



**BARR MOR, TAYNISH
NORTH KNAPDALE, ARGYLL**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY



DATA STRUCTURE REPORT

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Summary

The survey work undertaken on the western side of Barr Mor has confirmed and recorded the remains of a dispersed settlement, which may have been abandoned prior to the 18th century. This is suggested by the documentary evidence or rather lack of a reference to the settlement after the late 17th century. This is perhaps reinforced by the presence of relatively narrow buildings with curved or rounded ends which may represent an earlier form of structural type present in this part of Argyll prior to the late 18th/19th centuries where wider and more rectangular structures become the norm. If this is the case then the Barr Mor structures are a rare survival of a relatively undisturbed dispersed but discrete settlement.



Acknowledgements

Kilmartin Museum would like to thank the 19th Argyll Scout Group for their sterling efforts in recording this unknown settlement on Barr Mor and would also like to thank Scottish Natural Heritage for permission to undertake the survey on the Tainish Reserve. Thanks again go to Sheila Clarke for proof reading this report

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1. Introduction

The survey of the settlement on the Western side of Barr Mor was conducted by Kilmartin Museum who undertook two days of fieldwork in November 2016 and March 2017. Participating in the survey were the 19th Argyll Scout Group as part of a Youth Archaeology – Residential Pilot conducted by Kilmartin Museums Education team. Twenty eight scouts took part in the fieldwork and will gain a local knowledge badge, their work also contributing to team building, photography, and outdoor skills badges. The survey was undertaken with permission of Scottish Natural Heritage who own and manage the Tainish Reserve on which the settlement lies.



Figure 1: Location of the Tainish Reserve in Argyll

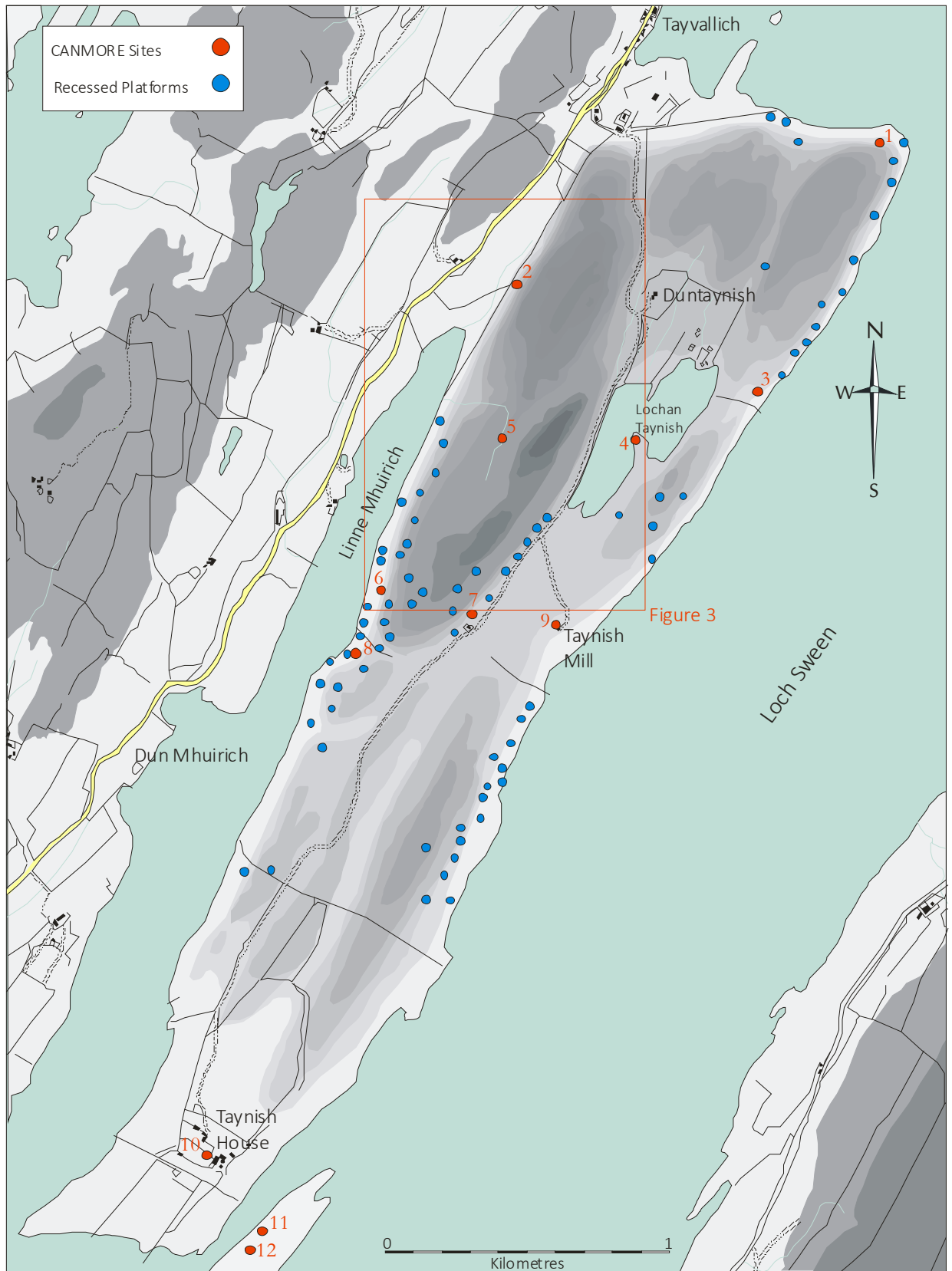


Figure 2: The Taynish Peninsula showing previously recorded archaeological sites

2. Location and Topography

The Taynish peninsula is situated on the west coast of Scotland, 20km west of Lochgilphead and immediately south of Tayvallich village just off the B8025 (Figures 1 and 2). The peninsula is approximately 5km in length and 1km wide and its eastern side bordered by the western shores of Loch Sween on the western side and on the east by Linne Mhurich a north western inlet or branch of Loch Sween.

The geology of the peninsula is dominated by a series of north-east/south-west oriented parallel ridges and valley systems. These ridges are formed in the main from epidiorite and quartzite geology and the associated parallel bands of fine grained intrusive igneous rock. The crests of the ridges are relatively flat and rounded in contrast to their steep sides which are often stepped, with crags or rock outcrops followed by less steep sloping areas of scree or soil. The Barr Mor (big summit) at 126m is the highest point on the peninsula. Between the ridges, the narrow steep sided hollows are infilled with glacial tills and often overlain with peat deposits up to a depth of up to 9m in the main central glen. This main glen extends the length of the reserve and is thought to be floored with raised beach material suggesting that, the Taynish peninsula may once have been a series of islands. Raised beaches fringe much of the coastline and are particularly prominent at the southern end of the reserve. The vegetation cover is mainly mixed deciduous woodland, with more open areas with grass or bracken cover. Much of the peninsula was declared a National Nature Reserve in 1977 covering some 330ha and managed by Scottish Natural Heritage. The area is also designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and forms part of the Knapdale National Scenic Area.

3. Archaeological Background

Several sites have previously been noted on the Taynish peninsula and these appear as entries on CANMORE. These sites are shown on Figure 2 (Sites 1-12) and are briefly described below along with their CANMORE site number. The figure also depicts the distribution of recessed platforms recorded by Rennie (see below).

A series of rock shelters have been recorded on the Taynish peninsula, at Turbiskill (Figure 2, Site 2, NR78NW 45), Lochan Taynish (Site 3, NR78NW 44) and Taynish Gate House (Figure 2, Site 8, NR78SW 40), and although none have been investigated (Tolan-Smith 2001).

Neolithic flints, however, have been recorded from a rock shelter on the opposite side of Linne Mhuirch (NR78SW 9) and it is possible other rock shelters may have been utilised in this period.

A possible crannog or island dwelling lies on Lochan Taynish (Figure 2, Site 4, NR78NW 14, Hill and Barrett 1976), if a crannog the structure likely dates to the Iron Age or early medieval period. A series of over 70 recessed platforms have also been recorded on the Taynish peninsula the majority towards the northern end with concentrations at Sron Bheith (Figure 2, Site 1, NR78NW 15, Rennie and Morton 1980) and on both sides of Barr Mor (Figure 2, Site 6 NRSW78 27 and Site 7 NR78SW 11). Excavations have revealed that some of these had been utilised as charcoal burning platforms, while others, given the absence of charcoal, have been interpreted as possible dwellings. Two of these platforms on the Linne Mhuirch side of Barr Mor were excavated in 1984 and 1990. One platform (NR 732 850) which was earth banked had evidence of a circular wooden superstructure along with clay floors and evidence of charcoal burning. The second excavated platform (NR 731 851) consisted of a well-made circular stone floor with stone revetting at the front and back. Evidence of a circular wooden superstructure was also found along with several episodes of charcoal burning (Rennie 1984, 1990 and 1997).

Four settlement sites have been previously recognised on the peninsula at Dun Taynish, Taynish mill (Figure 2, Site 9 NR78SW 43) and Taynish House (Figure 2, Site 10, NR78SW 22) and some structures have been noted on the heights of Barr Mor (Figure 2, Site 5, NR78NW 9, Campbell and Sandeman 1964). Another area of settlement may be on the Island of Taynish Beag where there are the remains of some structures (Figure 2, Site 12, NR78SW 6) from where an early medieval cross slab was recovered (Site 11, NR78SW 5). Excavation has also taken place at Taynish mill (built c. 1726) the results of which are summarised in the subsequent Data Structure Report (Regan 2012).

4. Historical Background

The first documentary reference we can so far trace that mentions Taynish is within a 15th century document which mentions the markland of *'Tuirynis'* given by Alexander Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles to *'Torquel McNeill constable of castle Syffyn'* (Appendix 2. 1).

More reliable is the mention of Taynish in a fragment of an instrument of sasine dating to 1525 whereby *'Colin Campbell Earl of Argyll, infeft [Neil] McEachin in the lands of Tyinysh mor'* (RMS III (345) 1525-6).

The later document indicates that Taynish along with other lands in north Knapdale on the Keil peninsula were controlled by the family of the MacNeil's of the Gigha and Taynish. These lands were held initially from the Macdonald Lords of the isles and after their forfeiture by the Crown by the Campbell Earls of Argyll. The earliest origins of MacNeils of Taynish are somewhat obscure as no traditional pedigree survives, but they are likely to have descended from the same family branch as the MacNeils of Barra. The family claimed the same line of descent as other prominent Cowal and Knapdale families such as the MacSweens, Lamonts and Gilchrists, their descent coming from Neil (from who they take their name) son Muirchaidh who was a grandson of Suibhne (Sween, the builder of Castle Sween). Whether the claimed lineage for the MacNeils is true or not, it is likely that the MacNeils did have a foothold in the Knapdale by the early 15th century when in 1447 Torquil MacNeil became constable of Castle Sween, along with receiving the lands of Taynish and Gigha, from Alexander MacDonald, Lord of the Isles. Thereafter his sons assumed the hereditary role of constables of the castle. Neil MacNeil (of Gigha) was named as constable of Castle Sween in a charter of 1455, and his brother Hector (of Taynish) named as constable in a witness list of 1472. For much of the 15th century the MacNeils were close adherents to the Lords of the Isles as Neil MacNeil of Gigha is named in a parliamentary summons of 1478 to John MacDonald Lord of the Isles as holding *'Castelsone'* in rebellion against the crown.

After the forfeiture of the Lord of the Isles custody of the castle was given to Colin Campbell, Earl of Argyll the Earl of Argyll in 1481. The MacNeils of Taynish, under another Neil, seeing perhaps which way the political wind was blowing became vassals of the Earl of Argyll. By the mid 16th century the effective leadership of the family which had previously lain with the Gigha branch had passed to the Taynish family. Documentary evidence suggest that the

Taynish family likely occupied Dun Mhuirich, lying just across Linne Mhuirich, this indicated in a disposition of 1553 whereby '*Neill McNeill McAychin of Dunworich*' (the grandson of Hector MacNeil of Taynish, constable of Castle Sween in 1472) is granted in '*return for good service, ...'the nonentries, maills, and profits of the merklands of Ardbeg and a merkland of Barbay with the mill thereof in the barony of Knapdale*'.

The family lands continued to grow in North Knapdale with other branches of the Taynish family holding the lands of Arichonan and Gallocillie by the end of the 16th century. The family remained closely allied to the Campbells, the successive heads of the Taynish family marrying a string of Campbell wives. The Taynish family may have occupied Dun Mhuirich until they built Taynish House sometime in the late 17th century. The MacNeil family retained the Taynish estate until 1779 when it was sold for £14,000 by Roger Hamilton McNeill of Taynish to Lieutenant Colonel Sir Archibald Campbell, brother of James Campbell of Inverneill and along with the other family properties of Ulva and Danna were collectively known as the Estate of Ross. In order gain some indication of the former farming practices on his newly purchased estate Archibald Campbell commissioned Duncan Campbell (an estate trustee) to obtain testimony from two individuals Neil MacLuccash and Malcolm MacIntaylor about the '*souming and sowing*' (numbers of cattle grazed and grain produced) on the estate. These accounts are worth quoting at length to gain some idea of the land use on the estate at this time.

Neil MacLuccash

'...does not know the ancient souming of either of these farms but that Angus MacNeill kept upon the farm of Taynish Thirty Eight cows with their followers of Two year olds Stirks and Calves, two Riding horses, four plow horses and four pownys...'

'That in the Summer Season, he was in use to lighten the Grass of Taynish by sending the most of the two year olds and the four plow horses and four pownys to other pasture; That he used to sow at an average communibus Annis (normal or average years) from Twenty to Twenty Six Bolls great oats; from four to five bolls barley; and from three to four bolls potatoes upon the Lands of Taynish...' and *'...kept at same time many Cattle upon the said Lands of Duntaynish and had farmers on it who returned him bolls from it, but the number of Cattle kept upon it or the number of bolls paid out of it the Deponent does not know'*.

Malcolm MacIntaylor

'Depones, That the ancient souming of the Lands of Taynish was from Thirty six to Thirty eight cows with their followers of Stirks and Calves; four plow horses, four pownys and two riding horses; and Fourty Sheep with their followers of Two year olds, year olds, and Lambs; That the Sowing of the said Lands was from Twenty six to Twenty Seven bolls great oats;

Seven bolls Barley; and from three to four bolls potatoes; Depones that the Souming of Duntaynish was Fourty cows with few followers; Eight horses and fourty sheep or thereby That the Sowing thereof was from Twenty Six to Twenty Seven bolls of great oats; from three to four bolls barley; and some potatoes’.

After Archibald Campbell died in 1791 the estate passed to his brother Duncan who is credited with major improvements on the estate creating the home farm, the dairy, the mill and trying to develop the slate quarrying at Tayinvullin.

In the early 19th century during the Napoleonic wars, there was an increased demand for iron and leather and the Taynish woodlands like many oak woodlands throughout Argyll were exploited for the production of both. Oak bark, rich in tannin, was used to process leather although the main demand was in the production of charcoal for the iron furnaces at Bonawe. The Taynish woodlands were coppiced under licence, which likely explains the numerous charcoal producing platforms that have been recorded across the peninsula. The estate was retained with the Inveneill family becoming a shooting estate, the house latterly used as a shooting lodge by Duncan Campbell (8th of Inverneill). The Estate was then sold by the Inverneill family as a shooting estate in 1930 to a Col. Strutt and again sold after his death to Sir George Nobel in 1935. In 1942 the estate was broken up the greater part purchased by Jackson Stops who then then sold it to the Pease family who farmed it until 1973 when they sold the Taynish estate to the nation to become a National Nature Reserve, (the mill was retained by the family until 2000 and then purchased by Scottish Natural Heritage).

The above mentioned document of 1525 indicates the lands of Taynish Mor extended to 4 merklands. Later however we have only mention of 2 merklands of Taynish in the documents of 1553, 1564, 1613, 1651 and 1654 (see Appendix 2 below for details). In the 1651 document the 2 merklands of Taynish are mentioned along with 1 merkland of Barr Mor and 1 merkland of Duntaynish. Barr Mor along with Duntaynish are also mentioned together in an earlier document of 1548. The documentation indicates that Taynish had split into three separate landholdings or settlements by 1548 which was still the case in 1651. Taynish and Duntaynish are both mentioned in the hearth tax list of 1690 while Barr Mor is absent which might indicate that any settlement had been abandoned by this time. In 1701 Dun Taynish is valued at 2 merklands and Barr Mor is no longer mentioned likely indicating the one merkland of the later had been incorporated into the former. A later lease of 1790 perhaps bares this out as only Taynish and Duntaynish are rented to John

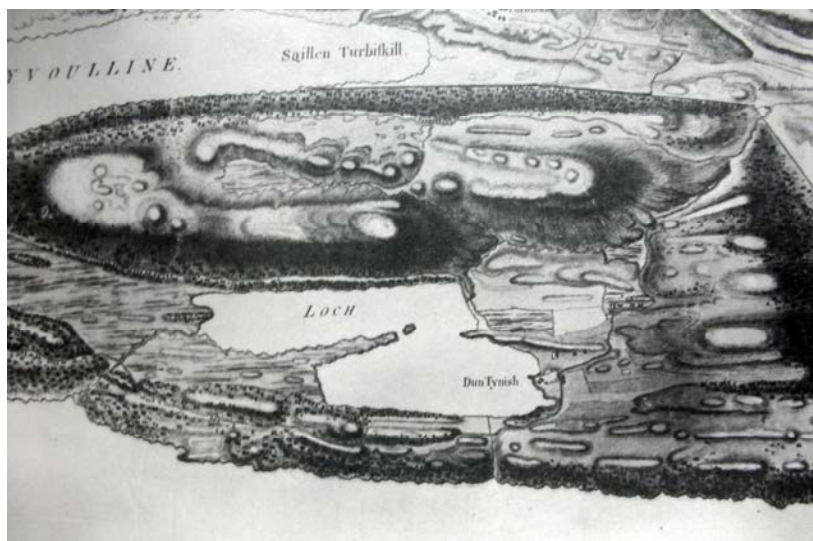
McDougall on a 19 year lease in valued at £126, with no mention of Barr Mor as an individual land unit. Barr Mor however has not disappeared altogether as it is named in a set dated to 1804 where *'Tontaynish and Barmore'* are set to Duncan Campbell for 1 year and again in 1812 for 6 years, which suggests the land of the former settlement was still being farmed, this perhaps indicated by the area of ridge and furrow on the west side of Barr Mor depicted on John Wilsons map of 1786/87.

5. Cartographic Evidence

The earliest map showing the area in any detail is within Blaeu's map of *'Knapdalia'* published in 1654 but based on the cartographic work of Timothy Pont undertaken in the late 16th century. The map shows the settlement *'Taonish'* located at the end of the peninsula and another settlement located north east of a loch, these likely representing Duntaynish and Lochan Taynish. Stephen MacDougal's survey of the Taynish Estate drawn up for Rodger MacNeill of Taynish in 1747 shows Taynish and Duntaynish. Of similar date is General Roy's military map of Scotland (c.1747) it shows Taynish Mill (not named) and Taynish House with attached formal garden at the southern end of the peninsula Duntaynish appears as a name but is curiously not depicted as a settlement. On John Wilson's estate map of 1786/87 *'Tynish House'* and policies are shown and the mill site is named along with five buildings and associated enclosures at *'Dun Tynish'*. No buildings are shown on the west side of Barr Mor but an area of rig and furrow cultivation is depicted. The house and mill are again depicted on George Langland's 1802 map of Argyll. On the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865 *'Taynish Mill (corn)'* is named and shows two buildings attached to field walls, five roofed buildings are also depicted north of Lochan Taynish (Duntaynish) while the policies of Taynish House are depicted at the southern end of the peninsula. The only other buildings depicted are Taynish Cottage and *'Tigh-geataidh'* (unroofed). Taynish House and Taynish Cottage are shown largely unchanged on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map (surveyed in 1898). Taynish Mill however is marked as *'disused'* and at Duntaynish only two of the buildings are shown as roofed while *'Tigh-geataidh'* has now been anglicised to *'Gate House'*.



Bleau's Atlas depiction of 'Taynish'



John Wilson's 1786/87 map of Taynish (west is at the top)



Langland's 1802 map of Taynish



1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of the Taynish peninsula

6. Survey Results

The survey recorded a dispersed settlement strung along a south west/north east aligned terrace overlooking Linne Mhurich to the west. The buildings lie between the 50 and 60m contour with the terrace rising from north to south.

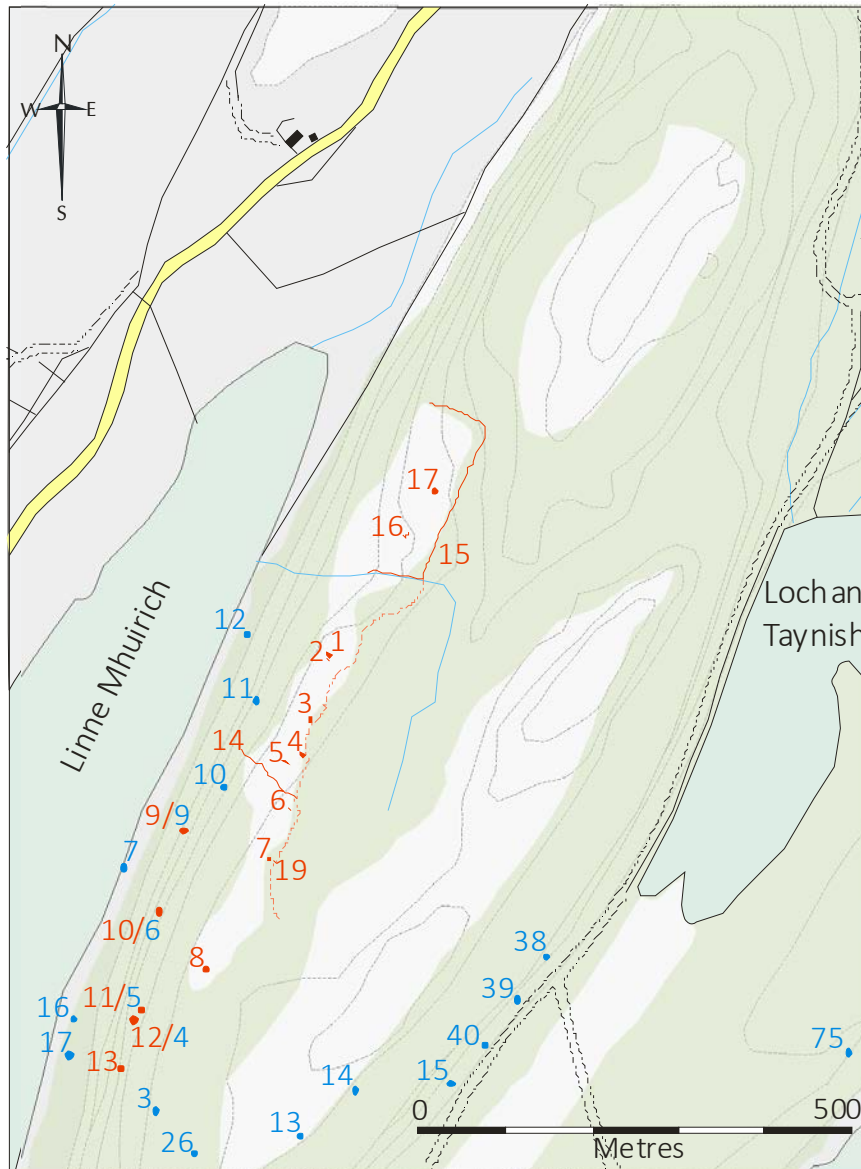


Figure 3: Plan of the Sites Surveyed (1-17 in red)

Nine structures (Figure 3, Sites 1-8 and Site 17) were located along this terrace and these are described from north to south. Structures 1-5 (Figure 3 Sites 1-5) were bounded by two enclosure walls (Figure 3, Sites 14 and 15) respectively at the north and south, while Structures 6, 7 and 8 (Figure 3, Sites 6, 7 and 8) lay north of Enclosure wall 1.

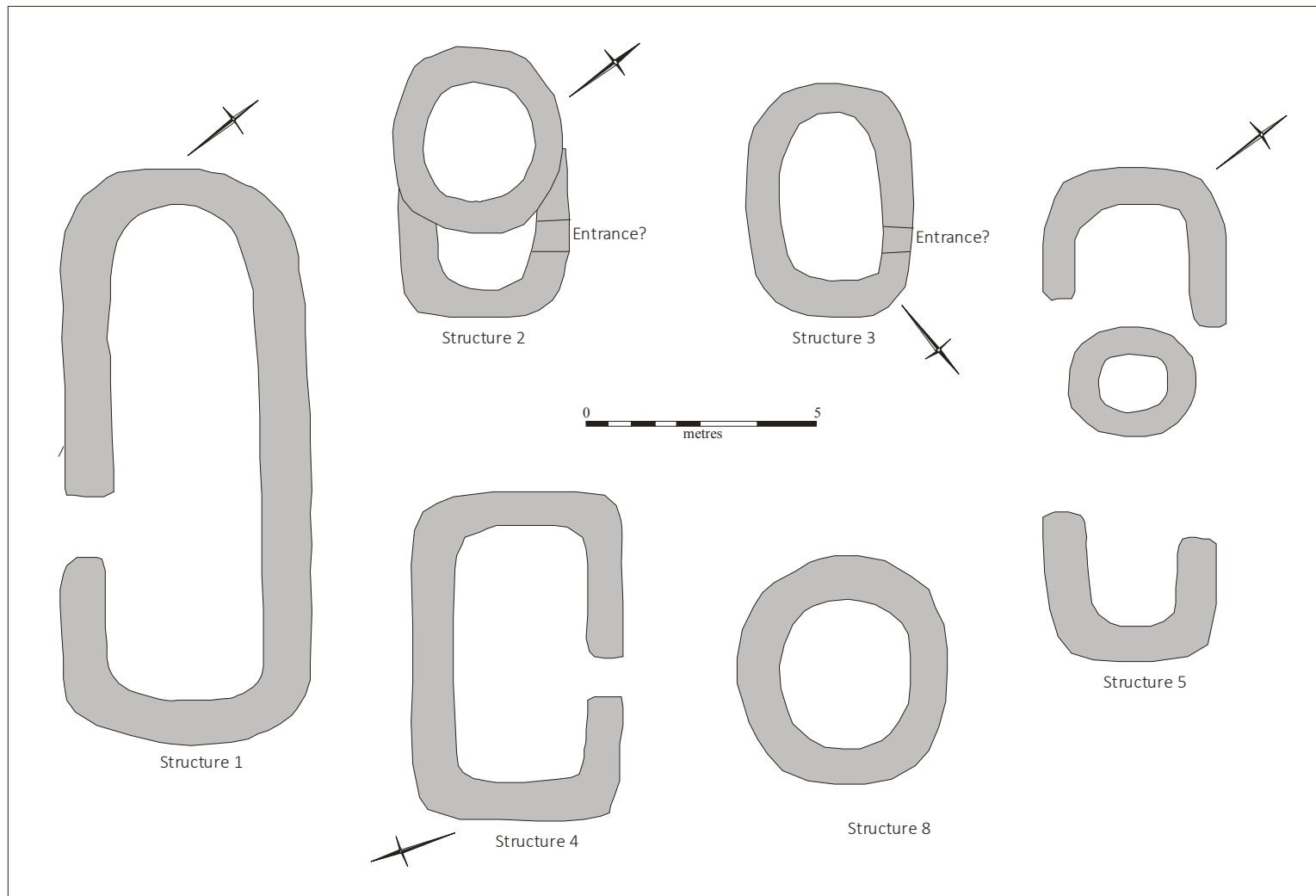


Figure 4: Structures 1-5 & 8

Only one building Structure 9 (Site 17) was positively identified within Enclosure 2 (Site 15) which also contained what appeared to be the curved line of a smaller enclosed area (Figure 3, Site 16). Several heaps of rubble or stones were noted, these likely representing clearance cairns the larger heaps recorded at NR 73436 85447. Despite the bracken cover over much of the area slight traces of rig and furrow cultivation could be ascertained surrounding the buildings and were most prominent at NR 73460 85686. The buildings and the rig and furrow coincide with open areas, generally free of trees perhaps indicating that these areas were still grazed until relatively recently. Below the main settlement area on the next relatively level terrace were a line of recessed platforms, Platforms 1-5 (Figure 3, Sites 9-13), and despite some discrepancy in given coordinates some of these likely equate to sites previously recorded by Rennie and are shown on Figure 3, with the present Site survey number (in Red) alongside the number given by Rennie (in Blue).

7. Discussion

Prior to this survey 106 settlements were known to lie within North Knapdale, including currently inhabited and deserted settlements. The settlements themselves are situated at regular intervals along the sea-facing terraces of the North Knapdale landscape. Given this, it is perhaps not surprising to find evidence of settlement on the west facing terraces of Barr Mor, although more unusual is that there is little evidence of any settlement here within surviving historical documents. Of the previously known settlements in North Knapdale 46 been surveyed this indicating that the overwhelming majority of structures within the settlements likely date to the late 18th or early 19th centuries. When compared to this corpus the buildings, which tend to have straight gable ends and between 4m-6m in width externally the buildings at Barr Mor (Structures 1-5) are relatively narrow with rounded or curved end walls. As current typologies stand this might suggest the Barr Mor buildings date before the 18th century. Oval structures or buildings with rounded ends that have previously been excavated and include structures at Loch Glashan (Fairhurst 1969), MacEwan's Castle (Marshall 1982), Bàrr Mór (James 2009) and Loch Losgunn (Regan & Webb 2006). All apart from Loch Losgunn, which produced no readily datable artefacts, have produced evidence of occupation in the medieval or late medieval period, although few settlement sites in Argyll have been systematically excavated, therefore the development and understanding of building typologies and chronology remains poorly understood.

Historic documents indicate that there may have been three settlements on the Taynish peninsula by the 16th century, these Taynish, Barr Mor and Duntaynish with the addition of a

fourth, the mill site, in the early 18th century. Identifying early settlement with later settlement bearing the same name is fraught with difficulties but we can perhaps assume Duntaynish occupied the same land as the deserted township lying north of Lochan Taynish, although most of the structures we see today are likely 18th and 19th century constructions. The original site of Taynish is less easy to identify but given that it is depicted on the Blaeus Atlas at the southern end of the Taynish peninsula, it was likely situated on or near the site now occupied by Taynish House and its surrounding policies. If the locations for the late medieval settlements of Taynish and Duntaynish can be equated with their 19th century locations, then the location of Barr Mor is still unresolved. It seems likely therefore that the group of buildings recorded during this survey are those of Barr Mor. Documentary sources as yet examined perhaps indicate the demise of Barr Mor as a settlement at a relatively early date. The 1 merkland of '*Barmoir*' is mentioned along with the merkland of '*Tontyniche*' in a document of 1651, but no settlement of that name appears in either the rebel list, the fencible men list or the hearth tax list all compiled between 1686 and 1694. In 1701 '*Tontaynish*' has increased from one to two merklands extent possibly indicating the lands of Barr Mor had been absorbed by Duntaynish, perhaps before the end of the 17th century. That this was the case is perhaps indicated in a later sett which mentions '*Tontaynish & Barmore*' which are rented together in 1812.

The typology of the buildings at Barr Mor suggest they may date before the 18th century while historical documents suggest any settlement at Barr Mor may have been abandoned by the beginning of that century. If both of these suggestions are correct then the settlement may be a rare example late medieval settlement that has escaped relatively intact and unaffected by later agrarian change. Standing apart from the main grouping of buildings was Structure 8, which was different in character and might represent a sub circular structure, although again without excavation, this was not confirmed. While this may represent one of the many platform structures that have previously been recorded nearby, the surrounding rubble spread indicated this structure had upstanding walls on all sides and if a round house or hut circle may date to a much earlier period.

8. References

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Appendix 1: Site Gazetteer

1. Structure 1. NR 73462 85618. A rectilinear building oriented SE/NW measuring c.12.40m by c.5.50m externally. The building appears to have rounded ends but this is difficult to ascertain given its denuded nature. A gap in the SW wall might suggest an entrance.



Structure 1

2. Structure 2. NR 73462 85612. A rectilinear building oriented SE/NW with rounded ends measuring c.3.70m by c.3.50m externally. A smaller oval structure has been constructed at its NW end, this measuring 2.5m internally. A gap in the NE wall might suggest an entrance, although this could be due to the robbing of the wall to build the later oval structure.



Structure 2

3. Structure 3. NR 73440 85540. A rectilinear building oriented N/S measuring c.4.80 by c.4.40m externally. The building appears to have rounded ends and the walls stand to 06m high. A gap in the W wall suggests an entrance.



Structure 3

4. Structure 4. NR 73429 85505. A rectilinear building oriented E/W measuring c.7.0m by c.4.40m externally, but this is difficult to ascertain given its rubble and vegetation covered nature. A gap in the S wall suggests an entrance.



Structure 4

5. Structure 5. NR 73411 85496. A rectilinear building oriented SE/NW measuring c.10.60m by c.2.30m externally with rounded ends. A small circular structure has been built within the centre of structure and appears to have utilised rubble from the earlier building. The smaller rubble built structure measures 1.70m by 1.30m internally with walls standing high.



Structure 5



Structure 5 later shooting hide

6. Structure 6. NR 73415 85441. This appears to be the much denuded remains of a small rectilinear building oriented SE/NW and measuring c.4m by c.2.80m externally.

7. Structure 7. NR 73391 85386. This appears to be the footings of a small rectilinear structure built against a natural scarp which forms its eastern side. The building measures c.3m by 2m externally with a possible entrance at the north side.



Structure 7

8. Structure 8. NR 73316 85257. A sub circular rubble built structure measuring 4.80m by 4.40m.



Structure 8

9. Platform 1. NR 73241 85214. Sub circular levelled area cut into the hillside at the east and measuring 8m by 6.50m. This platform likely equates to the platform previously recorded by Rennie as Platform 9.

10. Platform 2 NR 73234 85200. Sub circular levelled area cut into the hillside at the east and measuring 7.70m by 6.0m. This platform likely equates to the platform previously recorded by Rennie as Platform 6.

11. Platform 3 NR 73217 85153. Sub circular levelled area cut into the hillside at the east and measuring 7.30m by 6.60m. This platform likely equates to the platform previously recorded by Rennie as Platform 5.

12. Platform 4 NR 73265 85326. Sub circular levelled area cut into the hillside at the east and measuring 7.50m by 6.5m. This platform likely equates to the platform previously recorded by Rennie as Platform 4.

13. Platform 5 NR 73294 85419. Sub circular levelled area cut into the hillside at the east and measuring 10.00m by 8.00m.

14. Enclosure wall. NR 73422 85454 - NR 73387 85489. The wall runs c130m from a steep escarpment at the east to the edge of the terrace at the east where the ground drops off steeply to the west

15. Enclosure wall 2. The southern side of this enclosure is located on the north side of an unnamed burn running into Linne Mhuirich at the west. The wall then turns north running c. 150m again turning west and running down a steep slope to the northern end of Linne Mhuirich.

16. Enclosure? 5. NR 73543 85758. A line of stone footings running N/S for 10m before curving at the south to the west for c.5m, this had no obvious western or northern sides.

17. Structure 9. NR 73584 85808. Sub circular rubble structure measuring 3.30m by 3.20m externally.



Structure 9

18. Enclosure wall 3. NR 73856 86271-NR 73821 86264. This rubble wall runs along the western side of the terrace before turning west at its southern end towards a steep natural slope.

19. Wall? NR 73329 85259. To the west of Structure 8 a line of stones (c. 3m long) projecting east from a natural scarp may represent one side of a building or enclosure.

Appendix 2: Documents mentioning Taynish, Duntaynish and Barr Mor

1. Between 1429 and 1449 *'Alexander Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles granted in heritage to Torquel McNeill constable of castle Syffyn constabulary of that castle, certain lands in Gyga and following lands in Knapdale, 4 marklands of Dannay, a markland of Bairbrek, a markland of Bairbeth, a markland of Bairbethan 2 merklands of Bairnaphala and Duarby, half pennyland Duffoyng and a markland of Tuirynis with the office of Toshachdeora of the lands of Knapdale'*.

2. 1525 Fragment of an Instrument of Sasine at the hand of *'Mr. Gilbert McOllchallam N.P. narrating that [] as bailie of Colin Campbell Earl of Argyll, infeft [Neil] McEachin and his heirs in the lands of Tyinysh mor [] extending to a four merkland. Done on the lands of Turbisky' (GD437/2).*

3. 1548 *'Charter by Archibald, Master of Argyll, fiar of the lands of Campbell and Lorne with consent of Colin Campbell of Ardinglass, his curator and of Archibald Earl of Argyll, his father, liferenter to Neil McNeill vic Achin and his heirs male whom failing to revert to the granter, of the grain miln newly built by the granter on the lands of Ob and Kilmore and the mill land called the Two Gartane Mollyn, with pasturage for 2 cows and 1 horse yearly on the lands of Kilmory of Gillebir also multures of the following lands in the barony of Knapdaill and sheriffdom of Terbert - viz - the 2 merklands of Oknekirke, 2 merklands of Kilmorie, 1 merkland of Garob, 4 merklands of Laggane, 20/- lands of Barvynlosken, 3 merklands of Touardrie, 2 merklands of Downannyn, 1 merkland of Barindarocht, (these lands previously fued to mactavishis in 1533) 2 merklands of Branforlyng, 3 merklands of Ulway, 2 merklands of Cossindroich, 1 merkland of Farnoch-nabodocht, 2 merklands of Ardbeg, 1 merkland of Barbey near Dwnyngyne, 4 merklands of Danna near Castle Sewyne, 1 merkland of Cantyenche, 1 merkland of Barmore, 1 merkland of Arnafadmore, 1 merkland of Glennasawle and 10/- land of Carsag, extending in all to a 36 merk and 40d. land, together*

with the aqueduct of the pond of the said mill called Lochcallzebir, under reservation of the granter's liferent in respect of an old infeftment made before this charter and of a tack of said mill to said Neil dated at Innerrara 3rd June 1542. At Campbell' (National Records of Scotland GD437/5).

4. 1553 *Precept by Archibald Earl of Argyll directed to 'Niel vic Achin oig vic Nele, Angus McGilleis vic Ane alias McGilvernag, Donald Bane McAchin oig vic Nele, and John McDonche vic Gilvernag, as bailies, to infeft Neil Maknele vic Achin and the heirs male of his body whom failing to revert to the granter, in the 6 merklands of [], 2 merklands of Tiveniche the one merkland of Turbiskyll, one merkland of Bacht[] one merkland of [] and one merkland of Barbey, in the lordship of Knapdale. At our castle of Karik'* (National Records of Scotland GD437/8).

5. 1564 *'Archibald earl of Argyle granted to Torquell Makneill Vic Achin, the son and apparent heir of Neil Makneill Vic Achin, a markland of Drumagall, a markland of Barbreck with its islands, a merkland of Tawnacht, a markland of Barnafalg, and its island a markland of Scottenishe with island Vaude, a markland of Ovir Scotteniche, a markland Avenaraidebeg, 2 marklands of Tynische, with their islands, a markland of Bairaoraniode, a markland of Barbay, a markland in Kilmorie, a markland in Surbiskle, 2 marklands of Ardbeg, a markland of Barbay in Downing, together with the old extent of 16 marklands, in the lordship of Knapdale and sheriffdom of tarbert and resigned by Neill Makneil '.*

6. 1587 *'Precept by Archibald Earl of Argyll directed to Archibald McNeill of Callachill as bailie to infeft Torquell Makneill of Taynische father of Neil Maktorquhill Vc Neill vic Achin in the one merkland of Dondugald one markland of Bairbrek with its islands one merkland of Servochtbeg, one merkland of Karinchalg with its island, one merkland of Scotinsche with its island called Rande, one merkland of Over Scotinsche, one merkland of Arenabadbeg, 2 merklands of Taynische with its island one merkland of Bar[]moyd, one merkland of Turbuskill, 2 merklands of Ardbeg, one merkland of Barbay - extending in all to a 16 merkland in the lordship of Knapdaill'. (National Records of Scotland GD 437/14)*

7. 1613 *'Precept of Clare Constat by Archibald Earl of Argyll Lord Campbell, Lorne and Kyntyre, as superior, directed to John McDougall of Raghray as his bailie to infeft Hector Mcneill as heir to his deceased father Neil Makneill of Thaynis, in the 2 merkland of*

Tyveniche, one merkland of Turboskill, one merkland of Bartyhormoid, one merkland of Kilmorie in Durneinche and one merkland of Barbey extending to 6 merklands in the Lordship of Ros Knapdall and sheriffdom of Tarbart; and also in a merkland of Drumnagald, one merkland of Barbrek and in the lands of Sarnauchanbeg called Farnagyntagan and one merkland of Barnaschalga; and also in the lands of Scotniche Innerran extending to a merkland, the one merkland of Scotnichemoir, one merkland of Arynavadbeg extending to 7 merklands in the barony of Kilmichell; also in the 2 merkland of Ardbeg, one merkland of Barbey in Downyng in the Lordship of Knapdall; also in the office of Coroner or Crownarship and serjiandrie or mair fie within the bounds of Altnaschynnichie on the south as far as Pollegilbe and Awinad on the north and from Lochfyne on the east to the sea called Lyngedurache on the west; and also in the grain miln built on the lands of Ob and Kilmorie and the mill lands called the Two Gartane Mollyne, with pasturage of 2 cows and a horse on the lands of Kilmorie of Gillebir, together with the multures of the lands named in previous writs.

At Kilberrie

Witnesses, Duncan Campbell of Dannay, Duncan Campbell, vicar of Killenan, John Campbell notary, Mr. James Kirk, sheriff depute of Argyll, and Donald McNeill and James Bruce' (National Records of Scotland GD437/17).

8. 1651 *'Precept of Clare Constat by Archibald, marquis of Argyll, etc., superior of the lands, directed to Neill Makneill in Barnashealge, baillie in that part, in favour of John Makneill of Thyniche, nephew of deceased Hector Makneill of Thyniche, as nearer heir male to said deceased Hector Makneill, who died seised of all the lands of the barony of Gyga extending to a 20 pound land, viz., Camerrorot, Tarbert. Ardelay, Ardeglommie, Chaucereoche, Layme, Kilchattan, Ardwegeneis, Drumgenmoir, Drumgenbeig, Skoull and Duntro, with pertinents, lying of old within the sheriffdom of Tarbert, but now within the sheriffdom of Argyll, with offices of bailliary or seneschalship, of coroner, and officer, or serjeandry, within the whole lands of the barony of Gyga before written, together with the office of Toyssochdeoir of the whole of Kintyre from Mull to Altnaschynnach with all liberties, etc., belonging to aforesaid 4 particular offices; and also of all the underwritten lands, viz., the 2 merk land of Thyniche, the 1 merk land of Turbiskill, the 1 merk land of Bartyhormoid, the 1 merk land of Kilmorie in Durneniche, the 1 merk land of Barbey, extending to a 6 merk land, in lordship of Rosknapdall, and of old in the said Sheriffdom of Tarbert, but now in the Sheriffdom of Argyll;*

also of all the underwritten, viz., 1 merk land of Drumnagald, 1 merk land of Barbrecke; likewise of all the lands of Farnauchanbeig, called Farnagynlaggan, 1 merk land of Barnashalga and all the lands of Scotniche Inueraw extending to 1 merk land, 1 merk land of Scotnichmoir, 1 merk land of Arynawadbeig, extending to a 7 merk land, with pertinents, lying in barony of Kilmichael, and of old within sheriffdom of Tarbert, but now in sheriffdom of Argyll, also the 2 merk land of Ardbeig, 1 merkland of Barbey in Downing in lordship of Knapdaill in aforesaid sheriffdom; also the offices of Coroner, 'lie Crounerschipe', and Sergeandry, 'lie mair fie', of north and south Knapdaill from Altnaschynniche on the south to Pollgilbe and Albinade on the north side and from LochFyne on the east to the sea which is called Lyngedurach on the west, with their ancient limits and bounds pertaining to the lordship of Knapdaill; also the cornmill built on the lands of Ob and Kilmorie and the mill lands commonly called Two Gartanmullyne adjacent to said mill, with pasture of 2 cows and one horse annually on the lands of Kilmorie of Gillebir;

Also of the multures lie suckkin and astricted multures of all the lands underwritten in Knapdaill in aforesaid sheriffdom, viz., of the 2 merk land of Obnalarka, the 2 merk land of Kilmorie, the 1 merk land of Garob, the 4 merk land of Laggan, the 20 shilling land of Barrynoskane, the 3 merk land of Tonardarie, the 2 merk land of Downannyne, the 1 merk land of Barrindarrich, 2 merkland of Branfeorling, 3 merk land of Ulva, 2 merk land of Cosnadrocht, 1 merk land of Fernochbodach, 2 merk land of Ardbeig, 1 merk land of Barbey near Downyngyn, 4 merk land of Dannay near the castle of Castlesweyne, 1 merk land of Tontyniche, 1 merk land of Barmoir, 1 merk land of Ariewadmoir, 1 merk land of Glensaull, 10 shilling land of Carsaig, extending to a 36 merk and 40 pennyland, together with the lade of the mill pond commonly called Lochcallzebar in the barony of Kilmichaell and aforesaid sheriffdom, held in feuferm and inheritance for rent of £60 Scots at martinmas for lands and barony of Gyga, non payment of feuferm giving no right of forfeiture or reduction of infeftment, but without prejudice to the right of said Marquis, his heirs and successors, to distrain upon movables without any decree of judicial process, and without prejudice in executing the clause in contract between him and said deceased Hector McNeill, dated at Halyruidhous, 20 December 1631, against said John McNeill: rent, for lands of Thynich, Turbiskill, Bartyhormoid, Kilmorie in Dureniche and Barbey, of 10 merks Scots, silver money at Pentecost and Martinmas, 4 bolls of barley and 1 mutton, 'lie kane', in name of annual rent of feu ferm with 2 merks for each herezeld falling within said lands, also the heirs male of said John Makneill to pay at their first entry to said lands £8 Scots together with the due

and accustomed services: for lands of Ardbeig and Barbey in Dowyn 4 merks Scots and 4 bolls of barley, heirs male of said John paying on first year of entry, for doubling of feu ferm £8 Scots and 2 merks Scots for each herezeld: for lands of 7 merkland of Drumnagald, Barbreck, Fernochbeig, etc., the due and accustomed services of ward, relief and marriage and suits of court, and a ship of 8 oars to be kept for the service of the said Marquis and his successors; for the mill on the lands of Obe and Kilmorie, etc., 3 parts, viz., '3 bata lie', 3 pecks of each firloft of astricted multure of white flour owing to said mill from aforesaid astricted lands according to the tenor of the rental: all the aforesaid 36 merk 40 penny land to be astricted to the aforesaid mill annually to pay the astricted multure, of each merk land 1 firloft of white flour of sufficient value and measure, excepting all free tenants who by force of their ancient infeftment before the making of the original charter were in no way astricted to the said mill; the server of the said mill for the time being, who is called the 'mylneknaife', to have 1 batum of every 3 bolls growing on the before written lands annually with the other due and accustomed casualties for doing service at the same; faithful service to be given for said office of coroner together with account?? and payment of debts within the limits of the said office, and, for said office of sergeandry faithful service together with account and payment of ferms and debts within the limit of the said office only, according to the ancient infeftments of the lands and others' (National Records of Scotland GD 437/96).

9. 1701 *'Disposition by Dugald Campbell of Danna, eldest lawful son and apparent heir of deceased Archibald Campbell of Danna, with consent of Katharine Campbell, his mother, and Sir James Campbell of Auchinbreck, in favour of Neill McNeale of Taynish for payment of 2,500 merks Scots, of the 2 merk land of Toyntaynish, with pertinents, in parish of Knapdaill and sheriffdom of Argyll, without reversion, to be held in free blench, said Dugald Campbell undertakes to procure himself served heir to his deceased father' (National Records of Scotland GD437/103).*

10. 1716 *Disposition and assignation containing precept of sasine by Archibald McInlea in Arinfadbeg (designed in heritable bond underwritten in Daltot), Duncan McInlea, his son, and Effie McIlvernock and Mary Campbell, their respective spouses, with consent of Neill McNeill of Taynish, heritable proprietor of the lands, in favour of John McNeill of Airdbeg and the heirs male of his body, failing whom, his nearest heirs male and assignees, of heritable bond, subscribed by Neill McNeill of Taynish, 1 July 1703, of 2,000 merks Scots at annual rent of 120 merks Scots, on the 1 merk land of Arinfadbeg, with pendicles of land called Gortanvulline*

and field called Barnehaise, parts of the land of Skotnish, lying adjacent to said lands of Arinfadbeg, and which is thereby annexed thereto, in parish of Knapdale and sheriffdom of Argyll, and that as for the principal in real warrandice thereof furth of the lands of Tountaynish, the merkland of Fairnoch and the merkland of Barneshallig within said parish and sheriffdom, secured by disposition granted to said Neill McNeill of Taynish and his heirs therein mentioned by Donald McNeill of Gallechlie, with consent of deceased John McNeil of Taynish, his uncle, (blank) January 1699, of his whole lands and estates, in accordance with which disposition (dated 1 July 1703) said Archibald and his spouse and son were infefted in aforesaid annual rent and lands furth of which it was upliftable by instrument of sasine dated 1 July 1703 under the hand of Alexander Campbell, N.P. Registered P.R.S. Argyll, 24 July 1703. Written by Donald McGilchrist, N.P.' (National Records of Scotland GD437/109).

11. 1751 valuation role Taynish & Tontaynish Seventeen pounds seven shills [shillings] & six pence £17.7.6

12. 1782 *'June 10 Jean and Margaret McNeill, as heirs to James McNeill, Dep. Col. Of Customs, Greenock their father. Seised may 27 1872. In the Barony of Gigha-Taynish, Turbiskill, barlyhomoid, Kilmory in Durinich, Barbey, lop Ross and Kanpdale;-Ardbeg, Brabey in Downing. lop Knapdale, mill of Oib and Kilmorie, and mill lands called the two Gardenmulzions &c Drimnagald, Barbeck, Fernochenbeg called Fernegynatagan, Barnashalga, Scottnish Inveran, Scotnish Moir, Arienadbeig: bar. Kilmichael; Upper Fernoch and alehouse called Teighenfernoch, par. Kilvikamaig; Barnashelag; Ardnabeig or Ardnakaig, Down Taynish and tiends. lop Knapdale; in security of L1200 in bond by Rodger Hamilton McNeill of Taynish, to the said James McNeill, April 24 1765'.*

13. 1790 *'Crown Tack for 19 years to 'Sir Archibald Campbell of Inverneill K.C.B. of the Crown or Bishop's quarter of the teinds of the lands of Inverneil, Dannaymoir, Ardnay Stronfuel, Ballemoir, Ternoch and Kilmorie in the parish of South Knapdale, and of the lands of Dennaynacloch, Tontayneische, Ailray Cossidrochit, Fernoch, Bartyhormeid, Ardbeg, Kilmorich, Ternoche, Barbaebeg, Turbiskell, Barbrek, Twa Barnaschealges, Thayness, Arnawaidbeig and Scotnyshe in the parish of North Knapdale, and also of the lands of Barbae in the parish of Kilmartin, paying yearly £16.7.6 scots. Given under the Privy Seal' (National Records of Scotland GD437/30).*

McDougal's map of Taynish, 1747 British Library K.Top.49.28.

454 A Map of Taynish, Duntaynish, Scotnish, Ardnafadbeg, Barbay, Ardnakog, Turbuskel, Upper Fernogh, Barnashalog, Barbrack, Barbay in Ross, Ardbeg, Barcormick, and Kilmurrey, all contiguous, situate in the Shire of Argyle and kingdom of Scotland, belonging to Roger MacNeil, of Taynish, Esq.

Name: MacDougal, Stephen (Eng.)

Year: 1747

Scale: 1: 8,880 Dimensions: 580 x 1310 mm.

Place: Argyllshire (part of)

County: Argyllshire

Notes: With table of "Denominations" and land use. Scale 40 Perches to an Inch, 18.5 feet to a Perch. "Surveyed by his [Roger MacNeil] order and appointment in July and August, 1747, by Stephen McDougal". See Maps K.Top.49.37.1