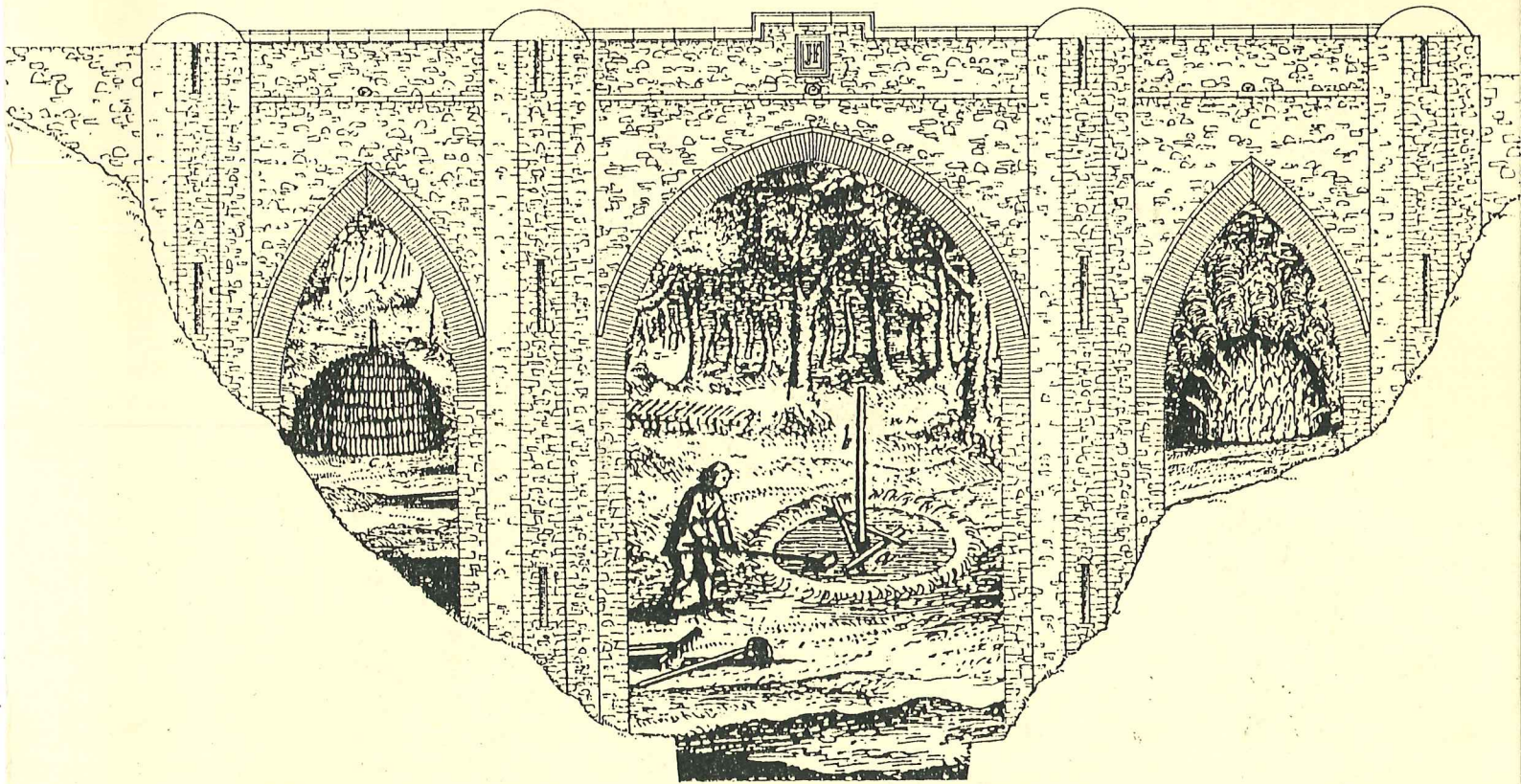Royal
Commission on the
Ancient and
Historical
Monuments of
Scotland

Excursion Guide

Commissioners' Field Excursion, Argyll, 7–9 May 1990

COMMISSIONERS' FIELD EXCURSION, ARGYLL, 7-9 MAY 1990

EXCURSION GUIDE

ITINERARY

MONDAY 7 MAY	10.00	Coach departs Melville Street to Creggans via Stirling
	12.45	Lunch at Creggans Inn
	14.00	Depart Creggans
	c.14.20	Strathlachlan
	14.30	Arrive Old Castle Lachlan
	15.30	Leave for tea at New Castle Lachlan
	16.30	Leave for Lephinchapel charcoal stances
	17.30	Leave for Kilfinan Church
	18.00	Arrive Kilfinan Church
	19.45	Dinner at Kilfinan Hotel
	c.21.15	Exhibition in Lamont Room

Tuesday 8 May	08.00	Breakfast
	09.15	Depart Kilfinan
	10.30	Arrive Glen Shira; description of Blarone township and Dubh Loch Bridge; to Maam Steading
	11.45	Arrive Inveraray Cross; walk by Fernpoint and Factory Land to Courthouse; return to coach c.12.10
	12.30	Arrive Auchindrain Township; picnic lunch, brief tour of museum
	13.20	Depart Auchindrain for Furnace
	14.00	Depart for Inveraray Estate
	14.30	Arrive Cherry Park; depart for Maltland
		Depart Maltland for Castle, walk to Garden Bridge, walk through Castle gardens, viewing Tiree Cross
	16.30	Depart Inveraray
	17.30	Arrive Strachur House; reception by Mr Charles MacLean
	18.30	Depart Strachur for Kilfinan Hotel
	20.00	Dinner at Kilfinan Hotel

Wednesday 9 May	08.00	Breakfast
	09.30	Commissioners' Meeting
	12.45	Lunch
	14.00	Depart Kilfinan
	c.18.00	Arrive Edinburgh
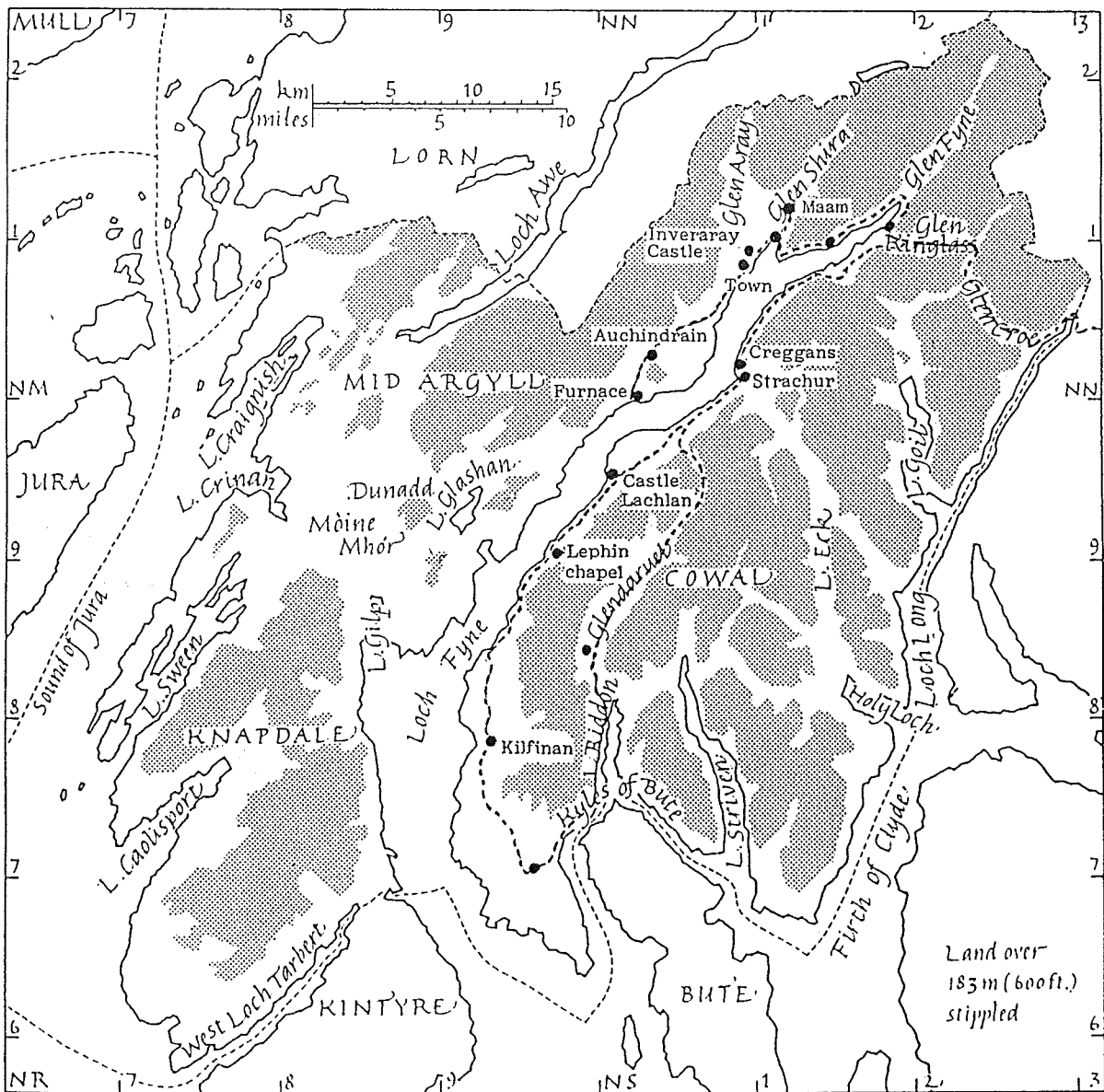
Introduction

With the publication of the seventh volume of the <u>Inventory of Argyll</u> in 1990 one of the largest projects undertaken by the Commission reaches its conclusion. The former county of Argyll, one of the most extensive in Scotland (3,213 sq miles), has been the subject of systematic fieldwork and research since the early 1960s. When the first volume, <u>Kintyre</u>, was published in 1971 only one of the present complement of Commissioners, Professor Duncan, had been appointed (1969); whilst of the present staff, only G B Quick, I G Scott and S Scott were major contributors, with G S Maxwell, J N G Ritchie, I Fisher, J Keggie and Muriel Isbister making more limited contributions. It is particularly appropriate to record the sustained support of Mr Quick, Mr I G Scott and Mr S Scott throughout all subsequent volumes, the standards of book-production, illustration and survey being largely within their hands. The work of editing the volumes and the oversight of the survey programme has been borne in part by two secretaries, K A Steer and J G Dunbar assisted by A LacLaren, G S Maxwell, I Fisher and J N G Ritchie. Many other colleagues have taken part in the field-survey and have assisted in the preparation of illustrations and text, at the same time as undertaking many other duties. Few other joint archaeological and architectural projects, initiated over thirty years ago, can have enjoyed the dedicated participation of such a professional team; a small exhibition to celebrate the completion of the survey has been prepared in order to highlight some of the major contributions to archaeological and architectural research in Scotland. These include the recording of cup-and-ring marked stones by I G Scott, J N Stevenson and J B Stevenson; the corpus of Early Christian and medieval carved stones undertaken by K A Steer, I Fisher and I G Scott; the elucidation of medieval fortifications by J G Dunbar, I Fisher and G P Stell, and rural and industrial survey supervised by G D Hay and G P Stell.

Lochfyneside

The Commissioners' visit to Lochfyneside, the core area of the sixth and seventh volumes of the <u>Inventory</u>, covering the monuments of Mid Argyll to the west and Cowal to the east, allows us to explore some of the characteristic topographical areas of mainland Argyll, for although Inveraray is situated on a sea-loch, it is some 55 km from the Firth of

Clyde. The loch is a glacially-formed fjord, deeply funnelled by ice moving from the Moor of Rannoch; the raised beaches and the outwash fans created where the rivers and streams run into the loch were important areas of settlement from earliest times, thus the pockets of good land have been the focus of settlement from the earliest agricultural communities to the present day. Many early remains have been swept away by the builders of medieval castles or the improving landowners of the eighteenth century. At Strachur and Inveraray, however, Bronze Age standing stones remain within the landscaped policies, perhaps in conscious respect for the past and past ownership; in the same way some archaeologists imagine that the chambered cairns of the neolithic make a statement about ancestral rights to land. The pseudo-castellation of several eighteenth-century houses will be mentioned in the course of our excursion.

It is appropriate that both sides of Loch Fyne are to be visited, for the topography of each shore complements the other. Whereas the slopes of Mid Argyll topple steeply to the lochside, as between Tarbert and Inverneil, the shore of Cowal is gentle and fertile; where the coast of Cowal is unwelcoming, as between Otter Ferry and Strathlachlan, the opposite shore has more fertile pockets. In archaeological terms the two shores must be seen together, for example the distribution patterns of chambered cairns illustrated in Argyll 6. The loch was the principal means of access until the construction of military roads in the eighteenth century, and the neolithic farmers of the fourth millennium BC and the iron founders of the eighteenth century AD made full use of water transport.

This field visit is intended to allow current problem areas to be discussed by Commissioners, and there are two areas where volumes six and seven are not without their critics: archaeoastronomy and the controversy surrounding charcoal-burning platforms. The party will look across to Brainport Bay, Minard, where a series of artificial platforms have been excavated and several boulders and slabs accorded the status of standing stones. In preparing the account of this site, a balance was attempted between dismissing the interpretation of these features as a prehistoric 'observatory' (for this is, indeed, a permissable interpretation) and accepting the excavators' interpretation without reservation. In the absence of detailed, (and ultimately fruitless?) rebuttal of the thesis that

prehistoric man may have undertaken astronomical observation over many years, Inventory style presentation of such archaeological problems is perhaps less than satisfactory.

The Commission's investigators also found themselves in a difficult position over charcoal-burning platforms, for although there seems little doubt that this is what the majority of the circular stances recessed into the hillslope are (and we shall see examples at Lephinchapel), excavations by Miss E B Rennie, a Dunoon-based amateur archaeologist, have suggested a variety of different interpretations, and a greater range of date, than might be expected from the documentary evidence. In the absence of independent research, the account in Argyll 7, which sets out to be a balanced consideration, will probably please no-one. The Lephinchapel platforms also raise the question of how we should be addressing recommendations of 'monuments worthy of preservation'. As with townships and shielings, only representative charcoal-burning platform complexes are included in the 25th Report as 'worthy of preservation'; future archaeological surveys will be more comprehensive in their recommendations, and it is to be hoped that such complexes will, at least, be planned to mapping scales. Should such complexes be recommended for preservation? The field programme has been designed to underline the relationship between such monuments as charcoal-burning platforms, the Furnace, which depended on the product, and the houses of the landowners of the eighteenth century, part of whose economic base such sites represent. Similarly, in Glen Shira, the economic and social changes initiated by the improving Dukes of Argyll can be seen on the ground at, and in an important series of architectural plans for, the steading at Maam. The problem remains, however, to what extent can the Commission's scarce resources be directed towards a comprehensive survey of townships and shielings in other parts of Scotland? How far should RCAHMS seek to complement the information of estate maps and the OS 1st edition maps and Name Books? The Pre-afforestation Survey team will try to identify areas, even within Argyll, where survey of 'windows' within existing forests may help to preserve such features from future planting. Such considerations will also play a major part in the choice of future areas for the National Archaeological Survey. It is important to stress that the chronological limitations placed on the Inventory are not part of present survey approaches, with their emphasis on the preparation of a map-based index to what remains on the ground.

CAL110P2.009

Abbreviated titles

Inveraray   Ian G Lindsay and Mary Cosh, Inveraray and
                         the Dukes of Argyll, 1973.

Smith, Agricultural Survey   John Smith, General View of the Agriculture
                              of ...Argyll, 1798.

This excursion guide has been drawn together by J N G Ritchie and
I Fisher with the assistance of Mrs C Appleby, the typing skills of
Mrs C Allan and the support of the Drawing Office and the Photographic
Department. The layout has been undertaken by John Borland and the
cover has been designed by John Stevenson.

Note on the Cover Illustration

This shows the Gothic bridge of 1815 on the Dunans estate, Glendaruel
(elevation drawing by I G Parker, 1989), superimposed on an engraving
of charcoal-burning from the 1664 edition of John Evelyn's Sylva.
The sale by auction of woodcutting-rights on the adjacent Campbell of
Glendaruel estate to the Argyll Furnace Company is recorded in 1792 (see
below, Lephinchapel). In the 1670 edition of Sylva, Evelyn described his
correspondence with the Marquis of Argyll (d. 1661), who sent him seeds
of 'a most beautiful sort of Pine, growing upon the mountains (of
Scotland), which I have sown with tolerable success'.

The ruin of this late medieval castle surmounts a rocky knoll only a few metres above high-water level at the W end of a low promontory which projects from the E shore of Loch Fyne on the N side of the tidal Lachlan Bay. In 1314 Gilaspec MacLouchlan granted a rent from his lands of Kilbride beside 'Castlelachlan' by a charter dated at the castle, which probably stood on the existing site. It remained the residence of the chiefs of the MacLachlan family until about 1790, when the present Castle Lachlan was built in the valley of the Strathlachlan River 0.8km to the ENE (NS 013955).

The neck of the promontory, some 150m in width, is spanned by shallow ditches draining a marshy central area 35m NE of the castle, and there are slight remains of an angled drystone wall above the shore 25m to the NW. The age of these remains is uncertain, however, and other enclosures to the NW and NE of the castle, including a narrow tree-lined avenue, are probably of 18th- or 19th-century origin. A scarped platform bounded on the SE by a low turf-covered wall extends for some 8m from the landward or NE wall of the castle and continues beyond its N angle to a maximum length of 20m, but there was no apparent means of access from the castle, and their relationship is uncertain. The present approach is by an enclosed ramp of late 16th- or 17th-century date built against the SE wall, above a small boat-inlet on the rocky foreshore of Lachlan Bay. Although the site is exposed to the SW wind, boats could also be drawn up on small shingly beaches at both sides of the promontory, and there are traces of a possible building or boat-noost close to the shore 60m NE of the castle.

The castle comprises a quadrangular enclosure entered by a central archway in the SE wall and divided into two ranges by a narrow transverse corridor or courtyard. The plan of the enclosure with its obtuse N and W angles closely resembles that of Castle Sween, although on a smaller scale, and it may have been influenced by an earlier building on the site, but no remains of the castle recorded in 1314 can be identified. The curtain-wall is probably of early 15th-century date and a series of blocked openings indicates that the division into NE and SW ranges with differing floor-levels was an original one, although the existing internal structures may be dated to about 1500 by their elaborate

fireplaces, and the SW range, containing the principal hall, was probably widened at that period. The original plan, with its slightly larger courtyard, may be seen as a development of the late-medieval layout of castles such as Castle Sween and Innis Chonnell, with their large hall-ranges and private blocks, adapted to a confined site to produce a remarkable anticipation of the Renaissance plan of Drochil Castle (Peeblesshire). The two ranges are connected at the NW end of the courtyard by a narrow building incorporating a newel stair and a series of small rooms above a ground-floor well. This stair was linked, by corbelled timber galleries above the courtyard, to the first-floor doorway of the SW hall-range and to the principal floor of the NE range, whose floor-level was 1.5m higher because of the differing heights of their respective vaulted ground floors. Provision for firearm-defence was made in this early-16th-century phase, and musket-loops were added at wallhead-level and in the SE forework, probably at about the end of that century. Some alterations were made to the NW stair-tower at about that period, and in the NE range during the 17th or early 18th century. The castle was garrisoned by Campbell militiamen during the rebellions of 1715 and 1745, in which the MacLachlans supported the Jacobite cause, but an engraving of about 1790 shows that only the NE range was still roofed at the time when the new house was being built. The N and S angles collapsed some time after 1830, and the walls were extensively repointed, many openings being blocked, shortly before MacGibbon and Ross surveyed the building about 1890.

medieval   late 16th century   later
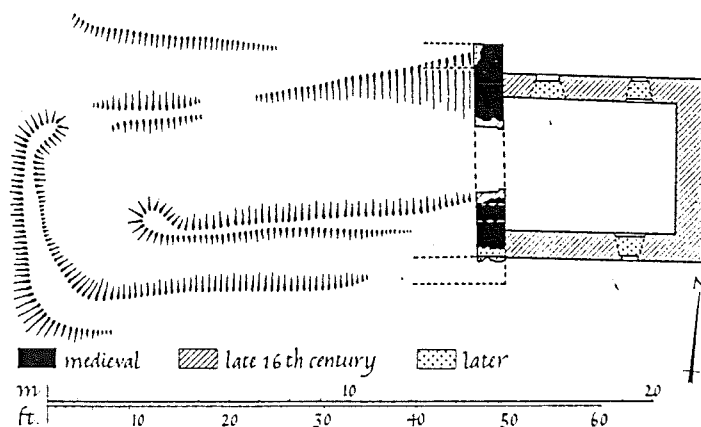
Kilmorie, Strathlachlan: Old parish church

CASTLE LAUCHLAN.

third floor

first floor

hall

site of gallery

entresol

entresol

second floor

upper part of hall

site of gallery

site of gallery

ground floor

courtyard

well

kitchen

B

B

A

A

N
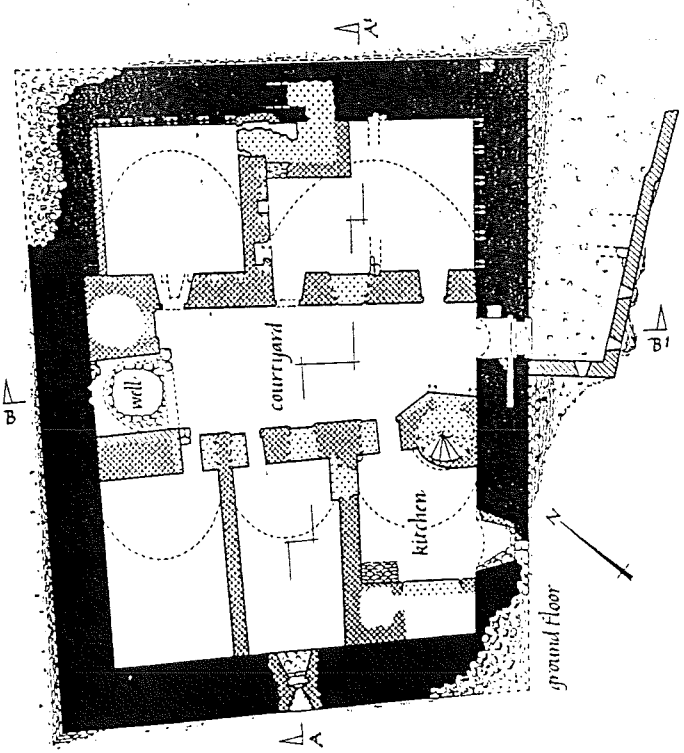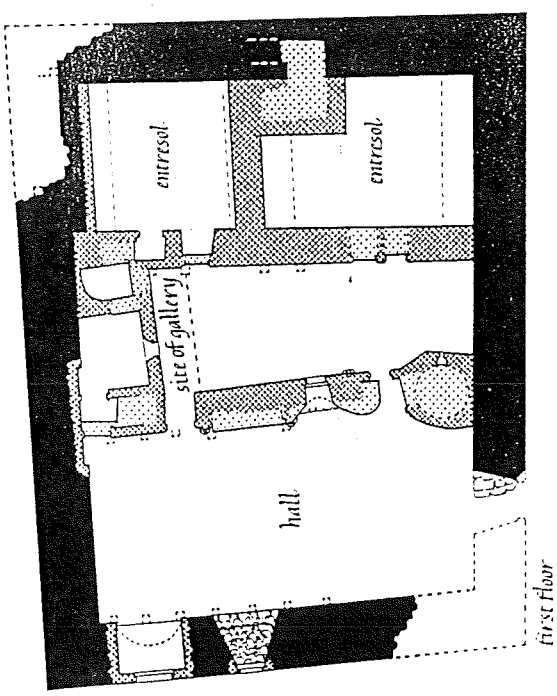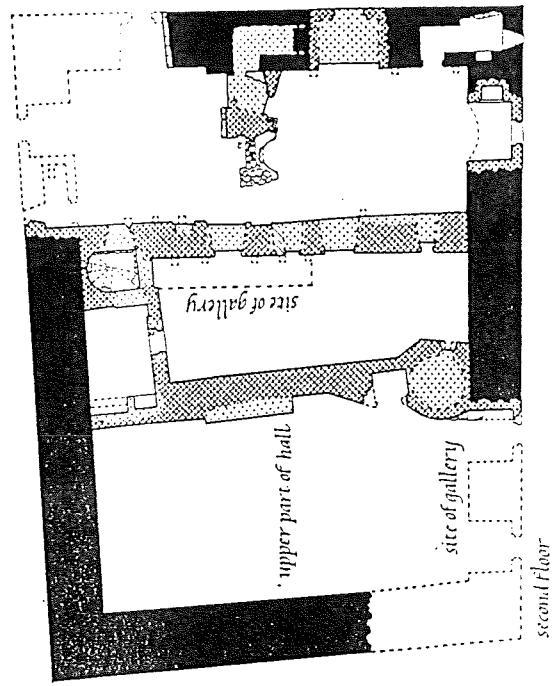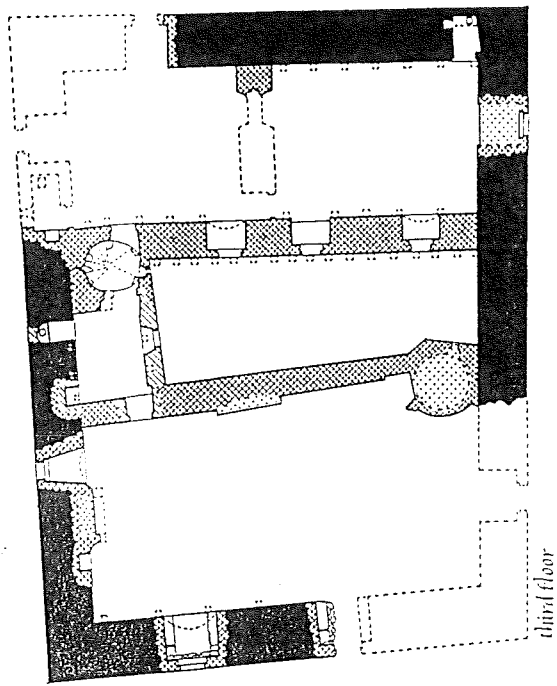
early 15th century
c.1500
late 16th and early 17th century
late 19th century

ft.

10   10   20   30   40   50   60   70

Old Castle Lachlan

Old Castle Lachlan: Musket loops at wallhead

interior

plan

section

exterior

Old Castle Lachlan: Hall fireplace
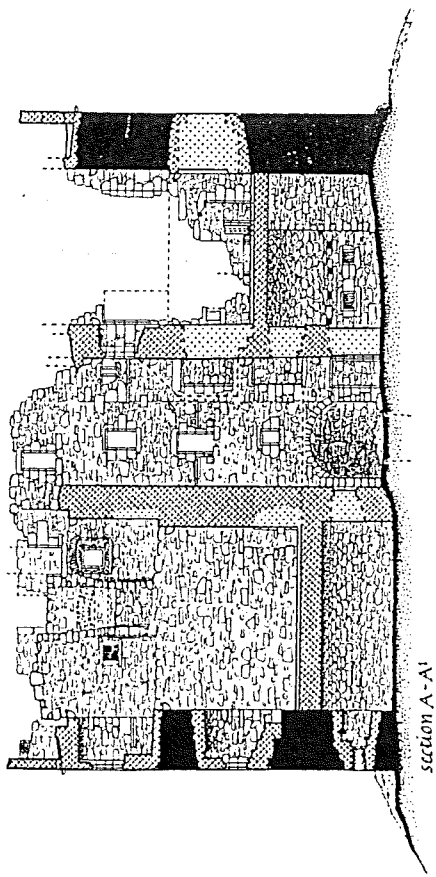
section A-A¹

section B-B¹

Old Castle Lachlan: Sections
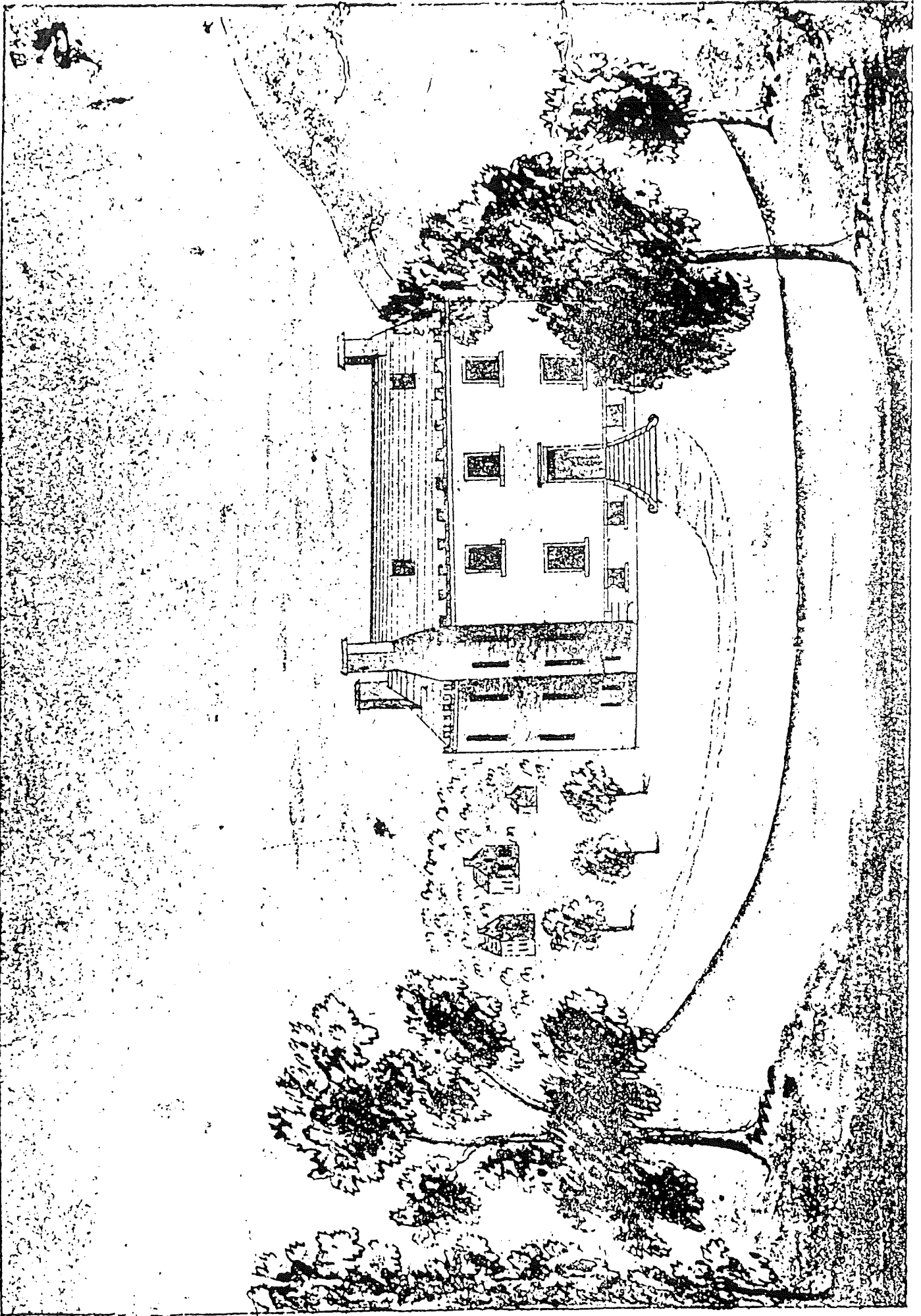
New Castle Lachlan, 1792 (vignette on estate plan)

The remains of this chapel are situated in arable ground 40m from the E shore of Loch Fyne and 250m WNW of Lephinchapel farmhouse. To the N of the chapel there is an uncultivated area measuring about 13m by 15m, but no enclosing wall or grave-markers could be identified at the date of visit. The chapel measures about 6.5m from ESE to WNW by 3.8m within turf-grown walls about 1m in thickness. Field-clearance material has been piled on the S and W walls, but a short length of drystone masonry is visible in the outer face of the W wall. The entrance may be marked by a slight depression in the mound forming the N wall. The name Lephinchapel is first recorded in 1663, and the original dedication is unknown.
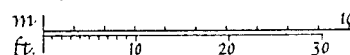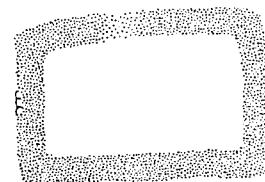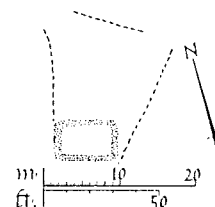
The hillsides of Mid Argyll and Cowal, especially those facing sea-lochs, contain many groups of charcoal-burning stances or pitsteads, circular platforms which are partly excavated into the slope and often stone-revetted on the downslope side. These belong to a class found elsewhere in Britain and resemble examples in Lorn, Mull and North Argyll which correspond to the descriptions by early visitors of charcoal-burning and whose distribution matches the documented woodland-purchases of the Lorn Furnace Company. The timber resources of the area were carefully assessed before the Argyll Furnace was established in 1754, and thereafter the semi-natural woodlands were exploited, under a strictly-controlled coppice-rotation of about twenty years, by both furnace companies, and latterly by the gunpowder works. Even in the heyday of the Argyll Furnace, charcoal from the opposite shore of Loch Fyne was being exported to England as well as to the furnace.

A recent programme of selective excavation on platforms has shown that a longer time-span than was formerly proposed should be considered and that a multiplicity of functions is possible. Some features, such as stake-holes, may be interpreted as supports in the careful building of the wooden stack, or structural timbers for the charcoal-burners' shacks or store-buildings, often constructed on an unused stance, while others may have belonged to wind-breaks such as that shown in Diderot's engraving. The structures associated with charcoal-burning are rarely mentioned in notices of sale, but in the articles of roup of woods on the Glendaruel estate in 1792 the purchaser was to have 'the usual liberties of making saw pits, coal hearths, pit steads and cabbins for coaling, and of building temporary store houses upon convenient and proper places for holding barks and coals', and the woodlands were divided into three large blocks, each to be cut in a specified year. The preference for well-drained 'bottoms' which had already been used previously may account for some of the finds of early pottery from pitsteads.
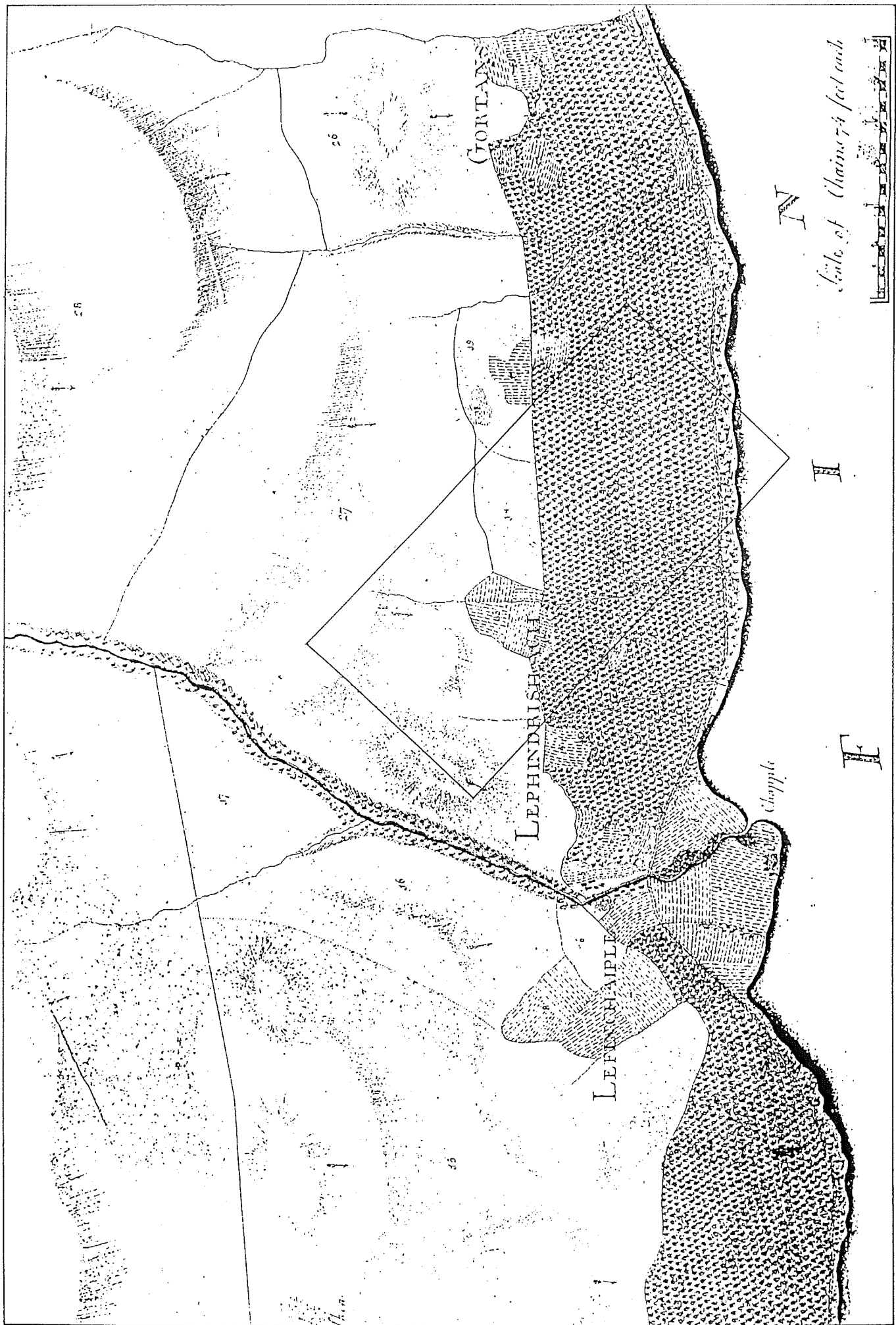
Lephinchapel
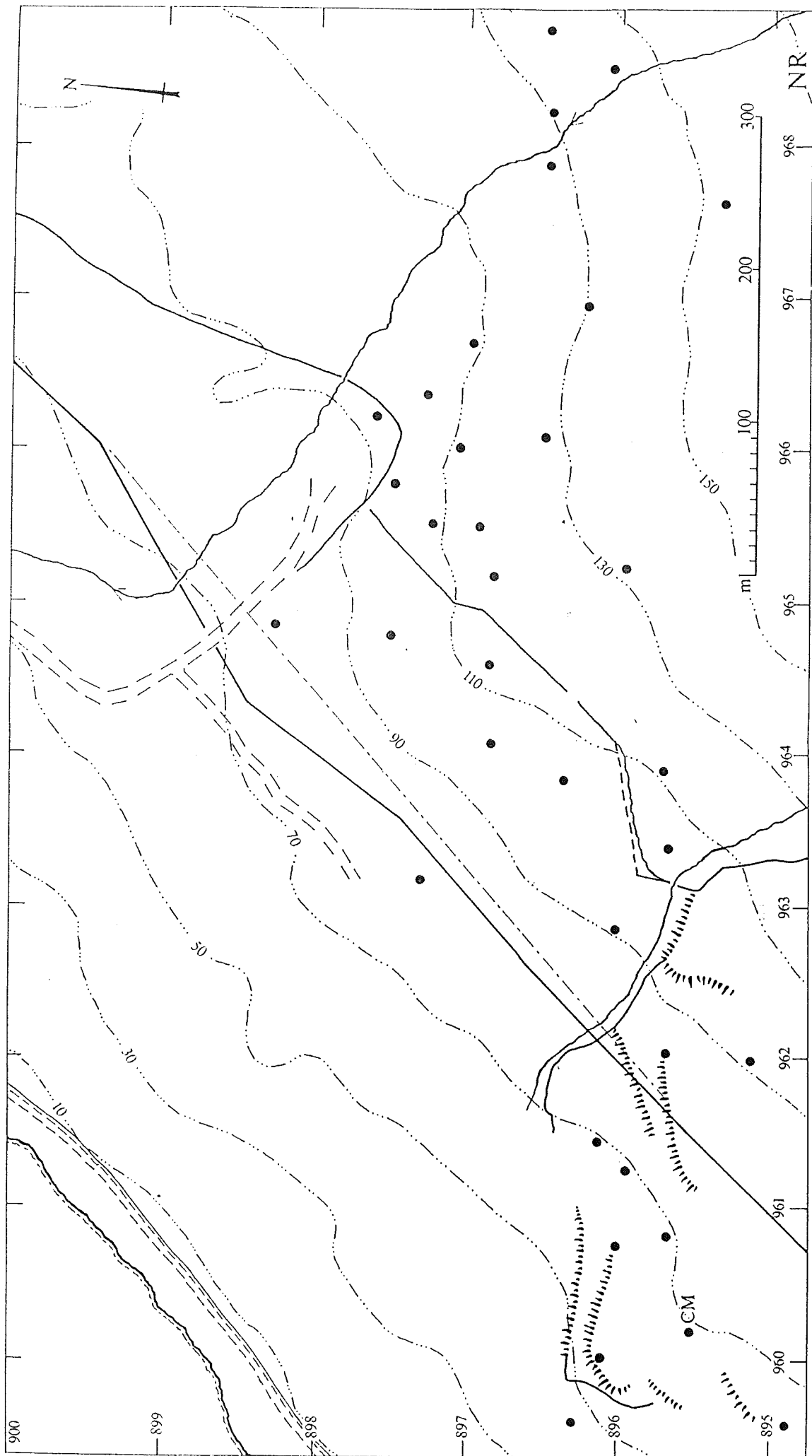
Lephinchapel: Charcoal-burning stances

Extensive alterations were undertaken in 1759 ('repaired, or almost re-built') and 1882 (J Honeyman, architect), but comparison of the narrow rectangular plan with other early 13th-century churches suggests that Kilfinan incorporates remains of the church granted to Paisley Abbey by an ancestor of the Lamonts c. 1230-40. If so, along with Lochgoilhead (Cowal), it is one of only two medieval parish churches still used for worship in Argyll. The Lamont N burial-aisle of 1633 may be a remodelling of a late medieval chapel (cf Killean, Kintyre).

The collection of carved stones in the Lamont aisle includes three Early Christian cross-marked stones, one of them a massive double-sided slab with snake-and-boss and animal ornament (?9th or 10th century). Most of the medieval graveslabs, now very worn, belong to the Loch Awe school, as does a large broken cross with an inscription HEC EST CRUX PATRICII MAC NELUS ('This is the cross of Patrick MacNeilage'). Two elaborate Lamont family monuments (1706, 1712) are located in the aisle, and other characteristic 18th-century monuments may be seen in the churchyard.

? early 13th century, rebuilt 1759   ? late medieval, rebuilt 1633
1759   1881-2 and later
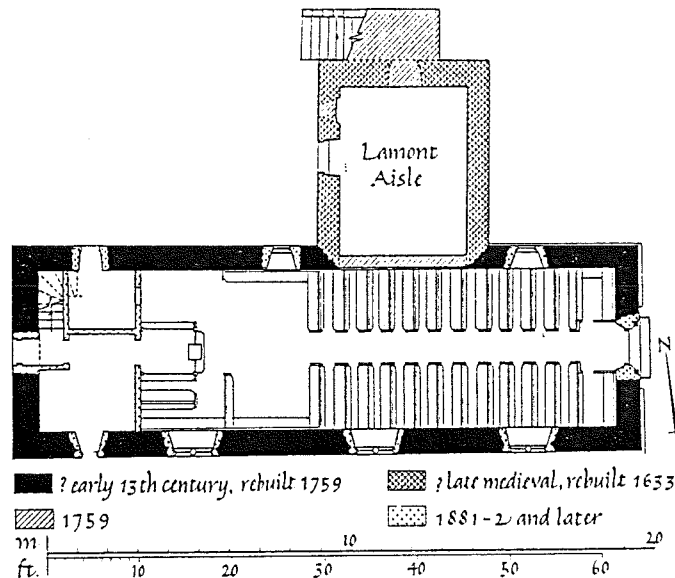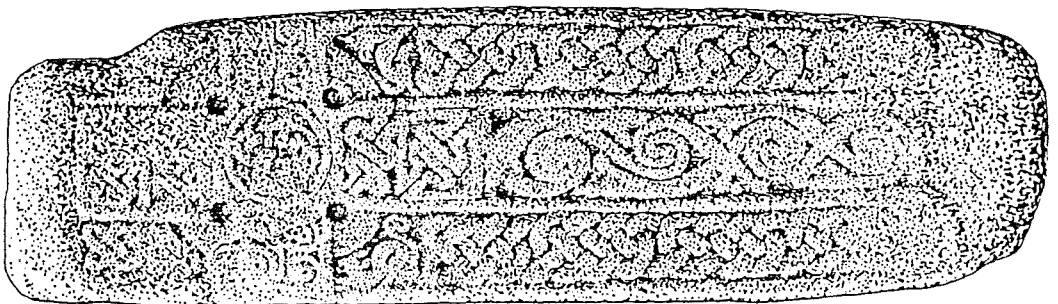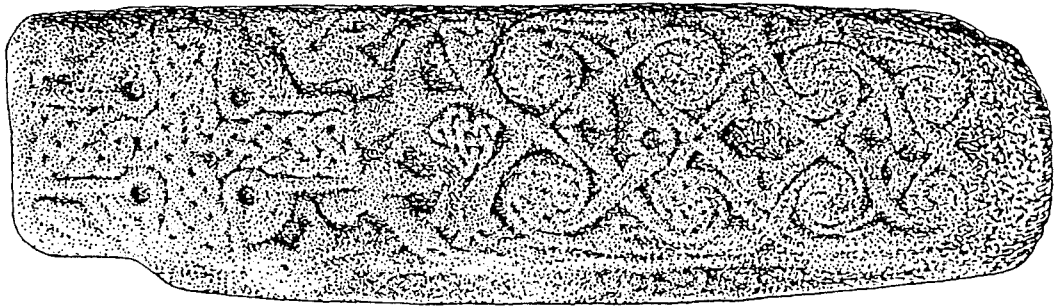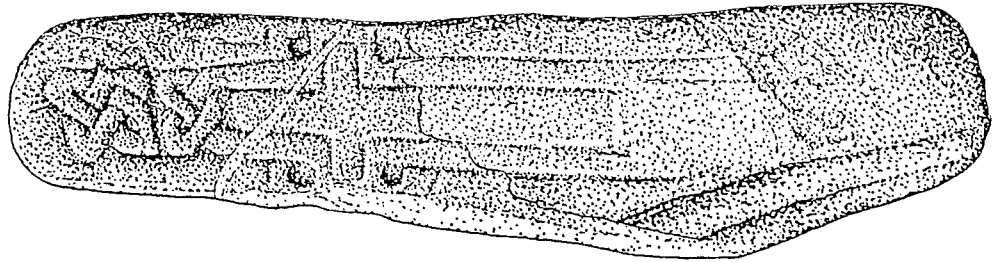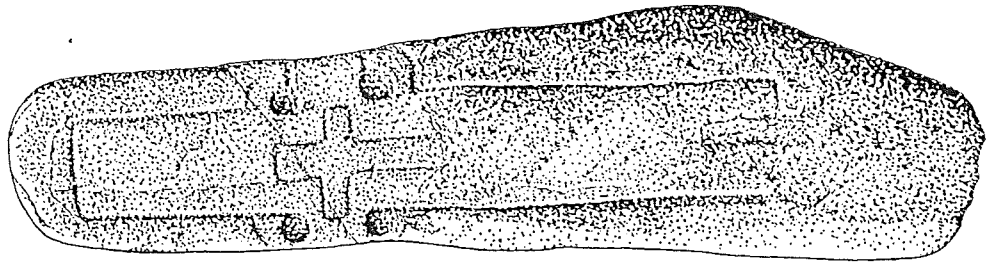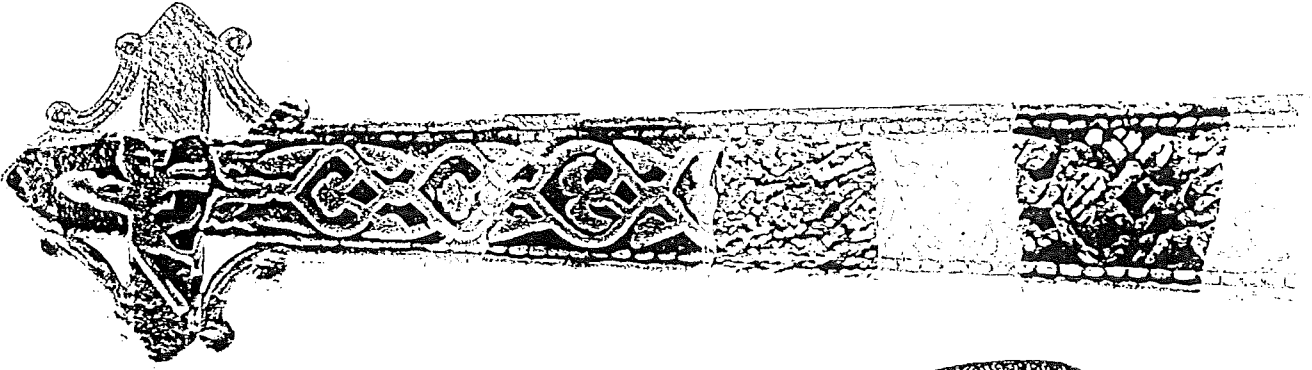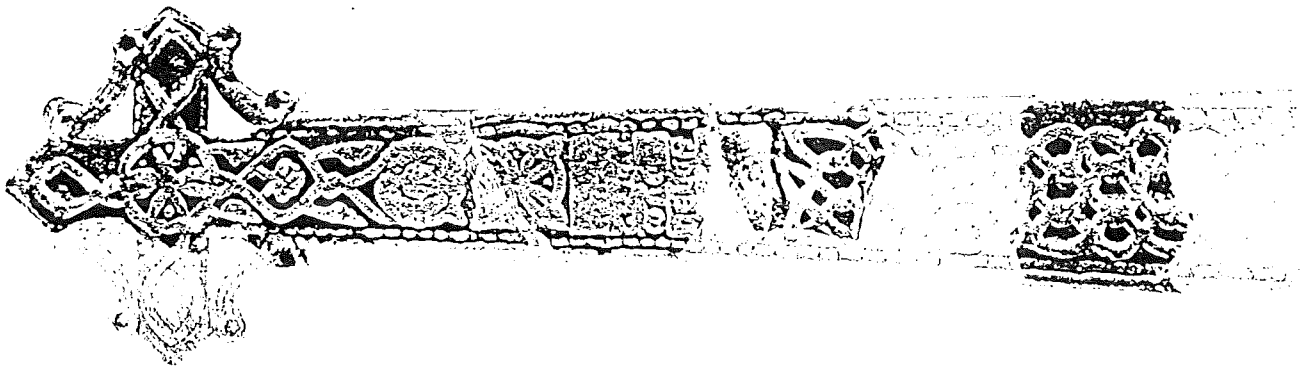
Kilfinan

A cruciform stone, 1m high, stands at an elevation of 315m above the head of Loch Fyne, 1.4km from the medieval church site at Clachan. A tradition was recorded in 1871 that it was erected by the people of Glen Shira when they worshipped at Clachan, on the first spot from which the church could be seen. At the centre of each face there is an equal-armed cross with rounded terminals.
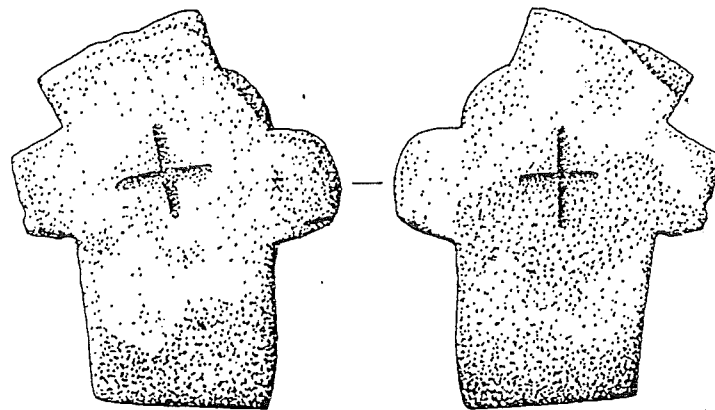
Glen Shira

This typical Highland glen presented a 'classic' pre-improvement farming landscape, with long-established families living in small townships on or at the foot of the valley-sides, and numerous shielings in the upland area to the W, until 1750 when the area was transformed by the 3rd and 5th Dukes of Argyll. The 'Boshang' (Beau Champ) or Deer Park at the mouth of the glen had already been enclosed and an avenue planted before 1720, and in the 1750s a massive wall, the Garadh Crom ('crooked dyke'), was built at an average elevation of 100m OD from the Garron Bridge to Kilblaan. On the E side it is accompanied by a carriage-road with some well-built bridges, and on the W it formed the upper limit of extensive woodland. The Dubh Loch (site of a MacNaughton castle and adjoining crannog) provided a rental of trout to Inveraray, and nearby 'Fowlers' houses' are marked on mid-18th-century maps. A large boathouse, recently re-roofed, was built here in 1751-2. The winding river was canalised from Maam to the loch, and a two-arched bridge at Kilblaan (1760-8) was followed by Robert Mylne's castellated Dubh Loch bridge (1786-7), which opened the glen to visitors. Its successful improvement was marked by the erection of major farm buildings at Elrigbeag and Maam. The valley-bottom was used for hay-growing and the lower slope as pasture for the estate's celebrated Highland Cattle, and N of Maam there was also arable farming.

'Blarone' ('Blairowin') Township, Glen Shira   NN 122114

Small settlement, with two tenants in 1643 Hearth-tax record, situated 100m above valley-bottom on E slope of Glen Shira. Substantial stone footings of several buildings and corn-drying kiln. In 1750 no rent paid to Argyll Estate because 'under his Grace's stock of cattle', and new park boundary-dyke (Garadh Crom) built above settlement in 1752.
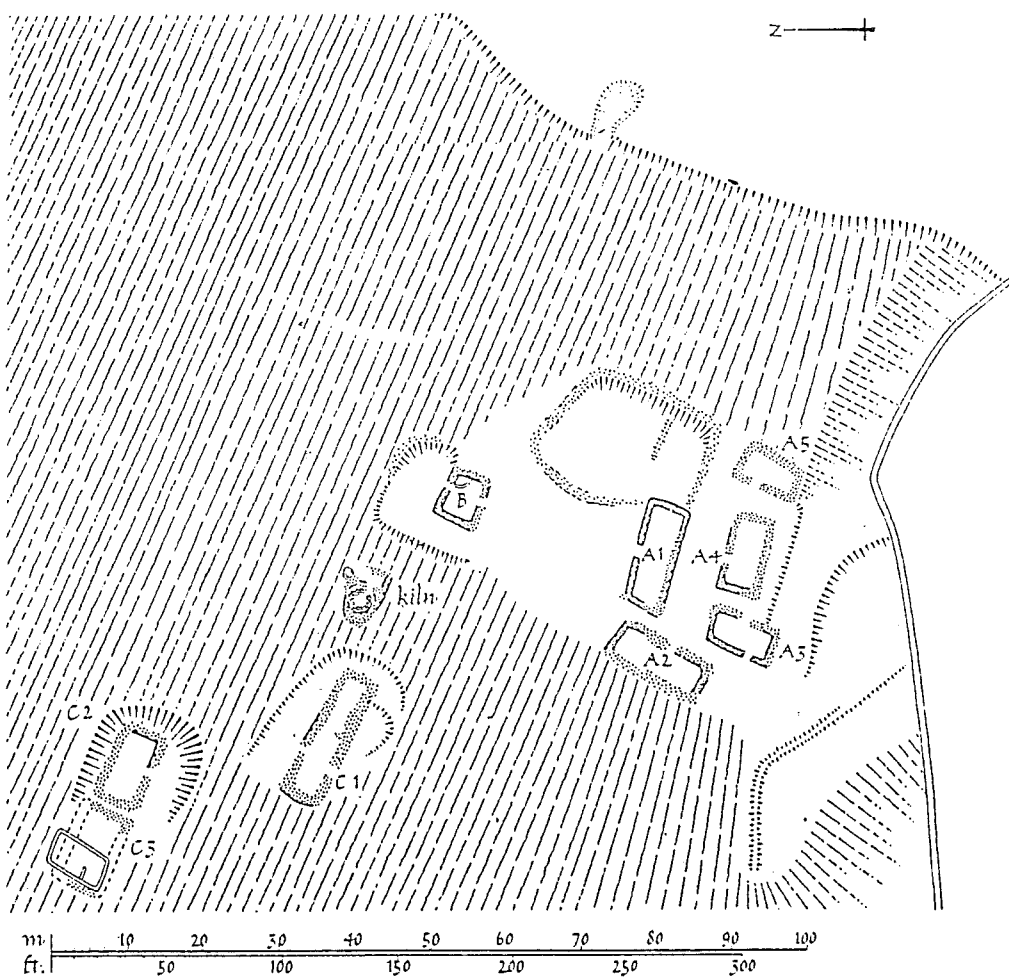
Blarone Township

As constructed, this steading is half of an intended circle, placed in the valley-bottom to catch the winds for hay-drying. The old MacKellar township of Maam lay at the foot of the slope W of the existing farmhouse, but is not listed in the estate census of 1779. A series of drawings and occasional diary entries by Robert Mylne show the development of his design in the two years before its partial execution in 1787-9 (John Tavish, mason), and his extensive annotations of two drawings (A, C) probably record discussions with the 5th Duke of Argyll. In the first scheme the emphasis was on the rectangular courtyard-farm at the centre of a ring of great diameter but probably modest height, but the outer ring was later elaborated and took over most of the functions of the central block. An important feature was an intended tea-room for visitors to the glen. Although the foundations of the entire circle were visible until the 1960s, it was only the N half that was built, with its central barn and wings containing cattle-sheds in the inner, and drying-sheds in the outer, zone. The system of raised slatted floors for spreading and turning the hay, earlier used at the Fisherland and Maltland barns, is shown in an engraving (Smith, Agricultural Survey). The arcaded openings were filled by louvres of the type still preserved in the rectangular barn of 1793 at Elrigbeag (NN 136145), and sheaves of grain could be suspended from pegs to dry in the current of air. Wooden pinnacles were originally added to the central barn and the 'temporary' end-facades of the wings.

An 1806 plan shows a lime-kiln ('Braco Kiln') W of the steading, and a winding track can still be traced to the limestone-quarry beside a later sheepfold high above the valley (NN 116135).

Development of the Maam scheme

In July 1784 Mylne sent the 5th Duke of Argyll 'a small plan for farm buildings in Glen Shira', which may have related to Maam. The extant drawings are:

(A) Plan in NMRS. Circle of 91m diameter with four entrances at cardinal points, divided by radial walls into four yards, one for cows and one for stables. Four single-width barns at centres of quadrants, flanked by sheds. Central rectangle round 18m by 15m court contains stables, granaries, dairy, bailiff's house and large tea-room. Notes by Mylne include: 'Window tax to be considered'; 'Octagon or Hexagon'; 'Great barn Maltland to be considered as a model'; and 'Tea-room (? above) stair, to have an extensive prospect'.

(B) Plan in NMRS. Circle reduced to 60m, gates at E and W, double-width barns at N and S; perimeter sheds in E yard for cows, poultry and fuel, in W yard for stables and carts. Central building cruciform, two-storeyed with crenellated central tower; lobbies and stairs in angles give overall octagon plan; tea-room presumably on upper floor.

(C) Plan and elevation in Argyll Muniments (Inveraray, fig. 81). Circle generally resembles (B), but sheds deeper. Central building and cross-wall omitted, but some features, including tea-room, in building which replaced S barn. Copious notes by Mylne perhaps record a meeting with the Duke of Argyll in May 1786. Pencil alterations include external bow fronts of N and S blocks, spine-walls and continuous arcades in sheds. Elevation shows outer wall crenellated, S block with tall spire.

(D) Engraving in Smith, Agricultural Survey (Inveraray, fig. 82). Incorporates pencil additions to (C). S block has two flanking towers, probably circular tea-room on upper floor. Crenellated parapet in N barn and gateways, but arcaded sheds have overhanging eaves.

(E) Engravings in Smith, Agricultural Survey. Plan and elevation of N half as built, with plan and explanation of slatted upper floor.
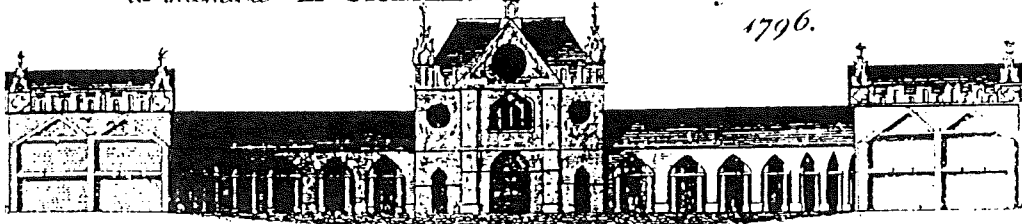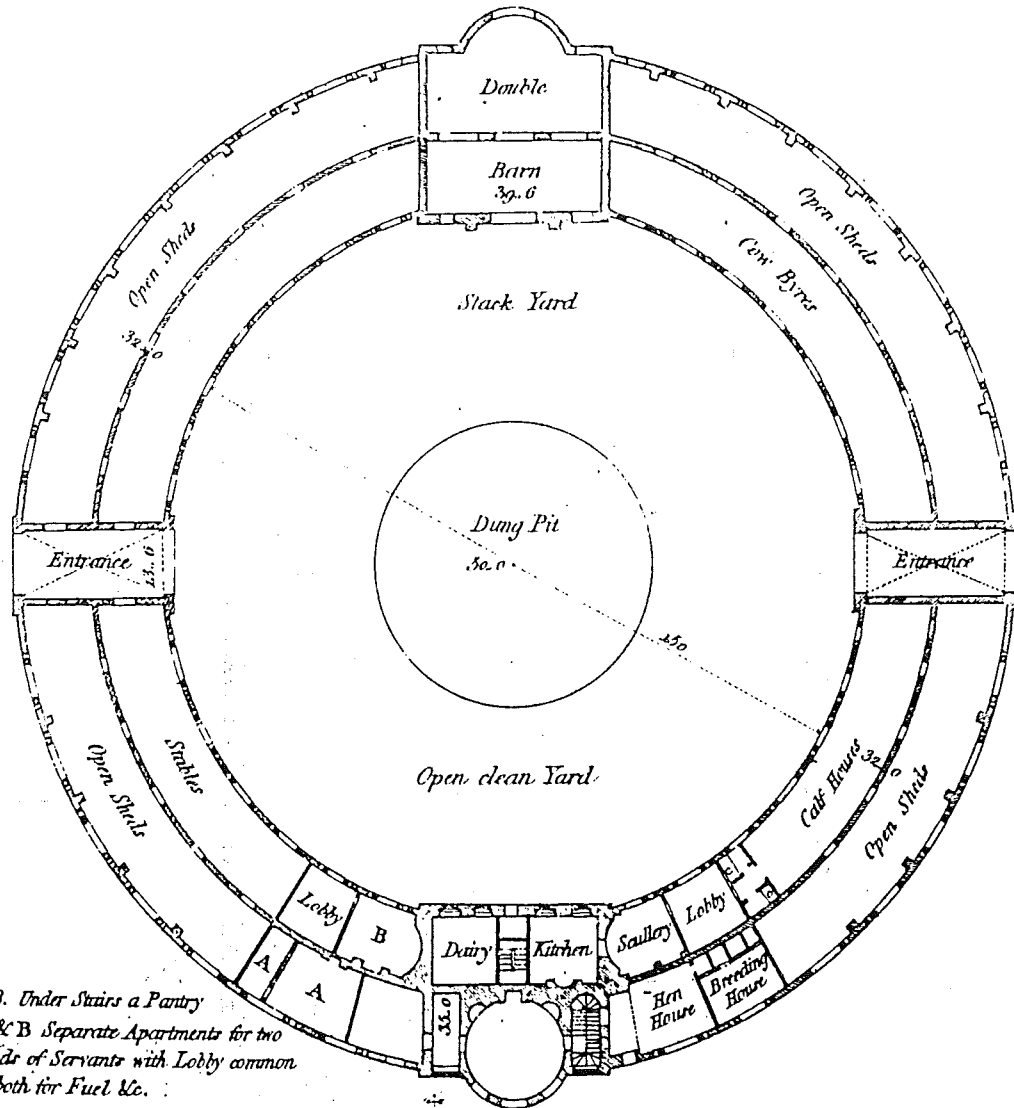
Maam Steading: Mylne's Scheme A

Maam Steading: Mylne's Scheme B

Maam Steading: Mylne's Scheme C

Pl.2 to follow Pl. 1
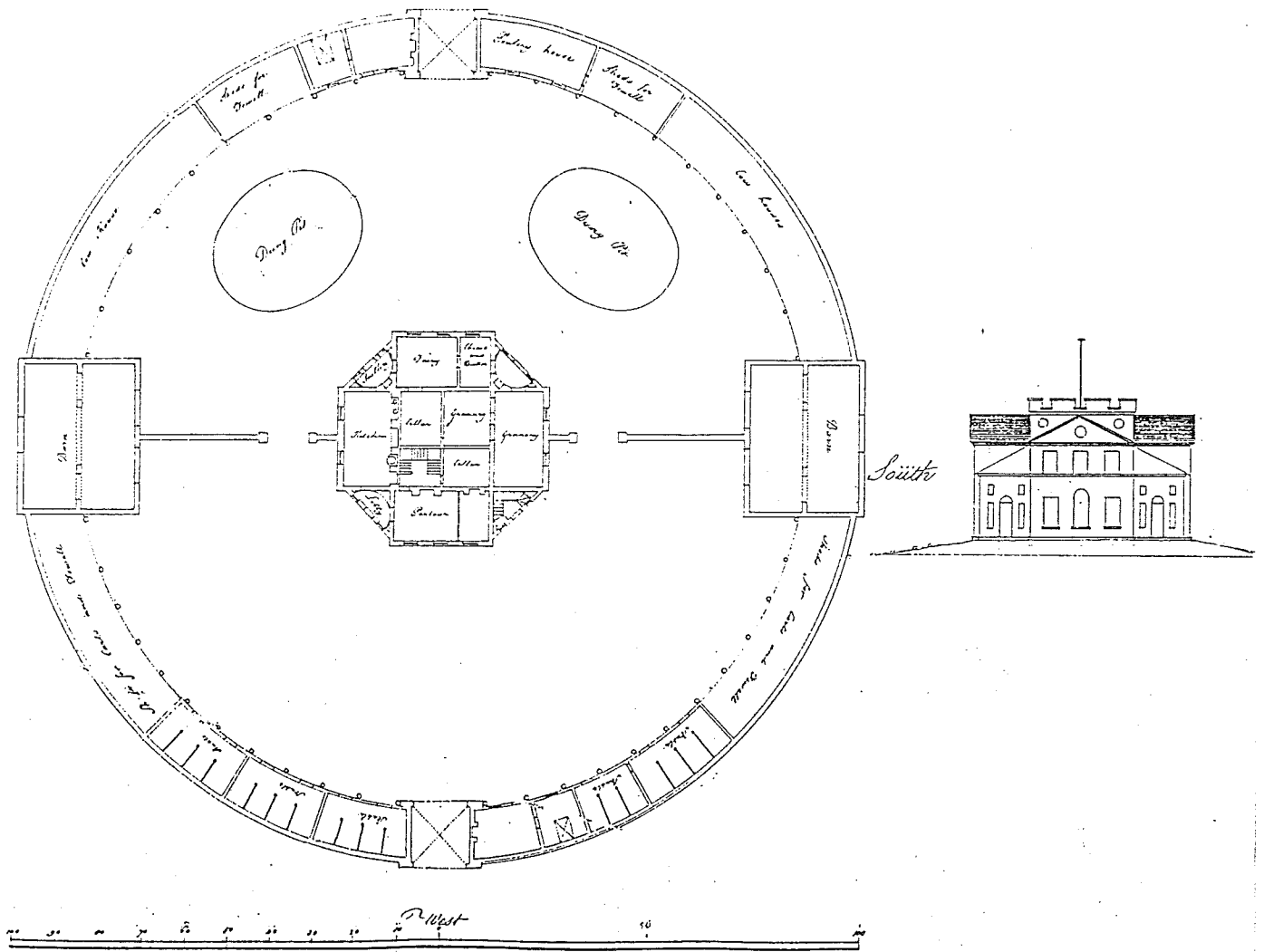
PLAN & ELEVATION OF THE DUKE OF ARGYLL'S COURT OF OFFICES
as intended in Glenshira near Inverary.
1796.

Dung Pit

Double

Barn
39.6

Open Sheds

Open Sheds

Cow Byres

Stack Yard

32.0

Entrance 22.0

Dung Pit
50.0

150

Entrance

Calf House 32.0

Open clean Yard

Stables

Open Sheds

Open Sheds

Lobby

B

A

A

Dairy

Kitchen

Scullery

Lobby

Hen
House

Breeding
House

N.B. Under Stairs a Pantry
A & B Separate Apartments for two
kinds of Servants with Lobby common
to both for Fuel &c.

0   50   110 Feet

R. Scott sculpt

Maam Steading: Engraving D

FRONT VIEW OF THE DUKE OF ARGYLL'S BARN
in Glenshira from the South
1797

Double

Barn
60

Open Sheds

Open Sheds
Cow Byres

32.0

34

23.0

0   50   110
                   Feet

Maam Steading: Engraving E

■ 1787-90
▨ later

N

m   5   10   20   30   40
ft.   25   50   100

Maam Steading: RCAHMS survey
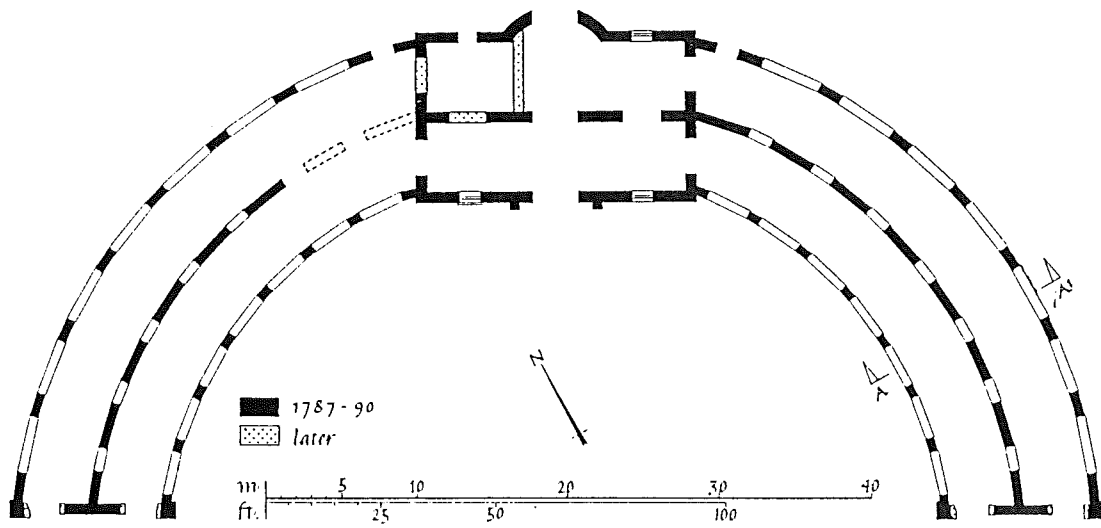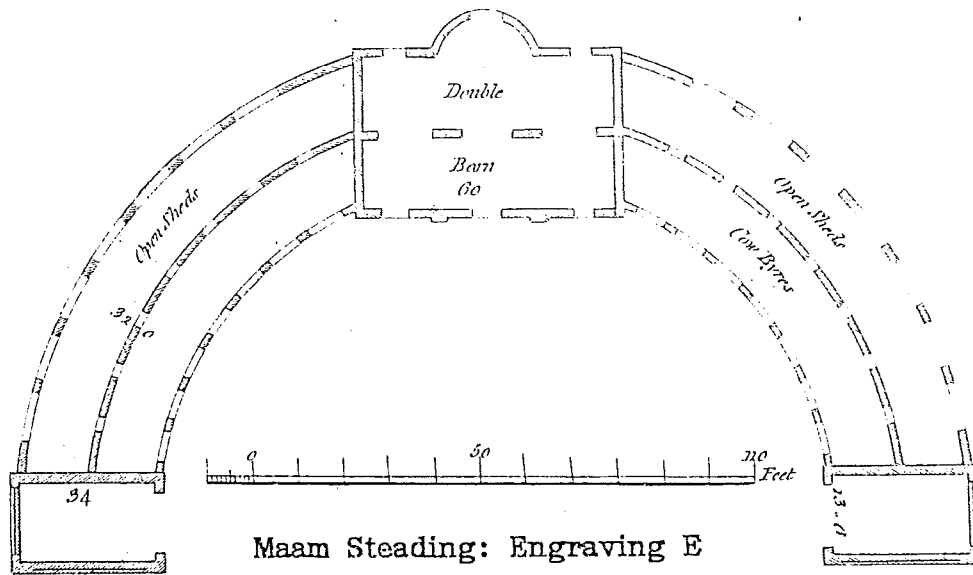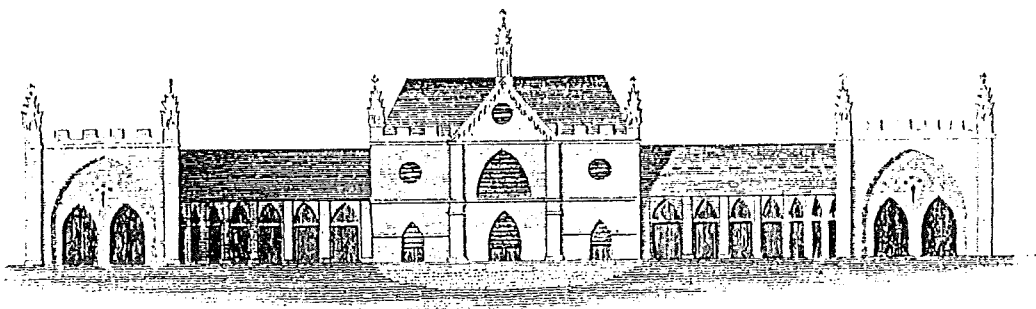
Salmon-fishings recorded here, 1595; present cottage c. 1800. Steep slope allows two unvaulted cellars entered from side facing loch, one with bench still used for grading fish. Chimney-breast at <u>NE</u> gable of 'ground floor' entered by 3m-wide arch, possibly allowing smoking of salmon; interior now wholly domestic.

South-east elevation

room   closet   kitchen

upper plan

former   fish-cellar
byre

lower plan

late 18th century   late 19th-20th century

Carlonan Mill
Corn
Saw Mill

Foot Br.

Foot Br. Range

Rifle Volunteer Range

Seileach
Mor

Gleac Bhanaile

Dun na Cuaiche

Curling Pond
Malt Land
New Mill

Foot Br.

B.M. 127.

106

INVERARAY
DALMALLY

103

Burial Ground

INVERARAY
MARKET

End

Chapel

Highest Point to
which the Ordinary
Spring Tides flow

Burial Ground
(Site of)

Standing Stone

Churchyard

Inveraray Castle

Hay Grove

The Cottage

Standing Stone

Creag a' Bhiche

Creag a' Bhiche

Chalybeate Spring

Lodge

Hotel

Stone Cross
Sculptured

Pier

Fisherland
Quarry

School
Church

Parish Church

Factory Land

County Buildings

INVERARAY

Poor Houses

Gas Works

Parliamentary

Boundary

Free Church

School

C.P. Church

Newtown

NEWTOWN
BAY

Ardlian Ruadha

The design for a new town on 'Gallows Foreland Point', between the Great
Avenue and Loch Fyne, was elaborated by the 3rd Duke of Argyll in
consultation with Lord Milton and William and John Adam, between 1744
and 1756. An axial Main Street interrupted by a public space on the
highest point of the promontory (soon allocated as site for the Highland
and Lowland churches) was a consistent feature, but its orientation was
not settled until several of the public buildings in Front Street had been
completed. Originally the 'Great Inn' (Argyll Arms Hotel; John Adam,
architect, 1750-5), required to accommodate the circuit judges, was the
only building NW of the Avenue. Front Street also contained the Town
House, originally with an open arcade at ground level (John Adam,
1750-7) and, along with East Main Street, private houses built for
tacksmen, mainly local merchants and county landowners. West Main
Street is flanked by the austere three-storeyed blocks of Arkland
(1774-5) and Relief Land (1775-6), both designed by Robert Mylne; the
latter provided flatted accommodation for the labouring population. A
woollen factory was briefly housed in Factory Land, facing Loch Fyne,
and the adjoining building was assigned to the ferryman. Building was
almost complete when in 1785 Robert Mylne designed the elaborate screens
in Front Street, giving access to the Avenue and the Dalmally Road. The
double church in the central square (Robert Mylne, 1795-1802; steeple
removed, 1941), and the Courthouse (J Gillespie Graham, 1816-20) were
the last major buildings. The town was comprehensively restored in
1958-63 (Ian G Lindsay and Partners, architects), following the transfer
of the superiority by the Argyll Trustees to the Ministry of Works (now
SDD).

Inveraray
Parish Church

ground floor   ■1795-1802 ▨1898 ▨1913 and later
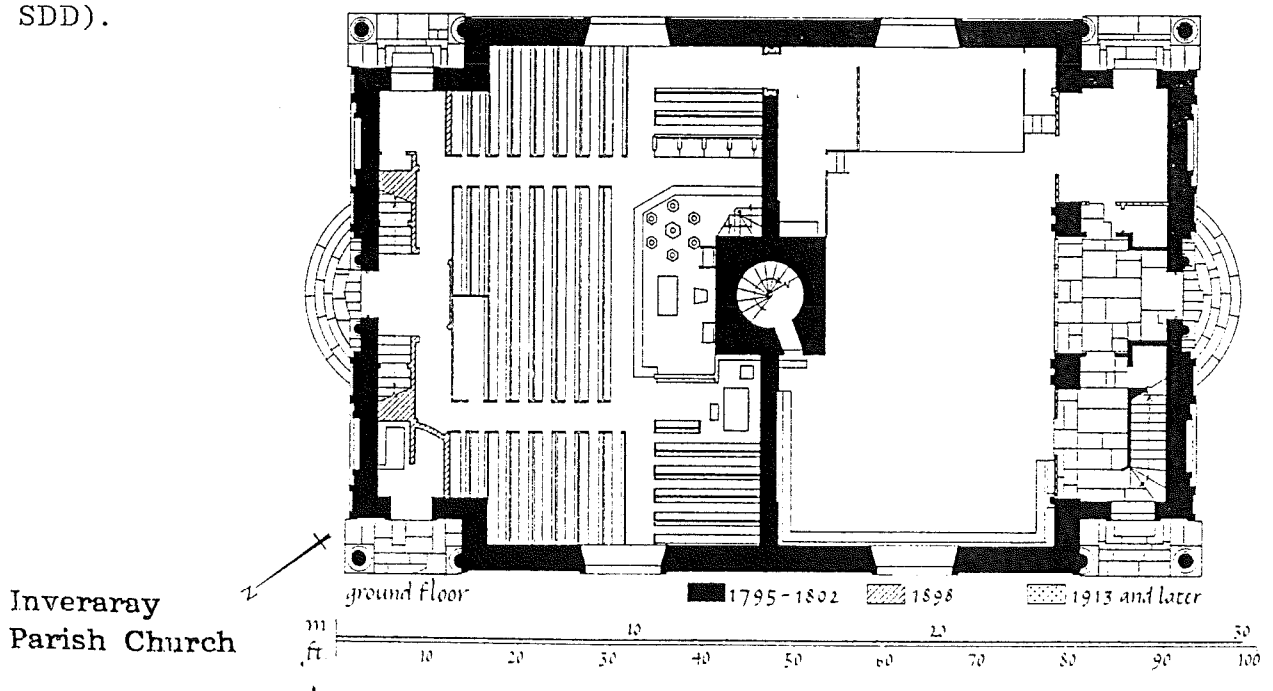
As it stands today Auchindrain illustrates the type of joint-tenancy holding that would have been common around 1800 and indeed before. Several tenants paid their rent jointly to the Duke of Argyll and each had a share of the arable land, by dividing it into strips or rigs, and also of the common grazing. The number of rigs to be worked and the number of beasts each tenant was allowed to graze was determined by his share in the tenancy. Auchindrain thus shows the way the land was worked before the adoption of large-scale sheep-farming from the later part of the 18th century onward. The families remained the Duke's tenants, and the fields and slopes were not enclosed by the massive dykes of the lowland farmers. Thus Auchindrain remained until about 1935, and the last tenant lived in house A until 1954.

There are twenty buildings in the complex: houses, byre-dwellings, barns, sheds and stables; and an excellent display in the information centre sets the scene before one ventures out to the township buildings. Most have drystone walls with the roofs supported on cruck-frames and employing turf, straw or heather thatch, though several were replaced with corrugated iron in the early 20th century. Building N, immediately to the NE of the modern house, is a barn with adjacent stackyard; the opposing doorways are to provide a through draught for winnowing. The adjacent little house (M), probably built in the 1870s, is the equivalent of today's sheltered housing, for if the village supported an indigent person it was exempted from paying the Poor Rate. K is a shed currently with a display of smith's tools. J, H and D are byre-dwellings with D perhaps the oldest in the township. House H has been furnished to show what it would have been like in the 1890s. House A on the other hand is probably the most recent, dating to about 1820; the arrangement of living and byre accommodation gives a good impression of what a country cottage of the middle of the last century looked like.

There are several isolated kailyards or walled kitchen gardens, which produced both green vegetables for the community and also fruit; sometimes flax was grown.
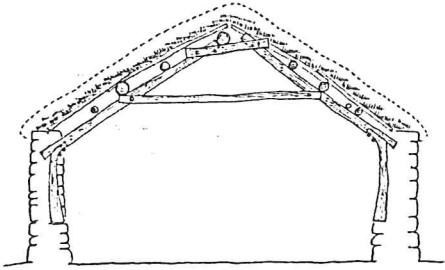
house (1954)

museum

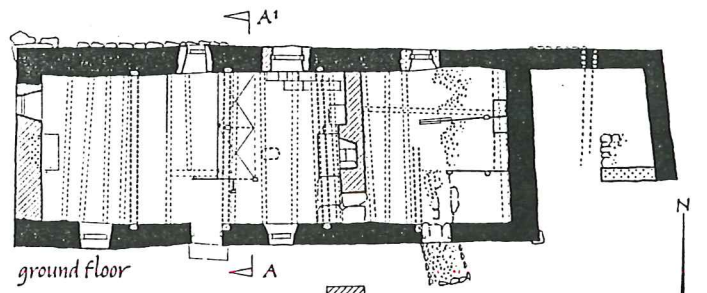car park

Eas a' Charatha

A 83

ft.
m

N

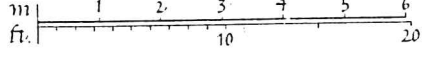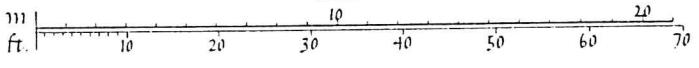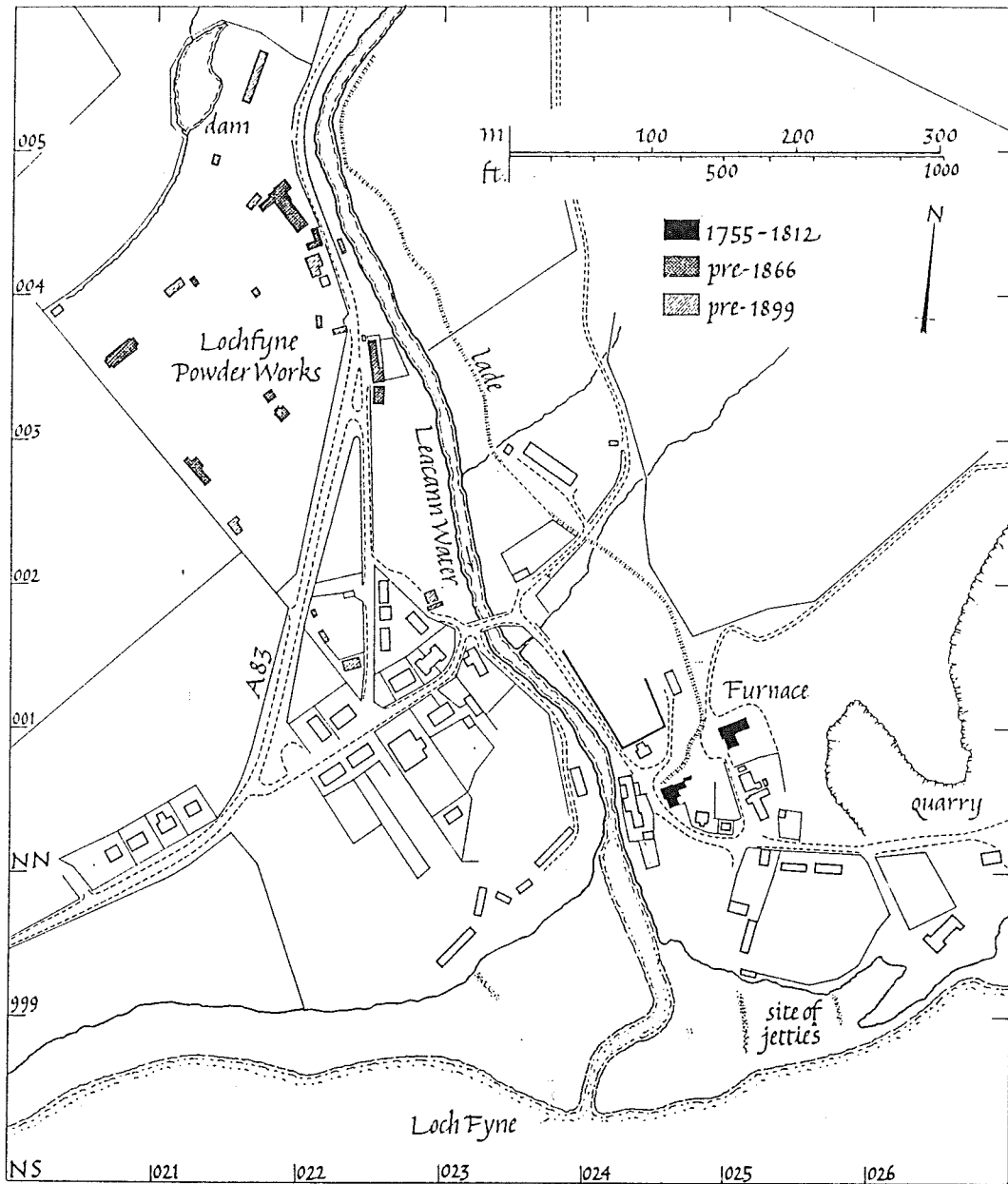axonometric · partly reconstructed
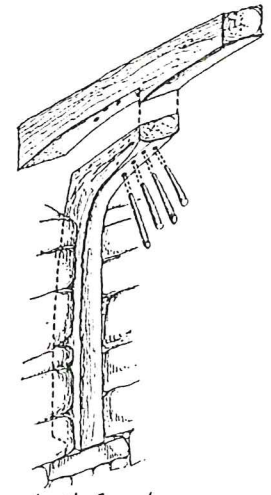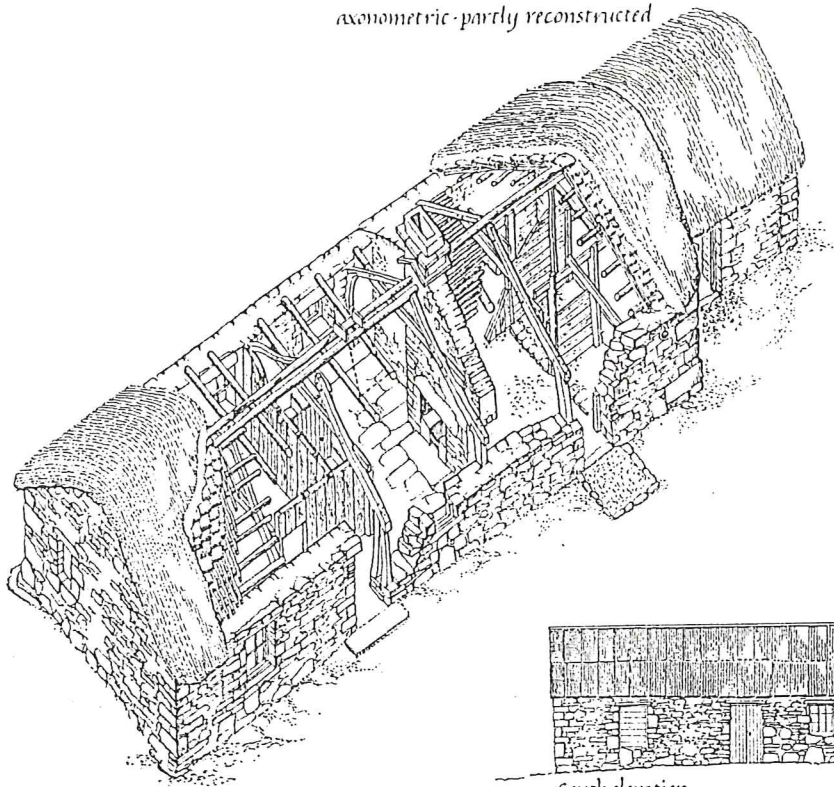
detail of cruck
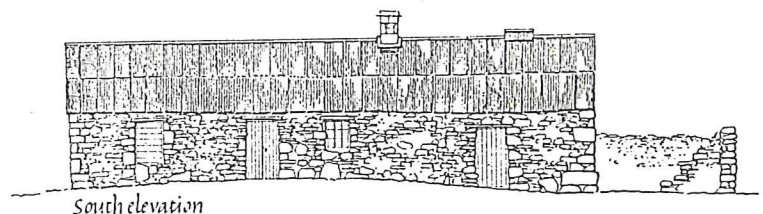
South elevation

section A-A¹

ground floor

A¹

A

■ late 18th century   ▨ 19th century and later

N

m   1   2   3   4   5   6
ft.   10   20

m   10   20
ft.   10   20   30   40   50   60   70

Map showing Lochfyne Powder Works, with features labelled: dam, Lade, Leacann Water, A83, Furnace, quarry, site of jetties, Loch Fyne. Grid references 999–005 (vertical) and 021–026 (horizontal). Scale bar in ft. North arrow. Legend: 1755-1812, pre-1866, pre-1899.

Loch Fyne Gunpowder Works, Furnace   NN 022004

These works, founded in 1841 and abandoned after a disastrous explosion in 1883, probably used some of the former furnace sheds. A massive screen wall which isolated a magazine stands in the village, and remains of the processing mills are in a field W of the main road. A row of brick-built workers' dwellings are still occupied.

Established in 1754 by contract between Henry Kendall (Duddon Company) of Cumbria and the Argyll Estate. A cast-iron lintel above the bellows-opening, inscribed G(oatfield) F(urnace) 1755, presumably furnishes a foundation date. The original lease was not renewed in 1812. The furnace-stack is uniquely well preserved, including the sandstone lining of the hearth and the socket of the tuyère (bellows nozzle). Locally produced charcoal and ore shipped from Cumbria were stored in large sheds on the terrace to the NE, of which one survives, much altered, as a coal-depot. The bridge for carrying materials to the charging-mouth of the furnace was here incorporated in the top floor of a three-storeyed block which also housed the water-driven bellows. The buildings preserve traditional Lake District constructional features such as the projecting drip-slabs above openings, and green Lakeland slate was used for the roofs.

A Fell,   The Early Iron Industry of Furnace and District (1908, reprint
           1968)

section A-A¹   section B-B¹

plan

■ 18th century
▨ later
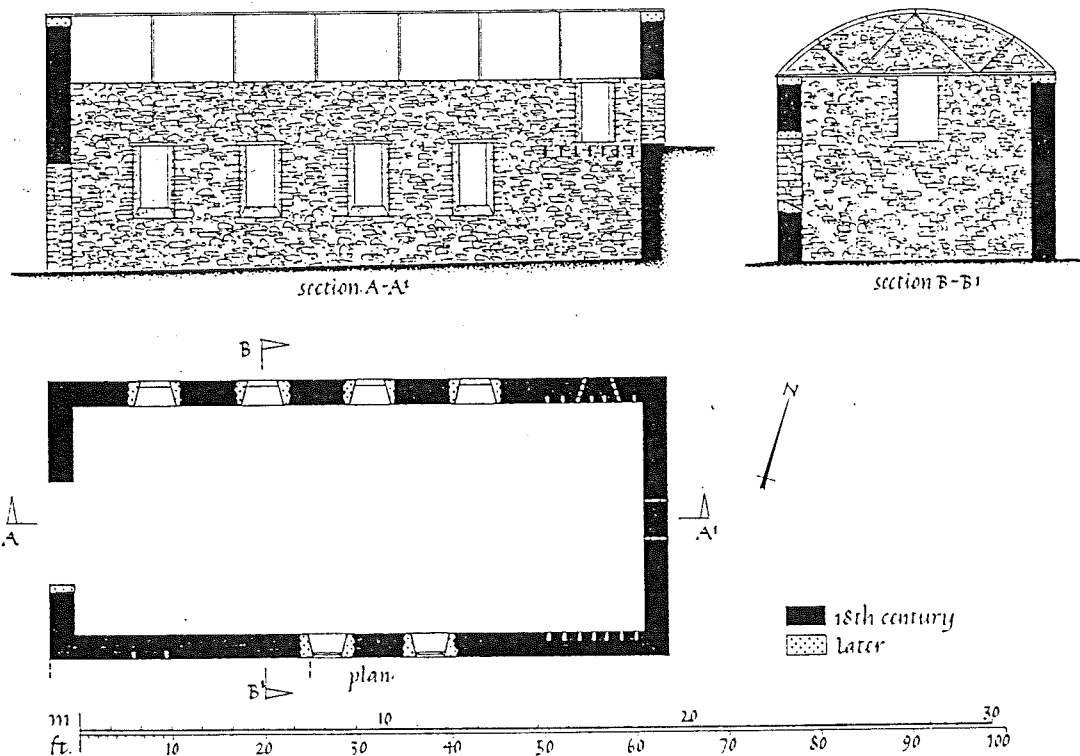
Old Iron Furnace, Furnace: Ore shed
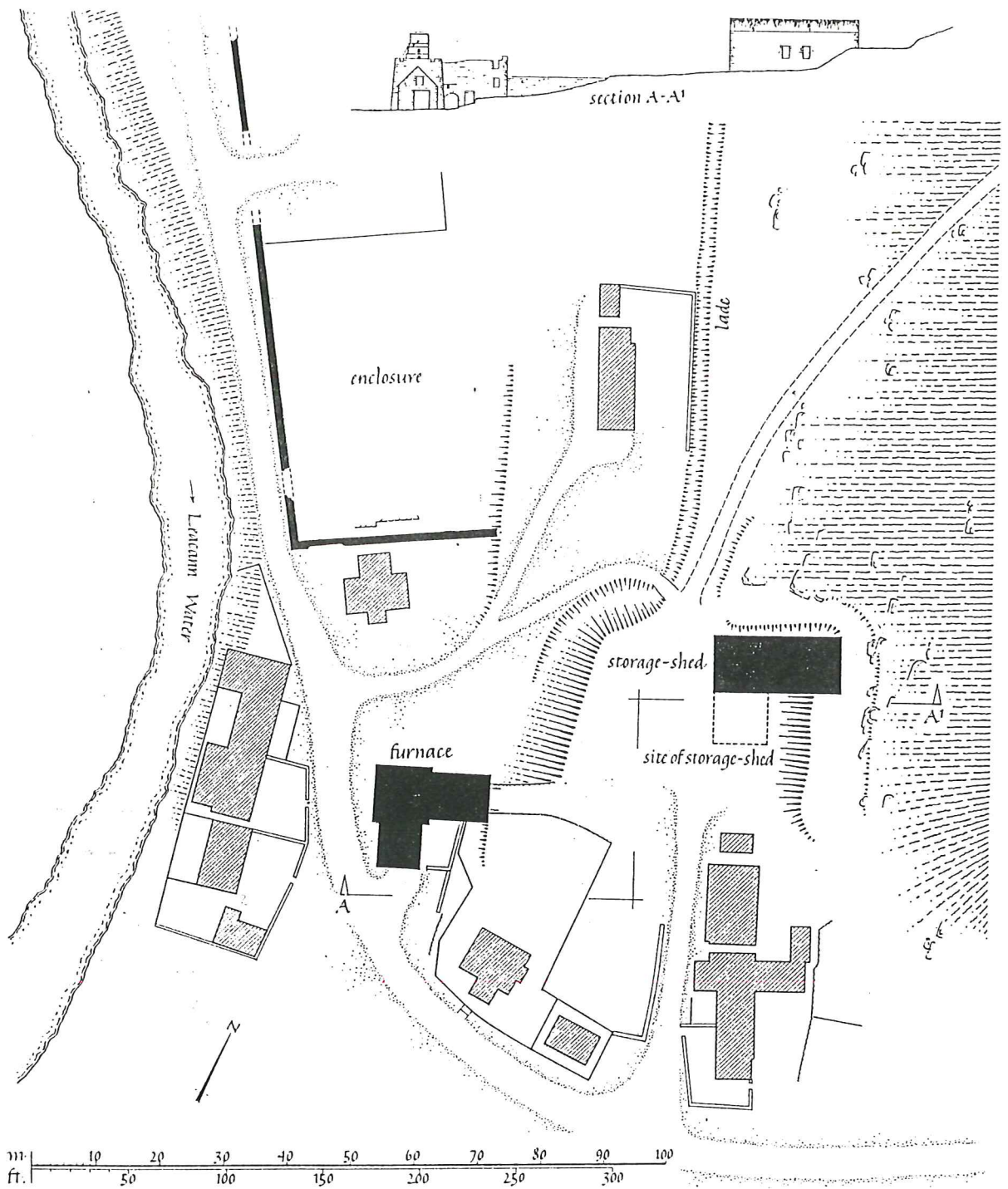
section A-A¹

enclosure

Leacann Water

lade

storage-shed

site of storage-shed

furnace

A¹

A

N

| m. | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 |
| ft. | 50 | | 100 | | 150 | | 200 | | 250 | | 300 |
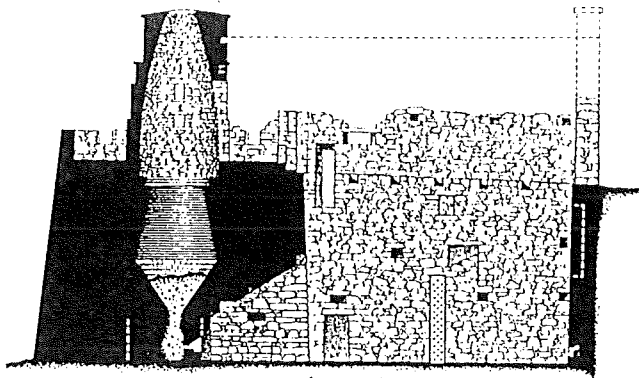
Old Iron Furnace, Furnace
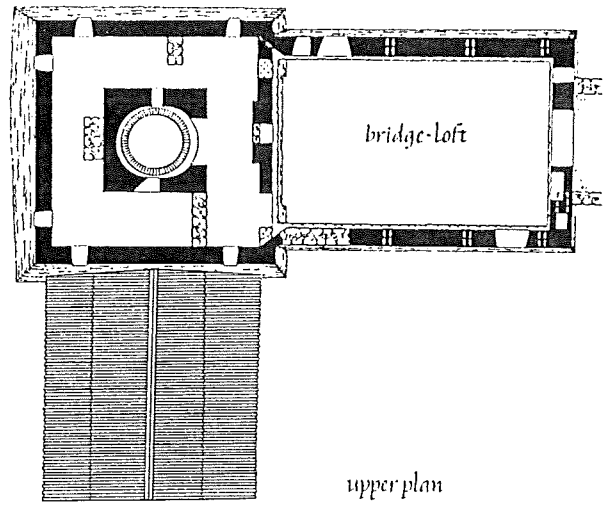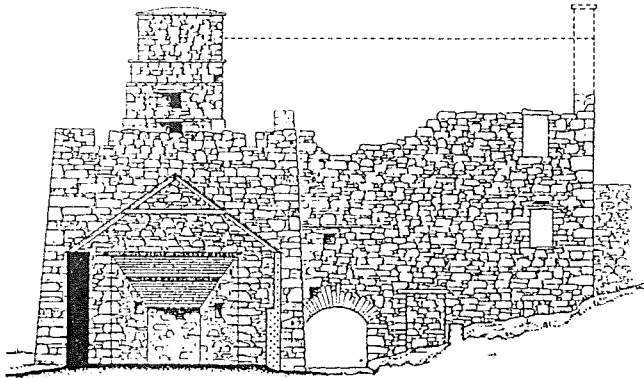
section A - A¹

South elevation and section B - B¹

upper plan

bridge-loft

first floor

blowing-house

site of
bellows

A
A

A¹
A¹

B
B

B¹
B¹

casting-house

N

■ 1755
▨ later

ground floor

m
ft

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

10 20 30
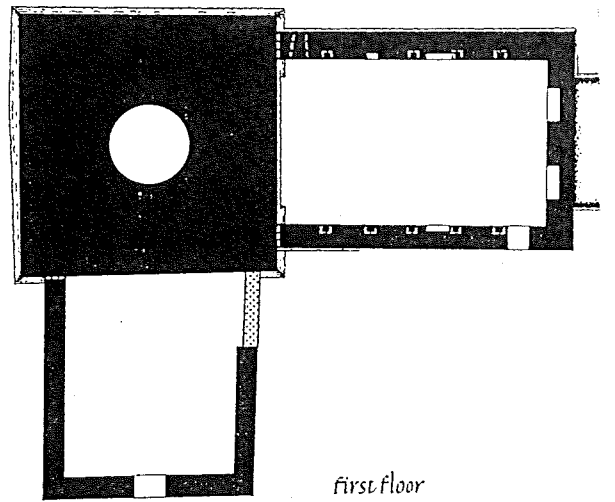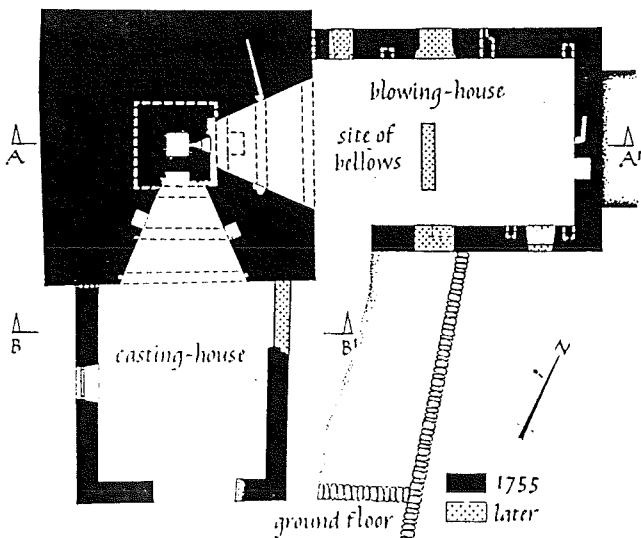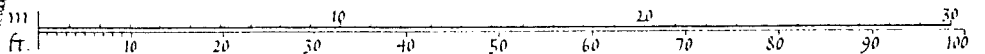
Old Iron Furnace, Furnace
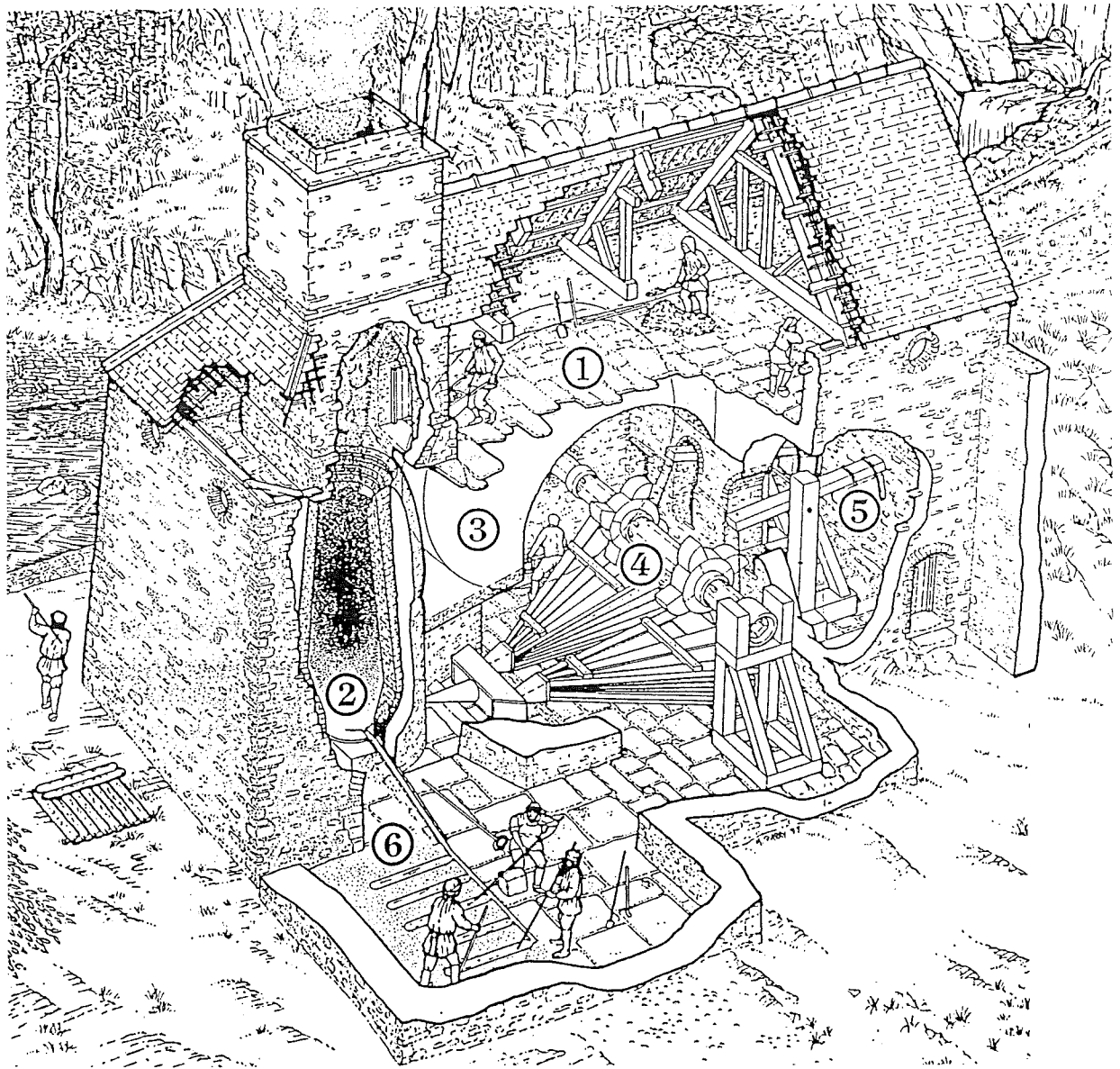
Dyfi Furnace, West Wales

The internal arrangements at Furnace are closely comparable to those at the Dyfi Furnace in Wales, a reconstruction of which has been prepared by Cadw (Welsh Historic Monuments).

1 Charging Platform
Iron-ore, charcoal and limestone are tipped directly into the furnace top.

2 Furnace
The charge is burnt at very high temperatures and eventually liquefies to produce iron.

3 Waterwheel
On the other side of the building, worked by water diverted from the river.

4 Bellows
Operated alternately by the waterwheel, they provide a continuous blast of air to raise the temperature at the base of the furnace.

5 Counterweight
As the cam releases, each bellows in turn is drawn upwards by its counterweight.

6 Casting-house
Molten iron is drawn off and cast in moulds made in the sand of the casting-house floor.
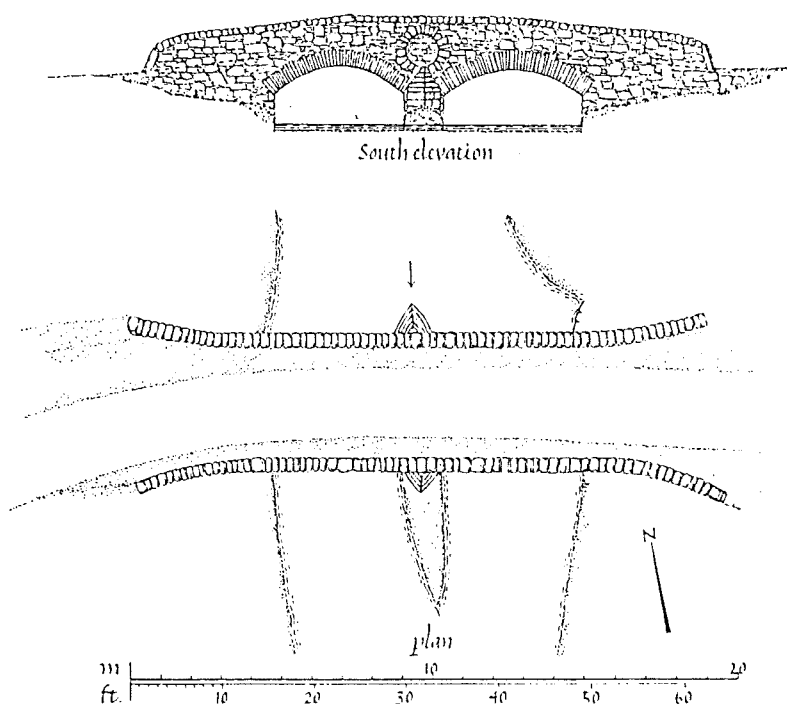
South elevation

plan

Brenchoillie, Bridge
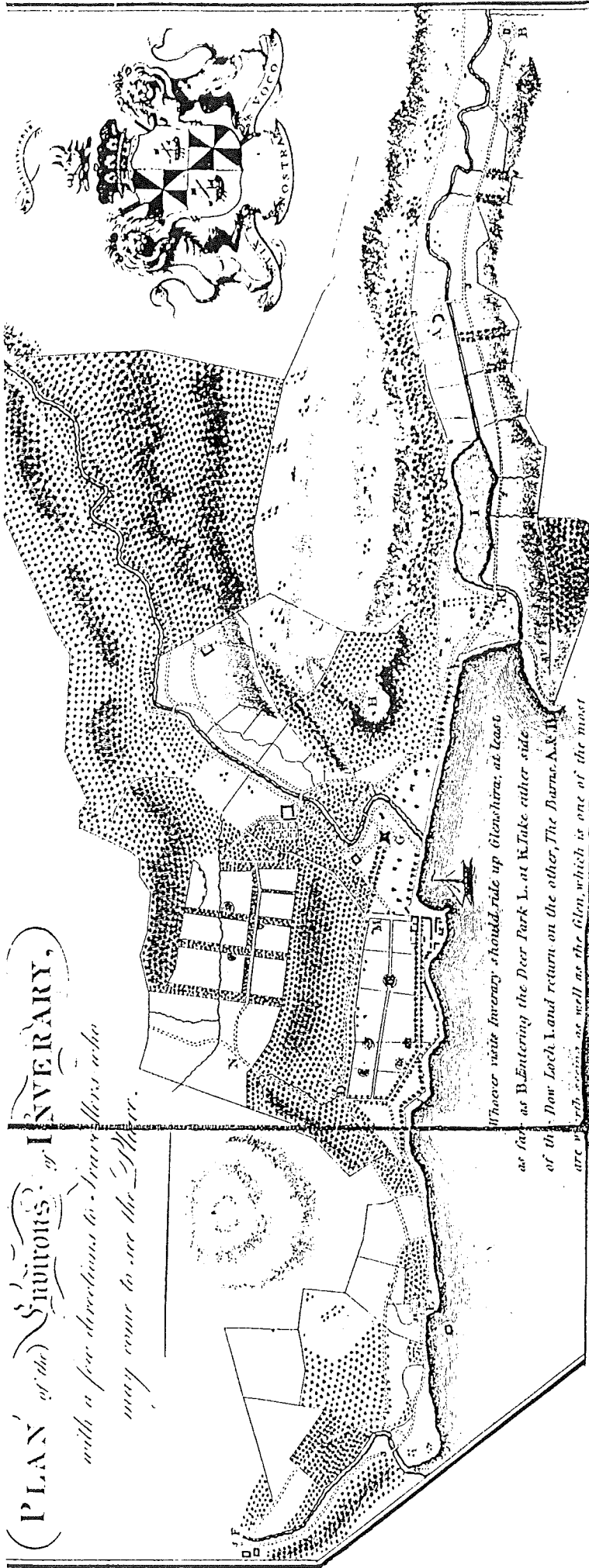
Whoever visit Inverary should ride up Glenshira, at least as far as B. Entering the Deer Park L. at K. take either side of the Dow Loch L. and return on the other, The Burn. A.R. are worth seeing, as well as the Glen, which is one of the most beautiful in the Highlands, Return by the Road under the Hill of Dunquaich H. and ride along it to the Castle G. by the Bridge immediately to the Northward of it, about 3 Miles up Glenaray, at C. there is a fine Water fall on the River Aray, and a Rustic Bridge over it, You may go up one side of the River Aray, and return by the other, Ride from the Inn, by M. under the Wood on the Hill to D. where there is a Cottage enquire for the Proper Road, and proceed to Essachosan at N. Return and Ride by Dalhenna E. to the Factory at F. going on one side of Douglas, or Kilbride the same River, & returning by the other, Many other Objects worth seeing, and Rides in various directions, cannot be shewn on this small Plan, nor be mentioned here for want of Room.

Scale
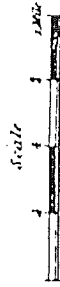
Inveraray Castle Policies

The Marquess of Argyll (d. 1661) is credited with the planting of the great beech avenue, which was to control the siting of the new town, and the lime avenue leading to the old castle and retained as the approach to its successor. The 2nd Duke in the 1720s and 1730s continued this planting on the slopes of Duniquaich and as far as the Dubh Loch. He also enclosed 'Beauchamp Park' at the mouth of Glen Shira and drained the great Fisherland meadow W of the present town, enclosing it with lime-mortared walls which the 5th Duke in the 1770s replaced by sunk fences (still visible), 'much pretier for adorning the Policy than high dykes' (Highland Papers, 2, 106). The 3rd and 5th Dukes continued to plant extensively and created several new roads, notably the surviving estate road of 1775 from Garron Lodge along the S slope of Duniquaich to the Garden Bridge. The course of the River Aray below Carloonan was regularised and embellished with paved cascades in the 1750s.

Buildings not described below include the rubble-built watch-tower on Duniquaich (Roger Morris, architect; William Douglas, mason; 1747-8); the classical well-head at Bealachanuaran (NN 088086; ? William Adam, c. 1747); several small lodges; and the circular 'Beehive Cottage' (NN 096098) designed by Alexander Nasmyth in 1801, with a canopied central fireplace which he compared to 'the old cradle chimney'.
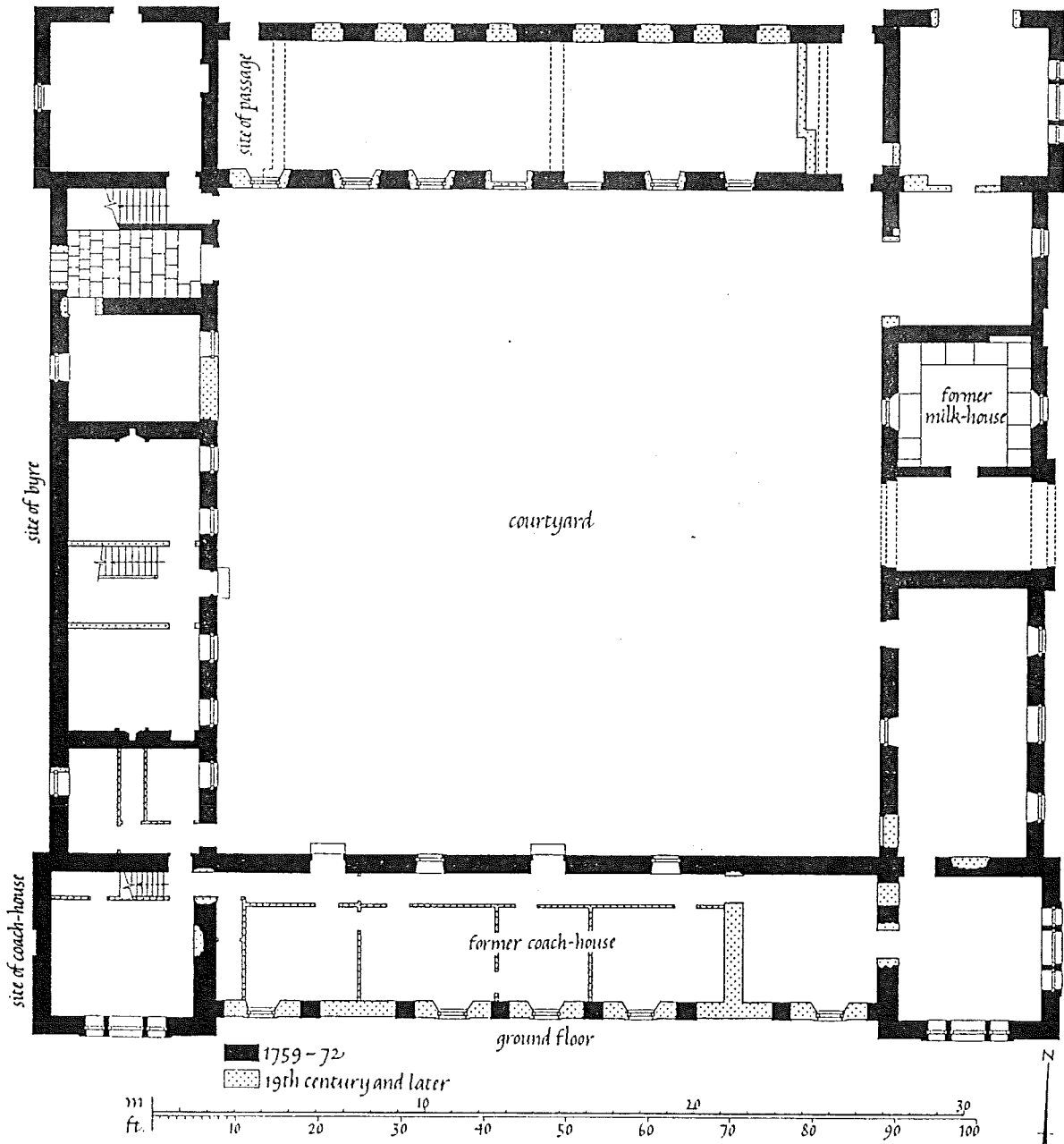
Court of Offices, Cherry Park   NN 093092

Now used as the Argyll Estate Office, this rectangular court was built to house the principal stables and coach-houses serving the new castle (John Adam, architect, 1758-61; completed by William Mylne, 1772-3). The E front, with its arched entry and Venetian windows, was much admired by early visitors. The open external arcade of the range was later infilled. In 1807 Joseph Bonomi prepared a scheme (not adopted) for doubling the width of the S and E ranges with additional stables and coach-houses equal in height to the corner pavilions. At that period the E range contained the brewhouse and laundry; the N range, poultry houses and a stable; the W range, a 'flower room' and dairy and domestic accommodation, with a large cow-house (now demolished) to the W; and the S range, stables.

South elevation

site of passage

site of byre

site of coach-house

courtyard

former milk-house

former coach-house

ground floor

■ 1759–72
▨ 19th century and later

m
ft.
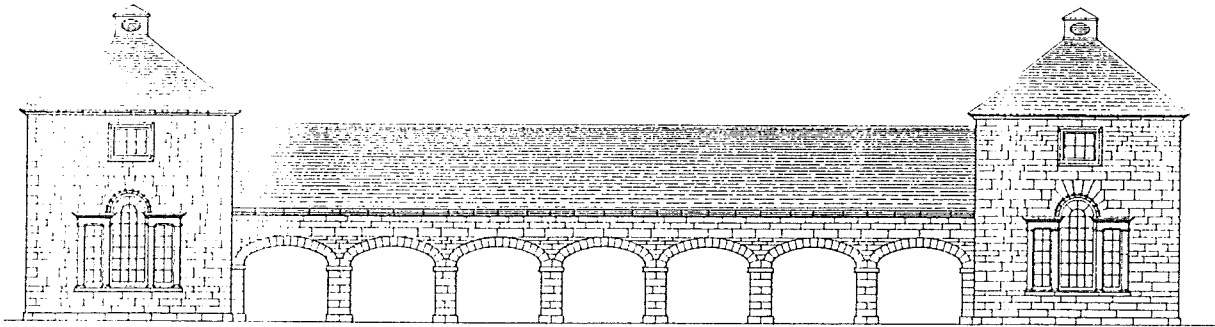
N

Court of Offices, Cherry Park

The large kitchen garden, with its 6m high N̲ wall (James Potter, mason), was laid out in 1752-5, close to the earlier 'White Barns'. A five-bay coach-house abutting the N̲ wall was designed by John Adam in 1760 and completed in 1772-3, along with flanking single-storeyed cottages and stables (now mostly demolished). The Great Shed to the W̲ (1774-5; ? Robert Mylne, architect) contained a smithy, sawmill and wrights' workshop, and still serves the last two functions. A dam 250m to the W̲ supplied water-power to drive the sawmill during the 19th century. A series of masonry piers supported the double roof, and the E̲ and W̲ facades both incorporate giant arcades of five round-arched openings. Mylne produced several schemes for completing the courtyard (Inveraray, figs. 75, 80). The N̲ side appears to have been enclosed by a wall which was incorporated in 1781-2 as the spine-wall of a long range of louvred hay-drying sheds, with a higher central barn (now ruinous). At the same time the E̲ side, at one time intended for a second 'Great Shed', was filled by a large Riding School (gutted by fire, 1817; rebuilt as Jubilee Hall, 1897). This building was much used for amateur theatricals in the early years of the 19th century and, perhaps because of the frequent involvement of Lady Charlotte Campbell, the Maltland was given the alternative name 'Charlotte Square' on an estate map of 1812.
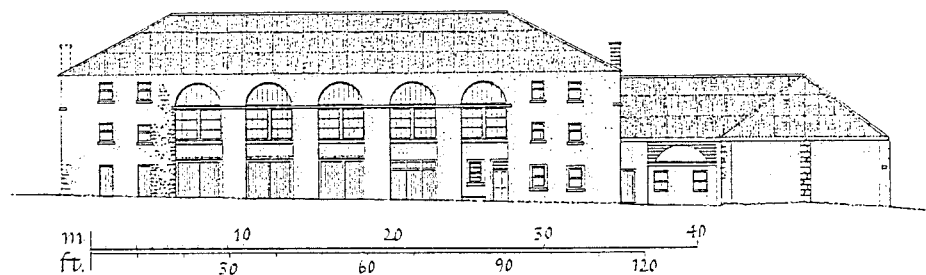
Maltland Square: elevation of 'Great Shade'
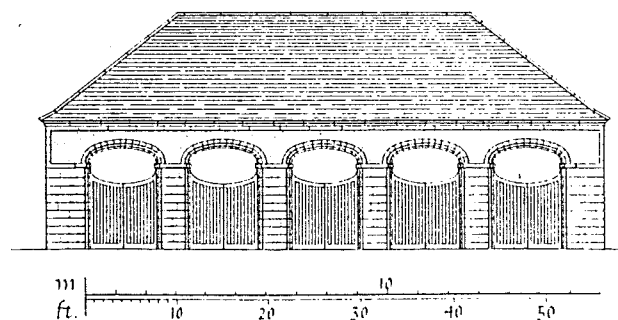
Maltland Square: coach house
(reconstructed elevation)

'Great Shade'
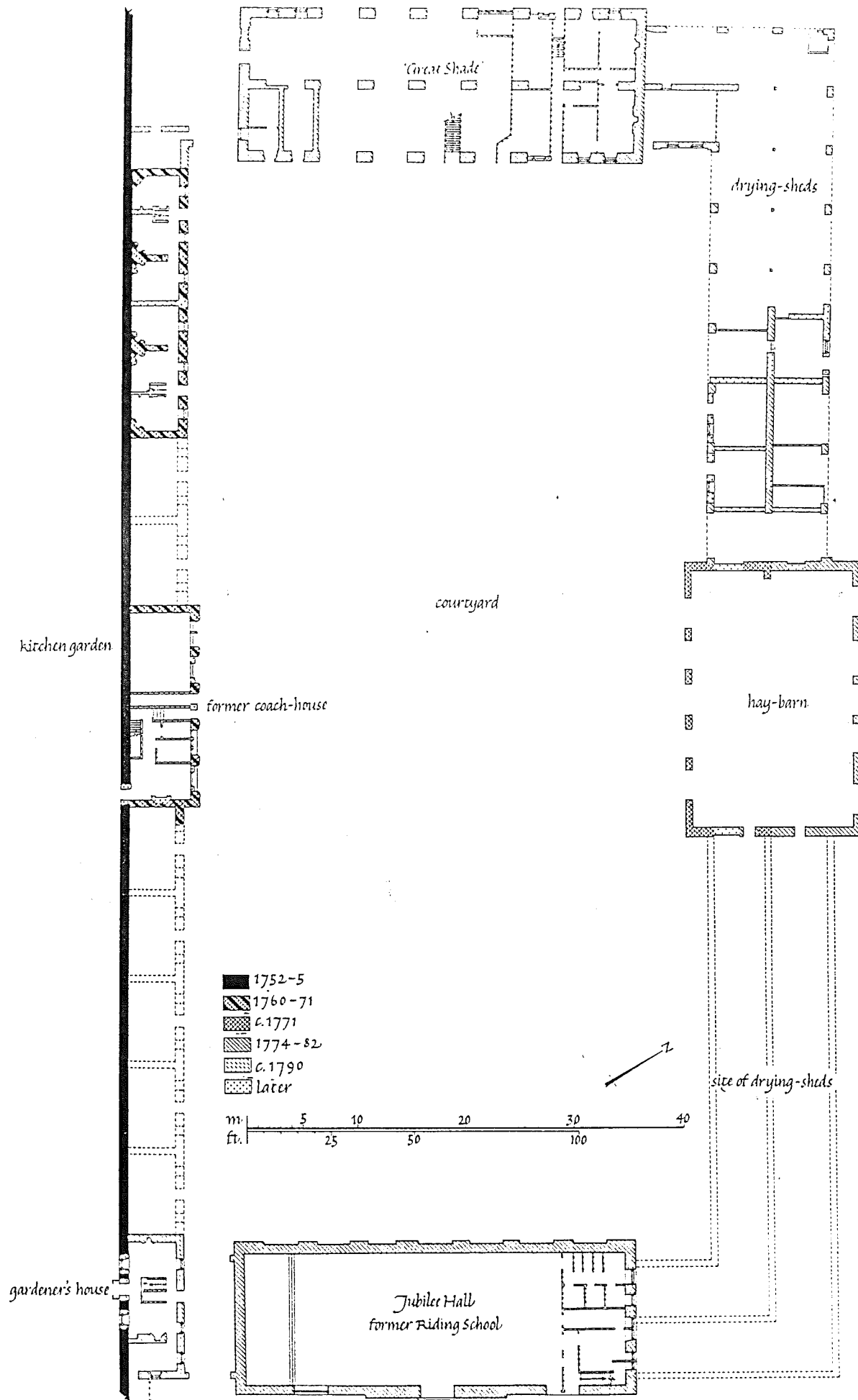
drying-sheds

kitchen garden

former coach-house

courtyard

hay-barn

■ 1752–5
▨ 1760–71
▨ c.1771
▨ 1774–82
▣ c.1790
▥ later

N

site of drying-sheds

m. | 5   10   20   30   40
ft. | 25   50   100

gardener's house
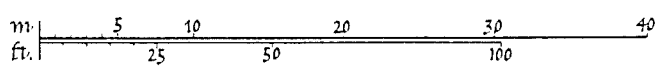
Jubilee Hall
former Riding School

Maltland Square

Inveraray Old Castle (site) Stood about 60m N̲E̲ of present one: built by Colin, 1st Earl of Argyll, c. 1450. Early views (e.g. Inveraray, figs 5-7, 64) show massive rectangular tower resembling Kilchurn, with turrets of c. 1600. S̲W̲ wing, ? early 17th century, flanked forecourt extended 1720-2. Tower badly cracked 1744, demolished 1775. Extensive 17th century gardens in bend of river to N̲.

Inveraray Castle Main fabric, 1744-58 (Roger Morris, architect; William and John Adam, superintending architects). Upper storey rebuilt after fire of 1877 (Anthony Salvin). Restoration after fire in 1975 (Ian G Lindsay and Partners). Magnificent interiors by Robert Mylne, 1780s.

Inveraray Old Town (site) Burgh of Barony, 1474; Royal Burgh, 1648. Site lay between Aray Bridge and present Castle. Now mostly below wood and shrubbery. Church, tolbooth and two-storeyed merchants' houses in main street and market place, with lesser houses near mouth of river; thatched fishermen's cottages near loch, and along shore N̲ of present main lodge. Demolished piecemeal, 1750s-1770s.

Cross, Inveraray Castle

A late-medieval cross of the Iona school was removed from Kirkapoll Churchyard, Tiree, to the gardens of Inveraray Castle in the late 19th century; its removal to a sheltered position is now under consideration. The unique inscribed cross-base records that it is the cross of Fingon (MacKinnon), abbot (of Iona) in the late 14th century, and of two of his sons.

Garron Bridge

Roger Morris, architect; John Adam, superintendent; 1747-9. Carried military road from Dumbarton to Inveraray (Major William Caulfield, Inspector). Adjacent lodge and screen-wall, Robert Mylne; designed, 1777; built 1782-4.
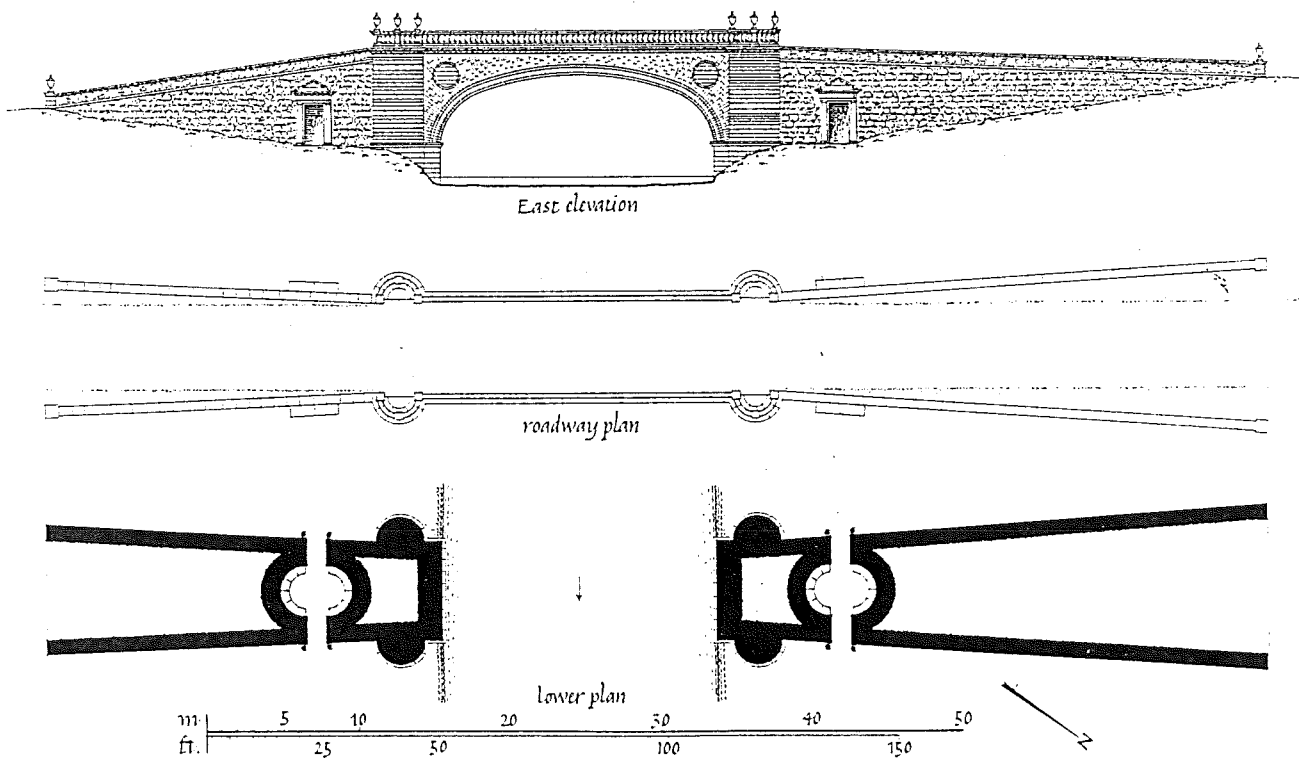

Garden Bridge

John Adam, architect; David Frew, mason; 1758-61. Situated midway along N side of 17th century garden, linked new castle to older 'oak walk'.
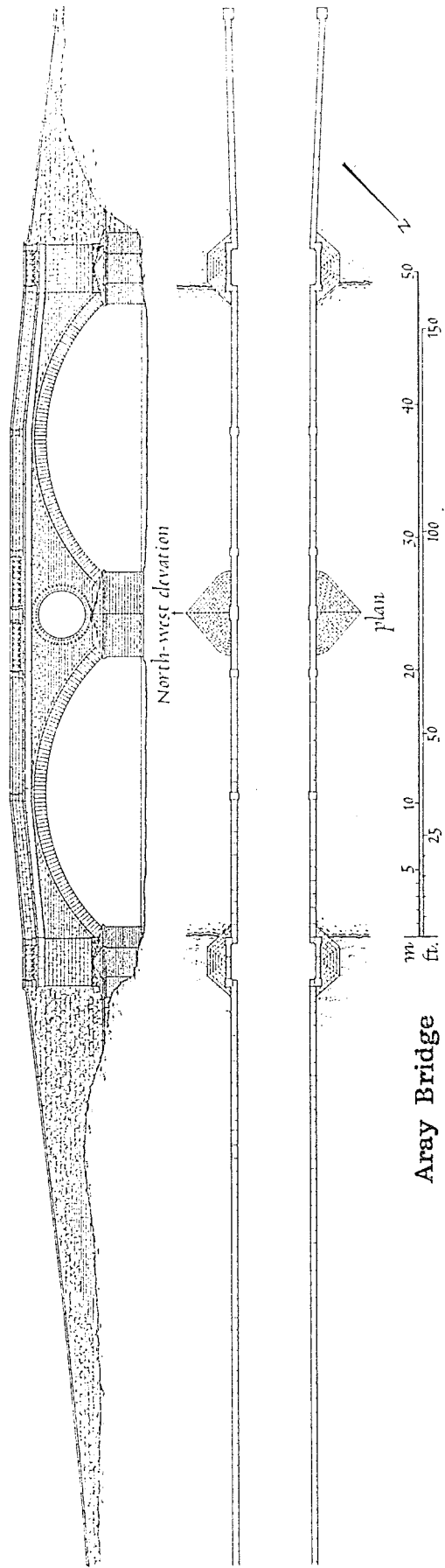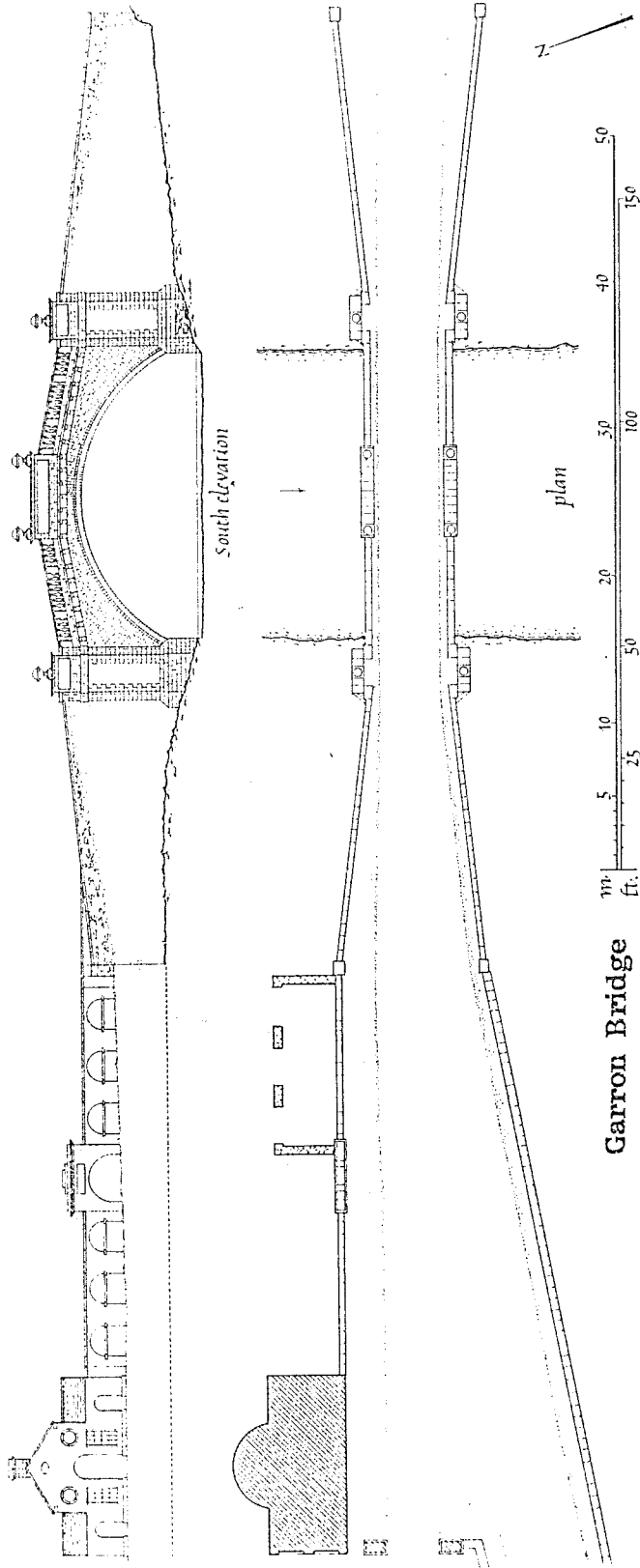

Aray Bridge

Robert Mylne, architect; John Brown, mason; 1773-6. Replaced John Adam's castellated bridge of 1757-8, swept away in a flood, 1772; carried military road and built at public expense.

East elevation

roadway plan

lower plan

| m. | 5 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 |
| ft. | 25 | 50 | 100 | 150 | |

Garden Bridge

CAL110P2.009

South elevation

plan

Garron Bridge

m.
ft.

North-west elevation

plan

Aray Bridge

m.
ft.

Octagonal church with tower, perhaps inspired by Glenorchy Church
(Lorn). Plans commissioned by Sir Alexander Campbell of Ardkinglas,
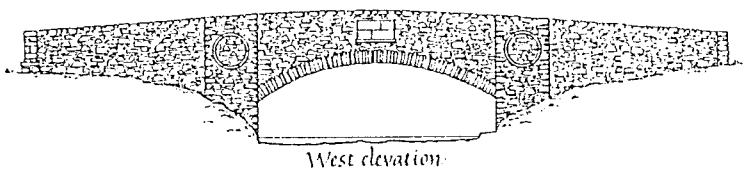sole heritor in parish, before 1810, but church built 1816. Church
contains medieval cross-head and debased ?16th-century graveslab, both
probably from old churchyard at Clachan. Damaged medieval font with
incised galley, removed from Clachan to Inveraray late C19, rediscovered
during RCAHMS survey at Inveraray Castle 1988, returned to Kilmorich
Church 1990.

South elevation

■ 1816
▨ late 19th century
ground floor
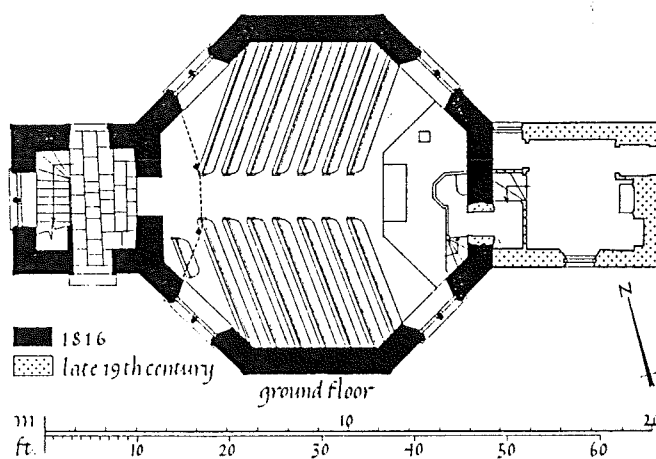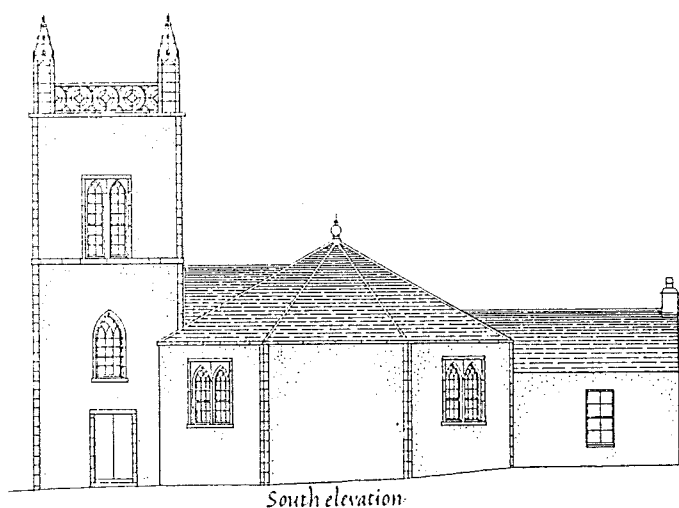
Classical mansion in landscaped grounds, designed c.1780 by unknown architect for General John Campbell of Strachur ('several years Commander in Cheif of His Majesty's forces in America'; tombstone in Strachur Church). Fine staircase; dining-room and study with pillared screens, former with original Chinese wallpaper.

'Very complete court of offices, which, perhaps, exceed the proportion they should bear to the house' (Statistical Account, 1792), separated from house by ornamental bridge. Another small bridge, showing influence of Robert Mylne, in grounds.

South-west elevation
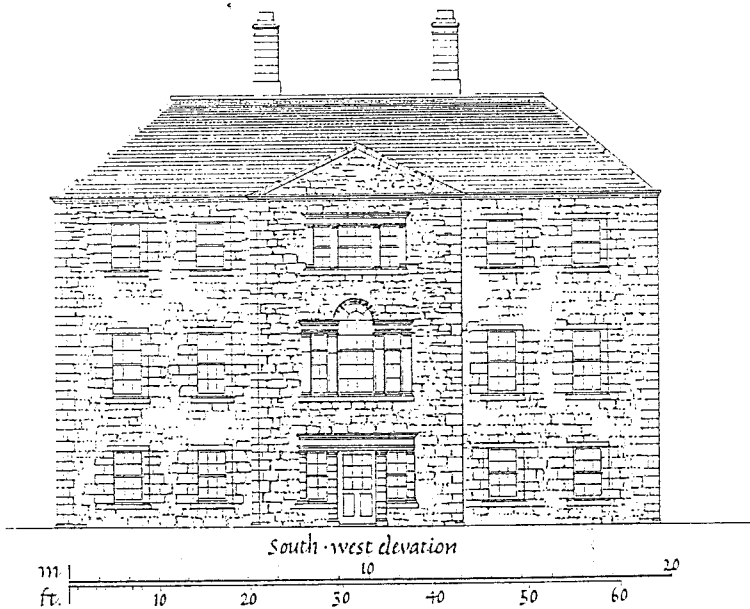
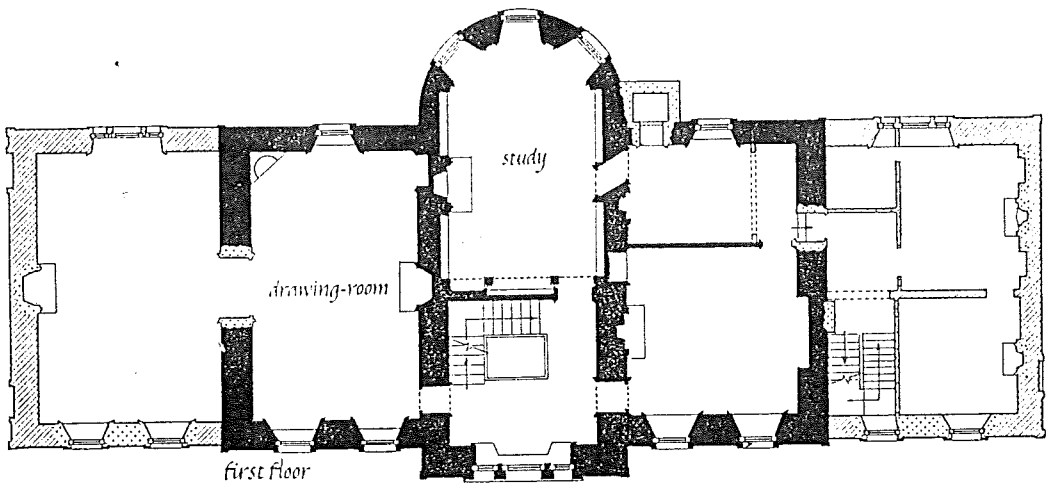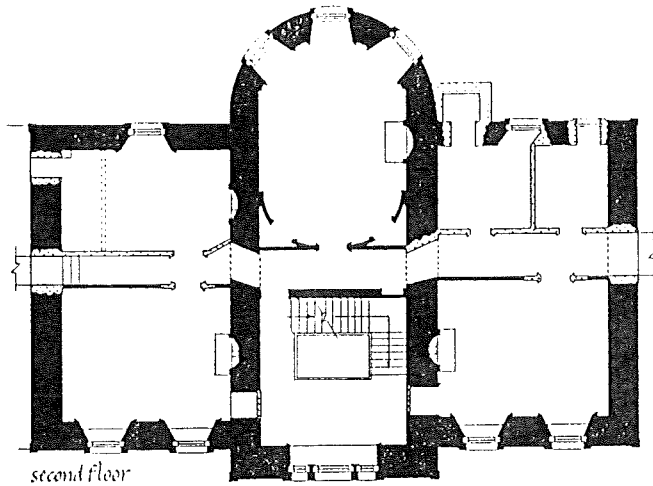**Strachur House: south west elevation**
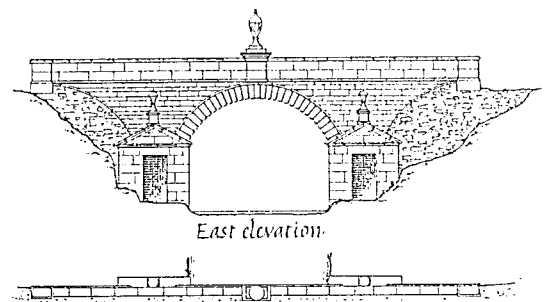
East elevation
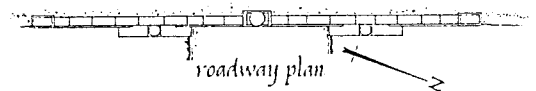
roadway plan
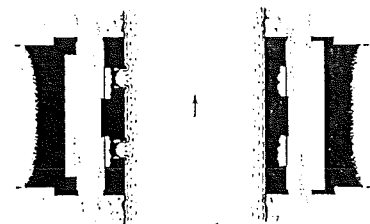
lower plan

West elevation

Strachur House: Bridges

second floor

study

drawing-room

first floor

dining-room

laundry

kitchen

ground floor
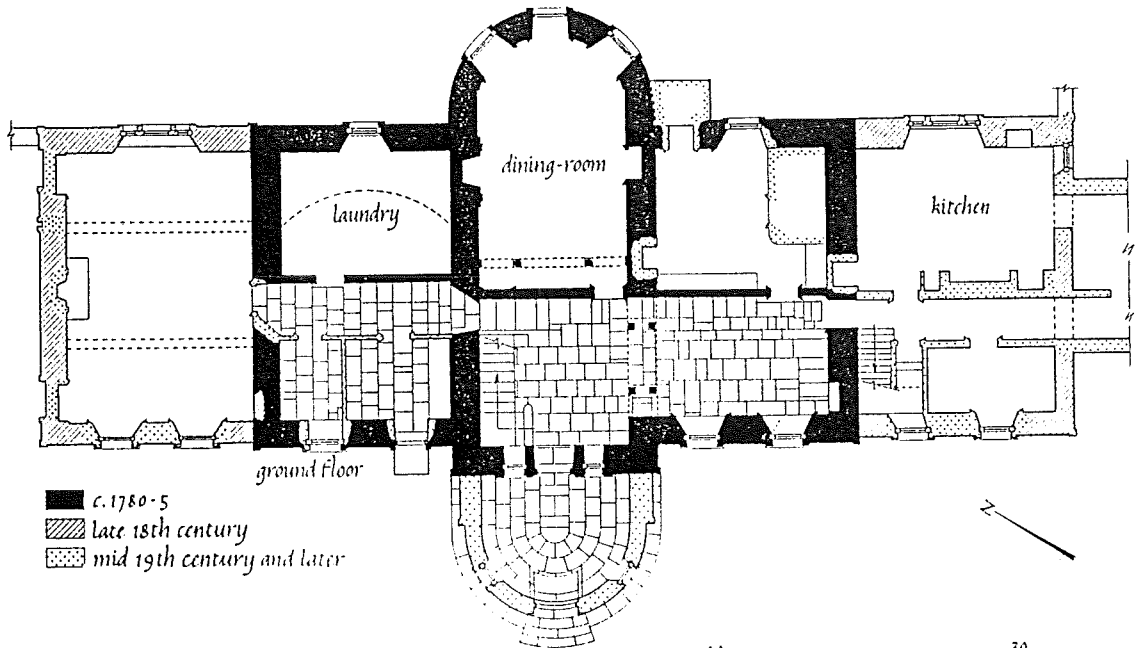
c. 1780-5
late 18th century
mid 19th century and later

m
10   20   30

ft.
10   20   30   40   50   60   70   80   90   100
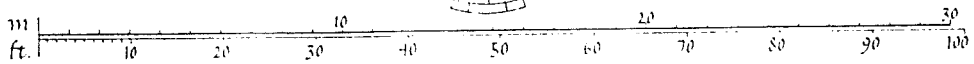
Strachur House: plan

Small island in Kyles of Bute, formerly 'castrum inexpugnabile domini de Lauquhaw' ('an impregnable castle of the [Campbell] Lord of Lochawe'; Walter Bower, c.1445). Used as principal magazine in 9th Earl of Argyll's invasion, captured and blown up by Government naval force, 1685. Excavation 1960s; foundations of tower, hall and chapel identifiable.
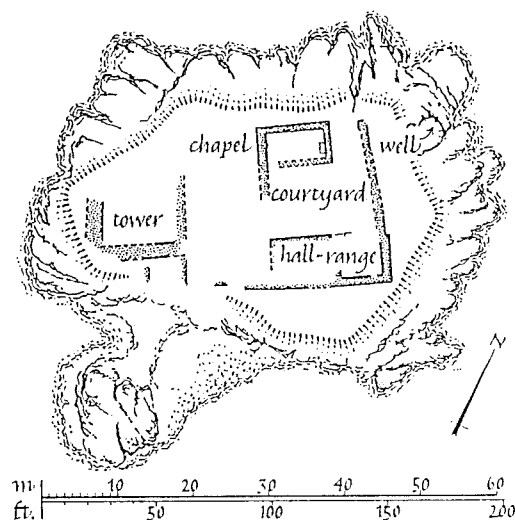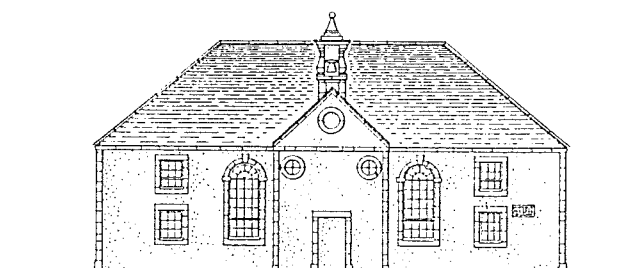
Remarkable Gothic three-arched bridge, 16m high (probably highest in Argyll), built 1815 to carry private road to Fletcher of Dunans' mansion above River Ruel.

(Not visible from road)

West elevation
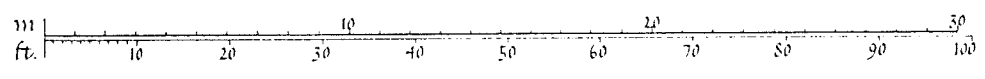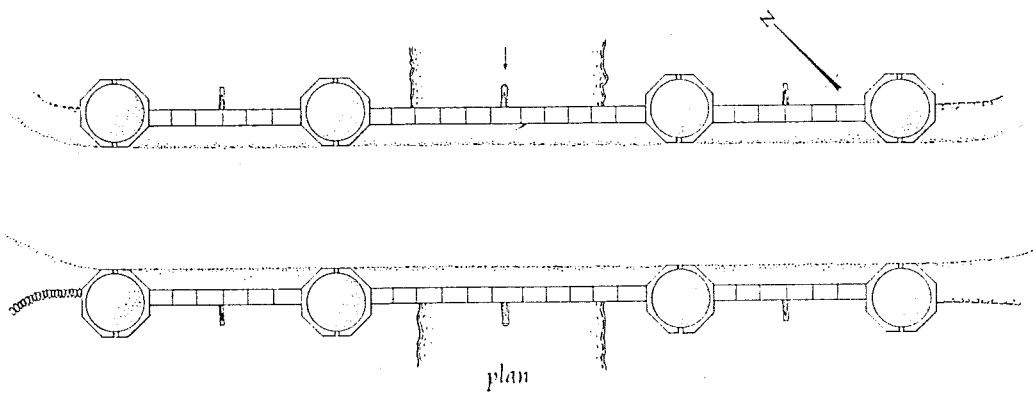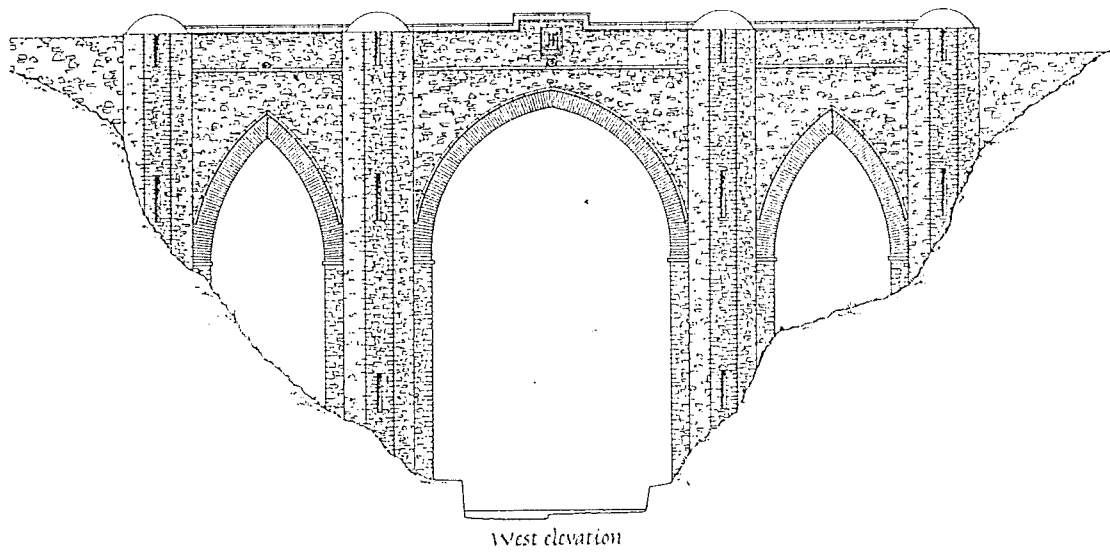
plan

T-plan church with symmetrical S front, 1783, built a few metres N̲ of ?medieval building (shown on Ormidale estate-plan). Campbell of Auchenbreck armorial panel, 1610, built into S̲ wall; three galleries, long communion tables and original pulpit. Medieval graveslabs (mainly Loch Awe school) in Lapidarium, and headstones including cooper's tools, 1778, and Gaelic verse epitaph, 1781, in churchyard.

South elevation

1783
20th century
plan·

N

m
ft.   10   20   30   40