

THE CRANNOG ON QUIEN LOCH N.S. 062593

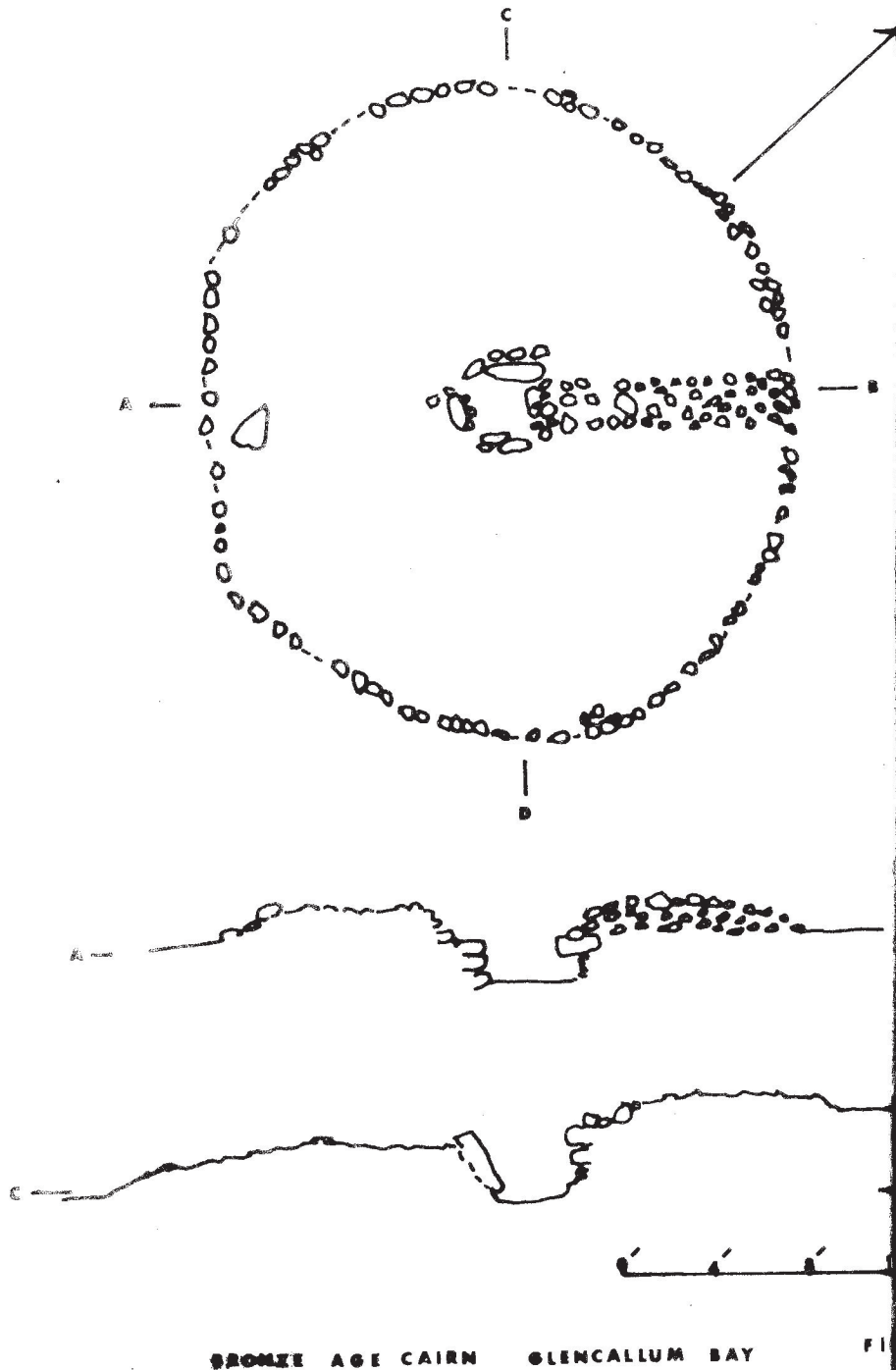
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Interest in the Crannog on the Quien Loch was revived when Mr. Murdo MacKenzie reported having hooked a wooden vessel on his fishing line. He was anchored off the east side of the island, smoking a cigarette with his line lying slack. When he raised the line on the end of it was an oval wooden dish, perhaps 10" long, but just as it was seen and recognised for what it was, it slipped off the line down among the reeds.

In August 1968 a skilled diver, Mr. Thomas Knowles, attempted to retrieve the dish but lack of visibility under water made this impossible. The water here is about 15' deep and the floor of the loch is covered with a dense growth of weed. Floating detritus adds to the darkness under water where the visibility is a mere 2'.

John Mackinlay examined the Crannog, from the shore, in 1824 and read a paper about it and the one on the Dhu Loch, to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1858 (P.S.A.S. Vol. II). Some 65 years later Dr. J. King Hewison on visiting the site found Mr. Mackinlay's "account quite conjectural" (Bute in Olden Times Vol. I Pg. 44). He considered the island entirely artificial. It was connected to the west shore of the loch by a causeway about 7' broad edged by a double row of oak posts and laid with small flags. The island he planned as pear shaped, 90' by 70', with a heavy wall running round an inner area 50' in diameter. In the centre of this he found a hearth but no artefacts.

In 1968 we found roughly the same features and measurements as Dr. Hewison reported, but it seemed that the shelf, 2' under water, shown in his plan as surrounding the island was made up of small stones and mud. It may have been a natural shallow in the loch on which the Crannog was built, using stones from the hills beside the loch. For most of the way round the central part of the island are the remains of a wall which had an inner and an outer edge leaving a stone filled ledge up to 10' wide. This wall, of



THE MAMMALS OF THE ISLAND OF ARRAN

By J. A. GIBSON

This account of the mammals of the Island of Arran is based on my own notes during the past thirty years, and on what I have been able to discover from a search of the previous literature. Arran was visited by many of the early travellers. Dean Donald Munro (1549), Bishop Leslie (1578), Martin Martin (1697) and Pennant (1772) each visited Arran and made some reference to the animals. The Rev. John Hamilton in the "Old Statistical Account", Kilmory Parish (1793), and the Rev. James Headrick ("A View of the Island of Arran", 1807) give some natural history notes. In the "New Statistical Account" (1840) the Rev. Dr. McNaughton gives a most admirable account of the natural history of Kilbride parish, and the minister of Kilmorie also gives some interesting notes. In his two Arran papers of 1866 and 1872, and in his subsequent account of Scottish mammals in 1880, E. R. Alston, a noted zoologist of his day, goes into some detail and mentions about a score of species. Boyd Watt in his three papers on Clyde mammals (1901, 1902 and 1905) gives some Arran notes and adds some records of cetaceans, and since then a few short notes have appeared.

The only previous attempt at a comprehensive account of Arran mammals was that of E. R. Alston. This is particularly interesting since we can now compare two accounts of Arran mammals almost exactly a century apart.

Alston listed seventeen species as occurring on Arran in his day and presumably deliberately excluded the feral goat, which was certainly present at that time; he also excluded all species already extinct. Rabbits had been introduced about a century before Alston's time and were widespread, hares had also been introduced and were well established, and the brown rat had gained a footing some fifty years earlier and had multiplied. There were two species of deer — red deer which were increasing steadily

