

Royal
Commission on the
Ancient and
Historical
Monuments of
Scotland

MONUMENTS ON RECORD

1990-1

ANNUAL REVIEW

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

SCOTLAND ON RECORD

RCAHMS ANNUAL REVIEW 1990-1

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RCAHMS

NMRS

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

It gives me especial pleasure to introduce the first Annual Review of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The Review adds yet another link to the sequence of changes that flow from the Peat Marwick McLintock Report on the three Royal Commissions and the Government's Policy Review that followed it. The necessarily uneven appearance of Reports in the County Inventory volumes (the 25th will appear in Argyll 7) is to be replaced by this quite separate publication, annually, of a more informative and wide-ranging review of the Commission work, with emphasis laid upon its targets, its performance and its future strategy. It is hoped to enliven this with one or two short essays on matters of current concern to the Commission, together with a summary account of surveys undertaken and material accessed to the National Monuments Record of Scotland. In short, the Review is intended to place before the public a detailed progress report of the Commission's work hitherto only available to Commissioners. The Review will also contain a brief financial statement setting out in outline the cost of the service that the Commission offers.

1990-1991 has also seen the going to press in massive blocks of the 600-page final volume of the Argyll Inventory - the Medieval and later monuments of Mid Argyll. It has also seen the production of the first of the new National Archaeological Survey series of selected area studies - NE Perth. This area was deliberately selected both from the point of view of its vulnerability to upland development as well as its susceptibility to new techniques of survey and analysis that will in the future address with increasing effectiveness the great challenge of Scottish upland landscape archaeology. This volume and its successor SE Perth throw definitive light on the social and political economy of 'southern Pictland' as well as illuminating both prehistoric and later phases of the landscape development of the area.

As a result of a joint approach to the Secretary of State by Commissioners and by the Ancient Monuments Board in 1988, finance was made available for the establishment of the Afforestation Land Survey team within the Commission. Under the leadership of Dr Graham Ritchie this team has already made a profound impact upon both the understanding of the archaeology of marginal land in Scotland and upon the deficit of recording in the face of this overwhelming and all-destructive agency.

It is to be hoped that this first Annual Review will provide the reader with an informative and readable guide to the work of the Commission in the year 1990-91. In 1992 it is hoped to establish an invited user-panel to advise the Commission upon the basis of the published Review and survey needs as perceived by a range of interested bodies in Scotland.

Finally, it is with satisfaction that I record the extension of the term of their Royal Warrant to Professor Rosemary Cramp, Mrs Jane Durham and Professor James Dunbar-Nasmith, and welcome to the Commission Dr Deborah Howard and The Hon Peregrine Moncreiffe. I congratulate Professor Leslie Alcock upon the award of his CBE in the Birthday Honours List 1991, as indeed I extend my best wishes to Miss Kitty Cruft upon her impending retirement and her award of the OBE.

Crawford and Balcarres

ARCHAEOLOGY DIVISION: INTRODUCTION

This year has seen the publication of the first of the new Archaeological Survey Series, NE Perth - a landmark in Commission terms, in broader conservation terms and, not least, in archaeological terms. With NE Perth the Commission has begun a journey towards a new form of information presentation and while many innovations remain to be made in succeeding volumes, peer review indicates that this is a worthy foundation upon which to found that progress. There is no doubt that the extraordinary quality of the landscapes recorded in the volume, by land survey and by aerial photography, has excited very positive initiatives at both local and national levels towards the conservation and judicious exploration of this newly recognised heritage. Archaeologically speaking the recognition of the Pitcarmick house-type with its suggested Pictish connotations has opened new vistas for historians and archaeologists working on this intractable period of Scottish history.

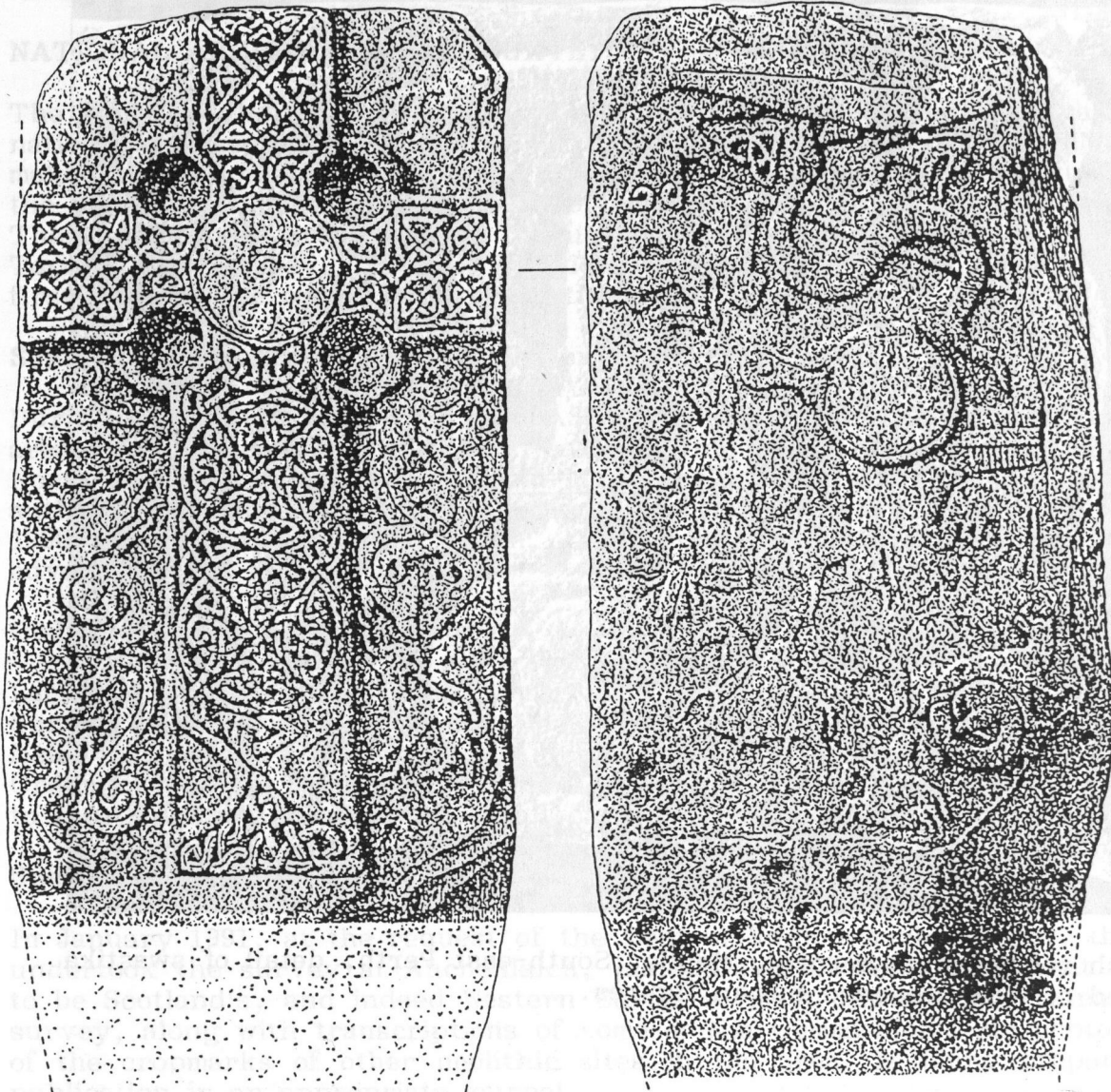
The successor volume to NE Perth - SE Perth - will go to press in the early summer of 1992. In 1990-91 very substantial progress was made with the archaeological survey of Upper Annandale. In considering the synthesis of material from this area it has been decided to incorporate and review surveys conducted in Upper Eskdale by the Commission in 1981, thus presenting a valuable opportunity to compare the closely juxtaposed but subtly contrasting landscape in the Scottish Borders.

Without doubt, the special survey of the long cairn at Auchenlaich requested by the Central Region archaeologist, Mrs Lorna Main, provided an archaeological highlight to the year. The cairn, nearly 300m long and previously unrecognised (probably because of its very stature), is certainly the longest in Britain and is longer than any example known to the Commission in Western Europe and must have involved prodigious effort to an early subsistence farming community. Once again, survey has offered vital support for conservation measures.

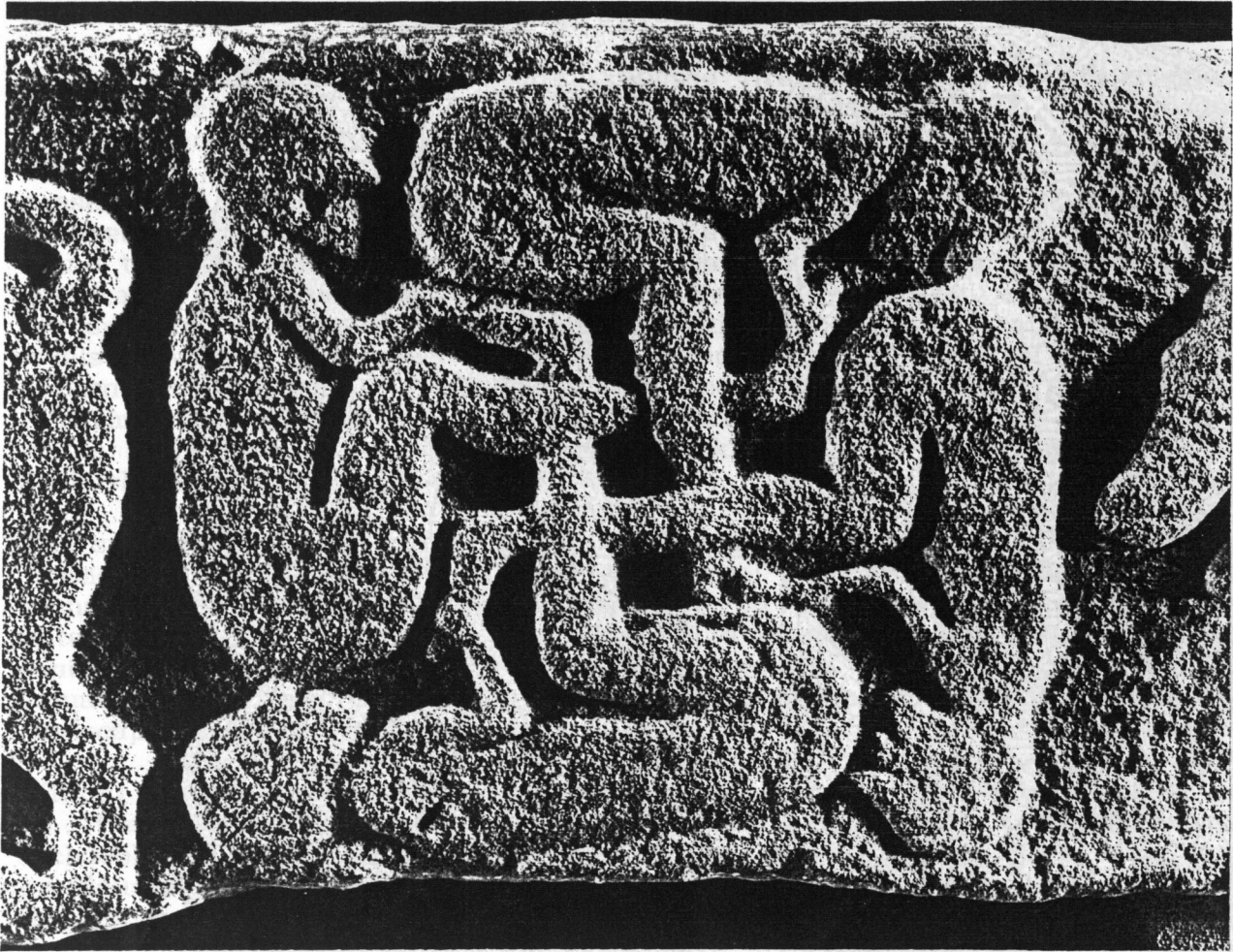
1990-91 was the first year of a full programme of activity for the Afforestation Land Survey. A general review of development in this area appears below and therefore comment here will be restricted to the observation that the advent of this team has enabled a proper balancing of Commission effort in landscape recording, in terms of both chronological and geographical coverage. This new team has had to come to terms with recognition and recording problems hitherto untackled by anybody and they are, effectively, creating their own text book.

Aerial Photographic Survey had a difficult year from the point of view of weather and cropmark availability. Skilful deployment of the resource during the winter months however allowed another valuable year of recording to be completed.

With the aid of temporary staff, a transcription and rectification service, available to Historic Scotland and Regional Archaeologists (on a necessarily restricted basis), was created. It is hoped to continue this service and to commence routine rectification of sites on a regional and annual basis.



1. Pictish cross-slab, Meigle, South-east Perth; reconstruction drawing showing prehistoric cup-and-ring markings at the base of the slab.



2. Pictish recumbent monument, Meigle, South-east Perth; detail of swastika formed of four crouched human figures.

ARCHAEOLOGY DIVISION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The work of the National Archaeological Survey is designed to enhance the national archaeological database by supplying information to the NMRS, to make information available to the public through publications, and to supply the Ordnance Survey with archaeological data for basic-scale map revision. These objectives are achieved through three Field programmes - Systematic Topographic Survey, OS Map Revision, and Special Survey - of which the first absorbs the majority of the section's man-power.

Systematic Topographic Survey (Inventory Programme)

During the course of 1990-1 the NAS team was involved with three inventory areas - North-east Perth, South-east Perth, and Annandale and Eskdale. North-east Perth, an archaeological landscape, the first in the new series of authoritative archaeological publications, was published by HMSO in September 1990. Work on South-east Perth, the second volume in the series, is well advanced.

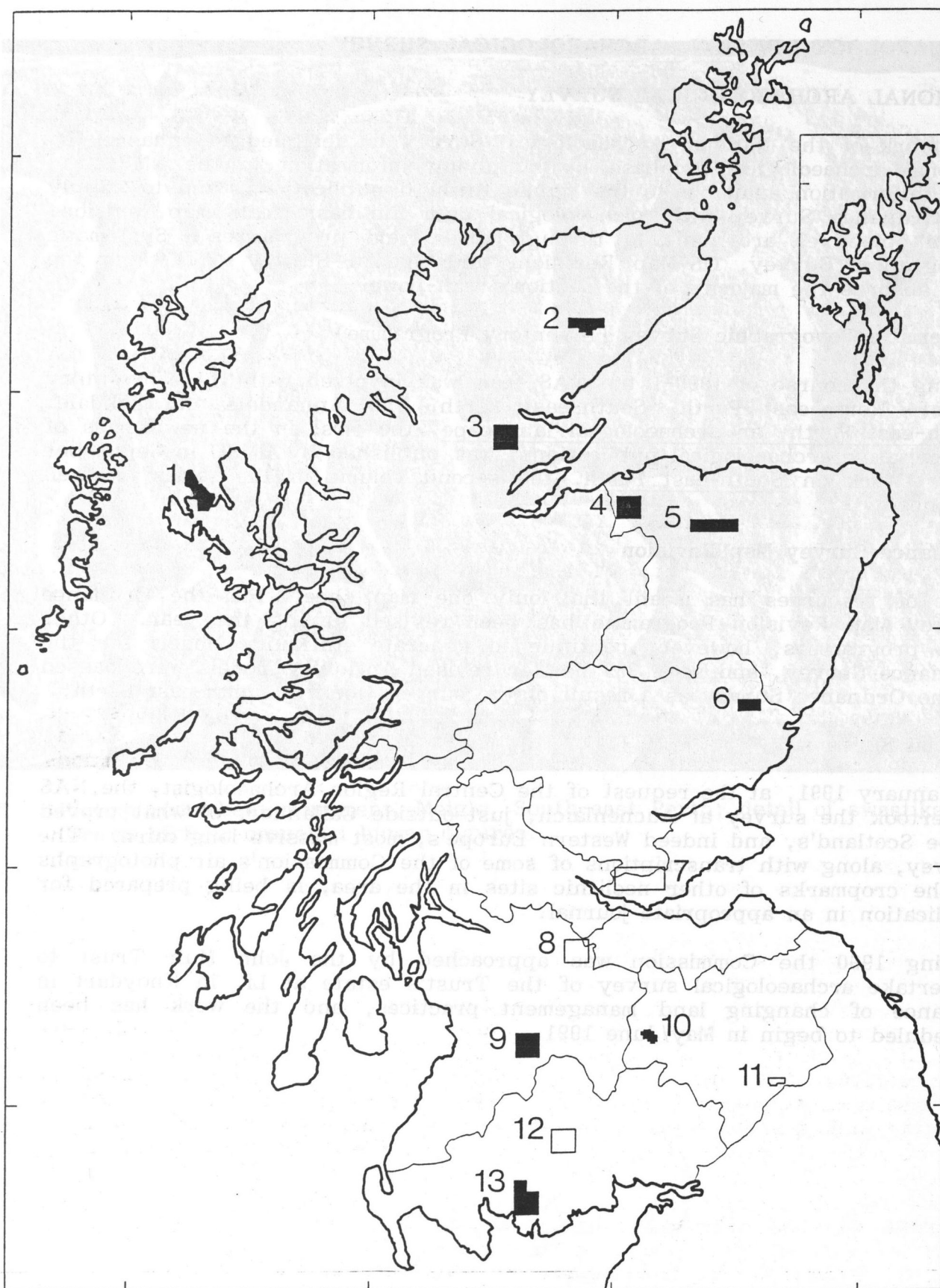
Ordnance Survey Map Revision

Lack of resources has meant that only one map sheet from the Ordnance Survey Map Revision Programme has been revised during the year. Other field programmes, however, continue to generate Antiquity Models for the Ordnance Survey, and some 359 new or revised Antiquity Models were passed to the Ordnance Survey as a result of the survey work in North-east Perth.

Special Surveys

In January 1991, at the request of the Central Region Archaeologist, the NAS undertook the survey at Auchenlaich, just outside Callander, of what proved to be Scotland's, and indeed Western Europe's, most massive long cairn. The survey, along with transcriptions of some of the Commission's air photographs of the cropmarks of other neolithic sites in the area, is being prepared for publication in an appropriate journal.

During 1990 the Commission was approached by the John Muir Trust to undertake archaeological survey of the Trust's estate at Li, in Knoydart in advance of changing land management practices, and the work has been scheduled to begin in May/June 1991.



3. Areas of Afforestation Land Survey: (1) Waternish, Skye, Highland; (2) Strath of Kildonan, Sutherland; (3) Strathrusdale, Ross and Cromarty, Highland; (4) Altyre, Moray, Grampian; (5) Huntly-Dufftown, Banff and Buchan, Grampian; (6) Cathertun Area, Angus, Tayside; (7) Cleish Hills, Dunfermline, Fife; (8) Central Scotland Woodlands, Central, Strathclyde and Lothian; (9) Muirkirk, Cumnock and Doon Valley, Strathclyde; (10) Stanhope, Tweeddale, Borders; (11) Southdean, Roxburgh, Borders; (12) Dalmacallan Forest, Nithsdale, Dumfries and Galloway; (13) Gatehouse of Fleet, Stewartry, Dumfries and Galloway.

ARCHAEOLOGY DIVISION: AFFORESTABLE LAND SURVEY

Strategic survey of selected areas of Scotland likely to be at risk from afforestation was undertaken within several distinct types of archaeological landscapes, in all cases with rewarding results.

Exhibition material has been used very successfully to publicise the work of the Afforestation Land Survey section.

Muirkirk, Cumnock and Doon, Strathclyde

The Muirkirk area is remarkable for its industrial landscape of iron, coal and lime workings and includes McAdam's original Tar Works. The focus of this activity was the Iron Works at Muirkirk itself, which has now been "landscaped" by the SDA. The remains cover the whole range of the development of mining from bell-pits to deep-shaft coal-pits, spanning the period from before the 1790s to the 1920s. Field survey of 100km² at a basic scale of 1:10,000 has now been completed. The extraction field associated with the Muirkirk ironworks, however, is now being recorded at scales of 1:2,500; the shaft-heads, horse-gangs, tram-ways and buildings and the smaller spoil tips are being surveyed by EDM, while the more general landscape features and the outline of the larger spoil tips can be taken from available aerial photographs. The importance of this landscape cannot be overstressed; so often industrial landscapes of this type have been reworked, destroying the evidence of the earliest extraction.

Waternish, Skye, Highland

The survey of the Waternish Peninsula has revealed extensive landscapes littered with hut-circles, buildings of pre- and post-improvement date, field-systems and cultivation remains. About 25km² of almost continuous remains have been mapped in 1km² blocks at 1:2,500 by combining EDM plots and transcriptions of an excellent series of aerial photographs. This landscape survey is providing exciting insights into the diversity and chronological depth of what have previously been regarded as late and fairly uniform township settlements and land-use remains with a consequent enrichment of Highland landscape history.

Cleish Hills, Dunfermline, Fife

Work has been carried out throughout the year on the Cleish Hills, which have undergone considerable afforestation in the 1980s, leaving only intermittent windows of agricultural and industrial archaeology. The post-medieval settlements of this area are rare survivals of lowland east-coast rural settlement, where vernacular building traditions include the use of clay-wall building techniques. New discoveries include the rampart of a major fort of some 6 acres extent beneath the recorded fort on the summit of Dumglow.

Gatehouse-of-Fleet, Stewartry, Dumfries and Galloway

An area to the north of Gatehouse of Fleet was examined and a total of 385 sites were recorded, 317 for the first time. This included several extensive pre-improvement field-systems as well as (prehistoric) hut-circles and field-systems, a prehistoric fort of 2ha extent, and over 100 burnt mounds. The density and diversity of sites in this unafforested 'gap-site' underlines the importance of such areas in any understanding and proper representation of the surviving archaeology of Galloway.

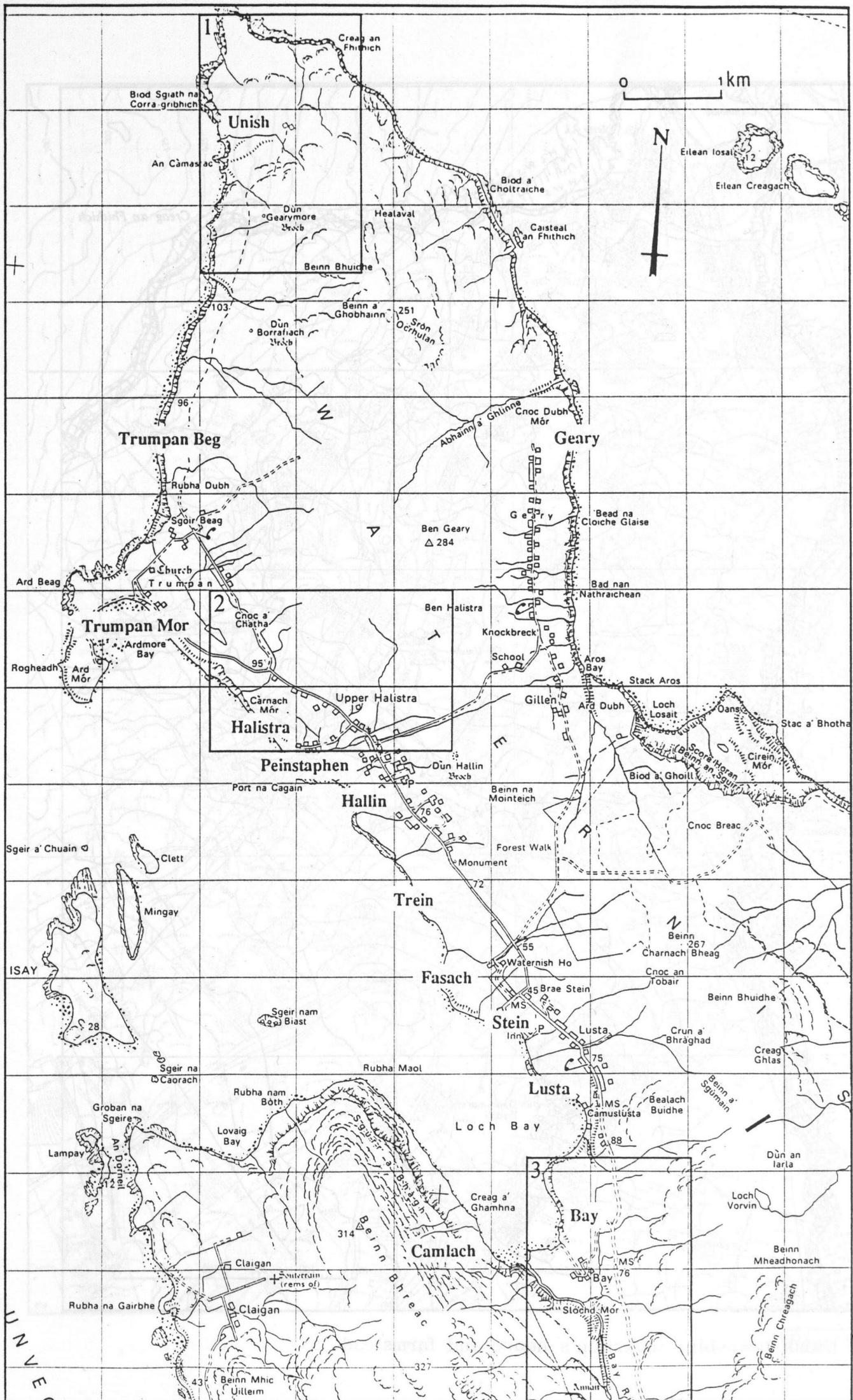
Huntly - Dufftown, Grampian

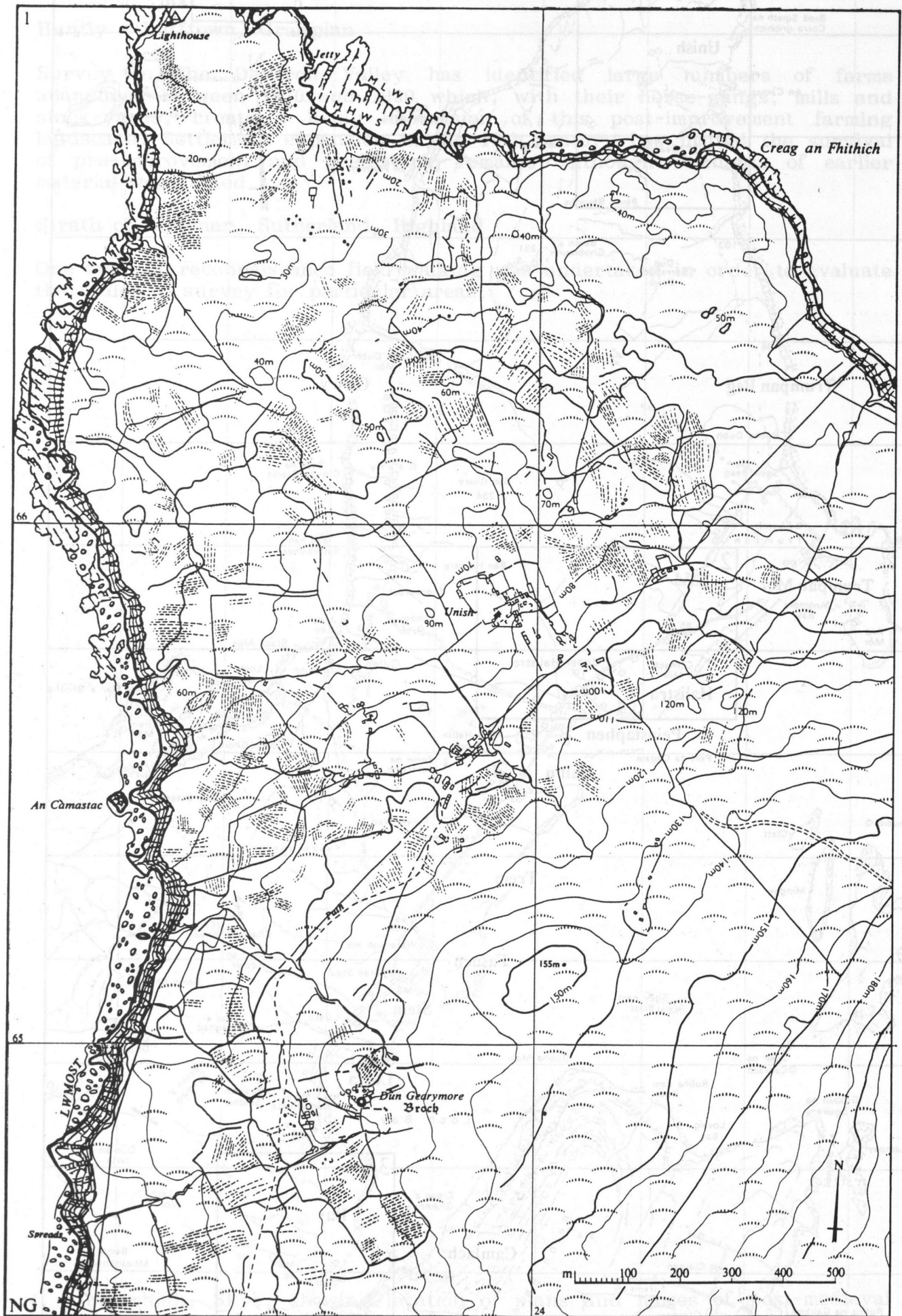
Survey in the Deveron Valley has identified large numbers of farms abandoned between 1870 and 1930 which, with their horse-gangs, mills and stack-yards, create a lively impression of this post-improvement farming landscape. Settlement expansion in the 19th century has limited the survival of pre-improvement and prehistoric remains, although remnants of earlier material were noted.

Strath of Kildonan, Sutherland, Highland

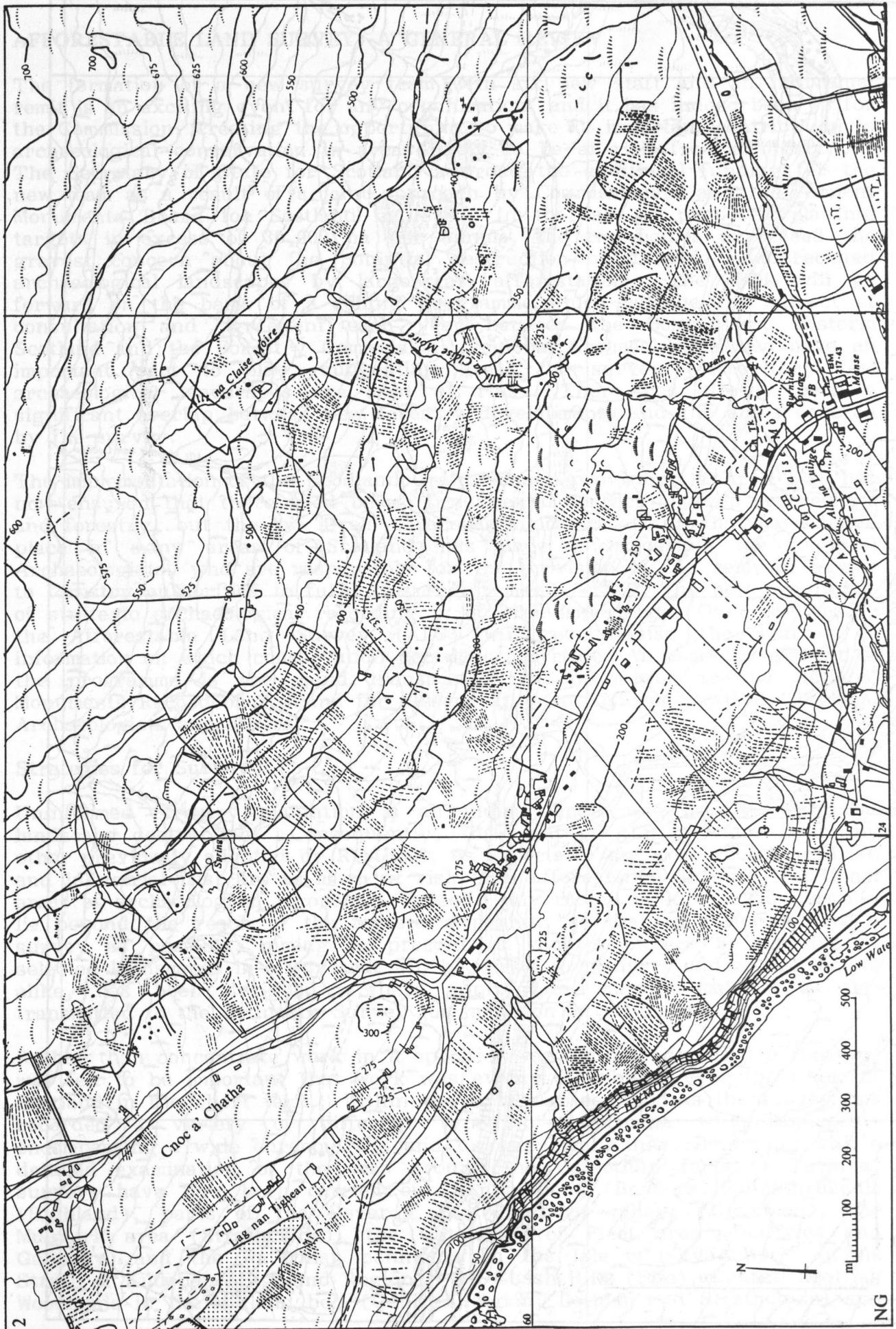
One spell of reconnaissance field-walking was undertaken in order to evaluate the scales of survey for particular areas.

4. Waternish, Skye, showing location of plans and names of post-medieval townships.

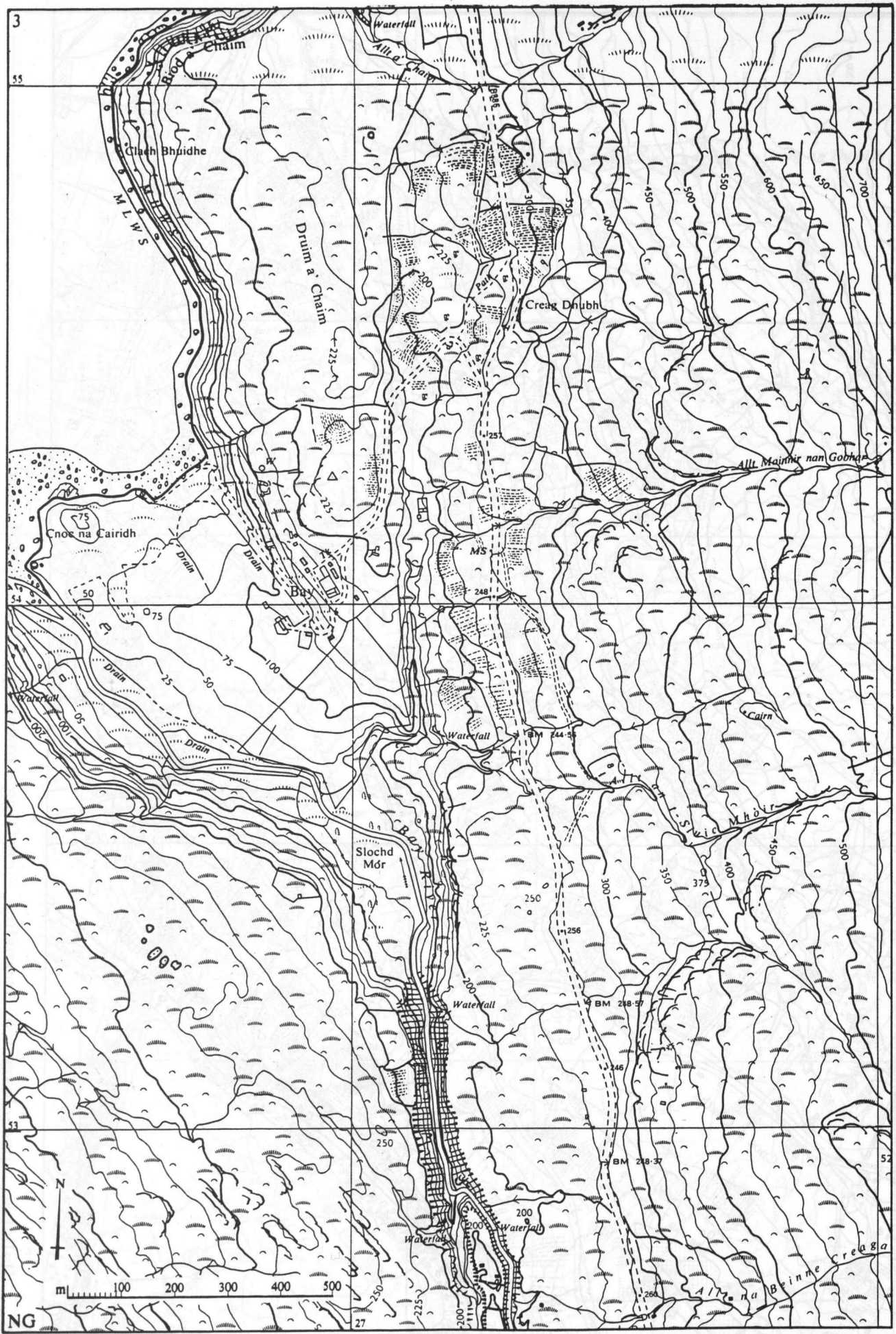




5. Unish township; tacksman's house and farmstead.



6. Halistra; pre-clearance township, crofting township, hut-circles and shielings.



7. Bay township; Prehistoric dun, hut-circle and enclosures.

AFFORESTABLE LAND SURVEY: A GENERAL REVIEW

The formation of a new survey team with six new staff and an individual remit is an exciting event for any organisation, and it has indeed been so for the Commission, creating the opportunity to make an important contribution to archaeological conservation in areas likely to be at risk from afforestation. The Secretary of State for Scotland awarded the additional funding for the new team as a result of a joint approach by Commissioners and the Ancient Monuments Board for Scotland in 1988. In the face of proposed planting targets in excess of 30,000 ha per annum, the two bodies expressed the gravest concern about the potential destruction of hitherto unappreciated archaeological landscapes by large-scale afforestation. The work will go forward on the basis of a rolling programme which will be the subject of consultation and agreement each year between the Commission, Historic Scotland and the Forestry Commission. Regional Archaeologists also have an important part to play, suggesting areas for survey where they feel archaeological landscapes are most at risk. There has already been a significant overlap between new forestry developments and the areas covered by the survey.

The implementation of the Woodland Grant Scheme provisions in April 1988 has now ensured that there need be no fundamental conflict between archaeology and forestry, but the low levels of archaeological recording that have taken place in many areas of Scotland has made it impossible for Regional Archaeologists, who are responsible for the provision of the relevant advice to forestry authorities to fulfil this requirement. Thus, the new programme of strategic archaeological recording is of vital importance. Over the years, the Afforestable Land Survey (ALS) will revolutionise the sources of information on which conservation decisions are made. An essential element of the programme is the rapid transmission of information to the National Monuments Record of Scotland for dissemination to Historic Scotland, Regional Archaeologists and others.

Strategies for Survey

Uninformed forestry plantation is an indiscriminate and massive agent of landscape destruction. Consequently, the remit of ALS is wider than any other previously adopted by RCAHMS, as aspects of the more recent agrarian and industrial past are as much at risk from afforestation as more traditional areas of archaeological recording. Indeed, only roofed buildings will normally lie beyond the reach of the forester's plough, so that as comprehensive a survey as possible, aiming to present as wide a picture as possible of selected landscapes in a way that will be useful to planners and archaeologists alike, has been designed. Where appropriate, survey material is also transmitted to the Ordnance Survey for inclusion on future maps.

Rather than concentrate work in a specific area for a long period of time, it was felt to be important that work was evenly distributed over the whole of Scotland in the short term. Within the first eighteen months the survey has recorded a variety of different types of landscape with monuments encompassing a wide chronological and topographical range. Beginning with a detailed examination of the area around the Caterthun forts in Tayside, surveys have now been carried out in Stanhope (Borders), Strathrusdale (Highland), parts of the Deveron and Findhorn valleys (Grampian), the Muirkirk area (Strathclyde), the Gatehouse of Fleet area (Dumfries and Galloway) and the Waternish peninsula on the Isle of Skye. Work in the Strath of Kildonan (Highland Region), the Cleish Hills (Fife), Central Scottish Woodlands in the Midland belt (Central Region, Lothian and Strathclyde) and

part of the western Cheviots in Borders Region is also in hand. The peat-covered landscapes of Gatehouse of Fleet and the Strath of Kildonan with their suites of prehistoric and medieval settlement remains have caused little difficulty, but the industrial landscape of the last two centuries around Muirkirk is an entirely new departure, requiring new techniques to be evolved to allow their adequate and informative recording. The complexity and interest of later use of the landscape is one of the most persistent themes to emerge from the survey, ranging from the industrial remains around Muirkirk to the clearance landscape of the townships, fields and lazy-beds on Waternish, highlighting the problem of conserving the archaeology of the more recent past over large areas of Scotland. It should be stressed that none of the areas chosen so far forms part of any specific development plan, but they represent a consensual view of the type of location most likely to be developed in the future. In some cases, certainly, the survey has barely been completed before the Regional Archaeologist has been required to make use of the results.

Mapping the Landscape

The survey of North-east Perth (RCAHMS 1990) broke with traditional patterns of RCAHMS work by presenting illustrations of much larger areas than would formerly have been thought possible, mapping the archaeological landscape as a whole rather than recording isolated monuments or 'sites'. Such advances reflect a new holistic approach to landscape interpretation with prehistoric and medieval or later remains seen as part of a land-use continuum. This demands special skills in field observation analysis and synthesis, while the capture of the information on plan has offered new challenges to the Drawing Office. The results published here testify to these newly enhanced and acquired skills

The ALS team has built on the experience gained in North-east Perth, and, while maintaining flexibility in its overall approach to survey, has tailored its approach to the end-product most appropriate to the material under consideration. Differing levels of survey have been adopted according to the density, complexity and nature of the archaeological remains. Thus, surveys may range from a rapid 1:10,000 scale recorded sweep through to instances where archaeological remains are of sufficient density and complexity to require enhancement by 1:2,500 and even larger-scale planning. At one end of the spectrum about half of the 93km² of the Waternish peninsula was mapped at 1:2,500, both to cope with the density of monuments, and to provide a vehicle for the noting and interpretation of the 1,500 structures located amongst extensive remains of fields in the landscape. At the other end the coverage of the 100km² in the Deveron valley, Grampian, was most appropriately undertaken at 1:10,000. In other areas, such as the Strath of Kildonan, a balance has been struck, with much of the area covered at 1:10,000 and a more limited number of individual sites or hillsides surveyed at 1:2,500. Prior reconnaissance and area assessment has proved vital in directing survey resources efficiently in the first instance.

Increasingly, new technology is being exploited to maintain the flow of information from the field. In the past this sort of development has been limited to survey equipment, but the creation of a database for the Waternish survey to provide a readily manipulated foundation from which to write up the complex survey material stimulated the acquisition of a weather-proof hand-held computer for use in the field, eliminating any re-keying for the establishment of a database of basic descriptions. The new survey equipment that has become available over recent years has equally revolutionised practices in the field. These developments were set in train in Wigtownshire

and Perth and now extensive use is made of Electronic Distance Measuring (EDM) equipment on the majority of the surveys. Development of this aspect of the technology has rested with the Drawing Office, and a wide range of codes and symbols has been developed to enable considerable sophistication to be expressed by the digital data. Drawings based on this data may then be enhanced on the ground, or with information taken from vertical or oblique aerial photographs. Further developments have led to a treble or quadruple increase in efficiency in terms of the quantity of data generated in the field during any working period.

The Surveys

Three examples have been selected to represent the variety and themes that have emerged from surveys conducted in 1990-91, two drawn from Highland Region and one from Strathclyde. The two from Highland, Ach an Fhionnfhuaraidh in the Strath of Kildonan and Unish Point on the Waternish peninsula, present contrasting pictures of the archaeology of the north and west of Scotland, while the third illustrates part of the remarkable industrial landscape still, but decreasingly, available in Central Scotland.

The landscape of Waternish is typical of many areas on the north-west coast. An orderly pattern of crofts strung along a narrow coastal strip fronts a bleak and forbidding hinterland of peat and rock. Jostling side by side with this regimented landscape is a more chaotic pattern of deserted townships with their fields and lazy-beds, extending unbroken from Bay in the south to Unish Point in the north, a distance of about 15km. The antiquity of settlement on the peninsula is not in doubt, with three brochs and, identified as a result of the survey, an even scatter of earlier much-eroded 'hut-circles', most of them subsumed into the fields and lazy-beds of the pre-clearance townships. These later features are, however, immensely important cultural fossils and some chronological depth can be seen to emerge from both the townships themselves and also their surrounding fields extending back from the more recognisable late eighteenth- or early nineteenth-century remains. Indeed some of the townships have a documented antiquity going back to the seventeenth century. Others, however, are more recent such as Forse a' Bhreitheimh on the eastern side of the peninsula, which was created in the nineteenth century for the clearance of people from the Ascrib Isles.

In the Strath of Kildonan a similar horizon of settlement remains was created by the Sutherland clearances, but here their character is very different. The townships contain numerous long buildings from 15m to 30m in length which would be wholly out of place amongst the heavily-built round-angled structures of Waternish. Furthermore, the continuous landscape of fields and lazy-beds is absent from Kildonan, where most of the townships survive as self-contained units, physically separated from their neighbours. In part this must be a reflection of the open terrain and the rolling hills of this part of Sutherland, but here there is yet another contrast with Waternish. In the gaps between the townships are found a whole series of hut-circle groups, some of them occurring side by side with impressive prehistoric field-systems. The variety of different types of hut-circle in Kildonan contrasts vividly with the simple forms of Waternish; occurring in all shapes and sizes, some are massively constructed, others little more than platforms, and yet others have souterrains opening off their interiors or have some other architectural embellishment. These buildings testify to numerous periods of settlement in these peat-covered moors, stretching back into prehistory in a way that is more difficult to detect on Waternish.

A totally different landscape survives around Muirkirk where the emphasis of the archaeology leans heavily towards the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and away from agricultural towards industrial concerns. The parish of Muirkirk was erected in 1628, but the major expansion of the population comes with the establishment of an ironworks in the village in 1787. The fortunes of the village were tied to the ironworks, whose economic fluctuations were mirrored in the development of the extraction field to the south of the village. Here lie the ruins of Macadam's tarworks established in 1786, together with complex earthworks reflecting 130 years of commercial extraction. The key to understanding the development of the extraction field lies in the network of local transport systems that evolved, whereby the canal, the tram-roads, an inclined plane and a mineral railway all serve to tie together various elements of the landscape and allow us to build up a rough chronology of the mines. The importance of this landscape is perhaps the sheer fact of its survival in an area where, now, the only long-term hope of prosperity lies in opencast coal extraction followed by afforestation. The tendency for the extractive industries to rework such areas, erasing all traces of the earlier extraction, places a premium upon Muirkirk and many similar areas, particularly in view of their position in the early history of Scottish industry.

The surveys of the first years of operation of the Afforestation Land Survey have demonstrated the importance of such work in creating a full record of examples of the changing historical landscapes of Scotland.

ARCHAEOLOGY DIVISION: AERIAL SURVEY

Reconnaissance

Mixed weather conditions in the spring and early summer of 1990, culminating in the record rainfall of the first half of July, affected the distribution of cropmark formation, restricting it almost completely to the eastern part of Scotland, and led to a relatively slow beginning to the summer programme. Perthshire, Angus, East Fife and Lothian produced the majority of the 425 cropmarks photographed, of which some 30% were recorded for the first time. Of particular note this season were the discovery of a Roman Temporary Camp near Dundee and the substantial increase in the known density of small enclosed settlements of probably Iron Age date in East Lothian.

The winter of 1990-91 provided excellent opportunities for reconnaissance under snow-cover and low-light conditions. Forty-eight hours of flying in 18 sorties were undertaken and about 550 sites were recorded. Particular efforts were directed at Annandale in the early winter, but rapidly changing cloud cover over the Southern Uplands led to the recording, under more favourable conditions, of southern Lanarkshire, and in particular the cairn-fields around the SE end of the Pentland Hills. In January and February, Scotland enjoyed an exceptional period of snow cover at relatively low altitudes, which, for several days, was accompanied by calm, sunlit, though increasingly hazy, conditions. Every opportunity was taken to exploit these conditions, leading to a high return in numbers of sites and photographs. Reconnaissance was concentrated on South-east Perth and Annandale with some work in Dundee District, around Muirkirk and, later, under shadow conditions in February and March, along Loch Tay and the Strath of Kildonan. Of particular note on this last flight were the extensive areas of small cairns, often clustering around a major funerary monument.

In addition to reconnaissance carried out primarily for archaeological aims, recording of industrial and architectural subjects from the air was also undertaken in support of most of Buildings Division's recording programmes.

Catalogues of Aerial Photographs

The Catalogue of Aerial Photographs 1986-7 was published in December 1990 and the 1988 catalogue was made ready for HMSO. Containing over 1,000 sites, this is the longest catalogue to be produced to date. However, the catalogue for 1989 promises to be even longer with some 1,300 entries.

Transcription

A programme of aerial transcription is being carried out with the assistance of temporary staff. A first element in this programme is the computer transformation of all new cropmark sites as part of the cataloguing of material recorded in 1989; a second element is designed to ensure that all cropmarks within a specific area (beginning with Fife) are transcribed and entered in the NMRS; a third element involves the transcription of a specified number of sites requested by Historic Scotland (which totalled 34) in advance of planning applications, public enquiries and road construction and upon the excavation sometimes consequent upon these developments. In 1990-91, particular mention must be made of those relating to the Dalkeith Northern Bypass.

Wherever possible, co-operation will be sought with other bodies in compiling and mounting displays of this material, as for example, in the highly acclaimed Roman Scotland from the Air, a project produced jointly with the Hunterian Museum of the University of Glasgow, which was launched in Glasgow in November 1989 and during the next eighteen months appeared at no fewer than six separate venues throughout Scotland. This has been an excellent means of highlighting the quality of the Commission's aerial survey product, otherwise signalled publicly only by the annual Catalogue of Air Photographs.



8. Settlement, Luncarty Home Farm, Perth and Kinross.



9. Fort, East Lomond, Fife.

The black and white photographs of Pictish carved stones and other stones taken by Tom Gray are of excellent quality and clarity. The collection of these photographs has, for the first time, provided a clear and complete print of most Pictish stones in Scotland, clearly showing their location and for some, their deteriorating condition.



10. Deserted farmstead, Lairhope, Roxburgh.

ARCHAEOLOGY DIVISION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

Archive

Historical material has continued to accrue, including the remarkable and sometimes eccentric material reflecting the life-work of Ludovic Mann - the excavator of the Knappers Farm 'henge' among other sites. The Bibliographical Recording and Plotting project based upon temporary staff has continued most successfully. The new computer database system based upon ORACLE came on line, officially, on 3 September 1990 - the culmination of effort reaching back nearly a decade.

Archaeology accessions to the National Monuments Record of Scotland in 1990-1 continued to grow and vary considerably in content, with a noticeable increase in the number of reports from field surveys being deposited. This reflects the growing use of independent archaeological groups for this type of work and also the amount of development threatening the archaeology of Scotland, including forestry and road construction.

Three collections are of particular significance and importance and contribute to the wealth of the Record in many ways. Two are historical and the third is a modern collection.

Sketch drawings of mounds, cairns and brochs in Caithness by Robert Shearer were deposited in the Record. Shearer was a corresponding member of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, who with Joseph Anderson carried out surveys of some excavations on several sites in Caithness for the Anthropological Society of London, publishing their results in several papers in the Memoirs of the Society in 1866. It would seem that if all the drawings are contemporary, and only one of the drawings is dated to 1871, that they are from a period shortly after the surveys of Shearer and Anderson. Although the sketches are not well executed, they are annotated and are from a time when monuments in Caithness were being excavated and destroyed with little pictorial or documented recording.

The other historical collection of material is very varied in subject matter and comprises newscuttings, correspondence, drawings, glass slides, notes and photographs from the lifetime of research, interests and excavations by Ludovic MacLellan Mann which have been carefully conserved since his death in 1955 by George Applebey. George Applebey was a butcher by profession who became interested in archaeology through the lectures of J Harrison Maxwell and who worked enthusiastically for Mann, cleaning and cataloguing finds. By leaving some finds and documents to Applebey, Mann hoped that they would be distributed to appropriate bodies or people where they would be appreciated and made available for study, and most importantly, that the material should be preserved. An initial assessment of the collection has been made and it is hoped that a complete catalogue will be prepared in the near future.

The black and white photographs of Pictish symbol stones and other carved stones taken by Tom Gray are of excellent quality and clarity. The addition of these photographs has, for the first time, provided the Record with a print of most Pictish stones in Scotland, clearly illustrating their present location and for some, their deteriorating condition.

Bibliographical Recording and Plotting

Progress in Bibliographical Recording and Plotting has been successfully maintained; 1,311 new sites and additional references have been entered into the computerised database; 12,521 site bibliographical references have been upgraded and work on updating, correction and checking the site database produced a total of 16,266 sites.

Computerisation

The new computer database system was put into production on 3 September 1990 and data has now been transferred from STAIRS. Work is in hand to check and upgrade the information contained in the database. Compatibility with Historic Scotland has been established; an agreed list of administrative areas is now in shared use.

Archaeological and Historical Maps

A new edition of the map of Ancient Britain was published by the Ordnance Survey, and work has been completed on a new map of Roman Britain.



11. Contemporary cartoon illustrating Ludovic McLellan Mann as Archaeological Observer during the construction of the 1938 Scottish Empire Exhibition in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow.

ARCHITECTURE DIVISION: INTRODUCTION

Behind the scenes, the struggle to record the country's threatened buildings has continued, especially on the industrial front, where it sometimes seems difficult even to assess the scale of the potential loss, let alone provide adequate survey coverage. However, despite the constant haemorrhage of resources in these areas of operation, great efforts have also been made to maintain a national programme of proactive, detailed survey. As in previous years, much of the material that has accrued in these different ways may eventually be worth bringing together in selected publications, the ultimate purpose of which is to heighten our understanding and interpretation of the surviving remains of Scotland's past.

One of the most notable innovations in 1990-91 was the introduction of a computerised monitoring system to assist in the administration of the Threatened Buildings programme. Developed in collaboration with the Scottish Office Computer Service alongside the computerisation of the Archaeological Record, the ORACLE-based system became operational on 1 October 1990 and has already proved extremely effective. Housed in the National Monuments Record, the Buildings Survey computer unit has also greatly strengthened links between survey and record working practices.

Buildings of outstanding importance recorded during the year as part of the Threatened Buildings Survey programme included Cardinal Beaton's Melgund Castle, Angus (to be restored), churches at Kirkhill, Inverness, and Yester, East Lothian, the latter recast by the Adam brothers, Gillespie, Kidd and Coia's church of St Benedict, Glasgow (demolished just before it was due to be listed), Howden's Works, Glasgow, and Kingston Shipyard, Greenock. A video record was made of the operation of a giant cantilever crane at Kvaerner Govan Shipyard.

So far as Topographical Survey is concerned, a major event was the publication of Tenements and Towers, Glasgow Working-Class Housing 1890-1990 which, with an associated exhibition (shown both in Glasgow and Edinburgh), relates in popular but authoritative style the story of Glasgow's mass housing. The first product of the new programmes of architectural data-gathering, capitalising on the results of a photographic survey in Glasgow, the book was launched in August 1990, when the associated exhibition at the Mitchell Library was opened by the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Mrs Susan Baird, and the Chairman of RCAHMS, Lord Crawford. The exhibition and publication served as the Commission's contribution to the 1990 European City of Culture.

Exhibition material has also been used to convey to various audiences the wealth of material recorded over the years in compiling the Inventory of Argyll. The period under review saw the last full season of fieldwork preparation for the final volume (7) in the Argyll Inventory series which covers the medieval and later monuments of Mid Argyll and Cowal.

An exhibition on the Forth Railway Bridge was prepared as part of its centenary celebrations and was shown at the Royal Museum of Scotland.

ARCHITECTURE DIVISION: THREATENED BUILDINGS (INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL) SURVEY

During this period 163 notifications of applications to demolish or partly demolish listed buildings, and 42 notifications of the granting of Listed Building Consent for demolition or part demolition, were received. In addition, 267 notifications were also received from local authorities and other sources concerning proposals for significant alterations to statutorily protected buildings or for demolition of unlisted buildings of interest. The total number of surveys authorised, including surveys of buildings under long-term threat, was 379, of which 121 were of industrial subjects. These bare statistics represent an enormous workload, borne especially by the Photographic Section where the shortage of manpower has been most acutely felt.

Statistically, the principal outputs from these operations during the period under review have amounted to the completion of 89 reports (record sheets), 3,027 photographs (excluding aerial) printed, checked, captioned and made ready for transfer to the NMRS, and 72 survey drawings similarly prepared for deposit in the NMRS. In addition, 503 colour transparencies, principally of buildings in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Lerwick, were transferred to the NMRS slide collections.

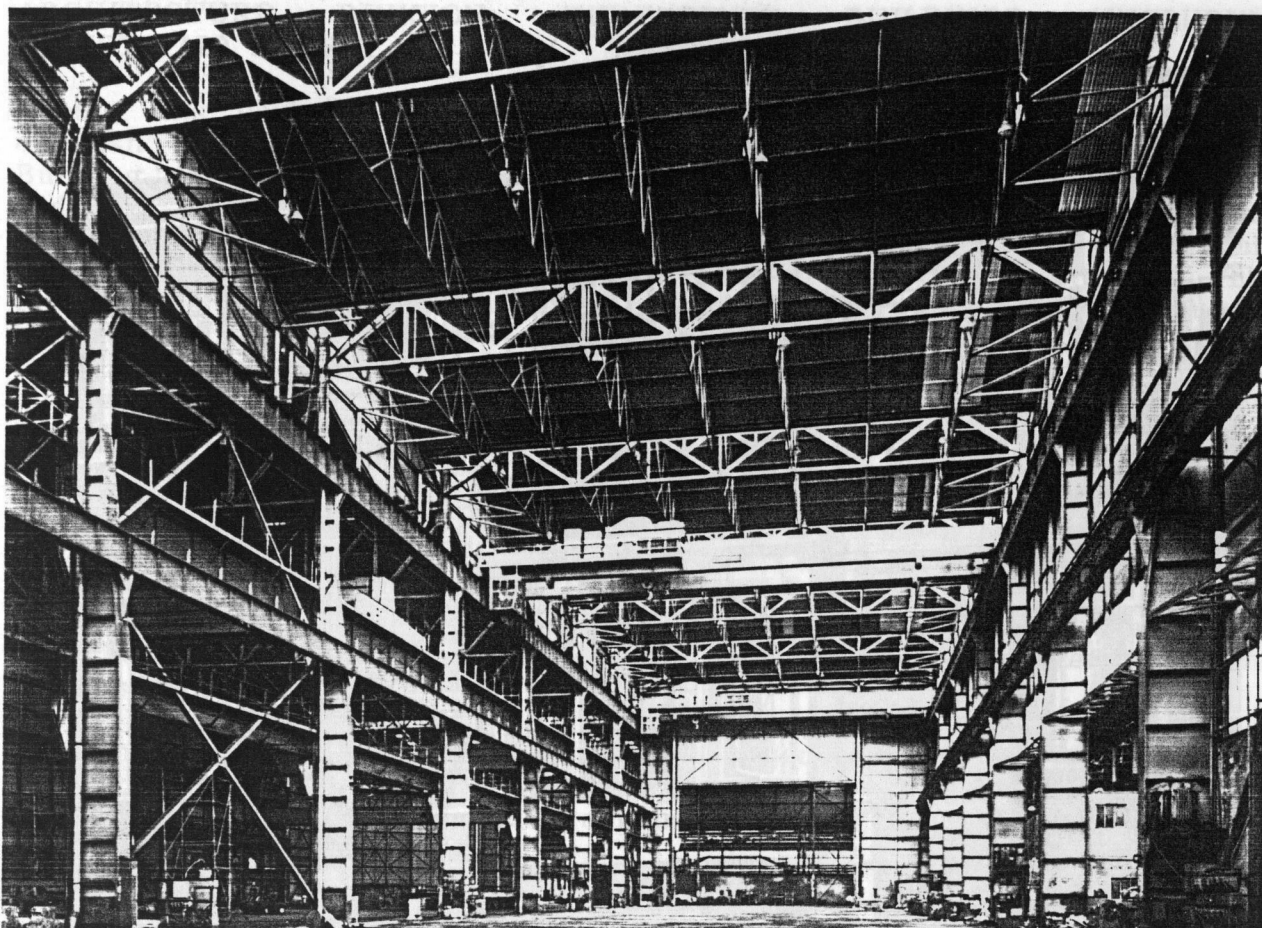
Video recording has continued, the two major subjects having been the operation of the world's last surviving madras weaving mill, at Newmilns (Kilmarnock and Loudoun), and of a giant cantilever crane at the shipyard of Kvaerner Govan (Glasgow).



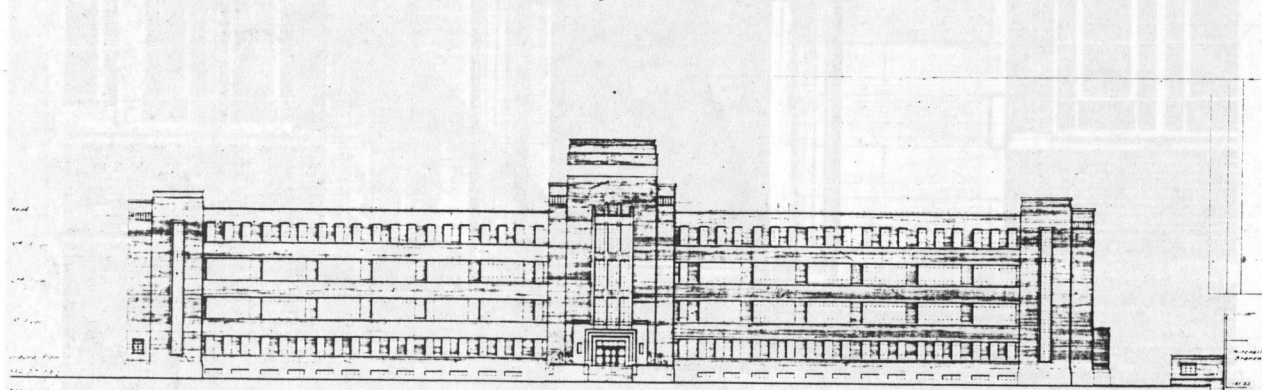
12. Plantation Row, Coaltown of Wemyss, Fife.



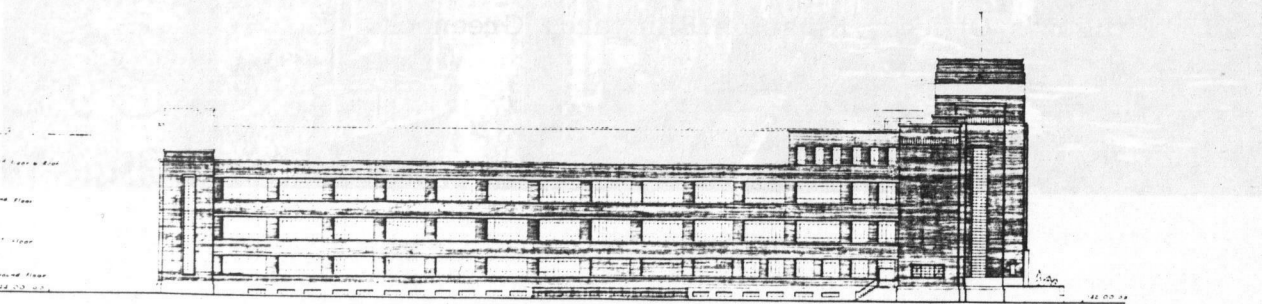
13. Lithgow's Offices, Kingston Shipyard, Greenock.



14. Fabrication shop, Kingston Shipyard, Greenock.

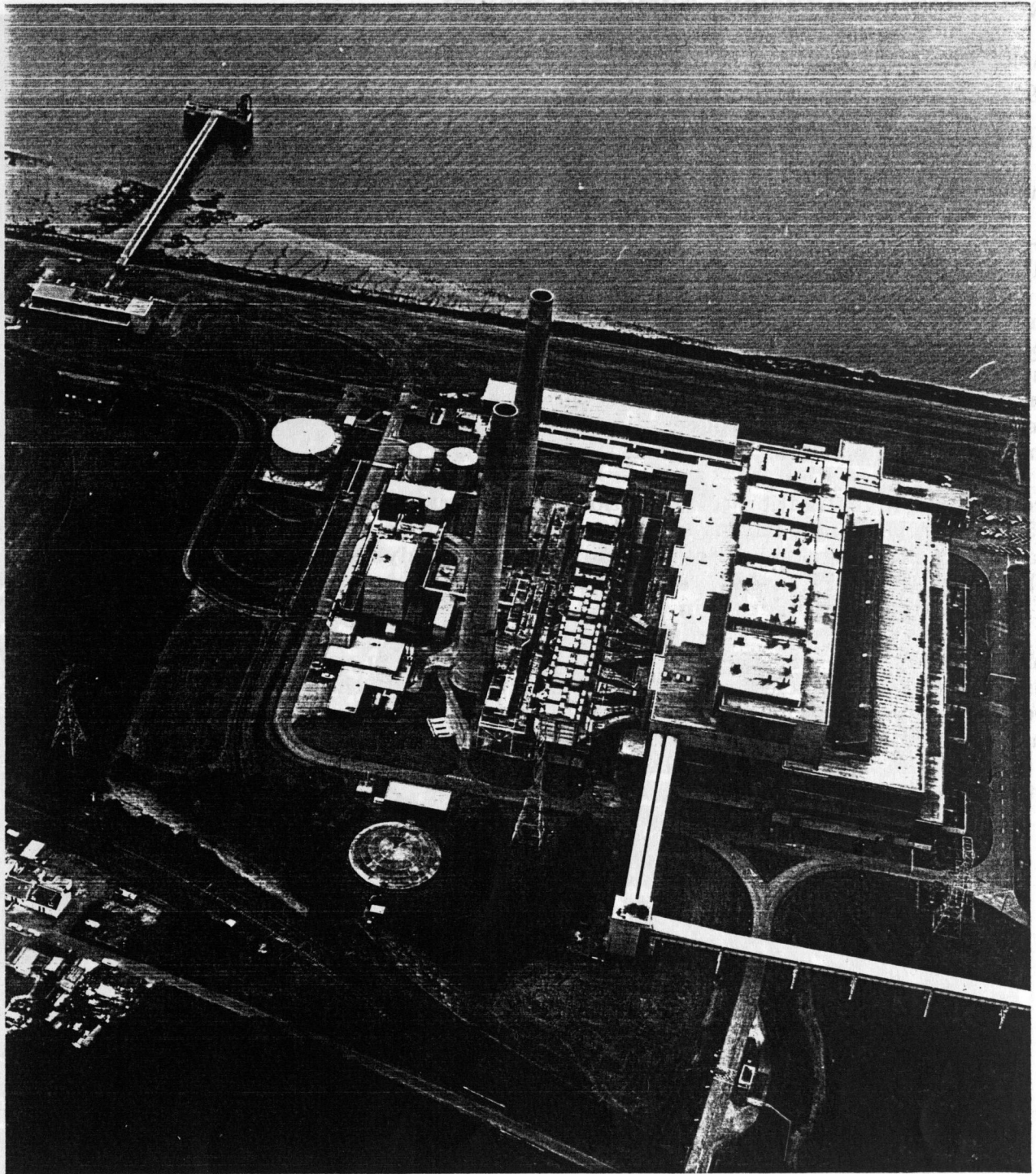


ALEXANDRA PARADE ELEVATION



CRAIGPARK STREET ELEVATION

15. Imperial Tobacco Factory, Alexandra Parade, Glasgow.



16. Coal-fired power station, Kincardine-on-Forth, Fife.

ARCHITECTURE DIVISION: THEMATIC SURVEY

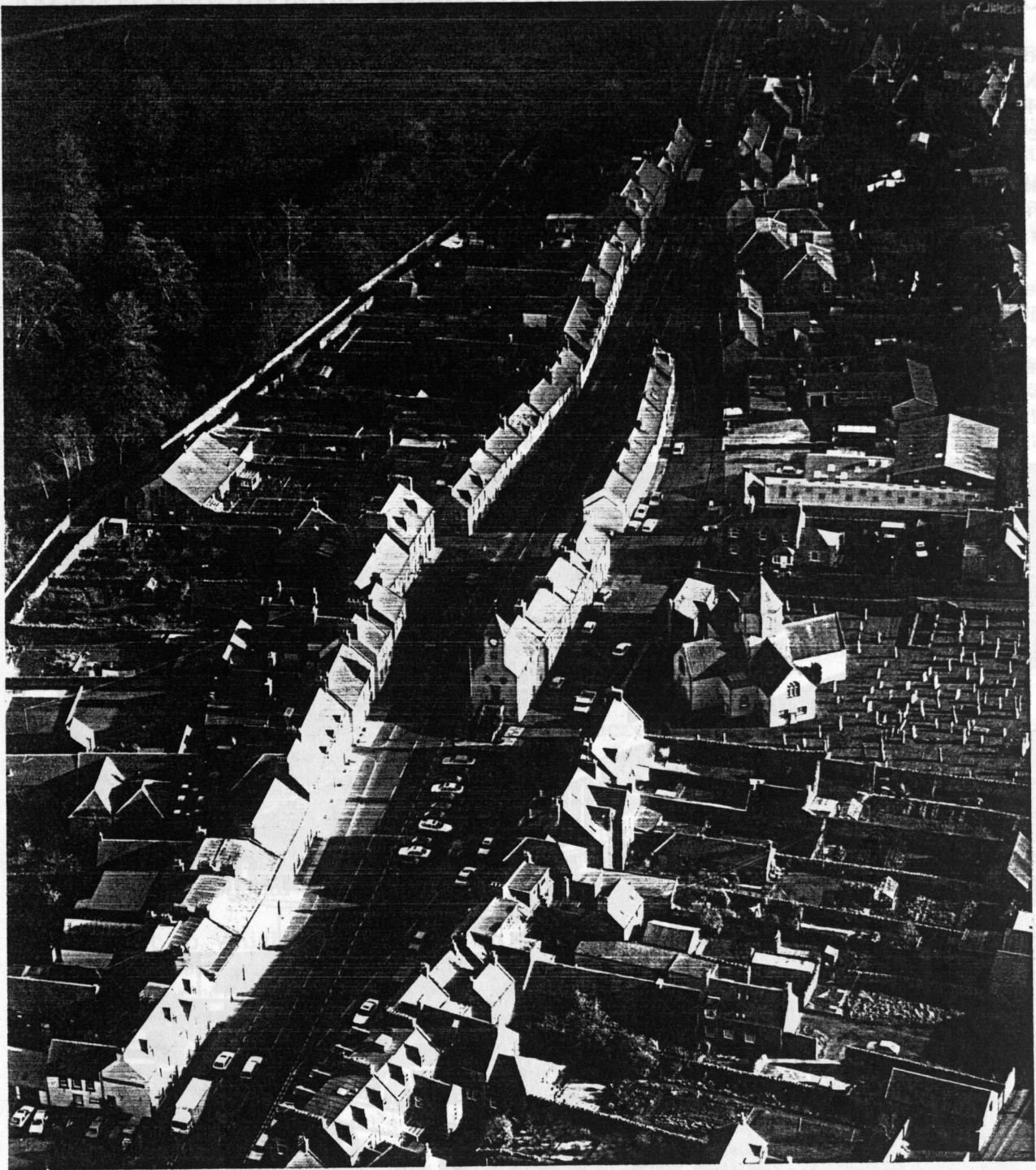
Work on thematic publications, most notably Brick, Tile and Fireclay Industries, Tolbooths and Town Houses, Schools and Early Medieval Sculpture in the West Highlands, has progressed, despite the heavy demands of other survey programmes.

The edited text and illustrations for Brick, Tile and Fireclay were completed in January 1990, and the material awaits design, layout and copying as an in-house publication, the first to be put through the office's new desk-top publishing system.

The final batch of measured surveys, including dimensioned sketches, for the Tolbooths and Town Houses project are now under way, and exterior photography is three-quarters complete. Two out of three planned aerial sorties have been undertaken, the purpose being to depict the buildings in their urban contexts. Progress in the preparation of text has been seriously limited, and alternative arrangements are being considered.

Preliminary investigation of functioning schools continues, a total of some 1,500 establishments having now been inspected and noted. It is envisaged that the next stage, the detailed survey and analysis of about fifty selected schools of pre-1914 origin, will be phased to follow on from Tolbooths which is scheduled for completion in 1992.

Field survey for the Early Medieval Sculpture project is well advanced, despite the exigencies of the final stages of the Argyll 7 Inventory programme. The stones on the remote island of North Rona remain the only major outstanding group still to be recorded. Arrangements have been made to retain the specialist services of Mr I G Scott on contract, following his retirement. Completion of the project remains on target for 1993.



17. Town House, Lauder, Ettrick and Lauderdale.

letter was devoted to celebrating Scotland
the Record's contribution to the
150th anniversary of The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland
astonishing range of material was presented, ranging from
student drawings and certificates to the weekly press-cuttings and
press-cutting albums recording the history of the town and its
have contributed so much to our surroundings.

The Record also mounted an exhibition at the Royal
the late Colin McWilliam who was the first Director of the Royal
His charming sketches and many unexpected ideas were a revelation

ARCHITECTURE DIVISION: TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

Production of the Inventory of Argyll, volume 7 (Medieval and later monuments of Mid Argyll and Cowal) has reached the final layout stage, and work on the index is well advanced. Final decisions on the size, price and date of publication await completion of the index.

A high level of output from the District Photographic Survey has continued, with recording work completed in Cumbernauld, Monklands and Motherwell Districts, and survey work in Aberdeen commenced.

Material arising out of the City of Dundee District survey was assembled, alongside other material from the NMRS, for an exhibition ('Dundee on Record') at the McManus Galleries, Dundee, as a contribution to the 'Dundee 800' festival. A text for a popular publication on the same theme was also prepared.



18. Cumbernauld Town Centre, Phase 1.

ARCHITECTURE DIVISION: ARCHITECTURE RECORD

The range of accessions was unusually varied, reflecting the breadth of the collections which will be confirmed by the Jubilee Guide. A particularly exciting addition was a collection of variant plates for William Adam's ambitious Vitruvius Scoticus, which although begun in 1726 was not to appear until 1811. These new discoveries reveal that the publishing history of this great book, which supplies the key to any understanding of Scotland's early classical architecture, was even more complicated than had been realised. As yet it is difficult to detect the logic of many of these changes and the cost of re-engraving many of the plates must have been considerable.

A particularly interesting collection of views of Scottish buildings, drawn in the 1950s and 1960s, by J Brian Crossland was donated by his widow. Crossland's particular enthusiasm was 19th-century architecture and he is best known for his Victorian Edinburgh, 1966. His papers include his research files on Frederick Thomas Pilkington, the well-known rogue architect of the Barclay-Bruntfield Church, 1862 which offers a fascinating insight into the development of modern architectural history.

The most important accession was unquestionably the designs, building papers and original model for Gribloch House, 1937-38, deposited by Lady Hutchison. This is one of the most innovative houses of its period and is of particular interest as an early work of Sir Basil Spence. The papers reveal that he by no means held the upper hand in terms of its design as his client, John Colville, also sought advice from a very wide range of contacts in Britain and America.

For the Commission, a particularly fitting accession was a file of household accounts and receipts relating to work on 54 Melville Street concerning its adaptation by Sir Robert Lorimer for his own use. At the same time Stuart Matthew, whose father had been Lorimer's partner, also presented a very important collection of contemporary photographs of Lorimer's buildings including the Thistle Chapel and construction photographs of his masterpiece, The Scottish National War Memorial.

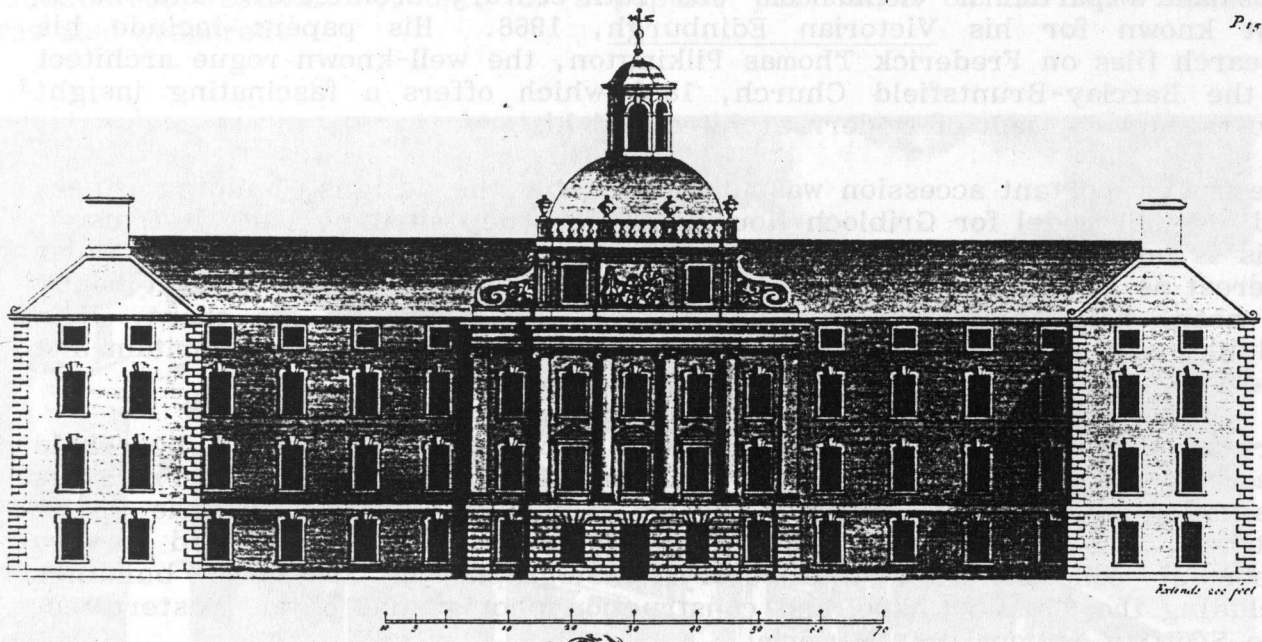
The extent to which the Record not only documents Scotland's buildings but also the historiography of architectural history and the Scottish preservation movement is reflected in the presentation of a tape recording of Sir John Summerson's address to the Robert Adam 250th Anniversary Conference organised by the Extra-Mural Department of the University of Edinburgh in 1975.

The range of the Record's holdings was also demonstrated in the small exhibitions mounted in the new Gallery at Coates Place. These began to fall into a pattern with a display of new accessions in the Spring and a more major subject being tackled to coincide with the Edinburgh Festival. The latter was devoted to Celebrating Scotland's Architects and was intended as the Record's contribution to the festivities which marked the 150th anniversary of The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland. An astonishing range of material was presented, ranging through juvenalia, student drawings and certificates to the worldly prizes of medals and press-cutting albums recording the vitality of this profession whose members have contributed so much to our surroundings.

The Record also mounted an exhibition at the RIAS Gallery of drawings by the late Colin McWilliam who was the first Director of the Record from 1951. His charming sketches and many unexpected designs came as a revelation to

those who had considered him primarily as a writer and helped drum up donations for the Trust that has been established in his name. He will be sadly missed by NMRS.

The Architectural Record continued to suffer from staff shortages; however, the value of the fixed-term appointment to assist with the many public enquiries began to be felt enabling significant progress to be made in the preparation of the Jubilee Guide to the Collections and the associated touring exhibition. At the same time research established a much clearer picture of the Record's establishment in May 1941 and subsequent history. The rewards of this activity extend far beyond the needs of the publication and exhibition and will be a boon for all future efforts.



Gul. Adam inv. et delin. The North Front of the Royal Infirmary facing the City of Edinburgh *R.C. Cooper. Calc.*

19. Edinburgh Royal Infirmary; drawing by William Adam in Vitruvius Scoticus.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

April 1990 came in, unseasonably, like a Lion. The sudden acceleration that this month saw of activity in connection with the drafting of the Scottish Chapter of the Government's Response to the KPMG Report and the revised Royal Warrant came as no surprise, but it did come as a considerable shock. These were fraught days, and it says much for the patience and sympathy of the administration staff of what is now Historic Scotland that the exercise ended to the satisfaction of all parties, and with no heads broken. To date, the results of our labours have not been translated into final form, but we naturally look forward to that outcome.

The finalisation of the Commission's Corporate Plan for 1991-2 occupied these early days of the new financial year. In a fundamental redesign of this, the Commission's second Plan, an attempt was made to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the Commission as it entered the 1990's. Particular attention was drawn to the weaknesses of the Commission in the staffing of its central administration area and of the National Monuments Record - with particular regard here to the need for an Information Technology Specialist and the equally urgent need for a Conservation Specialist to deal with Record documents in need of urgent conservation (20,000 plus, and rising). Attention was also focused upon the burgeoning demands arising under the statutory responsibilities of the Commission for the survey of threatened Listed Buildings (at present running at 300-400 buildings per year) and to the woeful under-provision for all aspects of Aerial Photographic Survey in Scotland. Finally, the inability of the Commission, through historic under-resourcing, to respond effectively to the need for up-dating and augmenting of OS Map information in Scotland was yet another indication of its weakness with respect to reactive survey, whether for the correction of data-deficiencies or the recording of threatened archaeological sites.

This was indeed a formidable list, which led to a meeting on September 10, 1990 in St Andrews House, between a representative group of Commissioners, together with the Chairman, and the Minister and his advisers. Two things emerged from that meeting, both of considerable importance. One was an appreciation of the high value which the Minister explicitly placed upon the work of the Commission in pressing forward the vital task of recording Scotland's built heritage. The second was the announcement in December 1990 that the Minister had found himself able to release an annual sum of £100K for work undertaken mainly in the area of threatened building survey. Recruitment on the basis of these extra funds goes forward.

It was during May that the Secretary of State for Scotland first announced his acceptance of a new responsibility, transferred to him as a result of reorganisation within the Department of Transport. From April 1991 he has been responsible for the preservation, recording, and maintenance of records, of historic wrecks lying within Scottish coastal waters (i.e. within the twelve-mile limit). Preservation is, of course, the rightful preserve of our colleagues in Historic Scotland; the Secretary of State, however, allocated the survey and record-maintenance duties to RCAHMS.

To the Commission this opens new doors. Such work represents a specialist area of which the Commission at present has no direct experience. Until it is equipped to deal with this extraordinarily complex area, it can only contemplate holding action. RCHME have now conducted a year-long study which has developed the appropriate methodology for the creation of a Maritime Record. The data-gathering task, the information handling, and, most of all, the researching and systematisation of this material demand staff

who are fully familiar with the underwater milieu, and with the quite different range of observational and surveying techniques that are employed there.

The Commissioners' second annual field meeting was held in Argyll in a period of the most beautiful weather in early May, and the tour also saw the first exposure of a fine exhibition illustrating the extraordinary breadth and depth of coverage of this many-faceted county in the seven volumes of the now-completed Inventory. This exhibition will accompany the launch of Argyll 7 in 1992.

By September, it was decided that the move to Bernard Terrace was as definite as it is possible for such things to be. A small party was held on September 19 to celebrate this landmark in our progress and to welcome and thank members of the Design Team, that is, representatives from J & F Johnstone, Architects, Harley Haddow, Consultant Engineers, and Crichton Lang of McAlpine Lang Developments Ltd, as well as representatives of PSA Projects.

A Working Party was set up in November 1990 to consider the reorganisation of the NMRS Library and as a consequence reorganisation of the library classification-system, a new book-ordering system and security system have been introduced. A temporary library assistant is currently implementing the reorganisation of the library, which should be well advanced prior to the move to Bernard Terrace.

Finally, to turn to our most precious asset, our staff. Among the many extramural achievements of staff employed by the Commission, we were particularly glad to hear that the post-graduate labours of two of their number, Sally Foster and Ian Smith, had culminated in the award of a Ph.D. The office also derives enormous satisfaction from the award of an OBE to Kitty Cruft, as apt and well-deserved a recognition of her work in the wider world of architectural recording and preservation, as being made, a little earlier, an honorary fellow of the Royal Incorporation of Architects of Scotland. We were all saddened, however, by the early retirement, on grounds of ill-health, of Muriel Isbister, Personal Assistant to the Secretary. Jim Davidson and Ian Scott, whose dedicated work in the NMRS and the Drawing Office respectively has been a major contribution to the success of the Commission in these areas, have also retired over the past year. Our thanks and good wishes for a long and happy retirement go to all of them.

To staff who continue with us I offer my best thanks for their unstinted dedication to their tasks in a time of inevitable change with some measure of consequent disruption. That the Commission continues to prosper and develop depends wholly upon their effort and is the best witness of that effort.

Roger J Mercer

FINANCE

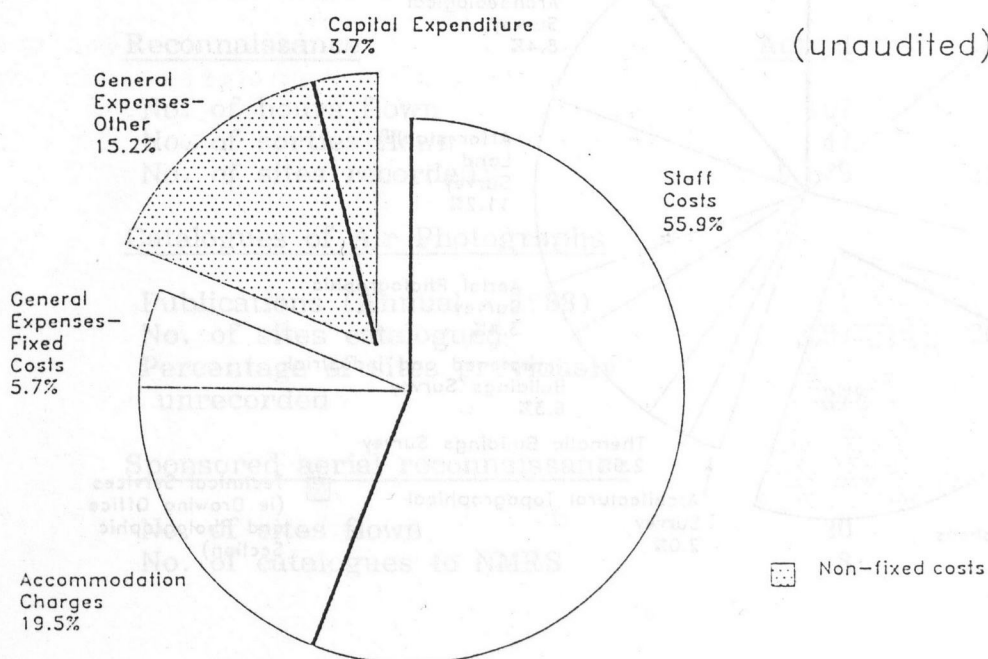
As a Non Departmental Public Body, the Royal Commission is sponsored by Historic Scotland, an Executive Agency of the Scottish Office (formerly known as the Historic Buildings and Monuments Directorate of the Scottish Development Department), and funded by the Treasury from the Scottish Office Administration Vote.

Gross income for the year (including VAT) totalled £10,930 (1989/90: £14,935) generated by the sale of photographs and copyright, publications, etc.

Unaudited gross expenditure for the year (including VAT) was £1,779,847, excluding £40,000 paid as the first instalment of design fees in respect of the Commission's relocation to Bernard Terrace in 1991/92 (1989/90: £1,515,348). Actual expenditure, excluding relocation costs, is analysed in the two financial summary tables below and illustrated in the pie-charts.

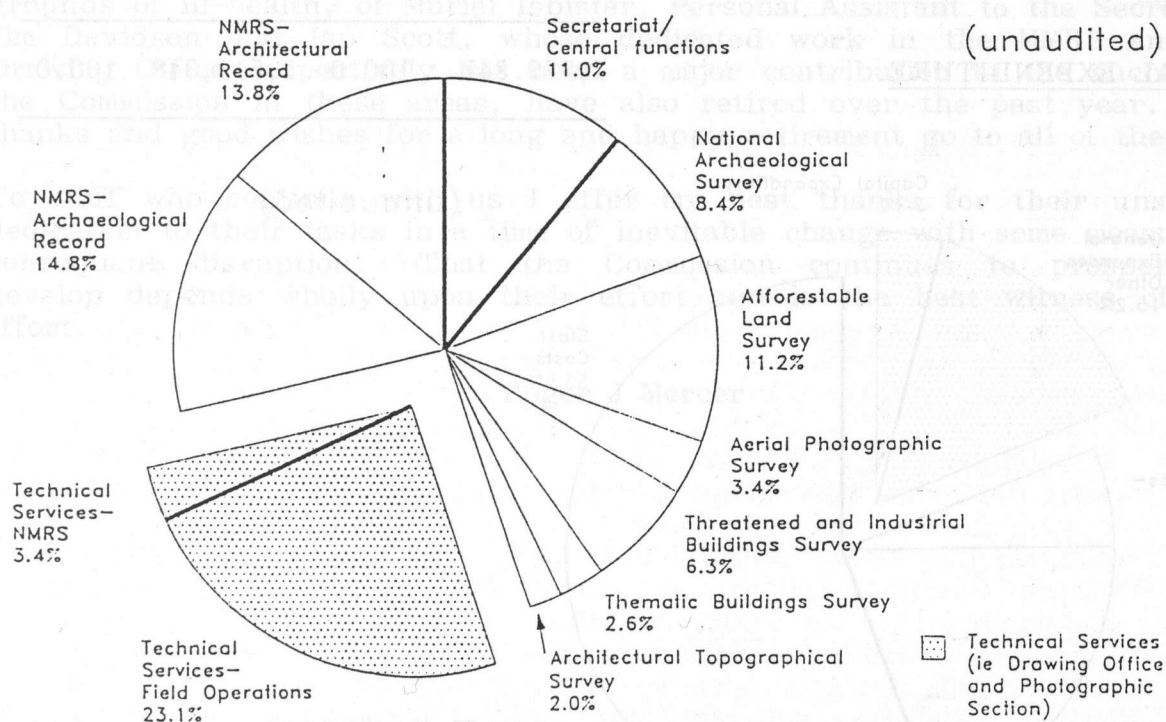
Actual Expenditure by Major Cost Head

	1990/91		1989/90	
	£	%	£	%
Staff Costs	995,323	55.9	831,359	54.9
Non Staff costs				
- Accommodation Charges	346,658	19.5	236,092	15.5
- General Expenses - Fixed Costs	102,034	5.7	88,853	5.9
<u>Fixed Costs</u>	1,444,015	81.1	1,156,304	76.3
- General Expenses - Other	269,573	15.2	298,598	19.7
<u>Current Expenditure</u>	1,713,588	96.3	1,454,902	96.0
<u>Capital Expenditure</u>	66,259	3.7	60,446	4.0
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	1,779,847	100.0	1,515,348	100.0



Actual Expenditure by Main Function

	1990/91		1989/90	
	£	%	£	%
Secretariat/Central Functions	195,800	11.0	175,103	11.6
Field Operations				
- National Archaeological Survey	148,816	8.4	146,645	9.7
- Afforestation Land Survey	199,384	11.2	181,857	12.0
- Aerial Photographic Survey	59,760	3.4	50,701	3.3
- Threatened & Industrial Blds Survey	112,900	6.3	77,130	5.1
- Thematic Buildings Survey	46,961	2.6	45,085	3.0
- Architectural Topographical Survey	35,975	2.0	38,594	2.5
- Technical Services	411,240	23.1	347,413	22.9
	1,015,036	57.0	887,425	58.5
NMRS				
- Archaeological Record	263,538	14.8	216,557	14.3
- Architectural Record	245,832	13.8	184,411	12.2
- Technical Services	59,641	3.4	51,852	3.4
	569,011	32.0	452,820	29.9
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,779,847	100.0	1,515,348	100.0



TARGETS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS, APRIL 1990-MARCH 1991

Archaeology Division

a. National Archaeological Survey

INVENTORY	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Estimated</u>
North-east Perth		
Inventory published	1	1
Annandale		
Total number of sites	545	-
Transfer Documents complete	450	300
Sites discovered	291	-
Area fieldworked	c.450sq km	360sq km
South-east Perth		
Antiquity Models	26	-

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP REVISION

Area completed	25sq km	108sq km
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SPECIAL SURVEY

Surveys completed	2	1
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b. Afforestable Land Survey

No. of sq km surveyed	480	775
No. of sites discovered	387*	620
No. of transfer documents	608*	not est.
No. of sq km planned at 1:2,500	60	not est.

*The Waternish survey is not immediately accountable in these two categories. The survey may be quantified in terms of some 1,480 individual structures recorded into a data base for transmission to the NMRS.

c. Aerial Photographic Survey

<u>Reconnaissance</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Estimated</u>
No. of hours flown	107	40-140
No. of sorties flown	47	15-55
No. of sites recorded	1,079	200-1,000

Catalogues of Air Photographs

Publications (Annual - 1988)	1	1
No. of sites catalogued	1,127	200-1,000
Percentage of sites previously unrecorded	37%	15-30%

Sponsored aerial reconnaissance

No. of sites flown	20	7-25
No. of catalogues to NMRS	8	7-25

Transcriptions

No. of sites for:

<u>Historic Scotland</u>	37	not est.
<u>NE Fife project</u>	120	not est.

Architecture Division

a. Topographical Survey

Inventory of Argyll, vol. 7

Master copy of text page-layout, with illustrations and captions ready for transcription to HMSO end of March 1991; final preliminary pages and computerised Index-copy nearing completion.

<u>District Photographic Surveys</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Estimated</u>
Buildings surveys completed	250	260

b. Thematic Survey

Buildings surveys completed	25	40
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c. Threatened Buildings and Industrial Survey

Buildings surveys requisitioned/ completed	379	360
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- Detailed performance figures:

Notifications received of applications to demolish or partly demolish listed buildings	163
Notifications received of the granting of Listed Building Consent for demolition or part demolition	42
Notifications received from all sources other than the two above entries	167
Threatened Buildings surveys requisitioned (including subjects under long-term threat)	379
Industrial subjects included in the preceding entry	121
Record Sheets completed	99
Survey photographs checked, captioned and made ready for transfer to NMRS	2,027
Ditto survey drawings	72
Colour slides transferred to NMRS slide cabinets	503

National Monuments Record of Scotland

Income £10,603

<u>Accessions</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Estimated</u>
Photographs	16,775	
Prints and Drawings	716	
Manuscripts (including Record Sheets)	634	
Books and Periodicals	626	
OS Maps	78	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	18,908	20,000
No. of items accrued	26,000	35,000
Visitors' requests (personal, telephone or correspondence)	13,336	12,500
Public orders for photographic reproduction	386	400
(No. of prints)	(4,691)	(3,000)
No. of maps revised at request of OS (all scales)	n.a.	480
No. of items conserved	386	170
Items issued on loan	2,611	not estimated
Photocopies and computer print- outs	6,143	not estimated

The **Photographic Section** and the **Drawing Office**, who translate the results of surveys and data-gathering into photographic and graphic form, have not been required to provide separate long-term forward-estimates of performance for inclusion in Corporate Plan statements. Quantification of actual achievements in both areas is, however, carried out for the purpose of internal monitoring.

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