



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT INVERNESS		5 PARISH DAVIOT AND DUNLICHITY		1 SITE CODE HNH63SE003	
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS		9 REGIONAL STATUS	
1 CONCORDANCE NH 63 SE 3		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE		13 DIMENSIONS	
6 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION INCOMPLETE		10 GENERIC TYPE BURIAL CAIRN, CHAMBERED, RING KERBED, (CLAVA) + CUP MARKS, STONE	
0 LAND USE ENCLOSED LAND = ROUGH PASTURE		21 GEOLOGY		14 PERIOD/DATE NE = BA	
2 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		15 DATING METHOD TYP	
4 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF UNDULATING GENTLE VALLEYSIDE		26 ASPECT NE	
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)		27 ALTITUDE 195=200m OD		18 SHAPE	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)		31 GROUND PHOTO NO.		19 THREAT AND DATE	
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1905: 6" MAP		30 GROUND PLAN NO.		32 SLIDES NO.	
2. HENSHALL AS: 1963: CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND: :48:p385(plan)		33 HR. AP. NO.		34 NMR. AP. NO.	
3. :1883-1884: PROC SOC ANT SCOT: 18:pp331-332(plan)		35 OTHER AP. NO. : SOURCE		36 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION	
4. JOLLY W: 1881-1882: PROC SOC ANT SCOT: :16:pp324-325(illustration)		37 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY		38 SAMPLES	
38 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION		39 PALYNOLOGY		40 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.	
41 SMALL FINDS		42 MUSEUM/LOCATION		43 OTHER	
44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER		45 ATTITUDE OF OWNER		46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT	
46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT		47 ATTITUDE OF TENANT		48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS	
49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE		50 RECORDER: DATE LR: 18.9.1987		51 CHECK: DATE MC: 5.11.1987	

"(NH 6801 3350) Stone circle (OE)" (1)

"Tordarroch: A ring cairn now crossed by a drainage ditch on the East and a wall on the SW. Though greatly ruined it can be seen that the ^{mo}ment has been particularly impressive, covering a larger area and employing more massive stones than usual. Few of the stones remain standing, but many of them have fallen inwards or outwards and have not been disturbed, and the only considerable gap in the circle is on the north side. A large prone slab measuring 5 feet by 6 feet on the SW side opposite the tallest monolith

(see over...)

Box 52

is marked with thirty-three of thirty-four cup-marks. The slab appears to have fallen outwards from the kerb. If this is so the cup-marks must have faced inwards and been hidden by cairn material. The stone was already in its present position in 1881 before the wall which now crosses it had been built.

The interior of the cairn has been removed and the ground is greatly disturbed. In 1879 five stones were visible in the centre.

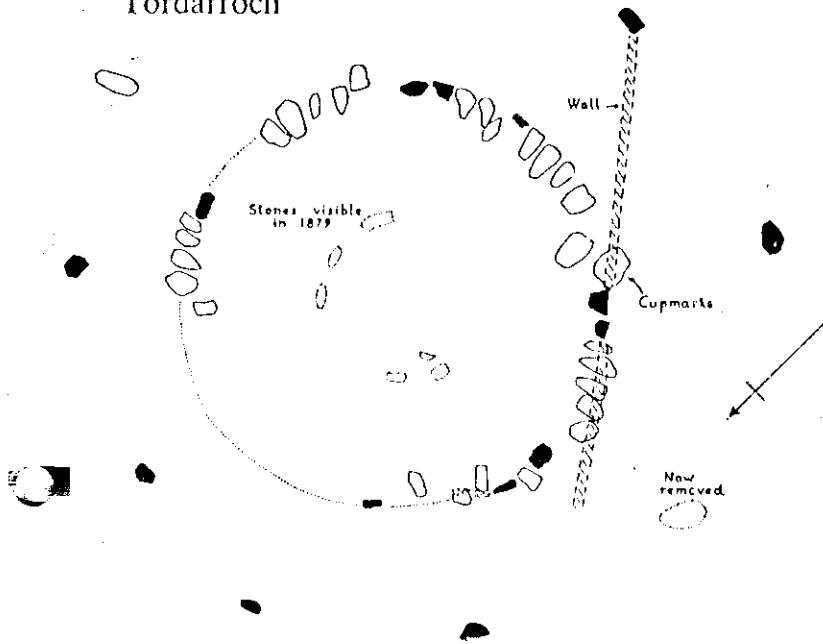
One fallen stone remains over its original position to the NE and another stone was recorded by Fraser on the SW side, but it has since been removed. Many large stones lie about the site. Visited 8.4.1957" (2) + (3) + (4)

"The remains of this ring cairn are as described above. Resurveyed at 1:2500"
(OSFI:WDJ:10.9.1963)

Drain between cairn & stone circle near F993. A drainage pit cut at the same time, immediately outside the circle showed no evidence of Archaic period activity.
(UCA 202, 25.3.1993)

2)

Tordarroch



48 TORDARROCH

(ring-cairn)

In the parish of

DAVIOT AND DUNLICHIT

Location in

STRATHNAIRN

7 m. S of

INVERNESS

Map reference

NH/679334

Sheet XX SW; NH 63 SE

References

P. S. A. S. XVIII (1883-84)

331-32¹;

ibid. XVI (1881-82) 324-25²

Plan after FRASER¹ (fig. 100)

Visited 8.4.57

Description. The site, at 650ft. OD, is situated in rough grazing at the edge of the agricultural land, in a marshy hollow. It is now crossed by a drainage ditch on the E, and a wall on the SW. Though greatly ruined, it can be seen that the monument has been particularly impressive, covering a larger area and employing more massive stones than usual. The kerb has a diameter of 70ft. Few of the stones remain standing, but many of them have fallen inwards or outwards and have not been disturbed, and the only considerable gap in the circle is on the N side. Of the upright kerb-stones the tallest, on the S side, is 5ft. high; two stones to the SW incorporated in the wall are 4ft. and 4ft. 6in. high, and many of the fallen stones are of a similar size. The smallest extant stone is 2ft. 6in. high on the NW side. A large prone slab measuring 5 by 6ft., on the SW side opposite the tallest monolith, is marked with thirty-three or thirty-four cup-marks (illus.²). The slab appears to have fallen outwards from the kerb. If this is so the cup-marks must have faced inwards and been hidden by the cairn material. The stone was already in its present position in 1881 before the wall which now crosses it had been built.

The interior of the cairn has been removed and the ground is greatly disturbed. Only one stone which appears to be earthfast remains. In 1879 five stones were visible in the centre, said to indicate a circular setting with a diameter of 24ft.¹

There have been nine monoliths encircling the cairn set at 15 to 21 ft. from the kerb, and having an overall diameter of 115 ft. Seven of the stones remain upright; the tallest on the SW is 8ft. 3in. high, the others (clockwise) are 4ft. 9in., 4ft. 3in., 3ft., 2ft. 9in., 5ft. 6in., and 5ft. 6in. high. One fallen stone remains over its original position to the NE, and another stone was recorded by Fraser on the SW side, but has since been removed. Many large stones lie about the site.

Circle No. 2.—The Tordarroch circle (fig. 1) is remarkable for the large size of the stones, and in other respects. It has a complete outer ring 115 feet in diameter outside, and consisting of nine immense blocks of gneiss, two of which are prostrate on the ground—one indeed slightly buried, but still in place. The greater part of the intermediate ring, 70 feet in diameter outside, still remains; but most of the stones are fallen, or almost fallen, inward, and a few are fallen outward. Four years ago five stones, indicating an interior ring 24 feet in diameter inside, could be seen in place; but every trace of it has now disappeared. It must be specially remarked of this circle that it was constructed in a flattish hollow or low-lying ground, overlooked on two or three sides, especially on the south and west, by higher ground, which one would suppose to be more suitable sites for such an imposing structure. One or two stones of the outer ring, indeed, are standing in a willowy marsh; but from excavations for agricultural purposes that have been recently made within the circle, it would appear the marshiness is of recent origin. The fact remains, however, that the circle is in low-lying ground, and without anything like the broad outlook over the surrounding country that is sometimes supposed to be a special feature of these circles. In the circumference of the intermediate ring, at a point S. 25° W. from the centre of it, there is a large flat stone from 5 to 6 feet in diameter, and from 2 to 2½ feet thick, with a considerable number of "cup-markings" on the top of it. It seems to have fallen outward from the ring, in which it would just fill the gap opposite to it. If that is the case, and if the space between the two inner rings was filled with stones, as is the case at Balnuaran of Clava, then it would appear that the cup-markings were made since the loose stones were removed, and also most probably, since the stone was laid flat, as it is now,—for the cup-marks are so much spread over the surface of the stone that some of them could not be made while it was partially sunk into the ground, even if there were no loose stones heaped up against the inside of it.

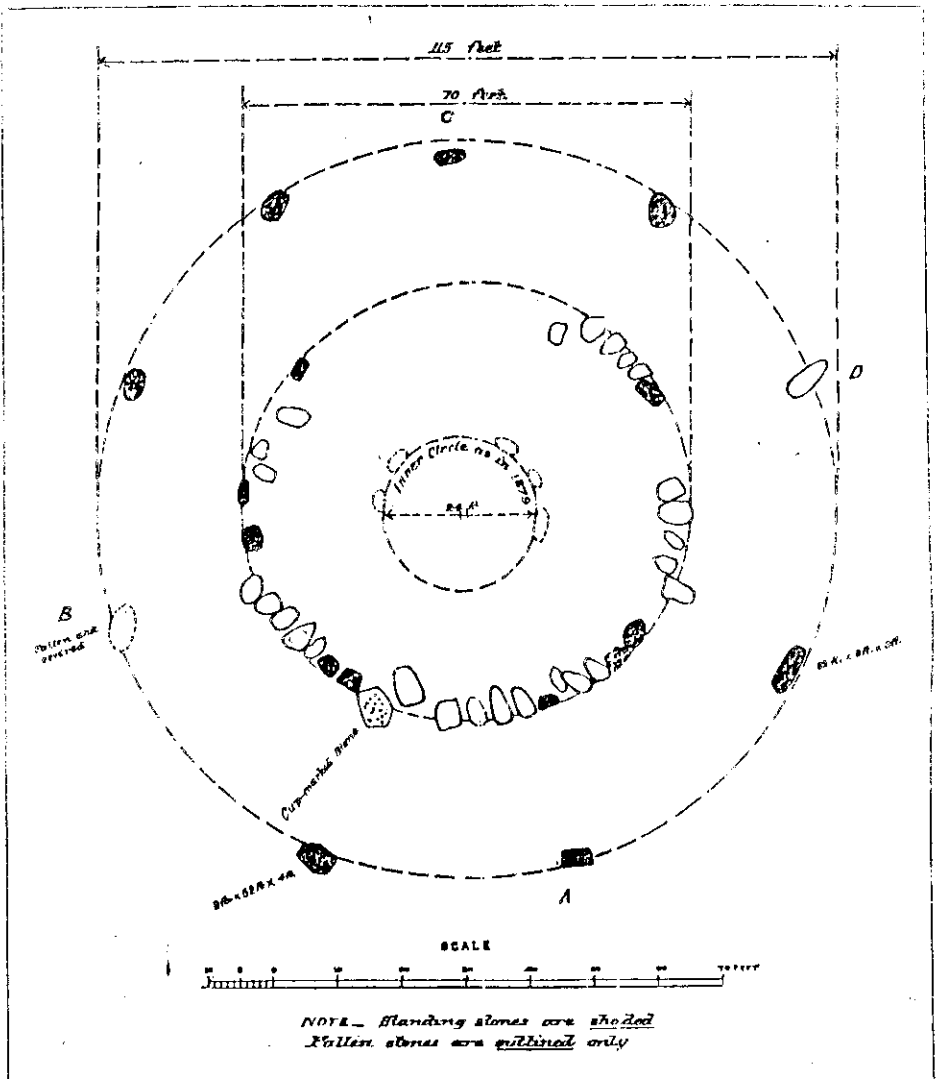


Fig. 1. Ground Plan of Tordarroch Circle.

3)

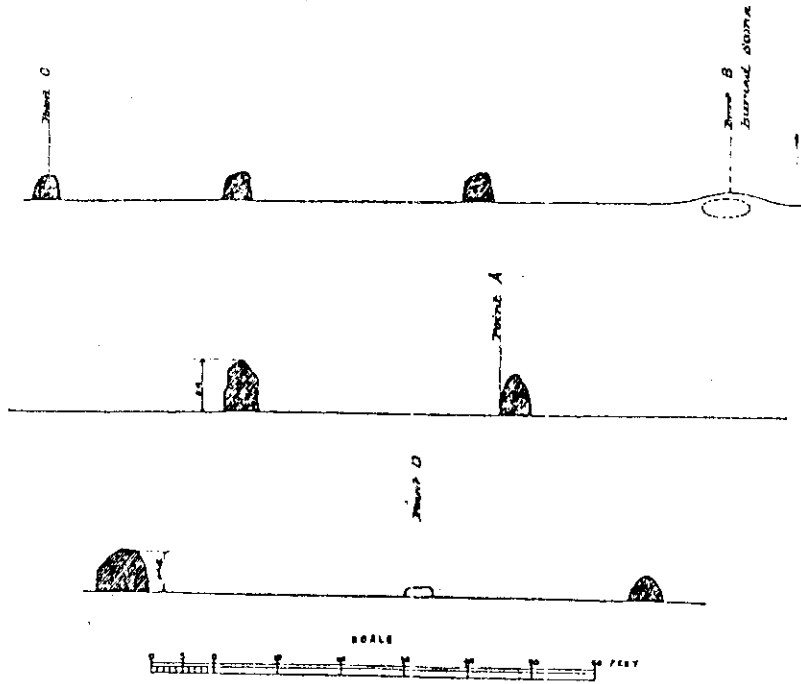


Fig. 2. Developed View of Outer Ring of Forlarroch Circle, in the direction C, B, A, D on Plan.
(See Note to Fig. 1.)

4) III. THE CIRCLES AT TORDARROCH, NEAR FARR, STRATHNAIRN.

8. On the same road, about eight miles from Inverness, on the south side of the Nairn, not far from the farm of Tordarroch and the bridge that crosses the river there, concentric circles exist. These are of the same type as those of Gask. The inner circle has been almost all removed; the middle circle is pretty complete, about 20 yards in diameter, with thirty-six stones, some erect, others prostrate; the outer circle of separate stones is about 36 yards in diameter, eight stones still remaining. The largest is 49° west of south of the centre, 9 feet in height, and 5 feet broad at the base, rising to a point, and the others are partly fallen and partly erect.¹ Immediately opposite the great stone, and in a line with it through the centre, a rounded flat stone, is cupped, of grey gneiss, lying on the ground. It forms part of the middle circle. It is shown in fig. 27. It is 6 feet across from south-

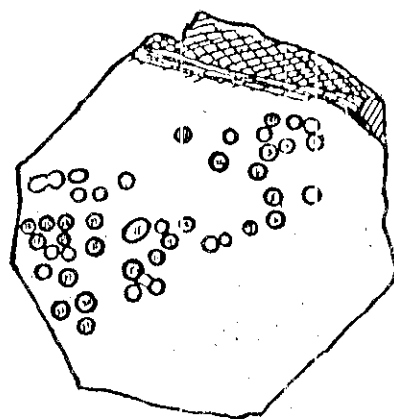


Fig. 27. At Tordarroch, Strathnairn.

west to north-east, and from 1 foot to 1 foot 5 inches thick. There are thirty-three or thirty-four cups in all, remarkably distinct, generally circular, and well formed.

Their dimensions are—

No.	Diam.	Depth.	No.	Diam.	Depth.
1.	2.2 in.	× 2.2 in. × .8 in.	14.	2.2 in.	
2.	1.9 "	× 1.9 " × .6 "	15.	2.5 "	× 2.5 in. × .9 in.
3.	2 "	× 2 " × .8 "	16.	2.5 "	× 2.5 " × 1.1 "
4.	2.2 "	× 2.2 " × .8 "	17.	2.5 "	× 2.5 " × .9 "
5.	2.2 "	× 2.2 "	18.	2.2 "	× 2.2 " × 1 "
6.	2.1 "	× 2.1 "	19.	2.2 "	
7.	2 "	× 2 "	20.	3 "	× 2.5 " × 1 "
8.	2.5 "	× 2.2 "	21.	1.9 "	× 1.9 " × .8 "
9.	2.3 "		22.	2.6 "	× 2.6 " × 1.1 "
10.	2.6 "	× 2.4 " × .8 "	23.	9 in.	from end to end of groove, formed by rough hollow in stone.
11.	4 "	× 2.3 " doubtful.	24.	1.8 in.	× 1.8 in.
12.	3 "	× 2.6 "	25.	2.3 "	× 2.3 " × 1.1 in.
13.	2.5 "				

This part of the valley of the Nairn is unusually rich in prehistoric remains, containing the very good circles of Gask and Tordarroch and another at Crofteroy, where the Tordarroch road joins the main road to Flichity, a short distance from the Tordarroch circles (no cupped stones being, however, found in the Crofteroy circle); other cup-marked stones, to be afterwards mentioned, in the fat valley above the Nairn, in the churchyard and neighbourhood of Dunlichity, and on the moor of Gask, which also shows very numerous hut-circles, tumuli, and cists. Altogether, Strathnairn, which also embraces the plain of Clava, is one of the richest in prehistoric remains in the country.

¹ It is shortly described by Miss MacLagan (p. 120), who seems to have missed the cupped stone.

Mr. Cox

Phone call

5/2/01

2:45pm.

NHL 35E 0003

Strathnairn Stone Circle, Tordarrach, !

Opened a drain about 8-10 years ago + spoke to Bob Gourlay + Dorothy Low about moving some rocks there - no apparent problem.

No clearance then done - now an opportunity to clear the area up, remove stones

Site meeting required to sort out what can be removed from where.

(01463) 791491

He'll ring to fix date on 19/2/01

Otherwise, ring him.