



*NORTH KNAPDALE FOREST
FORESTRY COMMISSION
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY*

**Project report
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Summary

The project fieldwork involved a survey of prioritised sites within the Forestry Commissions North Knapdale Forest. The survey concentrated on listed sites that had prehistoric potential or sites about which little was known. In total 55 sites were visited and briefly recorded, with most sites allowing interpretation and categorisation. Prehistoric sites of note included a prominent cup marked boulder and a probable burial cairn with possible associated cist. Importantly four small defended structures or duns were identified during the survey. Two of these had previously been recorded as duns or forts, but had subsequently been dismissed as natural features, while the other two structures appear to be unknown. Of the sites belonging to the later historical period a possible mill site has been uncovered, although the majority of the sites appear to relate to later agricultural settlement. Despite their relatively recent date, however, the recording of these sites is important, as many are fragile and easily lost beneath forest plantation. Some features, however, without the benefit of excavation still evade archaeological categorisation.

Acknowledgements

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1.0 Introduction

This report presents the preliminary results of a field survey of sites and monuments within the Forest of North Knapdale in North Knapdale parish, Argyll. In January-February 2005 Kilmartin Museum undertook a field survey on behalf of the Forestry Commission. The aim of the survey was to enhance the understanding of archaeological resource within North Knapdale Forest by visiting sites where little or no information had been previously obtained. The work follows on from a Desktop Survey completed by Kilmartin Museum on the archaeological sites within North Knapdale Forest (Regan & Webb 2004).

2.0 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of the project was to achieve a better understanding of the sites listed by the Forestry Commission within North Knapdale Forest, in order to assess, record and possibly categorise the nature of the sites. A high priority was given to those sites that suggested prehistoric potential or possibly represented the remains of a recognised type of earlier monument e.g. a dun or burial cairn. Beyond this several sites were prioritised because of their intriguing nature; this determined by a description supplied by the Forestry Commission or on the basis of digital photographs also supplied by the Forestry Commission. It is hoped the categorisation of the visited sites will inform the Forestry Commission as to archaeological potential of the sites in their care, with the final report helping to prioritise resources towards preservation and management of the sites. The results of the survey will also be forwarded to other concerned bodies namely the West of Scotland Archaeological Service (WoSAS), Historic Scotland and the National Monuments Record held by Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS). The survey results will also be published in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, helping to enhance the national archaeological record.

3.0 Archaeological Background

The archaeology of the North Knapdale area of Argyll has been subject to several publications and surveys. One of the first was published in 1830 when Archibald Currie makes reference to several archaeological sites within the study area in his *Description of the Antiquities, etc, of North Knapdale* (Currie, 1830). Positioned on the southern periphery of the Kilmartin Glen area, other archaeological researchers continued to be interested in North Knapdale, with publications by Simpson (1868), Mapleton, R. J. (1870), White (1875), Christison, (1904a, 1904b) and Craw, (1930).

The first archaeological overview of the area, however, was not published until 1964, when Marion Campbell and Mary Sandeman produced their '*Mid Argyll: an archaeological survey*' (Campbell and Sandeman, 1964). Much of their important work formed the foundation of later survey work undertaken by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) resulting in the two published volumes known as the 'inventories' for Mid Argyll and Cowal (RCAHMS, 1988, 1992). The RCAHMS did not record or list all sites for example later landscape features such as C19th abandoned settlements were omitted from the volumes. Indeed only 16 sites under their classification 'Farms, Townships and Shielings' for the entire area of Mid Argyll & Cowal (RCAHMS 1992). The under representation of such sites has been partly addressed by the survey of unroofed rural settlement depicted on the 1st edition OS maps (the First Edition Survey Project). More recently work on these later settlements or '*Medieval or Later abandoned Rural Settlements*' (MOLARS as they are archaeologically classified) has been carried out by Heather James of GUARD, who surveyed over 40 sites in North Knapdale Forest (James 2003).

The Kist, the journal of the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll, occasionally carries features about archaeological sites in the North Knapdale area.

4.0 Field Survey

4.1 Methodology

In total 55 sites were visited during the survey. 47 of these sites were listed by the Forestry Commission including the 34 sites recommended for visits in the North Knapdale Desktop Survey, this list is reproduced below (Regan & Webb 2004).

FC No.	Site Name	Site Type
399	Ardnackaig	cairn/cist
400	Ardnackaig	cairn/cist
407	Sailean Mor	cairn/cist
417	Arichonan	cairn/cist
426	Arnafad	shieling
428	Arnafad	spring/well
430	Arnafad	mill/mill-stone
435	Ashfield	drove road
437	Balure	bridge
440	Dunans	bridge
443	Barnluasgan	charcoal
445	Barnluasgan	other structure
453	Cnoc Na Brataich, Cairnbaan	mill/mill-stone
468	Dounie	cup-and-ring
472	Dounie	cairn/cist
474	Druim an Duin	shieling
475	Dun Buidhe	cup-and-ring
478	Dunans	kiln/corn drier
485	Balure	dun/fort
504	Oib	cup-and-ring
508	Rock Island Road	sheepfold
537	Ardnackaig	cairn/cist
588	Balure	cairn/cist
766	Barnagad	dun/fort
768	Ardnoe	other structure
769	Arichonan	croft/settlement
776	Leachnaban	cairn/cist
778	Dounie	other
782	Crinan	cup-and-ring
795	Sailean Mor	cairn/cist
1056	Buddy's Monument	other
1058	Oib	shieling
1062	Arnafad Beg	enclosure
1080	Glenyalavon	enclosure

Table 1: Prioritised sites

In addition to the prioritised sites a 12 further sites were visited and recorded, due to their proximity to the prioritised sites, suggesting inclusion in the survey and where little information was known about them. Also included are 8 newly discovered or previously unrecorded sites that were noted during the survey.

FC No.	Site Name	Site Type
402	Sailean Mor	cairn/cist
403	Sailean Mor	shieling
429	Arnafad Beg	croft/settlement
434	Arnafad	cairn/cist
476	Dun Buidhe	dun/fort
479	Dunans	dun/fort
502	Oib	croft/settlement
690	Dounie	other
695	Dounie	shieling
794	Sailean Mor	shieling
1060	Oib	croft/settlement
1076	Ardnackaig	cave/rock shelter

Table 2: Additional sites visited

Ardnackaig	structure
Dounie	structure
Glenyalavon	cairn/cist
Glenyalavon	structure
Oibmore	jetties
Oibmore	structure
Achnamara	structure
Gleann Sabhall	enclosure

Table 3: New or unrecorded sites

The survey consisted of a series of field visits to targeted sites and a record of the features present was made. The pro-forma recording sheets used in the survey were based on those used by the James survey to facilitate recording continuity within the forest area, a blank example is reproduced in Appendix 1 (James 2003). The information recorded included the location, a sketch plan of the layout, orientation, length and width, wall height and width (if applicable), and a general description. The function of the site is suggested and its position in the landscape was recorded, especially any possible relationships *vis a vis* other features/sites. The sites were located by hand held GPS, although for the most part the given locations supplied by the Forestry Commission proved accurate enough to locate the most of the sites. GPS locations were noted and this reading is entered on the recording sheets and before the description of each site. However, because of tree cover in some cases an accurate GPS reading was unavailable and in the case of new sites an approximate map location is given instead.

Individual sites are described in Appendix 2 and these descriptions have also been provided to the Forestry Commission as pro-forma Word documents. Also supplied are pro-forma Word documents that have been updated to include the survey results of Heather James of GAURD (James 2003).

4.2 Maps and Database

Use has been made of the early editions of the Ordnance Survey maps, (1st and 2nd Editions), especially the copies 2nd Edition Ordnance survey maps held by Kilmartin Museum which had been annotated by local archaeologist Marion Campbell. The Forestry Commission has supplied copies of 1:7000 maps of North Knapdale with plots of the known heritage sites. The Forestry Commission has also supplied a copy of their heritage database.

5.0 Results

5.1 *Duns and Forts*

Sites 476, 479, 485, 766

One of the most exciting results of the survey was the confirmation of the status of four sites as duns or fortifications. All appear to be small defended structures situated on prominent and easily defensible ridges. Those at Branagad (766) and Balure (485) appear to have only recently come to light, while those at Dunans (479) and Dun Buidhe (476) need to be reinstated as probable defended sites given the presence of walls revealed during the survey. These four sites need more intensive and interpretative survey work if they are to be properly understood and managed.

5.2 *Rock Cut Sites*

Sites 430, 453, 468, 475, 782

Situated along Dounie ridge, a cup marked rock (site 468) is of some importance as it bears at least 16 cup marks on its upper surface. The site itself may hold more significance if the apparently heaped stones at the base of the rock prove to be the remains of cairn material. This is the second such site located along the eastern side of Dounie ridge, the other site lying to the north (site 458). Both sites need to be properly surveyed with closer investigation of the immediate surrounding landscape for related sites.

Of the other sites listed, 782 and possibly 475 are rock cut basins, these probably utilised as mortars. Given their locations site 475 may be related to Dun Buidhe (site 476), while site 782 relates to an unnamed deserted settlement (site 510).

Two other rock cut sites are quarries with the remains of partially cut millstones, sites 430 and 453.

5.3 *Cairns*

Sites 399, 400, 402, 407, 417, 472, 537, 588, 776, 794, 795

Most of these sites had been briefly described as cairns or clearance cairns. It was decided that a sample of these sites needed to be visited to determine their status as a site type and whether any were prehistoric in origin. Some cairn sites, such as those at Sailean Mor (site 407) were more enigmatically listed as 'Viking cairns'. In the main the majority of the cairns appeared to be the result of field clearance and these heaps of stones were usually located along the edges of what had formerly been fields or strips of rig and furrow cultivation. The stones have usually been piled in discrete mounds sometimes over natural rock outcrops or occurred as more general strips of loose stones located along the edges of the field usually at the foot of rising ground. Those sites that fitted into this category were sites 399, 400, 402, 407, 537 and 795. Site 795, previously listed as a sheiling, also appears to be a clearance cairn in the Sailean Mor group. Several previously unlisted clearance cairns were also noted near the deserted settlement of Glenyalavon (site 1090) and at Achnamara. No sign could be traced of probable cairns 472 or 776, the former possibly lost under subsequent undergrowth. Site 588 appears to be part of a Dun wall (site 485) and not a cairn. An exception to the general pattern of clearance cairns was site 417 at 'Arichonan'. This feature does appear to be a denuded burial cairn, possibly with a central cist. The cairn was placed on a prominent ridge overlooking the Add basin to the north and should perhaps be named after Barr Ban, a ridge to the east, rather than Arichonan that lies some distance to the south west.

5.4 *Sheilings*

Sites 426, 695, 794, 1058

Despite numerous sites listed as sheilings few of these sites were deliberately targeted within this survey, as this type of site generally belong to the later historical period. Sheilings can perhaps be described as temporary upland summer dwellings usually small oval-shaped or circular structures consisting of low rubble walls. The term, however, has been used more loosely to describe some forestry sites, from tumbled rectangular structures to amorphous heaps of stones. Of the visited sites listed as sheilings only one (site 695) appeared as a 'classic' sheiling structure. Of the rest, site/s 426 were not located, site 794 appeared be a clearance cairn, while site 1058 was part of Oibmore deserted settlement (along with sites 502 and 1060).

5.5 *Post Medieval Settlement Structures*

Sites, 429, 502, 503, 769, 775, 1060 and 1080.

Several post medieval sites were visited during the survey mainly because of their proximity to other sites and where no descriptions of these existed were briefly surveyed and described.

Most of the sites could be identified from the 1st and 2nd Editions Ordnance Surveys.

Arinafad Beg (429 & 1062), Oibmore (502, 1058 & 1060), Oib (503), Kilmory Mill (775), Glenyalavon (1080) and two unlisted/unnamed sites near Oibmore and Achnamara.

The buildings at Arichonan (site 769) appear to be the same as site 419, this confusion deriving from a co-ordinate error which indicated the presence of two sites.

The history and archaeology of these sites are more fully detailed in Heather James's survey of deserted settlements of North Knapdale and Kilmartin (James 2003).

5.6 *Bridges and Culverts*

Sites 437, 440, 690.

Site 437 at Balure appeared to be the remains of a culvert and possible dam embankment rather than a bridge as described. The presence of a large broken millstone suggests this may be part of a mill complex utilising the outflow of Lochan Laraiche. Site 440 at Dunans was a flagstone bridge on the old road from Dunnans to Dunardry. Site 690 was a culvert within a dyke allowing through-flow of the burn running down the base of Gleann Sabhall.

5.7 *Dykes and Fields*

Throughout the survey, the presence of enclosure dykes, clearance cairns and the general topography suggested former cultivated areas or fields. Probable field areas were noted at Ardnackaig, (399, 400, 486), Sailean Mor (402), Arinafad (434), Barnluasgan (443, 445), Glen Sabhall (690) and Glenyalavon (1080). An unusual form of dyke/enclosure was seen at Lagan (site 435) where a series of large upright stones lined the old road to the settlement, the stones possibly keeping livestock from wandering into surrounding fields.

5.8 *Jetties*

The former settlement of Oibmore appears to have been serviced by two jetties on Loch Caol Scotnish; these linked to the settlement by a track depicted on the 1900 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey.

5.9 *Wells*

Sites 428, 502

Two wells were noted during the survey one near the deserted settlement of Arinafad Beg (site 428) while the second was located at Oibmore (site 502), both these sites are depicted on the 1900 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey.

5.10 *Caves and Rock shelters*

Sites 778, 1076

The survey covered two natural rock formations that had been utilised and modified as shelters. At Ardnackaig (site 1076), a fissure cave had been walled to create a pen or small enclosure. At Dounie (site 778), a wall had been built against an overhanging rock although this appeared relatively modern.

5.11 *Lime Kiln*

Site 478

This well preserved site, while known and protected by the Forestry Commission had not been measured or drawn; hence it was included in the survey. The burning of locally quarried limestone would have produced lime, which would have been most commonly used on fields to counteract soil acidity and in the production of lime mortar for construction purposes.

5.12 *Small Structures*

Sites 403, 1080

Several small oval structures were located during the survey, at Sailean Mor (site 403) and Dounie, while two other small structures were attached to larger rectangular structures at Glenyalavon (site 1080). The purpose or function of these structures remains unclear although they may represent small kilns or fire installations. Another small structure located south of the deserted settlement at Glenyalavon (site 490) was more rectangular in shape and may have been for storage.

5.13 *Other structures*

Site 1056

As with the small structures above, some larger structures defy interpretation without further investigation. Located on the eastern bank of Caol Scotnish was a drystone platform (site 1056). This could represent a charcoal stance, although its relatively inaccessible position may mitigate against this interpretation. Also difficult to categorise was a previously unrecorded level circular spread of stones near the coast at Ardnackaig. This feature could represent a collapsed circular structure or a denuded cairn, although it is difficult to be sure without the benefit of excavation

5.14 *Sites not located or natural*

Sites 426, 434, 443, 472, 474, 504, 508, 776

The inspection of the features photographed as the Arnifad sheilings (site 426) suggested these may be natural rock collapse. The circular structure at Rock Island Road (site 508) and the cairn at Leachnaban (site 776) also appear to be naturally derived features, while the reported cairn at Arinafad (site 434) appeared to be collapsed wall. Several sites could not be located despite searches of the given areas, these include the reported sites at Arinafad (sites 428 and 430), Barnluasgan (site 443), Cnoc Na Brataich (site 453), Gleann Sabhall (site 472), Druim an Duin (site 474) and Loch Coille Bharr (site 504).

6. Recommendations

6.1 *Detailed Survey and Excavation*

The survey work has revealed the presence of four defended structures or duns. Two of these, the sites at Dunans (site 479) and Dun Buidhe (site 476), had originally been identified by Marion Campbell in the 1960's as possible defended sites, but more recently dismissed as natural features. Possibly because of this erroneous reinterpretation Historic Scotland has so far not scheduled either site. The other two sites, at Balure (site 485) and Barnagad (site 766), have only recently come to light during forestry operations and their subsequent recording by Forestry staff. All sites are located on naturally steep sided rocky ridges or promontories with good outlooks around their respective landscapes. The survey work has confirmed the remains of walls on all four sites, these appearing to enclose at least part of their ridge locations. At Dunans and Dun Buidhe the wall remains were only revealed after small areas of thin scrub (mainly grass and moss) were pulled back. Needless to say these monuments were only briefly surveyed during the project with measured sketches drawn and wall lines only partially traced. It is strongly recommended that the sites at Dun Buidhe and Dunans be reinvestigated with a view to obtain definitive plans of these monuments through topographic survey and possibly through minimal non-intrusive excavation to locate wall lines. The latter could be done relatively quickly with the removal of grass cover over suggested walling, with reinstatement of the cover after the survey is completed. Similar work should be undertaken at the sites at Balure and Barnagad with topographic survey and undergrowth clearance helping to categorise and define these previously unknown monuments.

It is also recommended that a topographic survey should be undertaken at the cairn site at Arichonan (site 417), as this is likely to be a prehistoric burial cairn. The site may also benefit from either partial or non-intrusive excavation in order to classify this monument.

The two rock carved sites to the east of Dounie ridge, at Creag Mhos (site 453) and Dounie (site 468), should be drawn, recorded and surveyed in a more comprehensive manner, especially that at Dounie which may have the remains of an associated cairn.

Topographic survey and a closer examination of the possible mill site at Balure (site 437) should also take place with a view to determine its age.

6.2 *Site Management and Preservation*

At most of the sites recommended for further investigation, trees have already been cleared or pose an insubstantial threat to the monument themselves. To keep this threat to a minimum, trees should not be allowed to re-establish themselves over the sites. This may be a future problem particularly at the dun site of Balure (site 485) where immature trees are now growing to the north of the dun and also around the lower slopes of the monument where lower outworks are present. It is recommended that these trees should be cleared.

At the cairn site at Arichonan (site 417) a tree is encroaching onto the southern circuit of the cairn and this should be removed.

Trees surround the rock carving sites at Dounie (site 468) and Creag Mhos (site 458); it is likely that some of these may have to be cleared around the sites, particularly if the presence of a cairn at Dounie is confirmed. To facilitate access, trees should be cleared around both sites, this would also prevent further damage by windfall in the case of Creag Mos.

At present the policy adopted by the Forestry Commission of marking and protecting sites discovered during operations seems to function well, and this should be maintained. More problematic is the preservation of more ephemeral sites such as fields and cleared areas within the practicalities of planting and harvesting. The location and extent of many of these sites, however, may be preserved in old maps as well as in aerial photographs taken prior to tree planting. It is recommended that these sources be studied to compile a picture of past land use in North Knapdale.

6.3 Future Site Recording

As mentioned above the system, of sites being recorded by forestry staff during operations appears to work well and brings to light many unrecorded features. This process enables those sites to be categorised by type and possible importance. Once prioritised the more intriguing or potentially important sites can be visited and recorded more fully as has been undertaken in this survey. To facilitate this process in the future is a fuller recording of sites at the primary stage and this is strongly recommended here. Most sites when reported by forestry staff are accompanied by a very brief description of the site and while useful could be more informative if they included some of the following,

- 1) Site location and other features near a site. This could include geological references as well as structural features, for example whether a site is on a ridge, near a burn, near a wall, east or west of a forestry track etc. etc.
- 2) Brief dimensions of the site. This could simply be done by pacing if a tape is unavailable. (1 pace = roughly 1m)
- 3) When noting structures it is good to record dimensions but also the shape of the structure (sketches are even better)

The presence of informative notes helps with the next stage of the archaeological process, by enabling the sites to be more easily categorised and prioritised for further survey. If anything, this primary record is the most important because not only does it bring previously unknown sites to light, but may prove to be the only record gained of sites that are not subject to further work. All sites are to a lesser or greater degree important, therefore notes taken at the discovery stage become crucial in our understanding of how the overall landscape was utilised in the past. Kilmartin Museum would be able to produce basic guidelines and or pro forma recording sheets to be used by Forestry Commission staff.

It is also recommended that there is periodic evaluation of any new sites that come to light during ongoing Forestry operations. This could perhaps be done annually in order to cross-reference the sites and assess their importance.

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Appendix 1

Archaeological Site Recording and Monitoring Sheet

Site No:	Date	Parish
Site Name:	NMRS No:	WoSAS Pin:
NGR: N__ E. N.	Satellites available (if using GPS):	
Scheduled YES NO	Listed YES NO	
Landowner	Planning Applications	
Documentary References		
Early Map References		
Description from first edition O.S. map		
Location (Height above sea level)	Aspect	
DESCRIPTION OF SITE (present day) Upstanding walls/Turf ruins	Field system	
Type	Enclosure? Dimensions	
Structural Survival	Building Plan shape	
Dimensions (plan)	Dimensions (plan)	
Dimensions (height)	Dimensions (height)	
Construction	Wall construction	
Alignment	Doors/Windows	
Features of note	Architectural Features	
Interpretation	Interpretation	
Relationships	Farmstead layout	
Associated settlements and evidence of access between them		

Sketch

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Current vegetation cover/land use

Recommendations	Suggested Date
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Recorded By (initials and date)	Photos Film No	Frame No	Film No	Frame No
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Appendix 2: Site Descriptions

Forestry Commission No.399
Ardnackaig, cairn
NGR NR 74351 90557

This clearance cairn is located within mature woodland west of a track leading from Ardnackaig down to a pier on the shore. The cairn stands in what was probably formerly a field/cultivated area. A SW/NE aligned drystone wall bounds the eastern side of this area with a steep descent beyond a ridge demarcating the western boundary. The cairn measures 3m by 1.80m and stands 0.70m high consisting mainly of small to medium pebbles and rocks. Other cairns of similar nature are located nearby.

Forestry Commission No.400
Ardnackaig, cairn
NGR NR 74380 90340

The cairn lay above and west of the present forestry track and south east of Ardnackaig. The cairn is a roughly rectangular shaped heap of stones situated immediately east of a north south aligned drystone wall. The pile mainly consists of large angular stones some, which appear, set on edge and give the appearance of some form of construction. The stones, however, are not set into the ground to any great depth suggesting these do not represent a structure. Measuring 2.10m by 2.70m and standing to a height of 0.70m the cairn may be related to the construction of the wall and may have been collected for repair.

Forestry Commission Nos. 402, 407, 794 and 795
Sailean Mor, cairns
NGR NR 74700 90950



Figure 1: Sailean Mor cairn and wall

The cairns are situated within three cleared areas lying west of the present forestry road and approximately 600m north east of Ardnackaig. These former fields are located on the flatter terraces situated between the steep SW/NE running ridges and are delineated by a series of drystone walls. The lower wall is cut by the forestry road but runs NE before terminating along a small rock promontory within the bay, a field lay to the west of this wall. To the west of this lower field, a second wall ran along the upper scarp of a ridge, this forming the eastern side of another field area, with a third 'cultivated' area lying to the west and slightly higher up the ridge.

Both these upper field areas are delineated by a NW aligned return of the wall forming the northern boundary to the fields. Both upper and lower walls are of similar construction built of drystone rubble and roughly coursed, standing up to 0.80m high and up to 0.60m in width the largest block measuring 0.80m x 0.35m x 0.30m. The lower field had clearance rubble stacked on both its western and eastern sides and in only a few instances had this been piled into 'cairns'. A more consistent approach in rubble stacking could be seen in the upper fields where at least 17 cairns. The majority of the cairns are situated along the east facing down-slope of a ridge forming the western side the cultivated area/field. The largest cairn measured 5m x 2.50m and stood 0.80m high. The fields may have been cultivated the populace of the nearby deserted settlement of Tigh-an-t-Sluichd (Site 412) description also refers to Sites 407, 794 and 795.



Figure 2: Sailean Mor clearance cairn

Forestry Commission No.403
Sailean Mor, structure
NGR NR 74668 90900

This site referred to two sheilings, but only one structure was identified. This comprised of a small circular/oval drystone structure measuring 2.50m by 2.40m with an internal width of 1.00-1.20m. The walls were 0.60m wide and stood to a height of 0.40m, although much rubble collapse may conceal the true height. The structure lies above and to the west of a field system (See sites 402, 407, 794 and 795). With no obvious entrance and too small to be a dwelling or pen then it is possible this represents the remains of a small kiln/drier.



Figure 3: Sailean Mor structure

Forestry Commission No.417
Arichonan, cairn
NGR NR 78245 93085

This monument appears to be a robbed or denuded burial cairn. The site is located in a glen on the western side of Barr Ban it would seem with good views to the NE over the Add basin, although these were obscured by tree growth.



Figure 4: Arichonan burial cairn

The oval mound material measured 11.20m EW by 10m NS and stood to a height of between 1.0-1.2m. The mound material dips towards the centre of the cairn, suggesting the removal of stones from around this central area, and possibly around the remains of a cist. The cairn is likely to be constructed of heaped natural rubble or rocks, although this is difficult to determine given a thick covering of soil, grass and moss that overlies most of the mound. The exception to this was a large flag or capping stone within the centre of the cairn, possibly the remains of a disturbed cist or a cist cover. The stone measured 1.34m in length although its width could not be determined, its western extent lying under grass/moss cover. A tree partially obscures the southern circuit of the mound and should be removed.

Forestry Commission No.426
Arinafad, structure
NGR NR 75400 89500

These features are described as circular piles of stones, however despite an extensive search of the area around the given co-ordinates, no such feature or features were located. The area in question lay high on Cnoc Biorach west of Arinafad Beg farm. The digital pictures of the site show rock piles but these on the ground appeared to be natural weathered rock collapse. However, the features were described and lying in woodland and since then felling and subsequent replanting has been undertaken, this possibly masking the original sites originally described.

Forestry Commission No.428
Arinafad well
NGR NR 75600 8900

This well is depicted on the 1900 2nd Edition OS map.

This was not located despite a search of the area as suggested by the given co-ordinates and that indicated on the 2nd edition map. The area in question has been much disturbed by forest operations and its possible any structure for the well lies under dense brash littering the area after harvesting.

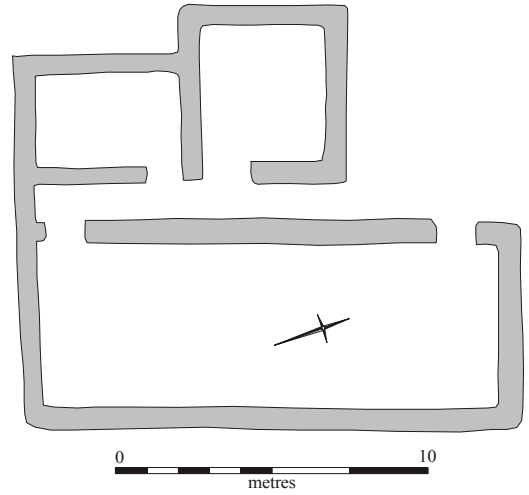
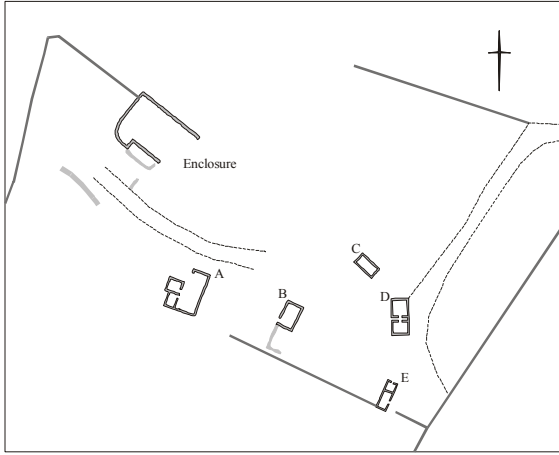
Forestry Commission No.429
Arinanfad Beg, settlement
NGR NR 75884 89335
NMRS NR78 NE 19
WoSASPIN 45076

A township comprising one partially roofed building, five roofed buildings, two enclosures and a sheepfold is depicted on the OS 1st edition 6-inch map (Argyllshire 1880, sheet clix). Four unroofed buildings and two enclosures are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1980).

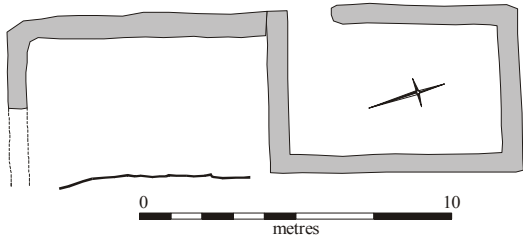
The site lay to the east of the present forestry road and overlooks the present Arinafad Beg farm lying approximately 500m to the north east and is situated on two ridges separated by a lower damper area.

This settlement consisted of five structures set within an enclosure with a second enclosure at the north west (see site 1062).

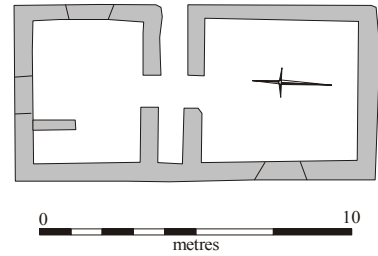
A - This building consists of three rooms constructed with dry-stone rubble. The southern room (A1) is 14.20m long and 4.50m wide internally with walls 0.6m-0.7m wide with a maximum height of 1.60m. The room has two doors set along the western wall at the north and south ends of the building. Connected by corridor at the west lie two further rooms, (A2) and (A3).



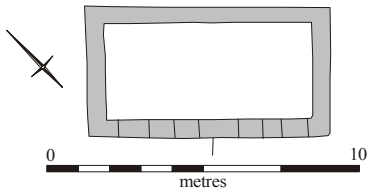
Structure A



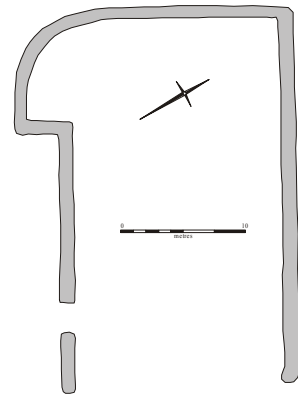
Structure B



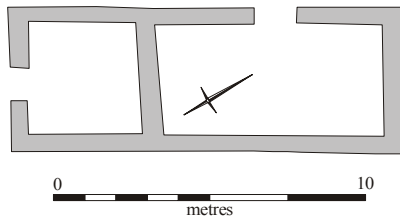
Structure E



Structure C



Enclosure



Structure D

Figure 5: Arinafad Beg deserted settlement

These respectively measure 4.40m by 3.80m and 3.80 by 3.50m, with doors set in their eastern walls. A further doorway (blocked?) may have lain at the northern end of the corridor. The lack of additional features within the walls of the structures suggests these buildings were not domestic in function. The building sits on a rise to the western side of the gully in which the settlement is located and south of the track leading into the settlement from the west.

B - Situated south of Structure A and on the eastern side of the gully was Structure B. This rectangular building measured 7.60m by 4.60m internally; with a door at the south east. The walls were best preserved within the southern gable standing to a height of 2.10m. Here there are also projecting through stones, probably intended as ties for a thatch or turf roof. To the south there were the remains of a much more denuded wall (B1), either suggestive of a robbed out-building or an earlier structure. Alternatively the disturbed walls may be the remnants of a small walled yard. If a building it appears to measure 4.50m-5m wide and 8m long, although the southern extent is badly disturbed by a fallen tree making it unclear whether a wall existed along this side or the face of a natural outcrop had been used as the back extent of this structure.

Three structures lie along a track to the north west of the settlement.

C- This building contained two rooms with a divided by a corridor. The northern room (C1) measured 4.40m by 3.5m with a blocked doorway in the northern gable end and a splayed window in the eastern wall. The remnants of a small partition wall was located dividing off the north-west corner of the room. A door in the south wall into the dividing corridor also accessed the room. The northern gable survives to what would have been roof height at over 3m while protruding 'through stones' are also included in the upper build.

The second room of the building, (C2) Measures 4.80m by 4.40m and is accessed by the door in the north wall leading to the dividing corridor. A splayed window was set within the west wall of the room. The remnants of a pediment or built platform can also be seen outside the building at the north. This may represent deliberate levelling of the ground prior to construction or more speculatively may be the remnants of an earlier foundation. The mortar

D – This was a small rectangular structure measuring 6.60m by 2.90m, with a symmetrical arrangement of two doors and two windows along the north wall. The doors are placed at either end of the wall with the windows between, perhaps suggesting this building was once subdivided into two rooms. Latterly the eastern door and both windows appear to have been blocked, although the tumbled state of the western door makes it difficult to be sure whether this was also blocked later or left open (although if still utilised it would have required an entrance suggesting it would have been left open).

E – This rectangular structure consisted of two rooms. The northern room (D1) measured 7m by 2.40m and had a centrally placed door along the eastern wall. The southern room measured 3.6m by 2.40m and had a door within its north wall.

Trees have been allowed to grow in and around the settlement and have recently been felled causing some damage to the surviving structures.

Forestry Commission No.434
Arinafad, wall
NGR 76460 90150

Described as a clearance cairn this would appear to be the remains of a wall aligned SE/NW partitioning the eastern side of this small glen. The wall itself climbs up the western side of the hill although it could not be traced along the floor of the glen where it may have been disturbed by forestry operations. The tumbled drystone wall was 0.60m wide and 0.55m high.

Forestry Commission No.430
Arinafad, millstone quarry
NGR NR 76300 90200

The site was not located despite two visits to the area around the given co-ordinates. The western side of the glen does appear to have been quarried and this may be what is being referred to here, although it is possible moss or undergrowth now covers any sign of the site.

Forestry Commission No.435
Ashfield, road (Lagan)
NGR NR 79500 87200

The site lies either side of the present forestry track, which cuts through it, and west above the deserted settlement of Lagan. This is probably the old road between Lagan and Barnagad to the south west (site 441). The track is delineated on either side by a line of upright stones effectively forming an avenue. To the west of the forest track the stones can be traced running west for 20m stopping at a ridge where the road climbs the hill. To the east of the forestry track the road drops towards Lagan and can be traced for 20m before the stones disappear under young trees. The road varies in width between 2.10m-3.0m, the maximum size of stone used measuring 1.20m x 0.70m x 0.60m. The stones would appear to form a barrier between the road and what presumably were fields lying either side of it and may have prevented animals coming in or out of Lagan from straying onto the fields.

Forestry Commission No.437
Balure, culvert and dam
NGR NR 78540 85290

Initially described as a flagstone bridge this may be the remnant of a culvert and dam for a mill. Situated about 100m east of the forest track on the western side of Lochan Laraiche is a stone built construction, bridging the narrow burn emerging from the loch. Two drystone walls line the sides of the burn; the walls supporting a row of large flat flags covering the burn for some 3 metres, although only one flag can clearly be seen on the western side. The culvert may have extended further to the east as suggested by apparent collapse at this side. The flags now support heaped rubble; this continuing to the south away from the burn and merges with what appeared to be an artificial bank. The bank runs from the burn to a steeper ridge at the south, measuring 3-3.50m in width and standing up to 0.80m high. The bank would appear to be the remnants of a dam with the flag construction over the burn perhaps acting as a sluice. Its function as part of a mill is perhaps suggested by the presence of what may be a large perforated millstone lying in the burn east of the culvert. This stone, although broken, measured 1.20m by 0.80m and was centrally pierced. The central hole within the stone measured 0.26m by 0.24m wide.

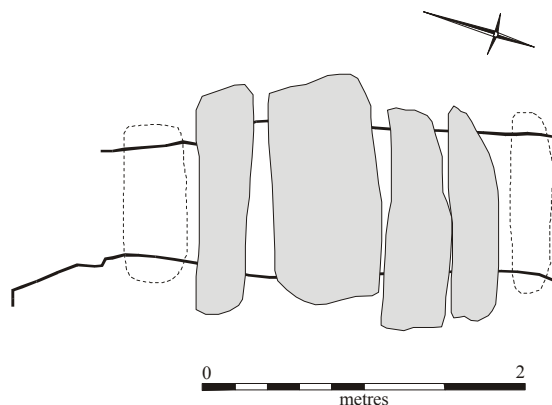


Figure 6: Dunans bridge

Forestry Commission No.440
Dunans, bridge
NGR NR 81030 90560



Figure 7: Dunans, bridge

Situated 250m east of Dunans farm and just north of the present forestry track are the remains of a flagstone bridge. The burn been had revetted by drystone walling this standing either side of the bridge up to 1.05m high. Set into the top of the wall were four flag stones forming the crossing, with a possible two further stones, now collapsed, lying north and south that may have originally been part of the flag capping. The largest bridging stone measured 1.45m x 0.70m x 0.15m. This would have been part of the old road running between Dunans and Dunardry (site 481).

Forestry Commission No.443
Barnluasgan, charcoal stance
NGR NR 79500 91100

Possible charcoal hearth/stance. A search of the area around the given co-ordinates failed to locate any feature that could be identified as a stance or hearth. Several mounded areas do exist in this area as does flatter pieces of ground, but none appear particularly suggestive of a stance. The flatter areas lying between the natural rock ridges however appear free of rocks and may have been utilised as fields in the past.

Forestry Commission No.445
Barnluasgan, wall
NGR NR 79700 91600

A rubble dyke/wall that was much collapsed and overgrown with moss. Aligned NW/SE, lying above the former settlement of Barrandaimph (site 444), the wall divided an even piece of ground that was probably a former field. The wall could not be traced to the south east, where it may have been disturbed by forestry planting.

Forestry Commission No.453
Cnoc na Brataich, millstone quarry
NGR NR 82700 90500

This site was not located, Marion Campbell indicated another half-made millstone on her annotated 2nd Edition OS map. This however is to the west of the given co-ordinates and not on forestry land, could there be two quern/millstone sites?

Forestry Commission No.468
Dounie cup marked rock
NGR NR 76391 92882

The site lies approximately 100m from the present forestry track that runs down the western side of Dounie ridge. The site consists of a large flat topped boulder on which there is a group of at least 16 cup markings incised into the upper face. The rock itself would appear to be natural, standing 1.90m high with the upper face measuring 2.80m by 1.50m. The site, which is almost surrounded by immature trees, lay at the south end of a smaller ridge or terrace with good views to the south. The presence of a loose pile of stones to the north of the rock may suggest the remnants of a cairn.

Forestry Commission No.472
Dounie cairn
NGR NR 76340 91640

There now appears no evidence for clearance cairns in this part of Gleann Sabhall despite a walkover of the base of Gleann Sabhall itself and the two higher plateau/flat areas up the Glen to the east. It is possible the cairns may have already been subsumed beneath vegetation growth since they were first located. As seen before, cairns and other stone structures stand out under mature forest or just after felling, as much of the undergrowth may have died back revealing previously hidden features. The removal of the trees allows re-growth and this sometimes quickly reclaims lesser structures like small cairns.

Forestry Commission No.474
Druim an Duin
NGR NR 78200 91300

This site was described as being hut circles on a terrace beneath the dun of Druim an Duin (site 28), although the Forestry Commission reported these lost after clear felling. Further investigation of the terraces down the eastern side of Druim an Duin during the present survey also failed to locate any evidence of the reported structures. The area is now again under thick forest.

Forestry Commission No.475
Dun Buidhe, rock cut basin
NGR NR 80180 89340

This site is situated on the northern ridge of the of Dun Buidhe escarpment; with a steep gully separating this from the actual dun escarpment to the south (site 476). Three rock-cut basins were reported as cut into the natural rock, however, only one of these was found. The basin was located on the upper face of an angular boulder that drops away steeply/vertically on its two exposed sides. The basin itself was not fully circular being without an eastern side. Measuring 0.15m wide and 0.10m deep it is still not clear if this could have been formed naturally, as internally the sides appear smooth and worn. As a mortar, however it is equally unconvincing given its relatively awkward position on the edge of an escarpment.



Figure 8: Dun Buidhe rock cut basin

Forestry Commission No.476
Dun Buidhe dun
NGR NR 80274 89446
NMRS NR88NN 1
WoSASPIN 4001

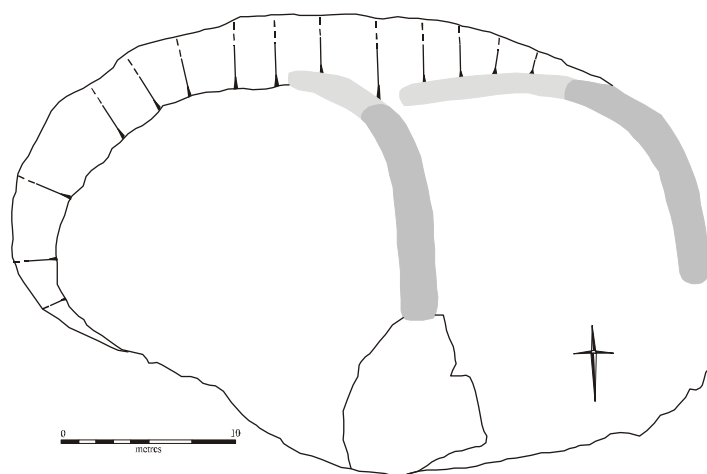


Figure 9: Dun Buidhe dun



Figure 10: Revealed wall at Dun Buidhe

This site appears to have been dismissed by the RCAHMS as natural, however, there is definite traces of substantial walling beneath the grass and moss cover, which suggests the identification of this as a fort or dun was in fact correct. More work needs to be done but the remnants of two defensive works could be traced to the east of the summit area. As this was only partially revealed by pulling back a small area of grass/moss cover, little can be said as to dimensions of the walling or its overall preservation.

Forestry Commission No.478

Dunans, lime kiln

NGR NR 80879 89976



Figures 11-13: Dunans lime kiln

This is the well preserved remains of a limekiln situated approximately 600m south of Dunans farm lying just west of a forestry track. The kiln is set into a steep bank at the north-west partially revetted with drystone masonry. The building is a solid rectangular construction measuring 4.90m x 4.20m at the top being slightly wider, 5.0m, at the front base and standing to a height of 2.30m. Built in roughly coursed drystone the structure contains a well constructed kiln bowl, with the splayed opening vent and drawhole at the south-east. Access to the kiln was no doubt from the wall-head at the north-west. Traces of a small drystone wall footing can also be seen on the east of the vent, this 1.65m long 0.67m wide and standing 0.26m high.

Forestry Commission No.479
Dunans, dun
NGR NR 80780 90829
NMRS NR89SW 4201
WoSASPIN 4201

This site lies the southern end of a ridge overlooking Dunans farm to the south. This site appears to have been dismissed as natural by the RCHAMS, however remnants of walling were traced. Much covered by grass/moss the wall remains partially enclosed an oval area of 14m by 10m. Part of a tumbled wall was revealed by pulling back a small area of undergrowth, the revealed area indicating rubble measuring 2.0m-2.50m wide and up to 0.70m high. More survey work needs done on this site to get a better understanding of this site.

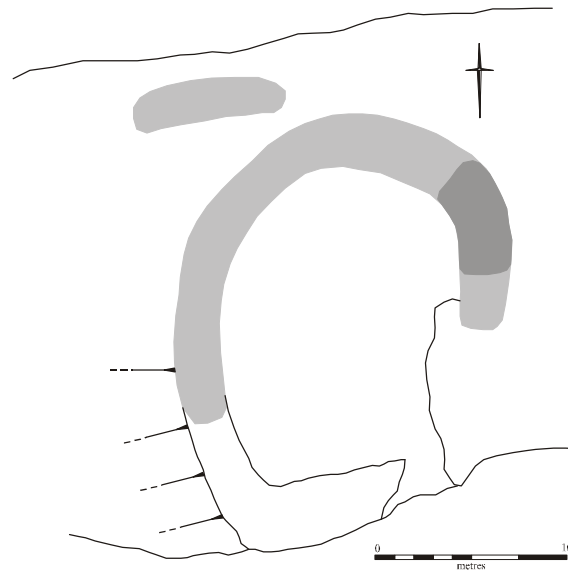


Figure 14: Dunans dun



Figure 15: Revealed eastern wall at Dunans dun

Forestry Commission No.485
Balure, dun
NGR NR 78270 85750

This dun is located on a steep rocky escarpment about 500m of the deserted settlement of Balure and 150m west of a forestry track. The site consists of a tumbled wall enclosing the top of the ridge that falls away steeply on the northern and southern sides, negating the need for substantial walls on these sides, although tumble on the south suggest this was also walled. The walls are most apparent on the eastern and western sides the rubble spread being up to 3m wide and 0.6m high. On the south western side an inner and outer face can perhaps be seen suggesting a width of 1.60m. The walls enclose an oval internal space measuring approximately 11m by 10m. An entrance is suggested on the north western side where there appears less rubble between a possible side stone and a natural scarp that forms the northern side of the dun. 5m to the west of the upper west wall there was the remnants of an out-work, with a possible second out-work 9m west of this and lower down the ridge. On the east traces of a second wall lower down the slope is also suggested, although this was much obscured by undergrowth. The site has a good vantage point with fine views west and south over Loch Sween towards Jura. The site has recently been cleared of trees although some immature trees are still growing amongst the outer works and on the northern side of the Dun.

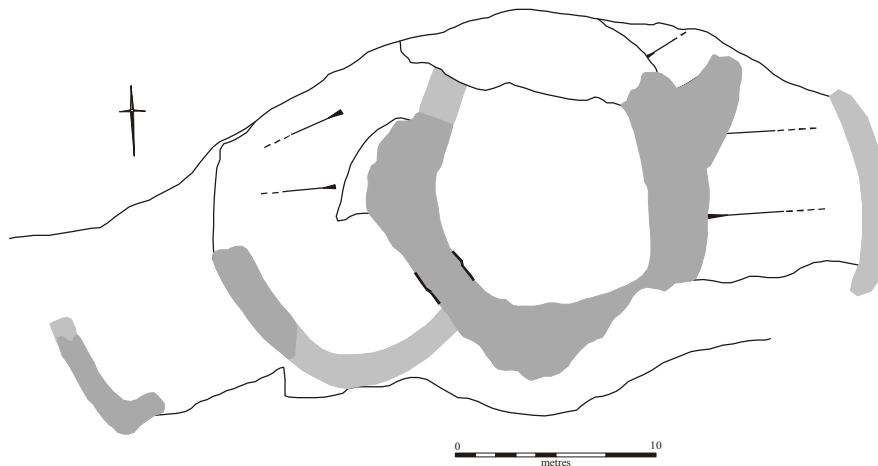


Figure 16: Balure dun



Figure 17 and 18 Balure dun walls seen from the north

Forestry Commission Nos.502, 1058 and 1060
Oibmore, settlement
NGR NR 76691 88833

This is the remains of Oibmore settlement. The 1900 OS series shows seven buildings, two enclosures and a well. Four of the buildings appear roofed while three appear without roofs at this time.

The remnants of five buildings were located on the ground, Structures A-E.

A – This was the most southerly of the buildings within the settlement, and situated east of the present forestry track. The building was rectangular in shape and was divided into two rooms (A1 and A2). The smaller of the rooms A1 lay at the south of the building measuring 3.50m by 2.50m, with A2 measuring 10m by 3.50m. The western wall of the building had been badly disturbed by the construction of the present track. No internal features were apparent, the building constructed in drystone rubble. The walls stood to a maximum height of 2m and were up to 0.80m wide. An irregular arc of enclosure wall lay to the east of the building, possibly acting as a barrier to the steep drop to this side of the building. From this enclosure but down-slope there was another drystone revetted area possibly used as a small enclosure and/or storage area.

B – Lying to the north of Structure A and again on the east of the track was a badly collapsed building. The building was basically represented by a roughly rectangular shaped pile of collapsed rubble and from which no useful dimensions could be obtained (possibly 7m by 5m).

C - The most northerly surviving building was Structure C. Only remnants of the south and east walls could be positively traced, although foundations of the western and northern extents of this building may still be present below the forest track and rubble accumulation. The surviving elements suggested dimensions of 6m by 4.5m, (although these are probably of truncated walls). The walls still stand to 1.8m in part and are up to 0.85m thick, they are constructed in drystone rubble with no identifiable features.

D – This building lay to the east of Structures B and C and now lies within forest. Rectangular in shape this building is much collapsed with external dimensions of 8m by 6m. Constructed in drystone rubble the walls stand to a maximum height of 1.50m and are 0.70-0.80m thick. No architectural features could be discerned

E – As with Structure D this building lay to the east of Structures B and C and now lies within forest. Rectangular in shape this building is much collapsed with external dimensions of 8.20m by 6m. Constructed in drystone rubble the walls stand to a maximum height of 0.60m and are 0.70-0.80m thick. No architectural features could be discerned

The remains of a raised enclosed area lay on the west side of the track opposite Structure A. The upper western wall of this enclosure appears to have a small recess in its length the purpose of this remains unknown.

A second larger enclosure lay down slope between structures A and B. This rectangular enclosure was of drystone construction, measuring 26-27m by 13.0-13.50m. The remnants of a lined well was situated along its southern side. The well was collapsed/filled but may originally have been square in shape. The well was situated at the base of a natural? gully that may have collected water run off.

Forestry Commission No.503
Oib, structure
NGR NR 77683 89699

This building was located down slope and west of the forestry track running west of Loch Coille-Bharr; the structure situated in a slight meander in the burn that sources from the same loch. The structure was rectangular in shape measuring 11.10m by 3.70m internally, with the walls constructed in drystone rubble and standing to a maximum height of 0.80m. The surviving walls were surrounded by much collapsed material and perhaps because of this no identifiable door/s were located. To the SW of the building several large disturbed flagstones suggested the remains of stepping stones or a small bridge over the burn.

Forestry Commission No.504
Loch Coille Bharr, circular structure
NGR NR 77800 689700

Located close to the edge of Loch Coille-Bharr (adjoining Kilmorry Mill) 'a rudely oblong or polygonal block of stone with a circular basin'. The stone measuring 2 1/2ft x 1 1/2ft, with a basin 9" across and 6" deep, re-located in 1972. The stone is now in the Forestry Information Centre. A 'small circular ruin' was situated some 5yds from find spot. (White 1875; Thomas 1879; Campbell and Sandeman 1964; Iveson 1973)

Despite searching over the area where the removed stone and 'circular ruin' said to have been located no trace of the possible structure could now be seen.

Forestry Commission No.508
Rock Island Road, stone circle
NGR NR 76100 90900

Despite a walkover of the area no definite structure could be located. The area in question was a flatter terrace lying up the eastern side of Gleann Sabhall. The images of the structure supplied by the Forestry Commission indicate a circular alignment of stones. There is a grouping of five large boulders that are suggestive of a circle measuring roughly 4.5m in diameter. However, there is no reason to presume these are anything more than a natural grouping of boulders derived from the crags above along with numerous other examples that have come to rest along this terrace.

Forestry Commission No.537
Ardnackaig, cairns
NGR NR 74200 90600

A series of clearance cairns situated around the edge of what was probably cultivated ground. The field area lies east of the sea above rocky ground before the terrain again descends to the east. A drystone wall aligned SE/NW runs between the two areas to the south west of the flatter area. The largest cairn measures 4m by 3m and stands 0.5m high. Dense tree cover prevented an accurate GPS reading.

Forestry Commission No.588
Balure, cairn
NGR NR 78280 85740

This site was originally identified as a cairn, however, the stones that form this feature appear to be the western wall of a dun the wall utilising a natural rock outcrop within its construction (for a fuller description of the dun see site 485).

Forestry Commission No.690
Dounie, culvert and dyke
NGR NR 76270 91572

The dyke is one of several that run SE/NW across Glean Sabhall, this one running down Bealach na Moine near Cnoc Reamhar at the east down into Gleann Sabhall and up to Dounie ridge at the west. The dyke is constructed of drystone rubble and stands, where undisturbed, to 1.35m high. The dyke tapers out either side towards the base and is capped by large horizontally lain stones/flags. Near where the dyke is dissected by the present forestry road running down Gleann Sabhall there is a lintelled culvert built into the dyke, through which part of the burn still runs.

Forestry Commission No.695
Dounie, sheiling
NGR NR 76350 91610

This was the remains of a small sheiling or sub circular drystone structure. The structure was located on a terrace on the eastern slope of Gleann Sabhall above the base of the glen and north of a burn running down Bealach na Moine. The structure was set/built against large natural boulders on the eastern side of the terrace and measured 3.20m by 3.10m with the rough drystone walling standing to a maximum height of 0.60m.

Forestry Commission No.766
Barnagad, dun
NGR NR 79866 86794

This dun site is situated on the southern most promontory of a series rocky escarpments that run south west from Cruach nan Cuilen and lies approximately 400m north east above the deserted settlement of Laganeure.

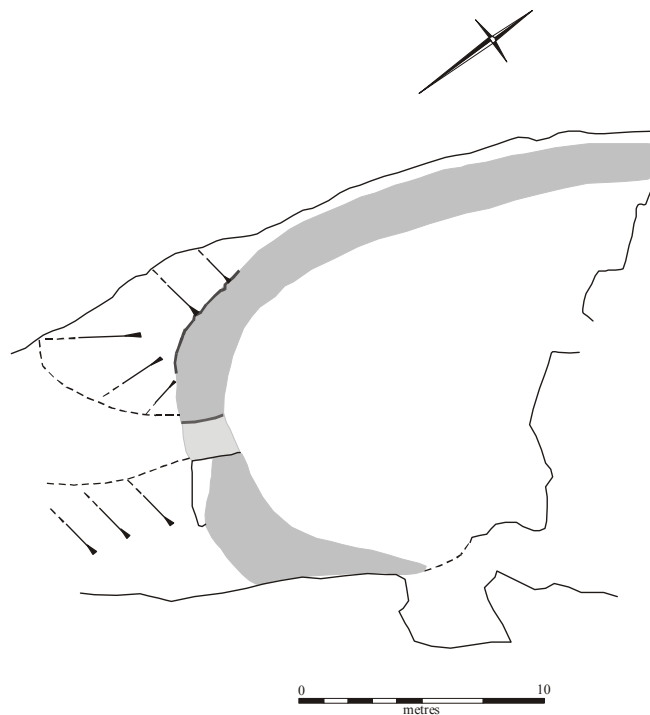


Figure 19: Barnagad dun

The walls of the dun enclose a natural plateau lying at the southern end of the ridge, with steep drops protecting both the eastern and western sides. The walls form an oval arc enclosing an irregular space of 17m by 13m, the northern side utilising a natural terrace scarp. No walls were apparent further along the ridge to the north east, although these, if they exist, could be hidden in undergrowth. The tumbled walls exist mainly as a scattered band of rubble between 1.60m and 2.0m thick and up to 1.0m high, although an outer face is apparent on a short length of the south western side. An entrance may exist on the southern side between two partially collapsed stones of a possible entrance-passage and an enhanced natural outcrop, the entrance approached up a steep slope from the south.



Figure 20: Barnagad dun eastern wall circuit

Forestry Commission No.769
Arichonan, structure
NGR NR 77900 91300

There is some confusion with this site and it appears that it is the same as site 419, it is believed the co-ordinates were misread, and should read NR779913 and not NR779915.

Forestry Commission No.775
Kilmory Mill structure
NGR NR 77889 89864

A township, comprising three unroofed buildings and two roofed buildings annotated 'Corn Mill' (see NR78NE 17) is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Argyllshire 1873, sheet clx). One unroofed building is shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1980).

Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 18 May 1999.

This site appears to be part of the settlement or outbuildings situated around Kilmory Mill which is now a scheduled monument (site 33; NMRS NNR78NE 31). Apart from the mill itself little remains on the ground of the other buildings depicted on the 1st edition OS map.

Two of the buildings are depicted lying north and west of the revetted lade leading from Loch Coille Bharr. Only one length of wall foundation could still be discerned, this aligned E-W and possibly the remains of one of the buildings. Other foundations were suggested by possible stone footings although these were barely discernible under the now abundant vegetation cover. That little remains of these buildings even in terms of rubble collapse suggests the buildings may have been robbed of building material.

Forestry Commission No.776
Leachnaban, cairn
NGR NR 78880 91640

This site was described as a 'possible cairn-pile of stones 10m above road end (taped off) at Leac na Ban (survey team)'. Several piles of stones were located in this area which has been much disturbed by harvesting and replanting of timber. None of these however suggested an artificial mound or cairn and appear to naturally derived. This side of the glen appeared particularly rocky not only with naturally outcropping rocks but scree/tumble or glacial deposits along this part of the glen side.

Forestry Commission No.778
Dounie, rock shelter
NGR NR 75600 92290

The site is situated in mature forest lying approximately 50m back from the bay/shore area and was a rock shelter constructed against a west facing cliff/rock overhang. The structure comprises of a single drystone wall construction at the south, this rising 1.6m to meet the roof of the overhang. The wall itself was probably to protect from off shore winds. The site has been utilised recently as a shelter/bivouac, while the wall construction appears of no great age.

Forestry Commission No.782
NGR Crinan stone, basin
NR77491 93461

This feature consists of a rock cut basin and is located within an unnamed deserted settlement previously described by James (James 2003; site 510 Structure C). The basin lay east and just outside the doorway of one of the ruined structures within the settlement. Cut into a natural boulder the basin was 0.18m in diameter and 0.12m deep. The basin appears to have been used as a mortar or 'cortegan', presumably to grind materials into a pulp or powder.

Forestry Commission No.794 and 795
Sailean Mor, cairns)
NGR NR 74730 91101 and NR 74717 91009

For a fuller description see site 402.

Forestry Commission No.1056
Buddy's Monument, (Loch Caol Scotnish)
NGR NR 77097 89744

This was a recessed and revetted platform situated on the eastern side of Loch Caol Scotnish. The platform appears to have been created by using the natural weathered stones cleared from an area at the base a steep sloping ridge above the loch. The cleared stones were possibly then used to revett the western edge of the platform with a drystone wall creating a relatively level/flat area. The roughly semi-circular area measured 10.70m NS and 7.50m EW. The drystone revetting along the western side of the platform was of rubble construction and stood

to a height of 1.5m and there is the possible trace of a wall footing along the south eastern side of the levelled area. Both mature and immature trees occupy the levelled area of the platform and there is some collapse along within the revetted face of the platform. Lying 5m above the loch shore and set 7m back from it the platform had no easy access to the shore or indeed along or up the ridge. It is difficult to be sure of the function of this construction, although Marion Campbell suggested on her annotated maps that this may either represent a hut platform or was possibly utilised as a charcoal stance and without excavation there is no reason to contradict these suggestions.



Figure 21: 'Buddy's Monument' drystone platform

Forestry Commission Nos.1058 and 1060
Oibmore, settlement
NR 76697 88870 and NR 76783 88844

See site502 for fuller description.

Forestry Commission No.1062
Arinafad, enclosure
NGR NR 75841 89401

This enclosure was part of the settlement of Arnifad Beg (see also site 429). The enclosure lies on the SW facing slope of the gully in which the settlement lies. Lying to the north the track down to the settlement the enclosure is roughly rectangular, with the exception of sub-rectangular outshoot at the southwest, this with a rounded wall at the west. Overall the enclosure measures 26m long and 14.5m wide for the most part, with the outshoot measuring 7.5m by 3.5m. The entrance to the enclosure was located along the south western side where the wall stands to its greatest height of 1.7m, with a width of up to 0.6m. The eastern end of the enclosure appeared only partially walled although the material may have been robbed.

Forestry Commission No.1076
Ardnacakaig, cave
NGR NR 74119 90539
NMRS NR79SW 5
WoSASPIN 50469



Figure 22: Ardnackaig, cave and enclosure

The site is located near the seashore approximately 400m west of Ardnackaig and consists of natural cave that has been modified as a shelter or animal pen. The cave lies up and east from the seashore and measures 3m by 1.40m with the cave walls tapering to a pointed roof. A revetting wall has been constructed north of the cave mouth. Lying 5.50m to the north was a second drystone wall this measuring 0.6m wide and standing 1.0m high, a centrally placed gap, 0.80m wide, gives access to the cave.

Forestry Commission No.1080
Glenyalavon, enclosure and structures
NGR NR 77869 91074

This site was a rectilinear enclosure situated next to and southeast of the burn running down Glenyalavon. The enclosure has a curving wall at the north and measures 23m NS and 17.50m EW the walls constructed in drystone rubble standing no more than 0.8m high. The enclosure contains two rectangular structures, Structures A and B, set along its western side.

A - The southern and smaller construction measured 4.50m by 4.20m internally although its collapsed condition made it difficult to see any entranceway. The walls stand to a height of 0.80m.

B - The northern structure measured 10.70m by 4.20m, although there appeared little left of the southern wall, the north wall standing to a maximum height of 1.30m. The south eastern corner of the structure utilises a large natural boulder up against which was constructed a possible small oval structure, a kiln?.

Another oval structure lay in the north west corner of the enclosure this measuring 1.80m by 0.80m internally, standing 1.50m high and again may be a small kiln or corn drier.

A wall runs from the north east corner of the enclosure to the northeast through a heavily forested area. The presence of clearance cairns along the side of this wall indicates the area east of the wall was once a field. To the east of this wall were the remains of another enclosure situated at base of the steep western side of Glenyalavaon, however, no accurate GPS reading could be obtained due to tree cover.

Sites not previously recorded

Ardnackaig, cairn/structure?
NGR NR 74191 90599

This site comprised of a near circular collection of stones or cairn. The site itself was placed between a gap in a natural NE/SW aligned ridge, overlooking the sea to the west. The 'cairn' measured 7.50m E-W by 7.30m N-S and stood to a height of 0.40m. No coursing was seen in the construction and its status beyond a broadly circular pile of stones remains unclear. Not being adjacent to any level or cleared ground it is difficult to interpret this as a clearance cairn, given that the many of the stones are large (up to 1.20m x 0.50m) and the cairn is not 'heaped'. It is possible this is a badly disturbed /collapsed structure or cairn.



Figure 23: Ardnackaig structure

Achnamara, structure, cairn and wall
NGR NR 78000 86980

This site is situated east and above the village of Achnamara between the present forestry track and Barnagad burn. The site consists of the foundation remains of a rectangular structure, a cairn and a wall. Internally the structure measured 8.30m by 3.20m with an internal division subdividing the structure into northern and southern rooms, respectively measuring 3m and 4.70m in length. The tumbled drystone walls stood to a height of 0.40m and measured approximately 0.60m wide, with no obvious door position along their lengths. To the north west of the structure a pile of stones suggested a clearance cairn, while the remnants of a wall runs from the north of the cairn towards the steep gully of the burn.



Figure 24: Achnamara structure

Dounie, structure
NGR NR 75650 92320

This was a small oval drystone structure with the longer side aligned E-W. The structure measured 3m by 2.20m (internally 1.40m S-N) with the walls standing 0.90m high, using a natural scarp as part of its southern side. The entrance may have lain at the west. The small size of this structure suggests it was not a dwelling and may be a drying kiln? An accurate GPS reading could not be obtained because of tree cover so the above co-ordinates are approximate.



Figure 25: Dounie structure

Glen Sabhall, enclosure
NGR NR 76007 91272

This was the remains of two NW/SE aligned dykes forming a rectangular enclosure. The enclosure is located on a terrace on the western side of Gleann Sabhall. Both dykes run west from a steep scarp to the edge of a second steep slope at the east, just above the present forest track. The walls are built of drystone rubble and are much broken down standing no more than 0.60m high.

Oibmore, jetties
NGR NR 76603 88944 and NR 76617 88954

The remains of two jetties situated on the western shore of Loch Caol Scotnish.

The southern jetty was constructed of large flagstones and projected 7m NW from the shore into the loch. The second jetty lay to the west of a cleared area of shore and was constructed of drystone walling. On the day of the visit it was possible to measure the jetty running 11m in a north easterly direction into the loch, however the tide was partially in at the time. The jetties lie below the settlement of Oibmore and the old track connecting settlement and jetties can still be traced (this track and the jetties are depicted on the 1900 2nd Edition OS map).

Oibmore, structures
NGR NR 77414 89402

This is shown as two structures on the 1900 2nd Edition OS map lying either side of the track leading from Kilmory Mill to Oibmore. Little survives of these structures beyond traces of slight foundations. The lack of rubble beyond a few alignments of stone suggests that these buildings may have been dismantled, probably robbed perhaps to provide material for nearby enclosure walls. What does remain has been further disturbed by Forestry planting and harvesting.

Glenyalavon, cairn
NGR NR 77827 90891

This was a clearance cairn situated south of the deserted settlement of Glenyalavon. Situated at the base of a steep rocky escarpment the cairn measured 8m by 5m and was 1.5m high. This no doubt was clearance from formerly cultivated fields lying to the west of the cairn, the area now under mature tree plantation.

Glenyalavon, structure
NGR NR 77830 90960

This was a small rectangular structure located 20m south east of the deserted settlement of Glenyalavon. The structure is built into a natural rock recess and measured 1.80m by 1.60m. Constructed from drystone rubble the walls were up to 0.5m thick and stood 0.85m high. No doubt associated with the nearby settlement it may have been some form of pen or storage structure. No accurate GPS reading could be obtained so the given co-ordinates are approximate.