

97/BAS

Report 97/BAS.

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GASKBEG FARM, LAGGAN BRIDGE

An archaeological survey for ESA Management

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List of Illustrations

p6	Fig 1	1:10,000 location map of farm and its archaeological features
p7	Fig 2	Sketch plan of Site 3
p8	Fig 3	Sketch plan showing location of Sites 2, 4, 5, 6 and 11
p9	Fig 4	Sketch plan of post-medieval structures at the South East of Gaskbeg Farm
p20	Fig 5	Photos of Fort at Gergask Craig
p21	Fig 6	Photos of roundhouse and cairns at Site 2
p22	Fig 7(i)	Photo of Roundhouse at Site 3
	Fig 7(ii)	Photo of clearance cairns and rigs at Site 3
p23	Fig 8(i)	Photo of area of iron slag & charcoal at Site 3
	Fig 8(ii)	Photo of Roundhouse at Site 4
p24	Fig 9	Photo of area of shielings at Site 9
p25	Fig 10(i)	Photo of shieling at Site 10
	Fig 10(ii)	Photo of target butt at Site 22 & Enclosure at Site 23
p26	Fig 11	Photos of 'Croft' at Site 11
p27	Fig 12	Photos of former Cruck -framed house at Site 12
p28	Fig 13(i)	Photo of Gaskbeg Farm and former mill
	Fig 13(ii)	Example of stone-faced bank as surviving

Introduction

The author was asked to carry out an archaeological survey of this farm by the owner Mr Graham Grant. The farm lies within the **Cairngorm Straths ESA**. This survey has been funded by **Historic Scotland** as part of its pilot **Ancient Monument Survey Grant Scheme**. The purpose of this survey was to supply information on the surviving archaeological remains and discuss the requirements necessary to protect this archaeology under the **ESA** scheme and the options for enhanced management (Tier 2)..

Situation

The farm is sited on the north bank of the River Spey and consists of three main zones. Low-lying ground within the flood plain of the Spey that has been protected by a series of embankments, a raised fluvio-glacial terrace that has been partially enclosed and a montane zone that rises steeply to the march boundary. Current farming is concentrated on the first and the enclosed portion of the second zone. These are used to feed and graze a stock of breeding ewes and suckler cows. The upper zone is used as rough grazing.

Method

An initial desk-based search was carried out in **Highland Council Sites & Monuments Record** at Clachnaharry and at **Highland Council Archive** in Inverness. This was followed by a field survey on 12th March. A second visit was carried out on the 5th June after a site meeting with Mr Graham Grant. All features noted were recorded and sketch plans and photographs were taken where appropriate [see ~~Site~~ *Site Gazetteer*]. Unfortunately the weather on both visits was either misty or raining restricting the quality of any photographs taken.

Archaeological History of Gaskbeg Farm

Summary [for submission in ESA Management Plan]

The farm contains extensive remains of bronze age/iron age clearance cairns and associated roundhouse buildings. There are also the remains of a previously unrecorded fort dating some 2,000 years ago. No distinctive medieval remains were recorded, but from the size of the shieling mounds and the extent of the post medieval settlement it is likely that there has been continuous settlement until the present day. Some evidence survives for the subsistence farming practised before the agricultural improvements of the early 19th century.

Detailed history

The remains of the clearance heaps and their associated roundhouse structures show that these upper terraces on Gaskbeg have been cultivated for at least 2,000 years. Though there is no record of the earliest farmers settling either here or in the neighbourhood, it is likely that Gask lay on an ancient route from the Spey to the Great Glen and the west. The sand and gravel terraces deposited at the end of the last ice age would be attractive sites for early farmers to cultivate. They would not need heavy ploughing and drainage as would be required for the low-lying lands by the Spey and they would not be subject to flooding. The south facing aspect of these terraces means that they gain more sunshine than the lands to the south of the river and consequently crops can be harvested earlier. The size of the roundhouses and the absence of other buildings shows that these early farmers kept their animals together with them in their houses. The farms were worked as individual units similar to a croft. There is no evidence for field boundaries unless they were made of timber which has now rotted away.

The presence of a small fort below Gergask shows that the farmers were working in an unstable society. The presence of other forts in the vicinity such as and *Dun-da Lamh* suggest that this was a borderland subject to raiders from the west. The collapsed state of the fort means that these raiders were successful in overwhelming the fort's defenders and slighting the fort. It is tempting to see this as an example of the success of the Dalriadic Scots over the Picts but this would need to be proved by dateable remains from the fort.

No identifiable medieval remains were found but the size of some the shieling mounds suggested they had been rebuilt a number of times. This means they are likely to date back to the end of the medieval period [c1550AD] and they could be significantly older.

The farm of Gask is mentioned in 1476 when John Grant of Freuchie received a liferent of the Earl of Huntly's lands of Fermestoun, Kinrara, Gergask and others [*Chiefs of Grant 1*, pp69,70]. The 3 farms of *Gasklone*, *Gaskbeg* and *Gaskmor* were first mentioned separately in 1572. At this time they were held from the Earl of Huntly by Angus Mackintosh and they continued to be held by the Mackintoshes until they were sold by the Gordon Estate in 1829. A rental of 1679 listed 4 heads of families in *Gergask* and 7 heads of families at *Gaskmore* [*Fraser-Mackintosh C 1897 Antiquarian Notes, Inverness*, pp341, 344 & 346].

General Roy's Military Survey of c1750 showed extensive cultivation of the lands by the river and 9 buildings west of the burn and 5 east of it at *Gergask* and 12 at *Gaskibeg*. There were also another 14 at an unnamed settlement further to the northeast [*?Gaskmore*] which may be sited outside the present farm boundary. Roy's survey was fairly schematic but does give a good indication of the pattern of settlement at this time. Further records on these lands are likely to lie in the Gordon and MacIntosh estate archives but it was beyond the scope of this survey to examine these in detail.

The post-medieval settlements recorded to the south east of the farm on the edge of the arable land would appear to correspond to part of both *Gaskibeg* and *Gaskmhor*. The modern farm buildings and associated houses would appear to have destroyed most of the earlier farm. The unnamed settlement shown on Roy's map to the north east does not appear to have survived, unless it was wrongly placed. The 5 buildings east of the burn at *Gergask* may correspond with the buildings at Site 11, though it is more likely that they lay within the area of the modern village. The 9 buildings west of the burn were probably destroyed when the modern plantation was established, if they had not already been ploughed away.

The transition from the joint farming townships to the modern farm is not dated, though it was clearly well established by the time of the 1st OS survey of 1870. It is probable that the conversion had occurred by the time that the Rev Grant of Laggan had tenure of Gaskbeg Farm at the end of the 18th century. His wife's descriptions of life here are preserved in the three volumes of *Letters from the Mountains*, though unfortunately there are only brief references to life on the farm. It seems likely that some agricultural improvements had been carried out as it was largely held as a sheep farm '*we hold the farm at a very eay rent which supports a dozen milk cows, and a couple of hundred sheep, with a range of summer pasture on the mountains for our young stock, horses etc.*' (Vol 2, London, 1809).

It is probable that the stone-faced banks date to the this drastic transition. Apart from the possible converted cruck house there is very little evidence of this early to mid 19th century farm surviving in the standing buildings on the farm. The manse and perhaps the farmhouse are the only buildings that appear to contain early features. The rest of the buildings would all appear to date to the late 19th century/20th century.

Archaeological Importance

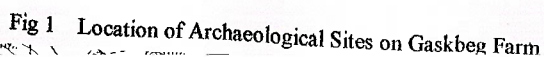
The prehistoric remains found here are certainly of regional and potentially of national importance. They also demonstrate a possibly continuous settlement here for some 3,000 years. Though the later prehistoric /medieval settlement dating some 1,000 years ago to c1600AD is less obvious, information on this period is likely to survive at the shielings at Site 9 and at the the iron-working site at Site 3. The post-medieval settlement, shown on Roy's map, has mostly disappeared under the later farm but significant remains survive at the South East of the farm and on the terrace at Site 11. Fragments of the field system contemporary with this later settlement survive at Sites 3, 6 and 13. The transition to the modern farm is demonstrated by the extensive system of stone faced banks defining the arable ground from the hill pasture.

Together these archaeological survivals combine to make Gergask Farm significant to understanding the history of human settlement in this area.

Management Recommendations

- *Gaskbeg Farm has already been accepted into the ESA scheme and the proposals listed here will only become applicable when the scheme is re-assessed. However the proposals are described in detail here so that, where possible, appropriate protection can be given to the archaeological sites described below.*
- *The areas proposed for protection are shown on the accompanying map and listed in the **Gazeteer of Archaeological Sites**. All archaeological sites are entitled to protection under ESA legislation*
- *Specific recommendations for each site are listed in the **Gazeteer of Archaeological Sites** and are the author's own interpretation of the archaeological value of Gaskbeg Farm. Also included are suggested remedial works that could be carried out under **ESA Tier 2** provisions. These recommendations will have to be examined by the **SOAEFD** and the **Highland Council Archaeologist** before they can be accepted as part of an **ESA Management Scheme**.*
- ***Tier 1** measures will include the maintenance of the existing grazing regime to prevent tree regeneration in archaeological areas. Feeding of stock should be carried out away from the archaeological areas shown on the accompanying map. Particular care should be taken in directing tractors and other farm vehicles away from archaeological sites.*
- *The priorities for **Tier 2** options are removing the rabbits from Sites 1 & 2 and restoration work at Site 3. Rabbits may need to be culled, if their numbers increase. Selective muir burn of the heather over the shielings at Site 9 would be desirable*

Jonathan Wordsworth MA, MIFA, FSA Scot
28th July 1997



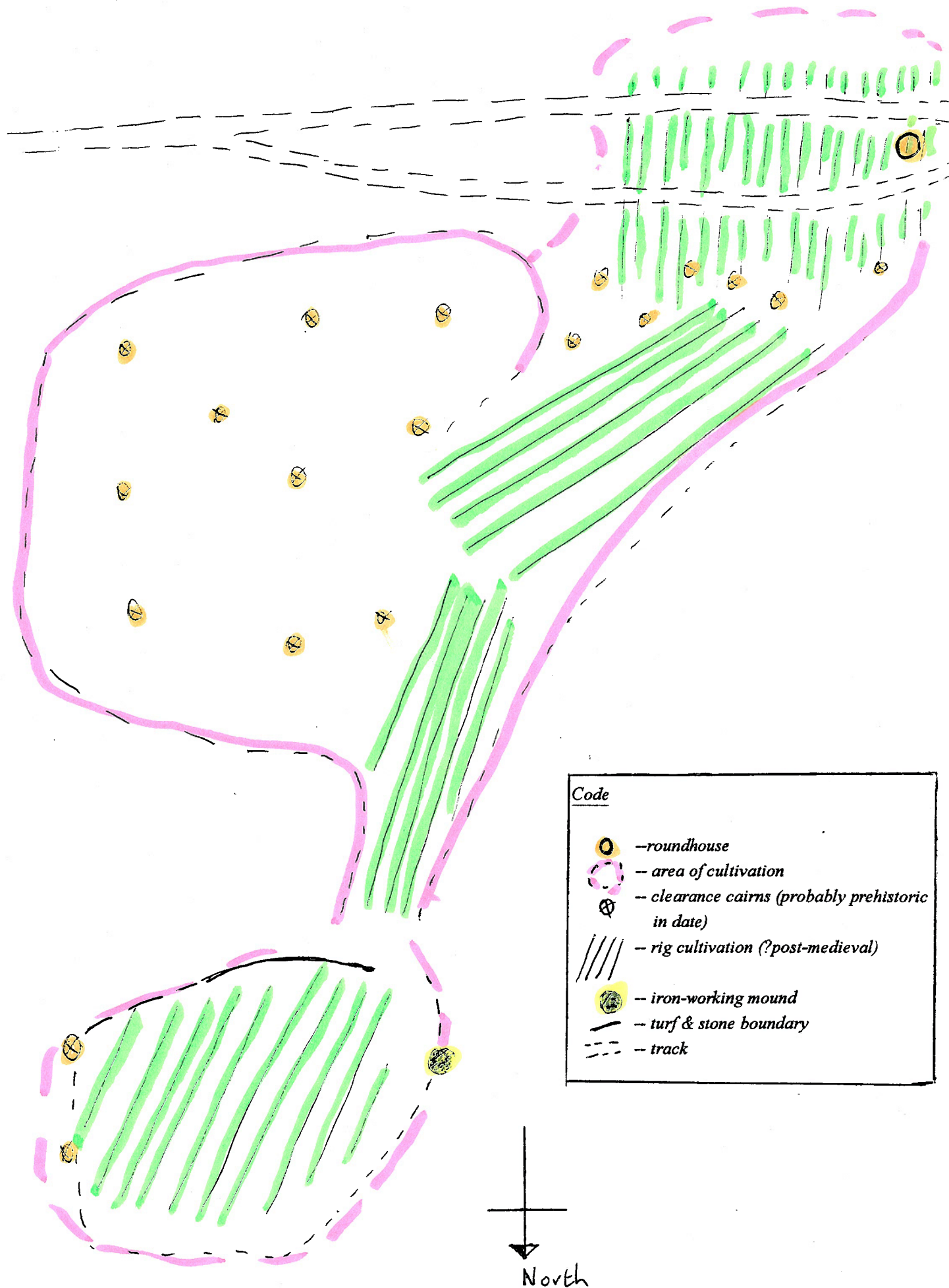


Fig 2 Sketch plan of Site 3

Scale c1:100

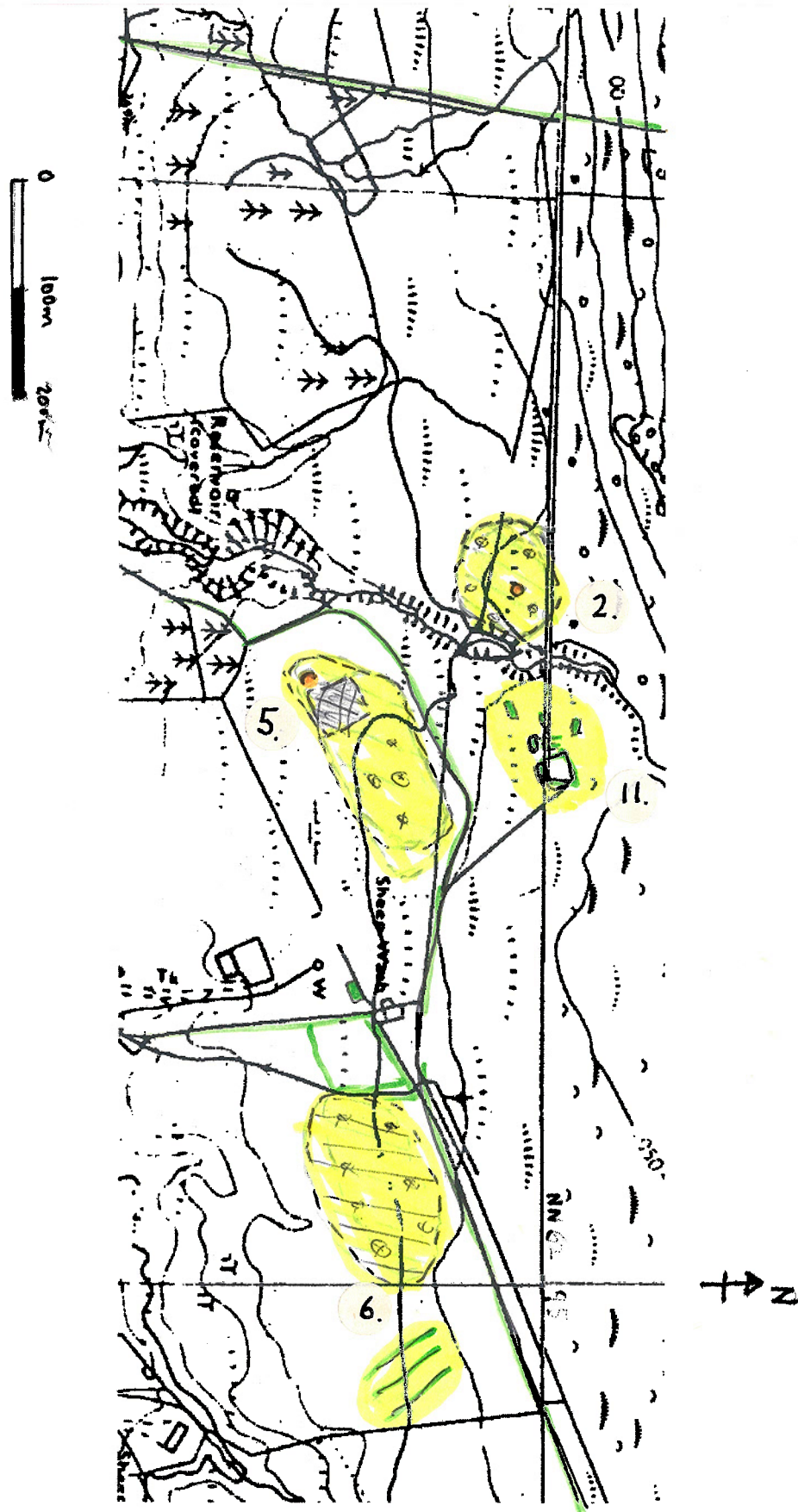
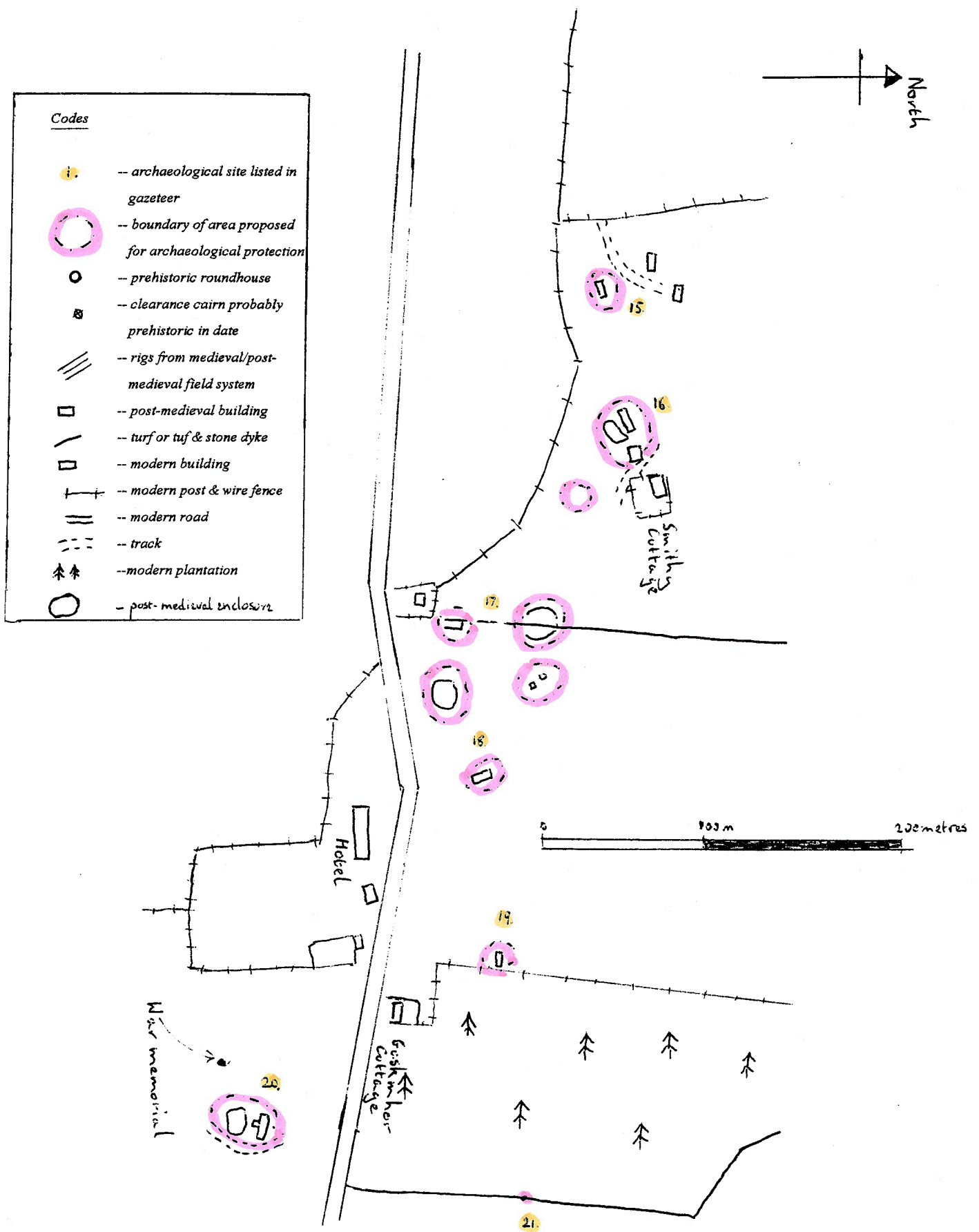


Fig 3.



GAZETEER

The gazeteer is a list of individual archaeological sites identified during the survey. Recommendations for remedial work to protect these sites are listed under the Tier 1 and Tier 2 options (see Appendix).

Glossary of terms

<i>Site name</i>	This is purely a label to help identify individual sites and where no obvious name is known it is not included.
<i>Site No.</i>	A sequential list of numbers to help identify each individual site.
<i>SMR No.</i>	Sites & Monuments Register - a listing of previously known archaeological sites recorded in the National Monument Record in Edinburgh and also by the Archaeology Service of Highland Council. No sites were previously recorded on this farm. The information from this survey will be added to this register, so that these sites will get SMR No.s
<i>NGR</i>	National Grid Reference - an 8-figure grid reference has been given to each site based on the Ordnance Survey National Grid. For large sites a centre point has been given.
<i>Description</i>	This is a brief archaeological description of an individual site. Where appropriate, damage to the archaeological site is also recorded.
<i>prehistoric</i>	the period before written documents, in this area before c1100AD
<i>medieval</i>	the period before the reformation (ie c1200-1550AD)
<i>post-medieval</i>	the period from the reformation to the agricultural improvements (c1550 AD -1800AD)
<i>modern</i>	the period from the agricultural improvements to the present day (c1800 -present)

Gazeteer of Archaeological Sites

Site name: Gergask Craig

Site No. 1

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6123 9513

Description: The remains of an enclosure, measuring 35m East/West by 14m, sit on a rocky knoll, an outlier of Gergask Craig. This is almost certainly the remains of a small fort. The walling is spread around 5m for c5m on the W, N and E sides. The S side is a precipitous crag and is eroding. Nowhere is the walling set in position and it would appear to have been deliberately slighted.

A rowan tree is established on the edge of the S wall and its roots are lifting the soil at this point. A rabbit burrow is evident just to the W of this.

Management Recommendations:

- Tier 1.** The present grazing regime is highlighting this site and should be continued. The rabbit presence should be monitored.
- Tier 2.** The rabbits in this area could be controlled. Consideration should be given to removing the rowan tree.

NN6123 9513

Site name: Gergask Burn

Site No. 2

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6135 9497

Description: A roundhouse measuring 11m N/S by 9m E/W sits on a plateau at c315mOD on the west bank of the Gergask Burn. There is an entrance to the SE. The walls spread is c1.5m and they are up to 1m high on the S where they are best preserved. 2 rabbit burrows have been dug into the walls.

Around the building are clearance cairns up to 5m diameter and averaging 0.6m high. The cairns cover an area c100m E/W by 80m N/S.

The area is under grassland.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The existing grazing regime should be maintained as it makes the site visible. The rabbit situation should be monitored, both at the roundhouse and around the clearance cairns.

Tier 2. The rabbits should be removed and their burrows filled in with material obtained outwith the archaeological area..

Site name: Creagan Soilleir

Site No. 3

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6225 9537

Description: A roundhouse 11m in diameter lies in an area of grassland raised slightly above the heather and peat moorland that predominate in this area. The walls of the roundhouse are indistinct suggesting there has been previous damage to this site. The E side in particular appears to have been partially robbed out.

There is a small area of cattle/sheep poaching c1m in diameter in the centre of this side.

To the E and N of the roundhouse is an extensive area of cultivation represented by clearance cairns and remnant rigs measuring 2m in width. Traces of enclosure walls survive at the N of the area as sketched. As the clearance cairns extend into areas not defined by the enclosure walls, it is likely the walls and probably the rigs define a secondary use of this area, perhaps dating to more recent times.

At the NW erosion has exposed a small area of charcoal with a few pieces of iron slag suggesting that there was a small bloomery here to smelt bog iron ore.

A now abandoned track runs across the S end of the site running roughly N/S.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The existing grazing regime should be maintained. Vehicle traffic should be restricted to a single track across this area.

Tier 2. The area of cattle poaching on the side of the roundhouse and the eroded area of the bloomery mound should be covered with soil and turf or sown with grass seed. The materials to do this should be brought from outwith the archaeologically significant area.

Site name:

Site No. 4

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6223 9503

Description: The remains of a single roundhouse c11m in diameter lie in an area of pasture just to the S of the enclosure wall 60m W of its NE corner. The building has been largely ploughed out in comparison to the structures at Sites 2 & 3, but is currently stable. No clearance cairns are visible adjacent to this building but they are present in adjoining fields.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The present grazing regime should be maintained. Any ploughing or draining in this field should be restricted to an area 20m from the outside of the roundhouse wall.

Tier 2. .

Site name:

Site No. 5

NN69SW0038

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6144 9478

Description: Within an area of improved pasture part of which has been recently ploughed there is a semi-circular arc of bank 10m in diameter. It sits on a terrace overlooking the Gergask burn. This is almost certainly the remains of another roundhouse. There are c12 large cairns lying to the E of this, presumably part of a contemporary field system.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. Further ploughing should not be carried out within a 20m radius of this feature. The cairns should be protected from ploughing by maintaining the present grazing regime. They should not be used as feeding stations for cattle and sheep. Rabbits should be monitored to prevent them tunnelling into these features.

Tier 2. .

Site name:

Site No. 6

NN69SW0039

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6185 9485

Description: Clearance cairns survive in the field to the east of the burn that separates the manse to and glebe from Gaskbeg Farm. They survive as low mounds up to 1m high by 3m diameter covering an area c150m square. They are thought to be the remains of a field system contemporary with the roundhouse sites. To the E of these cairns are faint lines of stone and earthen banks aligned NW/SE. These probably represent the remains of a medieval/post-medieval field system.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The area should be maintained under its present grazing regime. Ploughing in this area is not desirable. The clearance cairns should not be used as feeding sites for stock as this encourages erosion of the archaeological features.

Tier 2. .

Site name:

Site No. 7

NN69SW0040

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 614 947

Description: A few clearance cairns survive in the existing plantation that lies to the east of the Gergask Burn. Though they may be the result of modern dumping, they are more probably part of a prehistoric field system contemporary with Site 5.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The existing plantation may be causing some root damage to these features but it has probably reached a natural stability.

Site name:

Site No. 8

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 624 948

Description: A group of five clearance cairns are visible in this field. None were recorded in adjoining fields and it is unclear if these were just part of a small field or if similar cairns have been removed from here in the past.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The current grazing regime should be maintained. The cairns should not be used as feeding stations for stock. A 20m protection zone should be established around these cairns if it is resolved to plough this field.

Tier 2.

Site name:

Site No. 9

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 614 959

Description: On a sloping and now fairly boggy sloping terrace on the W side of the Gergask Burn are a group of shieling mounds covering an area of c2 hectares. The mounds survive as grassy knolls up to 1m high in an area of heather and rough grassland, gradually being swamped by long heather. Some 26 mounds were counted. Apart from 1 structure measuring 6m by 3m, the majority measured 3m by 2m.

The grassy pasture to the N is described in 1791 in Mrs Grant's *Letters from the Mountains* 2, p179 as 'hollow and verdant, a reservoir of copious springs and abounds in early pasturage, and berries peculiar to these regions.' No mention is made of using shielings in these letters and it is probable that they had been abandoned by this date.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The present grazing regime should be maintained to prevent the site being smothered by heather. Rabbits are not currently a problem with this site but their presence should be monitored, as they appear to have affected this site in the past.

Tier 2. If rabbits return to this site they should be culled to prevent further damage. Selective muir burn, carried out exclusively within the former shieling area would enhance this site and encourage preferential grazing by sheep and deer.

Site name: Creagan Soilleir

Site No. 10

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6218 9583

Description: A solitary shieling mound measuring 4m by 2.5m is sited on a grassy flush bisected by the modern hill fence near the gate (as shown in the photograph).

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The current grazing regime should be maintained.

Tier 2.

Site name:

Site No. 11

NN69SW0032

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 615 950

Description: A small croft survives here being shown as unroofed from at least the 1st OS survey of 1870. The remains consist of at least 4 buildings, though they may be part of a single farming unit.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The present grazing regime should be maintained. Vehicles should avoid driving over this area to prevent damage from wheel ruts.

Tier 2. .

Site name:

Site No. 12

NN69SW0042

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6174 9484

Description: The building shown roofed here in 1870 contains the remains of an earlier cruck framed building on its N wall. The mortar bonded fireplace in the W gable and the S wall were added later. It is possible that the N wall was added to an existing timber cruck frame that was originally turf-walled (*see the buildings being constructed in the Highland Folk Park at Newtonmore*)

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. This should not be used as an area for dumping materials as this would obscure the architectural features of this building.

Tier 2. .

Site name: Gaskbeg Farmhouse

Site No. 13

NN69SW0043

SMR No.:

NGR: NN62079460

Description: This farmhouse potentially contains architectural features justifying its inclusion as a listed building. The 2 wings appear to be earlier than the main farmhouse which was refurbished or rebuilt in 1911 from an inscription under wallpaper [*info. Mr G. Grant*]. The earliest part of the farmhouse is likely to have been sited here on the evidence of Mrs Grant in 1791. *Letters from the Mountains 2*, p179 'we occupy a comfortable cottage, consisting of four rooms, light closets, and a nursery, and a kitchen built out by way of an addition. It is situated in a south aspect, at the foot of an arable hill, behind which stretches an extensive moss, once a forest.'

The surviving remains are therefore likely to be later, probably early to mid 19th century in date.

The farmhouse is not strictly part of the ESA scheme but is mentioned here so that appropriate protection can be given to it.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. Not applicable

Tier 2.

Site name: Gaskbeg Mill

Site No. 14

NN69SW0044

SMR No.:

NGR: NN62129458

Description: The building sited here was formerly used as a mill. The lade can be traced in places as a shallow ditch to NN 6217 9473, about 150m upstream of the mill. There may be the remains of a weir at this point, though this cannot clearly be seen in gravel of this active burn. On the opposite side of the Allt a'Bronach a broad stone bank revetts the burn protecting the farmhouse from flooding.

Just N of the junction of the Allt na Criche and the Allt a' Bronach at NN 6235 9508 is a marshy hollow described as 'Sluice'. This was probably a header to supply more water to the mill in times of low water.

No evidence for the sluice was noted on the ground.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The lade and sluice area should be protected from disturbance by vehicle tracks and erosion.

Tier 2.

Site name: Balnacnoc

Site No. 15

NN69SW0031

SMR No.:

NGR: NN62369451

Description: To the SW of the modern house are the footings of a stone house c10m by 4m. The building is poorly preserved making its dimensions uncertain. This building was shown as roofed in 1870 but was not shown on the 2nd OS survey, though part of a now-vanished enclosure was recorded.

Some 40m S of the modern house and 20m E of the modern track are the faint remains of a rectangular building aligned E/W and measuring 11m by 4m. This was shown as roofed in 1870.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. Both buildings should be kept clear of rubbish and not used for access tracks or stock feeding areas.

Tier 2.

Site name: Smithy Cottage

Site No. 16

NN69SW0045

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6246 9450

Description c35m W of Smithy Cottage are the remains of a two-roomed rectangular building 3.5m wide. The rooms measure 9m & 5m long respectively from the W. An irregular turf walled enclosure from 13-15m in diameter lies to the S and a more rectangular one 15m by 10m lies to the E. The latter was recorded on the 1870 OS survey. An old track runs past the S of Smithy Cottage and then N of the building and enclosures towards Gaskbeg.

At NN 6251 9445 on top of a prominent mound lying to the S of Smithy cottage, charcoal is eroding from rabbit scarapes. No structure or feature is evident here but considerable erosion has been caused by rabbit burrows. It may be that the top of this mound was used either as a site for a building or for a feature such as a corn-drying kiln.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The present grazing regime should be maintained. The sites described should not be used for vehicular access or for cattle feeding rings.

Tier 2. The rabbits could be controlled in this area

Site name: Gaskmhor Smithy

Site No. 17

NN69SW0046

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6260 9437

Description: Lying immediately to the N of the former Smithy (now occupied by a modern structure) are the remains of a rectangular structure measuring 11m by 4m and aligned N/S. From its position and alignment this building was probably a byre or shed. This building, shown as roofed in 1870, lies on the E side of a turf and stone bank that runs N/S. The bank now averages 0.5m in height and is rounded to c1m in width.

38m to the N of the structure the bank bisects a rounded enclosure some 20m in diameter. To the NE of this enclosure in an area of boulders are at least 3 hollows, possibly stone walled and measuring 4m by 2m by c250mm deep. These may have been potato clamps.

40m to the E of the structure is an irregular rounded enclosure up to 20m in diameter. This was probably a kailyard or potato patch.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The present grazing regime should be maintained. Vehicles should avoid driving over these features and damaging them.

Tier 2.

Site name: Gaskmhor

Site No. 18

NN69SW0047

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6270 9438

Description: On a small knoll 40m N of the modern road are the remains of a round ended rectangular building 13m long by 3m wide, aligned N/S. It lies immediately to the S of an old track that presumably linked with the track behind Site 16 to Gaskbeg Farm.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The present grazing regime should be maintained. Vehicles should avoid this site and it should not be used as a site for feeding stock.

Tier 2.

Site name:

Site No. 19

NN69SW0048

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6280 9439

Description: The remains of a round ended building 9m long by 3m wide lie just to the W of the modern plantation. The interior of the building is 0.5m deeper than the surrounding terrace. The building is aligned WNW/ESE. It was not shown on either of the earlier OS maps.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The present grazing regime should be maintained. Vehicles should avoid this site and it should not be used as a site for feeding stock.

Tier 2.

Site name:

Site No. 20

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6293 9422

NN 69 500051

Description: On the E side of a rocky knoll now topped by the war memorial are the remains of an ill-defined rectangular building 13m by 4m, aligned WSW/ENE. A porch 6m long by 3m wide sits on the S side of this building. 3m further to the S survives an almost square turf or turf & stone walled enclosure 13m wide. The SE corner of this enclosure has been cut by a modern telegraph pole. A modern track forms the S and E boundary to this feature. The hollow immediately W of the track may be a gravel quarry connected with the construction of this track or its predecessor.

This appears to be an early 19th century croft or cottar's house and it was probably a turf-walled building.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The present grazing regime should be maintained. Vehicles should avoid this site and it should not be used as a site for feeding stock.

Tier 2.

Site name:

Site No. 21

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6299 9437

NN 69 500049

Description: A substantial boulder sited here has the letters **B** & **C** incised into it [info G. Grant and not observed by the writer]. Another stone was recorded on the same boundary just to the N of the road at cNN 6298 9427 in 1870 and a third still survived in 1901 at NN 6301 9451. The letters are thought to represent the families of Baillie and Cluny, marking the boundaries between the two estates. They were presumably erected after 1829.

(The boundary may originally have extended SW of its present line to link with the flood defences extending up to the knoll on which the war memorial is sited. No flood banks are seen elsewhere on Gaskbeg Farm.)

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The size of the stone suggests it is not likely to be disturbed.!

Tier 2.

Site name:

Site No. 22

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6161 9538

NN 69 500008

Description: Adjacent to a drystone dyke is a drystone structure 5m by 4m, open to the N. This is described as 'Target Butt' on the OS map of 1901 and was presumably used for target practice by deer stalkers. The dyke at this point is largely robbed out/washed away. A vehicle track crosses the dyke just above this feature.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. Care must be taken that erosion from the vehicle track does not encroach onto the 'Butt'.

Tier 2.

Site name:

Site No. 23

NN69NW0009

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6164 9530

Description: Lying under the partially robbed out stone dyke are the remains of an earlier turf or turf and stone banked enclosure measuring 15m by 9m. The enclosure defines a grassy hollow set against the bank of the Gergask Burn. A 3m stretch of bank running SW towards the burn may mark the remains of a building largely eroded away.

The enclosure and ?building are probably 18th or early 19th century in date, predating the introduction of sheep farming.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. The present grazing regime should be maintained. The site is unlikely to lie on any vehicular route.

Tier 2.

Site name:

Site No. 24

NN69NW0010

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 6112 9688

Description: The remains of a single stone cairn 1m diameter by 0.5m high, is sited on a ridge. It is partially overgrown by vegetation. The cairn was probably erected as a part of the march boundary separating Gask beg Farm from Glen Banchor.

Management Recommendations

Tier 1. No action is required.

Tier2.

Site name:

Site No. 25

NN69NW0011

SMR No.:

NGR: NN 613 970

Description: 5 cairns 1.5m high on a base 1m wide are sited here on an outcrop of rock. Their present form is a more recent build than the cairn at Site 24. The original cairn or cairns may well have been erected contemporary with Site 24.

Management Recommendations

Tier 1. No action is required

Tier 2.

Site name:

Site No. 26

NN69SW0050

SMR No.:

NGR:

Description: A series of stone faced earth banks define the earlier boundaries of the farm and the limits of arable cultivation. Their position is marked on Fig 1.

These banks are part of an improved system of agriculture, either introduced at the end of the 18th century or the beginning of the 19th century.

Considerable damage has been done to these dykes by vehicle tracks being cut across them and by poaching of the ground by stock.

Management Recommendations:

Tier 1. These banks should be preserved wherever possible by restricting tractor access to limited positions.

Tier 2. The worst of the poached areas/vehicle tracks could be filled in to maintain the line of the existing dykes.



Fig 5(i)

Looking South to Fort at Gergask Craig, Site 1



Fig 5(ii)

Looking South East towards slighted fort at Gergask Craig
Site 1



Fig 6(i)

Roundhouse and clearance cairns at Site 2
Looking South East



Fig 6(ii)

Looking South to the Roundhouse at Site 2 with 1 metre ranging rods marking position of the walls. Rabbit burrows can be seen on the right of the photo.



Fig 7(i) Looking West to the Roundhouse at Site 3, its walls marked by 1 metre ranging rods. Note the former rigs running from left to right across the photo.



Fig 7(ii) Looking North across area of clearance cairns & rig cultivation at Site
Note former track at bottom of photo.



Fig8(i) Area of animal scrape/erosion producing iron slag & charcoal at Site
Looking West



Fig 8 (ii) Largely ploughed-out Roundhouse at Site 4 with the position of the walls
marked by 1 metre ranging rods.
Looking East.



Fig 9(i) Grassy mounds mark sites of shielings at Site 9
Looking North East



Fig 9(ii) Looking South West across shieling area at Site 9



Fig 10(i) 1 metre ranging rods at centre left of photo mark shieling at Site 10
Looking South East

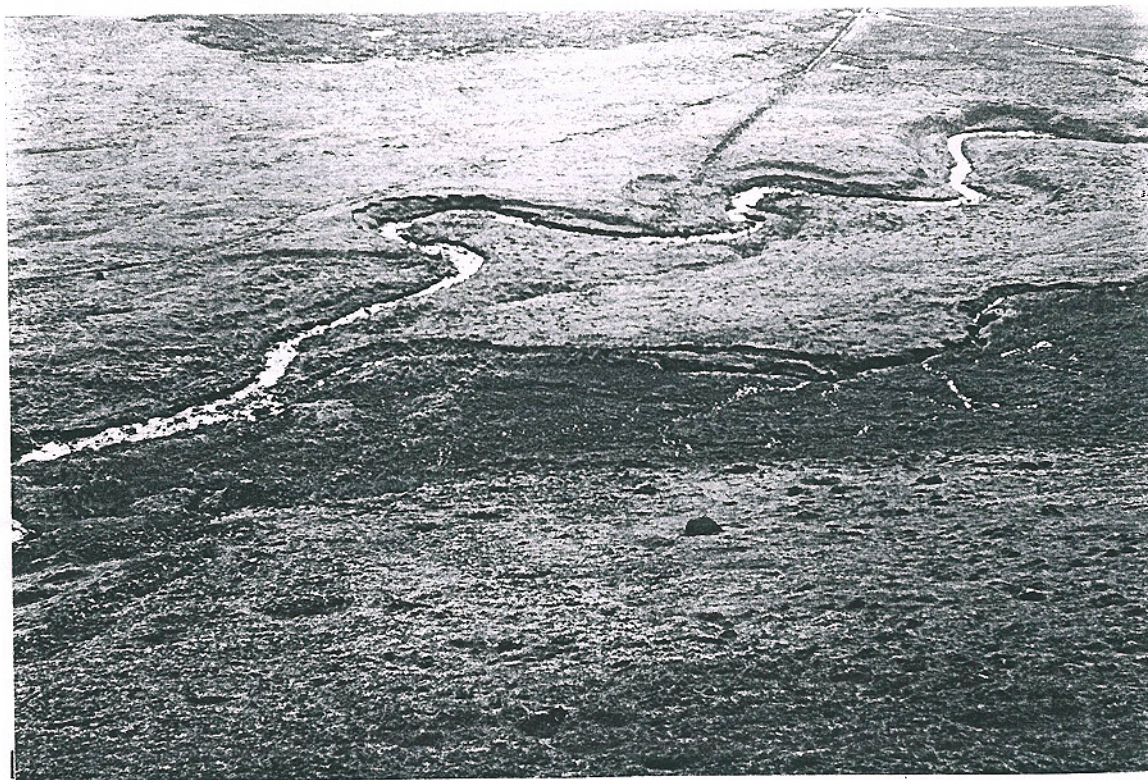


Fig 10(ii) Remains of the 'Targer Butt' at Site 22 lie to the left of the dyke at the bottom
of the picture. Site 23 lies in the centre of the photo above the burn.
Looking South East.



Fig 11(i) Site 11 from above showing buildings, enclosures & rig cultivation.
Looking East Note improved fields to the South.



Fig 11(ii) Detail of preservation at Site 11 with Site 2 in background
Looking West



Fig 12(i) Former cruck-framed house showing where gable and chimney has been added Looking West.



Fig 12(ii) Filled-in cruck slot to right of ranging rod in North wall of building at Site 12. Note possible turf walling on top of stone wall.



Fig 13(i) Looking South to the former mill and Gaskbeg Farmhouse. Mill lade is not visible in this photo.



Fig 13(ii) Section of stone-faced enclosure bank at North of farm showing gradual destruction of these features by vehicle tracks and erosion.