

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

### **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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*Turin Hill is*  
 "FORTS", TURIN HILL is the high eastern end of a ridge of tilted conglomerate that breaks off in steep cliffs on the S. but slopes away quite gently on the N. It is separated from the W. root of the ridge - Pitscandly Hill - by a gorge, enlarged by quarrying on the S., but dips steeply again at its E. end. The whole hill is girt by a series of stony ramparts that generally follow the contours and on the S. side run along the edges of crags. The innermost, encircling the summit, embraces an irregular area about 450' at its greatest length but nowhere over 175' wide. A surveyor's cairn stands on its SE. corner but there may be an entrance just N. of this. The next rampart seems to carry on the line of the first both E. and W. along the cliff edge till its total length is nearly 1450'. On the N. it runs along the heatherclad slope in a wide arc, so that the total width across the summit may be of the order of 350'. Beyond this rampart is a third that crosses the spine of the ridge (followed by a stone dyke that coincides with the Aberlemmo-Rescobie parish boundary) some 400' ENE. of the second where the crest is already rather lower). Thence it seems to run SW. down-hill, and then to follow the top of the crags that delimit the topmost terrace below the summit. (Dr. Christison seems to have thought that this lower rampart on the S. was our second). On the N. the outer rampart can be traced some distance through the heather from its turn on the ridge crest, but on the W. its course is uncertain.

While all these ramparts are certainly stony they are now covered with grass (on the S.) or heather (on the N.) and no faces are exposed.

Within the area they enclose are three smaller works. Right on the summit, and slightly to the NW. of the centre of the innermost enclosure, are remains of a stone ring-fort with an internal diameter of about 88' and walls  $12\frac{1}{2}'$  to  $13\frac{3}{4}'$  thick. The walls have been despoiled in building the boundary dyke that almost bisects the ring. Still on both sides of the dyke the line of the outer face is traceable at several points and is sometimes preserved/

preserved three courses high. Here it is clear that <sup>the</sup> wall was built with a considerable batter (hence the discrepancies in the wall thicknesses). The interior is full of stones, but the line of inner face is exposed at places though nowhere more than 2 courses deep. On the N. the ring seems to impinge upon the inner rampart and to be later than it, but in the high heather certainty on this point is impossible. On the S., between the ring wall and the rampart, are traces of a hut circle some 35' in diameter: it too seems older than the ring. SE. of the latter, part of the rim of a round rock-cut cistern or well perhaps 10' in diameter is exposed. 375' E. (NE.) of this stone ring-fort the dyke cuts another ringwork which it also bisects. This work is represented by two concentric stony banks with diameters of 108' and 54' respectively from crest to crest. No built faces are exposed and both banks are low, rounded and grass-grown. Some 500' W. of the summit ring is a disturbed area that may be the site of another, with an overall diameter of little more than 100'. The line of the supposed bank is however discontinuous, and the whole area is covered with irregular mounds and hollows as if whatever stood thereon had been quarried away or slighted. At several other points near the S. and SW. margin of the summit, where smaller ridges of rock crop out, traces of quarrying can be seen.

The modern dyke that follows the crest of the ridge takes a slight turn to the N. just on the NE. wall of the summit ring fort (the angle being about  $12^{\circ}$ ). The basal course here, as elsewhere on the dyke, is formed of a slab on edge. On the S. face of the slab is carved a cross the stem being 1'2" long with ~~seriptions~~ <sup>seriptions</sup> of 1.5" and 2" at its top and bottom respectively. The arm is 10" long.

O.S. Forfar L "Kemps Castle"; Christison in  
P.S.A.S., xxxiv (1899-1900), 96-8.

14th August 1942.

24. 16/9/60.

34899

ANGUS.

~~ABERLEMMO~~  
~~ABERLEMMO~~ & RESCOBIE.

ROBS REED. Just below the crest of Pitscandly Hill, the W. end of the ridge which culminates in Turin Hill, is a circular enclosure delimited by a grass-grown bank about 65' across internally. Though no facing stones are exposed this is probably the site of a ring fort similar to that on the summit of Turin Hill.

*No date or map ref.*

*A.G. 16/9/60.*

33776

ANGUS.

AIRLIE PARISH.

EARTHHOUSE, BARNES OF AIRLIE. Right on the summit of the next hill west of this farm, just against the field dyke, is the entrance to an earth-house. This is a curved passage some 70' long, generally about 5'6" high and about 6'9" wide at the floor contracting by corbelling of the side walls to 3'3" or 4'0" at the roof. The walls are built of the usual unshaped blocks and boulders with specially large blocks on edge at the basal course. The passage is roofed with 15 solid stone lintels, 3' to 4' wide and much over 4' long. The 8th lintel (counting from either end) is carved with a complicated design of serpentine figures - all pecked out in **Bronze Age** style - on its lower side. The cups, that represent the serpents' heads, are all toward the inner edge of the slab; some of the carvings are now hidden by the over-sailing top courses of the side walls, suggesting that the carving was executed before the stone was set in position as a lintel. The least visible serpent on the left (as one enters) may curve round to frame the rest of the scene. The next serpent however wriggles right across the stone in a series of S-curves.

The inner end of the passage is rounded off, the outer is now obscured by field stones thrown in through the roof gap which now gives access to the souterrain but is not certainly the original entrance. On either side of it in fact are gaps of 2' and 2'6" wide respectively, spanned by quarry-dressed lintels resting on quarry-dressed jambs, the inner jamb of the right hand door projecting about 6" into the fairway of the passage. Both doorways are now largely blocked up with earth and stones, but must have been less than 4' h. and may have given access to other passages or cells. There are a number of loose stones on the top of the hill round the entrance to the souterrain and the **corn** is noticeably thin.

*No map ref.*

8th August 1942.

*A.S. 16/9/60.*

*22358*

ANGUS.

AIRLIE PARISH.

TUMULUS, E. of Cantsmill, is now a low stony mound some 90' across, standing on the level haugh-land just N. of the burn that flows past Airlie Kirk. It is obviously the site of a cairn, but has no less obviously been pillaged <sup>—</sup> a dense crop of herbage near the centre probably marking the site of a cist.

*No map ref.*

8th August 1942.

*A.G. 16/9/60.*

32360

ANGUS.

AIRLIE PARISH.

MS illegible

STANDING STONE, E. of [<sup>?</sup>Baitland], in a cornfield a few feet S.  
of the main Rattray-Kirriemuir road on the crest of a low ridge.

No map ref.

8th August 1942.

32362

Alt. 16/9/60

ANGUS.

KIRRIEMUIR PARISH.

STANDING STONE. SE. of CALDHAME, just across the road NW. of Caldham  
Wood. Stands 6'<sup>h.</sup>~~h.~~ x 3' w. x 1'8" thick facing SE. - is leaning  
over to the NW., rather pointed with top side sloped back from SW.  
corner.

*No map ref.*

9th August 1942.

32196

*Re. 16/9/60.*



ANGUS.

PROSEN PARISH.

MANSE OF CORTACHY. *On the*

STANDING STONE *3/4* crest of *1/2* ridge about *1/2* quarter of a mile SW. of the  
Manse of Cortachy and SE. of Muirkeith Farm, a block of schist facing  
E. and W. stands 5'9" x 4'10" wide. The W. face is flat but the  
back is very irregular. Max. thickness 3'4".

*No map ref.*

*Probably 9 August-1942.*

*A.G. 16/9/60.*

32189

## ANGUS.

## PROSEN PARISH.

STANDING STONES, W. of Burn of Carogte (between Muir Pearsie and Clash).

On a piece of level moorland about 850' O. D. and close to the foot of the slope up to the 900' contour are 4 stones lying more or less along a line of a total length of 113' bearing  $31^{\circ}$  E. of N. The two stones on the W. are prostrate; the westernmost has fallen eastward and measures 8'5" l. x 2'4" x 2'10";  $6\frac{1}{2}'$  NE. is the base (or apex) of Stone B, 7'10" long x 3' x 2'. 65' from its extremity stands stone C, 3'2" x 2' x 1'9"; and  $23\frac{1}{2}'$  further on the same line stone D, is still standing 3'10" h. x 2'8" x 2'1". 16' due N. of C is another quite small standing stone <sup>(E)</sup> not over 2' high, while a similar stone F stands  $12\frac{1}{2}'$  SE. of C. C E D F may be remains of a stone circle.

Stones A B C D lie approximately on the NW. edge of an area traversed by rather broad run-rig cultivations exactly at right angles to it. These cultivations impinge on an area over which are dotted a dozen small cairns. The rigs ignore these; some cairns are in fact right in the middle of rigs. There are traces of old enclosure walls, apparently connected with the cairns, which are also traversed by the rigs but not certainly disturbed thereby. Further to the SE. are older run rigs faintly visible more or less at right angles to those noted.

No map ref.

9th August 1942.

A.G. 16/9/60.

ANGUS.

LINTHRATHEN.

STANDING STONES, KNOWEHEAD. Due S. of the farm, and below the moor road from Auldallan Mill to Lint<sup>r</sup>athen, stood two stones on a line bearing SW. - NE. The SW. stone still stands erect, 7'<sup>h.</sup> ~~11~~ x 4'3" x 1'7" <sup>with its axis</sup> bearing 20° E. of N. mag. The other stone has fallen to the NW. on its face but measures 7'2" x 3'3" x 9". Both stand at the eastern end of a long isolated knoll that looks superficially like a long cairn but is most probably a conglomerate ridge.

*No map ref.*

*Probably August 9<sup>th</sup> 1942.*

31013

ANGUS.

LINTHRATHEN.

"STONE CIRCLE," W. SHURROCK. On the level top of a ridge of conglomerate, above the 700' contour but with a low outcrop of rock rising a few feet above it on the N., stands a single flat stone facing N. and S. 4'6" x 3'6" x 1'9". Against the ruins of a turf dyke on the S. edge of the ridge cover 100' away is another stone of some size but there is no sign of a genuine stone circle.

No, but word illegible in MS.

No map ref.

9th August 1942.

32348

A.G. 16/9/60.

ANGUS.

LINTRATHEN PARISH.

STANDING STONE, near Standing Stone Cottage WNW. of Bridge of Craig.

On the level terrace between the SW. bank of the Isla and Kilry Burn stands a stone 7'8" x 3'11" x 2'3" facing S.; the back to N. is also fairly flat but has one broadly bevelled angle.

No map ref.

10th August 1942.

31093

RG. 16/9/60.

COUNTY OF ANGUS.

PARISH OF KETTINS.

EARTH-HOUSE, PITCUR. Mr. O. G. S. Crawford has discovered a feature not noted by the excavators of this earth-house in P. S. A. S., xxxiv, pp. 202 ff. - a man with a bow and possibly a quarry, engraved near the entrance to the covered portion. He has presented the negative of his photograph of this engraving to the Commission.

July 11th 1943.

*AS. 19/9/60.*

*27751*

COUNTY OF ANGUS.

PARISH OF KETTINS.

STANDING STONE, HIGH KEILLOR. This stone is described and the designs carved on it are figured by Romilly Allen (E. C. M., iii, p. 207). Mr. O. G. S. Crawford has seen the wolf within the last few years, but under the conditions obtaining when the stone was visited only the defaced mirror and the sinister half of the double disc could be made out.

*No map ref.*

July 11th 1943.

*Al. 19/9/60.*

*30543*

COUNTY OF ANGUS.

PARISH OF TEALING.

INDETERMINATE REMAINS, HUNTINGFAULDS. (i) About 300 yds. E. of the house the farmer pointed out a hollow which might possibly mark the position of an old well, or of the entrance to an earth-house. He hopes to investigate it some day, and will report any discoveries to the Commission. (ii) The same farmer pointed out that a section of the field dyke running W. from the house, at a distance of about 200 yds. from it, differed from the rest in that it contained some clay-mortar, whereas the rest was dry-built. Within the dry-built section there were traces of two small built-up windows.

L. N. W.

July 11th 1943.

*alg. 19/9/60.*

320268  
320269



COUNTY OF ANGUS.

PARISH OF TEALING.

EARTHHOUSES,

~~EARTHHOUSES~~ W. of TEALING HOUSE.

Only one earthhouse can now be seen where two are marked on the 6" O. S. map, and no second one is known locally. This is presumably the one planned and described in P. S. A. S. . When the Inventory Survey is made, this point should be verified by taking a large-scale tracing of the published plan to the site for comparison.

L. N. W.

July 11th 1943.

*A.G. 19/9/60.*

31140  
33260

*Blank in MS.*

COUNTY OF ANGUS.

PARISH OF TEALING.

EARTH-HOUSE, S. W. OF HUNTINGFAULDS. This earth-house has now disappeared and the farmer had no knowledge of it.

1. N. W.

July 11th 1943.

*A.G. 19/9/60.*

33386

COUNTY OF ANGUS.

PARISH OF TEALING.

DOMESTIC SITE, CORAL DEN. Nothing can now be seen of any remains at the S. end of Coral Den strip.

1. N. W.

July 11th 1943.

*AG. 19/9/60.*

*35361*

COUNTY OF ANGUS.

PARISH OF TEALING.

STONE CIRCLE, BALLUDERON. The remains of this circle stand on a shelf of the hillside about 650 yds. E. S. E. of North Balluderon and a rather greater distance N. E. of South Balluderon. Four stones can still be seen, of which two (A, C) are standing and two (B, D) are prone; there are also three hollows (E, F, G) which seem to mark the positions of vanished stones. Stone A measures 3 ft. 3 in. in height and in breadth and 2 ft. 5 in. in thickness; Stone C, 3 ft. 6 in. in height, 2 ft. 4 in. in breadth and 1 ft. 11 in. in thickness. Stones B and D seem clearly to have fallen in more or less radial directions, and their original dimensions may be similarly given as:- B, 3 ft. 5 ins., 2 ft., more than 8"; D, 5 ft. 4 in., 3 ft. 10 in., more than 1 ft. The whole monument appears to have been oval rather than strictly circular in shape, measuring about 40 ft. from N. N. W. to S. S. E. by about 32 ft. transversely. (See plan .x. overleaf).

Stone C bears on its N. E. face eight large cups with rings; the largest measures 6 in. in diameter overall, the ring accounting for about 1 in. on either side and the cup, which is 1 in. deep, for nearly 4 in. Four of these cups are grouped together roughly to form a diamond figure. On the same face there are at least four other cups without definite traces of rings. On the S. W. face there are at least thirteen badly weathered cups, without rings, the largest of which measures 3 in. in diameter. The hole in the upper surface of Stone B is clearly modern, and appears to have been made to receive the end of an iron post. (Photos.)

xlix. N. E. ("Druidical Temple, supposed".)

July 11th 1943.

.x. Made with tape and box-sextant, and sufficiently accurate for publication in Inventory.

A.G. 19/9/60.

COUNTY OF ANGUS.

PARISH OF NEWTYLE.

"GRAHAME'S KNOWE", NEWBIGGING. This monument is marked about half a mile W. of Newbigging. At the date of visit the whole area was under crop, and no search for it could be made. A low mound may well exist, and should be looked for.

xlii. S. E.

July 12th 1943.

*A.H. 19/9/60.*