

Carn Mor Dun, Culbokie

Archaeological Measured Survey



National Grid Reference	NH 6033 5859
Author	Mary Peteranna
Site Code	CUL12
Report No.	2012-08/CUL12
Client	Forestry Commission Scotland
Date	28-03-2012
OASIS No.	rosscrom1-122186

CONTENTS

1	Introduction	2
2	Background	2
3	Methodology	2
4	Results	3

List of Illustrations

1	Looking across the second rampart, first rampart visible in background	3
2	Plan 1 – Carn Mor Dun	4

Carn Mor Dun, Culbokie
Archaeological Measured Survey
Methodology and Results

Summary

A measured archaeological survey of Carn Mor Dun, located in the village of Culbokie, north of Inverness, was conducted on 24-25 February 2012. The site was situated in a clearing within a conifer plantation belonging to Forestry Commission Scotland. The dun comprised three concentric ramparts with an entrance in the SW side.

1. Introduction

An archaeological measured survey of *Carn Mor Dun*, Culbokie was conducted on 24-25 February 2012. The purpose of the fieldwork was to record the details of the dun ramparts, to show the spread of the walls, the contours of the surrounding landscape and location of paths.

2. Background

- 2.1 *Carn Mor Dun* is located in the village of Culbokie on the Black Isle north of Inverness at National Grid Reference NH 6033 5859. It is situated in a clearing within a conifer plantation at the southeast end of Culbokie, east of a housing estate. It is located at approximately 109m OD.
- 2.2 *Carn Mor Dun*, situated on a slight knoll, is a circular dun with an entrance in the southwest and an internal diameter of approximately 18m. In 1873, it was recorded, that human remains had been found in the interior of the structure in 1859¹.

3. Methodology

- 3.1 The dun was surveyed using a Leica Total Station. Three survey stations, located on the national grid using DGPS, were set up in order to capture the entire site and surrounding landscape.
- 3.2 Prior to collection of data points, the site was surveyed and recorded using digital photography. High pole camera photography was attempted but, due to the scale and situation of the site, it was largely unsuccessful. The following details were recorded during the measured survey: location of all features, details of wall spread, wall height, contour data, path locations and any hollows within the structure.
- 3.3 Data collected in the field was processed using ArcMap GIS software to produce measured survey plans.

¹ Highland Historic Environment Record (HER) No. MHG7117

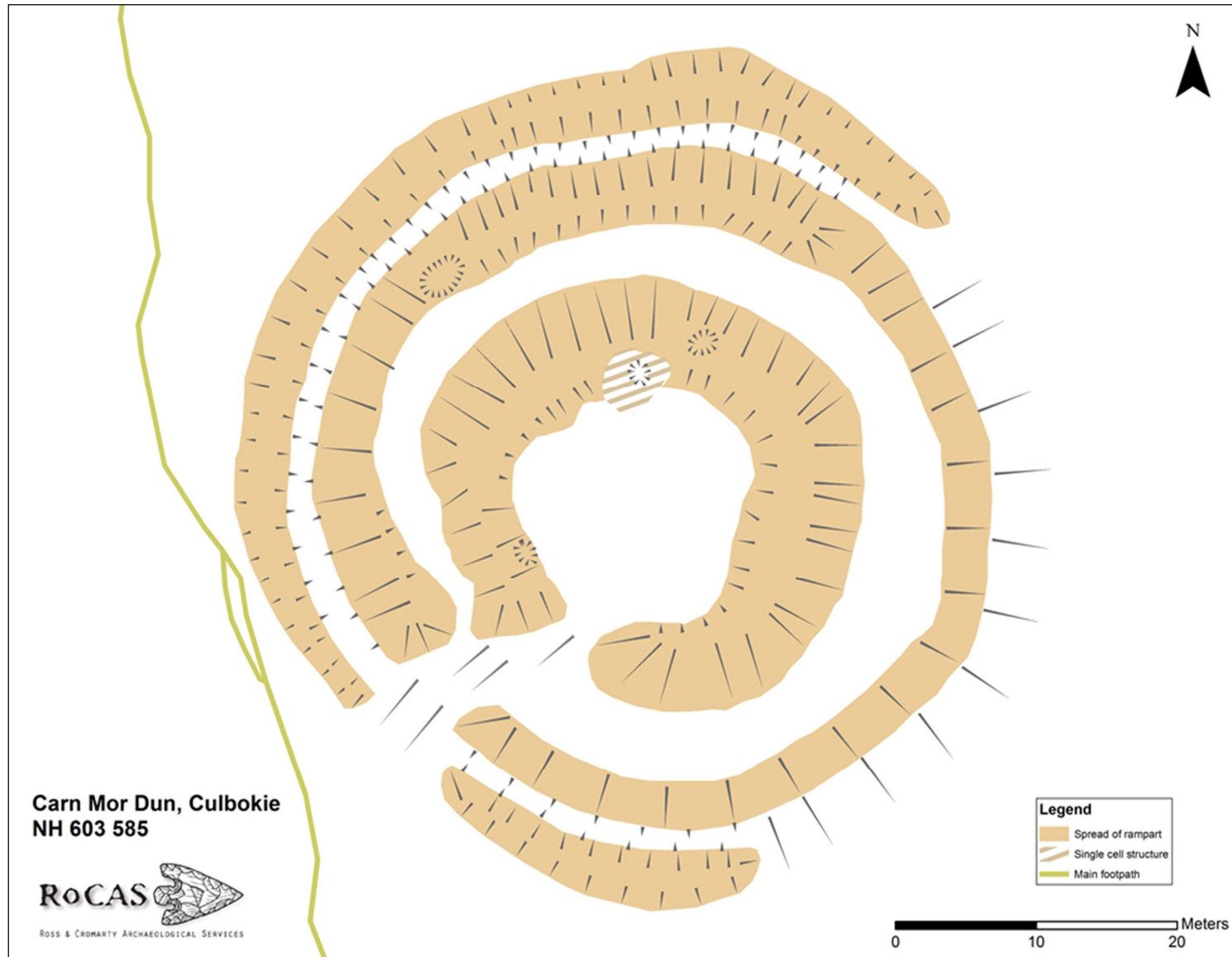
4. Results

- 4.1 The dun was in good condition, although covered in grasses, heather and bracken. The overlying vegetation had been recently cut back in advance of the survey. The Yew tree referred to in earlier records still stands in the centre of the structure.
- 4.2 The dun comprised three concentric ramparts with an entrance in the southwest. The northwest quadrant of the site was best preserved, where the wall height of the second (central) rampart stood up to approximately 1.8m high. There were no visible wall faces. The first rampart (innermost) was spread up to 8.3m wide and its internal diameter measured 16.2m across. The second and third ramparts, where preserved, spread up to 5m across. The entire site measured 56.5m in diameter, NW-SE, to the base of the third (outermost) rampart. The second and third ramparts were only visible as breaks of slope in the SE quadrant of the site. It is possible that the walling for the second and third ramparts was not continuous on all sides.

Portions of the ditch, approximately 1.4m wide, between the third (outer) and second rampart were visible in places.



Illus. 1 Looking across the second rampart with the first (inner rampart) visible in background



Illus.2 Plan 1, Carn Mor dun