REPORT ON STONE CIRCLES IN PERTHSHIRE, PRINCIPALLY STRATHEARN; WITH MEASURED PLANS AND DRAWINGS (OBTAINED UNDER THE GUNNING FELLOWSHIP). By FRED. R. COLES, Assistant Keeper of the Museum.

The portion of the county of Perthshire, of which Strathearn is the central strath, may be taken (for the purposes of this report) as beginning at Kindrochet, near St Fillans, to Hilton of Moncrieffe. a little south of the city of Perth, and is about twenty-six miles in length east and west. In the contrary direction it includes the country lying between a point near Amulree to Strathallan Castle in Muthil—a breadth of thirteen miles. These are the extreme limits; about half of this, however, is mountainous; e.g., all the high district between Craig Liath (1636) above Dunira north-eastwards to Glen Garr, a stretch of great hills and deep valleys over twenty miles long by five wide, and watered by the rivers Lednock. Turret, Almond, and by such considerable streams as the Barvick and Schochie burns. This grand and wilder portion naturally contains only a few prehistoric sites, its general altitude forbidding them. It is in the narrower, less hilly, and much more cultivated strip of beautiful country through which the Ruchil and the Earn flow that the megalithic remains abound; and these will be most conveniently treated of by taking them from west to east in a sequence of six groups.1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> We have again to record our sincere thanks for inestimable help, in discovering sites, so freely accorded us by residents in Comrie, especially by Mr John Graham, Mr J. J. Macdonald, Mr Thomas Boston, Mr MacIntyre, and Mr Gardner, tenant of Balmuick.

## GROUP L.—COMBIE DISTRICT.

No. 1. Kindrochet.—The farm of this name is situated close on the south bank of the Earn, one mile and a quarter W.N.W. of Dalchonzie House. An oval-shaped roundel of planted ground is shown on the O.M. 366 yards almost due south of the farm-steading and close to the western fringe of Dundurn Wood. Its height above sea-level is 300 feet; but it is in reality lowly and secluded, being shut in on all sides by great, massive, heathery hills and lesser heights wooded and picturesque—epithets which fully apply to the larger portion of the rarely beautiful district surrounding Comrie.

On the map there is no indication, by lettering or symbol, of any archæological remains at this spot. My attention was directed to it partly through the brief description given by Mr J. M. Gow, and partly by the accounts related by local residents, which seemed to point to the fact that there were Standing Stones here. On inspecting the site we found certainly many stones, but none that could now be clearly described as the remnants of a Circle, although from their somewhat chaotic condition it would be unwise to affirm that there never had been such a structure here. What was plainly discernible on the irregularly oval, slightly raised mound was that three great cists formed of uncommonly large slabs of schistose rock were now lying more or less open to the light of day, and that other slab-like stones still remained in situ as if indicating other and unopened cists. No precise record has been preserved of the excavations made here; in one of the cists human bones were found.

No. 2. Cairn-circle at Drumnakill.—On the moor, a little over a quarter of a mile due north of Dunira House and rather more than half a mile east of Glen Baltachan, are the two sites next to be described. The dominant crags of Craig Liath (1636) enclose this lower part of the moor on the north, and the site is nearly 700 feet

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Proceedings, vol. xxii. p. 24.

above sea-level. It is not shown on the O.M. Mr Gow has a notice of it in the paper above referred to.

This Cairn-circle is about seventy yards east of the shepherd's cottage, and it slightly resembles others already noticed in Perthshire. It measures from crest to crest of its circular ridge (see the plan, fig. 1)

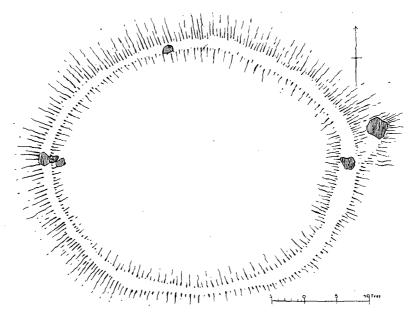


Fig. 1. Cairn-circle, Drumnakill, Comrie; Ground-plan.

44 feet 3 inches east and west by 37 feet 10 inches north and south. Several large blocks of stone lie exposed on the crest, and many others can be felt as one walks along it. The ridge is completely oval-circular, having no break or passage-way, and encloses a flattish, rather uneven space measuring about 34 feet in diameter. The height above the outside ground at the best-preserved portions is fully 4 feet.

No. 3. Drumnakill; remains of Circle (supposed).—In a cleared

space, about twenty-five yards east of the Cairn-circle, a very prominent cup-marked boulder of whinstone arrests the eye; and lying in an almost straight line a few yards to the south there are five other blocks of considerable size. Whether these were once set in a ring around the cup-marked boulder is a point not now clearly ascertainable, but vague rumours to the effect that such was the original arrangement reached me from more than one quarter.

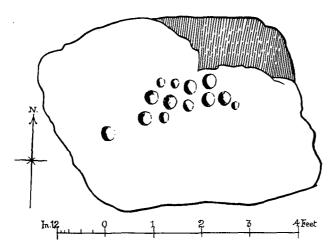


Fig. 2. Cup-marked boulder near Circle, Drumnakill, Comrie.

The cup-marked Stone measures 6 feet 7 inches by 3 feet 11 inches on the top, its longer axis pointing W. 80° N. The surface near the middle, where the Cups are, is 2 feet 5 inches above the ground, and the base of the stone rounds off downwards on all sides. On the smoothest and most level portion there are thirteen beautifully clear-cut, plain Cups, 1 varying in diameter from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, all about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> It may be useful to note that at two other Perthshire sites Mr Dugald M'Ewen has discovered Stones each with thirteen cup-marks (without grooves or rings), and that a Stone at Clochfoldich, near Grantully, bears fifty-two (13 × 4), also plain cups. VOL. XLV.

depth, and arranged as shown in the plan (fig. 2). The whole general surface of the Stone has a distinct inclination towards the south; but on the north-east a large fracture has occurred, shown shaded in my drawing.

No. 4. Remains of Stone Circle, Tullybannocher.—On the O.M. four Stones are shown at this spot. At what date destruction began is uncertain, but Mr MacIntyre, tenant of Kindrochet, informed me that up to about seventeen years ago three Stones remained, and that one of them, which had fallen, was then removed as an obstruction to the plough by the farmer; therefore there are at present only

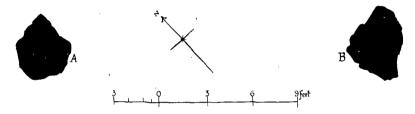


Fig. 3. Remains of Stone Circle, Tullybannocher; Ground-plan.

two. The site is 250 yards N.E. of the St Fillans Road and over a quarter of a mile N.W. of Tullybannocher smithy, in an open field, at the height of about 214 feet above sea-level. On the east, Twentyshilling Wood closes it in, and on the west the wood of Drumlochlan. Farther away due north rise the great knuckle-like contours of Crappich Hill, while the southern prospect is completely closed in by heavily-timbered ground.

The Stones stand as shown in the plan (fig. 3), 22 feet 4 inches apart if measured between their centres. From the fact that the broader sides of each face respectively north-eastwards and north-westwards, it is to be inferred that the other two Stones of this Circle once stood on the northern arc. The west Stone, A, is a vertical five-

sided block of quartziferous schist, with a basal girth of almost 12 feet and a height of 4 feet 8 inches. The other Stone, B, is also five-sided, and is an irregular, very broad-based, rugged block of whinstone 5 feet in height, and girthing round the base 13 feet 6 inches.

In the illustration (fig. 4) there is shown a view of these Stones from the S.S.E., with Crappich Hill in the distance.

No. 5. Stone Circle at Balmuick.—This lofty site is one mile N.E.

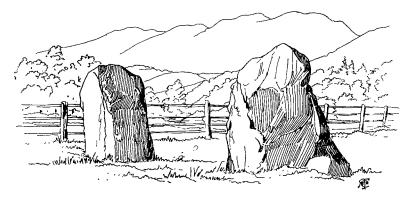


Fig. 4. Remains of Stone Circle at Tullybannocher; View from the S.S.E.

of Balmuick farmhouse and rather less distant from Braefordie, on the wide moorlands which form the footings of the two great hill-ranges Carn Chois and Beinn-a-Chonnaich, to the north of Comrie. The height above sea-level is 1000 feet. It is unmarked on the O.M., and I am able to record it directly through information given me by Mr Boston, now residing at Sunnyside, Dalginross, who for long was tenant of Balmuick, and to whose keen interest in and accurate knowledge of the local antiquities we were indebted for various facts of importance:<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Pronounced Cairn Hosie, and Ben-y-Hone.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Balmuick is famous for being the site of the discovery, in a cist, of an urn with a side-handle, during excavations conducted by Mr Boston. See Anderson, Scotland in Pagan Times, Bronze and Stone Ages, p. 82.

There are on this lonely spot six Stones (see plan, fig. 5) which appear to have formed one irregular group, four of which probably constituted the circle proper. Only one, Stone A, on the S.W., is

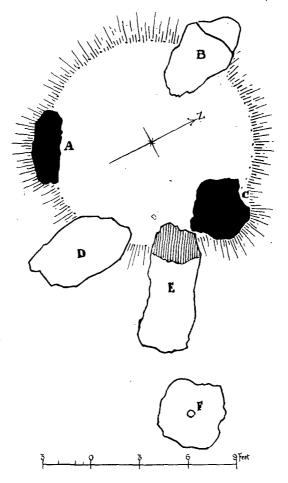


Fig. 5. Stone Circle, Balmuick, near Comrie; Ground-plan.

now upright; it stands 4 feet 6 inches above ground, and its base is an oblong measuring 4 feet 3 inches in length by 1 foot 9 in breadth. Stone B is a block of whinstone lying partially embedded, 6 feet by 3 feet 2 by 14 inches thick; Stone C is of schistose rock, 3 feet 6 by 3 feet 1 by 2 feet 5; D is of granite, 6 feet 6 by 3 feet 8 by 2 feet 9, a rounded mass, perhaps, like B, fallen outwards from the true cir-With regard to the long slab-like Stone E, which has sustained a large fracture at its north end, it may be conjectured that its original position was in the centre of the Circle, lying there as the cover-stone of the principal burial; for if it were once rolled over from its southern end it would occupy just that position. dimensions of this long stone are: length 8 feet, breadth 3 feet 8, and thickness 2 feet 9 inches. Quite outside the true Circle (obtained by ascertaining the centres of A, B, and C) lies the squarish and thinner granite Stone F. It measures 4 feet 7 inches by 4 feet 4 by 1 foot 2. In the centre of its upper flat surface there is a clearly cut ring, 6 inches in diameter, which has a curiously modern appearance, and in regard to this stone Mr Boston offers the following conjecture: "That, seeing it was suitable for a millstone, it was taken out of its place, and had some of its projections chipped off, thus making it rudely The ring cut in the centre was probably the first operation circular. in boring a hole right through, when, with a long piece of wood through the hole, it could be wheeled down to the low ground and there fashioned."

If my interpretation of the positions of these Stones be correct, it is evident that we have here a stone setting, rudely circular in form, and measuring only 12 feet 6 inches in diameter, in respect of size, therefore, belonging to a class represented by only a few specimens which have been already noticed.<sup>1</sup>

The interior of the Circle is smooth, very slightly concave, and in line with the circumference is made up of a low ridge of small

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Report in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxxix. p. 206, and vol. xxix. p. 305.

bouldery stones. The longer axis of Stone A points W. 40° N. In the illustration (fig. 6) this group is shown from the east, with a portion of Glenartney Forest and the Aberuchil Hills overtopped by Ben Voirlieh. The prospect on all sides is magnificent, and looking south-westwards we can descry, amongst other prehistoric sites, three great cairns on the right bank of the Ruchil near Ruchilside, beyond Comrie.



Fig. 6. Remains of Stone Circle, Balmuick; View from the East.

No. 6. Remains of Stone Circle at Lawers.—A single monolith stands here close to a row of trees forming the eastern side of the fine old avenue, a quarter of a mile S.S.E. of the mansion-house, and within sight of the road to Crieff.<sup>1</sup>

The site is shown on the O.M. at a height above sea-level of about 184 feet.

This massive boulder of whinstone is rounded at the base, where

<sup>1</sup> The estate "was originally named Fordie, but was named Lawers after the Campbells from Loch Tay side came into possession," *Chronicles of Strathearn*, p. 251.

it girths 10 feet 3 inches, but tapers upwards to its apex of 5 feet 10 inches, with the eastern edge somewhat jagged and broken. Near its base on the west is a small slab-like fragment of stone quite earthfast. The north and south surfaces are smooth and nearly vertical, and the longer axis is E.S.E. 75° by W.N.W. 75°. The view (fig. 7) shows the stone from the east.

No. 7. Stone-Circle Site at Tom-na-Chessaig.—This is unmarked on the O.M., and, so far as I know, it is not mentioned in the local

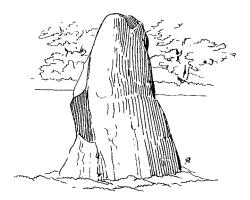


Fig. 7. Remains of Stone Circle, Lawers, near Comrie; View from the East.

guide-books; but more than one resident spoke of having been told by his forbears that on this very definite rather circular hillock several great stones forming a rudely circular group were set up. The mound is situated close to the river Earn a few yards south of the lane between the Public Hall in Burrell Street, Comrie, and the east wall of the U.F. Church. It is stated that when this church was built some of the Circle Stones were destroyed. One great mass of whinstone still lies on Tom-na-Chessaig, with a jumper-hole in it to bear testimony to the above statement.

<sup>1</sup> Near the churchyard of Callander there is a circular mound also called Tomna-Chessaig, the Hill of St Kessog.

No. 8. Site of Standing Stones at Craggish.—This site also has been wantonly bereft of its groups of megaliths. Up to so recent a date as 1891 there were several. These were shown on the O.M. as three in one line and two in another, on a field about one furlong N.E. of Craggish farmhouse, close to the road coming down from Ross, and nearly a quarter of a mile N.W. of the ford across the Ruchil at Ruchilside. The site is about 200 feet above sea-level.

No. 9. Stone Circle at Dunmoid, Dalginross.—On the O.M. this site is named Roundel. It is 300 yards S.W. of Easter Dalginross, on the southern edge of the road to Strowan, close to Woodside Cottage, and at about the 200-feet contour line. The new cemetery wall comes close up to this site.

Accounts in the district vary as to the amount of interference which has taken place here in recent times, and the fact that at present two Stones, A and C on the plan, fig. 8, should be erect and two others quite prostrate, is assuredly not a little strange. In one account we have the following particulars: 1 "There were three large slabs of stone lying upon the ground, which apparently had been at some former period placed erect by some loving hands to mark the last restingplace of some departed friend or hero. By the aid of some of the Comrie masons, the Stones were placed in a standing position. Curious to know what lay beneath the surface, we dug up the earth in front of the largest slab, and came upon a stone cist placed north and south, 3 feet 7 inches long, 1 foot 8 inches broad, and 1 foot 3 inches deep. The only remains discovered was a thigh-bone. . . . An old man, who then [circa 1876] lived in the village of Comrie, told us that in his young days the same mound was dug up, when an urn filled with ashes was discovered. . . . The spot is called Dunmoid, or hill of judgment."

Whatever inaccuracies of detail there may be in the above, we <sup>1</sup> By the Rev. John Macpherson, of Comrie; Chronicles of Strathearn, p. 166.

may at least take it that four Stones originally composed the Circle here, and that the interior was devoted to purposes of sepulture.

Beginning with the western arc, we have Stone A, a tall, slab-like vertical mass of reddish schist, 5 feet 4 inches in height, three-sided, and measuring round the base nearly 9 feet; Stone B is a flat, smooth,

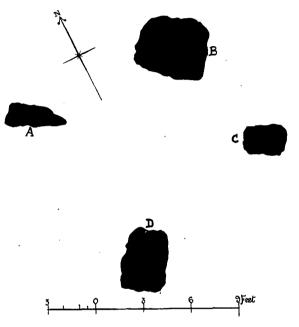


Fig. 8. Stone Circle, Dunmoid, Dalginross; Ground-plan.

rounded boulder of whinstone, fractured across its inner edge, 1 foot 6 inches thick, 4 feet 6 long and 3 feet 8 broad; Stone C is a pillar-like, flat-topped block of red schist, quite vertical, 5 feet 2 inches in height and 8 feet 6 in basal girth. Stone D closely resembles its opposite, B, being flat and rounded, and about 20 inches above ground. Assuming C to have been re-erected on its original site, we obtain a

circumference whose diameter is 15 feet 3 inches, which bisects all the Stones but D. Measured between the centres, the interspaces

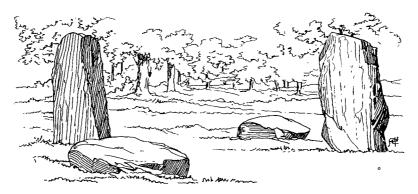


Fig. 9. Stone Circle, Dunmoid, Dalginross; View from the North.

are AB, 9 feet 6 inches; BC, 8 feet; CD, 10 feet 8; DA, 11 feet 6. The interior is fairly level and smooth. Two views of this group are taken (figs. 9, 10), the former, from the north, looking into the Roundel

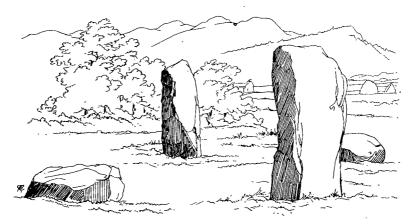


Fig. 10. Stone Circle, Dunmoid, Dalginross; View from the South-east.

Wood, the latter, from the south-east, showing the noble contours of the Aberuchil Hills beyond the flat ground lying adjacent to the river.

No. 10. Remains of Circle at Cowden.—As we leave Dalginross by

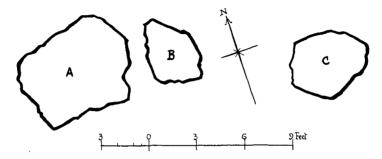


Fig. 11. Remains of Stone Circle, Cowden, near Comrie; Ground-plan.

the road going southwards to Cultibraggan, we observe, nearly opposite the road to Comrie Manse, on our left, a huge stone leaning sharply over to the east, and near it two other stones both squat and inconspicuous. The site is just over half a mile south-west of the Roundel above noticed, and it is about 217 feet above sea-level. As these



Fig. 12. Remains of Stone Circle near the Manse Road, Cowden.

three Stones now lie almost in a straight line, it is impossible to affirm what were their original positions, or if there were others forming with them a circular group. The accompanying ground-plan (fig. 11) shows their respective positions. The monolith on the west is a great rough block of what seems to be diorite; its vertical height is 6 feet 4 inches and its basal girth 21 feet 6 inches. Barely

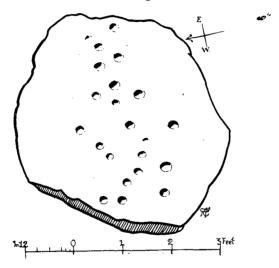


Fig. 13. Cup-marked boulder, Cowden.

2 feet from its east side is a block of whinstone about 1 foot 10 inches in thickness, and measuring 3 feet 10 inches by 2 feet 10 inches (see fig. 12). At about 6 feet to its east there lies a rounded and thinner boulder of whinstone, smooth to a remarkable degree, and having a slight downward inclination from east to west. At the east end this Stone is about 18 inches above ground; part of the opposite extremity has been fractured. The surface is covered with a group of twenty-two neatly made cups (see fig. 13), the majority being about 2 inches in diameter, with a few much smaller. Two cups measure only 1 inch

in diameter. The view of this singular group (fig. 12) is from the south-east.

No. 11. Standing Stone at Auchingarrick.—This is the most northerly of several monoliths in this section of the district of Strathearn,

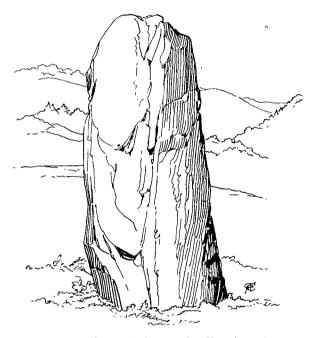


Fig. 14. Standing Stone, Auchingarrick; View from the South.

which, in local parlance, are known as "the Roman stones," and this for no better reason than because they occupy positions on the fields and moors between Dalginross and Ardoch Roman Station. That they do not stand in line with each other, and, therefore, over a space of some fifteen miles could be of no use as guide-stones between those

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This cup-marked boulder is briefly noticed in the Chronicles of Strathearn, p. 163.

two places, is obvious, both from the evidence of the O.M. and my own observations.

The Stone at Auchingarrick (fig. 14) stands a few score yards to the W.S.W. of the steading on a small grassy knoll which bears no evidence of the sites of any other stones. It is a strikingly squareedged, massive block of reddish conglomerate schist, oblong in section, with a basal girth of 12 feet 8 inches and a height above ground of

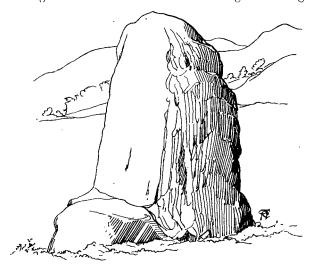


Fig. 15. Standing Stone, Craigneich; View from the South-east.

8 feet 7 inches. The south side is the smoothest and most vertical. Auchingarrick is half a mile south-east from South Cowden, and the site of the Standing Stone is at about 450 feet above sea-level.

No. 12. Standing Stone at Craigneich.—This Stone is one mile and a furlong S.S.E. of the last, on the north side of the road between Straid and Shillinghill, at 514 feet above sea-level. The locality lies to the north of Aodan Mohr, which is the name given to the upper portion of Dunruchan.

In form and outline this block of rather rounded whinstone bears no resemblance to the monolith at Auchingarrick. Its base is of an extremely irregular four-sided shape, having a jutting-out ledge on the south (see fig. 15). In basal girth it measures 15 feet 9 inches, and in height 6 feet 4 inches. The longest axis points N. 33° E. by S. 33° W.

## GROUP II.—DUNRUCHAN STONES.

No. 13. The North-East Stone, Dunruchan.—For the better understanding of this group of five great Stones, there is here appended a plan made from the O.M., which shows their relative positions (see fig. 16). To these I have added lettering. The medial distances have been carefully measured on the map, and are presumably trustworthy. From Craigneich Stone to Stone B, 466 yards 2 feet; from B to A, 388 yards 1 foot; from A to C, 543 yards 1 foot; C to D, 300 yards; and from D to E, 91 yards 2 feet.

This is the most anomalous group of Standing Stones these reports have hitherto dealt with. Dunruchan Moor stretches, at a general height of about 700 feet above sea-level, for nearly two miles towards the south and south-west of Craigneich. At its northern extremity, and distant from the Craigneich Stone about 610 yards, stands the first and the tallest of the group (A on the plan), a huge pointed mass of conglomerate schist, its apex being 11 feet 4 inches above ground. Its base is a somewhat regular oblong, measuring along the north and south faces 4 feet 2 inches, and across the edges 3 feet 10 inches and 2 feet 2 inches, the wider of these being on the east. Small and insignificant boulders lie loosely around it. The smoothest and most vertical side faces the north. The illustration (fig. 16A) was drawn from the east, with the Aberuchil Hills as a background.

<sup>1</sup> In Chronicles of Strathearn, p. 165, it is stated that at Blarinroar, field of violent contest, some of these Stones are 20 feet in height. Blarinroar is to the north of Dunruchan. The highest of the stones is the one above described.

No. 14. The North-West Stone, Dunruchan.—This block of conglomerate, not half the height of the one last described, is B on the general

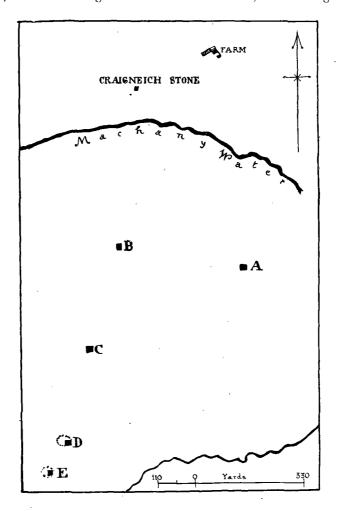


Fig. 16. General plan of Standing Stones on Dunruchan Moor.

plan. It occupies a rather lower position 385 yards to the west. Its basal girth is 8 feet 10 inches and its height 5 feet 1 inch, the south being the smoothest of its four sides. It is not now quite vertical, having a lean to the south. Like the great North-east Stone, this one tapers to a rather fine point (see the view, fig. 17). From this

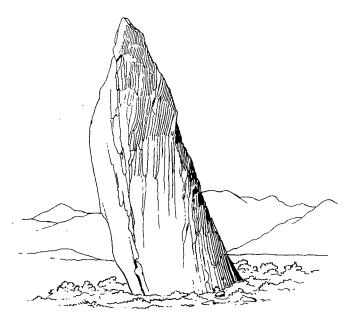


Fig. 16A. Dunruchan, the North-east Stone; View from the East.

Stone the other four in the group as well as that at Craigneich are visible.

No. 15. The Middle Stone, Dunruchan.—This huge block, C on the plan, rugged and irregular (see fig. 18), makes, from the extraordinary angle at which it leans over southwards, a surprisingly picturesque object amid the heather and the various small boulders that lie scat-vol. XLV.

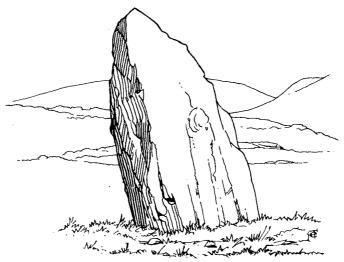


Fig. 17. Dunruchan; the North-west Stone; View from the East.

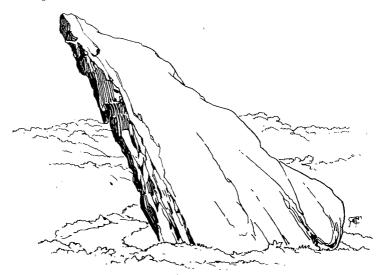


Fig. 18. Dunruchan, the Middle Stone; View from the East.

tered about in its vicinity. Of oblong basal section, the Stone tapers sharply up to a small narrow edge, which is at present 9 feet 4 inches in vertical height above the grassy ledge surrounding the base. In girth it measures over 17 feet, and the slope of its upper surface is

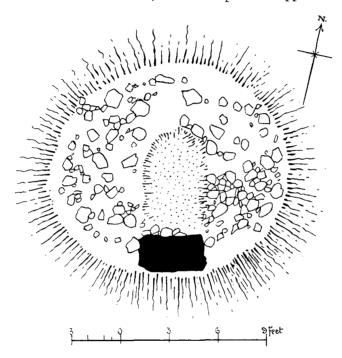


Fig. 19. Dunruchan, the South-west Stone; Ground-plan.

over 12 feet in length. Intervening undulations in the moorland prevent one seeing the two Stones which stand farther down southwards. The main axis of its base is N. 18° W. by S. 18° E.

No. 16. The South-west Stone, Dunruchan.—This is D on plan. New features are presented in combination with this Stone. In lieu of being set absolutely solitary on the heath, there are, extending for a considerable area almost around its base, many stones and boulders laid in the form of a flattish circular cairn or platform (see the ground-plan, fig. 19). The monolith, which leans over towards the north, is set to the south of the crest of the cairn, and

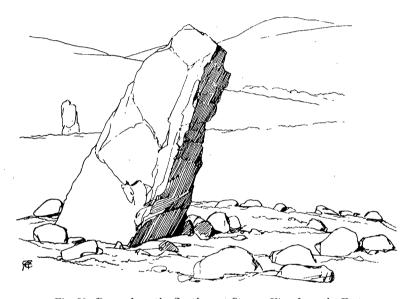


Fig. 20. Dunruchan, the South-west Stone; View from the East.

there is a considerable fall from the crest to the level of the moor around it, indicating that a very great quantity of small stones must have been employed in making the cairn. The interior, shown dotted on the plan, bears signs of having been partially excavated, probably the cause of the Stone being so much out of the vertical. The stony cairn or platform measures 15 feet in diameter, and consists of moderate sized stones. The base of the great Standing Stone is oblong, and measures in girth 14 feet 2 inches. Down the slope of its back the

length is 10 feet, and its present vertical height 8 feet 6 inches. The longer axis is almost exactly due east and west. From this spot the next Stone in order can be easily seen (see the view, fig. 20).

No. 17. The South Stone, Dunruchan.—This monolith, in respect of position, somewhat resembles the last, because it stands on the

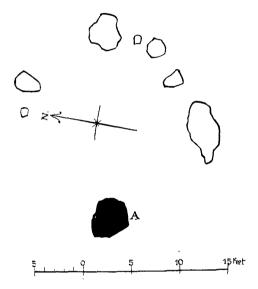


Fig. 21. Dunruchan, the South Stone; Ground-plan.

west arc of a rudely circular setting of small stones, which, however, are not placed on a mound (as in the case of Stone D), but merely lie on the flat of the moor. Five of these blocks are large enough to be noticeable, and they occupy the positions shown by the outlined stones in the ground-plan (fig. 21), the farthest to the east being 15 feet distant from the inner face of the standing monolith A.

The dimensions of this Stone are: height 6 feet 9 inches, basal girth 16 feet 1 inch. In the illustration (fig. 22) I show this Stone

with the other great one near set on its platform, and to the right two of the numerous small, low cairns which are scattered about this part of the moor.

Some distance to the east, near the unnamed stream flowing past the South Stone, my friend Mr James Simpson has seen another great Stone, but lying prostrate. Owing to the increasingly thick mist on the afternoon of our visit to Dunruchan, we were precluded from wandering far over the moor, and therefore this Stone was not observed.



Fig. 22. Dunruchan, the South Stone.

A good deal has been written, and still more surmised, regarding these five or six sites on Dunruchan. The claim has been put forth that these Stones, in common with others, are of Roman origin. To this I cannot assent; there is no feature connected with them which singles them out as radically different from the majority of Standing Stones in Perthshire and elsewhere. If the monoliths commemorate burials, it can only be through patient observation of the associated structures and relics that come to light after competent excavation, that any results of importance to archæology can be obtained. As far as our present knowledge extends, the Romans did not erect huge unchiselled, somewhat amorphous and totally unlettered Standing Stones in commemoration of any event. And, as similar mono-

liths are to be found in other districts not traditionally associated with Roman sites, it is a fair inference that these at Dunruchan may be as justly entitled to the term "prehistoric" as any others.

## GROUP III.—CRIEFF DISTRICT.

No. 18. Standing Stone at Dalchirla (West).-In a field south of

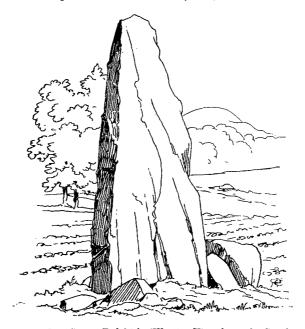


Fig. 23. Standing Stone, Dalchirla (West); View from the South-east.

Machany Water and N.E. of Dalchirla farm-steading 260 yards, there stands this tall and striking monolith (fig. 23). The site is at about the 400-foot contour line. In essential features this Stone much resembles most of the great schistose blocks which characterise the main portion of the Strathearn area; but it tapers upwards to

a very thin and narrow summit that rather distinguishes it from its fellows. It stands 9 feet 4 inches above ground, and girths at the base 7 feet 11 inches. It is set with its longer axis nearly due north and south. Around its base there lie several large masses of stone—not earth-fast—amid a conglomeration of smaller pieces evidently cleared off the field. The appended view is from the E.S.E.

No. 19. Remains of Stone Circle at Dalchirla (East).—Such is the title affixed to the two Stones on the O.M., at a point 300 yards S.S.E. of the last, and nearly three miles west of Muthil Church. There is no indication at present on the site of the former position of other Stones, and it is impossible to conjecture from the ground-

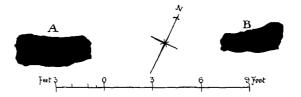


Fig. 24. Remains of Stone Circle, Dalchirla (East); Ground-plan.

plan (fig. 24) whether the others stood to the north or to the south of these. In being placed so rigidly "in line," they resemble the two groups surveyed some years ago at Edintian and Fonab Moor.

A space of only 8 feet separates the inner opposite ends of these two Stones, which are both of the usual reddish schist. Stone A is 7 feet 8 inches in height and 12 feet 4 inches in girth; the other is only 4 feet 4 inches in height and 9 feet 6 inches in girth. They are both vertical, having their broader sides fairly smooth and regular. The view (fig. 25) is taken from the south.

No. 20. The Belted Stone, Calfward.—This is the map-name attached to a site in a wood two miles and a quarter E.S.E. of the railway station at Muthil. Several of the trees in this wood having fallen,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Report in *Proceedings*, vol. xlii. pp. 108-112.

the interior is in parts a confused tangle of stumps and roots, rendered all the more difficult to search by luxuriant growth of vegetation. The site was, however, carefully examined, with the unsatisfactory result that no monolith was now discoverable.

No. 21. Standing Stone at Concraig.—At one mile and a quarter south-west of Crieff railway station, in an open field about 300 yards to the north-west of Concraig, there stands this irregularly

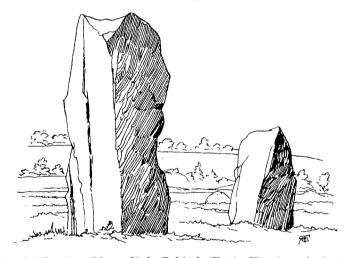


Fig. 25. Remains of Stone Circle, Dalchirla (East); View from the South.

four-sided block of conglomerate schist. The site is marked on the O.M. at about 200 feet above sea-level. The Stone measures 9 feet 3 inches round the base and stands 7 feet 3 inches in height. About half-way up its eastern face it has been broken so as to leave a very distinct ledge, shown in the view (fig. 26). The main axis is S.E. 28° by N.W. 28°.

No. 22. Remains of Circle at Dargill.—This place-name deserves brief notice. It is pronounced by persons in the locality as if it were spelt like the Irish name Därgle, having the stress on the first syllable.

The site is in a field between the main road from Crieff to Auchterarder and Dargill Island on the river Earn, at the height of 121 feet above sea-level, and nearly half a mile north-east of the last site. There is here an indistinct mound, not now easily traceable, nor of any considerable height; but it is significant to have to report that

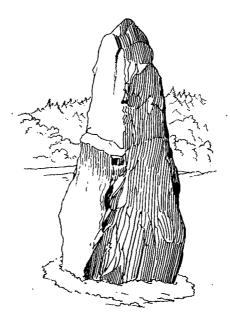


Fig. 26. Standing Stone, Concraig, near Crieff; View from the North-east.

up to 1909, when a new tenant entered the farm, two other great Stones were standing. These were removed by the newcomer, much to the surprise and indignation (I was told) of the neighbours.

The remaining monolith is an unusually square and massive oblong block of schist, girthing over 16 feet, and standing clear of the ground 7 feet 8 inches in height. Its eastern edge is rough and riven into long vertical hollows; but the other sides are, on the whole, smooth. I append a view from the south-east (fig. 27).

No. 23. Standing Stone at Duchlage.—This site is rather over half a mile east of Crieff Bridge and a quarter of a mile south-east of Duchlage. The O.M. shows it to be about 150 feet above sea-level.<sup>1</sup>

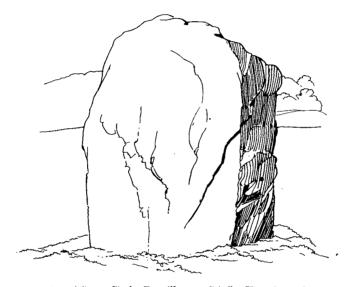


Fig. 27. Remains of Stone Circle, Dargill, near Crieff; View from the South-east.

It is on the north side of, and close to, the main road. In shape a narrow rhomboid at the base, this Stone rises to an acute angle at a height of 6 feet. Its longer axis is E.S.E. 52° by W.N.W. 52°, and in basal girth it measures 8 feet 11 inches. A view from the west is given (fig. 28).

No. 24. Stone Circle at Ferntower.—The five sites just described as forming a portion of the third or Crieff group are situated on the

<sup>1</sup> Near it, on the south of the road, was the old Stayt of Crieff, now a site only.

south of the river Earn. Those that immediately follow are on the northern banks of that river, but are all within a moderately easy distance of Crieff.

Ferntower is about one mile north-east from Crieff on the road to Perth; and close to the policies about a quarter of a mile south of the house, on cultivated land, 400 feet above sea-level, there remain

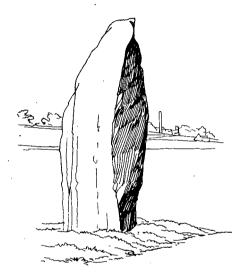


Fig. 28. Standing Stone near Duchlage, Crieff; View from the West.

the six Stones arranged in the peculiar manner shown in the groundplan (fig. 29). Four Stones rest in an almost true circle, and to the east are two others 27 feet distant. One of these, E., is a great erect monolith 6 feet 5 inches in height.

Beginning with the circular group, we have, on the south-west arc, Stone A, 6 feet long, 4 feet 6 inches wide and 2 feet 4 inches thick, an irregularly shaped mass of whinstone; next Stone B, a rounded boulder 5 feet by 2 feet 6 inches by 1 foot; thirdly, Stone

C, an irregular and quartz-seamed block of diorite, 6 feet by 4 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 10 inches; and fourthly, Stone D, a boulder of whinstone also containing seams of quartz, 5 feet 6 inches in length and breadth, and 2 feet 3 inches above ground. At some period the intention of blasting this block must have been considered, for there is the beginning of a jumper-hole near the centre of its upper surface. Close to this unmistakably modern hole there is one single genuine cup-mark about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter.

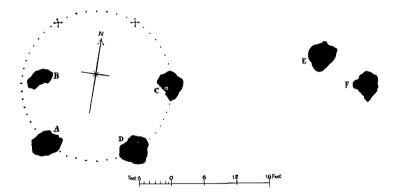


Fig. 29. Stone Circle, Ferntower, Crieff; Ground-plan.

These four blocks lie on the circumference of a circle whose diameter is 27 feet 6 inches, and if the Circle of Stones were once complete, there would have been two other Stones on the north arc near the points marked by crosses on the plan.

Measured between their centres the distances from Stone to Stone are: A B 12 feet 6 inches, A D 16 feet 6 inches, and D C 14 feet 6 inches.

The great Standing Stone E is a rounded boulder of whinstone, flattish at the top, 7 feet 9 inches in height, and with a basal girth of 17 feet 1 inch. The block lying near it is of very rough reddish schist, nearly 6 feet in length, 4 feet 9 inches in width, and about 2 feet thick.

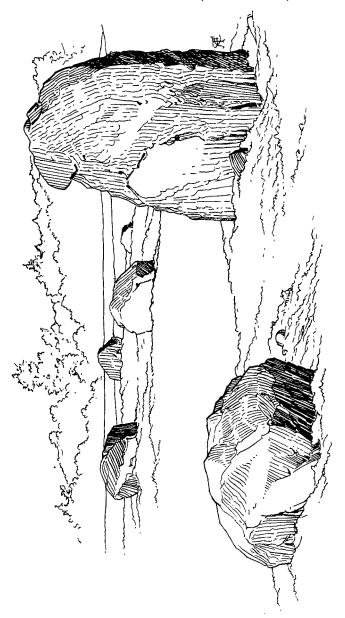


Fig. 30. Stone Circle, Ferntower, Crieff; View from the East.

The illustration (fig. 30) gives a view of the Circle from the east.

No. 25. Cradle Stone, Knock of Crieff.—Such is the appellation printed in O.E. lettering on the O.M., given to one of two huge boulders difficult to find in the fir-woods at the western extremity of the Knock, and at a height of nearly 600 feet, midway between Knockearn House and Culcrieff. On visiting the site, the conclusion became apparent that these two blocks were merely natural curiosities, and had no interest for the archæologist beyond the name.<sup>1</sup>

No. 26. Remains of Stone Circle, Hill of Callander.—The more westerly of the two farms thus named is situated two miles and a half N.N.W. of Crieff, above the Falls of Barvick, and at about 700 feet above sea-level. Three hundred yards south-east of the steading, the O.M. records the site of a Circle of which only one Stone (fig. 31) now remains. It is a vertical and somewhat rounded and smooth-sided pillar of schist. In basal girth it measures 15 feet 2 inches, and it stands above ground 7 feet 2 inches. The longer axis is E. 82° by W. 82°. There is now no possibility of ascertaining the probable positions occupied by the other members of this Circle. On calling at the farm, my repeated knocking received no response; and there being no one in sight whom to approach with the view of acquiring information, my steps were reluctantly turned southwards, leaving this solitary monolith on a particularly lonely and deserted spot to keep its own secrets.

No. 27. Remains of Stone Circle at Keppoch.—This place-name is becoming obsolete. It used to be the name of some ground about a quarter of a mile N.E. of Monzie Church, near Ibert Burn, at a height of about 400 feet above sea-level. An old road, steep and now rough,

¹ Dr Thomson, Professor of Chemistry in Glasgow in 1838, was of opinion that these two pieces of syenitic granite were originally one block which was split by lightning. See New Stat. Acc., vol. x. p. 492. The local story is that the Cradle Stone is where the babies came from !

cuts over the hill here between Monzie and the turning of the main road up to Conichan. The site is not marked on the O.M.

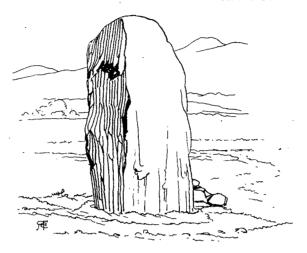


Fig. 31. Standing Stone, Hill of Callander; View from the West.

It is, however, recorded 1 by John Laurie, schoolmaster in Monzie, that "a large stone with rude carving upon it lies on the side of the

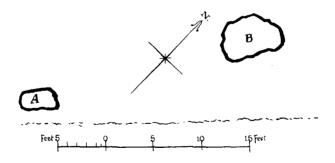


Fig. 32. Remains of Circle, Keppoch, near Monzie; Ground-plan.

<sup>1</sup> New Stat. Acc., vol. x. p. 272.

public road between the villages of Monzie and Keppoch. This was one of a Circle which Mr Monroe, the then minister, caused to be broken and dispersed; the rest are now built into the stone wall which surrounds the glebe." How far this statement is accurate may perhaps be open to question; for at the spot indicated there are still to be seen two large Stones resembling in size and shape the Stones of these Perthshire Circles; but on neither of them could

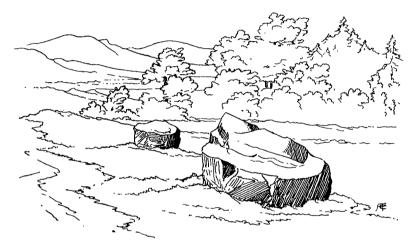


Fig. 33. Remains of Stone Circle, Keppoch, near Monzie; View from the East.

we discern any carving of any sort. These blocks (see fig. 32) lie on the north edge of the old Keppoch road, the larger one, B, about 17 yards to the south-west of the school wall. It is of coarse grey granite, stands 2 feet 10 inches above ground, and measures 7 feet by 4 feet 6 inches. A space of 17 feet 8 inches separates the two Stones; and the smaller one (which seems to be of very hard and smoothed basalt) is 4 feet 5 inches long and 2 feet 5 inches wide. It is about 2 feet 2 inches in thickness. The view (fig. 33) shows the two Stones from the east.

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No. 28. Standing Stone, Monzie Policies.—This monolith is the westerly of the two prehistoric sites grouped on the O.M. as Standing Stones. It stands a few yards to the south of the avenue, almost half a mile from the East Lodge. The Stone has a slight lean towards the north. Its southern side is remarkably broad and smooth, measuring 4 feet across the base on that side, in girth 13 feet 1 inch,



Fig. 34. Standing Stone, Monzie Policies; View from the East.

and in vertical height 4 feet 9 inches. A view (fig. 34) from the east is appended.

No. 29. Stone Circle in Monzie Policies. 1—This is 330 yards east of the last site, and comprises, besides the remains of a Circle of smallish stones, a large flat embedded Stone richly carved with cup- and ringmarks. In the accompanying ground-plan (fig. 35) nine Stones in all are shown, eight of them being parts of the Circle, and the ninth the large outlying cup-marked Stone. The upper surface of the

Described and drawn by J. Romilly Allen in Proceedings, vol. xvi. p. 90.

Stone H on the south-east arc also bears a few cup-marks. Considerable disturbance must have occurred here, for, if the close proximity of the five Stones at A-E be taken as the average dis-

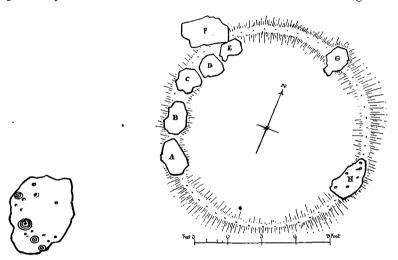


Fig. 35. Stone Circle, Monzie; Ground-plan.

tribution of the Stones in the complete Circle, it is clear that there is space enough for four others on the south arc, two others on the east, and two more on the north; Stone F displaced may be one of them. Thus, originally there may have been fifteen Stones here.



Fig. 36. Stone Circle at Monzie; View from the East.

None of the Stones is more than 2 feet above ground, and their dimensions vary from that of F, 4 feet 3 inches by 2 feet 6 inches, to that of E, 2 feet 3 inches by 1 foot 6 inches. A slight grassy ridge marks off the Circle, the diameter of which is 17 feet 6 inches. The large cup- and ring-marked Stone is 10 feet 6 inches distant from the centre of the Circle. In the illustration (fig. 36) there is shown a view taken from the north-east.

## GROUP IV.—FOWLIS-WESTER.

No. 30. Standing Stone on Cairn at New Fowlis.—A thickly wooded mound close to the angle made by the Perth and the Fowlis-Wester roads proved to be a great cairn at about the level of 350 feet. It is shown on the O.M., but the words "Standing Stone" are printed in plain lettering. There is a Stone here, small, but vertical and earth-fast, and bearing no obvious marks by which it should be excluded from the category of prehistoric Stones.

The position is 18 feet up the slope of small stones forming the cairn, and on its extreme eastern edge, shown black on the plan (fig. 37). The summit of the cairn extends for nearly 54 feet in a westerly direction, and its farther slope being about 45 feet more, we have a total diameter of about 117 feet. The monolith stands 4 feet above ground and measures 2 feet 2 inches by 2 feet in cross-diameters. In the illustration (fig. 38) it is seen as from the east end of the cairn.

No. 31. Stones at Thorn, near Fowlis-Wester Church.—These two huge masses lie on a slight mound, to the north-east of a small stream flowing between Crofthead and Thorn, at a height above sea-level of over 500 feet, near a cart-track connecting these two places. They occupy a space measuring over all 22 feet by 12 feet. The larger Stone (A on the ground-plan, fig. 39) is a triangular mass of granite

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The plan purposely shows only a portion of the Cairn.

16 feet by 11 feet 6 inches, and 10 feet measured along its sides. The surface has a distinct inclination towards the south-east, and on it

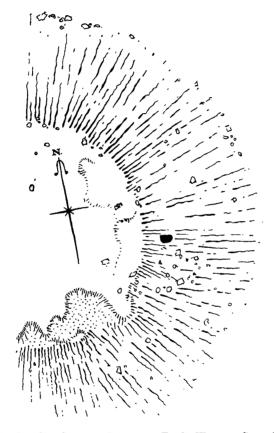


Fig. 37. Standing Stone on Cairn, near Fowlis-Wester; Ground-plan.

there are three clear cup-marks, A, B, and C; A and B being 4 feet 7 inches apart, B and C 5 feet 9 inches, and C and A 6 feet 5 inches. The other block seems to be of some diorite-like mineral. It is

roughly four-sided, and measures 12 feet by 7 feet. Its upper surface, which slopes steeply downwards to the south, bears a remarkable

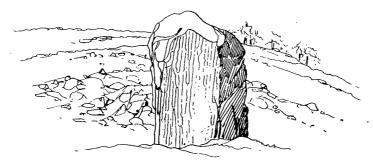


Fig. 38. Standing Stone on Cairn, near Fowlis-Wester; View from the North-east.

couple of channels crossing each other at right angles, which are probably attributable to purely natural causes.

Both these Stones are very prominent objects, standing clear of the surrounding field levels some 5 feet or more, and from them one

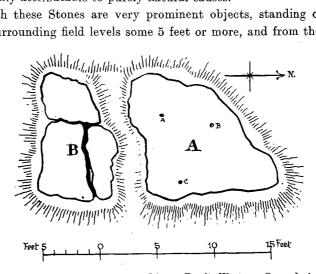


Fig. 39. Two prostrate Stones, Thorn, Fowlis-Wester; Ground-plan.

can easily discern the two tall Standing Stones next to be noticed. These two prostrate blocks are shown in the next illustration (fig. 40).

No. 32. Standing Stones at Crofthead.—These two erect and massive Stones stand on the other side of the same little stream, but 350 feet distant from the last site. As the ground-plan shows (fig. 41), one of them is within 9 feet of the stream on a well-defined mound, while the other, similarly placed, stands about 10 feet to the west, with a hollow between. I took both to be masses of whinstone. The one

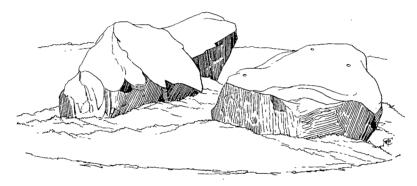


Fig. 40. Two prostrate Blocks, Thorn, Fowlis-Wester.

nearer the stream stands 5 feet 3 inches in height, has a slight fall towards the north, and measures 13 feet 6 inches in basal girth. The other Stone is 7 feet high and measures nearly 15 feet in girth. From the fact that the mounds upon which they are set do not begin to slope off close to their very bases, I infer that the flat space thus left might be worth excavation, with the view of ascertaining if burials were deposited close to these Stones.

By standing a few feet away on the north of this couple of Stones, we get a view (fig. 42) of the two prostrate blocks above described, and of a vast stretch of gently undulating country beyond. The Standing Stones are also shown (fig. 43) as seen from the east.

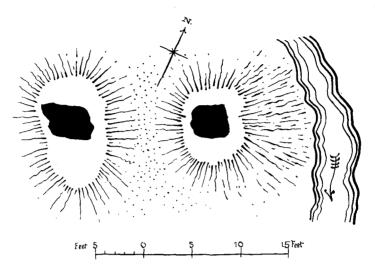


Fig. 41. Standing Stones, Crofthead, Fowlis-Wester; Ground-plan.

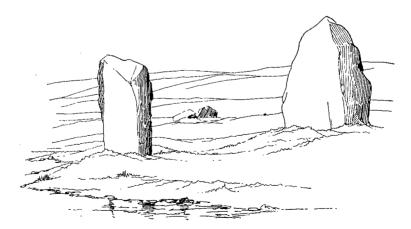


Fig. 42. Two Standing Stones, Crofthead, Fowlis-Wester; View from the West.

No. 33. Stone Circles and Standing Stone on Moor of Ardoch, above Fowlis-Wester.—Amid the decayed and rotting ruins of a wood, on the upland moor about half a mile N.N.E. of the Crofthead site, there is a specially interesting group of megalithic remains. They are shown on the O.M., at a height of nearly 800 feet above sea-level, and they extend over a space of the now heathery ground of about

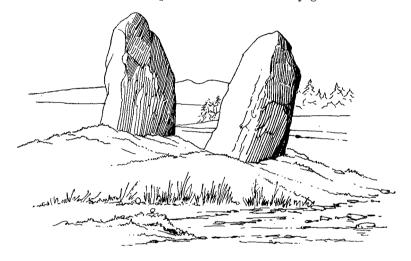


Fig. 43. Two Standing Stones, Crofthead; View from the East.

110 feet by 86 feet. These remains comprise two nearly complete Circles, A and C on the ground-plan (fig. 44), a great Stone, B, set between them, and, on the northern limit, a fine Standing Stone (D).

The larger Circle has a diameter of 28 feet 6 inches, the smaller of 19 feet; the solitary flat Stone B is 9 feet in length, and the erect monolith D stands 6 feet 4 inches above ground. From the inner edge of this monolith to that of the nearest stone in the Circle C is a distance of 30 feet; from the south-west Stone of the Circle C to the edge of the Stone B is 40 feet, and from the edge of Stone B facing

Circle A to the circumference of that Circle is 14 feet. The distance between the circumferences of the two Circles is almost exactly twice the diameter of the larger Circle, and the distance between D and the circumference of the smaller Circle is almost the same as the diameter of the larger Circle. There may be nothing intentional



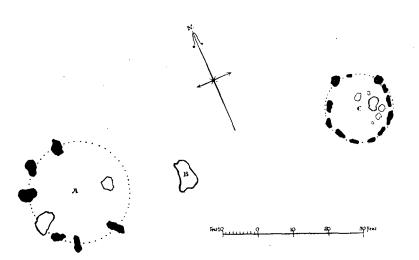


Fig. 44. Stone Circles on Moor of Ardoch, above Fowlis-Wester; Ground-plan. in these measurements; but the coincidences—if only that—are worth noting.

In the next ground-plan (fig. 45), there are shown the Stones of the two Circles on a larger scale, but not with the Circles in their true relative positions.

In the larger Circle, the dimensions of the Stones are as follows:
(a) 5 feet by 2 feet 9 inches; (b) 3 feet 9 inches by 2 feet 4 inches;

(c) fallen, 7 feet by 4 feet 9 inches; (d) 5 feet 6 inches by 3 feet 6 inches; (e) 4 feet 7 inches by 2 feet 10 inches; (f) 5 feet by 3 feet; (h) 4 feet 3 inches by 3 feet 7 inches; and (i) 6 feet 9 inches by 2 feet 8 inches; (g) is an angular fragment with a jumper-hole in it. If we suppose (h) to have originally been set at the east edge, where I have placed a cross, and two other Stones at the two other crosses, we should have a Circle of ten Stones. The three highest of these

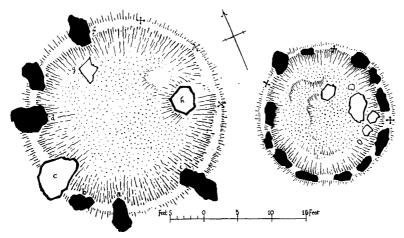


Fig. 45. Enlarged Plans of Stone Circles on the Moor above Fowlis-Wester.

Stones rest on the south-west arc, and they do not exceed 2 feet 8 inches.

The great intermediate Stone, B on the general plan, measures 9 feet 6 inches by nearly 6 feet. It is a very rounded and smooth boulder of whinstone. At its north end it is 3 feet 2 inches above ground, and has a long inclination towards the south-east.

In the smaller Circle, the Stones are much more slab-like and are set up on their edges, the longer axis "in line" with the circumference. They vary in length from about 4 feet to 1 foot 10 inches, and only

their tops are visible above the heather. There were probably three more Stones when the Circle was complete, thus making fifteen in

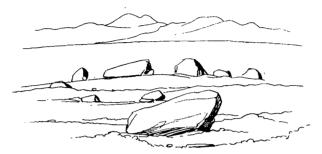


Fig. 46. The South-west Circle, on Moor at Fowlis-Wester; View from centre of the East Circle.

all. The six blocks shown in outline lie scattered about and are not earth-fast.

It was stated many years ago 1 that in this Circle (which is de

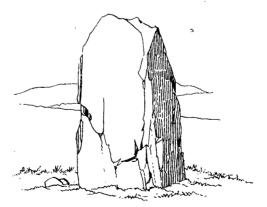


Fig. 47. Standing Stone near the Circles on Fowlis-Wester; View from the South-east.

1 In the New Stat. Acc., vol. x.

scribed as being doubly concentric) there were forty Stones in the outer ring; therefore, some serious destruction must have occurred during the interval between 1837 when the account was written and the present time. Heather has now grown up among these Stones to such an extent that it is not possible to make a drawing of them. The illustration (fig. 46) shows the larger of the two Circles as seen from the centre of the smaller one with the great Stone (B on the ground-plan) lying between. In the succeeding illustration (fig. 47) I show a view of the Standing Stone (D on the plan, fig. 44) taken from the south-east. In girth at the base this fine upright monolith measures about 15 feet. Some little distance to the west of these Circles there is a hillock called Shian, Fairy Mound, where, it is stated, urns were discovered.

## GROUP V.—GLEN ALMOND.

No. 34. Clack Ossian, in the Sma' Glen.—Taking its rise in small streams that flow eastward from the great hills bordering Loch Tay, the beautiful river Almond, after a course of some fifteen miles, reaches the head of the Sma' Glen-a glen which, although barely four miles long, is truly noble in its impressive grandeur of contour and the steepness and variety of its slopes. Approaching it from Crieff, our attention was directed first to a huge block of whitish stone lying only a few yards to the right of the road, at a point not many score yards before the seventh milestone from Crieff is reached.<sup>1</sup> This is wrongly named on the O.M. Ossian's Stone. The real Ossian's Stone of the local tradition is rather more than a mile farther up the Glen, close to a strip of ground where river and road almost touch each other, and immediately below the steepest of the crags of Dun Mor on the eastern side and the débris slopes of Meall Tarsuinn on the west, a most impressive environment, be the Stone a prehistoric monument or not. The spot is interesting for itself, apart from all

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This boulder is locally known as Saddle the Mare.

legend; and the remains consist of a mighty monolith (B on the plan, fig. 48) and a narrow grassy mound, C, to its east, with a few earth-

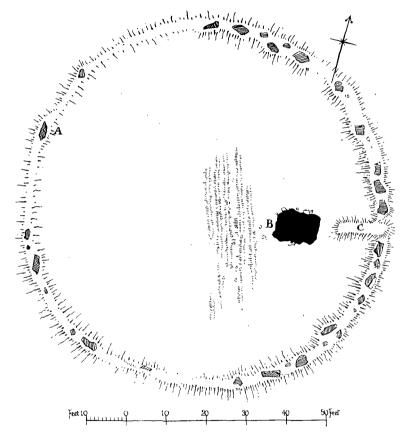


Fig. 48. Clach Ossian, Sma' Glen; Ground-plan.

fast blocks set edgewise near its eastern extremity. Close to the roadside, but at the same level of 690 feet above the sea, there is a slab-like Stone set up, measuring 3 feet in width, 1 foot 3 inches in

thickness, and about 2 feet 6 inches in height. A space of 63 feet separates this block (A on the plan) from the huge rhomboidal mass called Ossian's Stone. Five feet east of the latter is the base of the grassy mound which measures about 12 feet in length, 4 feet in greatest breadth, and 3 feet 10 inches in height. To the north and the south in a slightly curving line are set the six small slabs shown. There seems also to be a vague continuation of this strange alignment in both directions. All over the ground between A and B are many

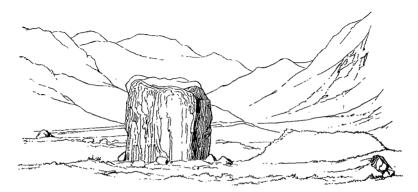


Fig. 49. Clach Ossian, the Sma' Glen; View from the South.

strange low parallel ridges of smallish stones having a general direction of nearly north and south. The rest of the ground is grassy, and here and there a little stony. In the plan all the stones are drawn larger than exactly to scale.

The great Stone (fig. 49) is 8 feet high, and has a basal girth of 27 feet. Several small stones lie near it. Such are the facts as at present to be observed on the ground.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The tradition also is worth recording. In its earliest form it appears in Letters from a Gentleman in the North of Scotland, 1732 (quoted in Chronicles of Strathearn, p. 323):—

<sup>&</sup>quot;I have so lately mentioned Glenalmond, in the road from Crieff, northward, that I cannot forbear a digression, though at my first setting out, in relation to

No. 35. Clach-na-Tiompan, Wester Glen Almond.—The New Statistical Account informs us that at a place called Clach-na-Tiompan "is an oblong cairn about sixty paces in length; and a piece of antiquity which happened to be discovered in that vale, not many hours before I went through it in one of my journeys southwards.

"A small part of the way through this glen having been marked out by two rows of camp-colours, placed at a good distance one from another, whereby to describe the line of the intended breadth and regularity of the road by the eye, there happened to lie directly in the way an exceedingly large stone, and, as it had been made a rule from the beginning to carry on the roads in straight lines, as far as the way would permit, not only to give them a better air, but to shorten the passenger's journey, it was resolved that the stone should be removed, if possible, although otherwise the work might have been carried along on either side of it.

"The soldiers, by vast labour, with their levers and jacks, or hand-screws, tumbled it over and over till they got it quite out of the way, although it was of such an enormous size that it might be matter of great wonder how it would ever be removed by human strength and art, especially to such who had never seen an operation of that kind; and, upon digging a little into that part of the ground where the centre of the stone had stood, there was found a small cavity, about two feet square, which was guarded from the outward earth, at the bottom, top, and sides, by square flat stones."

In a subsequent portion of this Letter the writer uses the word Urn in connection with the discovery; but it is quite clear that there was no vessel of pottery in the cist, and that the word Urn was loosely used (perhaps on account of the extreme smallness of the cist) to designate the square cavity of stones itself.

Thomas Newte, who published his Tour in 1791, remarks:-

"About fifty years ago, certain soldiers employed under General Wade, in making the military road from Stirling to Inverness, through the Highlands, raised the stone by large engines and discovered under it a coffin full of burnt bones. This coffin consisted of four gray stones, which still remain, such as are mentioned in Ossian's Poems.

"Ossian's Stone, with the four gray stones in which his bones are said to have been deposited, are surrounded by a circular dyke, 200 feet in circumference, and 3 feet in height. The Military Road passes through its centre" (Newte's Tour, p. 229). My explanation of the site is that we possibly have in the single slab at A (fig. 48) one of the stones of the circular dyke, and that the curved line of stones behind the mound C is a portion of the same circle of stones set round it. That mound is said to mark the burial "of a soldier who died during the construction of the road."

Newte further says that "the people of the country, for several miles around, to the number of three or four score of men, venerating the memory of the Bard,

immediately adjoining are several Druidic Stones." The O.M. shows these relics at a point near the extreme east of Auchnafree where it marches with Conichan, and Rev. W. Campbell of Fortingal confirmed these records by telling me that he had seen these Stones. The site is nearly four miles up the Almond beyond Newton Bridge, and about three-quarters of a mile north-west of the shepherd's house at Conichan, at a point where road and river come nearly as close together as they do at Clach Ossian. Through the kindly offered help of Duncan Macgregor, shepherd at Conichan, I made the following notes of these remains.

On the south of the road a tallish Stone first arrests the eye; its ground-plan and the closely surrounding circular ridge of small stones are shown in fig. 50. The raised portion enclosing the hollow

rose with one consent, and carried away the bones, with bagpipes playing, and other funereal rites, and deposited them with much solemnity within a circle of large stones, on the lofty summit of a rock, sequestered and of difficult access, where they might never more be disturbed by mortal feet or hands, in the wild recesses of western Glen Almon. One Christie, who is considered the *Cicerone* and Antiquarian of Glen Almon, and many other persons yet alive, attest the truth of this fact, and point out the second sepulchre of the son of Fingal."

There is on the summit of the steep slopes on the west of the Almond, at 1750 feet above sea, a great Cairn. Perhaps it is this spot that now contains the bones revered as those of Ossian. The spot agrees with the above description by Newte.

Rev. J. R. Omond, in the New Statistical Account of Monzie parish, states that the grave "contained bones and pieces of coin," and in a footnote he adds, "These particulars are communicated by Peter M'Ara, an old man of eighty-four still alive [1837], and a native of Glenalmond, who received them from an eye-witness." Mr Omond's account does not differ materially from that of Thomas Newte, except for the affirmed discovery in the grave of "pieces of coin." We may most naturally conclude that these were in reality fragments of a bronze implement or weapon, and that this short cist, rendered conspicuous by a megalith of such weight and size, was the burial of a prehistoric hero of earlier date than that ascribed to Ossian.

<sup>1</sup> With regard to the name, there is in Fodderty another Clach-an-Tiompan. The meaning ascribed to it by Watson (Place-Names of Ross and Cromarty) is a rounded, one-sided knoll, and in this sense is allied to the English tump. In Kirkeudbrightshire a variant of the word occurs, in Dunjumpon in Colvend and Dinchimpon in Buittle. The Gaelic word also means a musical instrument.

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(H) measures about 14 feet 6 inches from crest to crest in one direction and nearly the same in the opposite. A small detached oval piece of ridge stands towards the centre, and various blocks of stones lie about

R O A D

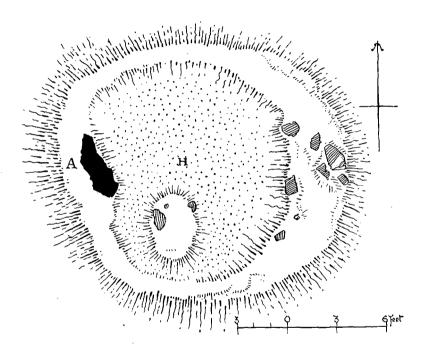


Fig. 50. Remains of Circle at Clach-na-Tiompan, Wester Glen Almond; Plan.

in no regular order. The Standing Stone, presumably the last of a group, is of rough whinstone 5 feet 2 inches in height (fig. 51), and with a basal girth of about 8 feet. The interior hollow is rough and rather stony, suggesting attempts at excavation. Standing near its centre, we see on the right the whole length in perspective of a great

cairn, surmounted at the extremity nearer to us by a slim pile of stones evidently a modern erection. When treading on the stones of the cairn (see fig. 52), it is observable that the structure is of most unusual length and form; being a vast heap of stones and



Fig. 51. Clach-na-Tiompan, Wester Glen Almond; View from the East.

boulders measuring about 174 feet nearly east and west, and roughly 42 feet in breadth, the height above the general level being about 6 feet. It is now very irregular; but at four somewhat regular distances there are embedded large oblong cists (some now full of water), each with its great covering-stone flung back to the right or

left. The cist nearest the east end was measured, and found to be made of four great slabs, those forming the sides 6 feet 3 inches and those forming the ends 3 feet 5 inches in length. The cover-stone measured 7 feet by 4 feet 2 inches, and was about 10 inches thick.<sup>1</sup>

No. 36. Kor Stone, near Harrietfield, Logie Almond.—This is named

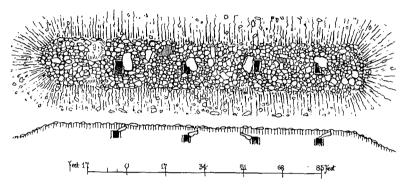


Fig. 52. Cairn at Clach-na-Tiompan, Wester Glen Almond; Ground-plan and sectional view.

<sup>1</sup> In this neighbourhood, but on the south side of the Almond, there is a stream called Allt a coire cultrain (Stream of the Corrie of the Blackthorns?), and near it, at an altitude of 1600 feet, the O.M. records the strange name Kirk of the Grove. Whatever meanings may be attached to the words "kirk" and "grove," there seems no evidence to show that there ever was a church here or a grove of trees. The object itself is a group of two or more great boulders, one of which, partly resting upon and partly covering the others, affords a rude sort of sheltering-place. The site is a purely natural one. It has been briefly noticed, with a photograph, in the Trans. of the Perthshire Nat. Hist. Soc. (vol. iv. pt. v. pl. 18). But the name requires elucidation. Stone Circles in Aberdeenshire are known in certain localities as Kirks, e.g. the Auld Kirk of Tough, Chapel o' Sink, the Sunken Kirk, etc.

Mr William J. Watson, however, has recently made the interesting discovery that the name Kirk of the Grove is really a translation of the Gaelic name Eaglais an Doire, attached to this spot or to another in its near vicinity. The surrounding area should be thoroughly searched in view of the possible discovery of early ecclesiastical remains, although its altitude above sea-level is greatly against that supposition. One or two of the fort-sites in Kirkcudbrightshire are locally known as the Auld Kirk.

on the O.M. Carse Stone. In the New Statistical Account it is stated that "there were three other stones in its immediate vicinity. It is commonly called the Kor Stone." The site is on a southward sloping field on Milton farm, exactly on the march between Fendoch and Drumnahar, the fence being taken right up to the narrower sides of the Stone. It is an imposingly large and erect block of rugged whinstone, 9 feet 9 inches in height, with a basal girth of 15 feet



Fig. 53. Kor Stone, Logie Almond; View from the East.

10 inches, but at about midway of its height the girth increases to fully 17 feet. The view (fig. 53) shows the Stone as seen from the east.

This is not the first example of the occurrence of the epithet Kor, or Corr, as applied to stones of Stone Circles. At Druminnor 1 we surveyed one of the great Recumbent Stone Circles so characteristic of Aberdeenshire, and the tall West Pillar in that group is known as the Corr Stone.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Report in Proceedings, vol. xxxvi. p. 560.

No. 36A. Stone Circles at Tullybeagles Lodge.—This site is almost due west of the village of Bankfoot in Auchtergaven, about four miles.<sup>1</sup> It is nearly midway between the site of the interesting Circle on Airlich, surveyed two years ago, and the Circle with central monolith at Blelock, also already surveyed.

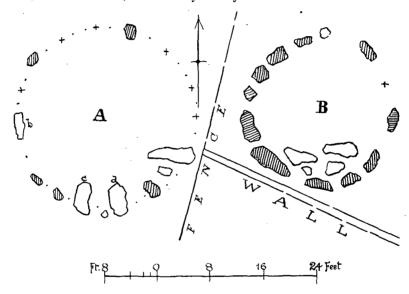


Fig. 53A. Sketch-plan of two Circles, Strath-head, near Tullybeagles.

The site is a fairly lofty one, and the two little Circles are situated at Strath-head, one on each side of a fence which passes on the east of Tullybeagles Lodge. The outer edges of the Circles are only about 7 feet apart, and they lie nearly due east and west. The Circle marked A on the plan (fig. 53A) is about 27 feet in diameter and at present consists of ten Stones, the majority of them being prostrate. Major Mercer, on the day of his visit to the site, was informed by the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> I am greatly indebted to Major Mercer, of Huntingtower, for the notes, measurements, and sketch-plan of this very inaccessible site.

old keeper, Anderson, that thirty years ago the three Stones b, c, d, were standing. The original arrangement, then, judging by the length of c and d, would be that the two tallest Stones occupied the south arc—an arrangement met with occasionally elsewhere, but far from being common.<sup>1</sup>

On the S.W. arc one Stone (shaded in the plan) is set up on edge, and is about 2 feet above ground. An unusually long Stone lies on the S.E.

In its original complete condition this Circle probably had fifteen Stones.

The adjacent Circle, B on the plan, is about 24 feet in diameter, and may have formerly consisted of thirteen Stones, one of which near the N.E. is now wanting.

## GROUP VI.-WEST OF PERTH.

- No. 37. Stone Circle at Bachilton.—This site is nearly one mile east of Balgowan House, on a field called Skelfie which lies nearly a quarter of a mile to the E.N.E. of Bachilton farmhouse, and at a height of about 160 feet above sea-level. Many years ago, several Stones of a
- <sup>1</sup> Major Mercer was further informed of the site of a monolith called in the district "The Sack Stone," which he at once went to see. From his notes I gather that this is a great smoothed boulder, having one side flat and the other rounded, both with deep longitudinal glacial grooves. It stands about 9 feet 6 inches in height, is 6 feet in breadth and about 3 feet thick near the base, from which it increases to about 4 feet near the upper part.

Its position, as far as could be ascertained from the map, is about three-quarters of a mile N.E. of Creag na Criche, near the 1000-foot contour-line, and on the north side of the burn that divides Tullybeagles from Tullybelton, on the slope of the hill near the latter place. Anderson, the old keeper, said that the current tradition—doubtless, to account for the name—was that some one had brought this Sack Stone in a bag and left it there! If this is a residue of some early legend telling of the Stone being "dropped out of the apron of a witch," it is still one more instance of the folk-lore of Standing Stones.

There is an old double-walled circular fort on Cairn na Liath, measuring about 90 feet in greatest diameter, which seems to be hitherto unrecorded.

Circle stood here, upon what appeared to be an artificial and quite distinct mound which is still visible. The Stones were, however, undermined and buried, so as to be out of the reach of the plough, close to their respective sites. This information was given me by Mr Thomas Ross, LL.D., architect, who remembers being told of the occurrence by the ploughman, John Lawson, who lived at Meckphen.

No. 38. Stone Circle at Moneydie.—The eight sites immediately



Fig. 54. Remains of Stone Circle, Moneydie; View from the South-west.

following were investigated, with the valuable assistance of Major Mercer, during a delightful week spent at his mansion-house of Huntingtower, in the early days of September last. Major Mercer's keen interest in both the prehistoric and the more recent remains which crowd upon the archæologist in Perthshire has already been of signal service in tending to influence tenants towards cultivating a more sane and respectful attitude in relation to objects of antiquity.

The Stone now remaining erect at Moneydie stands in a field between that farm and the farm of Moneydieroger, and south-west of the church three-quarters of a mile. Through the efficient and friendly aid of Major Mercer and of Mr R. Mercer I was able to measure certain other Stones, now almost completely buried, but each marked by either a growing tree or the stump of a decayed one, little suspecting at the moment that these were in any way truly associated with the one erect Stone. The field was full of corn-stooks, which would have rendered futile the most painstaking single-handed measurements. The result obtained, therefore, is due entirely to our cooperation and to the interest shown by my friends in a somewhat irksome employment.

On working out the measurements (which were afterwards supplemented by more careful ones taken for me by Major Mercer when the field was cleared of its corn), the following results were obtained, which are shown in the plan (fig. 55). The Stone on the east at C is the one still erect, and it is set in conjunction with two others, G and H, truly on the circumference of a Circle with a diameter of 90 feet. Two other Stones, B and E, are also near enough to be considered as members of the same group. Thus there are five possible Stones as the remains of a Circle of very unusual diameter. There are tree-stumps at B, E, and F. The Stones at G and H are flat, level with the surface, and earth-fast. At D there is a tree still growing; and the Stone A, so near the centre of the Circle, is a few inches above ground, and slopes slightly towards the north-east. The conjecture might be hazarded that it is part of a cist-cover. But this point, and the further points arising out of the abnormal presence of the two Stones at D and F, could only be satisfactorily settled after careful excavation. It may be noted, however, that the spaces between A and F, and F and D, are each almost exactly double the space between G and D. The interspaces between B C and E H are the same, and those between H C and G E are nearly so.

No. 39. Standing Stone at Cowford.—This, shown at a height of 240 feet above sea-level, is two miles almost precisely due north of the last site, and one mile and a half south of the Circle at Pitsundry

(Blelock) in Auchtergaven, already surveyed. Unhappily, this is a fallen Stone (fig. 56), and its prostrate state, we were informed by a man who lived near, is due to its being upset only two years ago,

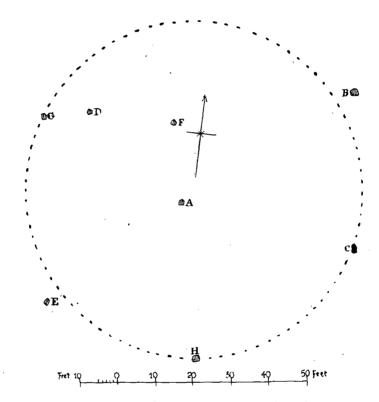


Fig. 55. Remains of Stone Circle, Moneydie; Ground-plan.

during a hunt for rats. Its dimensions are 5 feet by 2 feet 2 inches by over 2 feet in thickness. The northern end rests partly on a small slab-like stone.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Report in Proceedings, vol. xlii. p. 154.

No. 40. Standing Stone at Loak; in a field to the east of Ordie Burn, at a height of about 200 feet above sea-level, and a quarter of a mile south of the farmhouse. About a couple of hundred yards to the south-east there is a high circular earthen mound which is named on the O.M. Court Hill. It is a fairly conspicuous object in the landscape, and is planted with trees.

This Stone, broad in proportion to its height, stands 3 feet 9 inches clear of the ground, measures round the base 10 feet 3 inches, and across its nearly flat top 4 feet 4 inches by 2 feet 5 inches. The sides

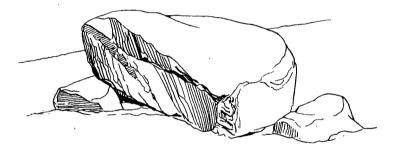


Fig. 56. Fallen Monolith at Cowford; View from the South-east.

are fairly vertical and rather smooth, and the mineral is striated schist (see fig. 57). The direction of its longer side is S.W. 68°.

No. 41. Standing Stones at Gillybanks.—This site is slightly over one mile to the S.S.E. of the last, at about 120 feet above sea-level, and in a field on the west of an old cart-road. The two Stones stand most remarkably close together (see the ground-plan, fig. 58). They are both rough blocks of quartzose schist, standing 3 feet 9 inches and 3 feet 2 inches respectively above the stony ground, and measuring in girth 10 feet 3 inches and 10 feet 8 inches. The direction of their longer sides is W. 82° N. by E. 82° S.; and there is a space of only 8 or 10 inches between their inner edges. In the illustration (fig. 59) this group is shown from the south-east.

No. 42. Standing Stone at Benchill.—This monolith, partly from its conspicuous position, its own height, and from the fact that a good-

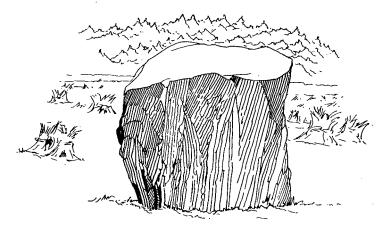


Fig. 57. Standing Stone, Loak; View from the North-east.

sized sun-dial has been affixed to its summit, must be a well-known landmark for considerable distances around. It stands S.S.W. of

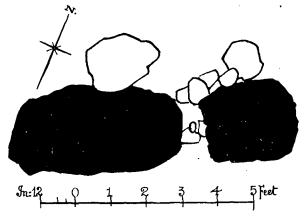


Fig. 58. Standing Stones, Gillybanks; Ground-plan.

the farmhouse, which is a mile north of Strathord railway station. The height above sea-level is about 200 feet.

This is an unusually pillar-like mass of quartzose schist, yet very jagged on the narrow edges, but smooth and vertical on the eastern side, rising to a height of 8 feet 2 inches, and having a basal girth of 17 feet 4 inches. Part of the roughness of its west side (see fig. 60) is due to quite modern attempts at what I take to be a splitting-up

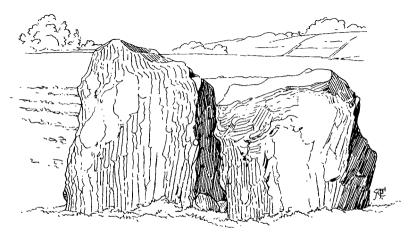


Fig. 59. Standing Stones, Gillybanks; View from the South-east.

of the Stone, in confirmation of which we noticed an oblong piece of thinnish, flat iron deeply fixed into the long niche that runs up this face of the Stone.

No. 43. Standing Stone at Cramflat.—Site about 200 yards northwest of Shochie Burn, on the south of the road between Pitlandie and Ordie Mill, at a height of 218 feet above sea-level. Similar in almost all respects to many others, this Stone (fig. 61) is 5 feet 8 inches in height, girths at the base 10 feet, and its longer axis points nearly N.W. by S.E.

No. 44. Standing Stone at Luncarty.—This is one of the two Stones associated with the traditional Battle of Luncarty. It stands in a field close to the east of the railway opposite Denmarkfield, and distant from Luncarty station three-quarters of a mile to the south. The height above sea-level is 115 feet. Though broad and ponderous-looking, it is by no means a conspicuous monolith. It is only 2 feet

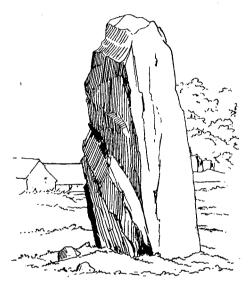


Fig. 60. Standing Stone, Benchill; View from the South-west.

9 inches in height, and in girth about 12 feet. The longer sides face S.W. and N.E.

On closer examination there appeared to Major Mercer and myself to be near the ground-level, on its west face, part of a distinctly incised curve, which at first suggested the "crescent symbol." As it was our good fortune to be presently accosted by Mr Maxtone Graham of Redgorton, a spade was at once, by his orders, procured, and on digging away some 6 inches of soil, nearly the whole outline

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of an axe-like figure was revealed. The vertical length of the curved "blade" (if it be one) is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches; but, owing to severe weathering away of the Stone, it is not possible either to measure or to draw the other extremity of the incised work. From a photograph taken by Major Mercer it seems clear that, near the lower curved edge of the axe-like object, there are several incised lines which form

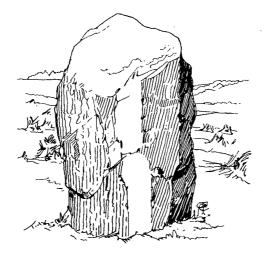


Fig. 61. Standing Stone, Cramflat, near Strathord; View from the South-west.

a sort of tooth-like line parallel with the horizontal upper line of the object.

No. 45. The King's Stone, Denmarkfield.—In popular tradition this Stone is believed to commemorate the spot upon which, at the Battle of Luncarty, the Danish king fell. It is situated some 240 yards towards the east of the Stone last described, and is an irregularly four-sided block of striated schist, 4 feet 8 inches in height and 8 feet in girth. Close beside it is a large fragment of another Stone—a whinstone boulder, but how this came here no one knows. The

Stone stands nearly east and west. The view (fig. 62) is from the east-south-east.

No. 46. Standing Stone at Tarsappie.—On coming out of Perth by the main road going south to Bridge of Earn, after passing Friarton, there is a road which turns sharply off at right angles eastwards, and about a quarter of a mile along this road (which goes on to Fingask) is Wester Tarsappie. The O.M. marks a Standing Stone here, a few score yards to the west of the farmhouse. On nearing this site and



Fig. 62. The King's Stone, Luncarty; View from the E.S.E.

seeing no Stone, I interviewed the present tenant (who happened to be passing), and from him obtained the following particulars: That, up to about the date of 1895, a great monolith used to stand here which was over 6 feet in height. At that date it fell, and in falling broke in two pieces. The proprietor of Kinfauns then directed that these two fragments should be raised, carted away to a farm on the south of the Kirkton Wood, and there the two pieces were re-erected, and now remain looking as one stone. Being so circumstantially told to me, there was nothing to do but record this account, although it is permissible to state that it is the most extraordinary story of

many that I have heard with regard to the Standing Stones of Scotland. On the occasion of my visit to Tarsappie, the afternoon proving very wet, I had not then an opportunity of walking up to "the farm south of Kirkton Wood." But, having informed Major Mercer of the above statement, I subsequently received from him the following particulars: That in the garden at Craigelowan there is a large monolith. This, on inquiry, proved to be the "large Stone that was at Tarsappie," and which was "removed and erected there some seven or eight years ago. Unfortunately, in the removing of it, a portion of the Stone broke off. The whole Stone was reckoned to weigh about 10 tons." We are indebted for this information to Mr A. C. Jackson, South Methven Street, Perth.

Major Mercer was informed that the Stone fell during the winter of 1895-6, and that, upon orders being given to have it broken up for road-metal, Mr Roy, then farming Tarsappie, removed it to its present position. It now stands about 8 feet in height, on the S.E. corner of a turfed platform made on a mound of débris from the Friarton tunnel. It is triangular in section, each side measuring about 6 feet wide, and appears to have been partially dressed.

No. 47. Standing Stone at Hilton of Moncrieffe.—Subsequently to my visit to Tarsappie, happening to have some time to spare at Perth, I went in search of confirmation of the above story, and on my way up from Friarton, between two strips of wood, bordering on the confines of St Magdalene's, I was opportunely met by the head keeper, who informed me of this monolith on Hilton. He knew of no other in the vicinity. The Stone (fig. 63) is set upon a high, but not the highest, ridge of rocky ground in an open hill-pasture, at the height of about 390 feet above sea-level, and commanding a clear view to the south and the east.

It is a fine, straight-sided pillar of whinstone, 7 feet 6 inches in height, and girthing at the base about 8 feet. Its longer axis lies nearly east and west.

About 20 yards to its N.N.E. there is a curious circular hollow, some 6 feet in diameter and perhaps 6 feet in depth, evidently scooped out of the rocky ground. Both this and the Standing Stone are shown on the O.M.

In conclusion, there is one point of rather unusual interest connected with this report, viz. that it contains no fewer than six sites which are unrecorded on the Ordnance Maps. These are the sites at

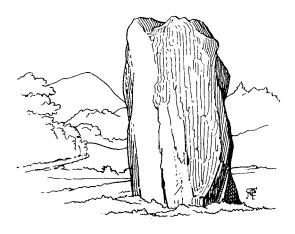


Fig. 63. Standing Stone, Hilton of Moncrieffe; View from the West

Kindrochet, Drumnakill, Balmuick, Tom-na-Chessaig, Keppoch, and Bachilton. For information concerning these we are indebted to either local residents or to those who once resided in the neighbourhood of Comrie. Another feature, and one to be much deplored, is the comparative emptiness of many of the sites; there has been such frequent occasion to report only the remains of a Circle, or even only the site of one; and that the group once at Dárgill was so much despoiled as recently as 1909, is yet one more piece of evidence to show the crassly stupid attitude still lamentably characteristic of

the agriculturist, or indeed we may go so far as to say occasionally of the landowners and factors upon whose ground such senseless spoliation is permitted.

All the Circles reported on which are measurable, belong, like many others in Perthshire, to a small type. If we except the specimens at Moneydie and Clach Ossian, not one has a diameter of even 30 feet. Again, quite a large number of the sites are represented now by a monolith alone, and in many cases, even where the Circle consists of several Stones, these are not conspicuously tall, but in the main merely great amorphous boulders rarely more than 3 or 4 feet above ground.

One other salient feature should be observed; that is the remarkable manner in which several sites are grouped together, in a space comparatively small when the whole area investigated is considered. For instance, the twelve sites in the first or Comrie group are included within about 24 square miles; the five remarkable monoliths on Dunruchan stand within sight of each other on a space of moorland only half a square mile in extent; in the Crieff group an area of 24 square miles comprises twelve sites. In the Fowlis-Wester division, a space measuring barely over one square mile (completely isolated from all the other sub-districts) contains the six varied and notable relics above described. In Glen Almond we have four sites scattered over a long narrow strip of country 9 miles long by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles in breadth; while the eleven sites to the west and south of Perth, although found over an area of about 48 square miles, show nine of these to be within a space of only 9 square miles.

Actual evidence of sepulture is not to any great extent forthcoming; but this, I hold, is attributable to the fact that so extremely few competent excavations have been made in Strathearn.

In addition to the sites enumerated above, I must draw attention to one more which is situated in so very isolated a locality as not truly to belong to this Strathearn district. It was quite out of my reach.

I refer to a Stone Circle discovered, during the past August, at a place called Shian, near the upper end of Loch Freuchie, by Mr C. G. Cash, who has already supplied valuable notices of other Circles in Inverness-shire. The notable feature of this Circle is that the Stones composing it are all masses of pure white quartz. From what Mr Cash tells me, I judge this Circle to resemble that reported on last year, which we saw at Coillieaichur above the Falls of Moness. Mr Cash is compiling a description of it himself; I shall not, therefore, trespass upon his province except to point out that only in a few sites, very distant from Strathearn, have we ever lighted upon white quartz Stones in connection with the Circles.

One group of three small separate Circles is at Logie Newton in Auchterless, Aberdeenshire; another site at Balquhain, near Inverurie, has a magnificent 12-foot pillar of white quartz, and at Auchmaliddie, in Deer, there remain two great Stones of the same conspicuous material, one of which was probably the Recumbent Stone of a typical Aberdeenshire Circle. It should also be noted that at Lochearnhead Mr Charles B. Boog Watson discovered this year several Stones of what he believes is a Circle at Druidsfield, and, near it, a flat-topped Stone carved with a number of cup-marks. "An enclosure for a garden has been formed among the Stones."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Loch Freuchie is 6½ miles due south of Aberfeldy and therefore rather more within the reach of Mr Cash there than within mine, for it is II miles N.N.E. of Comrie over the hills, and the only approach by road is by a very long detour.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For these three Aberdeenshire localities, see my Reports in *Proceedings*, vols. xxxv. p. 231, xxxvii. p. 97, and xxxviii. p. 263.