

# An Initial Assessment of LIDAR Images

This series of Lidar images, taken on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015, was given over to the Bennachie Landscape Project by the University of Aberdeen in the hope that it will be studied for its archaeological content and made available to members of the group to further the understanding of the history of Bennachie and its surroundings.

The survey covers the eastern end of Bennachie to include Mither Tap, the Causeway, Maiden Castle and the Colony. The nearest point to the North-west is; "Newmains"; to the North -east; "Firbogs" to the South-east; "Woodend of Braco" and to the South-west; "Heather Brig"

Each image covers one quarter of a kilometre square in a NE, NW, SE, SW order i.e. for the one kilometre square NJ6821 the order would be NJ6821NE, NJ6821NW, NJ6821SE and NJ6821SW.

There are four variations of each image;

Analytical hillshading

Anisotropic sky-view factor

Hillshading from multi-directions

Openness negative

There are eight examples of each image

(An explanation of the above might be interesting, although possibly unnecessary!!)

By using a combination of all the variations, a pretty clear indication of the "hidden" features of Bennachie can be achieved.

The list below is open to further interpretation, it is certainly not comprehensive. Most are fairly reliable, some are questionable. Hopefully the line has been drawn at wishful thinking!

## The last image is an overview of all the tiles in one place

Ideal for quickly viewing the full coverage

### NJ6721NE

Top of "Monymusk Triangle"

"Ginshie Burn"

"Gordon Way"

Track running NE with two further tracks NW towards Garbit Tap

English quarry smiddy on "Gordon Way"

## NJ6721SE

“Heather Brig”/”Monymusk Triangle”

Track to English quarry

Forestry and recreational tracks

Linear feature running up eastern edge of “Monymusk Triangle” to continue on to NJ6821NW

## NJ6722NE

Mither Tap to Craigshannoch recreational paths crossing Peat Roads

Many variations of peat roads

## NJ6722SE

Peat Roads running South with possible associated circular features

## NJ6723NE

Northern Tor of “Little John’s Length” (bottom right) with Peat Roads and workings heading toward “Berry Pot” with dykes and drains

## NJ6723SE

Southern Tor of “Little John’s Length”

Recreational path from Rowantree path to Craigshannoch showing run-off channels

Grouse butts and other larger circular features

Peat workings

## NJ6724NE

“Newmains”

Terraced mounds at “Whiteford”, (spoil heaps?) + ponds

Modern fields with "lumps and bumps"

Stock feeding stations?

## NJ6724SE

South of "Newmains"

Linear features

Right-angled feature with possible associated herring-bone drains and diagonal linear feature

Upper forest track parallel with turnpike

Peat workings

## NJ6821NE

"West End" to "Shepherds Lodge" Quarries

Field Boundaries

Trackways

Possible Rig and Furrow north of firebreak

Hollow-way through northern quarry heading west

Quarries (top right) with associated trackways above "Shepherds Lodge"

Trackway from "Burnside" crossing recreational footpath and heading west

NJ68632168 "Lower West End";

Indication of linear features to the south of West End. Hidden under bracken two linear piles of stone running north-south. Corner of stone wall, each leg approx. 5mts long.

Due to the tumbled nature of the wall it was not possible to ascertain the width of it.

Possible indication of water management to the north-west running into a well/sump to the south.

NJ68682171; Reveted stone bank apparently holding up circular stone features (cubicles?) running east with a dyke continuing east and a spur to the north towards modern footpath. NJ68662166

Trackway passing "Shepherds Lodge" (see NJ6921NW)

## NJ6821NW

Southern skirts of "Mither Tap"

Trackways

Forestry work

Area of pits (left centre)

## **NJ6821SE**

Forestry work, tracks and ploughing

Quarry to the east

Pits

## **NJ6821SW**

“Clachie Burn”

Quarry to the south and possibly (top centre)

Forestry ploughing

Possible rig and furrow?

## **NJ6822NE**

Top of “Craignathunder” track following stone dyke, which turns south

Some evidence of tracks to the west

## **NJ6822NW**

“Nether Maiden” (bottom centre)

“Maiden Causeway” and recreational paths with associated run-offs

“Rushmill Burn” (top left)

Various tracks running east-west

Natural(?) terracing on north flank of Mither tap above cluster of circular features that appear too close together to be grouse butts and too small to be roundhouses?

## **NJ6822SE**

Tracks/paths of various periods

Geological (?) banks and pits

Possible quarry or terraced feature NJ688222

## NJ6822SW

“Mither Tap” tor sits on a series of natural? terraces that could have been used defensively(?) incorporating “Nether Maiden”

## NJ6823NE

“Maiden Causeway”

Peat and quarry roads recut, with mysterious doglegs

Various tracks

“Pittodrie” boundary dyke

Grouse butts

Double quarry (with central mounds?)

## NJ6823NW

“Maiden Causeway”/peat road (bottom right)

Peat/quarry road running east-west from “Rowan Tree” path round “The Brow” towards peat workings on western flank with quarries/pits and possible enclosure

Grouse Butts

## NJ6823SE

Rushmill Burn

Boundary dyke running north from “Canny Well” to the “Bede House”

“Pittodrie Gill”, broken by line of pits?

Various tracks, one crossing “Rushmill Burn”

## NJ6823SW

Causeway/peat road

“Hosie’s well”

Tracks to quarries to the north-west

Possible small enclosures between the recreational footpath and the peat road

## NJ6824NE

Modern field boundaries

Earlier field boundaries

Drain running north-south

“Burn of Torries” to “Harthill Castle”

Enclosed drain?

Triangular field

## NJ6824NW

Hillbrae

Stock feeding stations to north-west

## NJ6824SE

Turnpike running east-west at junction with Rowan Tree car park road

Boghead with associated cottage and enclosures

(NJ68802440 Fieldwork discovered small building/enclosure here with Gean, (Wild Cherry) Periwinkle and Snowdrops growing)

Many trackways at this point

Quarry NJ687242

## NJ6824SW

Turnpike top north-east corner

Un-named burn running north, down to turnpike

Upper forestry track, parallel to turnpike

Earlier track just south of turnpike

## NJ6921NE

Esson's car park

Visitor Centre

Turnpike

“Cunningston”

## NJ6921NW

“Boghead of Tullos” (Esson’s Croft

Wildlife pond

“Gowk Stone”

“Hillside”

“Cairn Coutie”

“Shepherd’s Lodge”

Entry to “Shepherds Lodge” appears to have originally passed by the front of the house and the kailyard, then turn west to pick up the top track beyond the quarry. (see NJ6821NE, or overview)

“A Frame”

Many associated features related to above

## NJ6921SE

“Woodend of Braco”

Modern fields with stock feeding stations?

Roundhouses with trackways (SE corner)

## NJ6921SW

“Cunningston”

Enclosed feature (?) at NJ691212

Forestry harvester tracks

## NJ6922NE

“Braeside”

“Hillcroft”

“Muirton”

Between croft sites and turnpike there is a linear enclosure of scrub alongside the turnpike that appears to have been straightened, (see NJ6923SE)

Roundhouses to west of turnpike with associated tracks

Possible linear banks in modern fields to the east (top right)

## NJ6922NW

“Craignathunder”

North-south trackway, possibly “Thomson Road”?

East-west peat (?) road up “Craignathunder”

North-south dyke (angled) Bede House to “Boghead of Tullos”

## NJ6922SE

“Dorlethen”

Quarry (?) on side of turnpike

Many trackways running north-east to south-west toward “Boghead of Tullos”

Lumps and bumps aplenty! One semicircular one to the south of “Dorlethen”, probably natural??

Stock feeding stations in Dorlethen fields?

## NJ6922SW

Boghead of Tullos in south-east corner

“Snakey” tracks heading north-west up hill, probable slowing routes down slope?

Lumps and bumps, probably natural although three in a line NJ693223 could be Quarries?

Continuation of dyke from NJ6922NW to Boghead of Tullos

## NJ6923NE

South of Pittodrie House Hotel

Possible garden feature outside (south) of Pittodrie perimeter

Trackways and linear features all over Pittodrie Park

Rig and furrow (?) banks and ditches to the south

Modern pipeline cutting through modern fields

## NJ6923NW

“Bede House” (bottom right)

“Bede House Wood”



Turnpike

“Curling pond”

Quarry to north-west

Dykes radiating out from “Bede House”, east toward “Stay Know” and north along escarpment parallel to the turnpike.

Rectangular features by the Bede House east of turnpike (“Pittodrie”) (bottom right)

## NJ6923SE

“Rushmill Burn”

Quarries (modern)

Continuation of Rig and Furrow from NJ6923NE in top left corner

Enclosed area (see NJ6922NE) with embanked plots, fieldwork seems to indicate various associated features including wall or dyke footings at NJ69492325, the eastern boundary of enclosure continues north across modern fields to the “Rushmill Burn”

## NJ6923SW

Rushmill Burn

Fog House

Possible route of “Thomson road”

Forestry drainage and ploughing

“Bede House” to “Boghead of Tullos” dyke (obscure!)

Possible terraced yard of “longhouse” at NJ69432344 (top right) (discovered through fieldwork)

## NJ6924NE

“Firbogs”

“Lily leaf” ponds

Rowan Tree car park road (bottom right)

Modern pipe line (bottom left)

## NJ6924NW

“West Firbogs”

Modern field boundaries and drains

Earlier field boundaries and drains

Modern pipeline

## NJ6924SE

“Pittodrie House” and many associated features

Rig and Furrow and Lazy Beds?

Pipelines

## NJ6924SW

Maiden Castle (top right)

Rowan Tree car park (top right)

Macaulayite Quarry (top right)

Farquharson Wood, (who is Farquharson?)

“Cotton bud” field boundaries

Drains

Sawmill leat to east

Quarries and pits

## Overview of total coverage

Ideal option for scanning all images at once

For Aerial photographs see BLP computer and hard copies in Bailies archive. Lidar images also available on memory stick and on computer. BJB