

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT INVERNESS		5 PARISH URQUHART AND GLENMORISTON		1 SITE CODE H NH 3 3 S E 0 0 6 A	
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS GUARDIANSHIP		9 REGIONAL STATUS	
11 CONCORDANCE os NH 33 SE 6		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE		13 DIMENSIONS 18.4m DIAM. BEFORE EXCAVATION	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION BIG AND RESTORED		10 GENERIC TYPE BURIAL CAIRN, ROUND, CHAMBERED; (CLAVA) + BURIAL, INHUMATION; CROUCHED + CUP MARKS? BOULDERS	
20 LAND USE ENCLOSED PASTURE		21 GEOLOGY		14 PERIOD/DATE NE = BA	
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		15 DATING METHOD TYP	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF RIVER TERRACE (FLOOD PLAIN)		18 SHAPE SUB-CIRCULAR	
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)		26 ASPECT WSW = N = ESE		27 ALTITUDE 0 = 152m O.D.	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)		30 GROUND PLAN NO.		31 GROUND PHOTO NO. AO/55/262/4	
1. PIGGOTT, PROF. S: 1952: COMPLETE: SCIENTIFIC		32 SLIDES NO.		33 HR. AP. NO.	
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1904: 6" MAP		34 NMR. AP. NO.		35 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE	
2. PROF. PIGGOTT'S, S: 1954-6: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: VOL. 88: pp174-184, 197-98, 200-7.		36 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION		37 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY	
3. HENSHALL, A. S: 1963: CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND: VOL. 1: pp368-70		38 SAMPLES		39 PALYNOLOGY	
4. MITCHELL, A: 1875: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: VOL. 10: p643-4		40 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB. NO.		41 SMALL FINDS PIN, BONE	
5. CHIDE, V. G. PROF: 1943-44: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: VOL. 78: p38.		42 MUSEUM/LOCATION RMS (EO 956)		43 OTHER	
6. SMITH, J. A: 1882: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: VOL. 16: pp314-315		44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER		45 ATTITUDE OF OWNER	
7. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1904: 25" MAP		46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT		47 ATTITUDE OF TENANT	
48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS		49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE		50 RECORDER: DATE SM: 28.7.1986	
52 TEXT		51 CHECK: DATE <i>Jan 26/1986</i>			

"NH 3830 3030 'chambered cairn' " (6)
 "Stone Circle" (7)
 "NH 383 303 Corrimony, Chambered cairn & stone circle" (8)

(OVER)

6. " * Also known as the 'Druid's Circle'."

29. 8. HDB (SDD):1985:LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

9. CLOSE-BROOKS, J:1986:EXPLORING SCOTLAND'S HERITAGE, THE HIGHLANDS:HMSO:p163

17 CORRIMONY
 (Clava passage-grave)
 In the parish of
 URQUHART AND
 GLENMORISTON
 Location at the head of
 GLEN URQUHART
 Map reference
 NH/383303
 Sheet XXVIII SW; NH 33 SE
 References
 P. S. A. S. LXXXVIII (1954-56)
 174-84¹, 197-98, 200-7;
ibid. LXXXVIII (1943-44) 38;
ibid. XVI (1881-82) 314-15²;
ibid. X (1872-74) 643-44³
 Plan after PIGGOTT¹
 (fig. 91; pl. 40)
 Excavation PIGGOTT 1952¹
 Visited 4.7.55

Description. The site lies in a field, on the level flood-plain of the River Enrick, at a little below 500ft. OD. Before excavation the cairn appeared to be untouched and stood about 3ft. high surrounded by a circle of standing stones. It has necessarily been closed again since excavation and this account is taken entirely from the excavation report.¹

The cairn material consisted of water-worn boulders and pebbles, and where the cairn was examined in a cutting the lower part appeared to be formed of larger boulders. The kerb, defining a slightly elongated area between 45 and 50ft. in diameter, consisted of slabs set on edge and all but one pushed outwards to a greater or less degree by the weight of cairn material piled behind them. Larger and longer slabs were used on the arc containing the entrance, but without formal symmetry. Behind the kerb there seemed to be a ring of large boulders forming grounders for the cairn construction. In front of the kerb-stones deliberately built cairn material, with large grounders, continued for 6ft., forming a platform or ramp 2ft. deep, from which the kerb-stones would have originally projected for about 1ft. At the entrance the ramp was roughly finished off on each side though this gap would have been blocked afterwards with cairn material. Behind, between and in front of the kerb-stones a large quantity of broken quartz had been deliberately strewn during the construction of the cairn. No evidence of any forecourt ritual was found.

The entrance was to the SW. The line of the passage was continued in front of the kerb by two massive upright stones 3ft. apart. The passage proper opened on the line of the kerb with a pair of side-stones set so as to form a slightly funnel-shaped entrance, reducing the width to 2ft. Between them were the lowest courses of the original blocking crossing the passage obliquely. From this point the passage gradually widened to a maximum width of 4ft., and its overall length was 23ft. The lintels had been removed for the outer 10ft. of the passage but the inner part was roofed at 3ft. above the floor. The walls were massive uprights with rough and heavy dry-walling and slight corbelling above. At 11ft. from the entrance towards the SE side of the passage a small rounded block had been firmly set in the floor, projecting 9in. The passage floor was covered by small boulders to a depth of 18in., apparently part of the final blocking of the tomb.

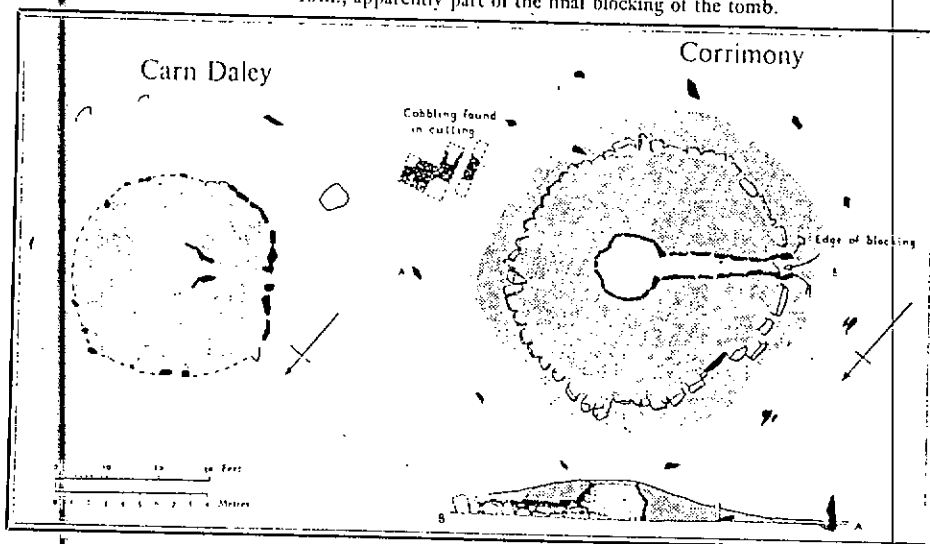


FIG. 91

CORRIMONY (contd.)

The chamber had a diameter of 12ft. The lowest course consisted of fifteen massive low blocks which had sunk deeply into the sand subsoil. Above these the walling was carried up in rough dry-walling, oversailing in its uppermost ten or twelve irregular courses to form a corbelled vault. The maximum remaining height was 6ft. 6in. where the overhang was some 2ft. 6in. Before the walls began to converge there was a slight backward inclination, so that at 3ft. above ground level the diameter was slightly larger than at ground level. The original height of the chamber was probably a little over 8ft., and the final roofing was presumably a large flat slab. It is probable that the massive stone, with numerous cup-marks, measuring 8 by 5ft. and estimated to weigh about two tons, which formerly lay on top of the cairn, had served this purpose originally. Although the corbelling was rough in appearance the work made skilful use of the unsuitable stones available.

The chamber had been broken into in the 19th century, but the floor had not been disturbed. Over the floor was an original layer of water-worn boulders similar to those found in the passage. Below the boulders was a floor of yellow sand. Approximately centrally was an area of flat slabs about 3ft. 6in. by 2ft. 6in., associated with charcoal fragments. In places the slabs formed a double layer with charcoal between. Below the slabs there was a stain in the sand of a crouched inhumation burial lying on its right side with the head to the NW. Further stains were found immediately above the head and round the edges of the chamber, but unlike the crouched burial and the object by its head, the latter were low in phosphate content and therefore did not seem to represent other burials. The sandy floor of the chamber contained thin layers of incipient 'iron-pan' (except in the central area) suggesting that fresh sand had been strewn over the area at intervals and consolidated by trampling.

There is a setting of standing stones surrounding the cairn, about 15ft. outside the kerb. At present there are eleven stones but the original form of the circle is uncertain as four of these stones are modern additions. The two stones to the W of the entrance are composite, actually consisting of two and three separate stones respectively, set up before 1874 and possibly lintel stones taken from the outer end of the passage. The two stones to the S of the entrance have been set up since 1882 as they do not appear

CORRIMONY (*contd.*)

on Jolly's plan.² Two more stones on the SE arc, formerly prone, have been reset in recent times. When the other stones (except one) were examined the stoneholes were found to be packed with water-worn boulders and pebbles. The spacing of the stones is not regular, there being 20ft. between three stones on the N side, 25ft. to the next stone to the NE, while no intermediate stone-hole was found in the 34ft. gap to the E. Instead there was an irregular area of cobbles midway between the adjacent stones. The cobbling did not extend under the cairn and it appeared to be an original feature. The undisturbed monoliths vary from 5ft. to 5ft. 6in. high.

Besides the stone with numerous cup-marks already mentioned (illus.¹), one of the monoliths is said to have cup-marks^{2,3} but they are now unconvincing.

Finds

Artifact. In N.M.A. (ill. p. 255). The calcined and much eroded remains of a bone pin (EO 956).

(3)

GLEN URQUHART.

V. Corrimony (Glenurquhart and Glenmoriston Par., Inverness, xxviii).

On dead level meadow land an irregular circle of eleven orthostats of diameters 82 feet N.-S. by 76 feet E.-W. surrounds a cairn spreading over at least 58 by 55 feet and over 8 to 10 feet high from within the skirts of which protrude six large boulders, doubtless members of a typical Clava peristalith with a diameter of some 51 feet. On one stone in the outer ring and on another, now lying on the surface of the cairn but probably taken from the ring, are cup-marks (*Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, x. 643; xvi. 312).

(5)



Near Corriemony, in Glen Urquhart, close to the road-side, there is a cairn of considerable size, which I had an opportunity of visiting a dozen years ago or more. It is surrounded by two circles of standing stones, and on one of these stones there are cup markings. On the top of the cairn there is a large flat stone, on which also numerous cups appear. I made a plan of the cairn, and sketches of the cup stones, at the time of my visit, and I recently sent these to Major Grant of Drumbuie, with a request that he would revisit the cairn, and test the accuracy of my drawings and notes. This he kindly did, and I am thus able to make my description tolerably satisfactory.

The cairn is between 10 and 11 feet high, and about 20 yards in diameter. The inner circle of standing stones, which are of small size, is close to its base. With two exceptions, these stones are gone, or are hidden by the grass and the small stones which have rolled off the cairn. The outer circle is $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards from the base of the cairn, so that its diameter is about 27 yards. In this outer circle there are 9 stones still standing. Their relative position is correctly indicated on the plan fig. 21. Their average height above the ground is 4 feet 2 inches, the highest being 4 feet 9 inches, and the shortest 3 feet 5 inches.

The stone on which the cups appear stands on the N.W. side of the circle. Its position on the plan is marked by an asterisk. It is 4 feet 7 inches high, 2 feet 4 inches broad, and 7 inches thick. The cups are on the face of the stone which looks away from the cairn.

The other cup stone is a large flag, 8 feet long, 4 feet broad, and 16 inches thick. It lies loosely on the very top of the cairn, but it appears that it was placed in its present position in 1830. When Mr Ogilvy bought the lands of Corriemony it lay on the west side or slope of the cairn, about 7 feet from the top.

These two stones are shown in the woodcuts figs. 22 and 23, from

Fig. 21.

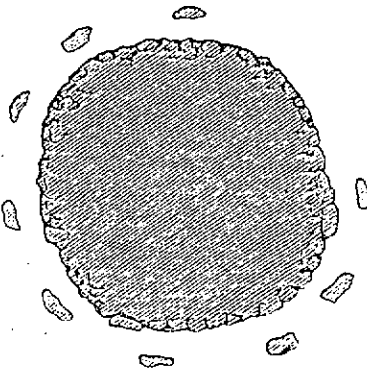
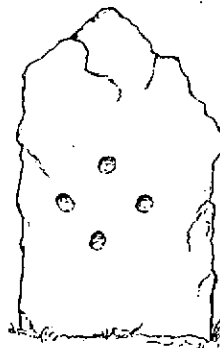
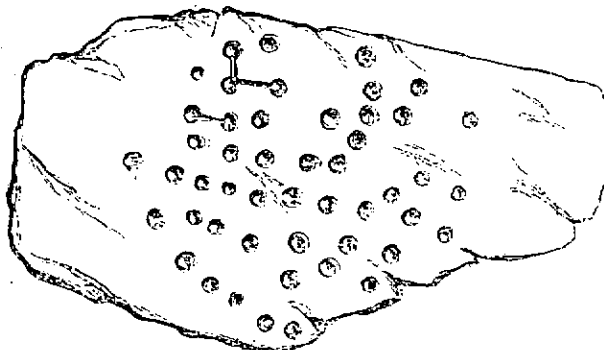


Fig. 22.



rough sketches made by myself, and compared with the originals by Major Grant.

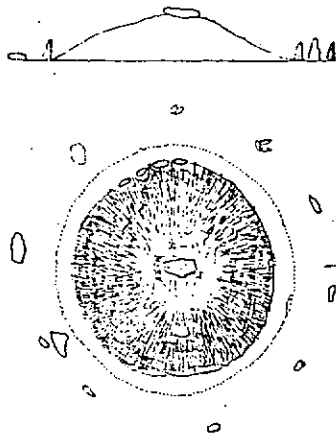
Fig. 23.



II. THE CHAMBERED CAIRN AT CORRIMONY.

Near the mansion of Corrimony, at the head of Glen Upphart, there is a very complete cairn, with encircling standing stones, of the same type as those at Clava. Though it has not been opened, there can be little or no doubt that it is chambered. A sketch and plan of the cairn are given on fig. 13.¹

13. The peculiarity of this cairn is that the largest stone now lies flat



(6)

Fig. 13. Ground Plan and Section of Cairn at Corrimony.

on its top. This is, however, not its original place, for it was perched there in 1830 by the late proprietor of Corrimony, Mr. Ogilvy, who found it resting on the west side of the cairn, some 7 feet from the top. Its original position had no doubt been that of one of the standing

¹ This cairn was visited by Dr. Arthur Mitchell some time about 1860, and is shortly described by him, with a rough plan, in his "Vacation Notes" (see *Proceedings of the Society*, vol. x. for 1874).

stones enclosing the cairn, probably filling up the blank in the circle on the south-east side.

This flat central block, now resting on the cairn, is cupped on the upper side. A carefully drawn plan to scale is given on fig. 14.¹ The dimensions of the chief cups are these:—

Diam.	Depth.	Diam.	Depth.	Diam.	Depth.
No. 1.	3½ in. × 1 in.	No. 4.	2¾ in. × ¾ in.	No. 7.	3 in. × 1½ in.
" 2.	2½ " × ¾ "	" 5.	3 " × ¾ "	" 8.	2½ " × 1 "
" 3.	3 " × 1 "	" 6.	2½ " × ¾ "	" 9.	2½ " × ¾ "

The stone is further interesting as containing a large number of connecting grooves.

14. One of the enclosing standing stones (indicated on the plan at X) is cup-marked. It has at least four cups, shown on fig. 15.² It is of



Fig. 14. At Corrimony.



Fig. 15. At Corrimony.


mica schist, with a pretty even surface. The sculptured side faces outwards from the cairn, as in all such cases. These are the dimensions of the cups:—

Diam.	Depth.	Diam.	Depth.
No. 1.	3 in. × ¾ in.	No. 4.	2 in. × ¼ in.
" 2.	2 " × ½ "	" 5.	1 " × ½ "
" 3.	2 " × ¼ "		

¹ Drawn, as well as the plan on fig. 13 and the other stones in Glen Upphart, by Mr. Angus Grant, of the Public school, Drumna-trochit, who wields a correct and artistic pencil.

² These two stones are figured by Dr. Mitchell in his "Vacation Notes" (but incorrectly), the central stone on his fig. 23 and the other on his fig. 22. Though he took pains to test their correctness, he was unable to revisit the spot himself.

NEG/SLIDE No:		NH	DATE:	- - 185	NGR:	N H 3 8 3 3 0 3	QUAL:	CE	
DISTRICT:	INV.	CODE:	5	PARISH:	URQUHART & GLENMORISTON			CODE:	03
SUBJECT KEYWORDS: CHAMBERED CAIRN, CORRIMONY									
DETAIL: GENERAL VIEW FROM WSW.									
LOCATION: GLEN URQUHART.									

SMR No:	H	N	H	3	3	S	E	0	0	6
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD PHOTOGRAPH										
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J. CLOSE-BROOKS.						J. C. B.				



NH 33 SE 6

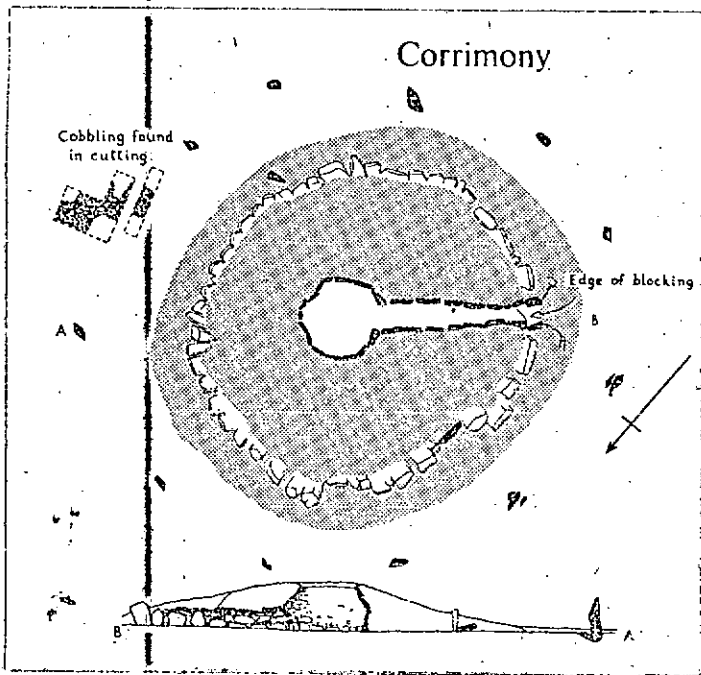
County & Old 6" No.

Inver 28 SW 1

Parish

Illustrations

NH 33 SE 0006



Plan from Authority 3



AO/55/262/4

- authority 6 -