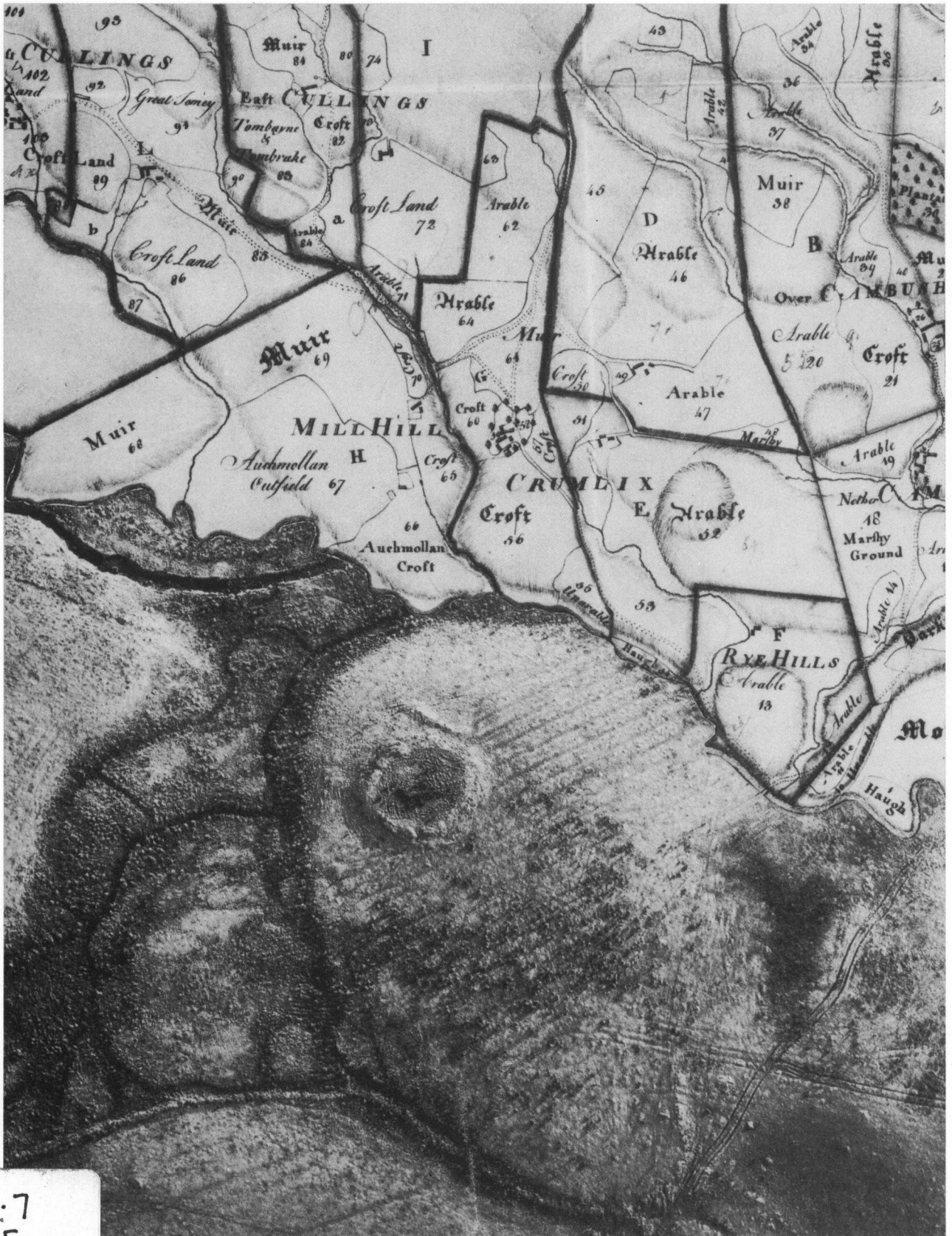




Royal
Commission on the
Ancient and
Historical
Monuments of
Scotland

BRAES OF DOUNE

An Archaeological Survey



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The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

AREAS OF AFFORESTABLE LAND SURVEY



Map showing past and current areas of work of ALS

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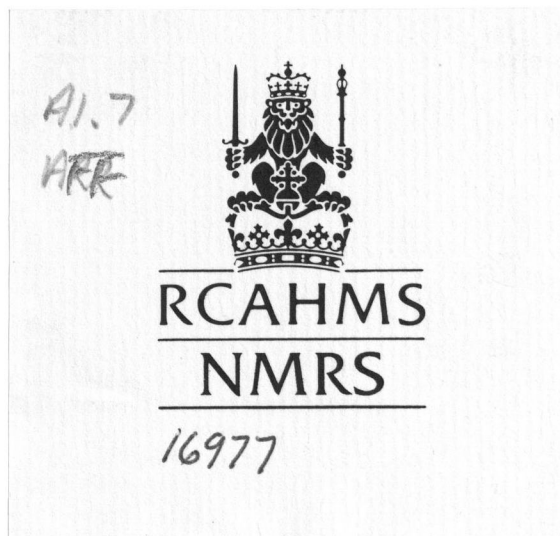
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BRAES OF DOUNE

An Archaeological Survey



Black Park, cairn, view from the east (NMRS C02044)



Afforestable Land Survey
RCAHMS

Cover: details of Figs 11 and 17

ISSN 0969-0694

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BRAES OF DOUNE

PREFACE

This report was written by Mr S D Boyle, and was edited by Mr J B Stevenson and Mr G S Maxwell. It was based on fieldwork carried out by Messrs S D Boyle, D C Cowley, P J Dixon, D R Easton and J B Stevenson, air survey by Miss M M Brown, with survey and drawing work by Ms G Brown, Mrs H Stoddart, Messrs J Borland, A J Leith, K H J MacLeod, I G Parker and R Shaw, and record work by Mr P McKeague. The photographs were taken by Mr R Adam, with in-house services provided by the Photographic Section. The layout of this publication was prepared by Mr J N Stevenson.

The Afforestation Land Survey was established in 1989 to carry out archaeological survey in areas where there is likely to be new planting, and it works on the basis of a rolling programme which has been the subject of consultation and agreement each year between RCAHMS and Historic Scotland, with the advice of the Forestry Commission and Regional Archaeologists.

The Royal Commission wishes to acknowledge the assistance given by landowners who have allowed access to the monuments for study and survey, and to Mr R Eden for permission to use archive material from the Cromlix estate (Figs 17 and 18).

Detailed information, including plans and photographs, about sites mentioned in the text and listed in the Gazetteer is available in the National Monuments Record of Scotland at the address below:

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical
Monuments of Scotland
John Sinclair House
16 Bernard Terrace
Edinburgh EH8 9NX (Tel. 031-662 1456, Fax 031-662 1477)



Fig. 1 Ballachraggan, chambered cairn, view westwards over the west chamber (NMRS C02197)

INTRODUCTION

In this survey, conducted between April and July 1992, the Royal Commission examined part of southern Perthshire, an area largely by-passed by archaeologists in recent decades. The survey provided an opportunity to test whether the low numbers of known monuments was anything other than a reflection of this lack of fieldwork. The quantity and range of the monuments which emerged during the survey far exceeded expectations, with implications for our understanding of settlement distribution at several points in prehistory and history.

The Survey Area

The Braes of Doune lie on the north side of the valley of the River Teith, extending eastwards from Callander towards Dunblane and Strathallan; the present survey comprised an east-west transect measuring 15km by 5km and covering an area of 75 sq. km (Fig. 2).

The underlying geology consists chiefly of sedimentary rocks of the Lower Devonian, the erosion of which has resulted in the present gently-sloping landscape, the ground rising from the valley floor at about 50m OD towards the peaks of Uamh Bheag and Beinn Odhar at over 600m OD. The lower ground presents a landscape of improved pasture land and some arable, with rough pasture above this, giving way to heather-covered peat moorland, which predominates above about 250m. The survey area cut across these three zones of land-use, including areas of improved ground in the south-west and south-east, and deep peat (depths of up to 3m were noted in the cuttings of some of the numerous burns) towards the north. About 11 sq. km of the survey area had been afforested before the survey, while forestry applications had in recent years prompted archaeological fieldwork immediately to the south and to the south-west (McKeague and Sangster 1990; Hamilton 1991). The timeliness of the RCAHMS fieldwork was demonstrated when a further application in respect of land within the survey area was lodged with the Forestry Commission in the summer of 1992.

There had been little systematic archaeological fieldwork in the area prior to the survey. The former Archaeology Division

of the Ordnance Survey visited known sites in the late 1960's, but the only prospection for new sites was that carried out from the air by RCAHMS, during which a series of cropmark enclosures was identified in the Teith valley (Maxwell 1983), two of which are situated within the survey area. Otherwise, the archaeological record consisted of a burial cairn, a group of shieling-huts, a possible standing stone, the possible remains of a chapel and a castle, records of two cist burials and a number of stray finds. Nevertheless, the area appeared to be one of some potential, particularly after the earlier pre-afforestation surveys mentioned above, and also the recognition by the Regional Archaeologist, Mrs Lorna Main, of a neolithic long cairn at Auchenlaich, on the eastern edge of Callander, in 1991 (DES 1991, 9).

Survey Methodology

All areas of unimproved ground were walked, and all improved fields were visited. Recorded sites were plotted at 1:10,000 scale, using either EDM equipment or, where there was sufficient local control, more traditional methods with an optical square and a tape measure. Measurements of each structure were entered into a database, using Husky Hunter field computers. Summary descriptions of each site or group of sites, based on the information in the database, have been accessed into the National Monuments Record of Scotland, which also holds a copy of the survey database, as well as overlays to the 1:10,000 mapsheets on which each recorded structure is depicted and numbered. A list of all sites passed to the NMRS is included in the Gazetteer at the end of this report.

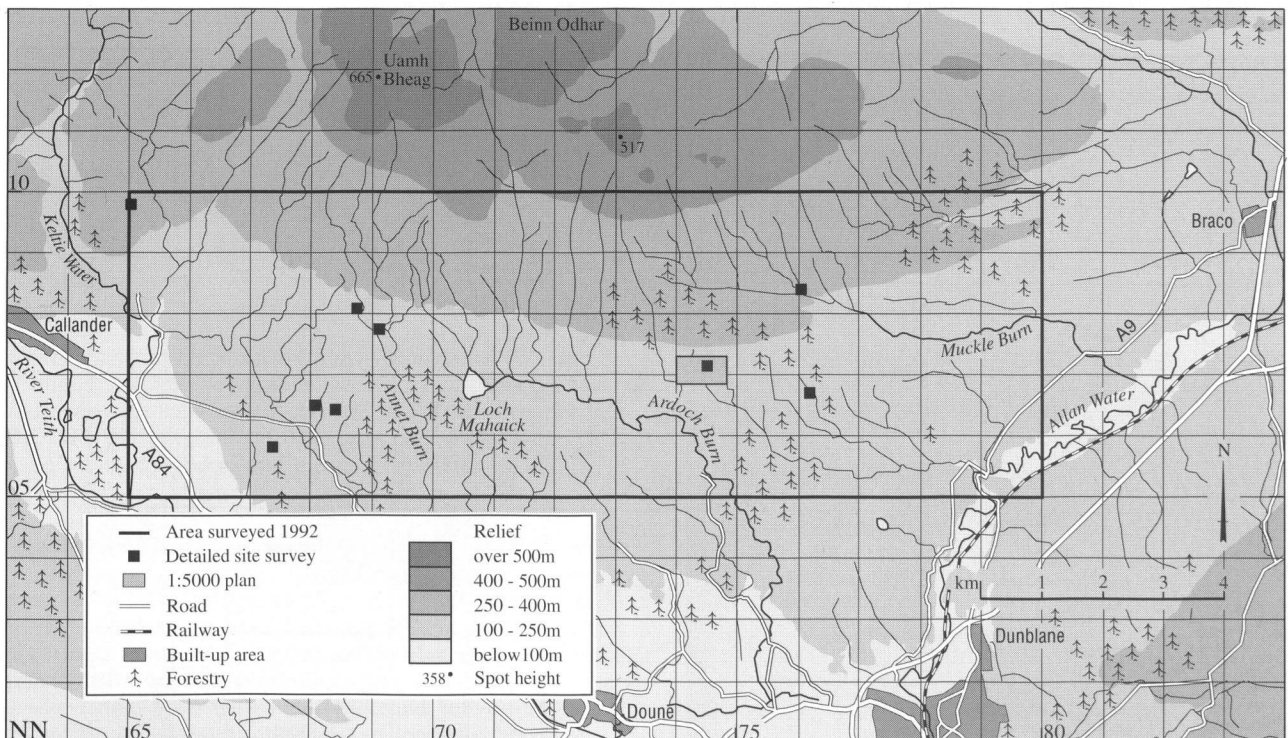


Fig. 2 Map of the survey area (based upon the Ordnance Survey map, Crown Copyright)

THE MONUMENTS

The sites discovered were mostly discrete monuments: burial cairns, homesteads, farmsteads and groups of shielings. Only occasionally were fragments of the wider landscapes of which these monuments once formed an integral part recovered. This, of course, is largely due to later agriculture, especially on the lower ground, where even the areas of rig which survived were much degraded. Higher up, the peat may well conceal much archaeology: the interior of a homestead at Waterside (NN 60 NE 34), for example, lying at 225m OD, is filled with peat growth almost to the level of its wall tops. It is in the area between these extremes, now given over to rough pasture, that most of the monuments and the best examples of relict landscape are to be found. In all, 287 structures were recorded, covering a wide range of site-types and periods. The following discussion is intended to draw attention to what appear to be the most significant themes that have emerged from the fieldwork.

Neolithic Burial Monuments

The discovery of four unrecorded neolithic burial monuments is perhaps the most significant result of the survey (Fig. 3). The Braes of Doune area stands in what was until very recently a gap, about 50km wide, in the distribution of Clyde-type chambered tombs, between those of Dunbartonshire and Stirlingshire, and the scattered group of outliers in Strathearn and Glen Almond (Henshall 1972, pp. 28-9, Map 3; RCAHMS 1994a, 37). Evidence that the Perthshire examples were not as isolated as they had appeared to be emerged with the discovery, in 1980, of a long cairn at Edenchip, near Lochearnhead (Davidson and Henshall 1984) followed, in 1991, by the identification of another at Auchenlaich, Callander, immediately west of the survey area (DES 1991, 9). The identification of four monuments on the Braes of Doune, three of which are of Clyde-type, underlines the possibility that more examples await discovery in south-western Perthshire, and thus that the links with the core of the Clyde tomb region were stronger than might hitherto have been supposed.

The four monuments differ from each other both in situation and in plan. At West Bracklinn the cairn stands on the edge of a slight terrace at about 328m OD, an exceptional altitude for a

Clyde-type burial, where it commands a wide view from the east round to the south-west. The much-robbed oval mound measures 8.4m by 7m, its long axis running NNE-SSW, with a chamber set slightly to the north of the centre of the cairn and aligned E-W (Fig. 4). The slabs of the north side of the chamber are missing, and the west end slab has been displaced, but it seems to have consisted of two compartments, each about 1m in length by at least 0.5m broad.

The Ballachraggan cairn (Figs 1, 5 and 6) stands in improved grassland at a height of 170m OD on a low ridge on a south-west facing hillside. It is considerably larger than West Bracklinn, measuring 30m in length and tapering from 23.5m in width at its SSE end to 18.5m at the NNW. Towards the NNW end parts of a three-compartment chamber (or possibly two chambers) set transversely to the main axis of the mound, are visible. The W compartment, which is the most complete, measures at least 2.4m by 1.1m. There was no evidence of a chamber at either end of the cairn, but a plough-scar across the NNW end suggests that it may have been truncated, although it would not be alone amongst the Perthshire examples if there had been no end chamber - Clach na Tiompan in Glen Almond has side chambers only (Henshall and Stewart 1956).

At Severie all that remains is a large, poorly-preserved cist, aligned N to S, on the summit of a prominent knoll (Fig. 7). Parts of both sides and of the N end protrude through the turf

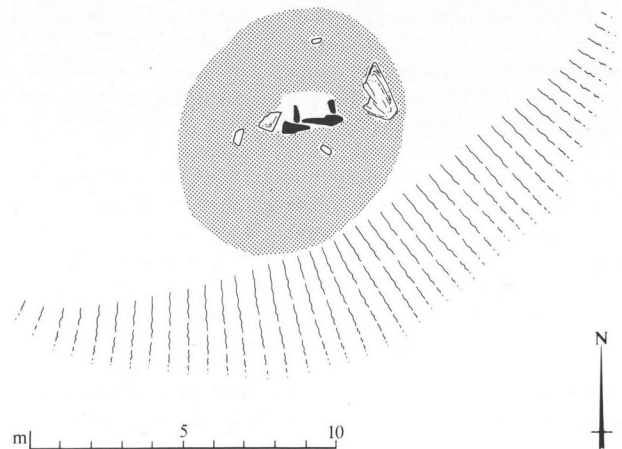


Fig. 4 West Bracklinn, chambered cairn

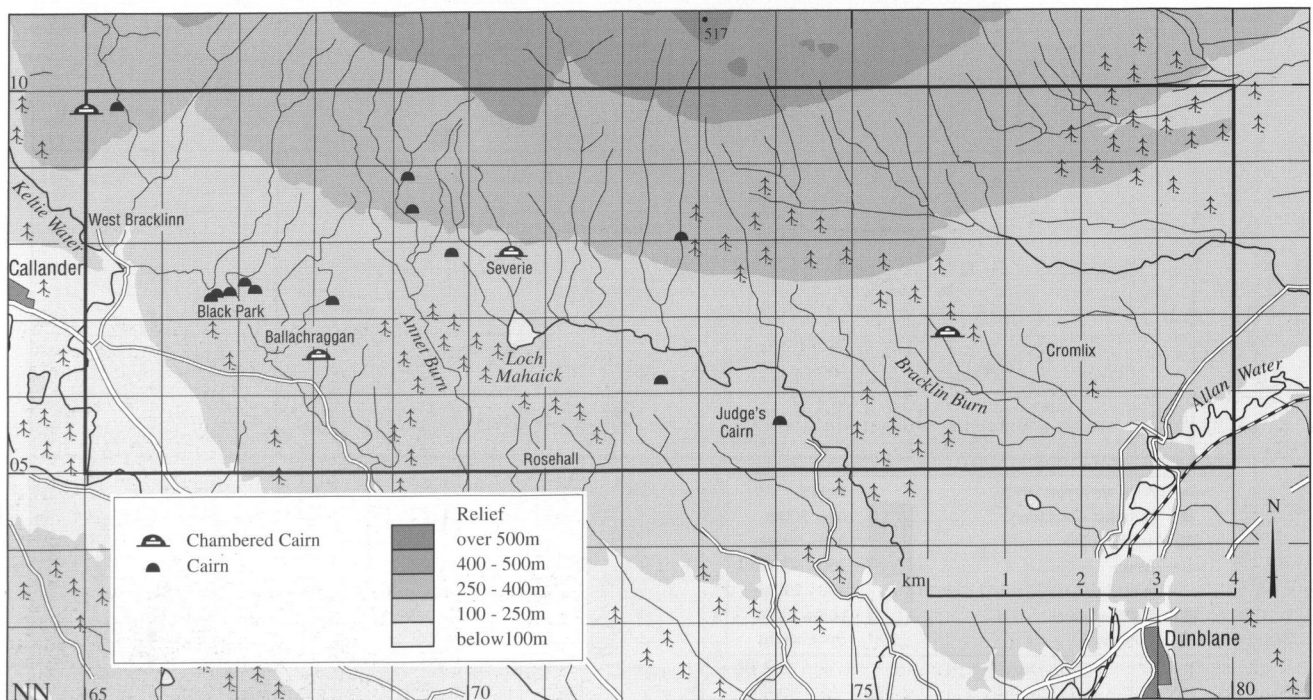


Fig. 3 Distribution map of Neolithic and Bronze Age cairns (based upon the Ordnance Survey map, Crown Copyright)

by up to 0.1m, but only one of these slabs, on the E side, appears to be *in situ*. A large slab lying at an angle and rising 0.6m above the surface may have divided the chamber into two. It is impossible in its present state to estimate the length of the chamber, but it may have been about 1m wide.

The overlapping side-slabs and the transverse slabs subdividing the chambers identify the three tombs described above as members of the Clyde group. The long cairn at Bracklin Burn, however, is too badly robbed to be ascribed to any group (Fig. 8). It sits on the spine of a low ridge at about 170m OD, above a small burn to the E and N, with gently-rising ground to the north-west. The cairn measures 53.5m in length and 14.8m in

outlook (although afforestation now makes this difficult to appreciate at Black Park), the exception being Annet Burn (NN 60 NE 33), which sits on a level terrace beside the burn.

The cairns all appear as grass- or heather-covered mounds, most of them disturbed or robbed to some extent. In no case can an enclosing kerb be identified with certainty, although a robber-trench around the S and SW arcs of one of the Black Park cairns (NN 60 NE 15) may indicate the course of such a feature. On the basis of their size, two groups can be identified. Eight cairns measure between 4.5m and 8.5m in diameter and between 0.45m and 0.9m in height; the others range from 12.5m in diameter and 0.4m in height (Ballachraggan) to 21m

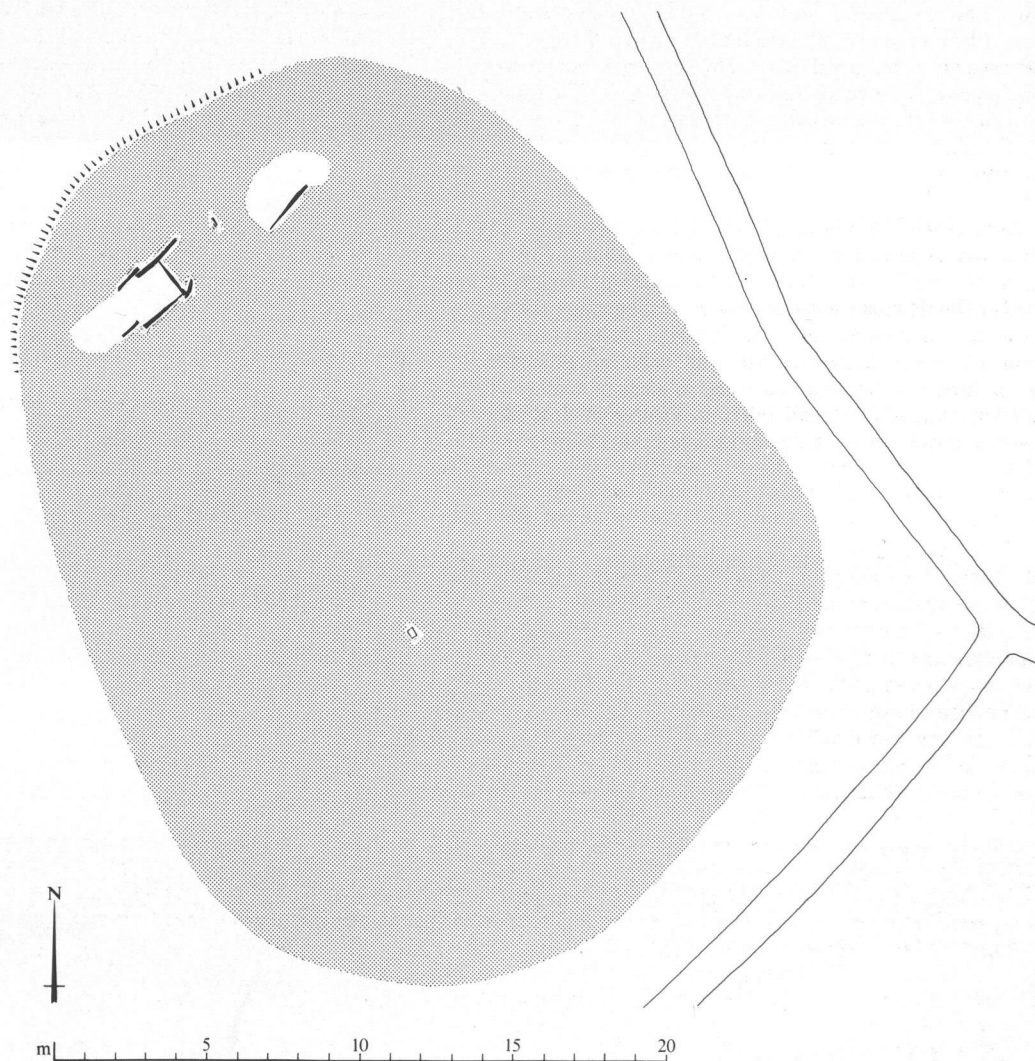


Fig. 5 Ballachraggan, chambered cairn

breadth at the ESE end, tapering to 8.5m at the WNW end. Within it there are the possible remains of two chambers: two large prostrate slabs towards the ESE end of the cairn, and, in the WSW half, two upright slabs set at right angles to the cairn's long axis (because of the uncertain status of these stones, they have been omitted from the plan).

Bronze Age Cairns and Burials

Thirteen round cairns were recorded during the survey, all probably of Bronze Age date (Fig. 3). These are all situated towards the western part of the survey area, most of them sited at between 190m and 300m OD and showing a similar distribution to that of the neolithic tombs, with a concentration of five monuments at Black Park on lower ground, between 150m and 165m OD. All but one of the cairns are located either on prominent knolls or ridges or in situations offering an extensive



Fig. 6 Ballachraggan, chambered cairn, west chamber (NMRS C02195)



Fig. 7 Severie, cist, view from the north-west (NMRS C02001)

in diameter and 1.5m in height (Black Park, NN 60 NE 15). All but one are circular, the single exception being The Judge's Cairn, an oval mound measuring 20m in length by 17.5m in breadth and 1.8m in height, although here the shape may be the result of stone-robbing. The two groups show different patterns of distribution. With one exception, the smaller cairns are all to be found in areas of heather-covered, often boggy, moorland; the example at Waterside, however, the smallest of all, sits on a prominent knoll

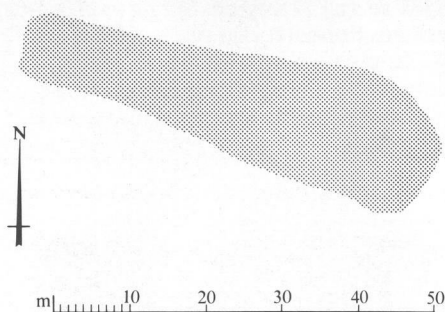


Fig. 8 Bracklin Burn, long cairn



Fig. 9 Black Park, round cairns and rig cultivation (NMRS C6381)

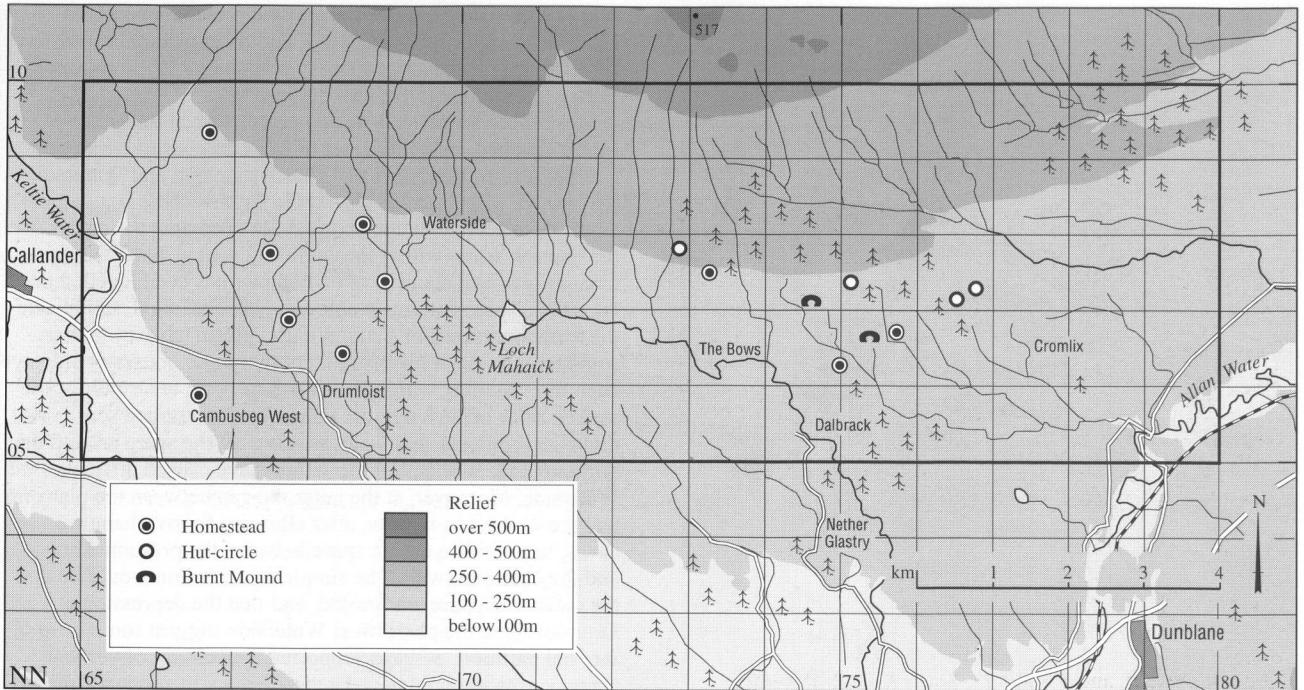


Fig. 10 Distribution map of early settlement (based upon the Ordnance Survey map, Crown Copyright)



Fig. 11 Ballachraggan, homestead and rig cultivation (NMRS C6352)

surrounded by rig-and-furrow cultivation. The larger cairns, on the other hand, tend to be on lower, often cultivated, ground: rig-and-furrow surrounds The Judge's Cairn and two of the Black Park cairns (Fig. 9), while Ballachraggan stands amidst improved fields. All four of these cairns have suffered from stone-robbing, presumably to provide stone for the dykes around them, and it is perhaps only their size that has saved them from complete destruction: other, smaller, cairns comparable in size with Waterside could have been removed totally in these more heavily cultivated areas.

Mention should also be made here of two other burial sites

which may belong to the Bronze Age. At Cromlix House in 1902 a damaged short cist was found during drainage operations, while the *Statistical Account* records that in c. 1783 'several cists' were found in a mound at Rosehall (*Stat. Acct.*, XX, 90), and stones 6ft (1.8m) long by 3ft (0.9m) wide were also discovered there around 1859 (Name Book 1863, No. 21, p. 22).

Early Settlement

Early settlement (Fig. 10) is represented in the survey area by four hut-circles, ten circular or oval homesteads, and two croppmark enclosures. Occasional groups of small cairns and fragments of field bank close to some of these sites probably indicate contemporary cultivation. Also notable are two burnt mounds discovered at The Bows; the latter have been common discoveries in recent surveys in other parts of Scotland (RCAHMS 1993; 1994b), and it may be that on the Braes of Doune many more examples formerly existed, which have either been buried in deep peat or, because of their frequent situation on the sides of streams, washed away by spate water.

The hut-circles are all sited on ridges or terraces at altitudes of between 200m and 265m OD. Three of them measure between 5.8m and 7m in internal diameter; the fourth, at The Bows, is rather larger with a diameter of 10.2m. The walls of all four are generally similar in construction: rubble banks 1.7m to 2.2m in thickness, with facing stones surviving only at The Bows and at Wester Bows. They stand within, or close to, scatters of small cairns, generally covered with peat, while to the west of The Bows, and around the Cromlix hut-circles, there are short stretches of banking, probably remnants of field-systems now either destroyed or buried in the peat.

The homesteads are more substantial structures. Oval or circular on plan, they are enclosed within a substantial drystone wall, whose thickness, when facing-stones survive, can be seen to vary between 1.8m and 2.2m; the interiors measure from 15.5m to 19.3m in length by 11.8m to 16.5m in breadth. Like the hut-circles, most of them are to be found on terraces or on slight ridges or knolls, but they occur over a much wider range of altitudes, from about 100m up to over 250m OD. Within the survey area there are two concentrations (Fig. 10) separated by boggy ground to the north of Loch Mahaick, but it is possible that they were originally more widespread: to the south of the survey area an enclosure at Nether Glastry recorded during a pre-afforestation assessment (McKeague and Sangster 1990,

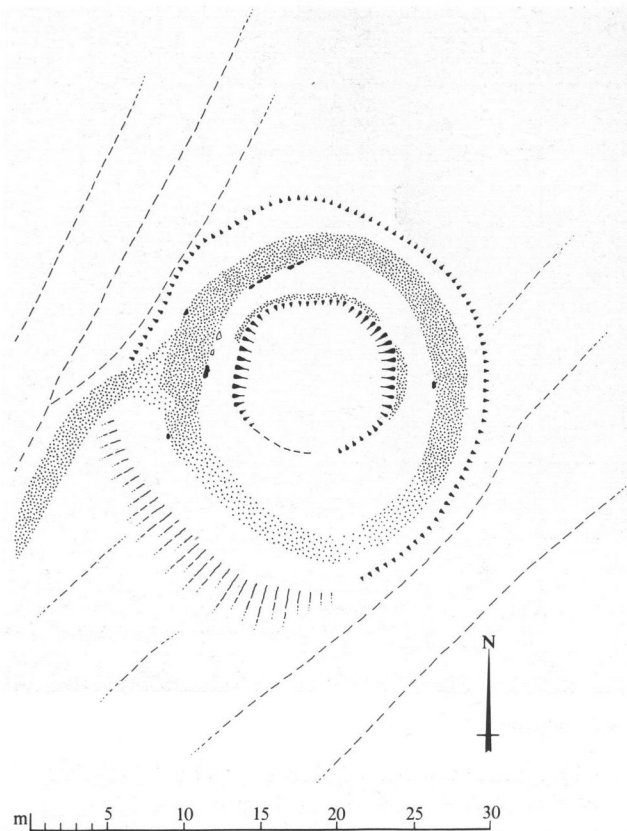


Fig. 12 Drumloist, homestead and rig cultivation

Site 1) was visited in the course of the present survey and identified as a further homestead, and other examples may have been lost in the extensive forestry plantations to the south of Loch Mahaick and to the east of Dalbrack.

Most of the homesteads have been disturbed to some extent - robbed, ploughed over or built on - but traces of an internal feature survive at two sites, Drumloist and Waterside (NN 60 NE 32) (Figs 12-13). At the former, there is a circular depression 8.5m in diameter and 0.2m deep near the centre of the interior, while within the enclosing wall at Waterside a circular platform about 11m in diameter has been levelled into the slope. These features would seem, at first sight, to indicate the former presence of a roundhouse, presumably of timber construction. Yet it seems unlikely that these houses could have been free-standing within the enclosure wall; at Drumloist the sunken floor of such a house would have presented severe drainage problems, and water running off the scarp around the northern edge of the platform would have caused difficulties at Waterside. Moreover, at the latter the gap between the platform and the wall is too narrow, after allowing for overhanging eaves, to provide a usable space between the presumed house and the enclosure wall. The simplest conclusion would be that the entire enclosure was roofed, and that the depression at Drumloist and the platform at Waterside suggest some form of internal partition, perhaps supported by a circuit of vertical timbers, which would have been necessary to support a roof of such size. Such an interpretation accords well with that put forward by Taylor (1990, 18) for the homestead at Litigan, which is discussed below.

Closely comparable sites can be found both in Stirlingshire and in north-west Perthshire. On the south side of the Forth valley, in the Touch Hills, the Royal Commission identified a

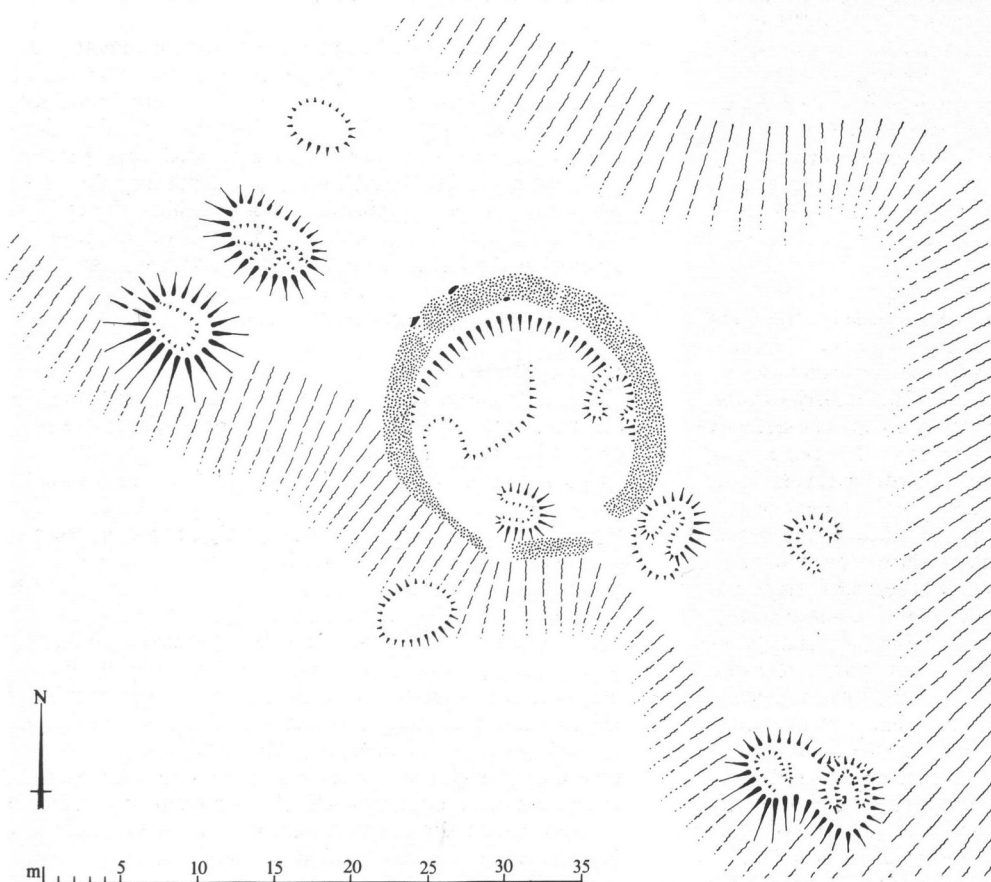


Fig. 13 Waterside, homestead and shieling-huts

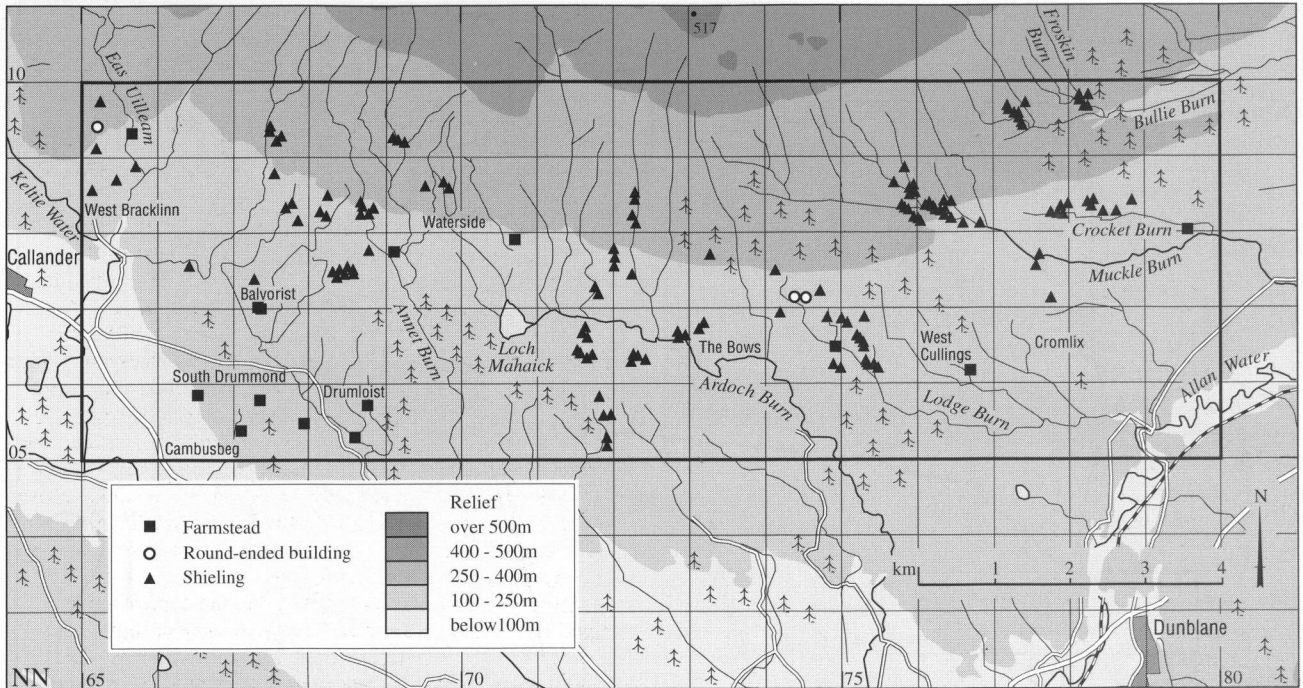


Fig. 14 Distribution map of farmsteads and shielings (based upon the Ordnance Survey map, Crown Copyright)

number of enclosures during the preparation of the Stirlingshire Inventory (RCAHMS 1963), which were classified as duns. The 'dun' on open moorland on Touch Muir (RCAHMS 1963, no. 85) is similar in size to Drumloist, and like Drumloist has a central depression, only slightly smaller at 7.9m in diameter, while the fragmentary remains at Wester Craigend (RCAHMS 1963, no. 87) suggest an oval enclosure with a pronounced taper at one end, very much like the other homestead at Waterside (NN 60 NE 34) and, probably, Cambusbeg West, which are also of similar size. These sites have little in common with the duns of Argyll, which are distinguished by their massively constructed walls and their siting in positions clearly chosen with defence in mind: they would sit easier within the homestead classification, which carries no defensive connotations.

To the north of the Braes of Doune comparisons must inevitably be made with the circular homesteads or 'ringforts' of north-west Perthshire. Taylor (1990, 40) has catalogued nearly seventy of these sites in north-west Perthshire and tabulated some of their salient features. The similarities with the Braes of Doune sites are many: they occupy non-defensive or barely defensive positions on terraces and low ridges overlooked by higher ground; most of them have a maximum internal diameter of less than 20m; and, while the enclosing wall of many examples is 3m or more in thickness, in several it is only about 2m and, in many others, since the wall faces cannot be seen, their thicknesses may have been exaggerated.

Two of the north-west Perthshire homesteads have been excavated in recent years, Litigan near Aberfeldy and Queen's View above Loch Tummel. In both, traces of timber constructions were found. At Litigan two concentric rings of posts, 5.6m and 10m in diameter were found within a stone enclosure 15.5m in diameter; while at Queen's View the enclosure was 16.5m in internal diameter, and contained a number of post-holes, though later disturbance was such that no clear pattern could be discerned. It appeared to the excavator, however, that the enclosure had been at least partly roofed in its earliest phase, but at Litigan it was suggested that the roof covered the entire structure, the thick wall being necessary to carry the weight of the roofing timbers (Taylor 1990, 18 and 29). Again, the results from these excavations are not inconsistent with the surface evidence recorded on the Braes of Doune. There is a problem, however, with the status of the larger Perthshire homesteads, such as Lower Drumchorrie, Pitlochry (NN 95

NW 2), which has an internal diameter of some 25m: it is difficult to imagine a roof with such a span. If the smaller homesteads are seen as essentially large roundhouses, it may be that the group is not as homogeneous as has been thought. This is a matter which clearly needs further research and, particularly, more excavation.

There is little firm evidence for the date of the homesteads. Only one radiocarbon determination has yet been obtained - at Litigan charcoal found 'just above the subsoil' produced a date of 1020 +/- 90 bp (Taylor 1990, 17). Dateable finds from the two modern excavations consist of a glass bead from Queen's View, dating to 700-900 AD, and a stone lamp from the same site, which may be of similar date, though neither of these finds was securely stratified in contexts associated with the primary occupation of the site. The best that can be said at present is that there is evidence for their use in the late 1st millennium AD, but their origins remain obscure.

Later Settlement

There are fragmentary documentary references to settlement on the Braes of Doune during the medieval period, but these are confined to the mention of place-names still current today. Only two possible examples of settlement of this date were discovered (Fig. 14). On open ground to the north-east of The Bows, in an area of old field banks and rig cultivation, there is a pair of round-ended buildings of faced rubble, set in line along a low ridge, and measuring 22.8m by 3.3m and 24.2m by 4.7m internally, with a third, smaller, possibly contemporary building between them (Fig. 15). One of the larger buildings (A on Fig. 15, Fig. 16) is divided into two compartments, the larger eastern compartment having a central scoop about 9m in length, which may indicate a drain; the other large building is crossed by a later field bank, possibly masking any internal division, although it was noted that the western half sloped away from the level eastern half. The impression is of a pair of byre-houses, possibly of medieval date. The second site is at West Bracklinn, where a building measuring 17.1m by 6.6m over walls spread to 2m in thickness, stands on its own on a terrace at about 260m OD in what is now rough pasture. The remains are too slight to permit precise classification, but the fact that rig-and-furrow cultivation runs across it may suggest a relatively early date.

The rounded ends and the scooped compartment found at The Bows inevitably invite comparisons with the Pitcarmick

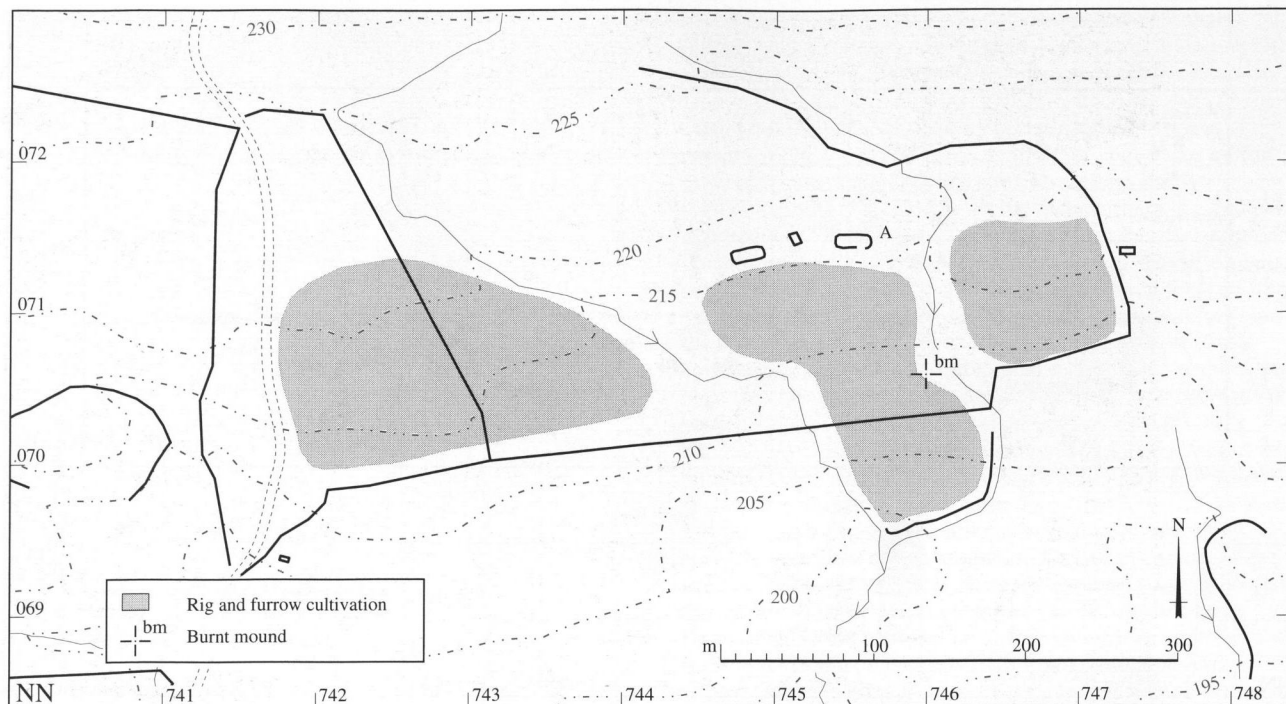


Fig. 15 The Bows, round-ended buildings and rig cultivation (based upon the Ordnance Survey map, Crown Copyright)

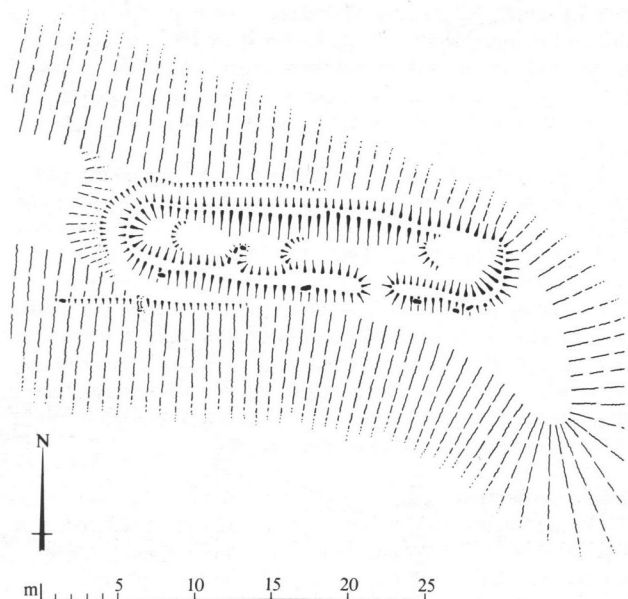


Fig. 16 The Bows, round-ended building

houses first identified during field survey in north-east Perthshire and now recorded west of the Tay in Strathbraan (RCAHMS 1990, 12). Apart from the architectural similarities, the buildings at The Bows are situated outwith the main farmstead distribution and in the same general area as the hut-circles and prehistoric cultivation remains, an occurrence noted 'with remarkable regularity' amongst the Pitcarmick structures in north-east Perth. Of course, it would be wrong to build too much on the evidence of one site and use it to extend the Pitcarmick house distribution so far south: the similarity of location no doubt has much to do with monument survival above the limit of later settlement, while the architectural comparison is not exact, particularly as the buildings at The Bows do not narrow to one end, a prominent characteristic of the Pitcarmick type. Indeed, in north-east Perth, closer parallels for The Bows may be found amongst those round-ended buildings omitted from the Pitcarmick group (RCAHMS 1990, 12). It would be safer to say only that at The Bows (and perhaps also at West Bracklinn) there is evidence for an

episode of settlement which reached higher up the Braes than the pre-Improvement farmsteads, which presumably predates those farms and which involved the construction of what may be a local variant of the round-ended buildings known from elsewhere in Perthshire.

Fourteen other ruined farmsteads were identified (Fig. 14). These are concentrated in the south-west of the survey area, mostly lying below the 150m contour. In the similarly low-lying ground around Cromlix at the opposite end of the survey only one site was recorded where eleven are depicted on John Keir's 1781 map (Fig. 17) of the Cromlix Estate (copy in NMRS, Acc. No.B78744), the others having been built over, or destroyed by forestry or agricultural improvements. The surviving steadings range from single buildings, perhaps associated with field banks and rig, as at Eas Uilleam and Lodge Burn, to small groupings which, in at least one case, Annet Burn (Fig. 21), show a succession of buildings on the one site.

The buildings themselves are mostly of faced-rubble construction, although the buildings at Balvorist (NN 60 NE 23) and the largest building at West Cullings have mortared masonry. The internal dimensions range from 6.3m to 42.3m in length and from 3.1m to 4.1m in breadth. Most buildings are between 10m and 20m in length, but at seven farmsteads one building is exceptionally long, measuring between 23.7m and 42.3m. The latter are invariably subdivided into several compartments, as many as five at Balvorist (Fig. 19). These large buildings were presumably houses, though the only direct evidence for domestic occupation is a fireplace at Balvorist. One might speculate that the length of these structures represents a continuation of the medieval byre-house tradition. With the other buildings it is again only rarely that features were observed which might indicate their function: a stone-lined drain in the western building at South Drummond (Fig. 22), indicative of its use as a byre, and a horse-gang attached to the eastern building at Cambusbeg, which would seem to identify it as a barn. This was the only horse-gang located during the survey, perhaps surprising as they seem to have been standard features of farmsteads in the early nineteenth century, to judge from an 1853 map (Fig. 18) of Cromlix Estate (copy in NMRS, Acc. No.B78747) by D McLagan, on which every farm has one. Unfortunately, only one of the eight steadings on this map which fall within the survey area survives, at Wester Cullings,



Fig. 17 Detail from 'A Map of the North Part of the Cromlix Estate' by John Keir (1781) (NMRS B78744, Copyright R Eden)

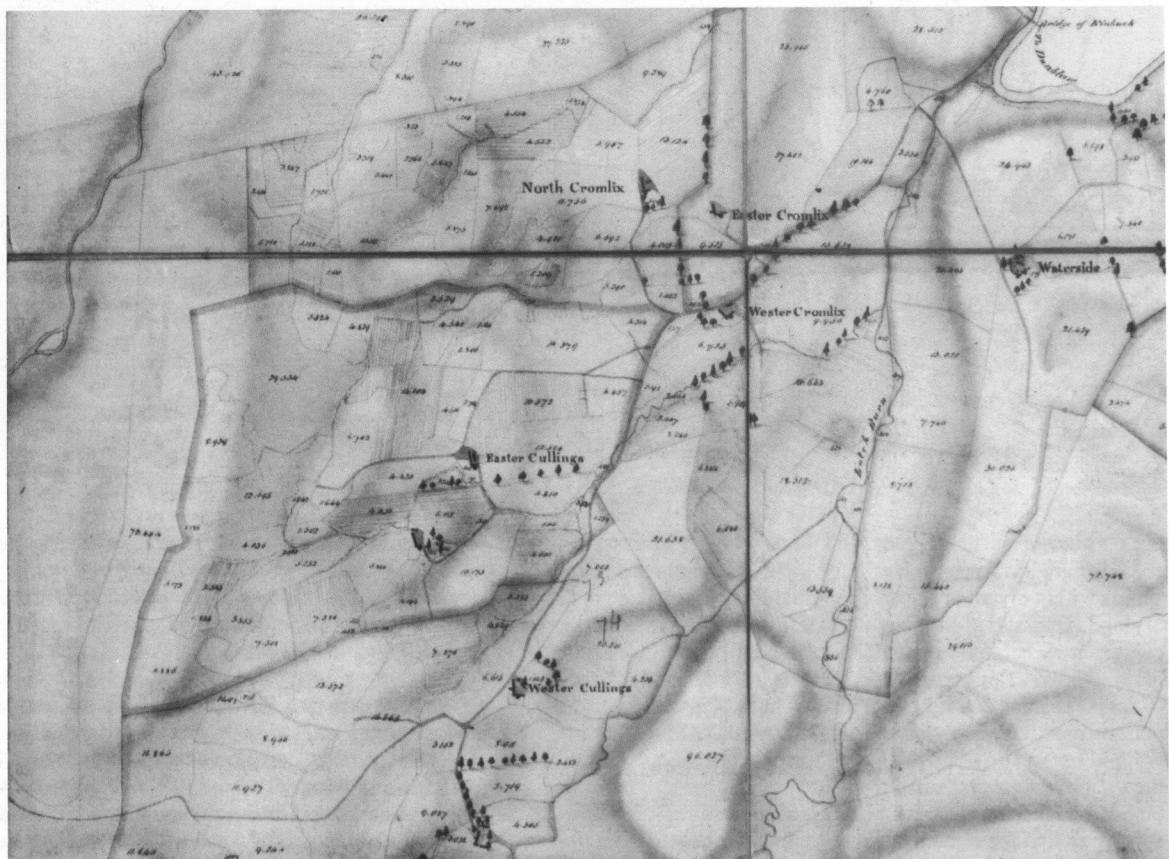


Fig. 18 Detail from 'A Plan of the estate of Cromlix' by D McLagan (1853) (NMRS B78747, Copyright R Eden)



Fig. 19 Balvorist, farmstead (NMRS C6389)

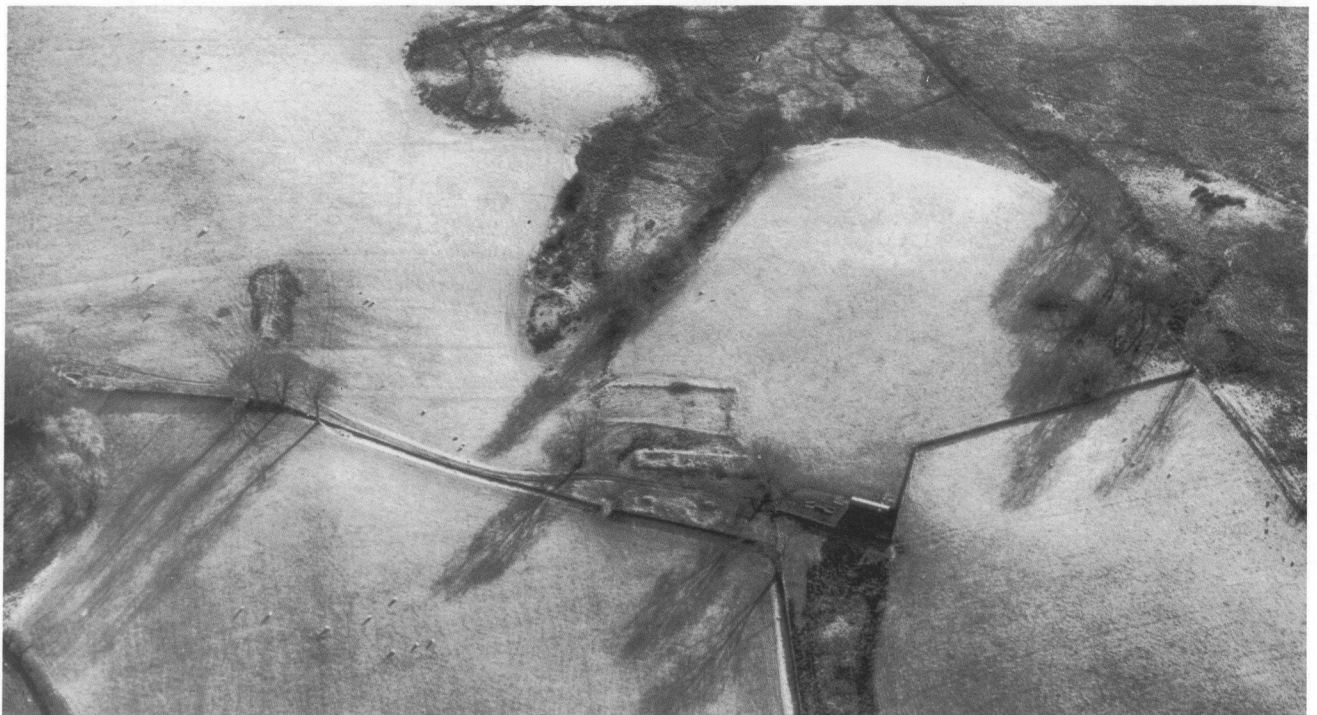


Fig. 20 Craigton, farmstead (NMRS C6343)

but no trace of the horse-gang was found. Other features recorded around the farm buildings include a number of stack stands within a yard at South Drummond and a possible corn-drying kiln at one of the Drumloist farms. In the eighteenth century it was common practice for each farmer to dry his own grain; the writer of the *Statistical Account* for Kilmadock parish laments the poor quality of the results, but notes with approval that the practice was dying out (*Stat. Acct.*, XX, 75-6).

Field banks and areas of rig and furrow cultivation survive in the vicinity of several steadings. However, as most of them lie below the current upper limit of improved pasture, it is not surprising that the remains tend to be fragmentary. Higher up the Braes, in areas of unimproved ground, preservation is rather better. To the north and east of the steading at Annet Burn

stony banks enclose substantial areas of rig, while to the north-west of Cromlix there are the remains of a field-system depicted on Keir's map of 1781 (Fig. 17). Otherwise, the surviving picture is of occasional stretches of ruined banks and areas of ploughed-down rig.

Dating the ruined steadings without excavation is difficult, especially when they have largely been reduced to footings. Many of the foundations recorded during the survey can be matched with the sites shown on Stobie's map (1783) of the Earl of Moray's estate on the Braes of Doune (SRO, RHP 14317), and even if the individual mapped buildings cannot be identified on the ground, it seems a reasonable assumption that many of the visible remains are of eighteenth-century date. The late-eighteenth century was a period which saw great improve-

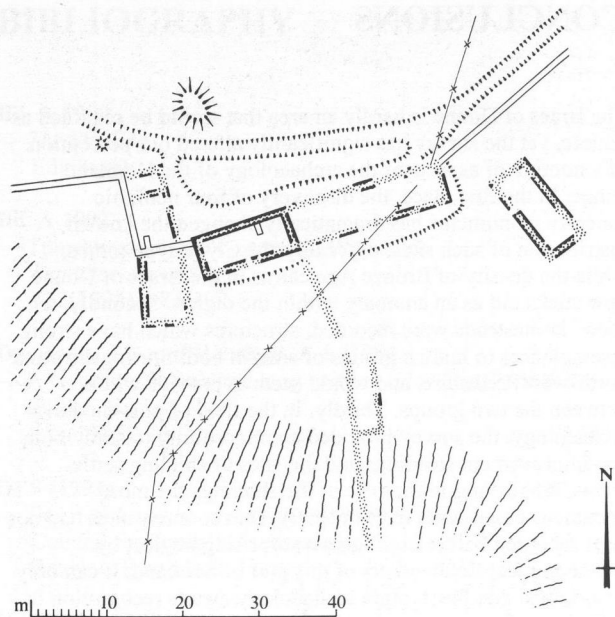


Fig. 21 Annet Burn, farmstead

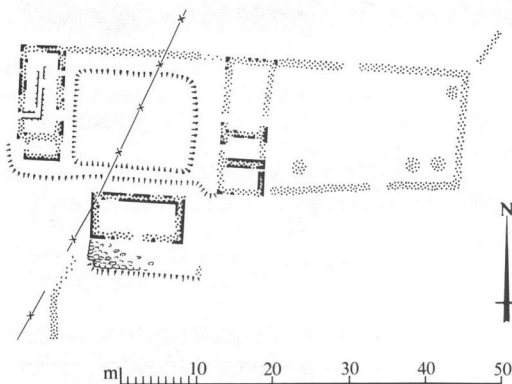


Fig. 22 South Drummond, farmstead

ments in farm building, and two farms, Annet Burn and South Drummond, appear to illustrate the pre- and post-Improvement types (Figs 21-22). At Annet Burn (named 'Waterside' on Stobie's map) four buildings (together with a fifth some 40m to the north-west) exhibit an informal layout, with at least two phases of construction. This contrasts with the more regular courtyard plan of South Drummond. The *Statistical Account* records that in Kilmadock parish, on the south side of the Teith at least, are 'very neat houses, of two stories...the offices stand on each side...forming a rural square. Farm-houses of this construction are now becoming general' (*Stat. Acct.*, XX, 71-2). South Drummond fits this description well, and so may be ascribed to the last years of the eighteenth century.

Eighteenth-century estate maps present a picture of a more densely settled landscape, with smaller farms, than exists today. Stobie's plan names thirteen settlements and depicts several other buildings in an area now divided between five farms. The process is not a recent one; both pre-Improvement Annet Burn and improved South Drummond are shown roofless on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey six-inch map (Perthshire 1866, Sheets 115 and 124). In the Cromlix area this process of consolidation can be observed through the changes on a series of maps: John Keir's map (1781) identifies eleven farms; McLagan's 1853 survey records only eight, and by the time of the first edition six-inch map (Perthshire 1866, Sheet 125) a further three steadings had fallen into ruin. Today the area is divided into two holdings. This abandonment of tenancies was a common phenomenon in nineteenth-century Perthshire, caused by a variety of factors, including a trend towards sheep

farming, the development of sporting estates, a general drift of the population away from rural areas, and a move towards afforestation (Bil 1990, 323-36). Bearing in mind the background to the present survey, it seems pertinent to draw attention to the impact that afforestation must have had on the Braes of Doune in the mid-nineteenth century. McLagan's survey of Cromlix appears to have been commissioned prior to an extensive planting programme; of the 6458 acres in the estate he records six acres of woodland, but notes a proposal to plant a further 654 acres - over 10% of the entire estate.

Shielings

The practice of transhumance, by which cattle and other livestock were moved each year to summer pastures away from crops growing close to the parent steading, is well-attested in post-medieval Perthshire, and Bil (1990; 1992) has explored the abundant documentary and place-name evidence. On the Braes of Doune the remains of the huts at these shielings form by far the most numerous category of site encountered during the survey, accounting for 210 of the recorded structures. They are particularly common along the banks of the larger burns, at altitudes up to about 300m OD. In some cases huts are found singly, but more often they occur in groups, associated with small enclosures, several dozen huts sometimes occurring

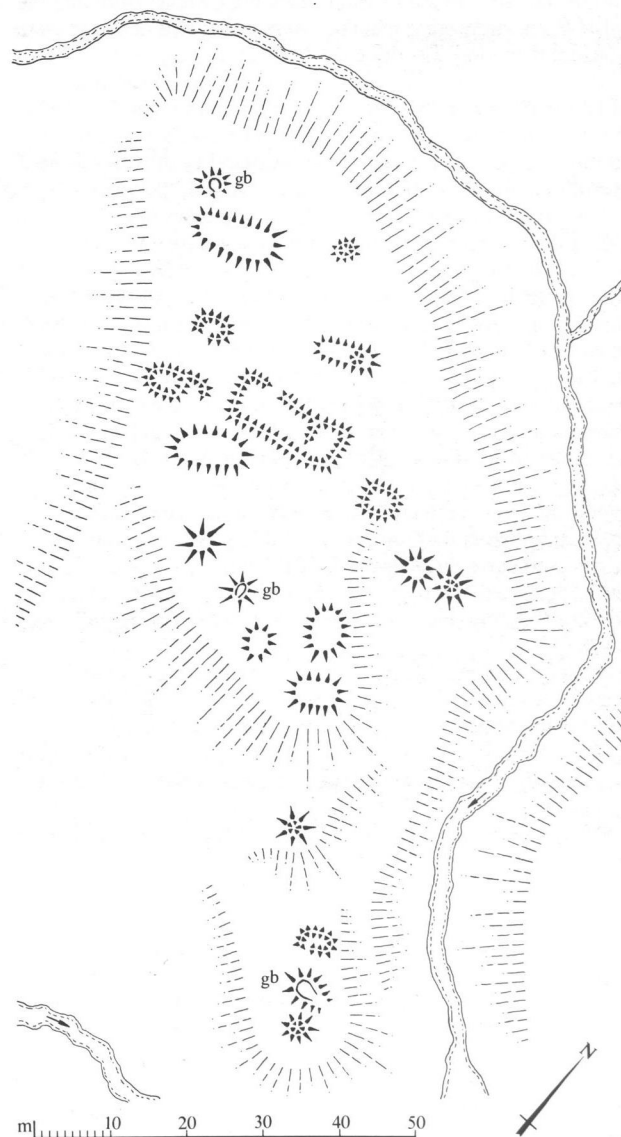


Fig. 23 Muckle Burn, shieling-huts, enclosures and later grouse-butts

together. Rectangular or oval in shape, they are built of turf, or of turf with a stone inner face (Figs 13, 23). In some instances the repeated rebuilding of huts on top of the collapsed ruins of earlier structures has resulted in the development of substantial mounds, measuring up to 14.5m in length, 7.3m in breadth, and standing up to 1m high.

Small oval, circular or rectangular turf-built shieling-huts have been recorded in many locations in western Perthshire, most of them noted by the former Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey, and Miller (1967) and Stewart (1990) have described groups on the north side of Loch Tay and in Balquhitter. These descriptions are invariably of turf huts found within or around groups of larger, stone-built structures which had succeeded them. The date at which stone replaced turf as the principal building medium seems to have varied from place to place. Bil (1990, 238-44) suggests that the process had started by the late-seventeenth century, but that turf continued in use into the eighteenth century. On the Braes of Doune, however, this change to stone huts does not seem to have occurred at all. The reasons for this are not entirely clear, but it should not be assumed that the practice of transhumance died out at an early date here: John Leslie's map (1762) of the Common Grazing of Cambushinnie (SRO, RHP 42440) depicts and names four groups of shieling-huts which can be identified with the remains on the Froskin Burn, the Crocket Burn and the Bullie Burn, suggesting that they were either still in use or were at least not so long abandoned as to be forgotten.

Although shieling grounds were primarily used for grazing cattle, there is some evidence of cultivation on them. Bil (1990, 259) has summarised the evidence for this practice, and points out the sense of making use of the 'availability of well manured topsoil'. On the Braes of Doune rig is visible in the area of several groups of shieling-huts - for example, around the huts at Waterside, and on the Crocket Burn, where a furrow was recorded running through one hut, but it is usually not possible to demonstrate a direct association between the occupation of the shieling and the rig cultivation, and in some instances what evidence exists suggests that they may not be contemporary at all. The possibly medieval farmstead at The Bows has several groups of huts a short distance to the south-east, which may represent pastoral use in the summer months of land where the rigs, along with the steading, have been abandoned. Conversely, there were also moves at various times during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries towards the permanent settlement of shieling grounds, as land improvements pushed the limits of agriculture upwards (Bil 1990, 263-76), and again this is illustrated within the survey area at Waterside, where the farm now bearing that name is named 'Sheals' on Stobie's map of 1783.

The large numbers of shielings recorded during the survey, where only one group had previously been identified, emphasises the importance of field survey in any study of post-medieval land use in upland areas. Although Leslie's 1762 map does identify several shieling sites, it is noteworthy that neither Stobie's map of the Earl of Moray's lands nor Keir's map of Cromlix, both dating from the 1780's, do so, despite including areas where huts were recorded.

CONCLUSIONS

The Braes of Doune is hardly an area that would be regarded as remote, yet the survey has significantly altered our perception of a number of aspects of the archaeology of the Highland fringe. In the first place, the discovery of four neolithic funerary monuments has dramatically changed the known distribution of such sites, especially the Clyde-type tombs, while the density of Bronze Age cairns in the Braes of Doune now sticks out as an anomaly within the region. Secondly, ten 'new' homesteads were recorded, structures which have strong resemblances to known groups of sites in both Stirlingshire and north-west Perthshire, and would seem to provide a link between the two groups. Thirdly, in the field of post-medieval archaeology, the survey provided an opportunity to study both pre-Improvement steadings and the sites of shieling settlements, amplifying in the case of the shielings the more document-based work of Bil (1990). That so many sites had not been recorded before highlights a surprising neglect by archaeological fieldworkers of this part of Scotland. It can only be assumed that much more archaeology awaits recognition in the surrounding area.

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GAZETTEER

LIST OF SITES RECORDED

(These sites are listed by OS 1:10,000 quarter sheet and by NMRS number)

NN 60 NE

1	NN 6800 0542	Craigton	castle (possible)
2	NN 6994 0612	The Camp Stone	stone
3	NN 6509 0559	St Mary's Chapel & Well	chapel, holy well
11	NN 664 063	Upper Drumbane	ring-ditch, enclosure
13	NN 6812 0715	Ballachraggan	cairn
14	NN 6738 0725	Balvorist	hut
15	NN 6702 0752	Black Park	cairn
16	NN 6712 0740	Black Park	cairn
17	NN 6748 0782	Balvorist	homestead
18	NN 684 063	Drumloist	huts
19	NN 6757 0875	Sruth Geal	huts
20	NN 6736 0810	Sruth Geal	hut, mounds
21	NN 6827 0586	Drumloist	building
22	NN 6737 0581	South Drummond	farmstead, rig
23	NN 6729 0702	Balvorist	farmstead
24	NN 6728 0707	Balvorist	farmstead
25	NN 6912 0774	Annet Burn	farmstead
26	NN 6874 0570	Drumloist	farmstead
27	NN 6852 0517	Drumloist	farmstead
28	NN 684 075	Drumloist	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds, enclosures, small cairns, pits
29	NN 6804 0783	Drumloist	hut
30	NN 6791 0810	Drumloist	hut
31	NN 681 082	Drumloist	huts, mound
32.00	NN 687 080	Waterside	homestead, shieling-mounds, rig
32.01	NN 6873 0808	Waterside	homestead
32.02	NN 6873 0808	Waterside	shieling-mounds, shieling-hut
32.03	NN 6875 0809	Waterside	rig
33	NN 6914 0889	Annet Burn	cairn
34	NN 6900 0732	Waterside	homestead, rig
35	NN 6886 0759	Waterside	hut
36	NN 6917 0910	Annet Burn	shieling-mounds
37	NN 6931 0850	Annet Burn	cairn
38	NN 696 084	Waterside	shieling-huts
39	NN 6976 0792	Waterside	cairn
40	NN 6990 0746	Waterside	hut (possible), rig
41	NN 6786 0523	Drumvaich	small cairns
42	NN 6799 0547	Craigton	farmstead
43	NN 6688 0744	Black Park	cairn
44	NN 6661 0734	Black Park	cairn
45	NN 6672 0735	Black Park	cairn (possible)
46	NN 6643 0765	Black Park	hut (possible)
47	NN 6504 0970	Bothan Na Plaighe	building
48	NN 6704 0550	Cambusbeg	farmstead
49	NN 6650 0591	Cambusbeg West	homestead, farmstead
50	NN 658 090	Eas Uilleam	hut, building, rig
50.01	NN 6571 0892	Eas Uilleam	hut
50.02	NN 6562 0926	Eas Uilleam	building, rig
51	NN 6539 0985	Eas Uilleam	cairn, small cairns
52	NN 6533 0977	Eas Uilleam	building
53	NN 6771 0830	Sruth Geal	shieling-mounds
54	NN 6747 0910	Sruth Geal	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds, enclosure
55	NN 6688 0724	Black Park	mound
56	NN 681 068	Ballachraggan	rig
57	NN 653 088	West Bracklinn	shieling-mounds, huts, banks, rig, boundary bank
58	NN 6805 0650	Ballachraggan	chambered cairn
59	NN 6502 0979	West Bracklinn	chambered cairn
60	NN 6766 0675	Ballachraggan	homestead
61	NN 6838 0643	Drumloist	homestead, rig
62	NN 6541 0735	Auchleshie	mill
63	NN 6522 0939	West Bracklinn	building, rig
66	NN 6667 0931	Easter Brackland	homestead

NN 70 NW

1	NN 7394 0561	The Judge's Cairn	cairn
2	NN 7054 0502	Rosehall	cists; cairn (possible)
5	NN 7291 0653	Ardoch Burn	shieling-mounds
6	NN 7240 0634	Ardoch Burn	shieling-mounds
7	NN 7157 0640	Ardoch Burn	shieling-mounds
8	NN 7238 0609	Ardoch Burn	cairn
9	NN 7211 0694	Calziebohalzie	shieling-mound
10	NN 7171 0716	Calziebohalzie	shieling-mounds
11	NN 7226 0762	Calziebohalzie	shieling-hut
12	NN 7200 0784	Calziebohalzie	shieling-mounds
13	NN 7230 0810	Calziebohalzie	shieling-mounds, shieling-huts, enclosure (possible), small cairns
14	NN 7275 0802	Allt Na Criche	cairn
15	NN 7137 0778	Garvald Burn	building, shieling-hut
16	NN 7352 0554	Dalbrack	shieling-huts
17	NN 7417 0578	Dalbrack	mound, small cairns
18	NN 746 057	Dalbrack Cottage	rig
19	NN 7450 0714	The Bows	round-ended buildings, rig, banks, hut
20	NN 7053 0799	Severie Cottage	farmstead
21	NN 7437 0885	Muckle Burn	whisky-still (possible)
22.00	NN 719 055	Lundie Burn	shieling-huts
22.01	NN 7187 0575	Lundie Burn	shieling-hut
22.02	NN 7194 0550	Lundie Burn	shieling-huts
22.03	NN 7190 0523	Lundie Burn	shieling-huts
23	NN 730 066	Wester Bows	shieling-huts
24	NN 7417 0693	The Bows	hut
25	NN 7415 0733	The Bows	hut, small cairns
26	NN 7460 0706	The Bows	burnt mound
27	NN 7331 0760	Wester Bows	homestead, small cairns, banks
28	NN 7293 0774	Wester Bows	hut-circle, small cairns
29	NN 7482 0683	Wester Bows	hut, mound, rig
30	NN 7493 0631	Lodge Burn	huts, mound
31	NN 7499 0636	Lodge Burn	homestead
32	NN 7499 0642	Lodge Burn	building, rig
33	NN 7046 0792	Severie Cottage	cist

NN 70 NE

1	NN 777 060	Cromlix House	cist
3.00	NN 76 08	Muckle Burn	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds, enclosures, small cairns, shooting-butts
3.01	NN 760 083	Muckle Burn	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds, enclosure, shooting-butts
3.02	NN 761 083	Muckle Burn	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds
3.03	NN 758 084	Muckle Burn	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds,
3.04	NN 759 085	Muckle Burn	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds, enclosure, small cairns
3.05	NN 763 082	Muckle Burn	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds, platforms
4.02	NN 7904 0664	Wester Cambushinnie	architectural fragment
5	NN 795 067	Wester Cambushinnie	linear cropmarks
6	NN 7741 0513	Waterside	palisaded enclosure
7	NN 7509 0738	The Bows	hut-circle, small cairns
8	NN 7545 0665	The Bows	burnt mound
9	NN 7577 0669	Bracklin Burn	homestead
10	NN 7618 0670	Bracklin Burn	long cairn
11	NN 7661 0621	West Cullings	farmstead
12	NN 767 071	Cromlix	hut-circles, enclosures, small cairns, banks
12.01	NN 7676 0717	Cromlix	hut-circle
12.02	NN 7670 0713	Cromlix	hut-circle
12.03	NN 7666 0717	Cromlix	enclosure
12.04	NN 7689 0716	Cromlix	enclosures
12.05	NN 767 071	Cromlix	small cairns, banks
13	NN 7755 0715	Cromlix	small cairns, bank
14	NN 7744 0945	Bullie Burn	shieling-mounds, shieling-huts
15	NN 7756 0683	Cromlix	enclosure
16	NN 7774 0703	Cromlix	hut, small cairns
17.00	NN 78 08	Crocket Burn	shieling-huts, shieling mounds, rig, small cairn
17.01	NN 7795 0821	Crocket Burn	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds, rig
17.02	NN 7821 0821	Crocket Burn	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds
17.03	NN 7835 0815	Crocket Burn	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds
17.04	NN 7895 0830	Crocket Burn	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds, small cairn
18	NN 7818 0970	Froskin Burn	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds
19	NN 7893 0796	Cambushinnie	building
20	NN 7892 0640	Cromlix Castle	castle (site)
21	NN 7536 0686	The Bows	hut
22.00	NN 75 06	Lodge Burn	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds
22.01	NN 753 062	Lodge Burn	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds
22.02	NN 752 065	Lodge Burn	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds
22.03	NN 750 067	Lodge Burn	shieling-huts, shieling-mounds
23	NN 7545 0894	Pole Burn	enclosure, hut (possible)
24	NN 778 070	Cromlix	boundary ditch, shieling-huts, plantation bank
25	NN 77 06	Cromlix	cultivation remains
26	NN 7957 0802	Altersie	farmstead

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