

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

**Survey of Relict Burnside Trees and Woodlands
in the Forest of Birse Community**

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Introduction

This survey was commissioned by Birse Community Trust to update and expand on an earlier scoping survey by Scottish Native Woods in 1999.

Method

Field work was carried out between 21 and 25 May 2001. All tributary burns west of and including the Burn of Allachaller on the north side and all burns west of and including the upper Glaspits Burn on the south side of the Commonty were surveyed. This involved walking each of 18 tributary burns of the Water of Feugh as well as the Water of Feugh itself, from the weir near Ballochchan to the source below Mudlee Bracks.

The following information was collected for each burn:

- all solitary trees and shrubs, scattered trees and wooded areas were identified and mapped at a scale of 1 : 10,000.
- at each site brief notes were recorded on the tree and shrub species, the woodland structure, including health and condition, and the extent of any regeneration.
- any damage to trees by muirburn or by browsing animals were also noted.
- photographs were taken of examples of the main woodland areas.

Results

The results are presented in a set of 6 maps with associated target notes describing the trees and woodland on each of the burns. Area measurements of the hatched areas are given for each burn. However, these area assessments (totalling 19.7 ha) include both woodland and scattered trees and will be an overestimate of the actual woodland canopy.

The conclusions to this survey indicate that the woodland and scattered trees along many of the burns are remnants of a more extensive riparian woodland which is now largely restricted to the steeper burn-sides, gorges and gullies within the Commonty. There has been no expansion of the woodland in recent years and, although some regeneration has developed within the confines of the floodplain this has contributed to little more than the replacement of losses elsewhere. Most successful regeneration has occurred in the wooded steep-sided or gorge sections of some of the burns but there was no sign of significant regeneration beyond these less accessible areas. Several burns are in a moribund condition with few young trees, no regeneration, a declining canopy and patches of eroded banks. The shrinkage and gradual fragmentation of tree cover along many burn-sides has probably been occurring over many decades. Some burns, including the Water of Feugh, contain little more than a few scattered trees but old stumps and the presence of relict woodland plants indicate a greater area of woodland in the not too distant past. Those woodlands which are in better condition, such as the Burn of Corn, Burn of Aulmad, Rough Burn and Dry Burn, are probably holding their own because the richness and diversity of their present structure helps to minimise damage. The principal factors which are contributing to the decline and deterioration of these riparian sites and the prevention

of any expansion are overgrazing and muirburn within close proximity to the woodlands. Some localised felling of individual seed trees may also be preventing improvements to the woodland condition.

Guidance on muirburning practices in relation to trees and woodlands is contained in two recent publications (Muirburn Code, Scottish Executive, 2001). Woodland, woodland edges and scrub are specifically mentioned in the text as areas where burning should be avoided. The Code goes on to state that “moorland fires should not be allowed to spread into established stands of mature trees, even when sparsely stocked, or into naturally regenerating areas of native trees and shrubs”. It also asks that advice be sought “from Scottish Natural Heritage before carrying out muirburn near to any area of native oak, tree birches, aspen, Scots pine, willow or juniper”. All of these species and areas of regeneration are found in the burnside woodlands in the Forest of Birse Commonty. Incidences were found during this survey of muirburn both past and recent that has damaged burnside trees and regeneration in the Commonty (see details in site survey reports below).

The distribution of woodland indicator plants in the vicinity of nearly all the unwooded bankside areas with suitable soils up to about 550 meters altitude is clear evidence that natural woodland was more widespread in the Commonty during recent times. The composition of the woodland relicts in the riparian areas is in fact more diverse than elsewhere in the Forest of Birse. The Burn of Corn, for example, contains at least 12 native tree and shrub species as well as a wide range of vascular plants, bryophytes, ferns and lichens. There is an opportunity to link the restoration of the burnside woodlands with the already expanding native pinewoods in the Forest of Birse. These Caledonian pinewoods are of national significance and the nature and character of the riparian broadleaved relicts would add considerable biodiversity value to this important resource.

References

The Scottish Executive (2001) The Muirburn Code. The Scottish Executive, Edinburgh.

The Scottish Executive (2001) Prescribed burning on Moorland: Supplement to the Muirburn Code: A Guide to Best Practice. The Scottish Executive, Edinburgh.

Tree and shrub species

The following tree and shrub species were recorded on the tributary burns of the Forest of Birse Commonty:

Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>
Birch, Downy	<i>Betula pubescens</i>
Broom	<i>Sarothamnus scoparius</i>
Cherry, Bird	<i>Prunus padus</i>
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i> ssp. <i>communis</i>
Larch	<i>Larix</i> spp.
Pine, Scots	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Rose, Dog	<i>Rosa canina</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Willow, Goat	<i>Salix caprea</i>
Willow, Grey	<i>Salix cinerea</i>

Key to Maps 1 - 6

All scattered trees and wooded areas are hatched and have been allocated one or more target note numbers. These numbers, 1 - 93, refer to the target notes in the following pages.

Solitary trees and shrubs, which can include sapling, immature tree or mature tree, have been labeled as follows:

B = birch; Dr = Dog rose; Hz = Hazel; H = Holly; J = Juniper; P = Scots pine; W = Willow.

Forest of Birse Commonty
Target Notes for Maps 1 - 6

MAP 1

Glaspits Burn (0.2 ha)

There are only a few scattered clumps of trees in the upper section of this burn. The solitary medium sized Scots pine on the west slope above the burn is also noted in a previous report. There is an old dead pine stem just below. Remnants of woodland vascular plants occur along the banks of the burn. The trees along this burn are in severe decline. There are pronounced peat hags, some eroded gullies and old muirburn scars immediately above the source of the burn.

1. 2 small holly, 4 medium age rowan and 5 young rowan; rowan seedlings in *Calluna* heath; small area of eroded bank.
2. 3 mature and 2 immature rowan; rowan seedlings in *Calluna* heath.
3. 2 old birch (1 has fallen across burn) and 2 rowan saplings.
4. Open clump of 1 old and leaning rowan, 5 immature/sapling rowan, 1 dog rose and several rowan seedlings on steep bank above burn.

Dry Burn (1.3 ha)

A seasonal burn with no water in upper and lower parts but with clear flowing pools under the canopy of the main wooded section. This latter section possesses a good canopy and a varied structure and there have been small amounts of birch regeneration in the past 15 years or so. The lower, shallow gully area has suffered from a recent fire and bracken may be spreading as a result. The upper section of the wood has only scattered trees and is declining in condition.

5. 12 small holly scattered around burn; all have dead tops (killed by past fire) and dense regrowth from base of stem but browsing is preventing development of leaders; 1 dead holly without regrowth; 1 old and grazed rowan sapling, 1 dog rose and a few patches of dense gorse.
6. 16 small holly with dead tops and regrowth at base, 1 dog rose and some sparse gorse and bracken.
7. 9 small holly with dead stems and regrowth at base, several old and grazed rowan seedlings and an old, partly dead rowan with new shoots 1 meter above ground level.
8. The main section of woodland possesses a dense canopy and a rich and varied ground flora within gullies and stream sides. The main tree species is downy birch with rowan, several holly, one multi-stemmed hazel growing from an old stump and some willow bushes. The birch includes some large trees (30-35 cm. dbh), a few clumps of immature birch, more rarely, saplings and some fallen and dead birch and rowan. 4 birch had been felled and the timber removed some 5-10 years ago. Birch and rowan seedlings common on adjacent heath. Several holly at edge of wood had dead stems and browsed basal regrowth. Muirburn along west edge of wood. The upper section thins out to a more open gully with patchy birch and rowan, no regeneration and several areas of erosion.

Holland Burn (0.2 ha)

A short burn with scattered trees and very sparse woodland patches. This area is deteriorating in condition. There is a large Scots pine (> 70 cm. dbh) in a sheltered hollow to the west of the burn.

9. Dense shrubby area of willow bushes (*Salix cinerea*), 7 immature birch, 7 immature rowan, 1 small holly, dog rose and a sapling rowan in a steep sided gully. Primroses common on the grassy banks. Occasional gorse bush. Most seedlings are browsed.
10. Large, old downy birch (> 45 cm. dbh) with 3 young holly and 1 young birch.

Badenhall Burn (1.3 ha)

The sparse woodland along this burn is in poor condition; open canopy, limited regeneration and several dead and dying trees. Erosion is present in the upper reaches. Old muirburn and burnt bracken to within 2 meters of east bank at some places. Very limited *Calluna* regeneration.

11. A steep sided section with willow bushes, 10 immature rowan, 2 mature multi-stemmed rowan, 3 sapling rowan and 3 medium sized willow (*Salix caprea*); some gorse and broom.
12. Meandering bends and wide grassy banks with very scattered trees. 1 multi-stemmed holly, 2 rowan and 3 willow bushes.
13. Small group of birch and rowan with several willow bushes; 1 small holly with dead stem and regrowth at base. Erosion on west bank.
14. Patchy line of about 14 immature, mostly multi-stemmed, rowan, 1 willow bush and several rowan saplings; a few rowan seedlings and 1 holly seedling. At waterfall there is a large willow (poss. *Salix cinerea*) not yet in leaf, with 3 stems (18-35 cm. dbh).
15. Patchy groups of trees and bushes along burn-sides. Includes willow, multi-stemmed rowan (immature and old) and holly. (about 10 trees + willow bushes). A few saplings and seedlings of rowan, holly and willow.
16. Large interesting old rowan which has split into two and re-rooted at both ends with several stems. Also 1 small and browsed holly, 1 medium sized rowan and a holly sapling; a few rowan seedlings and 1 holly seedling.

MAP 2

Rough Burn (1.6 ha)

The gorge section of this burn contains a diverse range of tree species and a varied structure with a rich ground flora, ferns, bryophytes and a few tall herbs. Elsewhere the canopy and composition is sparse, saplings are rare and most seedlings are browsed.

17. 5 immature multi-stemmed rowan.
18. Gorge and steep sided gully area with waterfalls and a diverse range of tree species. Varied structure and canopy of mature, immature, saplings and seedlings. Mainly birch and rowan with willow (*Salix cinerea* and *S. caprea*), some Scots pine (immature and sapling), 3 old dead pine stems in burn, some aspen, 1 hazel with several young stems, and a few juniper bushes, holly, dog

rose and broom. 1 old larch with a broken-off trunk, but retaining a living branch, next to waterfall at NO 5439 8948.

19. Small waterfall with several rowan, including 2 medium sized trees and saplings. All less than 3 meters in height.

Badlean Burn (0.5 ha)

Steep sided burn with moderately rich woodland flora, moss covered rocks and varied tree species in the core area. Abundant primroses on the grassy banks of the lower reaches. Rabbits are common here. A few small landslips and old muirburn within 1 meter of the burn on the upper reaches. On the burnt area to the west the *Vaccinium* has regenerated but the *Calluna* has not returned. The woodland here is gradually shrinking to the core area in the gully.

20. Moderate canopy of mainly rowan, plus some birch, willow and a few Scots pine. Includes 1 medium sized pine (45 cm. dbh), several large old rowan (35 - 45 cm. dbh), 1 old birch stump with some regrowth at the base and a few dead stems. Immature trees and some saplings are present and many of the rowan are multi-stemmed, including one fallen across the burn.
21. Small bushy holly and 4 immature multi-stemmed rowans; occasional rowan seedlings.
22. Large multi-stemmed rowan and 2 immature rowan with occasional seedlings in *Calluna* heath.

Burn of Kalfrush (0.1)

No woodland here, merely a few scattered trees and bushes.

23. 4 immature rowan, 1 willow bush and several dead tree stumps.

MAP 3

Langderick Burn (1.1)

The central part of the burn has a good canopy of trees within grassy glades and *Vaccinium-Calluna* hummocks. Elsewhere the trees are scattered or linear. Some sheep are present here. Old muirburn with *Vaccinium* regrowth on the north side. There is a late snow patch at NO 533883 which has flattened the heather. Across the upper reaches of the burn the blanket bog and deep peat have been extensively burnt in the past. *Calluna* and Sphagnum have been killed and there are now deep rifts in the hags - eroding silt and peat is entering the burn. This woodland is shrinking to the central core area.

24. 2 small bushy holly and a dog rose.
25. Group of 3 immature rowan, several willow bushes (*Salix cinerea*), 1 small sapling holly and some rowan saplings on banks of the burn.
26. Scattered rowan, birch and willow. Includes old open grown willow (*Salix caprea*), 3 immature birch, sapling rowan and 1 bushy willow (*Salix cinerea*).
27. Sparse woodland with a dense core area. Includes several mature birch and rowan as well as immature trees, 1 small bushy holly and occasional birch and rowan seedlings. A few fallen-over or dead trees, including the remains of a very large birch with a young birch and rowan growing out of the trunk.

28. 5 immature and sapling rowan around scree slope in gully, by waterfall; occasional seedlings.
29. 3 rowan saplings and 2 large seedlings on rock face above burn.

Water of Feugh (The Weir to Mid Burn) (0.4 ha)

This is the largest of the burns on the Commonty at 2-3 meters wide. A very sparsely wooded section with solitary trees and a few small clumps of trees, including the only group of alders in the upper tributary burns. Several sheep here. Old muirburn to within 6 meters of east bank of burn. The woodland on the Feugh has probably been declining for many decades and shows no sign of regenerating at the present time.

30. 1 large old rowan on east bank and a sapling rowan on west bank; latter been brashed by deer.
31. 1 immature rowan, 1 sapling rowan and 1 small immature holly.
32. 3 medium sized birch, 1 immature rowan, 3 sapling rowans and 3 willow bushes (*Salix cinerea*) on both banks of the burn.
33. 1 medium sized willow and 4 immature willow (*Salix caprea*), 4 immature birch and 2 sapling birch on east bank among *Calluna* heath.
34. 1 medium sized, 1 immature and 2 sapling rowan.
35. Small group of medium sized alder (multi-stemmed) and 1 immature alder - no sign of dieback. Several willow bushes (*Salix cinerea*), rowan saplings and 3 medium sized mature birch on small but steep and flushed east bank of burn.
36. 1 small rowan and 1 small holly on east bank of burn.
37. Small patch of woodland, including some moderately good canopy. Mainly birch (mature, immature and sapling) with some rowan, willow and dog rose. Seedlings common on steep heathery banks.
38. 3 immature rowan on west bank.

MAP 4

Water of Feugh (Mid Burn to source) (0.3 ha)

The rest of the Water of Feugh is equally sparse of woodland cover. There is no woodland along the Burn of Keirn, Mid Burn or Wester Burn although there is an occasional tree and some dead remains. Several sheep here. Old muirburn on west bank to within 2 meters of burn. Again, the remaining sections of tree cover on the Feugh are in decline.

39. Clump of 6 medium age birch, 1 medium age willow (*Salix caprea*), 1 birch and 1 rowan sapling on east bank; grazed rowan seedlings; small areas of erosion.
40. 3 medium age birch, 1 immature birch, 2 immature rowan, 2 willow bushes and 2 rowan and birch saplings. Also 1 fallen mature birch and 1 dying rowan with a single live branch.
41. Large old rowan (> 50 cm. dbh) with several dead upper branches on grassy east bank. Young holly, part burnt but with regrowth from base, on west bank. Also 4 rowan saplings and scattered rowan seedlings.
42. Rowans around waterfall near head of burn. 1 mature tree with broken-off trunk, perched on rock, 3 immature trees and 4 rowan saplings.

Burns of Allalees (0.1 ha)

Steep and rocky burns with a few scattered trees on rocks and scree; no woodland. The area between the burns has been severely burnt in the past, including to the edge of the burn and there are now many exposed rocks and sparse ground vegetation. The woodland remnants and ground vegetation in this area are severely damaged

43. Clump of willow bushes (*Salix cinerea*) in steep sided gully.
44. 6 immature and sapling rowan and 1 sapling birch plus occasional seedlings in 2 clumps within gully of burn.
45. 2 immature multi-stemmed rowan and 1 sapling birch; occasional seedlings.

Burn of Cammie (0.5 ha)

The only significant area of woodland in the upper catchment of the Feugh occurs on this tributary. There are no trees along the fast flowing rocky Burn of Backcammie and the Burn of Tarsan flows through deep peat and blanket bog. The tree cover is shrinking back to the core area of woodland.

46. 3 large rowan (> 35 cm dbh), 2 of which have fallen over; 2 immature multi-stemmed rowan and 4 sapling rowan. A mainly heathy ground flora.
47. A good canopy of large rowan and birch; several leaning trees and some dead stems in the burn. Mature, immature and sapling trees are present; seedlings also common. Some moderate sized aspen with several younger clones are present and there is 1 small bushy holly. The best diversity occurs where the burn has steep, rocky sides. Here there is a rich bryophyte flora with ferns and moss covered boulders. 4 dead red deer in and around the burn.
48. Grove of rowan in steep section of burn. Includes 2 old rowans, 10 immature rowan, all multi-stemmed, and 8 sapling rowan. Seedlings common along banks, rock faces and in *Calluna*. Some woodland ground flora.
49. Scattered rowan; 2 saplings and 3 immature, multi-stemmed trees plus seedlings on rock ledges, banks and on heath.

MAP 5

Burn of Allanstank

A very sparsely wooded burn with scattered trees surviving in the gully section but absent from the more open lower reaches. The tree cover here is in severe decline.

50. 3 medium sized rowan and 2 sapling rowan on rocks and on *Vaccinium* banks of burn.
51. 3 medium sized rowan, 1 sapling rowan, 1 small immature holly and 1 browsed sapling holly.
52. 1 medium sized holly with berries, 2 immature holly and 1 small bushy sapling holly.

Burn of Aulmad (2.6 ha)

Sparsely wooded lower reaches but a good canopy of trees where the burn changes to a steep sided and deeply incised canyon. However, there are extensive tongues of old and more recent (3-5 years) muirburn leading down into the canyon and to within 2

meters of the trees in some places. The middle section of woodland is in good condition, although threatened by muirburn, but tree cover in the upper and lower sections is declining.

53. Clumps of shrubby willow (*Salix cinerea*) with immature and sapling rowan and a few sapling birch; some gorse and broom. Seedlings of rowan and birch common; most grazed.
54. 1 medium sized (damaged) rowan, 1 immature rowan, 2 willow bushes (*Salix cinerea*) and 1 gorse bush.
55. 1 immature rowan plus a sapling rowan, birch and willow.
56. 6 rowan saplings and scattered seedlings.
57. 4 medium sized rowan, 3 medium sized birch and 1 immature birch.
58. Scattered trees (rowan and birch) at the lower end of the steep section but in the canyon there is a good canopy of mixed ages either side of tumbling waterfalls and moss covered rocks. Mainly birch and rowan but also willow (*Salix cinerea* and *S. caprea*), occasional holly, aspen and some young bird cherry. Several old and immature Scots pine on crags in the upper part of the gorge. Rowan seedlings common in unburnt heather and occasional in old muirburn areas above wood and on sides of canyon.
59. Upper section of canyon area is sparsely wooded with birch, rowan, willow, Scots pine, aspen and juniper scattered over slopes, fewer trees at burn. Various ages from sapling to mature. The steep slopes also contain scree areas and there are rocky crags and eroded slopes. Seedlings of birch, willow and rowan are common in *Calluna* heath; most are grazed.
60. Scattered medium sized rowan and birch (about 15 trees) with occasional saplings and seedlings on scree and *Calluna* slopes above burn; 2 recently fallen birch and rowan.
61. 3 immature rowan and 3 sapling rowan on rock scree bank and at burn.
62. 2 large rowan growing out of banks of burn; 1 sapling rowan.

Burn of Corn (4 ha)

The burn sides, adjacent gullies and former watercourses contain the most extensive and the richest woodland within the Community. The area is structurally diverse with a range of tree species and ages, a good understorey of willow and a rich ground flora (abundant primroses in the lower reaches). The woodland is largely constrained between the steep banks at the edge of the floodplain but occasionally encroaches onto the moorland above. There has been recent muirburn to within 1 meter of the woodland edge at some locations along the south side. Most of the woodland is in good condition but the upper section, where tree cover is more open, is deteriorating.

63. Willow bushes (*Salix cinerea*), scattered young birch and rowan and some gorse along the banks of the burn.
64. Good canopy of mature birch, willow and occasional rowan and dog rose. Young trees and saplings also present.
65. Patchy canopy of young and sapling birch and willow bushes with a few immature rowan, Scots pine and some gorse.
66. Stand of young Scots pine (< 7 - 9 cm. dbh) and 1 larger immature pine (16 cm. dbh); several of the pine saplings have been felled.
67. 2 immature rowan and scattered willow (*Salix cinerea*) along burn.

68. Moderately continuous canopy of trees on both banks. Mainly birch, rowan and willow (*Salix cinerea*) with occasional holly (including seedlings and immature bushes). Juniper and hazel occur rarely. There are several stands of aspen, including some tall, straight stemmed trees (25 - 45 cm. dbh). Large multi-branched birch and rowan (> 50 cm. dbh) plus tall straight trees (mature and immature) are common. There is a healthy component of dead wood, fallen trees and branches and debris dams. One dead tree trunk (possibly pine) in the burn had been felled. Seedlings and saplings of all species occur in the steeper areas and there are rich bryophyte and fern communities as well as some tall herbs among the shady flushed banks and gorge areas. Birch and rowan seedlings are common in the *Calluna* heath adjacent to the woodland edge.
69. Mature birch and 2 willow bushes.
70. Clump of mature and immature birch and rowan with willow (*Salix cinerea*) bushes scattered throughout. On damp and flushed *Calluna* heath. Seedlings of birch, rowan and willow are common in the open heath between here and the main woodland.
71. Stock fenced enclosure with a copse of dense willow, scattered immature birch and some birch and rowan regeneration. Most saplings are brashed and browsed.
72. Patch of willow thicket (*Salix cinerea*) with occasional seedling and immature birch and rowan on flushed area to north of burn.
73. Canopy beginning to become more open. Mainly birch, rowan and willow (*Salix cinerea*) with occasional holly and goat willow (*Salix caprea*). Mature and immature trees and scattered saplings. There is 1 very large multi-stemmed holly on the north bank and a large Scots pine (> 60 cm. dbh) with a double or merged stem on the south bank next to a waterfall (NO 5067 9075). Also 1 old, dead pine stem in burn. Very large boulders on the former course of the burn. Iron-rich seepage from rocks and flushed areas on the north bank.
74. Canopy is sparse and often only on alternate banks of the burn. Banks less steep. Mainly birch and rowan with a few holly and willow bushes. Occasional seedlings and saplings. Muirburn on both banks stops just short of the trees. A very rocky burn.

MAP 6

Burn of Auldgarney (5 ha)

This is an area of geomorphological interest known as The Gwaves. The deep U shaped sides of the floodplain rise steeply to the moorland and blanket bog above and there is a small hanging valley in the upper section. Woodland cover is sparse and scattered over much of the area except for a short narrow section where the sides of the burn are steep and rocky. Muirburn has had a major impact on seedlings and saplings on the rock and scree areas. Some of the muirburn has occurred within the past 3 years. Overgrazing, casual felling and muirburn is limiting the development of all woodland around the burn and contributing to the further deterioration of the existing remnants.

75. 3 medium sized rowan on west bank and a small holly on the east bank. Gorse also common. Primroses on the grassy banks above burn. The terrain contains boulders, flushed areas, bracken and heath.
76. Immature multi-stemmed rowan, dog rose, small holly and a medium sized birch on east bank. Primroses common on grass between *Calluna-Vaccinium* hummocks. Sparse bracken and gorse. Rabbits abundant.
77. Semi-prostrate and horizontal limbed willow (*Salix cinerea*) with many stems on river bank; a second willow on west bank and young rowan on rocks above.
78. Multi-stemmed willow bush and small immature Scots pine on west bank. Old muirburn to within 1 meter of pine.
79. Small multi-stemmed holly and young Scots pine on west bank.
80. 2 small holly and a sapling willow on east bank. Primroses common.
81. Steep scree slope above the flats next to the burn contains a very scattered collection of birch, rowan, broom and occasional Scots pine (about 30 trees in total). There are no trees on the burnside except for 2 dead pine saplings. Most of the trees are immature or sapling; there is one mature birch. There are a few dead trees, probably pine, and one has been felled.
82. Clump of tall straight stemmed aspen clones (about 21 stems; 10-30 cm. dbh) on rocky scree slope.
83. Rocky slopes above and around the hanging valley with 17 scattered immature and sapling rowan, 1 old rowan, 2 immature birch, 1 Scots pine sapling and 2 small juniper bushes. Honeysuckle and dog rose among the rocks and boulders. This area has recently been severely burnt.
84. 1 immature Scots pine, 3 immature rowan and 4 sapling rowan in *Calluna* on west bank. 1 felled pine stump. Downstream is a single erect juniper (2 meters height), marked separately on map, with recent debarking damage.
85. Narrow steep sided section with a single line of about 40 aspen (12-18 cm. dbh) along east bank and a larger aspen on rocks above. Bark stripping evident on several young aspen. Also immature birch and rowan, 1 old rowan and several medium sized trees; occasional saplings, willow bushes and few young Scots pine; 3 small pine stumps have been felled.
86. Large willow bush and an immature rowan; rowan seedlings common in *Calluna*.
87. Vertical rocky and flushed bank next to burn with about 22 stunted trees - mainly medium sized and sapling birch, rowan and willow. Seedlings common. Muirburn, about 3 years old, reaches almost to burn.

Burn of Allachaller (0.4 ha)

A sparsely wooded shallow gully with a small burn in the centre and several areas of eroded banks. Recent muirburn along the top of the bank on the west and east sides has burnt several young trees and some on the east bank have been felled. This woodland area is deteriorating because of muirburn and overgrazing.

88. 1 mature and 2 medium sized rowan and a dog rose among patches of dense gorse and bracken. Occasional rowan seedlings in *Calluna* above bank. Rabbits abundant.
89. 2 old rowan, 1 medium sized rowan, 1 sapling Scots pine and 1 small holly in gully. At the top of the west bank there is a recent part burnt holly.

90. Stand of dense self-sown immature Scots pine (< 7 - 10 cm. dbh) on *Calluna* heath above east bank of burn. 3 brashed pine saplings. About a dozen pine saplings have been burnt in a muirburn fire 3-5 years ago and there are 4 felled pine stems in the burn. Additional pine have been felled on the north side of the block. There is a large felled pine stump on the eroded slope below - probably the parent of the present pine stand.
91. 1 immature rowan, 1 large willow bush, 4 sapling Scots pine and 1 burnt dead pine.
92. 1 medium sized Scots pine and 2 immature pine; 2 pine seedlings have been recently brashed.
93. Steep part of burn with large old birch, 5 medium sized Scots pine, an old rowan and a willow bush (*Salix cinerea*); 2 brashed sapling pine; rowan seedlings common in *Calluna* banks.

Miscellaneous notes

Map 1 (Dry Burn) Buzzard on nest in immature birch at NO 5619 9011.

Map 1 (Badenhall Burn) Track (not on map) crosses burn at NO 5498 8994.

Map 1 (Badenhall Burn) At NO 5476 9030 there is the remains of a small drystone walled area, 2m x 3m, with 2 courses of stones. On east bank of burn.

Map 2 (Rough Burn) The peregrines had just captured a pigeon.

Map 3 (Langderick Burn) At NO 5261 8895 on the south side of the Burn, in a grassy hollow, there is the remains of a drystone walled enclosure, 2m x 2m; 2-4 courses of stones are still visible on one side. Downstream at NO 5234 8902 there is a second enclosure, 2m x 3m, with 3 courses remaining on one side.

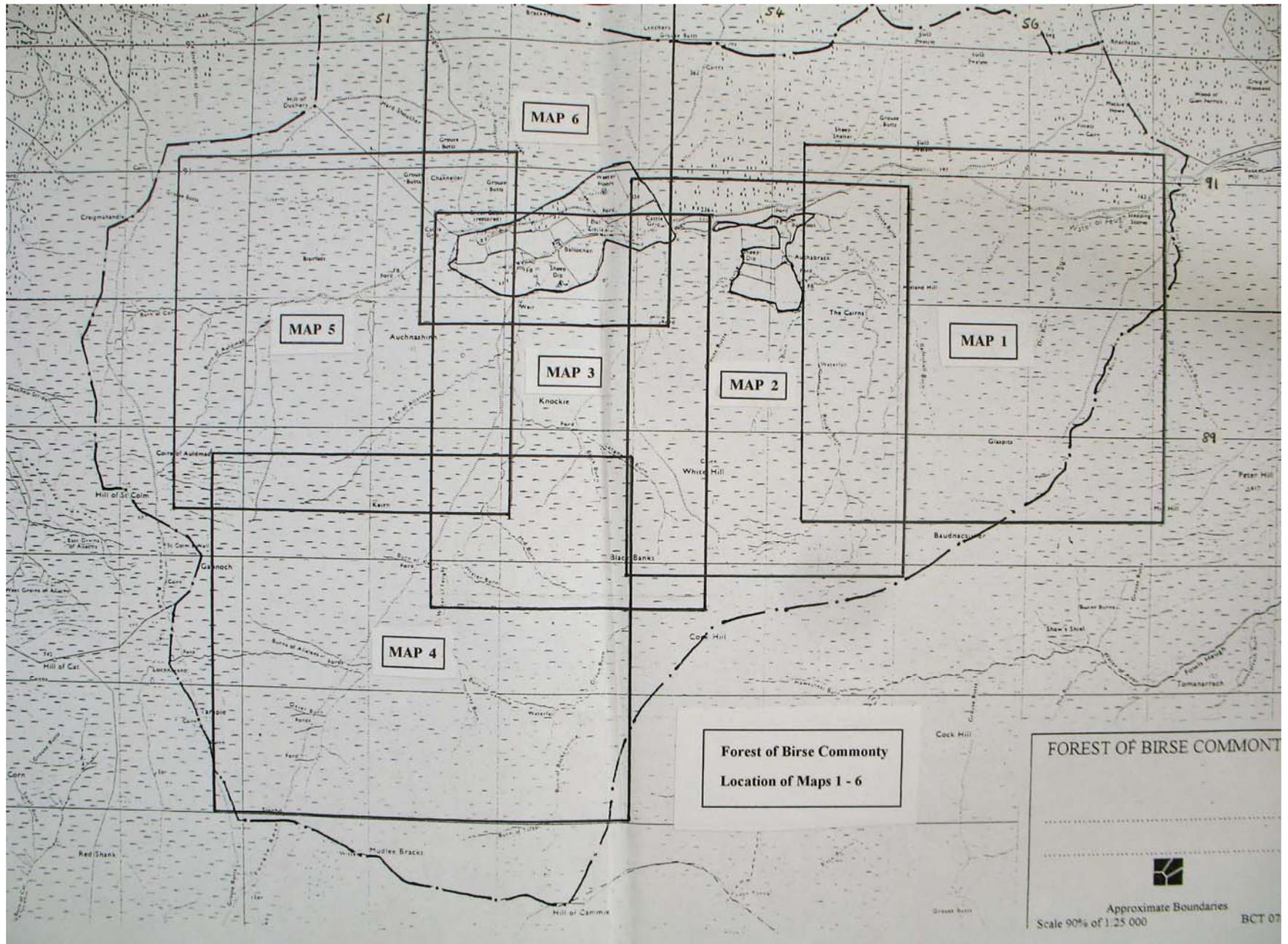
Map 4 At NO 510874 on the east side of the Fungle road there is a small stone with the letters JRK.

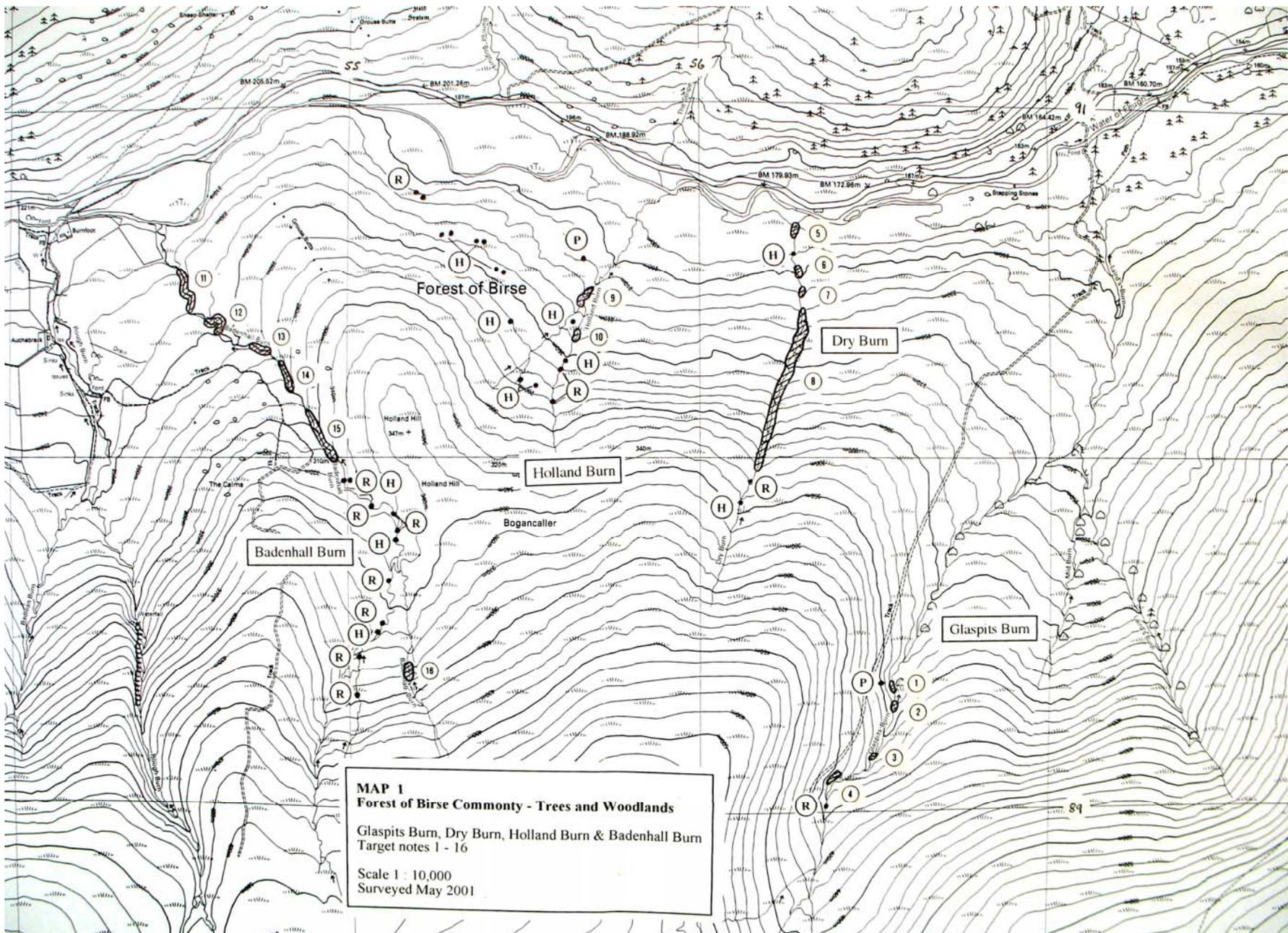
Map 5 Numerous spring release (Fen trap) tunnel traps can be seen along the banks of the Burn of Allanstank. These traps appear to be rarely visited as some contained old mammal remains. Snares were common in the woodland along the banks of the Burn of Corn.

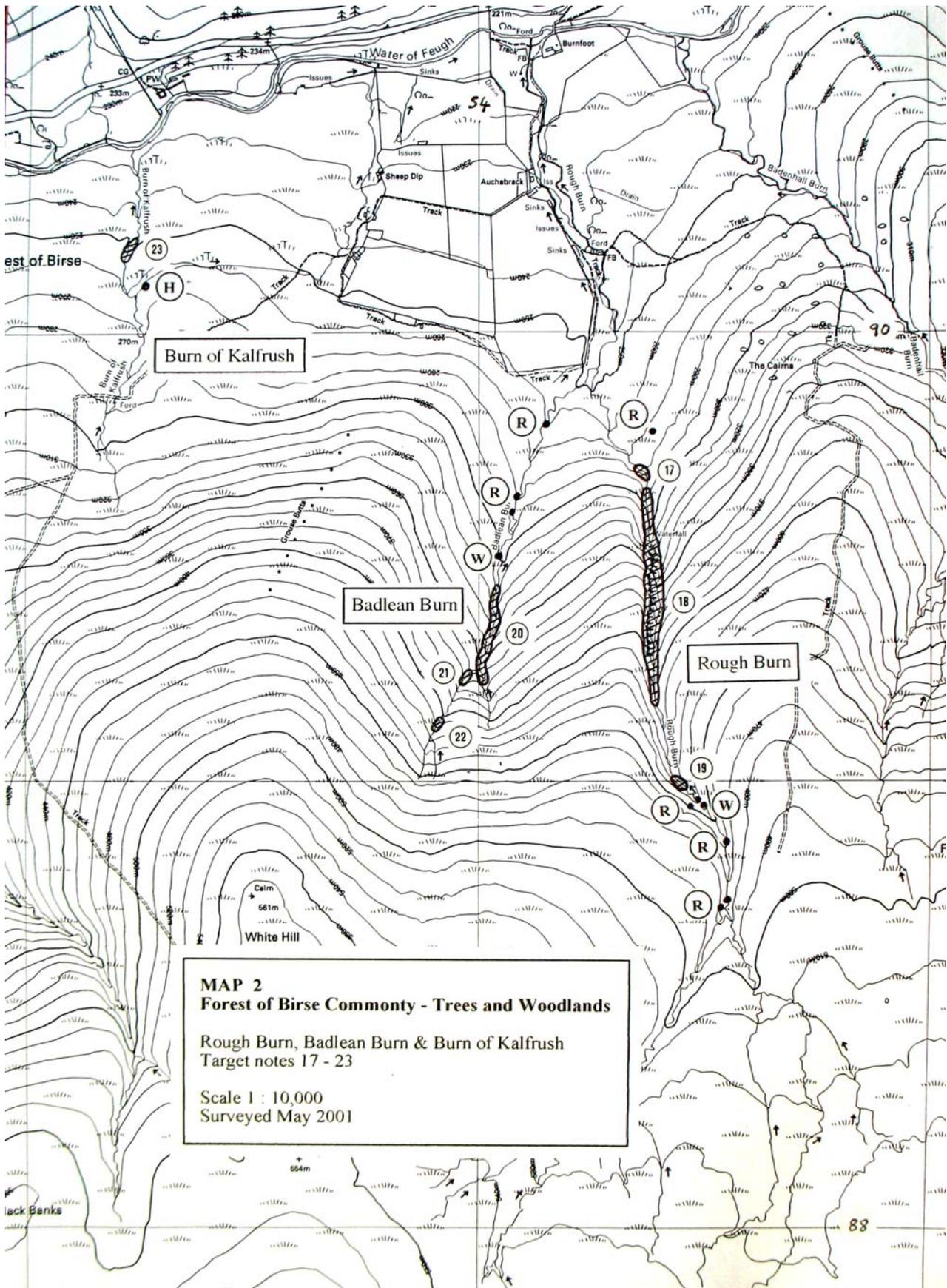
Map 6 (Burn of Auldgarney) At the top of the hanging valley (NO 518917) there is a small green hollow with the possible remains of a walled enclosure, 3m x 3m. However, the stones are jumbled up and there are no obvious courses.

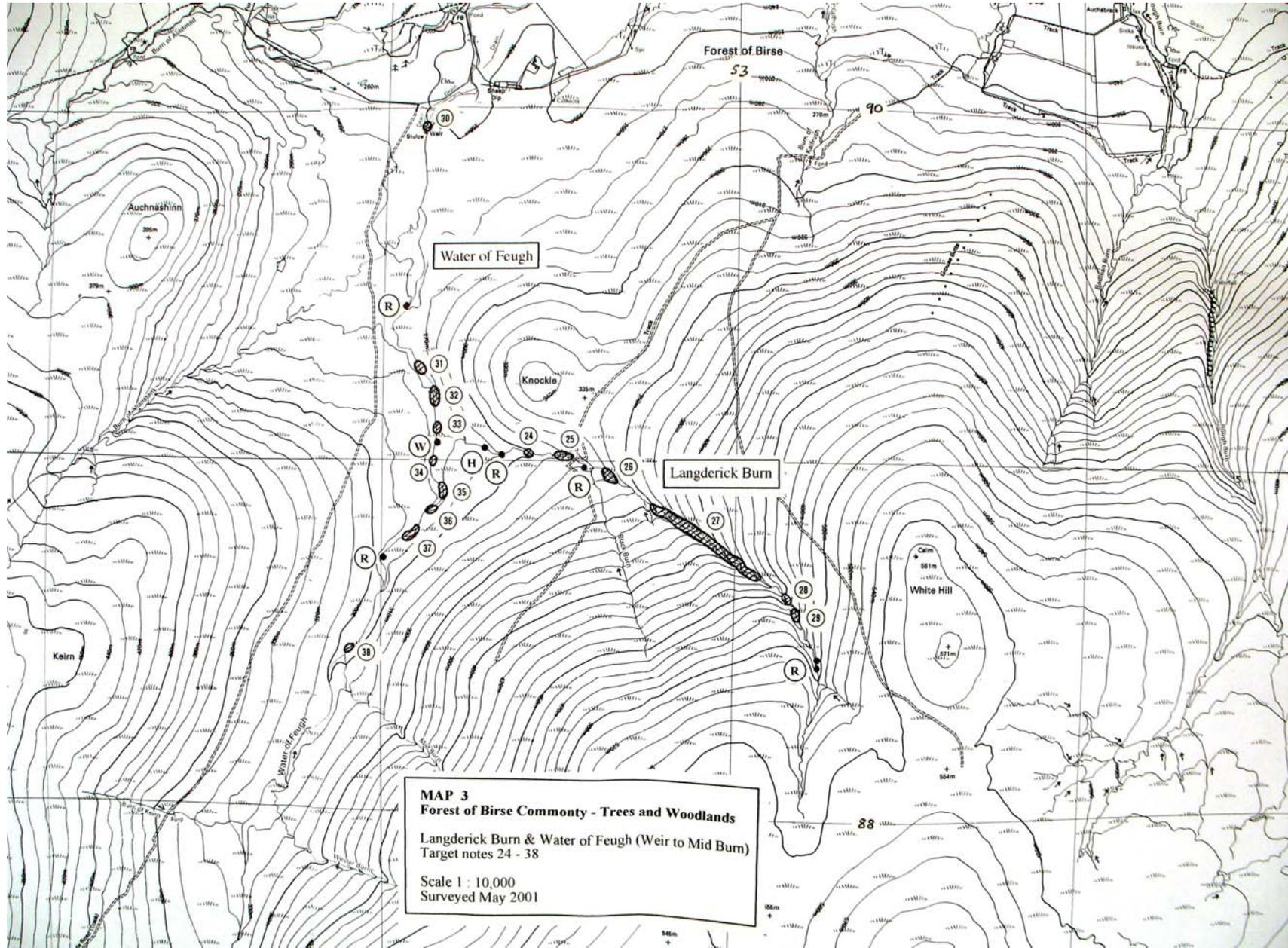
Map 6 (Burn of Auldgarney) At NO 5169 9171 there is a raptor nest on the rock face. The bird was sitting (on eggs) but could not be identified.

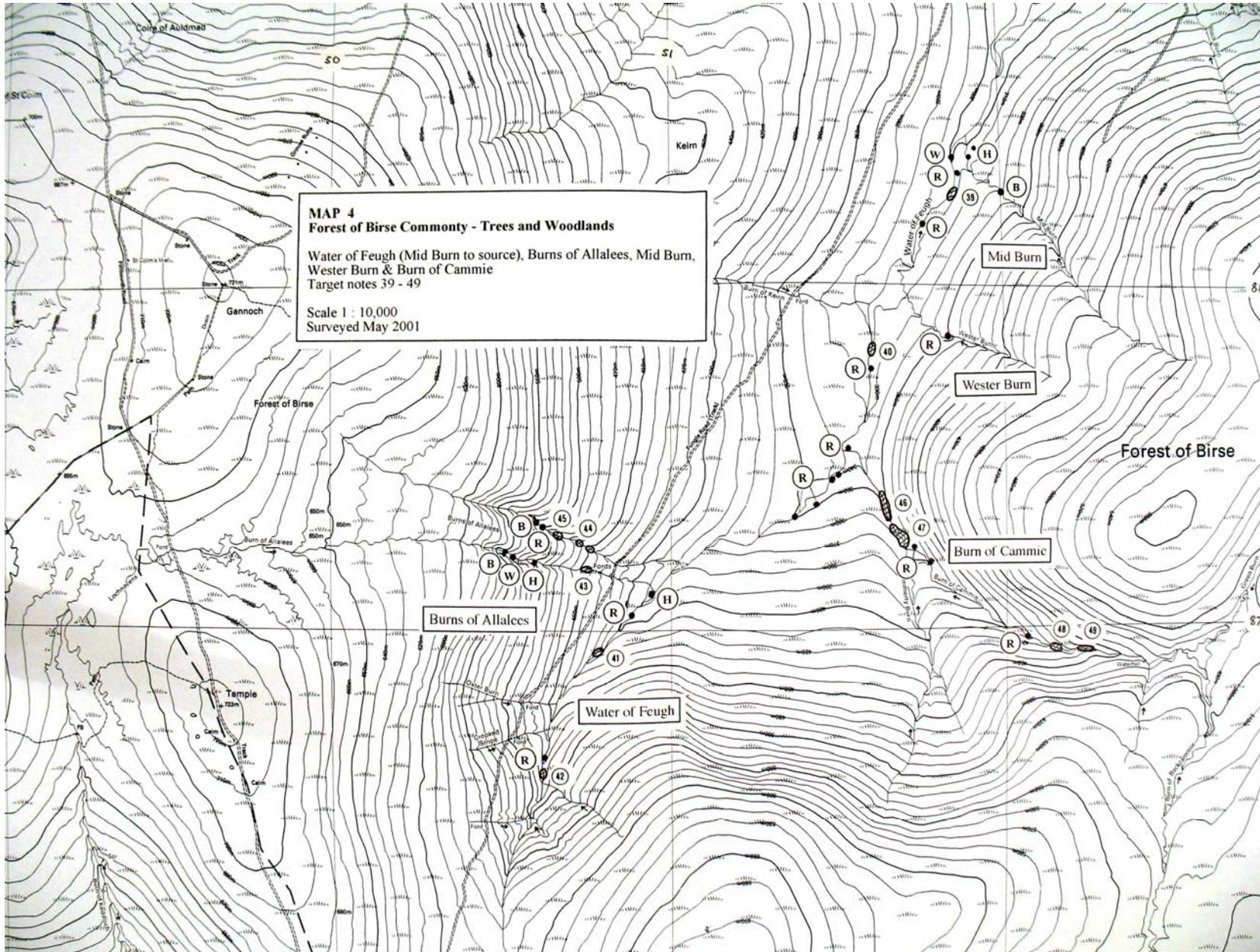
Map 6 (Burn of Allachaller) At NO 5287 9142 The Scots pine stand on the east bank contains a dump of over a dozen dead fox remains, some old, some recent and hanging on branches.

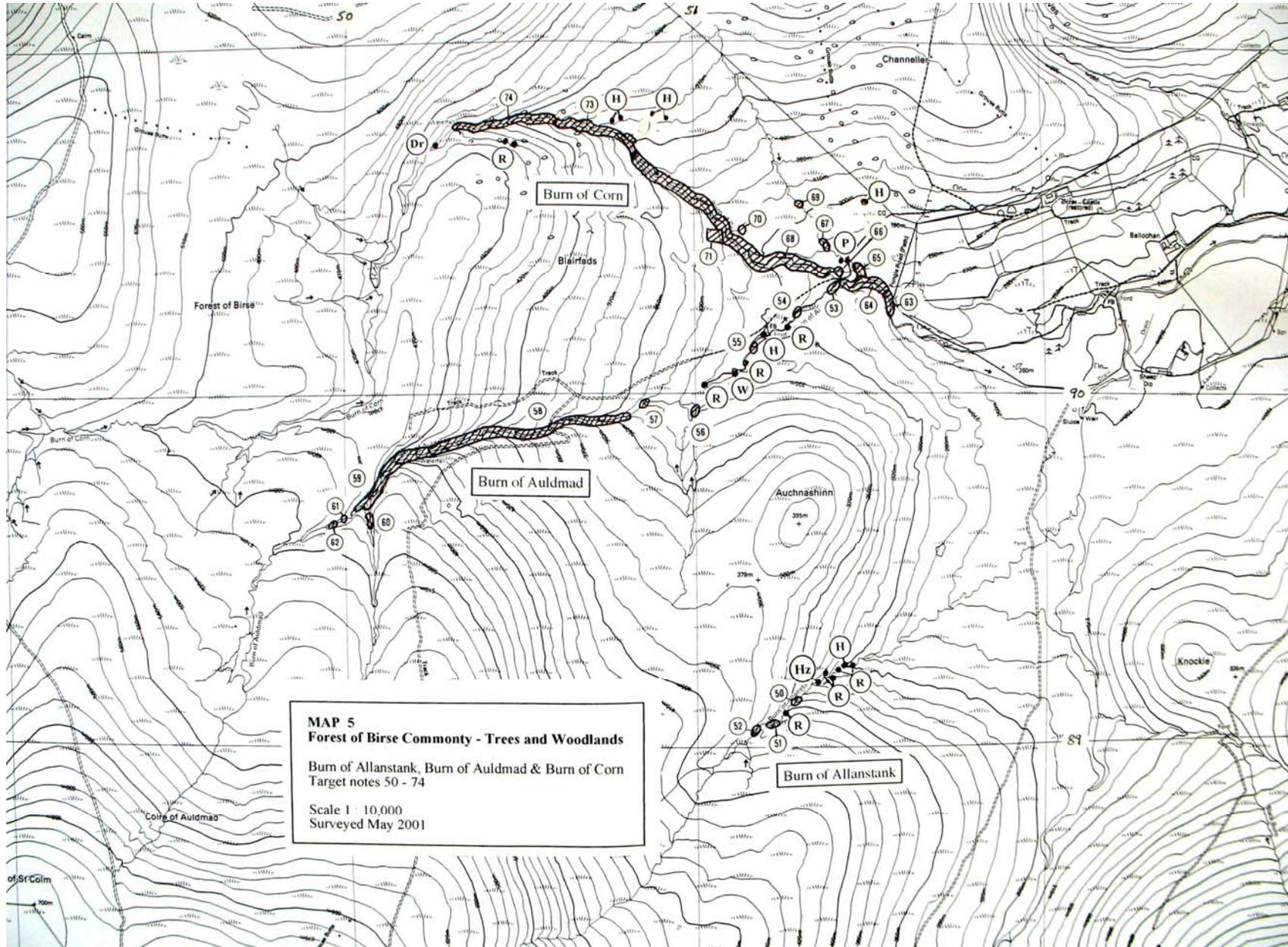


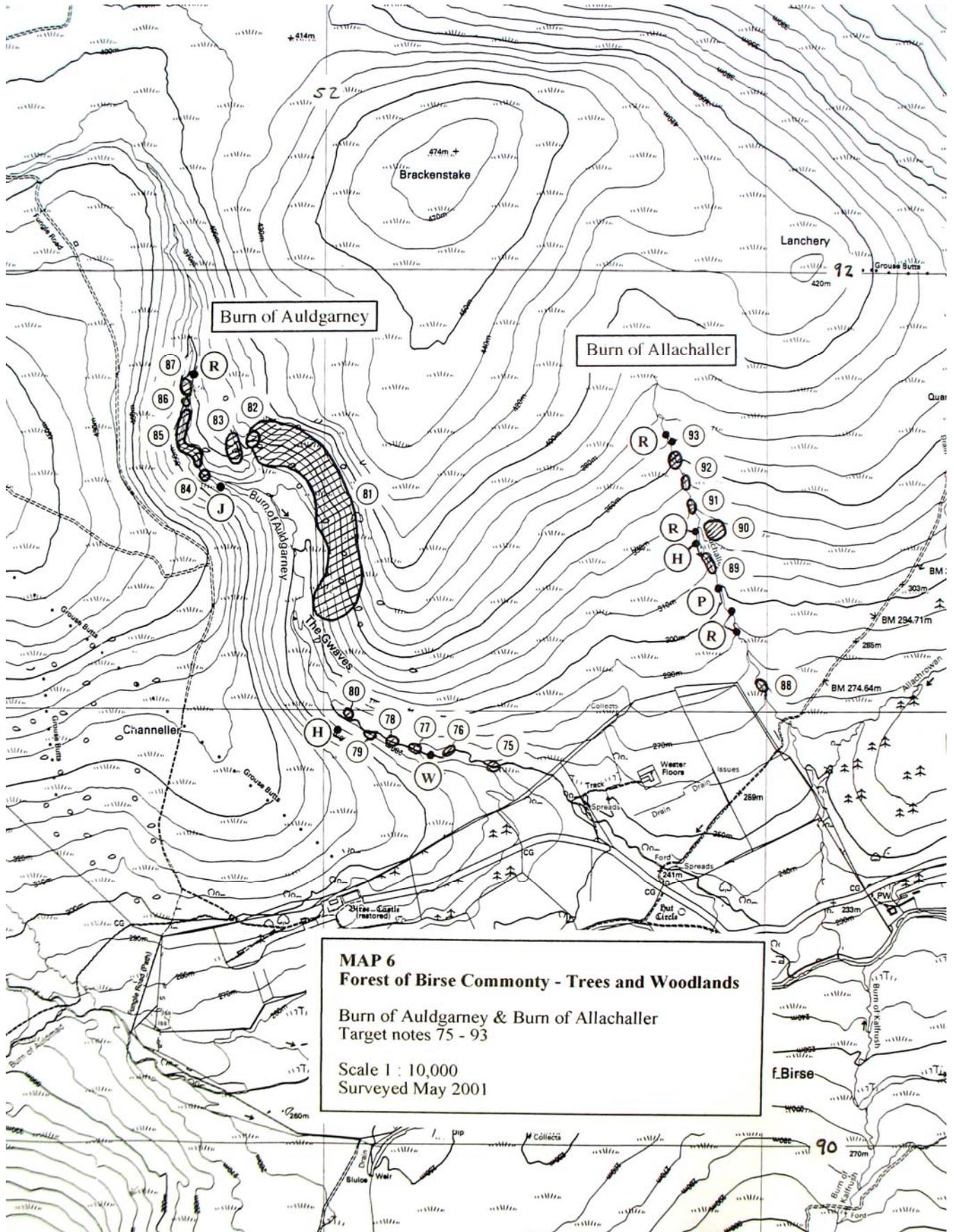












MAP 6
Forest of Birse Common - Trees and Woodlands
 Burn of Auldgarney & Burn of Allachaller
 Target notes 75 - 93
 Scale 1 : 10,000
 Surveyed May 2001