

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES WITHIN  
DALRULZION FOREST

TAY FOREST DISTRICT  
MARCH, 2010

REPORT AND GAZETTEER



COLIN SHEPHERD FOR FORESTRY COMMISSION SCOTLAND

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*Timothy Pont's map of the Dalrulzion area drawn in the late 16th century. (National Library of Scotland).*

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<b>Folder</b>	<b>Files</b>	<b>Format</b>
Report	Dalrulzion Report Dalrulzion Report High Res.  Dalrulzion Report Low Res.  CD cover CD cover	Quark7 PDF (High Res.) (Print file - 300dpi CMYK) PDF (Low Res.) (Web friendly - 72dpi RGB) Quark 7 PDF (High Res.)
GIS files	Dalrulzion Survey Dalrulzion Survey Dalrulzion Survey	xlsx xls PDF
Pictures	Various	JPEGs
Figures	Various	JPEGs & EPSs
Background data	Thornycroft's Excavations	PDFs
Final Plan	Dalrulzion Layers	EPS & PDF
DES Files	Pro forma table Schedule Images	Word PDF EPS & JPEG

## SUMMARY

*Dalrulzion Forest was surveyed in order to more fully understand its archaeological background so as to help inform the appropriate management of the scheduled monuments and other known archaeological remains within the Forest.*

*A number of features were discovered and recorded so that the historically-attested tally of nineteen hut circles can still be matched today. These can be seen to derive from two separate groups, either side of a burn. The westernmost contains quite extensive linear boundaries and enclosures apparently absent from the eastern (scheduled) group. Also, a number of Mediaeval and Post-mediaeval settlement remains were found which can help in the understanding of the social and landscape development of the wider area.*

*Dalrulzion Forest is an important cultural resource sitting across the boundary of two distinct ecological zones which have been differentially utilised through time. Survivals along such interfaces provide an opportunity to compare and contrast the differences between them.*

*Finally, suggestions are made to try to satisfy the sometimes competing aims of conservation, presentation and timber extraction.*

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The intent of this project is to inform both the management and the potential interpretation of this woodland block. The basic aims, therefore, being: 1. protection within a working, industrial environment and, 2. presentation.

The objectives required to achieve these aims might be considered to be:

1. An understanding of the extent and nature of the archaeology as presently visible;
2. An understanding of the topography and its potential for holding hitherto unknown archaeology;
3. An understanding of the broader ecological environment in order to contextualise the known archaeology and, again, to inform upon the potential whereabouts of hitherto unrecognised features;
4. The development of a management strategy utilising the achieved data in order to protect what is known (where desirable), to monitor future forestry work (as informed by the acquired data) and to record and/or protect future discoveries.
5. Site presentation could then be informed by the preceding steps.

## METHODOLOGY AND PRESENTATION

The methods employed can be broken down into two parts: archival analysis and fieldwork. The archival analysis involved the study of cartographic evidence (maps), aerial photography, especially that carried out by the RAF prior to the forestation of the area, and previous archaeological studies of the immediate and wider areas. This background data informed the fieldwork which, in turn, was used to contextualise some of the earlier data.

The Forestry Commission 1:10,000 plan was used as a base for all subsequent recording. Linear features, apparently related to extensions of the Late-/Post-mediaeval field systems lying adjacent to the forest boundary, were noted from the aerial photographs and transcribed onto the plan. A number of other anomalous features were also recorded and checked in the field in order to determine their nature. In all cases these turned out to be no more than natural outcrops and other similar natural features. Two lines of grouse butts were also noted and duly recorded on the ground.

Cartographic evidence was searched in order to relate early sites to extant field remains. Unfortunately, the earliest depictions of agricultural usage is confined to the 19th century OS maps. These depict nothing within the forest block though their remains are still visible in the later improved farmland. This does, however, indicate that those linear features noted from the aerial photography within the forest and relating to the remains outwith the forest were out of use and effectively ignored by the time the 1st Edition OS map was drawn. Even the 'Improved' farmstead at Ballaquharry, which clearly utilised the fields outwith the forest but not those within, was out of use by 1870, indicating that the linear features within the wood must relate to a pre-'Improvement' or earlier horizon.

Cartographic evidence was also used to try to 'test' early descriptions of the extent of the hut circles. Two basic approaches were used. The first was to redraw and superimpose old maps onto the modern plans in order to relate and compare the results. The second was to take early accounts of the hut circles and to redraw the measurements given to create a composite view. By combining the results, some useful conclusions were reached which could then be tested in the field.

An assessment of the potential land-use and ecology of the various parts of the forest block was made prior to a field visit. This was re-assessed after the first site visit in order to inform and supply new targets for subsequent predictive surveying.

The desk-based analysis was used to inform and supply targets for the walkover survey. Anomalous features were inspected along with the linear features revealed by the aerial photographs. The results obtained from comparing the cartographic and documentary evidence were similarly tested by inspection. Positive results were plotted on the base map. The first site visit also provided an overview of the topography and potential land-use of the various parts of the forest block. This was reviewed along with the first field results in order to inform subsequent visits. These utilised the data from the desk-based analysis and first site visit in order to inform the intensity of coverage for the prospective survey. By these means it was hoped to be able to allocate the appropriate coverage to the different parts of the woodland in order to recover the maximum data achievable within the parameters of the project.

All features were given a unique number and presented as an Excel file, compatible with loading onto the Forestry Commission GIS layer. The features were also supplied, along with the details recorded by the desk-based analysis, as layered EPS and PDF files, drawn in Illustrator onto the base plan as supplied by the Forestry Commission. Photographs, taken in order to aid identification on the ground were supplied as 300 dpi JPEGs. The report was produced, initially, in Quark 7 and, from that, reproduced as a high resolution PDF. New features, not previously recorded, have been supplied to Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. The final archive, comprising all of the above noted files, was written to CD and given to Tay Forest District, Forestry Commission Scotland.

## HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### THE 'DALRULZION' HUTS

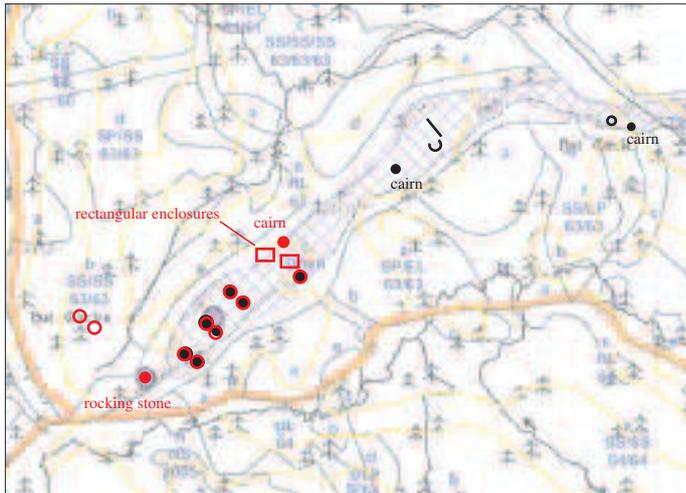


Figure 1. Reconstruction (in red) of description contained in the late 18th century *Statistical Accounts for Perthshire*.

The Dalrulzion hut circles appear to have been first noted in the *Statistical Accounts* written in the last decade of the 18th century. Nine huts were noted, along with the rocking stone, two rectangular enclosures and a large cairn. The seven at the western end of the scheduled area are perfect fits for those presently readily visible. The single one at the extreme north-east end of the scheduled area was not mentioned. However, two further huts - a double-walled and a single-walled - were noted as lying 120 yards west of the rocking stone. As the writer was considering the others to be north of the rocking stone, rather than their actual north-east, it is probable that his 'west' should be interpreted as north-west. Figure 1 shows a reconstruction of this account with the reconstruction

in red and a modern survey in black. Their first appearance on a map seems to have been that produced by Knox in 1850.

John Stuart appears to have performed some excavations on similar structures on the west side of the Dalrulzion hills and to have mentioned the Dalrulzion huts (Thornycroft, 1933, 187). However, it was not until Thornycroft's work from 1930 to 1933 that they were to fully enter the archaeological record and to have become a recognised 'Type-site'. Such double-walled structures became known as 'Dalrulzion' huts.

Thornycroft's work supplies a bit of a problem. In many respects his approach and methodology was exemplary for the age. This, in turn, inspires a high level of trust in his work. However, although leaving a few fine excavation drawings (see Figure 2), he neglected to publish a site plan. As he noted that he knew of nineteen hut circles by the end of his campaign there is the problem of locating them - if they ever existed. The rough plan that he did leave, if superimposed on the modern plan reveals a quite odd state of affairs. Figure 3 shows this reconstruction and it is immediately apparent that his huts are far more dispersed than is actually the case. That this is, therefore, merely a very rough sketch can be shown by his plan of his group 'C, D, E' (see Figure 4). If the Royal Commission is correct in assuming that his huts C and D are the most westerly pair of the group, there must still be a further hut, hut E, just a few yards away to the north. It seems unlikely that he can have been so mistaken as to have 'created' a non-existent hut. This does not resolve the matter of his site sketch and how it should be interpreted.

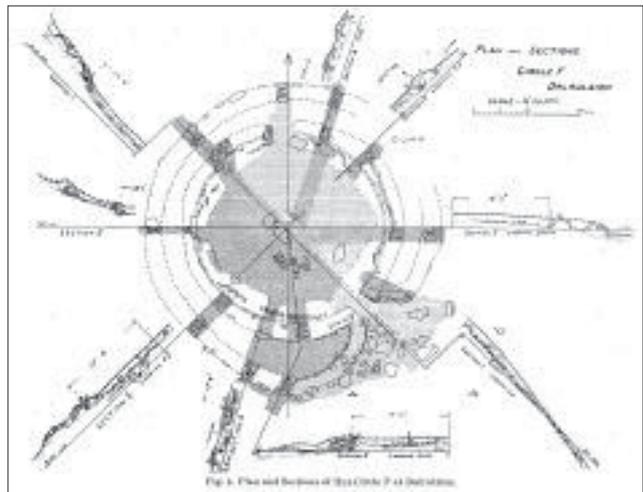


Figure 2. Thornycroft's excavation of Dalrulzion hut F (1933, 192).

An initial response might be to view the site as outrageously spaced out across the hillside. But, Knox's plan of 1850 (Figure 5) also appears to show a dispersed pattern. Those 'druidical circles' furthest north might relate to those between the Forest and the modern road to Kirkmichael. However, those shown to the north and north-west of the well-marked rocking stone look uncomfortably reminiscent of those depicted by Thornycroft.

In 1866 Stuart appears to have noted the seven huts now included within the scheduled area at the

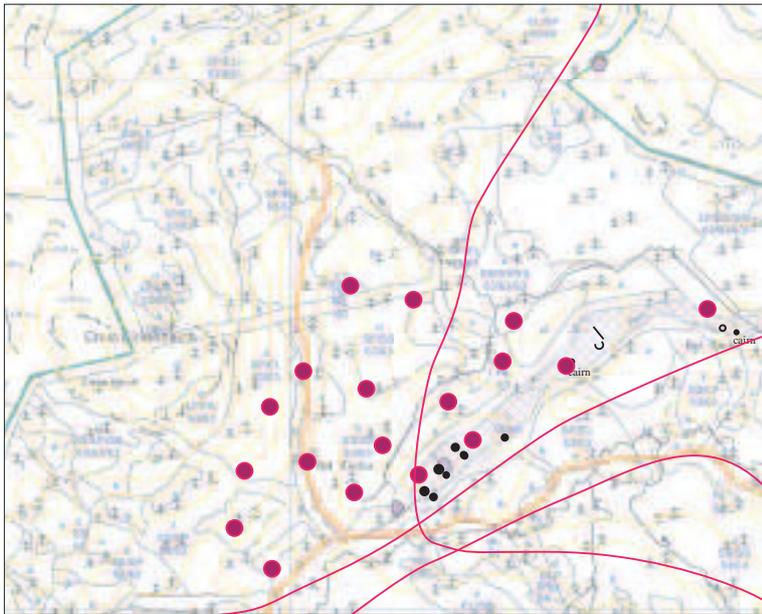


Figure 3. Reconstruction (in red) of Thornycroft's site sketch combined with the modern plan.

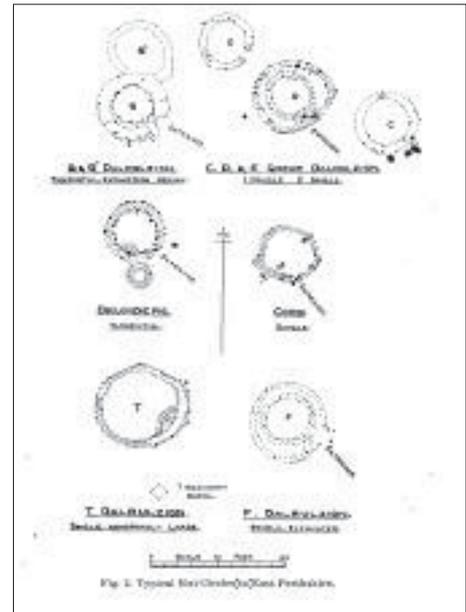


Figure 4. Thornycroft's plans of several hut circles in the area (1933, 1990).

west end and these seem to be those depicted on the 1st Edition OS map. Shown at the north-east end of the scheduled site, along with the outlying hut circle not noted on these 19th century plans, are a number of clearance cairns. Thornycroft excavated a number and found them to be simply that - the remains of field clearance. Unfortunately, he is again unclear as to where these cairns were: "Two more of the many cairns found near the hut circles..." (1948, 131). The cairns noted on the 1st Edition OS map (Figure 6) lie to the north-east of the main concentration of hut circles where the ground is at a slightly lower altitude

and considerably less rocky. It cannot be presumed that these cairns are necessarily contemporary with the hut circles and might, equally, relate to subsequent periods of use, either during times of population stress or during optimum climatic conditions (or both).

Finally, with respect to the hut circles, the Ordnance Survey recorded the area in 1974 and, as well as noting the eight hut circles (about which there seems to be no question), described a further three lying to the north-west of the rocking stone. This brings the story neatly back to the first reference to the huts in the Statistical Accounts at the end of the 18th century which also noted two hut circles in this position. These were assumed to have been subsequently damaged.



Figure 5. Knox's map of Dalrulzion in 1850. (National Library of Scotland).

The evidence, therefore, constantly

confirms the notion of the eight known huts plus three further examples to the north-west. Of these there seems little doubt. What is more awkward to ascertain is the veracity of Thornycroft's nineteen hut circles. It must not be forgotten that, with the exception of the Ordnance Survey in 1974, he was the most experienced field worker to meticulously cover the area. His testimony should not be cast aside too lightly. The Ordnance Survey were hampered by dense forestation - the trees would only have been about eleven years old at that time and would have provided almost zero visibility. Even when the Royal Commission visited the site in 1988 the trees would still have presented a formidable obstacle to a proper walk-over survey. Furthermore, the site has been deeply ploughed, planted and thinned between the time that Thornycroft made his study and today. That the extra huts - if they ever did exist - were even then less apparent than the others cannot be doubted. This being said, the balance of probability is that there are a few hut circles to be found and, perhaps as the vegetation changes, they will come to light.



Figure 6. 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1870.

within the scheduled area attest some small enclosures. But, this settlement seems to have other parallels which similarly lack associated field systems. Balnabroich, on the western side of the same land mass, might be cited (*ibid.*, 34). These settlements still display boundary dykes, though they take the form of long 'head' dykes rather than field enclosures. Whether these distinctions relate to temporal differences or different land-use strategies still requires exploration. Perhaps a useful candidate for comparative purposes, however, is Tullochcurran Burn (*ibid.*, 80), again, within 3 kms of Dalrulzion. The settlement sits upon an elongated ridge with burns on either side, much like at Dalrulzion. The land is divided by a series of short dykes, often crossing the narrow ridge and connected with a small number of clearance cairns. These might be the type of disjointed features which could have evaded identification. On the other hand, these hut circles do not conform to the 'Dalrulzion' form with double walls.

#### THE WIDER FOREST LANDSCAPE

So far, the archaeology occurring within the scheduled area and relating to the immediate vicinity of the hut circles has been considered. However, this is only a part of a wider landscape which has been utilised for thousands of years. Perthshire is particularly important for the study of past Scottish ecology and settlement owing to the recognition of a building type widely considered to have its roots in an earlier Mediaeval context. These are the Pitcarmick houses. Their juxtaposition with settlements considered to be largely prehistoric (such as the 'Dalrulzion' huts) holds the prospect of assessing, comparing and contrasting the different ecologies and land-use strategies engaged in by people sharing the same landscape but separated by generations. The question of how many generations is a similarly engaging question a long way from being settled. Dalrulzion Forest sits at that important juncture where late Mediaeval settlement reached up to impinge upon the prehistoric remains left high and dry by subsequent cultural and ecological changes.

The Forest is a crescentic block on the north-east slopes of the Knock of Balmyle. The known huts sit on a ridge of high land stretching north-east from the centre of the crescent. The land to the north-west, west, south-west and south of the Forest is generally at least as high and rocky as the rear of the crescent. Loch Mharaich sits just below a pass through the back of the crescent and through which an ancient track passes. It is probably no coincidence that this track crosses towards the extensive Balnabroich series of huts and Pitcarmick settlements on the west side of the Knock of Balmyle.

On the north-east and east sides of the Forest the land is now under agriculture and has been so since the early 20th century. During the 19th century there was a more sporadic use of the land as can be seen on the 1st Edition OS map (Figure 6). However, it appears that earlier field systems survived through this period of redundancy to be re-utilised in the 20th century. This usage seems to have been, like now, largely pasture-based. Such usage would also explain why the older field remains were never removed for ploughing purposes. Figure 7 shows a composite plan of the modern base plan with the 19th century patches of field and the linear features taken from the aerial photographs.

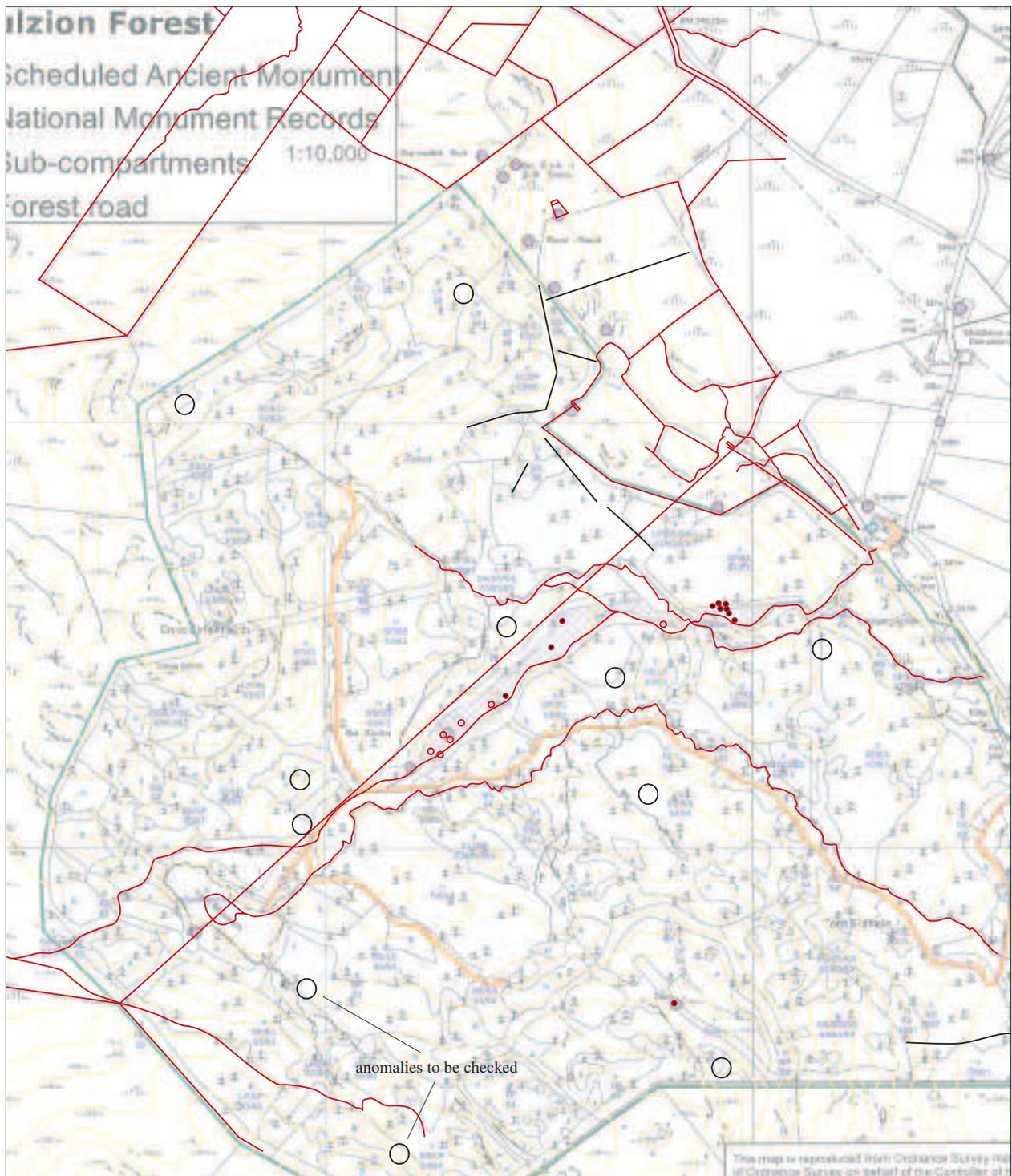


Figure 7. Base plan with 19th century field groups and linear features taken from the aerial photographs taken by the RAF in 1946. The circles are the areas containing an array of anomalous features also noted.

It can be seen that the linear features, depicted from the aerial photos, continue the field system presently lying outwith the wood. But, the present forest boundary coincides with the north-west corner of the 19th century field system as it appears to have developed during the early 20th century. The two arable fields belonging to Craigton and west of the present main road were also designated fields in the 19th century. The field block west of Craigton was associated with a farmstead apparently still functioning in the 19th century and now marked by the remains of a disused kiln. This was presumably the site of Garrowmoor as depicted on Stobie's map of 1783 (see Figure 8). This map also depicts 'Belcharry', which is presumably the remains on the south-eastern edge of the wood where the farm buildings jut into the line of the wood (NH15NW 24). Another house platform (NH15NW23) to the south-east of 'Belcharry' and nestling in the southern corner of this piece of farmland, does not seem to appear on 19th



the paucity of hut circles north-east of the known sites, even upon ground which seems well-suited to settlement. The dense scatter of cairns noted on the 1st Edition 6" map (see Figure 7) certainly attests agricultural usage. In this instance this might turn out to relate to a historic rather than a prehistoric period.

Finally, attention should be drawn to the small portions of Caputh and Rattray parishes which sit either side of the Blackwater at this point (see Figures 5 and 6). This might suggest that these were upland areas utilised by their lower-lying parish inhabitants and which relates to an earlier period of transhumance. It certainly suggests a sharing out of resources with lower-lying parishes. The Rattray portion seems to be indicated by Pont and so must have a history stretching back to the late 16th century and probably earlier.

## THE GAZETTEER

## EXPLANATION OF TERMS

<i>Site name:</i>	The name of the feature, if it has one, or, more commonly, a keyword descriptor.
<i>ID:</i>	An abbreviation for the Forest name followed by an individual feature number.
<i>NGR:</i>	National Grid Reference.
<i>Designation:</i>	<p>Scheduled - denotes a national scheduled monument with its designated number;</p> <p>Listed - denotes a nationally listed structure along with its designated number (Not applicable in this instance);</p> <p>Nothing in the field denotes the feature is neither listed nor scheduled.</p>
<i>Grade:</i>	<p>The grading gives a qualification as to a feature's importance relative to the area or nationally. Obviously, this is somewhat subjective, but the following guidelines have been used:</p> <p>A - features of national importance, ie. that have been scheduled or listed;</p> <p>B - sites of regional importance, including all buildings that will have been roofed and/or likely to contain contextualised archaeology;</p> <p>C - includes features of local importance, such as dykes, banks, quarries etc. which, whilst forming part of a larger landscape, are likely to contain only a limited range of contextualised archaeology;</p> <p>D - features of very limited archaeological potential, such as sites of former farmsteads, since destroyed, findspots of uncontextualised artefacts and sites of environmental sampling.</p>
<i>Source:</i>	A reference to any prior report held on the national database.
<i>Description:</i>	A brief description of the feature and a reference to its condition where appropriate.

## GAZETTEER OF SITES

*Site name:* Hut circle 1  
*ID:* DAL001  
*NGR:* NO 1224 5722  
*Designation:* Scheduled Monument  
 No. 5777

*Grade:* A  
*Source:* nmrs NO15NW 2.7  
*Description:* Double-walled hut circle measuring 9m internally with an external diameter of 17.7m (NW-SE) x 15.5m. Excellent condition.



*Site name:* Hut circle 2  
*ID:* DAL002  
*NGR:* NO 1226 5721  
*Designation:* Scheduled Monument  
 No. 5777

*Grade:* A  
*Source:* nmrs NO15NW 2.8  
*Description:* Single-walled hut circle measuring 11m internally. Excellent condition.



*Site name:* Hut circle 3  
*ID:* DAL003  
*NGR:* NO 1230 5725  
*Designation:* Scheduled Monument  
 No. 5777

*Grade:* A  
*Source:* nmrs NO15NW 2.6  
*Description:* Single-walled hut circle measuring 8.5m internally. Excellent condition.



*Site name:* Hut circle 4  
*ID:* DAL004  
*NGR:* NO 1228 5726  
*Designation:* Scheduled Monument  
 No. 5777

*Grade:* A  
*Source:* nmrs NO15NW 2.5  
*Description:* Double-walled hut circle measuring 8m internally with an external diameter of approx. 17m. Excellent condition.



*Site name:* Hut circle 5  
*ID:* DAL005  
*NGR:* NO 1232 5728  
*Designation:* Scheduled Monument  
 No. 5777

*Grade:* A  
*Source:* nmrs NO15NW 2.4  
*Description:* Single-walled hut circle apparently ovoid and measuring approx. 11m x 13m. Excellent condition.



*Site name:* Hut circle 6  
*ID:* DAL006  
*NGR:* NO 1231 5730  
*Designation:* Scheduled Monument  
 No. 5777

*Grade:* A  
*Source:* nmrs NO15NW 2.3  
*Description:* Double-walled hut circle measuring 7.5m internally with external dimensions of 14m. Excellent condition.



*Site name:* Hut circle 7  
*ID:* DAL007  
*NGR:* NO 1240 5732  
*Designation:* Scheduled Monument  
 No. 5777

*Grade:* A  
*Source:* nmrs NO15NW 2.2  
*Description:* Single-walled hut circle measuring approx. 9m internally. Excellent condition.



*Site name:* Hut circle 8  
*ID:* DAL008  
*NGR:* NO 1281 5752  
*Designation:* Scheduled Monument  
 No. 5777  
*Grade:* A  
*Source:* nmrs NO15NW 2.1  
*Description:* Single-walled hut circle measuring approx. 8m internally. Excellent condition.



*Site name:* Cairn  
*ID:* DAL009  
*NGR:* NO 1253 5747  
*Designation:* Scheduled Monument  
 No. 5777  
*Grade:* A  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* Large cairn measuring approx. 10m in diameter. Seems very large for a clearance cairn. Good condition.



*Site name:* Hut circle 9  
*ID:* DAL010  
*NGR:* NO 1223 5723  
*Designation:* Scheduled Monument  
 No. 5777  
*Grade:* A  
*Source:* Thornycroft/Fieldwork  
*Description:* Thornycroft's missing hut E measuring approx. 9m internally. Reasonable condition.



*Site name:* Circular feature  
*ID:* DAL011  
*NGR:* NO 1258 5750  
*Designation:* Scheduled Monument  
 No. 5777  
*Grade:* A  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* A very denuded circular feature measuring approx 15m and open on its northern side (possibly associated with DAL012). Barely visible



*Site name:* Linear bank  
*ID:* DAL012  
*NGR:* NO 1259 5751  
*Designation:* Scheduled Monument  
 No. 5777

*Grade:* A  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* Very denuded linear feature heading 320° from approx. 6m NE of DAL011 for 27m and perhaps ending at a clearance heap. Barely visible.



*Site name:* Curvilinear Dyke  
*ID:* DAL013  
*NGR:* NO 1330 5760  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* Dyke running for at least 150m NW-SE from below Creagan Soillen. Reasonable condition.



*Site name:* Limekiln  
*ID:* DAL014  
*NGR:* NO 1361 5723  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Ordnance Survey  
*Description:* Disused limekiln, circular in plan. Reasonable condition.



*Site name:* Shooting butt/Cairn?  
*ID:* DAL015  
*NGR:* NO 1245 5743  
*Designation:* Scheduled Monument  
 No. 5777  
*Grade:* A  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* This appears to be a single example of a shooting butt, not related to the other two series (017 and 018). On the other hand, it might be one of the clearance cairns excavated by Thornycroft simply giving the appearance of a shooting butt. Poor condition.



*Site name:* Hollow-way  
*ID:* DAL016  
*NGR:* NO 1286 5753  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Ordnance Survey  
*Description:* The track leading through the scheduled area is a well-preserved hollow-way, and may be of considerable age. Good condition in parts.



*Site name:* Shooting butts  
*ID:* DAL017  
*NGR:* NO 1279 5754 - 1304 5773  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Fieldwork/Aerial photos  
*Description:* A line of shooting butts extending north-eastwards from the scheduled area. Some appear to have made use of earlier clearance remains. Reasonable condition.



*Site name:* Shooting butts  
*ID:* DAL018  
*NGR:* NO 1206 5734 - 1175 5741  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Fieldwork/Aerial photos  
*Description:* A line of shooting butts extending westwards from the burn to the west of the scheduled area. One appears to have re-utilised an earlier building (see 026). (See also sketch plan under 022). Reasonable condition.

*Site name:* Cairn  
*ID:* DAL019  
*NGR:* NO 1284 5752  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* A fair-sized cairn which is probably clearance-related. (Seen beyond hut circle in picture). Reasonable condition.



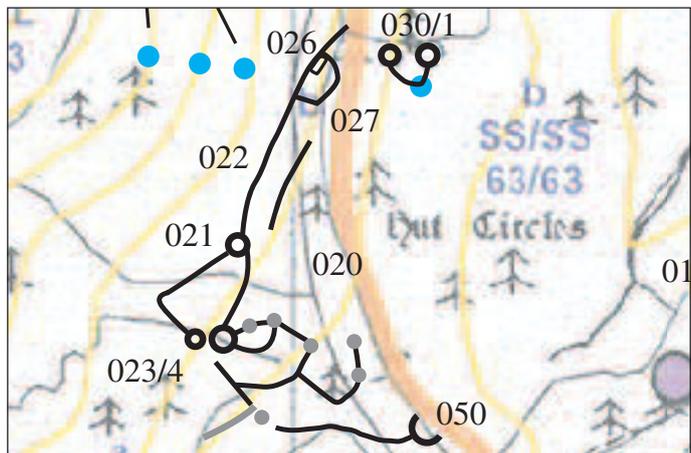
*Site name:* Hut circle  
*ID:* DAL020  
*NGR:* NO 1200 5725  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* B  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* Single-walled round house with internal diameter of approx. 9m. Very good condition.



*Site name:* Hut circle  
*ID:* DAL021  
*NGR:* NO 1197 5726  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* B  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* A badly disturbed structure which appears to be a round house, situated at the eastern end of a triangular-shaped enclosure (see 022). Badly disturbed.



*Site name:* Enclosure features  
*ID:* DAL022  
*NGR:* NO 1194 5724  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* A series of linear dykes directly associated with various structures (021, 023, 024, 050) and indirectly with a number of others. The north-western end appears to form a triangular enclosure with at least two further enclosures to the south-east. Two further linear dykes extend north-eastwards and articulate with features 026 and 027. (See sketch survey below). It is presumed that these boundaries extended to the east of the modern track and further evidence for them may, in time, come to light. Barely visible under present conditions.



*Site name:* Hut circle  
*ID:* DAL023  
*NGR:* NO 1195 5721  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* B  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* Probable round house at the southern end of enclosure 022. Approximate width of 7m internally. (See sketch survey attached to 022). Badly disturbed.



*Site name:* Hut circle  
*ID:* DAL024  
*NGR:* NO 1196 5721  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* B  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* Round house lying slightly east of 023 and attached to the enclosure 022. Approximate internal diameter of 12m. (See sketch survey attached to 022). Reasonable condition.



*Site name:* Circular setting  
*ID:* DAL025  
*NGR:* NO 1207 5745  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* B  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* A circular setting of stones with an internal diameter of 9m. The perimeter is formed of stones closely set and standing on their narrow edges. This does not look like a house site and is, perhaps, to be considered more as a penning structure. Quite good condition. (But, see discussion).



*Site name:* Building platform  
*ID:* DAL026  
*NGR:* NO 1201 5736  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* B  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* This appears to have been a building sat in the corner of a small enclosure (027) which has been subsequently reworked as a shooting butt. The original platform appears to have measured approx. 9m x 4.5m externally. (See sketch survey attached to 022). Badly disturbed.



*Site name:* Enclosure  
*ID:* DAL027  
*NGR:* NO 1200 5734  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* A small stone-built enclosure sitting on the west side of the present track and incorporating the small structure 026. It is not certain whether it is contemporary with the dyke systems 022. (See sketch survey attached to 022). Reasonable condition.



*Site name:* Cairns  
*ID:* DAL028  
*NGR:* NO 1210 5745  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* Two cairns sitting downslope from 025 and examples of a number in this vicinity. They are presumably clearance related. Reasonable condition.

*Site name:* Hut circle  
*ID:* DAL029  
*NGR:* NO 1214 5742  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* B  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* A substantially-constructed round house with an internal diameter of approx. 11m. It sits near the eastern edge of a promontory and between it and the slope sits a very large erratic. Both door 'posts' appear to be *in situ*. with the northern one having a very regular square section and with its outer face seeming to demonstrate an element of 'graphic design'. The incised lines may or may not be entirely natural, but their evident portrayal of an animal's head is unlikely to have gone un-noticed by the builders. Very good condition.



*Site name:* Hut circle  
*ID:* DAL030  
*NGR:* NO 1207 5735

*Designation:*

*Grade:* B

*Source:* OS/ Fieldwork

*Description:* The easternmost of a pair of round houses as noted by the OS in 1974. It has an internal diameter of approx. 10m. There appears to be a bank running south beneath a shooting butt, where it returns looping back to rejoin 031 on its southern side. Reasonable condition but hard to see.



*Site name:* Hut circle  
*ID:* DAL031  
*NGR:* NO 1205 5734

*Designation:*

*Grade:* B

*Source:* OS/ Fieldwork

*Description:* The western round house noted by the OS in 1974. It is now barely visible though its archaeology is probably still largely intact beneath a deep turf. It has an internal diameter of approx. 9m. Barely visible.



*Site name:* Cairn  
*ID:* DAL032  
*NGR:* NO 1220 5746

*Designation:*

*Grade:* B?

*Source:* Fieldwork

*Description:* A quite substantial cairn with a width of approx. 8m sitting atop a dominant knoll. Its position and size suggest that it might be ceremonial rather than clearance related. Good condition.



*Site name:* Cairn  
*ID:* DAL033  
*NGR:* NO 1231 5754

*Designation:*

*Grade:* C

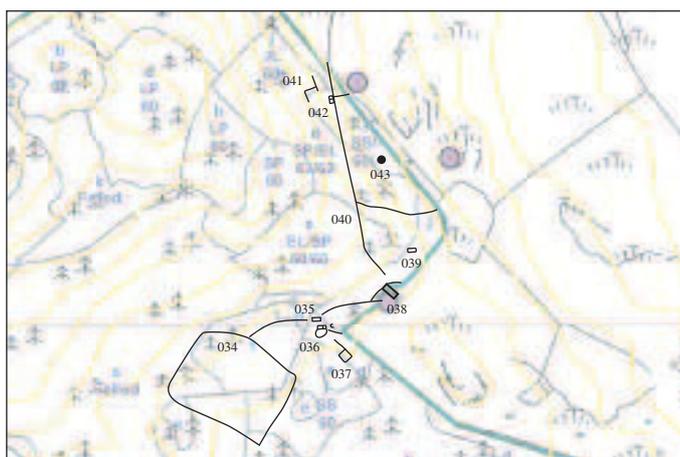
*Source:* Fieldwork

*Description:* What appears to be a solitary cairn sitting down near where the ground becomes quite boggy. Its position related to the other cairns and linear boundaries to the southwest suggest that it might be helping to define the core area of settlement of these associated features. Reasonable condition.

*Site name:* Ballaquarry  
*ID:* DAL034  
*NGR:* NO 1227 5790 - 1255 5803  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Fieldwork/Aerial photos  
*Description:* A large enclosure associated with the farmstead 035-7, It has been meticulously cleared as attested by a number of large clearance cairns. It is defined by a curvilinear stone dyke, suggesting a pre-'Improvement' date. The curving dykes running eastward appear to have defined a trackway linking the adjoining farmsteads. Good condition in parts.



This and the following structures (035-043) appear to relate to the fermtoun noted as Ballaquarry by Roy. This was reduced to a single farmstead, presumably as a result of the rationalisation of 'Improvement' and recorded by the RCAHMS under NO15NW 24. Further buildings, presumably parts of the same fermtoun, are listed as NO15NW 25, 26, 27 and 64 and these elements fall to the east of Forestry Commission land.



*Site name:* Ballaquarry  
*ID:* DAL035  
*NGR:* NO 1248 5801  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* B  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* Building represented by low foundation walls with internal dimensions of 9.2m x 2.6m. These measurements might suggest a byre or other outbuilding rather than a house. Quite good condition but barely visible.



*Site name:* Ballaquarry  
*ID:* DAL036  
*NGR:* NO 1250 5800  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* B  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* A small, two-celled structure with yard attached. The western cell is approx. 3m long and the eastern one 2.5m. Both are approx. 3m wide. A door appears to open onto the yard from the eastern cell and the cells seem to be linked by a doorway against the southern wall. There are the possible remains of a further structure to the east of the house. Quite good condition.



*Site name:* Ballaquharry  
*ID:* DAL037  
*NGR:* NO 1252 5792  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Fieldwork/Aerial photos  
*Description:* A small enclosure or yard sitting atop an outcrop. It measures approx. 10m x 11m internally and is badly denuded. There are the vestiges of a dyke running north-west towards the farmstead which was observed on the 1946 aerial photographs. Poorly preserved.



*Site name:* Ballaquharry  
*ID:* DAL038  
*NGR:* NO 1253 5803 - 1254 5803  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* The rear of the 'Improved' farmstead juts into FC land and a short section of dyke runs behind this to meet the earthworks which lie to the east of the farmstead on the present land boundary. This dyke forms part of the pre-'Improved' landscape. Reasonable condition.



*Site name:* Ballaquharry  
*ID:* DAL039  
*NGR:* NO 1261 5810  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* B  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* A building sitting above a steep slope and measuring approx. 9m x 3m internally. Quite good condition but barely visible



*Site name:* Ballaquharry  
*ID:* DAL040  
*NGR:* NO 1256 5807 - 1250 5835  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Fieldwork/Aerial photos  
*Description:* Continuation of the interrupted field system lying outwith the FC lands and part of the township boundaries of Ballaquharry. The dykes are stone built. Good condition.



*Site name:* Ballaquharry  
*ID:* DAL041  
*NGR:* NO 1248 5832  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* What appears to be a partial survival of at least one stone-built enclosure. Badly disturbed.



*Site name:* Ballaquharry  
*ID:* DAL042  
*NGR:* NO 1250 5830  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* B  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* Two-celled building utilising the west side of the boundary dyke 040. The internal width appears to be approx. 2.7m, the southern cell is approx. 4m long and the northern one 3.5m. A door seems to lie in the northern cell on its eastern side. This structure lies at the end of a short dyke linking to the farmstead lying just to the east of FC land. Quite good condition.



*Site name:* Ballaquharry  
*ID:* DAL043  
*NGR:* NO 1257 5822  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* A large collection of clearance debris sitting on a well-cleared ledge. However, this does not appear to represent all of the probable clearance remains and it must be wondered whether this is the result of the demolition of a stone-built structure. Badly disturbed.



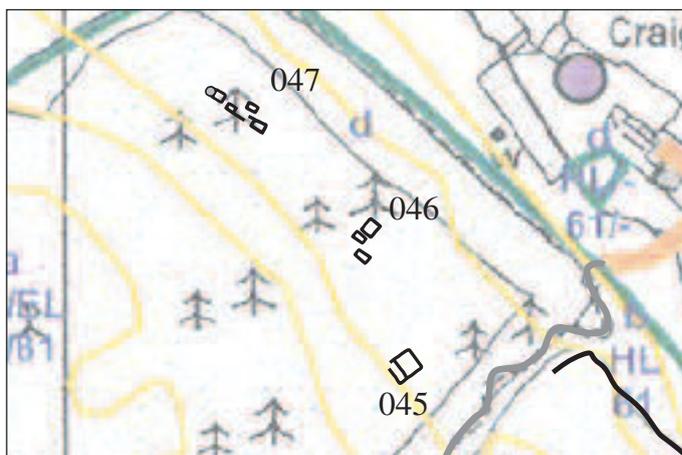
*Site name:* Craigton  
*ID:* DAL044  
*NGR:* NO 1289 5778 -1292 5775  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* A short stretch of hollow-way running from the westernmost building of Craigton. It does not appear to have been wide enough for wheeled vehicles. Readily visible at present but not deep.



*Site name:* Craighton fermtoun1  
*ID:* DAL045  
*NGR:* NO 1317 5765  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* B  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* Building with attached yard. The building has internal dimensions of approx. 10m x 3m with a possible door into the yard at the north end of the building. The yard runs the length of the building and is approx. 7.5m wide. The north-west corner of the building has suffered a slight mishap in the past. Good condition.



*Site name:* Craighton fermtoun2  
*ID:* DAL046  
*NGR:* NO 1316 5771  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* B  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* This appears to be a small farmstead comprising two small buildings and a yard. The two buildings appear to be slightly wedge-shaped, though this may be no more than a product of survival. Building 1 appears to measure approx. 7.3m in length with widths of 3.2m at the east end and narrowing to 2.7m at the west. (All measurements represent internal dimensions). Building 2 is approx. 6m in length with a width of 3m, though possibly slightly less at the eastern end. The yard measures approx. 6m x 7m and does not appear to be attached to Building 2 - there being approx. 1m in between. Good condition but barely visible.



The building noted by RCAHMS as NO15NW 23 would seem to be the westernmost surviving structure from this township noted to date. Its size and shape are similar to the other members of this group noted above and below.

*Site name:* Craighton fermtoun3  
*ID:* DAL047  
*NGR:* NO 1310 5778  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* B  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* This farmstead appears to comprise three buildings and a kiln with yard attached. The structures, like 046, survive as very slight earthworks. In this case, the remains are covered by a lot of windblown trees. Building 1 also appears to be wedge shaped, being wider at its eastern end. It measures 6m in length with widths ranging from 3.9m to 2.1m. It is possible that this building



was, at one time attached to Building 2 as a stretch of wall extends in that direction from the northern corner of Building 1. Conversely, a stretch of wall extends from the southern corner of Building 2 in the direction of Building 1. Building 2 measures 4.4m x 2.5m. If connected, the overall length would have been in the region of 22m. Building 3 measures approx. 3.7m x 2.2m and is, presumably, a byre or outhouse. Further west is what appears to be a circular structure measuring approx. 5m externally. This is, presumably, a kiln and seems to have a yard attached to its south-eastern side measuring approx. 5.5m x 4m. Good condition but barely visible.



*Site name:* Environmental sample  
*ID:* DAL048  
*NGR:* NO 117 568  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* D  
*Source:* nmrs NO15NW 20  
*Description:* Environmental evidence collected from the edge of Loch Mharaich and reported in Scottish Archaeological Forum, 9, 1-15, 1979.

*Site name:* Hut circle  
*ID:* DAL049  
*NGR:* NO 1257 5748  
*Designation:* Scheduled Monument  
 No. 5777  
*Grade:* A  
*Source:* Fieldwork  
*Description:* This platform appears to represent a small hut circle with an internal diameter of approx. 5m sitting within the scheduled area. Reasonable condition.



*Site name:* Hut circle  
*ID:* DAL050  
*NGR:* NO 1207 5716  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* B  
*Source:* OS/Fieldwork  
*Description:* The large round house noted by the OS as partially destroyed in 1974. Its south-western half is still intact. The one good side is in quite good condition but the other half has probably been badly truncated.



*Site name:* Marker cairn  
*ID:* DAL051  
*NGR:* NO 1282 5663  
*Designation:*  
*Grade:* C  
*Source:* nmrs NO15NW 5  
*Description:* Drystone pillar positioned on a rocky outcrop. Noted on OS 2nd Edition OS 6" map. Excellent condition.



## RESULTS OF THE WALKOVER SURVEY



Figure 11. Results noted during the survey and recorded in the Gazetteer.

The first general observation must be that the survey vindicates Thornycroft's general distribution pattern of hut circles as noted in his sketch (see Fig. 3). It does, however, also raise the possibility that some huts may have been noted which he did not know about and that a few more of his remain hidden in the north-east extremity of the distribution. This would see them running up to the burn which separates the hut distribution from the fields of Ballaquarry. This might, in turn, indicate that further prehistoric settlement underlies the later Mediaeval settlement here. Such a pattern might be suggested by the huts noted at NO 1245 5861 (NO15NW 29) outwith the northern extremity of forestry lands. Later settlement would, therefore, have simply dispensed with the higher altitude sites and re-utilised lower ones. This seems to be a recurrent theme and recognisable locally on at least two subsequent occasions. This will be returned to below.

Secondly, it is notable that the group of huts to the west of the burn do not appear to be double-walled 'Dalrulzion' huts and seem to exist within an enclosure framework not yet recognised around the 'Dalrulzion' huts to the east of the burn. This might reflect differences in date, agricultural practice or simply fashion.



farmsteads had occurred here by 1783, with Roy indicating that the earlier pattern of fermtouns was still in existence between 1747 and 1755, less than forty years earlier.

There seems no doubt, therefore, that the habitations centred upon Ballaquharry are part of the pre-'Improvement' landscape depicted by Roy. The enclosures within the wood continue the pattern that still persist in the area outwith Forestry Commission lands. Interestingly, it might be that the western group of buildings in the wood might contain the core of the original settlement, if placenames are anything to go on. It is possible that the name Ballaquharry/Belecharry is derived from Baile-na-coire, or township of the corrie. The boggy area within the wood immediately to the south of the township would presumably be that corrie. (This would, however, require confirmation by a placename expert). Certainly, the enclosure (022) contains much clearance evidence and a level platform which would have provided an excellent habitation spot. It is possible that this fermtoun has perpetuated an older settlement pattern and that evidence for that still exists beneath the later features.

Craigton offers some details which require further thought. Farmsteads 045, 046 and 047 do not appear associated with the types of robust linear boundaries visible in the wood around Ballaquharry. This might be a simple matter of survival but, at Ballaquharry, the linear boundaries are arguably at least as apparent as the buildings. As noted above, Stobie's map seems to depict the 'Improved' landscape of 1783. Ballaquharry is shown as a single farmstead (038) which still stands to substantial proportions on the edge of the wood. Craigton is shown as two farmsteads aligned north-west, just as are the surviving structures. Roy shows the Military Road bypassing Craigton to the east. By the time of Stobie's map, the original pattern of local routes had re-exerted itself and a loop in the road reincorporated Craigton into the communication network. (This was not an uncommon situation as military expediency quickly gave way to local, practical considerations). Roy does, however, also depict the fields of Craigton extending to the south-west of the fermtoun - a situation which clearly does not apply today. (They clearly did not extend as far as the burn emanating from Loch Mharaich and this seems to be a result of conflating that burn and a smaller one to the north-east. Roy's plans often appear to lack rigour away from settlements, as noted earlier). Without the benefit of Roy's map, it might have been understandable to consider the present position of Craigton as a simple transfer of site from the hillside to a new site to make use of an improved road pattern. But, Roy's map demonstrates that the pre-'Improved' settlement of Craigton was where the present one is. The late 18th century road pattern simply ignored the short-term military design and reverted to its original pre-'Improvement' course.

The importance of this to the structures found by the survey is to suggest that they relate to an earlier settlement pattern still. (Their position does also supply a more critical reasoning behind the naming of the settlement as these structures sit immediately below the 'craigs' to the south-west than does the later settlement). An earlier dating would also help to substantiate the less than regular shape of some of the buildings.

It is perhaps pertinent to return to the issue of this small area being a separate portion of Caputh parish. The boundary appears to have followed the general course of natural drainage, subsequently replicated by the modern drain running just to the south of the early site of Middletown of Dalrulzion at the crossroads to Kirkmichael. Craigton would seem to have been the core of this separate portion which was mainly composed of upland grazing and some haughland. In other words, a landscape which, prior to drainage, would have been most appropriate to summer grazing and meadowland. It is possible, therefore, to see this settlement as having started life as a summertownship of Caputh which, subsequently after improvement, became a permanent settlement. The kiln at the end of one of the farmsteads would date these structures to that intermediate stage of arable production. Once drainage had been complete, the settlement would have been able to take up its position amongst its subsequent infields at the pre-'Improvement' and modern site of Craigton. The place-name 'Craigton', with the '-tun' suffix, suggests either a secondary settlement or a renaming. Adaptation of a former sheiling to a separate fermtoun, possibly during the 12th/13th century climatic optimum could result in such a name. Ballaquharry could then be seen as a primary settlement, further underlining the suggestion of evolution from an earlier settlement pattern.

The paucity of field boundaries around the Craigton farmsteads is also explicable in these terms. The area of (open?) fields will have been bounded by the Blackwater on the east and a drainage feature denoting the boundary of the parish on the north. The dyke 013 is likely to have formed a boundary to stock below the craigs to the south-east of the settlement area. The present FC boundary may well

perpetuate an earlier boundary continuing its line north-westwards. The buildings would then have sat within the grazing area (appropriate to their original purpose as sheilings) outwith the arable and, consequently, would not have required further enclosures for stock control. Obviously, this story can only ever remain a working hypothesis until solid dating evidence is available. And to be able to date those buildings would be very interesting. One conclusion that can probably be taken as binding is that Stobie's map does not show Mediaeval settlement at its maximum extent as claimed by the RCAHMS (1990, 5). As noted above in the context of the prehistoric remains, subsequent settlement dispensed with higher altitude sites. Climatic deterioration is likely to have been one factor but another might have been a change in agricultural practices resulting in a greater emphasis on arable farming at the expense of pastoralism. The climatic optimum of the 12th and 13th centuries, coupled with population growth and technological advances in land management probably led to the renewed exploitation of the uplands. However, the Black Death and attendant population decrease coupled with a worsening climate may have made some of these sites unnecessary and untenable. Improved drainage techniques might equally have led to a greater exploitation of formerly unusable but potentially richer haughlands. This might be the situation observable at Craigton and accounting for the second retreat from the uplands. The third retreat is visible on the present Ordnance Survey plans where the higher enclosures of the 'Improved' landscape were abandoned as even greater numbers of acres of rich, alluvial lands were drained.

## MITIGATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Management of the archaeological resources in Dalrulzion is aided by the focussing of the remains in four discrete locations rather than scattered across the complete area. In considering those four areas, I will presume that an MMP is in place for the scheduled area and so I shall not concentrate on that. This leaves three areas: the hut circles west of the burn; the township of Ballaquharrie; and Craigton.

Trees should be removed from the walls and interiors of all buildings and from upon associated linear features. Any windblow will destroy archaeology. As noted above what is visible is merely the final deserted form of a settlement which may have undergone many earlier transitions. This is the aspect of conservation which is more difficult to manage as it is unseen. It is, however, the most critical as it is that development which is our only access to the processes behind evolutionary development. An extreme view might be that, if we are only prepared to preserve the visible, we are merely creating a theme park. We might just as well record what is obvious and then bulldoze it, going off to build a replica somewhere else. Assuming this not to be the approach, what should be done?

A review document commissioned by the Forestry Commission (Crow, 2004) discusses these issues at length. The general conclusion appears to be that removal of trees creates as many management problems as it solves. Tree cover can make a site accessible and keep potentially damaging regeneration at bay. Windblow is the perennial problem. Crow (2004, 40) appears to come out in favour of coppicing as a viable half-way house. Trees are kept low, which helps to avoid the risk of windblow and root activity is controlled by limiting the canopy. The downside is management. The trees require coppicing every few years and that involves labour, though perhaps this could be offset were a market for the poles found. Another option might be to plant shrubby native species such as willow and rowan. These could generate a canopy fairly quickly though there would still be a risk of windblow as the trees grew bigger. They would not, however, need quite as much attention.

As the area containing the linear features, hut circles and small enclosures is relatively limited and easily accessed, might such a method be appropriate? There are also the outlying hut circles, 025, 029 and 030/031 which do not appear, as yet, to have any attached linear features. This might change in time. Again, the trees should be removed from the walls and interiors of the structures in order to protect from windblow. Some of the trees might be left as 2m 'marker' stumps. This could be important depending upon the management strategy for the whole area. If a site becomes clear-felled, it is useful to have such markers in order to find the archaeology. In a mature woodland environment a structure may be clearly visible - remove the tree cover and then trying to find it afterwards can be something of a problem, GPS or not.

Moving on to Ballaquharrie, there are linear boundaries and buildings. As the footprints of the buildings are quite small, it might be possible to remove the trees potentially likely to cause damage without occasioning too much regeneration and ground cover. Similarly, as long as trees are removed from the linear features, not too much disruption to the canopy should ensue. As above, leave stumps as 'markers' in order to aid identification during later periods of forestry intervention. A further problem here, however, is access. Try to plan access routes which limit the numbers of times the boundaries have to be crossed by heavy plant and maintain the usual good practice of putting brush down to mitigate potential damage. The large enclosure was a field used for growing crops. Trees are simply another crop and it seems to me the best way to access a field is through a gate. Why not make one break in a part of the enclosure boundary that is convenient and has already been marred and use that for access to the interior for all subsequent interventions?

Craigton might, in some respects, be the most difficult site to manage. The remains are barely visible, probably as a result of greater age in comparison with Ballaquharrie, and by the fact that there is a lot of windblow covering the site. The first act should be to remove the windblow without damage to the site. This would, therefore, probably need to be achieved without the use of heavy plant and, possibly, with a bit of archaeological guidance for recognition purposes. The problem would then be the regeneration. On the plus side, the area is, again, quite restricted and does not ramble on for hectares. One solution might be to clear the site (as half of it is already down!) and map the remains accurately at that stage. This would

then supply data for deciding on the subsequent replanting and management of the area.

This does sound quite a lot of bother but, as noted above, this innocuous little collection of ruins might well preserve significant detail concerning the origin and development of many of the later farmsteads in the area.

As noted above at various junctures, there is every likelihood that further remains will come to light. Specifically, the linear feature associated with 022 which meets the present track is unlikely to have coincidentally stopped there in the past. Further signs of it might well come to light on the east side of the track as forestry management progresses. These should be recorded and added to the evolving view of the area. Similarly, further remains are possibly to be found to the south-west of Ballaquharry farmstead (036) and in and around the Craigton farmsteads. Any such evidence should be used to update and inform the site record. Presumably a conservation ranger might be an appropriate person to handle such data and to feed it back into the GIS layer. (The EPS and PDF site plan files have been preserved in layers and are, therefore, readily updatable if required).

Another aspect of management which needs attention is the question of presentation. This will depend largely upon how this forest block fits within Tayside District's overall strategy for public presentation of sites of archaeological interest and education. It is worth noting that a fairly well-used path runs through the scheduled area towards Loch Mharaich - itself a picturesque spot. The newly-noted hut circles west of the burn are also almost on that path as are the remains of Craigton. The northern forest track could, arguably, be extended by a path to take in Ballaquharry and to return to Craigton. How desirable this would be is, obviously, questionable but it is an observation worth making. After all, there is a tremendous variety of well-preserved and interesting remains capable of informing upon a long period of landscape and ecological development.

Finally, I suppose mention should be made of the shooting butts which some poor post-graduate might one day feel motivated to study. Ideally, any regeneration should be removed and contractors asked not to drive over them.

## CONCLUSION

*“This group originally comprised nineteen hut-circles and a number of small cairns, but afforestation has obliterated eleven houses”  
(RCAHMS, 1990, 39).*

Nineteen hut-circles are still present, some, perhaps, a little bruised around the edges, but still retaining their integrity. Furthermore, another twelve buildings of Mediaeval or Post-mediaeval date also survive in the woodland along with an array of enclosures, yards and linear boundaries. There is no reason why, in the fullness of time, further features will not emerge as the vegetation changes under the constant evolution of forest management. Perhaps the RCAHMS is being a little blinkered.

This survey has demonstrated that forestation does not deserve the ‘bogeyman’ image with which it has sometimes been saddled. Admittedly, modern heavier plant is likely to have unfortunate consequences for unknown sites of a more delicate nature. The task for the future will be to selectively conserve areas of articulated remains and to attempt to ensure the survival of, not only those cultural elements visible, but the unknown and hidden remains of earlier features. For therein lie the secrets of the origin of the subsequent settlements.

There are four discrete foci of settlement, each distinctive in their own rights and each crucial in exemplifying different aspects of the changing ecology and landscape of the forest. The scheduled area containing the ‘Dalrulzion’ huts can be distinguished from the other focus of round houses on the west side of the burn. These do not seem to contain any examples of that double-walled form and are associated with linear boundaries and enclosures, apparently less obvious in the former area. Both of these areas can be distinguished from the later Mediaeval/Post-mediaeval settlements to the north-east. But, these again, are different from each other. The Craigton houses contain instances of ‘wedge’ forms and, as yet, little evidence for the larger enclosures recognisable at Ballaquharry. Of course, this might be a simple matter of differential survival. But, the fact that the move to the present site of Craigton appears to have occurred well before the final pre-‘Improvement’ phase whilst Ballaquharry maintained its siting throughout that period is suggestive of a genuine difference in the settlement development of these two sites.

Dalrulzion can be seen to sit at the interface of prehistoric and mediaeval ecological zones. The survey suggests that there is no real break between these zones and that evolutionary continuity should be viewed as one of the processes involved. Having a variety of remains from different periods within one relatively small geographical area does at least make the job of understanding the workings of such processes potentially viable. Some environmental sampling has already occurred by Loch Mharaich and it would be nice to imagine a similar undertaking in the basin between the townships and the prehistoric settlements. Such work would certainly add tremendously to our understanding of the changing ecologies of the area from sub-glacial times.

Hopefully, the discrete and geographically-limited nature of each settlement focus will help in permitting the implementation of a workable management plan which accommodates both the ideal of landscape conservation alongside the daily requirements of a modern timber industry.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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