

Possible Cairns set along the Allt a Mhadaidh above the Dirrie More

Examined by walkover survey, Anna Welti June 2005

Cairn (1) GPS NH21890 74380

The structure is a mound, mostly heather covered, situated between the river and the track, about 7m from the river bank. It is situated in a small strath with wide fertile grassy edges to the water. There is fairly flat, possibly cultivatable, land to the SE on the far side of the river. Beyond the strath the land is rocky, mountainous and boggy.

The mound is roughly oval in shape, measuring approximately 35m by 30m, with an axis SSE/NNW. The mound is about 6m in height. It seems to be on a platform, and is partly surrounded by a ditch. The ditch is especially visible on the E side as a grassy strip bounded on the outer edge by a low bank. Beyond the possible ditch are peat hags. On the W side the ditch, if any, has disintegrated into peat hag, and there is no ditch on the river (SSE) side.

The top of the mound has a hogback shape. If there is a chamber it might be under this area. There is a break in slope below the hogback. To the S of the mound are large stones possibly forming a built corner, in front of a very large stone which has an interesting shape. There are some outline marks on this stone, possibly developed from natural cracks on the surface. Below this stone are three heather covered stepped ledges or platforms, built into the S end of the mound. There is a blocking slab on the SE with stones built across its front, possibly a forecourt. Behind this blocking slab is a void.

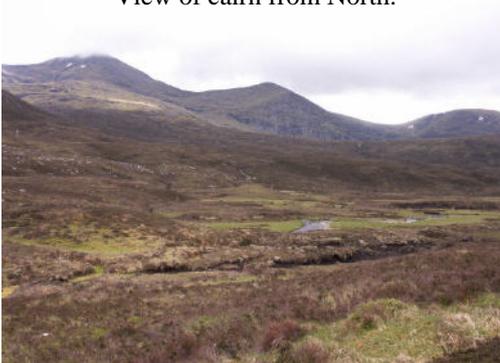
This may be a Neolithic chambered cairn very similar to Carn Liath, Skye.



View of cairn from North.



View of cairn from SE



View from cairn looking SW



View of ditch on E of cairn, looking N



View of S end of cairn from E



View from S showing large stone and levels