

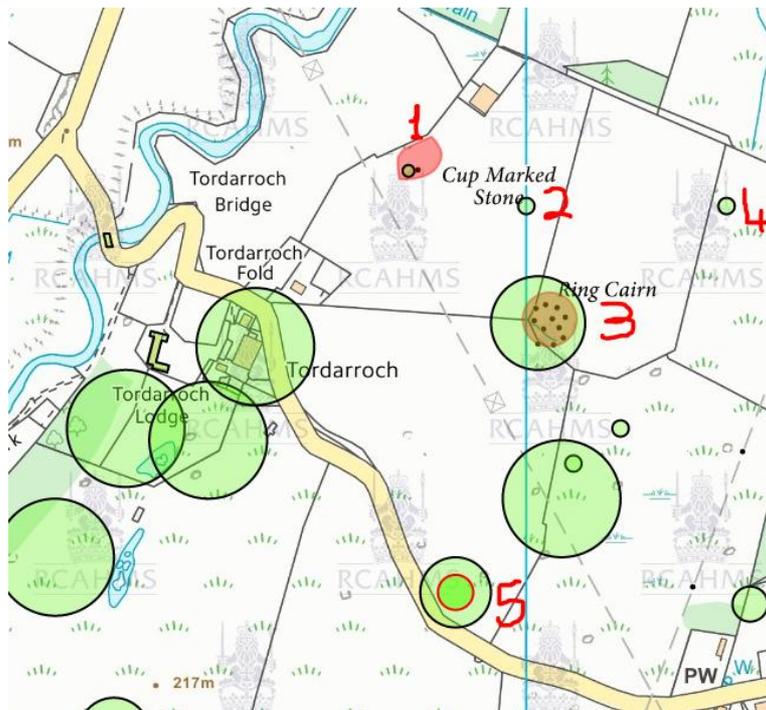
Tordarroch

There are five sites of interest:

CUP MARKED ROCK – 58 cups, or 4 cups? **Map, 1** MHG3562 NH 6790 3363

A block of grey gneiss bearing fifty-eight cup marks some with connecting or radiating grooves, was discovered by Mr. Hugh Ross, teacher at Farr Public School. The stone lies flat, partly imbedded, in a knoll about 150 yards north of Tordarroch stone circle (NH63SE 3). *W Jolly 1882.*

This stone, in an improved field, measures 1.5m square and 0.5m in height. On its surface there are four cups measuring up to 100mm in diameter and 25mm in depth. Numerous other surface irregularities may be of natural origin. *Visited by RCAHMS (SDB) 5 November 1992.*



A MASSIVE EARTHEN MOUND – Glacial, or Artificial? **Map, 2** MHG3578 NH 6800 3360

A massive earthen mound was described by ST Driscoll in 1989. Measuring 35m x 20m he thought it unlikely to be natural. RCAHMS in 1992 disagreed, thinking it “was entirely natural”.

CLAVA-TYPE CAIRN **Map, 3**

Tordarroch: A ring cairn now crossed by a drainage ditch on the E and a wall on the SW. Though greatly ruined it can be seen that the monument has been particularly impressive, covering a larger area and employing more massive stones than usual. Few of the stones remain standing, but many of them have fallen inwards or outwards and have not been disturbed, and the only considerable gap in the circle is on the north side.

A large prone slab measuring 5 ft. by 6 ft. on the S.W. side opposite the tallest monolith is marked with thirty-three or thirty-four cup-marks. The slab appears to have fallen outwards from the kerb. If this is so the cupmarks must have faced inwards and been hidden by cairn material. The stone was already in its present position in 1881 before the wall which now crosses it had been built. The interior of the cairn has been removed and the ground is greatly disturbed. In 1879 five

MHG3942 NH 6801 3350

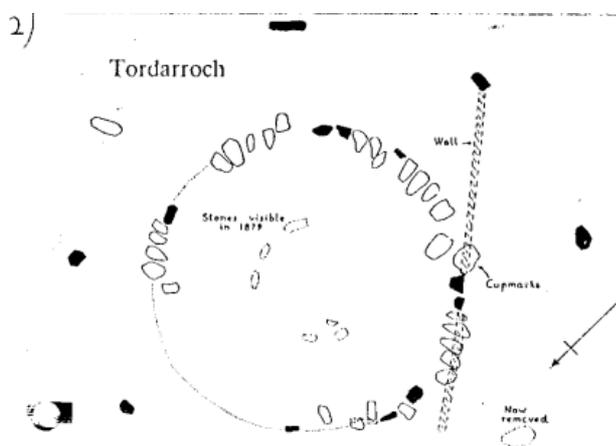


Figure 1 W Jolly's 1882 Plan

stones were visible in the centre.

There have been

nine monoliths

encircling the cairn;

seven of the stones remain upright. One fallen stone remains over its original position to the NE and another stone was recorded by Fraser (J Fraser 1884) on the SW side, but it has since been removed. Many large stones lie about the site. *A S Henshall 1963, visited 8 April 1957; J Fraser 1884; W Jolly 1882.*



Figure 2 - Sketch of Cup Marked Stone at SW side of cairn

This ring-cairn is situated in low-lying ground in the corner of an improved field. It measures 20m in diameter, within a kerb of stones up to 1.3m in height. The N arc has been destroyed and the centre of the cairn has been much disturbed and denuded of stone. On the SW there is a flat slab, whose upper surface measures 1.8m by 1.5m; it bears at least 36 cup-marks measuring up to 75mm across and 25mm deep, with one oblong cup measuring 100mm long by 75mm broad. Around the cairn, at a distance of 7m from it, there is a circle of monoliths; eight stones remain, one, on the WSW, having fallen. The tallest stone is on the SW, measuring 2.25m in height. *Visited by RCAHMS (SDB) 5 November 1992.*

POSSIBLE PICTISH GRAVES Map, 4 -**MHG3592 NH 6817 3360**

This possible Pictish cemetery consists of a group of six possibly seven low rectangular cairns alongside the line of a silted up burn. In general these cairns consist of flat mounds between 0.25-0.5m high of stones which vary between fist-sized and 0.25m in diameter. In several cases shallow straight ditches can be seen to enclose the cairn, in other cases the cairns have clearly been constructed so as to share a common side. The cluster of four or five cairns includes ones which range from 5.5m E-W by 5.0m to 3.4m E-W by 3.2m. A short distance away are two apparently isolated cairns. The one at NH 6817 3356 measures 4.8m N-S by 4.4m and is enclosed in a shallow ditch; it is also enclosed within an apparently later field boundary. The other isolated cairn is located at NH 6818 3359 and measures 4.2m NW-SE by 3.5m. All of the cairns are at least in part obscured by grass and heather and there is a distinct possibility that others await discovery.

Information from S T Driscoll 1989 (see archive MS/550, 5)

In heather-covered ground at the N end of a field bank associated with the township NH63SE 48, there are at least four piles of stones. One of these is sub-circular and two are roughly rectangular, but they do not appear to be bounded by ditches. The 'cluster of four or five cairns' described by Driscoll is a spread of dumped material which has been added to at times, thus producing the appearance of being several conjoined mounds. There is nothing to suggest that these features represent anything other than field clearance, probably associated with the township mentioned above.

Visited by RCAHMS (SDB) 5 November 1992.

POSSIBLE PICTISH GRAVES Map, 5**MHG39720 NH 6794 3327**

This possible Pictish cemetery is a loose group consisting of a single square barrow and three small round cairns, which do not appear to be clearance heaps. The square cairn measures 4.5m E-W by 4.0m and is enclosed in a faint rectangular ditch. The round cairns stand about 0.5m high and are all approximately 4m in diameter.

Information from S T Driscoll 1989 (see archive MS/550, 5)

In a partially improved field SW of the township NH63SE 48 there are four grassed-over piles of stones, measuring up to 4m in diameter. There is no evidence of a ditch around any of them, nor any other evidence that they are not clearance heaps.

Visited by RCAHMS (SDB) 6 November 1992.