

Society of Antiquaries

The Moon and the Bonfire. An Investigation of Three Stone Circles in North-East Scotland

Richard Bradley

ISBN: 0-903903-33-4 (hardback)

978-1-908332-32-5 (PDF)

The text in this work is published under a <u>Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommerical 4.0 International</u> licence (CC BY-NC 4.0). This licence allows you to share, copy, distribute and transmit the work and to adapt the work for non-commercial purposes, providing attribution is made to the authors (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work). Attribution should include the following information:

Bradley, R 2005. The Moon and the Bonfire. An Investigation of Three Stone Circles in North-East Scotland. Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. https://doi.org/10.9750/9781908332325

Important: The illustrations and figures in this work are not covered by the terms of the Creative Commons licence. Permissions must be obtained from third-party copyright holders to reproduce any of the illustrations.



Every effort has been made to obtain permissions from the copyright holders of third-party material reproduced in this work. The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland would be grateful to hear of any errors or omissions.

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland is a registered Scottish charity number SC 010440. Visit our website at www.socantscot.org or find us on Twitter @socantscot.

INDEX

Page references in *italics* denote page numbers of illustrations.

Aberdeenshire, occurrence of recumbent stone circles in 1, 2 acoustic properties and monuments 112 Aikey Brae, stone circle xi, 6, 7 coloured material at 113 excavations at 78-86 location 75 radiocarbon dates ix, 101 structural sequence 99, 100, 101 surface remains and location of excavated area 77 Airlie, finds from 96 Alford, recumbent stone circles 1, 108 Alford, stone circles 1 arrowheads 89-90, 91, 92, 96 barbed-and-tanged 89, 91, 96 transverse 89, 91 Arrowsmith, Sharon ix, 3, 31, 56 with Bradley, Richard and Philips, Tim on excavations at Cothiemuir Wood 53-67 Ashmore, Patrick ix Avebury 106 axeheads possible depiction, Tomnaverie 29, 32 bronze 87 stone 87, 92-3 Balbirnie 5 radiocarbon date 105 Balfarg, stone circle and timber setting 5, 105 colour selected stones at 107-8 structural sequence 102, 103, 109 Ball, Chris and Bradley, Richard on excavation at Aikey Brae 78 - 86Balnuaran of Clava 3, 104-5, 113, 115 alignment of 111 colour matched stones at 107 Barclay, Gordon ix Barr, Major Gen John ix Barrow Hills, Oxford, cremated remains from 41 beacons possible use of Tomnaverie as 27, 49, 50 Beaghmore, patterned stonework in cairn 107, 108 Beaker pottery 6, 23, 33–4, 38, 68, 77, 99 associated with construction 101, 103 Tomnaverie 68, 77 Beltant, Co Donegal, platform and uprights 106 Berrybrae, stone circle 5, 80 dates 6 location 75 structural sequence 100, 101 blocking and closure of sites 105-6, 113

Boddam as flint source 37, 83, 88-9, 94 Boyle, Angela on cremated human remains from Tomnaverie 38-42, 43 Bradley, Richard and Ball, Chris on excavation at Aikey Brae 78 - 86and Arrowsmith Sharon and Philips, Tim on excavations at Cothiemuir Wood 53-67 and Philips, Tim on excavations at Tomnaverie 9-51 on implications of project 99-115 Braeroddach Loch, environmental sequence 9-10 Brankholme Cottage, destroyed stone circle 87 Brewer, Peter on pollen analysis, Tomnaverie 46-7, 49 Bridgland, Nick ix Brindy East, finds from 96 Brindy West, finds from 96 Bronze Age, artefacts and stone circles 106 burials (see also human remains) at Copney 108 and recumbent stone circles 106 Burl, Aubrey work on stone circles ix, 1, 2, 53, 78, 99, 100, 105, 106, 111, 112 burnt material (see also beacons, cremated bone, pyres, etc) 49, 111.113 in cairns 99 and recumbent stone circles 105-6 cairns (see also Clava Cairns, Balnuaran of Clava, Cothiemuir Wood and Tomnaverie) 106, 107 patterned stone work in 21, 22, 50, 107 platform cairns 5, 15-22 radial divisions in 20-2, 50, 99, 107-8, 113 ring cairns 5, 13, 17-22, 55-62, 104-5, 106, 107, 113, 115 Neolithic 5 and recumbent stone circles 100-6 Callanish 5 Campbell, Michelle ix carved stone balls 93 Howe of Cromar 87 Castle Forbes Estate ix fieldwalking survey 92-7 Castle Fraser 3, 18 radiocarbon date 105 charcoal 81 Aikey Brae 86 Tomnaverie 46 chert (see also lithic artefacts) 89-90 Childe, VG 13 excavations at Old Keig 53, 101, 105 Chisham, Catherine on pollen analysis, Cothiemuir Wood 72-6

THE MOON AND THE BONFIRE

cists, Howe of Cromar 87 Cothiemuir Wood area 92, 93, 95 Clava Cairns (see also Balnuaran of Clava) xi, xii, 4, 105, 110 comparative plans of 3 distribution of 1, 2, 4 coloured material in 113 position in terrain 114 and recumbent stone circles 112-13, 114-15 Coles, Fred, work at Tomnaverie xix, 10, 11, 22, 24 colour and character of stones xi, 12, 14, 20, 28, 29, 30, 31, 61, 62, 80-1, 99, 105, 106, 107-8, 111, 113 Cooper, Ken ix Copney 108 patterned stonework in cairn 107 cores, see under lithic artefacts Corrstone xix Cothiemuir Wood ix, xi, xx, 6, 7, 23, 86, 99, 105, 112 building sequence 86 capping of cairn 113 excavations at 53-76 field walking survey, see Castle Forbes Estate survey 92-7 podsolisation at 101 siting of 108 structural sequence 99 cremated bone and cremations xi, 12-13, 26, 27, 38-42, 101, 105.111 Croft Moraig, stone setting 101 structural sequence 109-10 crystal 36, 67, 70, 71, 84, 85 Cullerlie, fires at 106 cupmarks 9, 10, 28, 29, 106, 110 and moonlight 112 Curtis, Neil ix Dark, Petra on charcoal from Aikey Brae 85 daub, Tomnaverie 35-6 Davidson, Donald on soil micromorphology, Cothiemuir Wood 68 - 72on soil micromorphology, Tomnaverie 42-6 Deeside, recumbent stone circles 99 Donside, recumbent stone circles 1, 2, 53, 99 Druidstone stone circle 53 environment 97 fieldwalking survey around 92, 93 hut circles 95 Dryden, Sir Henry on Cothiemuir Wood 54 Easter Aquorthies 3 coloured material at 113 Fearn, Hugh ix fieldwalking surveys Howe of Cromar 87-92 Castle Forbes Estate 92-7 fires (see also burnt material and pyres) 105, 109 darkness and monuments 112 flakes flint and quartz (see also lithic artefacts) 67, 82-5 flankers 4, 5, 99, 109, 113, as blockers 105 Cothiemuir Wood, 54, 55, 56, 61, 62 and symmetry 106 Tomnaverie 11, 12, 14, 15, 24, 27, 28-9, 31-2 flint artefacts, see under lithic artefacts or types, ie arrowheads, blades etc sources of 37, 83, 88-9, 94 'Four Posters' 104

Friedrich, Caspar David 112 Fullerton, radiocarbon date 105 GIS (Geographical Information Systems) and siting of monuments 112 Govan, Sarah ix grading, of monoliths 99, 102-5, 113-14, 115 Gubler, Regula ix Guernsey Museum ix Haggarty, A on Machrie Moor 103 Halliday, Strat ix hammerstones 67, 70, 71, 83, 85 Healey, Janet ix Healey, Nigel ix Henderson, Jim ix photographs by 11, 14 18, 23, 27, 28, 51, 61, 63, 65, 66 Heughead, finds from 97 Historic Scotland, funding and grant aid ix, xi Holme next the Sea 107 Howe of Cromar ix fieldwalking survey 87-92 human remains 105-6 cremated xi, 12-13, 26, 27, 38-42, 101, 105, 111 and recumbent stone circles 114 hutcircles, Druidstone 95 Johnston, Mark ix Jones, Andy ix Keiller, Alexander on stone circles 115 kerbs and kerbstones Aikey Brae 80-2 Cothiemuir Wood 55, 57-61, 62, 63-4 pairing in 113 Tomnaverie 11-15, 16-18, 20, 24, 25, 26, 29-30, 32 Kilbride-Jones, H on Loanhead of Daviot 100, 105 Kintraw, round cairn 106 Knappieround, lithic material 88, 92 knife, flint, plano-convex 95, 96 Knowth 100 Lancaster, Stephen on soil micromorphology, Cothiemuir Wood 68-72 on soil micromorphology, Tomnaverie 42-6 Later Bronze Age, possible construction of stone circles in 101 lithic artefacts arrowheads 89-90, 91, 95, 96 barbed-and-tanged 89, 91, 96 transverse 89, 91 leafshaped 91, 95, 96 axeheads 87 blades, flint 9, 36, 37, 38, 89-90, 96 carved stone balls 87, 93 chunks 83 cores 89-90, 91, 96 quartz 36, 37, 38, 67, 68, 70, 71 flakes, flint 67 quartz 67, 82-5 hammerstones 83, 85 Mesolithic lithic material 89-90, 91, 92 Neolithic lithic material 89–90, 91, 92 scrapers, flint 68, 67, 70, 71, 84, 85 knife, plano-convex 95 pebbles, quartz 83 scrapers, flint 68, 70, 71, 84, 85, 89-90, 91, 96

lithic material, scatters and siting of 108 source material, Boddam 37, 83, 88-9, 94 lithic technology 37, 67, 83, 89, 94-5 Loanhead of Daviot xii, 5, 6 cremated remains from 38 recumbent 100 structural sequence 100-1 Lochnagar and Tomnaverie 99, 109 Long Meg 106 lunar events and monuments 109, 110-11 and Tomnaverie 33, 49, 50 MacGregor, Gavin ix Machrie Moor, Arran, colour-matched stones at 107-8 structural sequence at 102, 109 Maeshowe, Orkney 110 magnetic susceptibility surveys Cothiemuir Wood 55, 58 Tomnaverie 15, 16 Manning, Sturt ix Mathews, Margaret ix Matthews, Brian on charcoal from Tomnaverie 46-7 McArdle, Kay ix Mercer, Roger ix on Balfarg 103 Mesolithic lithic material 89-90, 91, 92 Midmar Kirk, siting 109 Moncrieffe, henge, and stone circle 104 structural sequence 109 monoliths (see also recumbents and flankers) Aikey Brae 78-9, 80-2 and Clava Cairns 1 Cothiemuir Wood 53, 54-5, 56, 61-2, 63, 66-7 fallen 7 freestanding 5 grading of 99, 102-5, 113-14, 115 Tomnaverie xi, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 20, 24, 28, 29, 30-1, 32, 51 moon/moonlight (see also lunar events and monuments) 109-12 Moray Firth, Clava Cairns in 1, 2

Neolithic lithic material 89–90, 91, 92 Newgrange 110 Newton of Petty *3* radiocarbon dates 104, 105 Noble, Gordon ix

Oddendale, Cumbria, ring cairn and timber setting xii, 103–4 structural sequence at 109 Old Keig xii, 6, 53, 54 fieldwalking survey in area of 92, 93 radiocarbon date 105 structural sequence at 100–1 Orientation of circles and topography 99–100

Parker Pearson, M and Ramilisonia on interpretation of monuments 109, 110–11
passage graves 1, 2, 3, 115
Irish 106
patterned stonework in cairns 108
phenomenology and alignments 111–12
Phillips, Tim ix
and Arrowsmith, Sharon and Bradley, Richard on excavations at Cothiemuir Wood 53–67
and Bradley, Richard on excavations at Tomnaverie 9–51
on worked stone from Aikey Brae 82–5
plant remains, *see* pollen analyses platform cairns 5, 15-22 pollen analyses xi, xii, 7, 16, 108 Cothiemuir Wood 55, 72-6, 97 Tomnaverie 46-7 potterv Beaker xi, 6, 23, 68, 77, 99 associated with construction 101, 103 Tomnaverie 33-4, 38 cinerary urns 87 daub from Tomnaverie 35-6 impressed ware 105 indeterminate from Tomnaverie 34 Late Bronze Age plainware 33, 34-5 'urns' 92 pyres (see also burnt material and cremated bone) 105, 111 quartz artefacts (see also lithic artefacts) 36, 37, 38, 67, 68, 70, 71, 82-5, 89-90, 92, 94, 96 deposits and concentrations of 57, 77, 110 at Cothiemuir Wood 54, 56, 112 and moonlight 112 at Tomnaverie 20, 22, 28, 50 radial divisions in cairn structure 20-2, 50, 99, 107-8, 113 radiocarbon dates and recumbent stone circles xi, 1 radiocarbon dates Newton of Petty 104, 105 Oddendale 104 Aikey Brae ix, 86, 101 Balfarg 5 Balnauran of Clava 104-5 Strichen 101 Tomnaverie ix, xi, 17, 18, 47-8, 49, 101 Raigmore, ring cairn 105 Ranna, lithic material 88, 92 RCAHMS (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland) fieldwalking on Castle Forbes Estate, funding ix work at Aikey Brae 77, 79 work at Cothiemuir Wood 54 surveys xi work at Tomnaverie xi, 11-12 Reading University ix recumbents 99, 109, 113 and belief systems 113 as blockers 105 and closure 114 recumbent stone circles (see also site name entries for details and also stone circles) site list Aikey Brae xi, xx, 6, 7, 77, 78-86, 99,100, 101 Alford 1, 108 Berrybrae 5,80 Brankholme Cottage 87 Cothiemuir Wood xi, 6, 7, 23, 53-76, 92-7, 99, 105, 108, 112 Deeside, circles in 99 Donside, circles in 1, 2, 53, 99 Druidstone 53, 92, 93, 95, 97 Easter Aquorthies 3, 113 Loanhead of Daviot xii, 5, 6, 38, 100-1 Old Keig xii, 6, 53, 54 92, 93, 100-1, 105 Sunhoney 3, 4 Waukmill 90

recumbent stone circles (cont) blocking and closure of sites 105-6 chronology 1, 4-5 comparative plans 3 distribution 1, 2, 6 orientation 106-7 relationship with Clava Cairns 114-15 and ring cairns 100-6 structural elements xi, xii, 4-5, 7 Tomnaverie, excavation of 9-33 evolution and sequence of 48-51 Richards, Colin ix ring cairns xi, 5, 13, 17-22, 55-62, 104-5, 106, 107, 113, 115 Neolithic 5 and recumbent stone circles 100-6 Ring of Brodgar 106 Rowan Bank North, lithic material 88, 92 Rowan Bank South, lithic material 88, 92 Ruggles, Clive on lunar events and Tomnaverie 33, 50 on lunar orientation 109 Rutherford, Alan ix Sackett, Hannah ix scrapers (see also lithic artefacts) 68, 70, 71, 84, 85, 89-90, 91, 96 Scott, Ronnie ix Sebire, Heather ix Seright, Susan ix Shepherd, Ian ix Sheridan, Alison on pottery from Tomnaverie 33-6 Silbury Hill, radial divisions 108 Simpson, Ian on soil micromorphology, Cothiemuir Wood 68-72 on soil micromorphology, Tomnaverie 42-6 Simpson, Tommy ix siting of recumbent stone circles 108-9 Sketewan, ring cairn 105 colour matched stones at 107-8 soil micromorphology xi, xii, 108 Cothiemuir Wood 55, 68-72 Tomnaverie 42-6 solar events and alignment of monuments 107-8, 110-11, 113 St Neots 106 Stainer, Pauline 112 Stewart, Margaret, work at Moncrieffe 104 stone artefacts, see under lithic artefacts stone rows and alignments 108 Stonehenge 106 stones, character and colour xi, 12, 14, 20, 28, 29, 30, 31, 61, 62, 99, 105, 106, 107-8, 111, 113 stone circles (see also detailed individual site entries and entry for recumbent stone circles) Aikey Brae xi, xx, 6, 7, 77, 78-86, 99, 100, 101 Alford 1, 108 Balfarg 5, 102, 103, 105, 109 Berrybrae 5, 80 Brankholme Cottage 87

stone circles (cont) Callanish 5 Corrstone xix Cothiemuir Wood xi, 6, 7, 23, 53-76, 92-7, 99, 105, 108, 112 Deeside, circles in 99 Donside, circles in 1, 2, 53, 99 Druidstone 53, 92, 93, 95, 97 Easter Aquorthies 3, 113 Loanhead of Daviot xii, 5, 6, 38, 100-1 Long Meg 106 Machrie Moor 102, 107-8, 109 Moncrieffe xii, 104, 109 Old Keig xii, 6, 53, 54 92, 93, 100-1, 105 Sunhoney 3, 4 Templewood 5, 105 Tomnaverie ix Waukmill 90 stones, cupmarked xi, 9, 10, 28, 29, 106, 110 Strichen 5, 80 location 75 radiocarbon dates 6, 101, 105 structural sequences, ring cairns and stone circles (see also site reports) 99, 100-6 Sunhonev 3, 4 siting of 109 symbolism and recumbent stone circles 109-11 Taplin, Sue ix Tarland Lodge, lithic material from 88, 91, 92 technology, lithic 37, 67, 83, 89, 94-5 Temple Wood 5 radiocarbon date 105 timber settings and stone circles 102-4 timber structures, replacement in stone 109-10 Titaboutie, lithic material 88, 91, 92 Tomnaverie ix, xi, xii, xix, xx, 6, 7 building sequence 86 cairn 99 excavations at 9-51 fieldwalking survey, see Howe of Cromar fieldwalking survey 87-92 finds in area of see Howe of Cromar fieldwalking survey 87-92 kerb 113 and lunar orientation 109 patterned stonework in cairn 107, 108 quartz blocks 112 radiocarbon dates ix, 101, 105 structural sequence 99, 100 re-erection of stones ix siting of 108-9 trampling of surface, cairns and stone circles 101, 108 Watson, Aaron ix, 4 Waukmill stone circle 90

Welfare, Adam ix