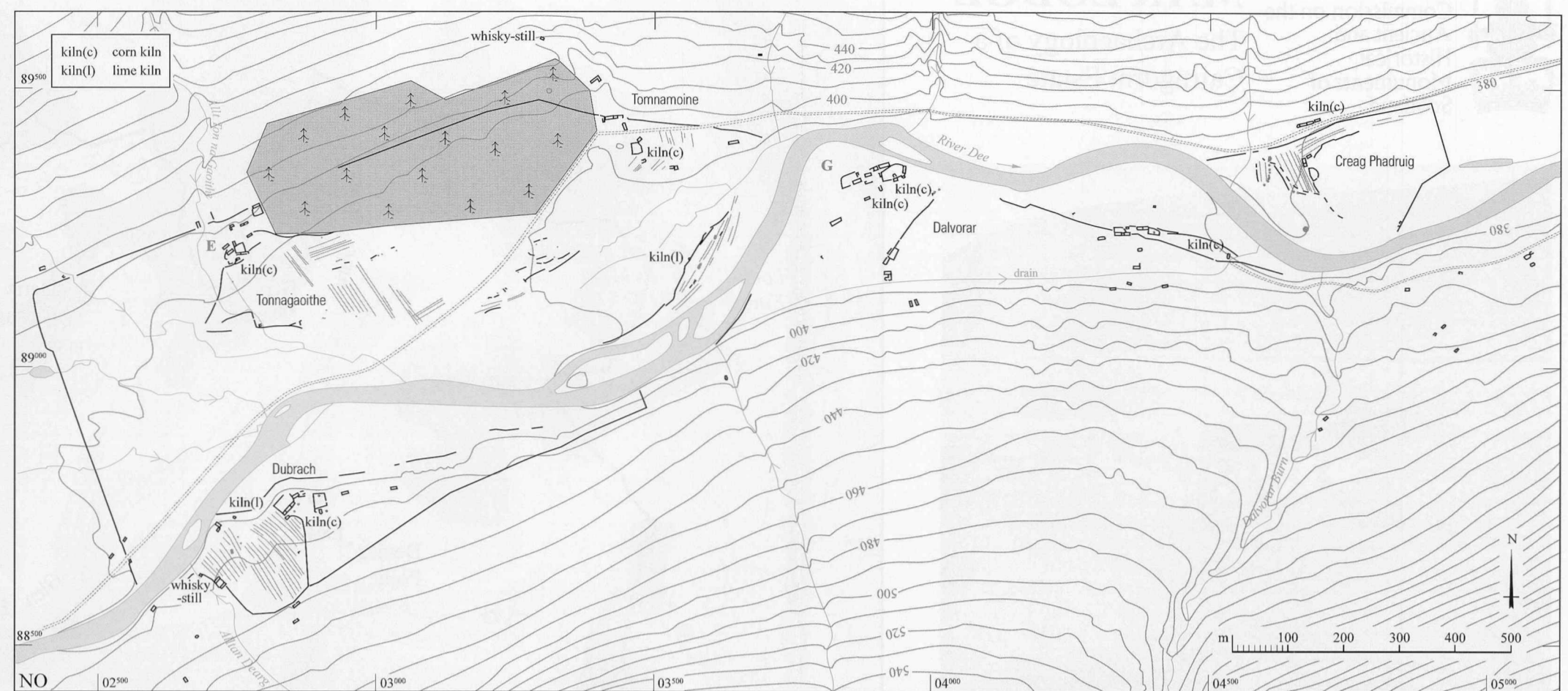


**Settlement History**  
The Mar Lodge Estate has been a hunting forest since the Middle Ages, when it was owned by the Earls of Mar. For most of its history, permanent settlement has been restricted to the valley of the Dee - constrained by the mountainous terrain and the need to preserve the pine-woods and hunting grounds. In summer, some tenants moved their cattle and sheep to the upland shielings, and by the early 18th century, many of the shielings in Glens Lui and Ey had become permanent farms; this proved to be a short-lived phase, ending in the late 18th century when the Earl of Fife cleared many of the farms and turned large areas into sheep-runs. These in turn were cleared by the mid 19th century in order to create what was known as the New Forest of Mar on the south of the Dee.



Map 1. Glen Dee: 18th-century townships and 19th-century sheep-farms (based on the OS map, Crown Copyright).

**Post-medieval Archaeology**

The post-medieval archaeological remains of the Mar Lodge Estate are exceptionally well preserved and reflect the three phases of settlement history outlined above: post-medieval mixed farming, 19th-century sheep-rearing, and late-19th century hunting.

The steadings of the townships in Glen Lui, which were cleared in 1776, were built with clay-bonded random rubble walls with round or square ends and cruck timbers to support the roof. The farm buildings are loosely arranged, with no clear plan, but include a main farmhouse, outbuildings,

and a kiln-barn for drying, and possibly malting, corn.

Amongst the shielings, found in all the glens except the upper reaches of the Dee, there are at least two main types of huts: the more recent, which are stone walled; and the earlier, which use a combination of turf and stone or, in some cases, just turf. From 1725 the estate encouraged the use of stone in shielings, because of the detrimental effect on the pine-woods of cutting timber for building.

The buildings of the later sheep-farms at

Tonnagaoithe and Dalvorar in Glen Dee are more solidly constructed with coursed-rubble walls, and there are drystone dykes around the in-by ground, encompassing the earlier rigged fields.

In addition to the improved buildings and enclosures associated with the introduction of sheep farming, circular turf folds are to be found in Glens Geldie and Derry, along with well-built shepherds' bothies used while the flocks grazed the higher ground in summer.

With the fashion for stalking and grouse shooting in the mid 19th century, the management

of the Forest of Mar was focused once more on hunting. A system of outlying lodges was established (Bynack, Geldie and Derry), as well as several keepers' houses elsewhere. The abandoned remains of the former may still be seen, the best preserved being Derry Lodge, while at Bynack, there are the footings of outbuildings and stables, including game-larders and a subterranean cold-store. Some of these buildings were timber-framed, but only the stone base survives: a good example of this type of construction is the tiny cottage by the river at Allanaquoich.



**Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland**

**Recording Scotland's Heritage**

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland is an independent non-departmental government body financed by Parliament through the Scottish Office. Its main objectives are to record and interpret the sites, monuments and buildings of Scotland's past, to promote a greater appreciation of their value through the maintenance of the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and to present them more directly by selective publications and exhibitions.

The NMRS, which is open to the public, 9.30-4.30 (4.00 on Fridays), at the address given below, is responsible for the curation of an extensive collection of material relating to the archaeology and architecture of Scotland. The NMRS also contains a large collection of aerial photographs covering the whole of Scotland.

Further information about the sites illustrated in this broadsheet can be obtained from the RCAHMS survey report *Mar Lodge Estate, Grampian: an archaeological survey* (£3.50, plus p&p from RCAHMS). More detailed accounts of the monuments are available from the NMRS.

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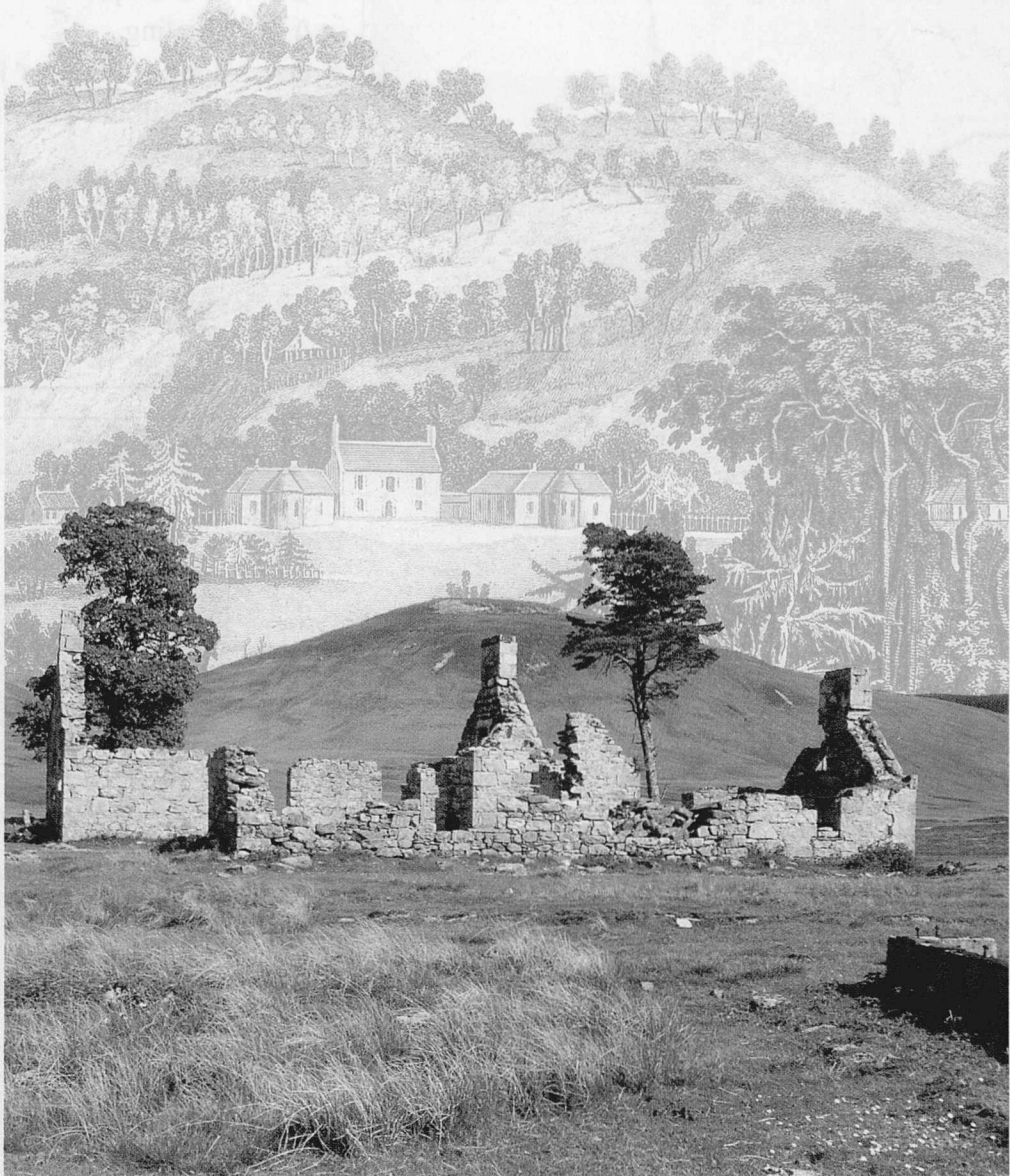
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland  
John Sinclair House  
16 Bernard Terrace  
Edinburgh EH8 9NX

Since 1995 Mar Lodge Estate has been in the care of the National Trust for Scotland. The Royal Commission wishes to thank the National Trust for Scotland for their contribution towards the costs of this publication.

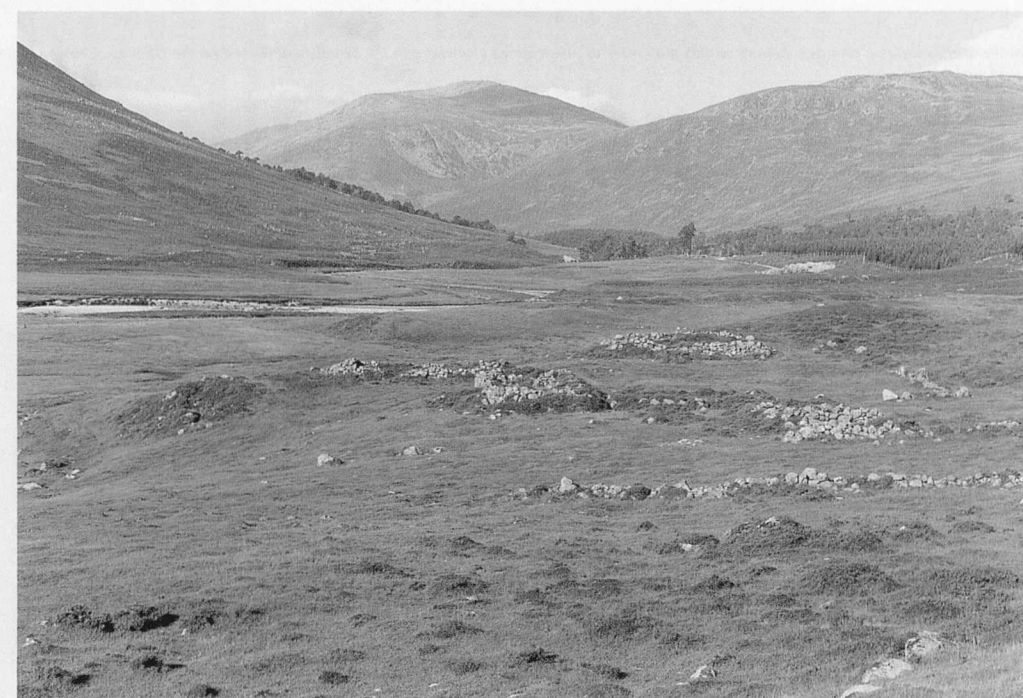


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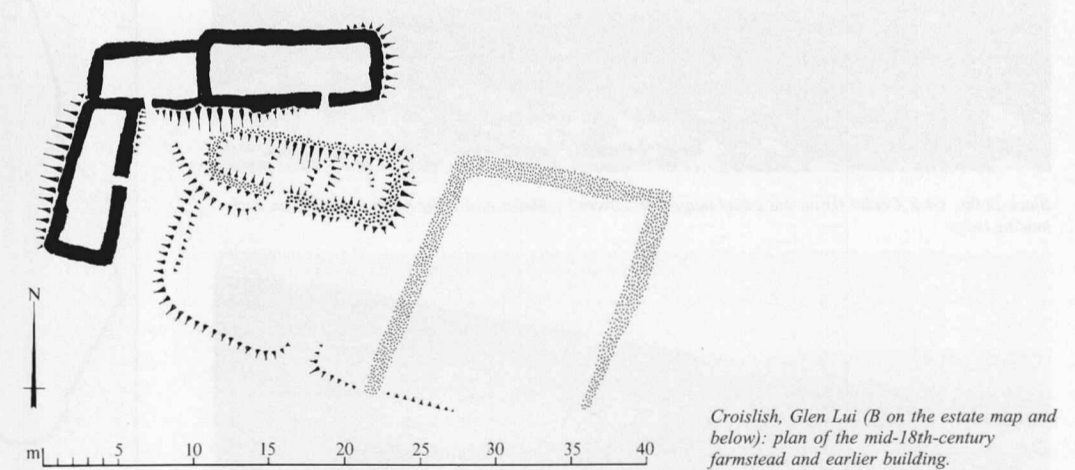
RCAHMS BROADSHEET 2  
**MAR LODGE**  
The Archaeology of a Cairngorm Estate



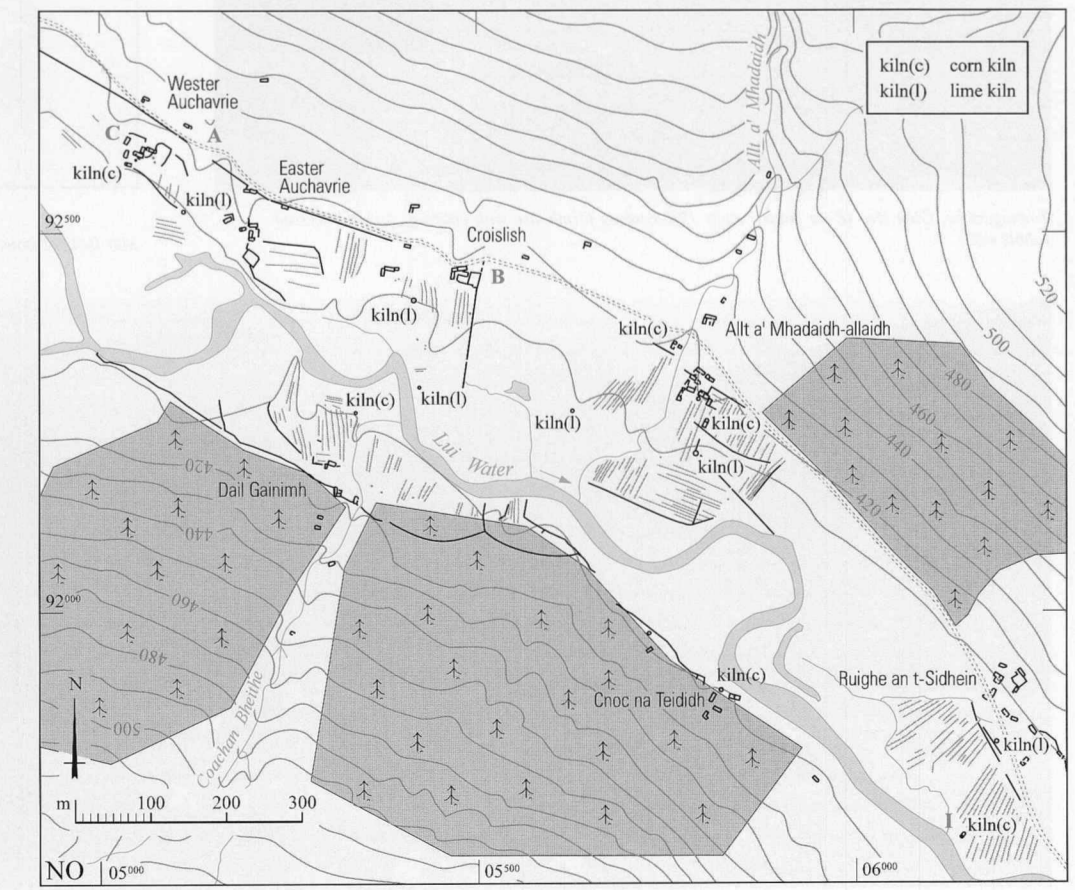
Glen Lui: general view to the S.



Wester Auchavrie, Glen Lui (A on the estate map and map opposite): view of the 18th-century township from the SE.



Croislish, Glen Lui (B on the estate map and below): plan of the mid-18th-century farmstead and earlier building.



Map 2. Glen Lui: 18th-century townships (based on the OS map, Crown Copyright).



Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

# MAR LODGE

The Archaeology of a Cairngorm Estate



Wester Auchavrie, Glen Lui (C on maps): 18th-century farmhouse with low, random-rubble walls and rounded ends.



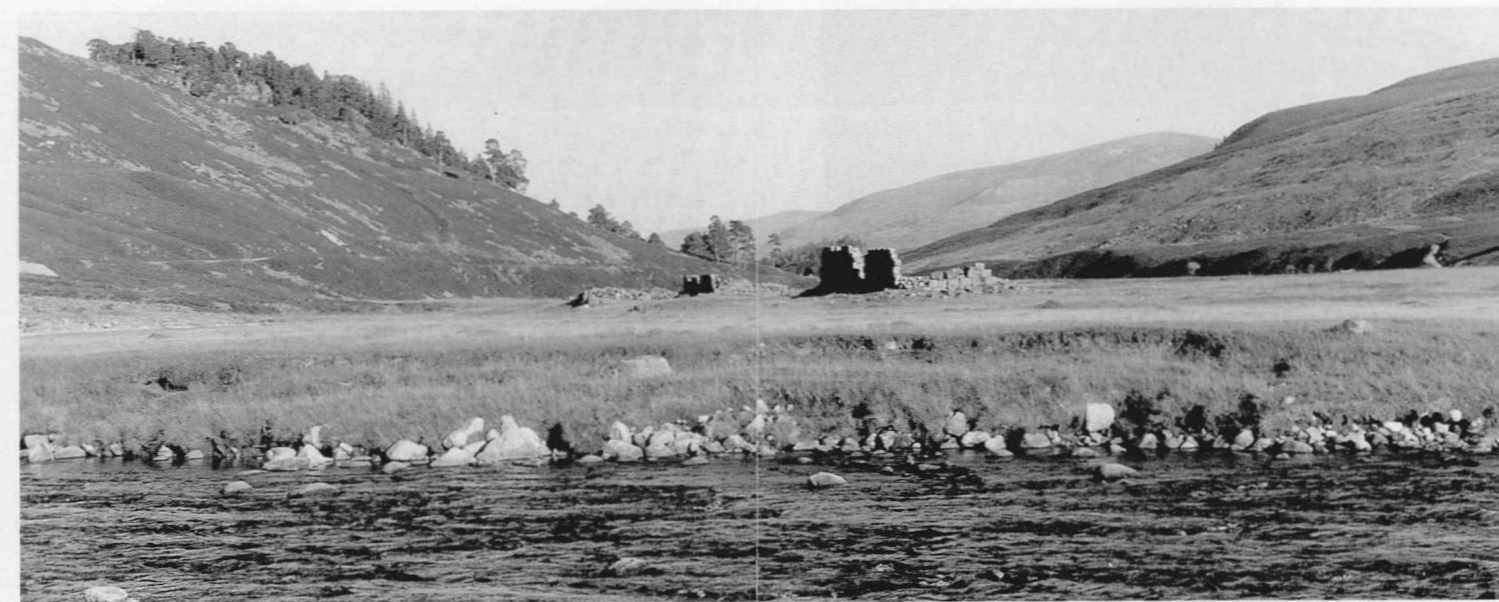
Black Bothy, Glen Geldie (D on the estate map): turf-covered remains of a large bothy, possibly an early hunting lodge.



Tomnagaoithe, Glen Dee (E on maps): early 19th-century farmhouse with coursed, roughly-dressed rubble walls.



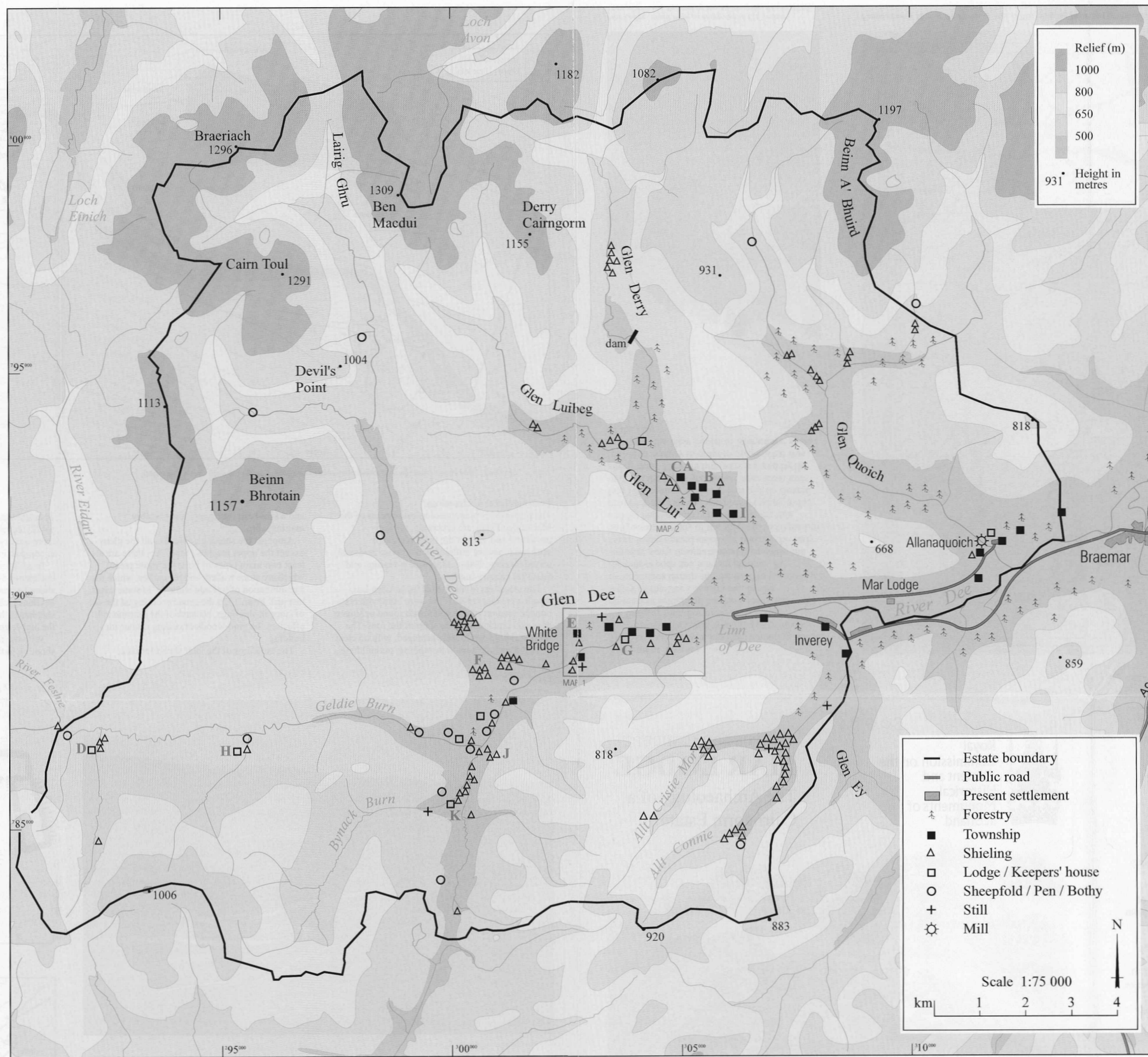
Chest of Dee (F on the estate map): footings of a shieling-hut, view from S looking to the Devil's Point.



Dalvorar, Glen Dee (G on maps): shooting lodge (c.1835), situated on the site of a sheep farm and earlier township.



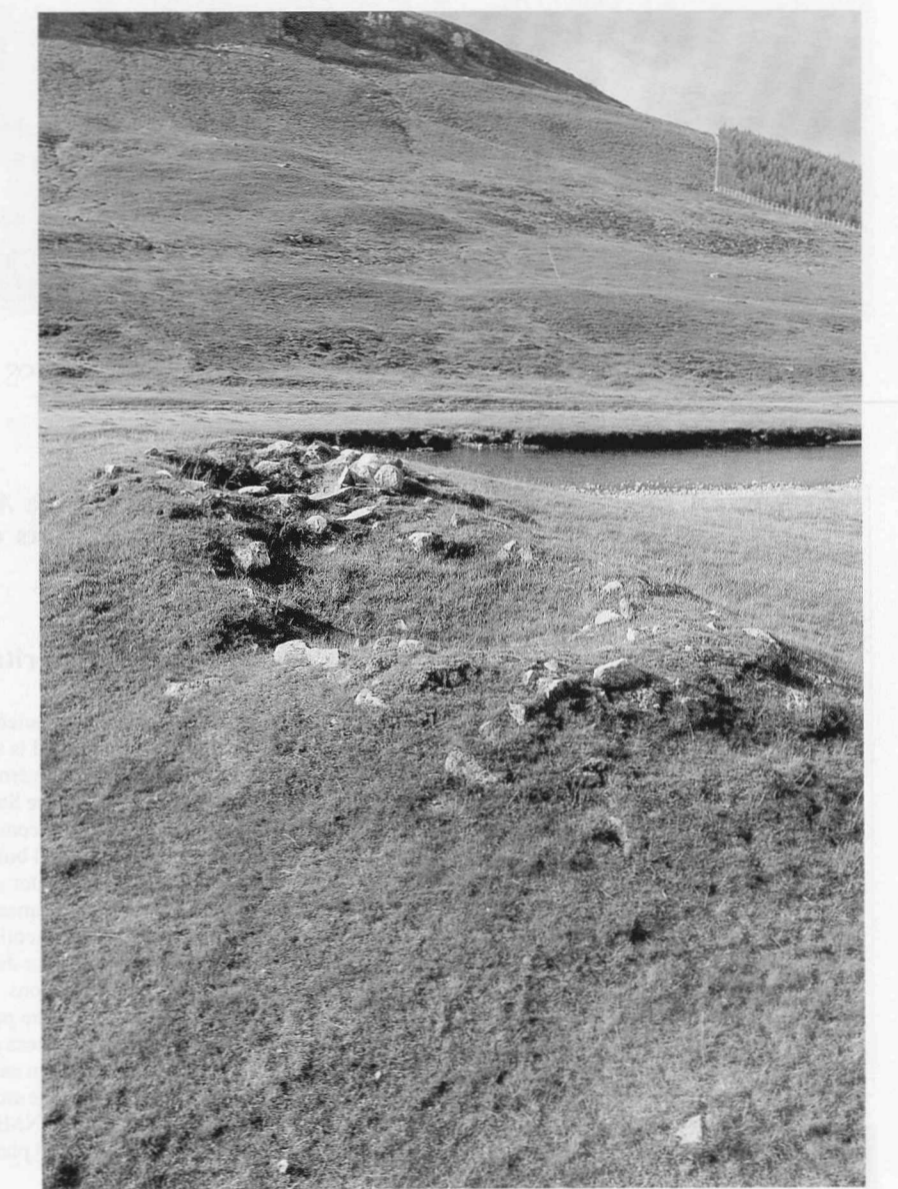
Geldie Lodge, Glen Geldie (H on the estate map): late 19th-century shooting lodge, with stables to left.



Mar Lodge Estate: map of the archaeological remains. Letters on this map refer to illustrations elsewhere in the broadsheet (based on the OS map, Crown Copyright).



Red House, Glen Geldie (J on the estate map): the footings of a shieling-hut above the confluence of the Geldie and Bynack Burns, with a late 19th-century keeper's house in the middle distance.



Ruighe an t-Sidhean, Glen Lui (I on maps): 18th-century corn-drying kiln and barn set into a natural hillock on the E bank of the Lui Water.