

## **Emergency Survey Site Descriptions (Typescripts): Morayshire**

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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 and plans.

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

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MORAYSHIRE.

KNOCKANDO PARISH.

CAIRNS, CARDOW.  The stretch of pinewood and unreclaimed moorland between Knowehillock <sup>and</sup> Gateside, NE. of Cardow Distillery, is plentifully scattered with small cairns up to 25 ft. in diameter. But nothing was known by a local resident of the name "Bonfire Cairn" that appears on the 6-inch O. S. map. The stone circle has been completely destroyed.


xxii. SE.

Sept. 24th 1943.

*A.G. 3/9/60.*

MORAYSHIRE.

KNOCKANDO PARISH.

STANDING STONES, PITCHROY LODGE.  On a small level terrace some 50 ft. above the Spey, just W. of the highroad at a point about midway between Pitchroy Lodge & Ballintomb, there are two stones, one standing and the other fallen. Their bases are 7 ft. 6 in. apart, on a line running from WNW. to ESE. It is the eastern stone that is still erect; it is 6 ft. 8 in. high, 4 ft. broad and 1 ft. 3 in. thick. The true height of the fallen stone - measurable as its foot is exposed - is 8 ft. 6 in.; it is 3 ft. 6 in. broad and 1 ft. 6 in. thick.


xxvi. SW. & SE. }  
("Stone circle, remains of".) }

Sept. 24th 1943.

*W.G. 3/9/60.*

MORAYSHIRE.

ELGIN PARISH.

SYMBOL STONE, UPPER MANBEEN.  This stone measures 3 ft. 5 in. in height, 2 ft. 2 in. in breadth and 1 ft. 4 in. in thickness at the base, but only 6 in. higher up as the upper part of the E. face has been split off. It stands about 150 yds. W. of the farm house on the slope to the small burn that flows past Auchtertyre to Miltonduff. It faces E. and W. On a prepared surface on the W. face are engraved the fish, the comb and the mirror symbols, the former above the two latter. Most of the body of the fish has scaled away but its tail and fins and the other symbols are fairly clear. Some marks in front of the place where the fish's head should be seem to be really irregularities in the rock.

Above the symbols, which are deeply patinated, the letters M/HS are deeply and rather rudely incised; and on the E. face of the stone T.S.P., with what may be an S below.

N. B. To bring out the carvings this stone should be photographed shortly after full noon about the equinox when the sun is just beginning to shine on the W. face. By 2 p. m. (G.M.T.) on the autumn equinox the lighting was already too square to bring out fully all the shallow but rather wide lines. (Cf. E.C.M. iii, pp. 128 f.)


xii. SW. or SE. (unnoted).

23.1x.43.

*U.G. 3/9/60.*

MORAYSHIRE.

BIRNIE PARISH.

CROSS BASE, THE BIBLE STONE, BURNBANK.  The Bible Stone is an unshaped boulder in one face of which a rectangular socket has been cut doubtless to receive a cross-shaft. The stone is now lying on the W. side of the narrow farm-road to Burnbank opposite a ruined cottage, but this is obviously not its original position. The boulder is 3'9" long x 2'1" wide and the socket measures 10" x 7" but is only 3" deep.

xii. SE. ("Bible Stone").

23.ix.43.

*ag. 3/9/60.*

MORAYSHIRE.

BIRNIE PARISH.

? Thomshill

CAIRN, THOMSHILL.

This cairn, marked as the Cairn of Kilforman on the 6 - inch O. S. map, stands in the area of a felled wood about half a mile NW. of Thomshill Distillery. It has been reduced to ring of tumbled stones, partly turf-covered; there are some large boulders lying round about, which may possibly be the remains of a peristalith.

xii. SE.

Sept. 23rd 1943.

A.G. 3/9/60.

MORAYSHIRE.

BIRNIE PARISH.

CAMP (SITE), SHOUGLE. There are no remains of any kind visible on this site; but the position is so eminently suitable for a Roman fort that an air-photograph would be very desirable.

xii. SE.

Sept. 22nd 1943.

*R.G. 3/9/60.*

MORAYSHIRE.

ROTHES PARISH.

STANDING STONE, COLEBURN DISTILLERY. This stone stands just E. of the Elgin-Rothes road, half a mile SSE. of Coleburn Distillery and between the 5th and 6th milestones from Elgin. It is 4 ft. 2 in. high, 3 ft. 2 in. broad at the base and 1 ft. 8 in. thick. Its major axis runs from NE. to SW. (Photo. by Prof. Childe).

xviii. NW.


Sept. 23rd 1943.

*A.S. 3/9/60.*



MORAYSHIRE.

DALLAS PARISH.

STANDING STONE, KELLAS.  On a low knoll, probably ~~is~~ natural, on the SE. side of the road from Dallas to Elgin and a bare 100 yds. NE. of Kellas P. O., just behind the 1914/18 War Memorial, stands an earth-fast slab 3'2" x 1'3" x 1'1".

xvii. NW.

23.ix.43.

*at. 3/9/60.*

MORAYSHIRE.

DALLAS PARISH.

CAIRNS & HUT-CIRCLE, HILL OF MULUNDY. The N. slopes of the Hill of Mulundy, up to a distance of half a mile S. of Remichie farm-house, carry a considerable number of small cairns of the usual moorland type; but as the ground is covered with deep heather and its surface is also dotted with small mounds formed by the roots of old trees, now felled, it is difficult to identify with certainty any except the larger and more distinctive examples. Several elongated cairns were noted, typical measurements being 11 ft. by 7 ft., 10 ft. by 6 ft. and 16 ft. by 10 ft.; one of them has large stones piled round the margin, something like a peristalith. What resembles the foundation of a round cairn about 9 ft. in diameter, again with the largest stones along the margin, is to be seen in the strip of wood bounding the upper side of the Remichie fields. As well as the cairns at least one hut-circle was noted, measuring 33 ft. in diameter and having an entrance about 6 ft. wide facing W.; and what seemed to be a round cairn 6 ft. in diameter standing within a scooped-out area which would apparently have been circular and about 20 ft. in diameter if a good part of its E. half had not been disturbed by land-drainage.

xvi. NE. ("Cairns"; unnoted).

Sept. 23rd 1943.

*A.S. 3/9/60.*

MORAYSHIRE.

EDINKILLIE PARISH.

VITRIFIED FORT, DOUNE OF RELUGAS. The construction thus named occupies an isolated hill or crag at the junction of the Divie with the Findhorn, its base being protected by a crook of the Divie gorge. The hill rises some above the level terrace on which Regulas Ho. stands and falls steeply away on all sides; the gentlest slope being to the SE. Its flanks have been planted with shrubs, silver fir, spruce and other ornamental trees that must be at least 80 years old; some of these have been uprooted. Furthermore embanked and graded garden paths wind round the hill and lead up to the summit on the SE. A terrace walk supported by a roughly built dry stone revetment once ran round the summit. At a later date a high drystone wall, now somewhat dilapidated, was built on the terrace to provide shelter for some sort of enclosed garden. More recently this enclosure has been covered with netting supported on wooden posts; part of the covered area is now planted with potatoes while the rest, after having been used for military exercises, is now occupied by nettles and bracken 8' high.

Plantation and horticultural operations have both masked the natural features of the site and seriously disturbed earlier constructions built upon it. Nevertheless it seems clear that the modern terrace is built upon the debris of a stone rampart that formerly encircled the summit. Stones from this work, mostly moss-grown, are visible on all the flanks of the mound at the S. corner outside and elsewhere under the terrace walk and in the side of the scarp by which the path reaches the summit. They include besides rounded boulders an appreciable proportion of building slabs. But in a large pile of stones, apparently dug up in cutting the path through the rampart, are some very large "vitrified" masses of stones fused together by heat. As none such are superficially visible they can only have been derived from deep layers of the rampart cut through when the path was made.

Naturally/

Blank  
in 1775.

Naturally no original faces are exposed and the plan shows only the apparent crest of the original rampart that may have been modified by the recent terracing. With this reservation it may be said that the rampart protected a sub-triangular area about 175' long NW. - SE. x 100' wide N. & S. across its base. There is no reason to deny that the rampart followed the original contours of the summit, but the straightness of the SW. side deserves notice.

On the N. the slope of the hill is interrupted about half-way down <sup>by</sup> a broad chasm, along the floor of which runs a garden path. The bank defining the outer side of this cliff is noticeably stony and looks suspiciously artificial, but the shrubs are far too luxuriant to let us ascertain the exact nature or plan of this feature.

The superficial appearance of the ruins is not unlike that of Dun Evan and Castle Finlay, and sufficient vitrified material has been brought to light to justify the inclusion of the Doune of Relugas in the list of "vitrified forts."

xv. SE.

21.ix.43.

*A.G. 3/9/60.*

MORAYSHIRE.

EDINKILLIE PARISH.

SMALL CAIRNS, DAVA STATION. A little E. of Dava Station about 1050' contour on the shoulder of Carn Righ Thuim begins a large field of small cairns. These are spread on both sides of the fence that coincides with the boundary between Edinkillie and Cromdale parishes, and extend in the latter parish S. of the road to Aittendow but apparently not E.-ward beyond the 1150'

About 18' } contour. One cairn has been cut through by the boundary fence  
in diameter, ) and two cists thereby exposed. One cist, lying almost immediately under but to the W. side of the fence, is represented by two slabs, probably the N. and S. sides of a short cist oriented almost E. and W. ( $10^{\circ}$  S. of E.). The southern slab, still in position on edge, is 4'9" long x over 2'3" high and 9" thick. The N. slab has fallen inwards and is lying prostrate, largely covered with heather, but the cist cannot have been much over 2' wide. To the NE., at a rather higher level, <sup>are</sup> 2 more slabs forming one corner of a small cist. The slabs that are now inclined inwards measure respectively 2'3" x over 1'3" x 6" and 2'3" by over 1'0" x 2". The country is dry stony moorland sloping gently W. to the Dorback Burn.

xxiv. SE. ("Stone Cist, remains of"; )  
("Cairns"; unnoted. ) 26.ix.43.

*A.S. 3/9/60.*

MORAYSHIRE.

EDINKILLIE PARISH .

SMALL CAIRNS, STRIPESIDE. On a dry gentle slope facing S. that descends from the 750' contour to the road from **Stripeside** to Dallasbraughty and to the Little Berry Burn is a very large assemblage of thickly-sown small cairns. None of the cairns exceeds 24' in diameter. While the area is now moor it is traversed by stone and turf dykes that do not seem to be very ancient, while elsewhere in the vicinity cultivation extends up to this level. (Cf. P.S.A.S., xli, p.171.)

xx. NE. ("Cairns, site of".)


26.ix.43.

*A.S. 3/9/60.*

MORAYSHIRE.

PARISH OF CROMDALE,

INVERALLAN & ADVIE.

"GRANT'S FORT," BALNACLASH.  This monument, marked in Roman type on the 6 - inch O. S. map, occupies the point of a promontory of high ground between two very deep and almost precipitous ravines, which unite about 300 yds. SW. of Balnaclash. It consists of a flat, oval platform occupying the full breadth of the crest of the promontory-ridge, and two transverse ditches cut across the ridge from side to side - the SW. one dividing the platform from the main part of the promontory and the NE. one from its extreme tip, which is already about 11 ft. lower than the platform and falls away almost immediately to the junction of the ravines. The platform measures 38 ft. from NE. to SW. by 28 ft. transversely. It bears no remains of structure, but a few fragments of split stone appear here and there through the mossy turf just below the lip, and even as far as 13 ft. out on the SW. sector, and the appearance of the turf just inside the lip on the SE. sector suggests the former presence of <sup>a</sup> light rampart. On the NW. and SE. the slope from the lip of the platform falls away in one profile with the side of the ravine; and on the ENE. there is no break in the slope from the lip of the platform to the bottom of the ditch 13 ft. below. This ditch is thus 39 ft. wide from lip to lip, and only 37 ft. long from side to side of the promontory; descending into it from the NE. there are faint traces of a pathway ramp 14 ft. long and 5 ft. broad, but there are no corresponding remains of any track rising to the platform. On the SW. ~~the~~ the ground falls only 1 ft. along a central line in the 13 ft. from the lip of the platform to the lip of the larger ditch; this ditch likewise cuts through the promontory-ridge from side to side, the ~~distance~~ being here 50 ft., and measures 28 ft. from lip to lip and 8 ft. in depth below the platform. Both ditches appear to be cut through glacial clay.

MORAYSHIRE.

CROMDALE PARISH.

ALIGNMENT, BALLINTOMB. On a gravel ridge between the L.M.S. line from Forres to Aviemore and the Spey are three stones, remains of an alignment running E. W. None of the stones stands on the crest of the ridge but all stand - or stood - on its SE. slope down to the haugh-lands by the river. The ridge ends on the east in a ravine that may have been enlarged to act as a drain, while it fades out on the SW. The total length of the alignment to-day is and the intervals between the stones . The easternmost stone now stands exposed to a height of 7', is 2'9" along the axis of the alignment and 1' thick; it tapers upward to a point. The central stone is 6'3" high and now 2' wide by 9" thick, but beside it lies, half buried in turf, a stone of similar length that seems to be a large fragment split off the erect stone. The W. most stone has fallen to the E. and its base is partly overgrown. The exposed portion measures 4'6" by 2'3" by 1'2".

Blanks  
in MS.

Blanks  
in MS.

xxxii. SE. ("Standing Stones".)


24.ix.43.

A.G. 3/9/60.



MORAYSHIRE.

CROMDALE PARISH.

CAIRN, CROFTSCALICH.  Nothing is now left of the cairn marked on the 6 - inch O. S. map immediately N. of Croftscalich. The site need not be revisited.


xxxii. SE.

Sept. 24th 1943.

*ag. 3/9/60.*

MORAYSHIRE.

CROMDALE PARISH.

CAIRN, GAICH.  The cairn that once stood near the summit of the rocky hummock that rises steeply on the N. side of the Grantown-Dulnanbridge road, between Gaich and Croftscalich, has been too much disturbed and spread for measurements to be of any value. Near the centre of the agglomeration of tumbled stones there is a very large slab, partly covered with debris, which was no doubt the side or cover of a cist.

xxxii. SE.

Sept. 24th 1943.

*A.G. 3/9/60.*

MORAYSHIRE.

CROMDALE, INVERALLAN & ADVIE PARISH.

FORT, TOM A' CHAISTEIL, GLEN BEG. Tom a' Chaisteil is a rock boss that terminates a promontory projecting E. from the mass of Beinn Mhor towards the head of the glen. Standing just over the 1250' contour it dominates the valley 300' below. The boss falls precipitously some 40' on the NE. but rises <sup>only 20' to 22'</sup> in lower steps from the marshy col that joins it to the main mass ~~on~~ on the W. But even on this side low cliffs 4' - 6' high interrupt the slope. The summit is some 120' long by 110' wide. It is far from level but slopes ENE. so that the edge of the declivity in this direction is as much as 18' below the corresponding point on the W. The inclination is accentuated by an outcrop-ridge that runs half-way across the summit <sup>a</sup> in SSW. direction, the segment to the W. of this ridge being almost level. At its SSW. end the ridge forms a little cliff 6' high that is, however, not sheer, and seems to have been accentuated by quarrying, perhaps anciently. The rest of the summit is covered with heather.

The whole summit has been enclosed by a drystone rampart that follows its contours, though not very closely. On the NE. most of the rampart has slipped over the edge of the precipice, at the foot of which its debris is visible. Elsewhere it is represented by a continuous rickle of bare angular stones. In this considerable sections of the bare outer face are exposed, particularly on the NW. and SW. The exposures suffice to show that the rampart ran practically straight for at least 25' on the NNW. though further W. and S. it follows an even curve. On the SW. at least the face stands a few feet in from the lip of a precipitous outcrop step that looks as if it had been quarried. On the SSE. the steep edges of the outcrop ridge are utilized at the base of the rampart. Further E. the footings consist of straight edge blocks some 8" thick set on edge and supporting long flat slabs 15" to 8" deep. On the NW., 4 courses of such slabs/

slabs are visible in position, the footings being however buried deeper in debris. The heather is encroaching upon the stones in the interior and no inner face is exposed.

The entrance on the W. is represented only by a marked depression in the stony bank, no cheek being certainly recognizable superficially. It can however be clearly seen that the bank of debris is continued inwards on either side ~~of~~ the partial gap for 6' - 8'. This seems to mark the existence of an "inturned entrance" - a feature observed in many English and Welsh forts of

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in MS.

xxii. NE. ("Tom a Chaisteil")

27 - ix - 43.

R.G. 3/9/60.

MORAYSHIRE.

PARISH OF CROMDALE, INVERALLAN  
& ADVIE.

CAIRNS, GLENBEG. There is a large group of small cairns of the usual moorland type about two-thirds of a mile NW. of Glenbeg, just above the NW. corner of the block of birch-woods and between 1100 ft. and 1150 ft. above sea-level. Some of them are elongated and others round, and many evidently contain boulders of considerable size - these, in some cases, being set along the margin.

xxii. NE.

Sept. 27th 1943.

*A.G. 3/9/60.*