

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT INVERNESS		5 PARISH CROY & DALCROSS		1 SITE CODE H N H 7 4 8 E 0 0 3	
7 AREA STATUS NTS		8 SITE STATUS GUARDIANSHIP		9 REGIONAL STATUS	
11 CONCORDANCE OS NH 74 SE 3		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURES		13 DIMENSIONS	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION INCOMPLETE		10 GENERIC TYPE BURIAL CAIRN, ROUND, KERBED, CHAMBERED, CLAVA + STONE CIRCLE, CONCENTRIC + CUPMARKS, STONES	
20 LAND USE SCRUB = OPEN WOODLAND		21 GEOLOGY		14 PERIOD/DATE NE = BA	
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		15 DATING METHOD TYP	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF VALLEY FLOOR		16 SHAPE NODULAR	
26 ASPECT 360°		27 ALTITUDE 100 = 115m O.D.		18 THREAT AND DATE	
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY) 1. JOHNSTONE:1881:PARTIAL:UNSCIENTIFIC 2. PIGGOTT,S:1953:PARTIAL:SCIENTIFIC					
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL) "SEE BIBLIOGRAPHY LIST OF THIS SECTION FOR REFERENCE"					
30 GROUND PLAN NO.			31 GROUND PHOTO NO.		
32 SLIDES NO.			33 HR. AP. NO.		
34 NMR. AP. NO.			35 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE		
36 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION					
37 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY			38 SAMPLES		
39 PALYNOLOGY			40 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.		
41 SMALL FINDS ROUGH PEBBLE FLINT FLAKES + CREMATED HUMAN BONE					42 MUSEUM/LOCATION "NOT KEPT" (17)
43 OTHER					
44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER					45 ATTITUDE OF OWNER
46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT					47 ATTITUDE OF TENANT
48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS					
49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE				50 RECORDER: DATE GS: 1.12.1986	51 CHECK: DATE FS.17/12/1986

52 TEXT
 "(3) Balnuaran of Clava, Centre (INV 8), NH 757 444. A Clava ring-cairn within a circle of nine standing stones, of which three are linked by 'causeways' to the platform of stones that extends outwards from the kerb of the cairn for about 1.5m. The cairn measures 18.3m by 15.9m over a kerb of graded boulders to enclose a central area 6.5m by 5.5m. One of the standing stones and two of the kerb-stones are cup-marked." (24)
 "NH 7571 4443. The remains of the ring cairn are as described above"
 "NH 7571 4443, STONE CIRCLES & CAIRNS (URNS CONTAINING CALCINED BONES FOUND" (12)
 "NH 7571 4443, CHAMBERED CAIRNS" (22)
 "NH 752 439 - NH 760 445, CHAMBERED CAIRNS, STONE CIRCLES" (25)
 "See continuation cards for text & illustrations"

BOX 29.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES FOR CLAVA BURIAL CAIRN COMPLEX

1. LAUDER, R.: 1830: THE MORAY FLOODS: : CHAPTER ONE, APPENDIX VII+ILLUSTRATIONS.
2. ANDERSON, G.: 1831: ARCHAEOLOGICA SCOTICA: VOL. 3: pp 211-222.
3. CAMPBELL, A.: 1841: NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: 14: p 457.
4. INNES, C.: 1857-1860: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: VOL. 3: pp 47-50, + ILLUSTRATIONS.
5. MACLAGAN: 1875: STONE CIRCLES AND HILLFORTS OF SCOTLAND: : : p
6. JOLLY, W. : 1875-1880: TRANS. INVERNESS SCI. SOC. + FIELD CLUB: VOL. 1: pp 31-32.
7. JOLLY, W. : 1881-1882: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: VOL. 16: pp 303-311 + pp 320-321.
8. FRASER, J.: 1883-1884: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: VOL. 18: ppps 341-346, 347-350+p 360.
9. ANDERSON, J.: 1886: SCOTLAND IN PAGAN TIMES: D. DOUGLAS: VOL. 1: pp
10. BAIN, J.: 1893: HISTORY OF NAIRNSHIRE: : p 39.
11. MUNRO, R.: 1899: PREHISTORIC SCOTLAND: BLACKWOOD + SON: pp 310-312.
12. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1906: 6" MAP.
13. PIGGOTT, S.: 1954: NEOLITHIC CULTURES OF THE BRITISH ISLES: : pp 257-262.
14. PIGGOTT, S.: 1954-1956: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: VOL. 88: ppps 188-192+195, PLAN.
15. LISOWSKI, F.P. : 1955-1956: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: VOL. 89: pp 83-90.
16. WALKER, I.C.: 1962-1963: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: VOL. 96: pp 87-106.
17. HENSHALL, A.S.: 1963: CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND: EDINBURGH U.P.: VOL. 1: pp 12-39, 361-6.
ILLUSTRATIONS.
18. MELDRUM, E.: 1971: THE CLAVA CAIRNS (BOOKLET) + ILLUSTRATIONS + PLAN.
19. BURL, A. : 1972: SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FORUM: GLASGOW U.P.: VOL. 4: pp 1-17.
20. RITCHIE, J.+MCLAREN, A.: 1972: SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FORUM: GLASGOW U.P.: VOL. 4: pp35+
40-41.
21. HENSHALL, A.S.: 1972: CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND: EDINBURGH U.P.: VOL. 2: pp182, 205, 273.
22. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1975: 1/10 000 MAP.
23. BURL, A.: 1977: STONE CIRCLES OF THE BRITISH ISLES: YALE U.P.: pp 160-167, + PHOTO.
24. SOC. ANT. SCOT. : 1979: ARCH. SITES + MONS. OF NE INVERNESS: RCAHMS: pps 7,8,9,10. Nos. 5,
14, 27, 28, 31.
25. HBM (SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS.

26. ROSS, D.W.: 1981: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND: CBA (SCOTLAND): : p.20

27. BARBER, J. : 1982: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND: CBA (SCOTLAND): : p.14

52.

Circle No. 11.—The middle circle of this group at Bahuanan of Clava (fig. 14) is different in several respects from the chambered circles east and west of it. Its outer ring is 107 feet in diameter outside, and con-

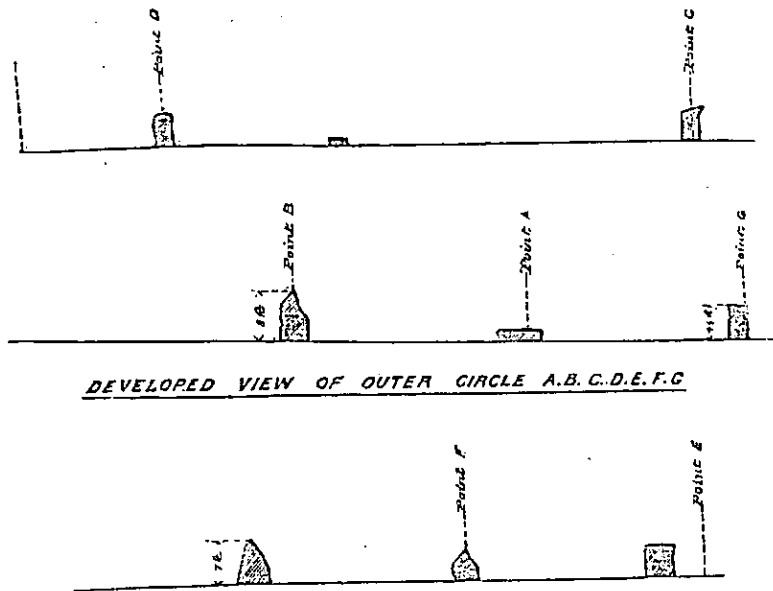


Fig. 15. View of Outer Ring of Circle No. 11, in the direction E, D, C, B, A, G, E.
(See Scale and Note to Fig. 1.)

(8)

sists of nine stones (see the developed view, fig. 15), but may have originally contained ten or eleven stones. The intermediate ring is 57 feet in diameter outside, and is rather irregular in its shape. The innermost ring is considerably larger than those of the chambered circles east and west of it, being 22 feet diameter inside. There is a mass of loose stones about 3 feet deep in the space between the inner and the intermediate rings, and a less depth of loose stones within the innermost one. There is no trace of a wall having been built on the top of the inner ring, nor of an entrance passage. It may also be remarked that the rings are not strictly concentric,—for the centre of the inner ring is about 5 feet north of that of the outer ring,—while that of the intermediate ring again lies about half-way between the other two. A singular and unique feature of this circle is its having three rudely formed projections or causeways of small stones, about 7 feet in width, in lines radiating from the intermediate ring to three of the stones of the outer ring, one of them pointing to E. 10° S., another to S. 10° E., and the third to W. 25° N. No feature corresponding with these projections has been yet discovered in any other circle.

(8)

52.

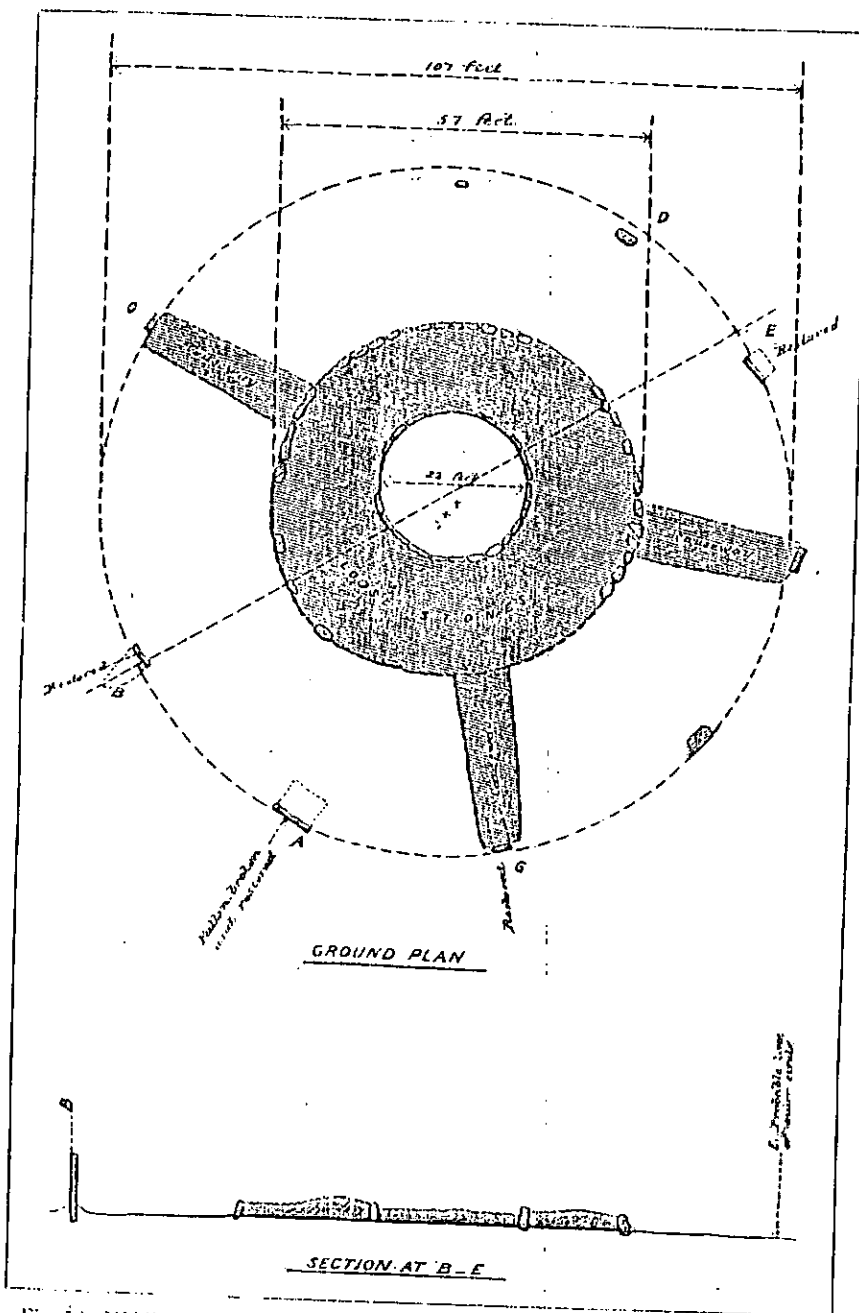


Fig. 14. Middle Circle No. 11, of Balnaran of Clava Group (surrounding a flat Cairn).

(8)

Cairn No. 2.—The cairn (Doric called cairn No. 2) immediately to the south of this one has been larger, the inner chamber having a diameter of some 20 feet. The breadth from the walls of this innermost circle to the second (which held in the cairn stones) is 15 feet, and from that to the outer circle of standing stones, 25 feet; so that the distances of the circles, from the centre in each case, are 10, 25, and 50 feet. A rough plan of the whole is given in fig. 2. There are eleven stones in the outermost circle, at an average distance of 30 feet. This fine cairn has been quite dismantled, all the smaller stones having been removed; but the two outer circles of stones are pretty complete, though the innermost circle, which formed the base of the enclosed chamber, has almost disappeared.

During the recent clearances and restorations by the proprietor, one most interesting feature was exposed, which seems as yet to be peculiar to this cairn. Between the second and third or outermost circles three causeways were exposed to view, each running radially from one of the outer monoliths to the second circle, as shown in the plan, one on the west side, and two on the east; the western causeway occupying, as will be seen, a middle direction between the other two. They consist of a rough pathway of rounded stones, with a bounding line of larger stones on each side, the western one being $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet broad, that is 3 feet wider

(7)

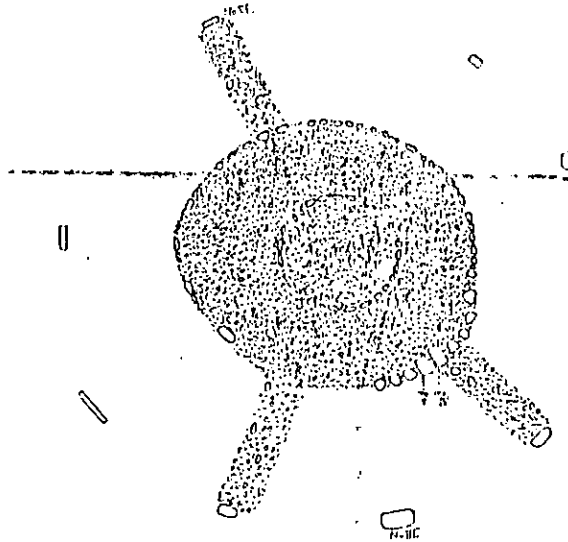


Fig. 2. Cairn No. 2, at Clava.

than the outer standing stone from which it starts; the one to the north, on the east side, being $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet broad, that is $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet wider than its terminal standing stone; and the other, to the south, being $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet broad. There are several cupped stones in connection with this cairn, which seem to have some relation to the curious causeways just described.

2. On the standing stone in the outer circle on the east side, between the two stones on that side having the causeways leading to them, several cups occur. This stone is an erect peaked block of grey granite or gneiss, $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height and about 5 feet in width. It is shown in fig. 3. The cup marked No. 1 is very distinct, and is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in

(7)

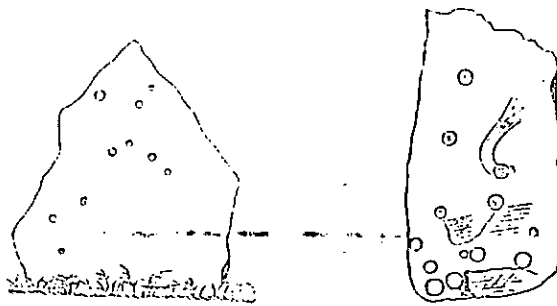


Fig. 3. At Clava.

Fig. 3a. At Clava.

diameter. The rest are shallow and less distinct, and from the weathering of the granite, which exposes the sharp crystals imbedded, less smooth than in cups carved on sandstone.

3. At the inner end of the north causeway on the east side there are two cupped stones standing side by side, and forming part of the middle circle of the cairn. These were unearthed in June last by Mr. Johnstone, jun., of the neighbouring farm of Welltown, while clearing the surrounding ground of its superabundant shrubs. The north-west one is shown in fig. 3a. It consists of the reddish variety of the sandstone of the neighbourhood, rather rough in grain. There are thirteen cups in all, most of them well formed and very distinct. The two at the bottom of the stone, which have been made on the curved edge of the stone, are round and deep, and must have taken considerable trouble to form, from the nature of the stone there and their position. The curved hollow

(7)

running from cup No. 3 seems artificial, and is not uncommon in connection with such cups, as will be further seen.

4. The stone close by this one to the left, which is of a fine-grained yellowish sandstone, has several cups, many of them very well scooped. It is shown on fig. 1. There are some twenty cups in all. Some of them have the unusual peculiarity of being grouped together in clusters of two, as 6 and 7; of three, as 3, 4, and 5; and four or five, as 9 to 13; each group forming in one view an elongated cup, subdivided into shell-like sections by slight sharp elevations running from side to side.

5. The standing stone at the *outer* end of the western causeway of this cairn, forming part of the enclosing separated circle, is covered with a species of small cups, quite unique amongst those described in this paper;

(7)

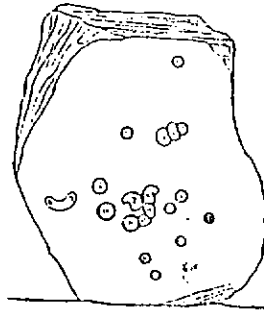


Fig. 4. At Clava.

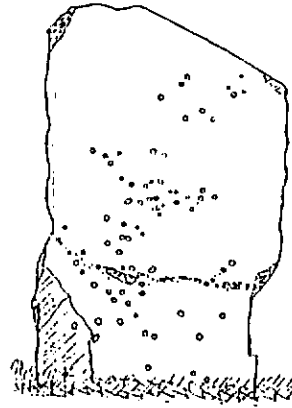


Fig. 5. At Clava.

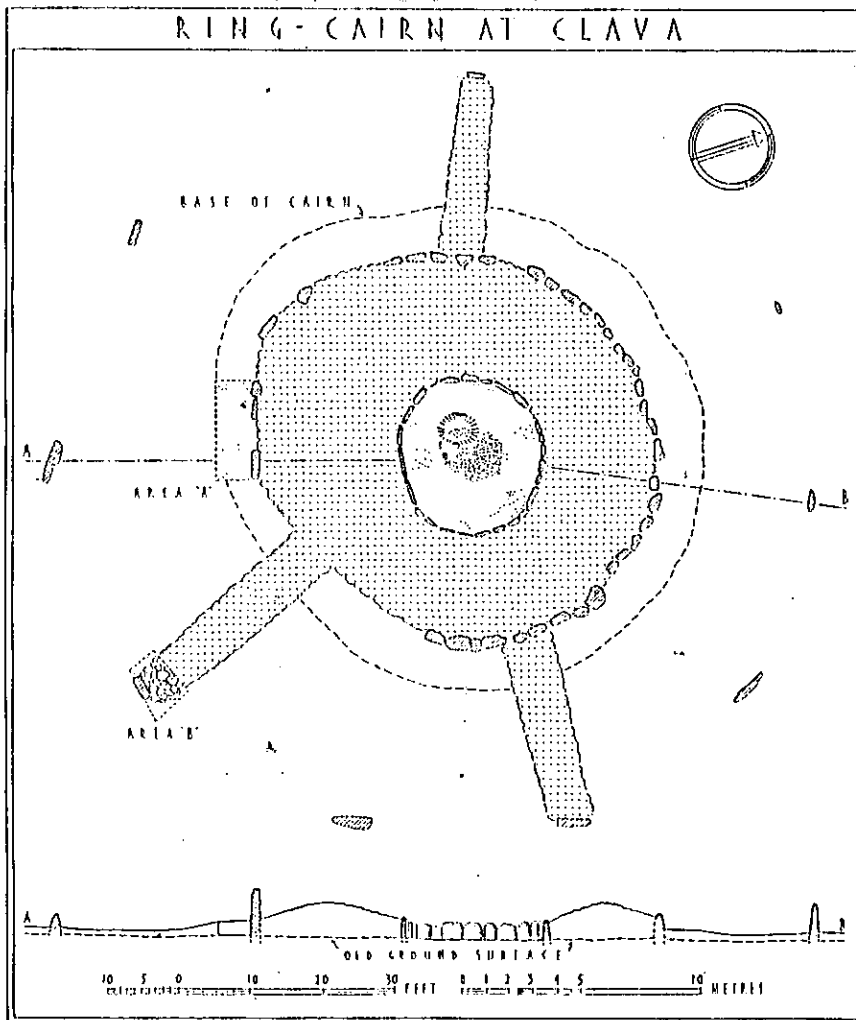
and, as far as I have yet learnt, it is without a fellow in the country. It is shown on fig. 5. The stone is the reddish-yellow sandstone of the district. It is carved only on its *inner* side facing the cairn, and in this respect also is unique, for in the outer and middle circles of such tumuli the carvings are all outwards from the cairn.

These carvings consist of small, shallow hollows or cups, more or less circular, evidently artificial, generally smooth on the surface, from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter, and quite filled by the point of the finger. At the height also of 1 foot 8 inches from the ground, the stone suddenly contracts in breadth through natural sections in the stone on each side; and between the two incisions there stretches across the face of the stone a line of similar small dimples, evidently made here with some sharp-pointed instrument, which has hewn a rough irregular groove on the left side, half an inch deep. What these curious pittings are I cannot in any way divine. That they are artificial and ancient, like the more regular and common cups, and not the work of a modern experimenter, does not seem to admit of much, if any, doubt; and in this opinion, Mr. Romilly Allen, a Fellow of the Society, who has made a special study of cup sculpturings and who visited Clava with me, distinctly coincides. They deserve special attention. From their smallness and uncommon character, they seem to have escaped observation till now. Similar markings occur on others of the stones described in this paper, as in the stone near Croy (fig. 59).

(7)

The Ring-Cairn, Bahayaran of Clava.

This monument stands between the two well-known passage-graves at Clava, and in its present condition consists of a slightly oval cairn 70 by 64 ft. overall, within which a massive boulder kerb 60 by 52 ft. contains the main bulk of the structure (Fig. 9). Roughly centrally within this is an area open



(14)

to the natural ground surface and enclosed by a nearly circular setting of stone slabs 24 by 18 ft. across. The whole cairn stands within a circle of standing-stones with an approximate diameter of 100 ft. These stones vary in height from 7 ft. 6 ins. to less than 1 ft., and to three of them, on the W., E. and SSE., narrow "causeways" of small pitched stones, from 6 to 8 ft. wide, run from the boulder kerb of the cairn. These causeways are a unique feature among the Clava ring-cairns, no trace existing at the other surviving sites.

Excavation was carried out at three points. The central area was completely cleared; an area ("A") against the cairn kerb, and an area ("B") at the junction of the SSE. causeway with the standing-stone of the circle.

The central area had evidently been disturbed. The natural soil lay immediately beneath the present rough turf, and west of the centre a shallow pit appeared to represent a recent digging. Two stones on its edge suggested that some form of cist or stone setting had been destroyed, but nothing could be said with any certainty. The central area was blackened by charcoal, and there was a sparse scatter of cremated human bone. No artifacts were found except some small rough flakes of pebble flint (Pl. XI).

Area "A" was excavated because at this point of the cairn kerb there was a slight flattening, and three larger and flatter stones suggested the possibility of a feature comparable with a "false portal." Were such in fact intended, it would be a likely place for ritual offerings. Nothing was, however, found except for a small patch of charcoal on the old surface.

(14)

(REST OF REPORT IN WITH HNH 74 SE 001)

8 BALNUARAN OF
CLAVA, CENTRE
(ring-cairn)

In the parish of
CROY AND DALCROSS
Location in
STRATHNAIRN

5 m. E of

INVERNESS

Map reference

NH/757444

Sheet XIII NW; NH 74 SE

References

P. S. A. S. LXXXVIII (1954-56)

188-90¹;

ibid. XVI (1883-84)

348-50²;

ibid. XVI (1881-82) 305-9²;

ibid. III (1857-60) 50¹

Plan after PIGGOTT¹

(fig. 88)

Excavation PIGGOTT 1953¹

Visited 15.4.57

Description. The cairn stands in the Clava cemetery, on the valley floor at nearly 350ft. OD. It is between the two passage-graves at Balnuaran, the standing stones encircling these sites being only 80 and 123ft. from the monolithic circle of this cairn. All three sites were 'restored' by the owner about 1881,³ and all are now under the guardianship of the Ministry of Works.

The kerb of the cairn encloses a slightly oval area measuring 60 by 52ft. It is built of massive boulders, but is now very imperfect on the S side. On the SSW opposite the stump of a monolith is the most notable of the kerb-stones, a great rectangular block 4ft. 3in. high; its neighbouring stones to the W are only 2ft. and 2ft. 10in. high. The cairn material is heaped up to a height of about 4ft. inside the kerb. Cairn material also extends for about 5ft. outside the kerb as a low grass-grown bank. A small area against the outside of the kerb on the SSW side was examined in 1953 but nothing was found except a small patch of charcoal on the old surface.

The central area is defined by a setting of flat slabs (in contrast to the boulders of the kerb), 2ft. 9in. to 3ft. 6in. high, which enclose an almost circular space 21 by 18ft. The tallest stones are towards the S side but there is no great variation in height. The central area was already open to ground level when it was excavated, but in 1857 it seems to have been covered or anyway obscured by cairn material.⁴ On excavation the area was found to be much disturbed; 'the natural soil lay immediately beneath the present rough turf, and west of the centre a shallow pit appeared to represent a recent digging. Two stones on its edge suggested that some form of cist or stone setting had been destroyed, but nothing could be said with any certainty. The central area was blackened by charcoal, and there was a sparse scatter of cremated human bone.'⁵

The cairn is surrounded by nine monoliths set 26 to 21ft. outside the kerb, with an overall diameter of about 100ft. The tallest stone remaining is to the WSW and is 7ft. 6in. high, but its neighbour to the SSW is reduced to a mere stump and may have been taller, especially considering that it is opposite the largest kerb-stone. The other stones, clockwise, are 5ft. 4in., 5ft. 7in., 4ft., 1ft. (broken off short), 5ft., 6ft. 3in. and 5ft. high. With two exceptions the stones are rectangular-sectioned sandstone blocks, but have pointed tops, unlike the major stones of the adjacent cairns. Four of the monoliths, three on the S to SW arc and one on the ENE, were re-erected at the 'restoration'.⁶ Three of the monoliths, on the W, E and SSE, are connected to the kerb by distinct 'causeways' 6 to 8ft. wide and at least 1ft. high. When examined in 1953 they were found to consist of 'small boulders carefully packed to form a slightly convex strip'.¹ These causeways are a unique feature, there being no trace of them at any other Clava-type site.

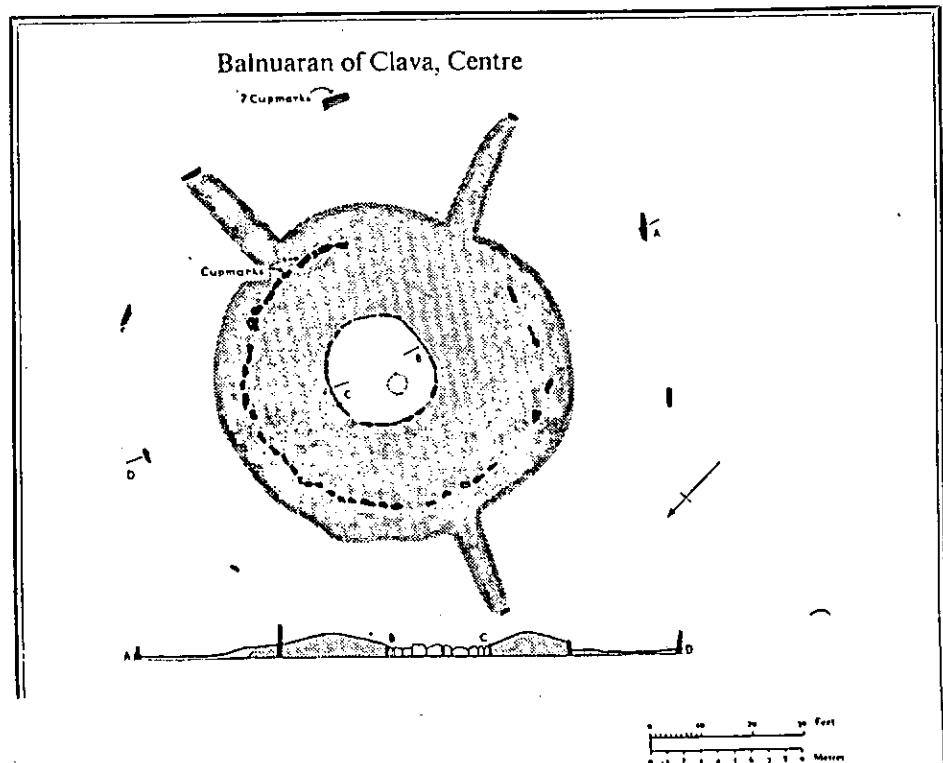
The monolith on the SE side is reputed to be cup-marked⁹ on its outer face, but it is much weathered and only one cup-mark can now be made out, and that without much confidence. The monolith at the end of the W causeway is also reported as marked, though with peculiarly small cups. This stone also is much weathered, and though many dimples can be traced, those near the base being quite clear, it seems likely that they are all due to weathering. Of the two adjacent cup-marked stones on the ESE side of the kerb, one is very weathered and is uncertain, the other is about 3ft. high and is in a leaning position mainly covered with turf. Under the turf can be seen very distinct cup-marks as illustrated⁹, except that the channel seems to be a natural crack.

Finds

Artifacts. Not kept. Some rough flakes of pebble flint in the central area.¹

Skeletal. Cremated human bone in the central area.

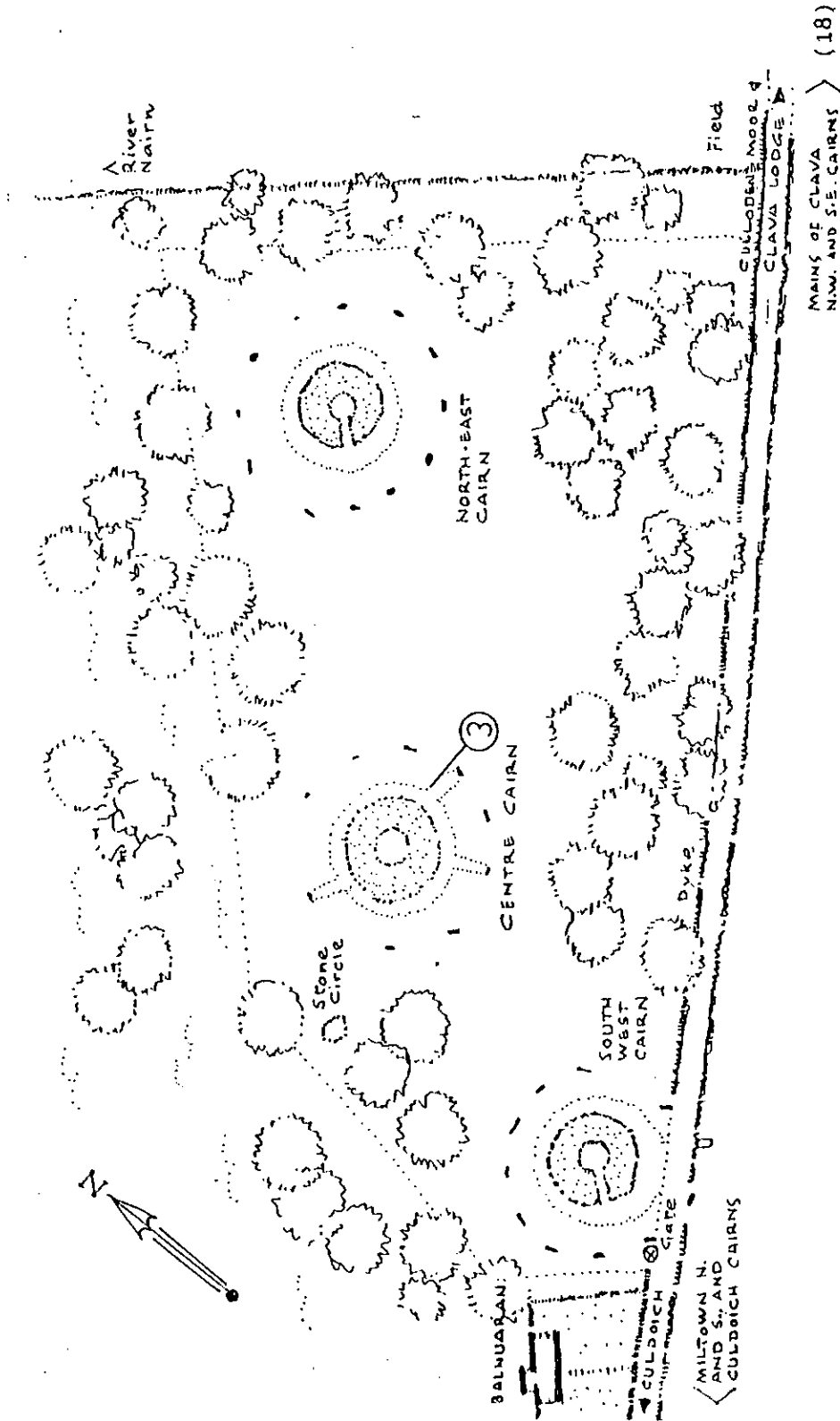
(17)



52.

The centre cairn at Balnuaran of Clava is a ring-cairn; it stands about 120 ft. (36m) from the N. E. cairn, and is in some ways unique. The cairn retains most of its kerb-stone boulders and is roughly oval, averaging 55 ft (16.7m) in diameter: its cairn stones still piled about 4 ft (1.2m) high. The central burial chamber, about 12 ft (3.6m) in diameter, is contained within a circle of flat slabs, not boulders, each about 3 ft (900mm) high. However, the most interesting and unusual feature of this monument is the layout of the outer ring of standing stones and their relation to the cairn. The circle diameter of the 9 outer monoliths, the highest being $7\frac{1}{2}$ ft (2.3m) above ground, is about 100 ft (30m). One outer stone on the west side, and two on the east side are linked to the cairn by cobbled causeways 7 ft (2m) wide and about 1 foot (300mm) above ground: these three strips of stone "pavement" - the purpose of which is not clear - form an unique feature not occurring at any other Clava-type cairn. Cup-markings - indistinct due to weathering - can be indentified on the east monolith (between two of the causeway strips) and on two kerb-stones on the east side of the cairn.

(18)



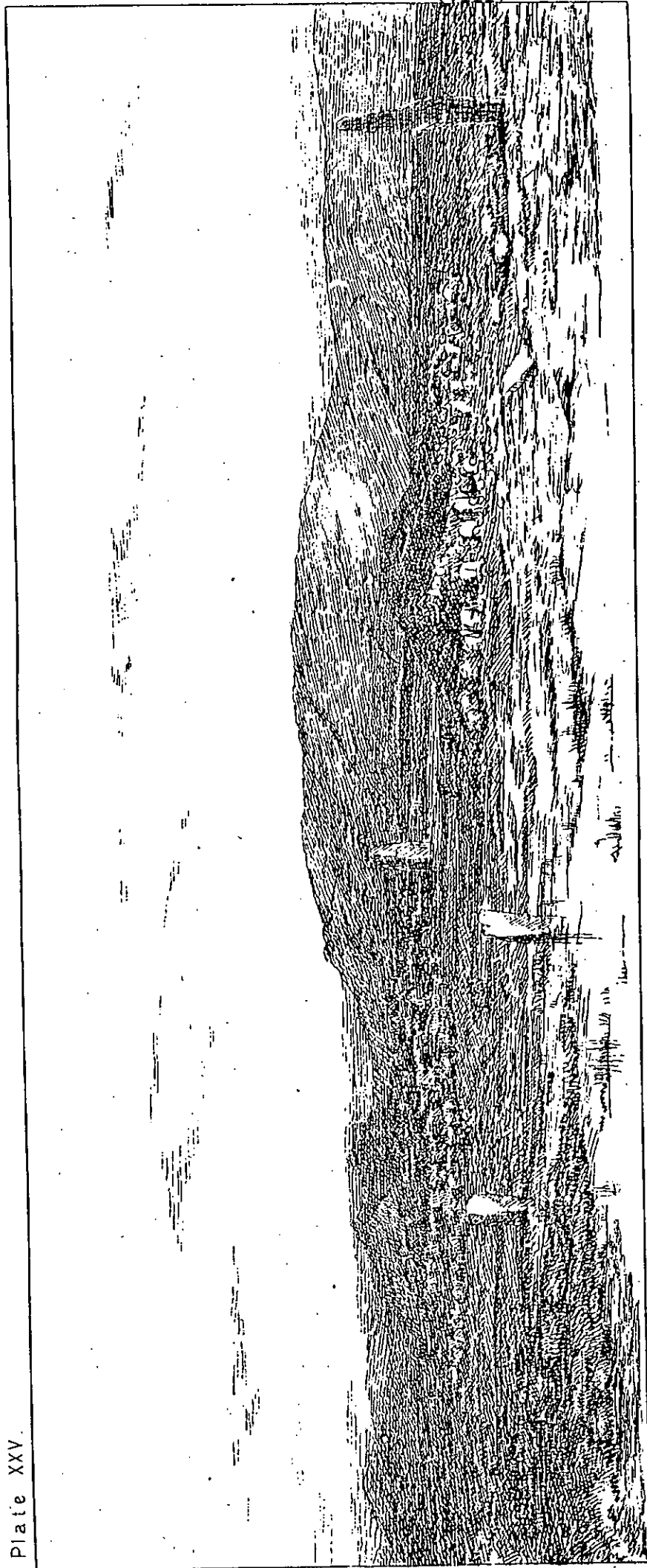
THE CLAVA CAIRNS

MAP SHOWING LAYOUT

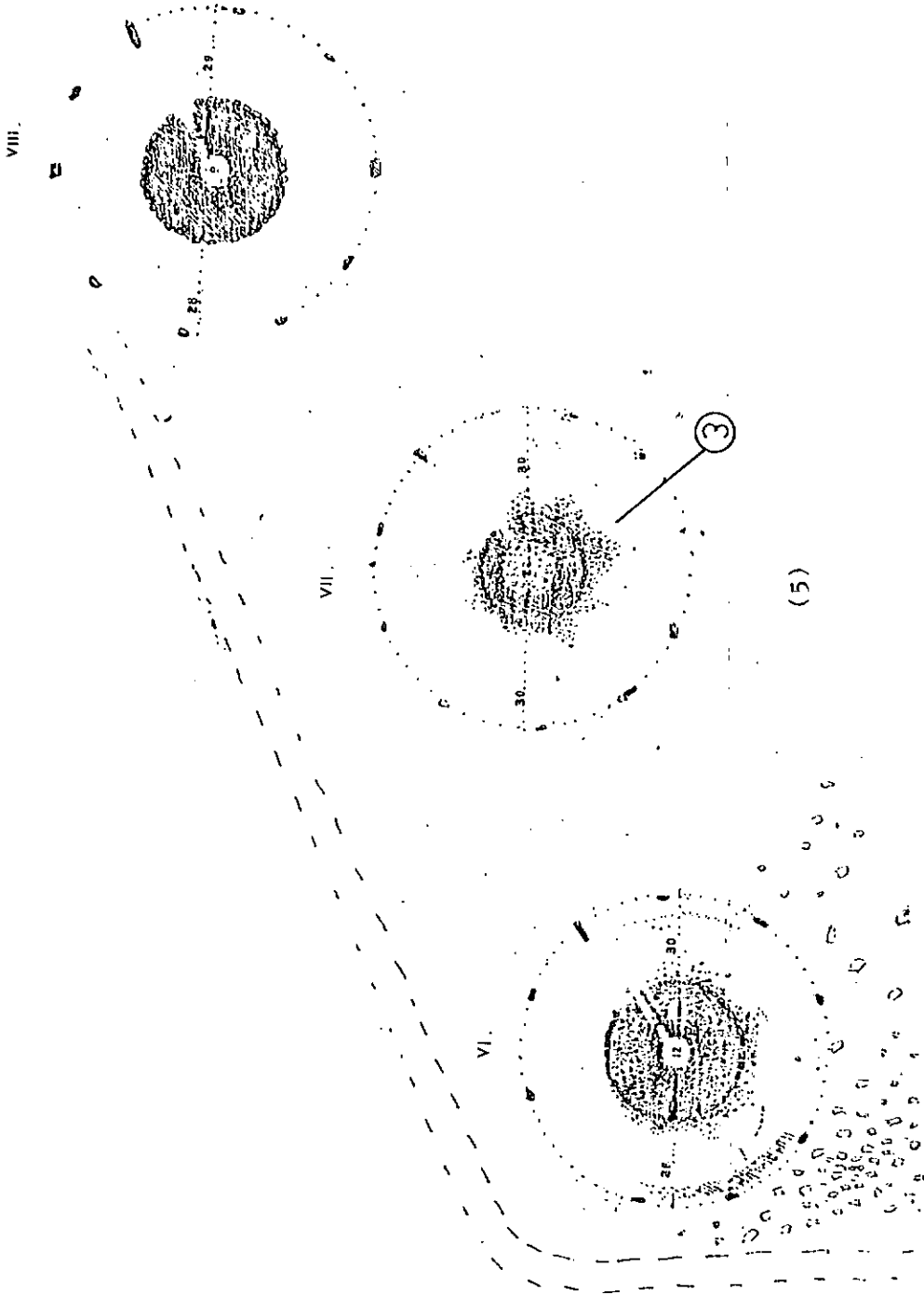
Distance between South West and North East Cairns: 100 yards

Exam '70.

Plate XXV.

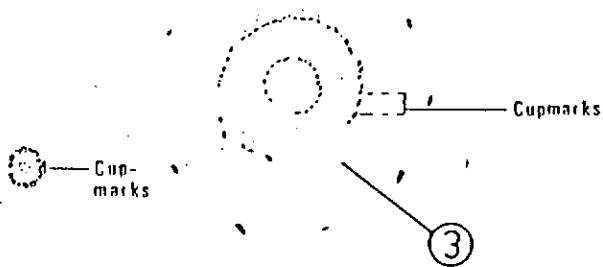
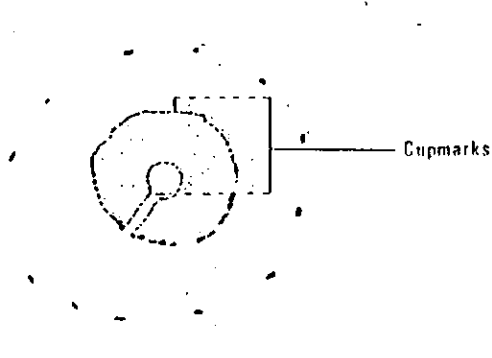
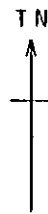
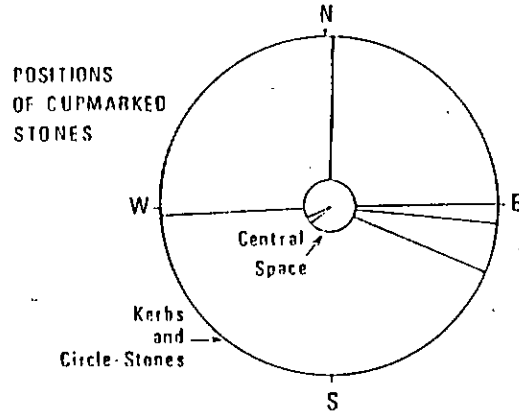


CLAVA VALLEY & THREE CAIRNS, INVERNESS-SHIRE. (5)



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49
 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59
 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69
 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79
 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89
 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99

Ground Plan of Circles at Clava.



(23)

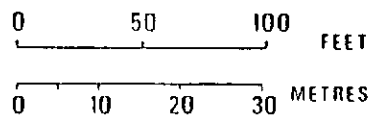
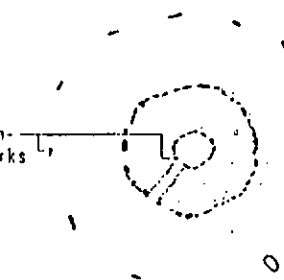


Fig. 26. The Complex of Two Passage-Graves and a Ring-Cairn at Balnuaran of Clava, Inverness (Highland). The small kerb-cairn is to the west of the ring-cairn.

NH 74 SE 3

County & Old 6th No.
Inver 13 NW 5Parish
Croy & Dalcross.

NH 74 SE 0003

2

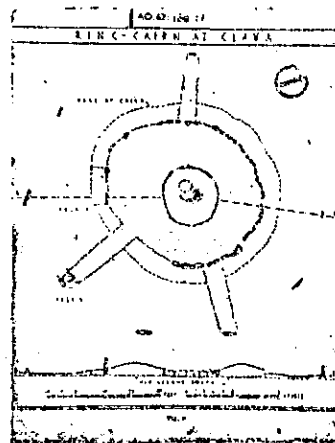
the kerb. Cairn material also extends for about 5 feet outside the kerb as a low grass-grown bank. A small area against the outside of the kerb on the south-south west side was examined in 1953 but nothing was found except a small patch of charcoal on the old surface.

The central area is defined by a setting of flat slabs (in contrast to the boulders of the kerb), 2 feet 9 inches to 3 feet 6 inches high, which enclose an almost circular space 21 by 18 feet.

The cairn is surrounded by nine monoliths set 25 to 21 feet outside the kerb, with an overall diameter of about 100 feet. The tallest stone remaining is on the west-south-west and is 7 feet 6 inches high. Four of the monoliths,

three on the south to south-west arc and one on the east-north-east, were re-erected at the "restoration" (5). Three of the monoliths, are connected to the kerb by distinct "causeways" 6 to 8 feet wide and at least 1 foot high. When examined in 1953 they were found to consist of "small boulders carefully packed to form a slightly convex strip" (3). These causeways are a unique feature, there being no trace of them at any Clava-type site.

The monolith on the south-east side is reputed to be



Authy. 3

(Contd./)