

**Report of the Archaeological Surveying
and Recording Project in Upper Glen Feshie
25th to 27th August 2005**



**Report of the Archaeological Surveying and Recording Project
in Glen Feshie, 25th to 27th August 2005
by members of the North of Scotland Archaeological Society,**

Members of the team

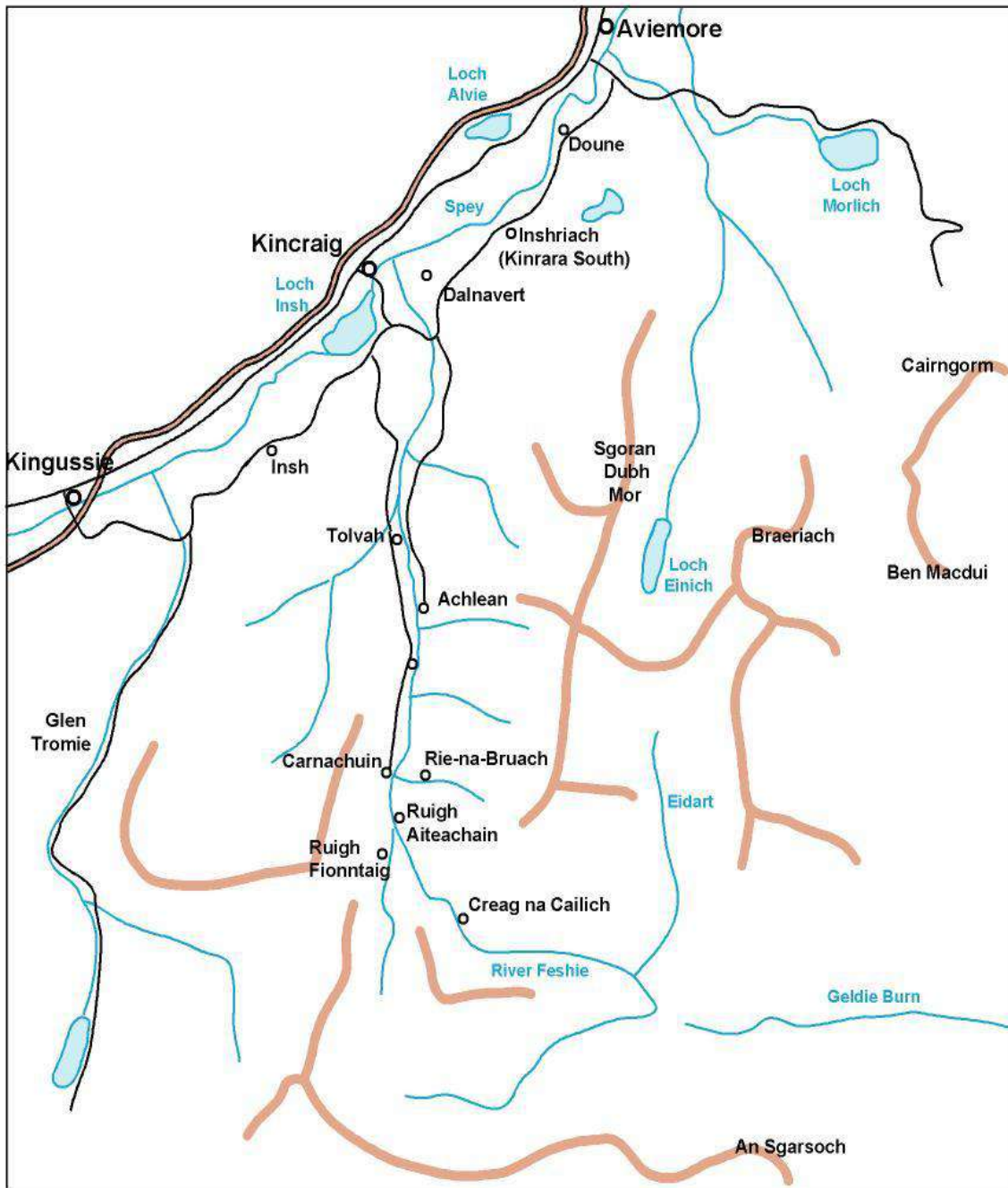
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Acknowledgements

NOSAS would like to thank the Glen Feshie Estate for their kind permission and assistance during the project

This report was compiled by Meryl Marshall

Front page - Surveying the building with the chimney at Ruigh Aiteachain, viewed from the north



Location of Glen Feshie

INTRODUCTION

During the archaeological survey of upper Glen Feshie, Inverness-shire, 1998-2002, several sites were identified as being associated with the 19th Century sporting scene and in particular the Duchess of Bedford and Sir Edwin Landseer. The Duke and Duchess of Bedford leased Glen Feshie as a sporting estate from c. 1825 and established settlements or “Huts” as they were known at the time. These “Huts”

were much frequented by guests from the aristocracy, and received general acclaim. Landseer was a regular guest. The location of the "Huts" has never been clearly identified. Three possible candidates are put forward - Ruigh Fionntaig, Ruigh Aiteachain and Creag na Caillich, although it is probable that all three sites had some significance over the 30 year period of the Bedford/Landseer association.

Ruigh Fionntaig eventually became the main Sporting Lodge before it was superceded by the present Glenfeshie Lodge in the 1890s. There has been much development and activity at Ruigh Fionntaig over the years, so much that it would seem any remains of the original buildings has been lost. For this reason Ruigh Fionntaig was omitted from the survey, even though it was the first site to be developed by the Bedfords. It seemed appropriate however, to include information on Ruigh Fionntaig in the historical background.

The aim of this project was to survey and record in detail the remains of buildings at the other two sites - Creag na Caillich and Ruigh Aiteachain. In addition two nearby sites - a well-preserved corn drying kiln and an enclosure/possible floating dam at Rie-na-Bruach, were thought worthy of more detailed attention.

In total 5 sites were targeted:

1. The settlement of 3 buildings at Creag na Caillich at GR NN 855905, 3kms to the SE of Glenfeshie Lodge, in the narrowest, most dramatic part of the glen. The site was to be plane-tabled at a scale of 1:100.

2. The south building at Ruigh Aiteachan, GR NN 8466 9317, thought to be one of the Duchess of Bedfords houses. The most prominent feature of this is a mortared chimney piece of dressed stone, upstanding to 5.6m in height. It is thought that this chimney piece was the original location of some of the deer frescoes drawn by Sir Edwin Landseer. At the time of the survey the chimney was in a poor state. Severe erosion of the mortaring had taken place over the preceding winter and two large stones had fallen out of the south face. Since then a group of concerned individuals have arranged for it to be re-pointed and for the foreseeable future the chimney is secure, although it is still threatened by people lighting fires in the fireplace! The outline of a timber building with a stone porch can be identified around the chimney. The chimney was to be drawn using a planning frame at a scale of 1:20 and the surrounding building was to be plane tabled at a scale of 1:100.

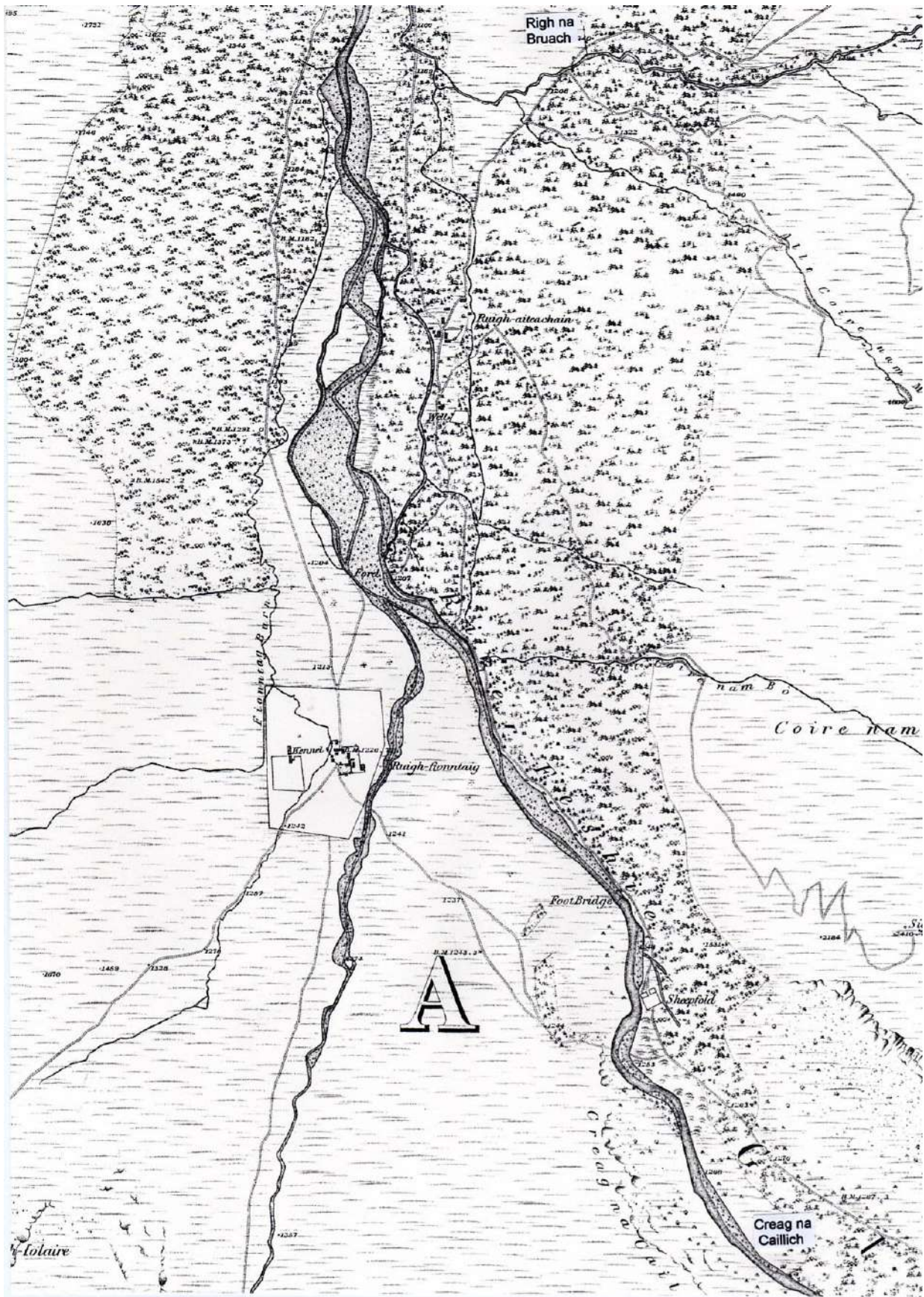
3. The corn-drying kiln at Righ-na-Bruach, GR NN 849 934 (on the east side of the river opposite Carnachuin). The site was to be plane-tabled at a scale of 1:100

4. The truncated enclosure at Righ-na-Bruach, GR NN 8463 9369, thought to be a pond or reservoir, constructed to facilitate the floating of felled timber down the river. The site was to be plane-tabled at a scale of 1:100

5. Investigate a possible well, GR NN 849 965, thought to be the "source" of the place name "Stronetoper", sometimes referred to as "Strounantobair", given to the nearby settlement on the west bank of the river at the pony bridge (Achleum).

Photographs of the sites had been taken on other visits, although some "gaps" were to be filled in.

Copies of the report will be deposited with the local Sites and Monuments Record (Highland Council), the National Monuments Record for Scotland (Royal Commission Ancient and Historic Monuments Scotland), Historic Scotland and the NOSAS library



First Edition OS survey, c. 1869 of the upper part of Glen Feshie - Rie-na Bruach is annotated at the top and Creag na Caillich at the bottom left

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Georgina, Duchess of Bedford (1781-1853) had a life-long association with the area of Strathspey. She was the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Gordon, who had established a home at Kinrara (north) in 1770. Jane, Duchess of Gordon secured good matches for all of her 5 daughters, the youngest of whom was Georgina. Georgina married the much older Duke of Bedford, a prominent and influential aristocrat, in 1803. It was his second marriage and she was to have 10 surviving children. In 1823 John, Duke of Bedford had become the patron of the young Edwin Landseer (1802-1873) and in 1824, he introduced the painter to the Highlands. The Bedfords leased the Invereshie estate in Glen Feshie for the Autumn shooting season from 1825. Landseer was to paint the landscape, and his patrons and their family in the glen, but he was particularly fond of portraying animals. The settlement of Ruigh Aiteachan is known to have been associated with Landseer and he is thought to have decorated some of the chimney pieces with frescoes of deer.

Georgina and Landseer became "intimate" friends, almost certainly lovers and inevitably Glen Feshie figured prominently in their relationship, which was to last until her death in 1853. It is generally accepted that Landseer was the father of the youngest of her ten children, Lady Rachel Russell who was born in June 1826. The "*menage a trois*" seems to have progressed quite happily over the years. The devotion of the Duke and Duchess to each other never wavered, although both had close relationships with others of the opposite sex.

A "Lodge" was built at Ruigh Fionntaig, at some point before 1828 when it appears on a Telford plan, but from 1830 the main residence for the Autumn seasons was the Doune of Rothiemurchus. In 1830 the Bedfords leased the east side of Glenfeshie from the Mackintosh of Mackintosh, the west or Invereshie part of the glen having been taken over by Edward Ellice and General Balfour of Balbirnie. Georgina wrote a letter in 1838 to Mackintosh of Mackintosh:

"I now enclose a draft for the shooting at Kinraig and Glen Feshie. I hope next year to see you there and show you what a little paradise I have in that lovely Glen, as I flatter myself I improve it every year." (NSA GD 176/2226)

The Duchess had established settlements, or "Huts" as they were known, and many distinguished guests were invited to join the shooting parties. Charles Mathews writes to his mother in Sept 1833 describing the "Huts" (Dickens, 1879):

"I was immediately conducted to view the habitation, and certainly never saw anything half so original in its conception or so perfect in execution as the whole thing. The appearance was that of a small Indian settlement, consisting of one low building containing three or four bedrooms and the kitchen etc and two smaller ones of one room each, the one being dining room, parlour, drawing room, and hall and the other containing two beds for ladies. The rest of the settlement was composed of tents, various in size and in use. The buildings themselves looked like the poorest peasant cottages. The walls made of turf and overgrown with foxglove and the roof of untrimmed spars of birch. The apartments within corresponded perfectly with their exterior. Everything of rough unpeeled birch, except the uncovered turf walls. The fires of peat and clear-burning fir blazed away upon the ground, in short, everything bespeaking the habitation of some tasteful wood-cutter, The drawing room was of tolerable length and height, but the bedrooms only just large enough to turn round in. The beds of the ladies resembled small presses or chests of drawers, with mattresses stuffed with heather and pillows of the same let into them like hammocks of a vessel. The gentlemen's apartments were in tents, each containing two small heather couches, side by side on tressels, one small table and a wash-hand-stand and foot-bath, but no chairs, curtains nor looking-glass. The carpet was of turf, upon which our wardrobes were arranged, protected by occasional wood in case of promiscuous or superfluous damp."

Charles Tankerville, Viscount Ossulston, has also written an account of his visit to Glenfeshie in 1833, in a small publication entitled "The Chillingham Wild Cattle - Reminiscences of Life in the Highlands" (1891). Of the huts he writes:

"Nothing could be more picturesque than the spot chosen by this little colony for their Autumn retreat. A cluster of pretty cottages on the broad lawn of grass, surrounded by this fine forest of

Rothiemurchus of self sown firs, some of remarkable size and weird form, with acres of tall junipers grouped about, a only nature can group, in these natural lawns of grass. Every here and there they opened out into beautiful vistas showing the bonny hills of Mar - "Binoch and Scarsoch" where many a wandering deer is feeding. We made for the principal building and there found them at lunch. The old Duke was sitting with an umbrella over his head, to save his soup from being watered by a dribble which was leaking from the roof above; quite happy and resigned to his fate - a wet seat in a wooden cabin instead of Woburn Abbey."

And later Charles Fraser Mackintosh in his "Antiquarian Notes" (1863) was to write:

"The place which Lady Georgina Gordon, Duchess of Bedford, was so fond of, sometimes called "The Island", sometimes "Georgina", was the favourite residence of the Duchess of Bedford, and her "huts" were visited by the highest in Great Britain."

"Mrs Fraser (a favourite servant with the Duchess) has often told me that the Duchess was in the habit of saying that she loved her huts in Glenfeshie over and above every spot in the world. The huts were mere turf walls, bottomed with stone and by and over each door rowans were planted and trained, carrying out the ancient view that kept away the witches. Above the fireplace in the dining-room hut, was a fine picture of a stag on rough plaster by Sir Edwin Landseer. The whole needed greatest care from the severity of winter weather. The Duchess' chief residence was at the Doune of Rothiemurchus, but she spent much of the season at the huts."

Queen Victoria in her "Highland Journals" has written a romantic account of her journey from Braemar to Badenoch through Glen Feshie in September 1860. Of Landseer and the "Huts" she writes:

"Then we came upon a most lovely spot - the scene of all Landseers glory - and where there is a little encampment of wooden and turf huts, built by the late Duchess of Bedford; now no longer belonging to the family and alas! All falling into decay - among splendid fir-trees, the mountains rising abruptly from the sides of the valley. We were quite enchanted with the beauty of the view."

And the following year, in October 1861, she made a similar journey:

"The huts, surrounded by magnificent fir-trees and by quantities of juniper-bushes, looked lovelier than ever; we gazed with sorrow at their utter ruin. I felt what a delightful little encampment it must have been, and how enchanting to live in such a spot as this beautiful solitary wood in a glen surrounded by the high hills. We got off, and went into one of the huts to look at a fresco of stags of Landseer's over a chimney-piece. Grant, on a pony, led me through the Fishie at the foot of the farmhouses."

And Charles Fraser Mackintosh in "Antiquarian Notes" (1863) writes:

"After her death (Georginas) both sides of the Feshie were rented by the same sporting tenants and the houses opposite the huts being built of wood were dryer and consequently became the principal residence (Ruigh Fionntaig). The late Alexander Mackintosh, 26th of Mackintosh was on such friendly terms with the Duchess - a splendid tenant in every respect - that, latterly no conditions were inserted in her leases, the result being that the huts fell into ruins, particularly in the time of the Duke of Leeds, over whom the Mackintoshes had no control, nor was he there even with their consent. The 27th Mackintosh (1861 - 1875) authorised the dining-room to be restored as far as possible and a pretty wooden hall of the finest Glenfeshie wood, with handsome windows, was erected with the old gable on which was Sir Edwin Landseers picture properly enclosed and incorporated. As to its present state I know not, not having been in the Glen for many years."

Other visitors were to write about the "Huts". From Grimble's "Deer Stalking and Deer Forests of Scotland, (1901):

"In this forest (Glenfeshie) Landseer painted many pictures, being especially fond of studying the deerhounds bred by old Malcolm Clark, the fox-hunter. At one period there were two sets of huts in the glen, in one of which Landseer painted a group of deer with a suspicious hind on the plaster above the fireplace; but as the huts came to be disused, this chalk drawing was left exposed to the damp and though the remains of it are still to be seen, they are in a very dilapidated condition. The other of these huts was for a long time occupied by Georgina, Duchess of Bedford, who was greatly attached to the

place, and so much so that when The Mackintosh proposed to sell some of the pine wood, she purchased most of the finest trees and her mark consisting of a tablet with her coronet and initials may still be identifying on some of them, although, horrible to relate, many of these badges have been removed by tourist visitors to the glen."

And Campbell Lennie in his book "Landseer - The Victorian Paragon"(1976), regarding the frescos:

"The destruction of some valuable, if unconventionally sited, works of art was due in part to a typical demarcation feud between two fiery Highland lairds. Georgina had merely leased the land, the responsibility for which was now a matter of dispute between Macpherson Grant and The MacIntosh. Meantime the rising damp and the leaking roofs were eating at Landseers frescoes.

The cartoons were probably not as remarkable as those at Ardverikie; but their preservation might have been a matter of some concern, at least in a century which expressed almost unanimous praise for all Landseer's work. General Crealock was another who visited Georgina's "ghost village" long after its founder had been laid to rest.

"The chief bothy where the Duchess had lived had had some charming drawings on its walls; but alas! When I was there, the place was in sad ruin, and but a few remnants of these pictures remained. In the hut which served as a dining room, however, there was one large drawing of a deer in good condition still, and fresh in colour - a charming sketch, and it was grievous to think that such a work of art was doomed to destruction, the more so as it might have been saved by removing it bodily from the wall"

Crealock, a fine amateur artist, did his best to preserve a record of the last large deer fresco, drawing a faithful copy of it which was probably, he noted sadly in 1892, "now all that remains". The Ardverikie frescoes had been destroyed by fire; the loss of those in Glen Feshie was even more reprehensible. In 1954 a falling tree destroyed the last of Georgina's huts, exposing the final faint traces of Landseer's joyfully spontaneous wall-cartoons to the hungry Highland winds."

Meta Scarlet (1988), regarding the old gable with the Landseer fresco, writes:

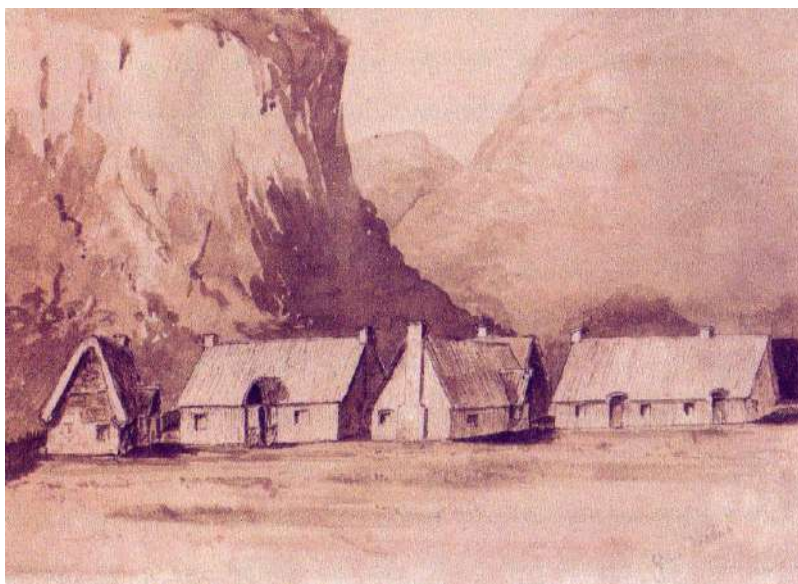
"My father took me to see it shortly after the war (World War 2) intending to show me the last of Landseer's murals but alas only rubble remained with faint tinges of colour on the plaster."

The Location of "The Huts"

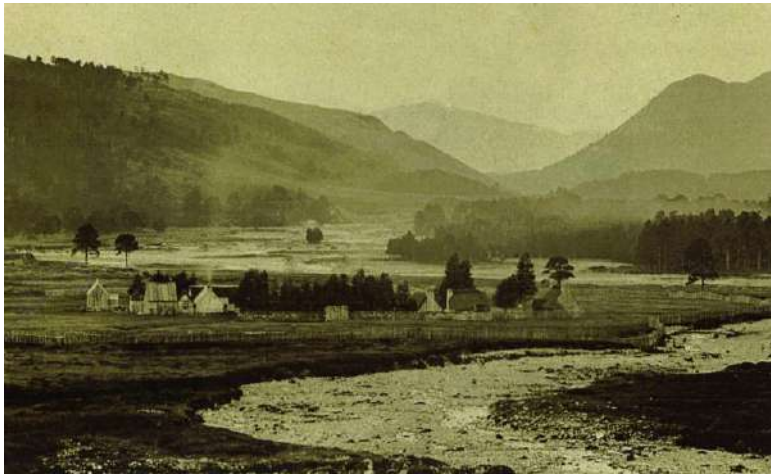
The whereabouts of the "Huts" has never been clearly identified. It is quite probable that all three of the sites suggested had some significance over the period and that they were all referred to as "Huts". What follows is an attempt to "tie up" the archaeological evidence with the documentary and pictorial evidence.

Ruigh Fionntaig

This site, on the west bank of the river, belonged to Macpherson Grant of Ballindalloch and Invereshie. It was the first site to be developed as a shooting lodge or "Hut" and is depicted on a Telford plan of 1828 as "Duke of Bedford's Lodge". Edward Ellice leased this side of the river and occupied the settlement from 1830. A drawing with the title "Glenfishie Houses" (Game book (1834), Ellice Papers, MS15152, NLS) is most probably Ruigh Fionntaig, suggested by the outline of the mountains in the background. Ruigh Fionntaig was to be the principal base for the shooting parties in the glen until the present Glenfeshie Lodge was built



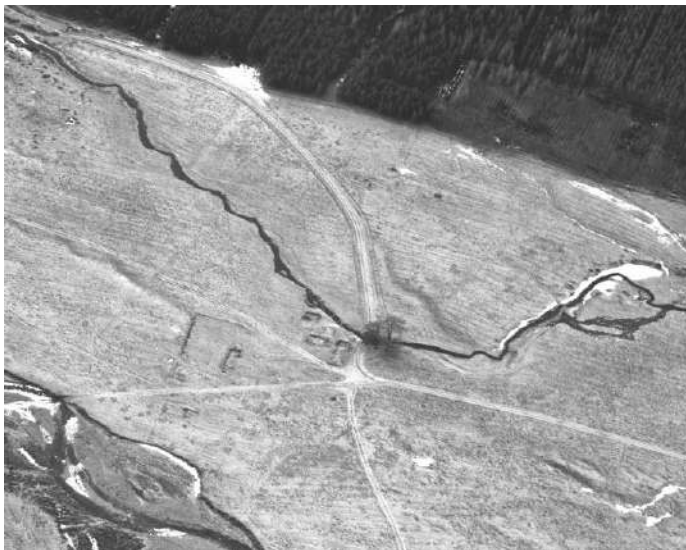
Glenfishie Houses, 1834 (unknown artist)



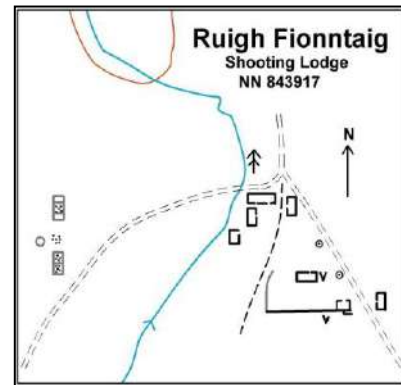
An early photograph, c.1870 by Alex Urquhart of the shooting lodge at Ruigh Fionntaig



1st Edition OS survey 1869



Aerial photograph of Ruigh Fionntaig from the east, 1995



Survey 2002

in the 1890s. The OS 1st Edition survey of 1869 has 15 buildings and the name book of the same year provides the information that they are chiefly of wood and used as a shooting lodge. An early photograph c.1870 on a glass plate, taken from the south shows something of the arrangement of the settlement. Ruigh Fionntaig is probably the site of the houses referred to by Fraser Mackintosh (in 1863) as succeeding "the Huts" - "the houses opposite the huts being built of wood were dryer and consequently became the principal residence". Queen Victoria refers to the site as the "Invereshie huts" in 1860-61. Today there are the dressed stone footings of several buildings, known by the present estate, as "The Bedford Huts"

Ruigh Aiteachan

Ruigh Aiteachan is on the east bank of the river which was held by the Mackintosh of Mackintosh, from whom the Bedfords leased the estate in the 1830s. Today it has the remains of 4 buildings. The 1st Edition OS survey of 1869 has 9 buildings in two groups at this location. The three buildings in the north group can be identified today and one of them is maintained as an open bothy by the Mountain Bothies Association. Just one building of the south group can be identified. The most prominent feature of this is a chimney of dressed stone standing to a height of 5.6m. Surrounding the chimney there is evidence of a timber building with a stone porch.

The settlement is known to have had the name Eilean More or "The Island", although it is hardly on an island but does have a small stream to the east running parallel to the River Feshie, making it more or less encircled by water. It has often been assumed that "the Huts" were at Ruigh Aiteachan and some



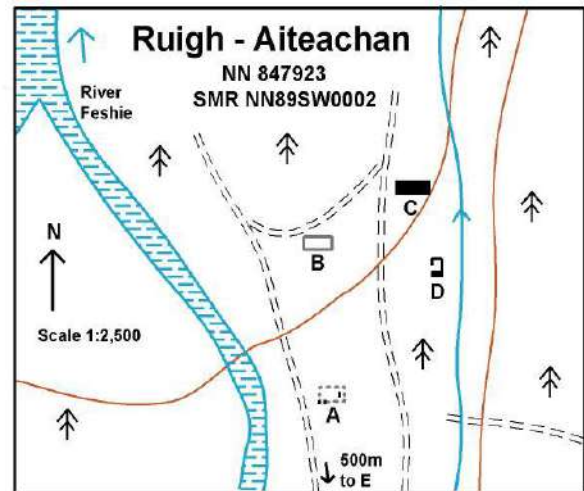
Ruigh Aiteachain 2004



Scottish Landscape - Bringing in the Stag, 1830
Landseer and Lee



Ruigh Aiteachain - OS 1st Edition Survey c.1869

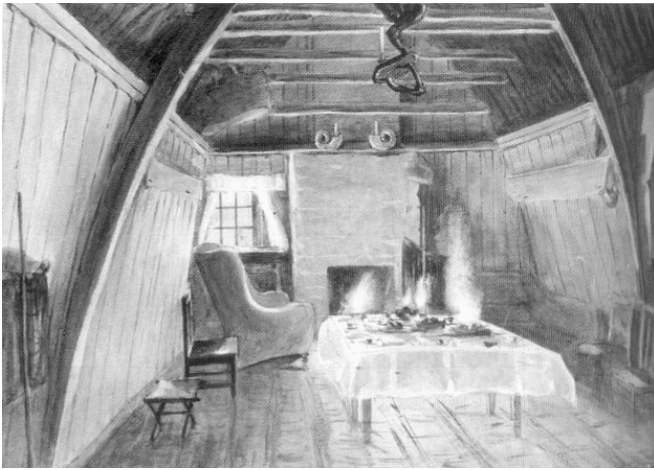


Survey 2004

the writings would certainly suggest this. The descriptions by Charles Tankerville in 1833 and also that of Queen Victoria in 1860 would seem to fit.

It is highly probable that the chimney piece is that which had the Landseer frescoes on it. From the evidence at the site today the chimney appears to have been enclosed within a timber-walled building. It does not form part of the gable end of the building as one would expect a chimney piece to do. There are two lines of "flashing" where the roof has abutted the chimney on the west face but only one on the east face. The 2nd edition OS map of 1903 has an unroofed building with a small "square" inside here. Could this be the remains of "the pretty wooden hall of the finest Glenfeshie wood, with the old gable properly enclosed" which was constructed by the 27th Mackintosh in the 1870s in order to preserve the Landseer frescoes? (mentioned by Fraser Mackintosh). Queen Victoria writes of going into one of the Duchess of Bedfords huts to look at a Landseer fresco of stags over a chimney piece, and General Crealock describes visiting the chief bothie where the Duchess had lived with some charming Landseer drawings on the walls. There is a sketch by Charles Matthews, 1833, showing the interior of the Duchess of Bedfords dining bothy with an almost identical chimney piece. The frescoes do not appear in this sketch because it was probably drawn during Charles Matthews visit in 1833, before the frescoes were painted in c.1840.

There is much evidence pointing to the southern group of huts being that which the Duchess established when she first took over the east side of the glen. In addition close to the building there are 2 deciduous trees, one beech and one white poplar. These species are not indigenous to this location and a reliable source has suggested that the trees were planted about 150 years ago.



*Duchess of Bedfords dining bothie at Glenfeshie,
Charles Mathews 1833*



Interior at Glenfeshie - unknown artist 1833



Ruigh Aiteachain - South building with chimney



The west face of the chimney

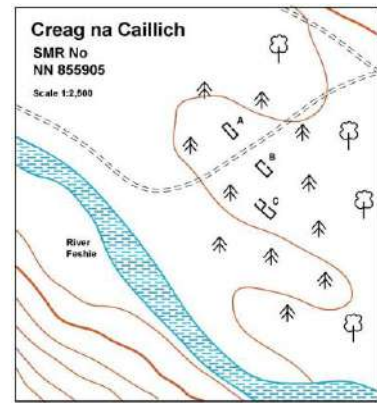


The west face of the chimney showing the 2 lines of flashing

The census record of 1841 has 6 adults and 2 children occupying three houses at Ruigh Aiteachain - did these families occupy the northern group of 3 houses? In the later census of 1851, John Fraser, gamekeeper, and his wife Mary are noted with a daughter named Rachel (born 1849), another daughter, Georgina, was born in 1853, the year that Georgina, Duchess of Bedford died.

Creag na Caillich

Creag na Caillich is a settlement of three buildings, also on the east bank of the river, the former Mackintosh land, about 2.5kms further upstream from Ruigh Aiteachan. This too may have been established by the Duchess of Bedford. It is situated on an area of higher ground on the valley floor, amidst mature pine trees and at a particularly narrow part of the steep sided glen. It comprises the substantial remains of 3 buildings, with stone and turf walls to a height of between 0.8m and 1m. All the buildings are on the same NW-SE axis, as if constructed to some set plan or order. Two measure roughly 10m x 2.5m internally, and the third is larger being 11m x 3m. This last is on a raised area, has two compartments and a wide entrance at the north gable end.



Survey 2002



Hut at Glenfeshie - Landseer

Strangely this settlement is not depicted on the 1st edition OS map of 1869. There are no other remains to indicate that the site was used as a permanent settlement with livestock management or cultivation. No entries appear in the census records for this location. Could these be “The Duchess of Bedford’s Huts”?



Exterior of the Duchess of Bedfords Hut
At Glenfeshie – Landseer 1833

The paradise she lovingly developed? The settlement would appear to fit the description given by Charles Mathews very well! Further clues are given by two Landseers paintings. One shows the entrance to one of the huts, it appears to be at the gable end of the building just as the entrance to the largest of the three buildings at this site. The other entitled “Hut at Glenfeshie” shows a neglected turf house amidst trees and fits the description given to Fraser Mackintosh by Mrs Fraser (?of Ruigh Aiteachan) in 1863, “the huts were mere turf walls, bottomed with stone”

Today, although pleasant and grassy, the site receives very little sunshine. It is very much overshadowed by the crags and trees. Fraser Mackintosh reports that “the houses opposite the huts, being built of wood were dryer and consequently became the principal residence after the death of Georgina”. This would imply that the huts were not made of wood and that they were damp, a distinct possibility at the Creag na Caillich site.

A Suggested Sequence of Events - It is probable that all the three sites had some connection with the Bedfords during the 30 year period of their association with the glen. The origin of the “shooting lodge” at Ruigh Fionntaig is undoubted - it was established by the Bedfords sometime before 1828, possibly 1825, and occupied by them until the 1830s. The Bedfords then leased the east side of the river, probably in 1830, although their main residence for the season was the Doune of Rothiemurchus. A settlement was already in existence at Ruigh Aiteachan and it is probable that it was added to, but by 1833 the Duchess had established a further settlement at Creag na Caillich. Perhaps this site was used for picnicking or the occasional overnight camp (as described by Charles Mathews). Ruigh Aiteachan would have provided more comfort and been occupied by the servants and the ghillies.

Rie-na-Bruach

The township of Rie-na-Bruaich lies in the upper part of the fluvial fan of the Allt Coire Chaoil, 400m to the southeast of Carnachuin. It predates the “sporting period”. It comprises the remains of 15 structures, one enclosure and a well-preserved corn-drying kiln. There is also a headwall enclosing an extensive area of grassy pastureland and a good number of clearance cairns. From its name it can be deduced that it was originally a shieling ground, occupied only in the summer months. Bil(1990) describes Ruighe and Rie as terms connected with shieling activities.

It is difficult to determine when the more permanent colonisation of the shielings took place and therefore when the township was established. From the following quote it can be assumed that it was occupied by 1734 and that it was closely connected with South Kinrara, now Inshriach:

“In 1734 John Shaw gets a new lease of the

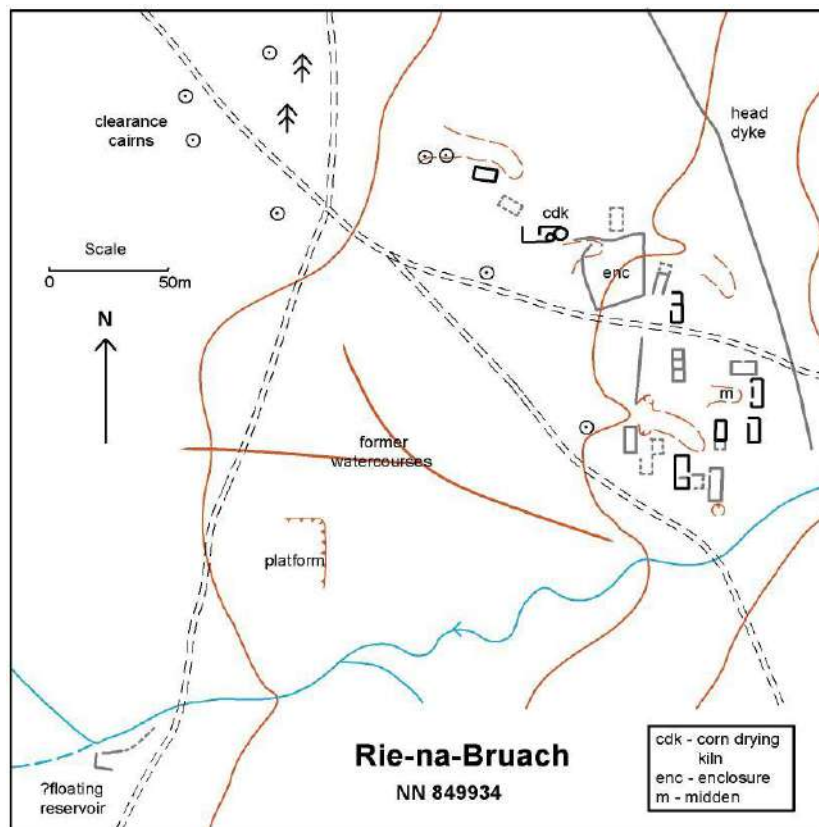
three ploughs of Kinrara-na-choille,

presently possessed by him and of Rie-na-bruaich in Glenfeshie”.(Fraser Mackintosh,1898)

The Roy map of c.1750 has the township with a limited amount of rig and furrow cultivation and a more abundant tree cover than today, so it was well established by then.

By 1803 Duncan MacEdward is paying rent for Rie-na-Bruach and in the same year the settlement is “in the hands of the Glenfeshie Wood Company”. The “Glenfeshie Wood Company” had been established c.1792, by Captains Cameron and Carmichael of Kinrara. Initially they seem to have confined their felling operations to the lower glen, floating the timber down the rivers to Garmouth at the mouth of the Spey, for export to the south. It is not quite clear when they turned their attention to the upper glen, but by 1803 they were leasing Rinabruigh and Ruigh Aiteachan and seem to have continued until 1829. 300m to the SW of Rie-na-Bruach there is a three sided enclosure of turf construction, a small earth bank bounds a channel which would have ducted the water into the enclosure. This is probably the remains of a “floating” reservoir or pond, where a “head” of water would have been collected and then released to carry the timber down the river.

The last entry in the census records for Rie-na-Bruaich is 1841 when Donald Macpherson, agricultural labourer, and his wife Jane, were in residence with their three children.



Survey 2002

METHODS

A small team comprising 8 members from the North of Scotland Archaeological Society (NOSAS) undertook the project over a three day period - Thursday, 25th Aug to Saturday, 27th Aug, 2005. On the whole the weather was fine and dry, although there was some heavy showers on the afternoon of the first day.

Arrangements had been made for the Estate to help us with transporting the equipment to the Creag na Caillich site on the first day. The team walked the 3kms of rough track from Carnachuin and the opportunity was taken to introduce them to the other sites on the way, giving them background information.

The three buildings at Creag na Caillich were drawn using a plane table at a scale of 1:100. With three teams of two people each and three plane tables the division of labour proved very easy to decide. The relationship of each plane table to the other ones was carefully plotted so that the buildings could be drawn accurately onto the final drawing. Some detail of close topographical features was also taken. Some vegetation clearance particularly around the entrances of the buildings was required in order to define their limits.

At about 3pm there was a heavy shower and the midges were troublesome when it abated even though we had come prepared. This was more than compensated for by earlier sightings of two eagles on the crags above - the plaintive "mewing" of the ?youngster was clear for all to hear.

At 4pm the Landover arrived and transported us back to Carnachuin, via a rocky ride through the river!.

Again some of the equipment had been taken the one kilometre, across the river to Ruigh Aiteachain by Davie and his Landover from the Estate. The tasks completed by the team of 8 on this day were:

- Drawing of the upstanding chimney at a scale of 1:20, using a planning frame (divided into 20cm squares) suspended at 1m intervals on a bigger frame - 4m x 1m in dimensions, with a freestanding fruit picking ladder to gain better viewing. The 4m x 1m frame was extended at the top by the 1m planning frame making a 5m length in total. The chimney was 5.6m in height For safety's sake photographs were taken of the upper 1.6m with the planning frame in place and the drawing completed later. (George supported by Frank).
- Planetabling of the corn drying kiln at Rie-na-Bruach at a scale of 1:100 - this was to take two days, with some clearing of the heather needed to define the edges. (Anne and Ann)
- Vegetation removed from the possible well at Stronetoper (Allan and Edwin in the afternoon)
- Planetabling of the enclosure at Rie-na-Bruach at a scale of 1:100 (Meryl and Brigitte)

On the Saturday the plane tabling of the corn-drying kiln and the drawing of the remaining faces of the chimney were completed. In addition:

- Photographs were taken of the corn drying kiln
- The building with the outline of ?wooden walls and a dressed stone porch, surrounding the chimney was plane tabled at a scale of 1:100, following removal of some vegetation (around the porch) to define its limits (Meryl and Allan)

A diary of the activities, including observations, was kept

RESULTS

1. Creag na Caillich

The three buildings at Creag na Caillich appear to have been very similar to one another and all are on the same NW-SE alignment. The SE building is slightly larger than the other two, and on a raised area.

Walls - All the buildings had the remains of walls that were, in the main, faced with dry stonework (undressed) internally and "turfed up" externally. The walls had a maximum height of 1m but were generally 0.6 - 0.8m high - the majority of the walls were covered with bilberry but there were a good many loose stones evident too. There was a limited amount of tumble internally. The corners of the buildings, where evident, were squared and at many of the corners there was stone facing on the outside. This was particularly noticeable at the north end of the SE/largest building where the footings of the walls, which were of 0.5m height, were faced on both sides for a length of 2m. Here too there was a wide entrance at the gable end with well defined stone edges.

Entrances - All the building had entrances midway along their NE walls. Where it was possible to define the limits of these they appeared quite wide - 1.2m, although at the NW building it was narrowed by considerable tumble. At each gable end of the buildings there was an aperture/?further entrance - a lower earthbank and an absence of stones. No evidence of chimneys was noted.

Partitions - No partitions were noted in the smaller buildings, but in the largest one a transverse stone setting indicated a partition with a further possible one dividing the largest, SE compartment into two. This was not convincing!



SE building from the west



North end of SE building



Middle building from southeast

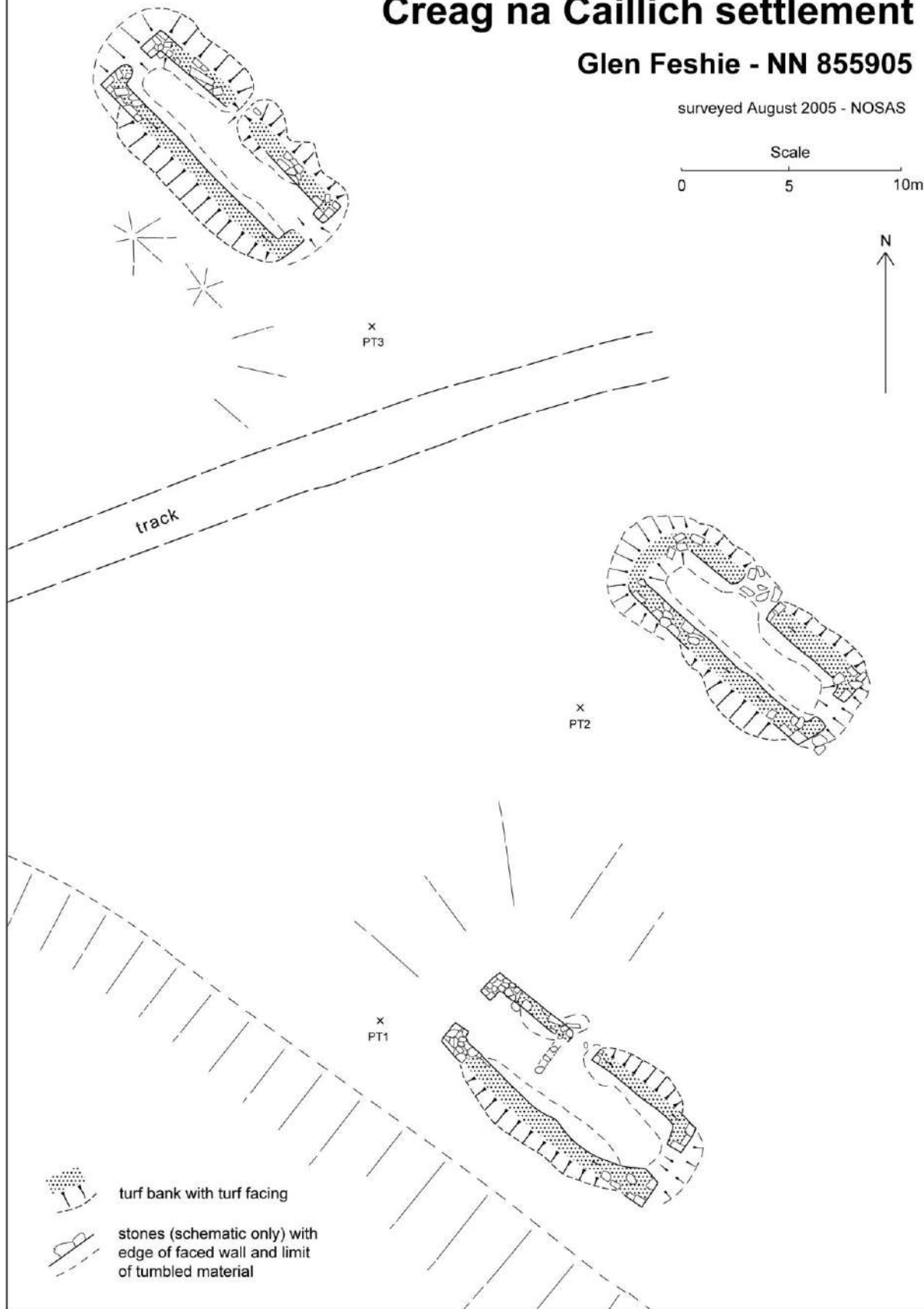
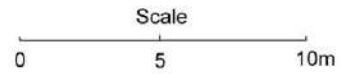


NW building from southeast

Creag na Caillich settlement

Glen Feshie - NN 855905

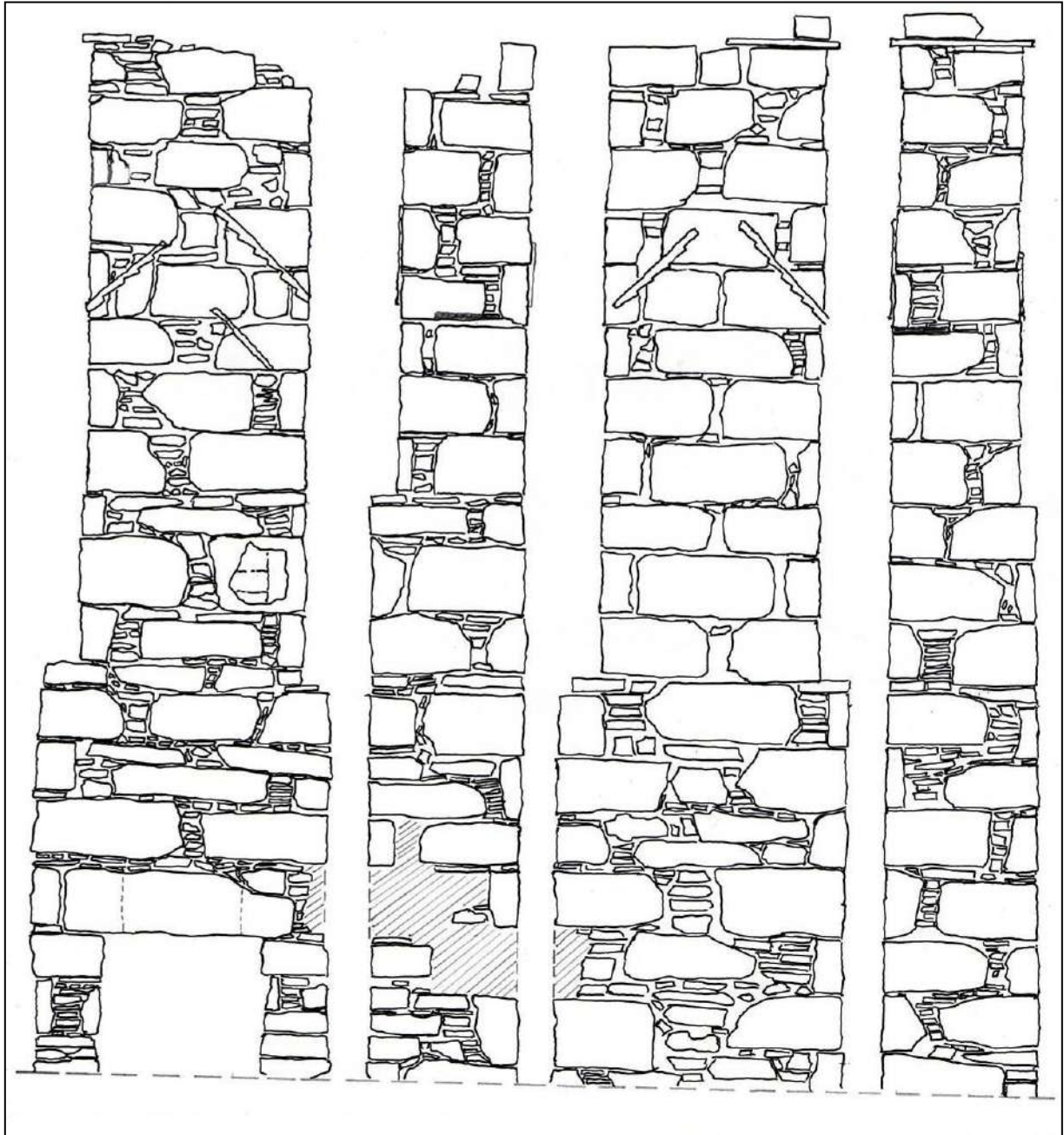
surveyed August 2005 - NOSAS



2. Ruigh Aiteachain

Some stones had fallen out of the south face of **the chimney** and the lintel of the fireplace was cracked in two places, but otherwise the chimney is reasonably intact. There is evidence of two lines of flashing on the west face but only one on the east face.

The surrounding building is evidenced by a depressed rectangular area (?adjacent level made higher when nearby track was constructed) At the SW corner there are the mortared stone footings of the walls of a porch, with two large slabs between them. One had a fashioned rebate at one of the corners. The remains of a fallen tree lie inside the building.



West face

South face

East face

North face

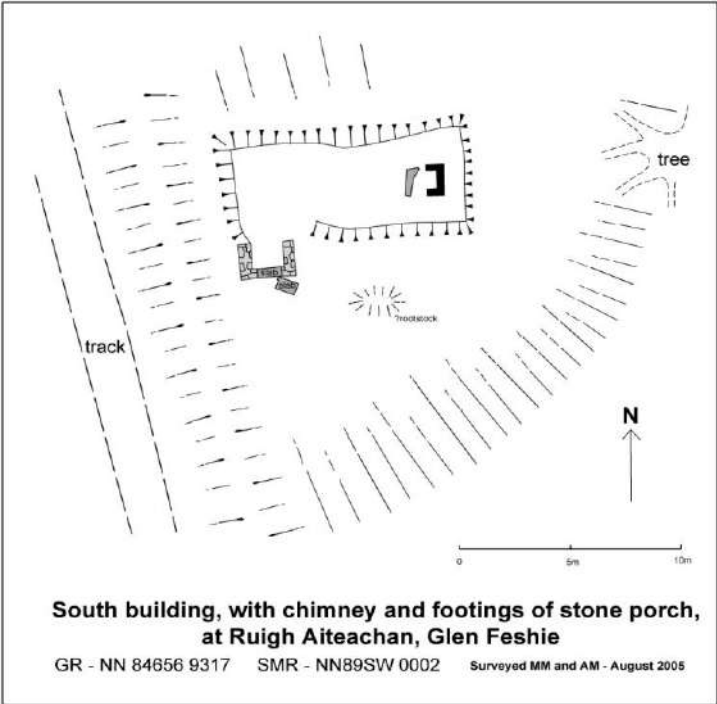
Ruigh Aiteachain, south building - detail of the chimney

Recorded by GG - Aug 2005

Recording the south building



The footings of the stone porch from the SW



3. Rie-na-Bruach - Corn-drying kiln

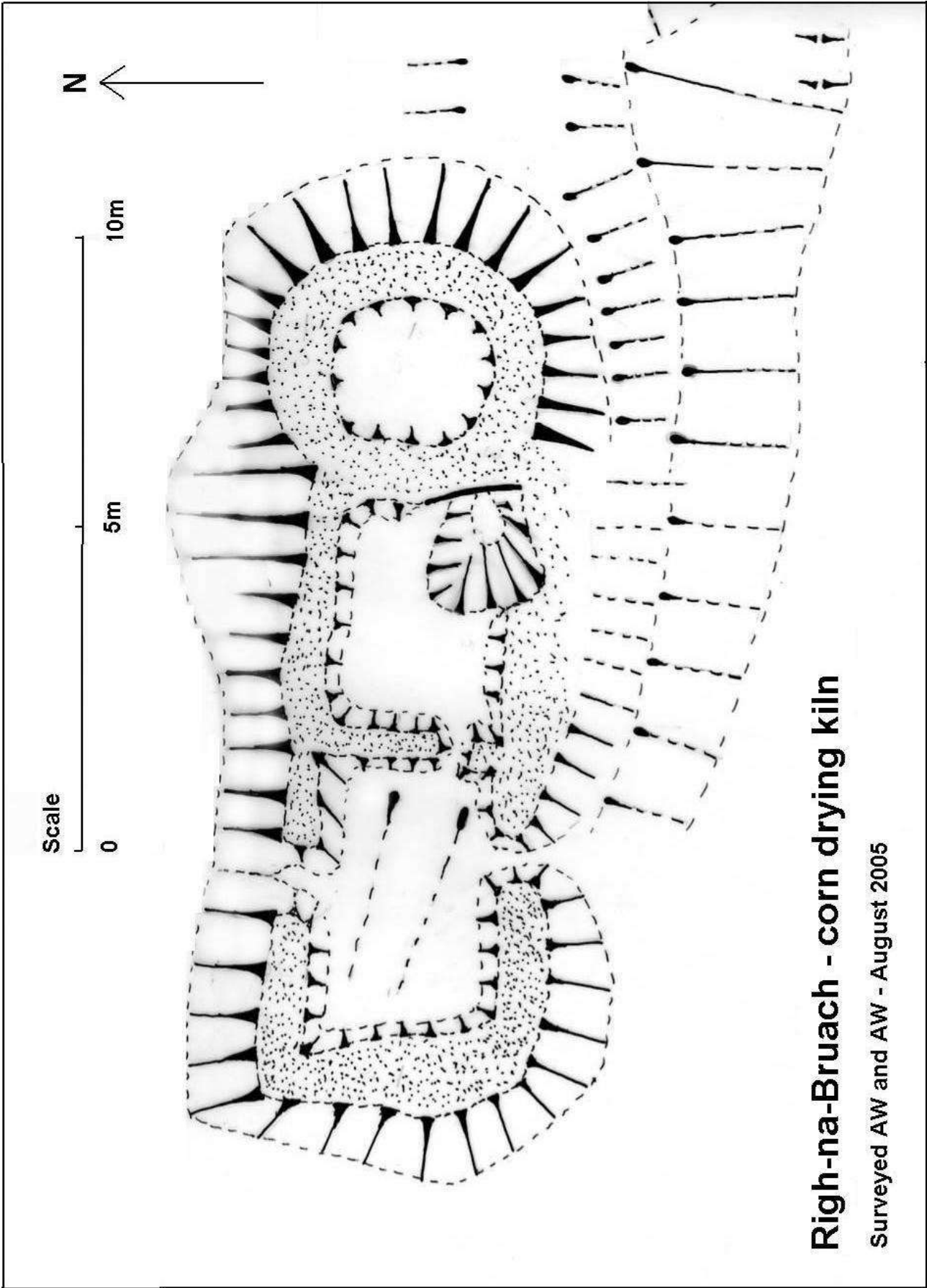


The kiln and barn from the northwest

Flue entrance and kiln bowl from northwest. The hearth would have been in front of the flue entrance



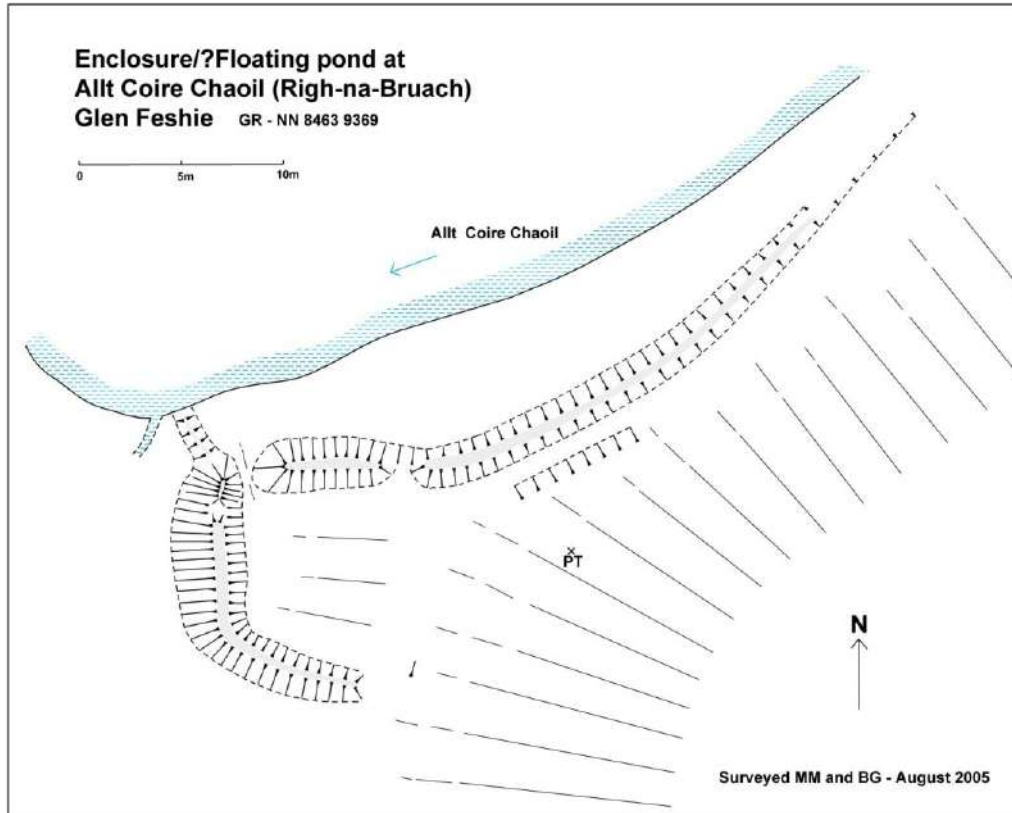
The kiln bowl from the west



Righ-na-Bruach - corn drying kiln

Surveyed AW and AW - August 2005

4. Rie-na-Bruach - Enclosure/Possible floating reservoir



The enclosure from the SE



5. Stronetoper The site previously identified at NN 84875 96555 as being a ?well was discovered not to be such.