

II.

REPORT ON THE STONE CIRCLES OF NORTH-EASTERN SCOTLAND,
CHIEFLY IN AUCHTERLESS AND FORGUE, WITH MEASURED PLANS
AND DRAWINGS, OBTAINED UNDER THE GUNNING FELLOWSHIP.
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The principal area surveyed during the autumn of 1902 is contained in the large district lying to the north of Inverurie, between Huntly on the west and Strichen on the east. It comprises several parishes; and the geographical distribution of the circles and of the other prehistoric remains, taken in contrast with each other, presents interesting points, and may come to offer fresh problems to the archæologist.

Before proceeding, however, to more accurately define the limits of this area, there still exist several remains of more or less importance in the district to the south-west of Kintore—the district previously reported on as one so specially rich in megalithic antiquities. For these additional standing stones I am indebted to the observant care of Mr Frank Dey, whose assistance in this direction I have already partly acknowledged.¹ I gladly here make further acknowledgment, for the sufficient reason that although most of the sites are recorded on the Ordnance map of half a century ago, it was possible to be assured of their present existence only through his having actually verified them during the last twelve months. Mr Dey has thus rendered signal service towards the better

¹ *Proceedings*, xxxv. p. 230.

completing of the Report for this district, and at the same time saved our investigating party considerable expenditure of time and trouble.

The first section of this Report, therefore, will deal with the following—

I. ADDITIONAL SITES IN KINTORE DISTRICT.

No. 1. *Nether Corskie*.—In a flat, low-lying space, about three hundred yards south of the road going westwards from Waterton of Echt (see

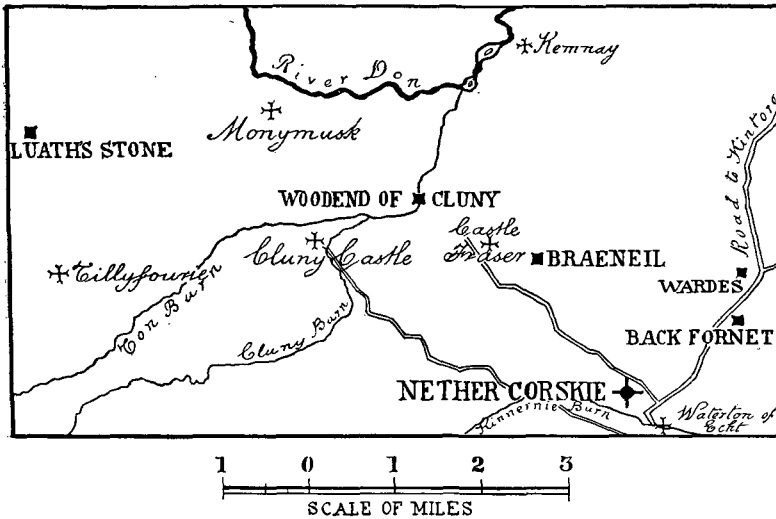


Fig 1. Map showing additional Sites in the Kintore District.

map, fig. 1), stand the two stones shown in the illustration (fig. 2), the only remaining members of a circle of which no tradition now exists. They are unusually massive blocks of reddish granite, and are evidently the two pillars between which there once reposed a Recumbent Stone of about 10 feet in length. They stand almost exactly west and east of each other. The Westerly Pillar stands 12 feet 2 inches clear above ground, and its basal girth is over 13 feet. Viewed from either north or south, its form is pyramidal. On the edge facing west, at a height of

3 feet 3 inches, is a peculiarly distinct cup-mark, quite circular, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch deep. The other faces and the east edge are remarkably smooth and free from irregularities or weatherings. The East Pillar stands 7 feet 2 inches above ground, is very smooth and vertical on the south side, but rough on the north. It girths at the base just over 14 feet. It leans towards the east. The Stones stand 10 feet 2 inches apart, and their longer axes are in the same line.

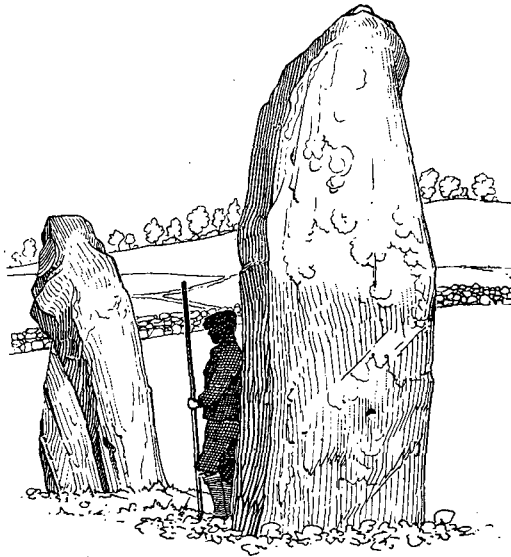


Fig. 2. Remains of Circle at Nether Corskie.

This site is quite inconspicuous, being open to view only towards the S.E., and even there at no great distance. Its height above the level of the sea is about 360 feet.

No. 2. Back Fornet, Standing Stone.—The site of this fine monolith is on a field S.E. of the farm-steadings, 380 feet above sea-level, which slopes to the north, commanding an unbroken prospect in a N.N.-westerly direction, which culminates in the Mither Tap of Bennachie

(see fig. 3A). The Stone is of grey granite, is remarkably vertically set, and stands 8 feet 6 inches above ground. The roughly rhomboidal base girths 9 feet 6 inches, and its summit can scarcely be much less.

No. 3. *Wardes, Standing Stone*.—This oddly-shaped Stone stands within a few score yards of the main road near Burnside, on its west, and in a somewhat level field. It can boast of neither height nor dignity, being but 3 feet 5 inches above ground, and its base an irregular triangle, the sides of which measure 3 feet 7 inches by 2 feet 1 inch and 2 feet respectively. Its form is shown in the illustration, fig. 3B. Like

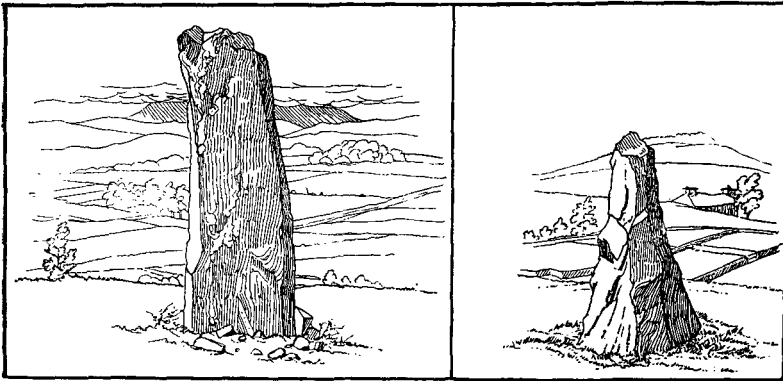


Fig. 3A. Back Fornet.

Fig. 3B. Wardes.

numbers of these smaller stones, it is a shapeless block of blue whinstone, thickly veined with white quartz. The site is about 320 feet above sea-level.

No. 4. *Braeneil, Standing Stone*.—This site, 500 feet above sea-level, is rather over two miles distant in a westerly direction from the last, and about one hundred yards to the south of an old avenue on the policies of Castle Fraser. It is difficult of access, both on account of the woody declivities of the near land, as well as because no public roads pass at all close to it. The spelling 'Breneil' occurs on an early nineteenth century map.

The monolith is a ponderous mass of whinstone, considerably rounded by the action of water. It stands exactly 6 feet above a small ring of soil, cleared to a level by the trampling of cattle, out of a fine old pasture-field, sloping northwards. Its girth at the base is 13 feet 3 inches, and at a height of 3 feet 2 it measures 10 feet 9 inches, its longest edge of 4 feet 8 inches, trends by compass 5 degrees east of north, and happens to point exactly to the Mither Tap of Bennachie. (See fig. 4.)¹



Fig 4. Braeneil.

No. 5. Woodend of Cluny, Standing Stone.—This grand monolith we saw at a distance during a former survey, but being pressed for time, passed it by. The site is near the centre of a pretty level tract (some

¹ The O.M. shows a Standing Stone at a point a quarter of a mile east of the farm-house of Scrape-hard, one mile S.W. of Buchan's School. I searched the ground—a small bit of moorland, full of granite boulders—thoroughly, but saw no stone which could ever have been mistaken for a megalith of the slightest interest to archaeology. Two of the aged inhabitants whom I questioned had never heard of one here.

of which is yet mossy land) to the N.W. of the north lodge at Castle Fraser, and it is distant from the main road going to Kemnay about four hundred yards to the north. It stands almost on the bank of the Ton Burn, and at the point where the parishes of Cluny, Kemnay, and Monymusk meet.

Taken in all its points, this Stone is one of the most imposing of any that have come under our notice. Its great regularity, the exactness with which two sides meet at a right angle, and the squareness and flat-

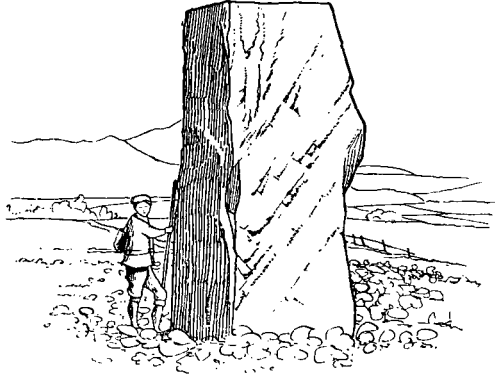


Fig. 5. Woodend of Cluny.

ness of its summit, go far towards suggesting the possible use of tools for its shaping. It is of fine grey whinstone (see fig. 5), a little rounded on the south corner, close to the ground, and projecting a few inches above the middle of the N.E. side, otherwise remarkably smooth and quite perpendicular. Its basal girth is 13 feet 4 inches, but at the height of 6 feet 3 inches it measures 14 feet 3. It stands 10 feet 8 inches clear above ground. Its longest axis points N.N.W. 30 degrees (M).

No. 6. *Luath's Stone, Monymusk.*—This Standing Stone also should have been observed during the surveys of 1900—the site being within a mile of the fine Circle at Whitehill.¹ The weather then hindered

¹ Described in *Proceedings*, xxxv. p. 204.

us; and it almost seemed as though the same inclement conditions had leagued themselves against us on this occasion, since we were storm-stayed for several hours amongst the hospitable folk living at Mains of Whitehouse, so here we obtained careful directions as to the locale of the Stone. We also heard that it went sometimes by the name of Macbeth's Stone. The site is amongst the heather and short moorland grasses of one of the upland sheep-pastures of Whitehouse, at a height of 1050 feet above sea-level, and the monolith must be easily seen from



Fig. 6. Luath's Stone.

the higher hills of Corrennie to the south, though it is enclosed on the north and west by an abrupt brae-face of rock and heather.

Luath's Stone (see fig. 6) compares well with the last monolith described—indeed, they are very similar. Owing to density of lichen-growths, it is difficult to be sure of the mineralogical nature of the Stone; it appeared to be a diorite, grey, finely-grained, and having numerous narrow veins of white quartz running nearly vertically through it. The setting of the Stone is approximately vertical; the height at the W.N.W. angle is 10 feet 2 inches, from which there is a fall N. and eastwards of about 14 inches. The bulkiest portion of the Stone is at a line about 6 feet 9 inches above the ground, where it

measures close upon 12 feet ; at the base the girth is 9 feet 7 inches. The east face is the broadest, one portion of it measuring 4 feet 3 inches across.¹

No. 8. *Conglas, Standing Stone*.—This Stone was discovered by my daughter Muriel, as we returned, at dusk, at the close of one of our long drives into the Auchterless district, in September last. At several points, on both sides of the river Ury, between Inverurie and Inveramsay, there are solitary monoliths.

Most of these on inspection proved to be so small, and so devoid of interest, that they are omitted here. The Standing Stone at Conglas is

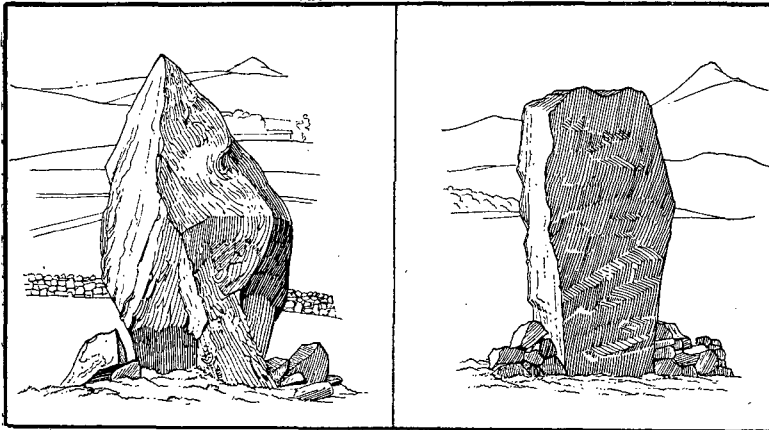


Fig. 7A. Conglas.

Fig. 7B. Congalton.

an exception. It stands in a field sloping down to the N.E., just opposite the farm-steadings, and on the west of the main road, and its height above the level of the sea is about 240 feet.

This stone (fig. 7A) is a rudely pyramidal mass of syenite, veined with quartz ; it is set vertically upon a base considerably less in girth

¹ As to the name, Luath, of course, was the name of the hound of Cuchullin. I do not at present know if there are other Standing Stones associated with it. But the same name occurs in Burns' poem of *The Two Dogs*, and it is instructive to note that the Lowland Poet must have known the correct Gaelic pronunciation was *Lua'*, for the name rhymes with "you are."

than its middle, the one measuring 8 feet 5 inches, the other 10 feet 7½ inches. It seems to be firmly propped up with many small stones. Its extremely sharp apex is 5 feet 7½ inches above ground.

A diagonal line nearly bisecting it points N.N.W. by compass directly to the Circle at Balquhain,¹ which is about 1¼ mile distant.²

No. 8. *Congalton, Standing Stone*.—This monolith was espied at a considerable distance on our right, during a drive to the Wells of Ythan, as we neared the Kirkton of Rayne.

Not, however, being absolutely certain as to its site, size, and other features, its investigation was put into the hands of my son Cecil, from whose sketch and measurements the adjoining illustration (fig. 7B) and description are compiled.

The site is on the crest of a hill sloping northwards, between its verge and a fir plantation on the south, distant from Wartle Station about one mile, nearly due west, and almost directly midway between Congalton and Cushiestown. It is not marked on any map. In the dike surrounding the plantation are several great blocks somewhat similar in form and size to the Standing Stone. These being not many score yards distant from the stone, suggest the probability of their having once formed portions of a Circle, of which it seems to be the last surviving member.

The composition of this stone is grey granite. It stands erect on a base of 5 feet 7 inches in girth and is 5 feet 1 inch in height.

Of the eight sites thus noticed, the first six are all indicated on the Ordnance maps; but the last two are additional, having been put on record during the past year. They are, however, not shown here in a sketch map, for the simple reason that they are too isolated; but their sites may be easily identified by the above descriptions.

¹ Described *Proc.* xxxv. p. 231.

² Before quitting this district, I may note, in passing, the big boulder that goes by the name of *Girnigoe*, or *Grenago Stone*. It is, I think, an ice-poised boulder of whinstone, nearly 6 feet high, and roughly rhomboidal in contour, and stands on the commonity of Old Meldrum. In local histories it has a traditional association with a battle between Bruce and the Comyns.

II. SITES INVESTIGATED DURING SEPTEMBER 1902.

The district surveyed at this date is comprised within a space of 26 miles in length by 13 miles in breadth, but its boundaries are so irregular that the actual area amounts to only 170 square miles. Its greater dimensions extend from Ellon in the extreme S.E. to Rothiemay in the N.W. It contains two sites lying to the east of the River Ythan in Ellon, but its most important remains are in the parishes of Rayne, Fyvie, Auchterless, Forgue, Inverkeithny, part of Turriff, and a small

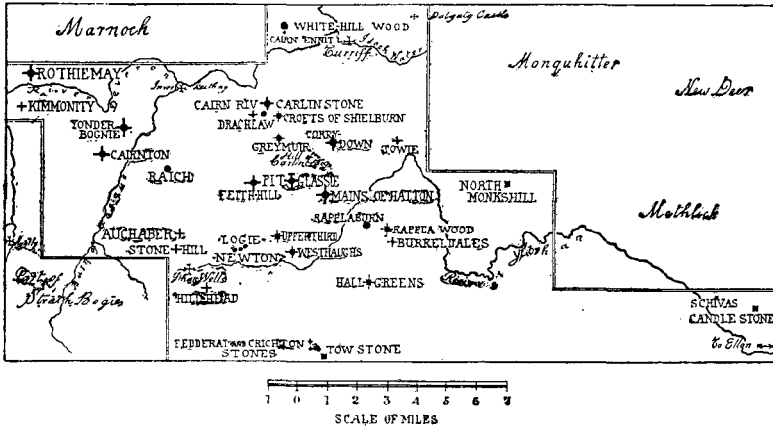


Fig. 8. Map of District surveyed in 1902.

portion of Forglen. Considerable parts of the district possess no circles or remains of circles, but instead there are cairns. For example, to the south of a line eastwards from Hallgreens (see Map, fig. 8)—a strip 13 miles long by 3 wide—the only extant remains are five cairns, the Candle Stone of Ellon, and the one stone still marking the site of the Circle at Schivas. To the N.E. of the same point, Hallgreens, throughout 16 square miles we have only the stone at Monkshill (known as the remnant of a circle), one tumulus (near Tifty), and one cairn. Again, westwards, and to the north of Auchaber, is another and still larger

space of 36 square miles, in which the only relic now preserved is the small but interesting Circle at Raich; while, south of the river Deveron, near Turriff, there are no remains whatever in about 16 square miles.

Points of peculiar interest may naturally, therefore, present themselves in the future when the geographical distribution of the Circle and of the Cairn comes under consideration.

In the meantime, let it be sufficient to note that not only the paucity of the megalithic remains throughout this extensive district, but the poverty of many of those that do still exist, are due to the closely cultivated condition of the lands here. I am not sure if, indeed, a vein of superstition also may not have influenced some tenants; for in some instances, presently to be noticed in due course, rather than *utilise* the stones of a circle, the farmer has been at considerable labour to remove them bodily into one amorphous heap, so that, at a little distance across the fields, a dark object, looming up against the sky-line like a cairn, resolves itself on a near approach into an irregular group of huge stones strewn around the immovable recumbent stone. At more than one farm the naïve admission was made that no one had "liked to build with those stones."

But, as on former occasions, we also met with tenants who took a real pride in the circles, and who rendered ready assistance both in the matter of measurements and in giving information.

The first site¹ to be recorded for the new district is—

No. 9. *Candle Stone, Ellon*—(fig. 9)—in the extreme S.E. corner of the Map (fig. 8).

Reference has already been made² to the fact that four sites in this part of Aberdeenshire bear this name 'Candle.' What its designation may mean is not at present, I think, ascertainable; but one thing seems

¹ The plans of the larger circles following are shown, as hitherto, on a scale of 20 feet to 1 inch, but some of the smaller circles are shown on the scales of 15 and 9 feet to the inch.

² *Proceedings*, xxxvi. p. 540.

pretty clear—that is, that the word *Candle* has nothing in common with the English *Candle*; there can be no likeness supposed between the shape, *e.g.*, of this Standing Stone, or of any other on any of the sites bearing the specific epithet, and the shape of a candle.

The Candle Stone of Ellon is situated 87 yards west of the road between Mains of Drumwhindle and a smithy on the road running southwards to Kin-harrachie. It is a conspicuous landmark for a fair distance on all sides but the west. It is set nearly vertically on a



Fig. 9. Candle Stone, Ellon.

somewhat level space, but not on the highest part of the field, which here has a gentle declivity eastwards. Its greatest height, almost exactly central, is 10 feet 2 inches. Its girth at the base is 15 feet 3 inches; at a height of 5 feet 4 inches it measures 15 feet 3 inches also; but at 3 feet above ground swells out very considerably, so as to give a girth of nearly 18 feet.

No. 10. Mill of Schivas Wood.—About two miles to the N.W. of the Candle Stone is the site which—once that of a circle—is now marked by one stone partly utilised in the line of a dike which skirts the woodland. To the south of this, on the very verge of the same wood, are

also the hardly recognisable remains of Cairn Fedderat, at which, long ago, a stone cist was found.

The site of the Circle is at the north verge of the wood, and the relative position of this one stone to it may be seen by reference to the plan (fig. 10) made from the Ordnance map. The site is 141 feet above sea-level. The Circle must have been about 90 feet in diameter. The

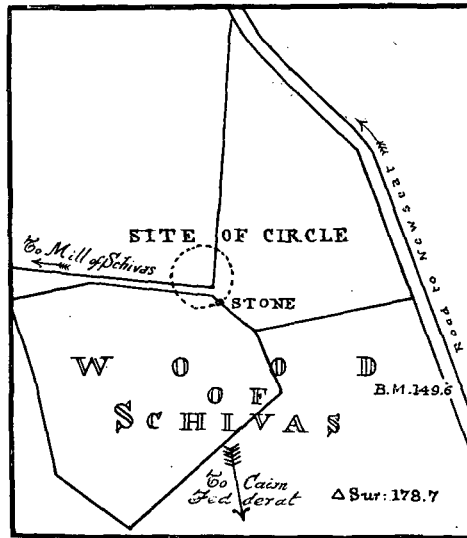


Fig. 10. Mill of Schivas Wood.

Stone is a rather rugged mass of whin, nearly vertical on its north side, but irregular elsewhere. The base measures 5 feet by 3 feet 2 inches, and the greatest height is 3 feet 10 inches. It stands so that its longer axis trends N.N.E. by compass.

In the annexed illustration is a view of this Stone from the east (fig. 11).

No. 11. Tow Stone.—This stands on the farm of Knowley, not many hundred yards distant from the site of a circle once known to exist at Tocher-

ford, already noted.¹ The site is on a field sloping somewhat steeply southwards, at a height of 600 feet above the sea. Though over 6 feet in

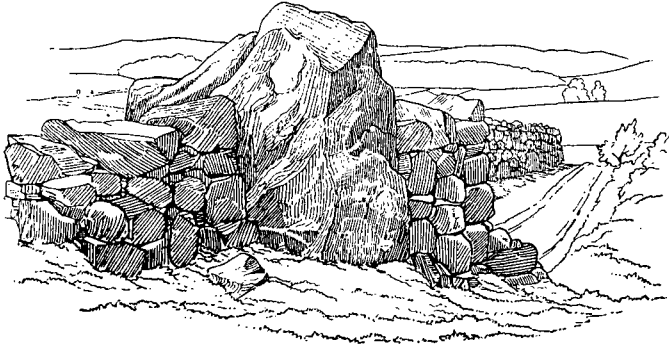


Fig. 11. Remains of Circle, Schivas.

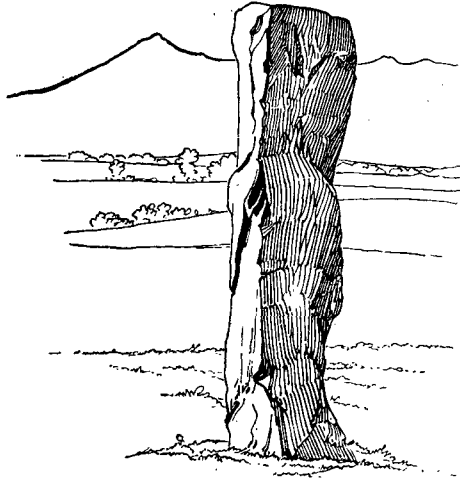


Fig. 12. Tow Stone.

height, this Stone (fig. 12) is slim, girthing only 5 feet 4 inches at the base and 6 feet 5 inches at the top. Its longer axis points north by

¹ In the Report for 1901, *Proceedings*, xxxvi. p. 577.

compass, and a line bisecting its summit would lie between the Mither Tap of Bennachie and a point 30 degrees N.N.E. The nature of the stone is reddish granite, rough and channelled, and it is situated about 70 yards below the summit of the gentle eminence into which these fields rise.

We could derive no guess at or explanation of the name by which the Stone is known, and by which it is also recorded on the O.M., but with no further descriptive title.

No. 12. Crichton and Fedderat Stones.—Under this somewhat *bizarre* title the O.M. records the positions of two stones in a field on the summit of the hilly ground (near which stands the Tow Stone), and to the north-east of the wooded Hill of Rothmaise, at an altitude of over 800 feet above sea-level.¹ We visited this site in the afternoon of the same day on which the Tow Stone was examined—one of the hottest days on record for this season—and, after undoubtedly reaching the exact field, searched among its long and luxuriant herbage, but could find no fragment of stones prostrate in this heavy growth. On our return to the station at Wartle, we looked in at the farm of Tocherford, where, on inquiring for these stones, we were favoured with the following particulars:—That for ages there had stood two tallish stones in the field which we had just searched; that some years ago one of them had been thrown down and rolled away northwards down the hill and used in the dike near the mill, and that the other, which had for some time previously lain broken and prostrate, was still lying near its original site; it was quite likely very difficult to find, owing to the heavy growth of grass. Deeming it needless to spend further time in search of a mutilated stone not in its original position, any probable further investigation of this site was postponed. Owing, however, to the extremely broken weather, which interfered with the progress of our survey, the opportunity of revisiting this site never came.

¹ The stones are not marked in O.E. lettering, and a space of 300 yards separates them, as shown on the map. They stood N. and S. of each other, and the Crichton Stone is just 300 yards W. of the march between Fyvie and Rayne.

No. 12a. Hallgreens.—The remnant of a Circle is marked here on the O.M. in a field west of the mill-dam about 220 yards, and, such as it is, may still be seen. This is one of the instances referred to in my prefatory remarks, in which the stones of a circle have been removed and huddled together in an ugly heap, so as to be out of the way of ploughing. At this site there are two large stones; one, lying on its side, measures 6 feet by 4 by 3 feet 2 inches, the other measures about 4 feet 6 inches by nearly 3 feet by 2 feet 3 inches. Various smaller stones lie about close to these.

No one about the premises seemed to know or care in the least about this site.

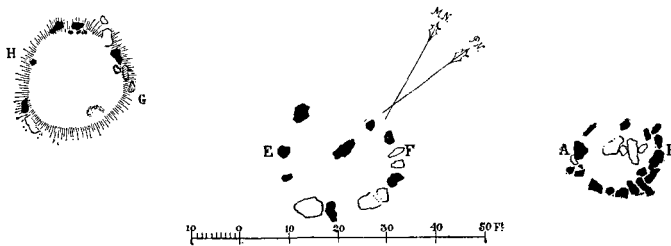


Fig. 13. Logie Newton; general Plan of the three Circles.

No. 13. Logie Newton.—On the lands of this farm and in its neighbourhood there were many more or less interesting relics of the pre-history of this part of the Scottish area. The three Circles now to be noticed claim first attention. They lie at the 700-foot contour, a space below the summit of the Kirk Hill, at a point some $3\frac{1}{2}$ furlongs N.W. of the farm-house. The first feature arresting the observation in these circles is that the stones composing them are almost exclusively of pure brilliantly-white quartz. The next point is that each Circle is quite small, and that in the easterly one (see general plan, fig. 13) the comparatively small space is well-nigh crowded with stones. The three Circles do not lie in one direct line; but, as shown in the general plan, the third or westerly one is set at an angle to the line which bisects the other two. The length of the space thus occupied by the

three circles measures 132 feet by 44 feet. There is a space between the verges of the easterly Circle and the middle Circle of 35 feet, and between the verges of the middle and the westerly one of 32 feet. The diameters differ slightly. That of the easterly Circle is 18 feet 6 inches, of the middle 22 feet 9 inches, and of the westerly about 21 feet. In each case the Standing Stones are set upon a fairly well-defined ridge, but this ridge in the westerly Circle loses its form in the general swelling of the cairn-like low mound constituting its centre.¹

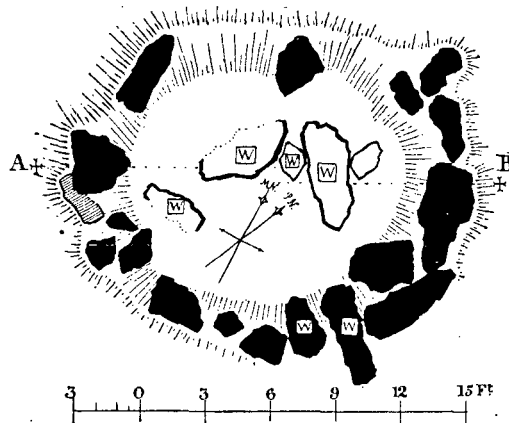


Fig. 14. Logie Newton ; East Circle.

When examining ^{the east} each Circle more in detail (see fig. 14), the plan will afford help in distinguishing the blocks of quartz from those of whinstone. Thus it will be seen that out of the total of twenty-three stones now comprising this Circle, seventeen are of quartz. The remainder, of whinstones, occupy such a position and shape as to suggest the proba-

¹ Besides the three Circles, the O. M. shows, with the usual symbol for an antiquity, the site of what is called *Longman's Grave*, at a point about 335 yards to the west of the west Circle in the group. On speaking to Mr Cruikshank of this, I was assured there was merely a biggish stone, prostrate and difficult to find, close on the boundary between the parishes of Auchterless and Fergie.

bility that they may be the covering-stones of interments. None of the stones in the circle is in the least conspicuous for height, the two highest (at the east and west areas respectively) being barely 4 feet above the ground. (See the sections, fig. 17.)

The chief point of difference between the easterly Circle and the middle one is, that near the centre of the latter there lies a massive, somewhat

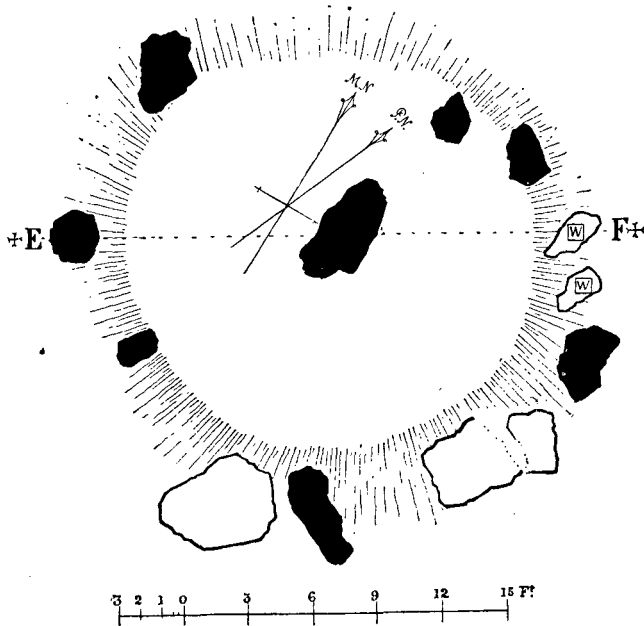


Fig. 15. Logie Newton ; Middle Circle.

oblong block of quartz, in lieu of the flat and thinnish whinstone slab at the crest of the former (see fig. 15). The position of this Stone is such that its longer axis trends due north by compass. Around it there are the eleven other Stones shown, of which eight are of quartz, two very small (at F) of whinstone, and two large blocks lying prostrate (outlined in plan) on the S.E. arc. One of these is broken.

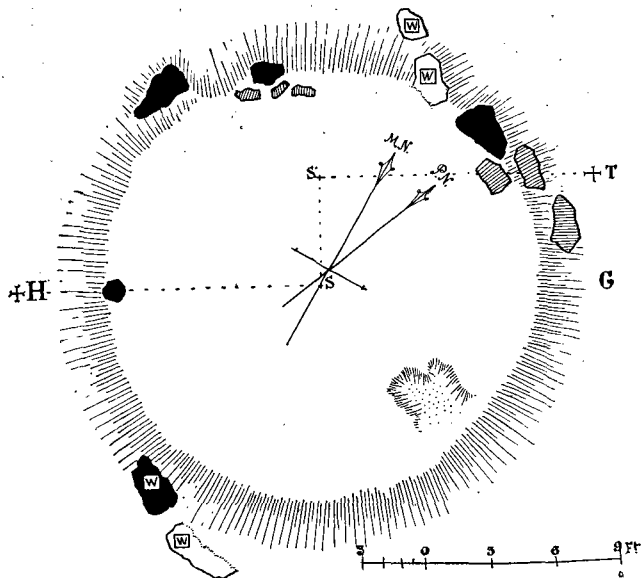


Fig. 16. Logie Newton ; West Circle.

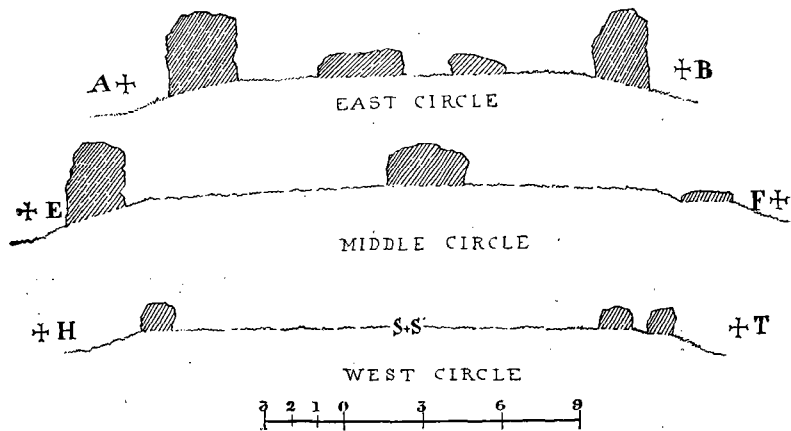


Fig. 17. Logie Newton ; Sections of Circles.

Of the condition of the westerly Circle little need be said, as few large stones now remain on its verge, and its interior has the appearance of being little disturbed. Near its S.E. arc (see fig. 16) is an irregular cavity, which I presume to be the site of one of the greater stones, possibly of the one which, in the elder Mr Cruickshank's occupancy of the farm, was "removed from one of these circles and set up in the field on the west of the house, to mark at that spot the discovery of an urn containing human bones." There the stone still stands, and the

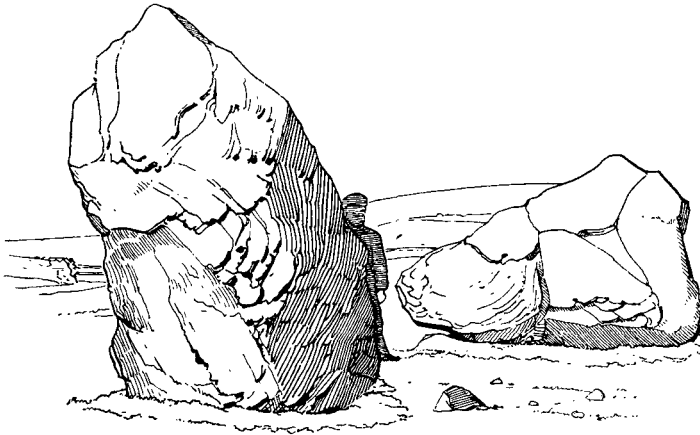


Fig. 18. Upperthird ; remains of Circle.

record of it on the Ordnance map, being Standing Stone in plain lettering, is thus satisfactorily accounted for. The only subject for regret in this connection is the fact that the urn, instead of being preserved, was allowed to get broken, and pieces were given away to curious friends.

No. 14. Upperthird, near Logie Newton.—This site is one mile E.N.E. distant from the farm-house of Logie Newton. The O.M. marks one stone on the southern circumference of a circle about 80 feet in diameter, but pays heed to no others. The present condition shows two large stones within 4 feet of each other,—a discrepancy not to be accounted for. These huge bulky masses of extremely rugged whinstone (see fig. 17)

stand E. and W. of each other, and the longer side of the tall stone trends N.N.W. and S.S.E. Its vertical height is 6 feet 9 inches. Its basal girth is 17 feet $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The lower stone is 4 feet 7 inches in height, its two longer sides measure respectively 7 feet and 6 feet, and its ends 4 feet 6 inches and nearly 4 feet. It is probable, therefore, judging by its shape, that this stone was once erect. Whether it constituted the east pillar with its neighbour as Recumbent Stone is conjectural.

No. 15. West Haughs.—At the date of the Ordnance Survey six stones remained of this Circle, which measured about 76 feet in diameter. But inquiries at Logie Newton resulted in the information that all these stones were destroyed several years ago. The site was about $1\frac{1}{3}$ mile east from the circles on Logie Newton.

No. 16. Burreldales.—The site of what must have been externally one of the most peculiar circles in Aberdeenshire is nearly due west of the farm-house, and but a few score yards distant from it. On the O.M. it is drawn as a circular space, divided into five flat portions by four ridges traversing it N. and S. On approaching the spot, it became obvious that very recent and very thorough destruction had taken place. All that now remained was a circular space measuring on the ground-level about 130 feet in diameter, traversed nearly N. and S. by five strips of broken-up stones.

These rows of stones, varying much in size, shape, and composition (but no doubt all alike usable as road-metal), were about 4 feet in breadth, 2 to 3 feet in height, and their interspaces measured from 9 to 14 feet in width, the three widest being in the central space.

No. 17. Burreldales, Rappla Wood.—I retain this double name in order to distinguish the last described site from that now to be noticed, which was recorded¹ under the farm-name of Burreldales so long ago as 1862. The two sites are not half a mile apart. As above observed, the utterly ruined Circle close to the farm was a markedly peculiar specimen, and we may use terms almost as definite regarding the former state of

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. iv. p. 429, and x. p. 434.

this also now ruined site as described by Mr Chalmers. In order to make his words more vivid, I have ventured upon constructing a diagrammatic ground plan and section (see fig. 19).

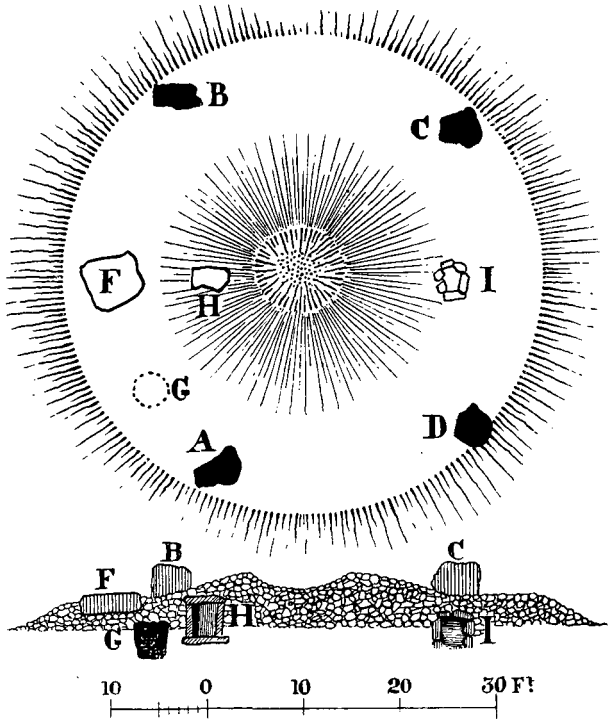


Fig. 19. Diagrammatic Ground Plan and Section of Circle at Rappla Wood, Burrel dales.

There was first a low circular platform of stones about 50 feet in diameter. On it stood four (or five) rude blocks of whinstone. Only one of these, B on the plan, now remains. Within the circumference marked out by these Standing Stones, the stony platform swelled up into a low cairn, which had a hollow in its centre. Up to this point the similarity between this Circle and the larger one in Whitehill Wood,

Monymusk, formerly described,¹ is very striking. Mr Chalmers does not express a decided opinion about the hollow in the central portion; it was probably very difficult to do so; but at any rate no central setting of cists seems ever to have been found here, like that in the Monymusk example. Nearly at the west point (F on the plan) lay a great flat slab, nearly 5 feet square and 2 feet thick. Apparently nothing was found directly beneath it, but at H there was a neatly-built cist, containing (if the farmer's observation were correct) three urns; but this seemed very uncertain, as Mr Chalmers, on seeing the fragments at a later date, stated

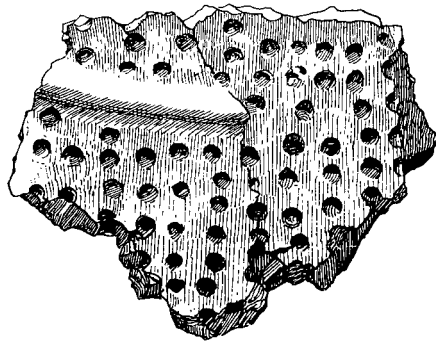


Fig. 20. Fragment of Cinerary Urn found in Rappla Wood Circle, Burreldaals.

there were not more than enough to compose one urn. To the south of the great 5-foot slab there was found (at G on the plan) a circular pit, dug partly down into the subsoil; it was not protected at the sides by any built-in stones, but a thinnish slab covered its mouth. On the east side of the platform of stones (I in the plan) there was an irregularly shaped cavity, loosely walled in with stones bigger than the bulk of those that composed the body of the Cairn and platform. In this were found small fragments of flat bronze, which, when pieced together, fitted so as to form part of a blade of the type frequently associated with interments of the Bronze Age in Scotland.²

¹ *Proceedings*, xxxv. p. 204.

² See Anderson, *Scot. in Pagan Times*,—*The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 53.

Of the precise variety of urn (or urns) found in the cist, it is unfortunately now impossible to speak with certainty. But, along with the bronze fragments, Mr Chalmers sent to the Museum a fragment of a cinerary urn (fig. 20), which, until quite recently, stood alone in the National Collection, on account of the peculiarity of its decoration. The rows of somewhat deeply impressed holes on the outer surface of this fragment are formed by the flat end of a cylindrical bone implement, or possibly of the stalk of a plant. Markings identical in style and size occur also in one other urn in the Museum.¹ It is one of three found in a cist at Duncra Hill, and presented in 1900 by the Earl of Hopetoun.

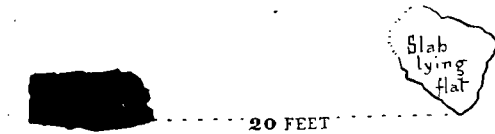


Fig. 21. Rappla Wood ; Plan of remains.

Apart from the relics discovered, the archaeological interest of this Circle at Rappla Wood centres in the fact of there being three, or probably four, different forms of interment within it.

All that now remains of these structures may be seen in the next two illustrations (figs. 21 and 22), the first showing a plan of the last remaining Standing Stone (B on the plan) and a good-sized slab lying flush with the ground at a point 20 feet to the east, the second drawing being a view of this Standing Stone (fig. 22). My regarding this stone as being truly the one which occupied the N.W. angle of the space marked out by the four stones noted by Mr Chalmers is not merely conjectural.

We were fortunate enough, later on in the same day's exploration, to meet with an aged crofter (at Rappla Burn), who, in the course of conversation, told me that he had assisted in the clearing away of this Cairn

¹ *Catalogue*, EE 82.

Circle, and that the greater space of the Circle lay to the south and east of the remaining stone.

The stone seemed to be of a rough, large crystallised syenite, very rugged in contour, and veined with whitish quartz. Its full height is 5 feet 8½ inches and its basal girth 10 feet 10 inches.

No. 18. Rappla Burn.—Three-quarters of a mile to the west of the last site there lie five stones, placed by the misguided labour of some bygone tenant into a shapeless group near the summit of the fields



Fig. 22. Rappla Wood ; View of remains.

here. One of these huge whinstone blocks is much larger than the others. Its dimensions are, length about 8 feet, breadth 5 feet, and thickness 3 feet. It is possibly the now prostrate Recumbent Stone. The stone next in point of size measures about 5 feet by 4 by 2 feet 6 inches; two others are about 3 feet by 2; and the fifth is quite a small stone in comparison. They all occupy a space of about 16 feet long by 7 or 8 feet wide, and they are all of whinstone, quartz-veined.

Stopping to make inquiries at one of the two or three cottages at Rappla Burn, we learned that on an upland field on Darley several years

ago there were beads dug up, together with some other relics, the precise nature of which my informant could not properly describe.

Concerning the next four sites designated on the O.M. as remains of circles, it is my unpleasing duty to record that nothing now remains. The first was at—

No. 19. Hillhead, Forgue,—about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile S.E. from the church at Ythan Wells.

The next was at—

No. 20. Stonehill,—about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile N.W. of Hillhead, and west of Logie Newton about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The third and the last in this Forgue district was in the wood at—

No. 21. Auchaber,—600 feet above sea-level, a bare mile nearly due north of Stonehill. The Hillhead and Stonehill sites being in open fields, the absence of megalithic remains there was speedily ascertained. The site in the Wood of Auchaber offered specially attractive difficulties; these I overcame by forming my search-party of five resolute pedestrians into a line, which extended right and left to the verges of the wood, through which we then paced slowly. The wood being only a narrow though pretty dense strip, we by this means covered its whole extent thoroughly. But the only result obtained was the discovery of one fairly large boulder, which, as it corresponded neither in respect of size or position with the stone drawn on the O.M. 25-inch scale, we left in its solitude, unmeasured, and, but for this brief notice, unrecorded. This was the more disappointing since the drawing on the O.M. indicated a large block in the position of a recumbent stone.

More than a century ago it was recorded¹ of Forgue that “in sundry places rows of long stones, from 6 to 10 feet above ground, are to be seen, perpendicularly placed; some in an oblong, others in a circular form; those on the hillhead north of Fren draught are the largest.”

I had no clue to this site on any of the Ordnance maps. It is not marked even on the 25-inch scale sheet. But on writing to the Parish

¹ *The Edinburgh Magazine* for 1761, pp. 11–13.

Minister, Rev. James Brebner, I was informed that some of the stones of this Circle are still *in situ*.

No. 22. *Towie, Auchterless*.—I notice this site next, though not in geographical sequence, because it is the last mere site in the central portion of this district, and may not inaptly follow the three disappointing sites just described. The record on the O.M. bears that here, in a field 500 yards west of Auchterless Station, there once lay or stood a large stone, and the name *Pratt's Grave* is affixed to it in O.E. lettering.

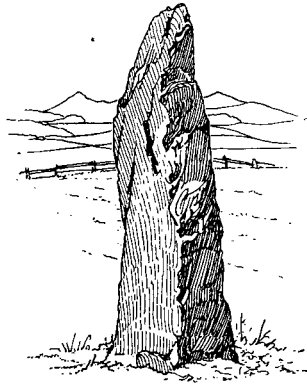


Fig. 23. North Monkshill; remains of Circle.

On the ground, at the date of our visit, nothing was visible; and in reply to a letter of inquiries sent to Mr Maitland of Pitdulsie, I was informed that, to the best of his recollection, there never were standing stones here, but merely the site of a cairn.

No. 23. *Monkshill, Standing Stone*.—This monolith is on the O.M. vouched for as the remains of a circle, with the additional information that a cist was found at it in 1848.

The site is 450 feet above sea-level, on a flat field a short distance south of North Monkshill, and close to the north side of the cross-roads coming from Mains of Monkshill. It is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of the river

Ythan. The field being in full standing corn on the date of my examination, it was impossible to search for traces of other stones. This one remaining monolith (see fig. 23) is finely set, tapering from a broadish base 9 feet 4 inches in girth to a height of 6 feet 9 inches. Its longest side of 2 feet 6 inches trends N.N.E. by compass, and this line if extended would touch the summit, not of the Mither Tap, but of Oxen Craig on Bennachie, which is the real summit of that hill.

No. 24. Pitglassie.—In an almost straight line westwards, 6 miles across country (see the Map, fig. 8), after twice crossing the much winding Ythan, we reach one more of the distressing amorphous heaps of stones, once—and that not so very long ago—the stately members of a circle. This accumulation much resembles that noticed above at Rappla Burn, with this difference, that all the stones have been toppled over, and alongside of the Recumbent Stone, which being far too ponderous, rests in what is probably almost its original position.

There are twelve great stones in all, occupying a rudely oval space 17 feet long and 10 feet broad; all are of whinstone.

The Recumbent Stone leans to the north slightly, its outer side is smooth and regular, its upper edge and inner side being partially covered by superincumbent stones. Its dimensions are, length 8 feet 3 inches, height 4 feet 8 inches, thickness 3 feet 6 inches. A pillar-like stone at the east side of the Recumbent Stone measures 5 feet 5 inches by 3 feet 1 inch by 2 feet 7 inches. Of the other ten stones, two are over 5 feet long by 3 feet broad, three are over 4 feet long and 2 feet 6 inches broad, three are over 3 feet long and 2 feet broad; and there are quantities of much smaller boulders of quartz, and various stones thickly strewn about these.

No. 25. Corrydown.—This site is about equidistant from the unclassifiable site at Towie and the Circle, presently to be described, at Mains of Hatton.

The O.M. draws four stones at this spot; but, as so frequently happens, no difference is made between the ground plan of the Recumbent Stone and that of any of the others.

We reached this Circle by walking from Auchterless Station, and were fortunate in finding the tenant, Mr Alexander Shand, at home, through whose interest in the stones and ready assistance in measuring a good plan was obtained.

The original diameter of the Circle was probably 75 feet; this was ascertained partly from statements made by Mr Shand regarding the

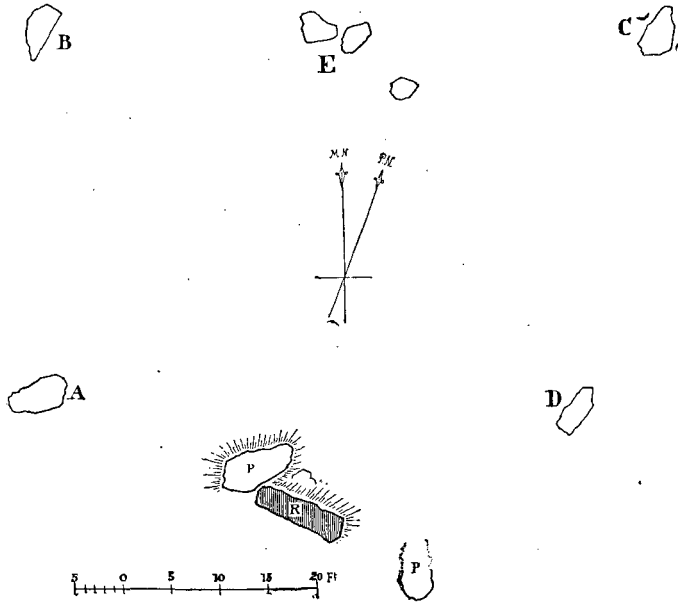


Fig. 24. Corrydown ; Plan of Circle.

precise former positions of the stones, all of which are fallen (see fig. 24). Three small and thinnish stones directly to the north of the Recumbent Stone were moved inwards by his orders, and attempts had been made at various dates to move the others, which, I take it, had resulted in their falling prostrate. The interior, level as a whole, is lumpy here and there with grass-hidden stones; and at many points, during the attempted removal of the Standing Stones, the tenant had noticed that

there were quantities of pebbles bedded into soil which was unlike the soil of the adjacent fields. He had, however, never found any remains indicating interment.

All the stones are of bluish whinstone, largely mingled with quartz.

The Recumbent Stone group appears to have been erected on a fairly well-defined ridge, portions of which are still visible. Owing to the herbage and partly bent-down corn, it was impossible to be certain if this ridge was continued throughout the circumference.

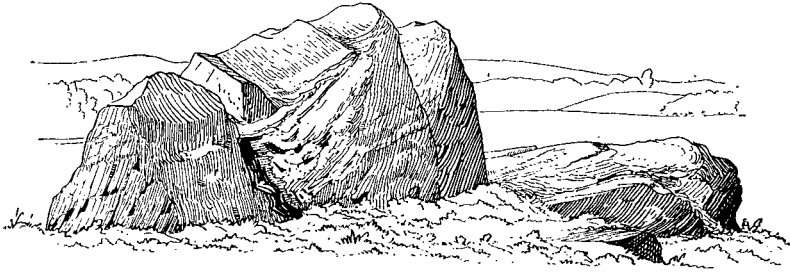


Fig. 25. Corrydown ; Recumbent Stone.

The sizes of the stones are—

A	.	5 feet 3 inches long,	2 feet 6 inches wide.
B	.	5 „ 4 „ „	2 „ 6 „ „
C	.	5 „ 4 „ „	2 „ 7 „ „
D	.	5 „ 5 „ „	2 „ 5 „ „

a remarkably equal set.

The east pillar, now lying about 7 feet to the S.E. of the Recumbent Stone, runs into the ground, but measures 6 feet, so far as its length is ascertainable ; it is 3 feet 8 inches in breadth. The west pillar, also prostrate, is 8 feet 2 inches in extreme length and about 4 feet in width ; it is fully 2 feet in thickness.

The Recumbent Stone, which trends W.N.W., measures nearly 10 feet in extreme length, has a mean breadth of 2 feet 6 inches, and

is 3 feet 7 inches high, with an inward slope. Its computed weight is nearly 4 tons.

Where so much displacement has occurred, it is futile to attempt on paper a reconstruction of the Circle; but the suggestion may be hazarded, that if the two diameters AC and BD represent with some approach to exactness the original dimensions of the Circle, there would be space enough probably for four more Standing Stones, which, with the seven at present on the ground, would form a Circle of eleven stones, that is, including the Recumbent Stone, and taking no account of the three small or broken blocks at E. I subjoin a view of the Recumbent Stone and fallen West Pillar (fig. 25).

No. 26. Mains of Hatton, Auchterless.—The land in this region is deeply undulating, and on one of the broadest and most conspicuous of these gently-rising eminences, about a mile to the west of the Howe of Auchterless, stand the remains of this Circle, once doubtless as characteristic as any that were to be met with in Aberdeenshire. The site is 530 feet above sea-level.

The site is in a field more than a quarter of a mile on the road towards Inverkeithny, and on the north of the road. On the O.M., even on the 25-inch scale sheet, this Circle is drawn as a group of five large stones, all similar in shape and size, and without any attempt at distinguishing the ground plans of any two stones so widely unlike, *e.g.*, as the Recumbent Stone and the fallen East Pillar. Still more remarkable, the 6-inch scale O.M. shows only three stones, within an almost square bounding line, meant possibly to indicate the stony enclosure of the Circle. This appears altogether inexplicable; nor does any elucidation arise out of the rehearsal of a very old story,¹ to the effect that once a laird removed some of these stones "to form pillars for a gate; but tradition goes that so many accidents occurred in consequence of this sacrilege that he was obliged to take the stones back again, and they now lie beside their neighbours, with the iron staples still fixed in them."

¹ See *Proceedings*, ix. p 158.

A glance at the ground plan (fig. 26) at once shows a confused assemblage of stones close to the Recumbent Stone; and being unable to make any interpretation of their positions, I wrote to Mr R. Chapman, who, amongst other avocations, farms the Mains of Hatton, telling him

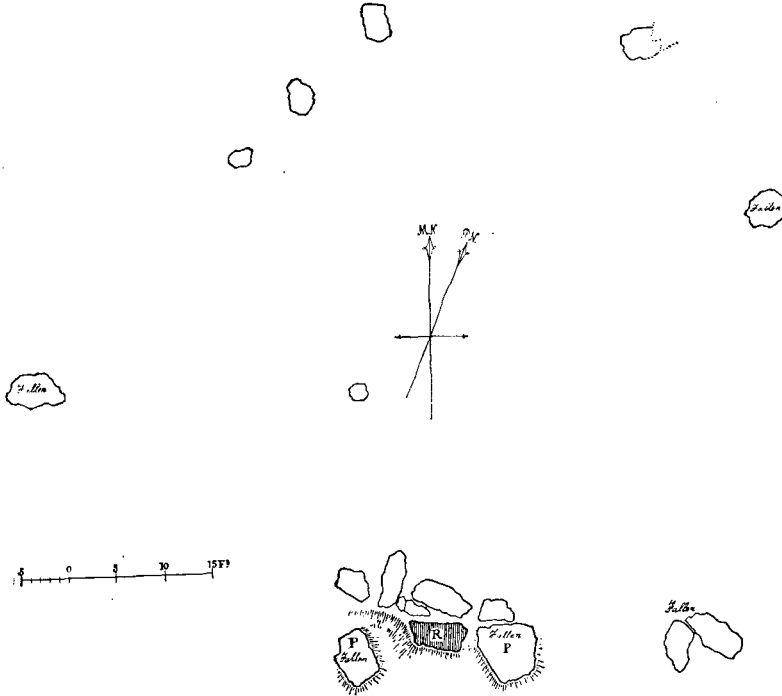


Fig. 26. Mains of Hatton ; Plan of Circle.

of this story and of the contradictory plans on the Ordnance maps. In a few days Mr Chapman obligingly replied as follows :—

“ In regard to your inquiry about the stones on the hill, I may tell you that, as far as my knowledge goes, none of the stones have been shifted within the memory of anyone living ; and it is only within recent years that the land has been ploughed, through care having always been taken not to disturb the

original position of the stones. The old story you mention relates to the stone with the iron spikes ; and though I have questioned many old people from time to time, I have never been able to discover anything concerning the actual facts which gave rise to it. But the spikes embedded in lead projecting from it do indicate that at one time it had been used as a pillar for a gate. This is the stone you mention as not occupying the usual position.

“The story may be a century old or more, and related to a laird of Hatton, who at that time lived at Hatton Manor, the neighbouring farm to ours.

“The ploughing has changed the form of the surface of the Circle little or nothing. Since I remember, it has always been rather hollow in the centre than otherwise, and never showed the appearance of an outline of a planned work of any sort ; and all the stones which have been taken off it are those you saw gathered in between the big stones on the south side.

“I have several times walked over the ground after ploughing, but have never found any flints or indication of other antiquities, nor am I aware of any stone coffin having been found in the immediate locality ; but on the farm¹ lying $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile to the N.W. from the Circle, several urns have been found from time to time.”

The above statements to some extent render the plan of this Circle more comprehensible ; for by discounting all the six stones of various sizes which lie confusedly in front of the Recumbent Stone, we obtain this southerly group situated in almost the normal positions, the two pillars being fallen. The Recumbent Stone is small for a Circle whose probable diameter was 67 feet. This diameter is gauged by measuring from the Recumbent Stone to the centre of the stone due north of it, which is half concealed in the ground, and therefore is more likely to be approximately close to its original position than any of the others.

The dimensions of the stones are these :—

The fallen stone, at a point some 27 feet to the west of the West Pillar, is 6 feet 2 inches by 4 feet 8 inches, by 1 foot 5 inches in thickness ; the first of the next group of three measures 2 feet 8 inches by 2 feet by 1 foot ; the middle one, 4 feet by 2 feet 7 inches by 2 feet 4 inches ; and the last one of the group, 4 feet 4 inches by 2 feet 6 inches by 1 foot 7 inches. All these are whinstone blocks. The north stone, half concealed in the ground, is of whitish quartz ; its

¹ Charlesfield, on Gallow Hill. See *Proceedings*, ix. 158.

western edge projects 1 foot above ground, and its greatest breadth is 3 feet 6 inches. The stone next in order, also fallen, is a squarish block measuring 4 feet 5 inches in breadth and 2 feet in thickness. The two fallen stones close together on the S.E. are about 2 feet 3 inches above ground, and in length 6 feet 6 inches and 5 feet 4 inches. The height (thickness) of the fallen East Pillar is 3 feet 4 inches, its length 6 feet 10 inches, and breadth 5 feet 8 inches. The middle of the edge of the Recumbent Stone almost touches it. The extreme length of the Recumbent Stone is 8 feet, breadth just over 3 feet; and its height differs from 3 feet 5 inches (vertical) on the outside to only 1 foot 6 inches in front; and it is triangular in section. The West Pillar, now



Fig. 27. Mains of Hatton ; View of Circle.

prostrate, nearly 5 feet away from the Recumbent Stone, measures 6 feet by 3 feet 10 inches by 1 foot 8 inches. The East Pillar is of whinstone with quartz veins, the small stone directly in front of it is of nearly pure quartz; the Recumbent Stone and West Pillar are of whin.

With so few of the stones in their original positions, we cannot affirm anything regarding their original number; but taking 70 feet as a mean diameter, there would be room on a circumference of 220 feet, with the spacing suggested by the positions of the north stone and the nearest on its south, for a ring of twelve stones in all.

In my view from the N.E. (fig. 27) the present condition of these much disturbed stones may be seen, as well as the comparatively insignificant size of the Recumbent Stone group.

The computed weight of this last mentioned stone is over 4 tons.

No. 27. *Harestane, Feith-hill*.—Though there are two stones at this site, the name as printed on the O.M. and spoken by residents is in the singular. The site is known to be that of a Stone Circle, and it seems likely that, as one of these two stones is prostrate, the upright one is that which obtained the specific epithet of Hare- or Haer-Stane—boundary stone.¹

The farm of Feith-hill is on an upland about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles nearly west from the stones at Pitglassie; and on a rising ground, 590 feet

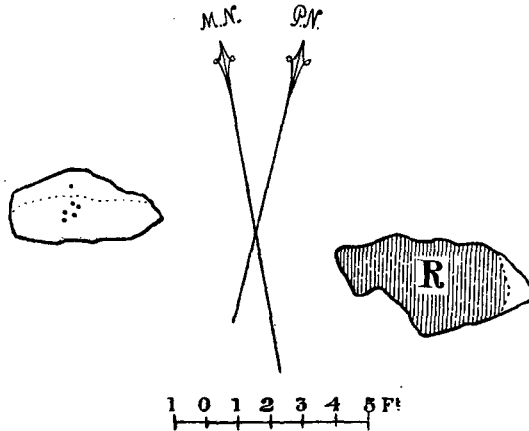


Fig. 28. Harestanes; Feith-hill.

above sea-level, fairly conspicuous from all sides, there remain the two Stones shown in the ground plan (fig. 28) and the view (fig. 29).

They lie 4 feet 6 inches apart, on a quite level portion of the field, the prostrate one to the west of the erect one, which was the Recumbent Stone in a Circle of several stones having a diameter of about 60 feet.

The Stone now prostrate once stood erect on its broader end, close to

¹ Compare *Harestanes*, an imperfect stone circle in the parish of Kirkurd, Peebleshire, and *Harestane*, or *Cleft Stane*, on S.E. slope of Sterling Hill, marking the division between Peterhead and Cruden (Pratt's *Buchan*, p. 60).

the Recumbent Stone. Several cists were taken out of the area of the Circle, which was very stony.

For these particulars I am indebted to information given by Mr Morrison at the farm, who also stated that the circle at Pitglassie was about 60 feet in diameter.

The now prostrate stone, or West Pillar, is a ponderous block of blue whinstone, rather smooth, and of such a form that its top slopes off on either side from an approximately central ridge (see dotted line, fig. 27). On one side of this ridge there are four cup-marks, with one on the other side. In the original position of the Stone, these cups would be



Fig. 29. Harestanes ; View from the East.

on its outer or western edge ; and it may be noted, in passing, that this group of marks has a curious resemblance to the constellation of the Great Bear—a resemblance which occurs in other instances of grouped cup-marks.

The Recumbent Stone, compared with many elsewhere, is small, very uneven and unshapely ; its full height is 4 feet 2 inches, full length 6 feet 4 inches, its greatest breadth 3 feet ; weight about $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

No. 28. Crofts of Shielburn.—With this site we begin the investigation of a cluster of megalithic remains, five in number, and comprised in an area measuring less than one square mile. They all lie to the N.N.W. of the Hill of Carlinraig (see the Map, fig. ∇). It is deplor-

able to have to report, however, that only one out of the five circles is in anything like its pristine condition.

The one stone¹ remaining at this Crofts of Shielburn is situated in a field 2 miles N.W. of Corrydown Circle, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile due N. of Greymuir Cairn.

The Stone, composed of rugged blue whin mingled with white quartz pebbles, appears to have been canted over, as it now rests on an edge (as shown in fig. 30), with a considerable overhang towards the west. Its present height, 4 feet 1 inch, is less than its greatest breadth of

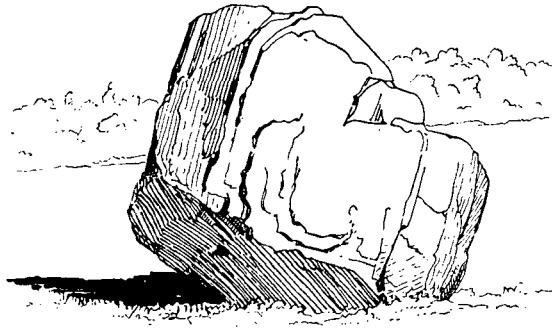


Fig. 30. Crofts of Shielburn ; remains of Circle.

nearly 5 feet. It is a bulky stone, girthing on the ground 12 feet 8 inches, and very considerably more about midway. From this spot three of the other neighbouring circles must have been well in view, especially the two small ones at Backhill of Drachlaw. At a point 240 yards S.E. of this Stone the O.M. records the finding of an urn on a piece of ground bearing the same name of Crofts of Shielburn.

No. 29. Backhill of Drachlaw, East Circle.—This Circle—the only one apparently untouched by the rough hand of the agriculturist among all those at present passing under review—is noteworthy for another reason. It is small, devoid of a Recumbent Stone, but consists, as do

¹ Two are shown on the O.M. of 1867, standing less than 50 feet apart, N.W. and S.E. of each other.

others of the same variety, of stones very large and massive in proportion to the diameter of the enclosed space. In these features it is nearly identical with the circle at South Ythsie,¹ and not unlike the still smaller circle, shortly to be described, at Raich. The site is 440 feet above sea-level.

The six stones of this Circle are arranged so that three fill up the north arc and other three fill up the south arc (see fig. 31), leaving a space between the extremes of the arcs much greater than the interspaces between the stones. The stone at E being broken and the upper

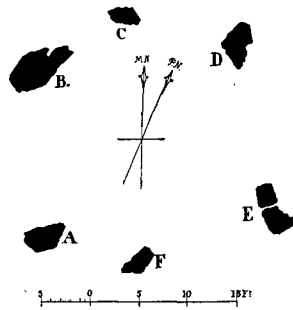


Fig. 31. Backhill of Drachlaw ; Plan of East Circle.

part-fallen forward, somewhat destroys the symmetry of this arrangement. But the differences in the interspacing will best be noted by putting them in tabular form.

From A to B (centres)	.	.	.	17 feet 8 inches
„ E to D „	.	.	.	17 „ 8 „
„ F to A „	.	.	.	10 „ 0 „
„ C to D „	.	.	.	11 „ 6 „
„ F to E „	.	.	.	14 „ 3 „
„ B to C „	.	.	.	11 „ 0 „

The stone at E, as already stated, has fallen ; were it rolled over inwards once only, its centre would then be just 12 feet from the centre

¹ No. 31 in the Report for 1901, *Proc.*, xxxvi. p. 524.

of F, and almost exactly the equivalent of the space between B and C. Thus the symmetry of the Circle would be complete.

Another point to notice is that the stones C and D are respectively due north of A and F, and that the great boulder B, so irregular in contour, is set due west of stone E.

It is to be observed also that all the stones are not set with their broadest faces facing the centre of the Circle. This was likewise characteristic of the South Ythsie example.

These stones are all rugged whinstone boulders, variegated with seams and pebbles of white quartz. In one, the largest stone, there is an outstanding band of quartz circling the whinstone like a rope of crystal (see View, fig. 32).



Fig. 32. Backhill of Drachlaw ; View.

The heights and characteristics of the stones are—

A	.	4	feet	10	inches,	of	whinstone	full	of	quartz	pebbles.
B	.	4	„	0	„	„	„	seamed	with	quartz.	
C	.	2	„	7	„	„	„	with	quartz	pebbles.	
D	.	3	„	10	„	squarish,	„	„	„		
E	.	2	„	10	„	on	edge	fallen ;	pure	grey	whinstone.
F	.	3	„	0	„	squarish ;	of	whinstone	with	quartz	pebbles.

The interior is absolutely level and smooth. It was extremely difficult to find any indication even of a slight mound at the base of the stones. Nor can I allege anything as to the stony, or reverse of stony, condition of the area below the grassy surface, having no efficient probing-tools with which to test it.

The two extreme diameters are between the centres of B and E 28 feet 6 inches, and of A and D exactly 28 feet. So far as I could learn, no tampering with these stones or ploughing within the enclosure had ever been attempted.

How differently it has fared with the next group must now be chronicled.

No. 30. Backhill of Drachlaw, West Circle.—This on the O.M. is shown as a Circle of six stones, of about 28 feet in diameter, and from the present tenant, Mr P. Anderson, the following details regarding it were gathered: That many years ago one of these six stones, then forming a Circle, close to which the farm-steadings came to be built, was removed by a neighbouring farmer who 'required' a block of good stone out of which to make lintels. It was the largest, and no doubt the shapeliest, of all the stones, and it stood nearly at the south point in the group.

The remaining five stones were subsequently removed from their original positions and placed in the line of two dikes. Here I saw them. In character and size they closely resemble the stones of the East Circle. Nothing seems ever to have been done with a view of ascertaining what lay within their enclosure; they were just shifted out of the way and rendered useful as component parts of the two farm-yard dikes. Let it be hoped it may be long ere a similar fate overtakes the East Circle.

No. 31. Oof, or Wolf, Stone.—This Standing Stone is mentioned by Rev. J. B. Pratt,¹ who wrote upon various antiquarian topics during his forty-five years' incumbency at St James', Cruden.² He suggests as the meaning of the name Wolf, Woof, or Oof,³ as the Aberdonian pronunciation of Elf. There are one or two analogies to bear this out. The parish of Udny, *e.g.*, is by natives called Widny, and the Ferry of Unes, Yoones.⁴

¹ *Antiquities of the Buchan District.*

² Between 1825–1869.

³ There is a Wolf Stone in Monymusk also, and Elf Stones in many places.

⁴ *Inverness Sc. Soc. Trans.*, iv. p. 355.

But however this be, the Stone stands upon the boundary between the counties of Banff and Aberdeen, at a height of 700 feet above sea-level, at a point shown on the O.M. $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile nearly west of Croft of Feith-hill, and over $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile N.W. of Lenshie.

The uncertainty of its being truly associated with any prehistoric site, or of being itself an ancient standing stone, debarred me from attempting to reach it. Its site also is remote from any of those visited, and would have entailed greater expenditure of time than the stone seemed to warrant.

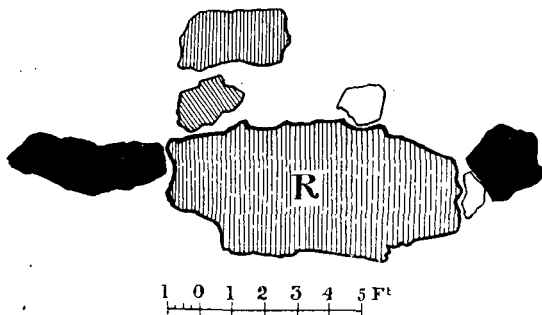


Fig. 33. Cairn Riv ; Plan of Carlin Stone.

No. 32. *Cairn Riv.*—At this site, within a few feet of the boundary between Banff and Aberdeen shires, 300 yards N.E. of the circle at Backhill of Drachlaw, there is shown on the O.M. a dotted ring some 95 feet in diameter, and on its southern arc an enormous stone named *Carlin Stone*. A hasty view such as one would receive in driving past this Stone on the road to Turriff would, I think, leave the impression that this was merely a boulder of uncommon bulk, stranded here by glacial agency. On closer inspection, although it may still be difficult to rid oneself of that impression, other points in connection with its position and surroundings arise, points which may involve problems regarding recumbent stones in general. To these some reference will be made later. We must first be acquainted with the facts of the case.

There are here three stones in line, the colossal boulder called Carlin Stone, poised between two others, quite small in comparison. See the ground plan (fig. 33). In addition, there are two set stones of considerable size projecting inwards from the Carlin Stone near its west end, and there is also a fair-sized flat-sunk slab near what I shall call the East Pillar, the thick short stone to the right in the view (fig. 34). The Carlin Stone is of very rugged whinstone. Its girth on the ground is 22 feet 9 inches, but at about the height of 5 feet it measures no less than 26 feet 10 inches in girth. Its greatest height is 8 feet 6 inches.

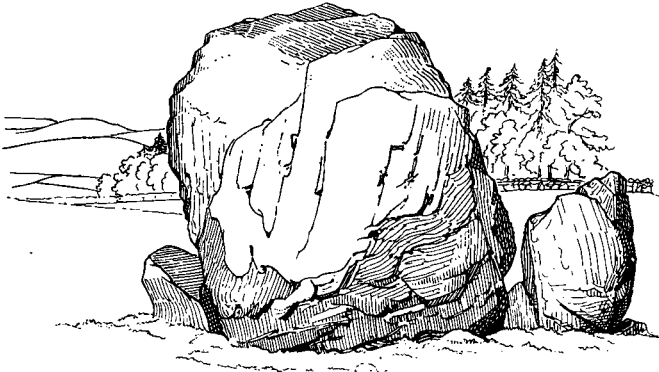


Fig. 34. Cairn Riv ; View of Carlin Stone.

It stands pretty nearly vertical, on a base varying from 2 feet to 4 feet in breadth and 9 feet in length. The weight is over 14 tons.

The heights of the other stones are : West Pillar, 2 feet, and 5 feet in length ; East Pillar, 4 feet 3 inches, and 2 feet 3 inches square. The two earthfast smaller stones to the front are nearly 2 feet high.

I think this boulder, rugged, unshapely, and most unusual in height though it be, should be accepted as the Recumbent Stone of the Circle that certainly once existed here, partly for the facts of its present surroundings above stated, and partly because, through the information derived from the tenant of Backhill, the following facts were obtained.

There stood, in his father's time, several great stones—none nearly so huge as the Carlin, however—in a Circle, within which was a very low mound or cairn, not a cairn in the true sense, but only 3 feet or so in height, spreading over a great space.

At various times, dates unremembered, these blocks of whinstone had been removed, the mound of stones carried away for the dikes, and in or near the spot where they once stood there were found a small axe-hammer, perforated, portions of three bronze armlets, flint chips, and a button of jet. Mr Anderson did not allege that these objects had been found all actually within the area enclosed by the Standing Stones, but in the ground close by, some of them in that area.

The axe-hammer is of a peculiar stone, dark brown, unveined, very smooth and hard. Its dimensions are, length $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches, breadth $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches, thickness $\frac{7}{8}$ inch, and the shaft hole is vertical and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter. The jet button Mr Anderson presented to the Museum, and I brought it away. Externally similar to several others in the National Collection, this button possesses one special feature of interest in being twice bored for the fastening, the second time at right angles to and below the first.

In the work already mentioned¹ this Circle of Standing Stones is described as being about 36 yards in diameter, and the boundary lines on which the Caerlin-ring Stone, the Harestone at Feith-hill, and the Woof Stone stand, are defined.

No. 33. Greymuir Cairn.—It seems clear that in this localised district the term 'cairn' has been employed to designate the low mound of stones, whether flat or slightly conical, within a ring of standing stones. This site, which on the O.M. is shown as a dotted ring, 55 feet in diameter, at Greymuir, is a second instance, and before the survey for this Report is concluded we shall meet with one or two others. With regard to this monolith—sole relic of the Circle—little indeed can be said. What facts I am in the position to state were obtained through conversation with Mr Wright who, over forty years ago, settled here

¹ Pratt's *Buchan*, 3rd ed., p. 6, and App. C.

and began to cultivate the land on this farm of Newton of Fortrie. A Circle of Stones extended to the north of the monolith, which measures only 3 feet 9 inches in height, 6 feet in greatest length, and 3 feet 6 inches in breadth. Its basal girth is 15 feet. Some little way to the north of it there was found in 1872 a large flat slab of shaly grey-wacke.¹ It was removed and laid against the dike near the west wall of the steadings. It measures 3 feet 8 inches by 2 feet 8 inches, and is about 13 inches in thickness. No note was taken at the time whether anything was found below this Stone, which has the appearance of a cist-cover.

No. 34. Raich, Forgue.—This site is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the S.W. of Drachlaw, and 3 miles slightly N. of E. from the Harestane at Feith-hill. Though quite small and imperfect, this Circle is interesting from its unlikeness to most at present under notice, and the strong likeness it bears to one surveyed in 1901 at Sheithen in Tarves,² and, in some aspects, also to the circle at South Ythsie.

The interest and kindly proffered help of Mr Legg, tenant at Raich, enabled me at the close of a long day's work to make the survey of this little Circle very thorough. He informed me that the site was known as Standing Stones field, but the Circle is by no means near the summit of the field. The stones, which are all of the blue whin, are set upon a very distinct and sharply defined mound, stony throughout its area, and now very thickly grass-grown. The diameter, measured to the centre of the two standing stones farthest apart, is 18 feet. These two stones are nearly north and south of each other (fig. 35). Close to the edge of the north stone are two earthfast blocks, 19 inches above ground (shaded in plan); the next erect stone on the east has also close beside it a similarly sized earthfast block. These, to my observation, suggested possible remains of cists. All the stones drawn in outline are fallen, but there still stand four well-set and erect ones on the south arc. The most easterly of these is 4 feet 8 inches above ground, actually higher than the

¹ There is a quarry of such stone near Crofts of Shielburn.

² See *Proceedings*, xxxvi. p. 526.

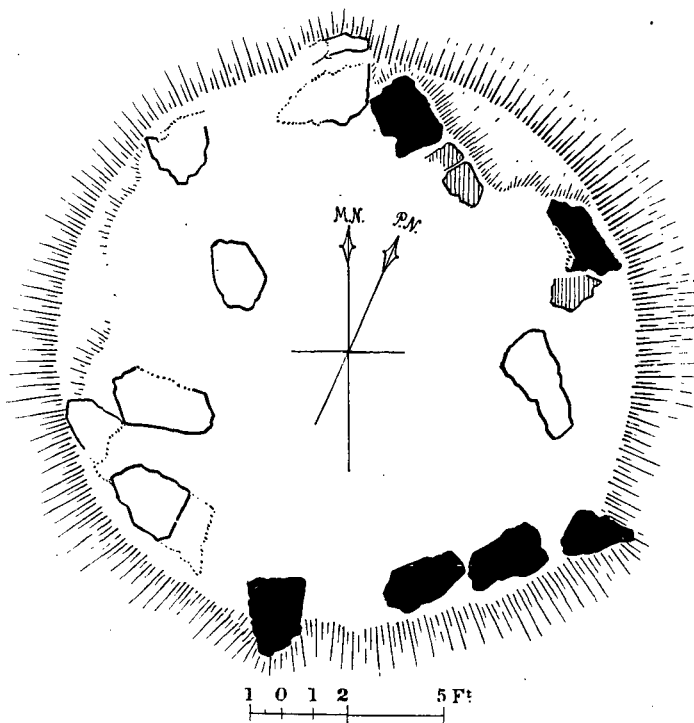


Fig. 35. Raich ; Plan of Circle.

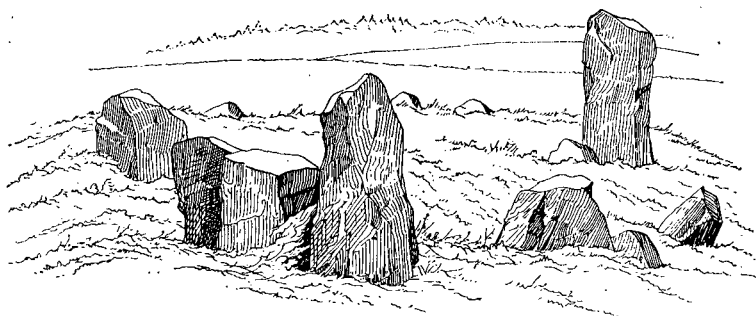


Fig. 36. Raich ; View of Circle from the East.

block on the north, which measures 4 feet 2 inches, but, from difference of position, not merely so prominent. (See the view, fig. 36.) The next two stones are 3 feet in height and the fourth 2 feet 5 inches. In the sectional view (fig. 37) the proportional heights of the Stones and the height of the mound upon which they stand are shown.

The site of Raich Circle is a little above the 500-foot contour line, and would be fairly conspicuous for some distance northwards down the beautiful Glen Dronach, which is here the boundary between the counties.

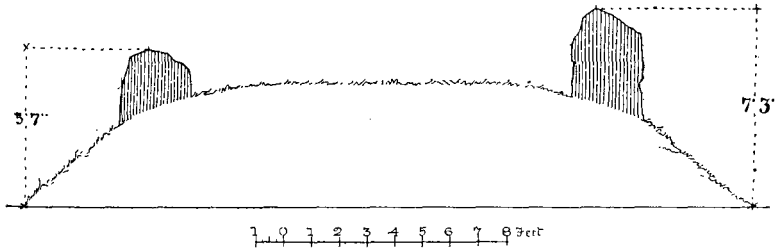


Fig. 37. Raich ; Section N. and S.

No. 35. Yonder Bognie.—Two miles to the N.W. of the last site, and on the west side of the Burn of Fergie, a tributary of the Deveron, we are in the midst of a strip of slightly undulating ground, strewn in many directions with whinstone boulders of greatly varying sizes.

With some of the largest of these, the men of old constructed here, on a space of ground very gently sloping towards the east, a Circle of Standing Stones, which, even in its ruins, is imposing. (See the view, fig. 39.) From the positions of the grand Recumbent Stone and of the other five yet erect, it is possible to estimate with fair accuracy the diameters of the Circle, and the at least probable positions of the five now lying prostrate.

At this somewhat remote site, also, it is pleasant to record that willing and efficient help was accorded during the long and careful mensuration given to these stones. Mr Shand is the descendant of tenants who

have farmed this ground for upwards of three hundred and ninety years—witness the kirkyard epitaphs at Inverkeithny.

What may have been the original or even the mediæval condition of the area comprising this Circle-enclosure it is not possible now to affirm. One feature however, which, for the sake of exact truth, is represented

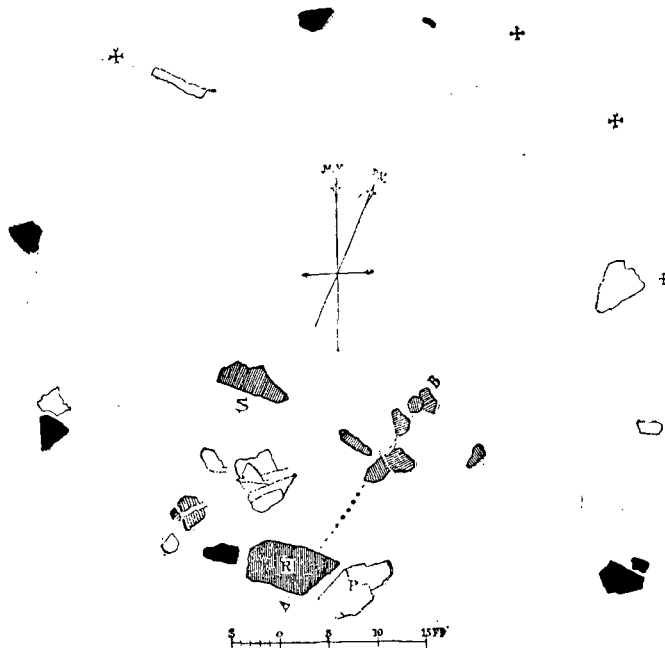


Fig. 38. Yonder Bognie ; Plan of Circle.

in the view, needs a line of explanation. This is the ridge upon which the tall Stone to the east and the Recumbent Stone *seem* to rest. This being the only portion of the circumference at all raised above the general level of the field, naturally caused me to question Mr Shand, who at once replied it was no part of the Circle, but merely formed by accumulations of weeds. We appear to have here, then, a Circle-interior

perfectly flat and smooth, surrounded by a ring of Standing Stones, of which the lowest is that set near the north point and the highest near the Recumbent Stone.

Taking the Stones in order from the south, we observe first that the East Pillar (see plan, fig. 38) has fallen, and is now in part covered over with grass ; it can be felt and measured for a length of 7 feet. The Recumbent Stone is the most right-angled and vertical specimen we have met with, taking its great size into account. Its dimensions are—summit, extreme length 9 feet 2 inches, its average breadth at the top 4 feet 5 inches, height on the inner side 4 feet 2 inches ; at S.E. angle outside 5 feet 6 inches, and at the W. angle 4 feet 7 inches. It girths at the

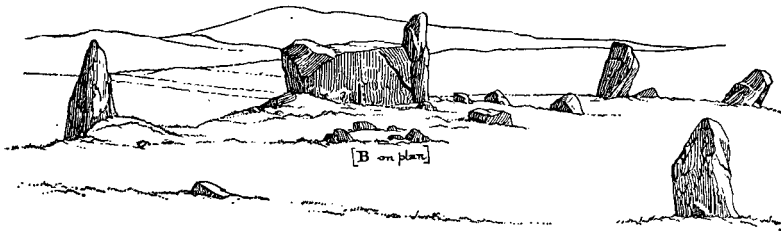


Fig. 39. Yonder Bognie ; View of Circle.

base 33 feet 10 inches, and, as all its sides are nearly vertical, this may be given as its average girth. The computed weight therefore is 10 tons 15 cwt. By magnetic compass its longer axis points 5 degrees N. of W. The West Pillar is 5 feet 7 inches in height measured on the outside, 5 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches on the inner side ; there is a space 12 inches wide between it and the Recumbent Stone.

The Standing Stone next in line, No. I., has a triangular base ; its height is 4 feet 6 inches ; close to it on the north is a half-sunken stone. The height of Stone II. is 3 feet 3 inches vertical, but it has a long slope to the west. The third Stone has fallen inwards ; its probable site is marked on the plan with a square cross ; its length is 6 feet, so far as it can now be measured, as about half of it runs into the ground. The

fourth Stone is 3 feet 8 inches above ground. It almost precisely faces the Recumbent Stone, from which it is distant 71 feet 6 inches, the true diameter of the Circle. The fifth and sixth Stones are awaiting, but the seventh lies only a foot or two within what must have been its original site; it is 5 feet 6 inches long and about 4 feet 6 inches broad. Between this Stone and the ground plans of two almost contiguous Stones on the S.E. arc lies what seems to be a fragment of the eighth Stone, but its true position cannot be definitely laid down. The ninth Stone, the larger of the two whose bases are shown close together, stands 5 feet 8 inches above the ground.



Fig. 40. Yonder Bognie; Sectional View.

The spaces between the Stones are—

Stone	I. to	II.	.	21 feet 3 inches.
"	II. "	III.	.	21 " 3 "
"	III. "	IV.	.	21 " 0 "
"	IV. "	V.	.	21 " 0 "
"	V. "	VI.	.	14 " 0 "
"	VI. "	VII.	.	17 " 0 "
"	VII. "	VIII.	. ?	17 " 0 "
"	VIII. "	IX.	. ?	17 " 0 "
"	IX. "	East Pillar		28 " 0 "
East Pillar to West Pillar				14 " 0 "
West Pillar to Stone I.				17 " 0 "

thus yielding a circumference of 204 feet 6 inches.

I have already commented upon the unusual smoothness of the interior of the Circle, that is, of its smoothness in general, and its freedom from

any indication whatever of a mound in the centre. There are, however, several projecting smallish stones in the space directly in front of the Recumbent Stone, some of which appear to be earthfast integral portions of the Circle, and others possibly stones once forming parts of a concentric setting, but long ago shifted out of their places. The largest of those which seem earthfast is at S on the plan, while the group at B calls for notice as suggestive of cists. For their relation in height to the Recumbent Stone see the sectional view (fig. 40).

No. 36. *Cairnton*.—About $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles S.S.W. of Yonder Bognie stand the two massive Stones on this farm, all that remains of a Circle shown

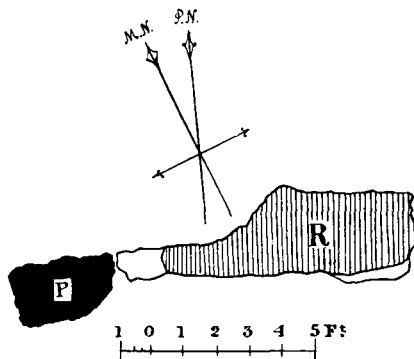


Fig. 41. Cairnton ; Plan of remains of Circle.

in the next two illustrations (figs. 41, 42). Even these two have not escaped mutilation, for it is evident on the first glance that this Recumbent Stone has suffered the loss of a full third of its mass.

This Circle-site is an example of what we have had several times to notice as regards position, namely, that it does not occupy the flat summit of the hill here, but is placed on ground facing eastwards.

Both these blocks of whinstone are rugged and unsymmetric, the Recumbent Stone having a considerable overhang at the extremity nearest the pillar, and the latter projecting on the south beyond the base-line of its neighbour.

The Recumbent Stone, probably about 12 tons in weight, measures in extreme length 9 feet 10 inches, greatest breadth of top 3 feet, at base 2 feet 10 inches, highest point outside 6 feet 3 inches, inside 4 feet 6 inches, and is nearly vertically set. The Pillar measures 8 feet 3 inches on the outside and 6 feet 9 inches inside.

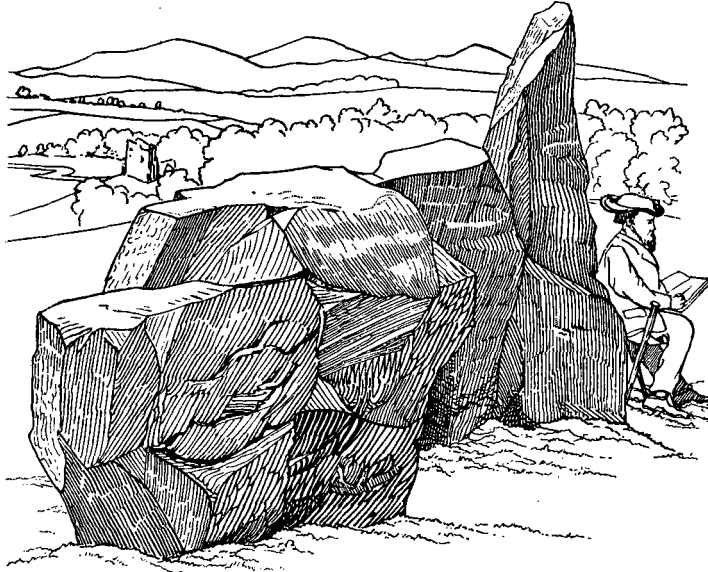


Fig. 42. Cairnton ; View of Recumbent Stone and Pillar.

No. 37. *Kimmony*.—Above Hillhead of Avochie, at a height of over 400 feet, just within the border of Banffshire, there is a wood-crowned summit, and upon it the O.M. shows the symbol for the site of a Stone Circle which appears to have been 50 feet in diameter. This site was passed at some distance as I pursued my road towards the much more important one at Rothiemay, and there so much was found to put on record that the fast fading sunlight of late September barely sufficed. Hence I can say nothing of this site, nor have I been able to learn anything concerning it.

No. 38. *Rothiemy Home Farm*.—This locality marks the extreme north-western limit to which our investigations were carried. The site is distant from the last about one mile and a furlong to the N.N.E., but both are separated from the circles at Yonder Bognie and Cairnton by a tract of country between 3 and 4 miles wide, and for a far greater space to the north and the west the country is absolutely devoid of circles. A few cairns are, or were, to be found.

Local circumstances seemed rather combined against the investigation of the remains of this Circle. The field in which it is situated was, during that last week of September, deep in corn, which in some parts had grown up to an unprecedented height, and in others was lying uncut in heavy swathes, wind-dashed and rain-rotted—both conditions infinitely perplexing to the surveyor. Not a soul about the place seemed to care whether the corn was likely to be further injured by my examination of the Circle, still less was any assistance offered in the great difficulties of its mensuration. My thus somewhat uncertain triangulating was, however, on my return to Edinburgh, checked by an unusually clear plan drawn on one of the O.M. 25-inch scale sheets; therefore the want of minute accuracy has, I trust, been reduced to a minimum.

The site of this once noble specimen of the typical Stone Circle of North-eastern Scotland is in the second field, to the north of the Home Farm steadings, and its most northerly stone (C on plan, fig. 43) is 46 yards from a gateway opening on to the road to Aberchirder. I have not been able to learn when or for what reason so many of its Standing Stones were removed, but at present there are but four, in addition to a grand, very massive Recumbent Stone, set as usual near the S.W. point. The four Standing Stones are nearly on the circumference of a Circle which measured 77 feet 6 inches in diameter, magnetic N. and S. (*i.e.* from stone C to stone H), and 83 feet measured from the Recumbent Stone to a point where a stone probably once stood. On working this out, we obtain spaces for a Circle of twelve stones in all, including the Recumbent Stone group. There is, however, one remarkable feature in the arrangement of these stones, that is, the circumference of the Circle

upon which B, C and H are standing runs much within Stone I. and the Recumbent Stone. In other words, we seem to have here the remnant of an arrangement extremely similar to that observed in the great circle

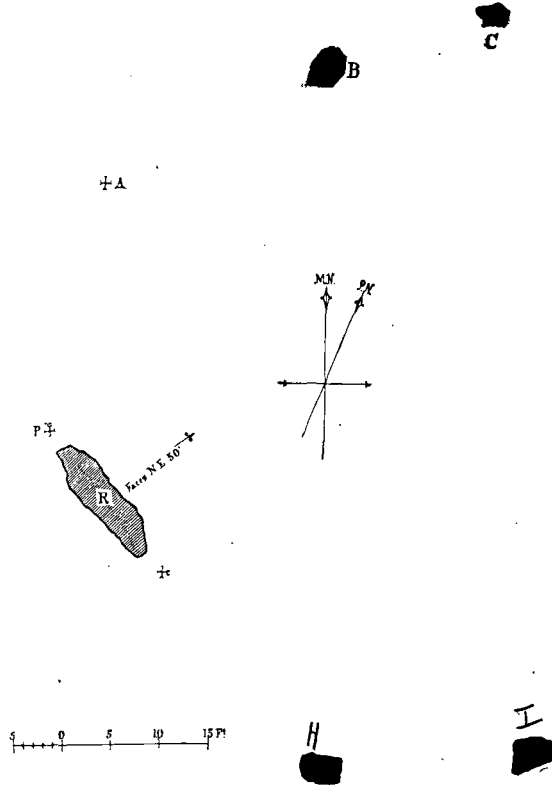


Fig. 43. Rothiemay ; Plan of Circle.

at Auchquhorthies¹ in Banchory-Devenick, where the Recumbent Stone is not 'in line' with the great standing stones, but rather with the concentric inner setting of smaller blocks on edge. All the stones are of the blue whin.

¹ See *Proceedings*, vol. xxxiv. p. 145.

Taking the Stones in their order from right to left, their heights are—

Stone H	.	6 feet 3 inches,	pointed, and with broad 'shelf'	facing inwards.
„ I	.	5 „ 9	„	rather pointed.
„ B	.	6 „ 0	„	with rounded top.
„ C	.	6 „ 2	„	with flat top.

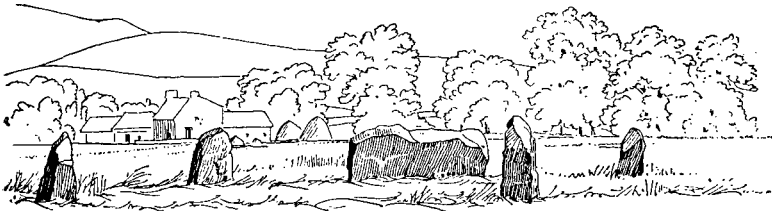


Fig. 44. Rothiemay ; View of Circle from the North.



Fig. 45. Rothiemay ; View from the West.

The Recumbent Stone measures on the ground 13 feet 6 inches by 4 feet in greatest breadth. Its fullest length about the middle is 14 feet 4 inches. In height it varies, being so irregular on portions of its top ; at the east extremity, it is 4 feet 8 inches ; its outer edge is 5 feet 7 inches at the east, and 5 feet 3 inches at the west. On its inner side its height varies from 3 feet 8 inches to 4 feet 9 inches. It is vertically

set, and faces N.E. 5 degrees E. of N.E. (by compass). (See figs. 44, 45.) It may be about 12 tons in weight.

On its vertical inner face is a large group of cup-marks (fig. 46), beginning at a point 7 feet 5 inches distant from the eastern edge, and occupying nearly all the rest of the lower space close up to the western edge. These cup-marks are twenty in number, and vary in size from

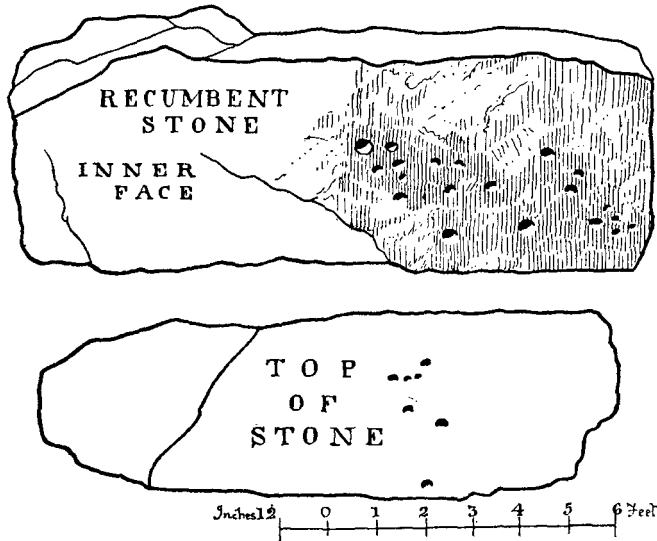


Fig. 46. Rothiemay ; Plans of Cup-marks on Recumbent Stone.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter to those few which are 3 inches in diameter. The cups are on the best and smoothest portion of the stone ; they are all of nearly a uniform depth of $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch.

The top of the Stone also (fig. 46) shows cup-marks,—four small ones in a curve near the outer edge, two larger near the middle, and one large one close to the inner edge. All these cup-marks are shown in the two illustrations included in fig. 46, accurately to scale, and in exact relation to each other as groups.

The cup-marks here were observed (I think for the first time) in August 1883 by Mr A. Ramsay, President of the Banffshire Field Club, at a joint meeting between the Inverness Scientific Society and that club, held at Banff on that date.

No. 39. Whitehill Wood, Forglen.—At this hill-summit we reach the most northerly site as yet dealt with in these surveys, its position being on the north bank of the river Deveron, here flowing through a beautiful and richly wooded landscape, at a point slightly to the north of west from Turriff railway station 3 miles and a furlong, in a direct line between it and the middle of Aberchirder, from which the Circle is distant $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. These distances, however, do but feebly express the actual amount of walking involved in reaching this remote and unknown site, to which both the winding of the paths and the undulations of the ground contributed—to the loss of time certainly, but also to the strenuous pleasure of overcoming obstacles in a strip of country thickly wooded, traversed by unexpected streams, and unusually full of steep abrupt declivities. Had we been unprovided with a compass it is much to be doubted whether this Circle could have been included in the Report, no one at any of the farms where we made inquiry knowing of the existence of a Whitehill Wood in this neighbourhood.

Even when the densely wooded summit was gained, there being no landmarks from which to take bearings, much time was spent amid the interwoven pine branches and ferny undergrowth, until at last one great stone, unmistakably grey amid the wealth of bracken, became visible, then a second, and a third, and so on we pieced the Circle together into a ring of seven stones. So luxuriant and dense was the growth of these specimens of *Pteris aquilina*¹ that the whole interior of the Circle had to be cleared with our knives before any two of the stones could be seen simultaneously.

For the above cogent reasons, it has been impossible to append any view of Whitehill Wood Circle; for, apart from the bracken, the thickly

¹ The majority were over 5 feet 6 inches in height, and some which we measured exceeded 7 feet.

planted firs so encroached upon the stones as to render any drawing of them as a group quite out of the question. I have, however, made sectional views from our measurements (fig. 48).

This Circle is shown, even on the 1-inch O.M., as a dotted ring, and on the 25-inch sheet as a group of eight stones, set in a nearly circular form, near the summit of the hill, $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile to the N.E. of Carnousie House. Some 115 yards due south of it the O.M. also shows an indistinctly circular spot called *Cairn Ennit*. To this we shall presently recur.

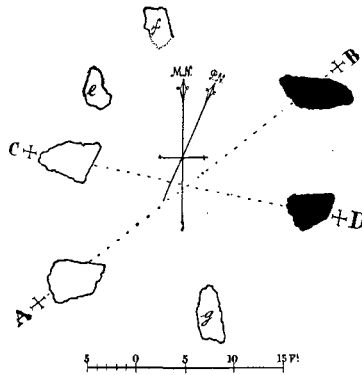


Fig. 47. Whitehill Wood, Forglen ; Plan of Circle.

Two stones only are now erect, full on the east arc (B and D on the plan, fig. 47). The spaces between the stones, centre to centre, are—

From A to C	.	.	12 feet	8 inches.
„ C to e	.	.	7 „	10 „
„ e to f	.	.	9 „	0 „
„ f to B	.	.	17 „	0 „
„ B to D	.	.	12 „	5 „
„ D to g	.	.	15 „	3 „
„ g to A	.	.	14 „	9 „

yielding a circumference of just 89 feet.

If the small stone *e* is to be included as an integral member of the Circle, it is out of symmetry with the others. The stone next it on the north, *f* in the plan, though it looks (thus shown) also small, is really a large stone, its lower extremity running into the ground. Were it raised to the vertical from the outside, its base would rest on a point (close to the *M* of the compass-mark, just equidistant from *C* and *B*). As so many of these stones are fallen, it is mere speculation to suggest their original positions. The average diameter may be set down as 29 feet.

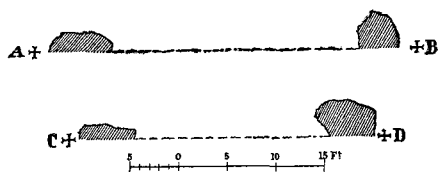


Fig. 48. Whitehill Wood, Forglen ; Sections.

The dimensions and characteristics of the stones are as follow :—

- A, fallen, 6 feet 3 inches × 4 feet 6 inches, centrally-ridged.
- C, ,, 5 ,, 6 ,, × 4 ,, 6 ,, whin, quartz-veined.
- e*, ,, 4 ,, 0 ,, × 1 ,, 10 ,, very quartzitic, lumpy.
- f*, ,, total length unascertainable, breadth 2 feet 8 inches,
18 inches above ground at the north end.
- B, 4 feet in height, 7 feet 10 inches long, 3 feet 3 inches broad ;
whinstone.
- D, 4 feet in height, 5 feet long, 3 feet 8 inches broad.
- g*, fallen, 6 feet 2 inches × 2 feet 7 inches ; whinstone.

As would be expected, in such a damp situation the stones are thickly overgrown with lichens and mosses, but so far as it was possible to guess at their mineral composition from exposed fragments, they are as above stated. The central area is very uneven and lumpy, but whether this was referable to its being stony in addition to being crammed with the roots of the great ferns, we had no leisure to

examine, as heavy showers came on, preventing more than a passing glance at *Cairn Ennit* as we retraced our steps down to the Turriff road.

In describing *Cairn Riv* and its *Carlin Stone*,¹ reference was made to the fact that it seemed a feature of this district to call a low mound of small stones surrounded by great stones or boulders a cairn. This *Cairn Ennit* further illustrates this peculiarity. What was its precise original form cannot now be guessed at, but in our hasty exit from the dripping woods we saw at least that several good-sized blocks of quartzitic whinstone were lying on the circumference of a circle some 80 or 90 feet wide, and on the southern arc—relatively in much the same position as the Carlin Stone to Cairn Riv—an enormous boulder, which we roughly measured, and found to be nearly 8 feet in height and about 11 feet in length.

CONCLUSION.

In grouping these various megalithic remains into an order of classification by which they may be compared with those that have been previously investigated, I shall begin by placing together—(1) those sites which are bereft of all remnant of a group or of a single Standing Stone: such are Hillhead of Forgue, Stonehill, Auchaber Wood, Towie, West Haughs, Burreldales, Kimmony. (2) Sites occupied by a Monolith: Wardes, Back Fonet, Braeneil, Woodend of Cluny, Luath Stone, Tow Stone, Candle Stone, Conglas, Congalton, Woof Stone, and N. Monkshill. (3) Sites, once of Circles, but of which only one or two Stones remain: Mill of Schivas Wood, Hallgreens, Crichton and Fedderat Stones, Uppertthird, Crofts of Shielburn, Rappalwood, Greymuir Cairn. (4) Sites having had Stone Circles possessing a Recumbent Stone: Nether Corskie, Rappalburn, Mains of Hatton, Corrydown, Pitglassie, Cairn Riv, Feith-Hill, Yonder Bognie, Cairnton and Rothiemay. (5) Circles of Standing Stones without a Recumbent Stone: East and West Circles at Backhill of Drachlaw, Raich, three small Circles at Logie Newton, and the Circle in Whitehill Wood, Forglen.

¹ *Supra*, p. 124.

The current Report thus deals with forty-two sites. Putting aside those which are mere sites (seven in all) and the eleven Standing Stones, there is a residue of seven sites where only one or two Stones now remain to prove the former existence of a group; these being deducted, the result obtained is, that in all this extensive district there now remain but seventeen sites, of which it is possible to affirm that in ten the circle had a Recumbent Stone, and that in the other seven that marked feature was absent. And even of many of these it is not possible to state with accuracy either the number of the Stones or the diameter of the Circle.

It has also been shown that in the majority of examples the site selected is not on a conspicuous hill-summit. There is, for instance, no one Circle erected upon a summit commanding a prospect of many other Circles, as we found to be the case in a previous survey¹ at the Candle Hill of Inch.

The only examples of Circles placed upon specially conspicuous hills, *i.e.* conspicuous probably at the period of their erection, though now obscured by woods, are the two at Mill of Schivas and Whitehill Wood in Forglen. Of the former of these, nothing can be stated descriptive of its type; but of the latter, it is interesting to note that it is a small circle composed of not strikingly large Stones, and that it has no Recumbent Stone or other special feature.

In another respect this Report is lacking in interest, so few of the Circles have yielded any relics; in other words, there is no record of any relics being found, for the sufficient reason that the removal of Standing Stones, or the cursory examination of the ground enclosed by them, took place so long ago that no authentic account of such is obtainable. But it is certainly important to bear in mind that in the one instance of the Circle Cairn at Burreldales, Rappla Wood, in which a careful excavation was made, the results went far to prove the sepulchral character of the site.

I append a Tabular Summary, in which the usual facts concerning the Circles are laid down.

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. xxxvi. p. 545.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF CIRCLES ABOVE DESCRIBED.

Survey No.	Locality.	Parish.	Diameters in Feet.	Peculiar Features.	Relics found.
7	Nether Corskie	Cluny	...	The two Pillars <i>in situ</i> . (Recumbent Stone gone)	
10	Mill of Schivas	Methlick	? 90 × 90		
13	Logie Newton	Auchterless	East 18' 6" Middle 22' 9" West 21' 0"	One Stone <i>in situ</i>	
14	Upper Third	"	? 80 × 80	Standing Stones set round low Cairn	Three different forms of interment; with an Urn and a Bronze Blade.
16	Burrekales	Fyvie	? 130		
17	Burrekales: Rappia Wood	"	About 50 × 50		
25	Corrydown	Auchterless	Probably 75 × 75	Recumbent Stone	
26	Mains of Hatton	"	About 67 × 67	" "	
27	Harestane, Feith-hill	Inverkeithny	About 60 × 60	" "	
28	Crofts of Shiel- burn	"	? 50		
29	Backhill of Drachlaw, E.	"	30 × 30	Very massive Stones	
30	Backhill of Drachlaw, W.	"	? 30 × 30		
32	Cairn Riv	"	? 80 × 80	Recumbent Stone of unusually great dimensions	In near vicinity, a Stone Axe-Hammer, Bronze Armlets, Flint Chips, and Button of Jet.
33	Greymuir Cairn	"	? 55		
34	Raich	Forgue	18 × 18	Large Stones set upon very distinct mound	
35	Yonder Bognie	"	71 × 71	Recumbent Stone	
36	Cairnton	"		" "	
38	Rothemay	Rothemay	77 × 183	Recumbent Stone facing N. 50° E. (M.)	
39	Whitehill Wood	Forglan	29 × 29	Small Circle of Standing Stones on summit of conspicuous hill	

MONDAY, 9th February 1903.

DAVID MURRAY, LL.D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, the following were duly elected Fellows :—

Rev. DAVID JOHNSTONE, Minister of Quarff, Shetland.

W. C. M'EWEN, M.A., W.S., 9 Douglas Crescent.

HUGH F. RANKIN, Principal of the Anglo-Chinese College, Amoy, China.

ALEXANDER WHITELAW, of Gartshore, Kirkintilloch.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the Donors :—

(1) By A. H. MILLAR, F.S.A. Scot.

Casts of the Seal of the Burgh of Crail, and of the Seal of the Chapter of the Abbey of Coupar in Angus.

(2) By Sir FRANCIS TRESS BARRY, Bart., M.P., Hon. F.S.A. Scot.

Collection from the Sands of Luce Bay, Wigtownshire, comprising :—

Flint Implements.—Two leaf-shaped Arrow-heads; one hollow-based Spear-head; one Knife; eleven pointed Tools; two Saws; two Borers; two hollow Scrapers; thirty-one Scrapers; twelve Flakes, more or less worked.

Other Stone Implements.—Two whole and two broken Whetstones; three Whorls, one broken; one small ring of Slate; one small oval disc of Sandstone, with central depressions opposite each other.

Objects in Jet, etc.—Six fragments of rings or Bracelets of Jet; one Jet Bead, perforated; one globular Jet Bead, partly perforated; one Bead of Amber; one broken Bead of Mottled Stone.

Objects in Bronze.—Three flat strips of Bronze Mountings; two Strips, tubular; one Pin, with globular head.

Pottery.—Two Pieces, showing ornamented rims.

(3) By JOHN COWAN, W.S., F.S.A. Scot.

Flint Arrow-head, with barbs and stem, found at Ailick, Cluney, Perthshire.

(4) By ALEXANDER WOOD INGLIS, F.S.A. Scot.

Old Oaken Coffe, with brass mountings, hasp, and lock.

(5) By the TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

Catalogue of Early Christian Antiquities in the British Museum. 4to. 1901.

Catalogue of the Works of Art bequeathed to the British Museum by Baron Rothschild. 4to. 1901.

Catalogue of Greek Coins; Lydia. 8vo. 1901.

(6) By CHAS. H. READ, F.S.A. Scot.

A Guide to the Antiquities of the Stone Age in the British Museum. By C. H. Read, Keeper of the British and Mediæval Department of Antiquities. 8vo. 1902.

(7) By H. F. RANKIN, Principal of the Anglo-Chinese College, Amoy, through Dr A. M'GILLIVRAY, F.S.A. Scot.

Part of a Book in the Batak Language, Sumatra, probably relating to Magic.

The following Communications were read :—