I hereby declare that this thesis has been composed by myself. All help, and reference to work other than my own, has been fully stated at the relevant points in the text.

Signed

Date 01/12/95
ABSTRACT.

The Oban area comprises a rich and varied archaeological resource, the depletion of which is currently being accelerated by the expansion of the town. This research has recorded a sizeable quantity of the extant archaeology prior to future destruction and has used ongoing development as an opportunity to investigate buried landscapes. Through a range of field survey techniques, coupled with concurrent environmental research, data was compiled and analysed to enable the reconstruction of a comprehensive landscape history of the region.

Reviewing the development and practise of landscape studies the thesis recommends the refinement in execution of fieldwork methodologies to further database integrity in order to create a framework for tenable landscape reconstructions.

Using eight months of fieldwork conducted in the Oban region, techniques are appraised with regard to their ability to explore specific chronological planes and diverse units of terrain. The concept 'integral' is advanced to describe the assiduous approach necessitated by site prospection strategies to elucidate a fuller awareness of landscape evolution. The value of landscape-scale test-pitting is illustrated and emphasised as a technique meriting higher profile in British field archaeology.

The land-use tempo of the Oban area is comprehensively examined to reveal a steadily expanding and consolidated settlement pattern as populations adapted
to control their environment. Climatic conditions appear to have caused a temporary retreat during the first millennium bc whilst the land clearances of the eighteenth century had an equally dramatic affect upon the local system of farming and settlement.

Practically applying landscape theory, themes explored during the course of the thesis include the status of the Obanian Mesolithic 'culture', the Neolithic hiatus, Mesolithic-Bronze Age continuity, kerb cairns, settlement hierarchies during the Iron Age, Medieval grazing territories, General Roy's Military Survey, pre-Improvement townships, shielings and charcoal-burning platforms.

It is concluded that landscape studies can provide an effective window for observing archaeological form and process.
THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE HISTORY OF THE
OBAN REGION, ARGYLL, SCOTLAND.

BY MARK ROY ROBINSON.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

PH. D THESIS SUBMITTED JANUARY 1996.
Argyle! thou ancient seat of Albin's kings,
Whose warlike sons withstood the Roman arms,
Subdu'd the Picts, and spurn'd the yoke of Danes;
Long may thy hardy hospitable race,
Enjoy thy mountains and sequester'd vales
In rural innocence! thy pastures clad
With herds and fleecy flocks, thy winding glens
With yellow corn, thy hills with waving woods,
Thy bounteous seas with all the finny tribes.
- If more be needful, let thy frugal sons
Ply well the plough, the shuttle, and the sail,
The source of wealth, of elegance, and ease.

(Smith, 1805).
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GLOSSARY.

Acre - the extent of land that a yoke of oxen could plough in a day (F. Clark, *pers. comm.*) and equivalent to a rectangle of 40x4 perches (Rackham, 1986: xv) which has been standardised to 4047m²; the pre-standardised (i.e. pre-fourteenth century) Scottish acre was equivalent to 5087m² (Chittenden, 1956: 33).

*Actualistic studies* - the examination of present-day, ongoing systems of dynamics that can be related to the deposition of archaeological remains (Rossignol, 1992: 6).

*Anthropology* - the study of the origins and developments of the human race.

*Artifact* - anything that displays attributes as a consequence of human agency (Dunnell, 1992: 33).

*Brandwirtschaft* - forest clearance through felling, ring barking and firing thus creating an agricultural area but with short-lived fertility.

*Cairn* - a large heap of stones resulting from field clearance, or accumulated for a specific purpose (e.g. as a burial monument or territorial marker).

*Central-place theory* - envisages the landscape in a structured hierarchy of centres for goods and services (Moody, 1986: 120).
Charter - a document recording grants of land under the feudal system of land tenure (Moody, 1986: 52-3).

Clearance cairn - a small heap of stones deriving from field clearance.

Cruck - a principal roof-member springing from a point below wall-plate level and in use well into the nineteenth century.

Earthwork - a feature defined by one or a series of banks.

Ecology - the science of plants and animals in relation to their environment.

Enclosure - an area of possible settlement activity defined by an artificial bank or ditch.

Ethnography - the study of human races.

Geomorphology - the description and interpretation of landforms.

Geophysics - the study of the physical properties of the earth (Bray & Trump, 1984: 97).

Hut circle - an area defined by a circular ditch, or bank, representing the foundation trench, or wall, of a hut.

Landnam - a type of land clearance; borrowed from the Danish word for 'land taking' (Smith et al., 1981: 153).
Merkland - a thirteenth century unit of land of variable extent and valued at an annual rent of 2/3 of a pound Scots (i.e. 13s 4d or 160d) and, in general, equivalent to two of the preceding pennylands (C. Hunter, 1995, pers. comm.). The merk originated from the mark which was a weight for gold and silver. Later this became a money of account and finally a silver coin in Scotland in 1572 under James VI (Josset, 1971: 101-2).

Midden - a heap or stratum of refuse (Bray et al., 1984: 157).

Middle-range theory - those studies that link the archaeological static record with knowledge of formational and behavioural dynamics (Rossignol, 1992).

Mound - a raised landscape feature covered by vegetation, possibly of archaeological origin (e.g. a cairn or midden).

Palynology - pollen analysis.

Pennyland - a Norse unit of land division (Hill, 1985) equivalent to approximately 8 pre-standardised Scottish acres (i.e. ca. 40000m²).

Pit clamp - a rectilinear structure with a fabricated pit; the pit is characteristically above ground, and all recorded examples are constructed of large stones with the wall face battered; presumed to be for crop storage.

Processual archaeology - the processes of culture change studied through the interaction between social and economic aspects of culture and the environment (Renfrew & Bahn, 1991: 490).
Quarterland - a unit of land equivalent to two and a half merklands.

Quoín - a cornerstone.

Sasine - a document recording land transference in trust, as operated within the Clan system (Iredale, 1985: 37, 46).

Scarcement - a narrow ledge formed where a wall is set back.

Shieling/Sheiling - a temporary dwelling usually with turf walls, often built by herders during summer pasturing.

Site - a discrete and potentially interpretable locus of cultural materials (Plog et al., 1978: 389).

Strandbøgg - the forcible seizure of livestock by the Norse.

Strand-looping - gathering of marine resources (esp. shellfish) from the tide-washed margin of the shore.

Tack - a lease, usually of landed property, where the lessee is known as a tacksman (vide Lindsay, 1995) or laird.

Taphonomy - the study of processes of deposition.

Toponomy - the study of place-names.

Wadset/Wadsett - land that is mortgaged, usually to a settle a debt.
ABBREVIATIONS.

*AD* - calibrated calendar years *anno Domini*.

*AMS* - Accelerator Mass Spectrometer.

*BAR* - British Archaeological Report.

*BC* - calibrated calendar years before Christ.

*BP* - uncalibrated radiocarbon years before present (AD 1950).

*CA.* - circa.

*CAD* - Computer Aided Design.

*CAM* - Computer Aided Mapping program.

*CAS* - Central Archaeological Service.

*CBA* - Council for British Archaeology.

*CF.* - confer.

*CRM* - Cultural Resource Management.
DBMS - Database Management System.

DES - Discovery and Excavation in Scotland: an annual survey of Scottish archaeological discoveries, excavations, surveys and publications.

DMV - Deserted Medieval Village.

ED. - editor.

EDM - Electronic Distance Measurer.

E.G. - exempli gratia.

ESP. - especially.

ETC. - et cetera.


FID - Federation of Independent Detectorists.


GIS - Geographic Information System.

GPS - Global Positioning System.

IBID. - ibidem.
I.E. - id est.

LAHS - Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society.

MARS - Monuments At Risk Survey (Darvill & Wainwright, 1994).

MON. - monument.

N.B. - nota bene.

NCMD - National Council for Metal Detecting.

N.D. - no date.

NSMRS - National Sites and Monuments Record of Scotland.

OD - Ordnance Datum.

PERS.COMM. - personal communication.

PPS - Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society.

PSAS - Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

RCAHMS - Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.

SRO - Scottish Record Office, Edinburgh.


TAG - Theoretical Archaeology Group.

TRANS.ROY.SOC.EDIN. - Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.
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2. Lón Mór, scatter A - typological classification of lithic artifacts. Key: Mi - microliths; Sc - scrapers; P - piercers; Bu - burins; ER - edge-retouched pieces; O - other tools; Pb - pebbles; Cb - bipolar cores; Cp - platform cores; Cd - discoidal cores; Ca - amorphous; B - blades; Fr - regular flakes; Fi - irregular flakes; Ch - chunks; m/b - microburins; u/c - unclassifiable pieces.

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Fi - irregular flakes; Ch - chunks; m/b - microburins;

u/c - unclassifiable pieces.
1. INTRODUCTION.

Oban is a relatively small coastal town situated on the north western periphery of mainland Argyll in west Scotland and has the advantage of a mild oceanic climate (160cm annual rainfall, 4°C in January) with spectacular Highland and Island scenery that even impressed Queen Victoria during her visit in 1847. The beauty of the region, however, conceals a turbulent and bloodied history from the Norse and Scots to the MacDougalls, Campbells, Stewarts and MacLeans and ending in the infamous Highland Clearances. Today the Clans are at peace and now Oban is subject to a different threat with building development revealing, and ultimately destroying, many archaeologically significant sites.

The recent expansion programme (a new hospital, two supermarkets, housing and an industrial estate), together with the growth of agricultural drainage and the advance of forestry (Haines, 1982), already covering ca.4000 hectares of the parish, has necessitated archaeological survey before further depletion of the record. Historic Scotland therefore established two research studentships in 1991; one based at Edinburgh University concerned with the archaeological recording and one at Newcastle-upon-Tyne University for environmental analysis.

The aims of the archaeological research were to test hypotheses principally about:

(i) the nature and intensity of prehistoric/early historic settlement in the Oban area;

(ii) the age, significance and function of individual sites;
(iii) changing settlement and land-use patterns during the Postglacial period; (iv) the impact of ancient communities on the environment and human responses to environmental change.

These issues were addressed during the course of research and presented in the pages of this Ph. D thesis. The direction of the research was purposely steered away from the theoretical aspects of landscape studies, with which most readers may well be acquainted, towards the practical application of methodologies and analysis which seldom reach the published page, and where they do, they are almost invariably lacking in the actual detail necessary to provide a template for future fieldwork projects.

The structure of this thesis is reasonably straightforward and outlined on the contents page. It opens with an in-depth review, and appraisal, of the definition and development of landscape archaeology (chapter 2); this naturally leads onto a review of the techniques presently available to landscape archaeologists (chapter 3). Chapter 4 is a presentation of the results from the application of the techniques of prospection discussed in chapter 3 to the Oban archaeological study area which was extended outwith the town boundary of Oban to include other physiographic contexts [FIGURE I]. It essentially comprised the whole parish of Kilmore and Kilbride belonging to the 260,000 hectares of Lorn/Mid-Argyll; the boundary being Loch Etive to the N, the watershed to the E and S of Black Lochs, Loch Nell and Loch Feochan (Kilninver), Minard Point, Ganavan and Dunstaffnage as well as the island of Kerrera; an areal extent of ca.15000 hectares. Secondary basaltic Devonian lava underlies most of the mountainous terrain, reaching 3,689ft on Ben Cruachan, and deeply indented coastline, in stark contrast to the lowlying and fertile limestone that has created Lismore.
The inventory-style format of chapter 4 has been designed to succinctly and objectively convey the results to the reader in addition to aiding incorporation into, and compatibility with, the NSMRS. Subjectivity enters into chapter 5 when the archaeology of the Oban region is discussed and explained, on a period by period basis, using information gathered from the known sites, comprehensively reviewed in appendix 10.1, and those prospected during the course of the research (chapter 4).

Chapter 6 utilises palaeoenvironmental data, and landscape archaeological observations, to reconstruct the landscape history of two of the study sub-zones, Gleann Sheileach and Killiechòinich, and then the study region is considered as a general overview. This allows conclusions to be drawn, and recommendations for future research to be advanced, in the following chapter (chapter 7). The remainder of the thesis is concerned with the source material ranging from advice and help given (chapter 8) to the various references quoted throughout the text (chapter 9).

Figures, plates and tables appear at the close of the thesis in order to avoid interruption to the textual flow of the thesis. In all instances the author has attempted to view primary sources although secondary sources have been necessarily consulted. Nevertheless, all source material has been referenced, in full, throughout the thesis.
2. LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY.

The landscape is a polysemic forum of dynamic change, change brought about by the combination of forces of nature and human agency (Bender, 1993: 3). Nature encapsulates a whole series of ongoing processes from climate to vegetation, from coastal erosion to glaciation, from plate tectonics to deposition and causing both large-scale and subtle alterations to the fabric and visual appearance of the landscape. The effect of human activity upon the surrounding environment is studied under the heading of 'landscape archaeology'. Others adopt, and prefer, the term 'landscape history' leaving archaeology as a separate, yet close, discipline; '...the visible landscape offers us enough stimulus and pleasure without the uncertainty about what may lie underneath. In other words, the borderline between landscape history as I conceive it and archaeology is a fine one...' (Hoskins, 1985: 12); whereas some workers (e.g. Aston & Rowley, 1974: 24); Roberts, 1987; Tolan-Smith, pers.comm.) regard the terms as synonymous. Either way, it is viewed by many as the most effective way of understanding the past (e.g. Zvelebil et al., 1992).

The word 'landscape' derives from sixteenth century Netherlands where Landschap (corrupted to Landskip) was used to describe a unit of human occupation (Schama, 1995: 10) but defining the present meaning of the term 'landscape' has aroused dispute (Olwig, 1993: 308). Likewise, 'landscape archaeology' is such a broad and vague term (Thomas, 1993: 20) that much confusion surrounds it within the archaeological community; some even reject its status as a separate entity aside from the main field of archaeology (e.g. Roberts, 1987: 95). Many use it to describe a greater awareness of the
surrounding environs. Some, to link neighbouring sites in economic models; for example, a farm supplying a nearby village with food. However, many (e.g. Fleming, Tolan-Smith, ...) now apply the term to a specific and fundamental strand of archaeology. Brothwell (1979) identified five levels of contact between human groups and the world around them. They were designed specifically to describe the concept of environmental archaeology but the levels are nevertheless germane to the layers that constitute landscape archaeology:

LEVEL 1. The mega-environment/geographical region.

LEVEL 2. The immediate living area/site catchment of the human group.

LEVEL 3. The confines of the settlement/site.

LEVEL 4. The habitation.

LEVEL 5. The human group.

Traditional archaeology would therefore be seen to operate at levels 3 and 4 whereas landscape archaeologists target the entire system.

Trying to encapsulate the full meaning of landscape archaeology within a single definition is by no means straightforward but attempts have been made; '...the study of features visible on the surface...' (Rackham, 1986: 7); '...the recovery of the story of an area of countryside using all possible techniques - surface scatters, field and other boundaries, standing buildings, as well as excavation. In
this, the individual site has significance only as a component of the area in which it lies...' (Bray et al., 1984: 137), '...the study of spatial relationships among humans and their physical, social and cognitive environments...' (Savage, 1990: 29), '...all aspects of the natural and man-made landscape and their relation...' (Aston & Rowley, 1974: 24), '...the distribution of archaeological artifacts and features relative to elements of the landscape...not just within sites but across entire regions...' (Rossignol in Rossignol & Wandsnider, 1992: viii). Landscape archaeology incorporates all the elements outlined above but with a clear objective; to decipher the evolution of the landscape. Attempts to provide a succinct definition of 'landscape archaeology' are often too brief to convey the complete nature of the term, take for example the glossary entry provided by Renfrew and Bahn (1991: 488), '...the study of individual features including settlements seen as single components within the broader perspective of the patterning of human activity over a wide area...' implies a single chronological horizon of study but landscape archaeology probes deeper to provide a multidimensional approach to the time-scale; the archaeology is related to the present, past and future landscape.

With the above aim in mind, the Landscape Research Group was established in 1967 as well as the Society for Landscape Studies in 1979, with their respective journals 'Landscape Research' and 'Landscape History'. Despite the latter being criticised for treating the landscape as a human product without giving full credit to the role of nature (Rackham, 1986: xiii), their remit was, and still continues to be, the creation of a forum in which ideas could be exchanged and generally to raise the profile of the field amongst colleagues in related disciplines. Conferences were one of the main vehicles used to encourage this participation with, for example, TAG having included a substantial landscape archaeological component in their 1989 programme at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
The receptive audience extended outwith Britain to Europe and beyond, with, for example, the 'Permanent European conference for the study of the rural landscape' in 1990. The influence passed into archaeological societies with the formation, amongst others, of the Fareham Landscape Archaeology Group and specialised landscape sections within larger groups (e.g. within the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society). The trend can equally be observed in University archaeological courses which are not only becoming increasingly devoted to an in-depth appreciation of the landscape approach (e.g. the Department of Archaeology, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne) but also concentrating solely upon landscape studies, a point reflected in the qualifications (e.g. the University of Liverpool's diploma in landscape interpretation). Shorter courses are also available (e.g. by the Extra Mural Department, University of Cambridge) for those not wishing to pursue a professional qualification but simply seek formal landscape training in order to interpret their local area. These developments were likewise matched by those occurring in neighbouring fields such as toponomy and Medieval studies stemming from the formation of the English Place-Name Society in 1924, the Medieval Village Research Group in 1972 and the Moated Sites Research Group, also in 1972.

The foundations of landscape archaeology may be cited in field archaeology (Roberts, 1987). The term 'field archaeology' was coined by J.P. Williams-Freeman in 1915 but archaeological fieldwork was being conducted as early as the sixteenth century with John Leland and later by William Camden and William Stukely leading the way to Green's 'The making of England' in 1885. Similarly, across the Atlantic fieldwork was being practised by Humboldt but towards infrastructural elements of the landscape (McIntrye, 1985) and is therefore considered by many (Mathewson, 1986; Coones, 1992) to have been the father
of landscape archaeology. Nevertheless, the milestone in field archaeology was
the discovery of aerial photography for site prospection and towards an
appreciation of a landscape-scale dimension in archaeology (vide Beresford &
St. Joseph, 1958; St. Joseph, 1977). The cornerstone of British (vide Coones,
1992 for a European perspective) landscape studies itself, was laid by William
George Hoskins (Meinig, 1979; Millward, 1992) whose studies at Oxford
University in economic history led to the publication of 'The Making of the
English Landscape' (Hoskins, 1955) in which techniques, particularly map-based
historical studies, were reviewed as tools providing an explanation to the
present-day form of the landscape; for example, he demonstrated that the
presence of an isolated church could be due to the location of a DMV in the
vicinity, as at Gilston in Hertfordshire (TL43991352). It was published in 1955
and although Hoskins stated in the introduction that there was ´...not one book
which deals with the historical evolution of the landscape...´ (ibid.: 13), it was
already clear that by that time archaeologists were beginning to adopt a similar
approach with the belief that an individual site could not be adequately
understood without considering at least its geographical context (e.g. Piggott,
1958).

With the excavation of the Mesolithic site at Star Carr in Yorkshire (Clark, 1954),
and the discovery of discrete flint scatters in the surrounding Pennine Uplands,
sufficient data were available to provide provisional observations concerning the
site catchment and annual territory of the Mesolithic 'band'. Similarly, site
catchment analysis was applied to the Mount Carmel area of the Middle East
(Higgs & Vita-Finzi, 1970) and proved to be equally rewarding. Such an
approach is still beneficial when applied in appropriate circumstances (e.g. the
Mexican Tehuacan Valley in Byers, 1967) but the poor resolution of
archaeological chronology often precludes other than rudimentary analysis to be
performed. Settlement pattern analysis, the analysis of the distribution of sites across the landscape (Dewar & McBride, 1992), has been one of the principle landscape vehicles utilised by archaeologists (e.g. Rouse, 1972). Although, unlike geographers (e.g. Darby, 1951), the archaeologist is usually only aware of a segment of the full temporal pattern, in the context of prehistory, a situation for which the term 'remnant settlement pattern' has been applied (Dewar & McBride, 1992: 227). However, '...archaeology has something to contribute to every period of landscape history...' (R. Millward in Dymond, 1985: 19) and, overcoming problems of chronological resolution, various categories of landscape have been reconstructed ranging from political (e.g. Bradley, 1984; Alcock, 1993), economic (e.g. Chisholm, 1962) and socioeconomic (e.g. Caufield, 1983; Renfrew, 1983: 147) to the ritual and symbolic (e.g. Bradley, 1984; Burl, 1987).

Landscape archaeology, in keeping with the precepts and tradition of New Archaeology, overlaps with related neighbouring disciplines including the actualistic studies of ethnography/ethnoarchaeology (e.g. Chisholm, 1962; Chang, 1967), taphonomy (vide Behrensmeyer & Kidwell, 1985; e.g. Robinson, 1991) and formation processes as well as regional geomorphology/archaeogeomorphology, geology, petrology, physical geography (vide Fleure, 1921; Butzer, 1965), Sauer's archaeogeography, ecology (e.g. Stafford & Hajic in Rossignol & Wandsnider, 1992), archaeozoology, palaeobotany, palynology and anthropology (e.g. Green, 1990). Archaeological research has now moved beyond the traditional definitions of a site as an isolated, self-sufficient unit (Woodward, 1978); the surrounding landscape is a crucial and integral element as well as neighbouring, contemporary sites. Research, including the Ager Tarraconensis survey (Keay & Millet, 1991), is oriented towards the recognition of wider landscape use rather than specific sites. Organisations, such as RCAHMS, and individual fieldworkers are now
considering sites within their landscape setting (Halliday & Stevenson, 1991) and, with the acquisition of advanced survey technology (e.g. EDM, GPS,...), are selecting areas for detailed mapping (e.g. RCAHMS, 1990) in order to interpret, and illustrate, the intra- and inter-site relationships (vide the Raunds Area Project in Musty, 1987). Publications specialising in particular elements of the landscape are expanding our database of knowledge, ranging from the Shire Archaeology booklets to Batsford's new 'Know the landscape' series (e.g. Hindle, 1993) but as yet no textbook or manual, per se, exists that reviews all the techniques with practical examples that would provide instruction as a student guide or indeed function as a template for those undertaking a landscape study. The existing publications range from the basic (e.g. Aston & Rowley, 1975; Bradford, 1957; Mitchell, 1992; Pugh, 1990) to the general (e.g. Brown, 1987; Reed, 1990), aspect specific (e.g. Baker & Butlin, 1973; Foster & Smout, 1994) and region specific (e.g. Faull, 1980; Darvill & Gerrard, 1994). One publication (Aston, 1985) succeeds in conveying the diversity of techniques but fails to provide sufficient detail to be of practical use whilst others (e.g. Rackham, 1986) provide extensive interpretations and explanations of infield observations but nevertheless lack the technical detail. A compromise can be sought by combining several although there is still something missing; that which can only be learnt through repeated fieldwork to develop a level of experience sufficiently mature to fully observe, record, interpret and appreciate a landscape (contra. Shennan, 1980).

The present direction of landscape archaeology, or at least the 'landscape approach' (Wandsnider in Rossignol & Wandsnider, 1992: 286), is proceeding upon a theoretical plane, as well as with technological innovations broadening the horizons, and moving away from '...an explicitly historical emphasis...' (Rossignol, 1992; e.g. Aston, 1985). The theoretical debate has been largely
spurred by the symposium of the Society for American Archaeology, entitled
`Beyond boundaries in time and space: the utility of the site concept', focusing
upon prehistoric hunter-gatherers and agropastoralists, although the seeds are
more deep-rooted (Binford, 1982; Chang, 1967; Dunnell & Dancey, 1983; Foley,
1981; Lowenthal, 1975; Rogers, 1977; Thomas, 1975; Truan, 1977; Woodward,
1978). The debate surrounds the utility of the terms `site', `catchment area' and
`settlement pattern' due to the connotations that are attached in the minds of
archaeologists. How can the limits of a `site' be epistemologically defined when,
for example, dealing with surface flint scatters which frequently bear no
resemblance to the sub-surface pattern of `in situ' finds (Zvelebil et al., 1992)?
How can the loci of human activity be traced across a total landscape when
`sites' are the units of observation if many utilised areas leave no archaeological
indication of cultural material, as would be the case in a pastoral economy
(Chang, 1992)? The distributional/nonsite/antisite/off-site/siteless approach
advances the concept of `place' (cf. Tilley, 1994) and questions the ontological
validity of `sites' (contra Binford, 1992). Can `sites' actually be discovered,
described and interpreted in archaeologically meaningful ways (Dunnell, 1992)?
Sites are internally variable and patterned but are modern, contemporary
patterns and not archaeologically preserved horizons. Ecologically, a `place'
would be defined as a landscape location that serves as a stopping point due to
its characteristics (Stafford & Hajic in Rossignol & Wandsnider, 1992: 139) and
not necessarily a position of settlement (Chang, 1992: 67). The attraction of the
`place' may result in temporal continuity with repeated occupation, or re-use with
and is therefore known as a `persistent place' (Schlanger, 1992: 92), a type of
chronological palimpsest. The attraction may be human-conditioned through past
occupations with, for example, former structures offering shelter (Binford, 1992);
past occupation may equally have a negative effect with resource over-
exploitation/depletion of, for example, firewood in the vicinity (Dewar & McBride, 1992). The function of the place will not necessarily remain static over time but change to form a multicomponent 'site' (Schlanger, 1992). A perfect example conveys this concept, namely the recently re-excavated 'site' of the Romano-Celtic Temple at Harlow in Essex (Bartlett, 1987). The occupation of the site is not limited to the Romano-British period but is both preceding and succeeding including Palaeolithic handaxes, Mesolithic microliths, a Neolithic polished axe (Martingell, 1990), a Bronze Age pond barrow, Iron Age huts and votive deposits, a Romano-Celtic Temple and Saxon shelters amongst the temple ruins. The continuity in use of the gravel mound and the theme of rituality appears to have been conditioned by preceding human activity and interaction with the surrounding environment although monicausal explanations (i.e. ritualism) for the individual occupations of the site should be avoided as being over-simplistic and reductionist. In this way, the landscape may equally be viewed as a less focused, yet temporal, accumulation with human activity being '...a major part in the way that the British landscape looks today...' (Macinnes, 1993: 249).

A parallel theoretical dimension has been explored by other workers (e.g. Coones) in which the concept 'landscape' is scrutinised. Coones (1992: 23) examines the use of the term through history from the Anglo-Saxon 'a tract of land owned and inhabited' to the 'inland scenery' portrayed by the sixteenth century Dutch landscape painters. Each culture visualises a landscape within its unique cultural parameters; Pugh's (1990) 'visual ideology' and Sauer's (1925) 'cultural landscape'. Thomas (1993: 22) regards the emergence of landscape vision as late as the fifteenth century, evident with landscape painting captivating land as a commodity, so can we project our vision beyond this awareness of landscape? The visual perspective of the landscape archaeologist of the 1990s is impaired by the political map of the 1990s (Morphy, 1988).
The shortcomings of landscape archaeology include the failure to link actualistic studies with general theory (Binford, 1977; Coones, 1992: 35) so compatible middle-range theories remain undeveloped and is tied to the fact that often the landscape study is "...concerned with mere description rather than the analysis of process..." (Coones, 1992: 27; vide Isachenko, 1975). Underpinning the limited analysis that does take place usually exists the assumption that time itself brings about incremental change in the landscape with an omnipresent causal relationship between succeeding events (Harvey, 1969). Landscape archaeologists find it equally difficult to present an objective viewpoint and, unjustifiably, give undue support (Thomas' "priming the empirical") to environmental input to landscape evolution (e.g. Aston, 1985) whilst others overemphasise the human impact (i.e. Coones' anthropocentrism with, for example, Darby's (1951) progress themes). Furthermore, there is also a poor integration of new approaches into relevant situations as is the case with settlement system analysis whereby synchronic ethnographic analogue templates are frequently applied to asynchronic arrays of archaeological data (Dewar & McBride, 1992). Similarly, Coones (1985) recognises this weakness (ibid.: 10) but identifies the root cause as being too much specialisation amongst landscape researchers. However, the author contends that the main flaw occurs in the empirical stages of many landscape projects and is with the quality of the archaeological database from which inferences are drawn (vide Reeves-Smyth et al., 1983). Databases are usually structured upon the regional site inventories of the 1970/80s which served the CRM purpose for which they were commissioned but are seldom sufficiently thorough to tackle complex landscape reconstructions at the parish level, or indeed larger geographical units. There is, and has certainly been, the need for systematic national archaeological surveys (CBA Southampton conference, 1970; Council of Europe, 1987: 97) but workers have
been preoccupied with the compilation of the NSMR-type archives and have
tended to shun issues such as scientific sampling, providing public access to the
archives and defining the observational basis of the data recovery (Mercer,
1980: 9); Mercer (1982), in particular, has argued that little advance has been
made in field survey since the 1930s (also see Barri Jones in Macready &
Thompson, 1985).

The site-based classificatory inventories need not be an obstacle to the
landscape approach (vide Wandsnider in Rossignol & Wandsnider, 1992: 288)
despite the weakness of 'sites' as an empirical unit and in practise would be hard
to avoid without implementing other than a semantic variant. The archaeological
landscape may be viewed as a time-specified land surface with an interacting
web of settlement, population, technology, resources and the environment. The
archaeological data collection must therefore be structured to observe all these
pertinent variables. Observations should not be chronologically restricted to a
specific period or confined by a time horizon no matter how historically recent
(contra Lacy, 1983) since pertinent occupations may lie concealed beneath late,
visible monuments especially in view of persistent places and multicomponent
sites. The author therefore wishes to introduce the concept of 'integral'
archaeological fieldwork, avoiding the resurrection of the terms 'total
archaeology', which was fashionable in the preceding decades (e.g. Barri Jones
in Macready & Thompson, 1985; Bray & Trump, 1984: 137; Taylor, 1974), and
'total/entire landscape survey' (e.g. Coones, 1992: 37; Robertson, 1991) which
have been superseded by the term 'landscape archaeology'. Quite clearly there
will never be a complete archaeology due the fragmentary nature of the record
(vide Olwig, 1993) under the combined forces of nature and human activity even
though, as methods improve, and are refined, archaeologists are becoming
increasingly aware of fuller ways to interpret what does survive to be observed
and adopting alternative approaches to infer and reconstruct the missing elements. Yet, at the practical level there is great diversity in the thoroughness of archaeological data-collection and is seldom at the standard at which the theoretical analysis necessitates.

The author adopts the term 'integral' archaeological fieldwork to refer to rigorous archaeological survey methodology. In the dimension of fieldwalking this necessitates the recording of '...all man-made alterations of the landscape of whatever date should be recorded; and recorded to the same level...' (Mercer, 1982) from the spectacular (e.g. massive Iron Age hillforts) to the prosaic (e.g. ephemeral traces of eighteenth century shieling huts with minimal FDI) and extending to all observable components of the landscape (i.e. vegetation cover, field dykes, trackways, ponds,...) and not confined to features of great antiquity.

Fleming (1990) has argued that landscape archaeologists should broaden their outlook beyond the reconstruction of local sequences and into the realm of social analysis; a symptom associated with the recognition that people create their cultural environment (Green, 1990) causing a frustration amongst archaeologists with their inability to presently study the phenomenon at a level accessible to anthropologists in the contemporary landscape (vide Harvey, 1991: 52); is the 'landscape' entirely a product of human cognition (contra Ingold, 1993: 156) and only visible through the eyes of the contemporary society (Thomas, 1993: 25)? Nevertheless, the author argues that this is a premature step to take and only plausible when more local sequences have been reconstructed through the rigorous ground reconnaissance and empirical fieldwork that the author advocates in the 'integral' concept. Tacit in this approach is, as the basis to formulating and refining methodologies (Coones, 1992: 35), a priority given towards a corporate accumulation of experience through the dissemination of
information through rapid publication. In this way, an accessible route is then open to archaeologists to raise the awareness of landscape studies amongst non-archaeological bodies (vide Owen-John, 1992: 89) and thereby fuel the advancement of landscape philosophies and methodologies.
3. TECHNIQUES IN LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY.

The techniques presently available to landscape archaeologists are comprehensively reviewed below using the research conducted around Oban as a working example and as a vehicle for explanation.

3.1. Historical studies: literature and documents.

Within its sheltered setting, the bay of Oban is strategically positioned to benefit from the passage of people to and from the Hebridean islands such as Mull and Islay. The trade this has generated has helped to fuel the growth of Oban from a crofting community to one of the largest towns in the region. Since 1760, when the Duke of Argyll moved the Custom House from Fort William to Oban, the town has rapidly grown to its present size through sea trade, fishing, distilling, tobacco, tanning, yarn production (Pape, 1994: 8), gravel extraction, quarrying and agricultural produce, including limited kelp harvesting, so that by 1820 it had become a Burgh in Barony. Without the roads and railway such an expansion could not even have been contemplated.

In addition to sheep farming and fishing there is a whisky distillery, glassworks, a tweed mill and a soft drinks factory. Indeed, the future of sheep farming is at a cross-roads with all being dependent upon the level of subsidy granted from the European Community. Shellfish harvesting is becoming equally unprofitable as large operators clear grounds with one sweep leaving little for the local fishermen to gather. Consequently, the growth of the town nowadays is largely
the result of tourists wishing to sample the spectacular Highland scenery; many decide to stay permanently.

Tourists are not restricted to the twentieth century because one valuable source, yet scarce as is equally the case for the rest of the Highland landscape (Rackham, 1986: 4), of documentary evidence are the contemporary observations of travellers to the area whilst staying at the local hostellries (Mitchell, 1902). They offer an insight into the lives of the communities during the 17th and 18th centuries and, used in combination with other strands of evidence and archaeological data, they can be more than just a social history. The compilation of this thesis has therefore been valuably aided by the descriptions of the Oban region supplied by John Knox (1764), Thomas Pennant (Pennant, 1771), John Howe (1770), Anne McVicar (1773), Boswell and Johnson (1773), Faujus de St.Fond (1784), Thomas Newte (1785), Mrs. Murray-Aust (1790) and by Mrs. Grant of Laggan (1807). Equally revealing for social history and farming techniques are Sir John Sinclair’s Statistical Accounts of Scotland (Sinclair, 1794; Campbell, 1845) and the variety of agricultural manuals (Sinclair, 1814; Smith, 1805) in addition to journals (e.g. *Transactions of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society*).

Unfortunately, archaeologically significant documents are sparse for the area, in part due to Cromwell’s soldiers destroying many of the records stored at Ardchattan when the priory (NM971349) was burnt in 1654 whilst others have been lost and damaged over the course of time (Iredale, 1985: 37). Furthermore, the process of documentary searching is extremely time-consuming and a pursuit reserved for specialists in Latin and Medieval Latin when consulting pre-eighteenth century material so can frequently yield little, or no, relevant and original information (*vide* Moody, 1986: 56). The majority of the documents
pertaining to the Oban area are housed in the National Register of Archives in Edinburgh, the Argyll and Bute District Archives in the Court House at Inverary and the Strathclyde Regional Archives in the Mitchell Library of Glasgow where they are precisely catalogued with inventories which reduces the workload tremendously but the catalogue entries are succinct, through necessity, so searching for a reference to a particular ruined croft, for example, is by no means straightforward. However, rental lists of tenants (e.g. those stating the tenants of Glencruitten during the nineteenth century: GD. 112/16 3/2 4; GD. 112/16 3/4 21; GD. 112/16 8/1 2) as well as documents relating to the transference of land ownership (i.e. sasines and charters in the Registrum Magni Sigilli Regnum Scotorum between 1306-1668 and the Origins Parochiales Scotiae) and letters describing the mid-nineteenth century Improvements proved to be particularly interesting and were largely deemed from the Breadalbane collection of family papers. The other relevant collection of family papers is those of Dunollie relating to the clan McDougall; many of which remain uncatalogued. Permission for viewing the Dunollie papers has been temporarily withdrawn (Hadfield, 1992, pers.comm.) due to legal matters following the death of the clan chief although there are two published volumes relating to the papers from the present head of the clan and her sister. The first volume (MacDougall, 1979) is essentially a study of the social history of an island community. It uses the documents in the collection to describe the history, farming regime and everyday life of past Kerrera inhabitants. The second publication (MacDougall, 1984) takes a historical stance to describe the lives of four past clan chiefs through their personal correspondence (1715-1865).

Additional historical details of land transference were principally deemed from the Origins Parochiales Scotiae (1854) and the Registrum Magni Sigilli Regnum Scotorum (1822-1914) however there is a distinct lack of estate maps.
Furthermore, pre-1870 maps (vide Moir, 1971) are restricted to small-scales revealing little detailed information (e.g. Moll, ca. 1755; Cowley, 1734; Langland, 1801) and are available for viewing at the National Map Library and the National Archives in Edinburgh. First, and foremost, is William Roy's Military Survey (1747-54) [FIGURE LX] which was conceived by David Watson (Iredale, 1985: 81) and commissioned to assist in the pacification of the Highlands following Culloden (O'Donoghue, 1977). It depicts macro-topography, watercourses, roads and fermtouns at a scale of 1¾ inches to the mile. However, it is essentially valley transects although the depiction of the physical terrain appears to be reasonably precise. The problem arises when extracting settlement information from the map because the fermtoun names are frequently missing or inaccurately transcribed. The locations of the thirty-six settlements are reasonably accurate (esp. upon the less elaborate, protracted copy) but detail is not always correct and areal distortion is common (Whittington & Gibson, 1986). Furthermore, the depiction of agricultural land (i.e. the distribution and incidence of ridge and furrow) is patchy and generally restricted to the lower ground. Nevertheless, despite these shortfalls the map proved an invaluable supplement to field notes of deserted settlements for the purposes of size, date and name. Timothy Pont's map (mid-sixteenth century but published during the seventeenth century) [FIGURE LIX] depicts inhabited settlements, fortified sites (e.g. Dunollie castle and Dunstaffnage) and physical features (watercourses, lochs and elevated terrain). Being approximately two centuries older than Roy's Survey, Pont's map reflects the survival, and end, of settlements before the seventeenth century. The settlement locations are depicted by attractive building icons but are incorrectly positioned (e.g. Ardentallan is placed to the east of Lerags instead of to the west). Loch Nell is also wrongly positioned too far to the west and north which causes an overall distortion to the map. After 1870 the six inch to the mile
Ordnance Survey maps were available, for detailed comparison of map series, and further enlarged to one inch to the mile by 1938.

Observations, rather than detailed reports, were published for the discoveries and excavations of the Oban caves during the nineteenth century by Anderson (1894-5; 1897-8), Turner (1872; 1895) and MacDougall (1906-7). The fact that they were published enabled the ready dissemination of information to fellow workers thus producing a framework for the Scottish Mesolithic (i.e. for Movius, Lacaille, Clark, etc.). It was not until the 1970s, with the appearance of the RCAHMS (1975) inventory, that a thorough review of the archaeology in the Oban area was available. Before that there were general discussions such as Faichney (1902) and Shedden (1938) and the specific topic of forts, duns and crannogs was tackled by Smith (1870-8), Christison (1888-9, 1890-1) and Blundell (1913). They planned many of the monuments and therefore offer a guide to the condition of the sites before the onset of modern farming techniques.

The Royal Commission volume (RCAHMS, 1975) will always remain a foundation to all archaeological studies of Lorn. It was the second in a series of seven volumes designed to catalogue the archaeological monuments of the county of Argyll and, like its accompanying volumes, provides an exhaustive inventory of the monuments. The research behind the RCAHMS report would have started with documentary analysis and a catalogue of known sites detailed in the works described above. Aerial photos would then have been analysed to locate sites of potential interest before a programme of fieldwork was initiated. During the field survey, previously reported sites were re-assessed and recorded in detail; often including site planning. Landowners were interviewed to discover unreported finds and documents. Sites threatened by destruction or those
requiring additional research were excavated (e.g. Strontoiller kerb cairn) on restricted budgets (J. Ritchie, pers.comm.). On the basis of the funds, time and staff available the work was highly commendable; it achieved its aim of recording the archaeology of the Oban region. However, archaeological theory and practice has advanced since 1975. The focus of research interest has moved and we are no longer content with an inventory of sites providing location, morphology and date; more explanation is required (e.g. Coleman, 1986). The field survey was detailed and executed to a high standard but the focus of field survey has now shifted. In the early 1970s the Commission was essentially conducting a 'dun-hunting' exercise, with this uppermost in their mind they concentrated their limited resources to a programme of fieldwork that would maximise dun recovery. Field survey was directed to areas between known dun sites or in areas of high potential. Whole zones were therefore left uninvestigated and an array of sites were left unrecorded. Furthermore, more recent sites, such as deserted pre-Improvement fermtouns were regarded as too recent to necessitate the use of resources and were ignored, or not seen/recognised, even if within a few metres of a dun or other major monument/findspot (e.g. the proximity of Lower Ardoran township (site ADR.3) and Dūnan Molach (site OBN.98), Gallanach Beg dun (site GLS.21) and the beaker cist (site OBN.55)); later surveys have endeavoured to bridge this gap (e.g. RCAHMS, 1990). Quite clearly, as archaeological field survey improves, more and more archaeologically significant features will be recognised in the landscape so no archaeological inventory, no matter how thorough, will ever be complete and the focus of attention will be ever changing. One additional criticism that is frequently voiced against the Lorn volume is its absence of any in-depth analysis of the findings. It provides a brief description of the archaeological periods as an introduction to the inventory but little more.
However, the aim was to produce an inventory of the archaeological sites and not to re-write Scottish archaeology.

The most up-to-date inventory of sites is stored in the NSMRS and is available for public viewing at computer terminals in Edinburgh. The backbone of the database is the RCAHMS (1975) inventory and, indeed, the building is now shared with the RCAHMS which enables the easy flow of information and resources between both parties. Information within the database is accessed by parish name (i.e. Kilmore and Kilbride for the Oban study area) and provides relatively detailed entries; extra details, such as site plans and photographs, can be viewed by request. In addition to the RCAHMS inventory all new monuments are incorporated, as reported, before being checked by the Commission staff, or other experienced archaeologists. This has led to an over-representation of sites with some being reported twice, but at different grid references, or the mis-identification of natural features as archaeological monuments. Once the new sites have been 'checked' the surveyor's comments are attached to the original report. However, the original report is left on the database, even if it proves to have been incorrect, in order to try to prevent a duplication by a future worker.

In addition to the academic references there are a number of booklets (Hunter, 1984; Hunter, 1992) and pamphlets (MacDonald, 1984) offering a summary of the archaeology and are intended for local, and tourist, consumption. However, these, together with the newsletters (LAHS, 1979-93) and meetings of the Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society have provided enthusiasm to amateur archaeologists to discover and record archaeologically significant features within the district and have, in doing so, helped to expand the NSMRS. Talking with them, and recording the personal recollections of Oban residents, has not only
been interesting but has provided a wealth of information concerning recent changes to the area as well as some local folklore.

3.2. Fieldwork and data analysis.

Desk-top based surveys can be a valuable source of information retrieval through map series, documents, aerial photographs (Faull & Moorhouse, 1981; Wilson, 1987) and place names (Faull, 1979; Hooke, 1983; Johnston, 1970). The prevalence of Gaelic place names is a distinct advantage to the archaeologist researching Western Scotland but no matter the region of study the mere presence of a place name indicates a scale of `human-landscape relationship' (Tilley, 1994: 18); man's awareness of, and desire to label/control, a feature or tract of the landscape whether for territorial, economic or for a variety of other reasons. When fieldwork is involved then techniques are landscape-specific; fieldwalking for artifacts is only suitable for ploughed fields (P.J.Fasham in Ferdière & Zadora-Rio, 1986: 5-7; Shennan, 1981; Zvelebil et al., 1992). This research has provided the opportunity to compare and appraise the ability of archaeological fieldwork to interpret landscape change through time. Although specific to the landscape of Argyllshire the findings have ramifications further afield.

A plethora of techniques is available to the landscape archaeologist in the 1990s. Palynology and geochemistry have been extensively utilised during the course of the recent Oban research in order to reconstruct the vegetative cover. At Gallanach Beg (NM839277, 45m OD), Lochan a'Bhuilg Bhith (NM872276, 70m OD) and Lochan Cnoc Philip (NM942243, 290m OD), cores were extracted from unconsolidated sediments using a 5cm Russian auger and duplicates were
taken to provide sufficient material for analysis and radiometric dating; the cores were assigned the codes GS-20, GS-21, BB-5, BB-6, BB-7, PH-1, and PH-2, respectively. Within the lower tracts of Gleann Sheileach, principally Lón Mór, gouge samples were used to construct transects and to locate buried timbers (i.e. trackways or crannogs) and midden deposits; a power corer enabled deeper sequences to be sampled as well as those sediments partially consolidated. The cores were then logged using the Troels-Smith scheme and sub-sampled at 8cm or 16cm, for geochemical (using atomic absorption spectrophotometry after digestion by nitric acid) and organic content analysis (percentage weight loss after ignition at 450°C for 24 hours), and 30cm intervals, for palynology with sums of 500 total or 250 arboreal being counted for most levels.

Additional potential areas were probed to test their suitability for coring (Davies, 1993). The Loch Feochan - Loch Nell corridor was a focus of prehistoric and historic human activity so palaeoenvironmental data was particularly sought but preliminary explorations established that many of the peat-filled basins had been subject to contamination, peat-cutting (e.g. the northern shore of Loch Nell beside Ballygowan) or beneath a considerable depth of water (e.g. the southern end of Loch Nell) although more thorough investigations will be conducted in the near future. The search extended outside the archaeological study area [FIGURE I] into Glen Feochan (NM885247-917243) and Glen Lonan (NM910289-946275-976285) but no suitable sites were located.

Supplementary sedimentary data was available from borings extracted during the assessment of the deposits prior to industrial development (Thorburn Group Two Limited, 1991). Floral studies in the prehistoric context are limited due to the lack of surviving material although some flora was recovered from Raschoille Cave (site OBN 4), some charcoal from Ardentallan kerb cairn (site ATL.2) and
hazelnut shells from Lón Mór (site GLS.1). As a result, past studies have concentrated upon the faunal macrofossils; human skeletal material from the ossuaries (sites OBN.4, 13-5) and animal bones, as well as land and marine molluscs, from the middens (sites OBN.1-3, 11).

Once the changes have been established a chronology is necessary upon which the changes can be ordered through time. In addition to comparative studies supplying a relative chronology through pollen zones, typology, etc., there are radiometrics including radiocarbon (vide Renfrew, 1983), thermoluminescence (vide Fleming, 1979) and obsidian hydration (e.g. Jones & Beck in Rossignol & Wandsnider, 1992). Particularly pertinent to the Oban area has been the research conducted by Gray (1974) into sea-level changes in which the maximum Postglacial marine transgression has been used as a dated horizon (seventh millennium BP) upon sites where it was observed (e.g. as a gravel lens within MacArthur Cave (site OBN.1)) and its extent is directly related to the survival of early Holocene sites; those below the transgression were simply washed away.

Test-pitting in many instances is the only way to discover buried Mesolithic land surfaces. They can be used for site prospection, to discover the horizontal extent of a flint scatter or to provide a section through the cultural material (Coles, 1979: 138-40). However, although they represent a relatively cheap procedure (contra Dewar & McBride, 1992: 228), in the process of digging the pits some cultural information will be destroyed; stratigraphy is hard to maintain within a confined space and features such as post-holes will probably be missed.

Test-pitting is frequently used for site delimitation in combination with soil phosphate analysis on a 10m or 5m grid allowing the construction of density
contours; Morton site B midden (Coles, 1971), Williamson's Moss (C. Bonsall, D. Sutherland, R. Tipping & J. Cherry in Bonsall, 1989), Gleann Mór and Bolsay Farm (Mithen & Finlayson, 1990), Vidigal (Straus et al., 1990) and the Vale of Pickering (Schadla-Hall & Cloutman, 1985); providing '...a useful basis for the planning of a subsequent examination (Bang-Andersen, 1987)'. They are also used to verify the stratigraphy in combination with core-sample soundings, as at Seamer Carr site K (Schadla-Hall, 1989), but are rarely for site prospection and especially not on a large-scale in Britain. Bang-Andersen (1987) sampled 400 square kilometres of SW Norway in search of lithics and charcoal with 6320 test-pits and 0.4% were artifact-positive. The pits were not objectively planted so areas already known to have been favourable for Mesolithic settlement were specifically targeted (e.g. beside reindeer migration routes). Furthermore, the samples were not screened to maximise artifact recovery. Similarly, Dewar and McBride (1992) prospected sites using pits at 20m intervals along linear landscape tracts. A smaller-scale project was conducted at Seamer Carr site C (Schadla-Hall, 1989) attempting to locate flint scatters within the vicinity and thereby gauging the intensity of activity within the area.

The test-pits are generally spade dug down until sterile sub-soil is encountered. The depth of the pit essentially dictates the cross-sectional area although 0.5mx0.5m is preferred; the smaller the area the more time-efficient the exercise and the less destructive to the site. However, despite Dewar and McBride (ibid.: 244) being able to reach a depth of 1m with 0.4m² pits, and having employed soil augers where deposits necessitated, they still suspect that the pits were still insufficiently deep to sample all the cultural material. Certainly, in waterlogged deposits, such as peat, the pits need to be larger to accommodate a sump for pumping; 2mx2m in the Vale of Pickering (Schadla-Hall & Coulton, 1985). In order to provide a degree of stratigraphic control, the pits are sometimes dug in
5cm or 10cm spits and examined separately [FIGURE IV]. Screening can effectively double the artifact-recovery rate of conventional `trowel-sorting' from the test-pit sample. Dry sieving can be used when the sample is loose and sandy but high pressure wet sieving in a box sieve (3mm mesh for microlith capture) is more applicable to British soils and climatic conditions.

A less sophisticated form of test-pitting is `shovel-testing' in which only a small amount of soil is sampled but is especially useful in woodland where roots are too numerous to enable pit digging (P.Hayes in Ferdière & Zadora-Rio, 1986: 135).

Geophysic applications, through magnetometer/bleeper and resistivity surveys (vide Scollar et al., 1992; Spoerry, 1992), were not deployed because they are more beneficial in site delimitation circumstances and for relatively small areas, rather than site prospection, and due to the expense and difficulty in interpretation of the results (R.Bartlett, pers.comm., 1985). The limitations of time and ethical issues also prevented the use of metal detectors during site prospection although local amateurs were contacted (e.g. N.Black, pers.comm.) in order to catalogue any significant finds; in most instances bona fide metal detectorists (e.g. users affiliated to the NCMD or the FID) will be only too happy to assist archaeologists.

Post-depositional factors constrain site preservation and recovery as well as prevailing survey conditions; weather, time allocated, ability of individual fieldworkers. Such variables dictate the technique employed. In most instances field survey can be the most productive and is non-destructive and repeatable. Excavation is expensive but essential for additional information recovery, especially when the site is threatened. The climate of mid-Lorn presents specific
problems to field survey. Oban is relatively mild so that frosts and snow are short-lived but there is a markedly high precipitation. The Spring months are usually reasonably dry but then the bracken is too dense for extant site prospection; the lack of severe winters, below -4°C, has aided the spread of bracken (D. McVean, pers. comm.) together with land misuse. The rain and gale-force winds are not only a sump on morale but make pencilled notes impossible; handheld cassette recorders (micro dictating machine), waterproofed within a plastic bag, provide a solution.

A multitude of approaches have been adopted in field survey varying in terms of time, labour and cost. Initially the RCAHMS was primarily concerned with pre-1714 archaeology and then this remit was extended to include standing buildings. However, in order to enable interpretation of the landscape history of a zone, a survey needs to record all alterations to the landscape no matter how minor or recent in date. Somewhere in the region of 2-40 man-days per square kilometre is estimated (e.g. Cherry & Shennan in Cherry et al., 1978: 24; Fasham et al., 1980: 9) for such intensive survey data collection (excluding analysis) with line-spacing varying between 3-30m. Such variables mean that sampling is a necessity when covering a large area despite Gaffney and Tingle's (in Macready & Thompson, 1985: 72) contention that "...archaeologists who are working at a micro-regional level cannot expect to model entire settlement systems...". Indeed, archaeology, itself, "...can be viewed as a discipline involved in sampling space in order to understand human behaviour..." (Green, 1990: 3).

Some workers (e.g. Redman, 1973) conduct multistage surveys in which an initially large area is covered and then zones/sites of interest/problems are identified and examined in greater detail. However, the constraints mean that such extensive surveys rarely produce detailed or reliable information. Others
advocate probabilistic sampling (e.g. Cherry et al., 1978: 18; Gaffney & Tingle in Macready & Thompson, 1985: 67) whereby a small area is intensively surveyed and the results extrapolated to the region as a whole but thereby, frequently, oversimplifying the situation, '...an impressionistic sketch'. This method has now been improved by purposive (non-probabilistic) selection of landscape tracts (river valleys, hillslopes, ...) for intensive survey (vide Brown, 1987: 25).

Nevertheless, Cameron (in Ferdière & Zadora-Rio, 1986: 131) recognises that '...ancient habitation sites were not chosen objectively or at random...', so subjective prospection would be more effective than random sampling in maximising site retrieval. Landscape studies have been conducted at both the regional (e.g. Steane, 1974; Knox, 1985; Spratt & Harrison, 1989; Twohig & Ronayne, 1993) and parish (e.g. Thorpe, 1965; Croft & Mynard, 1993; Darvill & Gerrard, 1994) scale although individual, and unified, regions are preferable to the parish and county divisions which reflect the modern political landscape (Hoskins in Steane, 1974: 21) rather than geomorphologically significant boundaries that would have restricted past human activity (i.e. coastlines, rivers, watersheds,...). The regional level can also have the advantage of unifying a series of isolated, and intensively studied areas, without suffering the degree of impaired resolution that accompanies national-scale surveys (Coones, 1985: 9).

Some select study areas on the basis of abundance of known archaeological sites, others for environmental diversity (e.g. Woodman, 1983) or specific time horizons (e.g. Aston & Lewis, 1994).

The inevitable weakness of all sampling strategies is the effect of distortion upon the total archaeology of a region so the construction of regional distribution maps should be avoided and in-depth spatial analysis is rarely applicable in archaeological situations; in the instances when it is germane the results can be extremely rewarding (vide Kroll & Douglas Price, 1991). Distribution maps,
Tilley's (1993: 56) "...dots in an abstracted containing space...", can provide a false impression of negative occupation due to absence of survey or uneven intensity of research throughout the region and without chronological precision can be meaningless. Therefore other, more prosaic, forms of data presentation are now preferred which allow broader, chronologically non-specific, labels (e.g. RCHME et al., 1992) to be applied to prospected sites before excavation. As a result, reports can be tedious with long lists of surveyed sites heading short descriptions of aspect and dimensions often lacking function and date. Without alternative techniques (excavation, geophysical surveys, documentary research, ...) survey can rarely provide a detailed landscape history but can pinpoint sensitive zones and provide a guide to scheduling policy in order to protect the archaeological resource or to enable excavation prior to destruction.

GIS is a relatively new technique that is gradually becoming adopted by landscape archaeologists (e.g. Kardulias, 1994). Its limited impact, as yet, is not a reflection of its usefulness but more due to the expense of the hardware, software and output devices. It is basically a spatial system whereby a series of maps may be overlaid upon archaeologically significant variables, combining a relational database with a mapping version, allowing the researcher to observe space, time and form simultaneously. It also offers a storage and display facility but differs from CAD, CAM and DBMS applications by actually generating new, geographically referenced, information and is more than just a simple predictive or correlative modeller (Savage, 1990). GIS, when appropriately used, can be very rewarding as in the example of the recreation of the Burgundy landscape for the analysis of hillforts vis-à-vis visibility from the historic road system (Madry & Crumley in Allen et al., 1990a) or for an entire region (Gaffney & Stancic, 1991). However, the three-dimensional multi-colour maps that GIS can produce could be equally used in non-research contexts, as pictures (e.g. in grant proposal
reports), where less sophisticated systems would suffice (Allen et al., 1990b). Equally so is the fact GIS will present a picture of past landscapes which would be unrecognisable to the contemporary inhabitants (Thomas 1993: 25). However, GIS has undoubted potential; CRM have been particularly receptive to the system in the realm of developing policy and planning to identify archaeologically sensitive areas but nevertheless the results from such predictive locational modelling always requires field survey verification (Savage, 1990: 28). It also requires the existence of specific/discrete 'sites'/activity areas as the empirical units of analysis (Green in Allen et al., 1990a: 5) especially in the vector based system (vide Savage, 1990). Furthermore, assumptions (e.g. uniformitarianism of known site locality with predicted site locality) are implicit in the modelling thereby, conceivably, causing an oversimplification, or reductionist view, of reality; there is the allied problem in archaeology of over-stressing 'chance' finds as type-sites (Woodman, 1983). Indeed, distribution maps have long been recognised as an effective tool for studying the relationships between archaeologically significant variables (vide Clarke, 1977) with examples as early as Crawford's (1912) spatial consideration of Bronze Age settlements whilst integration between GIS and spatial analysis is now being more comprehensively achieved (Fotheringham & Rogerson, 1994).
4. THE FIELD SURVEY RESULTS.

The study area [FIGURE I] comprised approximately 150km², almost all of which was upland pasture. A sampling strategy had to be in place otherwise the research would have been financially curtailed before completion. Already a large body of archaeological sites and finds were recorded from the entire area (see appendix 10.1) and, as part of the funding remit, a zone directly abutting Oban had to be prospected for sites prior to development. The strategy chosen was therefore a combination of a multistage survey and purposive sampling whereby study sub-zones, incorporating an array of landscape tracts, were identified and intensively surveyed and then extrapolated, and compared, to the region as a whole.

Eight sub-zones within the region were selected in order to provide the diversity and range of terrain units both near to, and distant from, the urban centre of Oban. The first sub-zone, Gleann Sheileach, is at the heart of the town expansion scheme and therefore survey was conducted out of necessity rather than being primarily research dictated, although research opportunities were fully explored and objectives attained. Killiechòinich, Balnagowan and Ardoran were equally intensively surveyed and chosen on the basis of their potential for site prospecting with minimal post-nineteenth century agricultural disturbance yet high carrying capacity from loch resources as well as catchment sites suitable for palaeoenvironmental coring. Lerags and Ardentallan had been the subject of local amateur study and so survey was conducted to record pre-observed sites and prospect the intervening landscape. Moleigh and Torinturk both contained deserted townships so were chosen in order to establish the intensity and effect
of a pre-Improvement farming regime upon the surrounding landscape whereas the island environment offered by Kerrera to provided a comparative analysis with the mainland.

The results of the site prospecting survey are presented below in an objective, inventory-style format similar to that adopted by RCAHMS (vide RCAHMS, 1975) and despite Mercer's (1982) reservations about the 'typological' approach which '...ignores the essential diachronic and contextual complexity of the site/monument...', an 'attributive' system is considered to be theoretically welcomed but practically unworkable.

Field survey frequently fails to date and identify the function of located sites; usually extant remains are just the final phase of what was once there. However, in order to provide some order to the inventory, identity titles have been provisionally applied to the sites although their true function and date will only, in most cases, be determined by future research such as excavation. Sites assigned `(possible)' are identified with less certainty.
4.1. ARDENTALLAN (ATL).

TOPOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION.

Ardentallan ('height of the sea-inlet') occupies the sheltered NW flank of Loch Feochan and consists of a tree-lined hillslope-cum-cliff abutting a narrow coastal strip now partitioned between individual households. The uppermost zone, reaching 80m OD, is undulating hill pasture [PLATE V] with occasional pockets of bracken and reed-rich waterlogged hollows marking the site of collapsed volcanic vents. The underlying geology is composed of NW-SE trending Tertiary dykes with a red calcareous tuff and outcrops of black Dalradian limestone and slate together with a shelly marl at the loch edge.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES.

The first reference to Ardentallan is dated to 1619 (Hunter, 1993) and concerns the granting of a life rent of 'four merkland of Ardentallan' from Allan MacDougall of Soroba to Colin Campbell of Lochnell (site OBN.118) and by the nineteenth century it was in the possession of the MacDougalls of Gallanach. The land is now held by a trust.

METHODOLOGY.

All the sites reported from Ardentallan were located by a local ecologist, Dr Donald McVean. Many of the sites came to light during his relentless efforts at bracken clearance. Descriptive records of the significant sites were therefore made together with interpretations. Limited fieldwalking was undertaken.
INVENTORY OF SITES.

CAVES AND ROCKSHELTERS.

ATL.1. ROCKSHELTER. NM82282348. With midden deposit. Faces W and is ca.15m from the front of the terrace at the base of a crag ca.5m high. The rock overhangs a D-shaped deposit, 5.0m(N-S)x3.5m, which is fronted by a small stone wall (0.5m high and 0.5m wide with moss-covered, medium to large stones) providing a modern shelter. The midden is dark brown and contains modern glass bottles as well as rabbit and sheep dung. Slightly scooped partly due to modern disturbance. Extends at least a further 2m beneath the crag. The maximum height of the overhang is 1.5m. Several (?modern sheep) bones and many sea-shells (but not abundant) with mainly periwinkles as well as limpets. Small angular stones are common within the deposit.

CAIRNS.

ATL.2. CAIRN. NM829234. The kerb cairn lies in grazing pasture upon the lower plateau of a small escarpment overlooking Loch Feochan. Initially, all that was visible of the structure was a rectangular setting of large stones projecting through the turf line. Wishing to identify the nature of the structure, the finder proceeded to excavate the site but did not record the archaeology. The turf was stripped from the area enclosed by the stones and then the underlying horizon, consisting of a large quantity of stones of varying size, lying in a forest brown earth, was removed. It soon became apparent that stones sat outwith the rectangular setting and formed an oval feature. In the centre was a series of four stone slabs supported, horizontally, by an arc of smaller stones along the lip of a
shallow depression. Furthermore, a spread of charcoal extended over the interior of the oval setting although only the western quadrant was excavated to this level; the charcoal penetrated to a depth of 30cm in a narrow test-pit dug through the upper zone of the glacial till. A narrow slit trench was also dug to determine whether any stone packing lay beyond the confines of the kerb but only limited tumble was observed. Samples of charcoal and burnt bone were retained from the cremation for analysis and produced a radiocarbon date of (forthcoming). [FIGURE IX; PLATES VI, VII & VIII; DES 1992: 60-1].

DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

ATL.3. TOWNSHIP. NM83122362. Ardentallan was recorded during Roy's Military Survey (ca.1750) and depicted as five structures denoting a small settlement; it also appears on the earlier Pont map (mid-sixteenth century). The main terrace is surrounded by an amphitheatre-type topography. The terrace seems to have been partially revetted at the front and an E-W stone wall, 1.5m wide and 0.4m high, closes a short part of the SW corner; the wall ends in a slight curve. The whole of the area is covered in clumps of dense bracken and much stone tumble. [FIGURE XI].

i. Building foundations. Rectangular structure, 6m(NE-SW)x4m, predominantly made of boulders and large stones. Transverse division, 1.2m from the S corner, with medium-large stones with hazel growing out of the top of the divider. Entrance position is unclear. Wall width of 0.9m and maximum height of 0.6m but most is 0.35. Possible small square cell, 3m(NW-SE)x2m, abutting the W corner of the structure. Moss-covered stonework. Right at the base of an amphitheatre-shaped slope-line, at the rear of a very sheltered terrace with a view S to Loch Feochan.
ii. Structure (possible). Square patch, 2.5m(NE-SW)x2m, of medium stone with hollowed centre. Moss- and grass-covered. Wall width of 0.80m and 0.15m high. On the terrace ca.10m to the E of site ATL.3i.

iii. Clearance cairn (possible). Platform, 3m(NW-SE)x1.5m, of medium to large stones. Moss- and grass-covered. On terrace ca.15m to the S of site ATL.3i.

iv. Building foundations. L-shaped structure with surviving long wall fronting the edge of a ledge to the SW, and slightly above, the main terrace. It has minimum dimensions of 6.5m(NNE-SSW)x4.5m, 0.9m wide and 0.4m high. Moss- and grass-covered, large to boulder-sized stone composition. A former track runs to the WNW beside the structure.

v. Building foundations. On a terrace two steps below, and to the S of, the main terrace is a rectangular structure, 9m(ENE-WSW)x6.5m, with its SSE wall fronting the edge of the terrace. The entrance gap could be one of many gaps. Large to medium stones with a few boulders. Moss- and grass-covered. Minimum wall width of 0.7m and maximum height of 0.7m. Probable boulder, U-shaped level annexe to WSW side extending WSW an extra 5.5m (but with no end wall) at ca.1.5m below the floor surface of the structure.

vi. Yard (possible). Possible yard, 8.5m(ENE-WSW)x8m, on a terrace below, and to the SW of, site ATL.3v. The main track is embanked with rubble in places and with boulders cleared to either side and is to the N. It is at the front of the terrace and edged by boulders together with clumps of moss-covered stone.
ATL.4. STRUCTURES. NM825237. Two stone-walled, rectangular buildings. The first is in a sheltered hollow between knolls. It measures 8m(NNW-SSE)x4m with a 1m wide entrance in the E side and 3.5m from the SE corner; it has a 2m wall spread. The second structure, 5m(NE-SW)x4m, is on a sheltered terrace ca.100m NE of the first building. The possible entrance is 1.5m from the SE corner and ca.0.7m wide.

ATL.5. STRUCTURES. NM82752285. Two rectangular buildings marked as roofless upon the 1st edition (1870) OS map and now sitting in a coniferous plantation and damaged by forestry drainage ploughing although treeless. In the vicinity of quarries with the road running alongside. The NE unit measures 8m(NNE-SSW)x6m externally with the original entrance being in the SE side, facing the loch. The second is 14m(NNE-SSW)x5m with a transverse subdivision 4m from the NE end with an entrance gap in the divider. A series of walls run alongside and were possibly yards.

ATL.6. STRUCTURE. NM82732358. Sub-rectangular, 7m(ENE-WSW)x4m, building with rounded corners with a single course of stone that is totally grassed-over. A 1.2m wide entrance occurs in the SSE side next to the NE corner. No more than 0.2m wall height in most places. In between knolls upon a gentle slope.

ATL.7. STRUCTURE (possible). NM81852418. Possible thin-walled, oval structure, ca.10m(N-S)x5m, in an area with rig and furrow in the vicinity of a stream. Observed upon an aerial photograph (sortie CPE/SCOT/247, print number 3070).
AGRICULTURAL FEATURES.

ATL.8. ROCK ACCUMULATION. NM83332382. Rock tumble downslope; store/collection prior to erection of a field wall or structure.

INDUSTRIAL FEATURES.

ATL.9. QUARRIES. NM83052335 & NM82052313. Sandstone and slate extracted and were in use during 1880 but eventually flooded. Once quarried the grey medium-grained sandstone, of Lower Old Red Sandstone age, was transported along the coast. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.349].

ATL.10. CHARCOAL-BURNING PLATFORMS. NM830234 (centre). A series of six, possibly eight (E. Rennie, 1994, pers. comm.), platforms were observed cut into a relatively steep wooded (oak, ash and hazel) slope bordering the outer basin of Loch Feochan. One site was trenched and produced substantial quantities of large charcoal fragments beneath the collapsed blinding so the firing was left ungathered.

i. A levelled, lunulate cut sited at ca.15m OD with flecks of charcoal in the surface soil cover. A stream is 100m to NE.

ii. A bracken-covered lunulate cut sited at ca.22m OD with abundant charcoal in the blackened surface soil cover.
iii. Levelled area, ca.20m OD, with a stone-revetted frontscarp overlooking a cliff edge and bordered by a stream. The soil cover is blackened with abundant charcoal.

iv. A levelled, lunulate cut, sited at ca.20m OD, containing small charcoal fragments. A large branch of mature oak extends across the site.

v. A level platform, ca.22m OD, with a frontscarp demarcated by boulders and an earth bank. Charcoal fragments are abundant.

vi. A level, oval platform, 7.5m (NNW-SSE)x6m, ca.40m S of site ATL.10v and sharing a similar construction but with fewer stones. Large stones revet the SSE scarp and medium stones (?displaced) fringe the 0.5m frontscarp; the backscarp is also ca.0.5m. Beneath the cover of bracken and grass the soil is black with abundant fragments of charcoal.

GAELIC PLACE NAMES.


Carraig nam Marbh. NM83132246. Headland of the dead.

Otter nam Ingilt (Oitir nan Ingilt). NM826226. Shoal of the pastures. (McVean, 1995).

Port a'Bhata. NM82342270. Port of the boat.

Port Nighean an Righ. NM81702376. Harbour of the king's daughter.
4.2. ARDORAN (ADR).

TOPOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION.

Ardoran [FIGURE XII], on the NW shore of Loch Feochan, has been subjected to extensive forestry. The coniferous plantation covers most of the middle, and upper, reaches of Carn Breagach; a broad igneous summit up to 150m OD. Deciduous woodland is preserved on the steep SE slope and the lowermost terrace remains free of trees.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

Ardoran was valued at eight merkland, four upper and four lower, (Origines Parochiales Scotiae, vol.3, parish of Kilbride, 1504) under MacDougall ownership during, and before, the seventeenth century; it is now owned by Captain Bell and Mr & Mrs Robertson. There are numerous references to the O’Conochir physicians during the seventeenth century who lived in Upper Ardoran as well as some folklore about a MacInnes of Ardoran (Hunter, pers.comm.) who is alleged to have buried some treasure on Creag Mhor (NM861232).

METHODOLOGY.

The area was systematically fieldwalked during January 1993 using a variant of the strategy proposed by Mercer (1980). The area was divided into smaller ‘blocks’ based on modern land boundaries and systematically surveyed on an enclosure by enclosure basis. Each enclosure was divided into strips approximately 40m wide, and each strip walked in zig-zag fashion by an
individual surveyor. Once an archaeological feature was identified, a brief written description was made and its location plotted on the relevant OS 1:2500 or 1:10000 sheet. In upland zones, where individual land 'blocks' could be up to six hectares in area, plotting was easier at the 1:10000 scale. The 'significant' sites were photographed and then planned at scales of between 1:500 and 1:50 with the aid of EDM equipment, plane tables and 30m tape measures. Additional information was derived from examination of 1:2500 vertical air photographs of the area. These were used for preliminary identification and assessment of potential archaeological sites which were subsequently checked on the ground. They proved particularly useful for plotting the extent of large-scale cultivation features, such as ridge and furrow.

The objective was to identify and record all surface features of potential archaeological interest within the study area. Any apparently man-made feature (e.g. building or land boundary) was regarded as part of the archaeological record. However, the study area was confined to that for which permission was granted and was considerably reduced in size by the dense coniferous plantation.

INVENTORY OF SITES.

CAVES AND ROCKSHELTERS.

ADR.1. ROCKSHELTER. NM84972370. Small rockshelter 2m long, 5m high and with a 1.6m overhang facing SW to Loch Feochan and Eilean an Ruisg. Its floor is fairly even but consists of compacted pieces of angular stone covered with bracken and with no evidence of occupation. Fallen stone obscures the NW end. It is approximately 20m OD.
DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

ADR.2. TOWNSHIP. Easter, or Upper, Ardoran is shown on Pont's map (mid-sixteenth century) and is represented on Roy's Military Survey (ca.1750) as four structures. All the structures are now ruinous. [FIGURE XIII].

i. Building foundations. NM85562504. Rectangular structure, 18.5m(ENE-WSW)x5.5m externally, with rounded corners. An entrance occurs in the long wall 7.5m from the N corner and is 0.8m wide. About 5m from the NNW wall is a possible transverse subdivision obscured by clearance dumping, or tumble, of small stones with minimal vegetative cover. The rest of the stone structure is covered by turf and moss with small to medium stones up to 0.7m high and 1.2m wide. The structure is depicted as a roofless building on the first edition (1870) OS map. Set 6m NE of the E corner is a 8m (NNW-SSE) stretch of a grass-covered stone bank with a maximum height of 1.3m and a width of 0.9m. Furthermore, 2m SE from the S corner is another stretch of stone bank going SE for 4m; it is 1.2m wide and 0.4m high. The two walls enclose a relatively flat area between the structure and a main field wall.

ii. Building foundations. NM85522504. Horse-shoe shaped remnant of a rectangular, stone-walled structure, 8m(ENE-WSW)minimumx5.5m; with rounded corners. The moss- and grass-covered stonework is up to 1.5m wide and 0.35m high. Sits on top of a knoll and occupies the entire width of the elevated terrace.

iii. Yard. NM85542504. About 1m to the WSW of site ADR.2i is a gently sloping yard, 7m(NNW-SSE)x6.5m, on a platform about 0.3m above the level of site ADR.2i. The W face of the scoop has a backscarp into the knoll, on which site
ADR.2ii stands, measuring 1.5m high. The front of the scoop is partially contained by a 1.75m stretch of wall measuring 0.7m wide and 0.5m high.

iv. Building foundations. NM85552510. Sub-rectangular structure, 9m(N-S)minimumx4m minimum, with rounded corners. There is a transverse subdivision, 3.5m from the SE corner, with a 0.9m gap where the divider would otherwise meet the W wall. A probable entrance gap, 1.5m wide, occurs 6.5m from the SW corner. The S side does not have right-angled corners whilst the NE side is very poorly preserved; elsewhere the wall height survives up to 0.6m of small to medium stones with a 1.1m spread. The vegetative cover consists of turf and some moss. The structure makes use of all the available space on a terrace between the track to the SW, a stream to the E and sloping ground to the NW.

v. Enclosure. NM85542512. A level, sub-rectangular terrace, 19m(NE-SW)x7m, enclosed on three sides by a stone wall but there is only a natural step on the NE side, down to the marshy zone which borders a stream. The NW side abuts an old track. The wall consists of small to medium stones with a spread of 0.7m and up to 0.4m high. There is a gap centrally placed in the SE wall ca.7.5m wide. The NE part of the gap is occupied by the N side of a small rectangular structure, 4.5m(NE-SW)x3m with walls 0.3m high and 0.5m wide; it probably has an offset entrance in the SE wall, 0.7m wide and 1m from the E corner. The enclosure appears on the first edition (1870) OS map.

vi. Building foundations. NM85532512. Stone-walled, rectangular structure, 11m(ENE-WSW)x5.5m, with a possible midway subdivision. No entrance visible. The grass-covered walls spread to a maximum of 1.2m and up to 0.35m high although mainly less than 0.2m. It abuts a track on the SSE side.
vii. Yard. NM85532513. Yard, 8m(NNW-SSE)x7m, on a level terrace directly to the NE of site ADR.2. A slight bank is visible on the NNW side measuring 0.1m high and 1.75m wide.

viii. Ruinous building. NM85512511. Structure, 11.5m(ENE-WSW)x6.5m with a maximum wall height of 0.7m and a width of 0.9m. All sizes of stone represented but boulders predominate in the surviving two courses. This is the best preserved example of the group and appears as a roofed building on the first edition (1870) OS map. The entrance, 1.3m wide, is just W of the centre. The internal E sector is totally covered by large tumble and the stonework is mainly moss-covered. An annexe continues 9m SW and contains a central, longitudinal drain-like channel and has a wide tumbled wall on the S side beside the track. The WSW end was once probably a narrow gap but is now partially blocked by tumble.

ix. Structure (possible). NM85552508. Short stretch of a low, grass-covered wall, 0.5m wide and 0.1m high, running N-S for 4m; 2m from the stream. It sits upon a terrace bordering a small cragline; there is certainly enough room for a structure of which the wall might be a remnant.

x. Enclosure and building stance (possible). NM85492511. A flat terrace, 13m(NNW-SSE)x12m, partially enclosed by a slight stone bank up to 0.2m high and with a 1m spread. It has a rounded profile. The SSE sector has a raised, yet natural, sub-rectangular platform embanked and revetted by stonework and suitable as a building stance, 8.5m(NNW-SSE)x5m, 0.7m above the terrace.
xi. Building foundations. NM85512512. Stone structure, 9m(ENE-WSW)x4.5m, with a midway, transverse subdivision. It runs parallel to, and 0.6m away from, site ADR.2viii. Most of the wall is less than 0.1m high although sections do survive up to 0.25m with small to medium, grass-covered stones and 0.6m wide but only a little of the wall circuit survives. The entrance gap is probably 1m from the W corner and 0.7m wide. There is a U-shaped annexe extending a further 9.5m to the WSW, although there is a 1m gap between the two units.

xii. Enclosures. NM85502508. A series of three conjoined rectangular enclosures on a stepped terrace between a track to the SE and a small cragline to the N. The stone walls are composed of small stones up to a maximum height of 0.4m and 0.4m wide. The SW unit, 20m(NNW-SSE)x8.5m, has a 2.2m wide entrance set 10m from the W corner. There is a natural transverse step, with a 0.5m drop, to the NNW of the entrance. Half of the NE side is shared with the central enclosure, 12m(NNW-SSE)x6m, which is slightly scooped at the SE end. This, in turn, shares part of its NE side with the NE unit, 9m(NE-SW)x6.5m. The cragline was used, rather than a stone wall, to make the NW side of this enclosure and it has a 2m wide entrance set in the long side, 3m from the E corner. The SW and central units appear on the first edition (1870) OS map.

ADR.3. TOWNSHIP. Wester, or Lower, Ardoran is also shown upon Pont's map (mid-sixteenth century) and appears as five structures on Roy's Survey (ca.1750). Little other than foundations remain today [FIGURE XIV] and some may lie beneath the recent buildings relating to the nearby marina.

i. Building foundations. NM84582427. Squarish stone structure, 7m(NE-SW)x5m with grass-covered walls, up to 0.35m high but generally less than 0.2m, and with some small stones visible. It is sited upon the N part of a relatively level
terrace. The position of the entrance is unclear. The walls are up to 1.5m wide due to tumble and another short stretch of walling runs parallel to, and 0.2m away from, the NW wall at the edge of the cragline.

ii. Building foundations. NM84582426. A rectangular structure, 8.5m(NW-SE)x5m, with rounded corners is sited with the SW side being 0.3m away from the back of the terrace, at the base of a rising slope. The walls are 1m high and 0.4m wide. The entrance was probably in the centre of the NE side where there is now a gap at least 0.3m wide.

iii. Building foundations. NM84612427. Sub-rectangular structure, 8m(ENE-WSW)x6.5m, with a lot of random rubble visible in the walls as well as loose tumble. The walls are up to 0.4m high and 0.8m wide. The entrance is 1.2m wide in the centre of the SSW side. It is situated on the E corner of the terrace and the SE side continues WSW upslope as a field wall, 0.5m high and 0.8m wide, which partly revets the slope.

iv. Mill (possible). NM84552430. Rectangular structure with minimum external dimensions of 12m(NE-SW)x5m and with the NW side abutting a rock-cut course of a stream. The SE side and S corner could not be found. Large stone is visible as piles of tumble or clearance and the rest of the internal space is covered by clumps of rough grass. The surviving walls stand up to 0.6m high and 2m wide due to the spread of tumble.

v. Kiln (possible). NM84572430. A circular feature, with a diameter of 5m, scooped into bedrock with a backscarp of 0.7m high. A pair of low stone walls lead off the circle, to the NW, creating the outline of a light bulb with a 0.5m gap
entering the circle. The overall length of the feature is 5m(NW-SE) whilst the width of the 'stem' is 3m. Possibly a former kiln.

ADR.4. STRUCTURE. NM85072482. Rectangular structure, 7.5m(NE-SW)x3.5m, with rounded corners and a slightly scooped centre. The walls consist of small to medium stones up to 0.3m high and 0.8m wide. It sits on the NE end of a large, gently sloping, yet exposed, terrace in an area of improved pasture. It is grass- and moss-covered with little stonework exposed and the entrance faces SE, 2m from the E corner, and is 0.6m wide. About 30m to the NW is a possible stretch of bank running 8m to the NW to the end of the terrace. It is 0.3m high, 0.7m wide and has a sub-rounded profile.

ADR.5. STRUCTURE. NM84742394. A ruined rectangular building, 9m(NNE-SSW)x4m, with a large quantity of moss- and bracken-covered wall tumble obscuring the foundations which are probably all that survives intact. The wall thickness is 0.7m and up to 1.3m high; there are large boulders visible at the base of the walls and the structure may have been erected on a very slightly elevated area. On the E side is a midway gap of 0.7m which probably marks the entrance. The structure is situated 8m from a relatively modern fenceline at the foot of a very steep S facing slope.

ADR.6. STRUCTURE. NM84792438. Probable sub-oval structure, 7.5m(NNE-SSW)x7m, situated on a slight terrace about 2m above a stream, which is ca.10m to the N, and is 7m N of an E-W field bank. It has a bank up to 0.15m high although most of the circuit is less than 0.1m; a few small stones are visible in the bank through the improved pasture. The bank has a rounded profile, of turf and small stones, and is 0.8m wide but the S edge is damaged by a line of rubble; possibly a plough furrow. The centre of the structure is scooped and
there is a slightly sunken area abutting the W side of the structure, occupying the remainder of the small terrace, and is a possible annexe or yard. The feature is too slight to determine the position of the entrance.

ADR.7. SHELTERS. NM84772384. There are three dumps of stone, two on local high spots, away from the better ground. There are several other turf-, moss- and bracken-covered outcrops in this area where further stone piles maybe obscured. Two of these collections of stone have evidence of a definite arrangement, or rearrangement, probably to provide shelter. The most SE is arranged around an old, mature hawthorn partly acting as a linear barrier, but also providing a cleared surface to the S. There is then a scattering of stone, less dense, in an irregular ring around the S side. The arrangement of stone here almost certainly post-dates the origin of the hawthorn. At the location of the hawthorn, the linear bank of stone is 1.4m wide and 0.6m high. The most SW dump of stones also seems to contain the vestiges of a shelter. Beneath a cover of leaves, bracken and additional loose stone dumped on top, there is a small cell in the middle with at least one stone set on edge but it is too poorly defined to speculate on its shape and size. Although the stone piles may have their origin in clearance, for cultivation, the shelters may have been intended for sheep during windy storms or in the lambing season.

ADR.8. SHELTERS (possible). NM85792429. Just below an enclosure on a steep slope there is a bracken-covered terrace, 80m(NE-SW)x60m, roughly semi-circular in shape. It has a noticeable absence of trees and stone as well as two rounded hollows (2.5-3m in diameter on the E side of the terrace) and one rectangular scoop (3mx5m in the centre of the terrace) in addition to a few lesser depressions (all 0.5m deep) which maybe the result of some activity, or simply tree holes. The thick bracken covering badly obscures the land surface. At a
distance of 8m from the enclosure wall there is a lynchet with stones of assorted sizes, including boulders, ranged along this line. At the W and E ends of this line there are the beginnings of lines of stone returning in a S direction. All this may represent clearance from the main body of the terrace.

AGRICULTURAL FEATURES.

ADR.9. SHEEPFOLD (possible). NM84592395. On the S side of an embanked track there is a large quantity of dumped stone with a recessed, rectangular area, 4.5m(NE-SW)x3.5m. Some stone might be forming a revetment at the foot of a scarp on the NW side and there is a bank of stone down the SW side but no SE side as such; the stone bank turns 90° at the corner to head SW. There maybe a second, smaller rectangular compound on the NW side. Both of these putative structures are poorly defined whilst the stone bank is thickly covered by turf and bracken. The lengths of the stone bank are 0.8m wide, with a 0.7m height, and 1m wide, with a height of 0.9m, respectively.

ADR.10. PLANTATIONS. NM857244 & NM853237. Two stone-walled enclosures encompassing most of the deciduous woodland and depicted upon the first edition (1870) OS map. The drystone walling is up to 1.3m in height although parts of the circuit are simply an exterior revetment of the enclosure. The aim was therefore to prevent access rather than stock retention; presumably as a plantation or to encourage woodland game.

INDUSTRIAL FEATURES.

ADR.11. CHARCOAL-BURNING PLATFORM (possible). NM85422392. There is a stone (0.25-0.35m) kerbing visible around most of the front edge of a flat
terrace, 8.5mx7.0m, in a SE facing slope. Behind the kerbing, probing suggests soft material but there is a thick accumulation of leaf mould, leaves and bracken whilst examination of the site is made even more difficult by the collapse across it of an oak tree. There is some stone around the S and E margins which may be revetting. The maximum height of the kerbing at the SE corner is 0.7m. On the S side, the kerbing can be traced for 4m although the flat area extends for another 3m. The ground slopes up steeply behind the site, but slopes down gently in front for 8m before dropping very steeply.

ADR.12. BOAT MOORING STRUCTURES. NM85342365. At the high tide mark, there are three collections of large stones grouped together, 0.6m high and 1.0m long; perhaps to secure the mooring of a small boat. The W example consists of five large stones in one line and nine stones forming another; there is a channel of 0.5m formed between the lines and the whole is oriented NNE-SSW at an angle to the water’s edge. Both lines of stone are 4m long with gaps between.

ADR.13. BOAT MOORING STRUCTURE. NM85892419. Teardrop-shaped structure, 5.5mx6m(maximum width), just above the high tide line. It has a maximum height of 0.4m so may have been a platform on which a boat was beached. The bulbous end of the structure is nearest to the water and is where the largest stones form a retaining kerb. Other large stones occur at the margins of the side and one detached at the top may have held a rope from the boat.

ADR.14. BOAT MOORING STRUCTURE. NM85842404. Crescentic collection, 8mx2m(maximum width), of large (0.2-0.5m) stones. The convex side faces the water and on the top side, within the bow of the crescent, is a flat patch of beach devoid of large stones. The height of stones above the shingle beach is 0.6m and are at, or above, the high tide mark.
ADR. 15. BOAT MOORING STRUCTURE. NM85782396. Protection offered by a ragged collection of stones, built around one large boulder, forming a 5m barrier. It is to the W of an iron bar projecting from a stone at the high tide mark.

ADR. 16. BOAT MOORING STRUCTURE. NM85782392. On the E side of a shingle spit, there are three large stones, an anchor weight and two pieces of wood projecting from the ground with an iron bar behind. There is also a low, sub-rectangular (6mx5.5m) mound of stones built into the land above the foreshore and is surrounded by small (0.15-0.25m) stones. It has a gently curved profile and rises to 0.7m in the centre.

ADR. 17. BOAT MOORING STRUCTURE. NM85782387. A rope is tied to an iron ring set into a concrete slab, with a larger slab overlapping the block to secure it. There is also a short, heavy iron bar; possibly an anchor.

ADR. 18. BOAT MOORING STRUCTURE. NM85432375. Crescentic structure, 8m long and 0.5m high, of stones built at the high tide mark. There are eight stones in situ with two more displaced.

ADR. 19. BOAT MOORING STRUCTURE. NM85302362. Roughly semi-circular setting of thirteen stones at the high tide mark.

ADR. 20. BOAT MOORING STRUCTURE. NM85172355. Gentle curve of about twenty boulders forming a crescentic feature, 1.8m wide, at the high tide line.

ADR. 21. BOAT MOORING STRUCTURE. NM85012359. Collection of about 30 boulders (0.5-0.8m) grouped rather amorphously with a few others in the vicinity.
ADR.22. SEA-SHORE TRAP (possible). NM84852362. Structure in the shape of a reversed 'E', oriented NNE-SSW, with a swelling, 3m wide, of the vertical limb representing the middle stroke. The top limb, 3.7m long, is at the high tide mark and the vertical limb, 22m long, runs down to the waterside whilst the lower limb, 8.5m long, lies between the low and high tides. The stone structure becomes more substantial in height, from 0.15m to 1.0m, and number of stones, towards the waterside. The lower limb has an upward curl forming a sort of hook, 3.5m long, where a considerable amount of seaweed is trapped so the function of the structure might be for gathering sizeable quantities of seaweed or even shellfish.

ADR.23. SEA-SHORE TRAP. NM84882363. D-shaped enclosure, 30mx10m, with the straight side formed by higher ground above the shoreline. The line of water worn stones is 3m wide and 0.8m high. There are two gaps in the D, one near the top of the shoreline, which may have been caused by a subsequent flow of water off the land, and one in the middle of the loop of the D which appears to be a deliberate feature of construction. Adjacent to the second gap is a second element of construction; a sinuous flattened S-shaped bank, 30m(WNW-ESE) of variable width and 0.8m high, of stones angled across the stone leading down to the waterline. There appears to have been no attempt at sophisticated construction; the shapes are simply formed by tossing the stones together although large stones may have been deliberately placed at the edges.

ADR.24. FISHING NET DEVICE. NM85782388. Along the top of a spit, in an approximate line and fairly evenly spaced, are three protecting metal bars and three short pillar-shaped stones set into the shingle. The maximum height of these projections is 0.5m.
ADR.25. FISHING HUT (possible). NM85722393. Ruinous timber-framed bothy with a felt roof covering, a chimney and timber wall panels on a concrete floor base. It is protected from the W wind by being built-up against an outcropping ridge. Behind the hut, to the N is a small shed (toilet) together with a small yard, 8m(N-S)x5m. The stream to the W of the hut may have been re-channelled for the occupant's purposes. Depicted upon the first edition (1870) OS map.

GAELIC PLACE NAMES.

Loch Feochan (Loch Fechin). NM86202400. Loch of the gentle breezes.
4.3. GLEANN SHEILEACH (GLS).

TOPOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION.

The glen [FIGURE XV; PLATE IX] is cut into Dalradian slates and Devonian sedimentaries (sandstones and conglomerates) with Devonian igneous intrusions forming the sides. The floor is undulating and consists of Late Devensian and Holocene water-deposited sediment with a number of peat-filled, glacially-eroded basins which are poorly drained; the glen was liable to flooding so the crofts lay ‘...in clusters on the sides of the sloping hills, or in sequestered nooks (Grant, 1807: 33)’.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

Valued at eight merkland (Origines Parochiales Scotiae, vol.3, parish of Kilbride, 1451; Campbell, 1934: sasine no.353, 1630; ibid.: sasine no.472, 1633; ibid.: sasine no.569, 1636), Gleann Sheileach formerly opened directly into Oban Bay prior to the draining of Loch a’Mhuillin and the construction of a railway embankment in ca.1880. The registration of a disposition in 1638 witnessed at ‘Obane in Glenshellach’ (Shedden, 1938: 263) may relate to the original Oban clachan, those associated with Oban mill and/or Glenshellach township (site GLS.25) as where the ‘fiar of Glenshellach’, who attended the 1638 Inverary meeting of the Synod of Argyll (McTavish, 1943), may have lived. Glenshellach was granted to the MacDougalls of Dunollie in 1451 by the Stewart Lord of Lorn and forfeited, with the exception of Oban mill, in 1715. It was then acquired by the Duke of Argyll, Archibald Campbell, before 1760 and soon passed to Robert
Macfie of Airds. More recently the glen has undergone a number of divisions and changes of ownership.

**METHODOLOGY.**

The area covered by the field survey (ca. 3 square kilometres) is shown in FIGURE XVI. The limits of the area were determined by a combination of modern land boundaries and natural features. The work was conducted between the 26th October and the 8th November 1991 by a team of three experienced fieldworkers (Bonsall & Robinson, 1992) using the strategy described above (see Ardoran, methodology). Several factors inhibited the survey work; weather conditions were generally poor, and in some areas pockets of bracken, heather and felled trees made observation difficult.

In December 1991, 33 test pits were laid along a corridor from Lón Mór to the middle reaches of the Gleann Sheileach [FIGURE III]. Two flint scatters were located [TABLES 2 & 3] and a further 15 pits were dug to delineate the individual scatters [FIGURE XVII] before excavation proceeded in the spring of 1992 (see site GLS.1). An additional 100 test pits were dug, down to bedrock (or the weathered horizon immediately on top) during the spring of 1993. They were trowelled in 5cm units and 20% was sampled for wet-sieving through a 3mm mesh. Flint-positive pits were sieved in their entirety and pits grided round on the ordinal points, as at Glastonbury in Connecticut (Dewar & McBride, 1992: 238), with 5m-spacing. With this procedure, the casual losses/background count (S.Mithen, pers.comm., 1989; Zvelebil et al., 1992), as opposed to scatters, could be recognised. Previously untested gaps within the development zone were examined subjectively selecting the most favourable areas for occupation; locations offering shelter and proximity to a water source.
INVENTORY OF SITES. [FIGURE XXVIII].

MIDDENS.

GLS.1. MESOLITHIC MIDDEN AND STRUCTURE (possible). NM85362839. Series of burnt lenses with a narrow blade microlithic industry together with scrapers, bipolar and platform cores, and flint and quartz débitage, bone splinters and hazelnut shell fragments. At the foot of a cragline, a short distance upslope from the midden deposit, was an area of stone paving, ca.2m across, and a stone-lined hearth. Excavated. [Bonsall et al., 1993; FIGURE XVII].

CAIRNS.

GLS.2. CAIRN. NM84452730. Oval eminence, 13.0m in diameter and 1.5m high.

GLS.3. CAIRN. NM83952764. Grass-covered with an 8.0m diameter and tail extending over 13.0m on its SE flank. The maximum elevation is 0.6m. Large stones are visible in places.

GLS.4. CAIRN. NM83962763. A linear mound of stone extending 12.0mx5.0m to a height of 0.7m.

GLS.5. CAIRN. NM84012765. Linear mound that has suffered some disturbance and presently measures 14.0mx4.0m with a height of 0.7m.
GLS.6. CAIRN. NM84412712. Sitting on the crest of a ridge this heather-covered cairn has two loose boulders visible on its western flank. Its dimensions are 9.0mx4.0m to a height of 0.5m.

GLS.7. CAIRN. NM84552756. Circular eminence on a knoll. Some stone visible. Its dimensions are 2.0m in diameter and 3.0m high.

GLS.8. CAIRN. NM85172774. Circular cairn; 6.0m in diameter and 1.5m high; upon a knoll sitting on the crest of a ridge under rough pasture.

GLS.9. CAIRN. NM84852884. A locally prominent circular cairn; 5.0m in diameter and 1.5m high; at the watershed.

GLS.10. CAIRN. NM84332733. Circular rise in the landscape with a gently sloping profile and a flat top. No stone visible and not a local high point so might be an extant remnant of peat-cutting. The diameter measures 12.0m whilst it reaches a height of 1.5m.

GLS.11. MOUNDS. NM85312826. Three turf-covered mounds lying on a cliff overlooking the join of a stream and the marsh. The largest measures 8.0mx4.0m and 0.2m in height.

GLS.12. MOUND. NM85532861. Oval with dimensions 2.0mx1.5m.

GLS.13. MOUND. NM83732766. Low, grass-covered mound; 4.0mx3.0m and 0.4m high. No stone visible.
GLS.14. MOUND. NM83982776. Topographically distinct, this grassy mound measures 12.0mx9.0m and 0.8m high. Its flanks are being invaded by sedge.

GLS.15. MOUND. NM84532764. Low, linear mound aligned N-S. No stone is visible beneath the grass covering. It is 5.5m long, 1.6m wide and 0.35m high.

GLS.16. MOUND. NM84222795. Grass-covered mound with no observable structural elements. Its size is 8.0mx5.0m and reaches 0.9m in height and lies within a marshy zone.

GLS.17. MOUND. NM84492805. Large grassy mound, 13.0mx12.0m and 1.5m in height, on gently sloping ground above a marshy area.

GLS.18. MOUND. NM84822815. Small, grassy mound sited on a small plateau. No stone or structural elements detectable. The feature is 5.0mx4.0m and 0.4m high.

GLS.19. MOUND. NM85212839. Measures 6.5mx5.0m to a height of 0.5m.

GLS.20. MOUND. NM85192846. Low, grassy mound; 8.0mx5.0m and 0.5m high.

FORTS AND DUNS.

GLS.21. DUN. NM83692766. On a rocky summit overlooking Gallanach Beg there is a circular depression fringed by short stretches of bank surviving to a height of 0.4m. It does not occupy the highest point and there is no stone visible. Possibly a product of quarrying. [FIGURE XVIII, PLATE X].
GLS.22. EARTHWORKS. NM84072742. A group of features in close proximity upon an aerial photograph (sortie no.58 RAF 2244, print 0013). The first consists of two concentric rings, 5m and 10m in diameter; these are overlain by a modern trackway, so that only ca.150° of the rings survive. There are also two, 3m square features alongside two L-shaped features. None of the earthworks can be observed at ground level; hence it is unclear if they are defined by banks or ditches, or both.

GLS.23. EARTHWORK. NM84842908. A raised area at the front of a N facing terrace provides the platform for an indistinct stone-walled structure. The walls survive to a height of 0.2m and, although there are only two apparent corners, it is possible to discern a W facing entrance. The overall measurements of this rectilinear structure are at least 4.0mx2.5m. [FIGURE XIX].

GLS.24. EARTHWORK. NM84542868. A substantial earth and stone N-S bank crosses the watershed to traverse a raised promontory which projects from the front of a N facing terrace. At this point it overlies a sub-rectangular depression; approximately 4.0mx3.0m; with partially surviving, ephemeral banks. [FIGURE XX].

DOMESTIC STRUCTURES. [FIGURE XXIX].

GLS.25. TOWNSHIP. Lower Glenshellach was recorded during Roy's Military Survey (ca.1750) and depicted as seven structures denoting a significant, though small, settlement; it also appears on the earlier Pont map (mid-sixteenth century). The units display a dispersed sequence of spatial congruence (Dewar
& McBride, 1992: 234-5) possibly reflecting separate chronologies of occupation. [FIGURE XXI].

i. Buildings. NM85002840, NM85012842, NM85012839. The faint traces of at least three rectilinear structures: 14.0mx7.0m, 7.0mx3.0m and 11.0mx7.0m. They are associated with a quarry, traces of ridge and furrow, stone heaps, earthen banks, a possible kiln and other putative building stances; the whole complex is traversed by a droveway.

ii. Buildings. NM85122833. Two rectilinear structures adjacent to the path leading across the glen to Soroba Lodge. The first stance has a NE-SW long axis of 8.0m and is 3.5m wide; the second structure, cut by a modern wire fence, has a 14.0m N-S long axis and a width of 5.0m. The two structures are linked by a low wall. Nearby there are two putative foundations, a kiln and an earthen bank.

iii. Building. NM85092831. A series of stone humps which may be resolved into a rectilinear structure on an E-W axis, 12.0mx5.5m. Its NE corner is cut by a rectilinear platform interpreted as a kiln.

iv. Building. NM85112831. Rectilinear structure on the crest of a ridge, measuring 10.0mx6.0m on an E-W axis with a 1.0m wide entrance facing S.

v. Building. NM85112829. Only the SW corner of this structure survives. Situated upon a clear platform, the structure was at least 8.0m long and 4.0m wide.
vi. Building. NM85002823. The entrance to this rectangular structure faces S. It has an 8.0m E-W long axis and an annexe 2.5m wide.

vii. Building. NM85012840. Rectilinear stance with a square annexe at the eastern end. Very well defined by massive earthworks up to 3.0m wide and 0.9m high. The annexe measures 5.5mx5.5m, while the principal unit has a 13.5m E-W long axis and is 6.5m wide.

viii. Mill (possible). NM85452840. A stretch of the stream channel has been revetted at this point. However, there are no structural elements to support any evidence for a former mill apart from two prominent boulders set a short distance from the bank.

ix. Pit clamp. NM85222848. Platform, 8.0mx6.0m and 1.2m high, consisting of boulders, on a S facing scarp. A drystone facing survives on the eastern side, and there appears to be a circular setting of stones, 1.6m in diameter, in the top of the feature.

GLS.26. TOWNSHIP. NM83272730. Baile Meadhonach. This appears on the first edition (1870) OS map; the buildings are shown as roofless on the 2nd edition (1900) and the trackway is no longer marked, but are absent from later editions. It consists of byre-dwellings, and a well, either side of the track leading from Gallanach Beg to Baile Meadhonach. The well is situated within a patch of *Juncus*. [PLATE XI].

i. Building foundations. Stone-walled, rectangular structure, 18m( NNW-SSE)x8m, with a centrally placed transverse subdivision. The wall make-up consists of medium to small stones as if they have been subsequently shattered.
With opposed entrances ca.1.2m wide. On a terrace above the rest and is the easternmost unit with a quarry sited just upslope.

ii. Building foundations. Stone-walled, rectangular structure, 16m(NNW-SSE)x7m, with midway opposed entrances in the long walls ca.1.3m wide. No trace of subdivisions evident.

iii. Building foundations. Stone-walled, rectangular structure, 19m(ENE-WSW)x6.5m, with a ca.1m wide entrance gap facing NNW. Most of the stonework, up to 0.7m maximum height, is fully exposed as a tumbled spread with minimal moss or grass cover. It has a transverse subdivision set 5.5m from WSW end.

iv. Yard (possible). Rectangular structure, 10m(NNW-SSE)x6.5m, with the SSE side scooped into the hillslope. Probable ENE facing, midway entrance; now a ca.2m wide gap. Possibly a kailyard.

GLS.27. TOWNSHIP. NM84152767. The enclosure directly to the S of Laggan (now a Diving Centre) is partly waterlogged. The dry land contains a series of structures, boundaries and a trackway of 'Old Laggan'. The clearest building has left only faint traces with turf covering its rectilinear outline. An area adjoining the northern side is disturbed and may have been the site of an outbuilding. On the E side of the trackway there is another, fragmentary, rectilinear structure; possibly a kiln.

GLS.28. BUILDINGS. NM85142870. A series of irregular and discontinuous earthworks is all that remains of two buildings that have undergone subsequent quarrying. They appear on the 1870 edition OS map.
GLS.29. BUILDINGS. NM84272802. Two structures beside the Glenshellach Road. Both are rectilinear with a N-S long axis. The first is partially overlaid by the northern boundary fence of the enclosure and measures a minimum of 7.0mx6.5m. The second building, 9.5mx7.5m, to the W of the first, has an adjoining outbuilding, 6.5mx6.5m.

GLS.30. BUILDING. NM85092862. Rectilinear structure sited upon a partly artificial platform beside the Tobar na h Oisinn spring. It measures 9.5x4.5m with an 8.0x7.0m annexe. Marked on the 1900 edition OS map and recently occupied by a caravan.

GLS.31. BUILDING. NM84622732. Square, stone structure slightly cut into the base of a NE facing scarp in a sheltered position between two ridges. The wall course survives to a height of 0.3m and spreads over 0.75m, while the structure is 2.5mx2.3m internally.

GLS.32. BUILDING. NM85122814. Rectilinear, stone structure measuring 5.0mx4.0m internally and featured upon the 1870 edition OS map. The wall survives to a height of 0.4m with a width of 0.75m. An 1.0m gap in the wall marks the S facing entrance, and the structure is bisected by an E-W boundary wall. There is a stream ca.10m to the S. [FIGURE XXI].

GLS.33. BUILDING. NM85212814. 'Blair's Cottage' is marked on modern OS maps, but is ruinous. The walls survive but the roof is missing. [PLATES XII & XIII].
GLS.34. BUILDING. NM85992816. This building appears on recent OS maps but all that now survives is a tumbled brick wall and a concrete base.

GLS.35. BUILDING. NM84412808. Two sleeper beams retaining a concrete floor, 3.0mx2.0m, with a trough but no traces of a superstructure. Formerly a pigsty.

GLS.36. BUILDING. NM84422809. Grass-covered remains of a stone structure situated on a slight mound. Identified as a former pigsty.

GLS.37. BUILDING. NM84102790. Parallel with the Glenshellach Road, there is the rectilinear outline of stone foundations with a 16.0m E-W long axis and width of 8.0m and a S facing, 1.5m wide entrance gap. It partially underlies the eastern boundary fence of Laggan and is shown on the 1870 edition OS map.

GLS.38. BUILDING. NM85552891. Rectangular, 7.0mx3.5m, stone-walled structure with foundations surviving to a height of 0.5m. A wooden wicket in the modern fenceline marks the access to the Glenshellach Road. Despite its present ruinous condition this structure appears on the 1966 edition OS map.

GLS.39. BUILDING. NM85152917. The lower walls of this stone, rectangular structure survive but are extremely ruinous. It measures 5.0mx3.5m. Recorded on the 1900 edition OS map.

GLS.40. BUILDING. NM85772824. A wooden cattle shed sits on the site of an earlier stone structure.
GLS.41. BUILDING. NM84862840. Fragmentary rectilinear structure with hollowed interior. The SW corner is particularly distinct but the entrance has been obscured by turf. Its dimensions are 7.0mx4.0m.

GLS.42. BUILDING (possible). NM84342801. A 0.3m high scarp leads away from the SW terminus of an E-W mound, 2.5mx1.8m and 0.4m high, creating the appearance of a poorly preserved rectilinear building.

GLS.43. STRUCTURE. NM83992737. Rectilinear feature, 5mx4m, defined by a ditch or bank, and situated on the top of a knoll, found upon an aerial photograph (sortie no.58 RAF 2244, print 0014) but not visible at ground level.

GLS.44. BUILDING STANCE. NM83712755. This measures 20.0mx7.0m beside the track linking Gallanach Beg to its sheep pens. Access to the platform is provided by a gap in the adjacent N-S dyke.

GLS.45. BUILDING STANCE. NM84482816. Terraced into the base of a N facing rocky scarp, the stance measures 14.0mx4.0m with stone visible through the turf. Marked on the 1900 edition OS map.

GLS.46. BUILDING STANCE. NM84582823. Rectilinear stance, 8.0mx4.0m, built into a rising W slope with a N-S long axis. The backscarp attains 0.25m in height. Some stone is visible on the surface of the platform.

GLS.47. BUILDING STANCE. NM83832836. A former quarry, beside a droveway, has been utilised as a house platform. The open side created by the U-shaped depression has been closed by a low bank with an entrance gap. At the centre of the hollow there is a square setting interpreted as a hearth. The
overall size of the quarry scoop is 10.0mx7.5m whilst the walls of the quarry extend up to 1.5m.

GLS.48. BUILDING STANCE. NM85322841. Scarped into a gentle E facing slope, this platform measures 4.0mx4.0m with a 0.25m backscarp. An adjacent stretch of disturbed ground may indicate a former spring.

GLS.49. BUILDING STANCES (possible). NM84392801. Two putative stances, 4.0mx2.5m and 9.0mx3.5m, scarped into a slope.

GLS.50. BUILDING STANCE (possible). NM84332724. This putative house platform lies beneath a cover of heather and the vicinity has been subjected to extensive peat-cutting. [FIGURE XXII].

GLS.51. BUILDING STANCE (possible). NM84442707. Bracken-covered platform, 8.0mx6.0m, scarped into a SE facing slope. The back and frontscars are 0.5m and 3.0m, respectively.

GLS.52. BUILDING STANCE (possible). NM84672840. Large scoop, with a level floor, at the lip of a steep S scarp. [FIGURE XXIII].

GLS.53. BUILDING STANCE (possible). NM85242843. Stance measuring 7.0mx3.5m on a N scarp, but there are no signs of artificial levelling.

GLS.54. BUILDING STANCE (possible). NM83192726. Separating the track leading from Gallanachmore to Gallanach Beg from a marshy zone is a short stretch of curvilinear bank. A gap in the bank provides access to what appears to be an artificial platform suitable for a structure. The front scarp, 1.0m high, is
revetted with stone rubble at the waterlogged margin. The platform measures 10.0mx3.5m, while the bank is 10.0mx1.5m and survives to a height of 0.4m.

GLS.55. BUILDING STANCE (possible). NM84832816. Near the crest of a W facing scarp of a small ridge there are what appear to be the remnants of a slumped section of walling. The scarp immediately above looks like a platform with a path leading up to it. The rectilinear platform measures 7.0mx4.0m.

GLS.56. BUILDING STANCE (possible). NM84082771. Circular stance with a 6.0m diameter and a 6.0m high northern backscarp. The surrounding area has been heavily landscaped and it is probable that this feature is a product of the landscaping.

GLS.57. BUILDING STANCE (possible). NM84262749. Beneath a cover of bracken on a N facing terrace there is a putative circular stance measuring 6.0mx4.0m. The stance occupies a raised area at the front of the terrace. The terrace is partly revetted in stone and enclosed by an inner turf bank, 0.2m high and 1.6m wide, which continues further along the terrace. The vegetative cover prevents the identification of additional related features. [FIGURE XXIV].

GLS.58. BUILDING STANCE (possible). NM84502784. Circular and fringed by a low curved bank, this platform has a maximum diameter of 4.0m, but the area is steep and partially eroded. A path appears to lead up to this putative site.

GLS.59. ROUNDHOUSE (possible). NM85302833. Ring-ditched house abutting a cragline. Charcoal spreads indicate burning of the former concentric circles of roof-support posts with a centrally-placed was a stone-slabled hearth. Finds
included occasional flint artefacts, burnt bone fragments and potsherds. Excavated. [Bonsall et al., 1993].

GLS.60. HUT CIRCLE. NM85492886. The perimeter of this 21m diameter feature is defined by a contrast in vegetation with the northern edge being particularly distinct. The entire site now lies beneath a house with a landscaped garden. Observed upon an aerial photograph (sortie no.58 RAF 2244, print 0015).

GLS.61. HUT CIRCLE. NM84662823. A vegetational contrast with the surrounding improved pasture marks the outline of this putative feature. There are no extant remains; so the ca.8m diameter circle could be either a bank or ditch. Observed upon an aerial photograph (sortie no.58 RAF 2244, print 0013).

GLS.62. HUT CIRCLE. NM83962735. A 12m diameter area enclosed by a narrow bank, or ditch, with a SW facing entrance. No extant remains survive, although it is cross-cut by ridge and furrow.

GLS.63. HUT CIRCLE (possible). NM84262714. On a flat-topped hillock, within a belt of rough pasture, there are what appear to be the faint traces of a circular gully, 4.0m in diameter, with a NW entrance. It is suspected that the feature may result from a former cage holding sheep fodder.

GLS.64. SHIELING HUT. NM82882706. Sub-rectangular, peat-walled structure; 0.4m high; with an offset entrance facing SE. It is situated upon a low knoll on a N facing terrace. [FIGURE XXV].
GLS.65. SHIELING HUT. NM85102817. A rectangular turf structure with rounded corners and a NE entrance. It has dimensions of 8.5mx4.0m with a hollowed interior to a depth of 0.25m. There are also possible ancillary structures on the SE side. [FIGURE XXI].

GLS.66. SHIELING HUT. NM84332801. Turf-walled structure with rounded corners on a small, SE facing terrace bordered by marsh. The walls survive to a height of 0.4m. [FIGURE XXVI].

GLS.67. SHIELING HUT. NM85362759. A natural ridge outcrops along the lip of a S facing terrace overlooking a series of quarries. The ridge curves and has been used as the southern wall of a small, ovoid structure; 4.0m in diameter; with an indistinct stone wall no more than 0.3m high.

GLS.68. SHIELING HUT (possible). NM83112731. A sub-rectangular feature, situated upon the crest of a rocky eminence, has been distinguished from a vegetational contrast combined with a corner of an earthwork. The overall area covered by the suspected structure would have been ca. 8.0mx5.0m. The surviving bank is 1.20m long and up to 0.35m in height.

GLS.69. SHIELING HUT (possible). NM83852704. Slight turf-banked circular structure at the watershed. The wall spread is 0.8m and 0.2m high, whilst the structure has an 8.0m diameter.

GLS.70. SHIELING HUT (possible). NM83622700. Corner of a turf wall surviving to a height of 0.5m with an 1.2m spread. This putative structure is situated at the rear of a N facing terrace and would have been at least 3.0mx2.5m.
GLS.71. SHIELING HUT (possible). NM85642806. An L-shaped fragment of bank, 1.5m high and 2.5m wide, survives along the lip of a N facing promontory.

GLS.72. SHELTER. NM85772809. An E-W stone wall runs along the top edge of a N facing scarp. From the wall a curved limb projects to create a small cell, 2.5mx2.5m and 0.6m high, with a narrow, E facing entrance gap. [PLATE XIV].

GLS.73. SHELTER. NM84722758. Bordering ridge and furrow on this N facing terrace there is a square, stone structure surviving as one course of boulders; 0.3m high and 3.8m externally with a 0.8m wall spread. It is slightly recessed into the foot of a slope and is therefore extremely sheltered. A possible stone bank runs a short distance upslope from the feature and there are a series of heaps of large stones nearby. [PLATE XV].

AGRICULTURAL FEATURES. [FIGURE XXX].

GLS.74. ENCLOSURE. NM84772772. Upon an aerial photograph (sortie no.58 RAF 2244, print 0013) there is a slight shadow fringing this feature suggesting that there was either an extant bank or ditch. However, no such trace now survives at ground level. The U-shaped enclosure cross-cuts the natural topography, with a NW-SE long axis measuring 35m and a maximum width of 22m. The open end faces NW, away from the nearby stream.

GLS.75. ENCLOSURE. NM84532876. A hexagonal enclosure, 20m across, is clearly defined upon an aerial photograph (sortie no.58 RAF 2244, print 0013) except on the W side. It is cut by a modern boundary wall and cannot be seen at ground level.
GLS.76. ENCLOSURE (possible). NM84012754. Situated on the N lip of a gently sloping terrace, under improved pasture, is a low linear mound 1.75m long, 4.5m wide and 0.15m high; this is interpreted as the degraded remnant of a rampart. Although the terrace would have been ideal for occupation, no remains of habitation structures are evident. [FIGURE XXVII; PLATE XVI].

GLS.77. ENCLOSURE (possible). NM84642722. Bracken-covered rectilinear bank on a false summit overlooking the reservoir. Probing failed to detect stone. It measures 11.0mx6.0m and survives to a height of 0.6m.

GLS.78. ENCLOSURE (possible). NM84322774. A low, degraded bank partially encloses the plateau of a steep outcrop measuring 35.0mx12.0m. At the foot of the northern and western scarps there are loose stones; otherwise the area is featureless. Further E the bank ends in a small cairn, 3.0x1.5m and 0.5m high.

GLS.79. ENCLOSURE (possible). NM84582776. A N facing spur with the remnants of a bank retaining the top of the frontscarp.

GLS.80. TREE-RING. NM85422854. A causeway leads from the Tarry Road to an oval mound formed by outcropping rock. The `island' of oak, beech and rough pasture is quite in contrast with the surrounding water-loving vegetation and is partially enclosed by an earthen bank and drainage ditch. The girth of the outer ring of trees suggests a date in the region of 1870 for the plantation. The mound is traditionally believed to be a cemetery for suicides and the unbaptised but the thin soil cover would prevent graves being dug. Indeed, the only observable feature within the ring is a rectilinear hollow; 4.0mx1.9m and 0.6m deep; with upcast overlain by two mature birch trees. There is also a rectilinear depression on the causeway; 6.8mx4.0m and 0.25m deep.
GLS.81. PILLARED GATEWAY. NM84712833. Two square pillars, 1.5m high, mark a 2.5m NE gateway through a ruinous stone wall parallel to the Glenshellach Road. Access is gained to an enclosure bordered by regularly spaced ash trees reminiscent of a parkland. The gateway is now blocked in order to continue the line of the wall.

GLS.82. BANK. NM84552718. On the E side of a small saddle between rising slopes, adjacent to a former stream, there is a boundary marked by boulders. This broken length only stretches for 10.0m with a large earthfast boulder at its northern terminus. The height ranges from 0.8m to 0.2m whilst the width is ca.0.8m. [PLATE XVII].

GLS.83. DITCH. NM83852804. Linear stretch of ditch cutting across a hillock and isolating a rocky knoll to the E. The NW-SE ditch runs for 20.0m; it has a depth of 0.6m and a width of 2.5m.

GLS.84. FEEDING STANCES. NM833274. Cluster of four circular vegetation marks ranging from 1.5 to 5m in diameter as well as two circular platforms, 3m in diameter, of small stones. All are found in the sheltered zone between outcrops and ridges and have been interpreted as sheep feeding stances.

GLS.85. WATERPOOLS. NM84622862. A pair of shallow, sub-oval depressions measuring 4.0mx2.0m. Upcast is evident around the rim of one.

GLS.86. CLEARANCE CAIRNS. NM836277. Three situated at the edge of a N facing slope. They measure 0.75m, 2.0m and 3.0m in diameter and up to 0.4m in height.
GLS.87. CLEARANCE CAIRNS. NM83532772. Two on the edge of a N facing slope, respectively 2.0m and 0.8m in diameter.

GLS.88. CLEARANCE CAIRNS. NM84952898. Three cairns in close proximity, all ca.2.0m in diameter and no more than 0.4m in height.

GLS.89. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM83512759. Remnant of a small, degraded cairn.

GLS.90. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM83522760. Small and degraded, measuring 4.0mx3.0m to a height of 0.4m.

GLS.91. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM84052756. Mound of stones and small boulders situated on a small rock outcrop. It has probably suffered disturbance, but its present dimensions are 10.0mx5.0m with a height of 0.5m.

GLS.92. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM83992769. Disturbed accumulation of stone; 8.0mx5.0m and 1.5m high.

GLS.93. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM83962768. A linear heap that has suffered disturbance. Its dimensions are 16.0mx3.0m and 0.6m high.

GLS.94. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM83952767. Scatter of stone showing through the turf.

GLS.95. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM84262770. Circular cairn, 5.0m in diameter and 0.8m high, at the E end of a grassy knoll.
GLS.96. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM84212779. Situated on a knoll, this rounded cairn has a diameter of 5.0m and a height of 0.8m. Its northern flank is slightly damaged by a track.

GLS.97. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM84482781. Measures 3.0mx3.0m and 0.4m high with no visible stone at the surface.

GLS.98. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM84362778. Situated on the lip of a N facing scarp, this cairn, 2.0m in diameter and 0.6m high, has some stone visible.

GLS.99. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM84112791. Linear accumulation, at the foot of a N facing scarp, measuring 8.0mx2.0m with a height of 0.35m.

GLS.100. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM84102791. Small circular mound, 3.0mx2.5m and 0.35m high.

GLS.101. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM84342798. A stone spread, 8.0mx0.5m and 0.5m high, situated on the top of a scarp, may derive from a much damaged cairn. There is also some stone tumble at the foot of the slope.

GLS.102. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM84972828. This measures 3.0m in diameter, 0.9m high and sits on the crest of a major ridge.

GLS.103. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM84982833. Small cairn, 2.0mx1.7m and 0.4m high, at the lip of a scarp slope.
GLS.104. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM85152822. At the top of a scarp leading down to marshy ground there is a cairn, 5.0mx4.0m and 0.8m high.

GLS.105. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM83602773. Cairn measuring 3.0m in diameter and 0.1m high.

GLS.106. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM83762778. Situated on top of a prominent knoll, this turf-covered circular cairn is 2.0m in diameter and 0.6m high.

GLS.107. CLEARANCE CAIRNS (recent). NM84922801. One is flat-topped, sub-ovoid with a maximum length 5.5m and height of 1.0m. The second consists of a turf-covered mound measuring 7.0mx5.0m; while the third member of the group is 2.0mx1.5m, 0.6m high and sub-circular.

GLS.108. CLEARANCE CAIRNS (recent). NM84882799. Two partially turf-covered stone heaps on the tail of a rocky ridge.

GLS.109. CLEARANCE CAIRNS (recent). NM84962809. One sub-rectangular cairn, 3.0mx2.0m and 0.3m high, alongside an ovoid type with the same dimensions.

GLS.110. CLEARANCE CAIRNS (recent). NM84692796. Two sub-oval stone dumps. The larger measures 9.0mx5.0m, with a height of 0.5m; the smaller is 2.0mx1.5m and 0.3m high.

GLS.111. CLEARANCE CAIRNS (recent). NM83472779. Two small patches of clearance consisting of boulders.
GLS.112. CLEARANCE CAIRNS (recent). NM84582825. A group of four stone heaps. The largest measures 3.0mx2.0m and has a height of 0.7m.

GLS.113. CLEARANCE CAIRNS (recent). NM84562816. A group of small stone heaps which may represent quarried material from the nearby crag rather than clearance. The largest is 0.9m high and 5.5mx4.5m.

GLS.114. CLEARANCE CAIRNS (recent). NM84932821. Three small heaps of stone no more than 0.3m high and 1.0m in diameter.

GLS.115. CLEARANCE CAIRNS (recent). NM85142853. A series of small cairns; the largest is simply a heap of stone, 6.5mx2.0m and 0.25m high, on a gently sloping ridge crest.

GLS.116. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM83232765.

GLS.117. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM83392773.

GLS.118. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84572775. Extends over 15.0m, with a maximum width of 7.0m.

GLS.119. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM85272883. Forms a 0.5m high, 2.5mx2.0m ovoid.

GLS.120. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM85492900. Consists of a 3.0m diameter sub-oval mound, no more than 0.3m in height.
GLS.121. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84572784. 0.2m high and 1.0m in diameter.

GLS.122. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84632778. 2.0m diameter pile of stone standing 0.4m high on a natural ridge.

GLS.123. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84922799. Turf-covered, sub-circular feature measuring 3.0m in diameter and 1.3m in height.

GLS.124. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84922798. Sub-circular, measuring 2.0m in diameter and rising to 0.3m.

GLS.125. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84902796. Pile of stones on the flank of a rocky ridge.

GLS.126. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84912797. Partially turf-covered ovoid measuring 4.0mx2.0m, surviving to a height of 0.5m.

GLS.127. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84902805. Turf-covered ovoid; 3.5mx2.5m and 0.3m high.

GLS.128. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84902806. Partially turf-covered ovoid with a height of 0.3m and dimensions of 4.0mx2.5m.

GLS.129. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84962803. Turf-covered ovoid measuring 4.5mx3.0m and 0.6m high.
GLS.130. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84952801. Partially turf-covered ovoid with dimensions of 3.0mx1.5m and 0.2m high.

GLS.131. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84982807. Turf-covered, low mound forming a sub-circle of 1.5m diameter with a height of 0.3m.

GLS.132. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84932808. Lanceolate in outline, this cairn measures 5.0mx2.0m with a height of 0.6m.

GLS.133. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84942805. Grass-covered mound with a diameter of 1.5m and a height of 0.5m.

GLS.134. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84742793. Located on the N flank of a ridge, this sub-circular cairn has a height of 0.6m and a diameter of 3.0m.

GLS.135. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84782807. Amorphous heap of stones on top of a low rocky ridge. The accumulation is 0.5m high and 4.0mx2.0m.

GLS.136. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84742802. Flat, amorphous spread of stones partially covered by vegetation. It measures 10.0mx6.0m and is 0.3m high.

GLS.137. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84732801. Amorphous heap at the base of a ridge; 6.0mx4.0m and 0.3m high.

GLS.138. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84782803. Sub-oval heap measuring 4.0mx2.0m.
GLS.139. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84712804. Loose scatter of stone, reddened and cracked by fire.

GLS.140. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84892804. Sub-circular pile of stone with a diameter of 2.0m and a height of 0.3m.

GLS.141. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84832805. Spread of stone upon a saddle between two ridges. 9.0mx6.0m in extent, reaching a height of 0.4m.

GLS.142. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84862805. Sub-circular heap of stone; 0.4m high and 2.5m in diameter.

GLS.143. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84872806. Sub-circular cairn 2.5m in diameter and 0.4m high.

GLS.144. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM83342761. A rectilinear spread of stone; 10.0mx4.0m and 0.5m high.

GLS.145. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM83352760. A spread of boulders covering 5.0mx4.0m to a height of 0.6m.

GLS.146. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84462798. Consists of large stones and is 1.5m in diameter and 0.2m high.

GLS.147. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM84572808. A moss-covered, rectilinear spread of stone, 6.0mx3.0m and 0.2m high, at the foot of a ridge.
GLS.148. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM85012836. Large stone heap, 7.5mx7.0m and 0.95m high.

GLS.149. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM85062858. There is no structural element to this accumulation of stone, 2.5mx2.0m and 0.2m high, at the foot of a scarp.

GLS.150. CLEARANCE CAIRN (recent). NM85212877. Circular accumulation of stone, 1.0m in diameter and 0.15m high.

INDUSTRIAL FEATURES.

GLS.151. RIFLE RANGE. NM84612773. Two vertical stone wall faces capped with corrugated iron and fronted by a drainage gully. Overall the structure resembles a sheep stall but was used for target practise during World War II. Shooting butts associated with this target have been found at NM84662782, NM84722791, NM84792792, NM84742802, NM84792824 and NM84732820.

GAELIC PLACE NAMES.

Baile Meadhonach. NM83272730. Middle field settlement.
Barr Cruinn. NM834275. Circular summit.
Bealach Mór. NM834262. Large pass.
Bruach a'Bhinnein. NM855293. Bank of the ridge.
Creag Bhan. NM84792738. Cragline.
Druim Mór. NM8428. Great ridge.
Druim na Raschoille. NM853287. Ridge of the coppice.
Gallanach (Gallanich, Callanich, Gardonnach, Gardannach). NM83692761. Full of young trees.

Gleann Sheileach (Glenselloch, Giensellach, Glenshelach, Glenshellach, Glenselach, Glenscheallich, Glennanschellache, Gienanshellach). NM847282. Glen of the willows.

Laggan (Lagan). NM84072766. Little hollow.

Lochan na Croise. NM838265. The cross lakelet.

Lochavullin (Loch a'Mhuillin, Loch a'mhullain, Loch en na ouillin, Oban mill). NM857296. Mill loch.

Lón Mór (Lòn Mór). NM853286. Large marsh/meadow.

Tobar na h'Oisinn. NM85102866. Well of the corner.

4.4. KERRERA (KER).

TOPOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION.

The underlying geology of the island [PLATE XVIII] consists of Lower Old Red Sandstone conglomerate and igneous types. Dalradian black slate is also represented and the whole series is traversed by NW-SE Tertiary dykes. The sandy bays and craggy headlands are complemented by the inland elevations up to 190m OD. The island environment provides sharp boundaries for the imposition of sampling strategies enabling an examination of settlement evolution through time (Cherry & Shennan in Cherry et al., 1978: 21).

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

The island remained under Norse control until the Hebrides were ceded to Scotland in the thirteenth century. Seven townships have been referenced accounting for a total of twenty-nine merklands (Origines Parochiales Scotiae, vol.3, parish of Kilbride, 1451) and were owned by the MacDougall Clan of Dunollie with a short interlude of wadset, from 1654, following the Montrose Rebellion (Hunter, 1984: 14). The island still remains in MacDougall ownership except for Ardantrive which now belongs to Kerrera Fisheries.

METHODOLOGY.

A different survey procedure to that used for Ardoran (see above) was employed on Kerrera in April 1993. Sites previously recorded were re-assessed and areas
were fieldwalked enroute for those sites. Zones suitable for settlement were also targeted and the hypothesis that farmsteads are associated with the lower and middle reaches of hillslopes (vide the discovery of site KER.1).

INVENTORY OF SITES.

DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

KER.1. FARMSTEAD. NM80052745. Ardmore, Kerrera. There is verdant pasture immediately around the structures but the surrounding area is mainly barren heather-covered peatland, partially waterlogged, and rough pasture on the hillslopes. There is one patch of ridge and furrow some 150m away running parallel to the contours on the hillslope. Nearby watercourse (Alt Phadruig) and field walls as well as possible other units in the vicinity.

i. Building foundations. Grassed-over, stone-walled structure, 7.5m(N-S)x4.5m with a probable W facing entrance.

ii. Building foundations. 8.5m(NNW-SSE)x5.5m with a midway ENE entrance ca.0.7m wide.

iii. Building foundations. On the lowermost terrace to the NNE of the previous two units. Overlain by a fence surmounting the single course of a stone wall. Maximum wall height of 0.6m making it the best preserved unit in the group. Dimensions of 12.5m(NE-SW)x5m with a SW entrance now ca.1.5m wide.

iv. Structure (possible). Wall running parallel to, and a few metres from, structure KER.1iii and possibly the remnant of another structure.
KER.2. BYRE. NM81432882. Balliemore, Kerrera. Example of a single-storey structure converted to a double-storey structure.

KER.3. BUILDING. NM795268. Ardmore, Kerrera. Previously recorded as a walled enclosure (12mx10m) with an adjoining building. The rectangular building is reduced to foundation level and measures 9m(ENE-WSW)x7m with opposed entrances in the NNW and SSE sides and lies beside the trackway. The adjoining enclosure is 12.5m (NNW-SSE)x8.5m and sub-oval in outline on a slightly elevated terrace.

KER.4. STRUCTURE. NM82022980. Oitir Mhór, Kerrera. Possibly one of the previously recorded Drovers' Bothies (site OBN.154). Sub-rectangular structure, 6.5m(NE-SW)x4.0m, consisting of large outer stones enclosing smaller stones and is up to 0.6m high; possibly another example of a rectangular clearance cairn. It occupies the NW side of a sub-oval, stone-walled enclosure, 18m(NE-SW)x10m, of which only a SE arc survives. On the S side it is revetted into the hillslope and creates a 0.7m backscarp. A small accumulation of stone; wall tumble or a clearance cairn; overlies the NE end. The wall encloses an area of 1.8-2.5m gauge ridge and furrow cultivation and probably overlies the cultivation (so structure is latest). The surrounding improved pasture contains a number of large clearance cairns. Nearby is a slightly curved stretch of wall, ca.9.5m long of small to large stones, on top of the ridge and furrow cultivation. [PLATE XIX].

KER.5. SHIELING HUT. NM84333092. Ardantrive, Kerrera. Sub-circular, turf-walled structure, 4.5m in diameter with a 1.2m wide NW facing entrance possibly much enlarged by subsequent weathering. Maximum surviving wall height of 0.25m and width of 0.7m. Juncus covers much of the entrance area whilst grass
covers the rest. In an area of 3.75m gauge ridge and furrow; relationship unclear but the structure is probably on top.

AGRICULTURAL FEATURES.

KER.6. SHEEPFOLD (possible). NM84003063. Ardantrive, Kerrera. Previously recorded as an earth bank (6mx5m) at NM840306. Sub-oval, 9m(NE-SW)x8m, with stone walls surviving to a maximum wall height of 0.7m. A possible entrance is situated in the SSW side. Sheltered location beside a crag. In an area of ridge and furrow cultivation of 2.5-3.0m gauge. Possibly a sheep enclosure.

KER.7. ENCLOSURE. NM82422885. Balliemore, Kerrera. Oval lynchet, probably a former fenced enclosure, of turf with a maximum height of ca.0.1m and a width of 0.2m containing a slightly rougher area of pasture and slightly scooped below the surrounding land surface. Overall dimensions of 13m(WNW-ESE)x11.5m with a N facing, inturned entrance.

KER.8. DROVING DYKES. NM80622665. Gylen, Kerrera. Extensive 2.5-3.0m gauge ridge and furrow cultivation with large clearance cairns at the base of slopes. Upon the uppermost terrace are curvilinear clearance cairns, up to 20m long, consisting of small-medium stones and overlying the cultivation. The delineation of the features appears to have been deliberate and does not mirror the local topography; presumably for stock droving.

GAELIC PLACE NAMES.


Ardmore (Ardmor, Ardmoir). NM79602705. The great height.

Bailemore (Ballemore, Ballemoir, Balliemore, Ballymore, Ballimore, Balmoir). NM82432880. The great township.

Eilean nan Gamhna. NM81803039. Island of the stirks (year-old calves).

Eilean nan Uan. NM82563040. Lamb island.

Slatrach (Slaterich, Slatterich, Slaterach, Slatragh, Slatrich, Slaughterach). NM81902918. Field of twigs.
4.5. KILLIECHÖINICH & BALNAGOWAN (KIL).

TOPOGRAPHY.

Igneous extrusive rocks known as the Lorne lavas blanket the area and are cut by Devonian NE-SW trending dykes together with a Tertiary dyke to the S of Lochan Barr a'Chlaiginn. This geology has produced an elevated terrain up to 140m OD of hill pasture with lower lying areas fringed by broad leaf and coniferous cover on the NW shore of Loch Nell, with two lochans suitable for coring (Lochan a'Bhuilg Bhith and Lochan Barr a'Chlaiginn) and bordered by Pleistocene fluvio-glacial deposits.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

The study area encompasses most of the eight merkland of Killiechönich (Charter, ca.1640) and eight merkland of Balnagowan (ibid.) that was under the ownership of the Campbells of Lochnell (site OBN.118) during the sixteenth century. The entire area is now part of the Black Mount Estate of the Mackay-James family; the MacKay family of Dundee purchased the estate from James Houldsworth of Coltness in 1917.

METHODOLOGY.

The work was carried out during three weeks in December 1992 and January 1993 by a pair of experienced fieldworkers. The objective was to identify and record all surface features of potential archaeological interest within the study
area; the limits of the study area were determined by a combination of modern land boundaries and natural features [FIGURE XII].

The survey method adopted was the same as that described above (see Ardoran, methodology) with the written descriptions of a selection of sites being supplemented with plans and photographs.

Several factors inhibited the survey work. Weather conditions were appalling with continual rain, sleet and gale-force winds.

INVENTORY OF SITES.

CAIRNS.

KIL.1. CAIRN (possible). NM88412784. Rough pasture-covered structure with form and surrounding topography resembling site ATL.2 on the NW side of Loch Feochan. Externally, it measures 6.5m(NW-SE)x4.5m with upstanding boulders; the largest measures 1.2mx0.5mx0.4m; exposed around the NW and SE periphery containing a raised deposit ca.0.3m high. Two stones on the S corner appear to have slipped downslope from the kerb position. The rest of the circuit has medium-sized stones; some visible and some detected through probing. [PLATES XX & XXI].

KIL.2. CAIRN (possible). NM88572876. Roughly circular feature sited upon a ledge on the SE flank of a large ridge with an open view to the SE. It has a diameter of 4.5m to 5.0m and a height of 0.6m. On the S side there are three stones and boulder in the kerb position. The SE side contains another boulder
with more stone, detected by probing, around the fringe; the rest of the feature is under turf and bracken.

CUP-MARKINGS.

None of the examples quoted below are considered to be anything other than the product of natural forces of weathering and erosion or have accidentally arisen during the course of nearby ploughing.


KIL.4. CUP-MARKINGS (possible). NM87852747. Boulder (1.5mx1.1mx1.4m tapering to 0.3m) with nine slight depressions on the very weathered upper surface ca.1m above the ground. Many of these depressions have a rounded and smooth form consistent with cup markings, but the ca.50mm diameter shapes have a depth of only ca.10mm which precludes confirmation. The boulder lies 6m W of a field bank in an area where occasional large boulders remain although smaller stones seem to have been cleared. Previously recorded as site OBN.71.

KIL.5. CUP-MARKING (possible). NM88292747. Stone, 9m SE of an ETL post, with a semicircular-shaped depression with rounded angles, ca.0.15m above the ground surface. The cup is on the line of surrounding ridge and furrow cultivation. Previously recorded as site OBN.74.
KIL.6. CUP-MARKING (possible). NM89332839. Single oval cup, measuring 70mmx50mm and 30mm deep, is cut into a granite boulder, ca.1mx1mx1m, in one corner on its upper sloping E side. The boulder sits at the north end of a hill just below the break of slope.

KIL.7. CUP-MARKING (possible). NM88802779. Sub-rounded granite boulder, 1.3mx1.0mx0.7m, is part of a large clearance cairn bordering a knoll and has a single `cup', 60mmx50mm and 35mm deep, in the lower portion of the sloping SE face.

KIL.8. CUP-MARKING (possible). NM88642765. Weathered granite boulder with a single cup, 35mm in diameter and 10mm deep, in the lower NW corner.

KIL.9. CUP-MARKING (possible). NM88142880. Single shallow cup, 50mm in diameter and 25mm deep, below the uppermost corner of a sloping granite boulder, 0.6mx0.4mx0.2m, upon a NNW facing hillslope.

KIL.10. CUP-MARKING (possible). NM88082736. Sub-rectangular stone, 1.3mx1.0m and 0.6m high, with a cup on its heavily weathered, sloping upper face looking SW. The round cup measures 50mm in diameter and is 15mm deep. The stone is situated on a patch of ridge and furrow where alternate furrows have later been emphasised for drainage purposes. The stone is on the line of a furrow-cum-drainage ditch, and this probably explains another indentation, 0.2m above the ground, in the NNE face of the stone as resulting from the percussion blow of a plough share. Previously recorded as site OBN.72.
KIL.11. CUP-MARKINGS (natural). NM89312789. Boulder with rounded hollows resulting from the removal of clasts from the rock matrix. Previously recorded as site OBN.75.

KIL.12. CUP-MARKING (natural). NM87642740. A stone with one depression, 60mm in diameter and 15mm deep, on the NW angle of a side and the upper surface as well as two very shallow recesses of indistinct form. Previously recorded as site OBN.79.

KIL.13. CUP-MARKING (natural). NM87632776. Boulder, 1.0mx1.0m and 0.4m high, with a single cup in the centre of the upper sloping surface and interpreted as a hole drilled for explosives prior to shattering the boulder for clearance. Previously reported as site OBN.81.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

KIL.14. BURIAL GROUND. NM90032860. A large, rocky knoll upstanding from an extensive flat and drained area on the shore of Loch Nell is marked as a burial ground on the 1st edition (1870) OS map. However, no evidence of graves, or related features, was found beneath the dense growth of rough pasture; it was also featureless in 1888 (Christison, 1888: 390-1).

DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

KIL.15. TOWNSHIP. NM88542754. Killiechòinicich was recorded during Roy's Military Survey (ca.1750) and depicted as nine structures denoting a significant, though small, settlement; it also appears on the earlier Pont map (mid-sixteenth century). The units identified below comprise the group and vary in degree of
preservation, and probably age, with some (sites KIL.15i-ii) still in use to the present day. [FIGURE XXXI].

i. Farmhouse. The current farm occupies an advantageous position on a S facing slope. A levelled terrace has been provided for the house and garden; this has been revetted by a stone and earth bank on the downslope S and E sides. The bank provides a garden area S of the house that is raised 0.6m above the open pasture beyond; slightly sunken rectangular shapes indicate some former garden plan. Where a stock corridor to the pasture crosses the S side of the revetted terrace, a gap of 2m width has been made. The present house may occupy one of the sites that was formerly used by the larger settlement. This building has random rubble stone walls with gable ends and a slate roof consistent with a nineteenth century date of construction. The walls are rendered and there are additions to the main rectangular structure. There is a single storey entrance porch with a sloping slate roof in the centre of the S facade. On the N side there is a single storey kitchen of corrugated iron with a sloping roof of thin slate. This runs from the E end of the house for about two thirds of its length, and has a rear access to the house at the side. On the E end of the house, but not the full width of the house in extent, is a stone built lean-to with a sloping roof of corrugated asbestos. On the S side, the roof space is divided into fully functional rooms. The internal arrangements of the house have not been seen, but there are some original stone-built chimneys at both ends of the building. A structure was standing at this site when the 1st edition (1870) OS map was surveyed.

ii. Farm outbuildings. These consist of a long range of three, single-storey units with entrances on the W side facing the house across an open yard. The range has functioned as a byre/barn/storage block in the past. The oldest of the three units is the central one. It has walls of random stone rubble, slightly battered,
with some large boulders at the base and strongly constructed quoins of side-alternate, roughly rectangular blocks. The timbered roof trusses and corrugated iron roof covering are probably not original parts of the construction. There are two external bases of stone on the E side of this unit but tight against the outer face of the wall; the smaller one at the NE corner runs along the wall for 0.8m and projects 0.6m from it whereas the larger one starts 2m from this corner, runs for 2.1m along the wall and projects for 1.7m. A stone kerb is visible on the latter but the stone infill is now overgrown by turf. The S unit has also been constructed of random rubble but has been built onto the unit to the N, where it can be seen to have no N quoins and where the width of the structure is slightly less. The timber roof trusses and slate covering maybe original. It seems to have been built as a byre and has triangular-shaped breather holes in the walls. Stalls are still present inside. A central portion of the E wall has collapsed leaving just the inner face standing; here mortar can be seen to have been used to bond the stone. Further S there is a brick buttress which prevents the collapse extending to the SE corner of the building. Despite a render cover, the brickwork in the buttress is already flaking. The N unit has walls and roof covering made of corrugated iron. Viewed externally it seems to have been built on top of a rectangular stone spread, forming a base. A structure of similar dimensions appears at this site on the 1st edition (1870) OS map. [PLATE XXII].

iii. Building. Ruinous structure, 18m(NE-SW)minimumx8m externally, with a NE extension added between the surveys for the 1st (1870) and 2nd (1900) edition OS maps; however, by the latter date the whole structure was roofless. The early section consists of twin-coursed boulders, ca.0.5mx0.3mx0.3m, whilst the extension is a further 7m past the yard which slopes down to the stream. The best preserved section of yard wall, 0.3m high and 1m wide, runs SE down to the modern road for 18m before turning to the stream. The S corner of the structure
survives to a maximum height of 1.5m, essentially three courses, and 0.7m wide. The blocked doorway faces SE onto the yard some 2m from the S corner and was 0.8m wide. There is a large quoin boulder at the S corner although the largest stones generally occur nearer the base. There is a modern concrete tank and platform set in the ground in the NW corner. [PLATE XXIII].

iv. Building foundations. Rectangular structure, 11m(NE-SW)x7m externally, which appears as a roofless, subdivided unit on the 1st edition (1870) OS map but was ruinous when the 2nd edition (1900) was prepared. There is now considerable tumble causing a wall spread up to 2m, of small (0-0.2m) stones covered in moss and grass, and no more than 0.3m high. The SW end and NW side are essentially just heaps of clearance and there are heaps of stone outside where there is 2.5m gauge cultivation ridges nearby as well as lynchets and drainage channels. The structure itself is perched above a stream immediately to the SW.

v. Building foundations. Rectangular structure, 9m(NNE-SSW)x7m, with walls 1m wide and 0.5m high of moss- and grass-covered stone tumble; only the long walls survive to the maximum height. The adjoining stone bank forms ESE wall of the structure and terminates at the present track. This structure was already roofless by the time the 1st edition (1870) OS map was printed.

vi. Trackway. A terraced and embanked, 2m wide, trackway but without a ford across the stream.

vii. Building foundations. Remains of a rectangular building, 8.5m(NW-SE)x5.5m externally with walls 1m wide, sited close to a S facing scarp with the modern road running immediately alongside. Upcast from the road partially covers the
structure and hinders detailed examination. However, the building probably had two units with the subdivision occurring at 3.6m from the NW end. The entrance was probably in the NE wall.

viii. Stone rubble bank. The bank, 0.5m wide, forms a D-shaped enclosure within the bend of the present farm track and appears on the 1st edition (1870) OS map. In places none of the bank survives. The curved part of the enclosure is represented by the inner side of the track, revetted and embanked to a height of 0.7m on the W side. On the N side it reaches 1.3m in height but where it meets the stream the stone has been dispersed although enough remains to show that it follows the course of the stream. In recent times the enclosure has been used for domestic, and building, refuse.

ix. Building foundations. The dimensions of this structure are hard to ascertain due to demolition and stone-robbing but they appear to be, approximately, 7mx4m. A boulder, 1.2mx1mx0.7m, occupies the NE corner.

x. Yard. A conspicuously flat area embanked by stonework on the E side.

xi. Enclosures with building foundations. The land is divided by an E-W stone rubble wall to form two small enclosures contained by low, poorly preserved walls. The building, 8mx5m externally with walls 1m wide and no more than 0.7m high, lies on the E side and partly projects into both enclosures and has a 0.7m wide, W facing entrance. A mature tree is growing on the NE corner of the structure.
xii. Enclosure. Small, rectangular enclosure, 11mx8m, centrally subdivided to form a split-level interior. The northern sector is separated from site KIL.15xi by a cutting with a 0.5m drop. The southern unit has rounded corners and the stepped, central subdivision provides a 0.2m height difference. The enclosure is defined by rubble banks, 1m wide and up to 0.8m high, which now has trees growing on top.

xiii. Unenclosed terrace. Patch of land, 5mx5m, that appears to have been artificially levelled.

xiv. Building foundations. Building, ca.8mx5m externally and walls 1m wide, on top of a natural ridge but has suffered from heavy stone-robbing and subsequent tree growth.

xv. Enclosure with building foundations. A ruinous, rectangular enclosure, with a wall 1.3m wide and up to 0.5m high, has two structures built into the W side. There has been much stone-robbing whilst birch and ash grow out, at intervals, of the wall circuit and young ash trees cover the largest building. The enclosure, ca.50mx16m, has rounded corners and two possible entrances; a 1.5m gap on the E side and one in the N side where there is no height difference of the ground either side of the wall. On the W side the wall is built on a natural mound of soil containing a stone slab, 1.0mx0.15m. The largest building is rectangular, 15mx5.7m externally with walls 1m wide and up to 0.5m high, but no subdivisions remain. The smaller structure, 8mx4.7m externally, has been very heavily robbed so little survives; the walls are 1m wide but are no more than 0.3m high; although an E-W subdividing line of stones, 0.3m wide, is visible 2.5m from the S side. Only the outline of the enclosure appears on the 1st edition (1870) OS map.

[PLATE XXIV]
xvi. Trackway. Revetted trackway.

xvii. Trackway. Revetted and embanked track.

KIL.16. STRUCTURES. NM88132771. Two rectangular structures beneath a dense cover of bracken and close to a small stream. The stone walls survive up to 0.4m in height. [FIGURE XXXII].

KIL.17. STRUCTURE. NM88202771. Rectangular stone-walled structure ca.40m to E of site KIL.16 on the opposite side of the small stream. The surrounding ground is gently sloping as is the grass-, and bracken-, covered interior of the structure which measures 10.5m(ENE-WSW)x4.5m, externally, with a maximum wall spread of 2m. The wall height varies between 0.15m and 0.4m although the ENE side is slight whilst the NE corner stands directly on top of a rock outcrop. A field wall runs 1.5m to the SW.

KIL.18. STRUCTURE. NM89062804. Ring-banked feature containing a depression and situated upon a knoll in an area of ridge and furrow. Some large stones are visible in the sub-oval bank which measures ca.6m in external diameter and little more than one course of stone in height.

KIL.19. STRUCTURE. NM89272803. A ring-banked feature similar in form to site KIL.18 with external dimensions of 6m(NE-SW)x5m creating a sub-oval outline. The banks survive up to 0.5m high with the NW side having a 0.6m backscarp due to soil accumulation from upslope. The grass-covered banks spread to 1m wide, due to tumble consisting of medium stones, and a 0.5m entrance gap can
be seen in the centre of the SE side. The structure is in an area of improved pasture, 28m W of a field bank, where much clearance has been deposited.

KIL.20. STRUCTURE. NM88952799. Two fifths of an arc of a bank belonging to the W side of a structure sits on a knoll-like ridge at the front of a formerly cultivated terrace. Bracken covers the slightly scooped centre of the structure and obscures the relationship with the surrounding 2.5m gauge ridge and furrow. The bank consists of partially grassed-over boulders (up to 1.0mx0.5mx0.3m) and medium to large stones covering an external area of 7m(NE-SW)x6m with the SW side surviving to a height of 0.3m and spreading over 1.2m. It is ca.3m SE from a track and in a place where clearance may have been deposited.

KIL.21. STRUCTURE. NM89042760. A natural outcrop of rock enclosing a level, D-shaped area at the edge of a cliff overlooking Loch Nell. Thorough examination, prevented by dense bracken undergrowth, may reveal some artificial additions to the potentially defensive feature. [FIGURE XXXIII].

KIL.22. STRUCTURE. NM89852879. Turf-banked structure surviving as a semi-circle along the edge of a small crag overlooking the farmyard at Balnagowan. The bank is slight, measuring between 0.1m and 0.2m high, and is composed of small to medium stones as well as making use of projecting segments of bedrock. The structure may originally have been circular but the W sector no longer exists. However, there is a faint arc of a possible ditch in this W area but could equally be a remnant of former cultivation. [FIGURE XXXIV; PLATES XXV & XXVI].
KIL.23. STRUCTURE (possible). NM89082822. Structure measuring ca.9mx4m and visible as a possible rectangular configuration of six post holes upon an aerial photograph (sortie CPE/SCOT/247, print 3110).

KIL.24. HOUSE PLATFORM (possible). NM89112898. Possible D-shaped house platform, ca.3m(NW-SE)x1.5m, scooped 1.5m into a substantial NE facing hillslope. It is in a relatively sheltered position but very elevated.

KIL.25. SHIELING GROUND. NM87662764. A cluster of at least five sub-rectangular structures in a patch of improved pasture bordered by heather. The turf banks contain some small to medium stones and stand between 0 and 0.4m high. 11m N along the slope is an L-shaped cut, 3.5mx3m and 0.1m deep, interpreted as a remnant of former peat-cutting. [FIGURE XXXV, PLATE XXVII].

KIL.26. SHIELING HUT (possible). NM87872738. Sub-rectangular structure with turf walls no more than 0.3m high and sited upon the top of a low knoll where spoil from the erection of the pole, for an Electricity Transmission Line, has been deposited. [FIGURE XXXVI].

KIL.27. SHIELING HUT (possible). NM87742749. On the top of a ridge with a clear view over land to the S is a structure measuring 3.5m(NE-SW)x2.7m externally. The walls are 0.4m wide and survive to a height of 0.2m under a cover of coarse, long grass and heather.

KIL.28. SHIELING HUT (possible). NM87272756. Possible sub-rectangular structure with rounded corners and with walls surviving to a height of 0.3m and a width of 0.5m. Measuring externally 4.5m(NE-SW)x3m, it has a centre scooped yet still above the surrounding natural land surface. Probable turf walls but
seemingly a complete circuit with no obvious entrance gap. The structure lies in
an exposed position on a narrow ridge in marshland. The ridge to the SW is level
but it rises steeply immediately to the NE. The feature is moss-covered with
some bracken.

KIL.29. SHIELING HUT (possible). NM89132863. Possible structure on a low
ridge, 25m(N-S)x15m, within an area of extensively peat-cut marshland. The
moss- and grass-covered bank survives up to 0.2m and appears to have been
constructed of blocks of peat resulting in vertical sides. [FIGURE XXXVII].

KIL.30. SHELTER. NM89472889. On an exposed, yet low, knoll is a single
rubble course of a structure; essentially only tumble survives. Small (0.10-0.15m)
stones are visible through the grassed banks which survive up to 0.3m high
whilst a slight gap in the middle of the SW side may be an entrance. It sits on the
SW tip of the knoll on which site KIL.31 is found. [FIGURE XXXVIII; PLATE
XXVIII].

KIL.31. SHELTER. NM89582894. Square structure, 6m(E-W)x3m, perched at the
edge of the E side of a large NE-SW ridge which is surrounded by extensive
ridge and furrow (2.5-3.0m gauge and 0.15m high). It has three prominent
boulders, up to 1.0mx0.6mx0.6m, in a kerb position around the SE corner. There
are some small to medium stones visible, and detected by probing, through the
turf in the rest of the kerb. The structure sits ca.30m SE of a pole for an
Electricity Transmission Line. [PLATE XXIX].

KIL.32. SHELTER. NM87952744. Situated in a patch of rough ground that has
not been cultivated although it is surrounded by land with ridge and furrow. It
comprises nine boulders of dimensions typical of others dotted around this
general area; one measures 1.0mx0.5mx0.7m; as well as a quantity of smaller stone. Eight of the nine boulders form part of a rectangular shape, 4m(N-S)x3m externally, and the remaining one may have been displaced from another position in this outline. The smaller stones (averaging 0.2m) are clustered in and outside the N and E ends of the feature. From midway along the N side to the SE corner is an arc of turves on top of stones enclosing a 2m strip of ground that is itself largely covered in stone. Beyond this, opposite the NE corner, is another partial outer arc, a further 1.3m away. Previously recorded as site OBN.162.

AGRICULTURAL FEATURES. [FIGURE XLII].

KIL.33. SHEEPFOLD. NM87852757. Consists of a 10m(NE-SW)x10m slightly sunken area with a track and a field bank forming the SW and SE sides respectively and slight concentrations of earth and stone form the other two sides. Ridge and furrow can be seen running up as far as this material and probably once continued across the area covered by the fold. It appears on the 1st edition (1870) OS map.

KIL.34. SHEEPFOLD (possible). NM88982791. At the front of a short terrace covered in gorse, bracken and small trees is a rectangular scoop, 8.0m(NW-SE)x6.5m and 0.7m deep, lined with a twin layer of close-set boulders; the largest being 1.0mx1.0mx0.7m; providing a maximum wall thickness of 1.5m. A track passes immediately beside the SE wall.

KIL.35. ENCLOSURE (possible). NM88172833. A flat, triangular area covered in bracken at the edge of a steep SE facing slope down to a stream has been delineated by a bank and ditch on two sides with the front edge above the slope forming the third side of the triangle. The NE bank is 2.1m wide, 0.3m high and
has a ditch to the NE and possibly part of another bank beyond that. The ditch has a variable width, and present depth of 0.2m, and was probably the quarry for the bank material. The NW bank lies at the foot of a small ridge with the same NE-SW orientation. There is a natural lynchet at the bottom of the ridge slope beyond an additional, but slight, bank and ditch. The total area enclosed measures ca.40m across the front edge, 10m of flat ground to the apex of the triangle and a further apron of 5m towards the steep slope.

KIL.36. CLEARANCE CAIRNS. NM87702739. Three small cairns on the flanks of a low ridge orientated NE-SW. The first is rounded in outline, 4mx2.5m and 0.7m in height, but has been distorted by later additions of rocks ranging from small stones to boulders (0.1-0.7m). The second mound is also rounded, 2m diameter and 0.4m high, whereas the last is more of an oval spread, 2.8mx1.5m and 0.2m high.

KIL.37. CLEARANCE CAIRNS. NM87552753. Two small cairns, 6m apart, with moss covering the accumulations of loose stones. They are both oval in outline and are similar in size, 1.5m in diameter and 0.15m high.

KIL.38. CLEARANCE CAIRNS. NM87982726. Two small piles of large rocks, ca.0.5m long, 8m apart, at the NE end of a NE-SW ridge.

KIL.39. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM87252750. Stone spread, partly moss- and grass-covered, ca.5.5m by 1.5m with small (0.1-0.2m in length) stones. May be clearance from the bordering cultivation or hardcore for an informal track that fringes the nearby marsh.
KIL.40. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM87282749. Low mound, 3mx1.5m by 0.3m high, of small stones sited at the top of a stream bank with more loose stones at the foot of the bank, adjacent to the watercourse.

KIL.41. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM87302749. Sub-circular mound, 2.5m in diameter and 0.8m high, entirely covered by turf.

KIL.42. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM87452760. Oblong mound, 4mx2.5m by 0.3m high, lying on a gentle slope. The small stones in the NW side of the cairn overlie a furrow of a 2m gauge ridge and furrow system.

KIL.43. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM87452764. Small cairn, 2mx1.5m, thrown against the base of a SE facing slope. A few stones are visible through the turf-line.

KIL.44. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM87672746. A small group of medium (0.15-0.30m) stones forming an ovoid, 2m in diameter and 0.3m high, on the fringe of a cultivated zone.

KIL.45. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM87802752. Flat, ovoid spread, 7mx3.5m, of small stones with a covering of grass.

KIL.46. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM87772739. Three boulders and a number of stones help to form a rectangular box, 4mx2.5m externally, with the largest boulder, 1.3m in diameter and 0.6m high, in the NW corner of the feature.
KIL.47. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM87912746. Scatter of medium-sized (0.2-0.3m) stones forming an ovoid, 4mx2.5m, with a cover of heather and turf. In an area where drainage improvement has been attempted.

KIL.48. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM87952744. Listed as site KIL.32.

KIL.49. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM88032752. Cairn in area of 2.5m gauge cultivation ridges. It contains three boulders with a base of small and medium stones covering a diameter of ca.0.5m.

KIL.50. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM87902712. Round cairn, 2m in diameter and 0.3m high, covered in turf and bracken with assorted sizes of stone visible. Also some stones strewn around the fringe of the terrace.

KIL.51. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM88022733. Linear band of medium stones disrupted by subsequent ploughing. Extends 7.5m by 1.7m with a height of 0.2m.

KIL.52. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM88062734. Sub-rectangular form, 2.7mx2.1m, on a low ridge with wet ground either side. Two boulders; the largest measuring 0.7mx0.6mx0.5m; are visible together with a quantity of smaller stones covered by turf and moss.

KIL.53. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM88172750. Rectangular pile, ca.1.5mx1.0m, of medium and large stones covering a small depression.

KIL.54. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM88182748. Small cairn with similar size and composition to site KIL.49.
KIL.55. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM88222750. Small cairn with similar size and composition to site KIL.49.

KIL.56. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM88212744. Lenticular mound, 4.5mx2.5m and 0.4m high, with just a few small and medium stones visible through the turf-line. In an area of 3m gauge cultivation ridges.

KIL.57. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM88412767. Ring-shaped mound, 2.25m in diameter, with medium stones forming the raised rim. The centre is hollow with small (0-0.15m) stones and is free of vegetation. There are 2.25m gauge cultivation ridges in the vicinity.

KIL.58. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM88422767. Six small (0-0.15m) stones visible through the turf and forming an ovoid.

KIL.59. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM88622743. Circular cairn, ca.6m in diameter and 0.7m high, containing small (0.15-0.20m) stones.

KIL.60. FIELD BANKS. [FIGURE XLIII].

i. Feal wall. Very slight linear feature, ca.0.8m-1.3m wide and ca.0.2m high, runs upslope W of the track and curls round to join bank KIL.60ii but the exact nature of the junction is erased by a sheep track. The line of the feature to the E of the track may only be detected as a faint vegetation mark upon aerial photographs (sortie CPE/SCOT/247, prints 3108 & 3110). Even where the feature is best preserved it was too slight to provenance the origin of the turves or speculate about containing ditches. Secondary segment parallel to the main bank. Same
width but half height. A ditch develops between (on NE side) having a V-shaped profile ca.1.25m below the surrounding land surface.

ii. Revetted bank. Bank enters lochan for at least 10m and probably much more. High proportion of sub-rounded large rocks with probable turf-capping. The wall width is 1.5m and 0.8m high. It curves up the steepest gradient of the slope. The stones in the matrix reduce in size up the slope and the matrix gradually changes to a predominantly soil make-up. The ditch on the NE side of the bank diminishes in depth up the slope. The ground slopes down to bank KIL.60iii and the stone content of the bank resumes predominance. At a position ca.60m NW of the junction with bank KIL.60iii there is a well-preserved stretch displaying a stone-revetted NE face to the bank, 1.2m high; the 2m wide bank also has its ditch on the same NE side. Some ditch spoil turned-out onto the non-bank side maybe the result of a subsequent de-silting operation.

iii. Revetted bank. Bank is essentially upcast from de-silting of the stream; ca.3m wide and 1.25m high. Grass-covered with rounded profile ca.1.5m-2.0m wide and up to 1m high. Sharper scarp slope on N side where evidence of stone-revetting can be seen in places. No evidence of revetting on S face. Water flows down both sides of the bank to the stream but the channel on S side looks natural, with an excavated ditch on N side. A section through the bank reveals a composition of assorted stone and soil.

iv. Revetted bank. Upslope bank KIL.60iii, stone-revetted on the N face, turns about ninety degrees to trend SE, and then to run alongside the track, as bank KIL.60iv. About 30m SE of this corner is a well-preserved section of ditch and stone revetment, now on the NE side of the bank. Large stones have been used
at the base of the revetment which stands 1.3m above the ditch which is ca.1.5m wide and ca.0.7m deep.

v. Revetted bank. The E boundary of a large enclosure of which banks KIL.60iii and KIL.60iv represent the NW and NE sides. It is ca.1.2m high, has a stone-revetted W face with boulder-sized stones at the foot of the revetting. No ditch is now visible and the bank cannot be measured for thickness because the ground level E of the wall is equal in elevation to the wall top suggesting a substantial movement of soil in this area.

vi. Dump construction. Dump construction of earth and stone ca.1.2m high with a spread varying between 2m and 3m at the base. No evidence of a revetted face but a shallow gully, ca.0.8m wide and 0.2m deep, on the W side may be the silted remains of a ditch. Extends NNE uphill.

vii. Dump construction. Different construction to banks KIL.60ii and KIL.60iii with no evidence of face revetting. Rounded profile and occasional projecting stone suggests crude dump construction. No convincing ditch though some material may have come from the NW side. Dimensions of ca.2m wide and ca.0.7m high.


x. Revetted bank. Runs upslope from a point where the track turns, passes through a gate and enters a wooded area. Broken in places and somewhat spread, some large, boulder-sized stones have been used in its construction at
the base. There is a hint of a possible stone-revetted NE face with a ditch adjacent but the evidence in the examined lower portion of the wall is not exclusive. May terminate at the track because it is not obvious immediately to the NW. However, the causeway for the track and the very wet ground with peat and rough grassland may obscure a continuation.

xi. Dump construction. Either side of the track the bank appears to be of dump construction. There is no obvious indication of a ditch. However, down the slope, to the SW, there are areas where the bank has been damaged or totally destroyed. One zone seems to indicate that the bank is thrown-up around a medial line of large boulders, whilst there are two examples towards the bottom of the slope where there seems to be a battered, revetted N face of stone. Measurements either side of the track are 3m wide at base and up to ca.0.8m high. Where the bank shows a revetted face the thickness is only ca.1.5m and ca.1m high.

KIL.61. LYNCHET. NM87892761. Negative lynchet, 0.6m deep, ca.10m W of field bank KIL.60vi. It runs E-W for 8m and is related to ridge and furrow cultivation (1.5-1.7m gauge).

KIL.62. RIDGE AND FURROW. [FIGURE XLII].
Prolific areas, up to 150m, of ridge and furrow are a feature of this landscape but the degree of preservation is variable. Quite clearly cultivation was a significant element of the economy; attempts were even made to clear large boulders with explosives in order to maximise cropping potential [PLATE II]. The local topography dictates the geometry of the ridges but in most instances the systems are straight and parallel, fanning to encompass crags and marshes. All lowlying areas with a sufficient depth of soil appear to have been utilised. A relative date
for the systems with respect to the other features in the landscape can be ascertained [FIGURE XLIII]. Firstly, the trackway overlies every system that it encounters, as it does with the field banks. In all but one instance, the systems respect the earth and stone field banks, being either perpendicular or parallel to the retaining boundary. The exception occurs near the track where bank KIL.60vii appears to curl over a ridge which is part of a 1.5-2m gauge system lying to the south, and possibly continuing to the north of the boundary. Furthermore, on an aerial photograph (sortie CPE/SCOT/247, print 3110), the feal wall KIL.60i appears to underlie a 2-2.5m gauge system and also field bank KIL.60ii; the feal wall is therefore one of the earlier agricultural features that still survives in the landscape. In addition to field banks, the systems were also divided by headland ridges running at right angles. One example, upslope from Lochan a'Bhuilg Bhith, consists of a single ridge 2.8m wide and 0.3m high bisecting a large block of cultivation. Another, between banks KIL.60iii and KIL.60v, is 3m wide and scored with blade marks; evidence of when the plough was turned. The gauge of the systems varies from 1.5m to 4m; mainly between 2m and 3m; but whether this relates to chronology is unclear. When a system is parallel to contours then the gauge varies down the slope; below the feal wall KIL.60i the gauge ranges from 2.25m to 3m. Variation within a flat area may arise from superimposition of cultivation over a period of time. When narrow gauge patches occur alongside broader units the junctions are fairly neat and never seem to betray evidence of relative chronology; the gauge perhaps being a difference in plough or preference of individual worker. Sometimes alternate furrows appear to be deepened; presumably an attempt to improve drainage of the land at a later date.
INDUSTRIAL FEATURES.

KIL.63. PEAT STACKING STANCE. NM88282743. A circular feature 0.4m high with a slightly dished centre beneath a growth of heather, rough grasses and Juncus. Around its W periphery, above land gently sloping towards a field bank, there appears to be a stone kerb of small boulders. However, no stone was detected during shallow probing of the E periphery. It is situated ca.40m SE of a track on a reasonably flat terrace that has undergone former peat-cutting. [FIGURE IXL].

KIL.64. SHOOTING BUTT (possible). NM87362756. A scoop cut into an E facing slope of a small ridge. It has a 1.5m backscarp but no frontscarp and an outer bank of turf and small stones up to 0.5m high. The interior is a hollow 0.3m below the entrance which does not directly face to the lochan. Alternative interpretations (Campbell, 1994) include stance for fish-drying racks [FIGURE XL].

KIL.65. SHOOTING BUTT (possible). NM87472756. Scoop, very similar to site KIL.64, in a SE facing slope. It has a 1m backscarp but no frontscarp. Internally, it measures 2m(E-W)x2m with evidence of a stone wall on the NE side ca.0.6m high and a 2m spread but covered in moss and turf. The entrance is 1m wide and points towards a stream in the distance but does not have a direct line of sight to the lochan. Alternative interpretations (Campbell, 1994) include stance for fish-drying racks.
KIL.66. QUARRIES. [FIGURE XLI].

i. Rectangular area, 6mx4m and 1.5m high, of stone has been quarried as close as 2m from the edge of the track. Some rubble remains.

ii. Quarry, 10m long and 2m high, with an irregular scarp face set back 4m from the track.

iii. Quarry, 5mx3.5m and 1.3m high, 1.5m from the track.

iv. Semi-circular recess opening to quarry, 6.5m long and 1.5m high, 4.5m from the track. Some rubble remains.

v. Quarry, 15m long and 6m high, set back 7m from the track. Some debris remains.

vi. Rectangular recess, 7mx6m, where rock has been quarried. About 10m from a field bank.

KIL.67. QUARRY (possible). NM89242933. At the sheltered NW tip of a knoll there is what appears to have been a series of large quarries creating a terraced slope. A similar quarry-type scoop is at the base, bordering marshland. The N side of the feature has a 2m length of rubble walling, or quarry spoil, providing additional shelter. The overall plan is a tight crescent containing a level surface measuring 10.5m(NE-SW)x5m and has a 0.8m backscarp with some possible revetting. A trackway terminates here.
Gaelic Place Names.

Balnagowan (Baligown, Balligown, Baligoun, Ballygowan). NM89902872.
   Blacksmith's homestead.
Barr a'Chlaiginn. NM89222864. Summit of an infield.
Barrancalltunn. NM89503068. Summit of hazel.
Barranrioch. NM89052978. Summit of flaying.
Dùnan Céardaich. NM89942879. Smithy hill.
Dùnan Tiodhlacaidh. NM90032859. Burial-ground hill.
Dùnan Trodhlacaidh. NM89912855. Conflict hill.
Killiechoinich (Kilchounich, Kilcheunich, Killehenich, Killichonich). NM88502755.
   Mossy woodland.
Lochan Barr a'Chlaiginn. NM89392901. Lakelet at the top of an infield.
Lochan a'Bhuilg Bhith (Locharuighe). NM874277. Lakelet of the shieling.
Rubha na Mòine (Rudha nam Moine). NM89642798. Headland of peat.
Tóm na Caorach. NM89042859. Knoll of a productive Rowan tree.
4.6. LERAGS (LER).

TOPOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION.

The name Lerags refers to the stepped terrain created by the Tertiary sills and sheets of Cruach Lerags that reaches 250m OD and is now under extensive coniferous plantation (Forestry Commission plot nos.2500-11). The lowermost terrace meets the shore of Loch Feochan and is relatively sheltered by Ardentallan Point to the SE and the summit of Carn Breagach to the E.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

The two Lerags were mentioned in 1432 under the ownership of the MacEwans of Otter, Loch Fyne after which the ownership passed through a series of Campbells until the late nineteenth century and twentieth century when individual parcels of land were sold-off. Lower Lerags is now owned by Duncan McColl and Upper Lerags, which is assumed to broadly coincide with Achalic, belongs to Mr Hodge. Lower Lerags consisted of seven a merkland and Upper was nine (Origines Parochiales Scotiae, vol.3, parish of Kilbride, 1504; Campbell, 1934: sasine no.252, 1628).

METHODOLOGY.

No detailed survey of the area was undertaken which is part of the area covered by a local, amateur archaeologist, Mr Charles Hunter. Previously reported sites were re-assessed and recorded and the ruined township was analysed.
INVENTORY OF SITES.

DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

LER.1. TOWNSHIP. Lower/Nether Lerags was recorded during Roy's Military Survey (ca.1750) and depicted as two groups of five structures denoting a significant, though small, settlement; it also appears on the earlier Pont map (mid-sixteenth century). [FIGURE XLIV].

i. Building foundations. NM83672441. Rectangular structure, 17.5m(NW-SE)x6.7m, with two partitions projecting from the long walls; one 1m from the S corner and the other is 9m from the N corner. There is a 1.2m entrance gap in the SW wall set 7.5m from the S corner. Another possible entrance, ca.4m present width, is in the SE wall at the S corner. Grassed-over walls, ca.0.8m wide, consisting of small, medium and large stones up to 0.4m high. A 0.4m length of wall leads off the E corner to the E. A trapezoidal annexe, 7.3m(NE-SW)maximumx6.7m, abuts the NW side and is scooped 0.6m below the surrounding ground surface. It has a 2.2m wide entrance in the NE side where it joins the rectangular structure. Situated on the first terrace, of improved pasture, above the modern farm track. Unroofed on the first edition (1870) OS map.

ii. Enclosure. NM83662441. Sub-oval enclosure, ca.22m(NW-SE)x16m, bordered on the SE by the track leading to Minard and on the NW by a 2m wide former track. The walling defining the feature is substituted by a small, natural outcrop around the S corner whilst mature cherry trees are growing out of the wall in the W sector. Site LER.1i opens onto this feature. Only appears on the first edition (1870) OS map.
iii. Building foundations. NM83682442. Rectangular structure, 12m(NW-SE)x6m, with only partial survival of the wall circuit. An 1.8m partition projects from the NE side, 6.5m from the N corner. Little soil depth. Small stones in the banks, covered by grass, which survive to no more than 0.15m high but is mainly less than 0.05m and about 0.8m wide. Situated 10m to the NE of site LER.1i. Unroofed on the first edition (1870) OS map.

iv. Enclosure (possible). NM83692443. Possible small enclosure, 7m(E-W)x6m(NE-SW), with only the NW angle surviving. The walls are 0.5m wide and 0.2m high. It is essentially just a line of stones at intervals resulting in grassed-over clumps. Sited on a small terrace, 15m to the NE of the annexe attached to site LER.1i, gently sloping to the E.

v. Enclosure. NM83662445. Sub-circular enclosure, ca.30m(E-W)x28m, closing-off the upper part of a low eminence. The wall is 1m wide and has two faces but because of the rising ground within, the outer face is far more prominent, even though the wall is now ruinous. The wall height is mainly 0.5m. On the N and NW sides there is a 1m drop to the land outside the wall circuit. There is no definite entrance. Within, there are no signs of structures but there may have been some terracing. The wall is sited in such a position that it may be designed to keep something out rather than to contain it. Sited on terrace ca.6m above the first terrace on which site LER.1i was built. The vegetation within is coniferous and deciduous trees, grass and some gorse. Appears on the first (1870) and second (1900) edition OS maps.
vi. Building foundations. NM83652444. Ruinous rectangular structure, ca.12.0m(ENE-WSW)x4.7m, abuts the SSE side of site LER.1v. It has a possible medial partition. Grass- and moss-covered stonework which reaches 0.3m in height. Unroofed on the first edition (1870) OS map.

vii. Enclosure. NM83642443. Flat terrace, 7.5m(NE-SW)x5.2m, immediately to the SW of site LER.1vi with slight banks on the SE and SW sides. The NE side is bounded by the wall of site LER.1v.

viii. Sheep pens. NM83622445. Sheep pens in contemporary use with a sheep dip amongst them. Consists of four main post and rail pens. Marked as a sheepfold on the first edition (1870) OS map.

ix. Ruined building. NM83632444. Rectangular structure, 12.7m(ENE-WSW), with an internal subdivision set 5.2m from the inner face of the ENE end. Opposed 1.3m wide entrances in the long walls. An 1.2m wide doorway in the centre of the partition wall gives access to the higher floor sector. The maximum wall height is 2.5m with a scarcement at the 2m point. Wall width of 1m at the base, where there are the largest stones, tapering to 0.5m further-up. An additional entrance, 1.4m wide, has been made at the W end of the N wall to permit access to the sheep dip of site LER.1viii. A concrete step and ramp have been incorporated into this entrance and the approach is stone-floored with one large stone, 0.8mx0.5m, with a possible former pivot socket, 0.1m in diameter, sunk into the centre but now filled-in. There are several patches of hard-standing within the structure, especially in the corners. At the SE end there is a metal grid supported upon a concrete base possibly being a device for drainage. Appears as unroofed on the first edition (1870) OS map.
x. Rowan tree. NM83632439. Growing ca.10m to the SW of site LER.1ii. Such trees are traditionally significant (Fife, n.d.).

xi. Mill (possible). NM83712442. Long rectangular structure shown on the first edition (1870) OS map as unroofed and not observed on the ground. It borders the track where the stream crosses.

xii. Farm. NM83852444. The modern farm consists of nine structures with associated yards. The first edition (1870) OS map shows four structures and two enclosures with little alteration on the second edition. However, an additional NE-SW rectangular structure appears upon an aerial photograph (sortie CPE/SCOT/247, print 3067) at NM83762441 but is now disturbed by a modern development.

LER.2. SHIELING GROUND. NM829243. Previously reported as two huts (DES, 1985: 34), there are the ruins of a minimum of six sub-oval stone structures, interpreted as shieling huts, pre-dating a system of 3.5m gauge ridge and furrow together with large field clearance cairns and a nearby stream. External dimensions average 8mx4m with a tumbled wall spread of at least 1.5m and a single E facing entrance; no internal subdivisions evident. A sheepfold is depicted upon this terrace on the 1870 edition OS map. [FIGURES XLV & XLVI; PLATE XXXI].

LER.3. STRUCTURE. NM82702414. Rectangular structure, 11.5m(NW-SE)x6.0m, on the sheltered side of Dùn Bhlaran. Situated upon gently sloping ground, the structure consists of several large boulders together with large stones covered by moss, bracken and grass. A transverse subdivision is 2.5m from the SE wall with small to medium stones; 0.6m wide and 0.2m high; with a
circular clearance cairn, or heap of tumble, in the centre. Entrance is probably in long side 3.5m from the S corner and ca.1.5m wide. The wall width is a minimum of 1m and 0.25m high.

LER.4. STRUCTURE. NM82682415. Situated ca.14m E from the W corner of site LER.3. Rectangular structure, 13.5m(WNW-ESE)x5.5m, with more, and larger, boulders than site LER.3. At the ENE foot of the dun hill. Tumble has caused a wall spread of more than 1.2m and 0.3m high. Marked on the first (1870) and second (1900) edition OS maps as roofless. Linked to the track, leading from Lerags farm to Minard, by a strip of improved pasture.

LER.5. STRUCTURE. NM81922366. Rectangular structure, 7m(N-S)x5m, with a maximum wall height of 1.9m and width of 0.8m. At least 7 courses of the drystone walling survive in places with rocks of all sizes. The S side is now missing, or never existed. Most of the W side is composed of a large in situ boulder (ca.5mx5mx5m). The floor is flat and level and composed of gravel. The N and E walls revet the natural slope so the floor is below the surrounding ground surface. ca.25m to the S of the major cliff-line and is ca.20 NE of the cliff-line directly abutting Loch Feochan. A low and short stretch of a less well-built wall runs parallel to the structure but is on the W side of the large boulder and may relate to a wooden shed placed on the site during the filming of Ring of Bright Water (released in 1969).

AGRICULTURAL FEATURES.

LER.6. SHELTER. NM82642418. On the access approach shoulder to the Dùn Bhlaran only a few metres to the S with the dun being elevated slightly above. Square structure, 3.5m(N-S)x3.5m, with boulders on the E and W sides and low,
medium stones forming the intervening wall matrix. Possibly a re-used remnant of the dun rampart; the feature was ruinous in 1889 and was then assumed to be part of the dun. [Christison, 1888-9: 393; PLATE XXXII].

LER.7. RIDGE AND FURROW. NM84352575. An example of high altitude narrow gauge cultivation at ca.150m OD bordering a stream in an area suspected for the location of Upper Lerags but no structures located.

INDUSTRIAL FEATURES.

LER.8. PEAT-CUTTING. NM82402460. High altitude peat-cutting at ca.170m OD.

GAELIC PLACE NAMES.

Lerags (le Roikis, Larragis). NM83832447. Stepped terrain.
4.7. MOLEIGH (MOL).

TOPOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION.

Moleigh (‘shingly stream’) lies at the SE end of Loch Nell upon a plateau, ca.40m OD, overlooking the flood-plain. The geology largely comprises raised beach and fluvio-glacial deposits resting upon Lower Devonian sediments.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

Moleigh passed from MacDougall ownership to the Stewarts in 1366 and was then returned in 1451 (Origines Parochiales Scotiae, vol.3, parish of Kilbride, 1451). It was later confirmed as a ten merkland (Campbell, 1934: sasine no.569, 1636) although part, if not all, was granted to McDougall of Gallanach in 1656 and stated as a six merkland (C.Hunter, pers.comm.). The owners are now United Auctions Ltd.

METHODOLOGY.

The township and the immediate vicinity were searched for potential sites during February 1993. The township was then recorded in detail.

The ongoing research of the Oban Archaeological Project has included test-pitting along the main Postglacial shoreline around Kilmore during the summer and autumn of 1994 and the following spring; a dispersed flint scatter was found
so future work will concentrate upon delineation of the assemblage(s)
(C.Bonsall, *pers.comm.*).

**INVENTORY OF SITES.**

**CAIRNS.**

MOL.1. CAIRN (possible). NM87762655. On a slight eminence overlooking the stream to the E, in improved grassland, are a series of displaced boulders and large stones from the denuded remains of an earthen mound. Looks like the disturbed remains of an outlier of the Loch Nell group of burial cairns.

**DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.**

MOL.2. TOWNSHIP. Moleigh was recorded during Roy's Military Survey (ca.1750) and depicted as six structures denoting a small, settlement; it also appears on the earlier Pont map (mid-sixteenth century). [FIGURE XLVII].

i. Building foundations. NM87502622. Rectangular structure, 18m(NE-SW)x7m, under rough grass with a 0.4m wall height and a minimum wall width of 0.8m. Probable entrance on N corner of NW side, now 2.5m wide. The N corner is 19m to the S of site MOL.2xii. An annexe, 7m(NW-SE)x3.5m, abuts the NE side and has an open NW side.

ii. Enclosures. NM87502620. Two conjoined, oblong enclosures. The SW unit, ca.24.0m(NE-SW)x11.5m, has a 3m wide entrance in the S corner with a 3m inturn. The SW part of the NW wall continues as a field wall further N. The NE unit, ca.25.5m(NE-SW)x12-15m, joins site MOL.2i, 16m from the S corner and at
the W corner. The NW side curves round so that the 2m wide entrance, 6.5m from the W corner of site MOL.2i, faces N rather than NW. The two enclosures run parallel, and close to, the present farm track.

iii. Building foundations. NM87582628. Indistinct banked, U-shaped structure, 5.5m(NW-SE)x5.0m, with an open NW end. It is sited at the front of a terrace overlooking the stream which is 2m to the NW. The bank width is 1.2m and up to 0.15m high but generally less than 0.1m. Grass-covered earthen banks, with rounded corners, and nettles covering most of the interior. In the line of a track and within a zone of improved pasture.

iv. Building foundations. NM87622625. On the next terrace above, and ca.15m to the SW of, site MOL.2iii is a sub-rectangular structure, 10.5m(N-S)x5.3m, with a slightly scooped N sector. Grass-covered. One boulder visible but the rest of the material is small to medium stones. Possible midway subdivision. Entrance uncertain; the boulder is beside one possible entrance gap, in the E wall and on the N side of the subdivision. The step, of 0.6m, occurs at the divider. The wall width is ca.1m and up to 0.5m high. The stream is ca.20m to the NE. Appears as roofed on the first edition (1870) OS map but unroofed on the second edition (1900).

v. Building foundations. NM87572625. Rectangular structure, 10m(NW-SE)x7m, with a mature tree growing in the SE sector. It is essentially a rectangular platform of small stone tumble elevated about 0.3m above the surrounding ground surface. A modern NE-SW fenceline bisects the structure. The SE side of the fence has been trampled by cattle whilst the other side is covered by grass with a wall width of 0.8m. The stream is ca.25m to the W.
vi. Structure (possible). NM87582624. A sub-rectangular scoop, 5.0m(E-W)x2.5m, set 0.3m below the surrounding land surface. Covered in rough grass and situated 8m to the WNW of site MOL.2v.

vii. Building foundations. NM87692642. Sub-rectangular structure, ca.7m(WNW-ESE)x4m, with the SSW wall 0.2m from, and parallel to, a stream course; this side also continues a further 0.8m downslope as a tumbled wall. The WNW side is curved and measures 2.5m long whereas there is no NNE wall. The structure is crossed by a N-S fenceline.

viii. Building foundations. NM87562630. Sub-rectangular structure, 9.0m(NE-SW)x4.5m, with a convex NE side. It sits at the front of a terrace ca.10m above, and to the W of, a stream. The wall width is 1m and up to 0.4m maximum height with the NE sector being slightly hollowed beneath the surrounding ground surface. A NW-SE fenceline crosses the structure and an oval feature, 5.5m(NNW-SSE)x5.0m and scooped to a depth of 0.3m, abuts the N corner; was possibly an annexe.

ix. Building foundations. NM87542625. Remains of at least two structures in the area between the curve of the track and site MOL.2xv. The walls only survive as short, interrupted sections 0.5m wide and are essentially no more than grassed-over tumps of boulders and large stones. The largest structure is rectangular, 12m(NW-SE)x9.5m, with an open NW end. The N corner joins to the S corner of the second unit at a clearance cairn. This structure is also rectangular, ca.6m(NE-SW)x4m, but has no NW or SW side and the NE side has a slight convex curvature. This latter structure is probably the roofed structure marked on the first edition (1870) OS map but later abandoned.
x. Farmhouse. NM87512625. Linear building, 1.5 storeys high. Constructional details partly hidden on outer walls by rough cast render and paint. Principal lineal division marked by the second chimney position. There is also a change of wall treatment on the external face of the SE wall. The house was probably originally a cross-passage type, with the NE end being the domestic quarters and the S end the byre. There is no sign of an original doorway in the middle of the E wall but a two storey lobby entrance/stairs on the NW side supports the idea. On the SE side of the house there is one smallish square window, and one even smaller, rectangular window in the mid-wall area on the ground floor. There is probably a door and perhaps another window hidden by an outhouse. On the NE side there is one small rectangular window at first floor level. The chimneys have also been cladded in some material. The roof is slate, with a long dormer window on the SE side, a small dormer window on the W side. The house is the oldest building. First appears on the first edition (1870) OS map.

xi. Byre/barn. NM87522625. Two storey building with byre at ground floor and barn above. The junction with site MOL.2x on the NW side is obscured by render but it is fairly certain that the latter was built on. It was built in one period, not raised or extended later, and perhaps allowed the byre end of the house/byre to become domestic quarters. It has side alternate quoin stones that have been squared and faced. Extends proud of site MOL.2x on the SE side to give the block an L-shape in plan. Has an open ground floor entrance on the NW side and within the building, with access through the SW end of the house. Breather holes on the SW side. Drainage channels along the ground. Wall thickness of 0.6m. Ground floor partitioned. Stone mortared. Slate roof. Entrance doorway at both levels on SE side. First appears on the first edition (1870) OS map.
xii. Outhouse. NM87532625. Built on the SW side of site MOL.2xi with a slate roof sloping down to the SW. Entrance on NW side, window on SW side and two breather holes on SW side. With breather holes the building may have functioned as additional byre space but was perhaps used in other ways when not required for beasts. Stone wall.

xiii. Vehicle shed. NM87532626. Now ruined. Free-standing SW stone wall. NE wall demolished, rubble still in evidence. Was entered by open SE end. No sign of roof, but scar on E sides of sites MOL.2xi-i shows that it was single storey. No broken slate amongst wall rubble. Surviving SW wall is unpierced by window or doorway. The NW wall line is traceable from the foundations and wall scar.

xiv. Outhouse. NM87522626. Function unknown but possibly a shed. Stone walls and corrugated asbestos roof. Roof slopes downwards to NE from site MOL.2xi wall. At NE side, window on NW side, open access on SE side, with corrugated iron cubicle in the middle. The closet has a window to the NE and should have a door on the NW side.

xv. Hard-standing. NM87532624. SW of site MOL.2xiii. At the SE end hard-standing extends out 2.0m, this width continues for 2.9m; but at the NW end it extends outwards 2.9m. The whole area is 13m(NW-SE) long.

xvi. Ruined building. NM87542628. Rectangular and roofless. Entrance on the SW end, gabled NE end survives to maximum height of 1.9m. Unmortared stonework. Course of slate built into the side (NW and SE) walls. On both sides slate course only topped by single course of stone on inner portion of wall thickness, so there is reason to believe this was the full height of the side walls, was the roofing material reaching down to here? The slate course would have
prevented water penetration into the core of walls from roof. Side walls 1.3m(NW) and 1.1m(SE). Difference merely compensates for the natural topography. Entrance width of 0.7m. There is a distance of ca.22m to site MOL.2x. Within the ruin is one timber roof truss and several sheets of corrugated iron. No windows evident. Wall thickness of 0.5m and 0.8m at the base. Appears as roofed on the first (1870) and second (1900) edition OS maps.

taxii. Enclosure. NM87512628. Irregular-shaped, stone-walled enclosure essentially sub-oval, ca.30m(NW-SE)x15m. Has an 8m wide entrance in the S portion of the wall circuit. Just to the E of the E corner of site MOL.2x. First appears on the first edition (1870) OS map.

xxi. Building foundations. NM87522629. Rectangular structure, 4m(NW-SE)x3m, beneath the E corner of site MOL.2xvii and cut by a modern fenceline.

xx. Enclosure. NM87532629. The SE side of site MOL.2xvii continues a further 10m before joining, at right-angles, to an L-shaped stretch of walling of this partial enclosure. The NE side, 20.5m long, is essentially a stone revetment with the ground to the NE being 1.8m lower. The SE side consists of a ruined wall, 16.5m long, surviving to a height of three courses and a thickness of 0.7m. A 2.5m wide entrance is situated in the NE side beside the N corner. It is cut by a fenceline. First appears on the first edition (1870) OS map.

xxii. Enclosure. NM87542629. Sub-oval raised area, 22m(NW-SE)x10m, enclosed on the SE and SW, by a stone revetment, 1.4m wide and 0.7m high. A gap of 3m exists between the NW end and the S corner of site MOL.2xvi and a 5m one between the E end and the S end of site MOL.2xx.

GAELIC PLACE NAMES.

Binnein Saor. NM86162633. Small peaked mountain of the carpenter.

Moleigh (Millige, Mulligh, Molleag, Mulick). NM87532625. Shingly stream.
4.8. TORINTURK (TOR).

TOPOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION.

Lower Devonian sedimentary geology has given rise to an elevated landscape bordering Loch Nell. The plateaux are beneath a thick carpet of heather, hence the Gaelic name Tóm Donn [PLATE XXXIII], in contrast to the lower terraces of verdant swathes cut by narrow watercourses with some impressive waterfalls. Natural tree cover is limited to the loch shore with limited valley penetration supplemented by coniferous plantations.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

The four merkland of Torr-an-tuirc and six of Cabrachan (Charter, 1641) were formerly under the control of the Campbells of Lochnell (site OBN.118). They are now part of the Dunach Estate owned by Lord and Lady Denham.

METHODOLOGY.

Sites previously reported within the catchment of Torr-an-tuirc and Cabrachan were re-located, identified and re-recorded during February and April 1993. Systematic fieldwalking was deployed around Cabrachan in order to establish the extent and intensity of cultivation.
INVENTORY OF SITES.

DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

TOR.1. TOWNSHIP. Torr-an-tuirc was recorded during Roy's Military Survey (ca.1750) and depicted as four structures denoting a small settlement. All the structures are near to a source of water and are usually set upon slight terraces with improved grassland. Most are less than 0.5m high and are generally ruinous. Several other possible stances are visible. [FIGURE XLVIII; PLATE XXXIV].

i. Enclosure. NM90382781. Terrace, 11.0m(E-W)x10.5m, bounded on two sides by a low stone wall. First depicted on the second edition (1900) OS map.

ii. Building. NM90372782. Standing, and restored, cruck-framed rectangular, 14m(E-W)x7m, byre (RCAHMS, 1975, mon.346). Boulders restricted to the base, corners and faces of the entrances. Small, rectangular breathers/windows. It has two entrances in the S wall, both 1m wide. One is set 1.7m from the SW corner whilst the other is 5.5m from the SE corner. Roofed on the first edition (1870) OS map.

iii. Building foundations. NM90372780. Rectangular structure, 12m(E-W)x6.5m, with an entrance in the S wall being a minimum of 2m wide and set 3m from the SE corner. The SE corner is composed of a wide spread of large stones and boulders. A short, low wall leads S from the entrance. Roofed on the first edition (1870) OS map but abandoned by the time of the second edition (1900).
iv. Building foundations. NM90362779. Rectangular structure, 21m(NW-SE)x6m, with a transverse subdivision set 11m from the NW end. There are two entrances; one set in the NE wall 6m from the N corner and 0.7m wide whilst the other is also 0.7m wide but set centrally in the SE wall. Roofed on the first edition (1870) OS map.

v. Building foundations. NM90362778. Rectangular structure, 14m(NNW-SSE)x7m, with the southern section appearing more ruinous and less well constructed. The 'join' occurs at 7.5m from the NNW end and is faced by boulders so may be the position of corner quoins or two opposing entrances. Sited 3m W of site TOR.1iv. Roofed on the first edition (1870) OS map.

vi. Building foundations. NM90362775. Two conjoined structures. The NE unit is trapezoidal, 7.0m(NW-SE)x4.5/5.0m, and joined at the N corner to the S corner of site TOR.1v by the wall of enclosure site TOR.1x. An entrance was once probably in the NE wall. The SW unit is joined to the latter by a thick dividing wall but the latter is wider so a 1m protrusion occurs above the N corner. This structure is rectangular, 16m(NE-SW)x6m, is crossed by a modern fenceline and is 6m E of a stream. Roofed upon the first edition (1870) OS map.

vii. Building foundations. NM90392774. Rectangular structure, 6.5m(NNW-SSE)x5.0m, with an WSW facing entrance set near to the S corner and is 1.2m wide. Roofed upon the first edition (1870) OS map.

viii. Building foundations. NM90402775. Rounded corner, 2.8m(NE-SW)x2.0m, of a former structure. Set 3.5m to the SE of site TOR.1vii.
ix. Structures. NM90402776, NM90422779 & NM90432770. Three rectangular structures depicted as roofed on the first edition (1870) OS map but not identified on the ground.

x. Enclosure. NM90362776. Oblong enclosure, ca.60m(NNE-SSW)x20m, demarcated by stretches of a low ruinous wall connecting sites TOR.1iii, v-vi.

xi. Building stance. NM90422774. Stance, 9.5m(NNW-SSE)x4.5m, with the NNW side consisting of a slight rise of tumbled, small stones. The SSE side has a single course of boulders. In the SSE side, 0.6m from the S corner, is a possible 0.9m wide entrance. Situated approximately 20m S of the modern farmhouse (site TOR.1xix). Roofed upon the first edition (1870) OS map.

xii. Building foundations. NM90432775. Approximately 15m to the SE of the farmhouse (site TOR.1xix) are the remains of two parallel rectangular structures, 2.3m apart. The SW unit, 5m(NE-SW)x4m, has a 1.2m wide entrance in the NE side set 0.7m from the N corner. The NE unit, 4.8m(NW-SE)x2.2m, is composed of a single course of boulders; the entrance gap was probably also near the N corner in the NE side. Depicted as a roofed structure on the first edition (1870) OS map.

xiii. Building foundations. NM90452779. Rectangular structure, 18.5m(N-S)x6.8m, with opposing entrances, 0.8-1.1m wide, set 7m from the N side. The wall width is well-preserved and measures 0.95m. Roofed on the first edition (1870) OS map. Situated approximately 45m to the ENE of site TOR.1xviii.
xiv. Enclosure. 90462779. Sub-rectangular enclosure, 12.5m(ENE-WSW)x12.0m, with rounded corners. One end joins the NW corner of site TOR.1xiii and the other end swings round towards the middle of the structure’s E side but stops 2m short to create an entrance. There is also a 2.2m wide entrance in the NW side about 5m from the NW corner of site TOR.1xiii. The N corner of the circuit has been robbed. Depicted on the first edition (1870) OS map.

xv. Wells. NM90462778. Wells marked only on the first edition (1870) OS map just to the S of site TOR.1xiv.

xvi. Building foundations. NM90432781. U-shaped structure, 6.0m(NE-SW)x5.8m, set 9m to the WNW of site TOR.1xiv and with an open NE end. Depicted as a roofed structure on the first edition (1870) OS map.

xvii. Structure (possible). NM90402781. Natural rise with trees and a spread of stone tumble.

xviii. Byre. NM90422776. Rectangular structure, 21.5m(NNE-SSW)x6.5m, now functioning as a barn. The ESE side has four, equally-spaced doorways, 1.2m wide, and one possible blocked-up entrance midway in the WNW side. Quoins are visible at the two exposed corners but not where this unit joins site TOR.1xix so the two might have been built at the same time. There are square breathers/windows measuring 0.4m.

xix. Farmhouse. NM90422775. Occupied dwelling.
TOR.2. TOWNSHIP. Cabrachan was recorded during Roy's Military Survey (ca.1750) and depicted as five structures denoting a small settlement.

i. Building foundations. NM90132760. Does not appear on the first edition OS map (1870). Very ruinous rectangular structure, ca.8m(NW-SE)x5m. On a N facing promontory between the track and the stream. No definite entrance but the structure is most accessible at the SE end. Not on the old maps.

ii. Building foundations. NM90092765. Rectangular structure, ca.16m(NNE-SSW)x4m, with two opposing entrances midway in the long sides. Roofed on the first (1870) and second (1900) edition OS maps.

iii. Plantation. NM90082769. Tree bounded sub-circular plantation, ca.28m in diameter, standing as a prominent feature on the flood-plain of Loch Nell.

iv. Well. NM90062758. Marked on the first (1870) and second (1900) edition OS maps.

v. Building complex. NM90132764. A series of buildings, yards and sheep fanks in use from the first edition (1870) OS map and still standing, but abandoned, at the present day. This represents the core of the township. One dwelling has been converted by adding a timbered second storey.

TOR.3. STRUCTURE. NM90322756. Previously recorded as a turf-covered wall enclosing an area 45'x15' (DES, 1967: 9). Sited at the front of a high terrace overlooking the track down to Cabrachan, this rectangular structure, 12m(ENE-WSW)x6m, has a wall width of 0.8m and a maximum wall height of 0.4m. Totally grass- and moss-covered with only a few small stones visible with a gently
sloping interior cut by a fenceline. The entrance, a minimum of 1.3m wide, is midway and facing away from Loch Nell. In the centre of the interior is a reddened tabular stone with a smaller one set on edge alongside (?hearth).

TOR.4. STRUCTURE. NM91102705. Ruined rectangular building, ca.4.4m(NE-SW)x3.8m externally, abuts a stone and earth bank and is at the NW margin of a system of 2m-gauge rig and furrow. The structure may have been constructed out of clearance and additional clearance may have been dumped on top. The inner edge is denoted by stone on edge. Located ca.60m from the conifer plantation. Wall height of 0.7m and 0.8m wide.

TOR.5. SHIELING GROUND. NM91002650. Previously reported as four tumbled buildings (DES, 1967: 9). The uppermost, and largest, member of the group is sub-rectangular, ca.9m(NE-SW)x3m externally and a NW facing entrance, with the long-axis gently downsloping. A minimum of seven other structures are clustered on three small terraces below this. They are all sub-oval and sub-circular in outline, ca.3m long and 2-3m wide, with single entrances generally placed on the E side. The walls survive as grassed-over rubble no more than 0.25m high. Situated in rough hill pasture in quite an exposed position, ca.160m OD, with streams no more than 200m away. [PLATES XXXV, XXXVI & XXXVII].

AGRICULTURAL FEATURES.

TOR.6. SHEEPFOLD (possible). NM90682678. Towards the SE end of An Car there is a sub-oval structure, 3.5m(NNW-SSE)x3.3m. Approximately 50m E of a track and is itself beside a sheep track at the foot of a steep slope. Consists of large stones and boulders in a state of tumble. The retaining bank has little stone visible. No sign of an entrance. Grass-covered and scooped ca.0.5m below the
surrounding ground surface. The outer edge of the bank is ca.0.3m above the ground surface and is 0.6m wide.

INDUSTRIAL FEATURES.

TOR.7. MILL (possible). NM90282766. Mill hill. Fairly flat-topped promontory projecting N called ‘Tóm a’Mhuilinn’ or mill hill. Both the upper surface and the flanks are turf- and bracken-covered with little stone visible. Loose stone is in evidence around the steep scarp slopes an the N, and NW, but could derive from natural erosion of the outcrop above. A NE-SW stone and earth bank, to the S of this promontory, terminates some 50m further E at the bank of a stream which lies 7m down a steep-sided gorge. Here there is a fairly level, natural platform, ca.8mx3m. A modern water tank now occupies the stance but it would have been an ideal site for a small water mill as are revetted stretches of the major water course, Alt Cabrachan, in the vicinity. A mill is indicated on Pont’s map (mid-sixteenth century).

GAELIC PLACE NAMES.

Cabrachan (Cobrachan). NM90132763. A deer/thicket.
Eas an Eirionnaich. NM88972614. Waterfall of the young gelded goat.
Eas Fas. NM89132688. Unoccupied waterfall.
Tóm Donn. NM89622623. Brown knoll.
5. THE ARCHAEOLOGY.

The archaeology of the Oban region is comprehensively reviewed below under the relevant period headings which is a format providing a clear order to the information. However, it implies that there were strict boundaries between the periods which was evidently not the case.

5.1. MESOLITHIC.

Throughout this century, and the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the finds from the caves and rockshelters in Oban (sites OBN.1-3,11) have attracted the attention of European prehistorians. Most of the sites were revealed towards the close of the nineteenth century, as a result of the gradual expansion of the town, and produced a series of bevel-ended tools (termed 'limpet scoops' but their function is unknown), bilaterally-barbed points and antler mattocks. Anderson (1898: 313) related these sites to the shell middens of Oronsay (Caisteal nan Gillean I, Cnoc Sligeach, Cnoc Coig and Priory Midden) [FIGURE IL] which contained a similar array of artifacts together with the use of shells: edge wear on scallop shells and twin perforations in cowrie shells. Later Movius expanded this notion by considering the similarities being sufficient to justify a separate cultural phenomenon, the 'Obanian'. The term 'culture' was thereafter adopted and applied by workers (e.g. Lacaille, 1954).

The 'assemblage' of artifacts associated with the 'Obanian' sites consists of an array of bone and antler tools (barbed points/harpoons, mattocks, pins, awls and 'limpet scoops') together with a limited range of lithics ('limpet hammers', scalar
cores/lame écaillé/piece écaille, flakes and bladelets) with a distinct absence of microliths with the possible exception of beneath Risga's Loch Sunart midden (Woodman, 1989: 15) and Skye's An Corran midden (Hunter, 1994a). The Obanian tool-kit survives as a result of conditions of preservation unique to the alkaline environment provided by shell middens. The lack of alkalinity in flint scatters could be the reason for absence of the Obanian tool-kit further afield with the acidity of the peat causing decay in the organic materials; indeed, the date range for the Obanian sites overlaps the activity associated with flint scatter sites in the neighbourhood (see below). However, the absence of a microlithic component within the middens would not be expected with such an explanation especially since middens generally produce a wide range of material in addition to organics (vide Ertebølle). The Oban caves were mainly excavated towards the end of the nineteenth century when archaeological techniques were in their infancy but reasonable care was given to artifact recovery so the possibility of microliths having been present but missed during the course of the excavations seems improbable. Furthermore, the more recent excavations have involved sieving techniques to maximise microlith recovery (vide Carding Mill Bay site II (site OBN.14)) without success. Alternatively, the Obanian may represent a specific coastal adaptation with the use of microliths being replaced by barbed points and small bladelets detached from the scalar cores. The use of scalar cores might reflect the reliance upon beach pebble flint as the source of raw material rather than larger nodules directly recovered from flint seams. Other than beach pebble flint the nearest source to Oban is Craignure, Mull [NM7137] whilst chert is available from Kilchrenan [NN0322] (Wickham-Jones & Collins, 1978). Researchers are therefore questioning the applicability of the label 'culture' to the Obanian. For example, Mellars (1987) interprets the Obanian shell middens as a result of a shift in, or pressure upon, food resources. It is in such a situation of stress that a zone of stylistic variance could potentially
develop (Gendel, 1984: 13), perhaps even leading to tool variants (i.e. barbed points replacing microlithic composite tools). Alternatively, were the microliths produced away from the living areas at sites resembling those on Jura (Mercer, 1974; Searight, 1984) where lithic assemblages have been recovered without the bone and antler tool-kit? The Jura sites, although lacking the antler and bone work recovered from the Obanian sites, do nevertheless have large anvil stones thus suggesting a linkage, no matter how tenuous. The absence of a midden environment to preserve the organic assemblage at the Jura sites is a conclusion forwarded by some researchers or the lack may reflect a different economic activity other than coastal exploitation (i.e. hunting camps for land mammals). Activity beyond the coastal belt around Oban is attested by possible small-scale clearance of forest cover near Gallanach Beg in the upper reaches of Gleann Sheileach (Rumsby et al., May 1992) as elsewhere in the Scottish Mesolithic (Edwards & Ralston, 1984).

The Oban area has been regarded as a peripheral area to the main developments in central and northern Europe. The sites, despite containing artifacts with close affinities to earlier material elsewhere, have been regarded as generally late; a series of chronological misconceptions have collaborated to push and squeeze the Obanian into a late, and short-lived, time bracket at the close of the Mesolithic. Indeed, some have placed it at the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition (e.g. Jacobi, 1982). The dating of the sites is consequently a fundamental point that must also be addressed so the Oban sites are briefly described below together with their position in the chronological column.

Dating can be achieved by a number of methods. Firstly, by relating the typological affinities of the artifacts to those from neighbouring areas of Europe in order to establish a relative chronology. Secondly, by radiometric dating of
some of the artifacts recovered from secure contexts. Thirdly, by applying palaeoenvironmental analysis to the archaeological deposits and relating the findings to established chronologies (e.g. pollen analysis, mollusc studies, etc.). The sparsity of flint assemblages recovered from the caves (see below) makes typological affinities more-or-less untenable. Furthermore, the early date of the excavations leaves stratigraphic control of artifact recovery a matter of uncertainty. The latter point has also restricted the application of faunal studies whilst floral material has not been preserved. However, the study of Holocene sea-level changes and isostatic uplift has been a significant dating tool.

MacArthur Cave (site QBN.1) no longer exists. It was situated at the base of a cliff-line on a raised beach terrace and was discovered during quarrying for building material at the close of the nineteenth century which destroyed the roof. The mouth of the cave faced the coast and had been covered by a talus deposit whilst a rear, shaft-like passage, leading to the top of the cliff, was filled with a black organic-rich deposit thought to be derived from surface vegetation. This black residue had percolated down with the action of rain water to form the uppermost floor deposit. The excavation proceeded by lifting the talus material, above the main entrance area, then stripping the black deposit from the floor (ca.8mx6m) and laying an E-W trench through the underlying stratigraphy. Immediately beneath was a lens of shell midden containing charcoal, ash and burnt bone. This overlay a water-rolled, fine gravel containing a patchy band of degraded shell extending down to the weathered base of the cave floor. Taking the base of the gravel to be ca.11m OD it is assumed that the event of deposition was the maximum marine transgression measured at 13m above Newlyn OD and dated to the seventh millennium BP; indeed, sea inwash was implied by the sloping nature of the deposit against the E wall of the cave. The shells within the midden tended to be grouped into pockets of edible mollusc species. In addition
to the shellfish, faunal remains included red and roe deer, domesticated cattle, pig, dog, cat, badger, otter, sea-fowl, crab and large fish (e.g. saithe); human remains were also recovered from the upper black deposit. However, the artifacts recovered from the cave have attracted the most archaeological attention but their exact provenance cannot be substantiated. They include flint nodules, cores, flakes, scrapers and battered pebbles ('limpet hammers') as well as a large assemblage of bone and antler biserially barbed points (7), 'limpet scoops' (140), pins and awls. One of the barbed points was AMS 14C dated (Bonsall & Sutherland, 1992: 118-9) to 6700±80 BP [OxA-1949] (i.e. closely post-dating the maximum marine transgression).

The Druimvgargie Rockshelter (site OBN.11) was also recorded by Anderson at the close of the nineteenth century and was concealed by talus on the south side of the NE-SW Druimvgargie ridge that is now quarried away. The upper fill consisted of a black earth deposit containing ash and some talus. Beneath was an angular gravel with a reddish clay, ash and limited faunal remains extending down to the floor of the rockshelter situated at a height of ca.14.6m Newlyn OD (i.e. higher than the maximum marine transgression). The faunal remains consisted of marine molluscs, red deer, wild boar, otter and wildfowl and the assemblage comprised battered pebbles, a flint flake, 'limpet scoops' (12), awls, an antler mattock and uniserially barbed points (2). The latter were AMS 14C dated to 7810±90 BP [OxA-1948], hence before the maximum rise in sea-level even though the deposits would have survived the marine transgression.

The Distillery Cave (site OBN.2) was larger than the other caves found within the environs of Oban being 4m deep. Once again, it was discovered as talus was being cleared at the base of a cliff-line but the fill was removed before detailed archaeological recording could be initiated. Immense quantities of midden were
removed which were predominantly marine mollusc shells together with human skeletal remains (displaying a low receding forehead), seal, ruminant, pig, bird and fish. The recovered artifacts were limited to an antler spatula (dated to 3780±60 BP [OxA-4509]) and some flint débitage. The site was at ca.13m OD, below the maximum rise in sea-level, so the deposits can be assigned to a post-marine transgression chronological context.

MacKay Cave (site OBN.3) was also uncovered during the course of quarrying in 1869. It was situated at ca.10m OD with an entrance passage leading to a chamber ca.3m in height and depth. No stratification was recognised in the fill but it contained the human skeletons of an adult male and a child and a range of flintwork including an end-scaper made on a blade and a side-scaper. The faunal remains consisted of limpet shells, red and roe deer, goat, fox, otter, pine marten, hare and bird. Similarly, a rockshelter at Ardantrive (site OBN.17), on Kerrera, was situated well below the maximum marine transgression, and even below 10m OD, and contained a midden with a leaf-shaped point but also with pot sherds although the stratigraphic relationship is unknown.

A cave behind the gasworks (site OBN.8) was, once again, revealed during the course of quarrying and contained human skeletal material, marine molluscs and other faunal material including red-deer, goat and pig. Cinerary Urn sherds and a flint chip were also recovered.

Carding Mill Bay sites I-III (sites OBN.13-5) were all discovered and partially destroyed by a mechanical digger prior to any archaeological recording could take place. However, they appear to have been remarkably similar. The intact deposits at site I lay at the base of the cliff-line within a fissure. Disarticulated human skeletal material was found between and above some sandstone slabs;
interpreted as a disturbed cist; together with a nearby Cinerary Urn sherd. Beneath was further skeletal material but above a midden deposit. A section through the midden revealed that the upper, tightly packed, and charcoal stained, portion was separated from the lower band by a thin layer of crushed shell; the lower section was also resting upon such a layer of crushed shell. Removal of the midden deposit produced a quantity of worked bone implements including 'limpet scoops'. Similarly, Carding Mill Bay site II consisted of two midden deposits below disarticulated human skeletal material alongside a plano-convex flint knife, Cinerary Urn sherds and sandstone slabs; the whole sequence also lay within a fissure at the base of the conglomerate cliff-line. Unfortunately, site III was totally removed before being assessed or recorded by an archaeologist. Site II is presently in the stage of post-excavation so results and detailed interpretation will be forthcoming. However, an antler bevel-ended tool was radiocarbon dated to 5190±85 BP [OxA-3740] and a bone version produced a date of 4765±65 BP [OxA-3739] whilst charcoal and marine shell ranged from 5035±65 BP [GU-2899] to 4980±50 BP [GU-2797].

Raschoille Cave (site OBN.4) was discovered when a talus deposit was cleared from the entrance. Preliminary investigations of the uppermost deposits recovered disarticulated human skeletal material (ca.24 skulls) together with roe deer, dog/fox, cat, marine molluscs, fish bones (wrasse) and other faunal and floral remains. The only artifact recognised was a fragment of a 'Bronze Age type' flint arrowhead. A further, yet limited, excavation was conducted in the underlying layers and this is currently undergoing post-excavation (D.Sloane, forthcoming) but already a 'limpet scoop' has been identified together with four worked flints and a range of marine and land fauna (Bonsall & Robinson, 1992: 40).
Ulva Cave, near Mull [FIGURE IL], has been the subject of recent excavations (Bonsall et al., 1987; Bonsall et al., 1989; Bonsall et al., 1991; Russell et al., 1995) and the full nature of the deposits have yet to be fully investigated. However, preliminary excavations have revealed a midden deposit within the entrance area with $^{14}C$ dates for Obanian material as early as 7800±160 BP [GU-2704]. However, even more significant is the longevity of the midden accumulation up to 2000 radiocarbon years to 5690±60 BP [GU-2602]. The value of single radiometric determinations is therefore called into question; should archaeologists consider the deposition of middens as extremely long chronological episodes rather than short-lived, specific events? For example, the date produced from Druimvargie Rockshelter could conceivably represent a single event within the potentially long accumulation of the midden. Lacking stratigraphic certainty as to the exact derivation of the sample we are unable to state whether it marks the start, middle or end of the process of deposition.

Having supplied a chronology for the Oban material ranging from the eighth to the sixth millennium BP there is a further chronological question that requires attention: where is evidence for earlier occupation of the Oban region or, if there was not any earlier occupation than Druimvargie Rockshelter, why not?

The Oban region was subjected to Pleistocene glaciation and the Lateglacial climatic record is available from a core taken from Pulpit Hill (Tipping, 1992), an elevated area within the NW sector of the Gleann Sheileach survey zone. The core records a series of climatic fluctuations; an initial downturn preceding 12,000 BP, and a ca.12,000 BP decline that led to the Loch Lomond Stadial. Archaeological evidence for occupation could therefore be anticipated to exist in the succeeding phase of climatic amelioration, initially during the summers and then permanently, as the area was either colonised for the first time or re-
colonised. Elsewhere areas were immediately re-occupied following the retreat of the ice-sheets in relatively barren areas (vide northern Sweden in Broadbent, 1987). Indeed, although not unequivocal, evidence is available to support the notion of Early Postglacial occupation of Scotland in areas that were ice-free (Morrison & Bonsall, 1989). The evidence consists of a substantial accumulation of shed antler, thought to be a human cache of raw material, in a cave at Inchnadamph dated to 10080±70 BP [SRR-1788], a flint end scraper from under the North Sea, an Ahrensburgian tanged point from Tíre and a broken segment of an Ahrensburgian tanged point has recently been recovered on Islay (S. Mithen, forthcoming). The evidence may be greatly enlarged during present programmes of research (vide Ulva Cave in Bonsall et al., 1987).

Extrapolating the findings from typological studies of microlith morphology from the rest of Britain would suggest that the earliest Holocene sites would tend to be associated with non-geometric microlithic assemblages. Assemblages resembling non-geometric industries (i.e. containing large isosceles triangles, trapezes and non-geometric points) have been recovered from three Scottish sites; Morton, Fife (Coles, 1971) where a case of pre-9300 BP occupation has been advanced (Bonsall, 1988) with a non-geometric-type industry (Woodman, 1989: 8-11), Glenbatrick Waterhole G1 on Jura (Mercer, 1972-4) and Lussa Bay on Jura (Mercer, 1970) although the latter were recovered from a derived context. One assemblage that does not fit clearly within the sequence outlined above was recovered from Kilmelfort (Coles, 1983) and consisted of the scalar cores alongside scrapers and backed blades but the site had been considerably disturbed and destroyed by quarrying so further discussion is limited.

The first dilemma involved with searching for an early Postglacial site is the flooding and destruction caused during the maximum marine transgression as
water encroached upon areas of land that would have been suitable for Mesolithic occupation (see below). The situation of Druimvargie Rockshelter illustrates that sites located below 13m Newlyn OD will be disturbed or destroyed by the water action; the Oban area has effectively lost its Early Holocene coastline. It logically follows that suitable sites will only be preserved above 13m OD. Secondly, undiscovered cave sites undoubtedly exist but will lie beneath a thick layer of talus so unless a large-scale strategy of talus clearing is implemented around the undeveloped base of the cliff-line upon the Main Rock Platform then new discoveries will only be chanced upon; indeed, the existing body of caves were only found as a by-product of quarrying. Such a strategy would not only be impractical in terms of sheer expense and disturbing the geological stability of the cliff faces but also upon ethical grounds; should such sites be purposely exposed and excavated or left preserved beneath the talus for future archaeologists?

The search should therefore focus upon an open-air site above 13m OD. In the Pennines flint scatters have been located in elevated terrain when the deflation of the peat cover has exposed the artifacts. However, the peat cover in the Oban region is somewhat deeper and will effectively hide such evidence. Elsewhere material can be located in ploughed fields but the pastoral farming regime and forestry in the West Highlands means that ploughing is rarely encountered. So, barring the chance discovery by processes of erosion, open-air sites can only be located by purposive searching, especially in areas of known potential.

During the field survey three categories of potential evidence were sought; firstly, mounds with the potential of containing early midden material and, secondly, cave/rockshelters with archaeological deposits. Many mounds (sites GLS.11-20) were recognised within the Gleann Sheileach survey zone but preliminary
probing failed to locate midden material beneath the turf-line and none were within easy reach of Holocene coastlines like those on Oronsay. The search for caves and rockshelters was supplemented by research conducted by the Department of Geography, Newcastle-upon-Tyne University (Macklin & Rumsby, 1991). Their geomorphological survey identified a total of twenty-one new caves and rockshelters principally in Lower Old Red Sandstone conglomerates and intrusive andesites, and in a series of Pre-Cambrian black slates. The shelters were created as a result of marine erosion and from salt weathering coupled with freeze-thaw action acting on fissures and weaknesses within the rocks. The survey also identified areas of potential along the Postglacial coastline for the purposes of planning development strategy during future schemes of town expansion. The archaeological field survey located a rockshelter with a midden deposit (site ATL.1) but at a height of approximately 10m OD and so probably too low to yield early material.

The development of Oban with the construction of a new hospital, an industrial park and housing, created a rescue scenario in which any potential archaeology would be destroyed without record unless steps were taken to examine the area and to locate sites beforehand. The main Postglacial shoreline at Lòn Mór [PLATE I] was one of the threatened areas and it would be in such a location where evidence for open-air Mesolithic activity would be anticipated. Mesolithic sites in SW Norway were found to lie near watercourses; former reindeer migration routes, routes for humans through the forest cover and killing/trap areas (Bang-Andersen, 1987). At Swifterbant in Ijsselmeer in the Netherlands the scatters are distributed along a freshwater tidal delta. The sites of Williamson's Moss and Monks Moor (Bonsall et al., 1989) were on the edge of a former channel cutting across glacial sediments in order to make use of the food supply from the river estuary (salmon and sea trout spawning), flint deposits (and
building materials) from the coastal foreland and for driftwood. Gleann Mór 2 is situated on the side of a former watercourse whilst Bolsay Farm (72m OD) faces a marshy area (Mithen et al., 1991).

Test-pitting within the zone (see chapter 4.3) located two flint scatters and it was decided to proceed with excavation which took place over 17 weeks during the Spring of 1992. The first stage of investigation commenced with the laying-out of five, approximately NW-SE, parallel trenches at the foot of a crag. The position was chosen due to the shelter offered in the lee of the cragline therefore being a potential occupation zone within close proximity to the flint scatter; elsewhere is exposed due to the funnelling effect upon winds that Gleann Sheileach has as they enter at Gallanach Beg and exit in Glencruitten/Oban. Torrential and persistent rain hindered attempts to identify structural evidence however two of the trenches proved to be of particular interest. The first was a structure (site GLS.59) consisting of a circular ditch enclosing a series of postholes and a possible hearth; the whole structure had witnessed at least one episode of burning. Initial observations of the structure and associated material (pot sherds) imply a ring-ditched house belonging to late prehistory. The other feature (see site GLS.1) consisted of a broadly rectangular structure consisting of a series of closely placed large stones, not confined to a single level, creating a floor-like surface; a structure somewhat more substantial than the stakeholes located at the Oronsay middens (Mellars, 1987), Bolsay Farm, Islay (Mithen et al., 1991; S.Mithen in Fischer, 1995) and elsewhere in Britain (e.g. Downton, Wiltshire in Higgs, 1959). The feature has initially been interpreted as an attempt to consolidate the soil in order to produce a surface suitable for occupation. Hearths were identified close-to, but not in direct association with, the stone structure.
The main area of excavation then commenced with the examination of the flint scatter area. A trench was laid encompassing the flint-rich test-pits (i.e. the large squares in FIGURE III) and the removal of deposits proceeded with 5cm spits being trowelled from 0.5m² grid squares. All soil was assigned to specific grid squares, and spit depths, and was then wet sieved to recover artifactual and environmental material. The constraint of time forced the use of a sampling strategy during the later stages of the excavation.

The excavation revealed a series of burnt spreads, partially truncated by ploughing, containing charcoal, hazelnut shells, bone splinters and flintwork. The scatter has been interpreted as a midden deposit but whether it is directly related to the occupation/activity slightly further upslope, at the stone ‘floor’, is as yet unclear. The time-scale during which the ‘midden’ accumulated is equally unclear until radiocarbon dates have been received for charcoal samples extracted from the burnt deposits. If the deposits are to be considered as middens from repeated activity/occupation within the vicinity, and with re-use/recycling (vide Wandsnider & Camilli, 1992) of the flint material, then the application of typological analysis is limited; the assemblage is unlikely to be in a primary context of deposition and related to a single ‘event’ of activity/occupation.

In advance of detailed post-excavation analysis, a general impression of the worked flint, as a whole, is that it consists predominantly of microliths that can be attributed to a narrow blade, geometric industry (Bonsall et al., 1993). Such narrow blade industries were established before 8000 BP (Woodman, 1989: 12; vide Kinloch, Rhum) in Scotland. Indeed, one carbonised hazelnut shell recovered from one of the burnt lenses during the initial phase of prospection test-pits was submitted for AMS dating and produced a date of 7385±60 BP [AA-
8793] and therefore, as anticipated, approximating the time of the mid-Holocene marine transgression. Similarly, the work currently in progress upon Islay (Mithen et al., 1991; Hunter, 1994a) and, as part of the Southern Hebrides Mesolithic Project, has recovered only narrow blade technologies.

During the course of the scatter A excavation, additional test-pits were dug around scatter B to delimit the scatter more precisely and to recover additional flintwork and charcoal in order to assist with chronological analysis. Further test-pitting was also conducted along the remaining section of Postglacial shoreline during the Spring of 1993 but this only recovered discrete scatters of flint débitage all sufficiently small to fall within the label of casual losses.

5.2. NEOLITHIC.

The Neolithic evidence appears to be very much overshadowed by the wealth of sites ascribed to the second millennium BC. The interest given to the Obanian middens has equally diminished the importance of this succeeding phase. In fact the only monument within the study area that has been confidently assigned to the Neolithic period is the chambered cairn at Dalineun (site OBN.27) at the southern shore of Loch Nell. The RCAHMS undertook an excavation at the site (1970-1) but previous stone-robbing complicated interpretation. Nevertheless, four phases of construction were recognised (Ritchie, 1972). The first phase consisted of a NE-SW burial chamber of six upright slabs beneath a capstone and within a heel-shaped cairn. The chamber had two compartments with disturbed deposits containing Neolithic pot sherds and a flint point together with later Beaker sherds and a flint flake. Later elaboration included additional burials and an oval form to the cairn but the primary phase of construction/interment, the Clyde cairn, has been assigned to the first quarter of the third millennium BC
(Henshall, 1972b). Within close proximity a similar monument once stood (site OBN.28) but was excavated in 1871 and had been previously disturbed. It consisted of a circular cairn above a triangular, megalithic cist containing a flint knife and a piece of mica. Henshall (ibid.) has therefore also ascribed this cairn to the Clyde group but with a degree of uncertainty.

The function of the tombs, over and above a place to inter skeletal material, is a matter of debate and open to Thomas' (1993) 'polyvocal' reading. Renfrew (1973) sees them as a central focus drawing together a dispersed, egalitarian society through communal burial; territorial markers of segmentary societies. Chapman (1981) saw them as a public display of ancestral use of the land thus legitimising the present generations' claim to the land especially in a society in which there was competition for land ownership. Tilley (1984) saw them as a vehicle with which power could be exercised by the ritualism associated with them in order to disguise the inequalities prevailing within the social structure. Conversely, Hodder (1984) took a symbolic approach arguing that they signified the earlier, and contemporary, houses. Tilley's more recent research in Sweden (1993) is particularly enlightening and has led to the conclusion that the passage-graves were constructed in order to become part of nature (ibid.: 79) with the architecture following traits from the surrounding mountains; a product of the Neolithic 'domesticated mind (ibid.: 80)' wishing to socialise the landscape. Adopting a parallel line of enquiry into the Neolithic stone tombs of S/W England and S/W Wales a similarly close relationship was observed between the architecture and the surrounding topographic features (Tilley, 1994). Working in the Cúil Irra region of W.Ireland, Bergh (1995) also interpreted the pattern as evidence for Neolithic man wishing to organise both his physical and symbolic world.
The abundance of circular cairns may reveal earlier phases of construction like the situation at Dalineun but this has not been demonstrated in those examples that have been excavated to date (e.g. site OBN.19). Areas further to the south have an abundance of chambered tombs so where is the Neolithic of Oban? Clyde tombs tend to have been located upon land within the limits of the head dyke (see below), particularly upon gently sloping hillsides, and have therefore been exposed to potential agricultural destruction. However, this explanation would not cater for the wide-scale incidence and survival of the Bronze Age cairns. The Mesolithic 'Obanian' sites display Bronze Age activity with, in the case of Carding Mill Bay sites I-III (sites OBN.13-5) and Raschoille Cave (site OBN.4), the appearance of possible ossuary deposits (C. Bonsall, pers. comm., 1991; contra. Saville & Hallén, 1994). The remaining group of caves and rockshelters contained a combination of Mesolithic 'Obanian' tool-types and Bronze Age artifacts. All were clearly available for occupation/use during the Neolithic, with the exception of Druimvargie Rockshelter (site OBN.11) which appears to have been sealed by talus shortly following the deposition of the 'upper' midden, and other Mesolithic sites in the Inner Hebrides display Neolithic occupation (e.g. Lussa Wood on Jura).

The Neolithic hiatus has four possible explanations; the material remains of Neolithic activity do not survive, the remains of Neolithic activity lie undiscovered, the Oban area was abandoned during the Neolithic period, or, the time period that is conventionally represented by Neolithic material (sedentary settlement, farming, pottery, burial monuments, ....) is otherwise manifested.

The youngest radiometric date for the Mesolithic 'Obanian' is provided by Carding Mill Bay site I at the close of the sixth millennium BP and Bronze Age elements can be recognised in contexts conventionally attributable to time
horizons over 1500 radiocarbon years. Was there a Neolithic economy prior to the introduction of a Bronze Age regime? Presence in the area is clearly attested by forest clearance activity/landnam (see below). The question arises as to whether there was a Mesolithic survival. Indeed, preliminary interpretations at Bolsay Farm (Mithen et al., 1991) proposed a Bronze Age date for a microlithic technology due to the stratigraphic position of the latter. However, a more straightforward explanation took into account the steep contours of the site to demonstrate that hill wash had occurred creating an inverted stratigraphy thus re-assigning the microliths to an earlier, more conventional, Mesolithic context (Bonsall, pers.comm.). Lacaille (1954) even considered the possibility of the Obanian caves representing a Mesolithic survival as late as 1500 BC due to the remoteness of Oban in respect to the British landmass. Furthermore, more sustained episodes of clearance can equally be attributed to long-lived Mesolithic populations rather than automatically assuming that they should be ascribed to pioneer Neolithic agriculturalists (Edwards & Ralston, 1984).

A puzzling feature of the mainland Obanian sites is the re-occupation of the sites in the Bronze Age but the intervening Neolithic phase is neither represented or recognised. Elsewhere within the Obanian complex there is associated Neolithic activity as within Ulva Cave where a Neolithic pit was cut into the deposits at the rear of the cave (Bonsall et al., 1989). In the Larnian industry of Ireland there is an intermixture of a later Mesolithic heavy blade industry, including limpet hammers, together with pre-Neolithic polished stone axes.

Evidence for Neolithic activity is either lying undiscovered, unrecognised as Neolithic (cf. limpet midden on Neolithic site of Clegyr Boia, Pembrokeshire in Williams, 1953), or was limited; pollen analysis only shows minimal advance into the forested areas (Rumsby et al., May 1992) aided by some of the stone axes.
Collectively these observations strengthen Thomas' (1993:33) hypothesis that '...while the Neolithic can be seen as bringing about a transformation of indigenous society, it was a transformation which took place through the insinuation of new cultural media into existing rhythms of movement and understandings of the world'.
burnt spread containing fragments of bone and charcoal. Frequently the circle contains a stone cist, or grave, but finds are sparse, usually being no more than a scatter of white quartz pebbles.

The structural units of the excavated site [FIGURE IX] may be explained in the following terms. The large stones compose a kerb one course high with the same height differential noticed in other examples with the stones in the southern sector standing proud of those in the northern quarter [FIGURE X]. Within the circle the excavator removed the numerous rocks and soil constituting the stone packing and revealed a spread of black charcoal-rich soil together with a stone-capped scoop. The upper lip of this cist was defined by a ring of smaller stones which marked the limit of the fill; a greasy, black soil with abundant charcoal and bone interpreted as a cremation. Unlike the widely available rock-types used for the kerb stones (andesite, syenite and granite), the four capstones of the cist were `green' sandstone from nearby outcrops. No artifacts were recovered and none of the exposed surfaces of the kerb stones showed cup-marks. The absence of finds hinders the dating of this class of monument. However, the association with other structures (Piggott, 1954-6) and the recovery of two pot sherds at Monzie (Young & Mitchell, 1938-9) implies a Bronze Age date for the cairns. Bone and charcoal samples were collected from the cist for radiocarbon dating but the relationship between the cist and the kerb stones is unclear. The burnt spread appears to be confined by the kerb stones and may therefore represent a pyre although the spread at Strontoiller (site OBN.19) extended under and outwith the kerb so may relate to an episode of vegetation clearance prior to the construction whilst at Monzie there appears to have been two phases of burning sandwiching the laying of the kerb.
The striking feature about the Bronze Age mortuary monuments in the Oban region is the sense of continuity both within the period and with preceding episodes exhibiting a remarkable degree of concentrated/superimposed sequence, and spatial congruence (Dewar & McBride, 1992: 234-5) with the Mesolithic and Neolithic sites; the ossuaries at Carding Mill Bay (site OBN.13-5) and Raschoille Cave (site OBN.4) lie above Mesolithic material whilst the Neolithic Clyde cairn at Dalineun (site OBN.27) was re-used during the Bronze Age. Most of the known cairns and cists were destroyed without the contents being recorded so ceramics (Beakers, Food Vessels and Urns) have only been recovered from thirteen of the sites; even some of the excavated cairns failed to produce grave goods (e.g. site ATL.2). Nevertheless, a clear pattern is apparent with the distribution of Beakers and Food Vessels being in close harmony, as further east (Simpson, 1968). At Slatrach, on Kerrera, two cists (site OBN.40) were set only 1m apart though one contained a Beaker whilst the other had a Food Vessel. The Dalineun Clyde cairn (site OBN.27) had a primary Neolithic burial in a chamber which was supplemented by three Beakers and a flint flake. Subsequently, a cist containing a cremation was placed in the entrance, the tomb was sealed and then the cairn was altered to a round mound. Finally, a further massive cist with a cremation and a Food Vessel was inserted into the cairn. This association between Beakers and Food Vessels within a single monument has been frequently observed elsewhere (e.g. Fargo Plantation in Stone, 1938) and sometimes without the possibility of a distinct chronological interlude between the initial Beaker deposit and the later Food Vessel (e.g. Garton Slack 75 in Mortimer, 1905: 222-4). The situation of a primary Beaker and a secondary, or satellite, Food Vessel sharing broad contemporaneity suggests pre-eminence for the Beaker-users, if indeed there was a separate social group, or a functional division with the alcohol association of Beakers holding greater prestige than the utilitarian function of the Food Vessels.
The distribution of Urn finds is separate to that of the Beakers/Food Vessels but in close proximity and shares a view of lochs or the sea. The Carding Mill Bay Urns (sites OBN.13-4) and burials (Saville & Hallén, 1994) demonstrate a re-use of earlier sites, as elsewhere (e.g. Cairnpapple in Piggott, 1948), and provide close partners to the McKelvie Hospital cist (site OBN.59), just over Druim Mór, and the Gasworks Cave (site OBN.8). The absence of the single, crouched inhumation in MacArthur Cave (site OBN.1) and, more especially, at the Carding Mill Bay sites (sites OBN.13-5) may just be a local funerary variant (Pollard, 1990; Saville & Hallén, 1994: 716) but shares common traits with sites elsewhere in Scotland such as in Duntroon Cave, Argyll (RCAHMS, 1988: 208), the Hebrides (Campbell, 1991) and Sculptor’s Cave, Morayshire (Benton, 1931) and parallels the Australian Aboriginal ritual of secondary burial in rock clefts (Tilley, 1994: 54). The Urn cluster abuts a group of Beakers and Food Vessels from the Oban Bay area (sites OBN.41,57-8), and is between 1-2km away from the Gallanach Beg cist (site OBN.55) and the Slatrach example (site OBN.40). Similarly, around Cleigh there is a space of only 800m between the two classes of find (sites OBN.27,32). To interpret this pattern of distribution in terms of separate territories makes the assumption of chronological contemporaneity which requires further testing, for example by dating the finds by thermoluminescence. Furthermore, other aspects of ritualism (the burial rite of inhumation/cremation, the use of cists, the construction of round cairns, etc.) do not demonstrate a strict territorial zonation.

Petroglyphs are generally within view of the sea or inland water body, as well, and within much of the surrounding landscape. Dating, as with standing stones, is a matter of controversy but they are undoubtedly not specific to a single period. The few instances of association (Henshall, 1972: 274), and position
relative to sea-level (Morris, 1977), suggests that many belong to the second millennium BC, and can be ascribed to Beaker and Food Vessel users, but earlier examples do occur as in the Neolithic Dalladies long barrow in Kincardineshire (Piggott, 1972). Extensive observation of the surfaces of boulders and outcrops for natural features of weathering and erosion enabled the dismissal of many of the previously reported instances of cup-markings in the Oban area; especially at Killiechòinich. Some appear to be the holes drilled in boulders before the insertion of explosives in order to clear an area for cultivation. Only three probable examples remain; Kilmaronag commands a view of Loch Etive, Black Lochs and the cairn field at Achnaba whereas the boulder found on Oban esplanade had an extended view across Oban Bay to Mull, Kerrera and Bronze Age sites such as Carding Mill Bay (sites OBN.13-5). Furthermore, despite being enclosed by the sides of a loch, the now partially submerged boulder in Loch Gleann a’Bhearraidh reservoir is within sight of a cairn on the skyline (site OBN.44).

The abundance of archaeological sites is mirrored in the pollen record with peaks in the charcoal index and a decline of arboreal cover in Gleann Sheileach (Rumsby et al., 1992) and around Lochan a’Builg Bhith (Davies, 1993). However, with the exception of the Ariogar cairns (sites OBN.43-4), the sites are all close to the sea, large lochs or rivers implying that forest cover was still sufficiently dense to prevent inland colonisation.

5.4. IRON AGE.

The Iron Age saw the onset of cooler temperatures, increased wetness and forest regeneration (Rumsby et al., 1992) probably led to an increased reliance
upon upland settlement; the appearance of the `fortified' sites (i.e. forts and duns).

The division between forts and duns was proposed as 375 square metres (Maxwell, 1969: 43) in order to provide a standardised system of classification with the larger structures sufficient to accommodate a small community rather than a single family unit (Maxwell, 1975: 38). The term `dun' is now applied to drystone, circular, defensive dwellings of late prehistoric/early historic period (Harding, 1984). The term also appears in Gaelic place names denoting precipitous natural topography. As a result it is not always clear whether the name upon a map indicates a natural feature or the former site of a defensive structure; several examples can be cited for the Oban region (sites OBN.108-13,136,140) as well as Gylen Castle (site OBN.138) which appears as Doun Donach (`Duncan's fort') upon Pont's (mid-sixteenth century) map.

Within the study region the fortified sites are never closer than 0.5km; the most frequent interval between known sites is 1km as exemplified by the regularly spaced line of four sites in Lerags (sites OBN.84,95,98-9) although the siting of the fortified places was dependent upon the availability of suitable natural topography. The spacing also appears to relate to the distribution of the agricultural land; this can be demonstrated by equating the number of known fortified sites to the Medieval merkland value assigned to the unit of land; principally an upper limit of 8 merklands per fortified site:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>No. of merklands</th>
<th>No. of known fortified sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ardconnel</td>
<td>6.5-8</td>
<td>1 (OBN.86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballygowan</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1 (OBN.118)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cologin</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 (OBN.83)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunach</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1 (OBN.96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardoran</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Lerags</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4 (OBN.84, 95,98-9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Lerags</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glencruitten</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2 (OBN.85, 104)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardchoirc/Gylen</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1 (OBN.90)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total = 71.25  11

No. of merklands per known fortified site:

Mean = 6.75   Mode = 8   Median = 7.25

A similar correspondence has been observed for brochs (Hill in Mercer, 1985: 152) and the Glen Lyon `ring forts' (Stewart, 1969) and the only exception to this equation is Gallanach where, in a relatively restricted belt of arable land (valued as a six merkland) there are two known duns (sites OBN.97,103) and the `minor oppidum' (site OBN.87). The data from the fortified sites is sufficiently limited to make quantitative analyses of distributions untenable. Quite clearly the situation at Gallanach requires further explanation via chronological refinement. From above, it may be hypothesised that a six merkland would only have the capacity to support one fortified site so do the three sites at Gallanach belong to separate time spans? The midden deposit at the base of Dún an Fheurain (site OBN.97) contained artifacts that demonstrate occupation, but not necessarily continuous,
from the AD second century until post-fifth century. However, no datable material is available from Dùn Ormidale (site OBN.87) and Gallanach Castle (site OBN.103) so their position within the chronological sequence cannot be established. Furthermore, some of the sites may have earlier phases of occupation as at Dùn Uabairtich (site OBN.88) where a flint arrowhead (site OBN.198) was recovered. This lack of chronological control, the lack of certainty concerning a 'total cull' of sites and the upland terrain of the Oban region all work against the application of Central Place Theory, Thiessen Polygons *(vide* Coones, 1985: 10) and XTENT Modelling (see *e.g.* Renfrew and Bahn, 1991: 158-62). The latter certainly accommodates the fact that larger sites had the 'potential' to operate larger spheres of influence with, for example, the ca.3 hectares (30000m²) enclosed by Dùn Ormidale exerting a greater influence upon the surrounding region than An Dùnan (site OBN.95) that only encompasses approximately 100m². The topographic situation of forts and duns, upon natural defendable features, restricts their ability to expand or contract through time as such influence is strengthened or weakened; two forts (sites OBN.89-90) display secondary outworks demonstrating either a functional response to the need for greater defence or as an attempt to enlarge the spatial extent of the site.

Therefore, any political or economical construct from XTENT Modelling will remain static in the context of the Oban Iron Age despite the longevity of the period, from the first millennium BC to the first millennium AD; sites neither emerge with dominance, shrink with submission, are abandoned or re-occupied.

The implication of political or economical influence operating between settlements is the existence of a settlement hierarchy. Indeed, the seventh century Senchus Fer nAlban shows that kings exacted taxes from a hierarchy of settlements (Nieke, 1990). Using this model for Lorn, under the control of the Epidii or Cerones, the forts, and duns would presumably occupy the higher
echelons and exerted an influence over a specific region; possibly the ca.7 merkland pocket. A forerunner of the Medieval clan-system, as proposed for the brochs elsewhere in the Atlantic Scottish Iron Age (e.g. see Armit, 1990), could be a (Marxist) explanation of the situation within which the fortified sites were built and functioned.

Crannogs can also be placed within the category of fortified sites alongside forts and duns although to provide a generalised label for the diverse functions of crannogs would be unwise. Sites such as the Campbell stronghold in Loch Nell (site OBN.118) were clearly orientated to defence but other sites are much nearer to the shore and well within range of lit arrows. Excavation has shown that some functioned as off-shore byres; presumably to guard against wolf and bear attacks upon livestock; whilst distribution analysis has prompted some researchers to interpret them as possible march markers (e.g. Morrison, 1985: 75) to ensure the maintenance of land boundaries in the contemporary and succeeding landscape. The chronology of crannogs is equally problematic due to their survival into recent centuries. The earliest date so far produced is 2545±55 BP [GU-1323] from the excavated site of Oakbank in Loch Tay whereas the Campbell stronghold (site OBN.118) was occupied until the seventeenth century and is clearly depicted upon Pont's (mid-sixteenth century) map. Nevertheless, crannogs can represent a deposit accumulated over successive centuries so excavation may reveal a significantly earlier primary occupation at the latter crannog.

Morrison (ibid.) has also studied the incidence of crannogs and their distributional characteristics with some lochs containing up to twenty examples. Stretches of shore backed by cliff-lines and rocky terrain appear to have been neglected in favour of those offering neighbouring agricultural land, a shallow
underwater shelf/slope and relative shelter. However, in the Sonachan area of Loch Awe, it was noted that arable land was in close proximity to the shore but no crannogs were represented due to exposure to SW storms with a long wave fetch. Furthermore, this absence of crannogs coincides with a cluster of dun names.

Accepting the hypothesis of a settlement hierarchy, where are, and what were, the lower ranking sites? The forts, duns and crannogs were quite substantial structures and are therefore sometimes extant in the landscape for the archaeologist to observe. Ring-ditch and -groove houses cannot be detected in the hill, and improved, pasture of the Argyllshire landscape. Some house platforms are visible in a number of fortified sites (e.g. site OBN.91) and were presumably the stance for roundhouses. We were therefore extremely fortunate to `chance' upon a ring-ditched roundhouse (site GLS.59) during the course of the Mesolithic excavations at Lón Mór in Gleann Sheileach during the summer of 1992. Elsewhere in western Scotland somewhere in the region of 2000 recessed platform sites have been identified, many showing signs of secondary, or re-, use as charcoal-burning platforms, such as those recognised during the fieldwork (sites ATL.10 & ADR.11). All the excavated examples (Rennie, 1994) display concentric circles of postholes diagnostic of round timber-framed structures and reminiscent of the Gleann Sheileach example (site GLS.59). The proximity of the Ardentallan platforms to the quarries (site ATL.9), nearby water, dispersed yet regular spacing and location within coppiced woodland are all features specifically selected by colliers as opposed to settlement sites so their primary use would appear to relate to charcoal burning; furthermore, they are in woodland allocated to be cut (E.Rennie, 1994, pers.comm.) in 1793 to act as a supplementary wood source for the Bonawe iron smelting furnaces (Lindsay, 1975). However, the Adoran example (site ADR.11) stands alone upon a steep
wooded slope and could plausibly have supported a timber-framed structure. The excavated platform timber structures date from the first millennium AD (Feorline, Cowal) to ca. AD 1150 (Ardentraive, Cowal) with activity as early as ca. 3300 BC (Dunloskin, Cowal) whilst one round structure was sealed by an AD fourteenth century floor.

Another category of site may be assigned to this period but without excavation such dating cannot be confirmed. All three structures (sites ADR.6, GLS.21 & KIL.22) were discovered during the field survey work and comprise an earthen, circular bank with a diameter of ca. 7m but preservation is insufficient to identify any entrance gaps. All three are within 0.5km of a dun and are all nearer to the best land, the Medieval infield, than the dun itself.

5.5. NORSE AND EARLY MEDIEVAL.

The final forest clearance in and around Gleann Sheileach occurred in the mid-twelfth century (Rumsby et al., 1992); beforehand much timber was removed to the Orkneys by the Norse. Their presence in the Oban region is attested by the sagas from AD 795 until 1222 and, despite attempts by Alexander II to regain the Hebrides, Kerrera remained under Norse control until AD 1266 following the defeat of King Haakon Hakonarson at the Battle of Largs. The nature of the occupation was at first raiding with strandbøgg, operating from Ireland, and eventually leading to permanent settlement under King Somerled. For the most part, the indigenous population would not have been treated amicably with many being forced to become servants of the Norse and their ‘faithful’ followers. However, a degree of intermixing is evident with, for example, the Hunterston Celtic crafted brooch of Ayrshire with a Celtic name, Melbrigda, inscribed in Norse runes.
However, archaeological evidence for Norse occupation in the Oban region is as yet sparse. Two burials are claimed (sites OBN.120-1) but the contents do not survive and no accurate records exist of the finds. One was described as a ship burial and was presumably found beneath a mound, or within a pit, when the railway was being built at Oban. A ship, as opposed to a boat, implies an interment of some elevated social status although the symbolic function of the craft was the same; to transfer the individual(s) to the world of the dead (Jones, 1973: 332). It also significant because it may relate to a Norse settlement in Oban Bay that has either been destroyed by, or lies beneath, the modern town.

Norse settlements generally only differ from the native farmsteads and small townships in the form of the dwellings with long curved walls and separate byres as at Jarlshof. No such structures have been recognised in the Oban region and place name evidence is equally scarce; Soroba could be Norse-derived for ‘poor ground’ (Professor Barrow, pers.comm.) but more convincing is Pennyfuir (formerly Pennyfuar or ‘cold pennyland’) referring to the Norse unit of land division (Hill, 1985). Kerrera itself is also a Norse-derived name.

Following the Norse incursion, Kenneth Mac Alpin united the Scots and Picts against them in AD 843 and relocated the Dunollie (site OBN.136) and Dunadd, in the moss of Crinan, seats of Dalriada to Scone. The establishment of the Scottish kingdom had caused the Picts to be ousted from the region in the fifth century AD and the Scots gave their name ‘Earra Ghaidheal’ (the Gaels) to Argyll.

Evidence of the lower echelons of society, through their settlements, is lacking with only the higher levels apparent in the archaeological record. In the aftermath of Norse incursion, the Clan system became established with the
MacDougalls (dark foreigners) in the Oban region descending from King Somerled’s eldest son (Grimble, 1980: 49-50). They had a double allegiance to the king of Norway, for their island kingdom, and the king of the Scots, for the mainland element, and were responsible for the construction of most of the castles (sites OBN.116,136-8) although both Dunollie rock and Dunstaffnage had been fortified by the Scots at an earlier stage. The occupation of some of the ‘Iron Age’ fortified sites is also evident with, for example, fifth century AD artifacts being recovered (site OBN.96). There is also the possible cashel on Kerrera (OBN.122), chapels, and burial-grounds leading from St.Moluag and St.Columba reaching Lismore and Iona during the mid-sixth century AD. The only other early Medieval archaeology consists of an early fourteenth century coin (site OBN.218), recovered during test-pitting in Gleann Sheileach, in addition to a possible stretch of boulder walling (site GLS.82; cf. examples at Chelmorton, Derbyshire in Smith, 1987: 78-80; Wildgoose, 1987). The settlements of the agricultural communities have yet to be found.
5.6. LATE AND POST-MEDIEVAL.

The social structure that existed during the Medieval period in Scotland has been well documented and consists of a formal hierarchy within the clan-system (Muir, 1985):

```
LAIRD/CHIEFTAIN
   |   V
 TACKSMEN/GENTRY
   |   V
   TENANTS
```

This structure influenced the direction of the economy and therefore the material remains of the society; the archaeology of their settlements and agricultural practices.

i. Settlements.

There was already a well-established settlement pattern by AD 1100 lasting through to the eighteenth century and consisting of small hamlets and isolated dwellings. Three basic categories of post-Medieval domestic sites were observed within the study area; townships, farmsteads/crofts (Ramm et al., 1970) and shielings.
The township, ferm toun, or 'clachan' (if a kirk was present) consisted of an unorganised cluster of up to twelve dwellings with the mains/home farm at the heart of the infield area. The typical elements are exemplified by the seventeenth century Dunstaffnag estate (site OBN.147); it had dwellings, byres, a kiln and a mill; fulfilling a wide range of industrial demands (Harvey 1970: 18). The problem is discovering the older settlements; what we see today is largely the most recent phase of construction with a few surviving elements of former times. Furthermore, the earlier structures would tend to lack foundation trenches, solid floors and substantial walling material. Without selective excavation progress in this area will not be feasible (Yeoman, 1991: 126). Historic Scotland wish to excavate the township at Lower Gleann Sheileach (site GLS.25), before the area is developed for housing, so earlier structures may be revealed although test-pitting in the vicinity only recovered late artifacts; potsherds dating from the eighteenth century (Bonsall & Robinson, 1992: 65) and clay pipes assigned to the nineteenth century (Gallagher, 1992, pers.comm.).

Farmsteads are generally smaller and can occupy slightly more elevated terrain than the townships (e.g. sites KER.1 & KIL.16-7). The individual structural elements resemble those in townships but the complex of enclosures is lacking. The dwellings are a form known as the Dalriadic house with stone gables and cruck frames in order to combine durability with cost-efficiency (Smith, 1805: 17). For shelter, the dwellings usually appear centrical in respect to the other farm buildings and often with kail-yards appended as at Tigh-cûil (site OBN.145). Some of the dwellings incorporated a byre on the downslope side (Muir, 1985) or the latter was a separate structural unit with the length varying in terms of the number of cattle housed. Barns can be recognised by their ventilation holes, wall slits and opposing entrances all designed to facilitate draught particularly for
winnowing. Many of the structural elements were transformed in the mid-nineteenth century with, for example, the addition of upper storeys (e.g. site KER.2) and the conversion of thatched roofs to slate.

A degree of transhumance was essential to ensure that resources were not exhausted within the limits of the head dyke and without a developed system of enclosure the crops, and infield pasture, were exposed to the trampling livestock. A cycle of summer hill pasturing therefore developed whereby the livestock, principally cattle, were herded to higher ground (Bil, 1990); the women and children would depart to the shieling grounds and would then be followed by the menfolk after they had tended the crops. Shelters were constructed, known as shieling huts for dwelling and food-processing; cheese and butter production. The short duration of habitation and mild weather from early June to mid-July led to very temporary buildings and, although the huts were frequently re-occupied on an annual basis, the roof timbers were returned to the 'winterton' after occupation. The removal of the roofing material and the ephemeral nature of the dwellings has led to poor preservation. Furthermore, they were well-manured over the centuries so were often ploughed, and destroyed, as the pressure on land increased to the close of the seventeenth century (Dodgshon, 1981; site LER.2).

The term 'shieling' has been archaeologically mis-used and is now loosely applied to any small, poorly-constructed shelter of varied function with, or without, grazing, and usually lacking associated features. The place name prefix 'airigh can be a clue to the location of shieling grounds such as Ariogan (NM866273) and Bealach an airidh (near Dunstaffnage). The shelters are frequently found in groups, usually upon a well-drained knoll adjacent to a water source or along territorial boundaries (Ramm et al., 1970) and date back at least
as far as the twelfth century (Parry & Slater, 1980: 99); for example, at Shiels Brae, Whitelyne in Cumberland, a seventeenth century clay-pipe was excavated; and were in use until the close of the eighteenth century. Three groups were discovered during the survey (sites KIL.25, LER.2 & TOR.5) as well as some isolated huts (e.g. sites GLS.66 & KER.5). All resemble the single-celled, single-entrance, circular Whitelyne-type (Harvey, 1970: 11). The Rievocroon shealing in Perthshire (Fairhurst, 1969) is situated above 400m OD with, amongst the rectangular dwellings, some oval structures although these were interpreted as calf pens rather than dwellings. The ground at Torinturk (site TOR.5) is of particular interest because amongst the circular huts there was a single-chambered, rectangular structure resembling the example at Castle Carrock, Cumberland (Harvey, 1970: 37). When the shieling ground is at a particularly high altitude, grazing in lower reaches can take place earlier in the season with springhouses resembling the byre-dwellings of the townships and farmsteads with internal partitions such as those at Airidhnan Sileag (RCAHMS, 1975, mon.337) and Glen Risdale (RCAHMS, 1975, mon.343).

Related to shielings is a category of site termed 'shelters' (e.g. sites ADR.7, GLS.72, KIL.30-1, OBN.164). Most appear to date to the time of ridge and furrow cultivation and are situated upon small patches of land unsuitable for cropping (e.g. site KIL.32/OBN.162). They usually consist of a rectangular setting of boulders crudely pushed together to provide some shelter, probably for those ploughing or tending the crops. Some of the clearance cairns have a kerb of large rocks with the smaller stones tossed into the centre (e.g. site KIL.44); indeed some of the shelters appear to have been used to deposit field clearance.
In order to differentiate the three classes (townships, farmsteads and shielings) in the field the attributes of the sites from the field survey were analysed to reveal simple correlational attributes:

Townships: Altitudinal zone = 10-70m OD.
- Material of construction = drystone.
- Form = rectangular.
- Aspect of entrance = predominantly NE.
- Aspect of long-axis = no preferred direction.
- Range of lengths = 3-22m.
- Range of widths = 2-10m.
- Modal ratio of length:width = 2.0 dwellings.
  2.8 byres/barns.

Farmsteads: Altitudinal zone = 10-105m OD.
- Material of construction = drystone.
- Form = rectangular to sub-rectangular.
- Aspect of entrance = no preferred direction.
- Aspect of long-axis = no preferred direction.
- Range of lengths = 5-14m.
- Range of widths = 4-7m.
- Modal ratio of length:width = 2.0.

Shielings: Altitudinal zone = 60-180m OD.
- Material of construction = stone and/or turf.
- Form = sub-rectangular to sub-circular.
- Aspect of entrance = ENE-ESE.
- Aspect of long-axis = NE-ENE.
Range of lengths = 3-9m.
Range of widths = 3-5m.
Modal ratio of length:width = 1.0.

It therefore appears that altitude is a significant attribute to the classification of the individual site [FIGURE V]. An interesting study was conducted by Miller (1967) around Loch Tay. Using Farquharson's 1769 survey he was able to demonstrate that there was an altitudinal zonation of land-use in which the land was organised in strips emanating from, and perpendicular to, the shore of the loch. Each strip was allocated a zone suitable for cropping and a higher zone set aside for shielings.

The relationship between Medieval settlement size and the amount of agricultural land allocated was explored using XTENT modelling. The settlement size was assessed by examining the number of units assigned to each township upon General Roy's Military Survey (ca.1750) whilst the merkland extent, 200 for Kilmore and Kilbride as a whole by 1792, was available from documentary sources for the following townships:

Ardentallan (Charter, 1619).
Ardoran (Origines Parochiales Scotiae, vol. 3, parish of Kilbride, 1504).
Ballygowan (Charter, ca.1640).
Cabrachan (Charter, 1641).
Cleigh (Sasine, 1686; C.Hunter, pers.comm).
Cologin (Origines Parochiales Scotiae, vol. 3, parish of Kilbride, 1451).
Dunach (Campbell, 1934: sasine no.657, 1639; C.Hunter, pers.comm.). Stated as eight merkland as well as a much smaller one pennyland (ca. ½ merkland).
Gallanach (Origines Parochiales Scotiae, vol. 3, parish of Kilbride, 1451).
Glenshellach (Origines Parochiales Scotiae, vol. 3, parish of Kilbride, 1451; Campbell, 1934: sasine no.353, 1630).

Glencruitten (Charter, 1504).

Kilbride (Origines Parochiales Scotiae, vol. 3, parish of Kilbride, 1504).

Killiechônich (Charter, ca.1640).

Lerags (Origines Parochiales Scotiae, vol. 3, parish of Kilbride, 1504).

Moleigh (Origines Parochiales Scotiae, vol. 3, parish of Kilbride, 1451; Campbell, 1934: sasine no.569, 1636). Ten merkland is quoted but assumed to include four merkland of Barnacarry.

Soroba (Origines Parochiales Scotiae, vol. 3, parish of Kilbride, 1502; ibid., 1504; ibid., 1507; Campbell, 1934: sasine no.353, 1630; ibid.: sasine no.569, 1636).

Torinturk (Charter, 1641).

A point of caution should be noted in that disparate dated mentions of the settlements should not create the assumption of continuity (vide Moody, 1986: 56); the townships were undoubtedly periodically deserted and re-occupied over the passage of time. However, this does not detract from the fact that by having plotted the relevant parameters [FIGURES L & LI], it was demonstrated that the number of buildings depicted upon Roy's Survey was related to the merkland value assigned to the townships; in most instances being approximately ten merklands for every nine buildings (i.e. \( m = 0.9b \) from FIGURE L). Given this strong correspondence, it seemed reasonable to make the assumption that Roy's estimate of the size of the townships was either reasonably accurate or at least distorted to scale throughout the study area; the criteria for representing the township (i.e. only dwellings, only dwellings and byres, or all dwellings, byres and barns) were consistent.
Making the additional assumption that General Roy recorded all the townships within the southern sector of the study area, where the fieldwork had concentrated (chapter 4), it is feasible to apply locational analysis to discover the 'territories' of the individual townships in relation to neighbouring settlements; the relative size of all the townships belonging to a contemporary time horizon (ca.1750) is known as opposed to the situation prevailing in the Iron Age in which the exact period of occupation of individual fortified sites (forts, duns and crannogs) remains uncertain (see chapter 5.4).

XTENT Modelling was applied in which the extent of the 'catchment' is proportional to the relative size of the settlement. The resulting pattern of 'catchment territories', after a minimal degree of smoothing in order to erase voids and overlaps between neighbouring polygons, is presented in FIGURE LII. The irregularities in polygon congruency/tessellation and uniformity are due to the localised distribution of resources (Hodder & Orton, 1976); water and fertile land. Discrepancies between the size of 'territories' and the respective merkland value are clearly obvious with, for example Lower Lerags possessing a smaller 'territory' than Gallanach despite having a larger merkland value. However, if the merkland value related to a fixed extent of both the pasture and arable land within each territory then using the island scenario of Kerrera, its townships (Archoric, Ardantrive, Ardmore, Bailemore, Barnabuck, Gylen and Slatrach) were valued at a total of 29 merklands (Hunter, 1984: 14). Therefore, taking the size of the island to be 45km², each merkland would equate to ca.1.5km². Applying this figure to the southern sector of the study area shown in FIGURE LII, which comprises an arable and pastoral environment similar to Kerrera, shows that the area would have to be approximately three times larger (over 160km²) to accommodate the total merkland value. If, however, the 100m Newlyn OD contour is taken into consideration; significant because both ridge and furrow
[FIGURE XLII] and farmsteads (see above) are contained by this contour; then the remaining sector (0-100m OD) within the 'territories' would be a closer approximation to the infield area and it can be seen to relate to the merkland value (i.e. the larger the merkland value, the larger the remaining sector).

In summary, it may be concluded that the merkland value was assigned to the arable zone within the catchment of a township. On this basis the merkland values for Gallanach Beg and Oban mill may be assessed as nine and ten merklands respectively, 2-3 higher than would be predicted using $m = 0.9b$ (see above) but would nevertheless agree with the observation that the mainland generally commands lower populations per merkland than the island equivalents (C. Hunter, 1995, pers. comm.). A further discrepancy occurs with the large catchment territory predicted for Ardentallan [FIGURE LII] with only a 4 merkland value. XTENT modelling has artificially enlarged the Ardentallan territory to include the Minard sector (NM823238) known to belong to Lower Lerags (Hunter, 1993, pers. comm.). Furthermore, the periphery of Ardentallan plateau would have been wooded and only limited ridge and furrow was observed, during the field survey (chapter 4.1), upon the plateau itself; even today the area is predominantly set aside to sheep farming and woodland. In total, these factors help to account for the small merkland value that was assigned to this relatively large area.

The question arises, quite what General Roy depicted during his survey. Townships comprise a variety of structures relating to different activities within the farming routine. A charter of 1719 describes the settlement labelled Oban mill as consisting of a mill, houses, biggens, yards and an orchard. Gylen, on Kerrera, had a castle (site OBN.138), three farm dwellings, a mill and an inn/changehouse (MacDougall, 1979). Some townships were orientated to
specific activities such as Kilbride with a church as early as 1493 (Carmichael, 1961) and Ballygowan [PLATE XXVI] probably providing smithing to surrounding settlements. Therefore, the 'territories' described in FIGURE LII should only be considered as defining the agricultural catchment of the township especially since other activities were interrelated with neighbouring settlements and sharing resources. An analogy may be drawn from the concept 'use area'/ 'grazing territory' advanced by Chang (1992) in order to encompass the entire spatial organisation of a pastoral system over a landscape. She observed that the longevity of the pastoral system, amongst the Grevena sheep herders of northern Greece, was due to self-regulation ensuring that the carry capacity of the grazing territory was never exceeded, at least as a long-term strategy (ibid.: 77).

The field survey of the deserted and occupied townships within the southern sector of the study area were therefore compared with the number of units depicted upon Roy's map. All structures depicted upon the first edition (1870) OS map, and therefore possibly standing during Roy's survey (ca. 1750), were noted as well as those structures located during the ground reconnaissance but not shown upon subsequent (i.e. post-1870) map series. The possible 1750 structures for the individual townships were therefore as follows:

Ardentallan (site ATL.3)  
- i. building  
- ii. possible structure  
- iv. building  
- v. building  

Lower Ardoran (site ADR.3)  
- i. building  
- ii. building  
- iii. building  
- iv. possible mill
Upper Ardoran (site ADR.2)

i. building
ii. building
iv. building
vi. building
viii. building
ix. possible structure
x. possible building
xi. building

Cabrachan (site TOR.2)

i. building
ii. building
v. complex of buildings

Glenshellach
(site GLS.25)

i. min. of three buildings
ii. two buildings
iii. building
iv. building
v. building
vi. building
vii. building
viii. possible mill

Torinturk (site TOR.1)

ii. building
iii. building
iv. building
v. building
vi. building
vii. building
viii. building
ix. three buildings
xi. building
xii. building
xiii. building
xiv. building
xv. building
xvi. building
xvii. possible structure
xviii. building

Killiechoinich
(site KIL.15)

i. building
ii. building
iii. building
iv. building
v. building
vi. building
vii. building
ix. building
x. building
xii. building
xiii. building
xiv. building
xv. building
Moleigh (site MOL.2)

i. building

iii. building

iv. building

v. building

vi. possible structure

vii. building

viii. building

ix. building

x. building

xi. building

taxi. building

xvi. building

xix. building

xv. building

Lower Lerags (site LER.1)

i. building

iii. building

vi. building

ix. building

xi. possible mill

xii. five buildings

Tabulating these units against Roy's survey:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Ground reconnaissance</th>
<th>General Roy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ardentallan</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Ardoran</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Ardoran</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabrachan</td>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenshellach</td>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killiechönich</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Lerags</td>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moleigh</td>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torinturk</td>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It can be seen that in all but two instances the number of buildings/structures recorded during the ground reconnaissance exceeds the number of units observed upon Roy's map. One explanation for this is the fact that the ground reconnaissance is not sufficiently refined to identify structures that were occupied during the course of Roy's survey (1745-55), it is simply a count of pre-1870 buildings; pre-1870 buildings would include those constructed post-1750 and those abandoned pre-1750. The two instances when the figures do coincide are townships that were deserted between 1750 and 1870; namely Ardentallan (site ATL.3) and Lower Ardoran (site ADR.2). The fact that not even roofless structures are depicted at these sites on the first edition (1870) OS map implies that the abandonment was somewhat nearer to 1750 than 1870. The ground reconnaissance is therefore liable to comprise those units occupied during 1750 and those pre-1750. Since the figures supplied by General Roy for these two townships are comparable to those from the field survey it follows that Roy's Military Survey aimed to record all upstanding buildings within the townships.

ii. Food production.

Mixed farming was practised in pre-Improvement times; West Highland black cattle, a few pigs, goats (Grant, 1807), bigg (barley), oats, cabbage and feed for stock. Oban was on the droving routes from at least the seventeenth century leading from Appin to the trysts of Crieff and Falkirk (LAHS, 1976 (aut); 6) although cattle sales were also conducted at Soroba, there was a market stance at Polvinster (site OBN.186) and livestock auctions started at Oban in 1880. Furthermore, a carding mill (NM84802939) was built, near Dungallan House, with a small lochan (NM84602914) supplying the powering water. Livestock husbandry even appears in the Gaelic place names; Eilean nan Gamhna (‘island
of the stirks'), Eilean nan Uan ('lamb island'), Eas an Eirionnaich ('waterfall of the young gelded goat') and Ardantrive ('hill of the swimming') where the cattle were droved across from Kerrera to Dunollie. On Kerrera there are also structural remains, Chang's (1992) 'superartifacts', relating to the droving (sites KER.4,8). Elsewhere the movement of livestock is demonstrated by the presence of sheepfolds (e.g. sites KIL.32-3) and possible livestock enclosures (sites KER.6 & KIL.18-20); stack stands for fodder (Ramm et al., 1970: 54-60) were also observed (e.g. at NM876277).

Fisheries were established by the sixteenth century with boats from the Continent and England but the trade soon declined (Sinclair, 1794) with less than 20 sloops remaining at the end of the eighteenth century at Oban (Smith, 1805). However, fish were readily available; salmon and trout from Gleann Sheileach (Fletcher, 1992), herrings from Loch Etive and Loch Feochan (Campbell, 1845: 529; sites ADR.12-25) and eels as well as salmon and trout from Loch Nell (Sinclair, 1814b: 174) and mackerel shoals are seasonally plentiful along the Sound of Kerrera. The importance of fishing is also reflected in the place names (e.g. Rudha na Liathaig or 'salmon/trout promontory').

During the second half of the eighteenth century the potato spread throughout the region. The rapid acceptance of the new staple was largely a result of previous crop failures which had led to famines; the barley failure of 1740 on Kerrera (MacDougall, 1979), falling prices in 1780 (MacDougall, 1984: 105) and poor weather for cattle in the late eighteenth century (MacDougall, 1984: 105-6, 117). There were even plans to build a potato mill in Oban in the mid-nineteenth century but the potato did not prove to be a long-term cure; in 1850 '...the turnips were small and the potatoes destructive' (GD. 112/16 8/1 2) and were similarly bad in 1846 (GD. 112/16 6/4 28x). Potatoes and turnips were stored in pit
clamps (e.g. site GLS.25ix) and covered with rush, straw and earth until the Spring (Fletcher, 1992). Furthermore, small circular scatters of stone found during the course of the surveys (e.g. at NM833274) may conceivably be the seals of grain storage pits resembling the sixteenth/seventeenth century clay- and stone-lined example at Inchkeil, Duffus (Shepherd et al., 1989).

The corn crops (GD. 112/16 3/4 21) needed to be processed prior to consumption. Most townships possessed a corn-drying kiln in order to prepare damp or unripened grain for milling (Scott, 1951: 196) although some parched the grain by burning the straw. Dating from at least as early as the thirteenth century (Gibson, 1988) they can appear within barns or sited in the open-air with a thatched roof and archaeologically visible as a circular scoop, ca.1.5m in diameter, with a long flue and stokehole running-off; some were even re-used for lime production. Four were recognised during the survey; sites ADR.3v (vide The Toe in Ramm et al., 1970: 52) and GLS.25i-iii.

Once the estate mills were built the landowners maximised patronage by destroying many quernstones of their tenants (Brien, 1989: 115); indeed, some have been reported in such a condition (sites OBN.215-6). Six cornmills are recorded from the early nineteenth century within the survey area. The Oban mill is particularly well-referenced for the mid-eighteenth century and nineteenth century (MacDougall, 1979: 82; GD. 112/16 3/4 21) whilst neighbouring place names allude to its location; ‘Benvoulin’ and ‘Lochavullin’. Another area of interest is Cabrachan where there is a `Tóm a'Mhuilinn' (site TOR.7) and mill- and quernstones were found in the vicinity (site OBN.214); some stretches of the watercourse are revetted but no structure was located despite a mill being depicted at Torinturk upon Pont's map (mid-seventeenth century).
iii. The Improvements.

The value of improvements were clear by the mid-nineteenth century and plans were made for work to be undertaken (GD. 112/12 5/2 9). Tenants in the parish were assessed (GD. 112/16 3/4 21) and the farm-house rents were doubled, or even tripled, thus forcing the tenants to become cottagers (Sinclair, 1794) or cleared to be involved in the programme of improvements (GD. 112/12 5/2 9; GD. 112/16 6/4 27x; GD. 112/16 8/1 2); farms previously occupied by several families were reduced to just one (Campbell, 1845). The emphasis was upon local labour rather than 'importing' workers (GD. 112/16 6/4 28x) and was largely inspired by Lord Kames of Blair Drummond, who headed the Board of Agriculture (Brien, 1989: 18), and supervised by estate owners like Archibald, the third Duke of Argyll (Parry & Slater, 1980: 162), Alexander MacDougall (MacDougall, 1984: 59) and the Commissioners of the annexed lands following the aftermath of Culloden Moor (1745). Those opposing the improvements (Withers, 1990) were duly punished by Royal Acts (Sinclair, 1812b) with enclosures and plantations being particularly encouraged and protected by law (Act 1500, ch.74; Smith, 1805: 32). The Improvements were also intended to occupy, and therefore subdue, the rebellious elements. Likewise, the Highland Regiments were expanded to provide extra employment.

Large farms were divided into separate possessions in order to encourage the practise of improvements through individual responsibility and benefit (Smith, 1805: 32) and caused the eventual demise of the tacksman (Muir, 1985); Tighcùil (site OBN.145) was split in three in 1788 and Slatrich, on Kerrera, was divided in 1812 (McDougall, 1979: 30). However, such splits were not confined to Improvement times (Parry & Slater, 1980: 61; Whyte, 1991) and may have been the case with Upper and Lower Ardoran (sites ADR.2-3) as well as Upper
and Lower Lerags (site LER.1). Similarly, the proximity of Cabrachan (site TOR.2) and Torr-an-tuirc (site TOR.1) implies that a split took place and sometime before the eighteenth century.

Long leases, upto nineteen years, were also granted with, for example, eleven years on Kerrera in 1768 and, although drainage enabled a considerable amount of grassland to be cropped (Sinclair, 1794) many of the older leases deterred tenants from ploughing-up existing grassland; the earliest recorded instance of draining was the Ardmore ditch of 1753 when the burn was deepened and straightened (MacDougall, 1979: 37). A similar move to cultivate additional land had been legislated in 1214, presumably due to food shortage (Parry & Slater, 1980: 48). The existing outfields were brought up to infield standard through manuring and liming, a task eased with the widespread use of the cart at the end of the eighteenth century.

As soon as the wolf, and large foxes, were extinct (Pennant, 1771), commercial sheep farming became practical towards the close of the eighteenth century (Sinclair, 1794). The Lintons (Campbell, 1845) and Cheviots quickly adapted to their new environment and inevitably replaced the poorer, native breed. The incentive of money from sheep farming meant that many tenants were 'cleared', especially in the mid-eighteenth century, to maximise the sheep-carrying capacity of the land. Some emigrated to Canada and the USA, some became residents in the town, others were employed in road-building and other facets of the improving movement. Indeed, despite the efforts of the landowners within the Oban region to encourage tenants to remain (GD. 112/16 4/6 50; Duke of Argyll, 1887: 0, 338), the landward population (Sinclair, 1794; Smith, 1805; Campbell, 1845; MacDonald, 1961; Mackenzie, 1986: 108) steadily decreased from 1830 onwards [FIGURE VIII] with at least two ships laden with emigrants having sailed
from Oban at the close of the eighteenth century with the potato famine being one of the prime reasons.

The onset of peaceful times, coupled with the additional income from the sheep farming, allowed landowners to copy their English counterparts. Many built mansions and dower houses; including Dunach House, Dungallon House (site OBN.140), Glencruitten House (1667), Soroba House (ca.1830), Lerags House (site OBN.144), Gallanach House, Dunollie House (1747) and Slaterich (eighteenth century); surrounded by enclosed and planted policies (Whyte, 1991). Benvoulin House (NM66253048) was built in the mid-nineteenth century from funds deemed from improving and then selling the Glencruitten Estate (Hunter, 1984: 25).

iv. Ridge and furrow.

The ridge and furrow pattern was developed by turning and laying the sods, or furs, towards the central spine with a fixed-mouldboard plough whereas lazy beds are spade-dug and consequently more accentuated and the plough furrows were straightened with a spade (Smith, 1805: 74). With large ploughteams, principally oxen, wide (ca.5m+ see Bowen, 1970) and sinuous ridges were produced, due to the prolonged turning involved, and terminating in a ‘headland’ or turning area. Narrow rig is usually assigned to later contexts (i.e. late eighteenth century and nineteenth century) and is straighter and lower due to paired horsegangs (Campbell, 1845) although broader ridges were still made in mossy ground (Smith, 1805: 72-3). Small patches of land between knolls were impractical for large ploughs so were usually cultivated with the caschrom, or foot plough. However, as Thomas Morer noted in 1689, few gradients deterred ploughing (Parry & Slater, 1980: 49) with the ploughing axis tending to follow the
enclosure rather than the natural contours; any large boulders causing an
obstacle were drilled, dynamited [PLATE II] and then removed.

v. Enclosures.

Whittington and Gibson (1986) believe that the infield/outfield system dates back
as far as the thirteenth century, and possibly even earlier although Whyte (1991)
sees the outfields as fifteenth century expansion into waste ground. Head-, or
loaning-, dykes separated the infield/outfield zone from the uncultivated hill
pasture although there were occasional advances when food shortages
necessitated (Whyte, ibid.). Improvements saw the replacement of this system
with the regular division of the landscape using rectangular enclosures (Hill in
Mercer, 1985: 142) following the early Enclosure Acts of 1710 so that by 1790
good drystone dykes were being erected; the earlier turf and stone banks do not
fit into the overall pattern with, for example, the feal-dykes, or sod-walls, on
Kerrera were organised for cattle droving. The Galloway drystone dykes [PLATE
IV] were 1.6m high for stock retention (an extra 0.5m was necessary for goats
and could be attained by turf or other readily available material) with spacing in
the coping to deter the sheep from climbing; a `rood' was 5.5m of stone dyke and
signified a day's work for an individual as demonstrated at Ardoran where large
boulders at the base of one of the pre-1874 dykes (NM84662402) are set at
c.5m intervals. March, or cross-dykes were then inserted to separate estates
and reach a height of 1.7m. Such a tripartite evolution was observed at Lix
(Fairhurst, 1969) and appears to broadly coincide with the field boundaries in the
Oban region although, as late as the close of the eighteenth century `...the
general appearance of the country is still naked and open (Smith, 1805: 32)'.
At least three generations of dykes existed at Ardentallan. The earliest were of turf, often with a core of large boulders, meandering across the hill ground and joining cliff lines in order to assist with stock herding. The second phase saw a ditch and dyke, with traces of turf capping, which seems to have been built to exclude stock from parts of the woodland. Then the 'modern' drystone dykes, with leaded angle-irons strung with wire, mark the division of the original estate into two farms.

The further subdivision of enclosures was necessary for different functions within the farming cycle: tup parks, hospital parks, flock-rake (Sinclair, 1814a). Further subdivision could be achieved with portable hurdles known as sheep-flakes. The walls themselves also provided shelter.

vi. Forestry.

Wood has long since been a valuable resource in Argyll with birch being of particular importance throughout the Highlands; timber was even exported to the Orkneys by the Norse (Brøgger, 1929); as fuel and roof-timbers. However, the forests originally held greater significance for the game they housed rather than their resource of wood (Rackham, 1986).

As early as 1503 an Act ordered park plantations and by the nineteenth century there was a wood yard in Oban (GD. 112/16 3/2 4) and coppicing was prevalent (J. Lindsay in Parry & Slater, 1980: 276). Left to maturity, oak provided the best and most weighty timber and could be cut after twenty years; '...oaken couples of timber imployed in Colgine, cutt in Ardoran... (1731)' probably from the plantations observed during the survey (site ADR.10). The oak bark was used in tanning and the thinning for barrel hoops (Smith, 1805: 138).
Charcoal production was long supposed to have had a negative effect upon the oak woods of western Scotland but Lindsay (n.d.) has demonstrated that the associated process of enclosing and coppicing helped to improve the existing woodland. Charcoal-burning platforms, charcoal hearths or pitsteads (Whyte, 1991; Rennie, 1992), were small circular platforms, ca. 8m in diameter, scooped into a sheltered hillslope and revetted by stonework (vide RCAHMS, 1975, mon.347). The charcoal was made by the collier sealing the burning lop and top for about ten days beneath a seal, or blind, of earth and turf and then dousing the charcoal in water. The charcoal from the Ardentallan sites (site ATL.10) was probably for the local quarry’s smithy although permission was granted (E. Rennie, 1994, pers. comm.) for wood to be removed for the Bonawe furnace in 1793 (Lindsay, 1975) and also from Dunbeg. Indeed, most of the platforms (e.g. site OBN.192) were in use following the establishment of the iron forges at Glen Kinglass (1725), Bonawe (1753); on the network of military roads by 1754; and Inverary (Smith, 1805: 137) after oak charcoal production had been outlawed in England (Rennie, 1994: 204).

Excavation of the platforms usually reveals a blackened layer of charcoal flecks, redeposited soil and frequently postholes relating to the former use of the platform as a stance for a round timber-framed structure (e.g. Lephinchapel, Cowal, in Rennie, ibid.) dating from between the first millennium AD to the early second. Coppicing only took place in any one stretch of woodland once every 20 years so colliers would have naturally sought pre-existing recessed platforms for their pyres rather than investing time and energy cutting and filling a new platform in a hillslope.
vii. Peat and fertilizer.

Peat was cut by flauchter/flaughter spades leaving waterlogged ground with characteristic removal scars of straight-edged, shallow depressions although much care was taken to relay the turves. If wet the divot, or fail (Fenton, 1986), was left to dry in piles or upon a stacking stance (see site KIL.62) and was then packed into wickerwork 'carrs' upon 'slypes' or in creels as paniers upon ponies and taken back to the settlement to be used for fuel, bedding, building purposes or fertilizer. Fertilizer was also available from animal manure supplemented with shell sand from NE Scotland (Sinclair, 1794), and from Kerrera (in exchange for manure), and from seaweed although limited kelp was produced at Oban. Furthermore, lime was available from Lismore and lime kilns are evident within the study area (site OBN.191).

viii. Quarrying.

Small-scale quarrying was prevalent throughout the study area such as slate from the nineteenth century Gylen quarries on Kerrera. Quarries for road make-up are usually small, for example, 8x3m bordering Glenshellach Road although there are exceptions [PLATE III]. Large-scale extraction of sandstone for the nineteenth century growth of Oban took place at Ardentallan (site OBN.189) and Barnacarry (site OBN.190) as well as for millstones. The use of raw material for millstones even extended to archaeological monuments such as the granite capstone from Dalineun chambered cairn (site OBN.27) which was probably broken for such a purpose in ca.1800 (Henshall, 1972: 316) whilst in 1852 the Cleigh cornmill ordered one from Glasgow rather than a local source.
6. THE LANDSCAPE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.

The aim of this chapter is to analyse the landscape changes through time from an archaeological perspective. The vegetation and climatic changes will in themselves be the subject of in-depth palynological analysis by my colleague in the Department of Geography, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and will constitute a separate Ph. D thesis (F.Davies, forthcoming). The chapter begins with a detailed examination of the two areas from which cores were extracted and then an overview is presented which takes into account the entire evidence from the Oban region.

6.1. GLEANN SHEILEACH.

The Department of Geography from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne cored Holocene sediments at the unconsolidated margins of Toffer loch (NM83842763) between Gallanach Beg and Laggan at the SW end of Gleann Sheileach. The core was extracted with a 5cm diameter Russian auger and consisted of 13.5m of a homogenous and a less-humified herbaceous peat from which four radiocarbon dates were ascertained from bulk samples through the profile; 7060±110 BP (1240-1250cm) [GU-3113], 3760±50 BP (785-800cm) [GU-3027], 1500±50 BP (390-400cm) [GU-3026] and 200±50 BP (40-50cm) [GU-3025]. Chemical and palynological analysis was then applied in order to record the changes in vegetation and climate [FIGURES LIII & LIV] and these results are used below to interpret the archaeological evidence in its landscape context.
The lowermost portion of the core, relating to the Early Holocene, records an extensive cover of a well-developed woodland mix with relative soil stability until ca.5800 BP at which point a local Elm Decline is observed with minute charcoal fragments and a corresponding increase in catchment erosion indicated by reduced sediment organics and an increase in potassium and magnesium levels. Forest burning to increase herbivore browse was clearly a method available to Mesolithic populations and a practice offering immediate advantage, especially when burning is restricted to ensure sufficient retention of herbivore cover (vide Jacobi et al., 1976). Edwards and Ralston (1984) have reviewed the evidence for such `pre-Neolithic' episodes of clearance and explained that charcoal could equally derive from a number of alternative sources, other than Brandwirtschaft, including natural forest fires initiated by lightning and the gradual atmospheric build-up of charcoal from hearths for cooking and heat. Therefore, despite evidence of forest burning being attested in Scotland (vide Durno & McVean, 1959), the production of charcoal fragments cannot be directly viewed as the purposeful manipulation of the environment by anthropogenic activity. The case for vegetational disturbance as a result of agricultural colonisation can only be advanced when there is a direct association with cereals or other evidence for a farming regime. With this in mind, it is significant that the Gallanach Beg core does not demonstrate a correspondence between large `cereal-type' Graminae pollen and the marked reduction in Ulmus. Furthermore, the remaining components in tree cover (Quercus, Alnus and Betula) do not show a corresponding decrease. So much so, that Corylus continues its steady increase without abate. The composite pollen diagram (F.Davies, pers.comm., 1994) also shows a picture quite contrary to the notion of early phases of landnam.

Towards the maximum Postglacial marine transgression Lón Mór would have been flooded by seawater thus creating an estuarine embayment with the site of
the new hospital (NM856286) being no more than a skerry and with Raschoille Cave (site OBN.4) and Druimvargie Rockshelter (site OBN.11) being shore-line caves [FIGURE LVIII]. Watercourses entering the bay offered opportunities for subsistence provisioning for Mesolithic populations through fishing, shellfish gathering, game and fresh water as well as a source of flint from the beach pebbles. It was in this locality that microlithic flint scatters and a stone floor were discovered (site GLS.1). The occupation of the caves and rockshelters could be viewed as short- or long-term strategy with the duration being dependent on the availability of nearby resources and the accumulation of a midden resulting from a single event or repeated seasonal visits. However, the construction and maintenance of a stone floor implies an investment in time over and above that of a momentary episode of occupation (i.e. a long FUL/SUL). Therefore, taking this archaeological evidence into consideration, it would seem that the Gallanach Beg core reflects a limited impact upon the tree cover. Such a situation would exist if the hunter-gatherer groups wished to increase the extent of browse to encourage game. The catchment of the site, and Mesolithic groups exploiting the coastal fringe, undoubtedly extended inland to hunt game (e.g. deer) and gather food (e.g. hazelnuts) but prospection for additional Mesolithic sites extended along the glen as far as Glenshellach Farm [FIGURE III] and only recovered sporadic pieces of undiagnostic flint débitage deriving from multi-period casual losses with the exception of the possible limpet hammer (site OBN.205) recorded from Gallanach and the hammerstone (site OBN.207) from Albany Street.

The actual Elm Decline recorded in the core is a bit later at ca.5200 BP. The gradual reduction in tree and shrub pollen and expansion in open land taxa provides evidence for an anthropogenic impact upon the environment yet still limited and Neolithic occupation of the glen, although suspected, cannot be demonstrated from the archaeology (see chapter 5.2).
The Bronze Age witnessed increases in open land taxa, cereal-type pollen and weeds of cultivation (e.g. Plantago lanceolata), peaks in the charcoal index and a decline in arboreal cover representing a time of substantial and sustained human impact with arable and pastoral agricultural activity around Gallanach Beg. Archaeological evidence for anthropogenic activity is equally abundant with a cluster of cists (sites OBN.52,57-9) and a cemetery/ossuary (site OBN.4) at the mouth of the glen, cup-markings (site OBN.69) in Lochan Gleann a’Bhearraidh and a Beaker cist (site OBN.55) at Gallanach Beg, only 200m from where the core was extracted. In addition to this spread of ritual sites, the management and opening-up of the surrounding landscape is shown by a surviving fragment of field bank (site OBN.82); a wish to enforce and demonstrate landownership, or to control the movement of game or livestock. Although the clearance was sustained there were nevertheless short phases of regeneration in the sheltered catchment zone around the core but it is suspected that clearance on the surrounding hills would have led to a more marked and permanent effect with the growth of heath, as was the case on the North Yorkshire Moors (Dimbleby, 1962). Such large-scale clearance could have been achieved by burning but the find of a handaxe sharpening flake (site OBN.194) in Gleann Sheileach shows that the trees could also have been felled.

The Iron Age saw the onset of cooler temperatures and a marked increase in wetness with a change to less well-humified peat. This continued into the Late Iron Age and early Medieval period as mild temperatures with dry summers and a marked fall in arboreal pollen coupled with a predominantly moist meadow vegetation. A shift/reduction of agricultural activity is reflected in the reduction in Graminae and Plantago lanceolata and settlement does occur elevated above the floor of the glen with forts/duns at Dùn Uabairtich (site OBN.88) and An
Dùnan (site OBN.104) as well as the `dun house' (site GLS.21) upon a knoll overlooking the present Gallanach Beg farm buildings. Nevertheless, lower ground settlement persists with a timber-framed structure (site GLS.59) beside Lón Mór in addition to crannogs (sites OBN.114,119) in Loch a'Mhuillinn. The position of the loch offered a coastal environment with the benefits of fresh water, shelter and fertile, agricultural land. Such a concentration of resources created a carrying capacity sufficiently high to accommodate a minimum of two crannogs and An Dùnan evenly distributed around the edge of the small loch as observed by Morrison (1985) in Loch Tay. Furthermore the proximity of the MacArthur Cave (site OBN.1) burials (Saville, 1994) suggest that their ritual practices were also closely associated with the margins of the loch.

The use of timber was greatly accelerated by the incursion of the Norse who removed the trees in order to supply the needs of their Orcadian communities and was presumably the main cause of the final forest clearance around AD 1150; an alternative theory can be found in the legends which state that the incoming Norse burnt extensive areas in order to consume their enemies (Rackham, 1986: 112). During this Medieval period, Loch a'Mhuillinn was connected to the sea by a tidal swamp through which Black Lynn flowed. The pressure upon the resources of the landscape peaked during the fifteenth century and was acerbated by a series of severe winters with high run-off. The township centred upon Oban mill was utilising the fertile banks of Loch a'Mhuillinn whilst Lower Glenshellach (site GLS.25) had the advantage of the frequent flooding of Lón Mór renewing the fertility of the hay meadows. Nineteenth century drainage of the meadow made hay making feasible until the mid-twentieth century, with ricks visible upon aerial photographs (sortie no.58 RAF 2244, print 0015), whereupon neglect of the system invited the resumption of marshy conditions. The framework of the ricks was made from pliable hazel
stands cut from the nearby Druim na Raschoille (NM853287) coppice which, through lack of use, has become an entangled thicket. The name of Gleann Sheileach relates to willow (Salix) which rose and declined to its present level at ca.300cm (i.e. ca.1150 BP by interpolation) in the Gallanach Beg core [FIGURE LIII] possibly reflecting the Early Medieval management of this tree species for use in wickerwork.

Dating of the individual settlements is not straightforward because the small groups were not surveyed by General Roy for his military map (ca.1750). These farmsteads include Baile Meadhonach (site GLS.26) and 'Old' Laggan (site GLS.27) which were built sometime before 1870 and deserted before the nineteenth century. The farmstead of Upper Glenshellach (NM84472813) may well be the product of an Improvement split of the Lower Glenshellach township (site GLS.25) whereas Gallanach Beg (site GLS.44) may have split from Gallanach (NM82872610) before the seventeenth century. Clearly the settlement of Gleann Sheileach did not remain a static entity but underwent evolution through time in response to population rise and changes in farming techniques.

The townships and farmsteads were generally abandoned, or reduced in size, during the close of the eighteenth century which coincided with a period of high run-off and severe winters in the core thus exacerbating crop failure. The dispersed nature of Lower Glenshellach (site GLS.25) was ideally suited to survival with individual units functioning as separate crofts `...in sequestered nooks (Grant, 1807: 33)` in the lower tract of the glen and its survival was necessary for the growth of Oban. As a result, the economy of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century was geared to supplying Oban with vegetables, pork (vide the pigsties at sites GLS.35-6), mutton and dairy products;
dairy cattle were kept at Laggan (NM84072769), as well as hides for the tannery and hay for the stagecoach horses.

The upper portion of the Gallanach Beg core relates to the twentieth century which starts with the take-off of Na, K and Ca due to the addition of chemical fertilisers to the land. Seaweed and shell sand had been a common addition to the fields in the past, not only to revive fertility but also to increase soil depth (A. McLarty, pers. comm.) especially where there was only a thin cover upon the underlying bedrock (e.g. NM852283). Kelp was gathered from Oban Bay carried in panniers across Druim Mór and unloaded directly upon the infields. Attempts to improve the quality of the arable land can also be seen in the quantity and distribution of field clearance cairns [FIGURE XXX].

Ridge and furrow is widespread [FIGURE XXX] and up to 0.4m in surviving height on slopes and elevated plateaux where subsequent agricultural activity has been limited. The gauge, or ridge width, of this cultivation in the glen was analysed and two populations were observed; broad rig (4-4.5m) in the infield zone of the Lower Glenshellach township (site GLS.25) and narrow rig (ca.2.5m) in the rest of the Gleann Sheileach [FIGURE VI]. This was thought to reflect a chronological distinction (see chapter 5.6.iv). The isolated instances of gauge less than 2m probably arose out of bisection whilst the one example of 6m may have resulted from a large plough team.

As previously noted for Ardentallan (see chapter 5.6.v), the land divisions in Gleann Sheileach can be placed into three phases [FIGURE VII]. The first appears to be represented by disjointed stretches of low feal walls (0.2m high at NM842279); they appear to be associated with former tracks so presumably functioned in stock herding. The apparent line of the head-dykes (a & b) are
partly drystone and partly earth and stone banks (0.7m at NM83602763) containing nineteenth century potsherds. By 1874 a few stone enclosures, including a parkland (c & see site GLS.81), were just starting to appear but it was not until the turn of the century that the subdivision of the landscape really began together with plantations (Glenmore Wood). The enclosure of the `modern' landscape is largely represented by fence-lines although an additional cross-dyke was inserted following the tripartite division of the glen (Lón Mór, Upper Glenshellach and Laggan) after WWI whilst former stretches of dyke (0.6m wide and 1.0m high at NM84082761) were re-used to mark the other boundaries.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century the Tarry Road, of ash waste from the Oban gasworks, was laid by the banker, John McCaig, to connect Soroba House (NM85892836) to the centre of town and now lies beneath the new hospital (NM856286). Another route leads across Druim Mór and past the former toll-house, Soroba Lodge (NM85272790), after having passed through the dispersed elements of the Lower Glenshellach township. The main line of communication during the eighteenth century ran the length of the glen and parallel to the Glenshellach Road but on the opposite side and linked Oban mill to Gallanach Beg, Gallanach and sweeping round to meet Kilbride.

Since 1992, the physical appearance of the glen has been dramatically, and irrevocably, changed. The rocky plateau that once rose from Lón Mór [FIGURE II] has been connected to a re-alignment of the A816(T) (from Oban to Kimelford), by straightening and bridging Soroba Burn, and levelled to accommodate the foundations of the new Oban hospital. The greater part of Lón Mór has been set aside for flood control (Thorburn Group Two Limited, 1991) with, initially, a rubble platform with plastic gauze being laid to consolidate the marsh. Rising ground at the margins and as far along the glen as Glenshellach
Farm (NM84462813) has been benched to erase undulations and rock outcrops for the placement of industrial units and 125 houses. Intervening areas have been similarly landscaped, whilst quarrying for road make-up, has re-shaped the sides of the glen (e.g. at NM847277). Prior to the 1990s modern development had only encroached upon Gleann Sheileach with the construction of McKelvie hospital (NM85382889), bungalows along the base of Druim na Raschoille (NM855290), the railway embankment (NM857287), the reservoir station (NM85042729) at Loch Gleann a'Bhearraidh, landscaping around Laggan to create a diving centre (NM84042770), and the erection of a radio tower (NM83702768) and television masts (NM85022899 & NM85362769). However, the latest programme of development (Hunter, 1994b) will have a permanent and lasting effect with the agricultural land rapidly becoming engulfed and initiating the end of the glen's farming economy.

6.2. Killiechôînish.

The second core (BB-5) analysed by the Department of Geography at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Davies, 1993) was extracted from a small basin to the south of Lochan a'Bhuilg Bhith (NM87502775) and within the Killiechôînish and Balnagowan study sub-zone (see chapter 4.5). It produced a 6.72m long sample of Postglacial sediments: clays beneath a sequence of humified and unhumified herbaceous peats from which three radiocarbon dates were ascertained from bulk samples. These demonstrated that the upper section had been truncated, presumably as a result of peat-cutting. The dates ranged from 5710±60 BP [GU-3482] to 3080±80 BP [GU-3481] and 2880±50 BP [GU-3480] with an arbitrary date of ca.10,000 BP being assigned to the base of the core which was interpreted as the Lateglacial/Postglacial boundary. The history
of vegetation change was determined [FIGURES LV & LVI] and is used below to interpret the landscape archaeology.

Truncation of the upper portion of the core has effectively removed the entire Medieval and post-Medieval vegetational record. However, the archaeology is sufficiently detailed to provide a finely resolved landscape history for this period. Presently the area is under rough pasture with coniferous forestry around Glencruitten House (NM88002972), the core of the Black Mount estate. Cattle graze the margins of Loch Nell where improved pasture is supplemented by thick patches of gorse and dispersed woodland and sheep make use of the higher ground. The pastoral element is not intensive with the estate managers diversifying into hunting, with shooting butts around Lochan a'Bhuilg Bhith (sites KIL.64-5), and limited forestry. Electricity Transmission Line pylons traverse the terrain but land boundaries have remained static since more intensive farming was practised and only the immediate vicinity of the dwellings (Ballygowan Farm and Killiechòinich) have been altered with the placement of new fencelines. The modern landscape is essentially a preserved relict of a past farming regime. The trampling by cattle, sheep and hill-walkers have all left their mark, although limited, upon the landscape with for example, capping stones being dislodged from dykes. The diminishment of the farming regime has had a greater impact with the neglect of the dykes as well as drainage enabling the gradual encroachment of marsh conditions upon the pasture as is evident at NM885286 where dykes disappear beneath reeds and water-loving vegetation. Similarly, at NM87472771 a dyke enters Lochan a'Bhuilg Bhith demonstrating that the lochan has undergone increased catchment due to either increased precipitation, removal of surrounding woodland cover or reduced flow of outlet into Loch Nell. The latter seems the most probable explanation with degraded drainage channels and the construction of the Dalineun pump house (NM88202708) to re-
direct freshwater from Loch Nell to the Oban reservoir at Loch Gleann a'Bhearraidh (NM845268).

The catchment determined by XTENT modelling [FIGURE LII] for Ballygowan/Balnagowan coincides with the position of Lochan Barr a'Chlaiginn and Barr a'Chlaiginn indicating the broad expanse of infield land in which ridge and furrow was prevalent [FIGURE XLII] demonstrating arable agriculture; it equally provides an insight into the perceived environment of those past farmers with landscape archaeology entering the realm of anthropological observations (Green, 1990). Shelters were found which can be related to the time of ploughing but no shielings were located. Point of the horse 'Barr an Eich/Each' (NM90302879) and the co-existence of smithing place names imply that thae township at Balnagowan was actively engaged in blacksmithing. Whether bog iron ore (iron hydroxide) was available from the NE peaty margin of Loch Nell in sufficient quantities to justify extraction is improbable. The truncation of that area is more likely to relate to episodes of peat-cutting for domestic purposes in the township in addition to supplying fuel for the smith's forge. The NE margin has been channelled and the mouth of the River Lonan has been straightened although still appears curved in General Roy's depiction (ca.1750). Peat-cutting was also practised at NM893286 with the divots being transported along a pre-1870 track back to Balnagowan [FIGURE XLI].

The imposition of field dykes appears to have been well ordered with them radiating out from Lochan Barr a'Chlaiginn [FIGURE XLII] to ensure that all livestock had access to fresh water. The field banks nearer to Killiechóinich were also planned with enclosures of equal extent. No head dykes, per se, were observed that clearly separate upland pasture from more fertile lower ground but
ridge and furrow, together with clearance cairns, is restricted to land beneath 100m OD.

The present road, following the course of a pre-1800 route, leads from Killiechöinich to Connel with one stretch, a former drove road, swinging off towards Taynuilt. Before the eighteenth century the main line of communication was along lower ground at the margin of Loch Nell, directly connecting Killiechöinich and Balnagowan and would also have served the Campbell off-shore stronghold (site OBN.118) with moorings presumably on the nearby Rubha na Mòine promontory (NM89602800).

The Killiechöinich catchment [FIGURE LII] encompasses a complex of field banks [FIGURE XLIII] with a relative chronology available by examining cross-cutting relationships (see site KIL.60) recording the history of enclosure following the adoption of sheep farming. The latest phase is represented by a trackway linking the Cleigh-Connel road to the Black Mount estate and starts at a pillared gateway resembling that at the main entrance (NM88132966) to Glencruitten House. Make-up for this track was quarried from a series of rock outcrops (sites KIL.66.i-iv) along the route [FIGURE XLI].

Killiechöinich was a township established before the seventeenth century and is still, in part, occupied today. The function of the individual units cannot be positively determined without excavation although the form of the structures [FIGURE XXXI] implies a series of byre-dwellings with attached yards and separate barns used by a small farming community. The subsistence economy of the community would have been crops from the slopes of Cnoc Mòr [FIGURE XLII] and the township yards; with corn processed on-site with hand querns or transferred to the mills at Cleigh (NM878257) and Strontoiller (NM907289); cattle
and dairy products from the summer grazings (site KIL.25), and fish and wild fowl from Loch Nell. Peat was cut from the margins of Lochan a' Bhuilg Bhith, thus removing the Medieval section of the pollen core (Davies, 1993) and isolated pockets (e.g. near site KIL.25) in the surrounding upland with the divots being stacked to dry (site KIL.63). Wood was available from broad leaves along the shore of Loch Nell although a pre-1870 track [FIGURE XLI] can be traced leading from the township to the Glencruitten coniferous forestry either for supplementary timber, and fowl, or for access to Glencruitten House (NM88002972) and the burial ground (NM88132929). Within this cycle of resource consumption and production the farmstead (sites KIL.16-7) was undoubtedly a key link [FIGURE V] but its chronological context has not been established. Impact upon the landscape was therefore gradual and limited. The incursion of sheep farming led to dyke construction and widespread grazing inhibiting woodland regeneration and represented peak in anthropogenic control of the environment although, with the abandonment of many of the dwellings at Killiechoinich, the range of resources exploited in the immediate vicinity altering in intensity with pasture the principal asset. Elements of the sheep farming are particularly evident upslope of Rubha Dubh (NM891276) with a fold (site KIL.34) and small enclosures (sites KIL.18-20) overlying earlier cultivation. Grazing has now subsided allowing the area to be re-colonised by dense, impenetrable, thickets of gorse.

As in the present day, the Early Holocene situation was one of gradual expansion of vegetation (Davies, 1993) with the initial birch colonisation in a local landscape of grass and sedge being accompanied by a rise in Coryloid, and scrub, and the establishment of a mixed deciduous woodland (Ulmus and Quercus). The Boreal/Atlantic transition witnessed a dramatic increase of Alder particularly at water margins and hillslopes. However, the 'Alder (Alnus) Rise'
has been assigned an age of 7500 BP, some 500 radiocarbon years earlier than elsewhere in Argyll, by interpolating between the arbitrary base date (10,000 BP) and the 5710±60 BP bulk sample date. Similarly, early alder rise dates have been recovered from sites (e.g. Rymer, 1977) and have generally been interpreted as an increase in moisture, principally higher precipitation with streams bringing greater minerogenic inwash into the catchment area.

Conversely, Smith (1984) has attributed the alder rise to the selective clearance of other tree species by Mesolithic populations. Indeed, as at Gallanach Beg (see chapter 6.1), an early (interpolated) date of 5775 BP has been assigned to the initial decline in *Ulmus* before a series of fluctuations. Corresponding inland Mesolithic activity is, as yet, not evident. Test-pitting projects have been planned for the near future to locate potential microlithic flint scatters and shell middens along the land bridge between Loch Feochan and Loch Nell (around Cleigh) and at the NE shore of Loch Nell in the vicinity of Strontoiller. During the maximum Postglacial marine transgression both lochs would have been considerably larger with only land above 13m Newlyn OD remaining free of water. Indeed, in this position a limpet hammer (site OBN.204) was recovered near Kilmore possibly in proximity to such a Mesolithic site and the area is presently undergoing test-pitting; provisional results show potential on the Barnacarry Glebelands (ca.NM885261) but searches around Cleigh (NM879257) proved to be fruitless (C.Bonsall, *pers.comm.*, 1994; Hunter, 1994b). Until further exploratory research is conducted the degree of Mesolithic activity can only be assumed to be limited from the impact upon the surrounding tree cover especially as far inland as Lochan a'Bhuilg Bhith.

During the fifth millennium BP, the levels of woodland taxa recovered without demonstrable episodes of clearance or with the significant presence of arable and pastoral indicators. There are no demonstrably Neolithic monuments or finds
within the vicinity of the core and very few indications of Neolithic activity in the Oban region as a whole (see chapter 5.2) although the Dalineun Clyde cairns (sites OBN.27-8) are less than 1km from the catchment site. Their lowlying aspect at the shore of Loch Nell resembles those at Bohuslän, in Sweden, whose position was interpreted by Tilley (1993: 78-9) as a reflection of the fishing economy.

The situation of woodland recovery prevailed until ca.3400 BP when there was a reduction in arboreal cover in favour of open, grassland taxa followed by a further, more marked, event at ca.48cm. The latter has been interpreted as anthropogenic clearance, of uncertain duration, by Bronze Age populations (Davies, 1993) to advance their pastoral and arable economy. Bronze Age activity within the Killiechòinich and Balnagowan study zone is limited to two possible burial cairns (sites KIL.1-2) and an array of debatable petroglyphs (sites KIL.3-13). The Loch Nell area has nevertheless been the focus of intense Bronze Age ritualism with a stone circle at Strontoiller (site OBN.60), a standing stone (site OBN.19) and two clusters of burial cairns (sites OBN.19,27,29-37,46,51). The enclosure at Cleigh (site OBN.170) may equally be connected with the Bronze Age ritualism with parallels in Class I henge monuments of the Neolithic.

The area shows a striking parallel with the recent discoveries, 75km to the SW, around the margins of Loch Finlaggan near Ballygrant on Islay (Channel 4 TV, 1995). There, one end of the loch is elaborated by a burial cairn and a former complex of standing stones, potentially a circle or avenue aligned towards elevated terrain. 30km to the S of Loch Nell there is also the concentration of ritual sites (burial cairns, standing stones and cup-marks) at Kilmartin. All three locations have a shared array of topographic features (inland waterbody, view of
elevated terrain and proximity to coastline) so we can begin to envisage the components which comprise a Bronze Age ritual landscape in Western Scotland providing a contrast to ritual landscapes of Wiltshire.

The utilisation of land during the Iron Age appears to have been shared between duns and the off-shore crannogs. The two long sides of Loch Nell are bounded by steep gradients offering little other than hill pasture whereas the NE and SW shores have wide aprons of lowlying ground periodically flooded with fresh minerogenic outwash thus maintaining agricultural fertility. From studies in Loch Tay it would be anticipated that there would be at least one crannog strategically placed to control the belt of fertile land. This is indeed the case with site OBN.116 between Cleigh and Moleigh whilst and the submerged site(s) OBN.117 take advantage of the stretch at Cabrachan. Whether occupation at the respective sites was either contemporary or even as early as the Iron Age is unclear. A thorough underwater archaeological project needs to undertaken in order to prospect crannogs and to re-evaluate the known sites. However, a pattern is already emerging of crannogs being associated with stretches of fertile land and, as observed by Morrison (1985) in other lochs, the sector of fertile land around Balnagowan which is not commanded by a crannog is associated with a cluster of dun names (Dùn Neil, Dùnan Tiodhlaicdh, Dùnan Céardaich and Dùnan Trodhlaicdh). Equating these land divisions with those that prevailed during the Medieval period as hypothetically deduced from XTENT modelling [FIGURE LII] is arguably premature but, even at this early stage, it is an aid to locating voids in the distribution of Iron Age occupation. Using this concept, the dun names would relate to the Ballygowan catchment, site OBN.116 to Barnacarry near the S corner of the loch and site OBN.117 to Cabrachan-Torrinturk-Strontoiller; the latter, although depicted as a minimum of two catchment territories in FIGURE LII, was probably dominated a single territory
during the early Medieval period before a single township (with 10+ merklands) had split to create the separate entities of Cabrachan and Torr-an-tuirc (see chapter 5.6.iii). There is one stretch of the loch that remains unaccounted for, namely that within the catchment of Killiechòinich. This sector only offers a relatively steep terrain fronting the shoreline and thus being unfavourable for the placement of an off-shore crannog (Morrison, ibid.). Dun names are equally absent but the rocky craglines and outcrops around Rubha Dubh (NM891277) resemble those at Lerags upon which the fort, Dùnan Corr (site OBN.84), is situated and it was on this promontory that a potential structure (site KIL.21) was identified.

6.3. GENERAL OVERVIEW.

The results from the Lochan a'Bhuilg Bhith core [FIGURE LIV & LV] provide a detailed vegetational history of Cnoc Mór and therefore create a valuable comparison to the Gleann Sheileach data [FIGURE LIII & LIV] recovered from a lower, sheltered catchment site, an area likely to be more receptive to past and present human activity.

As yet, no body of evidence is available to substantiate Lateglacial/Early Postglacial (i.e. Upper Palaeolithic) occupation of W Scotland (see chapter 5.1). Accepting this, we therefore enter the Early Holocene with an environment untouched by human influence. The environmental change was rapid yet retarded in the Highland Zone, due to the truncation of the Gulf Stream at the eastern Atlantic margin (Taylor, 1975), and eventually stabilised from 6,500 bc onwards (Simmons et al., 1981: 93). We can visualise the glens and upland terrain of the Oban region, unlike the rest of the Highlands (Anderson, 1967), under a relatively dense and extensive deciduous mixed woodland cover (Ulmus,
Quercus, Alnus and Corylus) during the mid Holocene hindering inland movement. In these conditions the Mesolithic population would have been restricted to waterways, lochs (Loch Etive, Loch Nell, Loch Feochan, Black Lochs, etc.) and the coast using boats to colonise/exploit the terrain.

Land cover would have been reduced at the maximum Postglacial marine transgression with the shoreline equating to the 13m Newlyn OD contour. The distribution of known sites is entirely restricted to coastal caves and flint scatters located beside an embayment [FIGURE LVIII]. This focus upon coastline occupation was undoubtedly conditioned by the practicalities of the physical terrain and vegetation creating a natural barrier although Mesolithic groups were certainly capable of penetrating further inland following the series of Lochs as stepping stones and then continuing along the rivers and burns to their source, but evidence of flint scatters and dwellings at higher altitudes would be a subject of future research. In addition to the available resources, Tilley (1994: 86) regards their topographic characteristics (caves, bays, stacks, etc.) as providing an easily discernible landscape enabling repeated recognition and familiarity thus favouring occupation and re-occupation. Despite exploiting the plentiful coastal resources it would be assumed that the impact upon the vegetation would have been relatively limited and pre-Neolithic clearance cannot be substantiated from the existing pollen data. However, that is not to say that the later clearances (vide the 'Elm Decline') were not due to groups practising a Mesolithic economy. Indeed, in view of the limited and gradual nature of the pre-Bronze Age forest reduction and the sparsity of Neolithic material, a case for Mesolithic survival is certainly plausible.

The only surviving osteological evidence for this region are the Celtic Shorthorn bones from MacArthur Cave (site OBN.1) but their exact stratigraphic derivation,
and therefore their date, is open to question. Nevertheless, in addition to a maritime component of the Mesolithic economy there was an inland element in which deer and wild boar were hunted. This diet of meat was supplemented by gathering hazelnuts at Lón Mór (site GLS.1) whilst at Lussa River, on Jura, there were also acorns, chickweed, blackberries and strawberries (Searight, 1984) and at Ulva Cave kelp seaweed (*Laminaria*) was collected (Bonsall *et al*., 1989: 8).

Additional coastal exploitation is provided at the Obanian sites in terms of the presence of both fish and shellfish. However, the role of sea mammals is uncertain from the Oban caves where only barbed points and a mattock fragment were found whereas rorqual, seal and dolphin were excavated from the Oronsay middens; seal was recovered from the Distillery Cave (site OBN.2) but its association was not recorded. The saithe otoliths from Oronsay are of greater interest because their differing size, from midden to midden, indicates a seasonal exploitation of the resources offered within that small island environment (Mellars, 1970). The Oban caves may equally derive from short-term seasonal visits although the Lón Mór open-air site (site GLS.1) is perhaps an insight into a greater degree of sedentism.

The actual Elm Decline is later, towards the close of the sixth millennium BP, a time conventionally assigned to the Neolithic. The gradual reduction in tree and shrub pollen associated with the expansion in open land taxa provides evidence for impact upon the environment yet limited as clearings appeared in the forest cover [FIGURE LIII]. The archaeological evidence is equally limited [FIGURE 1b] and restricted to two mortuary monuments beside Loch Nell and a group of stone axes (sites OBN.200,202-3). Even invoking Dewar and McBride's (1992: 238) observation that 'stay-at-home' groups (e.g. sedentary Neolithic communities) create fewer sites than mobile ones does little to elucidate the discrepancy between the anticipated situation and the archaeological evidence. The stone
axes, if they possessed a utilitarian value rather than purely prestige, are an indication of purposeful tree-felling; but evidence does not substantiate more than restricted use of the wood resource and therefore a minimal advance into forested areas.

The Bronze Age appears to coincide with the clearance of the forest cover as elsewhere in Britain (Tinsley & Grigson, 1981: 247). Yet no matter how large and sustained the forest clearances were during the Early Bronze Age, Fleming (1973) has argued that they were insufficiently large to permit large-scale pastoralism and the link between the Beaker ‘folk’ and nomadic pastoralism has obviously been overstressed due to the sparsity of associated settlements (Simpson, 1971). The pastoral component of the economy was undoubtedy important, with, for example, the complex of field enclosures at Fengate (Pryor, 1974) and the Dartmoor reaves (Fleming, 1984), but cereal cultivation is demonstrated in the pollen record and plough bar shares are known from Bronze Age contexts elsewhere in Scotland (Dowson, 1979: 83-4) and arrowheads (sites OBN.4,197) indicate a hunting element (or warfare).

The increase in open land taxa, cereal-type pollen and weeds of cultivation (e.g. Plantago lanceolata, Rumex and Ranunculaceae), peaks in the charcoal index and decline in arboreal cover represents a time of substantial and sustained human impact with arable and pastoral agricultural activity around both Gallanach Beg and Lochan a’Bhuilg Bhith. However, there are short phases of regeneration. This is paralleled by an abundance in archaeology [FIGURE 1b] and could be directly related to increased activity or an increased population when compared to the preceding periods. It could however relate to a switch to mortuary structures offering a better opportunity of preservation or indeed survival. Removing the mortuary monuments, the Bronze Age material is
dramatically reduced. We are left with cup-marked rocks (which are not necessarily Bronze Age specific) and a selection of stray bronze axes and flint arrowheads whose colour and form lend themselves to being seen by the general public, when exposed on a field surface, unlike Neolithic pot sherds and Mesolithic microliths.

Looking at the study area as a whole for the Bronze Age we see a similar picture of mortuary/ritual sites (burial cairns, ossuaries, stone circles and petroglyphs). However, their location is revealing being restricted to the fringes of the sea and main water bodies. There are three explanations for this; the necessity/relevance of water within the ritual practices or, secondly, that the cover of vegetation prevented the construction/visibility of monuments further inland or, as Tilley has suggested from his research in Sweden and S/W Wales (1994, 203), the influence of the natural environment had diminished with landscape location being a lesser determinant for mortuary architecture; the landscape could be explored, controlled and understood with respect to the monuments rather than the reverse. Elsewhere in Britain, this was a time of optimum climatic conditions permitting substantial agricultural colonisation and advance to altitudes never before, or after, attained. However, there are whole tracts of upland terrain without signs of Bronze Age activity (e.g. Cruach Lerags NM8325).

The Iron Age saw the onset of cooler temperatures and a marked increase in wetness with a change to less well-humified peat. The climatic change appears to have had an equally significant affect upon the population. An expanding population faced with reduced food production from a decreasing area of agricultural land manifested itself in two ways in the archaeological record: the increase of fortified and defendable sites and the appearance of settlement sites above the damp glen bottoms. There was a retreat as forest regenerated with
Alnus and Corylus and there was a consolidation of the settlement pattern for efficiency [FIGURE Ib]; marginal environments were utilised for settlement with forts, duns and crannogs.

The mixed farming economy is reflected in the cattle, pig, sheep, goat and horse recovered from Dùn an Fheurain (site OBN.97) together with weaving combs and rotary querns. This diet was clearly supplemented by hunting and fishing of deer, crane, salmon and mackerel. Food residue was also recovered, together with some wooden utensils, from one of the Loch a’Mhuillin crannogs (site OBN.114). Similar conditions of preservation existed at the Oakbank crannog (Dixon, 1984) in Loch Tay and reinforce the evidence for a mixed economy with crops, cattle, sheep, fishing and wild fruit gathering. The first ploughs have been recovered from Early Iron Age contexts (Dowson, 1979: 83) and were made from a variety of woods including alder, birch, oak and even hazel.

The Late Iron Age and Medieval periods saw mild temperatures and dry summers with a marked fall in arboreal pollen coupled with a predominantly moist meadow vegetation. The use of timber was greatly accelerated by the incursion of the Norse who removed the trees in order to supply their Orcadian communities and was presumably caused the final forest clearance, around AD 1150, identified in the pollen core at Gallanach Beg [FIGURE LIII]. However, the Norse factor simply speeded what was an inevitable outcome of an increasing population with a requirement for agricultural land and wood for fuel and building. Certainly elsewhere in Highland Scotland the tree cover was severely depleted without the intervention of the Norse. The over-use of this resource caused an over-reliance upon peat as a fuel and constructional material. Stripping large areas of peat created barren areas void of pasture and the practice was soon curtailed by the landowners.
The second significant time-point occurs with the Argyll-wide development of the outfield system; an indication that the pressure on land was sufficiently high to necessitate an expansion into waste ground; that is to say, land dormant since the Bronze Age. This pressure upon the resources of the landscape peaked during the fifteenth century and was exacerbated by a series of severe winters with high run-off. The traditional farming techniques and settlement patterns would have remained largely unaltered but the past removal of the tree cover had culminated in an unstable situation: a landscape that could not support a static farming economy. The forest depletion was clearly a problem occupying at least the minds of the landowners with the ordering of Park Plantations in 1503.

External forces (the political upheaval of Culloden) and internal tensions (the inability of the farming regime to feed the increasing population) led to the third milestone in the landscape history; the Improvements and land clearances. Lowlying waterlogged ground was drained and brought into crop, liming improved fertility and crop yield, watercourses were channelled to utilise watermills and the landscape was controlled by a well-ordered pattern of boundaries, field walls and enclosures initiated by the Early Enclosure Acts.

The construction of the military roads brought about a communication network capable of transmitting the change. Ideas and industry came to the area. The town of Oban began to emerge and the surrounding areas became a zone where resources could be extracted; timber for the wood yards and charcoal for the Bonawe iron furnaces, coppiced hazel for wickerwork, bark for tanning, stone for the buildings, fish for the residents, hay for the stagecoach horses, vegetables and meat for the hotels, wool for clothing,
Finally, we are left with the present century which starts with the take-off of Na, K and Ca with the addition of fertilisers to the land. The present situation in farming is one of over-production with the EEC grain mountains and milk lakes but this is quite contrary to the condition prevailing during WWII and the post-war years with an emphasis upon bringing wasteland into crop and maximising the carrying capacity of the land. This has led to over-grazing and concentration upon sheep-farming in hill terrain making the regeneration of woodland impossible. The lack of cattle trampling has also aided the growth of bracken and therefore a further downturn in the quality and availability of pasture. Diversification with some landowners has led to increased populations of deer and the burning of moorland to encourage grouse thus preventing woodland regeneration. Others have turned to forestry to supplement their income; approximately four times greater than hill sheep (Haines, 1982: 148); and to improve local employment opportunities. However, the advance of coniferous forestry around Oban, and elsewhere, has reduced sheep grazing and sheltering in addition to providing an extra strain upon precious supplies of water.

Additional palaeoenvironmental detail from the Gallanach Beg and Lochan a'Bhuilg Bhith cores will soon be available (F. Davies, forthcoming) as well as the analysis of those from Lochan Cnoc Philip. The latter will be particularly interesting being from a relatively high altitude, with little or no human influence, as opposed to the sheltered, lowland and coastal aspect of Gallanach Beg and will therefore act as a control upon which the impact of human activity can be objectively judged in the Oban region.
7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH.

The Oban region is abundantly rich in archaeology from which a comprehensive and detailed local sequence has been reconstructed. It traces the advance of human communities from the coastal margins to the inland uplands with a temporary retreat during the Iron Age and a more permanent withdrawal during the clearances of the eighteenth century and nineteenth century. The land-use tempo (Wandsnider, 1992), although fluctuating in areal extent, was ever-increasing [FIGURE Ib] from the core areas (Oban Bay/Gleann Sheileach and Cleigh) functioning as Schlanger’s (1992: 92) ‘persistent places’ as populations rose and evolved techniques to control the surrounding environment. It demonstrates that past human activity and environmental changes were inextricably linked in a multivariate two-way process, each influencing the course of the other and, although dramatic changes did occur, there was an underlying continuity throughout the passage of time (cf. Medieval land division resembling Iron Age catchment territories).

Such a landscape approach can only be comprehensively achieved by consideration of a full array of field techniques and desk-based studies (aerial photographs, maps, documents,...); documentary analysis can never be complete because the avenues of research are endless (e.g. the register of tailzies). This ‘integral’ approach has demonstrated the value of test-pit surveys across entire landscape tracts to prospect and delineate flint scatters in terrain that would otherwise remain sterile to archaeological investigation and beyond the scope of conventional techniques. Assiduous fieldwalking and observation is a necessity to ensure a consistent and thorough observation of the entire study
sub-zones and all extant remains, no matter what the assumed date or function.

Once intensive `integral' fieldwork has been conducted within a sub-zone then, and only then, can a non-probabilistic sampling strategy be deployed to extrapolate the results to a wider areal zone; the inferences drawn can then be tested by selective fieldwork in the neighbouring margins.

At the core of the reconstruction of a local sequence is the primary data collection with, in this instance, field survey for site prospection having been of prime importance. The practical application of such a project may be executed in the following sequence of stages:

1. AREA SELECTION. Visit the chosen area in order to familiarise yourself with the terrain and cover of vegetation rather than just relying upon maps and check with the landowners that access to their land will be granted. Boundaries to the study should preferably coincide with natural boundaries such as coastlines, rivers or watersheds.

2. RESEARCH. Construct a database of known sites and small finds in the NSMR and from periodicals, local archaeological societies and local residents, although information originating from the oral tradition should always be treated with a degree of caution (vide Rackham, 1986: 22-3). Acquisition of map series, estate maps, aerial photographs and family papers can pinpoint sites of potential interest (e.g. deserted settlements), to be investigated during the fieldwork, although detailed documentary research should be tackled at a relatively late stage (Moody, 1986: 38-9) when the worker is fully conversant with the study area.
3. SURVEY. It is important to select an optimum time for the fieldwork to take place with consideration of variables such as weather conditions, cover of vegetation (e.g. height of bracken), the farming cycle (e.g. avoid lambing season) and staff availability.

4. SUPPLEMENTARY FIELDWORK. If resources are available, detailed mapping, trial-trenching, excavation and test-pitting can yield valuable supplementary information.

5. ANALYSIS. Questions should now be formulated that can be targeted at archive material; without specific questions documentary analysis will not be fruitful. Answers outstanding can then be addressed with additional fieldwork followed by further documentary analysis. Check with landowners whether recent activity has created any of the prospected sites presumed to be of some antiquity. Interpretation of the sites within their landscape setting can then be attempted and aided by pollen analysis if cores have been taken.

6. REPORT. Rapid publication of the results and updating of the NSMR are essential procedures. Some of the prospected sites may then be nominated for scheduling or future research.

With the benefit of hindsight it is questionable whether the Oban region was suitable for a study in landscape archaeology. The lack of supporting documentary sources was a huge limitation upon the interpretation and analysis of the field survey data. Land boundaries could not be verified on estate maps, recent structures could not be tied to tenancies and, as a result, the reconstruction of the landscape archaeology inevitably suffered by a considerable degree as well as affecting the ability of the author to fulfil the aims
of the research (pages 1-2). The fieldwork exercise conducted in Gleann Sheileach was extremely well resourced: funding was available for extensive test-pitting, assiduous field survey and even for a four-month excavation. This was not the case for the other study zones and therefore the choice of location and size of the study zones was very much, and unduly, dictated by the resources available rather than purely by archaeological attributes. It is unusual for a study area to attract such a large amount of funding as Gleann Sheileach but even so the resources still constrained the fullness of the landscape investigation. Additional time and resources would have enabled the survey to have been broadened to encompass zones further inland as well as to allow the application of additional survey techniques; for example, underwater investigations in Loch Nell would be extremely informative to appraise site OBN.117 and to prospect for other crannogs. A finely tuned excavation strategy, as opposed to salvage-driven, would be equally welcomed to target the more enigmatic classes of site that were only provisionally identified during the field survey such as the possible kerbed cairn (site KIL.1) and recessed platform (site ADR.11). Nevertheless, the Oban Archaeological Project is ongoing with watching-briefs of development sites, the undertaking of rescue excavations, extension of the zone of test-pitting (e.g. around Cleigh NM879257), post-excavation analysis of Lón Mór (site GLS.1), Carding Mill Bay site II (site OBN.14), Raschoille Cave (site OBN.4), radiometric dating (sites ATL.2, GLS.2,59), and promoting the involvement of the LAHS. The inclusion of a landscape archaeological element within the Oban Archaeological Project was ambitious and certainly innovative especially since the main focus of the Project has been directed to Mesolithic research.

Are landscape studies a new level of analysis at which the archaeologist can enter an avenue towards fuller explanation or are they (just) providing a plane of
observation? Do they provide an unique insight into archaeological form and process? A short-term strategy of 'integral' fieldwork coupled with desk-based studies can provide a finely resolved landscape history of an entire region and can tackle specific research questions (vide the 'Obanian'), focus upon a selected landscape unit (e.g. Gleann Sheileach), and aid the interpretation of sites (e.g. 'shelters') through repeated discovery and observation of patterns of site location, structure and association. However, the social context of the sites (Fleming, 1990: 8) cannot be effectively addressed within the constraints of static archaeological data so, as archaeologists, we should strive to recognise the broader-scale trends; the landscape history; but must equally realise that '...the past landscape has forever gone...' (Harvey, 1991: 52) and that '...it would be naive and arrogant in the extreme to believe that landscape archaeology holds all the answers to the past...' (Aston & Rowley, 1974: 23; cf. Gregory, 1976: 296).

The material results from the field survey are directly pertinent to the local history and archaeology of the Western Highlands. In this way the fieldwork is an essential component to the future development of Scottish archaeology as well as archaeological methodology. Less apparent is its contribution towards the formulation and conceptualisation of Cultural Resource Management policy; a subject increasingly becoming a paramount issue amongst archaeologists and planning authorities alike. In this light, the MARS project (Darvill & Wainwright, 1994) has been initiated and will have the responsibility of developing a general understanding of the dynamics of the resource with regard to the level of the recording, the conservation and the preservation of the individual monument/landscape tract; the overall aim being to systematically quantify England's archaeological resource. In addition to identifying areas/monuments at risk it will provide an index of relative degradence of individual landscape types. This ambitious, and unique, project will only be accomplished through an
intensive programme of research and fieldwork over a duration of three years and a history stretching back over five years. However, in addition to the new research undertaken there will be a heavy reliance upon the findings of previous fieldwork as a database for comparative studies. One specific question that needs to be addressed is the value of fieldwork towards a greater yield of monuments and a better understanding of the archaeological landscape. Furthermore, how often should a unit of terrain be surveyed before the gain in knowledge, and expansion of the monument tally, is insufficient to justify the further consumption of resources (i.e. skill, time and money)? The fact that the Upper Plym Valley has experienced two major episodes of survey (i.e. R.Mercer (vide Robertson, 1991) and CAS)) and numerous have been conducted at, and around, Stonehenge (e.g. RCHME) each providing a significant contribution to our archaeological understanding of the two areas and go some way to strengthen the opinion that field survey should never be seen as a single event but as a series of temporally separate phases; each phase drawing from, and improving upon, the results of the preceding survey. The Oban Archeological Project has revealed an astounding discrepancy between the perceived archaeological intensity and the actual situation. Up to this decade the site count was as low as four (sites OBN.4,55,59,68) in Gleann Sheileach despite the scrutiny of the Royal Commission (RCAHMS, 1975) and the proximity to an urban centre complete with its own archaeological society (LAHS) conducting exploratory fieldwork. As a direct consequence of a two-week phase of intensive field survey and site prospection the tally has been multiplied by a factor of forty (vide sites GLS.1-151) and even allowing for the expanded set of monument classes that are essential within the landscape approach (i.e. pre-Improvement townships, field clearance systems, etc.) the increase is both considerable and significant. The increased factor in yield was also apparent when the results from Killiechòinich were analysed, but to a greater degree [FIGURE LVII]; the
increase conceivably a measure of distance from the urban centre (i.e. the degree of rural isolation). For the Oban region, the main contribution to site discovery is therefore field survey rather than incidental events (e.g. development, coastal erosion,...) exposing sites. The Oban Archaeological Project will therefore be a main contributor to future CRM research strategies as an archaeological database of quantity, diversity and detail.

The Oban Archaeological Project, or rather it the small segment represented within the pages of this thesis, was a unique opportunity in which resources were allocated to explore a landscape above and beneath the surface. Rarely does a similar circumstance arise; when resources are available they are usually restricted to a limited area of operation, the zone of development, even when a major project is being undertaken (e.g. the 1980s expansion of Stansted Airport, Essex). With its uniqueness it was, in many ways, an experiment for techniques in a specific landscape zone and in this respect should be considered as a type of pilot study. The necessity for the survey and the originality of the approach coupled with its potential contribution to landscape studies made the project ideally suited to a research studentship. However, it is questionable whether all landscape projects would be equally compatible with postgraduate research. The nature of the study incorporates a diverse range of disciplines to produce a collective and thorough explanation of a landscape. Can one individual attempt to produce a sufficiently comprehensive and original piece of research without considerable recourse to the research of others?

The situation in Scottish universities is perhaps more relevant to a potential landscape archaeologist than in the English universities due to the diversity of the undergraduate course in which a selection of subjects are chosen and thereby a greater appreciation of related disciplines is gained; a fundamental of
the landscape concept. However, it would still be ambitious to expect a graduate to have sufficient training to tackle a landscape project single-handedly. It is therefore more realistic to foresee that landscape reports, in common with those for excavations, will consist of contributions from a number of specialists (archaeologists, geomorphologists, palynologists, etc.) and compiled by an editor who would write the landscape archaeology as a conclusion within the publication.

Despite the limitation of the individual approach, a necessity of the postgraduate system of assessment, this pilot landscape study has operated relatively smoothly and achieved the aims set out in the introduction. The first two years were occupied by the large fieldwork commitment (ca. 30 weeks) and background research whilst the final years were devoted to the compilation of the inventories and writing of the thesis. The dilemma is the amount of time set aside for the fieldwork component. Quite clearly there will always be room for additional survey, excavation or test-pitting so the researcher has to make the decision at an early stage to establish the target level and not to exceed it. In this instance, the author had the luxury of knowing that any outstanding fieldwork would be tackled by the ongoing Oban Archaeological Project. However, in most situations the researcher would conceivably experience a conflict of interests between wishing to finish the research on schedule (i.e. 3 years when funding usually expires), in order to further his/her career prospects, yet equally wish to dedicate as much time to the landscape project seeking to maximise the quantity, and quality, of the research. Compromise will therefore dictate the execution of a postgraduate landscape study.

The power of the landscape approach should clearly not be underestimated and will undoubtedly assist archaeologists at all levels and in most specialist fields.
The landscape is a complex yet realistic unit of study and is perhaps the only option for future research and the only course of action as far as CRM/legislation is concerned for ensuring monument protection (*vide* Breeze, 1993: 54) and appreciation.
8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

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NO SURVEYOR. 1847. Plan of part of Oban showing various proposed improvements. (RHP.965/3).
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9.4. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS.

Height: 16,500’  Focal length: 20"

Date flown: 31/7/47  Sortie: CPE/SCOT/247

Scale: 1:2500  Contact scale: 1:10,000

Print no. 3065 - Achalic.

3067 - Lerags.

3070 - Ardentallan.

3102 - Ardoran.
3104 - Dunach.

3106 - Kilmore and Moleigh.

3108 - Killiechòinich and Cleigh.

3110 - Killiechòinich and Cnoc Mór.

3112 - Ballygowan and Cnoc Mór.

4116 - Torr-an-tuirc.

Height: 16,666'  Focal length: 20"

Date flown: 16/8/57  Sortie: no.58 RAF 2244

Scale: 1:2500  Contact scale: 1:10,000

Camera position: F21

Print no. 0013 - Laggan.

0014 - Gallanach Beg.

0015 - Lón Mór.

0017 - Druimvargie ridge.
10. APPENDIX.

10.1. INVENTORY OF PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SITES WITHIN THE OBAN (OBN) REGION.

The sites below have been collated from a number of existing sources that are indicated in brackets beneath the individual entries. These references should be consulted if additional details are required.

CAVES AND ROCKSHELTERS.

OBN.1. CAVE. NM859304. MacArthur Cave, Nursery Lane, Oban. Excavated in 1894, this cave, ca.8mx6m in floor extent, contained four main layers including midden deposits. The uppermost contained parts of at least four human skeletons belonging to the last quarter of the first millennium bc. Mesolithic bone/antler implements (limpet scoops, biserially barbed points) were recovered lower down together with lithics and faunal remains. [Anderson, 1895: 211-30; Turner, 1895: 423-38; Shedden, 1938; Lacaille, 1954: 204; Mellars, 1970; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.98vi; Morrison, 1980; Saville, 1994; Saville & Hallén, 1994: 719; PLATES XXXVIII & IXL].


OBN.4. CAVE. NM85502890. Raschoille Cave, Glenshellach Road, Oban. Cave, exposed in 1984, containing human skulls, and disarticulated bones, faunal remains and a flint arrowhead. [DES, 1984: 24; LAHS, 1984 (aut): 8-10; LAHS, 1991 (spr): 8-9].

OBN.5. CAVE. NM848293. Cave of the Skulls (Uamh nan Claigionn), Gallanach Road, Oban. A large quantity of human bones were removed from this cave during the nineteenth century. Other finds were said to include a gold-headed cane and a silver brooch. [Sinclair, 1799: 274-5; Ordnance Survey Name Book, no.19: 60-1; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.98ix].

OBN.6. CAVE. NM855322. En-Dah-Win, Dunollie. Human bones were removed from this cave when it was converted into an ice-house. [Ordnance Survey Name Book, no.19: 32; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.90i].

OBN.7. CAVE. NM85183143. Dunollie. Three skeletons were uncovered in a cave below Dunollie castle. [Ordnance Survey Name Book, no.19: 34; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.90ii].

OBN.8. CAVE. NM86053000. Gasworks Cave, Tweedle Street, Oban. A cave, emptied in 1877, that contained a midden with human skeletons, Cinerary Urn sherds, a flint flake and faunal remains. [Anderson, 1895: 230; Turner, 1895: 417-8; Shedden, 1938; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.98iv].


OBN.10b. CAVE. NM81202953. Slatrach Bay, Kerrera. Recorded during the RCAHMS survey [RCAHMS survey notes].

OBN.11. ROCKSHELTER. NM857296. Druimvargie, Oban. Discovered in 1898, the finds from this shelter included limpet scoops, uniserially barbed points, borers and faunal remains. [Anderson, 1898: 298-306; Shedden, 1938; Morrison, 1980].

OBN.12. ROCKSHELTER. ca.NM858323. Braes of Ganavan, Dunollie. In this rockshelter, in 1906, a juvenile human skeleton was unearthed together with unworked flint and a bone needle. [MacDougall, 1907: 181-2; Lacaille, 1954: 210-1; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.90iii].


OBN.14. ROCKSHELTER. NM84742935. Carding Mill Bay site II, Oban. Rockshelter, excavated in early 1990s, containing midden deposits with
disarticulated human skeletons, Cinerary Urn sherds, a plano-convex flint knife and faunal remains. [Bonsall, forthcoming].

Possible midden deposit uncovered during the construction of a garage. [D. Keanan, pers. comm.].

OBN.16. ROCKSHELTER. NM804912646. Port a' Chaisteal, Kerrera.
Rockshelter with possible walling across entrance. [DES, 1966: 10; DES, 1967: 14].


CAIRNS.

OBN.18. CAIRNS. NM844313. Cladh a'Bhearnaig, Kerrera. Three ruined cairns reported but none found at this location. [DES, 1966: 10].

OBN.19. CAIRN AND STANDING STONE. NM907289. {Diarmaid's grave and pillar} Strontoiller. Circular cairn, 4.5m in diameter and 0.75m in height, with a boulder kerb. Excavations in 1874 and 1967 revealed a basal cremation deposit, a layer of burning and quartz chips around the kerb. The standing stone, situated 11.6m NW of the cairn, is a large block of granite standing to a height of ca. 4m. [Unstated, 1871: 5; Smith, 1872: 104; Smith, 1874: 84-5; Ritchie, 1971b; RCAHMS, 1975, mon. 78; Grimble, 1980: 21-2].
OBN.20. CAIRN. NM815278. Carn Breugach, Kerrera. Circular cairn, 15.5m in diameter and 1.75m high, possibly with a boulder kerb. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.30].

OBN.21. CAIRN. NM820300. Slatrach Bay, Kerrera. Small cairn, 9m in diameter and 0.6m high, composed of stones and earth. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.79].

OBN.22. CAIRN. NM822219. Dùnan Buiaig, Kilninver. Little survives of this cairn which is now no more than a stony mound, 25mx20m and 1m in height. In ca.1810, a cist was found containing an urn with a cremation. [Christison, 1889: 396; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.50].

OBN.23. CAIRN. NM833206. Barochreal, Glen Euchar. Circular cairn, 9.8m in average diameter and 1.7m high, with a boulder kerb. [DES, 1968: 3; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.25].

OBN.24. CAIRN. NM839197. Scammadale Road End, Glen Euchar. [DES, 1968: 3].

OBN.25. CAIRN. NM841248. Lerags. Ruined cairn, 5.8m in diameter and 0.4m high, with a kerb of granite boulders. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.61].

OBN.26. CAIRN. NM868313. Pennyfuir. Robbed cairn, 12.2mx8.2m and ca.1.4m in height. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.68].

OBN.27. CAIRN. NM879267. Dalineun, Loch Nell. Chambered cairn surviving as an oval, 18mx15m, to a height of 1.25m. It contained a central Clyde-type chamber with a small cist in the entrance and a large one 2m behind. Four
phases were distinguished during the 1970-1 excavation with finds ranging from Neolithic sherds to Beakers and a Food Vessel together with flint tools and cremated bone. [Smith, 1872: 104; Ritchie, 1972; Henshall, 1972, ARG 3; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.6].

OBN.28. CAIRN. NM880268. Cleigh. Circular cairn, ca.19.7m in diameter and 1.3m high, that was excavated in 1871 by J.S.Phene. The central, triangular cist contained a flint knife, a piece of mica and a cremation deposit. [Henshall 1972, ARG 46; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.57i].

OBN.29. CAIRN. NM880263. Cleigh. Cairn measuring 12.8mx9.3m and 1m in height. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.57iii].

OBN.30. CAIRN. NM880262. Cleigh. Cairn, ca.21.3m in diameter and 1.4m high, with a kerb of granite stones. The stone cist inside was excavated in the 1870s and 1969. It contained a Butterwick-type bronze dagger and a cremation deposit. Beneath was a ?female cremation with flint flakes. [Smith, 1872: 105; Smith, 1874: 84-5; Gerloff, 1975, no.28; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.57iv].

OBN.31. CAIRN. NM881260. Cleigh. Cairn measuring 9.1m in diameter and 0.5m in height. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.57v].

OBN.32. CAIRN. NM880260. Cleigh. Cairn, that has been re-used for stone clearance, measuring 31.4m in diameter and 1.8m high. The cist was excavated in the 1870s and contained a cremation within an urn. [Ordnance Survey Name Book, no.19: 78; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.57vi].
OBN.33. CAIRN. NM880260. Cleigh. Small cairn measuring ca.7.3m in diameter and 0.6m in height. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.57.vii].

OBN.34. CAIRN. NM880253. Cnoc Buidhe, Cleigh. Cairn, 18.3m in diameter and 2.4m high. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.57viii].

OBN.35. CAIRN. NM881253. Cleigh. A severely-robbed cairn, measuring 13.7m in diameter and 1.3m in height. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.57ix].

OBN.36. CAIRN. NM882251. Cleigh. Cairn, measuring 26.8m in diameter and 3.4m high. [DES, 1967: 6; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.57x].

OBN.37. CAIRN. NM907297. Barr Beag, Strontoiller. Stony oval mound, measuring 13.3mx11.0m and 1.2m high. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.26].

OBN.38. CAIRN. NM91033421. Connel. This cairn no longer survives but urns are reported to have been found during the nineteenth century. [Ordnance Survey Name Book, no.19: 19; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.39].

OBN.39. CAIRN. NM921341. Achaleven, Connel. Cairn, 16mx14m and ca.1.1m high. [DES, 1970: 9; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.11].

OBN.40. CAIRN. NM820295. Slatrach, Kerrera. Two cists, ca.1m apart, were excavated in an artificial mound in 1930; one contained a Beaker and the other had a Food Vessel with some quartzite pebbles. [Callander, 1932: 406-7; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.100i-ii; MacDougall, 1979].
OBN.41. CAIRNS (possible). ca.NM8530. Oban. A gravel mound with two cists opened in 1875; one contained broken pieces of bone and the other had an inhumation with a Food Vessel (Irish Bowl type). A third cist was found in another mound nearby. [Clerk, 1876: 468-9; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.98iii].

OBN.42. CAIRN (possible). NM897338. Dunstaffnage House. Cairn with boulder kerb that was destroyed in the late eighteenth century. [Ordnance Survey, no.19: 24; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.51].

OBN.43. CAIRN (possible). NM863275. Ariogan 1. Circular stony mound, ca.4.9m in diameter and 0.3m in height. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.17].

OBN.44. CAIRN (possible). NM857273. Ariogan 2. Stony mound, ca.6m across and 0.6m high. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.18].

OBN.45. CAIRN (possible). NM89123388. Tóm a'Chrochaidh, Saulmore. All that remains of a small circular mound, noted in 1870, is a hollow surrounded by a stony fringe. [Ordnance Survey Name Book, no.19: 23; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.378].

OBN.46. CAIRN (possible). NM907290. Strontoiller {2}. Circular mound, ca.18.3m in diameter and 1.7m high. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.79].

OBN.47. CAIRN (possible). NM822264. Gallanach. Tenantless stone cist associated with cairn debris. [Christison, 1889: 389].

OBN.48. CAIRN (possible). ca.NM86003073. Dunollie Road, Oban. Oak coffin (originally described as a canoe) discovered, in 1878, beneath a mound of stone
and peat, ca. 12m in diameter and 1.2m high. It contained pieces of birch bark
and a greasy deposit with charcoal. [Shedden, 1938; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.98v].

OBN.49. CAIRN (possible). NM892335. Saulmore. Cist removed from a partly
natural mound in 1872. [Smith, 1874: 84; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.99].

OBN.50. CAIRN (possible). NM822302. Oitir Mhór, Kerrera. Bracken-covered
mound not subsequently located.

OBN.51a. CAIRN (possible). NM88512545. Sròn Mhór, Cleigh. Stony, oval
mound, 10.5mx6.7m and 0.9m high.

OBN.51b. CAIRN (possible). NM880264. Cleigh. Possible robbed cairn
7.5mx4.5m. [L.Campbell, 1994, pers.comm.].

OBN.51c. CAIRN (possible). NM880264. Cleigh. Possible robbed cairn
15mx10m and 0.3m high. [L.Campbell, 1994, pers.comm.].

CISTS.

OBN.52. CISTS. NM859304. Breadalbane Place, Oban. Two cists contained
bones but a third one was empty. [Ordnance Survey Name Book, no.79: 10;
RCAHMS, 1975, mon.98i].

OBN.53. CIST. NM879256. Cleigh. Cist that no longer survives. [Ordnance
Survey Name Book, no.22: 153; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.86].
OBN.54. CIST. NM85183143. Dunollie. Stone cist, containing a skeleton and a sword, with coins, a gold brooch and a finger ring nearby. [Ordnance Survey Name Book, no.19: 34; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.90ii].

OBN.55. CIST. NM836276. Gallanach Beg. Cist containing Beaker sherds. [The Scotsman, 1897: 21 April; Faichney, 1902: 18-9; Shedden, 1938; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.91].

OBN.56. CIST. ca.NM8530. Oban. Small cist, made of a thin layer of clay rather than stone, containing a cremation deposit. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.98iii].

OBN.57. CIST. NM857305. Corran Park, Oban. A cist containing a Food Vessel was discovered in 1922. [Callander, 1922: 364-5; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.98viii].

OBN.58. CIST (possible). NM858305. Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Breadalbane Street, Oban. Probable Beaker deriving from a presumed cist. [The Scotsman, 1897: 21 April; Faichney, 1902: 19; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.98ii].

OBN.59. CIST (possible). ca.NM8528. McKelvie Hospital, Gleann Sheileach, Oban. Two Cinerary Urns and a kaolinite battleaxe were found in 1896. [Mclsaac, 1898; Faichney, 1902: 20; Shedden, 1938; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.98vii].
STANDING STONES.

OBN.60. STONE CIRCLE. NM906291. Strontoiller. Stone circle, ca.20m in diameter, composed of thirty-one boulders of varying sizes. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.120; PLATE XL].

OBN.61. STONE CIRCLE. NM890338. Dunbeg. Remains of a stone circle now destroyed. Present OS maps depict the site as an 'enclosure'. [Smith, 1872: 103].


OBN.63. STANDING STONES. NM801205. Duachy. A group of four standing stones; three being aligned NNW-SSE. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.116].

OBN.64. STANDING STONE. NM917340. Connel. No longer surviving. [Smith, 1874: 83-4].


CUP-MARKINGS.


OBN.70. CUP-MARKINGS. NM852309. Oban Esplanade. A massive granite boulder which originally had thirty-four shallow cups and 'three arcs of circles'. [The Oban Times, 1921: 10 September; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.109].


OBN.76. CUP-MARKINGS (natural). NM893279. Kilbride Church. Two boulders with single cup-marks and two boulders with double cup-markings. All now thought to be natural. [Allen, 1881: 257-8; Morris, 1968].


OBN.78. CUP-MARKING (natural). NM88313103. A'Chruach, Glencruitten. A granite boulder with a natural indentation previously identified as a cup-marking.

OBN.79. CUP-MARKING (natural). NM87642740. Killiechòinich. Squarish granite boulder with one natural depression previously identified as a cup-mark. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.106iii].

OBN.80. CUP-MARKING (natural). NM79622676. Eilean Orasaig, Kerrera. Outcrop with natural hollow and cup previously identified as artificial.

OBN.81. CUP-MARKING (recent). NM876278. Killiechòinich. Squarish boulder with a cylindrical hole, for the insertion of explosives, previously identified as a cup-mark. [LAHS, 1981 (aut): 24].
OBN.82. CUP-MARKING (recent). NM87813110. Lochan na Lairige, Glencruitten. Probable lifting hole, in a quoin stone, previously identified as a cup-mark. [Morris, 1977].

FORTS.

OBN.83. FORT. NM858264. Cologin. Fort sited on the end of a promontory overlooking Alt Criche. A NNE entrance provides access through a stone wall on the N side, surviving to a height of 0.2m and width of 3m, with the rest of the defensive circuit being provided by the natural crag-line containing a sloping area of 37mx27m. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.129].

OBN.84. FORT. NM834242. Dunan Corr, Lerags. The only rocky knoll, within a group in close proximity, that has been assigned the title of 'Dunans'. However, all that survives of possible defences is a low bank, measuring 0.3m high and 2.4m wide, on the N side with a probable entrance gap. A crag-line on the S and W periphery acts to enclose the rest of the summit; a total area of ca.37mx18m. [Christison, 1889: 392; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.131].

OBN.85. FORT. NM869296. Dunans, Glencruitten. Little now survives of the defences on this steep-sided eminence, ca.55mx18m. It was probably defended on all sides except the NW, by a stone wall which survives up to a maximum width of 3.7m. There appears to have been an outwork, 8m distant from the NE end, restricting the line of easiest access where the entrance was probably situated. An oval depression on the NW side might mark the position of a well. [Christison, 1889: 387; Ordnance Survey Name Book, no.19: 54; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.132; PLATE XLI].
OBN.86. FORT. NM907334. Dùn Creagach, Ardchonnel. The Gaelic name of the site describes the 'craggy' area separated from the rest of a ridge by a small transverse gully ca.3m in depth. A stone and earth bank, up to 0.6m high and 4.6m wide, in combination with the natural rock-faces, encloses an area measuring ca.38mx30m with an entrance probably in the SE side. [Christison, 1889: 384; DES, 1966: 11; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.134].

OBN.87. FORT. NM829263. Dùn Ormidale, Gallanach. Occupying the whole of a summit plateau, this site encompasses 3 hectares. A stone wall survives on the N and E, 3.7m in width and up to 1.0m in height, with a few in situ facing-stones. Access is afforded on the N side by a track leading through a 3m wide entrance gap; elsewhere the site is bounded by a crag-line. The interior is featureless although, upon size alone, the site has been classified as a 'minor oppidum'. [Christison, 1889: 388; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.137].

OBN.88. FORT. NM832280. Dùn Uabairtich {Uamhpuirt}, Gallanachmore. The D-shaped structure, ca.23mx21m, occupies a prominent knoll bounded on the NW by crags and by steep slopes in all other directions. In places, five courses (1m) of the defending wall survive with an entrance gap probably on the ENE. Within the wall circuit there is the arc of a low, stony bank, 1.2m wide, of unknown function. [Christison, 1889: 388; DES, 1965: 5; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.138; PLATE XLII].

OBN.89. FORT. NM887347. Eilean Mòr, Dunstaffnage. This isolated rocky knoll has an oval summit, ca.44mx25m, fringed with crag-lines. The slope on the E side has been strengthened by a stone wall, now no more than 2m wide, with access probably being where it approaches the cliff edge. At the foot of the knoll, on the E and S sides, were two outworks which were observed as a group of
large stones during the last century but they have since been removed.
[Christison, 1889: 383; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.139].

OBN.90. FORT. NM817271. The Little Horse Shoe, Ardchoirc, Kerrera. Upon a low (15m OD), isolated hillock fringed by cliffs supplemented by a stone wall, up to 1.0m high and 3.6m wide, enclosing an oval of 36mx27m. Access is provided along a cleft leading to the entrance which tapers from 2.4m to 2.1m wide. There are a number of stone spreads within the fort but these are probably just wall disturbance. Across a gully on the NE are the remains of a secondary wall, up to 1.2m wide, on a shelf below the summit. [DES, 1966: 10; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.142].

OBN.91. FORT. NM799217. Losgann Larnach {Losgann Lornach}, Barnacarry. Its Gaelic name, 'The Toad of Lorn', is probably due to the view, from the N, of this part of Beinn Mhór. The triangular site, ca.76mx21m, is fringed by impregnable cliffs further strengthened by a stone wall across the more vulnerable S side. The wall is now heavily robbed, but may have been up to 4m wide, with the entrance probably on the SE at the head of a 9m wide gully. Inside the fort, there are the remains of at least two round house stances. [Christison, 1889: 396-9; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.143].

OBN.92. FORT (possible). NM88452522. Kilmore. On the summit of an elongated knoll which projects from the W face of Sròn Mhór, are the remains of a stone-walled enclosure, 37mx14m, with steep slopes on the NE and SW. The position of the entrance is marked by a gap, 1.5m wide, through the 2m spread of wall debris at the NW end. [DES, 1967: 9; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.141].
OBN.93. FORT (possible). NM856291. Torran Gorm, Oban. A series of wall sections and natural outcrops that probably relate to former cultivation rather than being part of a fort. [NSMRS].

OBN.94. FORT (possible). NM85032461. Ardoran. A conspicuous crag with natural outcrops previously mis-interpreted as walling. [NSMRS].

DUNS.

OBN.95. DUN. NM818235. An Dùnan, Minard Point. A rocky knoll with an oval summit, 11.9mx9.1m, fringed by crags and defended by a stone wall up to 4.3m wide and 1.2m high. The entrance was probably situated on the SW. Additional features include a possible intramural cell and an internal divider. [Christison, 1889: 393-4; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.149]

OBN.96. DUN. NM868249. Dunach. This site occupies the highest point of a tree-covered ridge with cliffs on the E and W with a wall, surviving up to 2.7m wide, enclosing an oval area, 14.3mx11.6m. The entrance may have been on the NNW whilst a short stretch of stony bank, ca.13m to the N, is probably an outwork. [Christison, 1889: 391-2, RCAHMS, 1975, mon.163].

OBN.97. DUN. NM824266. Dùn an Fheurain, Gallanach. 'Dun of wild garlic' occupies an isolated stack with a low stony bank enclosing an area of ca.23mx12m and with an entrance probably on the NE. At the base of the stack there were the traces of two wells and, on the W side, is a midden which was first discovered as a result of road widening in 1895 and has been dug on at least four occasions; 1895, 1904, 1950 and 1963. The finds divide into an AD second century group, including samian ware and bronze jewellery; and a post
AD fifth century one, an antler pottery-stamp, bone pins and a bone comb. The faunal remains comprise cow, pig, sheep, goat, horse, deer and possibly dog as well as crane, salmon and mackerel; it was also reported that, in ca.1847, two human skeletons were recovered nearby. Industry is indicated by rotary querns with one being re-used as a mould. [Christison, 1889: 389; Faichney, 1902: 15; Shedden, 1938; Ritchie, 1971b; RCAHMS, 1975, mons.89 & 164].

OBN.98. DUN. NM845241. Ón the summit of a ridge is a sub-circular dun, ca.11.6m by 9.1m. The wall only survives 3.5m wide and up to 0.3m high with a 1.5m wide entrance on the SE. [Christison, 1889: 392; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.165].

OBN.99. DUN. NM826241. Dún Bhlaran {Bhlaran}, Lerags. The Gaelic name refers to the fact that this small, rocky knoll rises out ‘of the plain’ of Òm nam Buachaille. The wall, up to 3m wide, contains a circular area of ca.11m in diameter. The entrance was on the N. [Christison, 1889: 392-3; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.169].

OBN.100. DUN. NM967340. Dún Chathach {Cathich}, Achnaclaich. A circular dun, 18.3m in diameter, on a prominent hill which falls-off steeply on the NW. The wall is ca.3.4m in width with boulder-sized facing stones and is overstepped by a more recent, penannular enclosure. [Smith, 1870-8; Christison, 1889: 384; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.170].

OBN.101. DUN. NM954340. Dún Creagach, Achnaclaich. Little survives of this dun, 26.5mx18.5m, which is situated upon a small rock stack with a particularly steep W side. However, in places the facing stones of the wall are 0.9m high with four courses. [Christison, 1889: 384; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.172].
OBN.102. DUN. NM81402308. Dunan Mhic Raonuill (Dùn Mhic Rhonuil), Barnacarry. An oblong area, 19.8mx10.7m, upon an isolated, precipitous stack is defended by a 3m wide wall with an entrance probably at the head of a cleft on the SSW. There are two stretches of walling to the S of the dun. One is around the base of the stack and measures 1.0m high and 3.7m wide. The outermost wall, up to 3m wide and 60m long, consists of boulders and probably relates to a later phase of construction. It has a SW entrance tapering from 1.5m to 1.1m in width with an adjoining, more recent, rectangular enclosure, ca.12.2mx6.3m, and an isolated wall. [Christison, 1889: 394-6; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.176].

OBN.103. DUN. NM823259. Gallanach (Gallanach Castle). A D-shaped enclosure, 24.4mx19.8m, upon an exposed, rocky promontory. The wall, up to 4.0m wide and 1.8m high, has an internal revetment and an ENE entrance, 1.5m wide. [Christison, 1889: 390; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.186].

OBN.104. DUN (possible). NM862292. An Dunan, Dalintart. The summit of an elongated ridge is occupied by an oval enclosure, 18.3mx12.2m, comprised of a single stone wall spreading up to 4.5m. [Christison, 1889: 387; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.178].

OBN.105. DUN (possible). NM903293. Dùn Neil, Strontoiller. A prominent ridge, ca.26mx12m, enclosed by a series of depressions where a wall may have stood; down the NE slope there is a shelf also displaying similar scoops. Further down there is a rock-cut ditch, with a centrally-placed causeway, and two more at the SW end of the ridge set 2.75m apart and each measuring ca.3m in width and 1m in depth. All these features may result from quarrying activity rather than fortification. [Christison, 1889: 390; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.181].
OBN.106. DUN (possible). NM881343. Dunstaffnage {Dun a'Mhonaidh, Dunavona}. The steep-sided rocky ridge of Chapel Hill was known as 'sean dún', or 'old dun', but no traces of fortification are visible. [Macphail, 1920: 271; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.182].

OBN.107. DUN (possible). NM83102252. Carn Ailpein, Loch Feochan. An ancient monument was noted on this island on the second edition Ordnance Survey map (1900) due to a small cairn of stones thought to mark the point of trans-shipment of dead Scottish and Irish kings enroute for burial at Iona. [Hunter, 1984: 4].


OBN.111. DUN (natural). NM807285. Dùnan Mhic Ronuill, Kerrera. An irregular height near the centre of the island, not suitable for fortification. [Christison, 1889: 388].

OBN.112. DUN (natural). NM90032852. Dùnan Tiodhlacaidh, Ballygowan. A small elevation with no trace of graves or fortifications. [Christison, 1889: 390-1].
CRANNOGS.

OBN.114. CRANNOG. ca. NM857293. Loch a'Mhuillin, Oban. Discovered in 1888, this stone structure, ca.26.0mx16.2m, rested upon a horizontal platform of timbers consolidated by timber piles at the end of a causeway. Finds included 'tools' as well as human and animal bones. [The Oban Times, 1888: 5 May; The Oban Times, 1889: 15 June; Blundell, 1913: 288; Shedden, 1938; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.196].

OBN.115. CRANNOG. NM803202. Loch Seil. Submerged island, ca.7.3mx5.5m, artificially built of stones with possible boat-slip and landing-stage. [Macadam, 1895: 23; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.199].

OBN.116. CRANNOG. NM88352662. Loch Nell. Small, round island with an enclosing wall and a possible structure. [Smith, 1872: 105-6].

OBN.117. CRANNOGS (possible). NM89772752. Loch Nell. Two submerged islands reported but aerial photographs only reveal one potential site. [Blundell, 1913: 286-8].


**NORSE.**

OBN.120. **VIKING BURIAL.** NM843303. Mount Pleasant, Kerrera. Two swords are thought to have been found in this mound known locally as a Viking burial. [DES, 1965: 9].


**ECCLESIASTICAL.**

OBN.122. **CASHEL** (possible). NM842312. Cladh a'Bhearnaig {burial ground of the cleft}, Kerrera. Walled enclosure, over an acre in extent, containing oblong structures, a possible watch tower and a grave. [Smith, 1874: 89; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.232; PLATE XLIV].

OBN.123. **BURIAL-GROUND.** NM825220. Cill an Inbhire, Kilninver. [Ordnance Survey Name Book, no.53: 43; RCAHMS, 1975, mon.228].


OBN.127. CHAPEL. NM881344. Dunstaffnage. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.243].


OBN.129. CHURCH. NM857257 (church), NM857259 (catholic cross), NM85682575 (well). Old parish church, Kilbride. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.253; MacDougall, 1994].

OBN.130. CHURCH. NM937341. Kilmaronag. Church and possible burial-ground. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.262].

OBN.131. CHURCH. NM887249. Old parish church, Kilmore. Church, and burial-ground, first dedicated to St Bean. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.264].

OBN.132. CHURCH. NM824217(church), NM826218(burial-ground). Parish church and burial-ground, Kilninver. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.266].

OBN.133. CHURCH. NM860298. Free high church, Oban. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.270].
OBN.134. BAPTISM STEPS (possible). NM917285. Glen Lonan. A rock formation which, according to local tradition, was used in river baptisms. [DES, 1964: 11].


Dwellings.


OBN.137. CASTLE. NM882344. Dunstaffnage Castle. Medieval occupation for the MacDougalls and then the Campbells of Dunstaffnage. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.287; DES, 1987: 38; Stell, 1994].


OBN.139. CASTLE. NM831206. Rarey. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.297].

OBN.140. HOUSE. NM853297. Dungallon. Manor House built by 1789. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.317].
OBN.141. HOUSE. NM853315. Dunollie House. Built by 1746 but parts maybe earlier. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.318].

OBN.142. HOUSE. NM827260. Gallanach. Built by 1817. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.320].


OBN.145. TOWNSHIP. NM806222. Tigh-cuill, Barnacarry. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.345].

OBN.146. TOWNSHIP. NM808205. Loch Seil. [DES, 1967: 9].

OBN.147. TOWNSHIP. NM877337. Dunstaffnage Mains farm. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.343].


OBN.150. BUILDING. NM830206. Rarey. A tacksman's house. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.333].


OBN.154. STRUCTURES. NM823299. Drovers' Bothies, Otir Mhór, Kerrera.

OBN.155. STRUCTURES. NM806218. Kilninver Hill. Two rectangular structures, ca.4mx3m. [DES, 1967: 9].


OBN.157. STRUCTURE. NM823223. Loch Feochan. Wall surrounds an area ca.3mx2m with a SE entrance. [DES, 1966: 14].

OBN.158. STRUCTURE. NM824222. Loch Feochan. Bank enclosing hollow, ca.5mx4m, with possible entrances on N and S. [DES, 1966: 14].

OBN.159. STRUCTURE. NM86383300. Ganavan. Previously reported as a hut circle. Ganavan. Turf-walled, sub-rectangular structure, 7m(WNW-ESE)x5.5m, with an ESE facing entrance. [DES, 1982: 21].
OBN.160. STRUCTURES (possible). NM833300. Ardantrive, Kerrera. Two structures, ca.6mx4m. [DES, 1967: 14].

OBN.161. SHELTERS. NM833249. Lerags. Remains of three circular huts but not re-located. [DES, 1985: 34].

OBN.162. SHELTER. NM87942742. Killiechònich. Rectangular setting of nine boulders enclose an area, ca.3.0mx1.5m. [DES, 1967: 10].

OBN.163. SHELTER. NM90683347. Dùn Creagach, Connel. Rectangular enclosure, ca.4mx3m, formed of boulders with an E entrance. [DES, 1966: 11].

OBN.164. SHELTER. NM841250. Lerags. Circular arrangement of boulders, ca.5m in diameter, previously identified as a kerb cairn. [DES, 1966: 14; DES, 1986: 28-9].

OBN.165. SHELTER (possible). NM908293. Strontoiller. Low, turf-covered wall enclosing an oval area, ca.3.8mx3.3m, with a 1m wide entrance. [DES, 1983: 25].

OBN.166. PLATFORMS. NM857232. Knipoch. Two platforms 20m above the main road. [DES, 1982: 20].

OBN.167. PLATFORMS. NM844232. Knipoch. Six platforms, ca.25m above the main road. [DES, 1982: 20].

OBN.168. PLATFORM. NM821225. Loch Feochan. Platform, ca.7mx6m, built out from the hillside. [DES, 1966: 14].
AGRICULTURAL FEATURES.


OBN.170. ENCLOSURE. NM881260. Cleigh. A bank, with slight traces of a ditch on the inside, which encloses an almost circular area 21.3m in diameter. The bank, 5.5m wide and 0.15m high, has a S entrance gap. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.204].

OBN.171. ENCLOSURE. NM792271. Ardmore, Kerrera. Stone, circular enclosure, ca.10m in diameter, containing five mounds. [DES, 1966: 10].

OBN.172. ENCLOSURE. NM84003063. Ardantrive, Kerrera. Previously reported as an earth bank. Stone-walled, sub-oval enclosure, 9m(NE-SW)x8m, with a SSW facing entrance. [DES, 1967: 14].

OBN.173. ENCLOSURE. NM795268. Eilean Orasaig, Kerrera. Walled enclosure, ca.12mx10m, with an entrance gap, an adjoining building, ca.5m in diameter, and a nearby well. [DES, 1966: 10].

OBN.174. ENCLOSURE. NM914282. Torinturk Hill, Loch Nell. Drystone walling, ca.0.5m high, enclosing an area of ca.6.5mx4m. [DES, 1983: 25].

OBN.175. ENCLOSURE. NM835242. Lerags. Circular wall enclosing the level top of a small knoll. [Christison, 1889: 392].
OBN.176. ENCLOSURE. NM8733. Dunbeg. A low, earthen bank defining a pentagonal area, 15m across, with a S entrance existed in the nineteenth century. It was previously reported as a fort. [Christison, 1889: 383-4: RCAHMS, 1975, mon.133].

OBN.177. ENCLOSURE. NM909284. Loch Nell. Wall enclosing an area, ca.17mx15m, with a mound of stones, ca.3m in diameter. [DES, 1967: 9].

OBN.178. ENCLOSURE (possible). NM86172589. Barr Leatham, Kilbride. Circular enclosure observed upon an aerial photograph (sortie CPE/SCOT/247, print 3106) but not traced on the ground.

OBN.179. ENCLOSURE (possible). NM877322. Tóm Beithe, Dunbeg. Circle of boulders, 10.5m in diameter, uncovered by forestry ploughing. [LAHS, 1986, 45: 18].

OBN.180. ENCLOSURE (possible). NM81832968. Slatrach Bay, Kerrera. Observed upon an aerial photograph but not checked. [RCAHMS survey notes].


OBN.182. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM87942687. Cleigh. Cairn, 12.5mx11m and 0.9m high, overlying ridge and furrow cultivation. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.57ii].

OBN.183. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM874264. Kilmore. Previously reported as a cairn. [DES, 1967: 6; RCAHMS survey notes].
OBN.184. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM87642642. Moleigh. Previously identified as a cairn.

OBN.185. CLEARANCE CAIRN. NM873263. Moleigh. Previously identified as a cairn.


OBN.187. CLEARANCE CAIRN (possible). NM887277. Loch Nell. Previously identified as a cairn. [DES, 1967: 10; RCAHMS, survey notes].

INDUSTRIAL FEATURES.

OBN.188. MARKET STANCE. NM86723030. Polvinister, Oban. The site of a market stance on the line of the nineteenth century drovers' route between Oban and Taynuilt. [MacDonald, 1984: 14].

OBN.189. QUARRIES. NM8222, NM8223, NM8323. Ardentallan. Old quarries for the extraction a grey medium-grained sandstone, of Lower Old Red Sandstone age. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.349].

OBN.190. QUARRY. NM8122. Barnacarry. Quarry used for building-stone and millstones; some partially detached examples remain in situ. [RCAHMS, 1975, mon.351].

OBN.192. CHARCOAL-BURNING PLATFORMS. NM926315. Black Lochs, Muckairn. Two platforms, 9.5m in diameter, with charcoal. [DES, 1976: 16].

SMALL FINDS.

Lithics.

OBN.193. FLINT SCATTER. NM8833. Dunbeg. A number of worked flint fragments were found to the south of Dunbeg. [LAHS, 1987, 47: 2].

OBN.194. FLINT SCATTER. NM856285. Hospital site, Gleann Sheileach, Oban. Fragments of quicklime previously identified as a flint scatter although one piece was a flint handaxe manufacture flake. The area was later examined with test pits. [Bonsall & Robinson, 1992; Inglis, 1992; FIGURE II; TABLE I].

OBN.195. FLINT TOOL. NM84682504. Achalic. Flint knife. [Inglis, 1992].

OBN.196. FLINT TOOL. NM84742502. Achalic. Flint scraper. [Inglis, 1992].


OBN.201. AXE. NM859304. Nursery Lane, Oban. Stone axe, purported to have derived from MacArthur Cave in 1895 [Hunter, 1994b: 17].


OBN.203. AXE. NM8733. Dunbeg. Calc-silicate hornfels axe quarried from near Killin, Perthshire. [LAHS 58: 7; LAHS 59: 13-5].


OBN.207. HAMMERSTONE. ca.NM857296. Albany Street, Oban. Pear-shaped hammerstone found in 1993. [LAHS 60: 17].

OBN.208. MATTOCK HEAD. NM843292. Ardcuan, Gallanach Road, Oban. Greywacke mattock head, 23.0x6.0x4.5cm. [C.Hunter, 1994, pers.comm.].
OBN.209. KNOCKING-STONE (possible). NM82672867. Balliemore, Kerrera. A granite boulder with a basin, 0.2m in diameter and 0.14m deep. [Allen, 1881: 258].

Bronze axes and related artifacts.


OBN.211. AXE. NM853315. Dunollie. Loopied and socketed bronze axe. [RCAHMS, 1975: 15].

OBN.212. MOULDS. NM874296. Glencruitten, Oban. Two stone moulds with casting grooves. [DES, 1960: 9].

Querns and millstones.

OBN.214. QUERN AND MILLSTONE. NM9027. Cabrachan. Reported from the vicinity of Tòm a'Mhuillinn. [A.Carr, pers.comm.].

OBN.216. QUERN. NM8924. Craigentaggart, Glen Feochan. Two quarters of a quern top stone. [LAHS, 1977 (aut): 5].


Coins.

OBN.218. COIN. NM853283. Gleann Sheileach, Oban. Silver penny dating to AD 1309 and minted under Edward I or II. [N.Holmes (National Museum of Scotland), pers.comm.; LAHS 60: 21].


OBN.220. COIN. NM86133017. Duncraggan Road, Oban. Roman Diocletian bronze coin found in 1984 and dating to AD 289-90; possibly a recent loss. [LAHS 60: 21; C.Hunter, 1994, pers.comm.; Holmes, 1995].

Miscellaneous.

OBN.221. BROOCH. NM861303. County Hospital, Oban. An undecorated penannular metal brooch. [LAHS, 1983 (aut): 5].

OBN.222. DAGGER BLADE. NM861303. County Hospital, Oban. An eighteenth century dagger blade. [LAHS, 1983 (aut): 5].

OBN.223. BOTTLES. ca.NM8529. Oban Bay. Glass bottles dating to AD 1846. [LAHS 4: 4].
OBN.224. VOTIVE OFFERINGS. ca.NM822279. Ardchoirc, Kerrera. During the twentieth century, a well was uncovered that contained '...many votive offerings, flint implements, and among other jewellery, a massive silver thumb ring holding a large green stone...' [LAHS 59: 10].


GAELIC AND NORSE PLACE NAMES.

Allt Eachag. NM93003163. Horse burn.
An t-Innean. NM86252675. Smith's anvil.
Aonadh Beag. NM87083355. Small join.
Barnacarry. NM81082226. Point of the weir.
Barr Driseige. NM86902584. Summit of entangled bracken.
Cnoc na h-Airidh. NM90943308. Knoll of riches.
Eilean an t-Sagairt. NM92453150. Island of a priest.
Glen Cruitten (Glencruitten). NM877304. Glen of the crofts.
Kilninver. NM82372180. Religious place at the confluence of rivers.
Rudha na Liathaig. NM87713425. Salmon/trout promontory.
Tobar an Easbuig. ca.NM85722578. Bishop well.
Tóm nan Coileach. NM89483208. Summit of a cockerel.
Solid lines denote water courses, shaded areas are lochs and the 200mOD contour is represented by a dotted line.

FIGURE I. The study area with significant placenames, water bodies, water courses and height of land above sea level.
FIGURE 1b. The distribution of known archaeological sites across the Oban region.

Neolithic: burial sites.

Bronze Age: burial sites and stray finds.

Iron Age: fortified sites and burials.
FIGURE II. Oban Hospital Site test-pit survey: black squares mark the locations of test pits; the larger open squares indicate those test pits from which lithic artifacts were recovered (cf. Table I) (n.b. test pits not drawn to scale).
FIGURE III. Access Road test-pit survey: the black squares mark the locations of the initial series of test pits, the larger squares indicating those test pits from which lithic artifacts were recovered (n.b. test pits not drawn to scale).
FIGURE IV. The location of artifact-bearing strata using 10cm units in test pit A5/N5 at Lón Mór, Gleann Sheileach.
FIGURE V. The inter-dependence of sites within the pre-Improvement landscape.
FIGURE VI. The variance in ridge and furrow gauge within Gleann Sheileach.
FIGURE VII. The evolution of enclosures within Gleann Sheileach.
FIGURE VIII. The population of Kilmore and Kilbride from the C18th to the C20th.
FIGURE IX. Site ATL-2. The excavated cairn showing the location of the cist and kerb. The inset box shows the topographic location of the site.
FIGURE X. Site ATL.2. The relative height of the kerbstones with respect to the Cardinal points.
Trackways denoted by dotted lines.

To Ardentallan Plateau.

To Lerags.

FIGURE XI. Site ATL.3. Ardentallan township.
FIGURE XII. The Oban region showing the location of the Ardoran survey area and the Killiechelinich survey area.
FIGURE XIII. Site ADR.2. Upper Ardoran township.

Trackways denoted by dotted lines and streams by solid lines with arrows indicating the direction of flow.

To Loch Feochan.

To Kilbride.
1:1000

Stream denoted by a solid line with arrows indicating the direction of flow.

Drystone dyke.

FIGURE XIV. Site ADR.3. Lower Ardoran township.
FIGURE XV. The Oban region showing the location of the Gleann Sheileach survey area.
FIGURE XVI. Gleann Sheileach: the field and test-pit survey areas.
FIGURE XVII. GLS.1. The Lón Mór Mesolithic sites: the black squares mark the locations of the test pits, the larger squares indicating those test pits from which lithic artifacts were recovered (cf. Tables 2 & 3)(n.b. test pits not drawn to scale).
FIGURE XVIII. Site GLS.21. Plan of the dun.
FIGURE XIX. Site GLS.23. Plan of the earthwork.  
FIGURE XX. Site GLS.24. Plan of the earthwork.
FIGURE XXI. Site GLS.25,32 & 65. Lower Gleann Sheileach township and the shieling hut.
FIGURE XXII. Site GLS.50. Plan of the possible building stance.

FIGURE XXIII. Site GLS.52. Plan of the possible building stance.
FIGURE XXIV. Site GLS.57. Plan of the possible building stance.
FIGURE XXV. Site GLS.64. Plan of the shieling hut.

FIGURE XXVI. Site GLS.66. Plan of the shieling hut.
FIGURE XXVII. Site GLS.76. Plan of the possible enclosure.
FIGURE XXVIII. Gleann Sheileach: previously recorded archaeological finds.
FIGURE XXIX. Gleann Sheileach: domestic and related features recorded during the field survey.
FIGURE XXX. Gléann Shielieach: remains of rig and furrow and ancient field banks recorded during the field survey.
Trackways denoted by dotted lines and streams by solid lines with arrows indicating the direction of flow.

FIGURE XXXI. Site KIL.15. Killiechbinich township.
FIGURE XXXII. Site KIL.16. Two rectangular structures.
FIGURE XXXIII. Site KIL.21. Natural outcrop of rock.
FIGURE XXXIV. Site KIL.22. Turf-banked structure.
FIGURE XXXV. Site KIL.25. Shieling ground.
FIGURE XXXVI. Site KIL.26. Possible shieling hut.
FIGURE XXXVII. Site KIL.29. Possible shieling hut.

FIGURE XXXVIII. Site KIL.30. Shelter.
FIGURE IXL. Site KIL.63. Peat stacking stance.

FIGURE XL. Site KIL.64. Possible shooting butt.
FIGURE XLI. Killiechbinich: trackways and quarries.
FIGURE XLIII. Killiechòinich: relative chronology within the sector.
Trackways denoted by dotted lines and streams by solid lines with arrows indicating the direction of flow.

FIGURE XLIV. Site LER.1. Lower Lerags township.
FIGURE XLV. Site LER.2. The shieling huts with the surrounding system of cultivation.
FIGURE XLVI. Site LER.2. Details of the individual shieling huts.
Trackways denoted by dotted lines and streams by solid lines with arrows indicating the direction of flow.

FIGURE XLVII. Site MOL.2. Moleigh township.
Trackways denoted by dotted lines and streams by solid lines with arrows indicating the direction of flow.

FIGURE XLVIII. Site TOR.1. Torr-an-tuirc township.
FIGURE II. The location of Mesolithic sites within the vicinity of Oban (after Bonsall et al., 1989).
FIGURE L. The relationship between the number of merklands and the number of buildings, recorded by General Roy (ca.1750), per township.

**TOWNSHIPS:**
- Ardentallan
- Lower Ardoran
- Upper Ardoran
- Ballygowan
- Cabrachan
- Cleigh
- Cologin
- Dunach
- Gallanach
- Glencruitten
- Glenshellach
- Kilbride
- Killiechòinich
- Lower Lerags
- Upper Lerags
- Moleigh
- Soroba
- Torinturk
FIGURE LI. The ratio between the number of merklands and the number of buildings, recorded by General Roy (ca.1750), per township.

TOWNSHIPS:
Ardentallan
Lower Ardoran
Upper Ardoran
Ballygowan
Cabrachan
Cleugh
Cologin
Dunach
Gallanach
Glencruitten
Glenshellach
Kilbride
Killiechönich
Lower Lerags
Upper Lerags
Moleigh
Soroba
Torinturk

Merklands per township : buildings per township ratio.
FIGURE LII. XTENT modelling of the townships using the number of buildings, recorded by General Roy (ca.1750), per township as the dominant parameter.
FIGURE LIII. Percentage pollen diagram from Gallanach Beg core, Gleann Sheileach, Oban (after Macklin et al., 1992).

FIGURE LIV. Organic matter content and geochemistry from Gallanach Beg core, Gleann Sheileach, Oban (after Macklin et al., 1992).
FIGURE LV. Percentage pollen diagram from Lochan a'Bhuilg Bhith core, Oban (after Davies, 1993).

FIGURE LVI. Organic matter content and geochemistry from Lochan a'Bhuilg Bhith core, Oban (after Davies, 1993).
FIGURE LVII. Graphic representation of the increase in recorded number of sites over the course of the twentieth century.
FIGURE LVIII. The distribution of Mesolithic sites relative to the main Postglacial shoreline.

- - - main Postglacial shoreline.
M  MacArthur Cave.
D  Druimvargie Rockshelter.
C  Carding Mill Bay.
R  Raschoille Cave.
L  Lón Mór.
FIGURE LIX. Extract from Timothy Pont's map of the Oban region (scale approximately 1 : 75,000).
Extract from General Roy's Military Survey (fair copy) of the Oban region (scale approximately 1: 50,000).
PLATE I. The Main Postglacial shoreline at Lôn Môr (centre) viewed from the N.

PLATE II. Example of a dynamited boulder within an area of ridge and furrow cultivation.
PLATE III. The largest quarry beside Glenshellach Road looking NW.

PLATE IV. A Galloway Dyke (centre) looking W.
PLATE V. Ardentallan plateau (centre background) viewed from the SW.

PLATE VI. Site ATL.2. The excavated kerb cairn (centre) viewed from the NW with Loch Peochan in the background.
PLATE VII. Site ATL.2. Looking SE.

PLATE VIII. Site ATL.2. The cist with reconstructed capstones viewed from the SW.
PLATE IX. Gleann Sheileach looking NW with Gallanach Beg (left) and Lón Mór (right).

PLATE X. Site GLS.21. the dun (centre) at Gallanach Beg viewed from the SW.
PLATE XI. GLS.26. Some of the building foundations at Baile Meadhonach (centre) viewed from the S.

PLATE XII. Site GLS.33. Blair’s cottage (centre) looking SW.
PLATE XIII. Site GLS.33. Blair's cottage (centre) viewed from the SE.

PLATE XIV. Site GLS.72. The shelter (centre) viewed from the S with Oban visible in the background.
PLATE XV. Site GLS.73. Looking NW towards the shelter (centre) with cultivation furrows visible in the background.

PLATE XVI. Site GLS.76. The possible enclosure (centre) looking E.
PLATE XVII. Site GLS.82. Looking E towards the bank (centre) which runs between the ranging poles.

PLATE XVIII. The island of Kerrera (centre) viewed from the S.
PLATE XIX. Site KER.4. The ruins of the structure (centre) viewed from the SE.

PLATE XX. Site KIL.1. The boulder kerb (centre) viewed from the SE.
PLATE XXI. KIL.1. Looking SE at the boulder kerb (centre) with Loch Neill visible in the background.

PLATE XXII. Site KIL.15ii. Looking W towards the farm outbuildings (centre).
PLATE XXIII. Site KIL.15iii. Looking E towards the ruinous building (centre) with cultivation furrows visible in the foreground.

PLATE XXIV. Site KIL 15xv. Looking E towards the enclosure (centre) surrounded by trees with Loch Nell in the background.
PLATE XXV. Site KIL.22. Looking NE towards the small crag (centre) with the turf-banked structure.

PLATE XXVI. Site KIL.22. Looking E at the turf banks (centre) of the structure.
PLATE XXVII. Site KIL.25. Looking SW at the northernmost hut (centre) with a field wall (background).

PLATE XXVIII. Site KIL.30. The shelter (centre) viewed from the SW.
PLATE XXIX. Site KIL.31. Looking N at the boulder kerb (centre) of the shelter.

PLATE XXX. Site KIL.32. Looking SW towards the shelter (centre) with cultivation furrows in the background.
PLATE XXXI. Site LER.2. Lerags shieling ground (foreground), viewed from the NW, showing the ruinous huts and the cultivation furrows. Loch Feochan is visible to the SE.

PLATE XXXII. Site LER.6. The ruinous shelter (centre right) with Dùn Bhlaran (centre) viewed from the NE. [Christison, 1888-9: 393].
PLATE XXXIII. TóM Donn (centre) looking N towards Loch Etive (upper centre).

PLATE XXXIV. Site TOR.1. Torr-an-tuirc township (lower centre) viewed from the E with Loch Nell to the NW.
PLATE XXXV. Site TOR.5. Ruins of one of the sub-oval shieling huts (centre) looking NW.

PLATE XXXVI. Site TOR.5. Ruins of one of the sub-oval shieling huts (centre) looking SW.
PLATE XXXVII. Site TOR.5. Ruins of one of the sub-oval shieling huts (centre) viewed from the SE.

PLATE XXXVIII. Site OBN.1. MacArthur Cave during excavation.
PLATE IXL. Site OBN.1. Some of the bone and antler artifacts recovered from MacArthur Cave including a biserially barbed point and limpet scoops.

PLATE XL. Site OBN.60. Looking SW towards Strontoiller stone circle (lower centre) and Loch Nell (centre).
PLATE XLI. Site OBN.85. Dùnans (centre background) viewed from the SW.

PLATE XLII. Site OBN.88. Part of the surviving rampart at Dùn Uabairtich (foreground) looking NE with Oban Bay in the background.
PLATE XLIII. Site OBN.113. Partly tree-covered, Dúnan Ceardaich (centre) looking SE.

PLATE XLIV. Site OBN.122. The possible cashel (centre) viewed from the E with Mull in the background.
PLATE XLV. Site OBN.136. Oban Bay and Dunollie Castle (centre) viewed from the S.

PLATE XLVI. Site OBN.138. Gylen Castle (centre) and cultivation furrows (foreground).
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Table 1: Oban Hospital Site — typological classification of lithic artifacts. Key: Mi - microliths; Sc - scrapers; P - piercers; Bu - burins; ER - edge-retouched pieces; O - other tools; Pb - pebbles; Cb - bipolar cores; Cp - platform cores; Cd - discoidal cores; Ca - amorphous cores; B - blades; Fr - regular flakes; Fi - irregular flakes; Ch - chunks; m/b - microburins; u/c - unclassifiable pieces.
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*Table 2:* Lón Mór, scatter A — typological classification of lithic artifacts. Key: Mi — microliths; Sc — scrapers; P — piercers; Bu — burins; ER — edge-retouched pieces; O — other tools; Pb — pebbles; Cb — bipolar cores; Cp — platform cores; Cd — discoidal cores; Ca — amorphous cores; B — blades; Fr — regular flakes; Fi — irregular flakes; Ch — chunks; m/b — microburins; u/c — unclassifiable pieces.
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**Table 3:** Lón Mór, scatter B — typological classification of lithic artifacts. *Key:* Mi — microliths; Sc — scrapers; P — piercers; Bu — burins; ER — edge-retouched pieces; O — other tools; Pb — pebbles; Cb — bipolar cores; Cp — platform cores; Cd — discoidal cores; Ca — amorphous cores; B — blades; Fr — regular flakes; Fi — irregular flakes; Ch — chunks; m/b — microburins; u/c — unclassifiable pieces.