

Emergency Survey Site Descriptions (Typescripts): Banffshire

Index

This document is a scan of the site descriptions created during the Emergency Survey by RCAHMS archaeologists A Graham and VG Childe. The original typescripts are held, as of 2014, in the RCAHMS Search Room.

The list below has been prepared as an aid to finding specific sites. It describes the typescript page number, the name and classification of each site as used in the original typescript, and the current unique RCAHMS identification number and classification (in square brackets). By entering a search for this number in Canmore, the reader can access other information about each site, including contemporary notebooks, photographs and plans.

The index was created on 2 December 2014 by GF Geddes, RCAHMS.

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BANFFSHIRE.

GRANGE PARISH.

KING'S CAIRN, EDINGIGHT WOOD. Nothing positively identifiable as the remains of a cairn could be found at this site.

xv. N. W.

July 21st 1943.

at. 19/9/60.

BANFFSHIRE.

GRANGE PARISH.

"BOWMEN'S ROAD", EDINGIGHT WOOD. A footpath, presumed to be the "road" in question, runs parallel with the S. edge of Edingight Wood about 100 yds. from it. It showed no marks of wheels or runners.

xv. N. W.

July 21st 1943.

A.G. 19/9/60.

BANFFSHIRE.

GRANGE PARISH.

STONES, SILLYEARN. The clovenstone just S. of Sillyearn farm is not an ancient monument. There is nothing about the "Gillymule Stone", apart from its possessing a name, to suggest that it is other than a natural boulder resting in a natural position.

xv. N. W.

July 21st 1943.

A.G. 19/9/60.

BANFFSHIRE.

GRANGE PARISH.

CAIRNS, SILLYEARN HILL. The rather large number of cairns occurring in this area can be described most conveniently in a single article. They are as follows:- (i) On the summit, presumably "Wattie's Cairn" as marked on the 6" O. S. map. This cairn measures 22 ft. from N. W. to S. E. by 19 ft. transversely, and is 1 ft. 6 in. high. It is constructed of the blocks of white and light-grey stone such as lie on the surface of the moor in large quantities, but is thickly covered over with peat and heather. (ii) Some 200 yds. N. N. E. of the last there is a modern surveyors' cairn with an upright stone at the angle of two ditches. This seems to be based on a disturbed ancient cairn, perhaps originally about 10 ft. in diameter. (iii) Between (i) and (ii) five small indistinct cairns were noted on the summit of the ridge. (iv) On the N. E. shoulder of Sillyearn Hill, about 400 yds. N. E. of (ii), there is a round cairn 40 ft. in diameter and 4 ft. high. It is marked on the 6" O. S. map. Though covered with turf and heather, it has recently suffered very serious disturbance and its internal construction can consequently be seen - it is made of large or medium-sized stones no doubt collected from the surface, and is enclosed within a peristalith of laid or upright blocks. The largest that could be seen was prone and partly turfed over; it measured 3 ft. 6 in. in length. Another, in an upright position, was 2 ft. high, 1 ft. 6 in. wide, and 1 ft. thick, and was separated from its neighbours by spaces of 2 ft and 3 ft. respectively. In other parts of the circuit the stones of the peristalith seemed to be set closely together. (v) About 300 yds. S. E. of (iv) there is a group of at least three cairns, heavily covered with peat and overgrown with heather. They are not marked on the 6" O. S. map. The largest is 15 ft. in diameter and 1 ft. high and has a shallow ditch 4 ft. wide round its upper side from which the peat that covers it appears to have been cut. (vi) At the top of the rough field about/

about 300 yds. S. W. of Sillyearn farm there is a typical group (marked) of the small cairns so frequently found in association with hut-circles or on the sites of early cultivation.

If the heavy growth of heather that covers most of Sillyearn Hill were burned, a good many more small cairns would probably appear.

xv. N. W.

July 21st 1943.

A.S. 19/9/60.

BANFFSHIRE.

MORTLACH PARISH.

CAIRNS, ETC., TIPS OF CORSEMAUL. On a small shelf 70 yds. S. E. of the modern cairn making the summit of the Tips of Corsemaul (1339 ft.) there is a cairn made of the broken fragments of stone that are scattered over the adjoining ground and covered with peat and heather. It measures 16 ft. from N. W. to S. E. by 14 ft. transversely and stands 1 ft. 6 in. high. A large but probably natural stone measuring 2 ft. 4 in. by 3 ft. by 1 ft. 8 in. stands 7 yds. distant to the S. E. Another similar, but smaller, cairn, measuring 12 ft. in diameter and 2 ft. in height, stands nearby, 30 yds. S. of the summit. All the other upright stones and small stone-piles seen on this hill, e.g. along the county boundary, are surveyors' marks; the "Rams' Knowes" are natural features; and in the area of the old plantation, on the N. W. slope, there are some small cairn-like mounds flanked by pits, which have evidently been made by the roots of blown-down trees.

xxv. S. E.

July 22nd 1943

29. 19/9/60.

BANFFSHIRE.

MORTLACH PARISH.

CAIRNS, GREENS OF GLENBEG. On the top of the broad ridge of moorland that separates Markie Water from the Burn of Edinglassie, at the point - about 1000 ft. above sea-level - where the O. S. map marks "Greens of Glenbeg", there is a widely scattered group of small cairns measuring in general about 12 ft. in diameter and 1 ft. or less in height. They are heavily covered with peat and overgrown with heather, but seem to be made of the broken stone that lies on the surface of the moorland in many parts of this district although exactly here everything seems to be covered up by peat. Towards the S. E. the cairns extend into the uppermost field of the farm-lands that slope towards the Burn of Edinglassie, and here the foundations of a large oblong hut can be seen, measuring 30 ft. by 20 ft. and having an internal subdivision. It is probable that many more remains of the same kind, both cairns and huts, would be found on the moorland if the heavy growth of heather was burned off; at present only the most distinct cairns can be seen among the deep heather, and no hut-foundations at all could be identified here.

xxv. S. E.

July 22nd 1943.

A.G. 19/9/60.

BANFFSHIRE.

MORTLACH PARISH.

CAIRN MORE, NETHER CLUNY. This is correctly shown in Roman lettering,
on the 6-inch O. S. map, as it is a natural feature.

xxv. S. W.

July 23rd 1943.

R.G. 19/9/60.

BANFFSHIRE.

MORTLACH PARISH.

AUCHINDOWN CASTLE. This castle is a difficult and unsatisfactory subject as, in spite of the large amount of structure surviving, nearly all the decorative stonework which might have provided evidence of date has been removed, while at the same time a lot of modern masonry has been introduced for reasons of security and this has gone far to obscure the ancient arrangements. It should be carefully planned when the Inventory is made, particularly the earth-works which are very interesting and fairly well preserved.
(Photos.)

xxv. S. W.

July 23rd 1943.

A.S. 19/9/60

BANFFSHIRE.

MORTLACH PARISH.

CAMP SITE, TULLOCHALLUM. There are now no traces of "Malcolm's Camp" on the site marked on the 6-inch O. S. map, but on the low shoulder that descends to the S. corner of the field there is a slightly-raised stony patch, about 30 ft. in diameter, associated with what seems to be an outcrop of rock. This might be the foundation of a cairn.

xxv. S, W.

July 24th 1943.

A.S. 19/9/60.

BANFFSHIRE.

MORTLACH PARISH.

CAIRNS, ETC., MEIKLE BALLOCH AND GARRET HILLS. All the stones and small cairns observed on these hills are surveyors' marks. At the stone pillar marked LF 200 yds. N. of pt. 1521 there is a pit or dug-out lined with rough masonry, but this also seems to be of modern construction.

xxxi. N. E.

July 24th 1943.

at. 19/9/60.

BANFFSHIRE.

CABRACH PARISH.

SLOUGHS OF SHENWELL. This is not an ancient monument, simply
a quarry.

xxxi. S. E.

July 23rd 1943.

A.G. 19/9/60.