

Mains of Coul Laide and site of Mill

Alternative names – Coul House

Type of site – Laide and site of mill

Location Contin Parish

NGR - NH 46208 56290 (SE end) to NH 45083 57848 (NW end)

NMRS No -

SMR No

Description

The laide is, for much of its length, well preserved being generally 1-1.5m in width and 0.5m deep. It starts 2kms to the NNW of the village of Contin at an unnamed burn and initially passes through an obvious rock cut defile 2m deep x 2.5m width x 10m length. The laide contours around the hill to the north of Contin village, making a gradual winding descent from NW – SE. Its destination is the site of a threshing mill at Mains of Coul, a direct distance of two kilometres from the originating burn, but probably 3 kilometres with all the twists and turns. For the first half of its length the laide is within commercial forest, it then passes through a natural oak wood before entering open fields. It has been truncated in places by forest roads or agricultural activity. In the SE part it has been ploughed out but reappears in a young plantation and runs for 200m before entering a stone lined box culvert; it then runs underground for the remainder of its course first around the east side of Coul House Hotel and then turning SW towards the west side of the main farm building at Mains of Coul where there is evidence of a wheel slot which is now filled in with concrete. The laide is marked on the First Edition OS Survey of 1872 but there is no mention of the mill

Recorded by members of NOSAS 3.02.2012.

Also recorded were:

Probable Military camp – in the field to the NW of Coul House there are at least two grassy platforms, both 25m x 9m

A. Centred on NH 46021 56693 – on a NW-SE alignment

B. Centred on NH 45959 56662 – on a E-W alignment

Other humps and bumps may be significant but nothing could be clearly identified

Sheepdip and enclosure

Centred on NH 45832 56823. This well preserved sheepdip is on an E-W alignment and comprises the dip, a concrete trench 3.5m length x 0.5m deep (approx) with two concrete platforms one at each end – these measure 3.5m x 3m (west) and 2m x 2m(east).

The remains of a stone enclosure wall grossly overgrown with bracken and vegetation are probably associated. A laide passes through the lower part of the enclosure

The enclosure wall is marked on the 1st edition OS map of 1875 and a sheepfold with possible sheepdip is marked on the 2nd edition OS map of 1902