

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

FORT, NETHER ARDROSCADALE. This monument is situated about a quarter of a mile N. of Nether Ardrosdale, on the top of a gently-rolling ridge from which a wide view can be obtained in all directions except to the N.; the land has been improved for cultivation, and the height above sea-level is between 100 ft. and 200 ft.

The O. S. map describes the remains as a "Circle", but Hewison, no doubt quite rightly, identifies them as a fort.

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All that can be seen to-day is an almost circular enclosure defined by a very low grass-grown mound. This mound fades away so gradually into the surface of the field that the exact position of its edges is difficult to determine; ~~but subject to this fact~~ the particularly on the W. where its outer side continues with a steeply-falling natural bank; but subject to this caution the external diameter of the fort may be given as between 100 ft. and 105 ft., the mound being from 16 ft. to 18 ft. in thickness. The mound is best preserved in the NE. sector, where the thickness is 17 ft. and enough stones can be seen to suggest that this was originally of built masonry and not an earthen rampart. In the E. sector the mound is interrupted for a length of 13 ft. measured on the inner side; though it is uncertain whether the entrance was in this gap or on the NNW., where there exist some very slight indications of what may possibly have been an entrance.

The thin wall-foundations, of turf with orthostats, that flank the SW. sector of the fort and then run off towards the S. for about 100 ft. are probably the remains of an old field-enclosure partially destroyed by modern cultivation. There is no reason to infer that they are organically connected with the fort.

cciii. SE. ("Circle").

May 28th 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

STONE CIRCLE, ST. COLMAC'S COTTAGES. This monument stands in a small plantation of old trees just SE. of the angle of the road SW. of St. Colmac farm. The plantation is enclosed within a low stone wall which, when ruined, may well come to look like a contemporary mound enclosing the circle. The seven stones, none of which bears any cups, are disposed as shown in the plan, six of them (B - G) marking out an irregular ellipse measuring about 45 ft. from N. to S. by about 35 ft. from E. to W., while the seventh (A) stands about 8 ft. outside the perimeter on the SSW. If G were ignored, the five stones B to F would lie approximately on the circumference of a circle having a radius of 22 ft. The dimensions of the stones are as given below the figures being given in each case in the order height, breadth, thickness and the two latter dimensions being maxima, not necessarily those found at ground level:-

- A; exclusive of large swelling at base; 5'6" x 2'9" x 3'.
B; 4'10" x 2'3" x 2'2".
C: 4" x 2'7" x 6". This stone has no doubt been broken down to its present height.
D; leaning; 6'1" x 5'4" x 2'5".
E; 7'4" x 2'6" x 2'4", the last dimension being a maximum of many irregularities.
F; a rounded boulder, probably not reduced from an originally greater height; 2'0" x 2'10" x 2'8".
G; 1'6" x 3'3" x 1'0". It is uncertain whether this stone was originally higher.

The plan suggests that two stones may be missing, from between C and D and from between G and B respectively. (3 photos.)

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

FORT, CNOC an RATH, UPPER ETTRICK. The site of this fort is a flat-topped bluff on the left side of the Ettrick Burn and about equidistant from the farms of Upper and Lower Ettrick, though actually on the lands of the former. The bluff is cut off from the adjoining ground to E. and NE. by a natural hollow, and on the other sides falls very steeply to the haugh-land bordering the burn. The structure is now almost entirely ploughed out, the only vestige of it being a broad and very low ridge running along part of the NE. sector. It is consequently impossible to form any idea of the fort's original size or shape. The farmer's wife had never heard of any large stones being struck by the plough on this site, and as the surrounding formation is boulder-clay it seems possible that the rampart may have been earthen rather than stone-built.

cxci. SE.

May 22nd 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

FORT, CNOC AN RATH, ST. COLMAC'S CHURCH. This fort lies just across the road from the modern church of St. Colmac, at the top of the slope that rises from the shore in Kames Bay, about a mile distant. It appears to-day as a more or less circular site surrounded by a well defined ditch, with some considerably vestiges of a rampart remaining particularly in the NE. sector; but as it has been utilized as a private burial-ground (James Hamilton of Kames, ob. 1819), and has been laid out as a wild garden with trees and shrubs, it is impossible to be certain whether or how far any of the existing features are genuine. Subject, however, to this warning regarding their authenticity, the following details may be put on record. Diameter from crest to crest, E. to W., 87 ft., the transverse diameter being unmeasurable on account of bushes. Ditch on W. of site 30 ft. wide x 3 ft. deep; on E. side 28 ft. wide x 6 ft. deep. In the NE. sector the "rampart", a swelling ridge 24 ft. thick, rises 7 ft. above the bottom of the ditch x 2 ft. above the level of the interior. In the SE. sector the ditch is interrupted by a traverse 12 ft. broad. There is nothing to show whether the "rampart" is built of earth or masonry.

cxciv. SW.

May 22nd 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

BALILONE FORT, KIRK DAM RESERVOIR. The Kirk Dam reservoir is flanked, in the central part of its W. side, by a broad-ended peninsula consisting of a group of rocky outcrops, with a small cultivable area lying among them on the summit. The peninsula is divided from the ground that rises on the W. to Barone Hill by a low-lying meadow, now partly marshy. At the N. end of the peninsula, on one of the outcrops, there are the greatly dilapidated remains of a small fort, somewhat reminiscent of the one near Kirkbride in Cowal. In shape and size it has adapted itself to the site, and it seems to have measured over all about 97 ft. from N. to S. by about 78 ft. from E. to W.; but as the walls are reduced, for the most part, to mere traces, and it is impossible to be certain of these dimensions or of the wall-thickness. A few large stones and boulders, evidently remains of the outer face, can be seen at the S. end and on the W. and E. sides, in the latter position on the lip of a low cliff which falls abruptly away from the summit level. There are breaches in the walls on both the W. and E. side, but it is impossible to say whether either of these was an original entrance as the remains of a small "long-house", situated in the NE. quadrant and measuring 31 ft. by 20 ft. overall, indicates that the site has been subject to "secondary" occupation. A short length of wall-foundation, also apparently "secondary" curves past this "long-house" on the NE and impinges internally on the wall of the fort in the NE and NW sectors, with the result that, at a cursory glance, the fort wall at the N. end appears to be up to about 18 ft. thick; this is, however, simply due to the two walls running together, as approximate measurements that can be made on the W. side and at the S. end give the fort wall a thickness of about 12 ft.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

STANDING STONE, CRAIG BIORACH. This stone stands about 50 yds. SSE. of the farm buildings of Craig Biorach; it is a parallel-faced slab 8 ft. high, 3 ft. 6 in. broad on the NE. and 3 ft. 3 ins. on the SW., and 1 ft. 4 in. thick. Its major axis lies exactly NW. and SE. There are two shallow cups on the SW. face. About 200 yds. nearly due S. of the farm, between the corner of the farm road and Achamor Wood, there is another erect block of stone, though whether or no it is a "standing stone" proper seems uncertain. It is 3 ft. 7 in high, 4 ft. broad and 3 ft. 3 ins. thick, both these latter dimensions being at the base. The top appears to have been shaped to a curve along the major axis, which lies NE. and SW., while on the minor axis it is roughly pointed.

cciv. SW.

May 21st 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

STANDING STONE, ACHOLTER: This stone stands conspicuously in the low ground NW. of Acholter farm-house. It is a slab measuring 4 ft. 10 in. in height, 2 ft. 1 in. in maximum breadth and 11 in. in maximum thickness. There are no cups on it, but the top has been artificially shaped. The major axis lies NW. and SE., and the slab leans slightly towards the W. (Photo.)

exciv. NW.

May 22nd 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

STANDING STONE near COLMAC BRIDGE. This stone stands S. of the high road 200 yds. S. W. of Colmac Bridge. It measures 5 ft. 4 in. in height, 3 ft. 3 in. in maximum breadth and 1 ft. 6 in. in maximum thickness. It bears no cups, but the top has been shaped artificially to a blunt point. (Photo.)

exciv. SW.

May 22nd 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

SCULPTURED STONE, ST. COLMAC. This stone stands between the two groups of farm-buildings at St. Colmac by the site of the vanished Chapel. Its present height, measured on the sculptured side, is 4 ft. 6 in., but the base has evidently been somewhat earthed up and the dexter side of the top has been sheared off - part of the break being ancient and part modern and unweathered. The breadth of the sculptured face is 1 ft. 8 in. at the base, and the maximum thickness of the stone is 1 ft. 5 in. The sculptured face, which has evidently been flattened to receive the carving, looks SW.

The decoration consists of a cross, the shaft of which 4 ft. now appear above the ground, being indicated by two pecked lines and the head having limbs of equal length within a pecked circle 1 ft. 4 in. in diameter. The pecking of the circle is interrupted for the breadth of the shaft, at its junction with the head. The arms have expanded angled ends, the spaces between them and within the circle being sunk to a depth now measuring about .8 in. - this measurement is, however dependent to some extent on the degree to which the surfaces have weathered. The arms are bordered by raised ridges, now much weathered, as is also the circular decorated plaque at their intersection. The decoration on this plaque seems to have consisted of three comma-like spirals; immediately below this, on the upper part of the lower limb, there seem to have been two more, and two more again at either side of the expanded end of the lower limb. In the centre of the end of the lower limb there is a small panel outlined by raised ridges. The upper end of the dexter limb and the dexter side of the end of the upper limb have been damaged by the breakage mentioned above. (Photos, 2)

This stone has no protection at present, though it is said to have been fenced in at one time.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

DUNBURGIEDALE. The fort of Dunburgidale stands about three quarters of a mile NW. of Westland, at a height of about 430 feet above sea-level. Its position is on the crest of a hilltop which overlooks, from the SW., a hollow forming a convenient natural route from Rothesay Bay to the centre of the strath extending from Kames Bay to Ettrick Bay - a region very rich in remains belonging to several periods of the past. The ruined wall and the debris mounded on top of it nowhere stands more than 6 ft. above the footings of the outer face, even where these extend down the natural slopes of the knoll on which the fort is built; but as a result of clearance work done before 1892 (P.S.A.S., xxvii, p. 287) it is possible to trace the footings of the outer face around almost the whole of the circumference, and consequently the outline can be laid down with some degree of accuracy. As shown in the above sketch-plan, the fort is irregularly rounded and measures over all 92 ft. from E. to W. by 86 ft. from N. to S. The outline of the N. sector is not exactly as shown, as in two places the footings run quite straight for a distance of 12 ft. - a feature reminiscent of the great fort of Grianán Aileach near Londonderry. The interior is full of debris and is overgrown with turf, the inner face of the wall being identifiable with certainty at a single point only; the thickness of the wall is here 13 ft. 7 in. The entrance-passage gives a thickness of about 14 ft. 9 in., but this is not fixed exactly at either end. Both these measurements may be exaggerated if the wall in its original state was heavily battered, as in the former case the footings are 5 ft. below the crest of the mound representing the ruined wall, and in the latter the point assumed to be on the outer circumference was 3 ft. 6 in./

3 ft 6 in. below the innermost visible stone in the N. side of the passage. In the SW. sector is the hollow formed by excavating the mural gallery, but only a few of the facing stones of the interior of the gallery can now be seen and these give a thickness of about 9 ft. between the gallery and the outer wall-face. Neither the breadth of the gallery nor the total thickness of the fort-wall at this point can be estimated; the few stones somewhat resembling facing-stones which appear on the NE. side of the excavation 6 ft. 8 in. from the true face on the SW. side, cannot be accepted with certainty. Two other similar fragments of what resemble facing can be seen in the NW. sector, but as these are respectively only 7 ft. and 8 ft. in from the line of the footings of the fort-wall their appearance is probably fortuitous. The entrance faces ESE., and enough of the facing of the entrance-passage remains to show that this was from 2 ft. 6 in. to 3 ft. in width, its length being uncertain (v. supra). There are pretty clear traces of a guard-cell on the S. side of the passage, i.e. on the left of anyone entering; the back of the cell is 5 ft. in from the entrance-passage, and its other dimensions must have been at least 3 ft. (Photos. 4).

Dr. Marshall reports that there are hut-circles near Dunburgidale; these should be looked for when the Inventory is made.

cciv. NW.

May 24th 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

FORT, DRUMGIRVAN. No signs of this fort could be found.
The officers who survey the fort on Barone Hill should look
again for it in passing.

cciv. SW.

May 23rd 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

"CIRCLE," S. END OF ETTERICK BAY. No traces remain and the site need not be revisited. This appears to have been the same monument as that described as a fort W. of Leargivrechtan by Hewison in P.S.A.S., xxvii, p. 282.

cciii. NE.

May 24th 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

FORT, CNOC AN DUN, DUNALUNT. This fort is situated on the summit of Cnoc an Dun, between Dunalunt and Achantirie, 342 ft. above sea-level. In outline it seems to have been roughly D-shaped, the rampart curving with the contour round the E., S. and W. sides while the N. side of the site was bounded by a semi-precipitous slope. It is uncertain whether the rampart ever continued along the lip of this slope, as the small portion of the fort lying N. of a modern stone-dyke, which stands slightly back from the lip, has been less well preserved than the rest and there are some signs of quarrying where the N. portion of the rampart may have run. Even in the better-preserved sectors the rampart has been reduced practically to the condition of a terrace, the interior of the fort lying everywhere at a higher level as it consists of the rounded hill-top. In the SW. sector, where the rampart is best preserved, the terrace, to the crest, is 13 ft. wide, the foot of the mound lying a further 8 ft. out and 3 ft. below the crest. Quarried stones of medium size can be seen appearing through the turf hereabouts. The fort measures 97 ft. from N. to S. by 144 ft. from E. to W., the former dimensions being taken from crest to crest and the latter from the crest on the S. to the lip of the precipice on the N. No entrance is visible, but the rampart is interrupted in the S. sector and the entrance was no doubt in the vanished portion. Within the interior are some vestiges of what seem to have been a small "long-house" and a small scooped-out hut.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

STANDING STONE, STEWARTHALL. About 300 yds. SE. of Stewarthall, on the left bank of the small burn that drains Greenan Loch, there is an erect slab measuring 2 ft. 3 in. in height, 4 ft. 7 in. in breadth and 1 ft. 1 in. in thickness. Some 36 ft. away down the slope there is a similar slab 1 ft. 7 in. high, 4 ft. 9 in. broad and 1 ft. 1 in. high; this consists of two pieces which were found nearby some years ago and have been fitted together at the break and set up to resemble the stone first described. Yet another slab of the same general appearance and measuring 5 ft. by 3 ft. 3 in. by 11 in. was dug up close to the first one and is now lying on the surface. These may be the remains of a genuine ancient monument, but it must be remembered that a farm stood here in the 18th century or earlier, of which the excavated corn-drying kiln can still be seen.

cciv. SW. (Unnoted).

May 28th 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

FORT, THE DUN, SCALPSIE. This fort stands on a rocky knoll some 600 yds. SW. of Scalpsie farm, at a height of about 140 ft. above sea-level. It commands a view of Scalpsie Bay and of the low-lying cultivable ground extending to Loch Quien. The sides of the knoll are everywhere steep, particularly on the N. The remains consist of the fort proper, or citadel, on the summit of the knoll, and two outer works now appearing as vaguely defined terraces which curve round the E. slopes, from NE. to SW., at lower levels. All the remains are very badly preserved. On the SW. side of the entrance passage the wall-face stands to a height of 2 ft. 5 in., showing good coursed masonry; but elsewhere the wall is represented only by a strong ridge on the surface of the summit, and even this is so much obscured by debris and by modern stone-dykes that no plan or exact dimensions can be given. In general, however, the citadel appears to occupy an area measuring 100 ft. from NE. to SW. by 65 ft. from SE. to NW. Only at the entrance can more details be obtained; this is at about the centre of the NW. side and measures 6 ft. 8 in. in width at its outer end, the thickness of the wall through which it passes being measurable here as 13 ft. 6 in. The terraces, which may or may not have served as the foundations of outer ramparts, show occasional facing-stones which indicate coursed masonry construction.

ccxv. NW.

May 27th 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

FORT, "CASTLE CREE", UPPER ARDROSCADALE. Castle Cree is a small fort situated about 600 yds. WSW. of Upper Ardroscaidale. The 50 ft. raised beach is here represented by an irregular range of low, broken cliffs, and the fort is perched on top of a mass of rock which projects from the general line of the cliffs and is joined to the higher ground behind only by a neck the top of which is at least 8 ft. lower than the summit-area of the rock. Except for the neck and the adjoining part of the SE. side, the sides of the rock are everywhere precipitous; there is, however, a narrow scrambling foot-path near the outer end of the SE. side which may or may not have existed in ancient times. The summit-area of the rock is roughly boat-shaped, with its major axis lying NE. and SW.

The fort is extremely dilapidated and its plan has been further obscured by "secondary" building which cannot always be distinguished from the original work. However, it is clear that the fort walls followed the edges of the summit, conforming with its shape; and they appear to have met in a point at either end, although it is impossible to be certain of the outline at either end as the NE. end is obscured by debris and the SW. end very poorly preserved. Subject to this proviso, the over all length of the fort from NE. to SW. may be put at about 94 ft., and its breadth from NW. to SE. at about 42 ft. - the broadest part being 61 ft. from the NE. end. The wall is 9 ft. 6 in. thick at the only point where both faces were exposed; here, on the NW. side, the outer face had recently been cleared of rubbish and a quantity of masonry pulled out. No entrance was identified with certainty, though faint traces of what may have been one were noted at the SW. end not far from the end of the foot-path of which mention has been made above. (Photo.)

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

HOG-BACKED STONE, ARDNAHOE. Miss Marshall of Stewarthall produced a photograph of a stone of triangular section, measuring apparently about 6 ft. in length and 12 in. or more in height, which is now understood to be serving as the coping of a farm-yard wall at Ardnahoe. The farmer is reported to have found it on or near the shore. It should be investigated when the Inventory is made.

ccxv. NW (Unnoted).

May 28th 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

FORT, ARDNAHOE. About 300 yds. S. of the farmhouse of Ardnahoe, the range of low cliffs that mark the line of the 50 ft. raised beach projects southwards to form a rounded bluff with a level top about 100 ft. above sea-level. The sides of the bluff are precipitous on S., SE. and S. and in its base there is a cave. The SE. portion of the summit area is occupied by the remains of a small fort of an irregular oval shape and measuring about 110 ft. from E. to W., its major axis, by about 85 ft. from N. to S. These dimensions are taken over the low grass-grown mound representing the ruined wall; this mound, where it is measurable at all, varies between 11 ft. and 14 ft. in thickness. The mound is best preserved in the NE. and N. sectors, but its exterior curve also appears on the NW. and very slight traces of what was probably a thinner wall in the first instance can also be seen along the lip of the precipice in the SW. and SE. sectors. Though the wall now bears the appearance of a mound of earth and small stones, there is no reason to suppose that it was not originally of built masonry; as a number of larger stones appear here and there in the turf and the bulk of the better material may well have been taken for the numerous stone dykes in the vicinity. The entrance, represented by a gap about 13 ft. broad, is in the NE. sector. Outside the wall there has been a ditch, cutting the fort off from the level ground to the N.; this ditch is still well defined at its E. end, where it debouches on the face of the cliff, but becomes shallower as it sweeps round the N. sector of the fort and finally fades out altogether on the NW. Its breadth is from 14 ft. to 17 ft., and it is crossed/

crossed in front of the entrance by a traverse, the NW. side of which seems to have been dug away. A hollow debouching on the cliff face W. of the fort may possibly be the other end of the ditch, but this is uncertain.

ccxv. NW.

May 27th 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

FORT, BARONE HILL. This fort stands on the summit ridge of Barone Hill. It is roughly pear-shaped, the broad end being towards the NE. and occupying the actual summit (530 ft. above sea-level), while the pointed SW. end is at a considerably lower level. Within the broad end there is an enclosure, the plan of which (infra) is based on a detailed survey; the outer fortification, however, was mainly sketched by eye. The walls are badly preserved, and for much of their length are mere rickles of tumbled stone, in places of terrace-like form; or again they may have vanished altogether and their former position can be judged only from the presence of loose stones fallen over the lip of the summit-area. In one stretch only of the wall of the inner enclosure is it possible to identify both faces for cross-measurement; this is in the S. sector, where the wall runs straight for 70 ft. from the precipitous SE. edge of the summit-area to within some 30 ft. of the modern stone dyke that traverses the whole site, and it is here 10 ft. in thickness. The surviving remains suggest that the inner enclosure was roughly oval, its outline on E., NE. and N. being dictated by the shape of the flattish summit-area; its greatest over all length, from ESE. to WNW., was about 220 ft. and its greatest breadth, from NE. to SW., about 160 ft. The entrance is near the middle of the SW. side, and measures 6 ft. 6 in. in breadth. The outer enclosure consists of a SE. wall which slants across the contours from the E. end of the cross-wall to the pointed SW. end of the work; here it is met by the W. wall, which pursues a similar course from a point immediately below the NW. end of the inner enclosure where it turns sharply S. The total length of the whole work is thus about 430 ft. and its greatest breadth about 250 ft. The entrance is in the

— W./

W. side, about 100 ft. W. of and at a much lower level than the entrance to the inner enclosure described above; it is 6 ft. wide, and the wall, which is constructed of large massive masonry but which is badly rushed, is at least 10 ft. thick. Traces of vitrification have been reported in this fort, but none were encountered in the course of the hasty examination of the structure which was all that time permitted.

xxiv. SW.

May 21st 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

CAIRN, SCALPSIE. This cairn is situated in the flat cultivable ground at the head of Scalpsie Bay; it is about 500 yds. S. of Scalpsie farm-house and near a mound of which an account has been published (P.S.A.S., xxxviii, pp. 52 ff.) The cairn is now so much spread, and its remains are so heavily grassed-over, that nothing can be said with certainty about its plan or dimension on the strength of superficial observations; there is some slight evidence, however, that it may have been round and some 50 ft. in diameter. Two slabs, possibly side-slabs or covers of cists are exposed on the surface; they measure respectively 6 ft. 5 in. by 2 ft. 8 in. by 10 in. and 4 ft. 3 in. by 3 ft. 2 in. by 9 in. There are also some boulders which may have formed part of a peristalith.

ccxv. NW.

May 27th 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

STONE SETTING, ST. NINIAN'S BAY. This monument is situated near the centre of St. Ninian's Bay, some 200 yds. NNE. of the isthmus that leads to St. Ninian's Point. It consists of two standing stones arranged as shown in the plan, the mean distance between them being 3 ft. 10 in., their opposed faces forming an angle of 43° , and the axis of their apices lying NNW. and SSE. The NNW. stone is 4 ft. high, 1 ft. 10 in. broad (or 1 ft. 7 in. at base), and 7 in. thick; the SSE. one is 3 ft. 1 in. high, 1 ft. 9 in. broad and 8 in. thick. (Photo.)

cciii. SE.

May 28th 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

KINGARTH PARISH.

"FORT", ^uSNIDHE CHATAIN. The O. S. map marks a fort on a shoulder projecting W. about 130 ft. below the summit of Snidhe Chatain, but no remains of any structure could be seen and Dr. Marshall likewise failed to find any vestige of a fort. The ground has been under cultivation and the shoulder has been traversed by old field divisions. The only other indication of human handiwork is given by the large number of rabbit-burrows on the summit of the shoulder, which suggest the presence of forced soil. This site need not be revisited.

ccxv. SE.

May 27th 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

KINGARTH PARISH.

CIST, DUNAGOIL BAY. This monument is situated about 200 yds. from the SE. sector of Dunagoil Bay, between two high masses of rock. It consists of a setting of four large stones, evidently the remains of a massively constructed cist, although the stone at the NW. end has been overturned outwards. Were this stone upright on its base, the interior of the cist would measure 5 ft. 1 in. in length, while the breadth varies from 3 ft. 7 in. to 3 ft. 10 in. The lengths, breadths and heights of the respective stones, in that order, are 5 ft. 1 in. by 1 ft. 2 in. by 2 ft. 3 in.; 3 ft. 10 in. by 1 ft. 8 in. by 1 ft. 6 in.; 4 ft. 4 in. by 1 ft. 6 in. by 1 ft. 7 in.; 3 ft. 5 in. by 1 ft. 2 in. by 2 ft. 6 in. - The last set of measurements referring to the overturned stone if in its proper position. These stones do not fit at all closely, and there are some smaller ones about their bases. Another large slab, which may have been the cover, partly appears through the turf alongside the cist.

ccxxvii. NW. & NE. (unnoted).

May 25th 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

KINGARTH PARISH.

ALIGNMENT, LARGIEZEAN. This setting of three stones is about half a mile NW. of Largiezean and the same distance WSW. of the stone circle in Blackpark Plantation, Kingarth. The ground on which they stand has been improved for agriculture, though the adjoining land nearer to Stravanan Bay is rough and swampy. The stones are disposed as shown in the plan below, in a straight line running nearly NW. and SE. (true bearing 305°), the distance between the central and the outer stones being almost exactly 7 ft. in. in both cases. Their measurements are as follows, in the order height, breadth, thickness:- S. E. stone, 5 ft. 7 in. by 5 ft. 5 in. by 3 ft.; central stone, 5 ft. by 3 ft. 2 in. by 2 ft. 7 in.; NW. stone, 4 ft. 9 in. by 4 ft. 1 in. by 2 ft. 3 in. The last leans slightly towards the W. and has lost a considerable fragment recently.

ccxv. SW. ("Standing Stones")

May 27th 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

PARISH OF KINGARTH.

STONE CIRCLE, KINGARTH. This monument is situated in Black-park Plantation, about half a mile S. of Kingarth Church. It consists to-day of three stones, but a hollow W. of the surviving stones evidently marks the spot from which a fourth has been removed. Stones and hollow are disposed as shown on the plan below, the figure that they describe being elliptical rather than circular and the major axis, as drawn between stones A and C, lying due N. and S. The distance between these stones is 50 ft., and that between stone B and the centre of the hollow is 32 ft. Stone A is 7 ft. 4 in. high, 6 ft. 4 in. broad and 2 ft. thick, the last two dimensions being maxima; actually the shape of this stone is very irregular, as it is deeply waisted a short distance above the ground and swells out above to a breadth greater by 1 ft. 4 in. than that of its base. It seems to be heavily weathered. Stone B is 9 ft. 10 in. high, 6 ft. 4 in. broad and 3 ft. 8 in. thick, breadth and thickness being maxima taken over many irregularities and some clefts which exaggerate the original dimensions. This stone has evidently suffered much damage in the past, and at the time of visit some freshly detached fragments were observed, evidently split off by the heat of a camper's fire kindled at the back of the stone. Stone C is 7 ft. high. 3 ft. 6 in. broad and 1 ft. 11 in. thick(maximum). Three photographs were taken under very unfavourable conditions of weather and lighting.

BUTESHIRE.

KINGARTH PARISH.

INDETERMINATE REMAINS, DUNAGOIL POINT. Just under the precipitous NE. side of the ridge on which stands Dunagoil Fort, there is a collection of boulders and large stones covering an area roughly circular in shape and measuring 12 ft. in diameter. This may possibly be the foundation of a cairn, but would be easily explicable as base for a haystack or for a pile of fishing nets.

ccxxvii. NW. & NE. (unnoted)

May 25th 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

KINGARTH PARISH.

MOUND, DUNAGOIL POINT. The large mound that stands in the hollow NE. of Dunagoil Fort seems to possess a core of natural rock which crops out on the NW. side. It can therefore hardly be regarded as an ancient monument, notwithstanding its artificial appearance, the fondness of rabbits for its soil, and the presence in it of many loose stones.

ccxxvii. NW. & NE. (unnoted).

May 25th 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

KINGARTH PARISH.

DUNSTRONE FORT, LARGIEZEAN. This fort is perched on the summit of a steep rocky ridge which rises to a height of 142 ft. above sea-level and forms the point dividing Lubas Bay from Lubas Port. It is about half a mile WSW of Largiezean. The summit area, which is completely occupied by the fort, has its major axis running from SE. to NW., and tilts slightly downwards in the latter direction. The NE. side and NW. end are precipitous, and the other side and end very steep. The fort consists of an outer and an inner enclosure, both reduced to their foundations. The outer enclosure ~~is bounded on the SW.~~ which is wedge-shaped, with its pointed end towards the SE., is bounded on the SW. by a massive wall of well-coursed masonry which runs straight along the lip of the slope for 145 ft.; across the NW. end there is a return-wall of much slighter dimensions which dies out at the edge of the precipice on the NE. side; while at the SE. end the narrow space between the precipice and the end of the great SW. wall is occupied by a jumble of foundations and debris in which, however, some traces of an entrance can be made out. The latter, however, are too indefinite for measurement. The outer enclosure has no wall on the NE. along the lip of the precipice. The SW. wall is reduced to its foundations throughout, and the footings of its outer face appear on the slope well below the level of the summit-area; no footings of the inner face are exposed, but a surface indications suggest that the wall may have been about 13 ft. thick. This dimension may, however, represent the thickness at the foundations only, as an upper course of footings, set 3 ft. to 4 ft. 6 in. back from the line of the lower ones, appear here and there in such a way as to suggest that a wall some 9 ft. thick was founded on a plinth two or three courses high. This arrangement may have been adopted here in place of the more usual batter. The overall length of the outer enclosure is 153 ft. and/

and its breadth at the centre about 75 ft. The inner enclosure is of much slighter construction and may well be secondary; only small stones appear through the surface of the mounds that mark the positions of its walls. At a distance of 22 ft. in from the outer end of the entrance of the outer enclosure a cross-wall runs nearly straight from the precipice on the NE. side of the to the inner face of the great SW. wall; this forms the SE. side of the inner enclosure, while its counterpart, 50 ft. distant to the NW. crosses the summit area on a more sharply curved line. The structure was consequently of irregular shape and some 40 ft. to 45 ft. across internally.

ccxv. SW.

May 25th 1943.

BUTESHIRE.

KINGARTH PARISH.

VITRIFIED FORT, DUNAGOIL. This fort has been excavated as described, but the following notes have been recorded in case they may contain additional information. The whole monument should be re-examined and carefully planned when the Inventory is made. Dunagoil Point is formed by a high rocky ridge running NW. and SE. The NE. side and NW. ends are precipitous and the SW. side extremely steep; only the SE. end gives reasonably easy access to the summit, on which a few areas of tolerably flat ground are interspersed among the rocky hummocks. The rampart, which is heavily vitrified, has run for about 300 ft. along the SW. side of the summit with its ends returned to the precipice-edge 47 ft. at the NW. end perhaps about 43 ft. at the SE. Along the SW. side, where the excavators found an entrance, nothing can now be seen but tumbled stonework, but some interesting details remain at either end. At the NW. end good masonry footings mark the outer face of the wall, and 4 ft. to 6 ft. within them there appears a mass of vitrified matter up to 5 ft. in height extending for practically the whole length of the return-wall. The inner face of the wall is nowhere exposed, but appearances suggest a thickness of about 12 ft. At the SE. end external footings can be traced for a distance of 29 ft. from the precipice-edge; at this point there is a stone which may well be the outer corner-stone of a debris-filled entrance-passage. The corner where the return-wall joins the side-wall is practically blotted out. The return-wall is 11 ft. 6 in. thick, and there is a mass of vitrification just behind its inner face. The only masonry to be seen on the precipitous NE. side is at the point where access can now be gained to a small basin-like hollow on the summit; here there are some foundations of what was no doubt a wall thrown across the lip of the hollow to prevent access by this route. A re-used vitrified lump, such as was/

was noted by the excavators as evidence that this wall was secondary, was noted here. This hollow appears to be the most habitable portion of the site, which here attains its greatest breadth, of 70 ft. (Cf. P.S.A.S., xxvii, p. 289 ff.; Transactions of the Buteshire Natural History Society, 1914-5, pp. 42 ff., and 1925, pp. 54 ff.)

ccxxvii. NW. & NE.

May 25th 1943.

THE CAULDRON, OLD WALL, and other remains, ST. BLANE'S CHAPEL.

The various remains of the ecclesiastical establishment that formerly existed at St. Blane's Chapel deserve detailed study, in which particular care would have to be taken to differentiate the old work from the restorations. Time did not permit of

1. cf. P.S.A.S. xxiv, pp 307 ff.

any thorough examination of the remains in the course of this visit, and in particular no attempt was made to work out the line of the old precinct-wall; but the following notes were made for what such a cursory record may be worth.

The Cauldron. Much of the existing wall appears to be a restoration; it was presumed that the strip of lead inserted in the masonry on the outer face marked the height of the original remains. Internally the building is nearly circular,

2. This was later confirmed two dimensions at right angles being 30 ft. 6 in. and 33 ft. The wall varies in thickness from 7 ft. 6 in. where it backs against the cliff on the W. to 10 ft. 6 in. at the entrance-passage, which is on the SE. The entrance-passage is 5 ft. 9 in. wide internally, and splays out to 8 ft. 6 in. externally.

3. P.S.A.S., loc. cit., gives 4 ft. externally narrowing inwards.

The masonry is of the "cyclopean" variety that seems to be typical of this site.

Other Buildings. Along the foot of the cliff, SE. of the Cauldron, there are several other buildings of less striking appearance but constructed in a similar way - i. e. of very massive polygonal blocks, and backed against the cliff or the rocky debris fallen from it. For example, next to the Cauldron there is a rectilinear hut or enclosure with walls 4 ft. to 5 ft. 6 in. thick and, in the SE. corner, an entrance 3 ft. 6 in. wide. The sides of the building measure internally 17 ft., 15 ft./

15 ft., 13 ft. and 10 ft. respectively. Separated from this by a block of tumbled boulders there is a squarish enclosure measuring internally about 22 ft. aside and having a front wall 4 ft. 6 in. thick. The NW. side is formed by the block of boulders, and the SE. side by a smaller block of masonry and boulders, which seems to be intrusive, as there is a butt joint, and which leaves room for an entrance 7 ft. wide near the E. corner. Twelve ft. SW. of this entrance there is a single row of boulders which may have formed the original limit of this enclosure on the SE. side. Beyond this there are more boulders, and beyond them again in a narrow passage-like chamber 5 ft. broad and with an entrance 2 ft. wide; its SE. side is formed by a wall 20 ft. long and 4 ft. thick, and containing orthostats. Farther to the Se. there is a well, enclosed on three sides by an arrangement of large boulders 17 ft. wide by 11 ft. deep within which there is a setting of smaller stones measuring 10 ft. across.

Other remains. Just outside the precinct-wall NW. of the Cauldron there is a square stony area measuring 21 ft. aside. The stones with which it is covered are broken much smaller than those used in the adjoining buildings, and here and there the edges are defined by small slabs set on edge. About 50 yds. NW. of the Cauldron there is a turf circle with its interior recently disturbed. It measures 24 ft. in diameter over the banks which are 4 ft. 6 in. wide and barely rise above the level of the surrounding ground. In addition to these, the whole area underlying the cliff contains a variety of mounds, foundations and arrangements of boulders, so numerous as to suggest that much information about the life of this community could be obtained by an exhaustive study of the site accompanied by judicious excavation.

ccxxvii, NW. & NE.
("The Cauldron", "Wall," "Well".)

May 25th 1943.

ISLAND OF BUTE.

The following monuments and sites were omitted from the emergency survey undertaken in May, 1943, in addition to those of which accounts have already been published:-

ROTHESAY PARISH.

Cairn, remains of, Point House Burn, above +Ardbeg. (This is believed to have disappeared, but further enquiries should be made at Gilyer House (cciv. NW.), near which it is said to have stood.)
King's Mill, Rothesay.

KINGARTH PARISH.

Old Ascog House. "Small fort", Dunagoil.
Castle, North Velspoke. Other cairns and cists near
Castle, Kilchattan. Dunagoil.
St. Blane's Chapel and adjoining remains.
St. Chattan's Well (site), Little Kilchattan.
Fort (site), $\frac{1}{4}$ mile S. of Ambrismore.
Tumulus (site), $\frac{1}{4}$ mile W. of Quochag.

NORTH BUTE PARISH.

Chapel (ruins) near Nether Ardroscaidale.
~~W~~aster Kames Castle (photos. only).
Kilmory Castle.
Supposed fort between Barmore Hill and Kilmory Hill.
Cairn, Undraynian Point.
Cairn, Rhubodach.
Standing Stone, Ardmaleish Point.
Chapel (Site), St. Colmac's.
Chapel (site). Cnoc na Mhanan, Scarvel.
Cairn (site), Balnakailly.

Unlocated.

Tumulus, Calmorayin.