



The Argyll Papers, Inveraray Castle

ARG/04/03/65/50

Observations By Major Campbell and Mr. Burrell Concerning The Island of Tirry [Tiree]
Dec[embe]r 1769

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Observations Major Donald Campbell and John Burrell with regard to the Island of Tirry at the Abby of Holyroodhouse the 7th Decem[be]r 1769.

1^{mo} That no further observations can be made upon the Soil until we are upon the Spott.

2^{ndo} There seems to be stones enough in the Island but whether they can be quarried with Ease or not cannot be known till Inspection by a skilled man or Trial is made.

3^{zo} That the Tenants of the nine Farms that are open shall all be served with a legal Warning fourty Days before Whitsunday and in the mean Time the Chamberlain may be pointing out to the present Tenants the Way and manner the Marquis would incline these Farms would be sett for the future and to begin in a regular manner with this Discussion.

4^{to} That the Pasture Hill of Kinevar together with the Blowen Sand of D[itt]o, the Blowen Sand of Barrapoll Balemnoch and Sandaig extending to 517 Acres shall be inclosed by a Stone Wall from Lochphuill by the Division betwixt the arable Land and the Blowen Sand of Barapoll Balemnoch and Sandaig down to the Sea Shore of Sandaig Bay extending to about 400 Falls in length which may cost about £120 Ster[lin]g. Our Reasons for inclosing these 517 Acres by themselves is solely to keep the Tenants from destroying that Sandy Ground by the Plough we having great Reason to expect that by inclosing /and

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and saving it from the Torture of the Plough it may in time become tolerable good Pasture. That there remains of these four Farms 667 Acres of arable Land and medow [etc] which may be divided into ten ffarms, and as there is five Steading of Houses on said Farms which at present contains 17 Tenants and hence will be this Scheme be reduced to 10 which is two Tenants to each Steading.

5^{to} That the Farm of Kerehousegar [etc] consisting of 122 Arable Acres, 35 Acres of Pasture [and] 72 Acres of Blowing Sandy Pasture extending in whole to 230 Acres which together with its proportion of the Commonty betwixt this Farm of Hough and the ffarm of Kerachousegar and Keranock hill which if divided in proportion to the mail Lands may extend to about 28 Acres; and there is but one Steading of Houses upon this Farm which at present contains 9 Tenants, we propose shall be divided into three and sett to three different Persons two of which may live in the present Steading, and a new Farm Stead built for the third with the special Restriction from ploughing any part of the sandy Ground.



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6^{to} The ffarm of Balliewiline consisting of 360 Acres of arable Land, 8 Acres of meadow and 11 Acres of Pasture and 51 Acres of blowing sandy Pasture extending in whole to 431 Acres. There being a large Town with four other small Steadings besides which at present contains no less than 16 Tenants besides Cottagers which ffarm we propose to divide into six as equal parts as possible and if practicable to be sett /to

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to six persons only, two of which may live in the Town and the other four in the other four steadings if they answer to the proper Divisions, and this Sett to be with the common Restriction of not ploughing the sandy Ground.

7^{mo} The ffarm of Balepheterish which consists of 361 Acres of arable Land and medow 89 Acres of Pasture 23 Acres of Mossy Pasture and 22 Acres of Blowen sandy Pasture which in whole extends to the number of 504 Acres exclusive of the Glebe which consists of 23 Acres of arable land 9 Acres of meadow and five acres of mossy Pasture extending in whole to 37 Acres; As the whole of this ffarm at present is in the Possession of Mr.Charles Campbell *minister* of the Island were it to be divided according to the Scheme we have now laid down tho[ugh] there are only one Steading of Houses on this large ffarm which may contain 4 Tenants and other four to have separate ffarmSteads, according to their different Divisions the whole to be divided into eight as equal parts as possible, and if practicable to be possessed by no more than eight Tenants, with the common Restriction of not ploughing the sandy Ground.

8^{to} The Farm of Kenovy consisting of 437 arable Acres with five Acres of mossy Pasture extending in whole to 442 Acres which is presently possessed by no less than 21 Tenants which are all contained in one Steading or town besides a good many Cottagers: This Farm we propose shall be divided into seven as equal parts as possible and if practicable /to

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to be sett to no more than seven different Tenants four of which may live in the said Town and the other three to have separate Steadings according to their Divisions.

N.B. It is the Major's opinion that the Kirk and Manse should be built upon this ffarm being the most central Place of the Island and that the minister shall have his Glebe contiguous to the Kirk and manse with what more Ground he chuses to farm.

9^{no} The Farm of Heylipoll Crossapoll and Mill thereof consisting of 491 Acres arable 32 Acres of Meadow 57 Acres of Pasture and 148 Acres of blowen sandy Pasture extending in whole to 728 Acres which we are in the opinion should be in the Chamberlain's Hand as his House lyes just in the Centure of these two maillons and as the Chamberlain has a Design and is willing to sett a Patron to the whole Island it is proper he should have these Lands contiguous to his House for that purpose.



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10^{mo} The Farms of Balephuill [and] Balemertane consisting of 346 Acres of arable Land 3 Acres of Meadow 281 Acres of Green Pasture 2 Acres of Hill and Green Pasture 2 Acres of mossy Pasture and 81 Acres of blowen sandy Pasture extending in whole to the number of 713 Acres. This ffarm was formerly in the Possession of the late Chamberlain and the present Chamberlain is willing to retain the Possession thereof, and were it to be sett otherways by the Scheme we have adopted, is behoved to be sett to no less than 10 Tenants, and as there is but one /real

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real Township or Steading upon the Farm of Balemartane with a few Hens Houses upon the ffarm of Balephuill it would require no less than eight new Steadings to be built upon these two Farms which would increase the Bill of Expence greatly.

11^{mo} The Farm of Scarnish consisting of 159 Acres of arable Land 77 Acres of green Pasture 6 Acres of mossy Pasture and 31 Acres of Blowen sandy Pasture extending in whole to the number of 273 Acres, As this Farm is contiguous to the Harbour most frequented in the Island, It[i]s our Opinion that the Farm should rather be extended in a proper manner as deminished and that a proper public House should be erected for the Accomodation of People going and coming from the Island and that a proper Improvement ought to be made upon this Harbour for the better Accomodation of Shipping and reshipping of Cattle Grain [etc] in which Case in place of making the Division so large as in our former Scheme this Farm may be divided into the same Number of Tenants that now occupies it which is 10 or more if they can be conveniently accommodated.

N.B. As the Farms of Heinish [and] Gott lyes also contiguous the first to the West where there is another small Harbour and the second to the East opposite to the only anchoring place for large Vessals, it is also our Opinion that the Farm of Gott which /only

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only expires with Crop 1776 and the Farm of Heinish which Tack expires with Crop 1777 and which two Farms are occupied by four persons only, may when these Leases are out be added to this Plan of a Harbour Town and may accommodate double the Number of Tenants, a proposal for Scarnish as the Quantity of arable Acres in these two Farms extends to 381 Acres of Meadow 3 of green Pasture 72 of mossy Pasture and 8 of Blowen sandy Pasture 34 and in whole to the number of 498 Acres. Were this Number of Inhabitants all placed in one Village viz Scarnish being most central or divided into three so contiguously as the whole body of People may be aiding and assisting to Vessals in Distress. All we think necessary further to observe is if the Marquis is satisfied with the whole particulars of the above Scheme he may likeways agree that the Chamberlain so soon as he goes to the Island being furnished with a Copy of this Scheme with any further Additions or Amendment his Lordship pleases to make as well as a Copy of a full State of that Island may make known the Marquis's Intentions, and in the interim to make the best Bargain he can for the abovementioned ffarm for one year