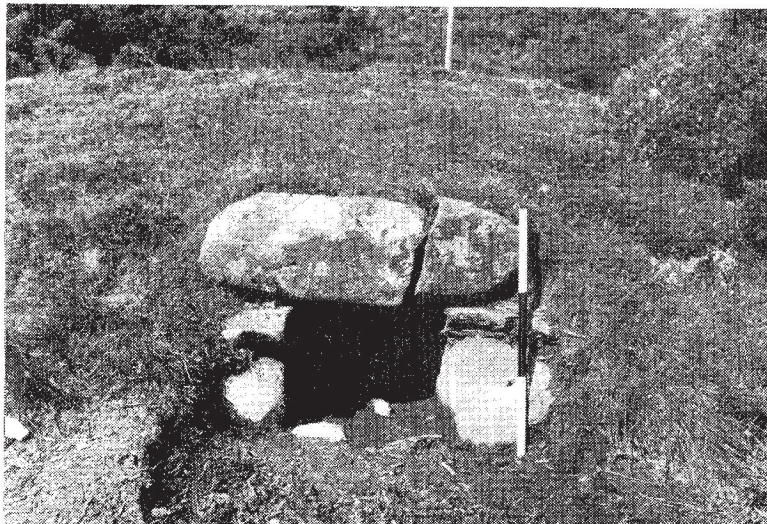




[Photos: D. Marshall]



CORN KILN, ARDMALEISH

1. Bowl of Kiln

2. Mouth of Flue

## THREE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

By DOROTHY N. MARSHALL

**Hut Circles at Dunalant (OS 051639)**

On the hill above Dunalant farm is a well defined fort with ramparts. In "Bute in the Olden Times" J. King Hewison mentions hut circles lying within the outer rampart on the North West side of the hill. When examined in 1955 these were found to be slight, irregular, depressions in the grassy slope of the hill. The best defined of these, 14' in diameter, was excavated but no trace of occupation or of hut walls was found. The low ridge edging the hollow was found to be an outcrop of natural rock. Some soil may have been removed from the area to use in the making of the rampart so leaving a depression. The rampart ran just outside this hollow. The excavation showed that this wall had been well built with a firm packing of clay at the lower stones.

Members of the Junior Naturalists and senior pupils of the Rothesay Academy helped me to carry out this investigation.

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**A Group of Large Stone in the Kingarth Wood (OS 092554)**

Three spectacular stones, set in an arc, stand over 7' high in the wood at Kingarth. Two are conglomerate, an unusual stone to be used in such monuments. The third and most massive is of micaceous schist. It is 9' high and 23' in circumference.

When Blain described them in the late 18th Century there were seven stones in the complex.

110 yards north of them massive stones could be seen covered with moss and earth. In April 1961 these stones

were cleared and planned. As seen now it is difficult to visualise the original plan. The large stone at the lower left hand corner of the plan (Plate 1) may have been upright at one time. The stone to the right of this large one seems too small and square to have formed part of the circle and too thick to have been a cap stone. Miss Audrey Henshall of the National Museum of Antiquities, suggests that the group of stones in the upper part of the plan may originally have been one massive standing stone which has split, either in falling or by weathering. Other stones may have been broken up or removed in the making of the road which passes within six yards of the group.

Rather more quartz chips and pebbles were found in the sandy soil covering the stones than in the soil of the trial trench dug some distance from the stones.

A flint scraper (Plate 1) was found near the square stone.

It is possible that the two groups of stones, Early Bronze Age in character, may have belonged to the same complex.

Boys of the Junior Naturalists provided the labour for this investigation.

### **The Large Shelter Cave at Dunagoil**

Under the Vitrified Fort (O.S. 085531) at Dunagoil there is a cave which, on excavation, was shown to have been occupied in Neolithic times and also during the occupation of the Iron Age fort above<sup>1</sup>.

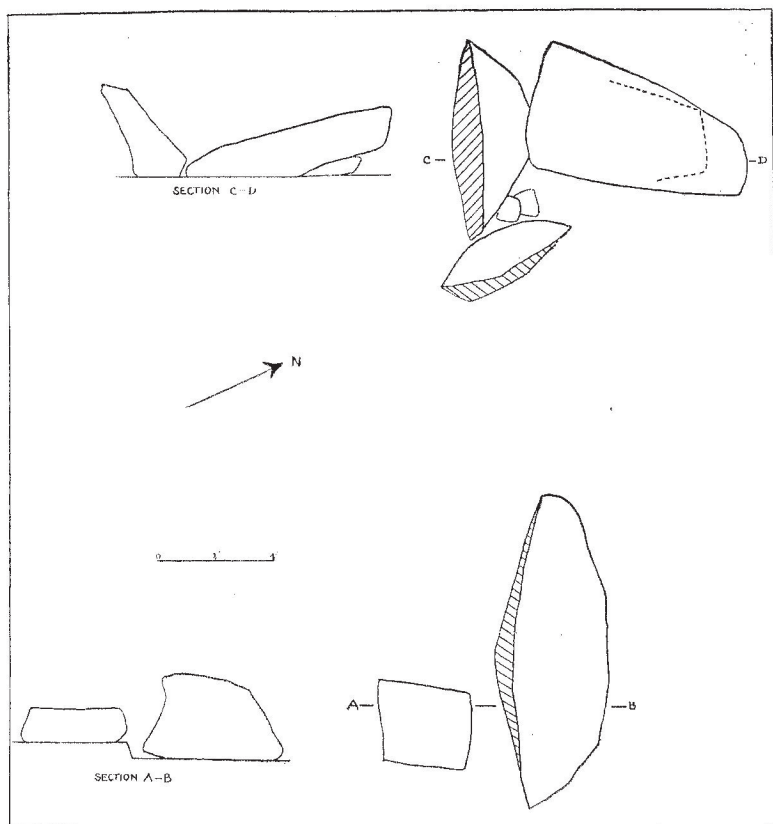
Beyond this cave is a large, fairly open shelter. Masses of rock have fallen from the roof. Before this collapse happened the shelter provided must have been much greater. The shelter faces north-west.

In 1961 a trench was dug across this shelter to see if it, too, had been used in prehistoric times. This trench, 16 feet long and 4 feet wide, showed that the cave had probably not been used in antiquity. The upper soil was very much disturbed by cattle, modern picnickers and burrowings of animals. Under this was a layer of soil in which modern

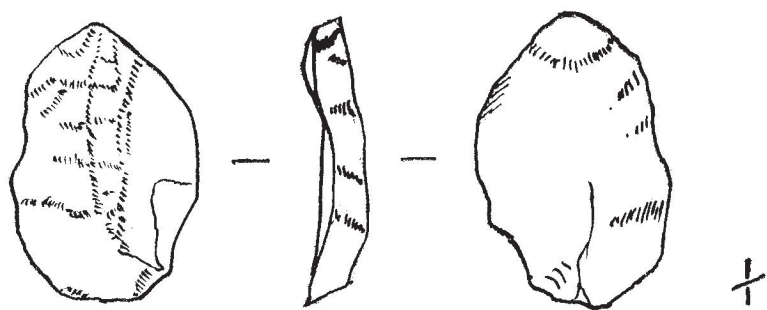
picnic debris was mixed with some pockets of shell deposit in which oysters were found, as well as the usual winkle and limpet. 1' 6" below the surface was roof fall. When these stones were raised they were found to rest on clean sand on bed-rock. No trace of shell deposit was found below this roof fall.

The investigation was carried out by Patricia Bevan, Charlotte Lythe and Linda Proom, students who were excavating at Little Dunagoil.

1. T.B.N.H. Vol. VIII.



Plan and Sections of Stones at Kingarth



Flint Scraper from Kingarth

## THE BUTESHIRE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (1955 - 1962)

By MARY A. SMITH, M.A.

It was confidently expected that the Jubilee celebrations of 1955 would give a strong impetus to the work of Bute-shire Natural History Society, nor was that trust misplaced. There has been a growing readiness on the part of members to contribute papers on subjects already familiar to them, or to share the fruits of experience gained in developing new interests. This spirit has been fostered by the arranging of Magazine Nights. With Mr. Ferrier as genial and witty compère, short papers have been read on a wide and varied range of topics, and these nights may well prove a training ground for future lecturers.

In the Archæological Section there has been much activity. Under the ægis of Miss Dorothy Marshall various members have assisted in the work of excavation at Little Dunagoil and on Inchmarnock, notably Mr. Ferrier to whom Archaeology is a new sphere of interest.

Among the younger members Miss Isabel Milligan undertook and carried out with success, the excavation of a kiln for corn-drying near Ardmaleish Farm, presenting her findings on the 1962 Magazine Night with skill and charm. Since then, she has dug a kiln at St. Blane's, the site of which had been detected by Miss Marshall.

Further afield, Miss Marshall has taken part in "digs" in South Uist and at Loch Glashan, and proposes to run a "dig" at Selkirk in return for help given by two Selkirk Antiquarians. These contacts and the fact that she herself frequently addresses learned societies, make her a valuable liaison officer when lecturers are being sought for the yearly syllabus.

Her work with the British School of Archæology abroad at Jericho, Petra and Jerusalem, is followed with interest by our members.