

**A Project to Identify, Survey and Record
Archaeological Remains in Strathconon, Ross-shire**

**Report of Phase Four
Strathanmore to Loch Beannacharain
May 2008 - June 2009**



With the kind permission of the Strathconon Estate
This report is produced with financial assistance from the Marc Fitch Fund

The Report of Phase 4 – Strathanmore to Loch Beannacharain, Strathconon

**of a Project to Identify, Survey and Record Archaeological
remains in Strathconon, Ross-shire
carried out by the North of Scotland Archaeological Society,**

May 2008 to June 2009

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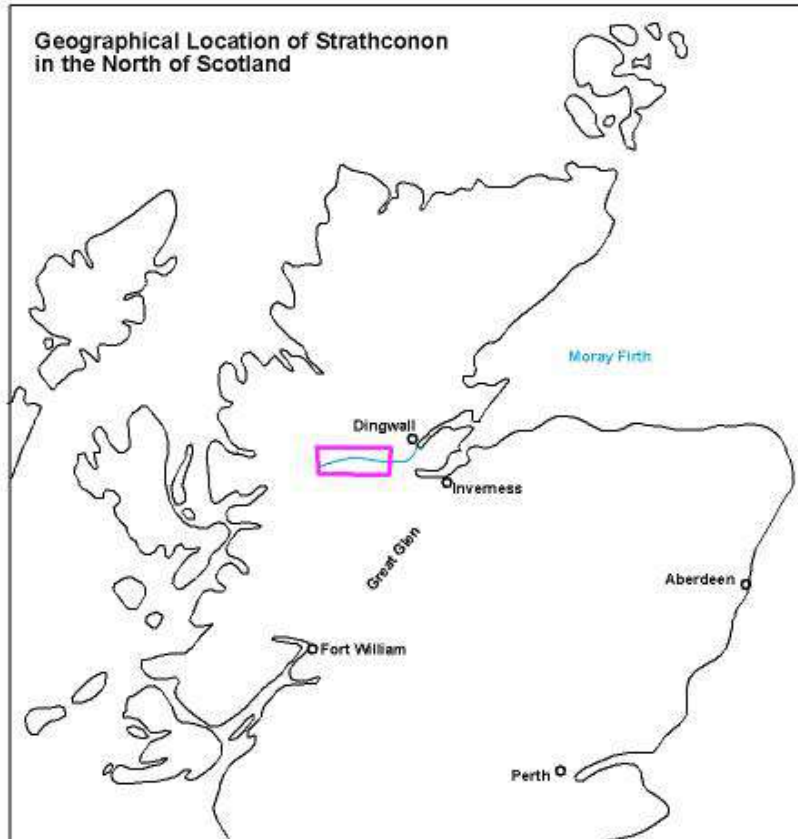
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Scotland's Rural Past is a five-year nationwide project that has been set up to support local communities to research, record and raise awareness of abandoned rural settlements. The project is hosted by RCAHMS, with partnership funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and The National Trust for Scotland.

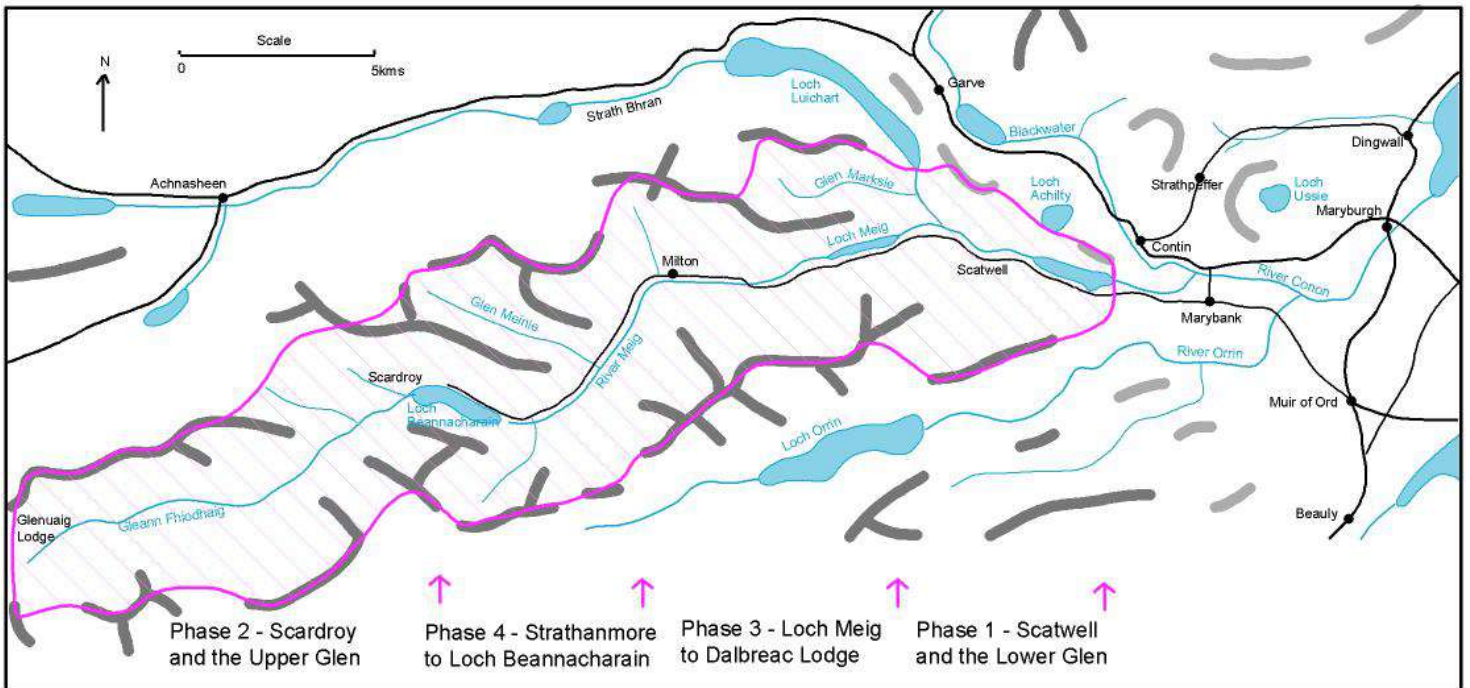
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1. Location of Strathconon and the different phases of the project



Location of the Strathconon Project and the different Phases



2. The Strathconon Project: Phase 4 – Strathanmore to Loch Beannacharain

2.1 Introduction

Phase 4 of the project was actually the third phase to be completed, the fieldwork taking place between May 2008 and June 2009. The aim of the project as a whole was to identify and record the archaeological remains in Strathconon, but because the glen extends over quite a large area we had divided it into 4 separate phases. The 4 phases of the project were;

- Phase 1 - the lower glen, principally the Estate of Scatwell, east of the Meig Dam. This part of the project was the first to be undertaken and was completed in 2007
- Phase 2 - the upper glen, from Scardroy westwards to the watershed. An area of 25 km² of remote hill land with the north side of the river being part of the Scardroy Estate and the south side of the river part of the Strathconon Estate. This Phase was completed between May 2007 and December 2007.
- Phase 3 - the east part of the middle section of the glen, comprising the part of the Strathconon Estate from the Meig Dam to Dalbreac. It has most of the populated settlements today and includes Milton, Porin, Dalnacroich, Bridgend, Achlorachan, Glacour and East Balnault. Part of this section was explored in the winter of 2007/2008, the remainder being completed between August and October 2009.
- Phase 4 - The west part of the middle section of the glen which extends from Strathanmore to Loch Beannacharain and includes Druimfern (Carnoch Church), Invermeinie and Glen Meinich, Blar na Beithe, Inverchoran and Carnoch. It is mostly part of the Strathconon Estate, with Carnoch Farm part of the Scardroy Estate. This phase was completed between May 2008 and June 2009

With 2 very different Phases, 1 and 2, behind us we were gaining in experience and expertise. Phase 4, the next one to be tackled, was in many respects the largest. It certainly covered the largest area of previously settled ground and we were looking forward to finding evidence of the townships and farmsteads which had been occupied on a permanent basis. In Phase 2 we had located an abundance of sheiling sites and the remains of many structures thought to be still bothies. Would Phase 4 be the same? We certainly anticipated many sheilings since there were several side valleys that appeared to have the potential for them; Gleann Meinich and Gleann Chorainn for example, and in one instance we had the place name, Loch Airigh Lochain at NH 287487 on the map (the element airigh translates as "sheiling" in Gaelic). We had found many still bothies in both of the previous phases; with Strathconons' reputation for illicit whisky, surely this phase had to be the same.

Most of Phase 4 is on the Strathconon Estate, with a small part, at Carnoch, part of the Scardroy Estate. In general the going was much easier than that of Phase 1 (Scatwell) and 2. Unlike Scatwell there are very few forested areas, and with the road traversing the glen, nowhere was as remote as some of the places of the Upper glen. However some of the long side glens were difficult of access and we were grateful to the Estate for allowing us to drive up some of the tracks. In many of the more fertile places, particularly on south facing slopes, bracken was a problem; it extended quite high up the hill. Inevitably this was where we were going to find the features so timing was critical, we were however able to continue our fieldwork through most of the winter since it was relatively mild. Much of the flat valley floor of the main glen has grassy fields and enclosures, with some sheep and cattle, but very little cultivation. Deer are plentiful and there is evidence of them being fed in the wintertime. There are half a dozen well maintained settlements, but very few of the buildings are permanently occupied, most are holiday cottages.

2.2 Method

As before the historical and documentary research continues and will continue for a good while yet. Two more trips to the National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh have been made. More rentals have been traced and more references followed up. We were excited to find some old photographs from the period 1853-1880 in the National Archive¹. Though most of these photographs concern the area surveyed in Phase 3 of the project they gave us a pictorial glimpse of at least one part of the glen at that time. Of particular interest to Phase 4 of the project were two photographs; different angles of the same cottage at Strathanmore – did the cottage still exist and if not would we be able to find the remains of it? The Roy map of c.1750 was not particularly useful for this phase, but the Strathconon Estate map of 1825 (NAS RHP 2525) was more helpful and, as ever, the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881 (surveyed 1875) was useful. The Old Parish Records and the Census Records of 1841 to 1901 proved useful, as did the newspapers and the aerial photographs of 1947 from the Highland Councils Archaeology Unit which showed abundant evidence of the

exploitation of timber around Inverchoran during WW2. We are very grateful to Aonghas MacChoinnich of the University of Glasgow's Department of Celtic for his research and essay on "*Strathconon, Scatwell and the Mackenzies in the written record, c.1463 – c.1700*"; his encouragement and help is much appreciated. The paper is included in full in the report for Phase 3.

Following on the usual format of NOSAS field days, dates were flagged up and interested NOSAS members recruited. The area was walked over, with likely locations being inspected. Generally the going was easy, but as we explored the higher places it became quite rough. The river can be quite an obstacle but there are several foot bridges and we were able to plan a circular route on many occasions, or on others, drop folk off at one place so that they could do a linear walk and then be picked up at another. We carried small radios to facilitate this and also for safety's sake.

The recording and, where appropriate surveying, was continued in the manner described in previous reports. Briefly, each site is recorded by taking a 10 figure grid reference using a GPS, taking written details and digital photographs, and drawing measured sketches where possible. On some occasions, rough measurements were taken by pacing, or on others tapes were used. An overall plan of the more complex sites was also produced so that the features could be seen in relation to each other. The features were also to be photographed using a digital SLR camera - only selected photographs are reproduced here in the report, the complete set of photographs is available on a DVD. Each sub-site or feature was given its own three figure number. All associated features would then be grouped together for entering on the record.

Copies of the full report are to be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (Highland Council), National Monument Record of Scotland, Historic Scotland, Dingwall Museum and the North of Scotland Archaeological Society.

2.3 Historical background

Some of the history of Strathconon as a whole has been dealt with in previous reports and once again it is not intended to repeat what has already been written. The earlier period and the illicit whisky scene have been explored in the report for Phase 3. In this report it is intended to dwell on 3 different aspects in greater depth; those of the sheiling system, the ecclesiastical history and the Improvement period with the introduction of sheep farming. Now that we are a good way through the project as a whole it is possible to start analyzing some of the data that we have been collecting and some of the results are given here.

In 1486, the Earl of Ross granted the lands of Meyne, Scatwell, Innermanny, Innerquhonray and Kinloch Benquharene to Kenneth MacKenzie of Kintail, Chief of Clan Mackenzie (Munro and Munro p201). A hereditary right to the lands by his son, John Mackenzie of Kintail, was confirmed by Royal Charter in 1508. The lands of Meyne or Maine in the rentals of 1726-28² comprise the settlements of the central part of the glen (Phase 3 of this project). Throughout the ages this central area of Milton, Dalbreac, Porin, Dalnacroich and Bridgend was probably the hub of the glen; a meeting place and an administrative centre for the people. But the other early settlements referred to in the documents and in the upper glen; those of Invermeinie, Inverchoran, and Kinloch Beannacharain have been equally important until relatively recently, each supporting a similar, if not larger population than that of the central area; this is clearly demonstrated by the 18th century rentals. The settlements are situated at the outlets of the significant tributaries of the River Meig; where alluvial soils had been brought down by these tributaries and fertile patches of arable ground created. These side glens too, would have provided substantial summer grazings for the animals of a pastoral society.

Cattle and the sheiling system in Strathconon

Clan society in the late medieval period, and right up to the Improvement period, would have relied heavily on cattle and the sheiling system. This system required the movement of livestock, usually cattle but also goats and sheep, to summer pastures in the mountains away from the townships where the crops were growing. Generally the womenfolk and the children would go up to the sheiling grounds where they lived in small huts or sheilings for the summer period. A significant part of their time would have been spent in processing the milk from the livestock; making butter, cheese and other dairy products. From a rental of 1717 and a list of inhabitants in 1798 it can be deduced that the number of households was consistently high in the upper part of Strathconon during the 18th Century. The cultivatable land was extremely limited and the people would have relied on cattle, not just for subsistence, but also for export, so that they could acquire cash in order to buy grain and pay the rent. The early 18th century rentals indicate a cash economy; cattle would almost certainly have been exported to the south, particularly after the Union of 1707. 85 sheilings were recorded in Phase 2 of the project. Clusters of the small turf or turf and stone buildings, the remains of the huts in which the people would have resided, were located throughout the upper glen on every favourable bit of ground besides a burn. They indicate that the sheiling system was an important part of the economy.

Aonghas MacCoinnich writes:

“While there was cultivation in some sections of the strath, most of this land was marginal agricultural land. Cattle production, rather than arable farming, was the main focus of activity on the Strathconon section of the wider Kintail/Seaforth estates. This is reflected in the explicit mention in a number of conveyancing documents (and evident in the place-names) of grazings and sheilings. These place-names would not be mentioned in such documents unless there was a distinct economic angle to the transaction, although often this is implicit rather than explicit, and we have - unless future research clarifies this - little to quantify the precise nature of the cattle-rearing operation on the Kintail/Seaforth estates, including Strathconon, other than confidently saying it was substantial. Research by Dr Alasdair Ross on the Stratha’an estate, and on Breadalbane lands where documentation does exist clearly indicate the importance of such intensive cattle-farming on highland estates during this period. It would seem that the Mackenzie management of their estates including the Strathconon area, with an emphasis on cattle farming on marginal lands, closely paralleled what was happening elsewhere in Highland Scotland during this period.” (MacCoinnich 2009)

Although it is probable that many sheilings were within easy reach of the settlements, particularly in the upper glen, in some cases sheiling grounds could be situated at great distances from their main settlements. Some places may have had sheilings in the upper reaches of Glen Orrin for example, or there may have been some overlap with other settlements. Aonghas MacCoinnich again:

“In 1667 the lands of Comrie and Tarvie had their grazings in Glennuiak (Gleann Fhiodag NH 110 479) in the upper reaches of the River Meig (NAS GD 1/1149/26)” (MacCoinnich 2009)

Some shieling grounds were placed strategically on estate boundaries and estate owners ensured their occupation to prevent trespass by tenants of neighbouring estates. Aonghas MacCoinnich again, although this example is to prevent intrusion of the Strathconon people into neighbouring estates:

“These days we might consider the remote hills as a wasteland or wilderness, but several hundred years ago they were keenly contested, not just for their potential as hunting and fishing grounds but also their value as summer grazing. They were jealously guarded. Mr James Fraser, writer of the Wardlaw manuscripts (1660) informs us that the Tutor of Lovat at Beaully in 1589 gave the lands of Ardnagrask to Donald and John MacIver in order that they might keep the marches along the River Orrin, between Ardnacrask and Coire Chaibre, secure “against the Strathconon men” (A MacCoinnich, 2009/W Mackay, *Chronicles of the Frasers* 1904)”

In 1791 the Old Statistical Account (OSA) for the Parish of Contin confirms that cattle were still a substantial part of the economy:

“The people are averse to inclosures as they wish to have all kinds of pasture in common. The (famine) situation of 1782 and 1783 was truly deplorable and no doubt many of the poorer sort must have died from want, were it not for the timely supply of corn sent by the government. One remarkable circumstance to be observed was that they were particularly favourable for the growth of grass which yielded immense quantities of milk, the principal support of the inhabitants. Another favourable circumstance was that there was a great demand for cattle, the staple commodity of the parish, and they sold at a high price” (Mackenzie 1791)

But by 1837 the New Statistical Account has:

“The few black cattle reared for sale are the remains of the old Highland breed which seem to have degenerated in the same ratio in which the circumstances of the people have declined” (Downie 1837)

The Improvement Period - ownership, sheep farming, conditions of the people and clearance

“Improvement” came relatively late to Strathconon. The glen was part of the estates of Francis Humberston Mackenzie, the Earl of Seaforth, but at the end of the 18th Century he was heavily in debt. Strathconon was administered by trustees with Brigadier (later General Sir) Alexander Mackenzie of Fairburn playing an important role: he was described in several documents as owner. Seaforth died in 1815 and his daughter, Mary Fredrica Mackenzie Stewart inherited the estate. It would appear that the estate was not put on the market until sometime between 1821 and 1825, and then again in 1833-34 and it is not clear whether a buyer was found, although in 1825 a James Stuart of Dunearn is described as heritor (Dagg 2004). A buyer was eventually found in 1839 and the estate became the property of Mr James Balfour of Whittinghame.

There had been a boom period from 1790 to 1815 during the Napoleonic Wars. There was great demand for the products of the Highlands; cattle prices were high, illicit whisky had a good market, men were needed to serve in the overseas conflicts and the people could find seasonal work on the Black Isle and in Easter Ross. In the late 18th Century the conversion of the Highlands to sheep farming was encouraged by fairly steady growth in the demand for wool. In the first few years of the 19th Century, the Napoleonic Wars created a strong surge in demand. Prices of wool and sheep multiplied, sheep farmers competed for land at high rents and there was a trend towards longer leases. However when the hostilities ceased circa 1815 there was a

collapse in demand and many sheep farmers failed. This certainly seems to have been the case in Strathconon.

It is generally thought that the landowners let their lands to southern incomers; sheep farmers from the lowlands and from the Borders who could bring their experience to the Highlands. However some Highlanders also had a key role in the rapid economic and social changes associated with sheep farming. At the beginning of the 19th Century several tacks of land in Strathconon were advertised to let as sheep farms. In 1802 James Hogg, the Ettrick shepherd, visited the glen with a mind to taking a tack. In 1803 he writes:

“Amongst the fellow lodgers (*he was staying at an inn on Rannoch Moor*), I was glad at meeting here with Mr McCallum, who had taken an extensive farm on the estate of Strathconon, which I viewed last year, who informed me that all that extensive estate was let to sheep farmers saving a small division on the lower end, which the General had reserved for the accommodation of such of the natives as could not dispose of themselves to better advantage” (Hogg 1888)

That part in the lower glen was probably Curin. The *Inverness Courier* Aug in 1850:

“The Campbells applied to Mr Balfour for liberty to build a house at Curin, a small detached part of the property at the east end where several cottars sit rent free, the spot having been set aside for that purpose.”³

It was however two Highlanders who were to take on the responsibility for two tacks in Strathconon. Alexander Macdonald of Glencoe became cautioner (guarantor) for a sheepfarmer in Glenmarksie and Adam Macdonald of Achtriachtan (in Glencoe) became cautioner for James MacCallum, a sheepfarmer at Dalbreac, using their lands in Glencoe as security (Macdonald 2005 p162). The high rents and long leases in the end proved disastrous for all of them.

General Sir Alexander Mackenzie of Fairburn had divided the glen into 6 sheepwalks, 4 being rented by multiple or “club” tenants from the old tenantry and two by incoming sheep farmers:

“In 1803 he let the glen out in 6 tacks, mostly for 19 years, but in one case, 21 years. He gave 4 tacks on the higher ground in the upper reaches of Strathconon to his former tenants who were already there or who held ground in the lower part of Strathconon which they had to leave. This made the lower ground available as two extensive tacks for new tenants. In each tack it was said that the ground was given “for the purpose of covering the same with sheep, houses, biggings and yards”

“The lower of the 2 extensive new tacks consisted of three farms; Glacour, Annate and Easter Balnault. The other tack, for which Adam Macdonald of Achtriachtan was “cautioner, security and full debtor”, was an even larger one. Adam Macdonald had inherited Achtriachtan in Glencoe from his father, but in the opinion of Charles Fraser Mackintosh, WS, solicitor in Inverness, he was “quite unfit to manage his patrimonial estate”. Fraser Mackintosh referred to “a debt arising from his cautionary obligations into which he had been artfully inveigled”. The tack in Strathconon consisted of “the whole of the townlands and grazings of Inverchoran, Blarnabee, Balnacreig, that part of the land and grazings of Cranich, Knockdhu, Dalbreck and Wester Balnault. This was given to “John MacCallum and Duncan MacCallum his son” for 21 years from 1803 at a rent of £450 per annum.....The farms listed in the tack extended for several miles along the south side of the river and the tack extended south across the watershed to the River Orrin. Subsequent events are rather obscure. It was said many years later that the MacCallums were removed by Adam Macdonald and replaced by tenants of his own choosing. This suggests that the MacCallums had failed and left Adam Macdonald, as cautioner, with responsibility for the whole tack. Adam Macdonalds chaotic state of affairs led, in 1816, to the appointment of interdictors and trustees. In a rental of 1819 an entry is made for “Achtriachtans Farms in Ross-shire” and Donald, John and Allan Macdonald, brothers of the Innerigan family (also of Glencoe) were described at various times as tenants of Dalnabreck; they too failed. An advertisement appears in the *Inverness Courier*, 28 Dec 1820 “for the sale of the whole stock of sheep, black cattle and horses belonging to the sequestered estate of Donald Macdonald upon the farms of Monar and Dalbreck” and a summons for his removal from Dalbreck was presented early in 1821.” (Macdonald 2005 p163)

In March 1817, and again in March 1818, Inverchoran and Blarnabee were advertised in the *Inverness Journal* as “being to let for black cattle and sheep for 6 years”. Donald and Duncan Macdonald, alias MacQuinan, were noted as being tenants of Inverchoran, but it is not known whether they were acquaintances of Adam Macdonald. They too fell on difficult times; in September 1818 they were charged with “the crime of assaulting, beating, wounding, obstructing and deforcing the Officers of the Revenue”; in other words they had been distilling illicit whisky or “smuggling”. They were outlawed and “put to the horn”⁴

In 1803 General Sir Alexander Mackenzie of Fairburn had given 4 tacks on the higher ground in the upper reaches of Strathconon to his former tenants. These tacks were rented as club farms for 19 years. A rental of 1819⁵ gives us some idea of how the land was divided up:

1. Corriefeol, Corrievuich, Achiness and Backlinan is possessed by “Kenneth McCrae and others” paying £300
2. Keanlochbeanchran is in the hands of Duncan MacGregor paying £180

3. Invervenie, Carnoch etc are in the possession of Earl O'Neil paying £367. But in 1808 an advertisement had appeared in the *Inverness Journal* "To be let - the lands and grazings of Carnoch and Inverveiny, with appendages as presently possessed by the tenants thereof. They will answer for either the grazing of black cattle or as a sheepfarm". They are again advertised to let in 1812 and 1819. In all probability they had been taken over and were perhaps being sub-let by 1819.

4. Balblair and Drumfearn were in the possession of "Donald Beaton and others" paying £80

The ethos of a club-farm was that the joint tenants were equally responsible for the rent, but this system had various disadvantages: the old tenantry did not have the capital or the experience of sheep farming, in the longer term, certain of the group may become unable or dis-inclined to co-operate with the rest of the group. From the *Inverness Courier*, 15th August 1850:

"The rent of the (club) farm was £100 and the tenants were bound collectively for it. The amount of stock was limited in the aggregate but not individually. Some of the tenants may have been more fortunate in their stock than others or more provident in their management. But if their neighbours circumstances declined then their liability increased"

"Club tenants if they had the unanimity of purpose, have seldom the means to stock their possessions with the superior breeds of stock kept by their wealthier rivals in the trade; whilst from the system they follow, each man treating his own little flock as he pleased and selling when he chose, the stock never could attain that character without which good remunerating prices cannot be got"³

Hogg's statement above hints at some dispersal of the population in 1803; almost certainly there would have been some re-organisation of the people in order to allow the two tacks in the lower valley to be let to single tenants. It is probable that the multiple tenancies included some people who had been relocated from Balnault, Glacour, Dalbreac, Balnacraig and Inverchoran to the upper glen. The births registered between 1820 and 1830, in the Old Parish Records (OPRs), for this part of the glen were certainly very numerous; Achness had 11, Corrievuic had 37, Corriefeol had 11, Crannich had 5, Inverveinie had 23. Strathconon was said to be one of the most congested areas of the Highlands. The population for the whole glen was reported in 1829 to be 1100.

Sheep farming in the glen may have been successful in the first decade of the 19th Century but by 1820 it was certainly failing. In 1821 "the whole of Strathconan estate" apart from one sheep farm, presumably Dalbreck, is advertised for sale. Very little is known about the management of the estate during the 1820s, but in 1825 a James Stuart of Dunearn was the heritor (Dagg 2004) when an application was made for ground to build the new Parliamentary church. At that time he was bankrupt and trying to sell the estate. By 1828 he had left the country and the estate was run by trustees.

The years 1831 to 1833 seem to have been a time of change with several advertisements of farms for let in the glen. There seems to have been a more ruthless attitude towards the letting of tacks. Larger sheepfarms were leased and it is evident that in creating these larger farms the landlord had reorganized the tenants so that they coexisted beside the sheep in congested communities of crofters and cottars, each one possessing a smaller piece of land. Many of the tenant farmers were non resident and would have sub-let the land to shepherds.

From 1834 to 1844 Colin Munro Esq was paying rent of £410 for Achness, Corriefeol, Scardroy and Carnoch.⁶ He also had Inverchoran. Duncan Campbell reports in 1892:

"Colin Munro put the tenants away from Coire Feola, Achad an Eas and Scaird Ruadh before 1839"⁷.

By the census of 1841, there are 2 households and 9 people at Corriefeol, 2 households and 5 people at Achness and 14 households and 64 people at Corrievuic! It would appear that the evicted people had congregated at Corrievuic. James Smith, factor for the Strathconon estate, in 1892 says:

"By 1842 the congestion and poorness of the people, and there being no prospect of its being otherwise relieved, caused a number of small tenants who occupied the farm of Corriewick extending to 5500 acres to voluntarily gave it up"⁸.

In 1845 Corrievuic is held by Peter Brown Esq. paying rent of £210⁹ – it would seem that he too was a sheep farmer, by 1851 the population of Corrievuic has been reduced to 7 households and 19 people. James Smith reports that there were no evictions, the people possibly just drifting away.

In 1833 Inverveinie is linked with Balblair and John Fraser Esq is paying rent of £130¹⁰. Shortly after this time there appears to have been a significant reduction in the population here and possibly at Carnoch too:

- There is a significant drop in the marriages and births in the OPRs; in the 12 years before 1833 there are 7 marriages and 25 births, in the 12 years after 1 marriage and 2 births.
- Finlay Mackay, a crofter of Drynie Park, Mulbuie in 1883 states that "The place (*Drynie Park*) was first colonised about the year 1834 when a general clearance in Strathconon under gross circumstances sent the people adrift and a number of them, my late father among the rest settled here. 21 families were cleared from Glencarnie"¹¹ (*this name is not known in Strathconon, but it does seem to bear some resemblance to Invervannie/Glenveinie and Carnoch!*)

James Smith reports:

“the population of Strathconan in 1829 was 1100, reduced in 1834 to 870 and in 1839 to 568”⁸.

Landlords preferred to give only short term leases and could simply terminate a tenancy when the lease came up for renewal or a family could be evicted as their rents fell into arrears. The majority of the reduction seems to have been achieved by attrition with the people just drifting away. The reduction in the population of Strathconan in the first part of the 19th Century seems to have passed relatively unnoticed.

The practice of distilling illicit whisky had continued throughout the first part of the 19th Century. Although this was a clandestine operation and there are no documentary accounts, we can get an understanding of what was going on from the number of cases of “the crime of assaulting, beating, wounding, obstructing and deforcing the Officers of the Revenue”. The following cases were noted from the High Court and North Circuit minute book, probably by no means a comprehensive list. Most culprits were outlawed and “put to the horn”.¹²

- In September 1818 – John and Duncan Finlayson of Inverveinie, Donald MacLennan of Balblair, Duncan Macdonald of Inverchoran, also Donald Macdonald of Inverchoran, and Murdoch and Donald Macdonald of Milntown of Strathconan
- In April 1819 – Kenneth MacIvor of Inverveinie.
- In September 1825 – Roderick Mackay – Crannich (transported for 7 years), John MacIver of Inverveinie, Kenneth Beaton of Balblair and Donald Beg Mackay of Dalnacroich (transported for 7 years)
- In Oct 1831 – Donald Mackay of Inverveinie, Alexander Mackay of Gertan of Balblair, Finlay MacIver and Alexander Campbell (or MacIver) of Inverveinie and Donald Mackay of Crannich

In 1841 the census records list 220 people in the upper glen, even after significant dispersals this is a large number; today there are perhaps 10 at the most. How did they survive? Almost certainly they were reliant on the potato. Potatoes were introduced into Scotland in c1750. They had several advantages over the crop of oats in that they had a bigger yield per acreage of ground and could therefore feed 3 times the number of people. They were also well suited to the damp climate of the Highlands and readily cultivated on any type of soil. The potato would have been ideally suited to Strathconan where cultivatable land was at a premium.

Temporary migration was certainly one of the mainstays for the people of the glen at this time and there are just a few references to it. Tom Devine has:

“The inhabitants of the parish of Carnochcontrive to subsist in summer by going in search of work to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Paisley, to railways, harvest work, by driving cattle to the south country markets or by fishing in Caithness” (PP, XX (1844) RC on Scottish Poor Laws (1843) Part II, 376) (Devine 1988 p156)

And Richards and Clough:

“They (*the people of Strathconan*) were reported as having accumulated considerable reserves of money in the bank “made by labour on the railways in the south” (Richards and Clough 1989 p226) (*The evicted people were being settled at Gowertown/Knockfarrel on the Cromartie estates*).

The Inverness Courier in December, 1846, has “The Aberdeen Railway advertising for 2,000 – 3,000 labourers”. However Duncan Campbell in his evidence to the Deer Commission in 1892 says of the people of Strathconan:

“There were too many crofters for the land in every township, and they did not go away elsewhere to earn anything”⁷

From most writings it is clear that temporary migration to the east and south was a significant factor for the survival of many of the people in the Highlands. Tom Devine in the “*The Great Highland Famine*” 1988 has:

“Great numbers of young men migrated from the parishes of the west coast to find work in the fishing industry of Caithness and the East coast. Many went south and east for agricultural labour or for short periods in the autumn to help with the harvest”.

“For men, navvying on the railways had assumed great significance by the early 1840s and was to become even more important during the construction “mania” of 1846-47. Railway work had two particular attractions. First it paid better than agricultural employment. In 1845 weekly earnings in railway construction in the SE region averaged 30% more than harvest rates in the same area. Second and perhaps more crucially, the period of employment on the railway lasted longer. Even during the winter months operations continued except in the most inclement weather conditions. Thus during disturbances between Highland and Irish labourers in the Linlithgow area the legal authorities counted around 800 men from the Highlands in the district. More than half the 2100 men employed in railway construction in the Lothians were from the Highlands and in the same period they were also strongly represented among the navy gangs on the Hawick branch of the North British and on the Caledonian lines” (Devine 1988)

The people were finding it difficult to make ends meet and they were becoming more destitute; throughout this time there were many cases of families moving in with relatives and making no contribution to the croft in

the form of rent. Several families might be living in a settlement where only one or two were paying rent; some were living in appalling conditions. The Inverness Courier, 15th August 1850 has:

“If the croft originally obtained by the head of the family was sufficient for the support of the family when the children were young, it is evident that if the children when they grew up and married, settled down one in the barn and another in the byre, displacing the cattle, the croft originally intended for one must be insufficient for three or more families. Or if the share of a hill farm, held by a club tenant was sufficient to maintain the original tenant in something like comfort, that the circumstances of the family and all its branches must have declined if the sons and daughters as they grew up married, squatted down beside the parents and had each a little flock on the hill, it would diminish the number of sheep or cattle the original tenant, the father, could keep as his own. This is the course which the people have almost invariably followed.....It is in this manner that estates have become over-populated and landlords and the people alike impoverished; where the system has gone on unchecked by the managers of the land, forced emigrations have ultimately become necessary”

“I have been in many parts of the Highlands but more dilapidated bothies, filthy outside and abominable within I never saw. Fever and other domestic miseries are inseparably associated with dirt and discomfort and on the day I visited Blarnabee, 3 out of the 5 or 6 houses there, had cases of typhus fever. Yet the site of the town was elevated and dry and an invigorating mountain breeze swept down the glen sweet with perfume of the heather. It was a spot where health might have been sought if it was to be found anywhere; yet there, in the smoke and filth and foetid smells drawn by the strong sunshine from the pools and rotting heaps, fever in one of its most dangerous forms held down young and old”³.

And then the potato crop failed in 1846. It was a poverty stricken population that could ill afford further problems. The Inverness Courier, again:

“It is admitted that even had there been no potato failure the crisis could not have been long postponed”³

The effects of this great subsistence crisis were to be felt in the Highlands over the next decade. During this period when the United Kingdom was consolidating its position as the most advanced economy in the world, the inhabitants of the Highlands and Islands were reduced to serious destitution when blight destroyed the potato, their main source of food. The epic potato famine in Ireland the year before had caused hundreds to die of starvation, this was not to be the case in the Highlands; various relief agencies were to step in. Duncan Campbell remembered the potato famine well:

“There was a great deal of distress among the crofters and meal was dear at 36s a boll”⁷

The people were even more reliant on the money brought in from employment in the south. Tom Devine again:

“There is abundant evidence of a very substantial increase in temporary migration during the potato famine. One of the significant features of the increase in temporary migration in 1846-47 was an alteration in age and social composition of the migrant group; traditionally most temporary migrants were young, single males and females and the majority of the heads of households who were involved seemed to be of the cottar class. More crofters trekked south and east in search of employment and heads of households participated to a much greater extent than before. Another feature was that the people stayed away from their Highland homes for longer as they went from one form of employment to another; work on railway construction for example merged into harvesting”

“Three agencies – the landowners, the Free Church of Scotland and the Central Board, did much to both encourage and facilitate the great movement of people to the Lowlands. The Free Church was the one organization which was trusted by the majority of the Highland people, they initiated a scheme to transport more than 3000 people from the distressed regions of the north to the labour markets of the south. The government acknowledged that its ministers played a key role in encouraging married men to leave their families at a time of crisis to find work in the Lowlands”.

“However by the end of 1847 the industrial recession was starting to take effect. By October and November of that year, railway workers were being paid off and Highlanders streamed home in large numbers. Railway construction virtually ceased by the end of 1847 and there was a sharp fall in the demand for seasonal workers in agriculture and fishing. By 1848 the country was plunged into deep industrial recession, the number of casual poor in Scotland relieved through the official Poor Law doubled between 1847 and 1848” (Devine 1988).

Gerald Balfour the owner writes in 1890;

“After the potato disease in 1846 the destitution on the estate was so great and the outlook so serious that my father determined to effect a complete reorganisation of the management of the estate.....The essential condition of success was that the population should bear a reasonable relation to the capacity of the crofts together with the opportunities of earning wages from labour on the estate. In my fathers judgement the number of inhabitants, reduced as it was, was still too large to fulfil this condition. He came to the conclusion that it must still be further diminished, and that the holdings of the small tenants must be rearranged, and the practice of squatting (ie allowing the children on marriage to settle upon the parents holdings) must be abolished. All the old people were left on the estate; no old people were removed and they have gradually died off”¹³

In August 1850 27 families or 123 persons, including children, were removed from the settlements of Blar na Bee and Balnacraig, Milton, Porin and Dalnacroich and Glacour and Balnault. It was one of the more high profile and controversial cases of Highland clearance at the time. In July 9, 1850, a letter to the Inverness Advertiser reads:

“Strathconan Clearances - It seems that there is still some work going on about the proprietors Lodge; but not one of those on whom the decree of ejection passed has been allowed to have work for a single day. It may be said, that the people of Strathconan had been supported for years by work supplied by him at great expense; but has he done anything except embanking the river – work which naturally falls on the proprietor not on the tenants; and in addition to this, building lodges for his own accommodation and that of his friends, dressing out the grounds about the lodge at Dalbreck and the factors house, and building residences for his menials and officials. To this day he has done nothing for the improvement of the holdings of the small tenantry. He has however been doing all he could to remove them from the class of independent small tenants to that of dependant labourers and cottars. He removed the tenants some years back from the farm of Inverchoran; and these either got shelter or land from their neighbours at Blarnabee or else were compelled to become dependent on their own labour for their support. He deprived the tenants on the farms of Milton, Pourin and Dalnacroich of the best part of the hill ground enclosing their former pasture ground and converting it into a larch plantation. The next step was to deprive the tenants of Balnacraig and Blarnabee of the whole of the hill ground leaving them only a small stripe, partly arable, partly pasture, to support themselves and their families, and this year these two hamlets are depopulated entirely.”¹⁴

The Inverness Courier dispatched a reporter to witness the proceedings of removals. They had “from previous experience the utmost confidence of his impartiality and discrimination” and he was afforded every facility in his inquiries³ (*this account has been included in full as, together with the foregoing context, it provides the setting of the event, the actions and the reasons behind those actions. Inevitably there are going to be biases and certainly the landowner was thinking of his own financial situation in the longer term, but readers can make up their own mind about the rights and wrongs of it*):

“Four years ago (1846) the proprietor found it necessary to seriously consider the state of his property and the people upon it. The small tenants were getting into arrears and their effects had frequently to be sequestered. The people were not accustomed to stated labour and did not manage their lands to advantage”

The landowner devised a plan which involved appointing a new factor, James Smith, and:

“An inquiry extended to every family and person on the estate with a view of ascertaining who were able, conjointly, and by their own labour and that of their families to maintain themselves on crofts without hill-ground. Those who did not have sufficient means to provide for themselves elsewhere should be located on the estate as labourers. Those who being old and helpless should remain on the estate as dependents and those who having means and strength and youth to provide for themselves, but for whom there was no room on their old lands might be removed without injury or injustices to themselves”. The tenancy was not renewed of “Two farms, Dromanriach and Achlorachan, which were held by one tenant who was a man of means and a desirable tenant in every respect, but that he was non-resident”.

“It was part of the plan that when the lands of Milton, Porin and Dalnacroich were sub-divided anew into crofts all the improvable land around should be taken in and added and something like rotation insisted upon in the cultivation of the crofts and that the tenants should be assisted to build new and improved houses; and that when the hills of Glacour and Balnault should be given over to the new tenants money should be lent to them as it was to the larger tenants for hill drainage and that new regulations should be enforced in the management of those farms by which their stock might be improved and its character and price raised in the market. This then was the spirit in which the recent proceedings were conceived and I am at a loss to conceive the blame attached to them”³

The people were informed of the plan and over the next 4 years preparations were made. Part of the plan in these years was putting the able bodied men to work and instructing them in good and modern practices:

“At a time when those notices were given not a man in the glen was accustomed to stated daily labour. They reasoned that they had not been so used when they were young and it was not without difficulty they were got to persevere. They were ignorant of the use of the implements. The works were trenching and draining land on the farm of Dalbreck, cutting new channels for streams and embanking the channel for the river. One or two strangers were at first employed to instruct the native people but the latter rapidly improved. The strangers were then sent away and one of themselves who proved apt and clever took charge of the workmen and still continues to do so. Every willing person was employed at the highest current wages; by this course 3 purposes were served – whilst the estate was improved, the people were carried safely over a trying time of destitution and those who would have been helpless if turned from the glen 3 years ago were taught to be able to earn their bread elsewhere by their own labour. Some of those who have been thus taught have been removed”³

Inevitably the unpleasant task was to take place:

“At the term of Whitsunday last (1850) the leases expired. Some of those who had been made aware that they must remove prepared to do so, but others were naturally unwilling to leave the scenes amidst which they had grown up. The legal proceedings were procrastinated that the people who were not then prepared to remove might be induced to promise to go away quietly at a future day. So anxious was Mr Smith to induce the people to give promises to this effect rather than to eject them summarily and so successful in obtaining either written or verbal pledges that during 3 days only 3 houses were pulled down in the whole glen and only 4 families who refused to give a promise to remove at any definite time were ejected by the officer”³

The Inverness Courier reporter described the removal of 6 families from the township of Blarnabee:

“The original lessees of Blarnabee were 5 in number. They admitted 3 sub-tenants and 4 families squatted down beside them without land, and paying no rent; 58 persons in all.....The people of Blarnabee well knew the plan of improvements resolved upon by Mr Balfour and 2 heads of the families, comprising 12 individuals, accordingly had entered into terms with him for a joint holding of the farm of Glacour of which they are now in possession. Four families or 19 individuals were not desired to remove; some of them being too old to support themselves and for others there was sufficient employment in that part of the glen. Those who are able are required to build more comfortable houses for themselves at Inverchoran, a short distance away, and those who are unable will have houses provided for them. Six families of 27 thus remain at Blarnabee, and are to be removed, not one is in poverty with the exception of a young man, a weaver by profession and his 2 unmarried able bodied sisters. Two of the families removed voluntarily to Kirkhill and Beaully, one, whose family is grown up is in receipt of a small allowance, having been a preventative officer, and is known to possess a considerable sum of money, the weaver and his sisters are the fourth family, the fifth is a stout able athletic man with a wife and 4 children, he also is known to possess money, but though young was content to live in perhaps the most miserable of the all miserable hovels. The sixth family consisted of a mother and her 2 sons and 1 or 2 daughters all far beyond their majority.

“The officer first proceeded to the house of Mrs Campbell – the widow with two sons and one or two daughters. On promise of the daughter to remove the lighter furniture herself, he proceeded to the hovel of Donald Cameron, who had taken a house at Beaully, Mr Smith offered to leave him undisturbed if he could get security that he would remove in 8 days, at the same time he offered to convey his furniture to his new house and this was agreed to. In a byre formed of branches of trees, so open that every breath of wind blew through the house, was found a woman who had been ejected in June and whose house had then been pulled down. She had the choice of her brother’s house at Kirkhill or of going on the poor roll, the inspector having provided a place for her at Dingwall, but she would do neither. She was again ejected and sat silently mending her stocking whilst the men removed her furniture – following, without a word, when all was out, and sitting down in the sunshine to continue her labour silent as before. The door was locked and the men again proceeded to the house of Mrs Campbell. Assisted by the women the furniture was removed with one of the sons appearing to lend a hand. When the furniture was removed, he pulled out the window frames, threw down the roof and pushed in the walls. So little animosity did he seem to feel that he was most anxious to “treat” the officers to “a dram”. This they refused; but all three, mother son and daughter, joined the officers in their refreshments, drinking “good health” to all round. The young man, addressing Mr Smith, said he would make manure of the roofing and walls if permitted to plant potatoes in the spring. This condition could not be complied with but he agreed to turn the material to the purpose mentioned for payment. The door of an outhouse was left open that the family might take shelter there till they found a place elsewhere and at their desire, a cart was sent by Mr Smith from Dalbreck Lodge a day or two afterwards to take their furniture to the farm-buildings for protection from the weather. Thus terminated the proceedings conducted throughout, I am bound to say, in a creditably humane spirit – every desire being shown, whilst carrying out the plans long before fixed upon, to do so in the least objectionable way”⁵.

“From all the other parts of the property the total number of families removed was 21 – namely 4 tenants and 17 sub-tenants and cottars. Two of these sub-tenants and 2 of the cottars were from the farm of Dalbreck. One cottar from Balnacraig received a croft at Pourin and 3 remain as labourers. The 17 others removed were from the farms of Milton, Pourin and Dalnacroich and from Glacour and Balnault, then one farm but now two.”

“Mr Balfour and Mr Smiths desire is that the larger farms are held by resident tenants. They wish to encourage industrious habits, by showing the people that those who were able to take shares of a club farm were so provided for, they have made Glacour and Balnault no longer one but two farms, held by club-tenants. The arable ground of Milton, Pourin and Dalnacroich is divided among 19 tenants making the population of these 3 towns 95 in all. To the old arable ground 17 acres of new land, all that is available, is to be added. The miller, the blacksmith and the schoolmaster are to have the smaller of the crofts of about 3 acres each. The other crofts average from 6 to 7 acres each. The whole lands, old and new, will be trenched and drained on removal of the present crop when the sub-divisions will be made. At present the system is “rig-about” preventing all approach to approved methods of cultivation in which the

tenants will now be aided and encouraged. Of the necessity for the improvement of stock it is needless to speak. At Glacour and Balnault all the new land that can be made arable is 8 acres and it will be improved and added to the holdings. The tenants are required to build new houses for themselves – the proprietor giving £10 to each tenant to aid him in doing so, and stones are at his command. These houses are built in better situations and are to be much larger and more comfortable than the old, bearing more resemblance to English cottages than Highland huts”.

“The trenching, draining and liming of the land at Milton and other places with the assistance for houses is estimated to cost Mr Balfour from £600 to £700¹⁵ whilst the rents of the 5 farms, as now adjusted, are rather less than before. The club-tenants will receive money for hill-drainage on the same terms as the larger tenants. The stock managed by a shepherd will be gathered clipped smeared, marked and wintered as one stock and when sold the profits equally divided. In this way managed, the sheep and wool will be of uniform quality and both will acquire a character in the market. For those who remain in the glen and who are able to work the irregular work of the larger farms and the regular employment at the improvements of Dalbreck and Blarnabee which are all of permanent and utilitarian character will be a constant source of support. No attempt was made to obtain high rents for these crofts by inducing competition for them. Whilst attentive to these matters, the proprietor has not neglected the educational interests of the young, an excellent schoolroom has been erected in the middle of the three towns and a young man appointed as teacher. I think Mr Balfour has acted wisely and with much liberality – that the late proceedings will increase the comfort and future happiness and prosperity of the estate – and that in the performance of the disagreeable duty which fell to him Mr Smith has acted with prudence and leniency and with much consideration for the natural affections”

“In August 1849 the number of families on the estate was 116 and the entire population was 506. As has already been stated 27 families or in all 123 persons including children have been removed, thus leaving 385 persons on the property. Blarnabee is still held as a sheep-farm; Milton, Pourin and Dalnacroich are in the possession of as many of the old tenants as crofts can be found for. Glacour and Balnault are held by 10 instead of 4 tenants; this may be a “clearance” but I am more inclined to regard it as a restoration of the glen to a sound condition or at least a decided step towards that objective”³

Most of the people who left the glen found refuge at Knockfarrel, Loch Ussie; 24 families were provided with holdings here on the Cromartie Estate and by all accounts they did very well. Thirty years later, William Gunn, factor of the Cromartie Estate says;

“they have proved to be excellent tenants in every respect. They are industrious and farm systematically and well and of this we have the best evidence in the fact that they pay their rents regularly and that within the last few years most of them have substantially improved their houses, four of which have lately been slated”¹⁶

Shooting rents were an important element of the estate income. Scardroy was leased for the sport in the 1830s and a lodge was built there c1836. At that time the interest was for shooting birds and for fishing. An advertisement appears in the *Inverness Courier* in 1835;

“The right of shooting and fishing over the upper district of Strathconon in Ross-shire is advertised to let. It is stated that grouse were most abundant and there were ptarmigan on several hills. The ground has been let for three years previously and its tenants asserted that it afforded excellent sport. One of them wrote that an ordinary shot might with great ease bag 20 brace of grouse in a day and he also said that he and one companion killed 13 brace of ptarmigan in about half an hour. A shooting lodge was in course of erection”.

In 1841 Balfour had commenced to clear sheep from portions of the ground in order to make a deer forest and following the clearances of 1850 the deer forest was extended; eventually, by the 1890s, it was to include the whole of the hill ground on the south side of the river from Dalbreac westwards. In 1854 the Marquis of Bath was paying rent of £1200 for the estate, in 1868 John Shaw Leigh of Luton Hoo paid £1900 and in 1873 Hon RS Cotton paid £2,200; in total between 1853 and 1870 £50,446 was paid in rent for the shooting estate (Wordsworth). The estate was sold in 1891 to RH Combe.

Ecclesiastical Background of Strathconon

Contin Parish is one of the largest parishes in Ross-shire. The parish church at Contin is medieval in date and is likely to have been in existence when the parochial system was established in the Diocese of Ross in the 12th Century. The church is dedicated to St Maelrubha who brought Christianity to the north of Scotland, founding a monastery at Applecross in AD 673.

Place names including the element Annat suggest that the earliest Christian presence in the area was further west in Strathconon; this place name is generally accepted to be a 9-10th Century term for a church site. An Annait is recorded (Watson 1904) immediately west of Balnacraig at NH 291532, 600m south of Carnoch

Church. There are no visible ruins at this site but it is noted that it is located immediately below the dun at Creag Ruadh, possibly the late Iron Age seat of power in the glen.

Lower down the glen at NH 3403 5481, east of Bridgend and south of the River Meig, are Carn na h'Annaite, Allt na h'Annaite, Clach na h'Annaite and Cladh na h'Annaite, the last being a formal burial ground, which is still visible as a rectangular area enclosed by a low wall. Local information has it that this was the last resting place for unbaptised children. The burial ground suggests the former presence of a place of worship, although place names translating as "of the Annat" are considered to refer to church lands rather than buildings (Dagg 2004).

Another former burial ground, at Scardroy, is indicated by the place name Cnoc a Mhinister. It is likely that up until the Reformation in 1560 the parish Church of Contin was supported by smaller chapels at Scardroy and at an Annait (Balnacraig) which represent the centres of population in the medieval period. These chapels would have fallen out of use with the Reformation but the burial grounds probably continued to be used until the Clearances. A third early burial ground at Porin, formerly known as Cladh Meinn, is still in use. From the documentary record, Colin Mackenzie, the first Earl of Seaforth (c1594-1633) apparently laid the foundations for a church in Strathconon of which the walls:

"are still to be seen in Main in Strathconon, the walls being built above the height of a man above the foundation and he had in mind to endow it further had he lived longer" (Mackenzie "History of the Mackenzies" 1894)¹⁷

It is possible that this building was located in the burial ground at Porin (Cladh Meinn).

Although most of the lands of Strathconon lie in Contin Parish, there were parts that were served by the Parishes of Urray and Fodderty. It is unclear when the central portion of the glen, the lands of Main, became part of Fodderty Parish but Aonghas MacCoinnich writes:

"in the 17th Century, the records of the presbytery of Dingwall give us the impression of disputes and difficulties between the different parishes over provision of pastoral care, with ministers appearing extremely reluctant to serve in Strathconon. The moderator of the Dingwall Presbytery in a meeting of 1666, commented that all the ministers present were 'diligent in their preaching and catechising save that Strathconon alone was neglected.' The presbytery did record that they were mindful that it was difficult for ministers to serve at Strathconon, and they seem to have built a house for itinerant ministers visiting the area. The compromise in terms of the division of Strathconon into attached portions to different parishes can be glimpsed in a later rental of the Seaforth estates from 1726 where the parishes relating to various townships are specified such as (Eskadale), Scardroy, Kinlochbencharane, Corribuic in Contin parish; Main and Porin in Fodderty parish and Inverchorain allotted to Urray". (MacCoinnich 2009)

Carnoch Church¹⁸

The Telford Church at Druimfearn, Strathconon, is one of only 16 Parliamentary churches in the Highlands to survive (Dagg 2004). Some have been entirely demolished, three stand as roofless ruins, some have been converted to private dwellings, only a few are relatively unaltered.

In 1819 the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland petitioned the Government for aid towards the construction of additional churches and manses in the remote parts of the Highlands where the number of people frequently exceeded the capacity of the local Parish Churches. The Church of Scotland was also afraid that in certain areas the Roman Catholic Church would maintain or increase its presence where regular non-Catholic services were not available. In 1823 the Government passed an act for building additional churches in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. This gave a budget of £50,000 for the building of 40 churches and manses. Local landowners were encouraged to provide the land for their construction. A total of 42 churches and 41 manses were built by the time the work had been completed in 1835. The design and construction was entrusted to the engineer Thomas Telford; largely due to the experience he had gained in the successful construction of roads and bridges throughout the Highlands some years earlier.

There are four Parliamentary churches in Ross-shire. The church and manse in Strathconon are in good condition, though all the original internal features of the church have been removed, the exterior of the building is virtually unchanged. The other three range in condition from good (Ullapool), through moderate (Kinlochluichart), to poor (Poolewe).

At the beginning of the 19th Century Strathconon was considered to be densely populated in comparison to other Highland glens. The presbytery of Dingwall suggested Strathconon to the Parliamentary Commissioners as a site for one of the new churches in 1825. The then heritor, James Stuart of Dunearn, was approached and was agreeable but hesitated about giving the land, with the result that Strathconon was replaced by Poolewe on the list. By 1828 the estate had been taken over by trustees; the application was renewed and accepted. The Inverness Courier in July 1829 has "The Commissioners report that they have a surplus over which they intend to apply in building a church and manse at Carnoch in Strathconon. This they

represent as a specially remote and needy district. With the building in Carnoch the report says the work of the Commissioners may be deemed final and complete”

The church may well have been originally intended for a site at Carnoch, 5kms further up the glen. Local information believes that the intended site was a prominent grassy platform at the bend of the glen (NH 2597 5082), opposite Inverchoran. The story goes that, when the cart carrying the building materials became bogged down at Druimfearn, it was decided to build the church where the material came to rest! This may be true but the Register of Sasines dated January 1830 has the following entry: “The Parliamentary Commissioners get convey to a regular piece of ground with the Church thereon and piece of ground to the east with the minister’s manse thereon, being parts of the farm called Drumfearn in Strathconon”.

John Mackenzie, formerly the missionary to Strathconon, was appointed as the first minister at Carnoch and for a while “the people are warmly attached to the Established Church” (Downie 1837) but 6 years later, in 1843, the records of the Kirk Session for Carnoch state “the Rev John Mackenzie, Donald Mackay and John Cameron met for devotional exercises, and in common with the vast majority of the people of God throughout the land renounced their connection with the Established Church of Scotland” They left the church and after what was perceived as injustices at the hands of the landowners, it is not surprising that the Disruption, a revolt against, among other things, the right of the Heritor to choose the minister, was wholeheartedly supported in Strathconon. Dr Cameron Lees, 1856 – 1859, later recorded “The retiring minister had made his Celtic and obedient congregation hold up their hands and swear in solemn oath never to re-enter the church. Henceforth it was left desolate” (MacLean 1922)

Despite the almost complete lack of a congregation, a succession of ministers was appointed to Carnoch. For various reasons the first five appointments were very short lived. Dr James Cameron Lees recalled later “the church at Carnoch was built with an eye to economy. None of these churches had wooden flooring. The pews were fixed to earth and the passages were flagged with stone. When the congregation left them they fell into decay. The damp oozed through the walls and oozed up through the earthen floor, rotting the pews”. When Cameron Lees arrived he memorably held a service (in Gaelic) for one “a shepherd who had walked miles over the snow”. He records “the number attending the services varied with the weather, I think there would be about 30 attending in fine weather. In summer the number was increased when the sportsmen and their servants came in the shooting season”. Cameron Lees recalls “I have seen six members of the House of Lords in the congregation”(MacLean 1922)

Six years after Cameron Lee’s departure the Rev John MacDougall was admitted to Carnoch. Although originally a zealous worker he appears to have succumbed to the isolation of Strathconon and “shut himself into the manse and lived a hermit life”. The congregation drifted away and the church bell ceased to be rung. He stopped attending to funerals, celebrated no marriages in 26 years and had not administered baptism for 12 years by the time he was suspended for inefficiency in 1897. The manse had fallen into a deplorable condition and the church was filthy. The description given to the Dingwall Presbytery by Captain Combe included “the seats and floor are covered in bird droppings and quite uncared for”. Many of the windows had been smashed. In 1899 Captain Combe was persuaded to spend the sum of £730 on repairs to the church and manse. The new minister, John MacLean, appears to have been a prime mover in generating physical improvements to the church. He had a stove and an organ installed, and by 1919 “there was a trim church, manse and garden”.

Of the congregation which walked away from the Established church in 1843, the majority would have left the strath in the removals between 1840 and 1851. The remainder were for the most part settled around Milton and Pourin where they probably built a meeting house for Free Church services (*on the estate plan of 1853 a chapel is marked on the site of the present Free Church*). In 1875 Arthur Balfour paid for the building of a Free Church manse (East manse) and in 1892 Captain Combe had a new Gothic style Free Church built, the present church, on the site of the original meeting house.

In 1900 the United Free Church separated from the Free Church and began worshipping in Strathconon Hall which was built at this time. Relations between the Established and United Free churches had warmed by the time of the 1914-18 War; and when the minister of Carnoch, John Sellar, took up duty as a military chaplain with the Lovat Scouts for the duration of the war, the United Free Church minister, Mr Bethune, was invited to undertake pulpit and pastoral visits. By 1926 the 2 congregations were expressing a feeling to reunite. This union was carried out in 1927, with a service being held each Sunday at noon in Carnoch church and in the evening in the Hall. The church was made redundant as a place of public worship in the year 2000 and the manse is now a holiday house.

Notes

¹ NAS 02024 GD433-2-234-00006, 00007, 0014, 0015, 0016 and 0018

² NAS E655/3/5, E655/3/4 and E655/3/2

³ Inverness Courier, 15th August 1850 – “The State of Strathconon”

- ⁴ NAS JC 11/59/6
⁵ NAS GD 46/17/80/248/0001
⁶ NAS GD433/1/108 - Strathconon Rental,1839
⁷ Evidence of Duncan Campbell to the Deer Commission 1892
⁸ Evidence of James Smith to the Deer Commission 1892
⁹ NAS GD433/1/109-part 2
¹⁰ NAS GD46/1/343
¹¹ Evidence of Finlay Mackay to Napier Commission in 1883
¹² NAS - JC 11/59/6 and JC 11/59/12
¹³ A written statement of Gerald Balfour, the then owner of Strathconon Estate, which appears in the evidence of Duncan Campbell to the Deer Commission 1892
¹⁴ Inverness Advertiser July 9, 1850 – Strathconon Clearances
¹⁵ It is quite probable that this sum was a loan. The government encouraged landowners to apply for loans, which were made available under the Drainage Act, in order to provide employment for the distressed of the Highlands. These loans were made at favourable rates of interest and were to be repaid over 22 years.
¹⁶ Evidence of William Gunn to the Napier Commission 1883
¹⁷ Aonghas MacCoinnich tells us that “This source used by Alexander Mackenzie (1879 and 1894) was probably a late 17th or early 18th Century Mackenzie clan manuscript history; possibly the Ardintoul MS”.
¹⁸ Grateful thanks to Cathy Dagg; much of the text for this piece on Carnoch Church is taken from her survey

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2.4 Results

In total 17 field days took place over the 13 month period. Six of these were full field days with numbers of people varying from 3 to 7. There were several ad hoc hill days made by small groups and some days when just one individual went out. 60 sites have been identified and recorded during the project with circa 330 individual features. All are detailed in the gazetteer, only selected photographs are included in this report but the complete set of photographs is available on a DVD.

The very early period was represented by a further round house and field system above Carnoch. This confirmed our suspicion that the glen was settled in the Bronze Age; no other prehistoric features were found. As expected the most numerous structure to be found in this mountainous part of the glen were the sheilings. It is difficult to date these features without excavation, but many appear to be of the earlier type, perhaps 16th or 17th century, as they consist of oval grassy mounds with dished centres. These mounds are sometimes as much as 1 metre in height, indicating that they would have had walls of turf construction and rounded ends. Some of the smaller structures may have been dairies. A small number of stone walled buildings with square corners were also recorded in the same vicinity; these are probably sheilings of a later date. At least 112 shielings, of both early and later type, were recorded in this phase, making 283 in the glen as a whole.

With 112 shieling huts or platforms recorded in the Phase 4 area and nearly 300 in the Strathconon Project area as a whole, this surely supports the theory that the main focus was on cattle rearing in the pre-improvement period. A small study of the distribution of the 190 shielings recorded in the areas of Phase 2 and 4, in the upper half of Strathconon, has shown that they are pretty evenly distributed and that most of the sheilings are within easy reach of the settlements. Some of the shieling grounds had evidence of later, more permanent settlement; the remains of stone built farmsteads, enclosures and improved land. Many still bothies, both “probables” and “possibles”, were found in the same locations as the shieling grounds and it is

quite possible that the people carried on their illicit business while tending their animals – a good alibi! And the by-products of distillation – draff and pot ale, would have been nutritious feed stuffs for young stock.

| Settlement | No of sheilings within 1.5kms | Evidence of later or more permanent settlement | No of sheilings within 7kms distance | Evidence of later or more permanent settlement | No of still bothies in vicinity |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Invermeinie | 0 | | 36 | Yes at the nearer ones, in the middle part of Gleann Meinich | 3/?4 (in Gleann Meinich) 1 (in Allt n'Sail) |
| Blar na Beithe | 0 | | 15 | No | 1 |
| Inverchoran | 5 | Enclosure walls in lower Gleann Chorainn | 26 | Enclosure walls in Upper Gleann Chorainn | ?2 (in Gleann Chorainn) |
| Carnoch | 7 | | 8 | | 1 |
| Keanloch beanacharainn | 15 | Enclosures at Allt a'Choire Duibh | ?45 (it is probable that some of these were attached to more distant settlements) | Farmsteads and enclosures at Allt Creagan nam Gobhar and Coille Innes na Sine, also sheepfarm at Doirevaire in Gleann Fhiodhaig | 4 (again it may be that some in the upper glen were attached to other settlements) |
| Achness | 8 | | | | |
| Corrievuic | 2 | | 8 | | 1 (in Coir a 'Bhuic) |
| Corriefeol | | | 13 | | 4/?5 (in Coire Mhoragean) |

A number of small buildings with turf walls and rounded corners were found at several of the townships on the valley floor. They were located on terraces at Carnoch, Blar na Beithe, Invermeinie and Drumfearn for example. They may just possibly have been sheilings, but are more likely to have been pre-improvement buildings; they were often located alongside rectangular, stone-built buildings which were almost certainly of later date. They probably indicate a township with a long period of settlement. The township at Invermeinie (Sites 1067 – 1079), located in the angle between the two rivers, mystified us. The largest building (Site 1067), which measures 30m x 5m, has the remains of walls up to 2m thick and 0.8m high in places. It is extremely substantial and very well made with three large compartments; it has a “feel” of being “estate” built. But yet the inhabitants had lived the lives of the older townships; close by there was at least one, possibly two, corn-drying kilns and 19 storage pits, probably for potatoes. Was this building constructed as part of a plan to re-house people who were moved from elsewhere? We know that Glen Meinich was one of the first places to be let as a sheep farm, c1808, and that there was displacement of people at that time. From the Old Parish Records there was a significant number of births at Invermeine, 23, between 1820 and 1830, it would then appear, from the documentary record, that the people had been removed c1833-34.

At many of the townships pits were a significant feature. 78 pits have been recorded in 6 different locations in the areas of Phases 2 and 4. The pits are always situated in airy well drained positions and are generally between 1-2 metres in diameter and 0.3-0.8m in depth – some have a raised bank around their perimeter. Their purpose is uncertain, but it is generally thought that they were used for storing potatoes for the winter. If this is the case then they provide evidence that the people at one point were reliant on potatoes.

As with Phases 1 and 2 of the project, the remains of illicit still bothies were well represented. Nine “probable” bothies and a further 3 “possibles” were recorded in Phase 4. They were generally more substantial than the ones lower down the glen at Scatwell, and usually recessed into a slope or knoll making them easily camouflaged. Many had a stone-built sub circular feature or recess in one of the rear corners, a feature that we had come across in the bothies of Phase 2. In two instances - An t'Sail (Site 1038) and Mid Gleann Chorainn (Site 1107), a possible nearby look-out post may have been associated with the bothy; this was something that we had come across in Phase 1 of the project (Site 200 at Drumindarroch). In one instance, that of Allt a Charaich (Site 863), a nearby building (Site 864), may have been living quarters for the smugglers.

We encountered a considerable amount of evidence of sheep farming, including boundary walls and enclosures - some large and stone built, others small and of turf – as well as rectangular and circular sheepfolds. The farmstead and enclosure in Gleann Meinich, known as Callums Croft, with improved ground surrounding was probably a sheep farm; it appears to have been occupied until relatively recently. Otherwise the main farms of this period - Invermeinie, Inverchoran and Carnoch - are still roofed and in good order; no other deserted sheep farms were located. We were unable to find evidence of the cottage in the old photograph from the archives, but we did identify its position as being at Strathanmore from the topography

and surrounding features; the site is now planted with trees and much altered.

Although deer were plentiful in this part of the glen we did not find any archaeological evidence of shooting, apart from the present keeper's cottage at Inverchoran, which has maintained this function since the mid 19th Century. At Inverchoran too there was a byre with a sunken midden (Site 897), which had a nicely cobbled floor, reminiscent of the midden at Corrie Feol. The shooting estate was centred on Dalbreac Lodge and Scardroy Lodge.

Little remains of the timber camps and the bridges seen on the aerial photographs of 1947 - the remnants of the exploitation of timber during WW2. We located a few piles of stone and brick which represent the Nissen huts of the timber camp, northeast of Inverchoran at the outflow of the Allt Gleadhach, and a brick chimney on the west side of the river next to the road which seems to be part of the same activity. The abutment of a bridge on the east bank of the river may also be related.

3. Gazetteer

The sites are listed from east to west, taking the north side of the River Meig first and then the south side. Individual features have been given a three figure project number, not in any particular order. For reporting purposes the features have been grouped together as a site and though they are geographically associated they may not be contemporary with each other. The site name is generally that of the nearest named place or feature on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map

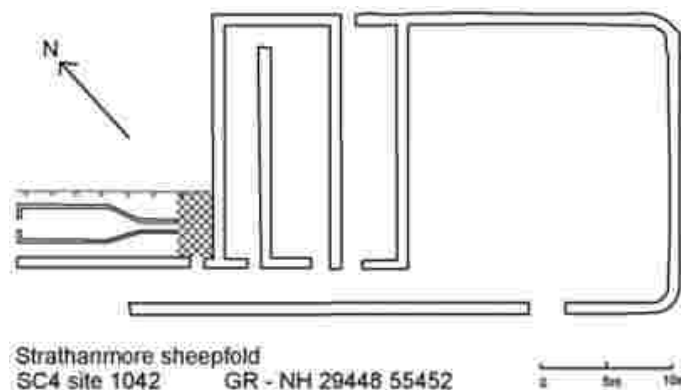
3.1 North Side of the Glen

Strathanmore

Sheepfold, buildings and platform (1042-1044, 1122 and 1129) centred on NH29425 54497 (NH25SE 0016) The settlement of Strathanmore is on the west bank of the River Meig. It has a SE facing aspect and is situated at the foot of the Allt an t-Strathain Mhoir on raised ground where the burn emerges onto the valley floor. There are several houses, some of them occupied permanently.

1042 Sheepfold - Centred on NH29425 54497

A well constructed and well preserved sheepfold is situated on the south side of the burn, adjacent and on the upper side of the road. It is on a NW - SE alignment and measures 100m x 45m overall. The walls are 0.7m in thickness and generally 1.5m in height. Both corners at the SE end are nicely rounded. The NW part of the sheepfold is occupied by a well preserved sheepdip. The dip is constructed of concrete with the walls 10cms in thickness and 1m height - the dip itself is 4m in length



1043 Site of Building - NH 29448 54522 There is no evidence of this building on the ground today but it was thought worthy of recording since it is marked on the 1st Edition OS map (as roofed) and there are 2 fine photographs of it held in the Balfour collection of papers in the National Archive, Edinburgh - GD 433-2-234 and dated 1859 - 1883. (*Figure 16 and Figure 17 the site today*)

Evidence for the building at this site is provided by

• 1st edition OS map, surveyed 1875

- Corner of a building to the right in one of the photos matches the present day building on the north side of the burn
- A wall with gateway, part of the sheepfold 1042, with a post to the left of it, matches the gateway (also with post) in the second photo of the building
- Skyline in both photos concurs with the skyline above Strathanmore
- Waterfall of the Allt an t-Strathain Mhoir has the same cascades as those in the photo

1044 Platform/Possible Building - NH 29540 54560 (Nmrs No NH25SE 0016) A platform and possible working area is just inside a gate on the N side of the burn to the NE of the main settlement at Strathanmore. It is the site of the two roofed buildings and 2 enclosures marked on the 1st edition OS map of 1881. The platform is on a NE-SW alignment and the platform/enclosure to the SW measures 20m (NW-SE) x 12m. It is raised with a double faced dry stone wall on its SW side. The working area/site of buildings is to the NE and measures c20m x 20m

1122 Building/Possible Shieling - NH 29321 54301 200m to the SW of the main settlement of Strathanmore in an area of green grassy flushes, the remains of this small oval building are on an E-W alignment. It measures 2.5m x 1.5m internally and is surrounded by low turf and stone walls just 0.2m in height

1129 Building - NH 28965 54568 Situated on a steep SE facing slope above Strathanmore at an altitude of 267m the remains of this rectangular structure comprise substantial stone footings. It is aligned NE-SW and measures 7m x 3m overall, 5.5m x 1.3m. It is platformed out at its SW end where the external height is 0.7m, internally the height of the walls is just 0.2m.

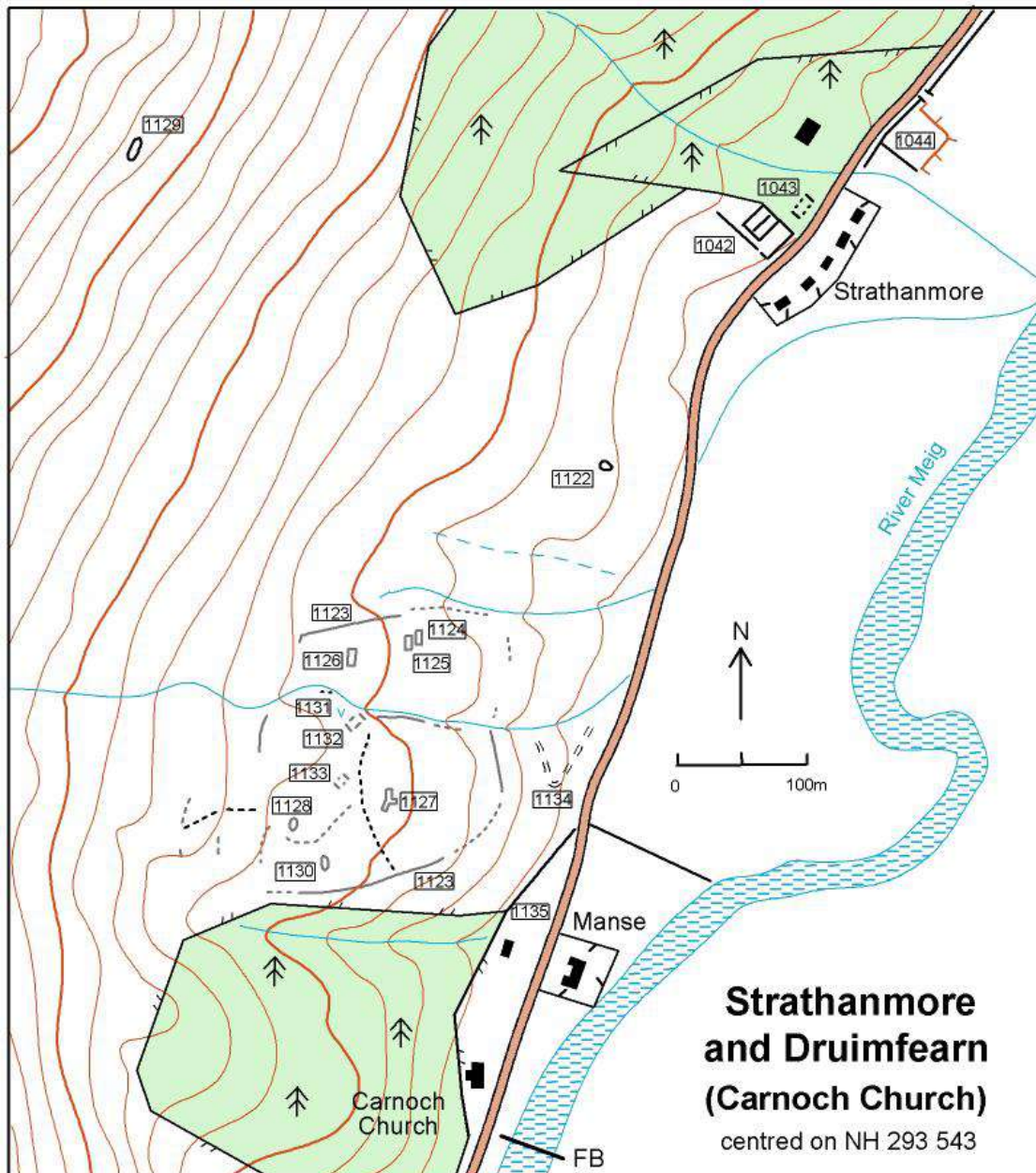
Allt An T-Strathain Mhoir - Note re possible shieling, site NH25SE 015, at NH 2870 5477 which is marked on the 1st edition OS map and recorded as part of the FES Project - no evidence of a building was located at the site.

Strathanmore, Druimfearn

Township (1123-1135) centred on NH 2915 5407 Alternative names – Druimfearn or Carnoch Church.

This township comprises 8 buildings, several enclosures and a possible well. It is situated on a grassy, fertile, well drained area above and to the WNW of Carnoch Church. This is the south part of a SE facing slope which stretches between Strathanmore and Carnoch Church. The north part is marshy and heathery with a few green flushes but otherwise relatively infertile. The south part of is greener and much more fertile. It has three small burns running through it and is surrounded by a turf dyke which is more or less continuous, although wasted in parts. What appears to be an earlier system of enclosures, represented by several stretches of wasted turf, or turf and stone dyke is also evident. Eight buildings and a possible well were located in the upper part of this area which slopes more gently and forms a series of knolls and spurs. A track and a wall associated with Carnoch Church (*Figure 18*) and the manse (*Figure 19*) are also included here

1123 Walls - The turf wall which bounds the whole area is more substantial and complete in its north and south sections, it is 0.3m high, has a spread of 1.5m in parts. Otherwise the alignments of turf or turf and stone walls which are within and bisect the main enclosure are grossly wasted. Some are short, some longer, but all are not continuous and do not link up. They almost certainly surround enclosures which were associated with the buildings. See plan



1124 Building - NH 29168 54161 The east most of two rectangular buildings on a N-S alignment, measures 3m x 1.5m internally. The distinct turf banks are 0.3m high and have a spread of 1m. Reeds internally

1125 Building - NH 29164 54160 The west most of the two buildings is very similar, it is on a N-S alignment and measures 3m x 1.5m internally. The turf walls are 0.3m high and have a spread of 0.8m, although at the south end they are 0.5m high and have a spread of 1.5m. A possible entrance is in the SE corner.

1126 Building - NH 29120 54160 This rectangular building on a N-S alignment measures 4.5m x 2m internally. The discontinuous turf walls are 0.3-0.4m high and have a spread of 1m. The hump in the centre

may be a partition.

1132 Possible Building - NH 29114 54118 A grassy rectangular platform within a marshy area may have held a building. It is on a NE-SW alignment and measures 11m x 3m. It is built out at its NE end where there is a bank of 0.5m height. Reeds surround.

1131 Possible well - NH 29105 53997 A few metres to the NW of site 1132, this small U shaped hollow appears to be stone lined. It is 0.8m in diameter. It is reed filled and water issues from it.

1133 Possible building - NH 29104 54089 A barely discernable grassy rectangular platform surrounded by an incomplete low turf and stone wall, it is aligned NE-SW and measures 4m x 2m

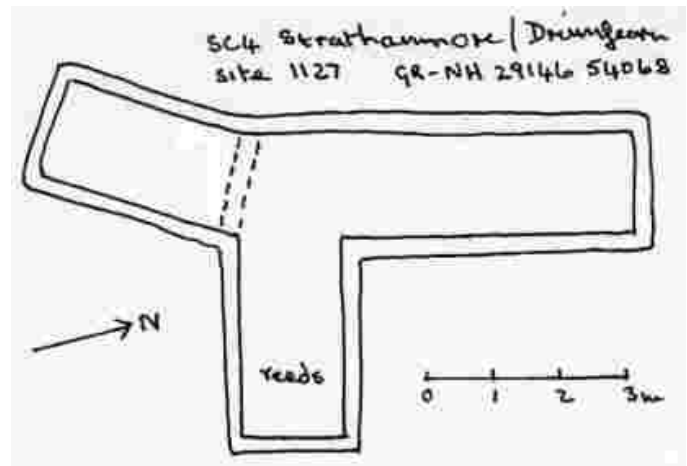
1127 Building - NH 29146 54068 An L shaped building on a SSW-NNE alignment with an outshot to the SW. The main part of the building measures 6m x 1.5m internally with the abutting "leg" to the east 3m x 1.5m. The outshot is 2.5m x 1m. All the remains of the walls are of turf, 0.3m high and have a spread of 0.6m-1m. Reeds internally

1128 Building/Possible Shieling - NH 29074 54051 A rectangular building on a NE-SW alignment measures 3m x 1.2m internally. The low turf walls are 0.3m high and have a spread of 0.8m. A possible entrance, 0.6m in width is in the NE corner.

1130 Building/Possible Shieling - NH 29100 54014 This rectangular building is rectangular in shape, on a N-S alignment and measures 5m x 2m internally. The distinct turf footings are 0.2-0.3m high and have a 0.6-1m spread, being more substantial in the S part. The ends of the structure are substantially rounded.

1134 Track - centred on NH 29265 54080 A grassy track revetted into the slope ascends diagonally from NE to SW and then "zigs" back to the north. It is 1.5m in width and perhaps c150m in length.

1135 Enclosure/Wall - NH 29276 54026 (N corner) A ruined dry-stone wall encloses the immediate surrounds of Carnoch Church and the manse. The NE part of the wall is more complete. The west part is much more wasted and perhaps 300m in length.



Allt na Turaraich, Balblair

Farmstead and cairn (1062 and 1063) centred on NH 288 532. Alternative names - Bail 'a Bhlair. Situated within a field, halfway between Glenmeinich Farm and Carnoch church, close to and on the east side of the road.

1062 Building - NH 28804 53185 Situated in a relatively sheltered situation to the NE of a grassy bank this building is on a NE-SW alignment and measures 13.5m x 5.5m overall. The low turf and stone walls are 0.5m high maximum and generally have a spread of 1m. There are 2 compartments. The main one to the north is 6.5m x 3.2m internally, it has an entrance in the SE wall. The smaller compartment to the SW is 3.9m x 3m internally. Probably robbed of its stones for the nearby fieldwall.

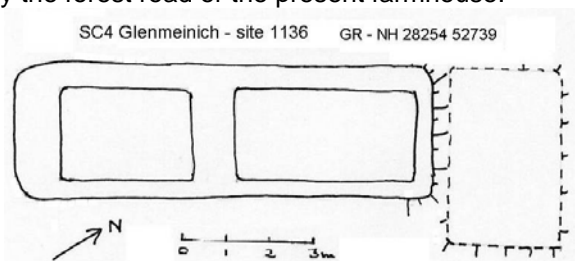
1063 Cairn/Probably clearance - NH 28892 53270 Circular and of c9m diameter this is 0.6m high, moss and grass covered.

Glenmeanich, Invermeinie

Alternative names - Innermannie, Inverveinie.

Township and enclosure (1136 – 1139, 1065 and 1061) - centred on NH 284 528. The remains of five buildings and one enclosure, 1061, are most likely associated with an earlier township in the vicinity of Glenmeanich farmhouse, now a holiday house. The main focus of the township would appear to be 50m to the north of the present farmhouse on the west side of the road where an area of level grassy ground has been grossly disrupted by forestry, fencing and also road construction. The remains of at least three buildings are barely seen and their extent is difficult to determine. A further building lies in rough ground immediately west of the farmhouse. Others may have been swept away by the forest road or the present farmhouse.

1136 Building - NH 28254 52739 The remains of this building, on the opposite side of the road to the farmhouse, are situated on a heathery spur of a rocky knoll. The building is on a NE-SW alignment, measures c12m x 4m overall and comprises 3 compartments. The turf walls are 0.2-0.3m high and have a spread of 0.7-1m, although those to the SE are less evident. The main central compartment is 4x2m internally, the SW compartment is



3x2m and the less discernable NE outshot, which is at a lower level by 0.5m, appears as a platform at right angles to the main building. It is 4x2.5m. A large marshy depression, 7m in diameter, lies immediately to the SW of the building.

1065 Building/Possible shieling - NH 28177 52713 A grassy platform on a small mound and on an E-W alignment appears to have the remains of a turf wall at the east end. The platform is 5m x 1.5m and the dished area at the E end is 1.5m x 1m. The cut of a track runs to the south of the structure

1137 Building - NH 28361 52833 The southwestmost of the three structures 50m to the NE of the farmhouse. It is a rectangular structure on a NE-SW alignment which measures 5.5m x 3m internally. The turf and stone banks are indistinct in places but banks of height 0.3m and 0.7-1m spread are evident in other places. There may be an outshot to the NE and also an enclosure to the NW but disruption by forestry and fencing makes this unclear.

1138 Building - NH 28374 52854 This central building of the three is rectangular, on a NE-SW alignment and measures 10 x 2.5m internally. The distinct turf walls are 0.3m high and have a spread of 0.8m although those to the SE are less distinct. There may be a partition dividing off the NE part, which is marshy and reedy, and measures 4 x 2.5m. There may also be an outshot to the SW where there is a shallow depression, but this is unclear.

1139 Building - NH 28408 52879 A rectangular building on a NE-SW alignment and measuring 6 x 3m internally is on a grassy platform. The low turf and stone walls are barely discernable and discontinuous, but 0.2m high and 0.8m spread in places.

1061 Enclosure - NH 28548 52987 A small enclosure, on the NW side of the road to the NE of the farmhouse, has been truncated by a ditch and the road. It is c 10m x 8m. The NW bank is substantial and of turf and stone, it is 0.7m high with a spread of 2m. The SW and NE walls are more wasted. There may be a further enclosure attached at the SE - a curving recessed cut encloses an area of 11m x 6m but it again appears to be truncated by the upcast from the ditch

Enclosures, Pit and bridge abutments (1027, 1028, 1060, 1064 and 1066) – centred on NH 282 526 Most of these features to the SW of the farmhouse are probably associated with sheepfarming

1027 Enclosure - Centred on NH 2819 5255 Situated on the south side of the Allt Gleann Meinich between the burn and the public road, this feature is just 50m or so to the SW of the farmstead at Glenmeinich. At this point the road runs along a raised river terrace which is, for the main part, poor ground - heathery and marshy. This grassy enclosure is beside the burn at a lower level, in a sheltered position and surrounded on all sides by higher ground. It has the shape of an elongated triangle, it is 100m in length by 50m (at its S end). It is on a roughly N-S alignment. To the west the enclosure is bounded by the stream in its N part and by a turf and stone bank in its S part. To the east by the bank of the river terrace and to the south by a wasted turf bank at the top of the river terrace - a track descends the river terrace on the outside of the bank at this point.

1028 Pit - NH 28215 52507 A large pit recessed into the river terrace in the SE corner of enclosure 1027. It is 2m deep and 8m in diameter across the top (2m across the bottom). The turf bank runs around a large part of the lip of the pit.

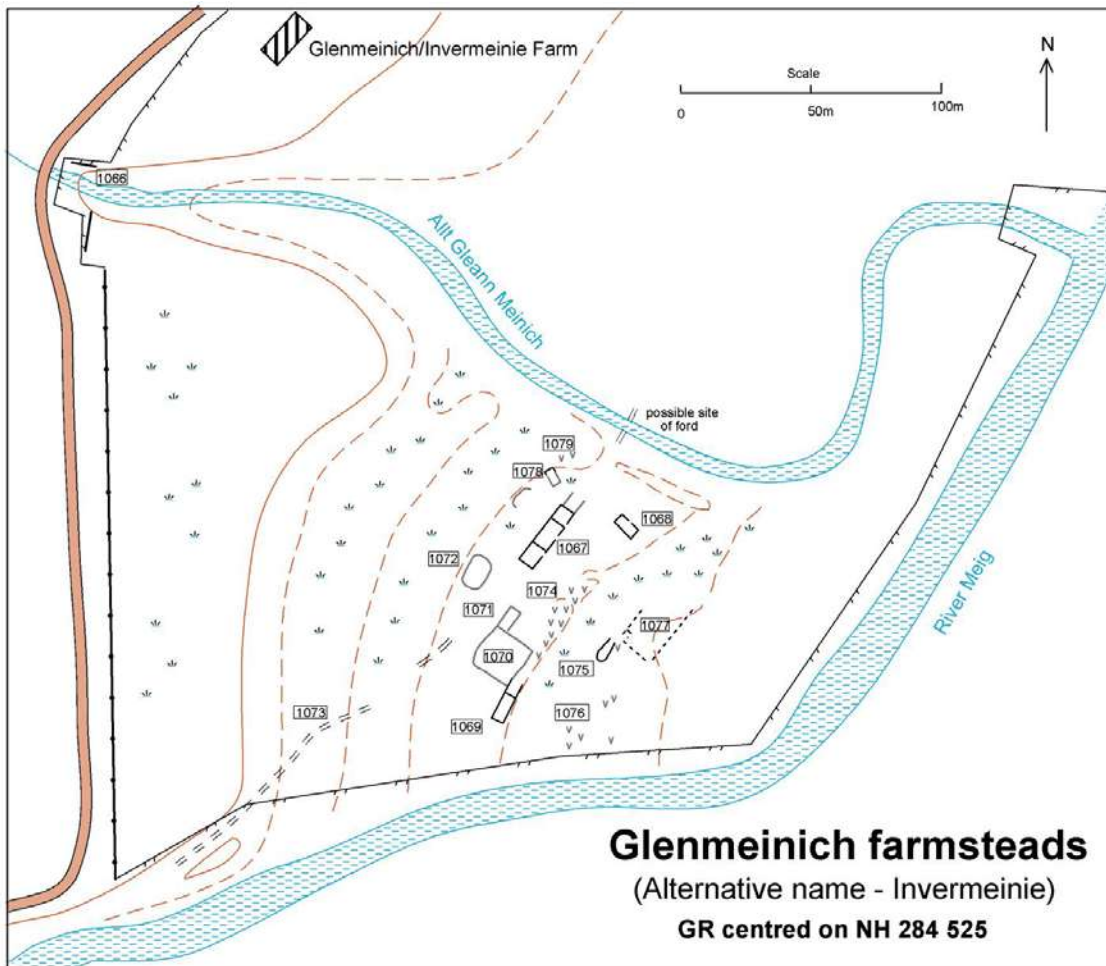
1064 Enclosure - NH 28192 52681 (NE end) to NH 28125 52641 (SW end) On the north side of the Allt Gleann Meinich 100m or so west of the roofed farmstead at the foot of Glen Meinich, this turf and stone bank, 80m in length, encloses a grassy area, roughly 100m in length, in the bend of the burn. The bank is 0.6m high and 1.5m spread at the SW end but much more degraded in its NE part

1066 Bridge abutments - NH 28240 52680 The remains of the previous road bridge can be seen to the east of the present one. The NW abutment is more intact and has a drystone face towards the burn. The SE abutment is mostly wasted but the stone face of the underbuild of the causeway to the bridge can be seen extending away to the SE.

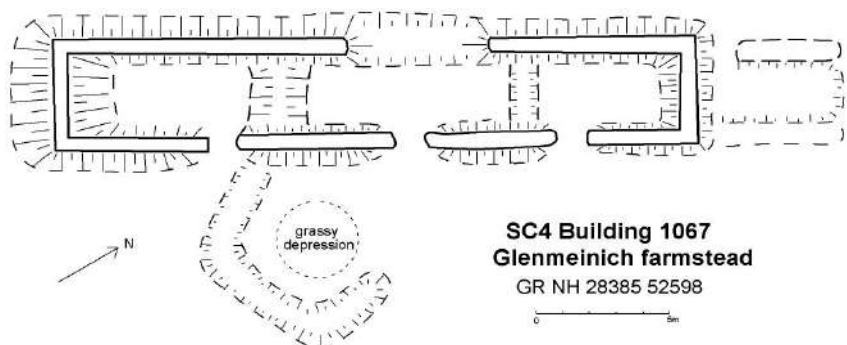
1060 Earth bank - 50m or so to the NE of the farmhouse at the foot of a bank, a curving 25m length of earth bank is 0.5m in height. It most likely bounded a track which descended the bank.

Farmsteads, enclosures, possible corn-drying kiln, pits and track (1067 - 1079) - centred on NH 284 525. Situated on a series of terraces to the SE of Glenmeinich Farm and in the angle between the Allt Gleann Meinich and the River Meig. The area is enclosed on three sides by the burn and the river. The five glacial terraces vary in width and height. In the west higher part they are marshy for the most part, but lower down nearer the river they become more grassy. The Estate plan of 1825 has the track descending the terraces from the SW and crossing the Allt Gleann Meinich at a ford, the line of this track can still be seen in parts. The site comprises 4 buildings, 2 possible kilns, 3 enclosures and 19 pits, possibly potato clamps or storage pits.

1073 Track - NH 28269 52431(SW end) to NH 28380 52530(NE lower end) A 150m length of the track descends three of the terraces from SW to NE. It is generally 2m in width, grassy and cut into the slope. The track could have passed either to the front or the rear of the main building and a cut in the bank to the Allt Gleann Meinich may indicate a ford at NH 28435 52584. The site comprises 4 buildings, 3 enclosures, 2 possible kilns and at least 19 pits in 3 gouts



1067 Building - NH 28385 52598 The main building of this township is large and substantially built. It is rectangular, on a NE-SW alignment and measures some 30m x 5m overall. There are 4 compartments - see sketch. The walls have a stone core of two faces and are turfed up on the outside so that the spread in many parts of them is as much as 2m. Height of the walls varies between 0.5m and 0.8m. There is tumble at the SW end of the SW compartment as if there has been a stone built gable here and a broad spread between the two west most compartments. The entrances to each of the compartments are in the SE wall and are 1.2m in width. A section in the middle of the rear wall of the main compartment may have been robbed of its stone. The east end has an outshot which appears more as a rectangular shallow depression with low walls to NW and SE and the end wall is absent



1068 Building - NH 28440 52549 The stone footings of this rectangular building on a NW-SE alignment are seen a few metres to the east of the main building 1067. The building is aligned NW-SE and measures c8m x 2.5m internally. The turf covered stone walls are 0.3m high and 0.8m thick. There is an entrance 0.8m in width in the NE wall.

1069 Building - NH 28383 52487 A rectangular building on a NE-SW alignment and on the edge of a terrace, has 2 compartments. The main compartment to the SW is 11m x 3m internally and the stone and turf walls have a height of 0.4m and a spread of 1.5m. The outshot to the NE measures 6m x 2.5m internally and is contiguous with enclosure 1070. The turf and stone wall footings are less discernable being overgrown with marsh and reeds, they are 0.3m high. There appears to be no end wall at the NE end

1070 Enclosure - centred on NH 28388 52506 A sub-square enclosure, 14m x 14m. The surrounding turf walls are 0.4m high and have a spread of 1m.

1071 Building - NH 28391 52517 This building is on a NE-SW alignment, measures 8m x 3m internally and

is contiguous with enclosure 1070 at its north corner. The low turf and stone wall footings are just 0.2m high with a spread of 0.8m. There is no evidence of an entrance.

1072 Enclosure - 28380 52530 At the foot of a terrace this enclosure is on a NE-SW alignment and measures 9m x 6m internally. The turf and stone walls are 0.3-0.4m high and have a spread of 1m

1074 Pits - centred on NH 28412 52515 A group of ten pits are seen on the edge of a terrace. Their depth is generally 0.5-0.6m and their diameter 1.5-2m.

1075 Possible kiln (*Figure 11*) - NH 28431 52507 A possible building on a NE-SW alignment and measuring overall 7m x 3m, has a circular west end 3m in diameter. The wall here is sloping and appears to be faced with stone. The structure is open to the NE and a pit is located just to the east

1076 Pits - centred on NH 28430 52493 A group of seven pits varying in size but maximum 0.8m deep and 2m diameter. Some of the pits have low turf banks surrounding them.

1077 Enclosure - Centred on NH 28448 52507 The remains of this grassy enclosure, which is on a NE-SW alignment and is c30m x 12m are barely discernable. Two sides of the stone walls, to SE and SW, are low grass covered stones just 0.5m in thickness. There may be the stone footings of a small structure in the SW corner. It measures just 3m x 1.5m.

1078 Possible Kiln - NH 28408 52581 Constructed with its NW end into the bank of a terrace this structure is on a NW-SE alignment and measures 5m x 3m. The NW end is "squared", 1.2m high and appears to be faced with small stones. The SE end of the structure disappears into a marsh where there is a quantity of stones/possible tumble. The SW bank extends for c4m and is 0.4m high.

1079 Pits - centred on NH 28412 52580 Two pits on top of a terrace are 0.4m deep, 1.5m diameter and surrounded by low turf banks.

Gleann Meinich

Gleann Meinich is a side valley of Strathconon and runs for 8 kms in a ESE-WNW direction from Invermeinie. It is a prime example of a U shaped valley with steep sides and a flat valley floor. It was one of the first areas to be let as a sheepwalk at the beginning of the 19th century, more recently it has been turned over to forestry. Today much of the forest has been felled and replanted but there are some more mature open stands of trees. A good forest road traverses the glen almost to the very top.

Lower Gleann Meinich farmstead and sheepfold (996 – 1000) - centred on NH 2673 5323 - (Nmrs No - NH25SE 0012) This site is in the lower part of Glen Meinich on the north bank of the river on a gentle slope facing south. It has good relatively fertile ground surrounding but it has been forested; the trees are now felled, but it has been mounded and replanted again. The site comprises 3 buildings a circular sheepfold and an enclosure. A small burn runs through the site

996 Building/Farmstead - NH 26723 53254 This rectangular building, to the north of the sheepfold, is aligned E-W. It has internal dimensions of 4.8m x 2.5m. The substantial wall footings of turf and with some good stone settings are 0.2m-0.3m in height with a spread of 1-1.2m. The walls in the SE part are more wasted presumably having been robbed of stone for the nearby sheepfold.

997 Building/Possible byre - NH 26731 53248 A rectangular building aligned SE-NW this measures 6.4m x 3.1m internally. The NW part is recessed into the slope and the wall here is 0.5m in height otherwise the wall footings are 0.2m in height and appear to be robbed of their stone. There is a possible entrance in the SW wall. The building slopes to the SE where the end wall is missing.

998 Building - NH 26781 53236 A rectangular building on a N-S alignment, platformed into the slope, and measuring 4.3m x 3m internally. The recessed east wall is a bank of 0.8m height and there is an obvious stone edge in the SW corner supporting the platform

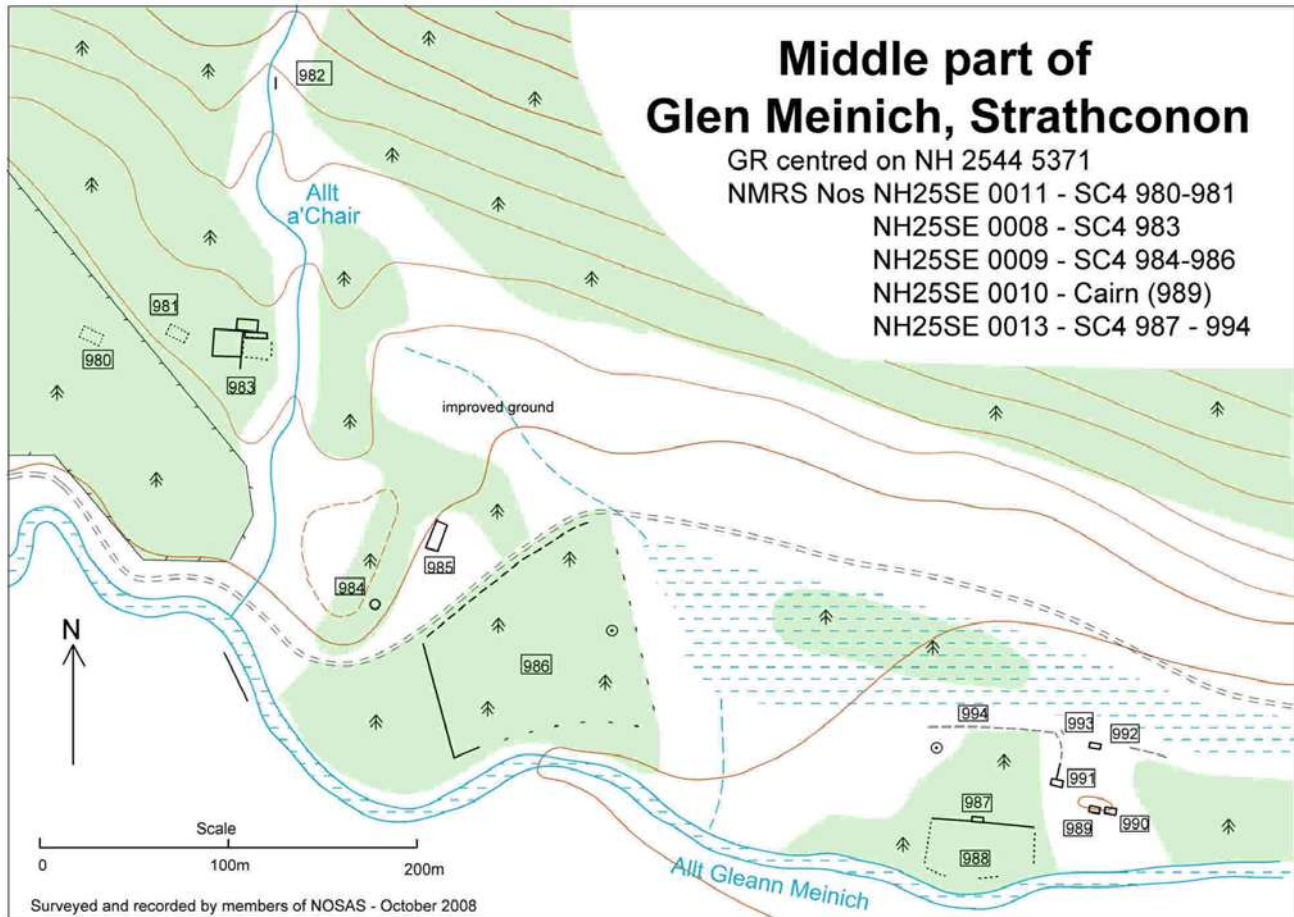
999 Enclosure/Wall - NH 26725 53220 (centre of north wall) An enclosure is defined by a 40m stretch of its north wall to the south of the stail. The turf bank is aligned ENE-WSW, is 0.5m in height and has a spread of 1-2m. There is a gap 1.5m in width halfway along. The bank turns to run southwards at its east end but soon disappears into the marsh. At its west end it goes into a fenced plantation where it disappears under the heather. It may well enclose an area right down to the river some ?70m distant

1000 Sheepfold - NH 26720 53200 A circular sheepfold with internal diameter of c15m. The dry stone walls are tumbled in places but 1.2m in many parts. A small stone built pen abuts the wall on the inside in the N part and a sheep creep in the south part measures 0.6m width by 0.7m height

A further **previously recorded sheepfold**, Nmrs No NH25SE 0025, at NH 2604 5332, 700m to the west of the above site, on the south side of the river, was not visited. Also in this vicinity a previously recorded dyke, NH25SE 0014 at NH261535, was searched for but not located. However the following site was recorded;

995 Cairn/Possible building - NH 2605 5352 A spread of stones appears to have a straight edge.

Middle Gleann Meinich "Cairn" - NH 25689 53568 (Nmrs No NH25SE 0010) has been wrongly recorded at NH 2545 5367 in the past. This grassy knoll, previously thought to be a cairn, forms a prominent landmark. It is thought to be natural and is the focus of the township: 2 of the buildings are set into its S side



Middle Gleann Meinich township (987 – 994) - centred on NH 2567 5357 (Nmrs No NH25SE 0013)

This township is in the middle part of Glen Meinich on the north bank of the river. It is on the valley floor at a point where a broad relatively fertile linear stretch of ground c300m x 100m is adjacent to the river. It has fine grasses, much has open planted trees but much has been felled or is windblown. A grassy knoll, previously thought to be a cairn (NH25SE 0010) forms a prominent landmark. This is now thought to be natural and is the focus of the township, which comprises 5, possibly 6 buildings, an enclosure and a headwall.

987 Building - NH 25625 53560 (NMRS No NH25SE 0013) A rectangular structure aligned NE-SW and abutting enclosure 988, measured 5.9m x 3.6m overall (4m x 2.5m internally) The wall footings of large stones were 0.3m in height and there was a possible entrance in the SW wall

988 Enclosure - centred on NH 25625 53538 A linear enclosure close to the river, on slightly raised ground and aligned roughly E-W measures roughly 70m x 40m. The N wall onto which building 987 abuts is of stones and much wasted, the west wall is evident as a turf bank with an obvious SW corner above the river. Planted with trees but open and very grassy

989 Building - NH 25689 53564 Recessed into the south side of the grassy knoll this building is aligned WNW-ESE and measures 5.5m x 3.6m overall (4.2m x 2.2m internally) The stone footings are generally 0.6m thick and 0.3m in height but the rear recessed wall is 0.5m. A large boulder has been used at the SE corner. The corners appear to be squared.

990 Building - NH 25701 53564 3.8m to the east of building 989 and recessed into the SE side of the knoll, this rectangular building is larger and measures 7.8m x 4.3m overall, 5.9m x 2.9m internally. It has recessed walls to the west, 1m in height and to the north 0.5m in height. The east and south walls of turf and stone are 0.5 and 0.2m in height respectively and there is an entrance in the south wall

991 Building - NH 25671 53576 This rectangular (previously described as L shaped) building is aligned WNW-ESE and appears as a depression 0.6m deep. It measures 8m x 4m overall (5.2m x 2m internally) The wall footings are of turf and stone and the corners appear to be squared, there is an entrance in the south wall. The structure is grass and reed covered. An obvious turf and stone wall extends northwards for 8m and eventually links up with the headwall 994

992 Building - NH 25702 53605 This small rectangular building is aligned E-W and has an overall measurement of 5.4m x 3m. It appears as a scatter of largish stones but has a straight edge at the east end.

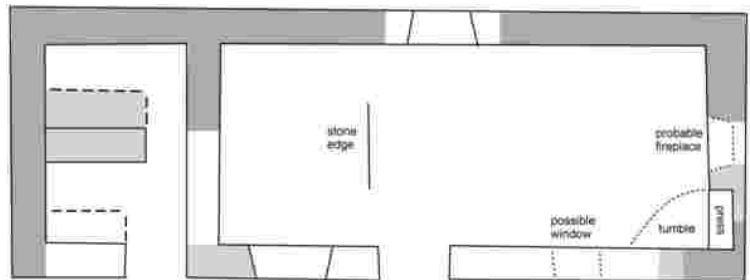
993 Possible Building/Possible Pit - NH 25673 53611 A small roughly circular depression is roughly 2m in diameter and 0.5m deep. It abuts the headwall 994

994 Headwall - NH 25580 53625 (west end) to NH 25750 53645 (east end) This very wasted and discontinuous turf (with occasional stone) bank bounds the grassy ground between the river and the marsh on its north side. It can be traced for 80m or so. An obvious grassy clearance cairn is at NH 25608 53595 and is 5m x 4m. There are others.

Middle Gleann Meinich Farmstead, enclosure and pen (985 to 986) - NH 2535 5367 Alternative names - Allt a Chair, Callums Croft, (Nmrs No - NH25SE 0009) This site sits in the middle part of Gleann Meinich on the north bank of the river. It is situated in a sheltered position on the east side of the fluvial outwash of the Allt a'Chair. Open forest surrounds. The farmstead comprises a building, enclosure and pen. There is evidence of improved ground to the NE

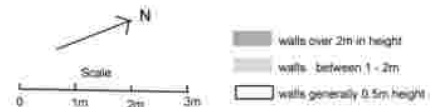
984 Pen - NH 25315 53670 A roughly circular structure with an internal diameter of 0.7m this crudely constructed pen is built up against the east side of a large boulder. The pen is 0.8m in height and has no entrance

985 Building - NH 25355 53708 A well constructed roofless building aligned NE-SW. The walls are of mortared and dressed stone, upstanding in the main to a height of 2m, with the gable ends to 2.5m. The walls are generally 0.6m thick and there are 2 compartments. The main compartment to the NE has evidence of a chimney and a press closet in its thicker (0.8m) end wall. There are two window openings with splayed jambs and a possible third. There was no internal partition to the main room but a stone edge may indicate the position of a wooden partition. The byre to the SW had an internal wall which was not bonded to the end wall. Both it and the external wall had been made thicker by the addition of crudely built constructions.



Calums Croft, Glen Meinich, Strathconon

SC4 site 985 GR NH 25355 53708
NMRS No NH25SE 0009



The byre to the SW had an internal wall which was not bonded to the end wall. Both it and the external wall had been made thicker by the addition of crudely built constructions.

986 Enclosure - NH 25412 53655 This irregular 4 sided enclosure is aligned WSW- ENE. A wasted wall seen on the south side of the forest road opposite Callums croft is the remains of the NW wall of this enclosure, it is 130m in length. The short W side is of rough dry stone construction and 75m in length. It is tumbled in places but 1m in height in other parts, at the S end it turns at the top of a steep bank above the river and continues for 11m as the S boundary before terminating. The south and east boundaries of the enclosure are seen as the fragmentary remains of a post and wire fence which continues for 110m and 120m respectively (see plan). Half way along the east wall there is a clearance cairn at NH 25460 53656, it is roughly 3m in diameter.

Middle Gleann Meinich shielings (980 and 981) centred on NH 252 538 (Nmrs No - NH25SE 0011) Alternative names - Allt a Chair. In the middle part of Glen Meinich on the north bank of the river, this site is on the west side of the Allt a'Chair. Only 2 of the previously recorded 4 shielings were found. The area has been enclosed by a deer fence and is very overgrown with heather up to knee height and small self planted trees

980 - Shieling - circa NH 25200 53790

981 - Shieling - circa NH 25230 53815

Middle Gleann Meinich sheepfold (983) and bridge (982) Alternative name - Allt a Chair. Both these features are in the middle part of Glen Meinich on the north side of the river. The sheepfold is on the west side of the Allt a'Chair, the bridge is 120m to the north of the sheepfold on the east bank of the burn.

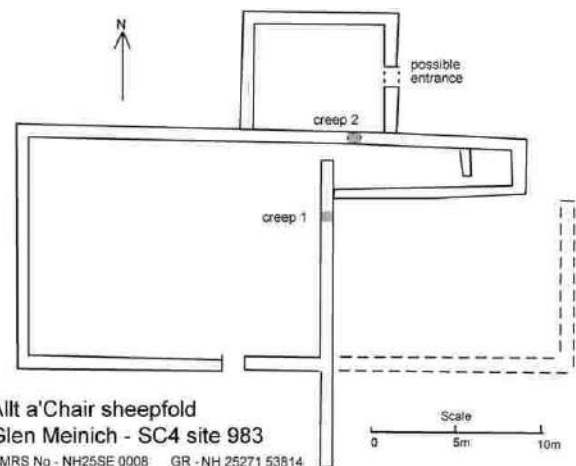
983 Sheepfold NH 25271 53814 Comprises a large enclosure with a smaller one abutting at the NE corner and also a linear poorly constructed building here.

There are two sheep creeps (see plan) and a length of walling stretching to the south. The walls are generally very tumbled but in places reach 1.2m in height.

A few stone alignments to the east indicate a further enclosure here. The whole site has at one time been planted with trees, evidenced by the cut stumps and there is evidence of machinery and/or logs having been dragged through the sheepfold.

982 Bridge - NH 25282 53931 A manmade retaining wall is seen on the east side of the burn. It is 1.2m in height and 2m

in length and is presumed to be the abutment of a bridge. A smaller similar piece of wall is seen on a central island at this point.



**Allt a'Chair sheepfold
Glen Meinich - SC4 site 983**

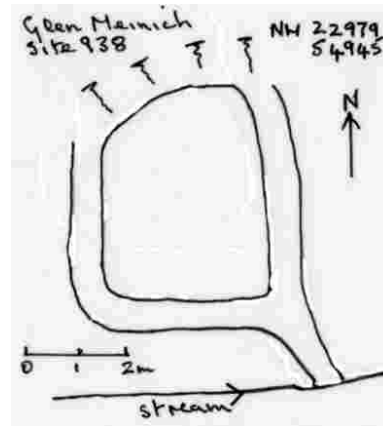
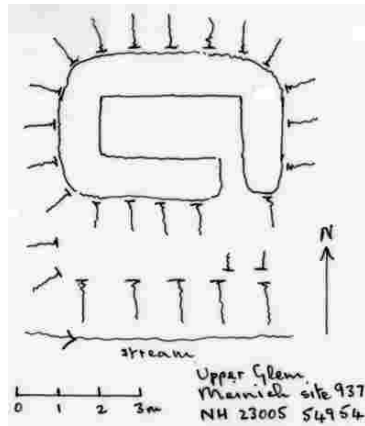
NMRS No - NH25SE 0008 GR - NH 25271 53814

Upper Gleann Meinich building, enclosure and walls (935 – 940) centred on NH 23013 54872

These features are in the upper part of the glen where it becomes narrower.

935 Ditch and dyke - NH 23013 54972 extends up into the forest on the N side of the track for a good distance (not measured) and also as far as the burn on the S side of the track where it becomes more wasted.

937 Building/Possible shieling - NH 23005 54954 The low stone walls of a roughly rectangular building on an E-W alignment are located close to the burn. It measures 3.5m x 1.5m internally. The walls are c0.3m high and have a 1m spread. The building sits on a well defined platform. A probable entrance is seen in the SE corner



938 Enclosure and wall - NH 22979 54945 This small enclosure is close to the burn and measures 4m x 3m. The surrounding walls are of single boulders c0.5m high and 0.6m width. A stub of a wall extends to the burn from the SW corner. Probably associated with 937

939 Shieling hut - NH 22922 54961 Sits on top of a grass covered knoll near site 937 and c40m to the north of the burn. The knoll has a dished centre, roughly oval with internal measurements of 3m x 1.5m.

940 Dyke - The line of an old dyke is opposite shieling 939 and a further enclosure runs up the hill to the NE

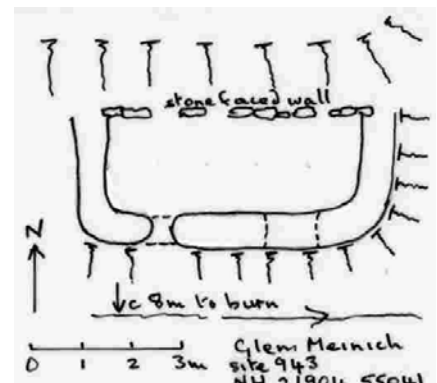
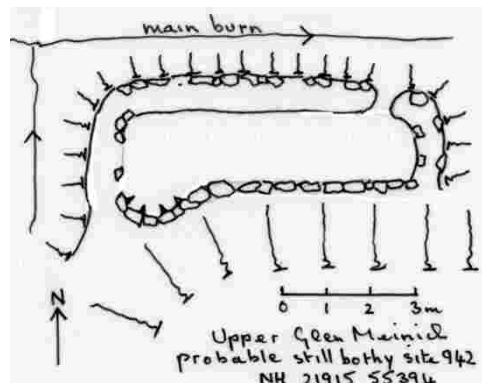
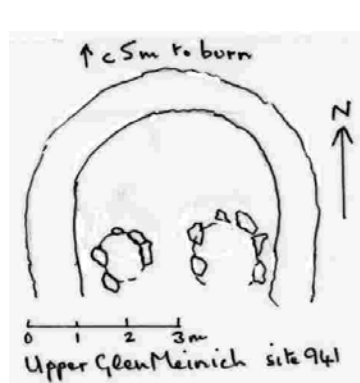
Upper Glen Meinich possible still bothies (941 to 944 and 948) centred on NH 222 553

These features are in the upper part of the glen above the forest.

941 Possible pen or still bothy - NH 22620 55115 A small pen with turf and stone banks is on the S side of the burn at the foot of a steep slope. It is c4m x 4m. There is possibly two stone features within the structure, one a roughly oval stone setting is in the SW corner. Not impossible that this might have been a still bothy. It is located just 5m from the burn

942 Still bothy (Figure 13) - NH 21915 55394 This structure is on the south bank of the main burn and close to it but there is also a small side burn coming down from the hill immediately to the west. The building is rectangular and is on an E-W alignment measuring 6.5m x 1.5m internally. It is revetted into the hill slope with a back stone retaining wall which has collapsed. The walls at the side and front are to the original c1m height. Rear upper/SW corner has a perfect semi-circular feature with the back wall intact. The interior is covered with grass and moss.

943 Possible Still bothy - NH 21904 55401 This site is on the N bank of the burn and c8m from it. It is on an E-W alignment and c5m x 2m internally. The structure is revetted into the hillside with a stone retaining wall. The boulder and turf walls are generally to a height of 0.6m and have a thickness of 0.6m. There are two possible entrances. The ground round about is very wet and boggy.



944 Cairn - circa NH 21904 55401 An unusual cairn beside the burn

948 Possible still bothy - NH 22203 55221 Located beside the main burn, this structure on an E-W alignment and measure 4.5m x 1.5m internally. The structure is revetted into the hill slope. The walls are of turf and have a max height of 0.5m (on the E gable wall). There is an entrance in the SE corner

Upper Glen Meinich sheilings (945 – 956)

centred on NH 2218 5522 The southern group of two groups of sheilings within a fairly confined area above the treeline at the very head of the glen. This group comprises the remains of 11 shielings in and around a small tributary of the main burn on the south side of the valley,

945 Shieling - NH 22149 55159 Small turf building on an E-W alignment measuring 2.5m x 1.5m. It is slightly dished and has grass and rushes growing in the centre. No obvious entrance

946 Shieling platform - circa NH 22160 55180

947 Shieling hut - NH 22177 55214 A small building beside a small burn and on a NW-SE alignment. It is revetted into the hillside, and measures 3m x 2m. The stone built walls are turf and moss covered and to a height of 0.5m with 0.6m thickness. It has an entrance in the NE corner

949 Shieling - NH 22240 55213 A sub-rectangular structure on an E-W alignment measures 3m x 1.5m internally. It is revetted into the hillside and the moss covered turf and stone walls have a max height of 0.5m with a spread of 1m. There is possibly an entrance in the SW corner. It adjoins shieling 950

950 Shieling - NH 22243 55215 A further sub-rectangular structure on an E-W alignment is 2m x 1.5m internally. The walls are of turf and stone and have a height of 0.5m and spread of 0.6m. The free standing back wall is shared with W wall of site 949. There is an entrance in the SW corner.

951 Shieling - NH 22249 55215 A sub-rectangular structure on an N-S alignment measures 2.5m x 2m. The turf and stone walls have a height of 0.5m and max spread of 1m

952 Shieling - NH 22282 55238 The low turf and heather footings of this very wasted oval structure are on a prominent knoll between the main burn and a side burn. It is on a WSW-ENE alignment and measures 5m x 2.5m.

953 Shieling - NH 22233 55232 The very wasted remains of this turf and heather structure are on a ridge. It is oval in shape, has a slightly dished centre and measures 3m x 2m internally.

954 Shieling - NH 22211 55244 A distinct shieling oval in shape and on an E-W alignment it measures 3.5m x 2m. The footings are of turf and heather.

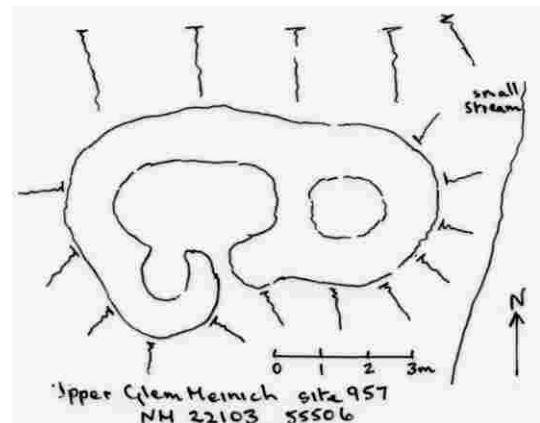
955 Shieling - NH 22154 55256 The wasted remains of this oval shieling are on an E-W alignment and measure 3.5m x 2m internally. The footings are of turf and heather.

956 Shieling - NH 22132 55264 A low mound with a dished centre on the ridge. It is on an ESE-WNW alignment and measures 4m x 2.5m internally.

Upper Glen Meinich sheilings (957 to 976)

centred on NH 2222 5545. The northmost of two groups of sheilings situated within a fairly confined area above the tree line at the very head of the glen. This group comprises the remains of 19 shielings. They are on the SSW facing slopes of the north side of the valley.

957 Shieling - NH 22103 55506 An oval structure with 2 outshots or cells. The main part is on an E-W alignment and measures 3.5m x 2m internally and there is an entrance in the north wall. The outshot to the north is 1m diameter and that to the west is 1.5m x 1.5m. The walls have boulder and turf ruins spread to 1.5m with a height of 0.5m



958 Shieling - NH 22096 55497 The low turf and heather footings of this structure are on an ESE-WNW alignment. The structure is 3.5m x 1.5m internally. It has a slightly dished centre. It is just below site 956.

959 Shieling - circa NH 22105 55462 This stone built structure is on an E-W alignment. It measures 2m x 1.75m internally and the outshot on the east side is 1m x 1.2m. The walls are 0.5m high and have a spread of 1m. There is a possible entrance in the SE

960 Stone setting - NH 22107 55460 Three slabs have been set on end to form a small structure c0.6m in diameter.

961 Shieling - NH 22105 55454 A complex unrecordable shieling mound covered in dense rushes above site 959

962 Shieling hut - circa NH 22140 55444 A circular structure measuring 2m internally. Walls are of stone and turf and have a maximum height of 0.3m and spread of 1.2m

963 Shieling - circa NH 22150 55430 A structure on an E-W alignment measures 3m x 2m internally. It has low turf and heather footings

964 Shieling - NH 22189 55407 A structure on an E-W alignment measures 3m x 2m. It is open to the west. The footings are of turf, 0.5m high and with a spread of 1.5m. There is possibly an outshot to the NW corner 1m x 1m square.

965 Shieling - NH 22205 55515 A very wasted oval shieling mound, only the down side wall remains visible.

966 Shieling - NH 22221 55449 An oval structure on an E-W alignment measures 4m x 2m internally. The low turf footings are 0.3m high and have a spread of 1.5m

967 Shieling - NH 22230 55440 A small square structure 1.5m x 1.5m as 965

968 Shieling - NH 22235 55444 A large oval shieling hut on an E-W alignment measures 4.5m x 2m internally. The walls are of turf.

- 969 Shieling** - NH 22221 55401 This structure on a prominent mound has a dished centre. It is on an E-W alignment measures 3m x 1.5m internally. The walls are of turf, 0.5m high and have a spread of 1.5m.
- 970 Shieling** - NH 22222 55417 On a prominent mound this structure is on an E-W alignment and measures 3m x 1.5m internally. The turf footings are 0.5m high and have a spread of 1.5m
- 971 Shieling** - NH 22225 55426 It is difficult to define this shieling mound as it has extensive rushes. Appears to be very similar in size to 970 - 3m x 1.5m internally
- 972 Shieling** - NH 22228 55411 A poorly defined shieling mound
- 973 Shieling** - NH 22199 55391 Small triangular shieling mound with sides of c1.5m. Turf covered.
- 974 Shieling** - NH 22232 55403 Just in the trees there is a small round shieling hut, 1.5m diameter. The footings are of turf and there are rushes in the centre
- 975 Shieling** - NH 22246 55393 A further small shieling hut on an E-W alignment, measures 1.5m x 1m internally. The footings are low and of turf.
- 976 Shieling platform** - NH 22308 55384 This is complex and very wasted

Glenmeinich SW, Invermeinie

Farmstead (1029 – 1033) centred on NH 28125 52187 Situated on a terrace on the north side of the river 500m to the SW of the main habitation of Glenmeinich. At this point there are broad flat haughs on the valley floor. There is a linear grassy strip close to the river and much poorer marshy and heathery ground on a raised river terrace. The farmstead is situated on a raised knoll on the river terrace, the earth bank a few metres to its east runs along the edge of the river terrace

1029 Farmstead - NH 28125 52187 A rectangular building on a NE-SW alignment measures 22m x 3m internally with squared corners. The low turf and stone footings are 0.3m in height and have spread of 1m. There are 3 compartments, the main central one is 10m x 3m, the east one is 9m x 3m and the west outshot which is set back is 3m x 2m. There is no evidence of an entrance. Moss, grass and heather cover

1030 Building - NH 28130 52170 A few metres to the west of 1029 and at a lower level this structure is set into the slope of the knoll. It is on the same alignment and measures 4m x 3m internally. The NE part is recessed into the bank with a height of 1m and the SW part appears as a depressed area 0.5m deep, but there is evidence of stonework around the edge. It is wet and reedy.

1031 Earth bank - NH 28135 52120 (N end) - NH 28105 52140 (S end) Aligned NNE - SSW this bank extends for c100m along the edge of the river terrace, it is generally 0.3m in height and with a spread of 0.6m. It separates the poorer land on the river terrace from the fertile grassy land at a lower level and may be associated with the management of sheep.

1032 Building - NH 28084 52137 A rectangular building is situated in an area of moss and heather. It is aligned NE-SW and measures 7m x 2.5m internally. The low turf footings are just 0.2m high and have a spread of 0.5m. The corners are square.

1033 Enclosure - NH 28102 52120 A roughly square enclosure which is barely discernable. It is 8m x 8m, the remains of banks, 0.2m high, can just be seen on the NE and SE side, the NW and SW sides are slightly recessed into the slope. Generally mossy

Clach Loundrain

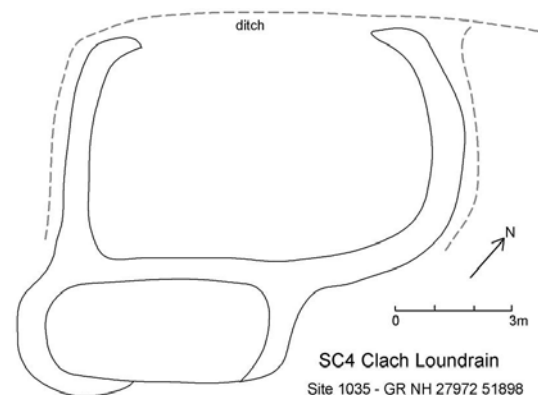
Buildings or Possible shielings (1034 and 1035) - centred on NH 2798 5191 Situated on the floor of the main valley, on the north bank of the river, 250m to the NE of the large stone known as Clach Loundrain, NMRS No NH25SE0002. At this point there are a series of knolls on the broad river terrace. The 2 buildings are close to each other on the edge of the river terrace

1034 Building/Possible Shieling - NH 27988 51933 A rectangular building on a NE-SW alignment this structure has rounded ends and measures 5m x 2m. The turf walls are 0.2 - 0.3m high and have a spread of 1m. There is a possible entrance at the west end

1035 Building/Possible Shieling and enclosure - NH 27972 51898 Just to the SW of site 1034 these two conjoined structures are on a grassy NE facing slope.

A - The building to the south is rectangular, with rounded corners, is aligned NE-SW and measures 6m x 2.5m internally. The remains of the turf walls are variable, they are 0.3m high with a spread of 1m to the SW and NW but at the east part the structure appears more as a depression 0.3m deep

B - The enclosure to the north measures 9m x 6m and is surrounded by a bank, more evident in the SW. It is 0.3m high but 0.5m in the NE and has a spread of 1.2m. The NW limit of the enclosure is defined by a change of vegetation to marsh and a small ditch. The small shallow ditch is to be seen on the outside of 3 sides of the enclosure and drains away to the north



Farmstead, enclosure and milestone (1024 – 1026) - centred on 2775 5170. - Situated on the valley floor on the NW side of the river, this farmstead is 100m or so to the SW of a large boulder from which it takes its name. There are several grassy fertile stretches on both sides of the river at this point

1024 Farmstead (*Figure 10*) - NH 27689 51701A rectangular building on a NE-SW alignment measures 12m x 3m internally. The well defined wall footings are of turf and stone, 0.5m high and with a spread of 1 - 1.5m. The corners are squared and there appears to be an entrance in the SEW wall

1025 Enclosure wall - NH27752 51777 (wall corner) A short length of turf and stone wall to the NE of building 1024 delineates the extent of the improved ground. The wall is 0.7m high, has a spread of 1.5m and is aligned NW - SE

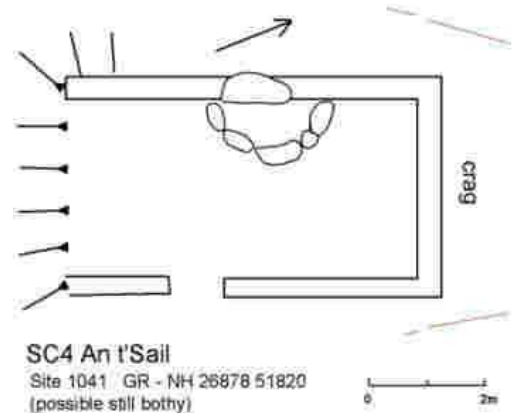
1026 Milestone - NH 27823 51868 A slab of stone measures 0.6m height x 0.5m width x 0.1m depth. It has a rounded upper edge although there is a large chip deforming the curve. Not inscribed

An t-Sail

A small valley on the northwest side of the saddle between Creag Clach Loundrain and Creag na Saile has a possible still, 2 shielings, 2 buildings and 2 pens in its upper part

Building/Possible still bothy (1041) - NH 26878 51820

Situated at a altitude of 220m, beside a small burn in the upper part of the above valley. There are extensive patches of green fertile grass surrounding which are covered in bracken. The structure is reasonably well hidden behind a crag. A rectangular building with squared corners on a NNE-SSW alignment constructed against a crag. Internal measurements are 6m x 3m. The remains of the stone walls are generally 0.5m high with the stone face at the NNE end against the crag being 0.6m. The structure is on a well made level platform with the SSW end having substantial underbuild and a 0.6m drop to a dry channel, the present stream is 4m or so away here. There is an entrance 1m wide in the east wall and a low setting of stones against a large central boulder in the west wall. This encloses a D-shaped area of 1.5m x 1m



Building, Possible shieling and pens (1036 – 1039) - centred on NH 26884 51698 Situated on the northwest side of the saddle between Creag Clach Loundrain and Creag na Saile at a altitude of 240m. The ground here is generally heathery but there are patches of green fertile grass which are covered in bracken. These sites are to be found on a large SE facing area of such

1038 Building - NH 26851 51692 To the rear of a knoll in the upper part of the grassy patch this well made structure is sunk into the ground, the stone faced walls being 0.8m high. It is a rectangular structure on a N-S alignment and measures 3.5m x 2m internally. It has rounded corners. There is a pile of stones, possible tumble in the SW corner and an entrance at the N end 1m in width

1039 Structure/Pen - Situated just 5m to the N of 1038 this crudely constructed structure is aligned NE-SW and measures 3m x 1.5m internally. The structure has been constructed against a crag at its NE end, the NW face is recessed into the slope and the SE wall is formed by a curving alignment of irregular bracken covered stones

1036 Pens - NH 26896 51678 Two pens with crudely built low stone walls

A The west most has internal dimensions of 1m x 0.7m. Walls to a height of 0.5m Heather and moss covered
B The east is sub-circular and 1.2m in diameter. Defined by occasional moss covered stones 0.2-0.3m high

1037 Building/Possible shieling - NH 26884 51698 A rectangular platform defined by occasional low moss covered stones on a NNE-SSW alignment has internal dimensions of 6m x 2m. The ends are rounded and the whole is grass and bracken covered

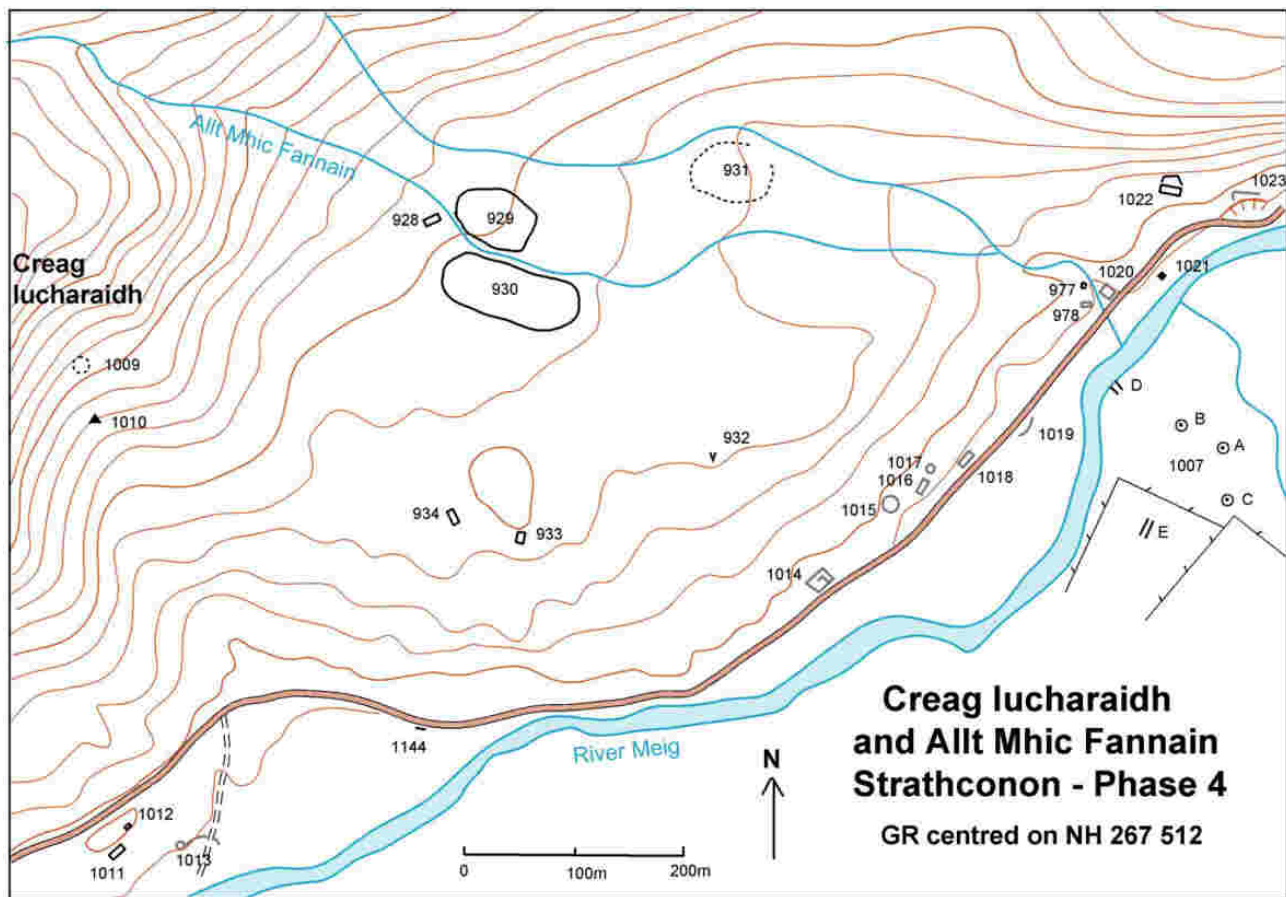
Shielings (1040) - NH 26930 51732 Situated on the northwest side of the saddle between Creag Clach Loundrain and Creag na Saile at a altitude of 220m. The ground here is generally heathery but there are patches of green fertile grass which are covered in bracken.

1040 Shielings - NH 26930 51732 Two structures situated on an obvious grassy mound

A - the southwest one on the top of the knoll has a depressed centre is 0.4m deep and measures 3m x 1.5m internally and **B** the northeast one, at a lower level, appears as an oval depression 2.5m x 1.5m.

Allt Mhic Fannain

Buildings and enclosures (1014 – 1023) - centred on NH 2698 5113. (Nmrs No NH25SE 0017) Within a linear area of 400m length, close to the road and on either side of the Allt Mhic Fannain there are several enclosures, a farmstead, 2 small buildings/possible shielings and a free standing brick chimney piece (probably contemporary with the timber camp on the east side of the river).



1014 Enclosure - NH 26854 51048 A roughly rectangular enclosure aligned NE-SW in a sheltered recessed area on the upper/NW side of the road. It is c12m x 8m internally. The turf and stone banks are more obvious in the SW part where they are 0.7m high. There appears to be a dogleg dividing wall internally - see sketch

1015 Enclosure - NH 26923 51110 A sub-circular enclosure on a steep E facing heather and grass slope. The enclosure is c17m in diameter and surrounded by a wasted turf and stone wall which is more evident in its upper/west part.

1016 Building/Possible shieling - NH 26933 51124 A small rectangular building with rounded corners, measuring 2.5 x 1.5m internally. The surrounding turf footings are 0.3m high with a spread of 0.8m. There is an entrance in the SE wall. The site is grossly bracken covered

1017 Building/Possible store - NH 26938 51133 A small sub-circular building recessed into the slope has internal diameter of 1.5m. The front/SE wall is 0.5m high and there is an entrance of 0.6m width here too.

1018 Building - NH 26983 51138 The remains of a rectangular building aligned NE-SW and measuring 8 x 2m internally are close to and on the NW side of the road. It is recessed into the slope on the SW and W sides where there is a face of 0.5 - 0.8m height but the remainder of the building is grossly wasted and barely discernable with just a few stones marking the wall footings

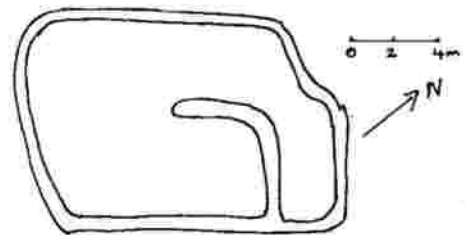
1019 Earthbank - NH 27031 51174 A curving earth bank running parallel to the road on its lower/SE side. It is up to 0.6m high, has a spread of 1-1.5m and is 30m long

977 Building - NH 27130 51345 The stone footings of this building, which is on the west side of the Allt Mhic Fannain, are recessed into a steep bank. The building is roughly square and measures c2m x 2m

978 Building - NH 27132 51324 The remains of a rectangular building of 2 compartments are seen on the west bank of the Allt Mhic Fannain a few metres from the road. The building is aligned E-W, measures approximately 7m x 2m internally, and is barely discernable as it is very much overgrown with bracken. It appears as 2 rectangular depressions but there is some stone composition to the wall footings

1020 Enclosure - NH 27148 51330 A rectangular enclosure situated on the NE bank of the Allt Mhic Fannain close to the road. It measures c17 x 11m, is recessed into the slope on its NE side and has wasted stone and turf walls on the other sides

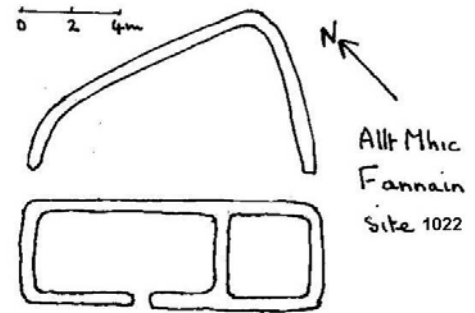
1021 Building - NH 27201 51355 All that remains of this building is a free standing mortared brick chimneypiece. It faces SW and is 1.6m high x 1.4m wide x 0.6m depth. It is leaning perilously. There is no evidence of the presumed timber building which was probably associated with the WW2 timber camp



road
Allt Mhic Fannain site 1014

1022 Farmstead and enclosure (Nmrs No NH25SE 0017) - NH 27230 51421 Situated on a terrace above the road this farmstead is on a NW-SE alignment. The rectangular building with squared corners has an internal dimension of 7m x 3m. The surrounding turf and stone walls are 0.5m high. There is an outshot 3m in length to the SE and an irregular enclosure, 10m x 4-8m to the NE; it is surrounded by a wasted dry stone wall to 0.7m height

1023 Enclosure - NH 27257 51414 (SE corner) Only the NW wall survives as a turf edge, the remainder of this enclosure has been excavated away by a gravel quarry



Buildings and enclosures (928 – 934) - centred on NH 2664 5130 This group of features is situated on a gentle SE facing slope of easier ground with the Allt Mhic Fannain to the north. It is one km to the NNE of Inverchoran, at an altitude of 200m. The ground is generally heathery and marshy here but the enclosures and one of the buildings are situated on well drained and improved land in the NW part of the area where the slope begins to steepen. Two of the buildings and a pit are on poorer slightly higher ground overlooking the River Meig

928 Building - NH 26528 51480 Comprises the stone footings of a small rectangular structure on an E-W axis with the main compartment measuring 3.5m x 2m internally. It is recessed into the slope to the north where the rear wall is 1m in height. The walls of stone are generally 0.6m in height although the west wall is much more substantial, 1m in height and 2m thickness. An entrance 0.8m in width is seen at the east end of the south wall. There is a small outshot at the east end, c1.5m square. The whole is bracken covered.

929 Enclosure - NH 26546 51420 The north most of two obvious enclosures, this oval enclosure is surrounded by irregular banks of turf and stone generally 0.5m in height and with a spread of 1m. It is on a raised area and measures roughly 80m x 50m. It is generally grassy but with large patches of bracken, a small stream runs down each of the long sides

930 Enclosure - NH 26580 51331 (centre) The southmost and larger of the two obvious enclosures. It measures 130m x 50m and has surrounding turf and stone banks to 0.5m in height and 1m thickness. A cluster of large angular boulders some 1.5 - 2m in size at NH 26580 51313 seem to have no form or significance; it may have been a single larger boulder.

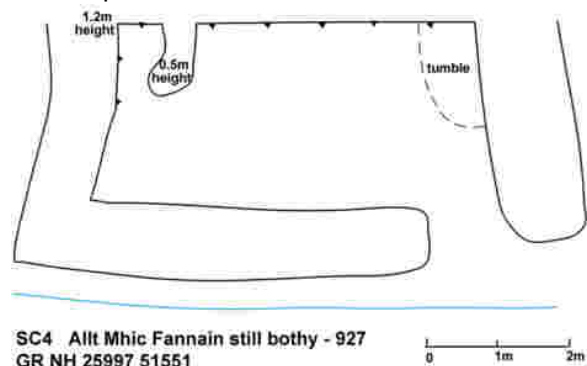
931 Enclosure - NH 26807 51432 (centre) An oval shaped enclosure roughly 70m x 60m, this is much more wasted and the surrounding walls are barely discernable. It is very heathery with just a few grass patches.

932 Pit - NH26791 51213 At the top of a steep slope this is 0.5m deep and 2m in diameter. It is grassy with bracken

933 Possible Building - NH 26609 51121 On the SE side of a prominent knoll, the remains of this rectangular building are on a NNE-SSW axis and measure approx 5m x 2m. The NNW wall is 1m in height and recessed into the knoll, the SSE bank of turf is 0.5m in height and an entrance appears to occupy the short SSW end.

934 Possible Building - NH 26569 51087 This crude structure constructed at the foot of a short crag is on a NW-SE axis and measures 4m x 1.5m. The rear wall is formed by the crag which is 1.2m in height, the side walls are formed by large angular stones, also the front wall which is extant only in its N half

Probable still bothy (927) - NH 25997 51551 One km to the NE of Carnoch in the upper reaches of the Allt Mhic Fannain this structure is situated at an altitude of 320m. The still bothy is well hidden from below and is at a point where the small valley eases off and is less steep. The remains of the structure are on the north bank of the burn and are heavily overgrown with heather. It is on a WSW-ENE axis and measures 5m x 2m internally. The north wall is recessed into the bank and the retaining stonework is 1m in height. The east and west walls are 0.5m in height and of tumbled irregular stones with the west wall being 0.8m thick and the east 1.2m thick. The front, south wall is generally 1m thick and 0.5m in height on the inside (1m externally), it is just 0.5m from the burn which runs parallel. A roughly circular stone feature in the NW corner is roughly 0.6m in diameter internally (1m externally) see plan, it is formed by a short length of wall 0.5m in height



Shieling (926) - NH 25686 51580 One km to the NNE of Carnoch this structure is situated at an altitude of 340m in the upper reaches of the Allt Mhic Fannain. The shieling is very close to the south bank of the burn in marshy ground. The slightly raised remains of this structure on a NNE-SSW alignment measure 9m x 4m overall. The surrounding walls are barely discernable but it is possible to make out rounded corners, 0.3m in height, at the SSW end. There is some stone composition in the NNE end and an entrance in the ESE wall. The structure is covered with moss and reeds and the NW corner is just 1.5m from the stream.

Creag Iucharaidh

Rock shelter and enclosure (1009 and 1010) - NH 26203 51251 These sites are situated at an altitude of 250m and at the foot of a SE facing scree, below a large crag. The sites are in a sheltered situation. The ground is stoney with large boulders but there are small grassy patches in the vicinity, also heather.

1009 Enclosure - NH 26203 51251 A sub-circular enclosure roughly 30m in diameter. The surrounding crudely built stone wall is very wasted and there are several large slabby boulders within.

1010 Rock shelter (*Figure 6*) - NH 26207 51170 A manmade cavity measuring 2.5 x 1.5m x 0.5 to 0.75m height under a large pointed boulder which is 3m x 2m x 3m (height). The shelter is dry and has a well constructed internal wall face of several courses, with slight corbelling, at its NE and E sides (*Figure 7*). The shelter has a triangular entrance at its SW end which is just 0.8 x 0.4m.

Buildings, enclosure and milestone (1011 - 1013 and 1144) - centred on NH 2625 5084 Situated on a SE facing grass and heather slope between the river and the road. The sites are opposite the township of Blar na Beithe and there is an old track immediately to the east which would have provided the access to the township by way of a ford.

1011 Building - NH 26220 50827 The footings of a rectangular building aligned NE-SW are heather covered. They surround a structure which has internal dimensions of 11m x 2m. They are of stone, are 0.2 - 0.3m in height and have a spread of 0.8m.

1012 Building/Possible sheiling - NH 26232 50857 A rectangular building aligned NE-SW with rounded ends and measuring 5 x 2 internally. The building is recessed into a knoll at its SW end where the face is 0.8m in height. There is some stone composition in the footings of the rest of the building and an entrance in the SE wall.

1013 Enclosure - NH 26280 50846 This sub-circular enclosure is situated on a steepish slope. It appears as a sloping platform with a substantial turf bank around the W and N arcs. The platform is 13m x 15m and has substantial underbuild to the SE (there is no enclosing wall to this arc). The earth bank enclosing the W and N part of the enclosure is 0.7m in height and has a spread of 1.5m; it is c20m in length and has an entrance at the centre. A further turf bank heads off northeastwards for 27m before turning east down the hill for a further 15m; it is 0.5m in height and heather covered. It is cut by an old track which heads from the present road in a SW direction towards a ford and the township of Blar na Beithe on the other side of the river (marked on 1st edition OS survey)

1144 Milestone - NH 26558 50922 A slab of stone embedded in an upright position on the south side of the road. It is 0.5m in width x 0.6m high x 0.06m thick

Carnoch (*Figure 1*.)

Carnoch East

To the east of Carnoch Farmhouse the river takes a swing away from the higher ground and then returns as it nears Inverchoran to the east. This area enclosed by the river on the south side and by the modern road on the north side, is roughly 500m x 200m in size. It comprises many fertile grassy knolls interspersed with some peaty marsh areas. Scattered over the area there are several small buildings with what appears to have been the main settlement at the very east end on an east facing slope close to the river.

Platform/ Proposed site of church (1008) - centred on NH 25968 50820 This site is about 1km to the ESE of the farm of Carnoch and on the upper side of the road at a bend in the glen. It is flat grassy platform 50 x 40m in a prominent place with an extensive outlook. Local folklore/knowledge has it that this site was intended for the new Telford church that was to be built in 1830, but the transport carrying the materials for the church became bogged down lower down the glen at Druimfearn. The material was off-loaded and the church was built at that location.

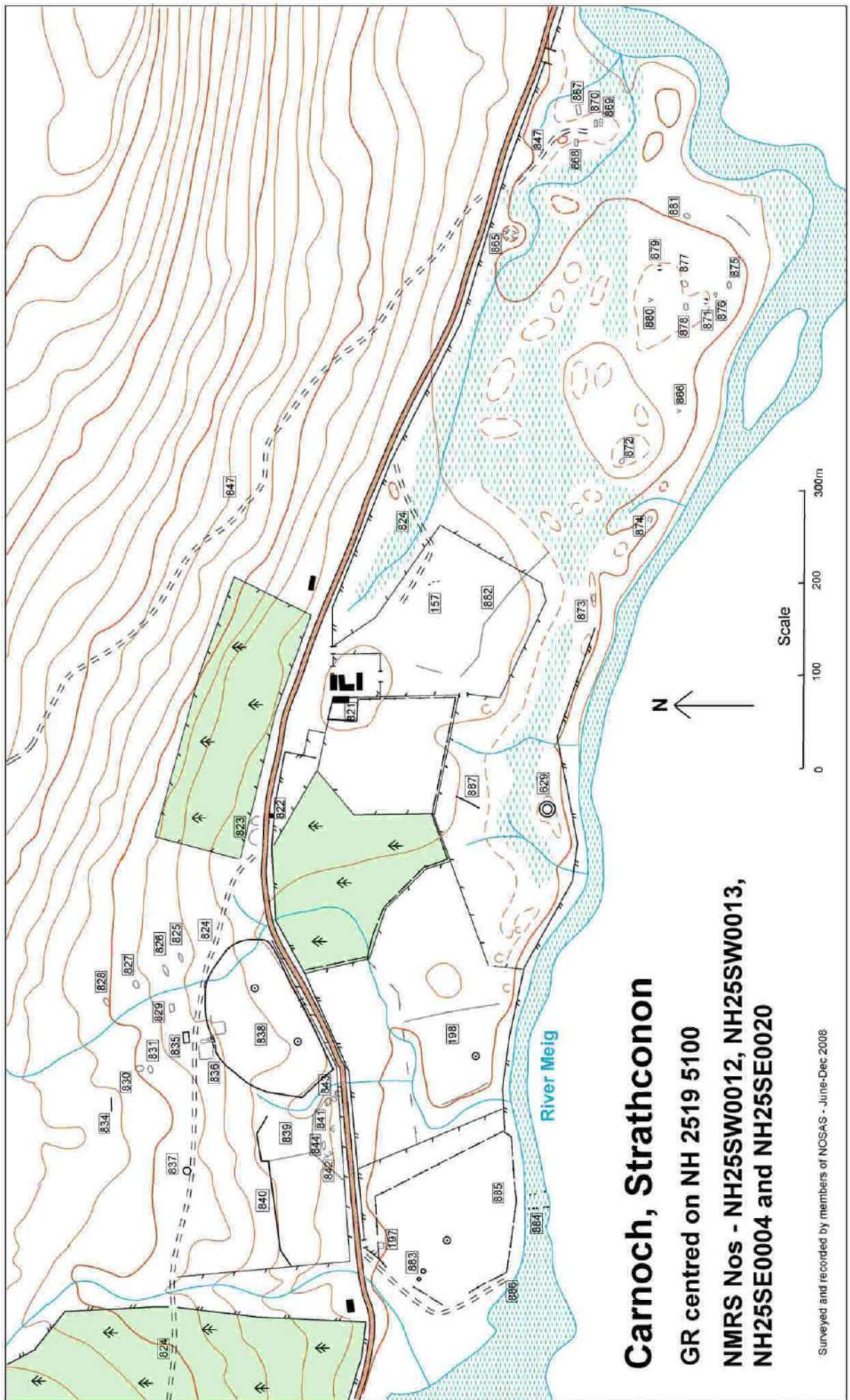
Township (865 – 881) - centred on NH 2565 5065 Alternative names - Inverchorain, Carnoch East. The site comprises 4 buildings, 7 shielings, several pits and some cultivation remains

865 Possible Storage pits - NH 25675 50822 On a prominent knoll beside the road there are seven irregular shaped pits of varying size and depth. All appear to be very degraded and it may be that they are storage pits or borrow pits for the road

866 Pit - NH 25491 50643 A circular pit, 1.5m in diameter and 0.3m deep is seen on a well drained shoulder

867 Building - at NH 25801 50759 Tucked in on the east side of an esker are the low turf covered remains of a sub-rectangular building c5m EW x 2m internally. The walls are constructed of turf and stone with an average spread of c1.5m and a height of less than 0.5m. The corners are rounded inside and out. There is possibly an entrance in the middle of the S wall. The building and site it sits on slope gently to the E.

868 Building - at NH 25783 50751 On the W side of the same esker as Site 867, on a level platform, the low turf covered remains of a sub-rectangular building 3m EW x 1.5m internally. The slight walls are comprised of stone and turf, with a spread of c1m. No obvious entrance.



Carnoch, Strathconon

GR centred on NH 2519 5100

NMRS Nos - NH25SW0012, NH25SW0013,
NH25SE0004 and NH25SE0020

Surveyed and recorded by members of NCSAS - June-Dec 2008

869 Building - at NH 25805 50736 Situated on a slight knoll forming the end of the esker on which Sites 867 and 868 sit either side of, a turf covered small sub-rectangular building, possibly a shieling hut, c2m EW x 1.5m internal. The walls are low and slight, with no visible stone, and a spread of less than 1m. No obvious entrance.

870 Building - at NH 25797 50747 Situated astride a narrow part of the esker between Sites 867, 868 and Site 869, are the very wasted turf covered remains of a small sub-rectangular building c2mEW x 1.5m internal. The fragmented walls, of stone and turf, have a spread of less than 1m. No obvious entrance.

871 Platform - at NH 25626 50600 The slight remains of a small platform, the reveting edge being formed by a curved setting of 5 large stones. The platform measures c 1.5m x 1.5m, and it sits at the head of several vague ridges and furrows, c3m between the furrows, which angle slightly across the east facing slope.

872 Shieling - at NH 25445 50708 The turf covered remains of a sub-circular shieling hut c2.7m diam internally. The very low walls have a spread of less than 1m. Little stone is to be seen. It sits in a prominent position at the western end of a knoll.

873 Shieling - at NH 25300 50757 The wasted turf covered remains of a probable sub-rectangular shieling structure, c3m EW x 1.5m internally. The east gable end is rounded whilst the W end of the structure is open. Wall spread less than 1m. It sits astride an esker.

874 Shieling Mound - at NH 25377 50683 The scant remains of a probable shieling mound.

875 Building/Shieling Hut - at NH 25650 50590 The low boulder and turf footings of an oval shaped shieling hut, c3m E-W x 1.4m internal. There is a possible entrance to NW.

876 Cultivation Remains - at NH 25636 50598 A small area of spade dug rig and furrow.

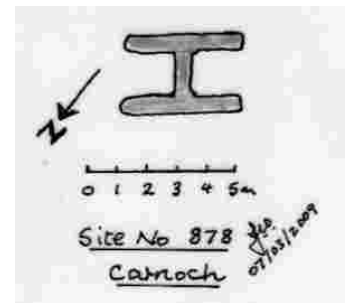
877 Building/Shieling Hut - at NH 25649 50624 The low boulder and turf footings of a sub-rectangular shieling hut, c3.5m SW-NE x 1.2m internally.

878 Shieling Structure - at NH 25624 50623 The turf and boulder footings of an unusual shieling structure, sub-rectangular in shape, 3.1m ENE-WSW x 1.6m, with an internal cross division, open ended at both ends.

879 Pen - at NH 25655 50648 The boulder and turf remains of a small circular pen, c 1.6m in diam.

880 Pit - at NH 25636 50650 A Juncus rush filled circular pit c2.2m in diam, and 0.5m deep.

881 Building/Shieling Hut, at NH 25711 506 45 The grass and bracken covered footings of a sub-rectangular boulder and turf shieling hut, c2.9m ENE-WSW x 1.9m internal.



Peat road and peat banks (847 and 848) - NH 25716 50842 (junction with public road/SE end) to NH 25636 51419 (top/NE end) These features are situated on the hillside to the east of Carnoch farmhouse.

847 Peat road - NH 25716 50842 (bottom/SE end) to NH 25636 51419 (top/NE end) The track climbs the grassy slopes of a south facing hillside in a NW direction from its junction with the public road. At a point, NH 25072 51608, 1.2kms from the road and an altitude of 310m it bends back to continue ESE for a further 600m before terminating at the peat banks 848 at an altitude of 350m. The track appears to have been well made; it is terraced into the hillside and is generally 2m in width for the lower 1km. The upper part is more wasted but perfectly evident with a substantial earth bank on either side. At the lower SE end, the peat road appears to continue in a SE direction down to the river on the lower side of the road. Here, in a grassy field, the definite line of a track, sometimes cut into the slope, is seen. It continues for some 100m from NH 25736 50820 to NH 25791 50751 with a deeply incut section or "hollow way", at NH 25780 50774

848 Peat banks - NH 25345 51554 (west most) - NH 25800 51419 (east most) Several discrete banks are seen in a saddle at an altitude of 350m. They stretch over an area 500m x 150m.

Carnoch Alternative name Carnoch Farmhouse

Situated on a S facing slope on the south side of the road, this deserted farmhouse complex (Nmrs No - NH25SE0020) has a slated roof in reasonable repair. It has several outbuildings and a large timber fenced sheepfold to the north and west. A small enclosure to the SW of the farmhouse has a shelter belt of lime and beech trees around it. The main farmhouse was built in 1893 and occupies the site of an earlier one marked on the 1st edition OS. Two of the outbuildings, those to west and north of the main farmhouse, were identified as those on the 1st edition OS survey. The small enclosure to the SW too was on the 1st edition OS survey. The farmhouse overlooks a large cultivated area of fields to S, W and SE between the road and river - see records for East Carnoch and West Carnoch. Associated with or close to the farmhouse are the features below

Stack bases, milestone and enclosure (821 - 823, 882, 887 and 157) - centred on NH 2520 5101 (Nmrs No - NH25SE0020)

821 Stack bases - NH 25186 50993 - Four circular cobbled stack bases can be seen within the enclosure immediately to the SW of the farmhouse. They are c.3m in diameter and the cobbles are generally between 15 and 20cms diameter

822 Milestone - NH 25026 51052 150m to the west of the farmhouse on the south side of the road there is a milestone (marked on 1st edition OS survey). It is an upright slab of dressed stone with a curving upper edge and measures 0.7m height, 0.5m width and 0.1m thick.

823 Possible Enclosure - NH 25056 51079 A substantial semicircular earth bank enclosing an area of c.16m diameter lies on the north side of the road to the west of the farmhouse. The earth bank is 0.8m height and has a spread of 3.5m; it appears to have been truncated by the road. Immediately to the east of the structure there is a mound which also appears to have been truncated by the road. The mound is 1.2m in height and c.10m in diameter. It has a hollow at its centre 1.2m in diameter and 0.4m deep

887 Linear Stone setting/Possible Wall - centred on NH 25069 50871 A distinct linear clearance, 25m in length, of large field boulders, many of which have been drilled and pieces removed from them. The boulders are generally average in size, 0.8m x 0.8m, and the line is orientated SW-NE on a steeply sloping bank. May be associated with the possible dun, 80m to the south

157 Linear stone setting - centred on NH 25297 50931 A curved setting of stones, maximum 0.5m x 0.5m, 15m in length aligned N-S

882 Earth bank - NH 25204 50878(W end) to NH 253342 50790(E end) An obvious earthbank aligned NW-SE is seen in a field to the SE of the farmhouse. It is 160m in length generally 0.5m in height and has a spread of 1m. In its east part it has a dry ditch to the north and is crossed by the field fence at NH 25313 50822

Dun, possibly galleried (627) - centred on NH 25071 50772 (Nmrs No - NH25SE 0004) Alternative name - Lower Carnoch. This site is situated on the north side of the river, 200m to the SW of Carnoch Farm, It is on the summit of a small knoll, which is situated on a low marshy river terrace; a steep bank drops to the river. It is a sub circular feature with a circular bank and has an overall diameter of c24m. The bank is stony in several places, roughly 7-9m in width and surrounds a dished centre with internal diameter of c7m. The bank is 1m in height in the NW and SE parts but otherwise low. It has several stony pits; it has possibly been quarried for its stone or excavated by previous curious parties. It has been suggested that the pits are possible galleries.

Old Road (824 and 837) Two clearly defined sections of the old road can be seen on either side of Carnoch Farmhouse. The road is marked on an estate map of 1825 as following this line, but on the 1st edition OS map and on the current OS map the current road is depicted, with the west section being marked as a path only.

824 East section - NH 25387 50957 (NE end) to NH 25286 50993 (W end) This section of old road to the east of Carnoch Farmhouse is shorter and traverses a marsh and a field just to the east of the old farm buildings. At its east end the road takes off from the present road and heads SW across a marsh towards the old Carnoch farmhouse. There is a deep incut section with an obvious bend at NH 25336 50915 and then the road turns to run WNW, is cut by the fence and continues in the field for a short distance. An associated borrow pit, at NH 25387 50957 is to the south of the modern road at the NE end of the old road. It is 16m x 12m, 1.5m deep and opens to the south

824 West section - NH 25052 51085 (east end) to NH 23179 51777 (west end) The longer section, to the west of Carnoch Farmhouse, takes a higher line than the present road. It climbs the grassy slopes to the west of the farm and continues westwards entering a commercial plantation at NH 24577 51180 (gate/Allt na Charnaich) and then runs through the forest for 500m before descending to the loch side and regaining the present road after 1.8kms. The road appears to have been well made; it is terraced into the hillside in parts and is generally 2.5m in width.

837 Enclosure - NH 24660 51140 A small sloping circular enclosure abutting the west section of the old road, 824, in its upper part. It is 6m diameter internally, slightly raised and bounded by stone spread

Buildings/Probable Shielings (825 – 831) - centred on NH 24835 51187 Situated on a SSE facing slope, 400m to the NW of Carnoch Farmhouse the remains of these 7 buildings are on either side of a small stream and range over an altitude from 180m to 200m. The line of an old road, a large enclosure and a sheepfold/sheepdip are seen just a short distance down the slope. The whole area is quite grassy but threatened with bracken.

825 Building/Probable Shieling - NH 24914 51163 This building is situated on a slight grassy mound to the east of the small burn. It is on a NE-SW alignment and measures 4m x 2.5m internally. The walls are defined by intermittent stones

826 Building/Probable Shieling - NH 24898 51186 On a steepish slope the remains of this sub rectangular are on a NE-SW axis and measure 6m x 2m internally. The surrounding turf and stone banks are well defined and 0.2m in height.

827 Building/Probable Shieling - NH 24888 51223 This circular feature is on a levelled part of a spur on the east side of the small burn. It is 3m in diameter and appears as a platform slightly recessed into the slope at the N side and with a small stone setting defining its SE edge

828 Building/Probable Shieling - NH 24835 51222 The well defined turf banks of this building, on a NE-SW

axis and measuring 4.5m x 3m, are 0.3m in height

829 Building/Probable Shieling - NH 24830 51180 The remains of a rectangular building on the west side of the small burn are barely discernable under the bracken. It appears as a platform and measures 4m x 2m

830 Building/Probable Shieling - NH 24778 51208 This rectangular building on a SSE - NNW alignment and on the lea side of a spur, measures 10m x 2m internally. It slopes gently towards the south and has well defined walls of stones 0.5-0.8m in thickness and 0.3m in height. The north end of the building is very rounded and the south end defined by a stone edge. There is a possible entrance in the centre of the east wall 0.6m in width.

831 Building/Probable Shieling - NH 24783 51187 A few metres to the south of site 830 this building is on a NE - SW axis measures 4m x 2m internally. The turf and stone banks are 0.2-0.3m in height and grossly bracken covered

Carnoch West

Enclosures, building, sheepdip/sheepfold (834 - 836, 838 and 839) - centred on NH 2480 5110 (Nmrs No - NH25SW0011) These features are on a steepish south facing slope, to the north of the present road and south of the old road, 824. The site comprises several enclosures a sheepdip and associated enclosures and a building. The area is generally grassy but there is extensive bracken

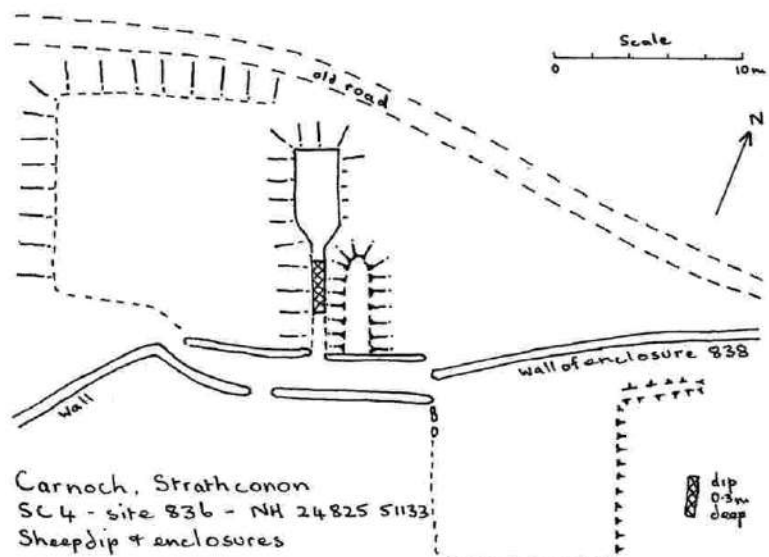
838 Enclosure - centred on NH 2482 5108 This is the largest of the enclosures. Oval in shape, it is roughly 200m x 100m and surrounded by a roughly constructed dry stone wall. The wall is largely tumbled but does reach 1m in height in places. The sheepdip and associated enclosures are situated at its north/upper end and the walls are contiguous with one another.

835 Building - NH 24825 51155 Seen as a well defined rectangular grassy platform on a NE - SW axis and measuring 10m x 2.5m. It is to the north of the sheepdip/sheepfold, 836, and the large enclosure, 838. It is recessed into the hillside on its north side where there is a wasted back ditch and a low wasted turf bank. It is built out to the south side and there is an obvious turf wall, 0.3m in height at the west end.

836 Sheepdip and sheepfold/associated enclosures

NH 24825 51133 Comprises essentially two parallel walls, 1m in height, that are on the line of the wall surrounding enclosure, 838, with the trench and draining area of the dip to the north, see plan. The dip is c. 0.3m deep although silted up and said to be lined with wood (local knowledge) It is in a depression and has a substantial earth and stone bank to its east (possibly the upcast material) There are also two enclosures roughly 11m² which probably had timber fences around them, one to the NW and the other to the SE.

834 Wall - NH 24735 51227 A 7m length of wall made up of large boulders (0.7m diameter). The wall is 0.5m in height and 1m in thickness, its purpose is unknown



Building Enclosures and pits (839 - 844) - centred on NH 24712 51012 (Nmrs No - NH25SW0012)

These features are on a grassy terrace above and to the north of the present road

844 Building (NMRS No - NH25SW0012) - NH 24712 51012 A rectangular building with rounded corners and low turf wall footings which are barely discernable. It measures 5m x 2.5m internally and there may be an outshot at the east end, c1.5m in length.

839 Enclosure - centred on NH 2470 5105 This enclosure has a fertile grassy area in its western half otherwise it is largely marsh.

840 Wall/Possible Headwall - NH 24660 51062 (east end) to NH 24576 51050 (west end) A substantial turf and stone wall extends for about 120m through the bracken, it is generally 0.7m high and has a spread of 1.5m.

841 Enclosure - centred on NH 24708 51015 A fertile enclosure surrounded by a turf wall. It is on a sandy river terrace immediately to the north of the road and has a pit/possible storage, site 842, at its west end and a quarry, site 843, at the east end

842 Pits/Possible Storage pits - NH 24695 51002 Two circular pits, in an exposed and well drained position on the edge of the terrace. One is 1.5m in diameter and 0.4m deep

843 Quarry - NH 24770 51012 (NMRS No - NH25SW0013) The sandy knoll at the east end of a glacial terrace has been largely excavated. There are 4 large pits into it.

Possible township, enclosures, stack bases, stepping stones, cultivation remains and field boundaries (845, 846, 850, 883 - 886, 197 and 198) - centred on NH 2453 5090 Alternative name Allt a'Charnaich. This area is to the south west of Carnoch Farm at the east end of Loch Beannacharrain and on the north side of the river. The Allt a'Charnaich issues onto the valley floor at this point and its course appears to have been redirected so that it now enters the loch instead of taking a more easterly course. The features are situated on both side of the road. On the upper side of the road above a modern building known as the "Old Yacht Club" several lengths of dry stone walling, with an enclosure in the west part and the remains of 2 possible buildings (one of which is 250m upstream to the north) are found. The majority of this part of the site has been planted with trees and there is a great deal of windblow and trenching. Below and to the south of the road there are two large grassy fields with a possible building, an area of rig and furrow cultivation and the stack bases within the west one. The stepping stones and bridge abutments are at the outlet of Loch Beannacharain

Above the road:

845 Possible Building - NH 24534 51039 This building is situated outside the forested area. It measures roughly 3 x 5+m; the walls are very indistinct and it is not clear where the end wall was.

846 Enclosure and walls - centred on NH 24457 51088 The enclosure to the west of this complex is roughly triangular with sides between 100-120m length. The remains of the walls are of dry stone construction and up to 0.5m in height. Two walls extend from the east corners of this enclosure, eastwards towards the burn - the southernmost of these has a probable corner at NH 24488 51035 and is trashed by trenching for trees, the northernmost is of large stones, runs E-W and crosses the fence at NH 24535 51072 continuing in the open to the burn, it is perhaps 100m in length.

850 Building/Possible Bothy – NH 24552 51293 Rather indistinct, 5 x 2.5m and aligned E/W

Below the road:

197 Possible building - NH 24609 50949 A raised platform on the lower side of the ruined stone wall may be the remains of a building, aligned N-S, which has been bisected by the wall. The platform is roughly 1m in height and measures 4m x 4m, it has a depressed centre. This may be all that remains of a possible township which has been destroyed by road building, dyke construction and re-alignment of the Carnoch burn.

198A Enclosure - centred on NH 24620 50890 This large enclosure lies on the valley floor at the end of Loch Beannacharain. It is pentagonal in shape and is surrounded by a dry stone wall, which is ruined in places. Two of the sides are c150m in length

198B Enclosure - centred on NH 24778 50885 On a west facing grassy slope in a field to the east of enclosure 198A and within a fenced field the remains of 2 roughly parallel linear earth banks aligned NNW-SSE, are seen. The west bank runs along the edge of a steep bank and is c50m in length, the east is nearer the summit of the hill and is c100m in length

883A Stack Base - at NH 24574 50934 and **883B Stack Base** - at NH 24573 50933 Within enclosure 198A and just below the road bridge, there are two stone stack bases close together in the corner of a field. Both stack bases are c3m in diameter, they have neat stone kerbs and are slightly domed at their centres.

884A Stepping Stones - at NH 24639 50810 The remains of a substantial row of stepping stones across the river and at right angles to the river banks, possibly leading to the site of the wartime lumber camp.

884B Stepping Stones - at NH 24659 50810 The remains of a less substantial row of stepping stones running obliquely across the river to the site of the wartime lumber camp.

885 Cultivation Remains - at NH 24669 50825 On the lower part of the large field 198A there are the remains of possible spade dug rig and furrow cultivation, overlain in places by the faint remains of 'Narrow Straight Rig' cultivation remains, the result of horse ploughing. The spade dug rigs are c2m furrow to furrow and they stand to c0.1m in ht. The horse ploughed rigs are c 4.5m furrow to furrow.

886 Bridge Abutment - at NH 24601 50821 The remains of a bridge abutment at the exit of the loch. It is possibly an access route for the timber exploitation during WW2 (a bridge is shown here on aerial photos of 1946)

Allt a'Charnaich

The Allt a'Charnaich flows from NW to SE to enter Loch Beannacharain at its east end. These sites are situated in the gentler SE facing slopes of the middle part of the burn.

Hut circle and field system (832 -833) - NH 24695 51376 Situated on a gentle SSW facing slope at an altitude of 235m this site comprises one hut circle and at least 2 clearance cairns. The site is predominantly heathery and on a well drained spur of ground with a large improved grassy area to the south.

832 Hut circle (Figure 2.) - NH 24695 51376 The site is seen as a slightly raised circular heathery platform c.8m in diameter. The northern half is bounded by a well defined edge with some stone composition, the southern part is less well defined although the platform appears to be built up here, and there is an "apron" with some stones evident, the apron is 4m in depth

833 Clearance cairn - NH 24670 51345 To the SW of 832 this is an obvious green stoney mound in an otherwise heathery area. The cairn is 0.7m in height. About 50m to the NNW of the hut circle there is a further clearance cairn

Shielings, building and pens (851 – 862) - NH 2443 5160 The site is situated on the east bank of the Allt a'Charnaich on a gently sloping SW facing slope at an altitude of 240m. It comprises at least 8 shielings with a possible boundary wall, the remains of a dry stone building and 2 animal pens

851 Possible Enclosure/Wall - NH 24474 51558 at return. This wasted stone wall, of maximum one course height, seems to enclose a knoll with the shielings on it. It is aligned E-W and The stones are covered with vegetation and peters out at both ends. It is possibly a boundary between two groups of shielings.

852 Shieling - NH 24458 51589 Scoop with slightly raised edges; 2x1m;

853 Shieling - NH 24450 51591 Scoop with raised edges has a diameter of 3.5m. A further smaller scoop of 1.5m diameter is just 1m away at NH 24452 51590.

854 Shieling - NH 24550 51581 Scoop with indistinct edges is 1.5m diameter;

855 Shieling - NH 24426 51645 Measures 1 x 2m;

856 Shieling - NH 24429 51626 Is 3 x 1.5m

857 Animal pen - NH 24453 51633 Sits beside the burn and measures 6 x 1m.

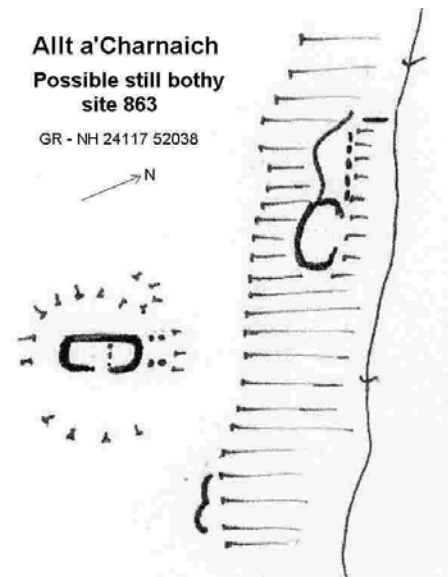
858 Pen - NH 24434 51603 Revetted into slope with one course of stone wall enclosing the area; possibly two separate pens as there are two stones on either side of what could be an entrance further subdividing the area. On the west side of the burn and on a mound, is a further indistinct shieling scoop, at NH 24428 51605

Possible Still bothy, building and wall (863 and 864) – centred on NH 2413 5202 The site is situated on the west bank of the Allt a'Charnaich at an altitude of c340m. It comprises a probable still, a possible dwelling house with a short length of associated stone wall

863 Still (figure 14.) - NH 24117 52038 A structure enclosed by walls revetted into the slope on the west side of the burn; there is one long wall revetted into the slope; this is c.1.5m high at S end. Two walls enclose an area 1.5 x 2.5m but there is no discernable wall on the side facing the burn leaving this compartment open-sided. The second compartment to the NE is a completely open platform beside the burn, with the inner wall revetted into slope and the edge beside the burn also revetted. A short section of wall closes the N end of the area.

864 Building/Dwelling House - NH 24133 52015 On a large grassy bank above the still. It measures 2 x 5m, and has substantial walls with curved ends and two internal compartments. There is a south-facing entrance.

864A Wall - NH 24154 52000 On the same cleared area as house at far end of platform. It is 6m long.

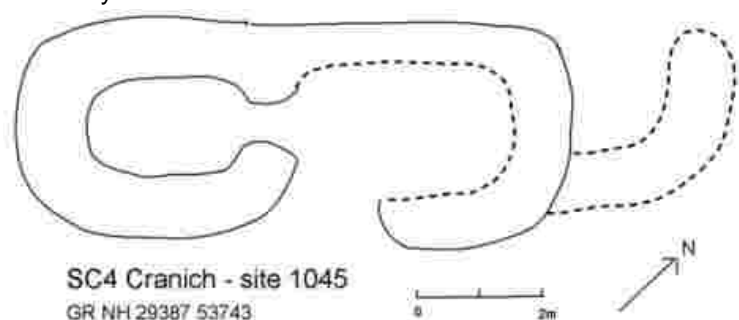


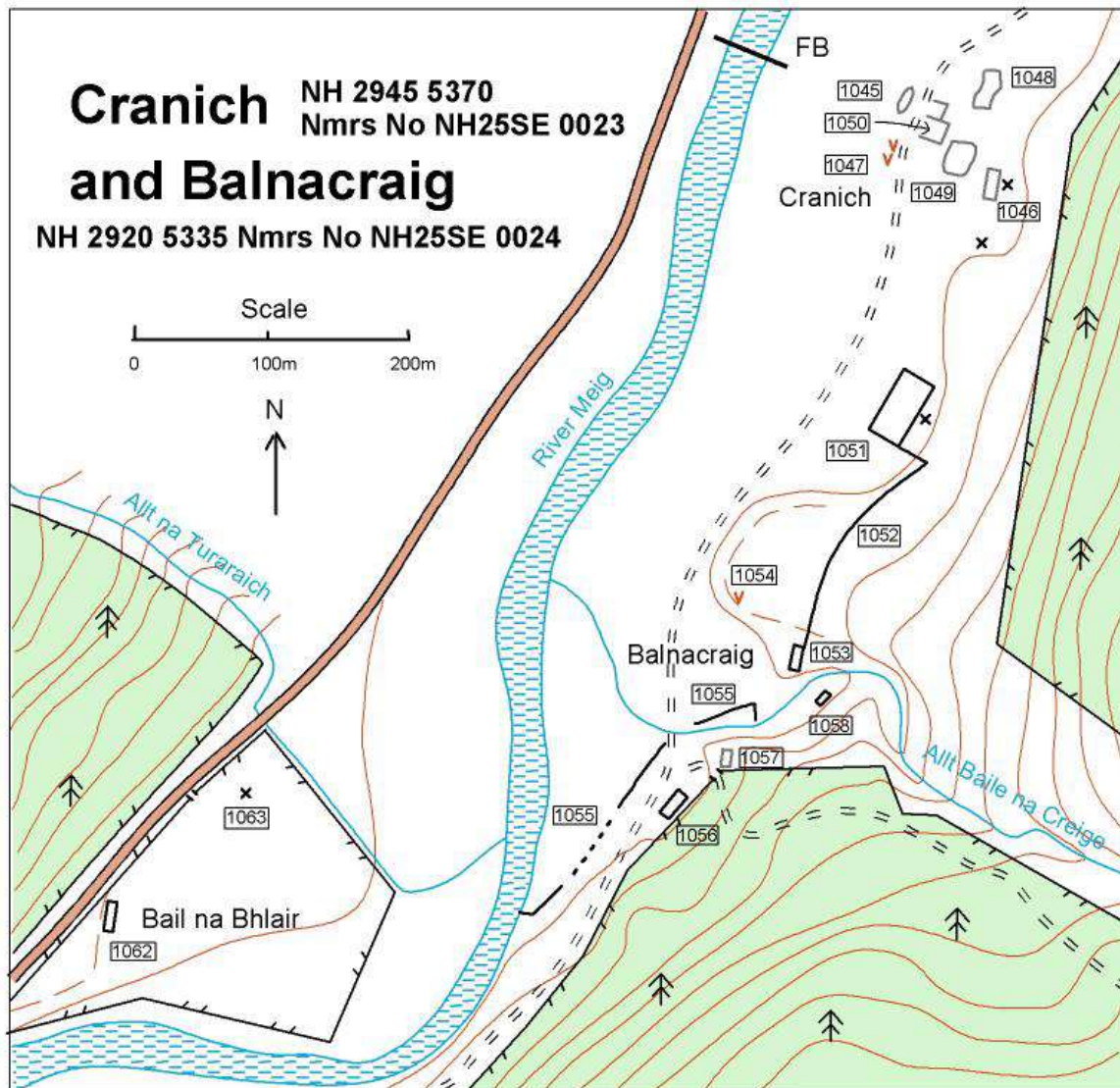
3.2 South side of River

Cranich

Buildings, enclosures, pits and sheepfold (1045 – 1052) - centred on NH 2940 5360 (N Mrs No - NH25SE 0023 (sheepfold)) Situated on the east bank of the River Meig and on the valley floor, these features are on a raised river terrace although the more recent sheepfold is at a lower level. The surrounding ground is grassy and appears fertile. A new track has recently been constructed and bisects the area

1045 Building - NH 28387 53743 This rectangular structure on the edge of the river terrace has low turf walls and is barely discernable, it appears as 2 depressions. It is on a SSW-NNE alignment and measures 12.2m x 4m. The most obvious and possibly main part of the building is to the SW; it measures 2.4m x 1.5m internally and the surrounding turf walls have a spread of 1-1.5m and are 0.2m in height maximum,





there may be an entrance at the NE end. The NE part measures 3.6m x 2.2m internally, the walls are less discernable and less continuous. There may be a further outshot to the NE, see sketch

1046 Platform/Possible building - NH 29420 53681 This large grassy platform on slightly raised ground and on a SSW-NNE alignment measures overall 22m x 4.3m, there are at least 3 compartments to it. It may be the base for a timber building

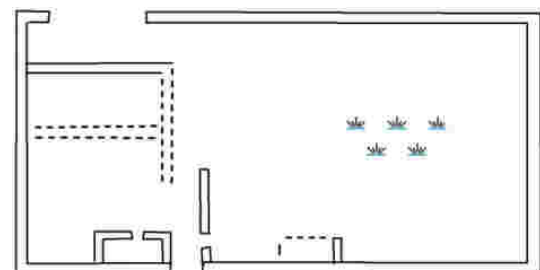
1047 Pits - NH 29363 53703 Three pits on the edge of the river terrace have reeds at their bases. The largest is 1.7m in diameter and 0.3m deep.

1048 Enclosure - centred on NH 29431 53739 An enclosure in a hollow, measuring 21m(N-S) x 12m; it is surrounded by a low turf wall

1049 Enclosure - centred on NH 29405 53699 A sub-rectangular enclosure measuring c19m(N-S) x 14m is surrounded by a low turf wall.

1050 Enclosure - centred on NH 29399 53727 A rectangular enclosure, truncated by the new track, measures c16m x 16m. It may have been associated with building 1045. There is evidence of a further small enclosure to the NE

1051 Sheepfold (Nmrs No NH25SE 0023) - centred on NH 29358 53538 A rectangular sheepfold on a SW-NE alignment and measuring overall 100m x 50m has been robbed of stones. The remaining wall footings are double faced, of large ?dressed stones, 0.9m thickness and generally 0.5m in height although a section in the centre of the SE wall, where there appears to have been a possible lean-to building, is more substantial and up to 0.8m height. Internally there is evidence of two buildings, the one mentioned above and a further one also against the SE wall which measures 7.3m x 2.7m internally, these may have been smearing sheds



Crannich Sheepfold
GR NH 29358 53538
NMRS No - NH25SE023



1052 Wall - commences at SE corner of sheepfold 1051 and climbs the hill to the SE. Described under Balnacraig

Balnacraig

Buildings, possible boundary wall and pit (1052 – 1058) - centred on NH 2925 5329 (Nmrs No - NH25SE 0024) Situated on the valley floor on both banks of the Allt Baile na Creige at the foot of a steep gorge with a waterfall. The surrounding ground is grassy and appears fertile. A new track has recently been constructed and crosses the area. The site comprises 4 buildings, a pit and a wall which seems to contain the site to the base of the hill.

1052 Wall - NH 29378 53496(NE end) to NH 29263 53396(SW end) The remains of a curving stone wall are represented by a linear scatter of stones 2m in width. It is 120m in length, more substantial at the north end and follows the base of the slope from above the sheepfold 1051 to the building 1053. It is marked on the FES and may continue to the SW as wall 1055

1053 Building - NH 29263 53396 The turf and stone walls footings of a rectangular building on a SW-NE alignment which measures overall 18.5m x 5.9m. The walls are of max height 0.5m and have a spread of 1.5m. There are 3 compartments. The central main one is 7.6m x 2.9m internally and there is an entrance at the S end of the SE wall, 0.9m in width. The outshot at the SW end is c3m in length and has amorphous majority turf walls. At the NE end the outshot is more evident, 5.3m in length and there is no evidence of an end wall.

1054 Pit - NH 29273 53419 A large elongated pit on the edge of the river terrace. It is 2.4m x 1.5m and 0.4m deep

1055 Wall - NH 29247 53312(NE end) to NH 29098 53168(SW end) A wall, c200m in length and on a NE-SW alignment, is for the most part of stone and in three sections. The NE section on the north side of the burn is substantial but ruined in places, it is generally 1.5m height and 0.9m thick tapering towards the top and c40m in length. It is close to the burn and "dog legged" in shape, enclosing a possible small pos garden 12m x 5m, with remnants of a fence on the stream side. The wall continues south westerly on the south side of the burn, initially it is the same substantial stone wall, but it becomes more wasted at a marshy area. It terminates at the river.

1056 Building - NH 29207 53263 A raised rectangular platform of stones at the foot of a steep slope on the south side of the burn - the obvious demolished remains of the roofed building marked on the FES. The platform is on a NNE-SSW alignment, measures 21m x 7.5m and is generally 0.5m in height. The well defined outer face of the east wall is harled but otherwise, apart from metal scraps (stove and rainwater pipe) no other features were able to be detected. A grassy platform continues to the SW for 15m

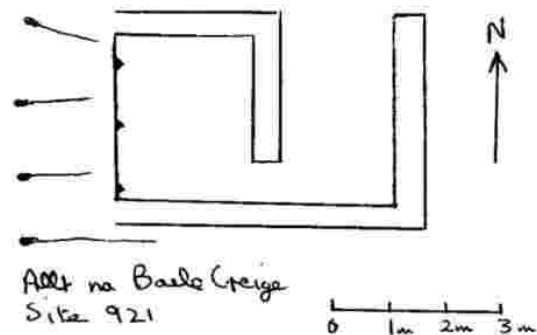
1057 Building - NH 29250 53295 A rectangular building on a spur above the burn at a point where a track bends and enters the forest at a gate. The building is much trampled by deer. It is on a N-S alignment and measures 5.2m x 2.8m although it may have been truncated by the track in its south part. The walls are degraded and irregular. Composed in the main of turf, they are 0.5m in height and have a 1-1.5m spread.

1058 Building - NH 29322 53335 The remains of a crudely constructed rectangular building are on a SW-NE alignment at the foot of a steep slope just 10m or so from the burn. It measures 4.6m x 2m internally. The SE wall formed by the steep bank is in part faced by large slabby stones (detected under the moss), the NW wall is formed by an alignment of large irregular stones, maximum 0.8m x 0.8m. The entrance appears to be at the south end.

Allt Baile na Creige

Probable still bothies 920 and 921 - centred on NH 2977 5261 (Nmrs No - NH25SE 0018) Situated just 1km to the SSE of Balnacraig and Crannich and close to the Allt Baile na Creige, which descends a deep rocky ravine below this point, these two structures are at an altitude of 290m and relatively well hidden. There are a number of fine grassy areas in the vicinity but no other features were found. The structures are within 100m of each other and appear on the 1st Edition OS map as two ruins. They have previously been recorded as possible shielings (FESP)

920 Probable still bothy (*figure 15.*) - NH 29742 52652 Situated on the north bank of a small side stream of the Allt Baile na Creige and just 3m from it. The remains of this dry stone structure are well recessed into the slope on its NW side. The structure is on a NE-SW axis and measures roughly 6m x 2.2m internally. The SE part is wasted but the NW part more complete. The stone facing wall on the NW side is to 1.2m in height in places. The SW wall is 0.8m high and has a spread of 1.5m, the NE wall of stone and turf is 0.5m high and has a spread of 1.2m and the front SE wall of well constructed stonework has a height of 0.6m (outside) and thickness of 0.8m. The entrance presumably was at the east end of the SE wall but it is very boggy and reedy at this point and nothing definite could be made out. Reeds internally but otherwise overgrown with heather. No other internal features could be found, but a few metres to the west of the structure there is vague evidence



of a possible manmade watercourse which starts at a small heap of stones (this however is a metre or so above the course of the present burn)

921 Probable Still bothy - NH 29810 52580 This bothy is on the west bank of the Allt Baile na Creige and just 3m from it at a point where the small steep sided glen turns and the slopes ease off a little. The site is at the foot of a steep heathery bank. The remains of the dry stone structure are on an E-W axis and measure roughly 5m x 3m internally. The height of the walls varies between 0.4m and 0.7m although the west wall which is recessed into the slope has a face of height 1.2m. There are 2 compartments - see sketch

Shielings (922-925) – centred on NH 2993 6260 Situated at an altitude of 300m on the east bank of the Allt Baile na Creige at a point where this small steep sided glen eases off a little. The site is west facing and on a spur of ground a few metres above the burn. The ground is generally boggy and heathery and the shieling sites themselves appear as lush grassy patches with a fair amount of reed cover. There are several other areas of raised reeds particularly to the SE which may well be former shielings but no definite form could be made to them, they have therefore been excluded.

922 Building/Shieling - NH 29918 52605 An obvious elongated grassy mound has the turf footings of a building atop it. The structure is on a NW-SE axis and measures roughly 5m x 1.5m internally, it has a dished centre with reed cover. The surrounding banks are approx 0.4m high. Adjacent and to the SE there is a grassy area which may be an enclosure roughly 6m x 6m

923 Possible Building/Probable Shieling - NH 29931 52595 A raised grassy knoll on a NE-SW axis, c7m x 6m. It has various humps and bumps on it but no particular form could be of them.

924 Possible Building/Possible Shieling - NH 29945 52592 A raised grass and reed covered knoll c6m x 5m. No form could be made of the few bumps

925 Building/Probable Shieling - NH 29889 52600 This structure, the lowest of the features at this site, is on a NW-SE axis. It appears as a platform although the bracken covered turf banks on the NE side reach 0.5m in height; it measures 3.5m x 2m internally.

Coille Ruaridh Phadruig

Building/Possible Shieling and wall (1001 and 1059) - NH 28261 52152 (building) On the SE side of the River Meig to the east and south of Glenmeinich farm. The wall is directly east of the farm.

1001 Shieling - NH 28261 52152 About 500m to the south of the farm at Glenmeinie, this rectangular structure is situated on a slight grassy knoll at the SW end of a broad grassy reach. The barely discernable turf footings are aligned NE-SW and have a maximum 0.1m height. The structure has rounded ends and the internal dimensions are 4 x 1.5m. There is a further building or possible outshot to the SW end at right angles, the footings here have some stone composition.

1059 Wall - NH 28687 52656(NE end) NH 28639 52623(SW end) Directly east of the Glenmeinich farmhouse on the opposite side of the river, this site is at the south end of a largely fertile grassy area. It comprises a short length of very wasted stone wall, c30m in length.

Creag Dubh

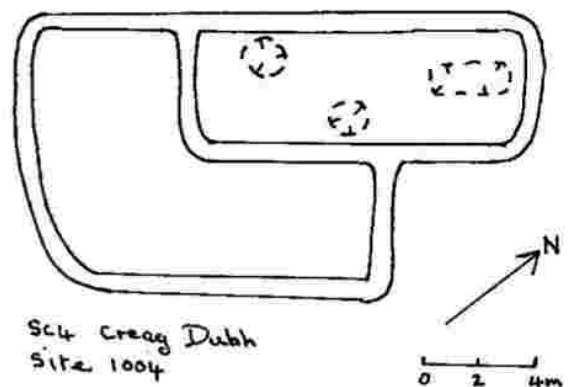
Farmstead, buildings and Enclosure/Possible sheepfold (1002 – 1005) - NH 2796 5176 About 1km to the SSW of the farm at Glenmeinich and on the east side of the river, these structures are at the NE end of a grassy fertile area, there are considerable marshy stretches in the vicinity.

1002 Building - NH 27976 51738 A rectangular building aligned NE-SW with rounded corners; this has internal dimensions of 4.5 x 2m. The heather covered stone footings are more obvious at the SW end where they are 0.4m in height and have a spread of 1m. At the NE end the footings are 0.3m height and 0.8m spread. The central section of the long walls is not extant, possibly robbed to make an animal pen from the SW part of the building.

1003 Possible Building - NH 27961 51747 A few metres to the SW of 1002 this rectangular structure is aligned ENE-WSW and has internal dimensions of c3.5 x 2m. The turf footings are obvious at the W end where they are 0.4m in height and have a spread of 1m but at the E end they are much less distinct.

1004 Possible farmstead with enclosure/Possible sheepfold - NH 27951 51770 This enclosure is on the top of a knoll, it comprises 2 compartments, is aligned NE-SW and measures overall approx 18 x 10m. The remains of the turf and stone walls are 0.2 - 0.4m height and have a 1m spread. The main/N compartment has very rich, black soil and there are 3 pits within it, 2 circular and one rectangular.

1005 Building - NH 27968 51790 Just to the N of 1004 and on the edge of the river terrace the obvious turf



footings of a rectangular building on a NE-SW alignment are covered with bracken and reeds. The building has internal dimensions of 5 x 2m, the walls are to 0.5m height, with a spread of 1 - 1.5m, a large section of the SE wall missing.

Allt Gleadhach

Timber camp and earthbank (1006 and 1007) - centred on NH 2722 5120 This site is about 1.5kms to the NE of the Inverchoran, at the outwash of the Allt Gleadhach on the SE side of the main river. The ground is grassy, well drained and very stoney in parts. There are a few scattered trees in the vicinity. To the NE there is extensive bracken covered pastureland and to the SW there is a grassy area with old tree stumps. From aerial photographs of 1946 it is evident that timber was extracted here during WW2, and there was a bridge over the river to facilitate this.

1006 Earth bank - NH 27457 51266 (corner) A stretch of earth bank in the shape of a dogleg is 200m NE of the burn, bounding the flat ground at the point where there is a change in the slope. It is 60m in length, 0.2-0.3m in height and has a spread of 2m

1007 Timber camp - centred on NH 2722 5120 This site comprises three piles of mortared bricks and concrete, the remains of the chimneys of wooden buildings, and two stretches of roadway

A - NH 27250 51167 A discrete pile of jumbled bricks and mortar and concrete slabs 4m in diameter. Some of the bricks have the inscription "Brownhill" impressed upon them

B - NH 27212 51206 Similar pile of bricks and concrete 3m in diameter

C - NH 27261 51121 Further pile of bricks and concrete 4m in diameter

D - NH 27173 51247 A raised stoney platform 5m in width and 7m in length at right angles to the river. Probably a track leading to bridge abutment

E - NH 27200 51120 Similar stoney platform raised 0.5m above surrounding ground to the SW of main site, cut tree stumps surround. It is 2.5m in width and 16m in length.

Coire Fath Ghleadhraich

The Allt Gleadhach, a tributary of the River Meig, is roughly two kilometres east of Inverchoran. It has an E-W course in its upper reaches, but then turns NW into a ravine before dropping steeply down in a series of waterfalls to join the River Meig itself.

Shielings (1141 – 1143) - centred on NH 2777 5030 The shieling site is situated at an altitude of 350m in a broad basin at the top of this steep section. The terrain is generally very poor with peat and heather predominating. The shielings are within 100m of each other, one on the N side of the burn and two on the S.

1141 Shieling - NH 27758 50335 This shieling mound of c0.7m height, is on a N-S alignment and measures c7m x 6m overall. The rectangular dished centre measures 3m x 1.5m. Covered in moss, blueberry and heather.

1142 Possible shieling - NH 27668 50274 A raised heathery mound with a circular dished centre, 0.5m deep x 1m diameter

1143 Shieling - NH 27652 50296 A raised mound with a grassy dished centre and heather surrounding. The internal rectangular area is on a N-S alignment and measures c2.5m x 1.5m

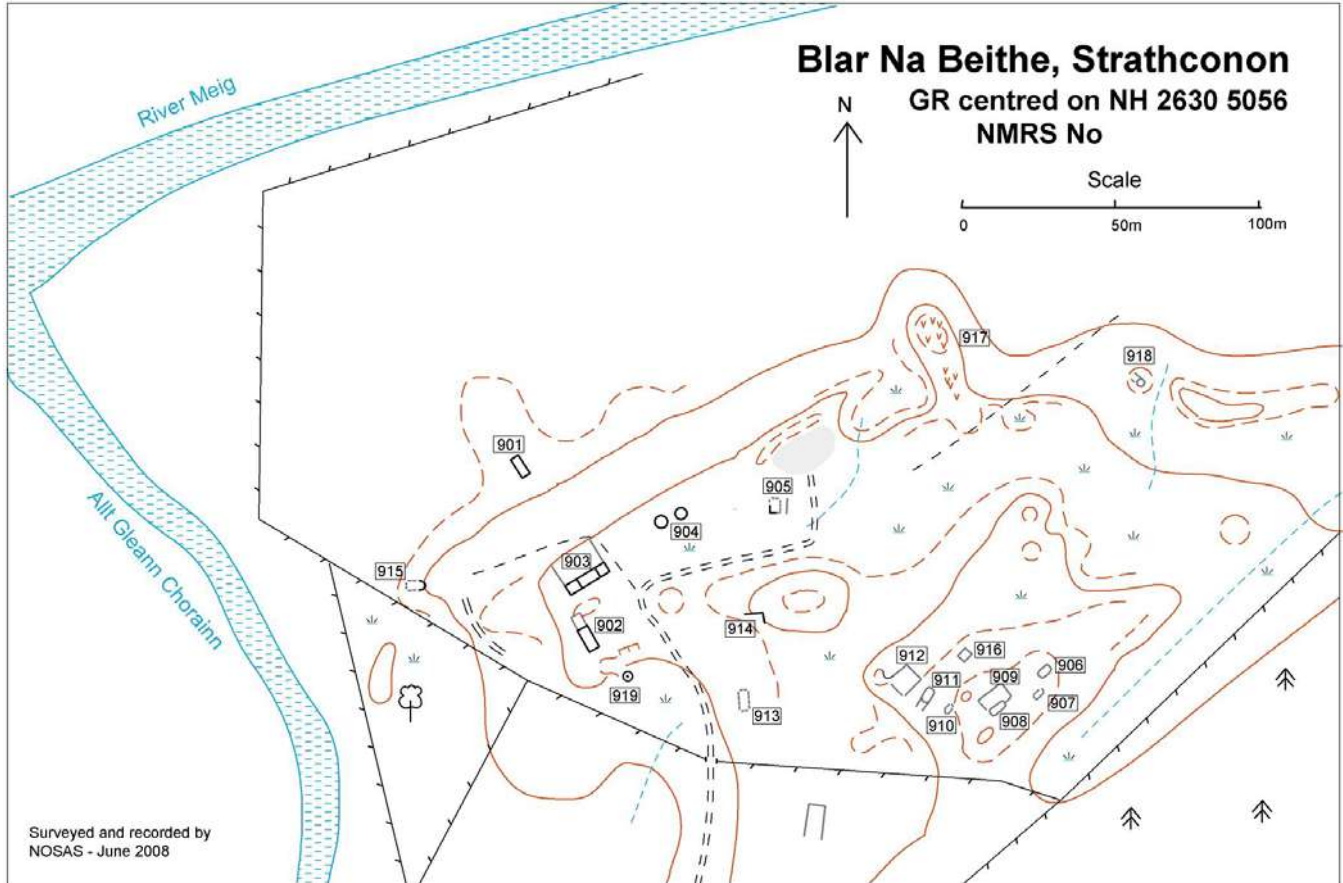
Blar na Beithe

Township, Corn-drying kiln and pits (901 – 919) - centred on NH 2630 5056 Alternative names - Blar na Bee. This township is situated on an undulating grassy terrace on the south side of the River Meig at a point where the main glen changes direction. A major tributary, the Allt Gleann Chorain, joins the River Meig from the SW and the township lies in the angle between the main river and the Allt Gleann Chorainn. The farm of Inverchoran occupies the west bank of the Allt Gleann Chorainn. The general slope of the ground is towards the NW and the site comprises two main phases of buildings, an earlier upper phase comprising several small buildings with turf walls and rounded ends and a later phase of at least two substantial stone buildings, a corn drying kiln and various other buildings. The 1825 estate plan has at least 5 or 6 buildings marked at this lower level but it is thought that several will have been destroyed by the building of the present track. The township is not depicted on the 1st Edition OS survey but 2 unroofed buildings appear on the current 1:25,000 OS map.

Lower/later group of buildings;

901 Building - NH 26205 50603 A rectangular building on a NNW/SSW axis measures 7.30 x 3.20 metres internally. The remains of the stone walls have a thickness of 0.80m and are one course high, 0.25 metres max. An entrance, 1.40 metre wide, is on the east side. This is the only building situated at a lower level and not on the terrace; this fact together with the apparently wide entrance suggest this building may have been designed for housing animals.

902 Building - NH 26236 50556 This building is aligned NE-SW and appears to have 3 compartments. Overall length is 16.5 metres internally with apparent partitions at 8.0 and 13.20 metres from the northern end. Width varies between 2.90 and 2.50 metres internally. The walls are of stone and thicknesses vary between 0.90 metres for external walls and 0.60 metres for internal walls. There is an entrance, 1.10



metre wide, on the east side within the area of the middle compartment.

903 Building (Figure 9.) - NH 26237 50579 This building, on a ENE/WSW axis, also appears to have 3 compartments and is 15.40 metres long overall internally, with an 8.50 metre central section; it is 3.50 metres wide internally. There appears to be a 3.30 metre long section to the E end and a section to the W end that is 3.60 metres long and 2.90 wide internally. Wall thickness varies between 0.80 and 0.70 metres. Wall height is up to 0.40 metres maximum. There is an entrance, 0.90 metre wide, on the S side just E of the dividing wall between the middle and W sections. In the SW corner of the central section there is a curious, low, long covered feature of unknown purpose. Wood framing within it appears relatively modern but the stones themselves look to have been there longer. Running away to the N from each end wall of the building are what appear to be banks defining a garden plot – these end at the scarp of the hillside above Building 901. The W bank is 8m long and the E, 10m; the banks enclose a space 19.50 metres width (ENE/WSW).

904 Possible Building - NH 26264 50604 (western area), NH 26272 50604 (eastern area) Two roughly square areas of stone tumble on an E/W alignment with a gap between of 5.40 metres may be the remains of a building. The western area is 5.00 metres E/W x 5.10 metres N/S. The eastern area is 4.60 metres E/W x 3.70 metres N/S. There is some slight indication of a stone edge at the SE corner of the western pile that hints at a connecting wall between the two areas. There are slight indications of a drain running eastwards towards a small burn. The 2 areas could just be clearance but the stones appear a little too regular in size.

905 Building - NH 26302 50604 Probably a timber building, but now a grassy platform on a NNW - SSE axis measuring 9.50 x 4m. It is slightly raised and bounded on SW and SE sides by a stone edge. There is a ditch to the SW and a scoop 2.80m wide along the NE side.

914 Quarry/Possible building - NH 26298 50565 On a NE x SW axis this comprises a sloping grassy platform, measuring 6.4 x 2.5m, with a recessed rock face of 1m height to NW and NE.

915 Corn Drying Kiln - NH 26174 50570 A kiln bowl is partly recessed into the hillside, making use of the natural slope to aid filling. Internal diameter is 2.10m. The entrance is aligned E/W and the walls stand to 1.0 metre high maximum.

917 Storage pits/Probably potato pits (Figure 12.) - centred on NH 263670 50656 Ten, possibly 11, pits arranged a prominent elongated spur of the river terrace to the NE of the main site. They vary in size c1-1.5m diameter x 0.3-0.5m depth

918 Pit/Possible kiln - NH 263665 50674 Situated on a small knoll this site comprises a circular pit with a secondary compartment to its NW

919 Possible Building/Possible Midden - NH 26246 50534 A possible building on an E-W alignment recessed into the slope on its west side and with stone tumble to the east. A turf edge is seen on the N side of this part

Earlier upper phase of township, most of the remains here are of turf and are generally very wasted

906 Building - NH 26410 50546 A rectangular building on a NE x SW axis with rounded ends, it

measures 4.90 x 2.30m internally. The low turf grass covered walls are more obvious at the NE end where they are 0.3m high

907 Building - NH 26410 50538 A rectangular building on a NE-SW axis measures 3.90 x 2m. The walls are barely discernable and it appears more as a grassy platform

908 Building (Figure 8.) - NH 26395 50531 A rectangular building with rounded ends on a NE-SW axis measures 5.70 x 2.50m internally. The surrounding turf walls have a height of 0.2 m and spread of 0.7-0.8m. This structure is adjacent to enclosure 909 and integral to it

909 Enclosure - NH 26390 50526 On a NE-SW axis and in a hollow this enclosure measures 11.0 x 5.4m internally. It is bounded on NE and NW by turf banks 0.3m high, the bank at the SW end is less obvious. It is contiguous with building 908 on its SE side.

910 Platform - NH 26374 50533 A small sloping platform on a NE x SW axis, measures 3.0 x 1.8m. It appears to be terraced out on the NW side.

911 Building - NH 26366 50532 A rectangular building with rounded ends on a NE x SW axis, measures 5.50 x 2.3m internally and slopes to the SW. The building is defined by turf banks 0.3 m high and with a spread generally of 0.8m. To the SW there may be an outshot 3m long; this is open at the SW end.

916 Possible building - NH 26380 50551 On a NE-SW axis this measures 3.5 x 4m. The surrounding low turf wall has some stones in it.

912 Enclosure - NH 26358 50541 On a NE-SW axis this measures 11m x 8.80m internally. It is surrounded by low turf banks on NE and NW sides and slightly recessed into slope on its SE side, the SW side is less obvious. To the west there is 4m long stone setting forming an arc – see plan

913 Building - NH 26303 50531 On a N-S axis and measuring 7.50 x 3.70m overall this is grassy and barely discernable. It is defined by low turf banks, with the north end being more obvious, south end much less so.

Loch Airigh Lochan

Pen and possible still bothy (1140) - NH 28590 48992 Three kilometres to the ESE of Inverchoran Farm and at an altitude of 400m this structure is on the east side of the watershed, close to a minor burn which runs into the Allt Gleannan Mall-luirge and thence into the River Orrin. It is about 200m to the north of the shieling site of Loch an Airigh Lochain.

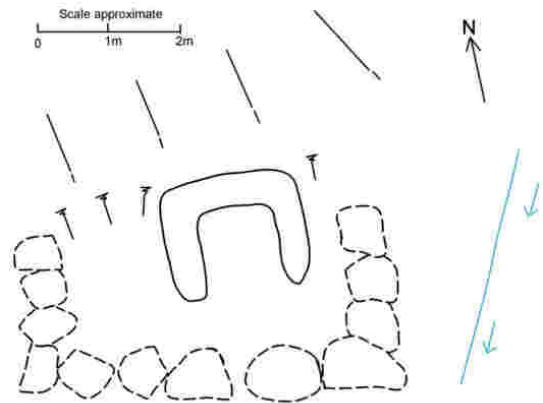
1140 Building/possible still bothy - NH 28590 48992 This site comprises two structures:

A - The original structure which is quite possibly a still bothy. It is trapezoidal in shape, on a NW-SE alignment and measures 4m x 1.5-2.5m with the narrower width to the SW. The building is recessed into the slope at the rear/NE and all that remains of the walls is an alignment of moss covered stones obscured by heather, generally 0.3m in height. The SE corner is just 1m distant from the burn to the east.

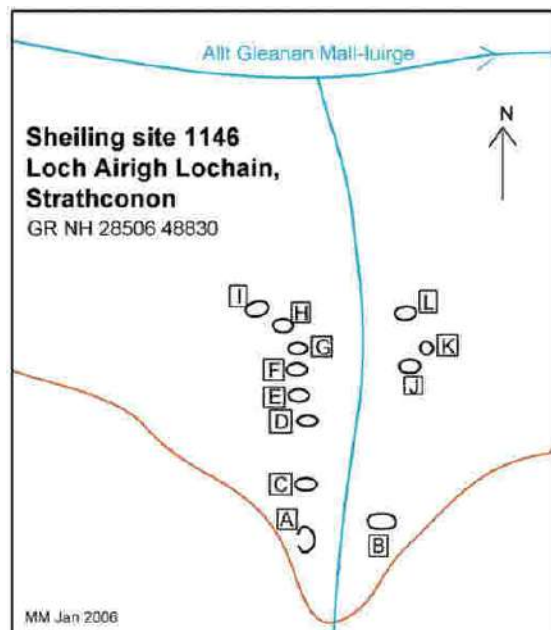
B - A more recent pen or shelter overlies the original structure and has probably been constructed using stones from it. It is U-shaped, open to the south, and just 1m x 1m internally. The crude dry stone walls are roughly constructed to a height of 0.8m

Shieling site (1145 A - L) (Figure 4.) – centred on NH 28506 48830 3 kilometres to the SE of Inverchoran and at an altitude of 390m, this site lies on the south side of the upper reaches of the Allt Gleannan Mall-luirge, a tributary of the river Orrin. It is situated in a reasonably sheltered spot but the slopes are NE facing.

1145 Shielings A to L (Figure 3.) - NH 28506 48830 The wasted remains of at least 12 structures can be easily identified in a pleasant grassy reach bisected by a small stream. Most of the structures have an oval mounded form with a dished centre and a height of up to 0.8m. Their internal dimensions vary from 4m x 2m to 2.5m x 1.5m. One is round with a diameter of 2m. Several are overgrown with reeds. Very few stones are evident in their construction.



SC4 Loch Airigh Lochan (Inverchoran) - site 1140
Pen overlying possible still bothy - NH 28590 48992



Inverchoran

Buildings, midden, pond, headwall and bridge (891 – 900) - centred on NH 2620 5035 Inverchoran Farm is on the west bank of the Allt Gleann Chorainn where the burn emerges from a narrow ravine. It is at the SE corner of a large cultivated area on the valley floor. The majority of the features identified were on the west bank of the burn above and to the south of the farm. The only features on the east bank were a turf and stone bank/a possible headwall (899) and the bridge abutments(900) There has been a good deal of activity at this site over the years and it is presumed that much of the archaeology will have been swept away.

891 Platform, to W of Inverchoran - NH 25988 50335 This flat, stony area, is cut into the hillside, and has E/W axis; and could be visible as a building on the 1947 AP.

892 Possible Sheiling - NH 26047 50249 To the SW of Inverchoran farmhouse. The turf banks are barely discernible; it is on a NNE/SSW axis and is 3.5 x 2.0 metres internally

893 Pond - centred on NH 26101 50192 On a NNW/SSE axis and measuring c20 x 15 metres overall, this pond is contained by a 20 metre long bank up to 1.5 metres in height on its NE side. There is a square cutting into the S side of the bank, 2 metres wide with a quite steep face to the NNW, c15 metres from the southern end of the bank. The cutting is at a point above a hollow area below the adjacent track.

894 Possible building - NH 26126 50218 In the hollow below the pond, on the hill to the S of the farm. This measures 6 x 3 metres internally, is on a N/S axis and gently sloping to the W. It has barely discernible turf banks and an entrance in the N wall.

895 Building - NH 26122 50237 To the NE of previous feature. The building is on a WSW/ENE axis and measures 4.20 x 2.40 metres internally. The remains of the stone walls are up to 0.3-0.4m high and 0.8m thick. There is an entrance in the ENE corner, 0.90 metres wide.

896 Concrete tank/cistern - NH 26157 50242 On the hill to the S of the farm and close to the burn this square concrete water tank is 1.2 metres deep with walls 0.20 metre thick. The NE corner has a mortared stone extension containing a shaft with an inspection hatch (cover missing) at the top.

897 Byre and Midden - NH 26202 50315 To the rear/south of Inverchoran farmhouse. The midden has a well cobbled sunken floor some 0.30 metres deep with 2 prominent drains, one in the NW corner and one about halfway along the N edge. There appears to be an earlier N edge to it about 1 metre N of the current edge. The byre building appears to have been extended to the SW at right angles to the main range since the OS 1st Edition map.

898 Possible Blacksmith's building - NH 26123 50470 Local knowledge has it that this site is where the smithy operated. Today there is a 2 metre square of rubble including pieces of reinforced concrete, one of which is 2 x 0.5 metres with a straight edge.

899 Turf and stone bank/Possible head wall - NH 26190 50000 (east end) About 350m to the south of Inverchoran farmhouse, a wall of some 38 metres length, up to 0.70 metres high and on a roughly NE/SW alignment cuts the spur between the two burns. It is broken by a track in the west part.

900 Bridge - NH 26214 49994 (western abutment) Over the Alltan Sgeireach burn. The abutments are well preserved and of mortared stone construction, with slots in the top surface/edge to take cross beams to support the roadway. The abutments are c1.5 metres wide. The eastern abutment is more built up than the western which uses more natural rock.

Inverchoran (Am Fuar-Alltan) Shielings (1119 – 1121) – centred on NH 26800 48818 1.5 kms to the SSW of Inverchoran farmhouse at an altitude of 400m. These shielings are situated on a “spur” between 2 streams. The ground here is heathery and north facing. The remains of the three structures exist as low turf banks covered with heather.

1119. Shieling - NH 26805 48793. The southmost of the three appears as a rectangular platform on an E-W axis, external measurement 6m x 2.5m.

1120 Shieling - NH 26804 48820 - The middle of the three is circular, with external diameter 4.5m and with turf walls to a height of 0.2 - 0.3m and generally 1m spread. A possible entrance is seen in the east and a boggy central area supports a growth of reeds.

1121 Shieling - NH 26818 48840 The northmost is a circular structure, external diameter 3.5m with barely discernable footings to a height of 0.1 - 0.2m.

Inverchoran Wood Alternative Inverchoran West

Cairns, buildings and enclosures (616 – 623) - centred on NH 2532 5045 These sites are situated in the linear strip of ground, which is 1.5kms in length, on the south side of the valley floor to the west of Inverchoran. It is mainly grassland and heather and is bounded on the south side by a forest plantation. Aerial photographs of 1947 show that there had been a timber camp at the west end

979 Enclosure S - NH 25432 50432 A wasted stone wall forms the west end of an enclosure

616 Cairn with inset Building - at NH 25299 50467 A large circular cairn of stones c7m in diam, on an E facing slope of fine grasses, with an open ended ‘U’ shaped structure, c 1.5m in diam internal at the rear, set into the E side of the cairn, with the open end also facing E. The cairn stands to c1m high, and the walls of the inset structure are c0.5m high.

617 Pit - NH 25315 50457 A shallow stone lined pit c1m in diam, lying roughly midway between Sites 616 and 618.

618 Cairn with inset Building - at NH 25320 50457 A second large circular cairn of stones c6m in diam, standing to c0.75m high, also with a 'U' shaped inset building on its E side, c1.5m diam internal at the rear, and with side walls extending c3m to an open end. The walls of the inset structure are c0.5m high.

619 Building/Possible Shieling - at NH 24864 50610 The low moss covered stone footings of a small sub rectangular building, c3m E-W x 2m internal, set close to a small burn. Large boulders are either dumped or tumbled inside the structure. Walls c1m spread, standing 0.3m high. No sketch, 1 photo.

620 Building/Possible Shieling - at NH 24810 50655 The stone and turf footings of a small sub-rectangular building, c2.5m E-W x 1.5m internally, walls c1m spread and c0.3m high. More recent cairn of stones built within the building.

621 Possible Pen - at NH 24829 50659 The remains of a small circular stone structure, c1m diameter internally, walls standing to c0.4m high. There is another possibly larger structure built around the small pen which is very wasted and overgrown; it could be a larger pen.

622 Enclosure - at NH 24864 50654 A substantial 'D' shaped enclosure c12m diam and c12m on the straight side. There is an entrance in the SW corner. Walls constructed of turf and stone, c1m wide where visible and c0.5m high, it is cut into the hill-slope on the upper side. There is possibly a second enclosure of similar size but much more wasted, above the recorded enclosure.

571 Extensive Peat Workings - centred at NH 2507 5070 on the south side of the river.

623 Drystone Dyke - at outlet of Loch Beannacharain NH 23942 50860 The lower end of a substantial but tumbled drystone dyke meets the loch side at the above NGR. From this point the dyke runs off uphill. It gives the impression of being a boundary dyke between holdings.

Allt na Stille

Buildings and stone wall (624 – 626) - NH 2380 5095 Situated on the grassy outwash of a small burn which tumbles down a steep slope and into Loch Beannacharain below

624 Building/Possible Dwelling House - at NH 23803 50946 The turf covered footings of a substantial sub-rectangular building, c6m E-W x 2.5m internally. Some large boulders protrude from the footings. A possible entrance is seen in the N facing long wall.

625 Drystone Dyke - also at NH 23803 50946 The remains of a drystone dyke on the W side of the burn beside Site 624.

626 Building - at NH 23456 50954 The remains of a small square building facing N, c2m x 2m internal, about 300m W and up- slope of Site No 624, sit beside the footpath and a small burn. Walls remain to c0.5m high. A fine grassy platform abuts the building on its N side looking out over the loch. Not a typical shieling situation.

Gleann Chorainn

Gleann Chorainn is a side glen of the main valley of the River Meig. It stretches for 5kms in a SW direction from Inverchoran. It is steep and narrow initially but after a short distance broadens out into a flat U shaped valley with many grassy stretches particularly on its northwesterly side which inevitably, being SE facing, is favoured with more sunshine. The upper reaches of the glen are narrow and have poorer ground with abundant heather.

Boundary wall, shielings and enclosure (1081- 1087) - NH 2528 4912 Alternative names – Allt Doire nan Laogh, Lower Gleann Chorainn. Five shielings, an enclosure and a wall within a stretch of 1km of each other in the lower part of the glen are described here

1081 Turf and stone wall - centred on NH 25666 49530 (the track cuts it at this point) It is generally 0.5m high, c80m in length, aligned NW-SE and descends the steep hillside to the edge of the burn. This turf and stone wall appears to cut off the steeper narrower section of the glen at its NE end.

500m to the SW of 1081 where the glen has broadened out;

1082 Building/Possible Shieling - NH 25412 49288 A single building is situated on a knoll on a grassy stretch on the S side of the main burn. It is aligned WSW-ENE and measures 4.5 x 1.5m internally. The remains of the turf walls are 0.2m in height and have a spread of 1.5m. There may be an entrance in the NE corner, 0.8m in width.

300m to the SW of 1082 and also on the S side of the burn 3 shielings and an enclosure are situated on a terrace, with a fourth shieling a short distance away up the hill to the SW;

1083 Shieling - NH 25277 49112 A reed covered platform with a slight dished centre on a WSW-ENE alignment. It measures 4.5m x 1.5m internally.

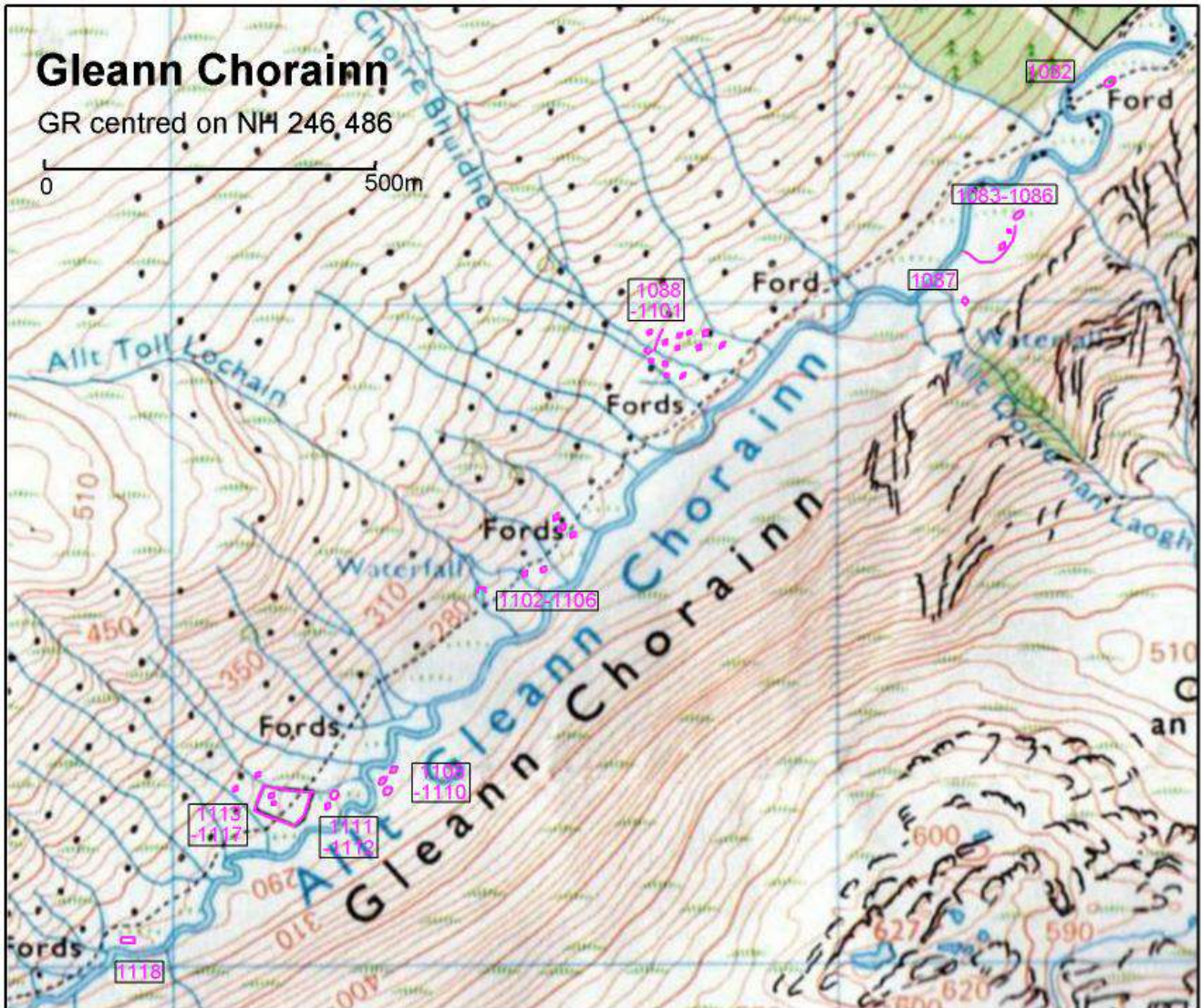
1084 Possible Shieling - NH 25254 49080 A circular setting of stones 2m in diameter overall

1085 Shieling - NH 25237 49060 Adjacent to the turf bank this shieling on a SW-NE alignment measures 3.5m x 1.5m internally. The grass covered turf walls are 0.2m in height.

1086 Enclosure - NH 25230 49060 The east end of the curving turf wall, which surrounds this enclosure is

obvious, it is curving 0.5m in height and with a 1.5m spread. The west part, where it traverses a marshy area, is much more wasted and degraded but it extends to finish at the burn

1087 Shieling - NH 25176 49001 This shieling is in an elevated position on a spur c100m to the SW of the previous shielings. It is on a N-S alignment and measures 3.5m x 2m internally with the surrounding turf banks being 0.3-0.4m high and with a spread of 1m



Mid Glenn Chorainn NE Shielings and possible still bothy(1088-1101) – centred on NH 248 489

Alternative names - Allt Choire Buidhe. These sites are situated on the NW side of the main burn and on either side of its tributary the Allt Choire Buidhe. The slope is SE facing and at an altitude of 260m - 300m. The ground is generally poor with marsh and heather but there are several grassy flushes. It comprises the remains of 12 shielings and a building which may possibly be a still bothy.

1088 Shieling - NH 24864 48913 Situated on a knoll in an elevated position this is the lower of the group of shielings. It is on a WSW-ENE alignment, measures 3m x 1.5m internally and the turf walls are 0.2m in height. Moss and grass covered

1089 Shieling - NH 24825 48930 This shieling is also on a WSW-ENE alignment, measures 3m x 1.5m internally and the turf walls are 0.2m in height. Moss and grass covered

1090 Shieling - NH 24824 48940 This shieling is also on a WSW-ENE alignment, measures 3m x 1.5m internally and the turf walls are 0.2m in height. Beside a small burn

1091 Shieling - NH 24801 48927 This shieling is also on a WSW-ENE alignment, measures 2.5m x 1.5m internally and has low turf banks surrounding.

1092 Shieling - NH 24804 48945 The remains of this shieling have discontinuous turf banks. It appears more as a platform

1093 Shieling - NH 24795 48946 The remains of this shieling appear as a platform with a dished centre

1094 Shieling - NH 24788 48948 The remains of this shieling appears as a platform on an E-W alignment measures 3m x 2m

1095 Shieling - NH 24783 48924 A sloping grassy platform on a N-S alignment, measures 3.5m x 1.5m

1096 Wall - centred on NH 24775 48933 A setting of single stones contours across the slope for c40m. It

finishes at the SW end at the Allt Choire Buidhe

1097 Building/Possible still bothy - NH 24746 48897 This dry stone building on the SW side of the Allt Choire Buidhe is on a NNE-SSW alignment. It measures c5.5m x 2.5m internally and is of rough construction with the walls generally 0.7m thick. The S and W parts are recessed into the bank with a pile of stones to the south. It is generally better preserved and the wall here is 1.2m high. The north part has walls up to 0.5m height with the N end open or possibly washed away by the burn which is immediately adjacent. There is an obvious entrance in the S wall 0.8m in width. No other features were noted.

1098 Shieling - NH 24770 48889 On a WNW-ESE alignment this shieling has the remains of turf and stone walls to 0.2m height. It has an internal measurement of 3m x 1m. Grassy

1099 Shieling - NH 24765 48867 This shieling is circular and has an internal diameter of 1.2m. The surrounding turf banks are 0.3m high and have a spread of 1-1.5m, there is a possible entrance in the NE arc

1100 Shieling - NH 24796 48867 On a NE-SW alignment this obvious grassy rectangular depression in an otherwise heathery area measures 2.5m x 1.5m internally. It is 0.2m deep.

1101 Shieling - NH 24760 48872 On a grassy platform and aligned SW-NE, this shieling measures 3.5m x 2m.

Mid Glenn Chorainn SW shielings and structure/possible still site (1102 – 1107) – centred on NH 245 486 Alternative names - Allt Toll Lochain, Inverchoran This site is situated in the middle part of the glen, on the NW side of the main burn and on the NE side of its tributary the Allt Toll Lochain. It is 300m SW of the previous shieling site of Mid Glen Chorainn1/Allt Choire Buidhe. The grassy slopes are SE facing and at an altitude of 260m - 280m. The site comprises 5 shielings and a structure which is possibly the site of a still

1102 Building/Shieling - NH 24614 48682 The stone footings of a small L-shaped structure comprise 2 compartments. The south part on an ENE-WSW alignment is 3m x 1.5m overall and has a curving west end. The “leg” to the NNE is just 2.5m x 1.5m, there may be a dividing wall in between. The stone footings are generally 0.2m high and have a thickness of 0.6m

1103 Shieling - NH 24628 48671 The obvious remains of this rectangular shieling are on a NE-SW alignment and measure 3m x 1.5m internally. The turf banks are 0.3m in height and have a spread of 1m

1104 Shieling (Figure 5.) - NH 24650 48665 The stone footings of this rectangular shieling which is on a NE-SW alignment and measures 3.5m x 1.5m internally, are obvious. They are 0.3m in height and have a spread of 0.8m. There may be a division internally or possibly stone tumble

1105 Shieling - NH 24615 48585 Very much degraded and barely discernable this shieling is identified by a grassy patch and low turf walls with some stone composition, 0.15 in height

1106 Shieling - NH 24585 48570 Also barely discernable this shieling has a dished centre, 3m x 1.5m

1107 Structure/Possible still or look-out post - NH 24471 48565 An open fronted dry stone structure, south facing and on the SW side of a spur/grassy fan at the foot of a waterfall (Allt Toll Lochain). This structure is recessed into the stoney slope; it is crudely constructed and comprises three sides, internal measurement 2m x 1.5m with the rear wall to 0.8m high. At the east end there is a semicircular arc of stone work 0.8m in height and with a diameter of 0.7m. The base appears to be a jumbled platform of stones but this may be tumble.

Upper Glenn Chorainn Shielings, building/possible still bothy and enclosure (1108 – 1118)

– centred on NH 242 482 These sites are situated in the upper part of the glen, at an altitude of 280m - 300m, 500m SW of the shieling sites of Mid Glen Chorainn/Allt Toll Lochain. They are to be found on the both sides of the main burn, although mainly on the NW side where a large expanse of SE facing slope is grassy. The site comprises 9 shielings, a building which is possibly a still bothy and an enclosure

1108 Sheiling - NH 24305 48273 One of a group of 3 shielings on the S side of the main burn. It is aligned NE-SW and measures 3m x 1.5m internally. The obvious turf footings are 0.5m high and have a spread of 1-1.5m. A possible entrance is in the NE corner

1109 Shieling - NH 24316 48264 One of a group of 3 shielings on the S side of the main burn. It is aligned NE-SW and measures 3m x 1.5m internally. The turf banks are 0.4m high and have a spread of 1.5m

1110 Shieling - NH 24315 48278 One of a group of 3 shielings on the S side of the main burn. A circular mound, 0.5m in height, with a dished centre 1m in diameter

1111 Shieling - NH 24203 48215 Aligned NE-SW the remains of this reed covered shieling is 3m x 1.5m internally. Surrounding turf walls to a height of 0.2m

1112 Shieling - NH 24201 48205 A few metres to the S of 1111 the remains of this shielings comprise low turf walls to a height of 0.2m and spread of 1.5m. Measures 3.5m x 1.5m internally

1113 Enclosure - NH 24141 48258 (N corner) Aligned ESE-WNW this sub-rectangular enclosure is roughly 80m x 50m. It is grassy and surrounded by a turf and stone bank generally 0.5m high and with a 1.5m spread. In the upper part are the remains of 2 shielings, 1114 and 1115

1114 Shieling - NH 24152 48238 The turf remains of a rectangular shieling on a NE-SW alignment

1115 Shieling - NH 24150 48232 A few metres to the south of 1114 the remains of a circular shieling with turf footings

1116 Shieling - NH 24148 48266 Just to the north of enclosure 1113 the turf footings of a rectangular

shieling with internal dimensions of 3m x 1.5m are seen

1117 Shieling - NH 24088 48262 A grassy platform at the peak of the fertile fan measures 4m x 2m.

1118 Building/Possible still bothy - NH 23939 40836 The remains of a substantial dry stone building are tucked under a steep south facing slope 300m to the SW of the shieling ground. It is aligned E-W, measures 6m x 2,5m internally and is recessed into the slope on its north side where the stone face is 0.5m high. Otherwise the walls are general 0.3m high and have a thickness of 0.8m. At the west end however the wall footings are made up of bigger slabby boulders. It is 0.6m high and has a spread of 1m. A concentration of stones 2m in from the west end may be a partition or it may be tumble. This building is at least 10m away from the burn but because it is reasonably well hidden from the NE (the lower glen), behind a spur of ground, it is thought possibly to be a still bothy

3.3 SC4 – Selected Photographs



Fig 1. A typical scene from this part of the glen; Inverchoran on the left and Carnoch on the right, viewed from the NW



Fig 2 The prehistoric roundhouse, 832, at Allt a'Charnaich, viewed from the N

Fig 3. Shieling 1145K at Loch Airigh Lochan, an early type of shieling



Fig 4. The obvious grassy flush of the shieling site at Loch Airigh Lochan. The group of shieling mounds is on the right, at the top of the grassy delta



Fig 5. A later type of shieling site in Gleann Chorain, 1104, with some stone composition in the walls



Fig 6. The rock shelter, 1010, at Creag Iucharaidh, with, *Fig 7.* (inset) the carefully constructed stone walls of the interior



Fig 8. The low turf footings of an early type of building, site 908, in the upper part of Blar na Beithe



Fig 9. The stone footings of a later type of building, 903, in the lower part of Blar na Beithe



Fig 10. Substantial stone footings of farmstead 1024, at Clach Loundrain viewed from NE



Fig 11. Probable corn-drying kiln 1075, at Invermeinie



Fig 12. Pits, 917, at Blar na Beithe



Fig 13. Probable still bothy, 942, in upper Gleann Meinich



Fig 14. Probable still bothy 863, Allt a'Charnaich



Fig 15. Probable still bothy, 920, Allt Baile na Creige





Fig 16. Photograph dated 1853-1880 of a croft at Strathanmore, reproduced here with the permission of AM Brander, and Fig 17. (inset) the site, 1043, today



Fig 18. Carnoch Church viewed from the south, and Fig 19. (inset) Carnoch Manse

3.4 Strathconon Project – Phase 4

List of Photographs

Northwest side of river, from east to west

1. Strathanmore

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| | 1143 from E |
| | 1143 from E |
| | 1143 from E |
| | 1143 from S |
| | 1142 from W |
| | 1142 from NW |
| | 1142 from E |
| | 1142 E corner outer |
| | 1142 E corner inner |
| | 1142 S corner inner |
| | 1129 from W |
| | 1129 from WNW |
| | 1129 from NE |
| | 1129 from SW end |
| | 1122 from W |
| | 1122 from SW |

2. (Strathanmore)Drumfeearn

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Drumfeearn | General view from SW |
| | 1124 from N |
| | 1124 from NE |
| | 1125 from N |
| | 1125 from NE |
| | 1126 from N |
| | 1126 from NW |
| | 1127 from N |
| | 1127 from NE |
| | 1128 from NW |
| | 1128 from S |
| | 1130 from N |
| | 1130 from W |
| | 1130 from S |
| | 1131 from SE |
| | 1131 from SW |
| | 1132 from E |
| | 1132 from SE |
| | 1132 from SW |
| 2. Carnoch Church | X 4 photos |
| 3. Carnoch Manse | X 5 photos |
| 4. Bail na Bhlair | 1062 from S |

3. Invermeinie

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. Upper township | 1139 from SW |
| | 1139 from NE |
| | 1138 from WSW |
| | 1138 from SW |
| | 1138 from NW |
| | 1138 from NE |
| | 1137 from SW |
| | 1137 from SE |
| | 1137 from NW |
| | 1137 from NE |
| | 1136 from SW |
| | 1136 from S |
| | 1136 from S |
| | 1065 from W |

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | 1065 from SW |
| | 1065 from NW |
| 2. Farmsteads/ township | General view from W |
| | 1067 from NW |
| | 1067 from S |
| | 1067 from N |
| | 1067 from W |
| | 1068 from NW |
| | 1069 from SW |
| | 1070 from NW |
| | 1075 from NE |
| | 1075 from SW |
| | 1076 pit from E |
| | 1076 pit from W |
| | 1076 pits from SE |
| | 1078 from NW |
| | 1078 from SW |
| 3. SW Farmstead | 1029 from SW |
| | 1029 from SW |
| | 1030 from E |
| | 1030 from SE |

4. Glen Meinich

Lower Glen Meinich

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| | General view from ESE |
| Farmstead and stell | 996 from NNW |
| | 996 from ESE |
| | 997 from NE |
| | 997 from E |
| | 998 from SW |
| | 1000 from SE |
| | 1000 creep |
| | 1000 pen from N |
| | 1000 pen from SE |
| Cairn/possible building | 995 from SSE |
| | 995 from S |

Mid Glen Meinich

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Township | 989 from NE |
| | 989 from NW |
| | 990 from NW |
| | 991 from SE |
| | 991 from E |
| | 991 from W |
| | 987 from SW |
| | 987 from SE |
| 2. Calums croft | General view mid GM |
| | 984 from S |
| | 985 from E |
| | 985 from ESE |
| | 985 from SE |
| | 985 from NW |
| | 985 from W |
| | 985 from E |
| | 985 S end from N |
| | 985 S end from N |
| | 985 S end from SE |
| | 985 N end from S |
| | 986 SW corner |
| | Wall to SW of Callums croft |
| 3. Sheepfold etc | 981 from E |
| | 981 from SSE |

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| | 983 E end from ENE |
| | 983 creep 2 from S |
| | 983 creep 1 from W |
| | 983 from W |
| | 982 from W |

Upper Glen Meinich

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| | General view from NW |
| Sites 935 to 940 | 935 N part |
| | 935 S part |
| | 937 from SE |
| | 938 from NE |
| | 939 from N |
| | 940 |
| Mostly Still bothies | 941 x 4 photos |
| | 942 x 4 photos |
| | 943 x 1 photo |
| | 948 x 2 photos |
| | 941 x 1 photo |
| South shielings | 945 from E |
| | 946 from NW |
| | 947 from S |
| | 947 from S |
| | 949,950 and 951 from W |
| | 952 from NW |
| | 953 from NW |
| | 954 from NW |
| | 955 from NW |
| | 956 from NW |
| North shielings | 957 from NW |
| | 957 stone with 2 holes |
| | 957 stone with 1 hole |
| | 958 from NW |
| | 959 from N |
| | 959 W wall |
| | 960 |
| | 962 from NW |
| | 963 from NW |
| | 964 from NW |
| | 965 from NW |
| | 966 from NW |
| | 967 from W |
| | 968 from W |
| | 969 from N |
| | 969 from N |
| | 970 from NW |
| | 971 from NW |
| | 972 from NW |
| | 973 from NW |
| | 974 from NW |
| | 975 from NW |
| | 976 from N |

5. Clach Loundrain to Creag Iucharaidh

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Clach Loundrain | 1024 from SW |
| | 1024 from NE |
| An t'Sail | 1038 from N |
| | 1038 from N |
| | 1041 from NE |
| | 1041 from N |
| | 1041 from E |
| Allt Mhic Fannain- lower | 1022 from W |

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| | 1022 from W |
| | 1021 from S |
| | 1021 from SW |
| | 1021 from W |
| | 1018 from W |
| | 1017 from SE |
| | 1016 from NW |
| | 1015 from SW |
| | 1015 from SW |
| | 1014 from SW |
| AMF upper- enclosures | 929&930 from WNW |
| | 929&930 from WNW |
| | 929 feature at W end |
| | 933 from SW |
| AMF upper – still bothy | 927 from SE |
| | 927 from SSE |
| | 927 from SW |
| | 927 from WSW |
| | 927 from WSW |
| | 927 from W |
| | 927 NW corner |
| AMF upper - shieling | 926 from SW |
| | 926 from SW |
| Creag Iucharaidh- farm etc | 1011 from SW |
| | 1011 from W |
| | 1012 from SW |
| | 1012 from W |
| | 1013 from W |
| | 1013 from W |
| CI Rock shelter | 1010 x 5 photos |
| CI enclosure | 1009 x 2 photos |

6. Carnoch East

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| | General view from NW |
| Platform | 1008 from N |
| Peat road etc | 847 bend from W |
| | 848 from N |
| | 848 from NW |
| | 848 eastmost from W |
| NE farmstead | 867 from N |
| | 867 from N |
| | 867 from W |
| | 868 from NE |
| | 868 from NW |
| | 869 from NW |
| Buildings etc | 881 from NW |
| | 881 from W |
| | 877 from NW |
| | 880 from N |
| | 878 from SW |
| | 875 from W |
| | 875 from NW |
| | 876 from SW |
| | 876 from NW |
| | 876 from NW |
| | 871 from E |
| | 871 from S |
| | Rig&f to E of 871 |
| | 866 rom E |
| | 872 from SE |
| | 872 from SE |

| | |
|--|------------|
| | 872 from E |
|--|------------|

Central

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Old road | 824 borrow pit E part |
| | 837 from WSW |
| Farmhouse | 157 from E |
| | 882 from SE |
| | Farmhouse from SE |
| | Farmhouse from SE |
| | 887 from S |
| | 887 from NNE |
| | 822 from N |
| | 823 from E |
| | 823 from SW |
| Dun | x 1 photo |

West Carnoch/Allt a Charnaich

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| | General view from W |
| Shielings | 825 from NW |
| | 826 from NE |
| | 827 from NE |
| | 827 from NW |
| | 828 from W |
| | 830 from NE |
| | 831 from NNE |
| Sheepfold etc | 835 from ENE |
| | 835 from ENE |
| | 836 from N |
| | 836 from S |
| | 838 N wall from NW |
| | 834 from W |
| Farmstead | 840 from E |
| | 844 from E |
| | 844 from NE |
| | 842 from E |
| | 843 from NW |
| Enclosures etc | 198A |
| | 198A E part |
| | Stone within 198A |
| | 883 |
| | 885 |
| | 886 from NNW |
| | Crannog |
| | 884 from NW |
| | 884 from N |
| | 884 from N |

Allt a Charnaich

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Farmstead | 845 from N |
| | 846 |
| | 846 |
| Round house etc | 832 from N |
| | 832 from N |
| | 832 from WNW |
| | 832 from WNW |
| | 832 from WNW |
| | 832 from NE |
| Shielings | 851 from E |
| | 852 from S |
| Still bothy etc | 863&864 from SE |
| | 863 from NNE |
| | 863 from NW |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| | 863 from NW |
| | 863 from NW |
| | 863 from NW |
| | 864 from S |

7. Crannich to Allt Ghleadhrach Crannich

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| | 1045 from SW |
| | 1046 from SW |
| | 1049 from S |
| | 1051 from NE |
| | 1051 from S |
| | 1051 S part from SW |
| | 1051 mid part from SW |
| | 1051 SE wall from S |

Balnacraig

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Lower township | General view from SE |
| | 1053 from NE |
| | 1056 from SW |
| | 1057 from E |
| | 1058 from W |
| | 1058 from E |
| Probable still bothy | 920 area from SE |
| | 920 area from SE |
| | 920 from S |
| | 920 from SSE |
| | 920 from SSE |
| | 920 from NE |
| | 920 from SW |
| | 920 from SW |
| Probable still bothy | 921 from E |
| | 921 from W |
| | 921 from SW |
| | 921 from NNW |
| | 921 from N |
| Shielings | General area from S |
| | 922 from SE |
| | 922 from SE |
| | 923 from NE |
| | 924 from NE |
| | 925 from SE |

Coille Ruaridh to Allt Ghleadhrach

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Coille Ruaridh Phadruig | 1001 from N |
| | 1001 from SW |
| Creag Dubh | 1002 from NE |
| | 1002 from NE |
| | 1003 from E |
| | 1004 from S |
| | 1004 from SW |
| | 1005 from S |
| Allt Ghleadhrach | 1007A from SE |
| | 1007B from NW |
| | 1007C from SE |
| | 1007E from NE |
| Coir Faith Ghleadhrach | 1141 from E |
| | 1141 from SE |
| | 1142 from NE |
| | 1142 from SE |
| | 1143 from SW |

8. Blar na Beithe and Inverchoran

Blar na Beithe

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| Lower part | 901 from SE |
| | 902 from N |
| | 902 from S |
| | 902 from W |
| | 903 from SE |
| | 904 from E |
| | 904 from W |
| | 905 from N |
| | 915 from W |
| | 915 from S |
| | 913 from S |
| | 913 from W |
| | 914 from SE |
| | 914 from W |
| | 917 from SE |
| | 917 from SSE |
| | 918 from E |
| | 918 from WNW |
| Upper part | 906 from SE |
| | 906 from SW |
| | 908 from SW |
| | 909 from SW |
| | 910 from SW |
| | 911 from SW |
| | 911 from SE |

Inverchoran Farm

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| | 891 from SW |
| | 891 from W |
| | 892 from SE |
| | 893 from SE |
| | 893 NW end of dam |
| | 894 from W |
| | 895 from S |
| | 895 from W |
| | 896 from N |
| | 896 from NW |
| | 897 from ESE |
| | 897 yard from E |
| | 897 yard from SE |
| | 898 from ESE |
| | 899 from E |
| | 899 from N |
| | 899 from SE |
| | 900 from E |
| | 900 N abutment from SE |
| | 900 N abutment from SE |

Loch an Airigh Lochan

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| | Path to LAL |
| | Path to LAL |
| Possible Still bothy | 1140 x 5 photos |
| Sheiling site 1145 | General views x 4 |
| | 1145A from SW |
| | 1145B from SW |
| | 1145B from ESE |
| | 1145C from E |
| | 1145D from W |
| | 1145E from SW |
| | 1145F from |

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| | 1145G from S |
| | 1145H from SW |
| | 1145I from SE |
| | 1145J from S |
| | 1145K from SW |
| | 1145L from W |
| | 1145G,H & I from E |
| | N part of site |

Am Fuar Alltan

| | |
|--|-------------|
| | 1120 from W |
| | 1120 from W |

Gleann Chorain mostly shielings

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| | General views from SW |
| Lower glen | 1082 from NE |
| | 1083 from SE |
| | 1084 from S |
| | 1084 from SE |
| | 1085 from SW |
| | 1086 from NE |
| | 1087 from S |
| | 1087 from SE |
| Lower middle glen | Possible still 1097 x 3 |
| | 1088 from WSW |
| | 1089 from NW |
| | 1090 from SW |
| | 1091 from N |
| | 1095 from S |
| | 1095 from NE |
| | 1098 from W |
| | 1099 from W |
| | 1100 from W |
| | 1101 from W |
| Upper middle glen | Possible still 1107 x 5 |
| | 1102 from N |
| | 1102 from S |
| | 1102 from W |
| | 1103 from NW |
| | 1104 from NE |
| | 1104 from NW |
| | 1104 from NW |
| | 1105 from SSW |
| | 1106 from NE |
| Upper glen | 1108 from SW |
| | 1109 from SW |
| | 1118 from NE |
| | 1118 from NE |
| | 1118 from S |
| | 1118 from SW |

West of Inverchoran

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| | General view from W |
| | 979 from S |
| | 979 from S |
| | 618 |
| | 618 |
| | 617 |
| | 617 |
| | 616 |

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| | 616 |
| | 616 |
| | 616 |
| | 619 |
| | 620 |
| | 621 |
| | 622 |
| | Stone edge |
| | Platform |
| | Timber workings |