, in a very advanced state of decay, are sufficient to show that the fort measures about 150 feet in length from NW. to SE. by about 100 feet transversely within the last vestiges of a stone wall now represented only by a stony terrace about 12 feet in width. The entrance is in the SE. The interior rises to a maximum of some 20 feet above the level of the wall and is featureless. Numerous stones occurring in the interior might originally have formed parts of another wall, but at the date of visit they were so overgrown that no firmer opinion could be obtained. The whole lies in a plantation which includes birch scrub.

2. NH

452299. xxix.

12th April 1957.

10 12311



INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARTISH OF KILMORACK.

ENCLOSURE, DUN STRUY BEAG. This structure occupies the summit of a crag that stands boldly out from the hillside above the left bank of the River Glass at a point three quarters of a mile SSE. by S. of Struy Bridge. The remains consist for the most part of a low mound about 8 feet in thickness apparently made of earth and rubble along parts of the NE. and E. arcs of which a single course of outer facing stones can be seen. The area enclosed is oval and measures about 30 feet from NE. to SW. by about 20 feet transversely. No entrance can be detected. Although the crag on which this structure stands has obvious qualifications as a site for a fort or a dun, the existing remains are so slight and so small that they do not appear to represent a work of either of these categories.

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF KINTARLITY AND CONVINTH.

DUN, STRUY BRIDGE. This dun stands at a height of 475 feet O. D. on a ridge which overlooks the junction of Strathglass and Strathfarrar from a point half a mile N. of Struy Bridge. While the approach from the S. is up the steep, rocky slope that rises 300 feet from the river, those from other directions are over a marshy terrace from which the site of the fort rises only a few feet. The structure consists of a dilapidated stone wall which surrounds the almost circular area measuring about 60 feet in diameter. The wall, of which numerous facing stones remain in situ, is about 10 feet thick at base; the entrance is in the NE. The more fragmentary remains of an outer wall were distinguished at a distance of 15 feet outside the E. arc of the main wall, running from the steep S. face of the crag N. and W. to be lost after a distance of some 40 yards in broken ground covered with luxurious heather.

404410. ix ("Fort, in ruins,")

10th April 1957.

10 12298

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILMORACK.

FORT, LOVAT BRIDGE. This structure is situated at a height of 50 feet O. D. on the crest of the scarp, about 25 feet in height, that forms the W. side of the valley of the River Beauly at a point 150 yards SW. of Lovat Bridge. It has been formed by isolating a minor promontory protruding E. from the general line of the scarp by two ditches, which leaves the scarp N. of the isolated section to run SW., S. and SE. for about 400 feet and to stop before returning again to the scarp. The causeway thus left doubtless represents the entrance. The area thus defended measures about 240 feet in length from N. to S. by about 190 feet transversely. The surface is flat and featureless. The ditches are now about 5 feet in depth; the inner measures about 30 feet from the crest of the defended area to its outer lip and the outer measures about 20 feet. The whole site has been planted with trees which have been felled, and was covered with rank vegetation and scrub at the date of visit. A driveway constructed through the fort has helped to obliterate the N. and SW. sections of the ditches. The situation and structure of the fort are not incompatible with its identification as an early mediæ val monument (c.f. Cadzow, Lanarkshire), but this does not rule out the possibility that it might be of Early Christian or even of Prehistoric date.

513448. X.

20th July 1957.

10 12745

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF KINTARLITY AND CONVINTH.

MOTTE, TOMNACROSS. This structure stands a few yards S. of the church at Tomnacross three miles S. of Beaully. It consists of a grass-covered mound in the form of a truncated cone measuring 9 feet in height with a surface diameter of 40 feet and a basal one of about 70 feet. No ditch is visible. The regular appearance of the sides, which seem to have been scarped, suggest that this is probably a motte.

512413. x. ("Tom na Croiseige, formerly a Justice Seat".)

30th August 1954.

10 12749

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF KINTARLITY AND CONVINTH.

FORT, DUN FIONN. This fort is situated at a height of 300 feet O. D. one mile NW. by N. of the Hughton crossroads on a low eminence which stands out from the long hill now covered with <sup>the</sup> conifers of Ruttle Wood and the right bank of the River Beaully which lies 150 feet below and 90 yards to the W.. At the date of visit the fort was well within the planted area and was covered in woodland vegetation, and no very clear idea of the exact nature and dimensions of the remains could be obtained. On approaching the remains from the NW., along the saddle which unites their site to the hillside beyond, a grassgrown rampart can be perceived running athwart the line of approach, a gap in it possibly representing the original entrance. To SE. and S. of the gap the rampart runs for about 200 feet before turning W. and fading out. From the other side the rampart fades almost at once, though a distinct low broad ridge runs on what might have been its course to meet the brink of the precipitous descent to the river. Numerous masses of vitrified matter can be seen among the ruins of the rampart. It is probable that the structure was originally oval on plan, measuring about 200 feet from NW. to SE. by a little less transversely.

472428. x.

10th April 1957.

T155, viii, 103-4.

10 12382



INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF INVERNESS AND BONA.

FORT, CRAIG PHADRIG. This fort is situated on an isolated, steep-sided peak of conglomerate which lies <sup>one and a half</sup> ~~three~~ miles <sup>W.</sup> ~~SE.~~ of the centre of Inverness; and attains a height of 400 feet O. D. and forms <sup>the</sup> / NE. extremity of the ridge dividing the lower Ness valley from the Beaully Firth. The ridge continues NE. of the Firth, rising at once to the summit known as the Ord Hill of Kessock (q.v. Ross and Cromarty). The fort is sub-rectangular on plan and measures 245 feet in length from NE. to SW. by between 60 feet and 75 feet transversely within the substantial ruin of a stone wall spread to a thickness of up to 30 feet and standing to a height of about 4 feet above the interior. The whole of the wall is covered in woodland vegetation, brambles and scrub, and although it is reported to be solidly vitrified all round the only part actually seen on the date of visit was at a point near the N. corner. The thickness of the wall cannot be readily judged, but the size of the ruin suggests that it might have been as much as 20 feet at base. Another ~~and~~, reputedly, vitrified, wall lies at a distance <sup>at the crest</sup> varying from 45 feet to 75 feet outside the inner one. This wall runs through dense scrub, but as far as could be judged, it had spread to about 15 feet in width and stood about 3 feet in height. No entrance gaps could be located in either of the ramparts (c.f. Knock Farrel, Ross and Cromarty), and nothing recognizable occurs in the interior, <sup>except a depression near the NE. end of the interior of the inner work. This was recorded by Williams as having been a well which was substantially filled to prevent danger to sheep in the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century.</sup>



INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF DORES.

DUN, BUAILE CHOMHARD, WEST TOWN. This structure lies on the open moor on the crest of a low ridge at a height of 770 feet O. D., 550 yards NW. by N. of West Town house. The remains consist of a very ruinous stone wall enclosing an area measuring about 120 feet in diameter. A few stones of the outer face are visible, but no certain inner facing stones could be seen. The extent of the ruin suggests that the wall originally measured about 9 feet in thickness.

621332. xix. ("Fort".)

13th April 1957.

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF DORES.

FORT, ASHIE MOOR. This fort stands at a height of a little over 800 feet O. D. three quarters of a mile SE. by E. of Drummond house on a low rocky outcrop that protrudes from the marshy surface of Ashie Moor. The axis of the outcrop runs from NE. to SW., the long flanks presenting steep, rocky faces rising to a height of about 40 feet above the level of the ground below, that on the SE. being particularly steep. The fort is oval on plan and measures 125 feet in length from NE. to SW. by 110 feet transversely within a ruined stone wall. This surrounds the summit of the outcrop in the form of a broad band of blocks and stones that may represent the ruin of a wall some 10 feet in thickness. The E. section of this wall has either been robbed or has fallen away down the steep flank of the outcrop. A diminution of the volume of stone in the SW. arc suggests that the entrance was originally in this quarter. The ruin of an outer wall starts at a point on the lip of the SE. face of the outcrop distant about 20 feet S. of the inner wall, and then runs through S. to W. at a distance of about 40 feet from the latter. Instead of following it round through N. to return directly to the SE. flank of the outcrop, however, it then runs on along the lip of the opposite flank, only turning through N. and dying out at the very extremity of the outcrop. This wall thus encloses an area measuring 300 feet in length by about 150 feet in breadth. There is a distinct entrance in the SW. arc. The general appearance of the ruins of this wall suggests that it may well have been contemporary with the inner one. A low mound of rubble runs on the moorland immediately below the base of the outcrop from a point a little NE. of the NE. extremity of the latter to W., SW. and S., finally dying out after a distance of some 450 feet near the SW. foot of the outcrop. This structure, which would add to the strength of the fort, is probably contemporary with it.

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILMALLIE.

FORT, ONICH. This fort stands on a prominent rocky boss 550 yards N. of Onich Church at a height of a little over 550 feet O. D. The approaches are open from the NE., but steep in all other directions, especially the W. where the land falls almost precipitously for 400 feet. The fort is oblong on plan, measuring 45 feet in length from NE. to SW. by 30 feet in breadth within the ruin of a substantial stone wall represented at the narrower ends by heavy mounds spread to a thickness of some 20 feet and at the longer sides by ~~by~~ considerably smaller stony mounds. It is probable that the latter have been more denuded by stones falling over the steep flanks of the boss than have the former. Small amounts of vitrification were observed, but no masses or considerable lumps were seen. The entrance is towards the NW. end of the NE. sector of the wall.

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILMORACK.

FORT, LARACH TIGH <sup>NAM</sup> ~~nam~~ FIONN, TOMICH. This fort stands at a height of a little under 500 feet O. D. on the rocky E. spur of the ridge that divides the River Affric from the Amhuinn Deabhag three quarters of a mile NNE. of the bridge over the latter at Tomich. It conforms in shape to the summit of the spur and is thus of irregular sub-rectangular plan, measuring about 100 feet in length from N. to S. by about 70 feet transversely within a stone wall. Considerable stretches of the outer face of this are visible, but no reliable inner facing stones could be detected. The debris of the wall is considerable, however, and it is possible that it may originally have measured some 8 feet or 10 feet in thickness. The entrance is in the W. near the NW. corner. The interior is extremely uneven and includes both large masses of living rock and broad fissures; it is choked with fallen timber, rank woodland vegetation and leaf mould. Outside the main wall are the remains of a smaller wall, represented by a narrow belt of mossgrown tumbled blocks and boulders that straggle from the vicinity of the NW. corner of the fort SW. for about 120 feet to turn sharply E. on an outcrop and run thence for a further distance of some 150 feet before merging with and becoming lost upon the steep E. face of the spur.

10 12235

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF URQUHART AND GLENMORISTON.

FORT, STRONE POINT. Strone Point is a rocky headland on the W. shore of Loch Ness at the point where the S. side of Urquhart Bay starts to run in towards the combined mouths of the Rivers Enrick and Coiltie. It is approached from the W. down a gentle slope but its steep and craggy W. face presents something of an obstacle, and this has been increased by the excavation of a wide moat which isolates the headland from the adjacent ground. As seen to-day the moat is probably entirely coeval with Urquhart Castle, the ruins of which occupy parts of the rocky headland. The only visible remains of the fort, which occupied the site before is a large vitrified mass which clings to the most southerly of the subsidiary rocky bosses that form the headland. The conformation of the ground and the position of the vitrification on the SE. of the boss suggest that the fort was a small one, comparable to others found in the region of Loch Ness. The mutilated upper stone of a rotary quern can be seen in the Castle museum and it is possible that this might belong to the period of the fort rather than to that of the Castle, although as yet information about querns precludes any certainty on the matter.

10 12547

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF KILMALLIE.

FORT, DUN DEARDAIL, GLEN NEVIS. This fort is situated at a height of 1,127 feet O. D. at the head of the valley of the Allt nan Gleannan on a prominent knoll which rises from the crest of the ridge bordering Glen Nevis to the W. It stands at a distance of 1,100 yards W. of the old graveyard called Ach man Con that lies on the right bank of the Water of Nevis, and at a height of 1,050 feet above it. While the approach from the E. is thus difficult, those from other directions are more moderate. The fort, which conforms in shape to the sloping summit of the knoll, is of irregular subrectangular form, the longer axis running from NE. to SW. It measures about 150 feet in length by a maximum of 90 feet in breadth within the massive ruin of a stone wall spread to as much as 50 feet in width in which considerable lumps of vitrification appear. The entrance is in the NW. corner. The interior slopes down from the NE., the upper half being divided by a scarp into two platforms and the lower following without interruption to the ruined wall. A ruinous internal division crossing the fort from N. to S. appears to be secondary, and possibly of comparatively recent date. A smaller and less exalted knoll rises immediately N. of the fort. The remains of a stone wall originate near the E. extremity of this and run NW., W. and SW. over the crest of the knoll and so on to the SW. toe of the eminence on which the fort stands. The line can be followed thence round the S. and SE. flanks of the latter feature until it fades away as the steepness of the face increases. This wall possibly represents an outer line of defence such as was observed for example at Torr Dhuin, Auchteraw, Invernessshire.



INVERNESSSHIRE.

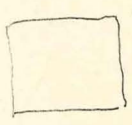
PARISH OF BOLESKINE AND ABERTARFF.

FORT, TORR DHUIN, AUCHTERAW. This fort is situated at a height of 250 feet O. D. half a mile S. of Auchteraw house on an isolated knoll the NW., W. and SW. flanks of which rise some 20 to 30 feet above the level of the adjacent land. In all other directions the ground falls steeply, in parts precipitously, from the summit for more than 200 feet to the floor of the valley of the River Oich. The fort conforms to the summit area of the knoll, measuring 50 feet in length from NE. to SW. by 25 feet transversely within the massive ruin of a stone wall among which large lumps of vitri-faction can be seen where the rank vegetation permits. The entrance is probably in the SW. The base of the knoll is fortified, except along the brink of the precipitous SE. slope, by a wall now appearing as a mass of blocks and stones spread to as much as 15 feet in width. The entrance is in the SW.

NH 349070. lxxxiii.

13th April 1957.

10 122/2



INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF DORES.

FORT, INVERFARIGAIG. This fort is situated on a prominent rock that stands boldly out beyond the more massive rocky hill towards Dun Garbh at a point immediately E. of and 600 feet above the confluence of the River Farigaig and the Allt Mor. The NW. NE. and SW. faces of the rock rise steeply, ultimately from the rivers, and access can only conveniently be gained to the summit by way of the wide SE. approach. The fort occupies the high NE. part of the summit to the outline of which it exactly conforms. Rhomboid on plan it measures about 80 feet in length from NE. to SW. by a maximum of 43 feet at the SW. and 30 feet at the NE. within a wall which appears as a mass of stones spread to a thickness of about 15 feet. This is partly grass-grown and partly open, and among it numerous lumps of vitrification appear. The entrance is probably in or near the E. corner. The interior is featureless except for a depression near the W. apex which may have served as a well, and is clothed in good short grass among which are patches of nettles.

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF LAGGAN.

FORT, BLACK CRAIG, LAGGAN. Black Craig is a steep-sided feature which forms the divide between the Rivers Pattack and Spey. The former flows SW. from it into Loch Laggan from the far end of which the River Spean flows into the River Lochie, while the latter, rising only ten miles to the W., skirts its N. foot at a point two miles W. of Laggan Bridge. The NW. termination of the Craig, connected to the main part (1846 feet O.D.) by a narrow col, is a rocky eminence the summit of which attains a height of 1,484 feet above sea level and stands 600 feet above the level of the ground a quarter of a mile distant. The fort has been designed to suit the contours and the principal surface features of the site, and is thus of an undefinable shape on plan. The sole defence is a remarkable stone wall the faces of which have been cleared in places in recent time. The uneven nature of the ground has meant that the distance between the inner and outer faces varies from place to place, the limits recorded being 13 feet and 23 feet. The WSW. section of the wall runs for a little more than 300 feet athwart the line of approach, cutting off the promontory which consists of two elevated areas and the depression between them. A point about the middle of this stretch has been used in modern times as an entrance, an engineered pathway being directed up towards it from the col, but enough of the inner and outer faces of the wall can be seen on the surface to make it reasonably certain that originally there was no entrance at this point. The only unquestionable gap is in the middle of the NW. part of the wall, and this leads directly into the central depression. The stones of the wall are small and while the remote situation may have acted as a degree of protection against casual or systematic stone robbers, the condition of some parts of the wall is remarkable. At the W. apex, for example, the inner face of the wall stands exposed to a height of more than 6 feet, while the outer face in the middle of the SE. sector reaches as much as 9 feet.

The interior is, as may be seen from the plan, occupied by different levels of rocky bosses and courts. It is impossible from surface/

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surface observation to say to what extent these may have been altered by the fort builders, but very probable that such terraces as those NE. of the central depression supported dwellings. A dug-out of the kind made by the Home Guard in the 1939/1945 War is situated in the S. apex, and a cairn stands near it on the line of the inner face of the wall. Three other cairns stand on the debris of the wall near the N. apex.

NN 528930. cxx ("Dun-da-Lamh")

19th September 1956.

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF ABERNETHY AND KINCARDINE.

Dun, CREAG PHITIULAIS. This dun is situated half a mile ESE. of Pityoulish farmhouse at a height of 1,050 feet O. D.. 350 feet above and half a mile SE. of the nearest reach of the River Spey. The N. face of the hill consists of a tract measuring about one mile in either direction which is diversified by a series of low, broad rocky ridges interspersed with marshy patches, and the one upon which the dun is situated can be distinguished from most of the others by the steep, bare rock forming its N. and E. flanks. The dun, oval on plan, measures 30 feet by 20 feet within the substantial ruin of a wall which was originally about 11 feet thick. The entrance is in the SW. facing the easier natural line of approach. No details are apparent.

930140. lix. (Unnoted).

23rd July 1957.

10 15403

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF DUNLICHITY.

FORT, DUN DAVIOT. This structure occupies the summit of a conspicuous rocky knoll which crowns the steep slope, 450 feet in height, that rises from the left bank of the River Nairn above Daviot. The small summit plateau of the knoll commands wide views in all directions but apart from the long drop to the SE, the immediate fall to SW., NW. and NE. from the highest point (943 feet O. D.) is only some 80 feet to the comparatively level land below. The remains are slight, the principal element being an ovoid enclosure measuring 125 feet in length by 60 feet in breadth within the ruin of a substantial stone wall. The latter appears partly as a mound of rubble spread to a thickness of up to 18 feet and partly as a scarp sprinkled with blocks and stones. At one place in the W. arc and one in the N. outer facing stones are apparent, but no inner ones could be seen. The positions of the former, however, suggest that the wall was originally about 10 feet thick. The entrance is in the SE. The NE. arc of the mound representing the ruined wall just touches the crest of the great slope down to the river. At a point on that crest distant 20 feet N. of this a low scarp commences, running thence round the N. extremity of the knoll to cross the NW. face and come to an end on the crest of the W. flank of the knoll. This feature presents an unusual appearance, the scarp being steeply cut into the flanks of the knoll to form, in places, a face as much as three feet in height. It varies in distance from the fort wall between 10 feet at the point of commencement and 67 feet at the termination, both points being taken as defined above. From the termination to a point 10 feet outside the arc of the fort wall, a distance of 100 feet, the line of this feature is carried on by the crest of the low scarp that here forms the flank of the summit knoll; a very few stones lie on the face of this, but nothing exists to indicate positively that a wall originally ran along the crest of it. However, from the point where the scarp bends S. and declines the scatter of stones carries on E. in an arc 75 feet in length which ends 10 feet from the crest of the great SE. descent. Four earthfast blocks occur in the arc, and/

10 14107



and-and the general appearance of it suggests that it does represent a ruined wall. It may be that this, the crest of the little natural scarp and the curious artificial scarp, represents the scarcely recognizable remains of an outer defence. The interior of the fort is featureless.

While the NE. foot of the knoll falls rapidly to the level of the surrounding ground to the SW. a low rocky platform intervenes before that level is reached. No traces whatever could be detected of any form of defensive walling/around the margin of this. It is partly crossed by a straight stretch of low rubble bank, 73 feet in length and spread to up to 10 feet in thickness, which is accompanied on the SW. for two thirds of its length by a shallow quarry ditch. While it is possible that this feature formed part of the defences of the fort, its inadequacy in its present form is obvious. The whole site has been planted with conifers which, at the date of visit, had all been cut and cleared. A large quarry operating in the face of the hill immediately SE. of the fort may threaten its existence.

INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF DUTHIL and

ROTHIEMURCHUS.

FORT, AVI@LOCHAN. This fort is situated on a rocky promontory called Tor Beag which protrudes from the E. flank of Beinn Ghuilbin at a point 560 yards N. of Avi@lochan house and 270 yards W. of the ruins of Laggantygown. It stands at an elevation of 950 feet O. D., 250 feet above the River Spey where this runs between Beinn Ghuilbin and Pityoulish Hill and thus commands a section of Strathspey at the lowest point where this narrows to any marked extent as it runs NE. between the high and inhospitable massifs of the Monadhliath to the W. and the Cairngorms to the E. The fort, which occupies the whole of the promontory, is oval on plan measuring 220 feet in length from NE. to SW. by 80 feet transversely within the remains of a stone wall. Where this runs round the rim of the summit of the promontory it is represented only by a very slight tumble of stones, but the volume of debris is greater on either side of the entrance, in the SW. Immediately NW. of this there is a stretch 18 feet in length in which the outer face of the wall is preserved up to three courses in height. As the ground slopes down from the entrance towards the neck of the promontory the remains of a second ruinous wall occur. A scatter of stones originates at a point on the steep W. flank of the promontory distant 40 feet N. of the entrance in the innermost wall. It runs S. along the gradually decreasing gradient for a distance of 70 feet before terminating at an entrance gap which lies 45 feet SW. of that in the innermost wall. It resumes on the other side of this to run E. for about 50 feet before dying out on the steep S. flank of the promontory. A third wall, forming the second main line of defence, runs right round the promontory at a lower level. It appears as a considerable line of tumbled blocks/

blocks and stones which forms the crest of a terrace some 10 feet in width. In the vicinity of the entrance, in the SW., several stones can be seen which probably formed part of the outer face, but no undoubted inner facing stones could be detected. Nevertheless, the appearance of the tumbled stones suggests that this wall may well have originally measured about 8 feet in thickness. Individual stones are very large. The entrance in this wall lies 60 feet SW. and 25 feet below that of the central enclosure. Two other minor walls were noted. One, forming an arc about 60 feet in length, runs SE. from a point just outside the entrance in the outer wall for 30 feet, whereupon it gains the crest where the SE. flank of the promontory increases in steepness. It immediately curves NE. to die out on the hillside after a further 30 feet. This wall is quite well preserved and a stretch of 30 feet of the outer face is visible along the SW arc. The second outside wall is very much less easy to follow and it has only been shown as a line of dashes on the plan. It appears to run SW. from the NW. side of the entrance in the outer wall in an almost straight line, to border the narrow col joining the promontory to the adjacent land. The steepness of the slope, however, and possibly the action of stone robbers has made it impossible to trace its course or length with certainty.

The whole of the site, up to the wire fence that runs athwart the col, was covered with a dense growth of conifers and junipers on the date of visit, and nothing could be seen of the surface of the interior. A stone quarry was being worked in the E. flank of the promontory.

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INVERNESSSHIRE.

PARISH OF KINTARLITY & CONVINTH.

FORT, DUN MOR CABRICH. This fort occupies a conspicuous crag which rises abruptly from the long N. foot of Phoinneas Hill to attain a height of 500 feet O. D. The rocky ground on and in the immediate vicinity of the crag is broken and clothed with birch scrub, coarse heather, bracken and straggling conifers, and the details of the fort are not easy to detect. The steep rocky NW., SW. and SE flanks of the higher SW. extremity of the crag fall some 50 feet to the broken ground below, but to NE. the surface of the crag runs down with some regularity to drop 100 feet in a distance of 500 feet. The high SW. part, sub-oval on plan and measuring 185 feet from N. to S. by 125 feet transversely, is bordered by the ruin of a stone wall. Several outer facing stones remain in situ but no inner ones could be seen. Among the debris were several lumps of vitrified stone. From the SW. extremity the enclosure slopes down for as much as 20 feet to the entrance in the E. Outside this the surface of the crag slopes down for 16 feet in a distance of 96 feet (a gradient of 6:1) to the point where an outer work crosses athwart the crag from NW. to SE. This is ill-preserved, appearing as a pair of low stony mounds each spread to about 10 feet in thickness, the centres lying 15 feet apart and the space between them slightly excavated as if for a quarry ditch. In their present condition they could be described either as a pair of rubble ramparts with a median ditch or as a ditch with spoil heaps along either side. The entrance conforms with that in the enclosure first described.

Beyond, to the NE. of this feature, the uneven and rocky surface of the crag extends for a further 340 feet, with an average width of 130 feet, before dropping away towards the plain below. The SE. flank of this extension is as precipitous as/

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as is that of the SW. extremity of the crag, although it gets progressively less high towards the NE. The NW. flank is steep but not precipitous, while to NE. the tail of the crag slopes comparatively gently away into the broken ground below. Round much of the margin of the area thus defined enough occasional stones and blocks occur among the vegetation to suggest that a wall or rampart once existed; and the E. sector of this indication extends SW. of the point where the pair of rubble mounds joins the crest of the SE. flank of the crag, and thereafter as far as the wall of the small enclosure. The state of the ruins and that of the vegetation forbid the formation of any certain interpretation of the original character and shape of the structure or structures on the crag; but it can be suggested that the original fortification may have consisted of a stone wall drawn all round the margin of the crag to enclose an area 600 feet in length and up to 140 feet in breadth, the entrance to which was in the NE. at a point where a gentle natural gradient leads obliquely up to the SE. flank of the crag. It is possible, then, that the wall at the SW. extremity among the debris of which traces of vitrification were observed was either built later than the main wall, and thus represented a second phase of construction, or that it formed a citadel to the "bailey" outside it. The very marked difference in the character of the two walls, however, may be thought to favour the former possibility. The pair of mounds with a median ditch clearly increase the defence of the smaller enclosure, and are probably contemporary with its use if not with its original construction.

NH 534428. X.

9th April 1957.