

# BENNACHIE BIOCULTURAL STUDY

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PROJECT DESIGN

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# BENNACHIE BIOCULTURAL STUDY

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# BENNACHIE BIOCULTURAL STUDY

## SUMMARY

*The Bennachie Biocultural Study is a multi-disciplinary approach to understanding the social and ecological development of Bennachie and its 'hinterland'.*

*It aims to achieve this understanding through conventionally tried and tested research methodologies and by raising awareness, generating interest and utilising the skills and knowledge residing in the local community. The combined skills and knowledge base can be spread more widely throughout the community by educational means in order to generate further and future interest in the landscape and heritage of the area. It is hoped that in so doing this project will, in time, generate further research of the area as its richness and importance gains a wider realisation.*

*Through developing a deeper understanding of past ecologies of the area, it is hoped that future management of the archaeo-ecological heritage will become better informed and more able to develop exciting and innovative means of sustaining and developing that resource for future generations.*

# BENNACHIE BIOCULTURAL STUDY

## SECTION 1.1 - INTRODUCTION

*“The community has to be involved. It is, after all, their history. In the past, research was often shut away in the archaeologists’ ‘ivory towers’ and not at all accessible to the layman. With this project, we intend to change that.”*

*Steve Dockerill, University of Bradford discussing a North Atlantic Biocultural Organisation (NABO) study of ecology and settlement in Orkney (The Orcadian, 29th July, 2010).*

The aims of the project must comply with the Baillies’ Constitution. This will ensure an ethical base upon which the project design can be constructed. The aims might be summarised as: to discover as much as possible about the ecological and sociological development of Bennachie and its people in post-glacial times; to encourage the wider community to engage with the project; to disseminate the findings of the project timeously and accurately in an accessible format as widely as is possible; to supply data in order to aid the future landscape management of this important cultural resource.

Simplistically-speaking, the approach would be as follows: targets would be chosen resultant upon a range of desk-based analyses. Environmental sampling, utilising a range of disciplines, to be employed in order to achieve an overview of the changing landscapes in the study area through time. This database used in conjunction with previous and ongoing archaeological work (surveys, field-walking, shovel-pitting etc.) and historical and cartographic documents to develop a range of hypotheses concerning the ecological development of the area. These to be tested by further, site-specific sampling techniques and the hypotheses refined. The data concerning the developing ecology of the area then to be used in conjunction with structural and artefactual data to answer questions concerning social developments through time.

The study would need to utilise as many techniques as possible in order to achieve an holistic project design, to maximise data capture and to provide as useful a management tool as is possible for future generations to build upon. Some techniques would require specialist equipment and operators whilst many could be enjoyed by a wide range of the community. In fact, it is hoped that the wider community would play a very important part in evidence gathering. The project would be open-ended - laying the foundations for a community project which could evolve through time - though made up of discrete studies completed and published quickly and efficiently. The techniques should include the following (with further details given later):

- Historical document and cartographic study**
- Placename studies**
- Aerial photography**
- Fieldwalking**
- Potential Land-use survey of soils and geology**
- Geophysics**
- Soil chemistry analysis**
- Pollen sampling**
- Bulk sampling**
- Shovel pitting**
- Test pitting**
- Excavation**
- GIS modelling**

Approaches designed to include and encourage participation from the wider community as well as from institutions are discussed below (Sections 2 and 3.).

As the future management of Bennachie is an already-live issue, data generated by the project will be required to advise planning strategies on an ongoing basis. It is also hoped that this process can be informed by anthropological study of the ongoing interactions of all parties involved. This raises the intriguing and very interesting scenario of anthropology being used as a management ‘tool’ in an effort to maximise social gains from an ongoing landscape project.

Please note, this study can only suggest generalised methods and principles to be applied to the evidence in order to achieve an understanding of the development of the social landscape and ecology of Bennachie. Specific areas of study, whilst sketched in broad terms, can only be properly considered after due consultation with the various partners.

## BENNACHIE BIOCULTURAL STUDY

### SECTION 1.2 - HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The more recent history (19th century and later) of Bennachie is well-known and, in the North-east of Scotland, might be said to be infamous as regards the Colony. The earlier history is, however, less clear and its wider prehistoric legacy even less transparent. That it was, from the late Mediaeval period to the 'Improvements', regarded as a Commonty is not open to doubt. What this meant during different periods of history is, however, less clear. It is generally considered that, in the post-Mediaeval period, a Commonty was land utilised in common by the surrounding fermtouns and, sometimes, by others not immediately bordering the Commonty. What must never be lost sight of is the importance of defining the correct legal status of that land during different periods.

In the immediate pre-'Improvement' period Bennachie was owned, but that ownership was shared and not delineated on the ground. (This is what led to the prolonged discussions in the mid 19th century amongst the various heritors as to who should have what bits). At what time Bennachie as a unit developed this notional community of ownership requires further study. It appears likely that pieces of it formed, for some of the Middle Ages at least, part of a royal forest, the main lordly residence for which was at Hallforest, west of Kintore. During this period it clearly would not have been a Commonty in the post-Mediaeval sense and would have been under some form of strict forest law. However, this does not mean that individuals would not have had right of access to particular resources upon that land. If any parts of Bennachie were not under 'forest law', a different set of rights to resources may have resulted. We cannot assume that the situation regarding access known from later periods necessarily applied to earlier times without supporting evidence. On the other hand, there is good evidence from other areas that uplands formed a communal resource from early periods and we might expect this to have been the case over at least a part of the Bennachie 'massif'.

As we move further back towards the earlier Mediaeval period/Pictish times, the entirety of Bennachie was clearly not a 'Commonty' in the later usage of the word owing to the existence of the fort on Mither Tap. The chieftain responsible for its refurbishment is likely to have been rather offhand with anybody claiming rights of pasture within the ramparts! Flippancy apart, it does underline the fact that we know virtually nothing concerning rights of land ownership in this proto-historic period. Overlordship could have been more a matter of rights to tribute from a population which, itself, might be scattered throughout a region composed of many other people owing similar tribute to other chieftains.

This introduces the question of the boundaries of the land mass known as Bennachie. These will have changed through time resultant upon a range of variables including such things as climate, population pressure and farming régimes. Those parts of the later Commonty which have evidence for earlier fields, such as at Woodend of Braco and Birks, were clearly held by some form of tenure. Tillymuick and the huts circles at Woodend of Braco also testify to times when at least parts of the entity of Bennachie were not 'common'.

Bennachie has such a rich and well-recorded early modern history that it is easy to back-project notions applicable to one period into times in which such sentiments did not apply. This is not to say that the evidence will not be forthcoming - only that its acquisition will require greater labour!

## BENNACHIE BIOCULTURAL STUDY

### SECTION 1.3 - COMPARATIVE LANDSCAPE PROJECTS

Human settlement does not simply happen. It occurs as a response to contemporary requirements - economic, political, religious and societal - and is predicated by history, topography and ecology. The movements of the first post-glacial hunter-gatherers have left an imprint in the soil which, however imperceptibly, has resonated down through time to touch us even today. Even 'Improvement'-period boundaries frequently follow the same watercourses (albeit often straightened) as formed folk boundaries stretching back into prehistoric times (Pollock, 1985, 397). No single archaeological monument sits in isolation. It is where it is for a range of reasons. And it is only by investigating that wider context that it becomes possible to get anywhere near to an understanding of the range of competing causes and effects with which our ancestors were forced to co-exist. It is those experiences that have moulded their 21st century offspring into who and what we are today.

In the past, archaeology was little more than a treasure hunt - burials were dug for their haul of shiny trinkets and with little consideration for the wider social landscape with which it had articulated. Fortunately, with the exception of a few metal-detectorists and even fewer rogue 'archaeologists', consideration is given to the wider context within which the excavation takes place. As our ability to elicit ever more information from seemingly innocuous fragments of detritus increases, excavation and, more particularly, the essential post-excavation specialist reports have become ever more costly. These two factors: increasing costs and the recognition of the contextual importance of the wider social and ecological landscape, have combined to generate a different approach to reconciling these limitations - the 'Landscape Study'.

Unless the object of an excavation is either a cathedral or great castle, it is unlikely that much is known about how the feature was viewed by its contemporaries. Furthermore, such sites are only concerned with the top one or two percent of a past population - not how most of our ancestors lived. Even lower down the social scale, although the excavation of a farmhouse may give us some information on providing a date for when the house was occupied and a clue as to aspects of the social conditions within the house, it will not tell us what crops were grown, how they were grown, how many acres were farmed, or what was the balance between arable and pasture. It will not tell us how the inhabitants interacted with their neighbours, what were their spiritual beliefs or how they fitted into the wider society of their day. If we truly wish to understand our ancestors and to know why we are who we are, these things become essential. Our society is a product of the choices made through time, culminating in the present. The future will be determined by our actions and for these we will be accountable to future historians, archaeologists and ecologists.

A landscape study permits the observation of a much larger tract of land than does an individual site. Individual sites might well become the focus for more localised work within the parameters of a wider project and be used to answer specific questions. Landscape studies have been designed to suit a range of environments across Britain and are increasingly becoming prevalent across the Northern hemisphere, from Iceland (Hjaltalin, 2009) and Norway (Lagerås, 2007; Øye, 2009) to various projects around the Mediterranean (Pasquinucci and Trément, 2000). The Shapwick Project (Gerrard and Aston, 2007) was a fifteen year project - ten years of fieldwork and five years of 'reflection' (as the authors put it!) and writing-up. A wide range of disciplines were utilised and some now recognisably 'mainstream' were honed during the lifetime of the project - the chemical analysis of heavy elements in the soil being an expensive example and the widespread use of 'shovel-pitting' being at the opposite end of the economic spectrum. Excavation formed the control to test hypotheses constructed by reference to 'non-destructive' methods. These included historical and cartographic research, aerial photography, field-walking, shovel-pitting, pollen analysis and geophysical exploration. This project took as its dataset the parish of Shapwick and sought to discover its development as a humanly-manipulated landscape from post-glacial times to its enclosure in the 19th century. A portion of the summary of the project taken from the final report runs thus: "*The core of its work lies at the interface between archaeology, ecology, history and geography. Research was both sustained and collaborative, drawing upon education programmes at universities and in the local community as well as upon planning-led archaeological work in the pursuit of agreed academic goals, using common fieldwork, post-fieldwork and publication procedures*" (*ibid.*, xix). (The Shapwick Project was, itself, heavily influenced by earlier work in the same area by John and Bryony Coles who instigated the Somerset Levels Project. This was, arguably, the first time that an attempt was made to understand the development of a complete landscape - wetland, in this case - through time. This work, spanning many years, developed through necessity many of the methodologies which now form the backbone of landscape studies).

Lagerås' work in Sweden made much use of pollen analysis with limited excavation across an extensive area of the National Forest Estate in Sweden. This project shows a situation which appears, superficially at least, to be very similar to own National Forest Estate here in the north-east of Scotland and with a similar range of archaeological remains. Our own findings to date at the Colony mirror many of the findings from this project; ie. 19th century farmsteads demonstrating an unexpected earlier period of use. This was predominantly a rescue project, working in advance of a new motorway but utilising the opportunity to explore new approaches to characterising the ecological development of a large landscape from prehistoric to early modern times.

Other landscape projects cover more dispersed datasets but, by applying the same methodologies, permit the disparate areas to be compared and contrasted in order to tease out the distinctive features of all. The North

West Wetlands Survey (Hodgkinson, Huckerby, Middleton, and Wells, 2000) looked at one type of ecological zone - wetlands - across the counties of Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire. The study has been vitally important for demonstrating how one type of environment has been utilised differentially through time and by different peoples for a range of purposes. It has also demonstrated the rich potential for this type of environment for ensuring the survival of archaeological and ecological data for future generations. It has also demonstrated, however, the fragility of the remains and the difficulties inherent in managing an 'invisible' resource. This is a fine example of how an ecological study is providing baseline data for land management issues.

Still other projects concentrate upon date-specific elements within the landscape in order to study aspects of social evolution at particular periods in time. Turners' study of the development of the Mediaeval landscapes of the south-west of England considered the importance of the religious bodies on the development of the Mediaeval landscape. This has important ramifications for Scotland where, because of the excesses of the Reformation, this critical developmental factor is less visually-apparent than in many parts of Europe. Being visually less apparent it is more readily overlooked. This study is also important in terms of its need to consider the impact of the 'Celtic' church and its saints on society and the landscape, especially in dealing with the Cornish situation. The north-east of Scotland, similarly, has a plethora of well-attested early Celtic dedications which need to be accommodated within an understanding of developmental processes.

The application of landscape studies in Scotland has been slightly disappointing and seems to lag behind the rest of Europe since initial excellent work by Robert Dodgshon and Ian Whyte in the 1970s and 1980s. (Now Professors at Aberystwyth and Lancaster). The Ben Lawers Project (Atkinson *et al*, 2003, 2005) promised much and, although the individual seasons of excavation were very promptly published, the final report is still awaited and no new ideas concerning the ecological development of the area appears to be forthcoming. The University of Sheffield was involved in extensive environmental sampling but, again, nothing has really materialised (so far as I am aware). One problem might be that the area chosen did not reflect a broad spectrum of ecologies. Consequently, little can be expected in conclusion beyond what we already know concerning upland management, and little environmental work has been done in a lowland situation in order to compare and contrast. (Work in Strathbogie is showing that 17th century farms were differentially-utilised according to varying topographical traits and ecological variables (Shepherd, forthcoming)). The Lunan Valley Project (Pollock, 1985) failed to utilise environmental sampling as a major strategy and, consequently, also failed to shed new light on lowland ecologies as a contrast to contemporary upland resource management. (It must be noted, however, that this occurred at a time when pollen coring in lowland environments was far less widely employed as a tool). This was unfortunate as the project did generate some useful conclusions concerning settlement patterns and the serious threat to those untapped resource.

Two projects might be of particular applicability to the situation at Bennachie though both are from areas which could not be more topographically-different. The Whittlewood Project (Jones and Page, 2006) considered the ecological development of the area of the Forest of Whittlewood, which straddles the county boundary between Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire. The study was able to chart the changing face of this area from one of quite extensive settlement during the late prehistoric and Roman periods, through the creation of the Mediaeval royal hunting reserve to its eventual disafforestation in 1853. For most of this time, rigid forest laws limited the agricultural and settlement use which could be made of the area. It was a source for wild resources which, periodically, were jealously guarded. The project was also able to demonstrate that many long-held views concerning the development of the English village could not be sustained and that a wider range of evolutions must be imagined. This, similarly, has implications for Scottish settlement studies where a single 'one size fits all' view is commonly assumed.

Whytes' study (2009) of a changing landscape - this time in East Anglia (as flat as Bennachie is bumpy!) - covers the period between Reformation and Enclosure, 1500 - 1800. It looks at the way in which all parts of the community perceived their landscape and how this changed through time. It demonstrates how important a factor folk memory is in shaping the environment and how that came to be used as a core feature of legal disputes in the post-mediaeval period. Similar disputes have resulted in similar recourse in the North-east, such as between Lord Forbes and the Bishop of Aberdeen over the rights to land at Terpersie in the mid 15th century (Registrum Episcopatus Aberdonensis, Vol.1, 248-249). Her study is based predominantly upon historical and cartographic research allied to non-invasive fieldwork.

Most of the studies noted above have incorporated community involvement and a level of educational activity. Carenza Lewis' (2007) needs singling out as one which was formulated with a major aim being to address the perceived educational difficulties of a particular sector of the adolescent community. The project was simple to execute and achieved important archaeological results whilst augmenting the life chances of a vulnerable portion of the population. Test pits were dug around a range of village gardens (with owners' consent - the kids weren't that bad!) to assess the development through time of settlement forms. The results confirmed the increasingly common conclusion that not all settlements have developed in the same way and, particularly in their earlier forms, were dynamic and ever-changing.

Landscape studies are able to ask a more extensive range of questions than can be applied to an individual site. These questions can cover the full range of post-glacial periods and encompass a wide range of ecological zones. The picture created can inform concerning the life experiences of a wide range of the community across all timespans and generate a picture of how they and their landscapes evolved. A wide range of methodologies have been employed in the projects noted above. Some have utilised extensive excavation and all the expensive toys on offer. Others have used historical sources and a pair of wellies. Most have successfully brought to life a past that had hitherto been hidden.

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## SECTION 2 - DOCUMENTARY AND CARTOGRAPHIC DATA - EVIDENCE AND LEVELS OF ACCESSIBILITY

### 2.1 Historical Document Study

Obviously, this is a vast area of study covering the entire historic and proto-historic periods. Within the earliest recorded periods, it is usually necessary to wrestle with a bit of latin. This can be compounded, when the scripts have not been published, to come to terms with some rather odd writing styles. However, from the 18th century onwards the worst which can be experienced is some bad hand-writing! Much has been published and is readily accessible, such as the excellent Poll Tax returns of 1696 which give an illuminating view of the make-up of rural and urban communities at the end of the 17th century (and should be required reading in any school history module in Aberdeenshire!). Aberdeenshire has the only complete record of this important resource in Scotland (well done the Aberdeenshire bureaucrats!). Some of the more important records are as follows:

*Register of the Great Seal*  
*Registrum Episcopatus Aberdonensis*  
*Parish records*  
*Poll Tax Returns*  
*Government Censi*  
*The Statistical Accounts of Scotland*  
*Estate Records*

Most of the above are available at Oldmeldrum Public Library and can be consulted with ease. (Estate records can be more of a problem and often involve a trip to Edinburgh - see Appendix II). It is the cross-referencing of elements drawn from these various sources which can supply data capable of manipulation by statistical or other means. This can give insights into the finer details of landscape use and social constructs with which we are ultimately interested when attempting to tell the story of Bennachie and its surroundings.

#### *Skills level:*

All that is required is an ability to be meticulous in observation and recording. A workshop would be able to outline requirements and to specify tasks. The results might then be collected and a subsequent tutorial meeting where problems could be discussed. After collation of the results, subsequent tasks could be identified.

### 2.2 Estate Plans and OS maps

(See Appendix I). These are not so plentiful as in some other areas of the North-east, specifically Strathbogie, held by the Dukes of Gordon. However, there are some of note, particularly relating to the lands of Monymusk which consisted of, amongst other areas, that part of Bennachie containing Birks and the limited extent of pre-'Improvement' fields still extant there. The settlement of Birks depicted by Roy should still be identifiable on the ground. Other areas depicted on the estate plans would also be worth further investigation, particularly in the hinterland where the evidence is more plentiful. A meticulous study of the field systems as apparent on the 1st Edition of the OS maps may also give suggestions as to land-usage in the pre-'Improvement' period.

#### *Skills level:*

A range of skills is useful. Those with appropriate computer drawing skills could help in digitising the old maps. The study of the maps themselves would benefit from a 'range of eyes' - different people see different patterns and all are worthy of note and further study. A workshop explaining the principles lying behind landscape development and the potential patterns expected might help to start a group working in this fascinating area of study. Periodic 'tutorials' could discuss results and developments and steer the group. Again, work in Strathbogie (Shepherd, 2007) has demonstrated what is possible and could be used for guidance (PDF supplied on CD).



### 2.3 Placenames

As Nicolaisen has demonstrated (1999), placenames are able to demonstrate agricultural dynamism as, for example, English place names in the North East seeming to illustrate the appropriation of new lands in the 13th and 14th centuries. Gaelic and Pictish elements are, likewise, reflective of changing land-use patterns and/or social diversification in the more formative periods. A meticulous study of particular placename elements (eg. Tilly, Achadh etc.) whilst comparing them with their topographical positioning would probably be very revealing.

#### *Skills level:*

Though linguistics obviously form a basis for this type of study at the more esoteric end of the discipline, placenames have a tendency to follow rules and patterns and no great linguistic ability is necessary (otherwise I wouldn't stand a chance!). A workshop would be sufficient to outline the basic protocol used and to teach the kind of uses to which placename evidence can prove invaluable. More particularly, a systematic collection of field names would be invaluable and, in the absence of a large corpus of estate plans, local memory should be enlisted. This area, therefore, could be enhanced by local school work in an 'interviewing' environment with older people in the community (see below).

### 2.4 Aerial Photography

During the second half of the 1940s the RAF had planes and pilots to spare and nothing for them to do. It seemed like a good idea to photograph the whole of Britain - and so it has proved for subsequent archaeologists! Much land, since afforested was still devoid of trees at that time and has thus been immortalised on photographic paper. Subsequent flights over specific pieces of land have been carried out by archaeological bodies and Aberdeenshire Council has invested heavily in this type of venture. However, the main database now resides at the RCAHMS in Edinburgh. No alternative exists other than to visit the RCAHMS in order to view all of the material. Certain of the Aberdeenshire runs are, however, held locally and can be accessed through Aberdeenshire Council's Archaeological Service.

Aerial photography can be an excellent source by which archaeological features can be discovered. Recording of them on a base map can precede checking in the field.

#### *Skills level:*

An ability to recognise archaeological features on the aerial photographs is, obviously, of paramount importance. The transcription of these onto base plans involves a certain level of draughtsmanship which can be readily learnt.

### General Comments

Historic data should be gathered initially in order to help supply targets for other sampling techniques and to aid enquiry. Thereafter it needs to be revisited for the benefit of hypothesis construction resultant upon gathered field evidence.

**Finally, a word of warning must be sounded. All of the above areas are very time consuming and, for the project to progress at a reasonable speed, those taking part in this area must have a very high level of motivation and commitment. There are many other areas, noted below, where participation can be rather more ad-hoc but still of vital importance.**

## BENNACHIE BIOCULTURAL STUDY

### SECTION 3 - SAMPLING AND SURVEY TECHNIQUES - EVIDENCE AND LEVELS OF ACCESSIBILITY

#### 3.1 Fieldwalking

Simple and effective means of establishing a picture of the land-use for a given area. Anybody can participate and it does not take long to 'get your eye in'. Limited to ploughed areas and so cannot be viewed as a random sample of an area owing to the agricultural skew.

*Skills level:*

Fun for all the family!

#### 3.2 Potential Land-use survey of soils and geology

There is a move amongst those working in institutions in big cities to think that the whole of Britain can be characterised in terms of historic land-use by dividing it into lumps consisting of a couple of hundred acres or more. Obviously, to those of us in the real world, the landscape comprises much smaller units of quantifiable land which, in the past, has seen micro-management on a scale only dreamt of by the most ardent accountant during his most optimistic of daydreams.

Consequently, it is proposed that a survey of Bennachie be carried out in order to map the different land-use and mineral capabilities at a far smaller and more sensible scale. This is one of those parts of the project which can be ongoing with the initial areas chosen so as to compliment other sampling work.

Consultation with the University (and Macauley Institute?) will lead to the development of a means of characterising land at a more appropriate scale for analysis of potential land-use during different points in time than has hitherto been the case. For example, one area of Bennachie which in 2,000b.c. might have been of high value may have been viewed very differently during the later middle ages. Land-use characterisation has to be able to cope with these variables. Once the methodology has been agreed, the sampling and recording should be a simple matter.

**This might be one area which could see the development of a radical and important new methodology for landscape studies.**

*Skills level:*

Fun for all the family!

#### 3.3 Geophysics

We've all seen it on Time Team, but the tools cost a bit! If the technology is readily available it would come to the fore to inform in advance of excavation. If we've got it, it would be useful, but, if we haven't, it's not the end of the world! I wonder whether resistivity would be very useful on Bennachie, given the background noise of never-ending stones - but I am happy to be advised otherwise. Magnetometry might well be useful in recognising areas of former burning. But, again, I'm not sure how the background noise might adversely affect results. If technically-feasible, its use to enhance our understanding of such sites as Woodend of Braco and Tillymuick would be advantageous, especially with respect to advising future forestry operations in the area and general management issues. Other 'point-specific' sites, such as the Ogham stone and ring cairn, also at Braco would benefit enormously in preventing damage to hitherto unknown but related archaeology.

*Skills level:*

Fun for those with some of the big boys' toys only, I'm afraid!

#### 3.4 Soil Chemistry Analysis

This is a fairly new technique not widely reported on in Scotland yet. The Ben Lawers Project used it but final results are still pending. The Shapwick Project saw its first major outing. It appears to be very useful for defining areas of varying land-utilisation and the Macauley Institute have all the toys. However, it is very costly and would probably form part of a separately-funded sub-project, if that ever became a considered option.

At Shapwick it was considered to have shown its worth as a method of site detection where other methods were found unproductive.

***Skills level:***

Fun for the scientists only.

### **3.5 Pollen sampling**

Right up Aberdeen University's street and highly recommended for such a project as this. Waterlogged soils ensure the survival of pollen grains from sub-glacial times. The changing proportions of flora demonstrate the changing ecologies through time. Ideally, the samples are independently dated by radiocarbon but, even without that, the relative chronology they give can generate an accurate picture of the changing land-use of the locality.

The production of the slide from the sample is a bit arduous (though it can be achieved in a garden shed if you're mad enough). The microscopic counting of the pollen is time-consuming but can be learnt.

***Skills level:***

Sample production requires specialised equipment but the pollen counting can be learnt though, because of the training required, any volunteer would need to be committed.

### **3.6 Bulk sampling**

It might well have other, sexier names by now, but this is how I know it. In effect, it is the wet- and/or dry-sieving of archaeological samples in order to extract biological data in the form of snail shells, seeds and fruits, bone fragments, charcoal or any other telling bits of detritus. It should form a part of any excavation but should also be used as an extension to the analysis of test-pitting.

***Skills level:***

Basic equipment could be purchased/constructed quite cheaply and the sieving would be a family fun-day out. (Though some of the sieves are not as cheap as you might think). The microscopic analysis of the various particles would need quite extensive guidance and the same caveat concerning commitment by any volunteers would be the same as for the pollen analysis.

### **3.7 Shovel pitting**

Fieldwalking with shovels! This method, first put to widescale use by the Shapwick Project, is ideal for areas of extensive pasture, not freely accessible for field-walking. A gridded field is sampled at regular intervals by de-turfing a small area, removing 20-30 litres of topsoil and sieving. This characterises the area by means of the finds. This has been used by some of us to great effect in Strathbogie, resulting in the discovery of Mediaeval and Post-mediaeval cores of activity.

***Skills level:***

Fun for all the family.

### **3.8 Test pitting**

Shovel-pitting done a bit more carefully. Ideal means of characterising a limited area, such as gardens within a settlement area. Has been used by Lewis (2007) to great effect with members of the local schools community in East Anglia in association with Cambridge University. A number of villages formed the focii for a series of test pits and which achieved the result of discovering the dynamics behind the development of those settlements.

A test pit is a metre square hole excavated in 'spits' or layers and the soil is sieved for artefacts. Any features are drawn in plan and at least one section drawn.

***Skills level:***

Fun for all the family.

### 3.9 Excavation

#### **Trial-trenching**

This, in effect, is an extension of test-pitting. The trench permits an evaluation of the underlying archaeology, but the limited nature of its area means that a meaningful plan of any structural elements, such as buildings, will not be achieved. It is, however, ideal for sectioning linear features, such as land boundaries and ditches.

As with any hole - the bigger it is, the more costly it proves to carry out the post-excavation analysis. And, the more you find, the more the specialists's fees pile on! (It's possibly better to dig a hole where there is no archaeology - only joking!).

#### *Skills level:*

Fun for all the family, but they don't have to stump up the cost for the specialist reports!

#### **Area excavation**

The Rolls Royce of archaeological enterprises. The only real way of knowing what's under the ground and with a price tag to match! It's great fun and, providing you're digging in the right place, very rewarding. It's also very rewarding for all the specialists and labs that need to be employed to carry out the post-excavation specialist reports. I don't mean to be off-putting but great consideration needs to be exercised before undertaking something that is both costly and destructive. What is excavated is erased forever. It is a part of the national heritage that is denied to future generations, other than as a report. On the other hand, a good excavation enlightens in a way that preserves much that would otherwise be destroyed. Therefore, excavate judiciously. (Sorry about that - sermon over!).

#### *Skills level:*

Fun for all the family and, after consideration is given to all the negative comments noted above, essential for testing any hypotheses produced from all the other areas of research.

### 3.10 GIS planning

All of the above would need to conform to a master GIS grid outlined from the start and be locked into the National Grid Reference system. The different exploratory methods can be housed on separate layers and sorted and overlaid according to will. This would then become the hub of the project into which and from which all associated work would be linked. In time, it is hoped, 3D modelling might be used to portray the various parts of Bennachie and its hinterland at the different periods in time, from sub-glacial to modern times.

#### *Skills level:*

Those with an aptitude for drawing on a computer would be able to produce elements to be uploaded onto the GIS system.

### 3.11 Refereeing

A protocol would be required to ensure that all work is carried out to an appropriate standard. One suggestion would be to agree a small panel (perhaps five people maximum?) upon which the Baillies and the University would be well represented.

# BENNACHIE BIOCULTURAL STUDY

## SECTION 4 - PROJECT DESIGN

### 4.1 Project Contextualisation

Sorry, now for the theoretical bit - turn over a few pages now to avoid the risk of imminent sleep!

The fundamental aim of the project is to forensically unpick the development of the landscape and ecology of a discrete area of land: Bennachie and its hinterland. The geographical scale of the project area requires that a means of subdividing it for study purposes is necessary. It is proposed to achieve this by means of employing the parishes as useful sub-zones. They are our earliest reasonably well recorded land units above the individual fermtowns and still form the modern administrative subdivisions of Aberdeenshire. As such they can be used as convenient community sub-zones within which outreach projects can operate (see below). It is, however, accepted that the modern parishes have undergone changes in the past and that historical records are likely to cut across modern boundaries. Notwithstanding this, the use of such units seems preferable to a random grid structure. Whilst such a form might appear to carry greater statistical merit by avoiding the boundaries of former social structures, the variation in topography across the study area would introduce an ecological skew no less damaging to any statistical integrity than the social skew it would seek to negate.

Figure 1 is a sketch of the ways the environment of Bennachie and its hinterland (the surrounding parishes) can be shown to have been used at various archaeological periods. It can be seen that during the Mediaeval and Post-mediaeval periods virtually all of the landscape was being utilised. It is to be expected that a similar situation pertained in many of the prehistoric periods. We are simply lacking the evidence at the moment. This absence of data is something which might be reasonably assumed to be a fundamental question for this project. It is also noteworthy that it is only in the early modern and modern periods that Bennachie has become redundant in terms of being largely outwith the everyday working life of the community. It is, perhaps, true to say that the concept of 'wilderness' is a modern, 'post-'Improvement' concept. Earlier populations are more likely to have seen it as a place of differential resources, simply outwith the domestic sphere of enclosed fields.

Figures 2 and 3 attempt to address this question of perception of place and the ideological and political factors shaping this. Archaeological landscapes can be seen, simplistically, to contain three major groups of monuments relating to: the ruling elite; the spiritual elite; and the rest of us. The balance of power has, obviously, shifted through time - one of the most far-reaching in historical times being the Reformation. It is to be assumed that many similar occurrences will have been enacted at different scales through the ages. But, to understand the workings of society at any given period, it is necessary to come to terms with these major factors and to understand the parts each played within the landscape.

We are so used to thinking in terms of national politics that it is difficult to consider other forms of polity. It is easier for us, if we are denied the concept of a national polity, to envisage a countryside of individually-existing farmsteads based upon extended families. The reality is that this is unlikely to have represented the power structure of the area for a number of thousands of years. Other formulae are likely to have occurred at different times and these need to be addressed if we wish to develop a realistic view of the past rather than some false rural idyll. A number of models have been suggested for prehistoric, proto-historic and early Mediaeval times. The Multiple Estate is one such model for the early Mediaeval period proposed by Barrow many years ago with respect to work in Fife. It is useful to consider this as just one example of how the landscape may have been ordered and utilised. It proposes the idea of local lordships covering quite extensive geographical areas and containing a spectrum of resources accompanied by a complete range of social appliances, such as religious centres, political centres and markets. In sum, all of the requisites for a fledgling local economy and social system. Barrow (1973, 7-68) saw thanages as one such residue from this social order which functioned beneath the level of kingship in the early Mediaeval period and existing in a pre-national environment. The pre-parish *Davachs* might similarly be relics from this period and have formed building blocks for such estates. Such social models need to be borne in mind when considering the range of social environments experienced by the people forming the core of our landscape project. We need to frame our individual findings in terms of an anthropological view of the wider landscape - how a community relates to its landscape in all of its manifestations.

To try to clarify this somewhat muddy vision, I have attempted to illustrate a simplified form. In Figure 2 the landscapes of power are shown at the top. These are expressed archaeologically by the remains of high status residences. At the bottom sit the rest of us with our farmsteads and cottages of varying sizes. In the centre, where these two extremes interact can be seen the 'mundane' landscape of fermtowns and field systems. Here the ordinary people toiled to provide for themselves, but also to supply wealth, goods and/or services to those above. To the political elite via rents, services and tribute and, in the Mediaeval and later world, to the religious elite via tithes. Where these three groups met ideologically and materially was at those nodes of group religious activity: cairns and stone circles in the prehistoric period; at stones, crosses and churches in the Mediaeval and later periods. But, there were

# Evidence available for landscape usage in the North East

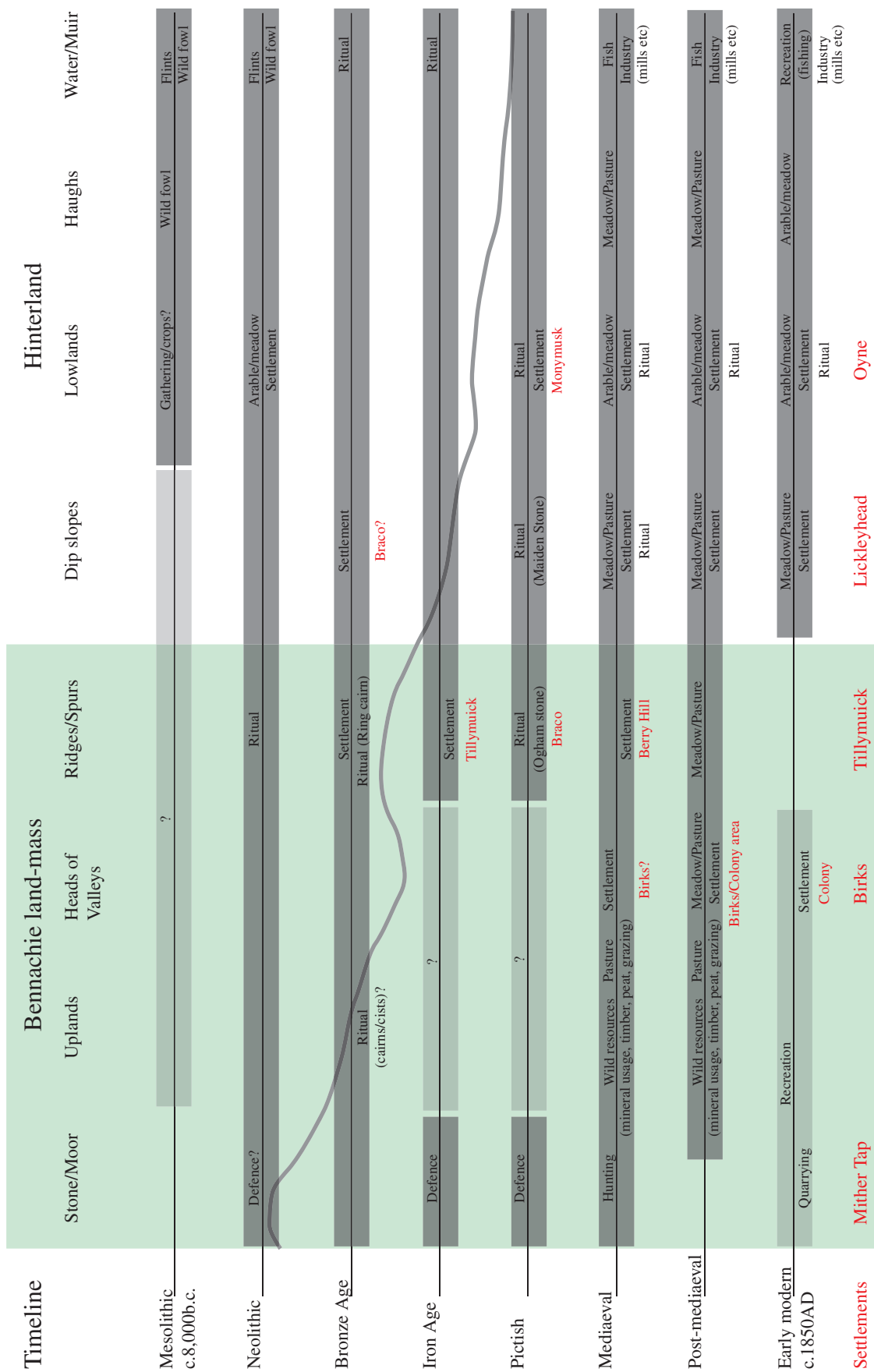


Figure 1. Land-use on Bennachie and in its hinterland through time.

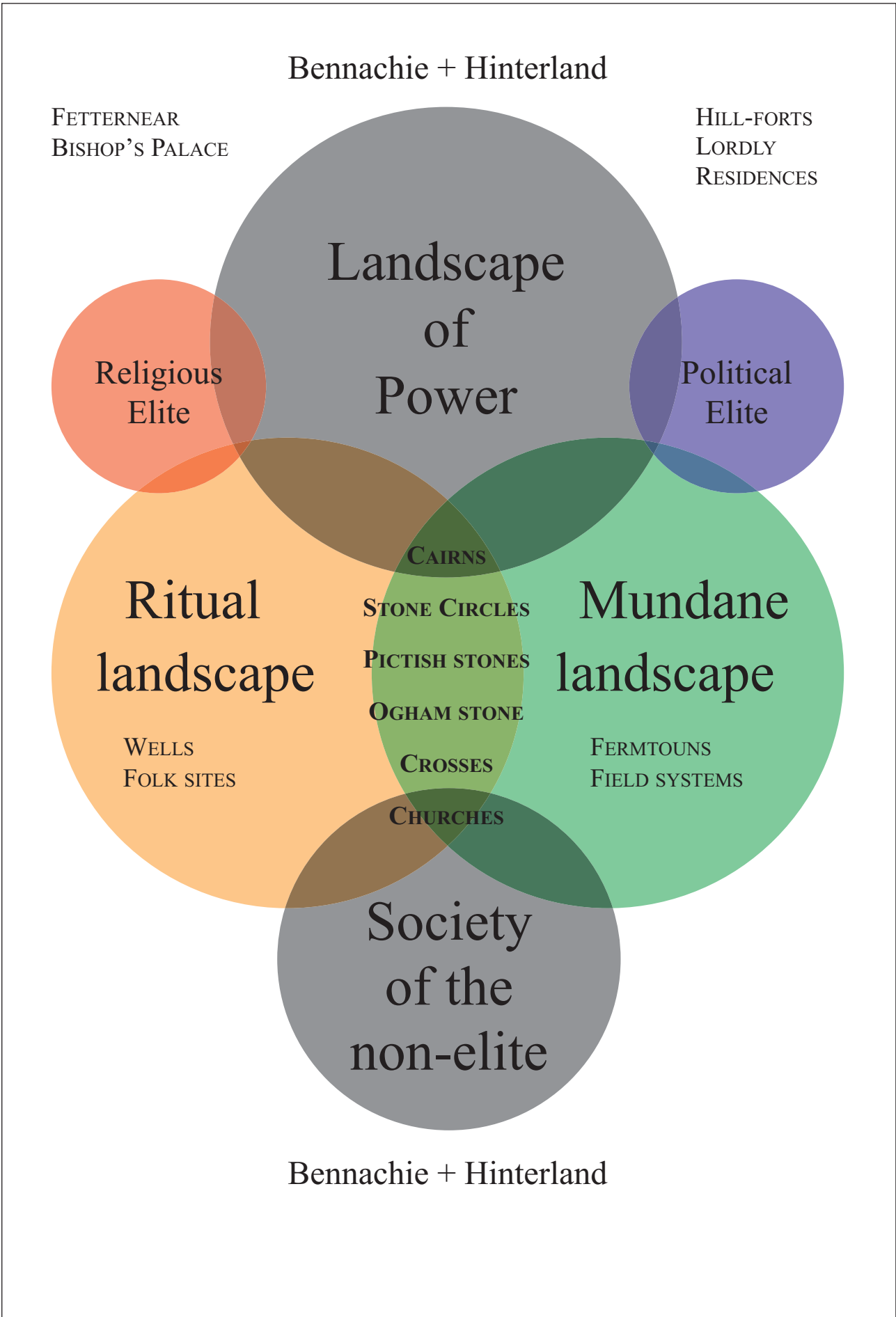


Figure 2. Landscape perception on and around Bennachie 1.

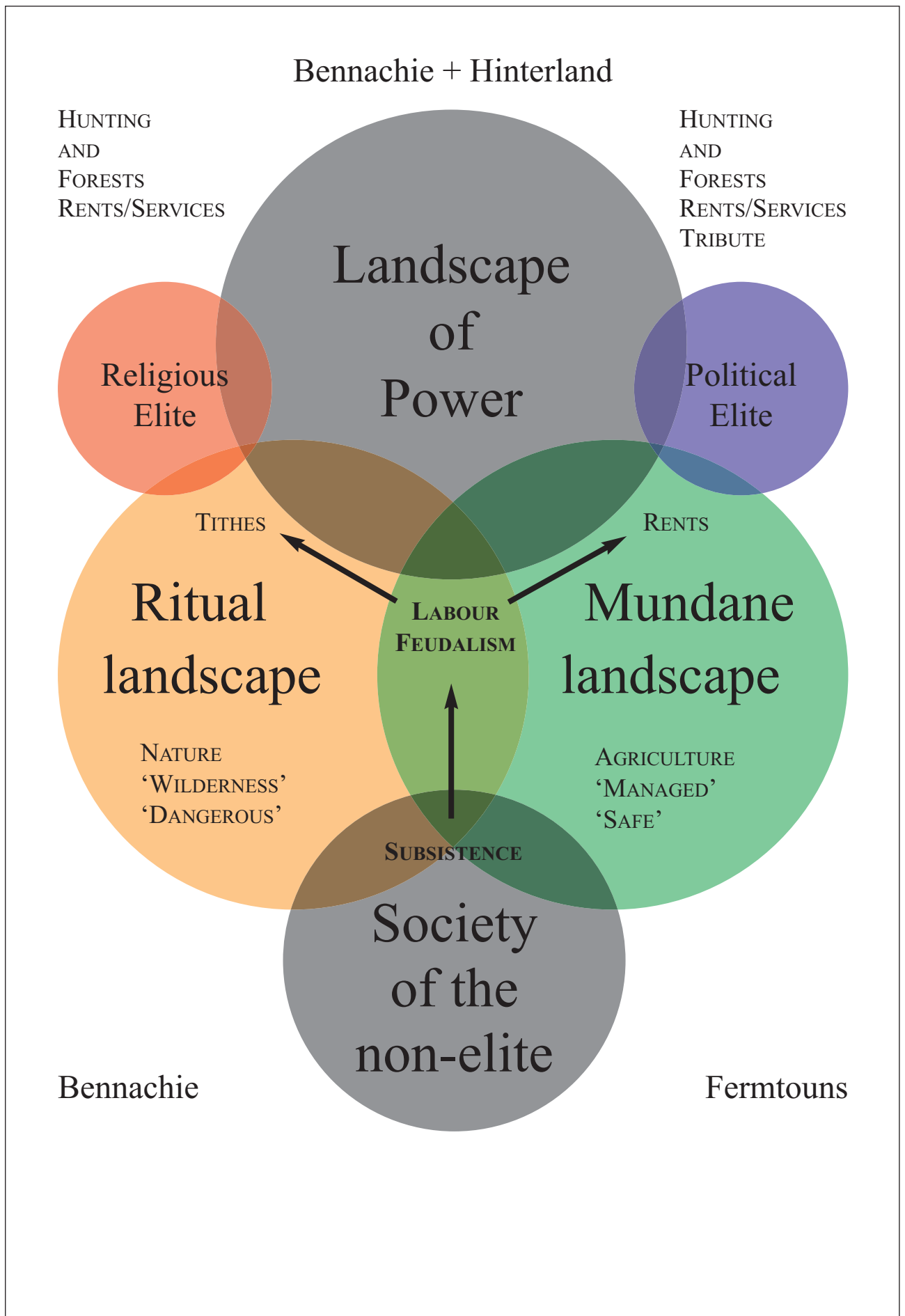


Figure 3. Landscape perception on and around Bennachie 2.



also those ‘folk’ religious spots, such as healing wells and such natural features as ‘clootie’ trees. These are still resorted to today in some instances. Within society, these places were all part of a complete whole within which Bennachie and its hinterland were complementary in providing the full range of necessities for life.

Figure 3 seeks to delve slightly deeper into the social psyche to try to perceive if this ‘whole’ might contain any further kinds of subdivisions. The enclosed lands of the fermtouns (either in the sense of parcels of enclosed fields or as open fields within a head dyke) were held by payment of rent, arrived at by an estimation of worth. In the later Mediaeval period, at least, the lands of the Commonty of Bennachie were held differently. They were to be used by set groups of people who were granted particular freedoms to utilise certain resources. There is a fundamental difference between these two methods of land utilisation. The first is meticulously controlled and ordered, whereas the second is open to interpretation and dispute - as was seen only too clearly in the middle of the 19th century. Bennachie was perceived as willful and unordered - the haunt of giants, spirits and Jock o’ Bennachie. It is the place of wild animals, not the domesticates of the hinterland. In a way, therefore, Bennachie can be seen to form part of an otherworldly ‘ritualised’ landscape to contrast with the ordered and managed ‘mundane’ landscape of the hinterland. Bennachie becomes wild, willful and dangerous, whilst its hinterland is safe.

I make no apology for this digression. It raises matters which are fundamental to the design of the project. It attempts to get to the heart of seeing how the different elements of the community, during different periods, might have interacted amongst themselves and with the landscapes in which they lived. It proposes that, with the careful scrutiny of the evidence, these complicated social questions can be answered. Whytes’ work in East Anglia has demonstrated how a meticulous study of legal evidence can demonstrate that such subtle social interactions can find statements within the landscape. Similarly, Lagerås’ work in Sweden has shown how the boundaries between these ‘wild’ and ‘managed’ landscapes change through time and are not immutable. This project should seek to recognise the dynamism of this landscape back through the ages and to understand how the people living on and around it perceived it during those different manifestations.

The story of the Colonists itself involved the landscape becoming an arena for competing forces: a powerful élite; a religious élite and ‘the rest’. That interplay which occurred in the 19th century on Bennachie tells us a lot about the differing perceptions of society from a range of perspectives within that society. These are the viewpoints which need to be teased out from all of the other periods, from the Mesolithic to modern times. In the early Mediaeval period, the area displays evidence for a powerful élite, with bases at Mither Tap and Maiden Castle, alongside focii of ritualised display at the Maiden Stone and the Ogham stone at Woodend. Later in time, the Bishop’s Palace at Fetternear and the numerous lordly castles tell a similar story of the manipulation of parts of the landscape by the powerful - religious and lay. But, we know little of the mass of the population, how they viewed the élites within society or how they were viewed by them. Throughout most of history and prehistory, our views of society are prejudiced by the better survival of the monuments and words of the élites. Through a meticulous study of all of the evidence available, it has been shown by other landscape projects that it is possible to start to perceive a wider view of society during different periods of time and to start to understand how all of the elements interplayed as complete social networks within their developing ecological environments.

Theory over - back to the practicalities!

## 4.2 Partnerships

No large scale landscape project can function without a basis rooted within the concept of partnerships. To begin with, the landowners need to give admittance to the landscape. Beyond this, the range of expertise and manpower required to achieve the end result cannot be supplied by a single body or institution. Even were the work to be undertaken by a single entity, the majority would still be need to be sub-contracted. This, by definition, results in an uncomfortable break in the lines of communication from the project and landscape custodians to the people undertaking the work on the ground. Such a situation probably only ever occurs in legally-required developer-funded rescue explorations. These works, though often executed to a very high standard, rarely attain the results achievable by a research-led examination of the evidence. Such work can design the project in order to attempt to answer specific questions rather than simply reacting to whatever happens to be in the way of the development. The Bennachie Biocultural Study would be in a position to specify research topics dependant upon the type of evidence available in different locations around the research area and in accordance with the skills and expertise at its disposal. Time would not be a driving factor (though this must not become an excuse for tardiness!)

Modular (ie. discrete, individual) projects would be completed within specific time periods and in accordance with the agreed overall aims of the study. These individual sub-projects would be designed in response to the skills and resources of the individual partners. If the project were to become very long-running, these partners would, necessarily, undergo change through time - in personnel at least. It might be argued that this acceptance of a lack of rigidity at the outset would lead to a lack of focus in the underlying aims of the project. It could, however, be argued that many projects have suffered through inflexibility. It is a recognised truth in archaeology that every question answered spawns a wealth of new ones. It is impossible to plan a response to a situation that cannot be anticipated. It is far better to build a flexibility of approach into the design at the outset which permits ongoing redesign to occur throughout the life of the project. This built-in flexibility is not readily achievable within the confines of a

temporally-constricted project and utilises to the full the underlying strengths of the dominant partners: the Baillies, Forestry Commission, University of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council: ie. that they are able to bring an institutional stability not readily achievable within the private sector.

Beneath the umbrella of the major partners, local people could be integrated as either groups (eg. local schools) or as individuals via means of an 'outreach' aspect to the project (see below). It is to be hoped that, from that source as well as from others, new partners would emerge to append to the core body. This is another area wherein a flexibility of approach would be beneficial. If, as hoped, the project were to continue into the distant future, the range of personnel and skills would change and with them the range of studies which could be undertaken. A constricted design should not be allowed to prevent this organic growth from occurring.

### 4.3 Community Participation

(i) A questionnaire might be circulated amongst Baillie members with a view to drawing up a list of interested individuals and to gauge the level of interest and skillsbase.

(ii) Initial stages of the project would entail presentations given around local community centres. This would outline the purpose and methods to be employed by the project. It could also supply a means whereby local individuals might be drawn into the project, also with a view to drawing up a list of interested individuals and to gauge the level of interest and skillsbase.

(iii) Local primary schools around Bennachie could be encouraged to develop simple projects which could provide very useful data for the project. Examples might include: surveys of flora and fauna within discrete areas of the individual parishes; 'interviews' with older members of the community to enquire as to changing land-use and culture within the participants lifetimes. (As well as helping the project directly through data input and indirectly through community liaison, it may help to draw many diverse members of the individual communities closer together and to underline how old and young within communities have much to share). The parish unit would form a useful scale to pursue these projects, as noted above. Senior students from local academies might, hopefully, become engaged either as individuals or via the academies. It is hard to imagine that there can be no areas in the school curriculum which would not benefit from related 'hands-on' activities.

(iv) Many of the study areas, such as aerial photography, documentary and cartographic studies would benefit from community input. The recognition of likely early boundary features and other anomalous features would need checking in the field and more eyes for field-walking projects would maximise the potential from this strategy. A group of volunteers willing to get their feet muddy would maximise these data bases.

**To these ends it is envisaged that workshops would be provided to teach the basic skills required.**

### 4.4 University Participation

(i) University Research Projects:

As an unashamedly research project, the Bennachie Biocultural Study would be an important means of trialling new techniques and methodologies. As such, it should dovetail with university research aspirations.

Present areas of academic interest are also likely to coincide with aims of the study; for example, the social and material development of North-east culture as affected by removal to Canada in the 18th and 19th centuries.

(ii) Student Projects:

Small, individual fieldwork projects would be ideal avenues by means of which to instruct students whilst, at the same time, giving them a sense of producing a unique piece of work. This could be followed through to publication stage via a Baillies' Journal.

### 4.5 GIS

As in any modern landscape study, GIS must form a fundamental building block as a means of storing, sorting and disseminating data as well as supplying a powerful tool to question and construct models. Ideally, a means of exporting data from various drawing packages (Windows and Mac based) into the Forestry Commission GIS system can be found. From there files could be exported with OS data, thereby utilising the FC license with Ordnance Survey. (This would need to be checked to confirm that no copyright breaches would become an issue).

#### 4.6 Project inception

- (i) Confirmation of level of commitment of partners.  
*All partners must be comfortable with their levels of commitment and a protocol affirmed by which management and progress can be relayed between those partners or their agents.*
- (ii) Long-term aims and targets.  
*These must be agreed between actively-participating partners with the caveat that, as noted above (4.2), aims and targets will change through time and that even long-term aims and targets should, ultimately, be viewed as interim.*
- (iii) Initial sub-projects formulation.
  - a. *To be agreed between partners and management structure agreed.*
  - b. *Creation of management team.*
- (iv) Outreach.
  - a. *A series of outreach meetings with the local community organised and appropriate workshops and presentations designed.*
  - b. *Media statements organised and disseminated.*
- (v) Volunteer ‘army’ and interested partners to start desk-based preliminary research and basic sampling strategies. This will help to develop the group identity.
- (vi) Initial feedback to management team resulting in 4.7.

#### 4.7 Hypothesis formulation

Desk-based documentary research and initial training projects will result in questions and a number of target areas that can be agreed for subsequent testing. This might be seen as the start of the main research agenda and should be agreed by all partners.

#### 4.8 Hypothesis testing

The fieldwork and continuing documentary research headed by designated managers.

#### 4.9 Individual sub-project reporting

- a. The sub-projects will, of necessity, progress at different speeds. Interim reports can be made by the individual teams involved in the most appropriate fashion.
- b. Regular meetings of the management team will monitor the rate of progress through discussions with individual managers and via the reports.
- c. The inevitable surprises thrown up in the course of the fieldwork will need to be evaluated and alterations in the main lines of enquiry made to accommodate that new data.

#### 4.10 Consolidation and Publication

At certain points the data from the various threads will need to be brought together in order to produce holistic statements of affairs for dissemination. The Somerset Levels Project produced annual reports; this study could produce similar ‘stand-alone’ publications or the reports could form parts of a Baillies Journal.

#### 4.11 Landscape management

As the project progresses data can be fed back in order to give guidance for helping to achieve the best management possible for the area under study. Anthropological study of the project and its role in the local community will, it is hoped, further this aim of total ecological management to the benefit of all parties and the well-being of the resource.

# BENNACHIE BIOCULTURAL STUDY

## SECTION 5 - SUGGESTED FIRST STAGES OF PRACTICAL WORK PROJECT INCEPTION (4.6)

### Stage 1. **Documentary and Cartographic Data (4.6, iii)**

The preliminary desk-based analysis is one area which can be estimated in terms of time and resources. I would suggest the following as realistic times for an initial sweep considering the area of landscape involved.

Historical document study (local)	5 days collating relevant data (see 2.1)
Historical document study (NAS)	5 days viewing the most likely documents and assessing them for future study (see Appendix II)
Cartographic study	5 days in Edinburgh at the NAS (see Appendix I)
Aerial photography	5 days in Edinburgh at the RCAHMS
Collation of data and preliminary analysis	10 days

(Placename study should more properly be considered as better employed in a later analytical stage, though basic understandings would form an inevitable aspect of the historical documentary study noted above and used to suggest further historical and archaeological leads).

This preliminary work could be carried out by Baillie members able to commit time to undertake the tasks. However, the costs involved in the visits to Edinburgh must be considered and some expense payments might be warranted. If individual members are unable to carry out this initial work, it might be necessary to put it out to tender.

**This work would supply the historical data for the core area of Bennachie and also supply a clearer view of the records available for the hinterland. These could be brought into play as the project advanced.**

### Stage 2. **Organisation of community meetings and presentations in order to gauge community appetite and to listen to feedback (4.6, iv)**

Person(s) able to produce a presentation (Powerpoint etc.) outlining the project aims and potential community involvement would be required. Thereafter, to attend the community meetings and workshops.

### Stage 3. **Discussion between partners concerning choice of targets for fieldwork and strategies to be employed (4.6, v)**

I would suggest that an immediate start could be made in some areas, based upon previous work carried out by the Baillies during the programme of surveying the Colony.

1. Further cleaning, recording and consolidation of the rather lovely remains at Hillside. This was one site singled out for further work in the Colony. The clearance could be continued and a management plan drawn up for the future maintenance of the site. Once fully cleaned, the site needs to be accurately recorded by drawn survey and photographs. Elements will inevitably become obscured again and this would be the appropriate time for a precise, large scale survey. This might be a sub-project in which university students may wish to be engaged - perhaps for 'portfolio' work(?) - as well as members of the Baillies or members of the wider community.
2. 'Shovel-pitting' in the vicinity of the ex-'A'-frame - another site pointed-up as one for further work. This exercise is easily organised and might be a good first step towards engaging the local community in some fieldwork. It will also characterise the depth of chronology and further test the hypothesis that this area had been previously occupied before the Colonists.

Others will be dependant upon the desk-based analysis and discussion between the partners.

## BENNACHIE BIOCULTURAL STUDY

### SECTION 6 - POTENTIAL STUDY AREAS UPON BENNACHIE

The following are the sites within the National Forest Estate on Bennachie and recorded within the Forestry Commission's Sites and Monuments Record.

	<b>FC SMR id</b>
<b>Prehistoric</b>	
Tillymuick settlement (SAM)	005
Mither Tap fort (SAM)	009
Woodend of Braco hut circles (SAM)	008; 100
Blairdaff hut circle?	026
Various cairns and cists	002; 003; 004; 006; 007; 011; 092; 109; 117
Afforsk ring cairn	102
Ramstone circular feature	118
<b>'Pictish'</b>	
(Mither Tap	009)
Woodend of Braco Ogham stone	010
<b>Mediaeval</b>	
Mains of Afforsk? (Some of Colony?)	031
<b>Post-mediaeval</b>	
Rigs and field systems	001; 025; 101; 013; 014; 018; 019; 103; 105; 115; 116; 119; 121; 122
How of the Garbet hut	098
<b>Early Modern</b>	
Colony + contemporary farmsteads around the hill	015; 016; 017; 027; 029; 034; 037; 045; 046; 047; 052; 053; 055; 056; 080; 110
Pitgaveny quarry	111
<b>Undated</b>	
Various tracks and hollow-ways	112; 120; 123; 126
Various quarries and pits	020; 022; 023; 030; 032; 035; 036; 038; 048; 050; 051; 064; 079; 081; 099; 106; 114; 124
Various stones	012
Boundary stones	033; 039; 040; 041; 042; 043; 044; 049; 054; 057; 058; 060; 061; 062; 063; 066; 067; 068; 069; 070; 071; 072; 073; 074; 075; 076; 077; 078; 082; 084; 085; 086; 087; 088; 089; 090; 091; 093; 094; 095; 097; 107
Misc.	083; 113; 125

Three sites which would seem to be obvious foci for future study would be: Tillymuick, Woodend of Braco and Birks. The area around the circular feature at Ramstone might also be included in order to ascertain its use and a study of the various quarries around the hill might well suggest technological change through time.

The settlement at Tillymuick appears to have contained dwellings and, presumably, the inhabitants needed to eat. What can be learnt concerning the land-use of the areas surrounding the settlement and how did the inhabitants exist within their immediate and wider ecological surroundings? Such work would draw heavily upon palaeo-environmental sampling which could take the form of pollen analysis, soil and geological sampling and targeted shovel-pitting, all, obviously, outwith the scheduled area and with the last-mentioned as suggested by the former sampling strategies.

Woodend of Braco is another scheduled site which could benefit from a deeper analysis of its surroundings in order to help determine how the inhabitants of the hut circles co-existed with their environment. As well as the scheduled hut circles, Woodend also contains the ring cairn, the (mock?) 'Ogham' cross-stone, an associated cairn and an extensive array of rig and furrow with possible settlement features attached. The Ogham stone may also have supplied the settlement of Afforsk with its name - the field of the cross - and there could well be a connection with the chapel lying to the east at Old Braco. This raises the fascinating prospect of understanding somethings concerning the ritual landscape of the Early Mediaeval period in the area. This is an untouched area of research and long overdue.

This ridge contains settlement evidence ranging from the Bronze Age to pre-'Improvement' times and is a heaven-sent piece of landscape capable of being questioned concerning the social and ecological development of this area through that timespan. (It makes my mouth water just to think about it!).

Birks contains pre-'Improvement' enclosures which are not obviously common in the immediate area. It is hard to envisage these fields as being remote from the dwellings of their users. Roy's map shows a cluster of dwellings in the 1740s and it is likely that they were in the area of those fields. The later 'Improvement'-period farm of Birks appears to have been sited further to the south and survives in a quite parlous state amongst the trees on the other side of the road. The pre-'Improvement' settlement of Birks would deserve work in order to try to recover the sites of the earlier dwellings. These would tell us the nature of the buildings on Bennachie immediately prior to the Colonists' arrival. If we were then fortunate enough to find earlier structures within the Colony settlement area, as suggested by the survey work, we would then be in the position to compare and contrast those sets of dwellings and try to see whether any marked differences in building technique might be suggested.

Obviously, there are many other features in the area which deserve attention but these three have been selected merely to highlight some of the potential. Other important aspects of the local ecology and economy have not started to be looked at yet; for example, the fishings on the Don and the use of timber from the area. Aspects of craft and industrial activity are also awaiting a detailed study of how they have developed through time; for example, quarrying and peat cutting. Other un-guessed at activities also need consideration, such as evidence for charcoal burning and illicit distilling.

# BENNACHIE BIOCULTURAL STUDY

## SECTION 7 - POTENTIAL STUDY AREAS WITHIN THE HINTERLAND OF BENNACHIE (PARISHES WITH RIGHTS OF COMMONTY ON BENNACHIE)

### Prehistoric

Various stone circles  
Various cairns and cists?

### 'Pictish'

Maiden Castle  
Maiden stone + other Pictish stones  
Monymusk + other early Christian sites

### Mediaeval

Fetternear  
Bede House  
Berry Hill  
Various church and chapel sites  
Various lordly residences  
Various fermtouns?

### Post-mediaeval

Various fermtouns  
Various lordly residences

### Early Modern

Various fermtouns  
Various lordly residences

### Undated

Various wells  
Various tracks and hollow-ways  
Various quarries  
Various mill sites

Targets for investigation within the hinterland of Bennachie must await the documentary and cartographic searches necessary to demonstrate the areas of greatest potential. However, some general comments can be made.

Bennachie will have been differentially used through time for a variety of purposes, from royal hunting ground, to a place where the poorer peoples of the parishes might have collected stone, peats and wood. It may have been seen as a dangerous environment outwith the safety of the farmed lands - perhaps as a liminal world between this one and another. Whilst, at other times, parts of it will have been viewed as safe grazing grounds upon which to frolic in the warm sun. In other words, Bennachie will have been many things to many people - itself a stable landmass changing only in the perceptions of different people down through times. But, in those changing perceptions are mirrored the changing lives of the observers. By understanding how those perceptions and the environment have altered, we can judge how the social infrastructure and ecology of the area have themselves changed.

Individual work has already been carried out in the immediate hinterland of Bennachie. The Fetternear excavations are shedding light on the Mediaeval élite religious landscape of the area and various surveys of the some of the castles can give a clue as to the workings of the political élite in the area in the later Mediaeval period. Berry Hill has looked at a lower status farming unit and historical work concerning Monymusk can give us hints of another aspect of early Christian society in the area: one involving monks rather than the ostentatiousness of the Bishops. Religious symbolism of the prehistoric past is made accessible by the stone circles of the area and the Pictish stones draw us forward into the proto-historic period. Once here, it is possible to connect with the high status sites of Mither Tap and Maiden Castle (recently carbon-dated to the 5th-7th centuries for the rampart and post 6th/7th centuries for the wall).

Work in Strathbogie (Shepherd, 2007 and forthcoming) has shown how cartographic study coupled with estate records can indicate differential land-usage and settlement forms at the fermtoun scale in the post-Mediaeval period. Such work can supply targets for further sampling in order to try to push the limits of inference back through time. The aim is to link the varying pieces of evidence available from the different sources and time periods in order to try to create a continuous whole. Work both on Bennachie and in its hinterland are essential to achieve this understanding of the complete landscape and how all parts of it have articulated through time.

## BENNACHIE BIOCULTURAL STUDY

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## BENNACHIE BIOCULTURAL STUDY

### SECTION 9 - APPENDIX I - LIST OF ESTATE PLANS RELATING TO THE BENNACHIE AREA

#### **Chapel of Garioch**

RHP3010/6 Plan of marches between lands of Braco and Deuchries Late 18th cent

RHP41951 Volume of plans (46) of farms and possessions on the estates of Monymusk, Tilliefoure (Tillyfour) and Braco, each with table of contents: (Volume indexed; plans numbered 1- 59, of which nos. 44, 48-59 are missing) 1846-1847

#### **Keig**

RHP260/1 Plan of that part of the lands of Forbes comprehending the parish of Kearn c1771

RHP859 Plan of the lands and policies of Putachie, the property of James, Lord Forbes 1771

RHP3940 Plan of the Common of Bennachie (Bein-na-chie) 1845

RHP3941 Plan of scheme of division of the Commonty of Bennachie, Aberdeenshire 1858

RHP3941 Plan of scheme of division of the Commonty of Bennachie, Aberdeenshire 1858

RHP3942 Plan of scheme of division of the Commonty of Bennachie 1857

RHP5199 Book of 13 plans of the estate of Leslie belonging to John Leith Esq showing the extent of each farm likewise the different quality of each field.1758

RHP5977 Tracing plan (incomplete) of division of [Bennachie Commonty]1861

RHP22584 Photostat copy of volume of plans (30) of farms on the estate of Castle Forbes, the property of Walter, Lord Forbes, with the improvements and alterations since the survey of Walker & Beattie in 1828. [For original, see RHP 24390] 1852

RHP22586 Photostat copy of plan designed for Putachie, one of the seats of Lord Forbes [For original, see RHP 24388]1742

RHP24390 Volume of plans (30) of farms, etc. on the estate of Castle Forbes, the property of Walter, Lord Forbes, with 1852 property of Walter, Lord Forbes, with the improvements and alterations since the survey of Walker & Beattie in 1828, containing plans of Longbog; Broadmire, etc.; Cauldhame, New Keig and crofts; Old Keig; West Cividly; Braehead, East Cividly and crofts; Meiklehaugh and New Burnside; Moonhaugh, Wood Farms, etc.; Pittendreigh Glebe, Wealthyton Crofts and Upper Mill; Shunies and Bridgehall; Home Farm; Quarry Crofts, Quarry Crofts, Quarry Burn, etc.; part of Bennochie plantation, etc.; Upper Glenton; Lower and Easter Glenton; Newton; Craigmeadow and croft; Craigpots and Mains of Tulloch; New Farm and Boginthort; Bankhead (Keelinhead) and Heughhead; Cattie plantation and crofts; Harthill and Gateside; Newbigging; Little Cattie and crofts; Pitoothies. [Original of photocopy listed as RHP 22584]

RHP41923 1. Bound plans and sections of proposed turnpike road from a point on the Kintore and Alford turnpike road at or near the village of Monymusk to the Bridge of Keig at or near Castle Forbes and from thence on the north side of the River Don to a point at or near the north end of Bridge of Alford: 2. Duplicate of no.1 1841

RHP44705 Plan of Braeside and Gartnach (Gartlay) Hill showing part to be added to policy of Castle Forbes 1770

RHP44707 Plan of Laigh Moor of Castle Forbes, showing proposed dykes and ditches. 1832

#### **Monymusk**

RHP41893 Plan of farm of Monymusk and parts adjacent.Oct 1786

RHP41894 Accurate reduced copy of the copy lately made by [John] Ainslie of part of the plan of the estate of Monymusk. 17 Mar 1797

RHP41909 Copy plan of the Red and Black Mosses transferred from general plan of the estate of Monymusk on an enlarged scale, exhibiting the depth of the mosses in different places as bored by John Busby, Mineral Surveyor, in July 1803: [1803 or post] 1803

RHP41910 Plan of marches between Nether-ton of Fetternear and Coullie of Munnymusk: [1809 or post] 1809

RHP41911 March between Monymusk, Fetternear and Kemnay: early 19th c.

RHP41914 Sketch plan of line of march between Castle Forbes and Monymusk in area of Whiteslack Burn. [Early 19th century]

RHP41916 Sketch plan of line of march at Burn of Ton. [early 19th century]

RHP41919 Plans and sections of the Burn of Ton from its junction with the River Don to Glenton with proposed alterations, also part of the River Don with proposed diversion:1846

RHP41923 1. Bound plans and sections of proposed turnpike road from a point on the Kintore and Alford turnpike road at or near the village of Monymusk to the Bridge of Keig at or near Castle Forbes and from thence on the north side of the River Don to a point at or near the north end of Bridge of Alford: 2. Duplicate of no.1 1841

RHP41954 Sketch plan of use of ground at Haddoch (Hadoch): 1737-1738

RHP41963 Sketch plan of Delab (Dalabe) Farm: 1773

RHP41967 Notebook containing field sketches made on various parts of Monymusk Estate showing water courses, etc: 1792

RHP42121 Elevation and section of [a sluice on Monymusk Estate]: [18th century] [18th century]

RHP41919 Plans and sections of the Burn of Ton from its junction with the River Don to Glenton with proposed alterations, also part of the River Don with proposed diversion:1846

RHP41951 Volume of plans (46) of farms and possessions on the estates of Monymusk, Tilliefoure (Tillyfour) and Braco, each with table of contents: (Volume indexed; plans numbered 1- 59, of which nos. 44, 48-59 are missing) 1846-1847

RHP41967 Notebook containing field sketches made on various parts of Monymusk Estate showing water courses, etc:1792

RHP43987 Plan of the parish of Monymusk and parts of adjacent parishes, Aberdeenshire[early 18th century]

RHP45385 Plan of the farms of Enzian (Enzean) and Delab. November 1823

RHP45384 Plan of the Burn of Ton [above Bridge of Ton] 26 January 1792

### **Oyne**

RHP41915 Sketch plan of line of march between lands of Tilliefoure (Tillyfour) and Braco and Common of Bennachie (Bein-na-chie).1846

RHP41965 Sketch plan of Nether Deuchries and Lavenie (Levenie) and estimate of Nether Deuchries as divided into three crofts: Early 19th century

### **Premnay**

RHP5199 Book of 13 plans of the estate of Leslie belonging to John Leith Esq showing the extent of each farm likewise the different quality of each field. 1758

## BENNACHIE BIOCULTURAL STUDY

### SECTION 9 - APPENDIX II - LIST OF DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES RELATING TO THE BENNACHIE AREA HELD BY THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

#### **Bennachie**

Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair	GD33	1382-182
Rights of Commony (pasturage, fuel, fail and divot)	GD33/16	1738-1740
Commony complaint and list of collar days and offering days(?)	GD33/65/113/1	1728-1738
Disputes over loaning and passage to Bennachie	GD124/1/209	1548

#### **Afforsk**

Rentals	GD248/158/4	1728-1779
Barony court book: Monymusk, Pitfichie, Afforsk	GD345/923	1733-1753

#### **Blairdaff**

Titles of Temple land called Diracroft, Coullie + teinds of Monymusk	GD345/169-174	1606-1607
Signature of lands of Blairdaff	SIG1/50/12	1774

#### **Balquhain**

General assembly papers	CH/1//31	1711
Legal disputes between factor and creditors	CS177/376	1762
ditto	CS177/408	1777
ditto	CS177/516	1763
Disputes between tenants and others	CS271/43310	1762
Bond having reference to lands of Balquhain	GD33/34/23	1678
Records of Messrs Burnett and Reid, Aberdeen	GD57	1640-1880
Contract concerning lands in Logetdurno	GD108/26	1599
Description of certain marches	GD124/1/208	1547
Retour	GD124/1/210	1548
Charter for lands of Wrayis in Balquhain	GD124/1/235	1575
Charter for lands in of Balquhain in barony of Kildrummy(?)	GD124/1/312	1626
Teind sheaves in Balquhain in Kildrummy(?)	GD124/8/24	1620
Value of lands of Knockenbaird(?)	GD124/17/163	1735
Selected papers	GD248/13/4	1560-1569
Misc. papers	GD248/444/11	17th c.-19th c.
Crown charter for Balquhain	GD334/3	1772
Instrument of sasine for above	GD334/4	1772

#### **Dorlethen**

Various dispositions and assignations	GD52/617-618	1718
Letter of horning	GD52/648	1724

#### **Keig Parish**

Records of Alford kirk sessions	CH2/9	1717-1968
Keig kirk sessions	CH2/199	1740-1922
Tullynessle and Forbes kirk sessions	CH2/358	1759-1866
John Gordon v Gordon of Torpersie creditors	CS231/G/1/18	1716
Sequestered estate of Kincairgie and Keig with rents	CS313/1045	1786
Sasine of various lands	GD42/166	1610
Contract for lands	GD42/174	1610
Action against said lands	GD42/210	1615
Discharge over lands	GD42/B/49	1635
Letters of Horning	GD42/E/43-43a	1613
Aberdeenshire lands and superiorities	GD44/30/2/1	1612-1741
Finzeauch lands	GD44/30/25	1724-1798
Keig and Monymusk lands - writs etc.	GD44/31/1/1	1554-1718
Keig and Monymusk - land purchases	GD44/31/1/2	1722-1727

Keig and Monymusk - writs of lands	GD44/31/1/3	1743-1783
Keig and Monymusk - charter of resignation	GD44/31/2/1	1783-1787
Keig and Monymusk - charters	GD44/31/2/2	1789-1795
Keig and Monymusk - sale of superiority and division of bishops rents	GD44/31/2/3	1797-1847
Writs of lands of Putachie and Pittendreich	GD44/31/8	1713-1815
Cartulary of lands of Marquess of Huntly	GD44/51/748/5	1706
Legal dispute	GD52/2	1628
Poll tax returns	GD52/7	1698
Poll tax returns	GD/52/8	1699
Land tax redemption	GD52/18	1799
Teind victual and silver for Putachie	GD52/151	1625
Stipend agreement	GD52/152	1626
Grassum on behalf of heritors of Keig Parish	GD52/153	1628
Writ for refusal to pay teinds of Glenton	GD52/154	1632
Oyne surrenders teinds of Glenton to Keig	GD52/155	1632
Teind case against laird of Monymusk	GD52/157	1649
Payment of stent for manse	GD52/160	1669
Vicarage teinds	GD52/161	1673
Division fo church between heritors	GD52/162	1674
Price of manse	GD52/167	1683
Division of church amongst heritors	GD52/175	1740
Payment on behalf of the poor	GD52/186	1765
Building of new manse	GD52/189	1770-1776
Valuation of teinds	GD52/192	1776
Teinds of Putachie and Pittendreich	GD52/195	1781
Stipend of Keig	GD52/197	1783
Parish papers	GD52/202	1792-1913
Stipend	GD52/199	1785
Tacks of teinds	GD52/253	1616
Tacks of teinds	GD52/257	1627
Rental, taxation and stipend	GD52/282	1637
Rental of Keig and Monymusk	GD52/283	17th c.
Minutes of Baron court	GD52/323	1728
Teinds	GD52/329	1688
Stent of school victual	GD52/330	17th c.
Book containing ?	GD52/387	1552-1678
Charter of croft called Deraty Croft of Denbrae	GD52/410	1555
Charter of lands of Putachie and Auchterkegge	GD52/434	1559
Similar charter for same lands	GD52/435	17th c.
Infetment for lands of Keig and Putachie	GD52/443	1575
Spurious charter of marches	GD52/453	1602
Assignment of teinds of various lands	GD52/465	1616
Conditions required of feuars	GD52/468	1616
Lands of Putachie and Keig + Bishop's Moss rights	GD52/471	1621
Marches of Putachie and Keig	GD52/472	1621
Witnesses to marches of Glenton	GD52/472	1624
Bishop of Sanctandrous moss on south side of Don	GD52/481	1626
Action against Gordons by Forbes concerning teinds	GD52/482	1627
Agreement over moss between Putachie and Tulloch	GD52/490	1636
Disposition of lands in Keig	GD52/509	1657
Inventory of writs concerning lands in Keig	GD52/546	1676
Tolerance in respect of peats at Keig	GD52/550	1678
Renunciation of wadset over lands in Keig	GD52/582	1705
Tolerance to cut peats on Bendhopehae	GD52/587	1710
Sasine in favour of lands in Keig	GD52/647	1724
Cevidly and salmon fishings on Don	GD52/679	1744
Sasine of various lands and teinds	GD52/697	1750
Lands and teinds in Keig and Forbes	GD52/801	1790
Price of lands in Keig	GD52/803	1790
Title deeds of lands in Keig, 1724-1750	GD52/804	1790
Lands teinds and peat cutting in Keig	GD52/821	1793
Valuation of teinds in Keig	GD52/837	1798

Land tax redemption in Keig and East Blairdaff	GD52/840	1799
Land searches in Keig, 1786-1826	GD52/894	ND
Sequestration of corn in Glenton	GD52/1115	1622
Arrestment of corn on lands in Keig	GD52/1129	1628
Arrestment for peats cut on Bishops Moss	GD52/1141	1636
Titles to Mekill Abercattie	GD200/12	1576-1607
Fingzeauche, Monymusk parish, Lordship of Keig	GD200/14	1590-1607
<b>Leslie Parish</b>		
Titles and other legal documents??	B54/10/33	1600-1763?
Lands in Leslie	GD1/25/12	1575/1576
Temple-lands of Leslie	GD1/25/41	1615
Complaint over forest of Bennachie	GD33/65/113/1	1738
Lands in parish of Tullynessle	GD42/99	1589
Pitcaple and Common pasture of Banochie	GD108/28	160
Pitcaple and pasture and peats on Bannachie	GD108/40	1657
Teinds in Pitcaple	GD108/41	1659
Lands around Pitcaple	GD108/42	1669
Lands in Pitcaple, Logiedurno parish	GD108/48	1683
Bond over crofts and teinds etc. in Pitcaple	GD108/52	1694
Tacks and related papers?	GD112/10/1/1	1551-1629?
Salmon fishings in thanage of Kintore	GD124/1/266	1591/1592
Wraes, Inch	GD124/1/269	1593
Oyne lands	GD124/1/277	1601
Ryehill, lands in Oyne	GD124/1/328	1630
Tack of lands in Tulliefour, Oyne	GD124/8/18	1618
Crown charter for barony of Balquhain	GD334/3	1772
Charter of sale of prebendary of Oyne	RH6/2396	1576
<b>Monymusk</b>		
Numeration of people in Monymusk	GD345/1018	1766-1775
<b>Oyne</b>		
General assembly papers	CH1/2/28/1	1709
Oyne kirk sessions	CH2/293	1663-1955
Tenants of Oyne v. Pittodrie	CS228/k/1/7	1697
Lands of Harlaw in Oyne and Chapel of Garioch	GD33/59/31	1655
Canonry and prebendary of Oyne	GD124/9/8	1520
Lands of Harthill, Pitmeddan etc	GD185/1/3	1484
Abercromby writs?	GD185/6/4	c.1334
Bogforth and tenement in Oyne	GD255/3/13/4	1612
Shadow half of Auquhorsk in Logyburno and Oyne	GD345/336	1643
<b>Tilliefour</b>		
Rental of lands of Monymusk and Tilliefour	GD1/32/20	1753-1768
Charter and reference to peats	GD42/59	1565
Rent of lands in Tilliefour	GD296/28	1681
Debts of Robert Grant of Tilliefour	GD345/852	1728-1756
Papers concerning the wood of Tilliefour	GD345/1043	1752-1759
<b>Fetternear</b>		
Charter concerning lands of Fetternear	GD26/3/1116	1535
Misc accounts	GD44/51/498/29	1713
<b>Premnay</b>		
Plough lands near Lickleyhead	GD1/25/11	1575
Assignment of teind sheaves	GD1/25/19	1588/1589
Draining Moss of Gerrack(?)	GD42/G/16	1742
Disposition of lands and teinds	GD52/806	1791
Lands and teinds of Newton of Premnay	GD52/809	1792

Charter referring to the above 2 documents	GD52/810	1792
Tack for Drumgowan(?)	GD52/1576	1618
Charter for lands in Premnay	GD124/1/387	1707
Values of lands	GD124/1/401	1735-1739
Rental of lands in Premnay	GD124/17/180	1726
Rental of lands in Premnay	GD124/17/183	1735-1736
Stipends and teinds	GD150/1864	1758
Decrees agains flax dresser at Bonnington Mills	GD174/2002	1733-1742
Instrument of Sasine forl lands in Premnay	RH8/1407	1701
Signature of Newtown of Premnay grant	SIG1/70/5	1746
Signature of Newtown of Premnay grant	SIG1/72/32	1766
<b>Garioch</b>		
Church papers	CH1/2/2/3	1694-1699
General assembly papers	CH1/2/27/3	1708
ditto	CH1/2/31	1711
ditto	CH1/2/34/2	1714
ditto	CH1/2/69	1734
ditto	CH1/2/83	1744
ditto	CH1/2/102	1761
ditto	CH1/2/110	1768
ditto	CH1/2/117	1775
Register of Garioch and Alford	CH2/8/21	1705-1708
Records of Presbytery of Garioch	CH2/166	1647-1927
Garioch kirk session	CH2/527	1714-1901
Valuations of lands in Garioch	CH2/1109/22	1644-1691
Heritors of Rayne v. Presbytery of Garioch	CS271/58244	1735
Rentals of Mar lands	E646/2	1716-1721
Ancient Order of Foresters court at Garioch	FS4/823	nd
Lands of Braco	GD33/17/1	1491
Braco charter	GD33/34/1	1460
Sale of lands in Garioch	GD33/34/14	1538
Lands of Duchna(?) in Garioch	GD33/59/16	1535
Harlaw and lands in Garioch and Oyne	GD33/59/31	1655
Papers concerning stipends	GD44/37/2	1688-1843
Teinds of church of Forbes	GD52/163	1676
Charter concerning lands in Forbes	GD52/409	1454
Resignation of above lands	GD52/413	1466
Draft charter for lands in Forbes?	GD52/543	1675
Disposition of lands around the Don and fishings	GD52/569	1695
As above	GD52/590	1712
As above	GD52/672	1737
As above	GD52/798	1789
Help in recovering Mar in return for Auchindoir	GD52/1078	1435
Sasine of various lands in Garioch referring to earlier precepts of 1508, 1541, 1596 etc	GD52/1645	1610
Marriage contract with land details	GD108/46	1681
Acts of court of Barony of Pitcaple	GD108/59	1737
Crown charter of lands in Garioch	GD124/1/42	1677
Charter of lands in Garioch	GD124/1/105	1306x1329
Charter for homage and service of lands of Garioch	GD124/1/108	1357/1358
Charter for lands in Garioch	GD124/1/110	c.1358
Charter of lands in Garioch	GD124/1/135	1428
Indenture for lands in Garioch	GD124/1/137	1435
Brieve concerning lands in Garioch	GD124/1/141	1438
Retour of lands in Garioch	GD124/1/149	1441
Copy of charters and instrument	GD124/1/154	1443-1527
Instrument of renunciation for lands in Garioch	GD124/1/169	1505
Charter of lands in Garioch	GD124/1/170	1507
Crown charter of lands in Garioch	GD124/1/177	1508
Charter of lands	GD124/1/186	1510
Instrument of resignation of lands	GD124/1/203	1539

Charter of Lands in Garioch	GD124/1/227	1565
Sasine for lands in Garioch	GD124/1/229	1565
Letters telling tenants to pay Earl of Mar	GD124/1/230	1565
Underling above	GD124/1/231	1566
Retour for lands in Garioch	GD124/1/234	1572/1573
Sasine for lands inc. forests of Banachie	GD124/1/275	1596/1597
Charter of lands in Garioch	GD124/1/286	1610
Charter of lands in Garioch	GD124/1/329	1630
Instrument of sasine for lands inc. Bennechie	GD124/1/335	1633
Decree of reduction against vassals in Garioch	GD124/1/340	1635
Charter of lands in Balquhain and others	GD124/1/343	1635
Further decree to same lands	GD124/1/347	1636
Ratification of same	GD124/1/348	1636
Decree against vassals of Garioch	GD124/1/349	1637
Contract for sums owed in Garioch	GD124/3/7	1535
General retour of Earl of Mar and Garioch	GD124/3/8	1565
Marriage contract inc. lands in Garioch	GD124/3/45	1641
History of Mar and Garioch	GD124/5/7	c.1600
Right to lands of Mar and Garioch	GD124/5/15	1679
Agreement of support concerning lands in Garioch	GD124/7/3	1400
Further agreement	GD124/7/7	1435
Presentment to Chapel of Garioch	GD124/9/2	1445
Further presentation	GD124/9/3	1476
Further presentation	GD124/9/5	1495
Priests and papists in Garioch	GD124/9/78	1713
Vassals against Earl of Mar	GD124/10/348	1628
Bond of relief for lands in Garioch	GD124/17/76	1697
Valuation of feu and other duties in Garioch	GD124/17/79	1699
Commission to be Baillie in Garioch	GD124/17/108	1713
Statement of account	GD124/17/109	1713
List of tenants and feuars	GD124/17/120	1724
Accounts	GD124/17/134	1726
Accounts	GD124/17/142	1728
Accounts	GD124/17/145	1729
Accounts	GD124/17/153	1730
Accounts	GD124/17/156	1731
Accounts	GD124/17/158	1734
Rental of Mar and Garioch	GD124/17/168	Late 16th c.
Rentals	GD124/17/175	1714
Feu duties	GD124/17/178	1725
Rentals	GD124/17/182	1732
Rents	GD124/17/184	1735
Writs and legal papers	GD160/176	1546-1673
Instrument of Sasine for lands in Garioch	GD185/1/3	1484
Charter of Garioch lands	GD185/1/9	1527
Abercromby writs	GD185/6/4	c.1334
Garioch presbytery	HH37/27	?
Presbyterian congregations?	HH37/104	?



## BENNACHIE BIOCULTURAL STUDY

SECTION 11 - APPENDIX III - TABLE SUMMARISING SKILLS LEVELS REQUIRED FOR SAMPLING AND SURVEY TECHNIQUES

Technique	Highly skilled 'Professional'	Can be learnt High level of motivation and dedication required	Readily learnt 'Group' activity	Turn up on the day
<b>Documentary and Cartographic Data:</b>				
Historical document study	X			
Cartographic study	X			
Placename studies	X			
Aerial photography	X			
<b>Sampling and Survey Techniques:</b>				
Fieldwalking			X	
Potential Land-use survey of soils and geology			X	
Geophysics	X			
Soil chemistry analysis	X			
Pollen sampling and analysis		X		X
Bulk sampling		X		X
Bulk sampling analysis				
Shovel pitting			X	
Test pitting			X	
Excavation			X	
GIS planning		X		