
CASTLE TIORAM

LANDSCAPE AROUND CASTLE
TIORAM: THE HISTORICAL
EVIDENCE



G♦U♦A♦R♦D

519

*A historical appraisal of the landscape prepared for Anta
Estates*

carried out by

Athol Murray and

Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division

Contents

1.0	Terms of Reference	5
2.0	Landscape around Castle Tioram: The Historical Evidence	5
2.1	The Earliest Evidence	5
2.2	The Moidart Woodlands	6
2.3	Changes in the Estates	7
2.4	Dorlin House	8
3.0	Archaeological Appraisal of the Landscape Development	9
3.1	Before the Castle	9
3.2	The Medieval Castle	9
3.3	The Post-medieval Settlement and Landscape	10
4.0	Notes	11
5.0	References	11
6.0	Appendix 1	13
7.0	Appendix 2	13
8.0	Appendix 3	16

© Glasgow University 1999

This report is one of a series published
by the Department of Archaeology,
University of Glasgow, Gregory Building, Lilybank Gardens,
Glasgow, G12 8QQ

Set in Bookman 16 pt and 11 pt and Times New Roman 10 pt by
Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division
University of Glasgow, Gregory Building, Lilybank Gardens
Glasgow, G12 8QQ

CASTLE TIORAM

LANDSCAPE AROUND CASTLE
TIORAM: THE HISTORICAL
EVIDENCE

by

Athol Murray,
Stephen T Driscoll
and
Beverley Ballin-Smith

1999

Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division
Glasgow

1.0 *Terms of Reference*

This report provides a summary of the historical evidence, both documentary and physical, for the development of the landscape of Castle Tioram. This work is part of the larger programme of research initiated by Anta Estates as part of their efforts to conserve Castle Tioram. It includes additional documentary evidence, not discussed in earlier works, summarises the observations embedded in the archaeological studies, and is intended to complement the landscape study, Castle Tioram Landscape and Visual Assessment, undertaken by Gilliespies.

2.0 *Documentary Evidence*

by Athol Murray

2.1 *The Earliest Evidence*

The little early evidence available suggests an absence of cultivated land and woodland in the immediate vicinity of the Castle. A seventeenth-century source describes Moidart as 'very rough and craggy'¹ and in 1616 the Captain of Clanranald was allowed, by the Privy Council, to have his mains distant from the Castle (his principal residence), in fact as far away as South Uist². The Castle ceased to be the principal residence after the death of the 13th Chief in 1685 and his son built a new mansion at Ormiclate, South Uist. The Clanranald rental of 1718 shows only nineteen townships (settlements) in Moidart, twelve held by single tenants, the other seven shared by an average of 4.7 tenants³. Beneath these principal tenants was a much larger rural population. The 1718 and 1748 rentals and other evidence suggest a mainly pastoral society⁴.

The earliest cartographic evidence is a map of Ardnamurchan and Sunart surveyed by an army officer, Alexander Bruce, between 1727 and 1733⁵. This is at a scale of approximately 1 inch to the mile but only shows the southernmost part of Moidart, a strip about a mile wide along the north shore of Loch Shiel and the east bank of the River Shiel as far as its mouth, where salmon fishings are noted. Castle Tioram is shown as a U-shaped building with its open side to the south, but the adjacent coast line around Dorlin is not marked. A line to the north of Eilean Tioram appears to combine the southern shores of Shona and Riska. Within the boundary of the Clanranald estate seven settlements are marked. One, Torigáltaman (no modern equivalent identified) lies to the east of the River Shiel, the remainder are along the north side of Loch Shiel: from east to west, Mingary, Langole (Langal), Dallilea (Dalelia), Drimloich (Druim an Laoigh NM760695), Anna (Annat NM800727) and Glenalladale (Glenaladale). Approximate grid references are given for those that have no equivalent on the modern OS map and the others are not necessarily identical with their present-day counterparts.

2.2 *The Moidart Woodlands*

The 1748 Clanranald rental names half a dozen woods in Moidart, including oaks, ashes, alders, elm, birch and hazel valued at £1,000 sterling (Appendix 1, section 6), with similar amounts in Arisaig⁶. Four are identifiable with those shown, but not named, on Bruce's plan along the north side of Loch Shiel, their approximate locations being: Annat (NM800727), Craignuisik (Creag Loisgte NM735695), Dreimluoy (NM760695) and Langole (Langal NM706700). No woodland is shown around Mingarry (NM685700) or along the east bank of the River Shiel. On the west bank of the Shiel there is a wood (approx NM665700) but the area at its mouth and the coast line opposite Tioram are not wooded, as also appears from Sandby's view of the castle in 1748. There is, however, a wooded area on the west side of the heights north of Kentra Moss (NM650710) and the moss is shown at its original full extent.

The Moidart woodlands were presumably mainly natural. Though no documents relating to them have been found in the Clanranald muniments prior to the 1790s, it appears that they were looked after by woodkeepers, like Rory Macdonald who claimed in 1797 that he had 'for these thirty years past taking charge of Clanranald's woods in Arisaig⁷. On 1-2 December 1794 two commissioners for John Macdonald (19th Chief) entered into a contract with John Harrison, residing at Bonawe, agent and manager of the Lorne Furnace-Company, for sale to the Company of 'all and whole the wood and timber growing upon the lands of Arisaig and Moidart' for £1,600⁸. The Company was to cut and carry off the wood within two years and 'to clear off the grounds and shores' within six months thereafter. Only two areas were excepted from the sale: 'the patch of Blackwood in Braeborodale in the Glen betwixt Marny and Arnapull and also that other patch lying on both side of Aulmore on the farm of Dalilea in Moydart' (?NM825755). It seems probable, therefore, that the woods were largely cut down in 1795 and 1796 and that none of the present woods in the vicinity of Castle Tioram predates the nineteenth century, with the possible exception of those on Shona Beag, on the west bank of the River Shiel, and on the north side of Loch Moidart which then belonged to the Kinlochmoidart estate.

When John Macdonald died in 1795 the estates were inherited by his eldest son, Ranald George Macdonald (20th Chief). While he was a minor, management of his estates was in the hands of his tutors and curators, whose minutes provide information on measures taken for replacing the woodlands. Excerpts from these are given in an Appendix (Appendix 2, section 7), along with minutes of the trustees who managed the estates from 1811 when Clanranald's extravagant lifestyle led to inability to pay his debts.

The earliest minute, dated 11 June 1795 (Section 7.1), suggests that the initial idea was to aid natural regeneration by enclosing areas where there were saplings, with a limited amount of new planting. In March 1796 (Section 7.2) a more ambitious scheme was adopted involving new plantations in Arisaig and Moidart, engagement of a 'field planter' and the establishment of a nursery. By July 1796 it had been decided that operations should be based at Arisaig (Section 7.3). In January 1797 the planter was allowed to buy in young trees until the nursery produced them in sufficient numbers (Section 7.4). Although the minutes refer in general terms to proposals for plantations in Moidart (Section 7.2 and section 7.9) the only specific references are to Arisaig. The nursery was at Keppoch (Section 7.9, NM665867) and there are mentions of plantations at Ardnafuran (not identified), Borrodale (Section 7.7, NM695855?) and Polish (Section 7.11, NM742837). It appears, therefore, that planting policy was directed initially towards Arisaig and that development in Moidart may have awaited the acquisition of suitable ground (Section 7.9). As the stated purpose was to 'benefit' the estate (Section 7.2 and section 7.9), which was heavily indebted, it seems reasonable to assume that the plantations were of commercial timber, either for use on the estate (Section 7.14) or for future sale. Once the Trustees had decided to sell Moidart in 1813 (Section 7.13), it is unlikely that they would spend money on planting trees there.

During Ranald George Macdonald's minority there was no need for ornamental or amenity woodland in Arisaig or Moidart. He lived and was educated in England (Eton and Christchurch). As there was no suitable residence for him in the area, on reaching majority he leased and furnished Appin House on the south side of Loch Linnhe pending completion of his new mansion at Arisaig, 20 km/15 miles to the north of Castle Tioram. Though Arisaig House (NM692849) did have 'ornamental plantations' (Section 7.15) by 1814, there is no evidence of planting earlier than 1808, when 'some clumps' were planted at Clanranald's direction, presumably on the site he had selected for his future residence (Section 7.12).

2.3 *Changes in the Estates*

From 1813 onwards portions of the Clanranald estates were sold off to meet Ranald George Macdonald's debts, leaving only Eilean Tioram and Riska. The present landscape around Dorlin seems to be largely the work of the owners of the Loch Shiel estate, purchased in 1813 by Alexander Macdonald of Glenaladale. There were two main developments, the first being the alteration of the agriculture landscape in consequence of the consolidation of farms and clearance of much of the population after the famine of the 1840's⁹. The second was the building of Dorlin House and the creation of its policies.

There is some uncertainty about the date and motive for the building of the original Dorlin House. One version attributes it to a relative of the estate's owner, who hoped to succeed to it; another says that it was intended as an inducement to prospective purchasers¹⁰. A directory of 1843 shows the estate's owner, Alexander Macdonald, living at 'Lochshiel' (Dalelia) and the Rev. Ranald Rankin at Dorlin¹¹. In this case Dorlin must be the priest's house adjacent to the Catholic church, both moved to Mingarry in 1862¹². This suggests that Dorlin House was either unbuilt or unoccupied at that date. Given the owner's financial problems it seems unlikely that any major landscape projects were initiated before the estate was put on the market in the 1850s. Shona was sold in 1853 to Thomas Anthony Swinburne (later Captain Swinburne RN), the remainder in 1856 to James Robert Hope-Scott of Abbotsford¹⁴.

2.4 *Dorlin House*

The original Dorlin House was a two-storey Georgian style building. Hope-Scott added a much grander Scottish baronial edifice. This was probably completed by September 1866 when the principal reception rooms were brought into use¹⁵. A new carriage drive from Shiel Bridge involved considerable alterations to the landscape: 'hundreds of yards of solid rock had to be blasted, part of the river Shiel had to be embanked, huge boulders between the cliffs and the sea-shore had to be cleared, while a considerable line of breast work had to be created as a protection against the waves of the Atlantic, which, in a south-west gale, beat with fury against the coast.' Other works on the estate, such as new roads, are said to have been designed to give employment to local people or to improve their living conditions¹⁶. Hope-Scott's diaries for 1859-79 show that he visited Dorlin each year for varying periods between July and September. The brief daily entries are mainly concerned with attendance at mass, fishing and visits to or by neighbours. There are a few references to work on the house but little about the grounds or estate, apart from an entry showing that on the afternoon of 7 September 1867 he went round new plantations and to the fishing station¹⁷.

While it is probable that Hope-Scott was responsible for the original lay-out of the gardens and policies at Dorlin, documentation is lacking. The same applies to works carried out by Lord Howard of Glossop, who acquired the estate from him in 1871, and the second Lord Howard who succeeded to it in 1883. Dorlin House and its policies received no mention in the *Ordnance Gazetteer*, according to which 'the principal objects challenging attention' in Moidart were 'the mansion of Kinlochmoydart, a Roman Catholic chapel, the ruined Castle Tirrim, and some woods along Loch Shiel and portions of the coast.'¹⁸ While it is possible that the work carried out by the second Lord Howard on Castle Tioram in the 1880's and his acquisition of Eilean Tioram and Riska in 1905 were part of an overall plan for the landscape around Dorlin House no documentation appears to have survived.

3.0 *Archaeological Appraisal of the Landscape Development*

3.1 *Before the Castle*

Little can be said with certainty about the earliest occupation of Tioram, which goes back to the Dark Ages. Comparison with contemporary centres of power in early Scotland suggests that Tioram was the seat of the ruler of a territory defined by the Shiel. We would expect such a seat to have been fortified and to have been a centre for a range of high status crafts such as fine metalworking. Some concentration of population, consisting of retainers and servants, would be expected on and around the island. Periodically, the island may have served as the focus for gatherings of the lord's subjects, so we may presume that the island was largely free of trees.

3.2 *The Medieval Castle*

Evidence for the use of the island outside the castle becomes clearer following the establishment of the masonry castle. By the 13th century the scale of the lordship exercised from Tioram was extensive and required more formal administration. The building foundations and level stances, which were identified during the archaeological survey, probably date from the time when Tioram was the seat of Clanranald. In the absence of excavation evidence, these buildings and plots are probably best considered to have accommodated special functions as well as ancillary members of the household. Given the limitations on space within the castle, these sites may have included a chapel, visitor's accommodation, stables and storehouses. Some of the stances may have been used for tents or other temporary accommodation needed at those times when the lord held court. It is safe to assume that there was little or no tree cover on the island at that time. Moreover, the castle stood over a cluster of small buildings, arranged in a relatively haphazard manner over the island.

At its peak the castle placed a heavy demand on the immediate hinterland for food and other necessities. Some of the cultivation remains on the island may relate to the Middle Ages, but they are probably later. Apart from the island itself, there was probably a greater density of settlement around the castle than existed elsewhere in Moidart. This population may have included a concentration of settlement on the Shiel, if as seems likely the forests and shipyards of Loch Shiel were a strategic resource of the Clanranald. Of the impact of this settlement there is no direct evidence.

3.3 *The Post-medieval Settlement and Landscape*

The shift of the seat of the lordship to Uist in the 17th century was a major turning point in the landscape history of Tioram. This certainly reduced the size of the household at Tioram and it marks the beginning of a period of decline in the intensity of use of the island. The decline may have been quite rapid and the island appears completely abandoned by 1748, when the island is represented by Sandby. While it seems likely that some of the outbuildings contemporary with the castle continued in use for a while permanent occupation may have ceased in the 17th century. The cultivation remains, which have been interpreted as being of a post-medieval date, underscore the point that the island had ceased to be a place of residence. They indicate that the island had become simply a patch of ground available for small-scale exploitation. In addition to the lazy-bed fields, the island probably began to acquire scrub woodland cover. Presumably this was kept trimmed during the era of Dorlin House. Traces of scrub growth still survive on the island.

The archaeological evidence relating to settlement in the immediate environs of the Castle, as documented in the National Monuments Record for Scotland, conforms to a typical West Highland pattern. That is to say, there is the usual evidence of depopulated settlements, abandoned upland grazing huts and small-scale rural industries. The density and form of settlement correspond well with the pattern of settlement identified by Dr Murray in his historical description of the landscape around Castle Tioram. By comparison with the adjoining areas there appears to be a slightly denser concentration of townships around Castle Tioram, perhaps this is a medieval legacy. A thorough analysis of the archaeological landscape has not been undertaken, as this could form part of a much wider non-conservation research project.

4.0 Notes

- 1 Mitchell 1907, 522.
- 2 Murray 1998, 29.
3. Dogshon 1998, 128.
- 4 Murray 1998, 29-32.
- 5 British Library Add. MS 33632B. The dedication to George Wade as Lieutenant General places it after his promotion to that rank in 1727, but it must predate Bruce's printed map of Loch Sunart, 1733.
- 6 E744/1/1 pp.89. 105-6,
- 7 GD201/5/1233/26 p1 9.
- 8 GD201/5/204
- 9 MacDonald 1997, 218-9
- 10 'North Argyll', 1964; MacDonald 1997, 220.
- 11 Finlay, 1843.
- 12 MacDonald 1997, 223.
- 13 Inverness sasines 1851-5, no 86.
- 14 Inverness sasines 1856-60, no 279.
- 15 Diary 5-6 Sept, 1866 (NLS MS 3688)
- 16 Ormsby 1884 2, 150, 221-4.
- 17 NLS MS 3689
- 18 Groome 1882-5, article 'Moydart'.
- 19 Correspondence with Librarian to the Duke of Norfolk, who is 41th Lord Howard of Glossop,

It is understood that nothing relevant survives in the Dorlin Estate Office.

5.0 References

Published Sources:

Finlay, J [1 8431 *Directory to Gentlemen's Seats, Villages etc in Scotland.*

Groome, F H 1882-5 *Ordnance gazetteer of Scotland.* 5 vols.

MacDonald, Rev. C 1997 *Moidart, among the Clanranalds*, ed. J Watt.

Murray, A 1998 *Castle Tioram - The historical background*
'North Argyll' 1964 'The story of Dorlin House', *Oban Times* 6 August 1964.

Ormsby, R 1884 *Memoirs of James Robert Hope-Scott of Abbotsford with selections from his correspondence.* 2 vols.

British Library, London

MS 33632B "Ardnamurchan and Sunart together with Loch Sunart and Loch Sheil Survey'd". To the Right Honourable George Wade Esq Lieutenant General and Commander in Chief of His Majesties Forces in North-Britain. This plan is dedicated by His Most Humble and Most Obedients Servants. Alexander Bruce Ensign in the Hon Coll. Richd Kanés Regiment.

National Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh (NAS):

E744 Forfeited Estates Papers, Clanranald

GD201 Clanranald muniments

Register of Sasines, Inverness-shire, printed abridgements

National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh (NLS)

MSS 3681-92 Diaries of James Robert Hope-Scott, 1859-.70.

6.0 Appendix 1

Woods in Moidart 1748

Excerpt from judicial rental of the estate of Clanranald, taken by David Bruce, surveyor, 8-27 August 1748 (NAS E744/1/1, pp104-6)

Dalilea, 27 Aug 1748

[John McIsaac, ground officer of the lands of Clanranald in Moydart, sworn and examined, depones]

And whither or not there be any woods, fishings, limequarrys, coal or salt-works belonging to said Estate deposes negative as to the whole above particulars except that there is the following woods viz. the Wood of Annat, the Wood of Dreimluoy, the Wood of Craignuisk, the Wood of Langoll, and the Wood of Ardstonaneish and Breaigg and Wood of Forsey consisting of oaks, ashes, allars, elm, birch, hasel and several sorts of barren timber.... And thereafter the said David Bruce Surveyor appointed Aeneas McDonald of Dallellie and Donald McVarish in Annat to inspect and value the whole Woods of Clanranald in Moydart mentioned in the Ground Officers deposition above written. And they being sworn for that effect and having inspected the said Woods depose that conform to the best of their judgement the whole woods belonging to the Estate of Clanranald is presently worth one thousand pounds sterling.

7.0 Appendix 2

Excerpts; from Clanranald minutes 1795-1815

7.1 11 June 1795 (GD201/5/1233/18) p. 11

Mr Butter [factor] having informed the Meeting that the woods in Arisaig and Moydart which were sold by the late Clanranald to the Lorn Furnace Company were now cutting down by them and that as some of them are of considerable value it might be proper to have the same inclosed to prevent the young growths from being eat up and destroyed by cattle, and that the tenants would be demanding compensation for the damage done them by the wood cutters for digging pits horse grass and the want of the woodlands,' the Meeting directed him 'to get inclosed as soon as possible such part of the woods as are already cut and shall appear to him to be worth that expense and also to plant such parts of these inclosures where the wood is not already abundantly thick....'

7.2 16 March 1796 (GD201/5/1233/20) pp.22-3

The Meeting having considered that the Pupil's estate might be very greatly benefited by planting such grounds as could be got for that purpose in Arisaig and Moidart where it is ascertained that woods grow well, and being of opinion that the cheapest plan for carrying on this improvement would be to engage a person versant in raising plants from the seed who would by having a piece of ground allotted to him for a nursery raise plants on the estate and plant them out yearly as they come of age for that purpose', directed H.M. Buchanan WS to enquire about a suitable person and to write to factor to 'look out a proper spot of ground for a nursery.'

7.3 14 July 1796 (GD201/5/1233/21) pp.8-9

The Meeting approved engagement of William Inglis, nurseryman and field planter, and directed that 'he shall set out forthwith for Arisaig and bring with him the necessary tools for preparing the ground', that factor shall provide a house and ground for a nursery, and that Inglis be directed 'to pay attention not only to the planting but also to the inclosing of the ground', and recommend to him the Galloway dykes as the best inclosure or fence against sheep.'

7.4 12 January 1797 (GD201/5/1233/23) pp.4-5

Inglis had arrived and was preparing the ground 'but as there was a considerable quantity of ground already inclosed and ready for planting he wished for some plants for that ground to be sent to him immediately, a particular list of which he had sent to Messrs Dickson & Company.' Agreed that plants be sent from time to time 'untill he shall be able to furnish a sufficient number of plants from the nursery now preparing by him.'

7.5 26 June 1797 (GD201/5/1233/25) p.10

Factor directed to give Inglis a better house 'and to assist him in levieing men at the time of planting or when engaged in any other business that might require assistance.'

7.6 16 December 1797 (GD201/5/1233/26) pp.45-46

Letter from Inglis complaining that factor had not provided him with better accommodation and that 'the inclosures around the planting were constantly destroyed by persons cutting wattlings for creels whereby the young planting was also much injured.'

7.7 15 March 1798 (GD201/5/1233/27) pp.17-18

Following report of inspection of wood enclosures at Borrodale. Meeting agreed to proposal 'to throw a great part of the inclosure open and preserve no more than the most thriving stools and young oaks.'

7.14 14 March 1800 (GD201/5/1233/35) p. 17

Factor reported on the woods in Arisaig: 40,000 trees had been planted at Ardnafuran during the previous winter but little had been done this winter because of excessive frost; he suggested that scale of planting be extended as 'there was a prospect of a future benefit to the estate arising from such a measure.' Meeting agreed and directed factor to report.

7.9 11 December 1801 (GD201/233/38) p.27

Understanding that 'the Planting in Arisaig is carried on on too confined a scale and that no measure can be adopted whereby the Pupil's estates can be more effectually benefited than that of planting considerable tracts of ground annually in Arisaig and Moidart', the Meeting directed the factor to 'increase the nursery at Keppoch and to get from the different tacksmen and others considerable tracts of ground for planting.'

7.14 27 March 1803 (GD201/5/1223/39) p.9

Inglis, the field planter, was to leave 'as he was getting more wages from Lord Macdonald in the Isle of Skye'. Factor to arrange replacement.

7.11 20 March 1804 (GD201/5/12233/40), pp.27-8

Factor stated that 'a new planter had been sent to Arisaig at a considerable expence and as the different trials which had been (made) of planting there promised to succeed well he was of opinion that the planting should be carried on on a more extensive scale and in particular that the most economical plan would be to set aside a considerable district of country for that purpose where the woods might be preserved without the necessity of expensive inclosures by means of a careful woodkeeper, that the upper or higher ground of the two Polishes might answer the purpose if the tenants were removed.' Meeting gave him discretionary powers to carry this into effect.

7.12 19 March 1808 (GD201/5/1233/45) pp. 16-21

Letter from Brown, the planter, complaining that 'he had been obstructed in following out Clanranald's directions as to planting some clumps' by the assistant minister, of opposition from 'those of the Catholic persuasion,' and that 'a considerable part of the oak and birch wood had been cut down and mangled with hatchets by tenants and other unknown persons.'

7.13 17 September 1811 (GD201/5/1233/48)

Clanranald, having placed his affairs in the hands of trustees admitted to various items of expenditure since coming of age (1809) including £1000 for 'draining and planting &c' in Arisaig.

7.14 20 February 1813 (GD201/5/1233/56) 'p. 16

Clanranald's trustees, having noted the depression in the value of lands, directed reductions in the upset price of the 'Moydart lots' and sale of the Isle of Muck and the remainder of Moidart.

7.15 . 15 May 1813 (GD201/5/1233/57) p.32

Letter from Clanranald to Trustees with reference to a new lease to Borrodale: 'I think it might be a reservation contrary to his old tenure, to prevent his cutting wood, and also as the hilly part of his grounds would in case of my residence in the country become an essential part of my own ornamental plantations it would be prudent not to alienate them irrevocably.'

7.16 28 February 1814 (GD201/5/1233/57) p.13

Trustees directed factor to pay 'the expenses of the new plantations now carrying on at Arasaig this being an improvement not only useful but absolutely essential on the Clanranald estate where much wood is constantly required.'

p.17

State of Clanranald's debts showing that he had expended 'in building a dwelling house, planting &c [at Arisaig] say £24,000.'

7.17 5 July 1815 (GD201/5/1233/60) p.3

Clanranald agreed that improvements at Arisaig were 'entirely to cease' and that any expense that might be necessary was to be paid out of his allowance.

8.0 Appendix 3

British Library - additional MS 33632B

Title "Ardnamurchan and Sunart together with Loch Sunart and Loch Sheill Survey'd"

Dedication: "To the Right Honourable George Wade Esq Lieutenant General and Commander in Chief of His Majesties Forces in North-Britain. This plan is dedicated by His Most Humble and Most Obedient Servant Alexander Bruce Ensign in the Hon Coll Richd Kanes Regiment".

Scale: approx 1" to mile

Ink with coloured symbols for settlements, woods, etc.

Date: 1727-33. The dedication shows that the map was drawn after Wade's promotion to lieutenant general in 1727. It almost certainly pre-dates Bruce's printed map of the area published in 1733.

The following description is mainly concerned with the portion of Moidart depicted on the map. It shows a strip approximately a mile wide along the north shore of Loch Shiel and the east bank of the River Shiel as far as its mouth, where salmon fishing are noted. Castle Tioram is shown as a U-shaped building (with the open side to the south) but the adjacent coast line north of approx NM663720 (ie around Dorlin) is not marked. A line to the north of Tioram appears to combine the south shores of Shona and Riska. A settlement to the east of the Shiel is named as Torigaltaman (no modern equivalent identified). Further east are Mingary, Langole (Langal), Dallilea (Dalelia), Drimloich (Druim an Laoigh, approx NM760695), Anna (no modern equivalent, approx NM800727), and Glenalladale.

Extensive woods are shown but not named from west of Langal to the east end of the loch. Four are identifiable with those named in the Claranald rental of 1748 - Annat (NM800727), Craignuisk (NM735695), Dreimluoy (NM760695) and Langoll (NM696750).

The east bank of the River Shiel is treeless; on the west bank there is a wood at approx (NM665700) but the bank at the mouth of the Shiel and the coast opposite Castle Tioram are treeless. There is, however, a wooded area on the east side of the heights north of Kentra Moss. The Moss is shown at its original full extent.