

An Archaeological Survey
of the township of Manish Beg,
with a survey of the surrounding area,

on

Raasay

Portree Parish
Skye and Lochalsh District
Highland

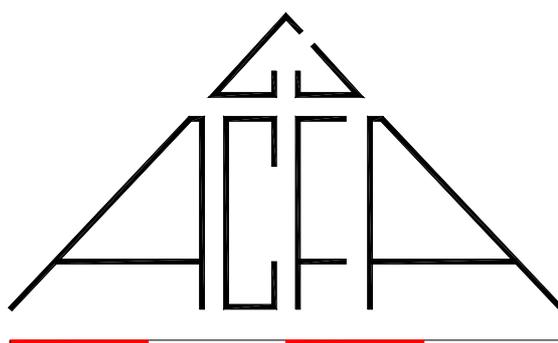
Edited by
John Macdonald and J.Scott Wood

Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists
(Glasgow University)
Occasional Paper No. 43
1999

The Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists, Glasgow University (ACFA) was formed in 1987. Its membership comprises holders of the University of Glasgow Certificate in Field Archaeology, awarded by the Department of Adult and Continuing Education. This three year, part time Certificate course aims to teach adult students the basic principles of archaeological field survey and the importance of recording our cultural heritage of all periods. ACFA seeks to continue this work by undertaking field surveys within Scotland.

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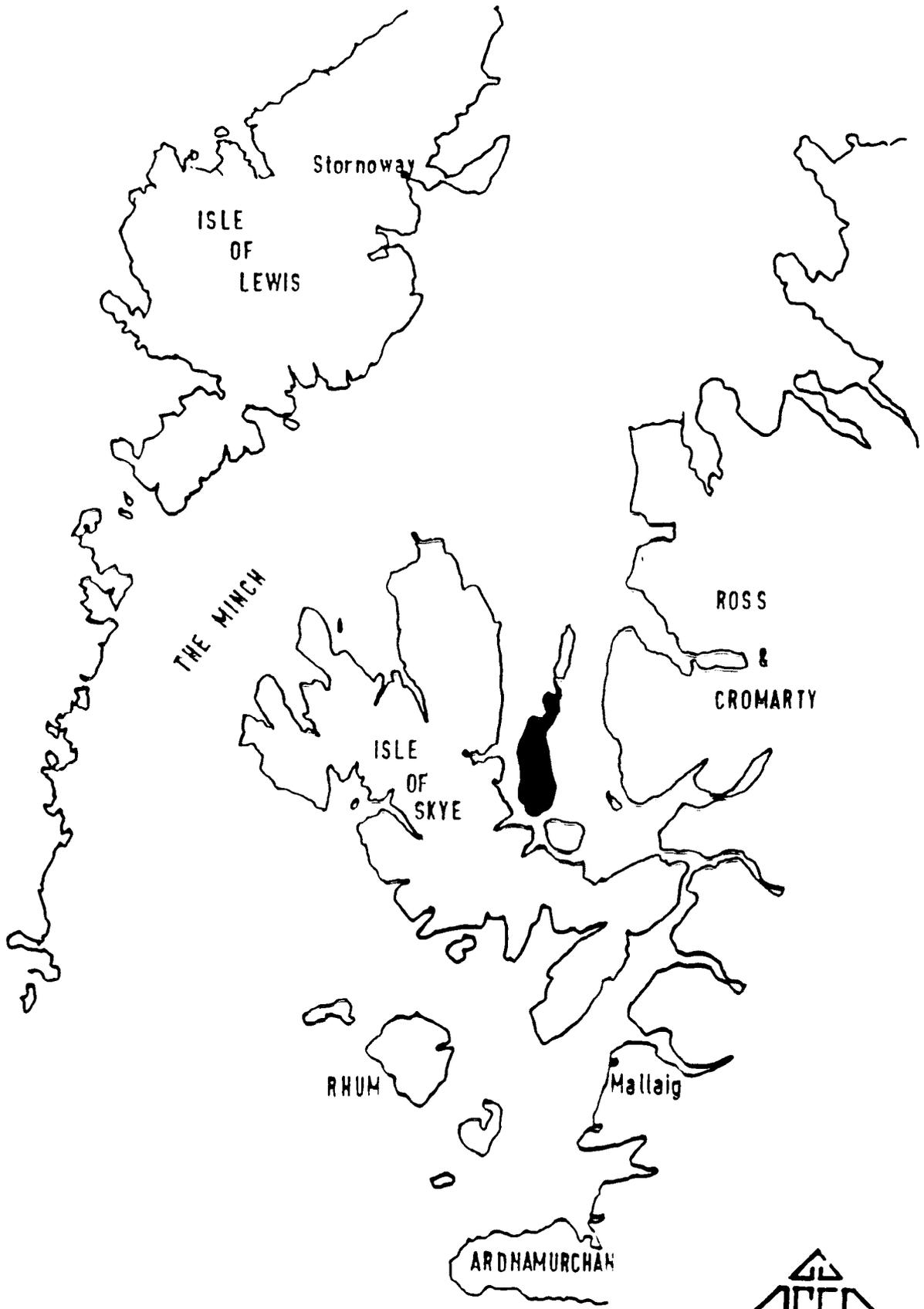
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Contents

Location Map showing Skye and the Isle of Raasay.

Introduction.

Acknowledgements.

Map of Raasay showing the 1999 survey area.

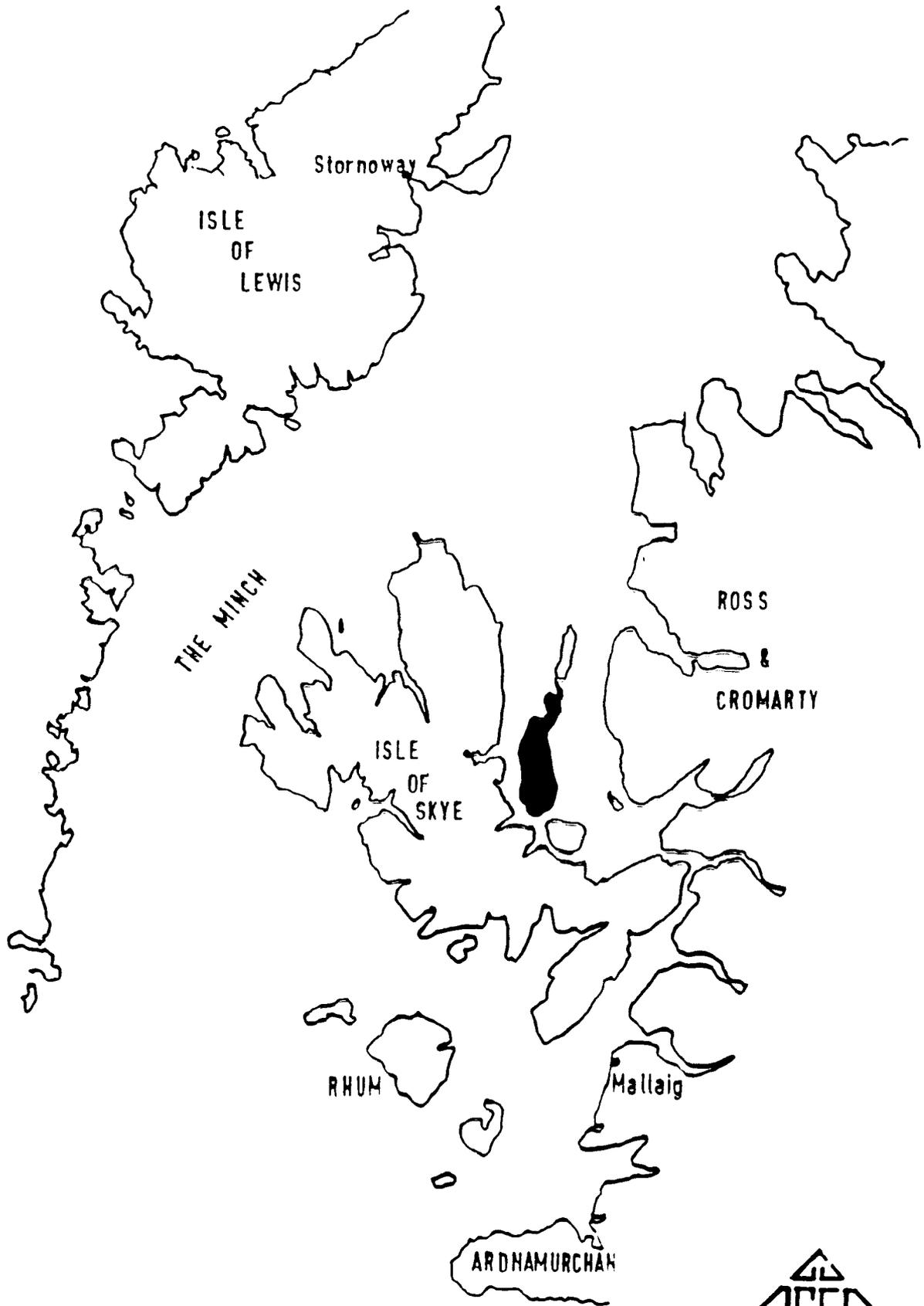
Survey of Manish Beg.

Field Survey of the area around Manish Beg.

Appendix 1 Students survey report of an area at Eyre Point 1998.

Bibliography.

List of A.C.F.A. Occasional Papers.



RAASAY 99

Abstract: *The survey of the township of Manish Beg and the surrounding area forms part of ACFA's continuing interest in the physical remains of human activity on the Island of Raasay.*

INTRODUCTION

The 1999 survey is a continuation of our 1995, 96, 97 and 98 surveys of the physical remains of human activity on the Island of Raasay.

In 1995 the townships of Oskaig and Holoman and the surrounding area were surveyed. In 1996 the townships of Balachuirm, Balmeanach, Inver and Brae and their surrounding areas were surveyed. In 1997 the townships of Glame, Manish More, Brochel and Doire Domhain and the surrounding areas were surveyed. In 1998 the twin townships of North and South Screapadal were surveyed with the surrounding area, including the forest between Brochel and Screapadal .

This year we decided to survey the township of Manish Beg and the surrounding area.

In addition this year there are two appendices. Appendix 1 is a report of a chambered cairn which was discovered at the south end of the island prior to the main survey. Appendix 2 is a report of a survey carried out in 1998 on an area above Eyre Point by the second year students of the Certificate in Field Archaeology at Glasgow University.

John Macdonald

J. Scott Wood

ACFA 1999

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for their help in the 1999 Raasay survey:

Calum Don and Rebecca MacKay for their hospitality in February during our reconnaissance and in April during the survey, and also for their help with the historical and local knowledge of the townships surveyed.

To the Scottish Office, Agriculture, Environment & Fisheries Department and Messrs. Gillies for allowing us access to the sites and to the land in between.

To the Glasgow Archaeological Society and C.B.A. Challenge Funding for their very welcome financial support.

To the 99th Raasay Volunteers for all their help in the survey. They, in spite of the dreary weather, never complained and were very good companions. They were: -

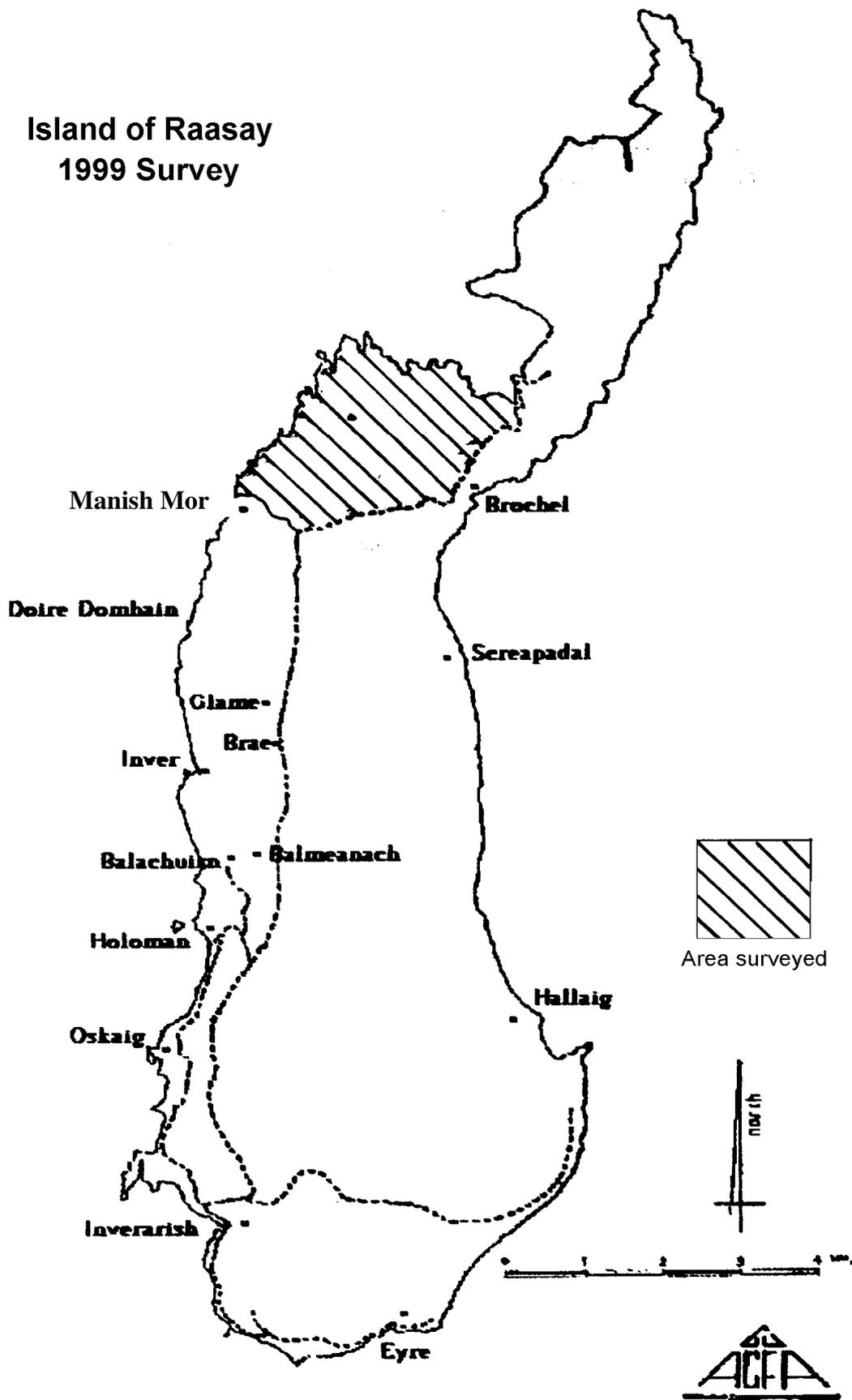
Veronica Baker, Frances Hood, Sue Hothersal, Anne Macdonald, Helen Maxwell, Eleanor Smart, Amy Gazin-Schwartz, Anne Wood, Jim Anderson, Richard Anderson, John Bray, Bob Diamond, Willie Dougan, Bruce Henry, Ian Marshall, Denis Topen and Jim Waterton.

In particular we would like to give a special thanks to two of the volunteers. Amy who flew in from Massachusetts on the Sunday, surveyed, then flew home on the next Sunday and back to work on Monday. Helen who in spite of breaking her arm remained cheerful throughout and has volunteered for next year.

In addition we would like to thank the second year students of the Certificate in Field Archaeology at Glasgow University for all their hard work in surveying, and preparing their report on, the area above Eyre Point. They were Liz Barrie, Dale Bilsland, Julie Brassington, Colin Campbell-Brown, Murray Forrester, Alan Graham, Jim Hill, Ian Hogg, Lynda Hollas, Mhairi Killin, Janet Macdonald, Ena Maguire, Brian Moss, Jacqueline Ross, Steven Westwood, Pat Wilson and Carol Wright.

Finally our grateful thanks to Mr Lionel Masters who lectures at, runs and is the driving force behind, the Certificate course, without whom none of these surveys would have been possible.

**Island of Raasay
1999 Survey**



Manish Beg

Centred on NG 5665 4713

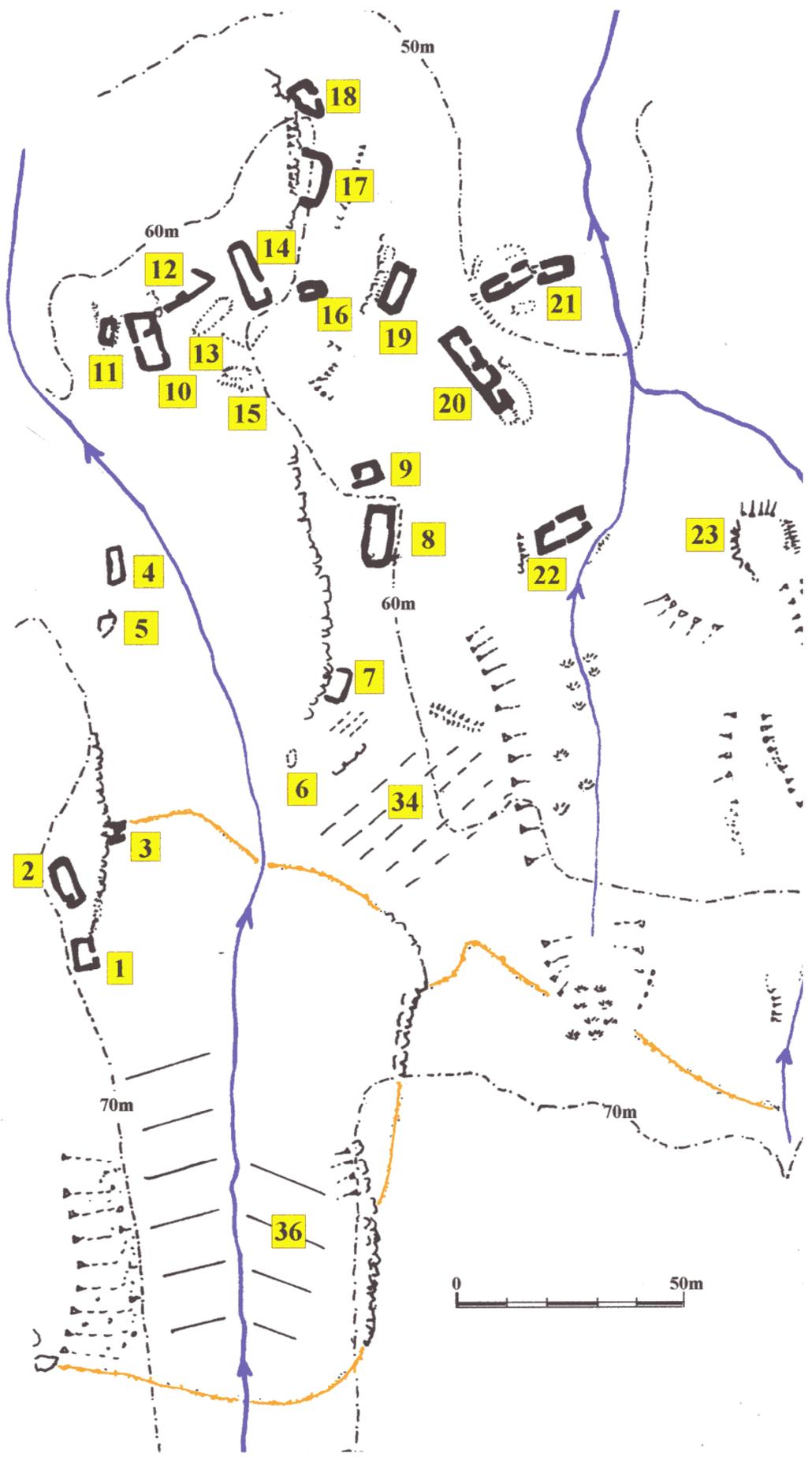
The deserted township of Manish Beg lies 1.3km to the north of the road from Inverarish to Brochel and is situated at a height of 61m OD on a terraced area between the Manish Beg burn on the east and an unnamed burn on the west. The area lies 600m from the coast to the north overlooking Loch Arnish.

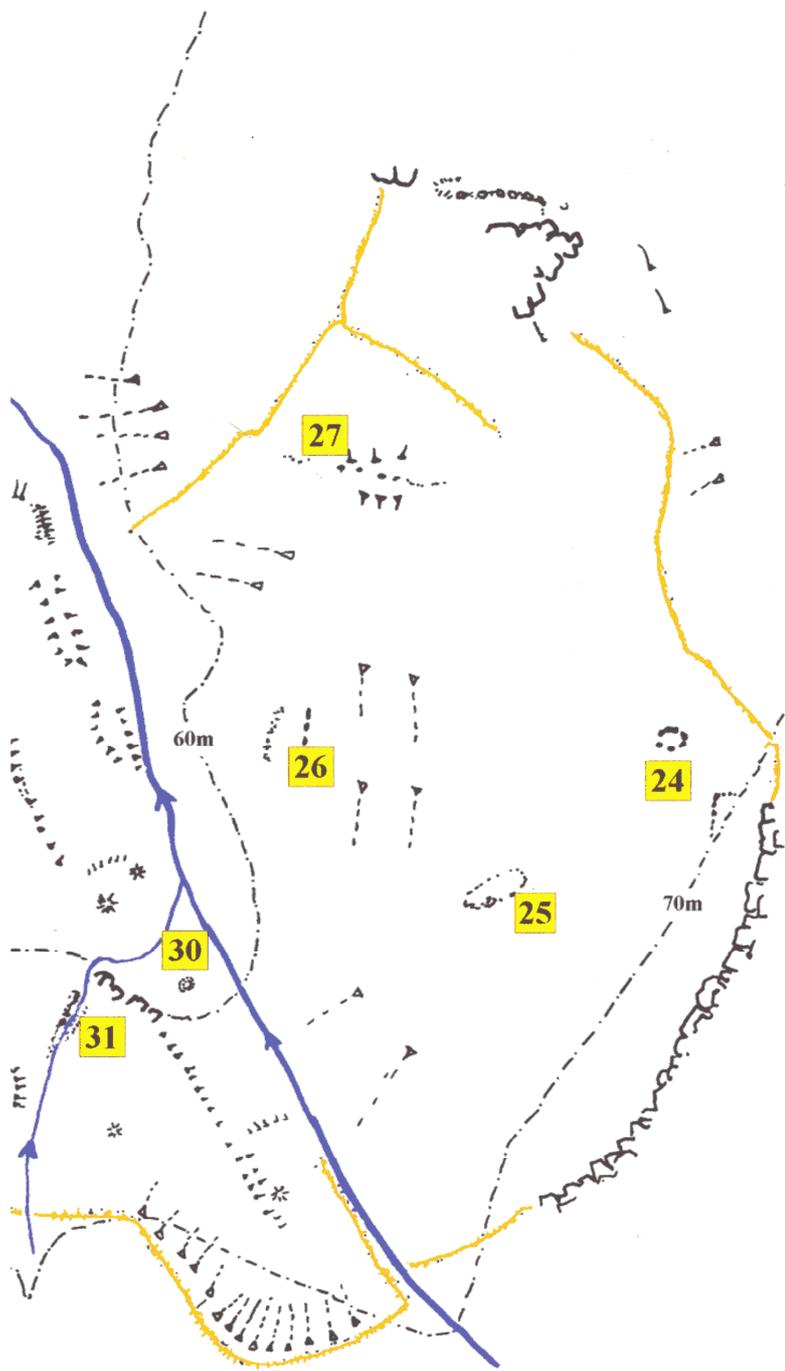
The township of Manish Beg consists now of the remains of houses, byres, smaller structures, probably stores, and a corn drying kiln; in total some 22 structures and their surrounding field systems. Lying to the northwest between the township and the coast is an area of boggy ground which shows evidence of extensive attempts at drainage.

The approach from the road is initially over an extremely wet watershed before following down a steep gully formed by the unnamed burn which flows past the west side of the township. It is thought that the easiest access was from the sea and the survey teams could find no evidence of anything resembling a track leading into the township.

At the coast there are a number of small inlets, each with an extensive storm beach. These have been broken through at a number of points to help with the attempts at drainage. At one of these inlets a rubble wall has been constructed which runs parallel to the cliff, thus forming a narrow passageway. This passageway was used to drive the cattle of the township down to the beach and onto boats for transporting them to the mainland.

The records of the lands of the MacLeods of Raasay record settlement at Manish – known variously as Madniso, Moines, Maenes – from the end of the 16th century to abandonment in 1852, when, on 28th May, the Raasay House Record Book records ‘ferrying the sheep belonging to the Tenants of Marnish and Scripedale’ which were being sold to a Mr. Weir. The Raasay House Plan of 1846 shows Manish Beg as 5 houses and Manish More having 11. Manish does not, however, ever seem to have been considered for rental purposes as two separate settlements – Manish More and Manish Beg. It may be assumed that, as the rental demanded was simply for Manish, the cultivated land and grazings were held in common by the two settlements. Sheep were introduced into Raasay before 1824 and by the late 1840’s and early 1850’s the area north and west of Glame was being cleared to provide more room for the owner's sheep farm. In 1841 the Enumeration shows 6 families at Manish with a total of 41 people. In 1851 this had gone down to 4 families, 24 people and in 1861 the return was Nil. It is thought that most of the population went in 1852 to Australia.





 Burns

 Field Banks



**Manish Beg
Township & Field System**

Feature 1 House

A rectangular dwelling house, with straight sides and rounded corners 7m x 3.2m internally lies north by south. The walls are standing from 0.9m to 1.5m high. The house is built into the slope on the west side where the slope rises steeply to crags 8m to the west. The walls are of coarse construction, using some very large boulders in the lower sections. The interior slopes from north to south, with much rubble in the southern half. There is a doorway in the east wall, a third of the way north from the southeast corner. The north side of the door opening is square, but the south side is strongly splayed to the outside. The walling on either side of the door on the inside does not line up but is 100mm out of line. The only feature is a window opening in the east wall one third of the way from the northeast corner. It is 0.5m high x 0.3m wide. The walling of the opening has partially collapsed in the interior on the north side. There is a strong possibility that some of the walling on the east side has been rebuilt.

There are some related external features:-

- 1 Outside the door there is a terrace, revetted in places, 1.5m wide, parallel to the house wall and giving access to the door from the north.
- 2 Beyond this terrace, on its east side, the ground falls away. Outcropping rocks have been linked by some walling, now tumbled, to create a possible animal pen or store.
- 3 On the southwest corner there is a short stretch of drystone walling, about two or three courses high, running west-southwest for 2.5m into the slope.
- 4 On the opposite, northeast corner, stretches of walling, linking outcrops, extend for 15m in a north-northeast direction.

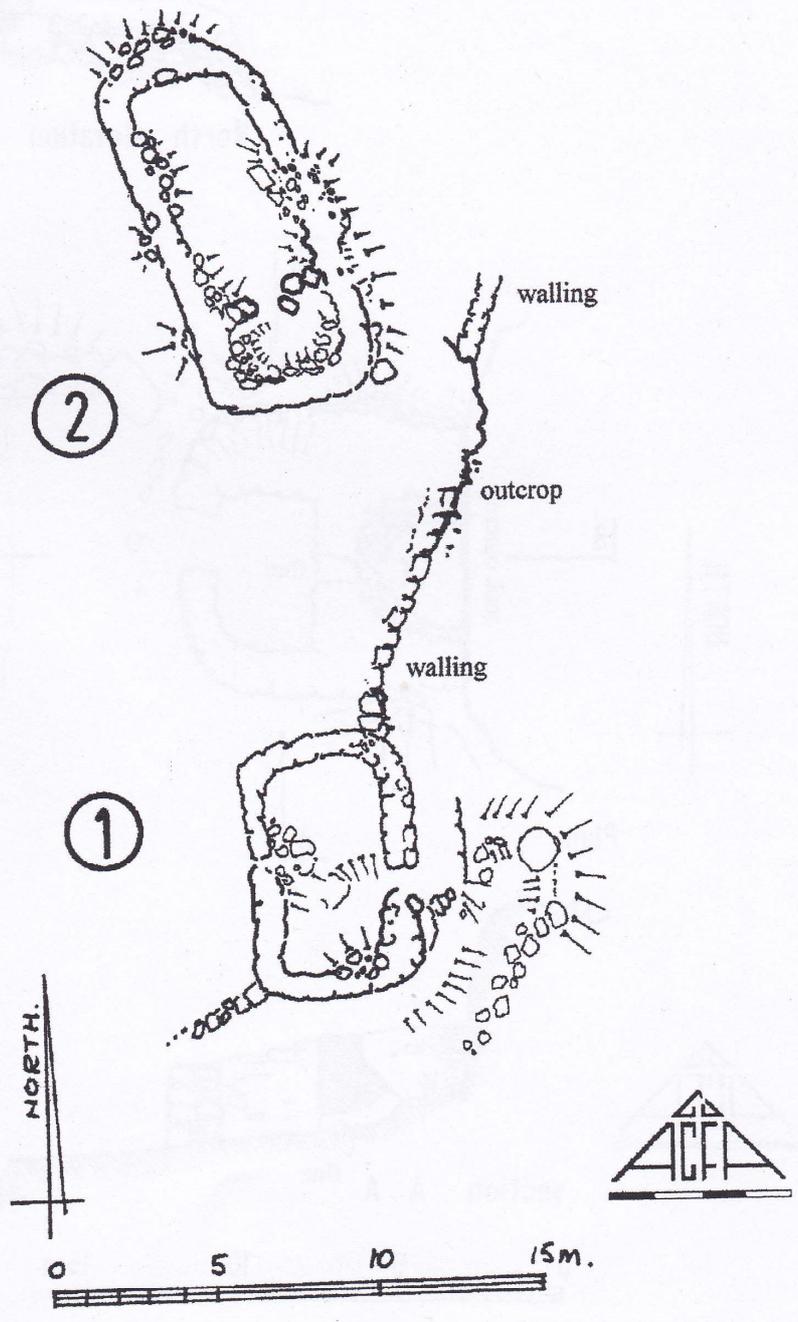
Feature 2 House

This house lies approximately north-south. It lies on a plateau or shelf with crags rising on the west and the ground stepping down to the east. The building measures 9.6m x 3.1m internally, with rounded corners and well built walls. They incorporate some large boulders at the base and the stonework has been roughly coursed. The walls survive in places up to seven courses or 1m high and are battered on the outside. The northeast section of walling and the internal face at the north end are the best preserved. The inner face of the west wall has collapsed inward along its whole length. The interior slopes from north to south. No doorway is visible. Towards the south end there is an internal cross wall, now tumbled, about 2.5m from the interior face of the south end wall.

Feature 3 Kiln

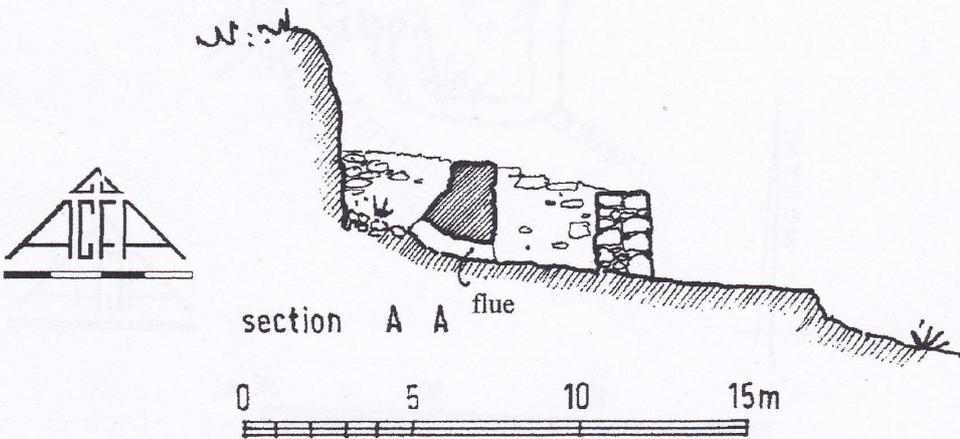
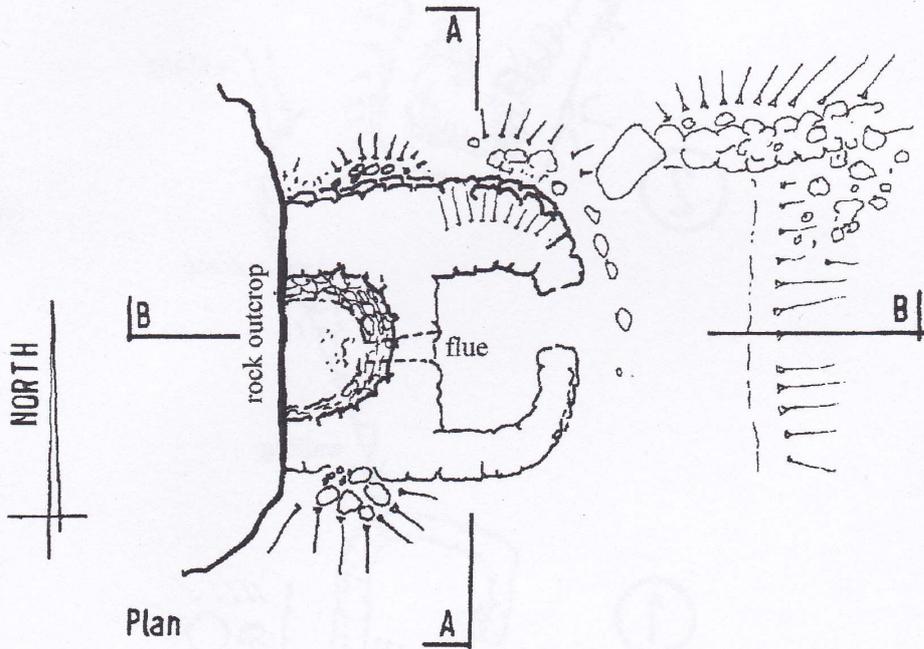
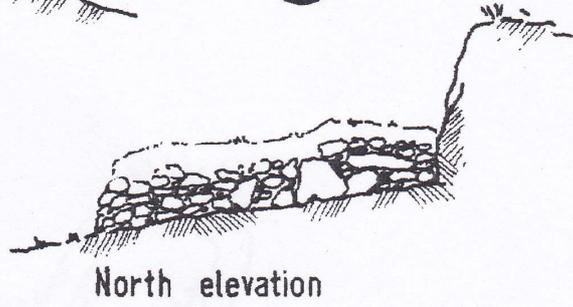
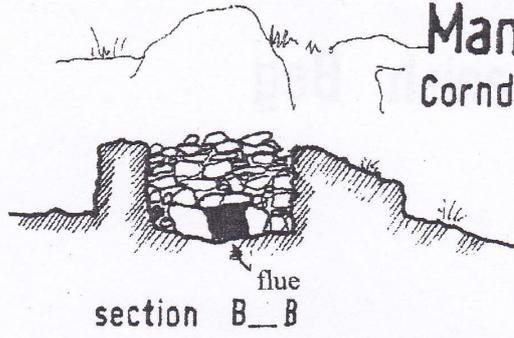
This well built and well-preserved kiln is standing to around its original height. It lies east-west, with the back of its bowl built against a broad slab of outcrop 2m high. The structure consists of two elements. The first is the bowl, which is complete and is D-shaped. Its stonework is vertical in the three or four upper courses, then battered inwards. There is rubble in the bowl, but the flue is visible. The north wall of the bowl is of a significantly heavier build than the south side. To the east of the bowl, and built on to it, is the second element of the structure. This is a D-shaped compartment the west wall of which is butt jointed to the side walls on the interior. It has the flue hole in its bottom centre, at ground level. The flue is 0.4m square. The rather small lintel of the flue is cracked in the middle but is not discoloured by fire. The entrance to this compartment is on the east and is 0.8m wide. The south edge of

Manish Beg



Manish Beg Corndrying kiln.

3

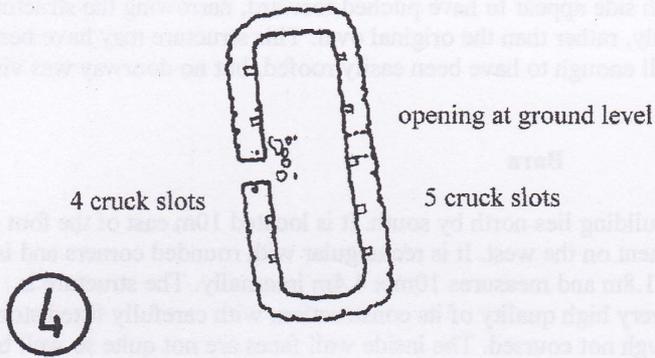


Manish Beg

The doorway rests on a very large... The walling on the north side of the entrance is significantly thicker than that on the south with some indications of having been rebuilt. This walling is built joined to the north wall on the interior.

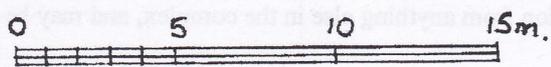
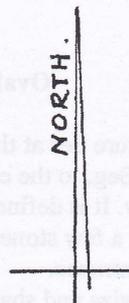
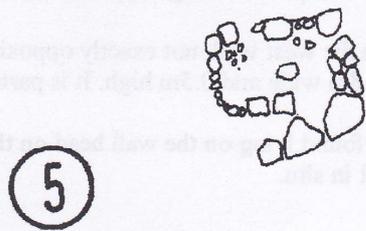
Structure 4

The structure lies roughly north-south on its long axis, close to the foot of the crags. It is oval in shape and measures 4.2m x 1.8m internally. The west end of the structure is built into the slope, which is covered with well-built sections of walling. Looking in, the interior is an open space, divided by a narrow walling. The east wall has been built from very large blocks of stone set on the crags immediately above and to the east. The blocks forming the inner face on the south side appear to have been laid in a regular pattern. The structure is of a masonry internally, rather than the original... It is small enough to have been easily visible for or stone.



Structure 5

This well preserved building lies north of Structure 4. It is roughly rectangular in plan, measuring 1.8m x 1.8m internally. The walls are built from large blocks of stone, and the interior is a single open space. The structure is built on a level surface, and the walls are well finished, although not covered. The main wall has a thickness of 0.5m. The door is on the east side and is 0.8m wide. There are two doorways on the east side in the middle of the facade, about 1.0m apart. There are five pairs of cruck slots, one pair on each corner. These slots are in the wall head and are 300mm high by 1.50m wide. One slot is opposite the door, so that no person... The slot to the south of the door is missing, the walling at that point having slipped but not falling on the inside face. There is a well-built ventilation opening through the roof, the opening is 0.8m high. It is partially blocked on the inside by loose stones. Fragments of a large cast iron cooking pot were found on the wall on the east side near the north end of the door and these were left in situ.



Feature 7**Byre**

A rectangular structure with rounded corners lies north to south. On its west side it is built against a vertical outcrop face which forms most of that side of the building. Internally, it measures 8m by 3.2m. The structure is roughly but strongly built with a batter on the outside. Some very large stones have been used in the basal layers, up to 1.6m by 1.4m, especially at the north end, which has a megalithic aspect. The doorway is on the east side and is 1.15m wide. It is strongly built of large blocks and is now blocked up with secondary walling. No cruck slots were visible. The walls average 1m at the south end, rising to 1.6m at the north end.

This building is almost certainly a byre. It is very strongly built, with a wide entrance, and the west wall could never have been dry enough for a dwelling.

Feature 8**Structure**

This long rectangular drystone structure lies north to south and measures 15m x 3.4m internally. It is located on the east side of a grassy slope with occasional outcrops. Rising ground to its east and south mean that it lies in a damp hollow. Its south end is dug into higher ground to a depth of 1.5m. The interior is overgrown with scrub trees and there are standing pools of water. Towards the north end there is an opposing pair of doorways about 0.8m wide. These doorways have been filled with later rubble walling. The east wall is in the best condition and stands to 1m in height. The west wall has tumbled for considerable lengths. The corners are rounded. The east wall shows some coursing, using some large rectangular stones, up to 1m x 0.3m. At the southern end the interior is lower than the outside ground level. The opposing doors suggest a possible use as a barn but the site is naturally very badly drained.

Feature 9**Structure**

A rectangular structure with rounded corners lies east to west and is located on the east side of a grassy knoll. It measures externally 7m x 5.6m east to west and internally 5.2m x 3.4m. The walling stands up to 1.3m on the south wall rising to 2.1m at the northeast corner. The basal course has well placed, substantial boulders but the rest are smaller, rougher and built haphazardly, with no attempt at coursing. On the south wall, towards the west, there is a blocked up doorway, and on the eastern end there is an open doorway. There is no sign of windows or cruck slots. The western end is built into the slope of the knoll with the top of the internal walling being virtually level with the ground. The surrounding ground is very marshy and must have had to be substantially drained when the building was in use.

This structure was probably associated with the possible barn situated 4m to the south. It may have been a dwelling or a store. It is unusual in having two doors, both of which appear to be original. There are no internal features, except a possible aumbry in the north end of the west wall, 0.4m above the floor. This recess measures 0.4m x 0.3m

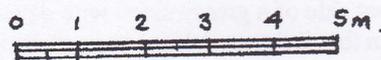
Feature 10**House and Byre**

A long rectangular house and byre lies north-south on its long axis. Overall the structure measures 11.6m x 3.9m with walls 0.7m thick and standing to a maximum height of 1.6m.

Manish Beg



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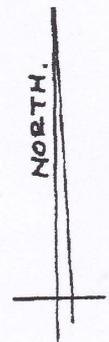
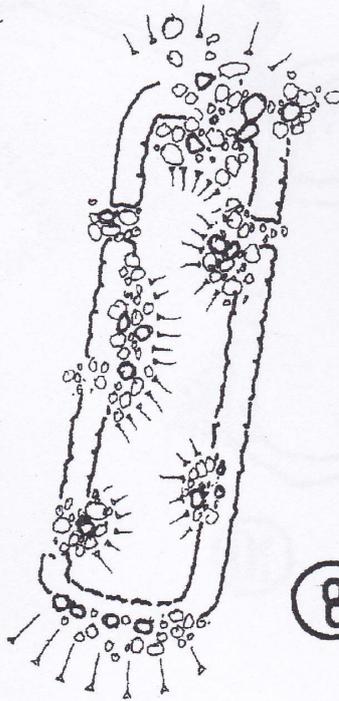
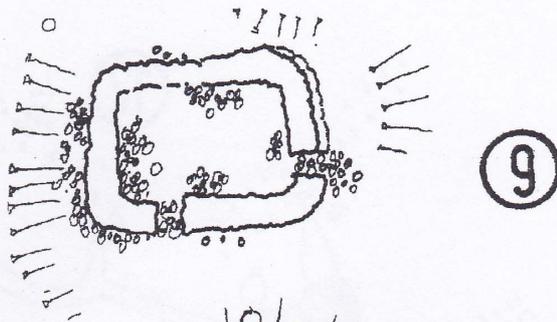
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outcrop

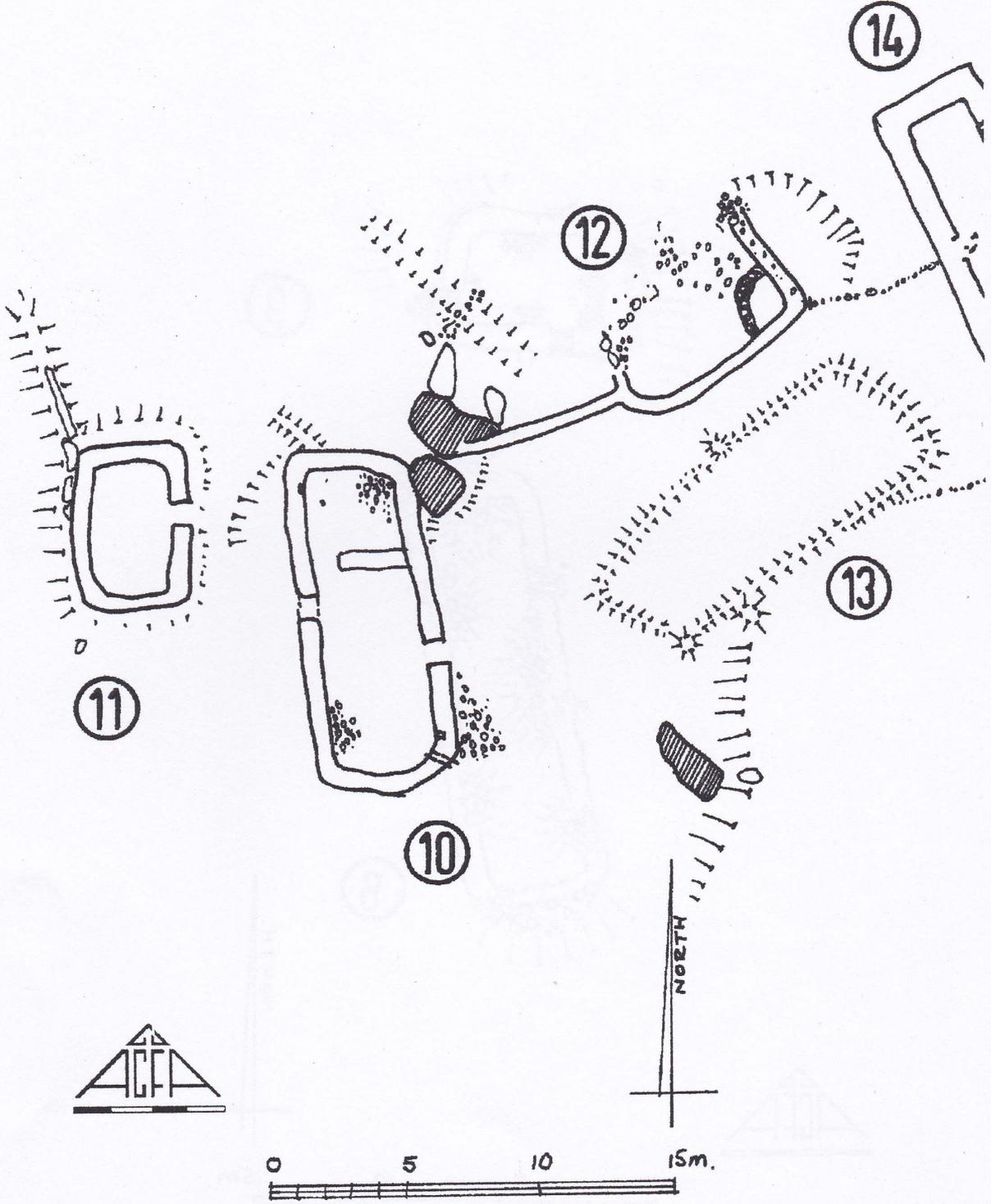
battered wall



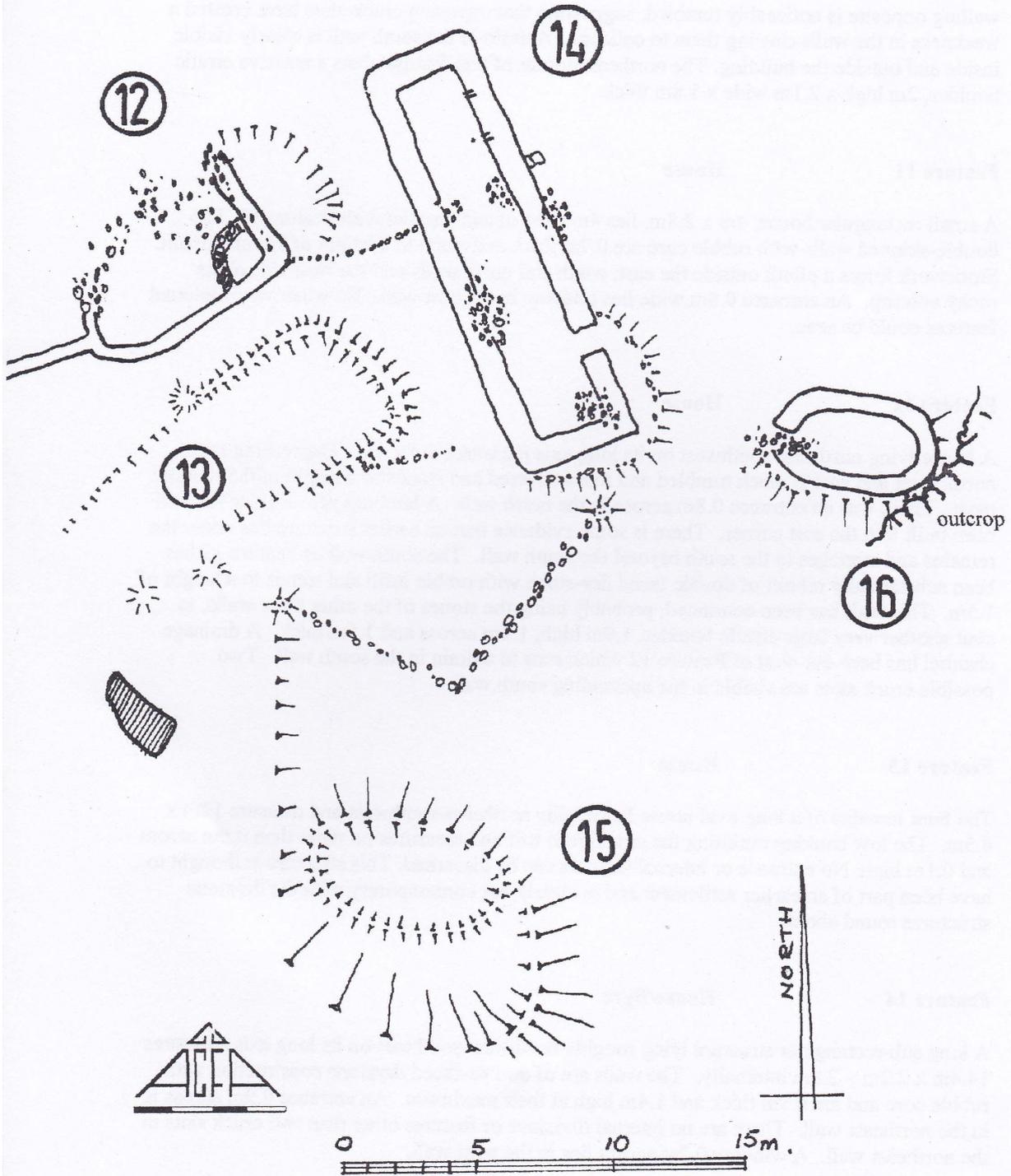
Manish Beg



Manish Beg



Manish Beg



An entrance 0.8m across is in the east wall and an entrance 1m across in the west wall has been blocked up. No windows could be discerned. An internal wall 5m long and 0.6m wide lies 3m from the north end. Cruck slots are visible in the northwest and southeast and the walling opposite is noticeably tumbled, suggesting that opposing cruck slots have created a weakness in the walls causing them to collapse. A drain in the south wall is clearly visible inside and outside the building. The northeast corner of this feature abuts a massive erratic boulder, 2m high x 2.1m wide x 1.8m thick.

Feature 11 **House**

A small rectangular house, 4m x 2.8m, lies 4m west of and parallel with Feature 10. The double-skinned walls with rubble core are 0.7m thick and stand to a height of 1m maximum. Stonework forms a plinth outside the east, south and north walls and the west side abuts rocky outcrop. An entrance 0.8m wide lies midway in the east wall. No windows or internal features could be seen.

Feature 12 **House**

A house lying northeast-southwest on its long axis measures 6m x 4m. The walling to the north, west and east is much tumbled and moss covered and stands to a height of 0.5m at the most. There was an entrance 0.8m across in the north wall. A lambing pen, 1.5m x 1m, has been built into the east corner. There is some evidence that an earlier structure lies under the remains and stretches to the south beyond the south wall. The south wall of Feature 12 has been substantially rebuilt of double faced dry-stone with rubble infill and stands to a height of 1.5m. This wall has been continued, probably using the stones of the other three walls, to abut another very large erratic boulder, 1.9m high, 1.4m across and 1.5m thick. A drainage channel has been cut west of Feature 12 which runs to a drain in the south wall. Two possible cruck slots are visible in the upstanding south wall.

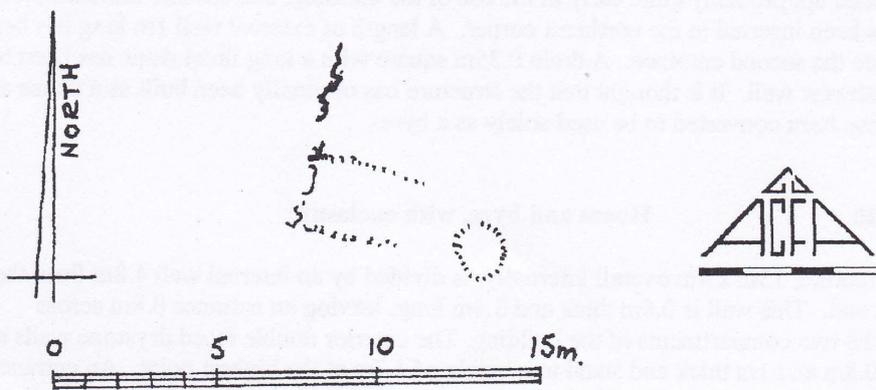
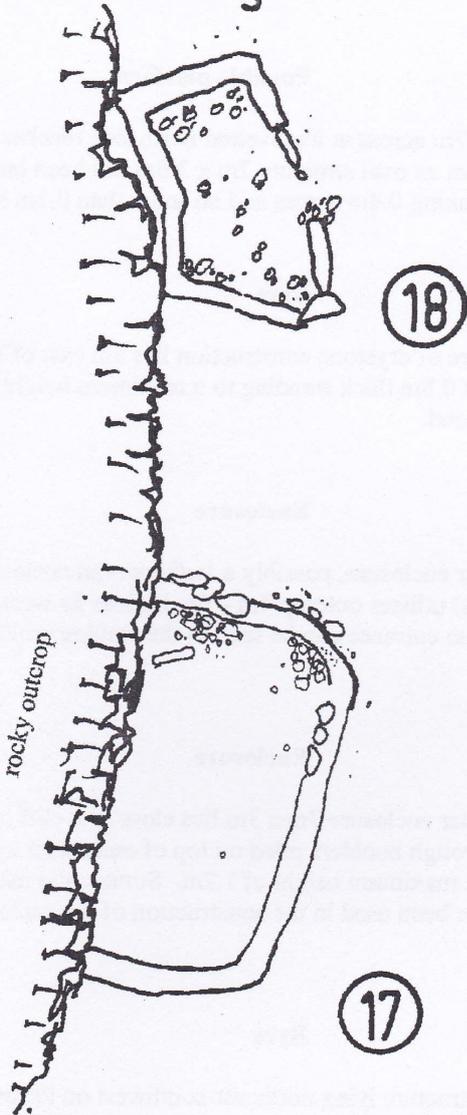
Feature 13 **House**

The faint remains of a long oval house lie roughly northeast-southwest and measure 12m x 4.5m. The low banking outlining the structure is turf and measures no more than 0.6m across and 0.1m high. No entrance or internal features can be discerned. This structure is thought to have been part of an earlier settlement and is clearly not contemporary with the drystone structures round about.

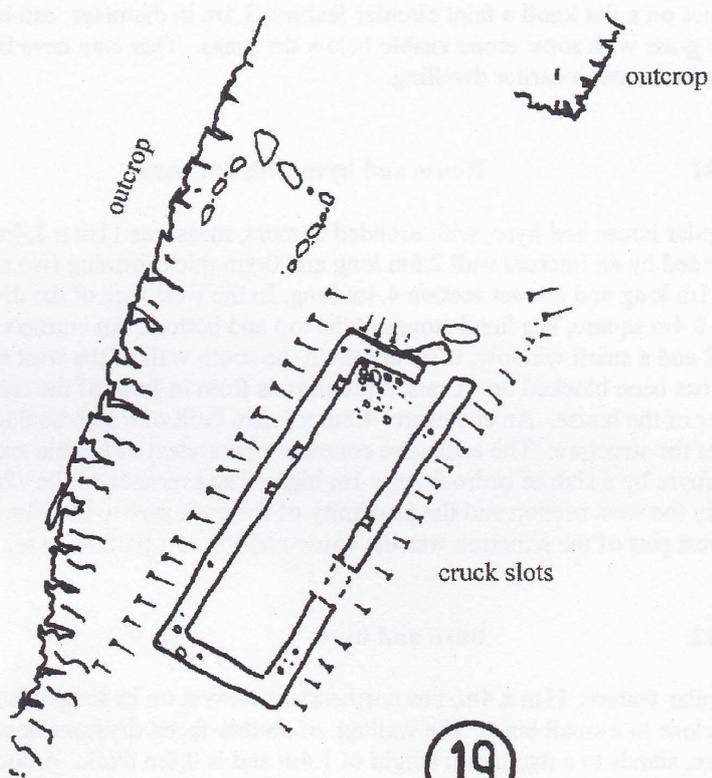
Feature 14 **House/Byre**

A long sub-rectangular structure lying roughly northwest-southeast on its long axis measures 14.4m x 2.2m – 2.8m internally. The walls are of double-faced drystone construction with rubble core and are 0.9m thick and 1.4m high at their maximum. An entrance 0.9m across is in the northeast wall. There are no internal divisions or features other than two cruck slots in the northeast wall. A window 0.7m across lies in the west wall.

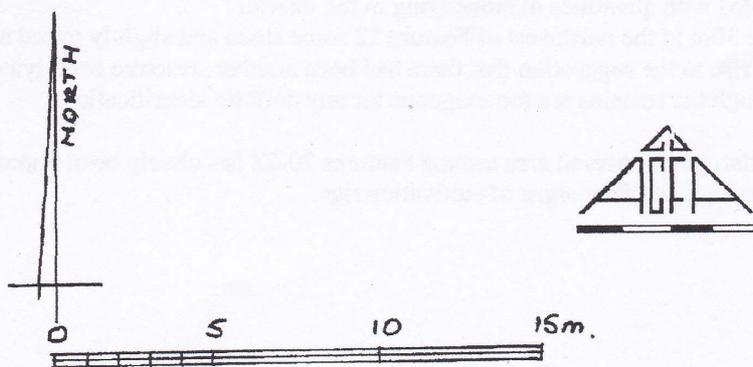
Manish Beg



Manish Beg



19



from the door and is filled with tumble. A rough stone built enclosure 4.7m x 2.8m has been built at the southeast end with an entrance in the north corner. A plinth which stands 0.1m above the surrounding area lies in front of the door and along the east frontage of the house. A drainage channel has been dug along the outside of the north wall. The presence of the window in the north section and the proximity of the enclosure to the south section would suggest that the north section was the house and the south section the byre. To the southeast of the house on a flat knoll a faint circular feature, 3.5m in diameter, can be seen as a slight rise in the grass with some stone visible below the grass. This may have been a stack stand or the remains of a much earlier dwelling.

Feature 21

House and byre with enclosure

A rectangular house and byre, with rounded corners, measures 11m x 3.4m overall internally and is divided by an internal wall 2.6m long and 0.4m thick forming two sections – a west section 6.1m long and an east section 4.4m long. In the west face of the dividing wall an aumbrey, 0.4m square, has lintel stones at the top and bottom. An entrance 1m across is in the north wall and a small window, 0.3m across in the south wall of the west section of the building, has been blocked up. A raised plinth runs from in front of the entrance round to the east corner of the house. An enclosure, 4.8m x 3.2m, built of rough boulders lies against the east end of the structure. The enclosure contains a great deal of tumble and is separated from the house/byre by a slab of bedrock over 1m high. The presence of the window and the aumbrey in the west section and the proximity of the enclosure to the east section indicates that the west part of the structure was the house and the east part the byre.

Feature 22

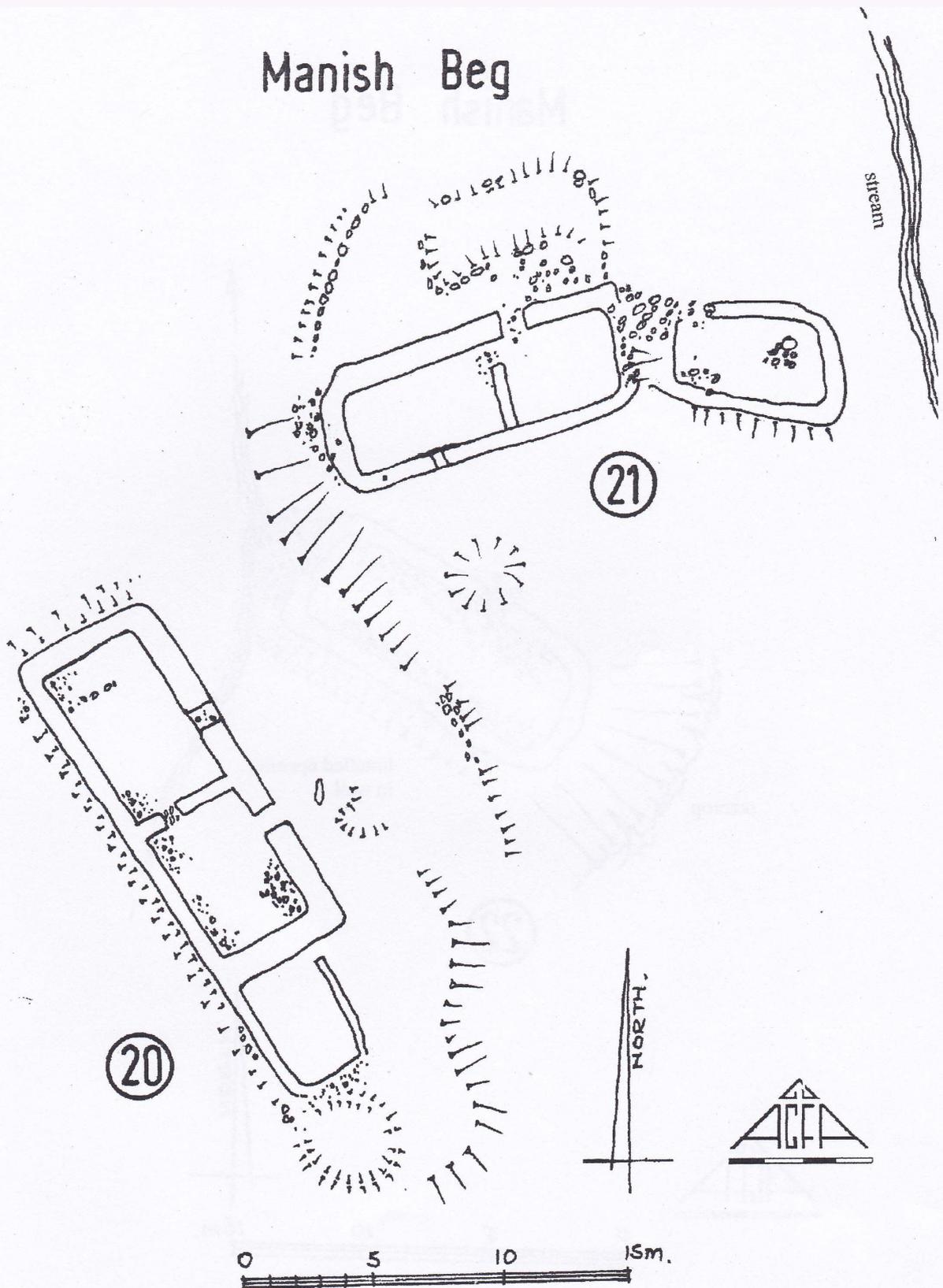
Barn and byre

A rectangular feature, 11m x 4m, lies northeast-southwest on its long axis with its northeast end very close to a small burn. The walling, of double-faced drystone construction with rubble core, stands to a maximum height of 1.4m and is 0.8m thick. A doorway 1m wide lies in the north wall and opposite it in the south wall is an opening 0.7m high and wide with a large lintel stone built over the top of it. It is suggested that this southwest section of the building was a barn and possibly a wooden partition divided it from the northeast section which was a byre with its own entrance, 1m wide, in the northeast wall. The walling is much tumbled with quantities of stone lying in the interior.

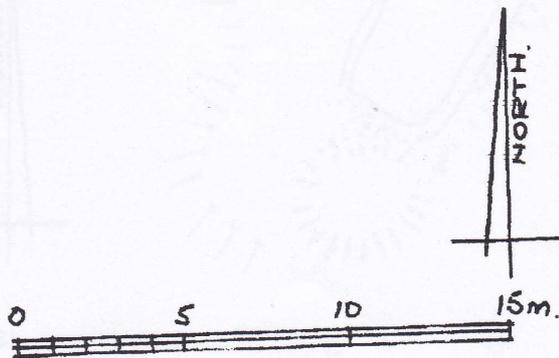
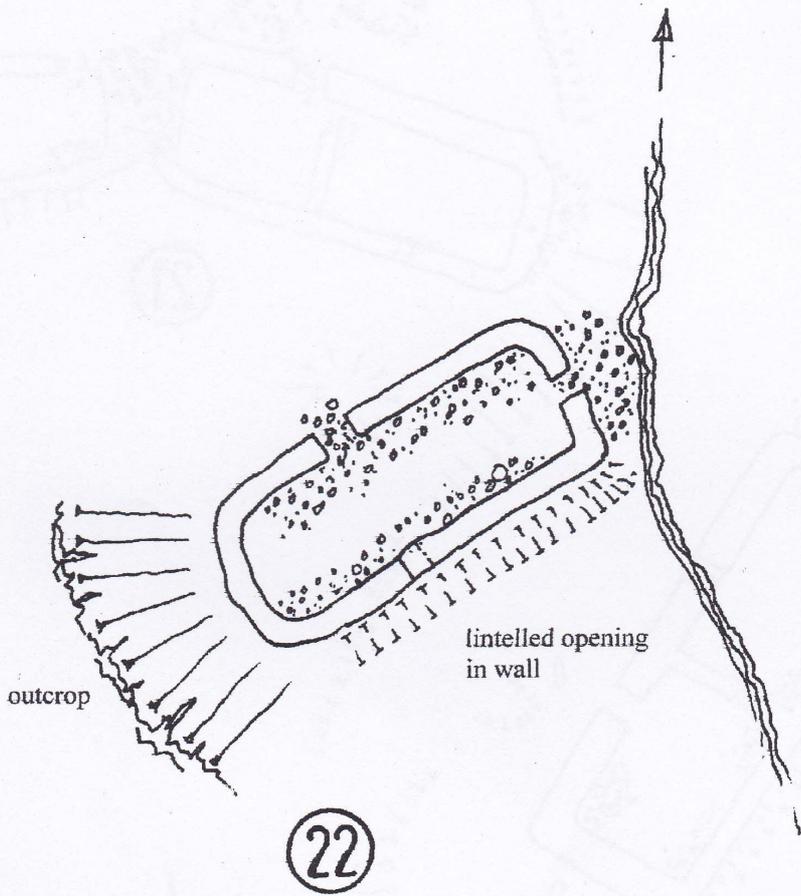
Some 30m to the northwest of Feature 22 some stone and slightly raised areas in the grass gave rise to the suggestion that there had been another structure here, lying beside the burn although the remains are too exiguous for any definite identification.

The flat, grass-covered area around Features 20-22 has clearly been improved with clearance cairns on it and faint signs of cultivation rigs.

Manish Beg



Manish Beg



Associated Field Systems

Feature 23

Small Field

NG 5674 4708

A small field situated on a natural platform and utilising outcrop on the east and west sides to form a cleared area 10m x 10m is shown on the 1:10000 map as either an enclosure or a structure.

Feature 24

Sheiling

NG 5686 4704

1. In an area of rough heather covered boggy ground below quite prominent crags an oval setting of stones lies in a slight hollow. The setting lies northwest-southeast on its long axis and measures 4.2m x 3.4m. The walling has consisted of contiguous rough boulders with no evidence of drystone filling. There may have been an entrance in the northwest end. The interior is filled with heather and low hazel scrub but a considerable amount of stone can be felt beneath the earth. Some 2m from the northwest end lies a water-filled hollow, 0.6m diameter and no more than 0.1m deep. Stone round the edge of the hollow gives the impression that the feature may be man-made and it has been covered by a flat stone which appears to have been slightly chamfered on the underside to fit the hollow.

Approximately 10m to the south of this structure, quite close below the crags, the remains of what may have been an enclosure can be seen.. A line of rough boulder walling 11m long running parallel with the foot of the crags and a short length of boulder walling, 4m long, running at right angles to its north end are now all that can be discerned with any certainty.

2. Some 30m to the southwest of the enclosure, in an area almost completely clear of heather, a faint oval banking under the grass may be the remains of another oval structure. The feature lies northeast-southwest on its long axis and measures approximately 5m x 3m externally. A tumble of stones lies in the south edging.

Feature 25

Cleared area

NG 5685 4700

A small cleared area 10m x 5m with a clearance cairn on the south side lies in an area of deep heather and scrub.

Feature 26

Cleared area

NG 5678 4704

To the north west of Feature 25 is another cleared area measuring 12m x 6m north - south. It has a bank on its east side and a small burn runs southward along its eastern side.

Feature 27

Stone bank

NG 5682 4709

A rickle of stones runs almost west to east for some 20m over a small rise.

Feature 28**Field bank**

A stone and turf bank runs from the Manish Beg Burn northeast up a slope to an area of flatter ground which shows evidence of clearance. This is now covered in places with heather. This field bank, which has an average height of 0.5m, runs to outcrop in the northeast.

From this bank another stone and turf bank, average height 0.2m, runs southeast for 40m, becoming turf covered as it disappears into a bog

Feature 29**Field bank****NG**

This field bank defines the east side of the enclosed land of Manish Beg. It runs from the Manish Beg burn in the south, filling in gaps in the eastern scarp. In many places it stands as a wall but in the northeast it appears as a turf bank while in its north section it consists of large stones running for 20m between outcrops. In parts this field bank reaches to over 1m high. Where it appears as a stone dyke it is 0.7m to 0.9m wide.

Feature 30**Dairy store?****NG 5677 4698**

A small circular feature 2m in diameter and with turf walls 0.5m thick lies in the grassy field on the west side of the Manish Beg burn. It may have been a 'dairy store'

Feature 31**Walls diverting the burn****NG 5674 4697**

A small tributary of the Manish Beg burn appears to have had its direction of flow changed by banking which runs on both sides of the burn for 10m. The banking is stone built on the northwest side with an average height of 0.5m and an average width of 0.8m. On the southeast side it is turf built. It would appear that the burn was diverted to prevent it flooding the cleared field lying to the north.

Feature 32**Field bank****NG 5681 4691
to NG 5668 4683**

This field bank which reaches 1m high in places runs from the Manish Beg burn up a steep slope enclosing an area of cleared ground. It turns west and crosses a tributary of the Manish Beg burn then disappears into a bog from which another burn drains. It then reappears looping round to join a high outcrop in the west. Before this junction there is an entrance leading into the enclosed land of Manish Beg. It then turns south once again, joining the outcrop, to finally cross west over the valley bottom and disappear up a steep scree slope. This part of the field bank is not shown on the OS maps.

Feature 33**Walls****NG 5663 4700
to NG 5658 4701**

A field bank runs west from the entrance mentioned in Feature 32 to end outside the kiln (Feature 3). This bank shows on the 1:10000 map as a continuation of Feature 32 but is in fact a later construction.

Feature 34**Rig****NG 5665 4703**

An area of rig running northeast-southwest measures 35m x 30m and ends in a low bank (Feature 35)

Feature 35**Field bank****NG 5665 4704**

A low turf field bank bordering the north of Feature 34

Feature 36**Drainage****NG 566 469**

The flat area in the bottom of the valley of the unnamed burn which flows north on the west side of the township has been drained probably in the 19th century.

Lower Area of Manish Beg

Feature 37 Walling

The Manish Beg burn has had a stone bank built on its west side and this is still visible in places. Traces of walling can also be seen higher up on the rocky slopes to the east of the burn. At one point a small wall crosses the burn at right angles from west to east to finish at the cliffs. At this point a small overhang in the cliff may have been used as a shelter.

Feature 38 Rig Centred on NG 567 476

A flat bracken-covered area, sheltered in the west by a high outcrop, has been cultivated. Six stone-lined furrows can be seen at 3m, 6m and 4m centres, running northwest-southeast. A small stretch of walling can be seen filling a gap in the rocky outcrop high above the area.

Feature 39 Field Bank

Running from the area of Feature 38 a stone field bank, 0.7m wide and at maximum 0.7m high, crosses an area of bog and heather to reach an outcrop to the north. The bank is 53m long and has a gap, which suggests an entrance, as the bank turns due north.

Feature 40 Drain Centred on NG 566 476

In the cultivated area of Feature 38 evidence of drainage is seen running north on the valley bed. The drain reaches the sea at the storm beach which it crosses in a man-made channel 0.5m wide. The east edge of the beach has stone walling edging the outcrop.

Feature 41 Drain

Some 15m to the west of Feature 40 the Manish Beg burn also cuts through the storm beach in a channel, 0.8m wide.

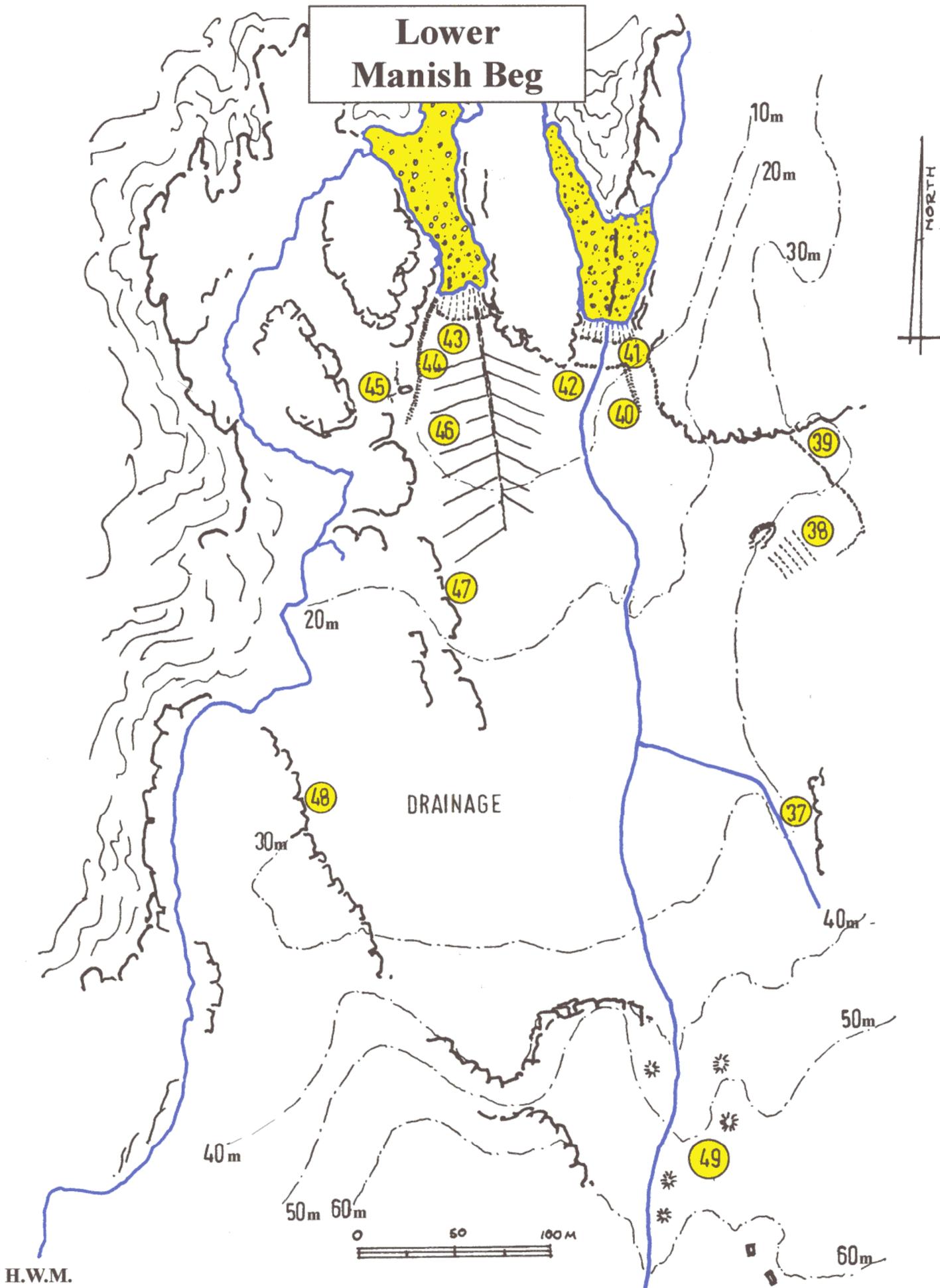
Feature 42 Ruined Wall

The tumbled remnants of a wall can be seen running across the beach at Feature 41 to the outcrop at the west side of it. The shore line here falls very steeply to the sea.

Feature 43 Drain

Continuing westward from Feature 42 across a rocky promontory, another storm beach is cut by a straight drainage channel 1m – 2m wide with sides 1m high.

Lower Manish Beg



**Raasay Field Survey
April 1999**

THE RAASAY FIELD SURVEY

Manish More to Brochel

The field survey of the peripheral area around Manish Beg extended to about 7 sq. km from the west shore, north of Manish More, eastwards to the area around Manish Beg and beyond as far as the road north from Brochel to Tairbeart. The area was defined on the south by an arbitrary line just beyond Manish More, where the island's main road turns sharply to the east (where the 1997 survey ended), and the road east to Brochel. The northern edge was the shore on Loch Arnish.

The terrain was largely (unimprovable) rocky outcrops generally falling towards the north and northwest shorelines. The area is characterised by considerable bosses and outcrops of granitic schist, high flows of trapped peat and, nearer the coast, extensive volcanic trap dykes which channel the streams to small spreads of fertile arable land behind impressive storm beaches of boulders. The creation of these storm beaches has dammed some of the streams to form small fresh water lochans. Inevitably, as elsewhere on Raasay, there were ample flat boggy tracts. Occasional small patches of marginally improved ground and wooded slopes were evident, particularly close to Loch na Bronn and its draining burn. This burn joined with that from little Loch na Leanna to form a major division, strangely unnamed on the OS map. Clearly an ancient drainage, in its lower reaches this has carved out a considerable ravine, the cliffs and terraces on the west side of which carry thick natural woodland. This ravine must have created a natural boundary and obstacle between the township of Manish Beg and the little coastal settlements described in this survey area. The small coastal settlements recorded would seem to have been only practically reached by boat from across Loch Arnish and it may well have been that their history attaches them to Arnish, rather than the formidable tracts of high ground which descend to the coast behind them. The settlement site **Feature 8** in particular is one of spectacular and remote beauty.

The eastern sector of the field survey area contains the largest loch on the island, Loch an Uachdair, its adjoining Loch Beag and the catchments and outlet streams from these, which fall through terraces and gullies to the coast to the north. A second burn falls from Loch an Uachdair to the coast, where its outflow has created the site of the settlement at Feature 5.

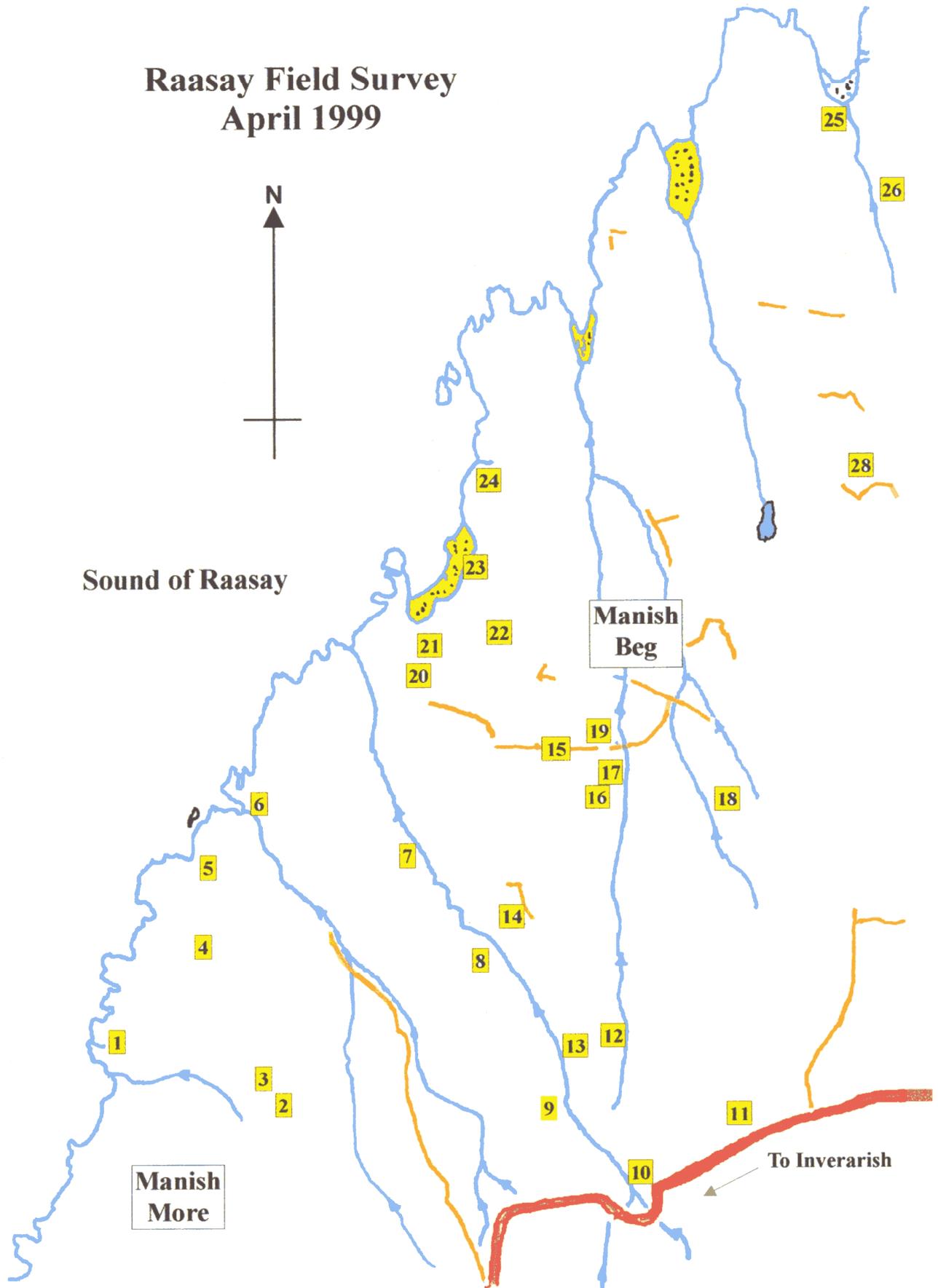
To the east of Loch an Uachdair the ground rises to a mass of granite tops which descend steeply to the coast at Loch Arnish. Calum's Road has been driven through these tops to descend to the isthmus at Tairbeart and Torran.

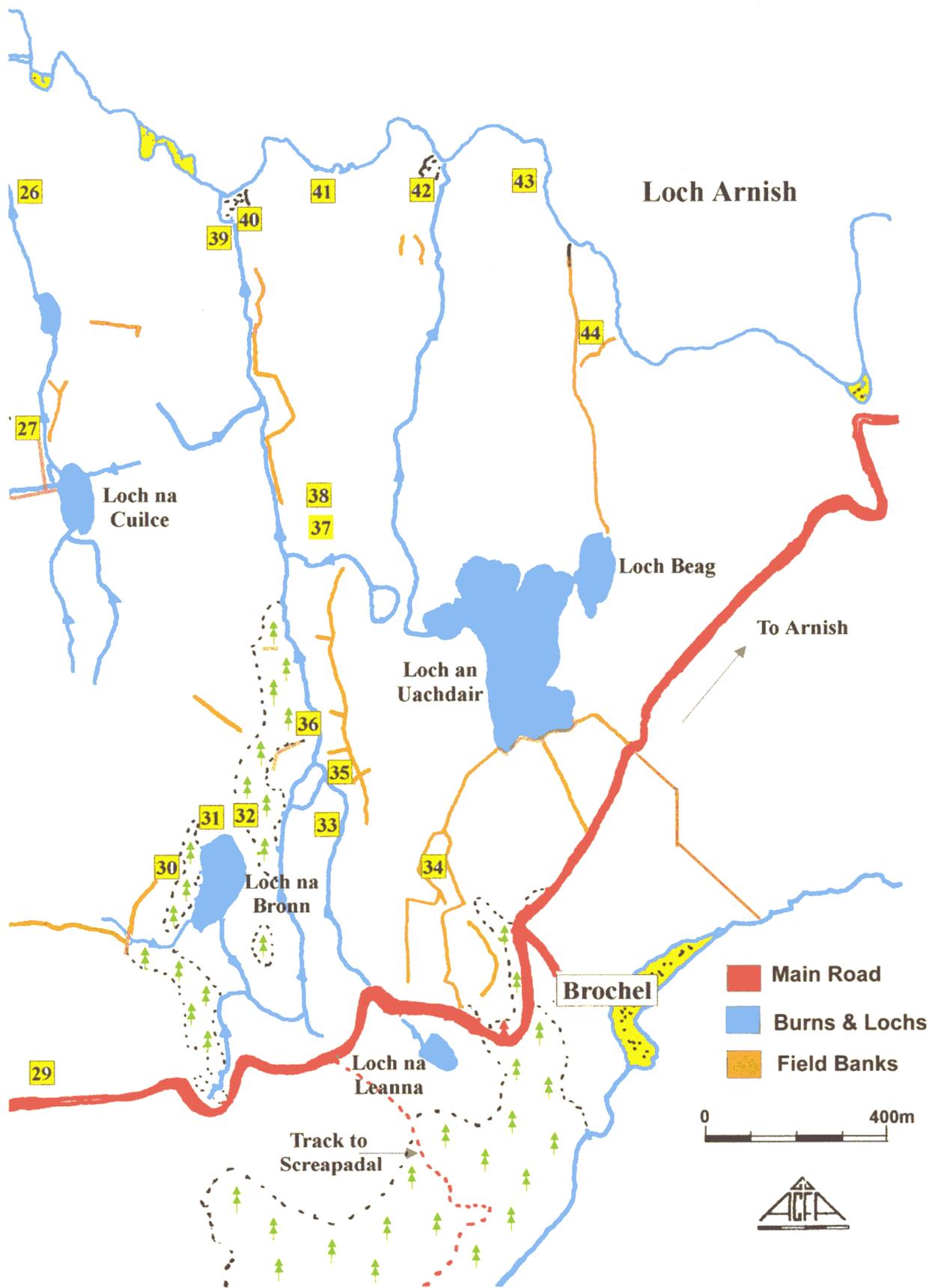
Down both banks of the Loch na Leanna burn, remnants of an earlier land division can be traced as lengths of turf and stone banks along the 200m contour, with cross banks descending to the valley floor, some of the enclosed areas containing extensive rig (**Feature 2**), and a lower area containing a small sheiling settlement (**Features 3 and 4**). These banks are marked in brown on the map.

Complex systems of degraded, ancient dykes criss-cross up and across slopes. Only the major remains of these were recorded. Other lochs may have had a relationship with the archaeology - Loch na Cuilce (Loch of the reeds) and its northern subsidiary perhaps having been a source of material for thatching. The southern higher rough pasture and peat has been exploited for peat cutting in many areas.

This area must always have been marginal land and it remains to be ascertained whether it was actually part of the Manish Beg township or was included in the rough grazings of Brochel. The occasional sheilings found in the valley of Loch na Leanna burn and the considerable lengths of older turf bank and walling which extend down the east bank might suggest a boundary here. Richard Sharpe (Raasay, a Study in Island History) when talking of Manish says 'In this area the townships of the east and west coast meet and join the northern townships. The link to these is provided by Castle (i.e. Brochel)'. Brochel, the former principal township of the island, was severely affected by emigration between 1841 and 1851, when its population dropped from 10 to 6 families. The depopulation of this area can probably be directly related to the creation of a large sheep farm in the north of the island by Mr Royston MacKenzie from 1852 onwards. Although Brochel continues to record a population during the second half of the 19th century the occupation of the heads of the families is always given as 'shepherd' which, coupled with the absence of any people in Manish at this time, would suggest that the working of the land between Manish and Brochel and north towards Arnish and Torran was carried out from Brochel, at least in the 19th and 20th centuries. We would suggest that the large enclosure (**Feature 1**) and the extensive dyke system which relate to this feature (marked orange on the map) are part of this use of the landscape.

Raasay Field Survey April 1999

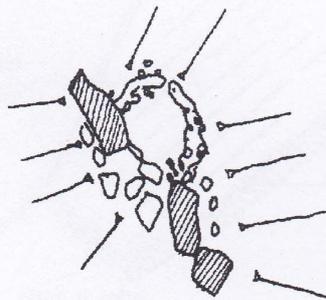




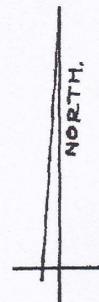
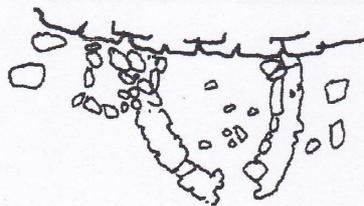
Feature 1



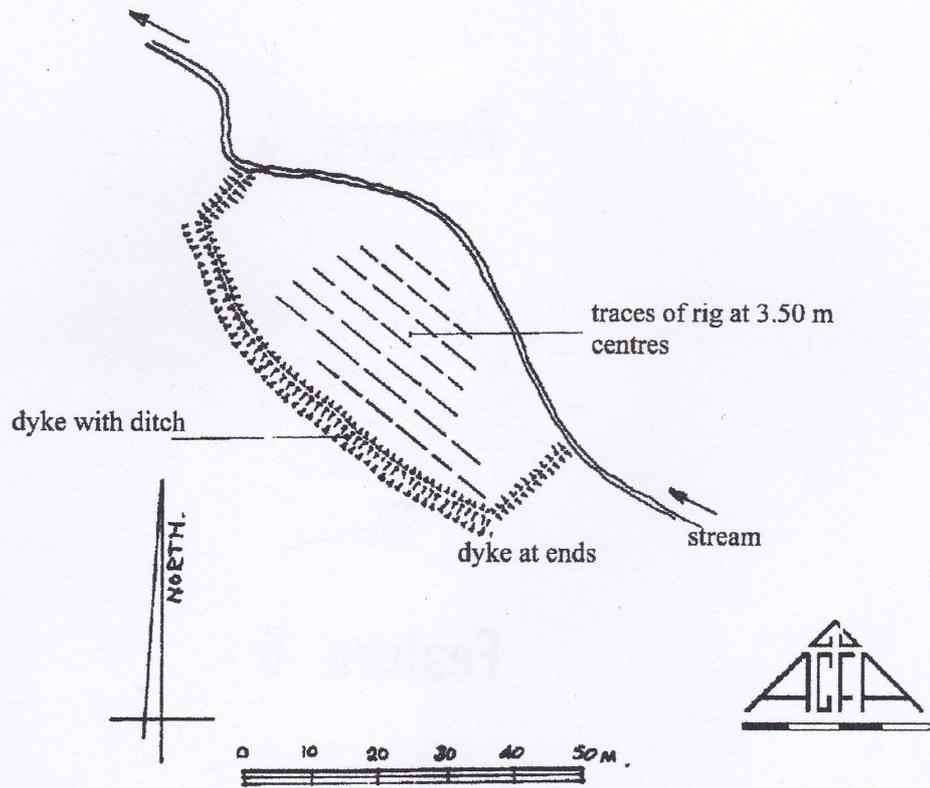
Feature 4



Feature 6



Feature 7



Feature 6**Shelter****NG 5584 4671 [5m OD]**

On the north side of the mouth of a burn, behind a storm beach and in a small west-facing bay a semi-circular structure is built against the rocky cliff. The shelter measures 6.5m by 7m. The single skin wall, standing up to 0.7m high and 0.6m wide, is built of large beach stones as well as the usual angular boulders from cliff tumble. There is evidence of a south facing entrance. Despite the tumble in the interior, there is a considerable amount of vegetation. On the west side of the structure there is a slightly built, lobe-shaped annex. There are several recorded references (Martin Martin, Munro) to suggest that in the 16th and 17th centuries the people used shelters and 'caves' by the shore as summer sheilings.

Feature 7**Enclosure****NG 5614 4663 [38m OD]**

Lying in a hollow between two rocky ridges on the west bank of a burn, a well drained enclosure (63m x 33m) is defined by substantial turf and stone banks or dykes. The east dyke alongside the burn has served to revet the bank and thus deepen the burn. There is evidence of a ditch cut outside the west dyke. While the area outside the enclosure is covered in deep heather, the interior vegetation is largely moss and bracken. There is some slight evidence of rig and furrow in the centre and, at the north end, a stony spread with a stray length of banking may be the result of clearance. The enclosing dyke is at its highest, 0.9m to the south (0.4m elsewhere) with a spread of 1.5m at its base. It is well built with substantial stone outer facings and turf fill.

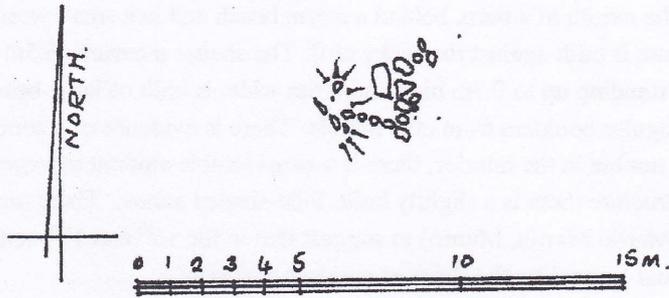
Feature 8**Stone setting****NG 5627 4638 [60m OD]**

An enigmatic stone setting, 300m upstream of Feature 7, lies on a gently sloping patch of heather. A 2m line of stones, 0.4m high terminates at the north end with a single upright stone of the same height, behind which lies a 1m long slab. Some 2m west of this line, and roughly parallel, is a further alignment of 4 smaller stones. The possibility that these are the robbed out remains of a cairn cannot be discounted.

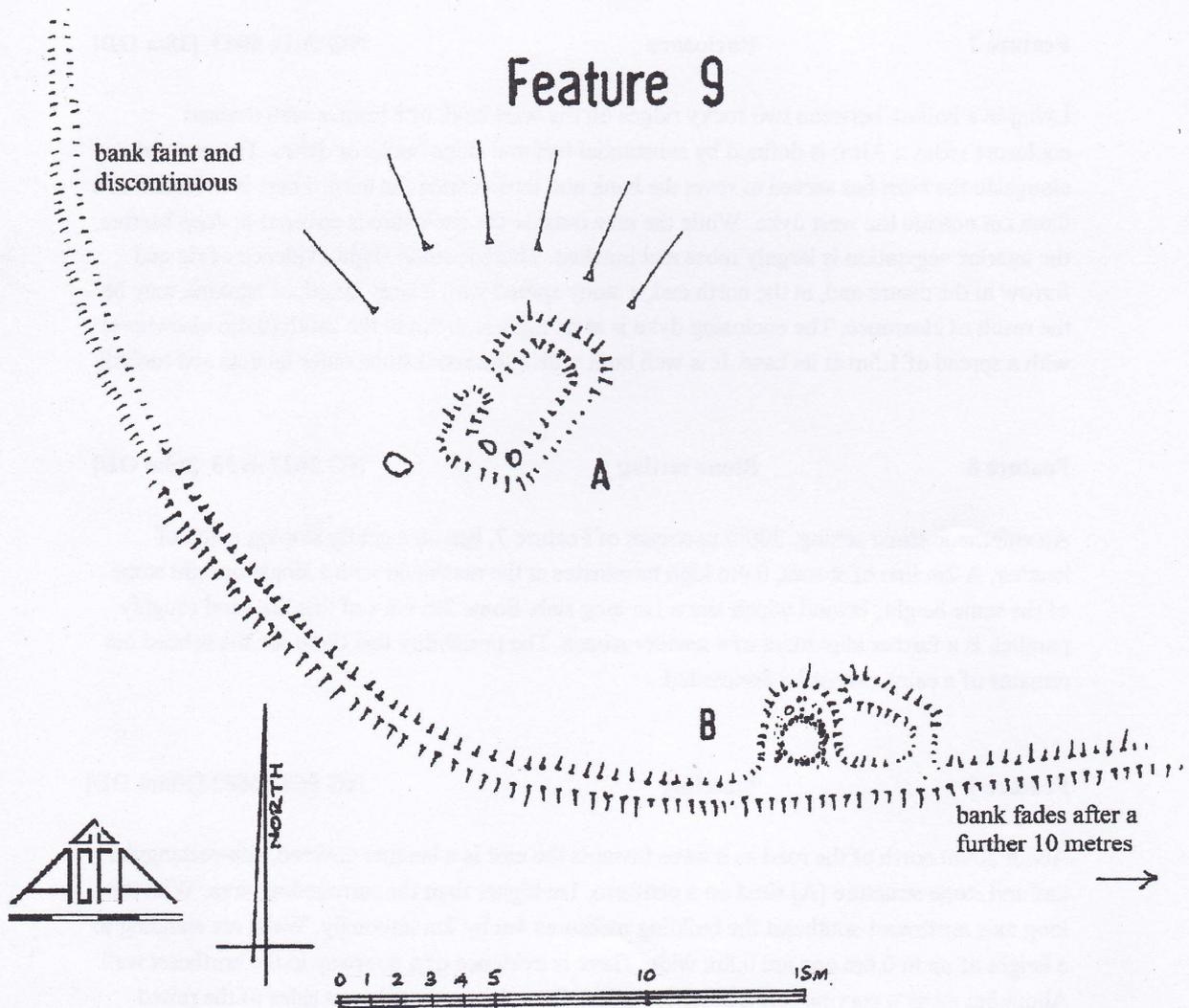
Feature 9**Steading****NG 5643 4602 [100m OD]**

About 200m north of the road as it turns towards the east is a heather covered, sub-rectangular turf and stone structure [A] sited on a platform, 1m higher than the surrounding area. With the long axis northwest-southeast the building measures 4m by 2m internally. Walls are standing to a height of up to 0.6m and are 0.8m wide. There is evidence of a doorway in the northeast wall. About 8m away a curving turf and stone bank defines the north and west sides of the raised heather covered area on which the building is sited. The bank remains up to 0.5m high with a spread of 1m. The east of the area is bounded by a burn. Built into the bank and clearly post-

Feature 8



Feature 9



dating it is an ovoid, turf and stone structure built on a low mound. The walls stand to 0.3m high and enclose an area up to 2m in diameter. Close by to the south a low stone wall, standing up to 2 courses (0.4m), is built into the bank. With the ovoid structure it forms a sub-rectangular enclosure about 2m by 1.5m with a possible doorway in the northeast corner.

Feature 10

Steading

NG 5662 4588 [120m OD]

Close to the road as it loops round the confluence of two burns and about 50m north of this confluence are the remains of a small but substantially built building. The rectangular stone structure is 6m by 3.5m internally. The single skin walls remain standing to a general height of up to 0.5m but the northeast corner remains to 0.7m. There is an entrance in the south wall. To the east is an area of rig and furrow between the building and the head-dyke which is some 25m away.

Feature 11

Settlement

NG 5689 4603 [130m OD]

A group of small structures lies on a grassy bracken covered shoulder of the southeast facing slope overlooking the road. Beyond the shoulder and particularly on the steep slope above, the bracken quickly gives way to a dense cover of heather. Between the structures the complex has a good deal of stone scatter. There is some faint evidence of banks, clearance cairns and perhaps even, much reduced, the remains of earlier structures.

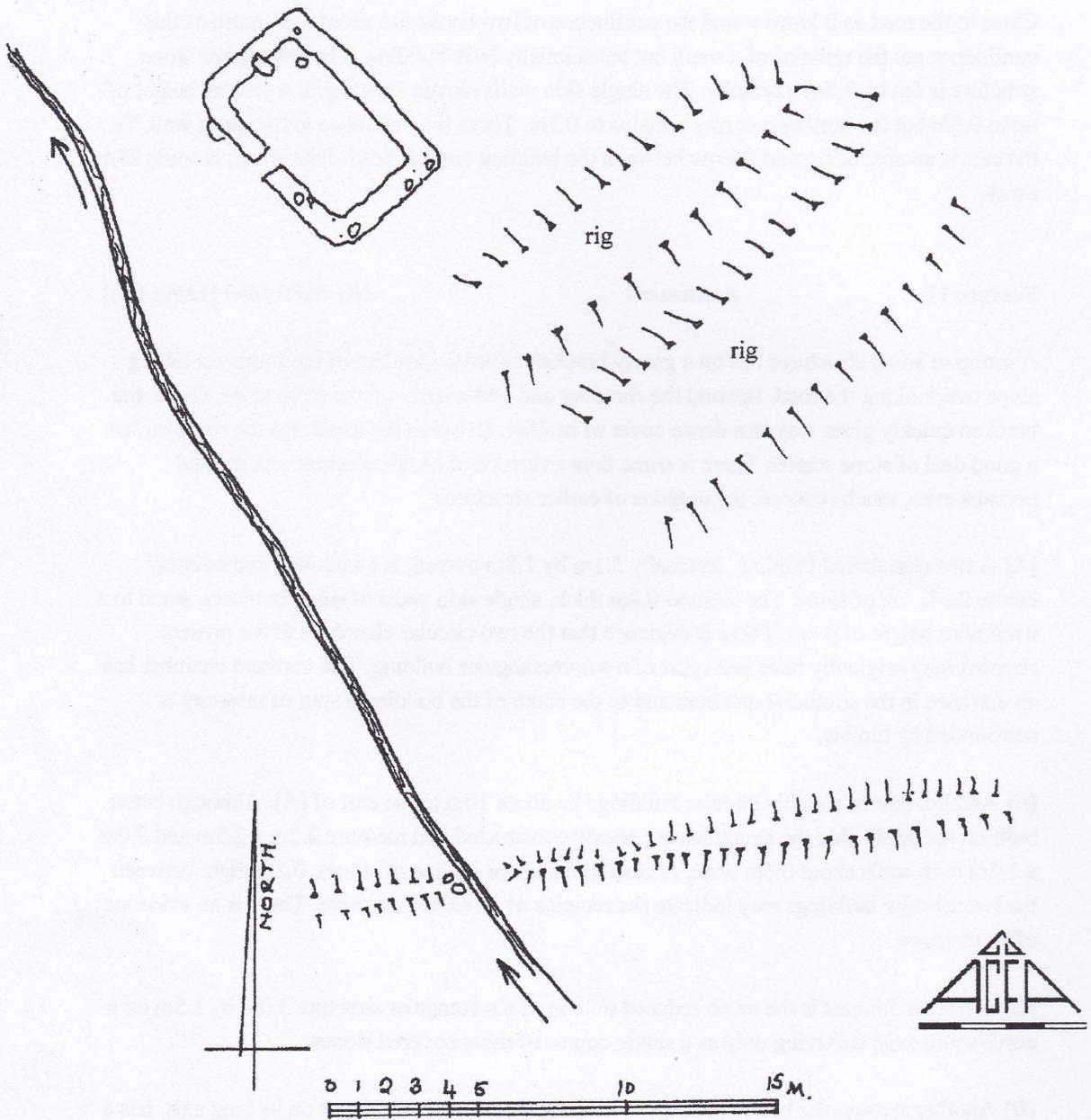
[A] A two chambered building, internally 5.1m by 1.8m overall, is positioned immediately below the break of slope. The 0.6m to 0.8m thick, single skin walls of small boulders, stand to a maximum height of 0.4m. There is evidence that the two circular chambers of the present remains may originally have been part of a sub-rectangular building. The northern chamber has an entrance in the southeast quadrant and to the south of the building a spur of masonry is surrounded by tumble.

[B] Another pair of roughly circular buildings lie about 10m to the east of [A]. Although better built on the uphill side the structures are poorly constructed and measure 2.5m x 2.3m and 2.0m x 1.5m with walls about 0.6m wide. A small rectangular outline of stones, 0.2m high, between the two circular buildings may indicate the remains of an earlier structure. There is no evidence of an entrance.

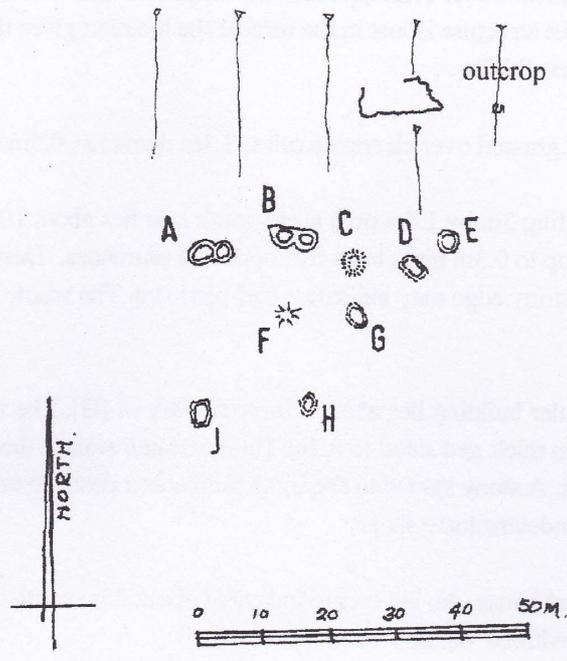
[C] A further 5m east is the much reduced outline of a rectangular structure 3.0m by 1.5m on a north-south axis, surviving only as a single course of moss covered stones.

[D] Another rectangular building, 2.8m by 1.6m and northwest-southeast on its long axis, lies a further 8m east. It has been built of larger stones than [C] and, as there is less vegetation, there

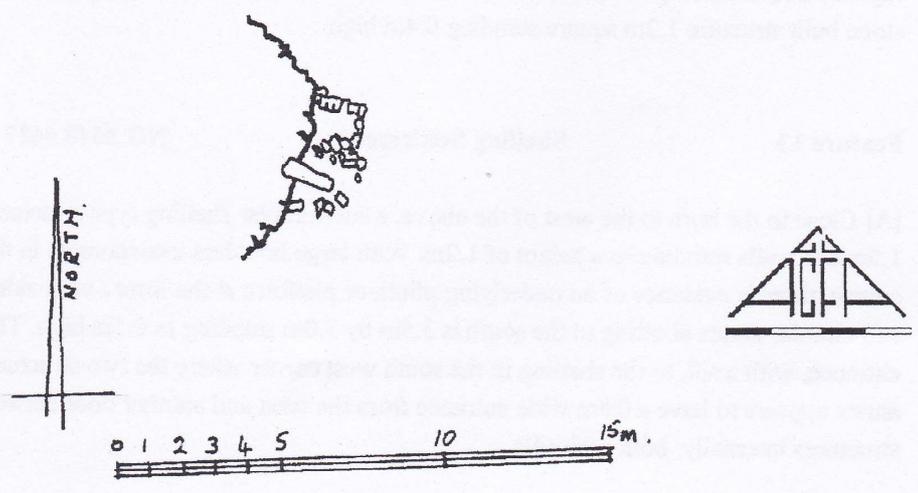
Feature 10



Feature 11



Feature 12



are more stones visible. The interior is relatively clear of stone but there is considerable tumble outside. The single skin walls are about 0.6m wide with a probable entrance in the southeast. There is some evidence that the upper courses of construction could have been turf.

[E] Within a mass of tumble, 6m to the northeast of [D], a well constructed length of wall built into the slope forms a small chamber about 1.2m square. The 0.6m wide walls stand to a height of 0.3m. Although the front of the structure is lost in the tumble the location gives the impression that this could be a small kiln.

[F] About 11m south of [B] is a grassed over clearance cairn, 3.3m diameter, 0.5m high.

[G] A roughly oval shaped building 3m by 1.4m on a north-south axis lies about 10m east of [F]. The longer walls, standing up to 0.3m high, have two opposing entrances. Despite tumble inside in the north end, a slight stony edge may indicate a bed-platform. The whole structure sits in a stony platform.

[H] Another small roughly circular building lies about 15m southwest of [G]. The walls, 1.7m internal diameter, are about 0.6m thick and stand to 0.2m. Built of small stones, there is a narrow entrance in the northeast. A stony spread to the south indicates a possible underlying platform or earlier structure of indeterminate shape.

[J] The possible remains of a turf house, 4m by 3m are indicated about 25m south of [A] by a low, mossy rectangular outline with no visible stone.

Feature 12

Lambing Shelter

NG 5662 4619 [135m OD]

Against a rock outcrop on a col near the headwaters of the Manish Beg west burn is a small stone built structure 1.2m square standing 0.4m high.

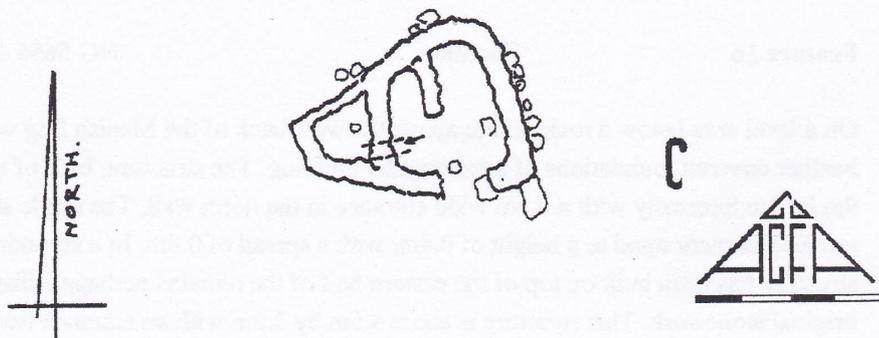
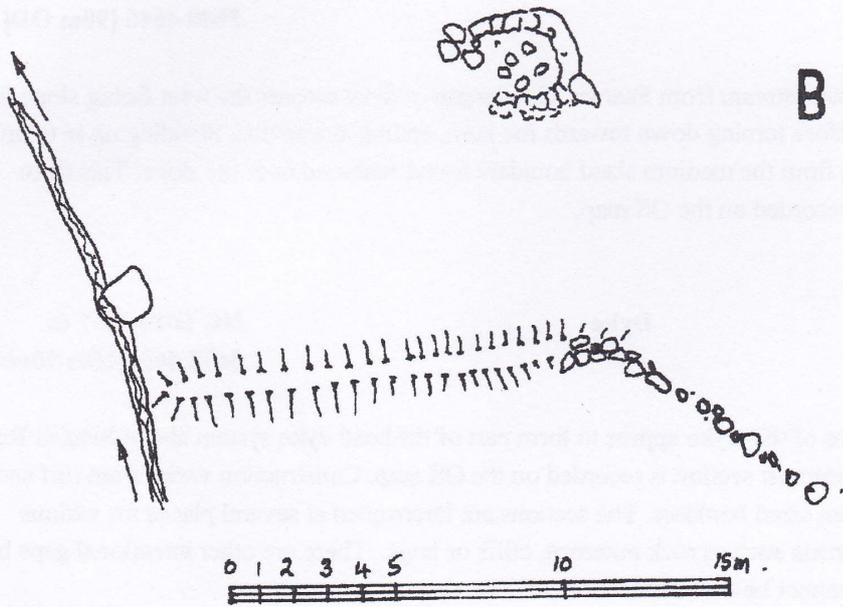
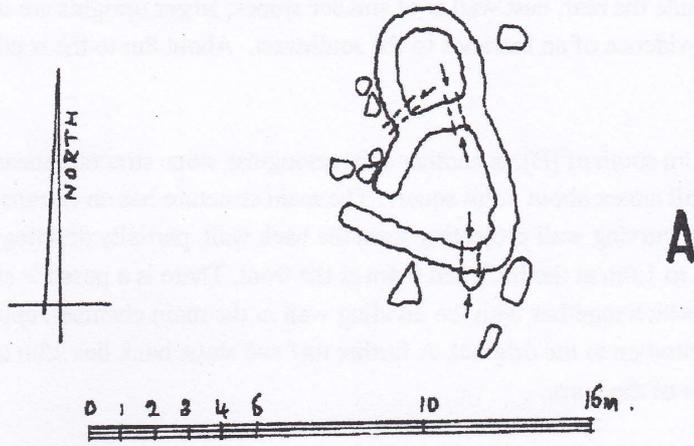
Feature 13

Sheiling Settlement

NG 5648 4617 [95m OD]

[A] Close to the burn to the west of the above, a sub-circular sheiling type structure, 2.5m by 1.5m has walls standing to a height of 1.2m. With large boulders incorporated in the base course, there is evidence of an underlying plinth or platform at the front / west side. A larger sub-circular annex abutting to the south is 3.5m by 3.0m standing to 0.5m high. There is an entrance, with a sill, to the sheiling in the south west corner where the two structures join. The annex appears to have a 0.8m wide entrance from the west and another door between the two structures internally, both with sills.

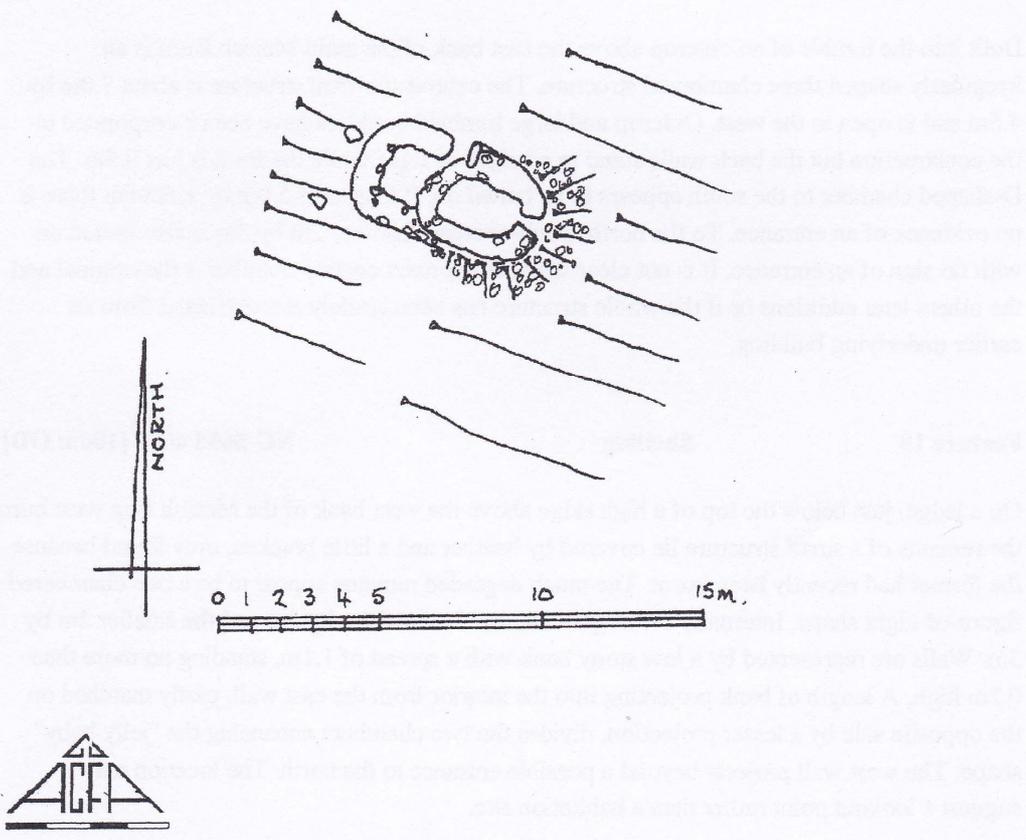
Feature 13 shieling settlement.



Feature 16

Feature 16 is a large, irregularly shaped structure, possibly a platform or a large pit, located in the center of the site. It is surrounded by a low wall or embankment. The structure is oriented roughly north-south. The interior of the structure is filled with a dense pattern of small circles, suggesting a floor or a specific material. The surrounding area is marked with several long, parallel lines, possibly representing a path or a boundary. The drawing is a plan view, showing the layout of the feature and its immediate surroundings.

Feature 16



Feature 17**House****NG 5662 4678 [90m OD]**

About 25m northeast of Feature 16 are the remains of a roughly rectangular building, 11m by 4m on an east-west axis. Beyond the door in the north wall, the western part of the building is narrower internally by about 1m. The substantial foundations clearly show a double-faced rubble infill construction with the east end wall rounded. While the west end is also rounded externally the corners inside are squared. This end also appears to be built on a platform, perhaps all indicating that some reconstruction has taken place. There are no other discernible features in the vicinity to give an indication of the use of the building.

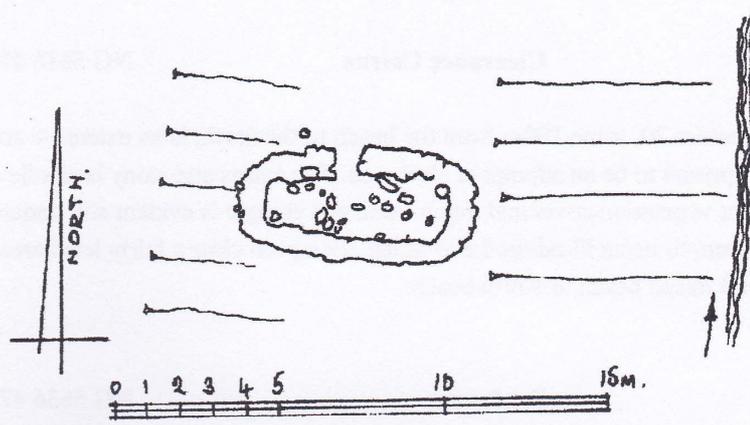
Feature 18**Bothy****NG 5684 4671 [105m OD]**

Built into the tumble of an outcrop above the east bank of the main Manish Burn is an irregularly shaped three chambered structure. The central sub-oval structure is about 7.0m by 4.5m and is open to the west. Outcrop and large tumbled boulders have been incorporated in the construction but the back walls stand to a height of 1.1m while the front is just 0.5m. The D-shaped chamber to the south appears to be butted on. It measures 5.0m by 1.5m but there is no evidence of an entrance. To the north, a sub-circular chamber 2m by 3m is also butted on with no sign of an entrance. It is not clear whether the main central chamber is the original and the others later additions or if the whole structure has been crudely reconstructed from an earlier underlying building.

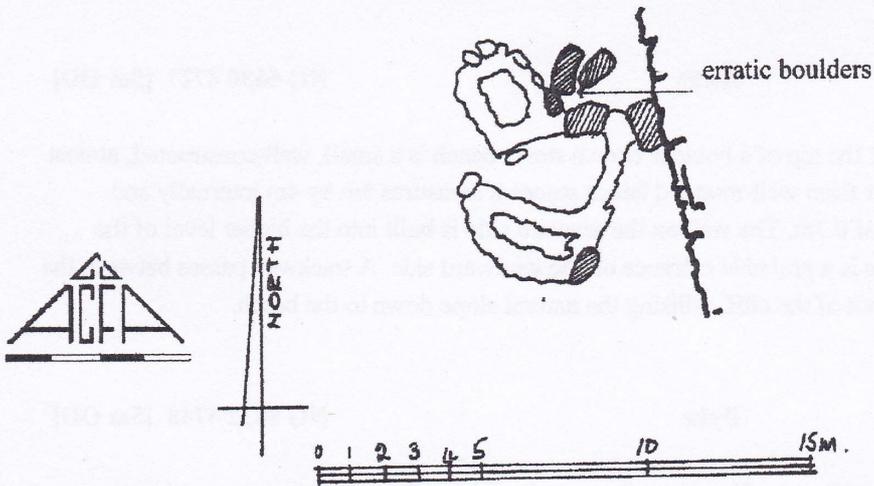
Feature 19**Sheiling****NG 5655 4687 [100m OD]**

On a ledge, just below the top of a high ridge above the west bank of the Manish Beg west burn the remains of a small structure lie covered by heather and a little bracken, only found because the former had recently been burnt. The much degraded remains appear to be a two chambered figure-of-eight shape. Internally the larger chamber is about 4m by 5m and the smaller 2m by 3m. Walls are represented by a low stony bank with a spread of 1.1m, standing no more than 0.2m high. A length of bank projecting into the interior from the east wall, partly matched on the opposite side by a lesser projection, divides the two chambers enhancing the "jelly baby" shape. The west wall projects beyond a possible entrance to the north. The location may suggest a lookout point rather than a habitation site.

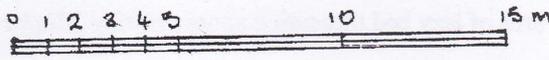
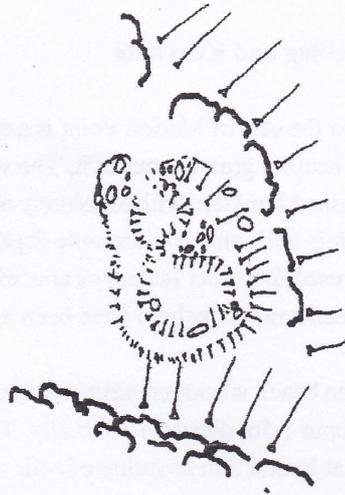
Feature 17



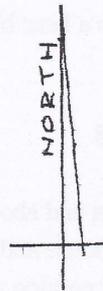
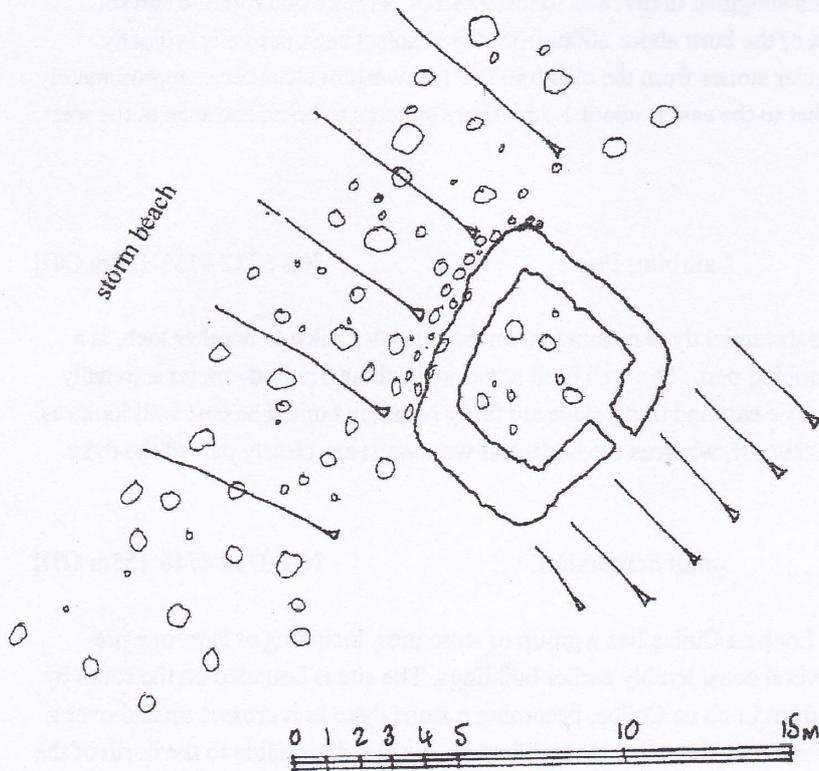
Feature 18



Feature 19



Feature 23



Feature 25**Sheiling and Kelp Kiln****NG 5709 4828 [2m OD]**

In the middle of the storm beach to the east of Manish Point is a rather enigmatic circular stone feature about 1.5m diameter with heather growing out of it. The surrounding area is covered with large well-rounded water-washed boulders with absolutely no vegetation cover. Inside the feature it can be clearly seen that it is built on a considerable depth of the storm beach boulders and could not possibly have been used for either human or animal habitation. Despite its unusual shape for the purpose it seems most likely to have been a circular kelp kiln.

To the northwest on the edge of the beach is another circular structure which may possibly have been a sheiling. It too measures about 1.5m diameter internally. There is some tumble inside but the "floor" is fairly level with at least a thin covering of soil.

Behind the beach is an area of lazy bed measuring approximately 25m by 45m with 5 lazy beds.

Feature 26**Sheiling****NG 5721 4814 [25m OD]**

A figure-of-eight hut lies snuggled under, and to the south of, a rocky outcrop in a natural narrow gully to the east of the burn about 200m from the beach. The structure is typically crudely built with irregular stones from the cliff tumble. The western chamber is approximately 2m in diameter while that to the east is about 1.5m. There appears to be an entrance at the west end.

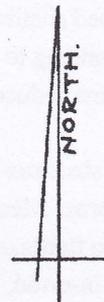
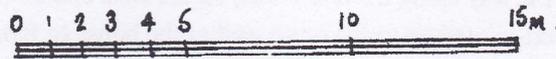
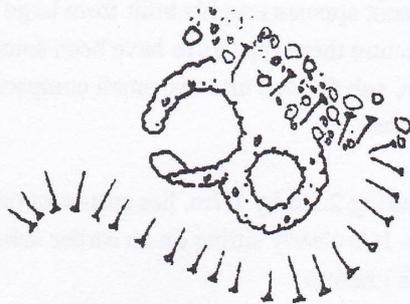
Feature 27**Lambing Pen****NG 5722 4755 [30m OD]**

Within the corner of a substantial dyke running down from Loch Cuilce to another loch, is a circular sheepfold or lambing pen. The well built structure is about 1m in diameter internally and stands at over 1m. The east and north sides are fairly squarely built. The east wall looks as though it is a later blocking off, whereas the north and west walls are clearly part of the dyke.

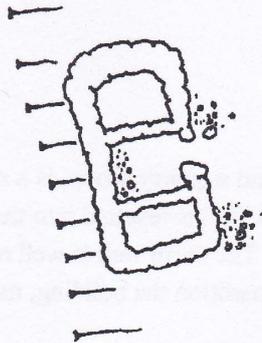
Feature 28**Small Settlement****NG 5718 4746 [55m OD]**

To the west and above Loch na Cuilce lies a group of structures, including at least one pre-clearance house and several considerably earlier buildings. The site is bounded on the south by a turf bank coming up from Loch na Cuilce, becoming a stone dyke as it crosses up and over a stony ridge. An area of severely degraded rig and furrow was just discernible to the north of the settlement. There is a further dyke to the north beyond the rig and furrow area.

Feature 26 shieling .



Feature 29 small house



[A] A house with its long axis north-south lies close under a cliff face. The main compartment to the north measures about 9m by 3m and has a rather winding wall which curves in several directions particularly at the north end. There appears to be a narrow entrance in the east wall. To the west between the wall and the cliff, is a small compartment, 2m by 3m, with a large slab at the south end of it. This compartment appears roughly built from large rocks tumbled from the cliff. At the south end of the structure there appears to have been some later modification with a square building 3.5m by 2.2m, sub divided into two small compartments. There is a possible entrance in the northeast corner.

[BA] oval shaped sheiling type measuring 2.5m by 1.7m, lies east-west on its long axis. The walls are upstanding to about 0.75m. It is clearly sitting on an earlier sub-circular building, 7m in diameter, now reduced almost to a platform.

[C] The main structure on the site, this is a substantial house with round ended walls built on a revetted platform. Measuring 6.0m by 3.5m internally, the long axis lies east-west. There is a door about two thirds of the way along the north wall. At the west end of the building a small wall has been inserted, butt-jointed on to the south wall of the house to form a small compartment. The walls of the house are upstanding to over 1.5m.

[D] On the top of a rocky knoll is an enclosure 12m by 5m, constructed of rough boulders, with the long axis running north-south. This would appear to have been an area to store fodder protected from the livestock of the settlement.

[E] Built close under the rocks to the east, below the enclosure, is a pair of circular, single cell sheiling type structures, 2m and 3m in diameter respectively

[F] A rather enigmatic structure, sub rectangular in shape, has a great number of small stones, which look like cairn material, on the south and west sides.

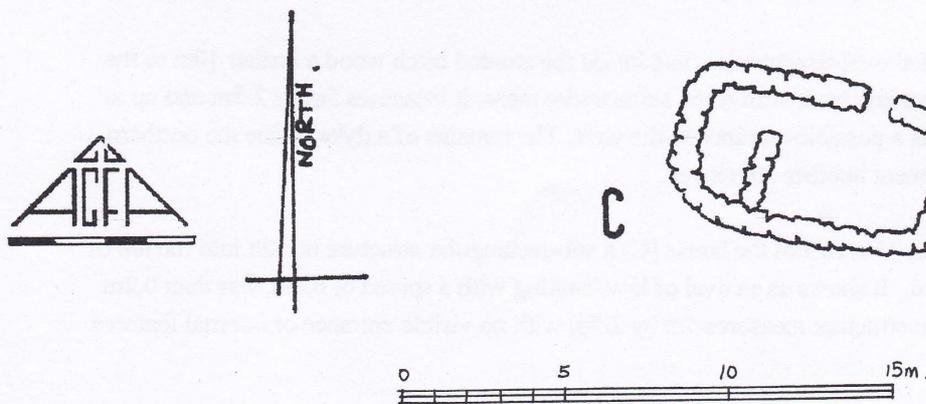
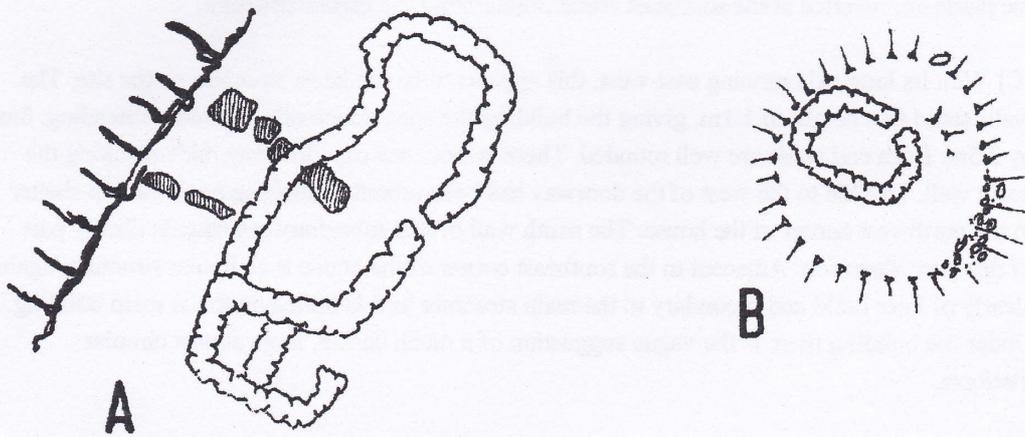
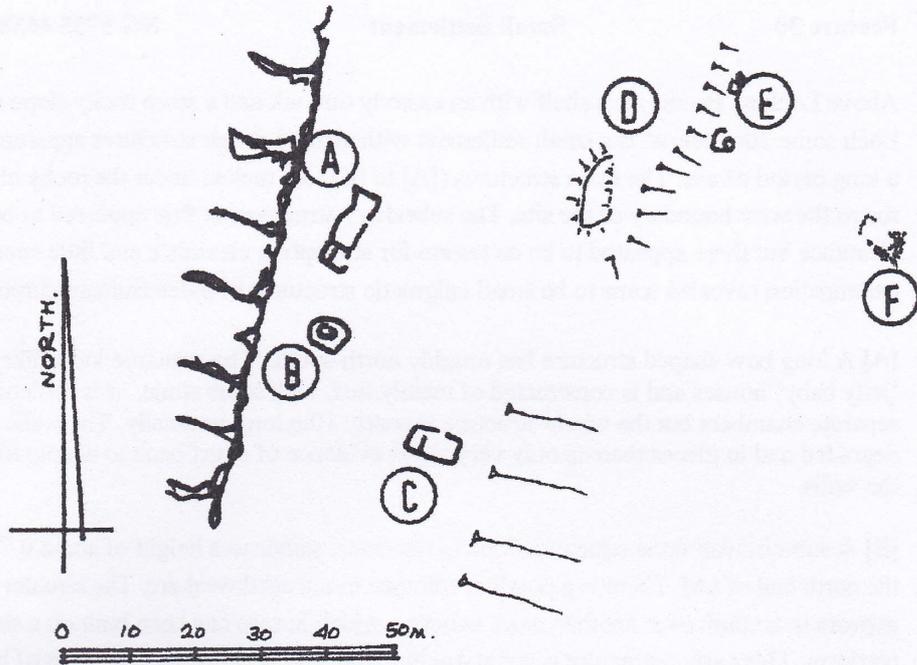
Feature 29

House

NG 5722 4611 [135m OD]

Close to the road, about 75m uphill behind a quarry scoop, is a small house, 5.5m by 2m, with its long axis lying north-south. The west wall is revetted into the hillside. There is a doorway approximately midway in the east wall. The north wall is well rounded whereas the south wall is more squarely built. Two cross walls partition the building, making two small chambers at either end.

Feature 28



Above Loch na Bronn, on a shelf with an easterly outlook and a steep rocky slope down to the Loch some 20m below, is a small settlement with about a dozen structures apparently covering a long period of use. The main structures ([A] to [C]) are tucked under the rocky cliff which forms the west boundary of the site. The subsidiary structures at first appeared to be mounds of clearance but there appeared to be no reason for attempting clearance and little success. Closer examination revealed some to be small enigmatic structures of indeterminate purpose or date.

[A] A long bow shaped structure lies roughly north-south. The structure looks like a series of 'jelly baby' houses and is constructed of mainly turf, with some stone. It is difficult to identify separate chambers but the whole structure is nearly 10m long internally. The walls are much degraded and in places there is only very slight evidence of a turf bank to denote the position of the walls.

[B] A sub-circular stone structure, 2.5m in diameter, stands to a height of about 0.75m, close to the north end of [A]. There is a possible entrance in the northwest arc. The circular structure appears to be built over another, oval, structure which in turn has been built on a stony platform. This earlier structure is about 4m in length and 2.5m wide. The walls of both features are very much tumbled, internally and externally, although this does not hide the evidence for the platform, revetted at the southeast corner, underlying the earlier structure.

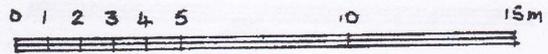
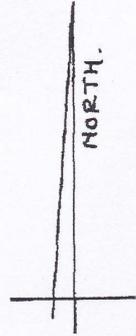
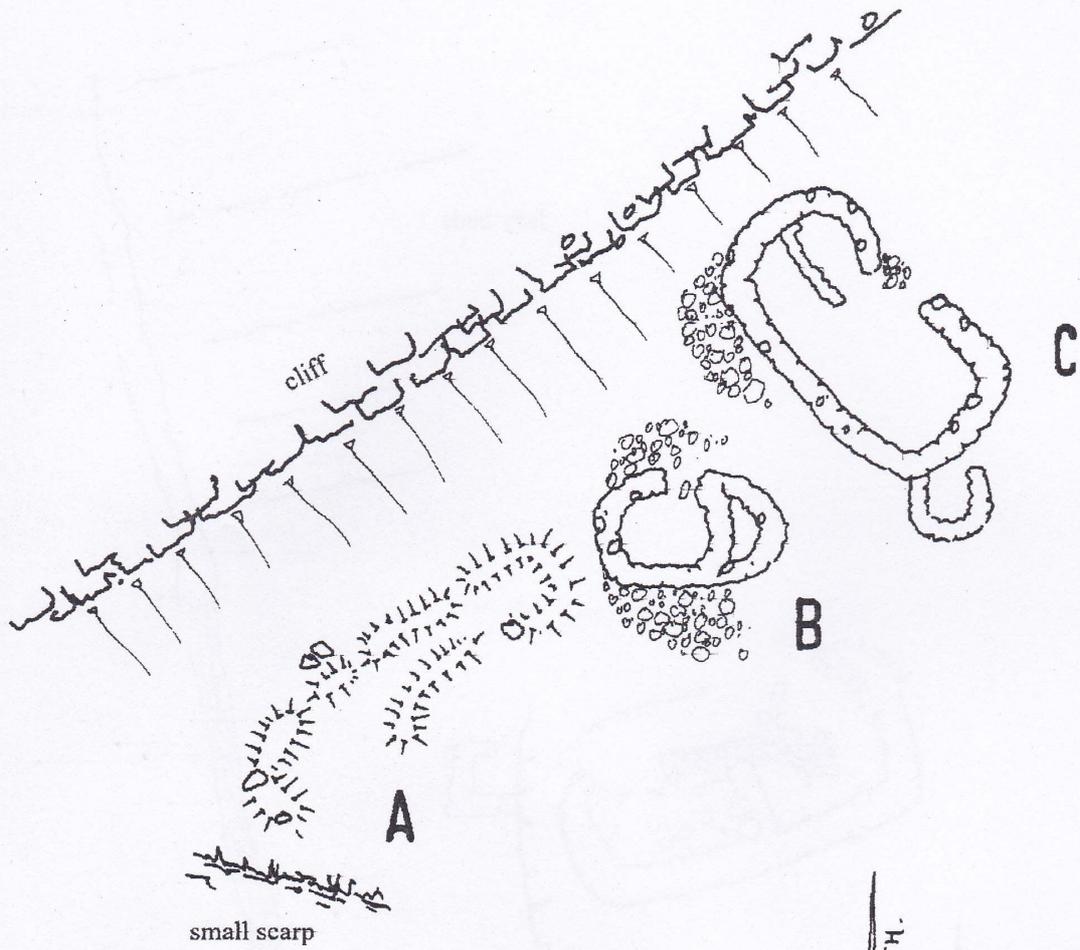
[C] With its long axis running east-west, this appears to be the latest structure on the site. The walls stand to a height of 1.1m, giving the building the appearance of a substantial steading, 8m by 3.5m. Both end walls are well rounded. There is evidence of a doorway midway along the north wall. Tumble to the west of the doorway has been rebuilt a lambing pen or sheep shelter in the northwest corner of the house. The south wall of this subsidiary structure is clearly part of this later alteration. Adjacent to the southeast corner of the house is a circular structure, again clearly of later build and secondary to the main structure as it is butted on to the main building. Under the building there is the vague suggestion of a much earlier, large almost circular platform.

[D] An area of much degraded lazybed lies 10m to 15m to the north of the house [C].

[E] An insubstantial oval structure lies just inside the stunted birch wood a further 10m to the north. Defined by a low bank with some stone under moss, it measures 5m by 2.5m and up to 0.3m high. There is a possible entrance in the west. The remains of a dyke define the northern limits of the settlement another 10m away.

[F] In open ground, 15m east of the house [C] a sub-rectangular structure is built into the top of a 0.7m high mound. It shows as an oval of low banking with a spread of 0.6m, less than 0.2m high. Internally the structure measures 4m by 2.5m with no visible entrance or internal features.

Feature 30



About 10m to the south east near the scarp edge are the much destroyed remains of another possible structure.

[G] 10m south of [F] is another low oval bank with a spread of 0.6m, 0.2m high. This feature measures 7m by 4m with a possible entrance in the west.

[H] An oval setting of moss covered boulders, 3m by 1.5m, lies 15m south west of [G] with a possible entrance in the west. To the north, a D-shaped hollow, 6m long with a maximum width of 5m, is defined by some stone along the curved edge.

[I] A further 20m to the south east, just outside the thin edge of the wood, is a double-celled structure on the top of a stony mound with a dished interior. The north section is a circular hollow, 2.5m diameter and contiguous to the south is a smaller circular hollow 2m in diameter. There is a possible small enclosure attached. To the south an oval area is defined by stony banks which have slumped down the side of the mound. The whole feature measures 4.0m by 2.5m with piles of tumble below the mound to the east.

[J] 25m southwest of [I], towards the tumble from the cliff, is a twinned celled, figure-of-eight structure. A circular banking with a spread of 0.6m and less than 0.2m high encloses an area 2m in diameter. There may have been an entrance in the south leading to a larger oval area, 2.5m by 1.5m. This area is more clearly defined by stone edging 0.4m thick. Tumble lies to the south and southwest and some stones to the east give the impression of a raised plinth. To the south of this feature the remains of a dyke define the southern extent of the settlement.

[K] A small structure, 2.5m by 2.0m, built of rough boulders lies among the tumble from the cliff, 15m west of [J]. There is no visible entrance and the whole feature is much tumbled inside and out. Downslope the edge of the narrow track has been revetted. As this track meanders northward it passes between two substantial boulders standing on edge. To the northeast of feature [K] are two large, probably clearance, cairns. The first, 25m northeast of [K], measures 4m by 2m and is 0.5m high and the second, a further 10m to the north, is 4m by 3m and also 0.5m high.

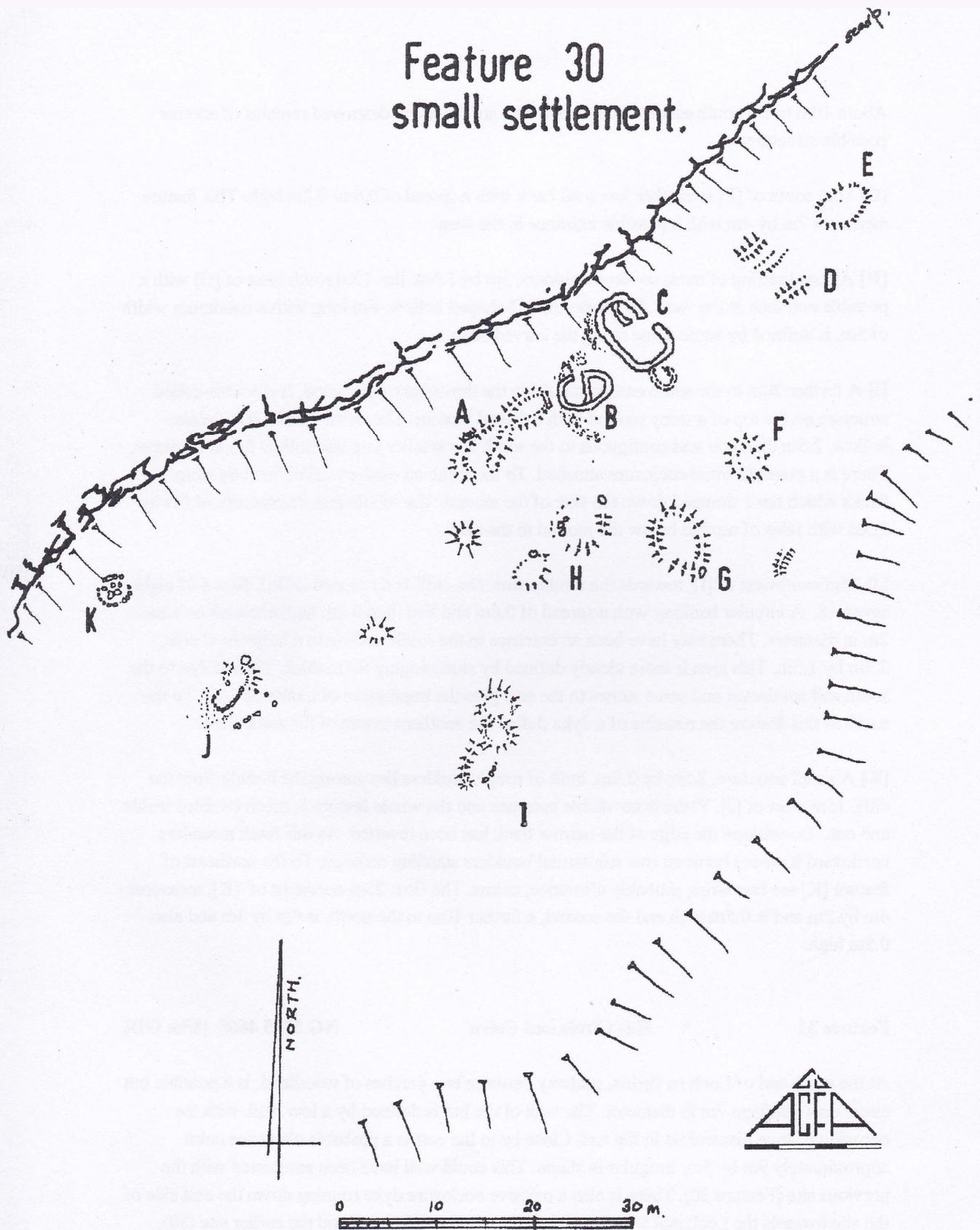
Feature 31

Hut Circle and Cairn

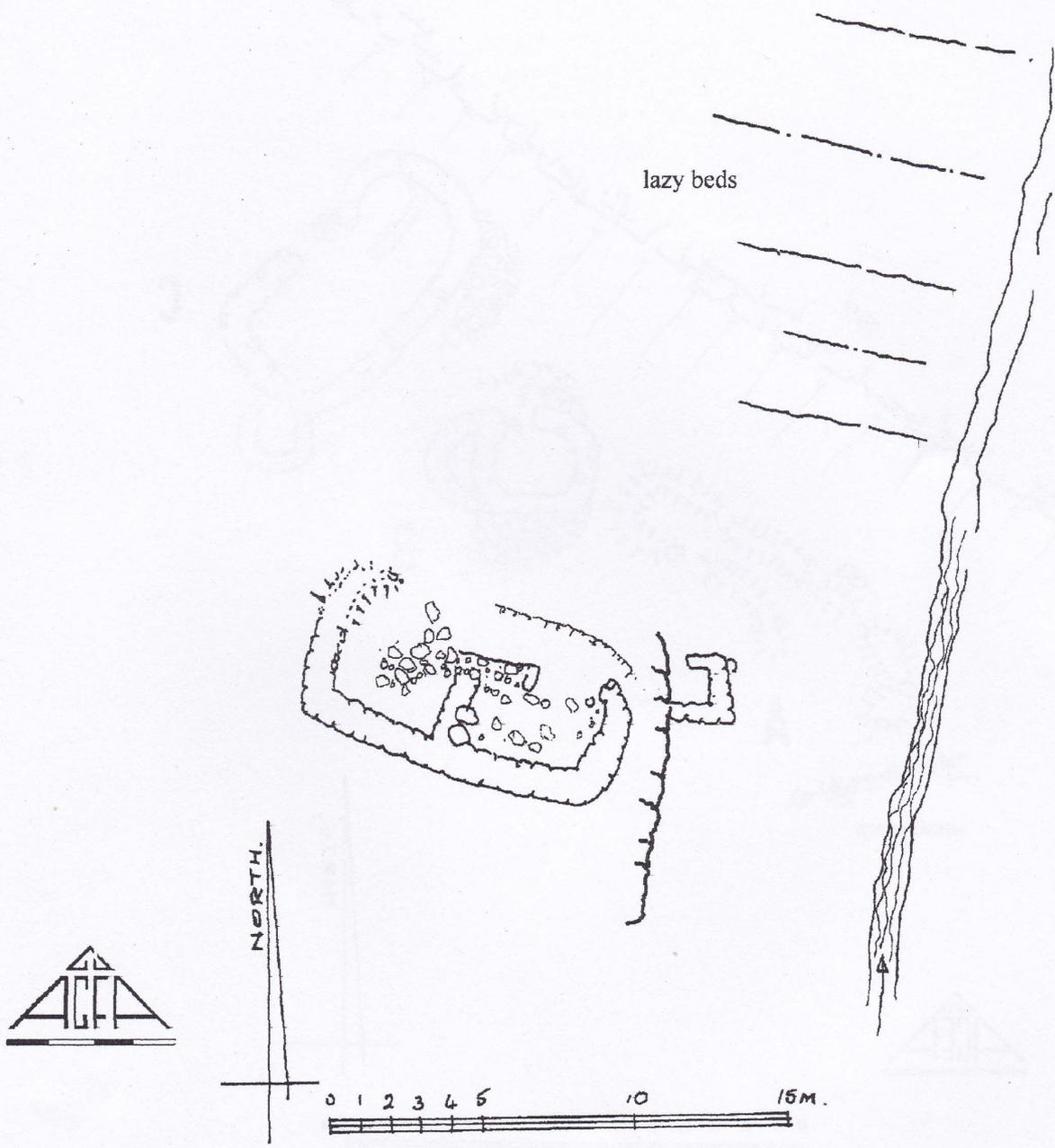
NG 5765 4668 [85m OD]

At the north end of Loch na Bronn, midway between two patches of woodland, is a possible hut circle on a platform 7m in diameter. The wall of the hut is defined by a low bank with the occasional stone discernible in the turf. Close by to the east is a probable clearance cairn approximately 9m by 5m, irregular in shape. This could well have been associated with the previous site (Feature 30). There is also a massive enclosure dyke running down the east side of the site towards the Loch and a further dyke between these features and the earlier site (30).

Feature 30 small settlement.



Feature 33 small house



Feature 32**Recessed Platform****NG 5769 4669 [90m OD]**

Further east, inside the sparse wood and just over the ridge, is what appears to be a recessed hut platform about 5.5 metres in diameter, facing southeast.

Feature 33**House and Lazybed****NG 5788 4665 [55m OD]**

On the west side of the burn from Loch na Leanna before it joins the burn from Loch na Bronn, is a small two-roomed house sitting on a rock outcrop. With its long axis lying roughly east-west the walls are between 1.0m and 1.1m thick. The overall internal length is about 9m with a width of 2.3m. There appears to be a dividing wall roughly in the middle. A semi circular shape, faintly discernible in the tumble in the west chamber, is clearly a later use as a lambing or sheep shelter. The east end of the building is clearly rounded whereas the west wall is more squarely built. The wall at the west end appears to extend in an L shape beyond the line of the remaining north wall. The north wall is very severely tumbled and, although there is no evidence of a door, this must have been in this wall. Outside there is evidence of a slightly revetted ledge at the northeast corner.

At the burn bank level, adjoining the low cliff at the northeast corner of the house, a 1.2m square lambing pen appears to have been built from stone rock from the house. Along the burn side to the north is a small area of lazy bed extending down towards the burn almost opposite the rig and furrow system recorded at feature 43. The system of lazy bed extends down both sides of the craggy ridge to where the two streams join and there is also an enigmatic, single strip of lazy bed across the top of the ridge about 23 metres to the north of the house.

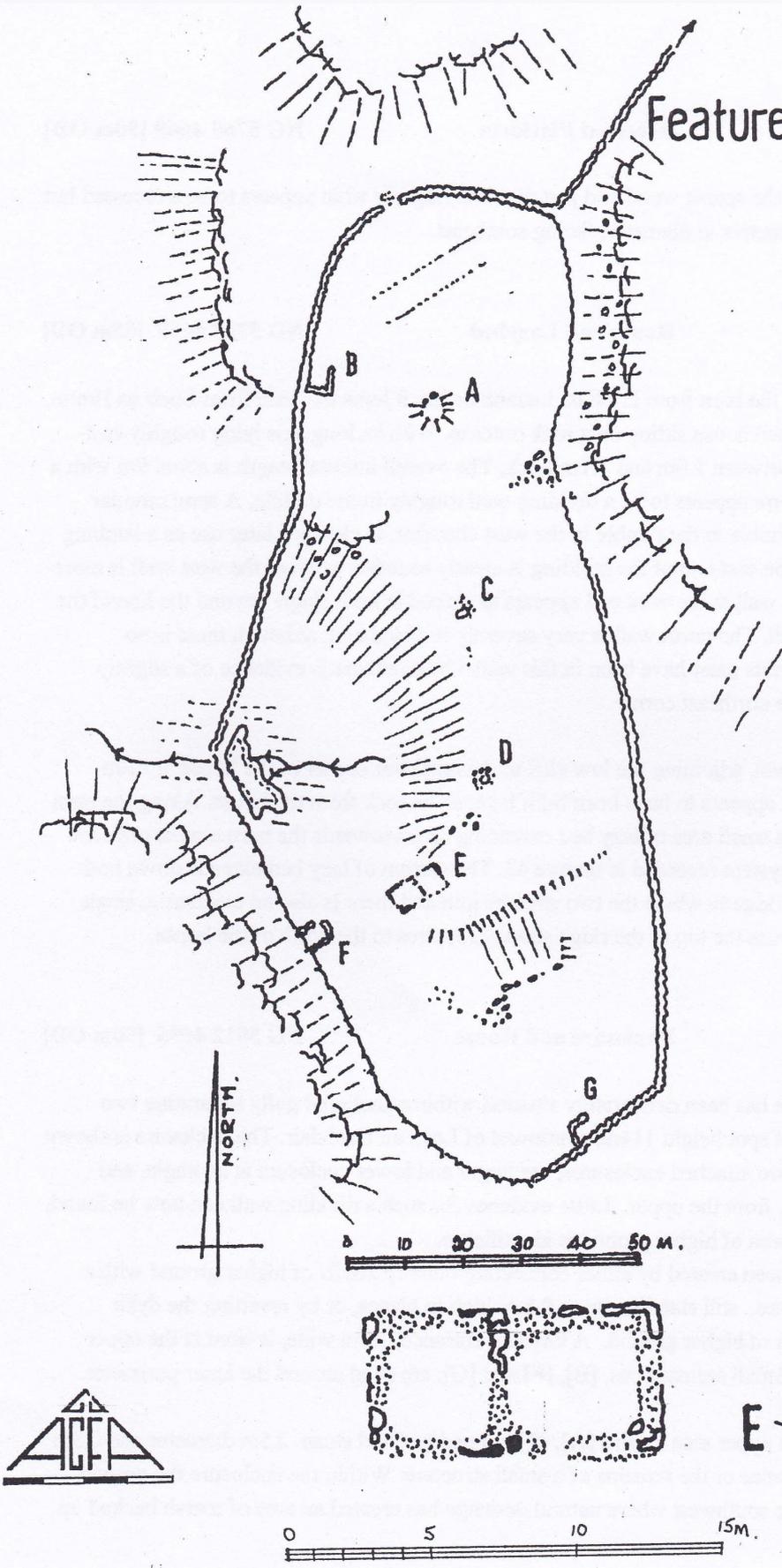
Feature 34**Enclosure and House****NG 5812 4656 [90m OD]**

This large enclosure has been deliberately situated within a sheltered gully separating two knolls to the west of spot height 114m, southwest of Loch an Uachdair. The enclosure is shown on the OS map as two attached enclosures, the larger and lower enclosure at an angle, and separated by a wall, from the upper. Little evidence for such a dividing wall can now be found, although an upper area of higher ground is identifiable.

The enclosure has been created by either connecting outcrop knolls of higher ground with a substantial stone dyke, still standing up to 0.8 m high in places, or by revetting the dyke against the contours of higher ground. A blocked entrance, 1.2m wide, is sited at the upper northwest corner. Small animal pens, [B], [F] and [G], are sited around the inner perimeter.

In the middle of the upper area a cairn [A], of slumped turf and stone 2.5m diameter and 0.3m high, may be clearance or the remains of a small structure. Within the enclosure the ground falls naturally to the southwest where natural drainage has created an area of marsh backed up

Feature 34



against the perimeter dyke. The rim of this fall of ground is marked by clearance cairns and stony scatters [C] and [D].

In the middle of the larger southern expansion of the enclosure is a small, double compartment house [E], 10.2m long east-west by 5.0m wide, with a possible entrance on its south side into the southeast compartment. No internal features are visible.

It is suggested that Feature 34 was created to overwinter and muster sheep and that it is associated with Mackenzie's creation of the northern sheeprun from 1852 on. (*R. Sharpe*). An extensive and still substantial dyke system centring on this feature runs northeast down to Loch an Uachdair and then from the north side of adjoining Loch Beag northwards to the shore of Loch Arnish. Further dykes from the southeast corner of Loch an Uachdair extend across Calum's road down to the coast. This dyke system cuts across the island and effectively separates the northern townships from the sheep farm, and may mark the former boundary between Torran and Arnish and the boundaries of Brochel.

The small house may be that of the shepherd recorded in the 1851 census or associated with temporary occupation during the mustering and working of the sheep.

Feature 35 Rig and Furrow with sheiling NG 5792 4680 [60m OD]

Along the 60m contour of the Loch na Leanna burn, the higher ground has been separated from the course of the valley by an intermittent stone and turf bank for at least 800m. The bank spans the gaps between outcrops and has eroded in many places to a low turf mound. At intervals further banks drop down to the valley creating a series of "enclosures" which divide up the valley floor and sides. Matching banks on the left side of the burn suggest that this is a uniform creation.

In the area of Feature 35, the valley side thus enclosed has been exploited in a successive series of vertical rigs, all 5.3m wide, but with varied lengths of up to 25m or more. At the upper north east corner of the enclosed ground, just below the 60m OD bank, are the possible remains of a sheiling, 2.5m long, which has been destroyed by a rig which encases the former downslope run of the structure.

It is possible that this is an example of a former sheiling site whose accumulated fertility has warranted its subsequent exploitation as arable rig. The features certainly predate there mid – 19th century incorporation into Mackenzie's sheep farm. (*R. Sharpe*).

Feature 36**Sheilings****NG 5784 4689 [50m OD]**

Nestling under the cliff just below the point where the two streams join, and downstream, clear of the marshy area of this confluence, there are two rough sub circular structures. The south one measures 2.2m and the north one about 3.5m. They are very badly tumbled and could be shelters of some kind, right next to the stream. No entrances were identifiable.

Feature 37**Sheiling site****NG 5783 4734 [60m OD]**

On a natural terrace 25m above the east bank of the burn, a cluster of four sheilings lies in the lee of a small scarp. The south edge of the terrace appears to have been defined by a low turf and stone bank. Beyond the cluster are at least two small clearance cairns to the northeast and southeast of the site.

The higher sheiling measures 4m externally and 2m internally with walls standing 0.5m high and no visible entrance. Downslope an apparently linked set of three structures, which probably consist of a single structure, again measure 4m externally and 2m internally with walls 0.8 m high and an entrance on its north side. This structure is linked by debris to a double celled structure immediately to its north. Debris obscures the chronological relationship of the structures and it is difficult to determine which of the structures might be earlier. The double celled structure consists of a larger northern cell, once more 4m externally and 2m internally, with an attached, smaller cell on its south side, 1m internal diameter. There are no apparent entrances to either cell.

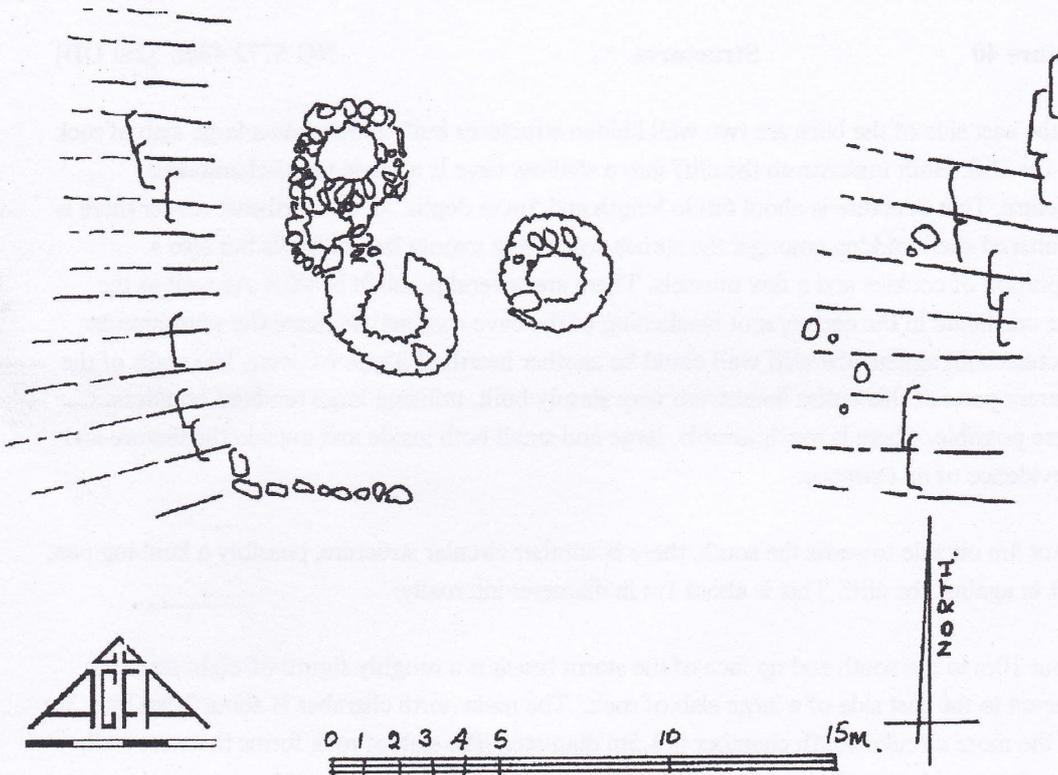
Feature 38**Sheilings and animal pens****NG 5783 4741 [60m OD]**

Within the considerable scree from an eroding scarp slope are three definite and three possible structures, the largest 3.9m long by 1.8m wide, divided into two chambers by an internal wall. Immediately below to the north east, is a possible auxiliary pen or revetment.

Four metres to the north along the scree slope lies a smaller structure of 2m internal diameter with a similar pen below, and a further 3m to the north east a sub circular structure, 2.5m internal diameter.

There are several other indeterminate structures constructed from this scree slope.

Feature 37 shielings



Feature 39**Bothy****NG 5765 4803 [3m OD]**

On the west side of the burn, as it exits the extensive ancient storm beach onto the beach proper, lies a possible hut circle about 2.5m internal diameter. It is sheltered by some banks of storm beach which, in common with other exposed stone banks in this beach, give the false impression from a distance of substantial remains of dykes, enclosures or other structures.

Feature 40**Structures****NG 5772 4805 [2m OD]**

On the east side of the burn are two well hidden structures built in between a large slab of rock and the cliff. Built underneath the cliff into a shallow cave is a crude multi-chambered structure. This structure is about 6m in length and 5m in depth. In the northeast corner there is a scattered shell midden amongst the stones containing mainly limpet shells but also a proportion of cockles and a few mussels. There are several possible hearths. As well as the clear candidate in the centre, soot blackening of the cave roof may indicate the semi-circular structure built against the cliff wall could be another hearth or a type of oven. The walls of the different parts of this entire feature are very simply built, utilising large tumbled boulders where possible. There is much tumble, large and small both inside and outside the feature and no evidence of an entrance.

About 3m outside towards the south, there is another circular structure, possibly a lambing pen, built in against the cliff. This is about 1m in diameter internally.

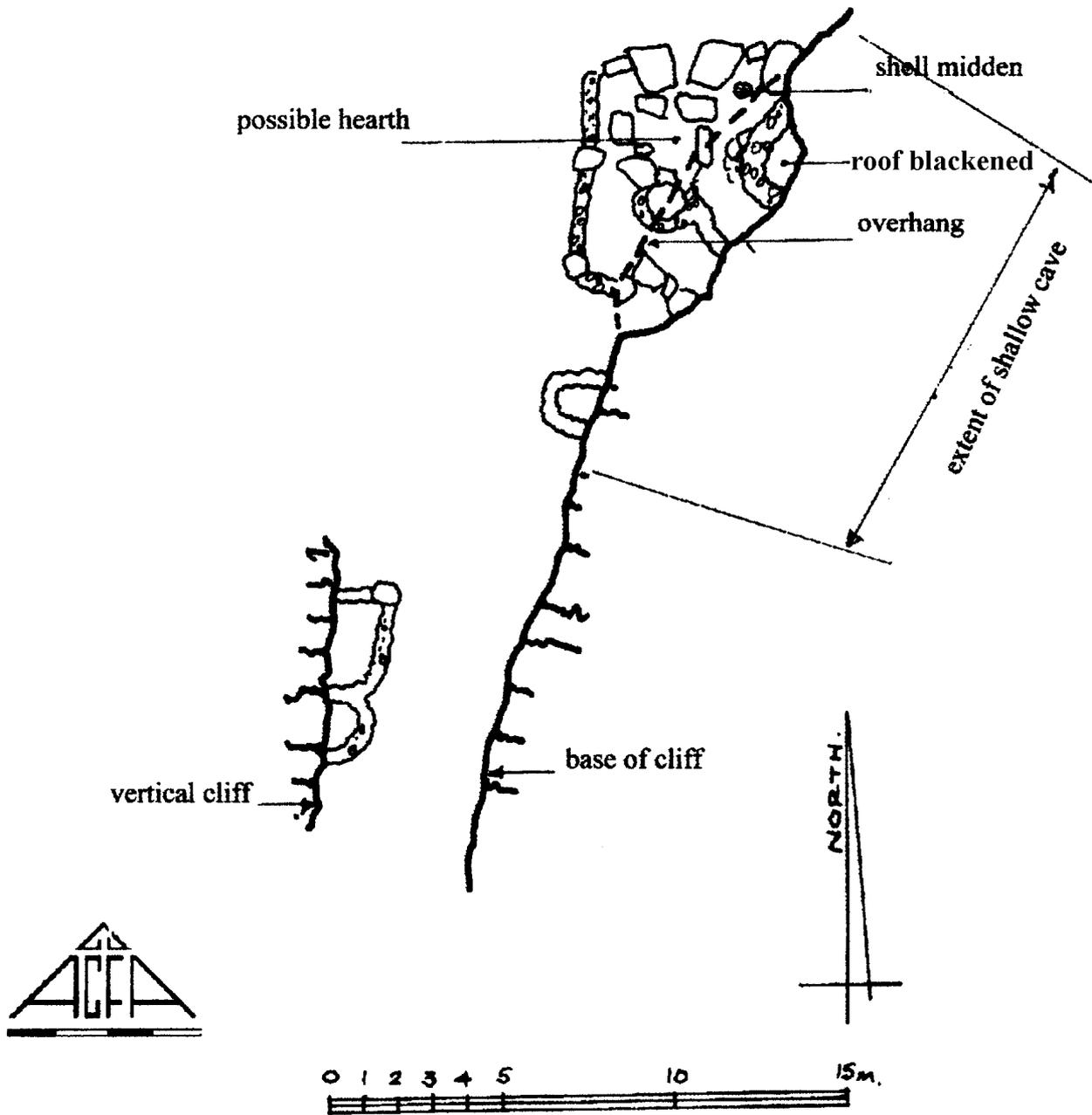
About 10m to the south and up face of the storm beach is a roughly figure-of-eight structure adjacent to the east side of a large slab of rock. The main north chamber is about 2.5m by 1.3m and the more circular south chamber is 1.5m diameter. The slab of rock forms the west wall. There is no evidence of an entrance.

These structures may be the remains of a shepherd's fishing bothy or the summer dwellings reported by Martin Martin and Munro.

Feature 41**Settlement site****NG 5787 4807 [3m OD]**

This settlement is situated across the headland and to the west of Feature 42. The summit of the headland is a small knoll on which an upright stone about 0.3m high has been chocked upright, possibly a seamark for the settlement below. This small settlement may have functioned as a fishing bothy or summer sheiling, with a little pasture in the immediate vicinity of the house and a gear or tackle store set in the foreshore below.

Feature 40



[A] A single compartment house is built from unmortared beach stone, 9.3m long north-south by 5.4m wide, with an entrance at the north end of the east wall. The walls are still standing to a height of 1.2m. Although there is no sure evidence of windows, internally at the south end of the east wall a setting of stones within the wall face may represent either an internal feature or the foundations of a window setting. The rear, west, wall of the house has been constructed along the face of the trap dyke. The lower face of this wall mainly consists of three large natural boulders above which 4 – 5 courses still remain, probably to the original roof level. In the centre of the back wall a small aumbry has been constructed. There are no other internal features. The north gable wall of this house has collapsed and the extent of tumble suggests that this stood to a considerable height, probably to match the fall in ground to the beach.

The house has been surrounded by 10m – 12m of improved ground, still visible but with no evidence of enclosure.

[B] Set in the rocks of the foreshore, 45m to the north of the house, is what may have been a small gear or tackle store, 6m long northeast-southwest by 2.3m wide, with an entrance 1m wide in its east wall.

Feature 42

Settlement

NG 5815 4813 [5m OD]

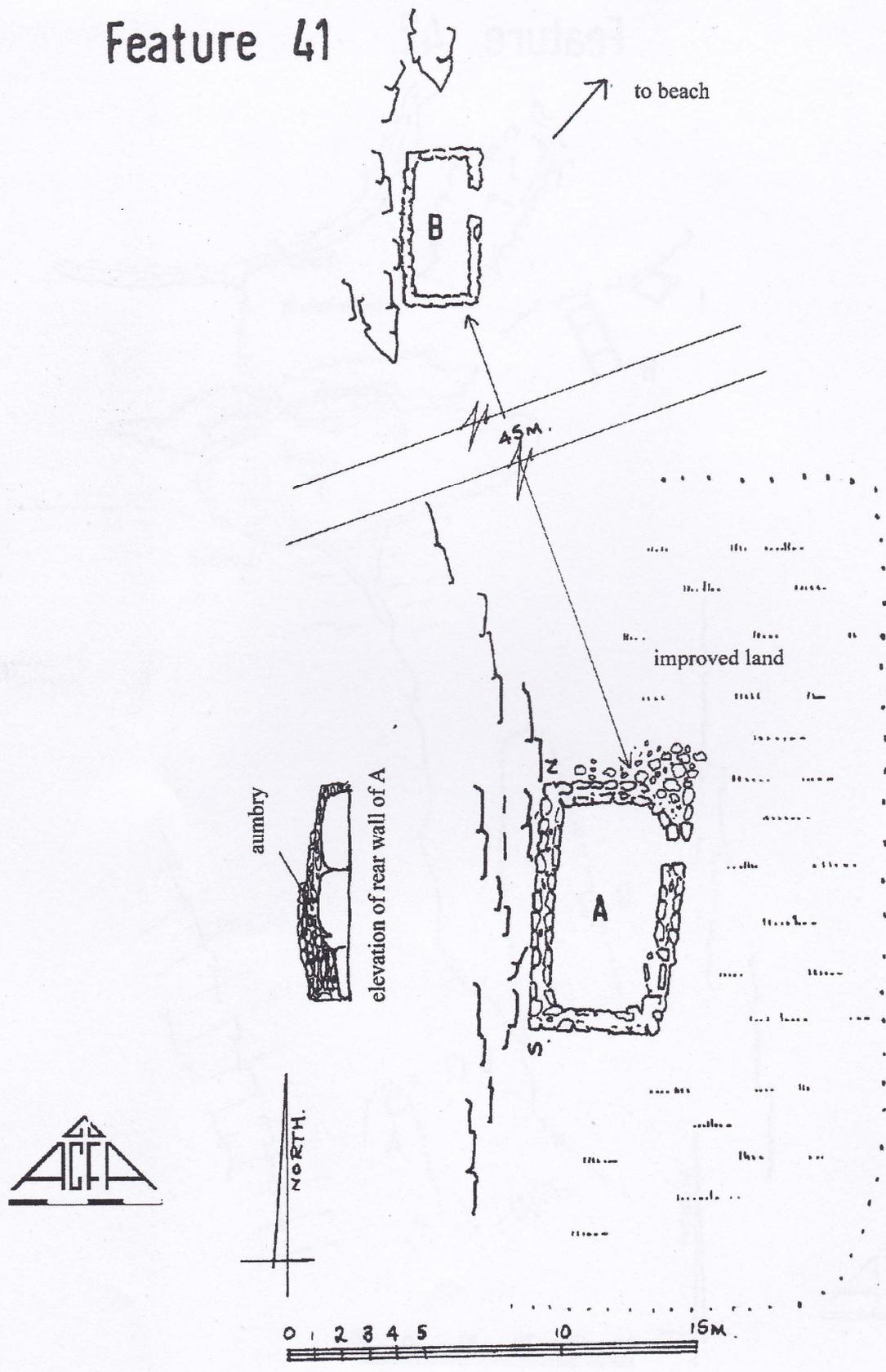
This site is situated at the small cove where the outflow burn from Loch an Uachdair enters the sea. The site is marked as "spreads" on the OS map.

A series of parallel trap dykes emerge from the higher terraces as the ground falls to the sea. Their presence has captured the natural drainage, depositing small but fertile areas of silt as they spread across the lower ground. It seems likely that these little pockets of accumulating soil would have attracted marginal settlement, especially when over exploitation or population pressure on the better arable land threatened resources.

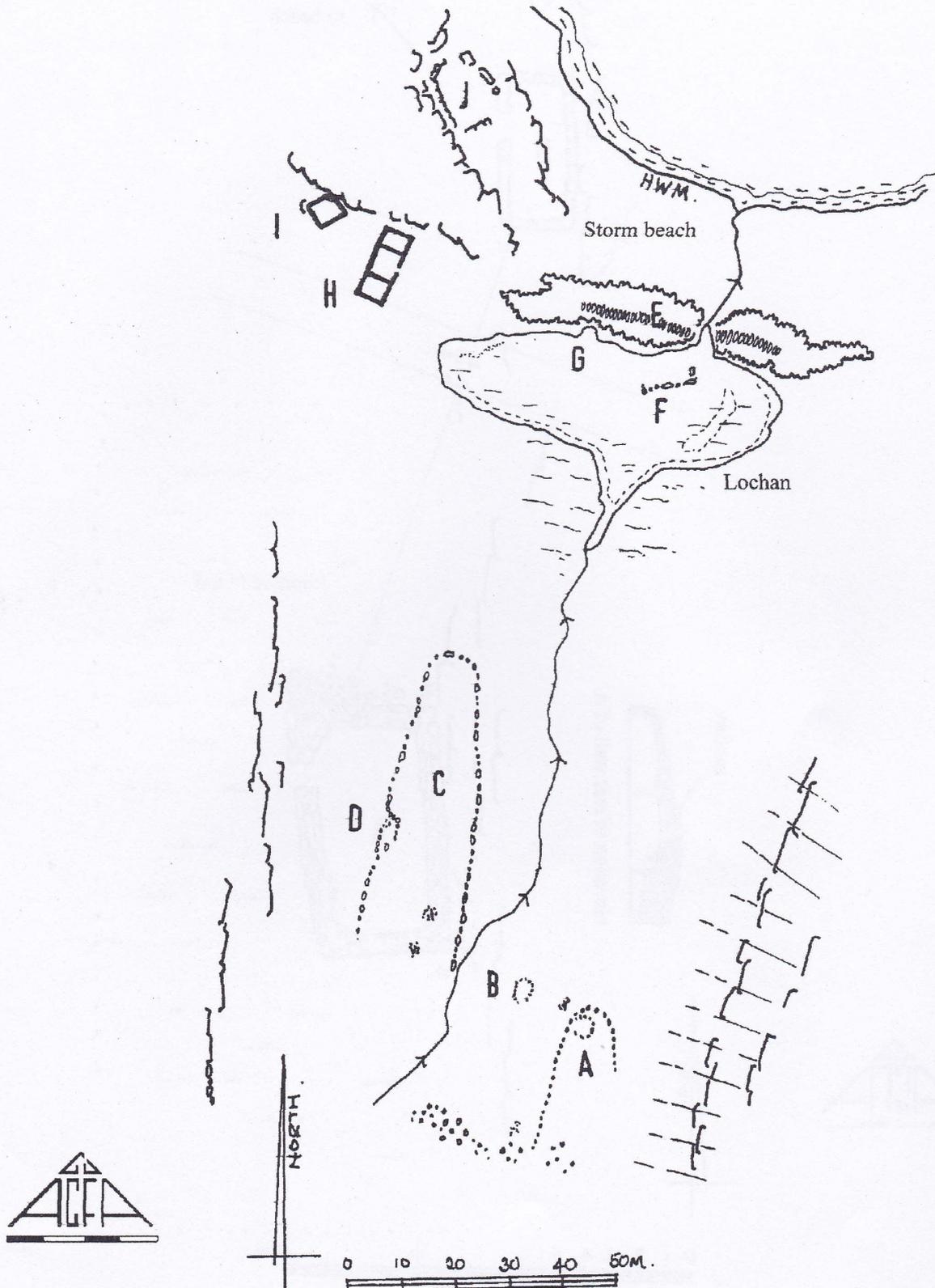
The formation of storm beaches of boulders on this exposed coast tends to arrest the dispersal of the silt and periods of settlement abandonment lead to the creation of small lochans and marshy ground in the lower reaches of these burns. As a result of the pattern of exploitation suggested, these sites may contain multi-phased features whose chronological relationships are difficult to determine, although often distinct. This is evident in Feature 42.

Two separate groups of features are visible on this site; the enclosures with their clearance cairns, and the longhouse with its smaller structure. The former would appear to be earlier, the latter to relate to a small, probably 19th century, croft whose main function was coastal fishing with perhaps a little stock. It is not impossible that structures [A] and [C] may also represent the denuded remnants of collection of structures for stock from off the inland hills prior to their

Feature 41



Feature 42



transportation by boat from the beach, but the fragmentary and eroded elements suggest a much earlier occupation and function.

The purpose of the lochan structures remains obscure. Although the exposed nature of the beach would have required especial security for any boats running off the beach, the distance from sea to lochan, 30m or more, across a beach and up a boulder strewn burn seems daunting for the few pairs of hands which the visible evidence suggests would be available.

[A] About 150m south of the present beach, on the east side of the burn, is a fragmentary setting of stone forming a U-shaped enclosure. Open to the south it measures 30m north-south by 10m wide at the open end. The stones are nowhere more than foundation high with little evidence of robbing or of ever having been much higher. The west side of the enclosure can be traced furthest uphill to where it merges into an area of heavy but indeterminate stony scatter. Inside, at the lower end of the enclosure, is a low, much eroded possible cairn or hut circle, about 4m diameter

[B] Between the enclosure and the burn is a stone setting of 3m to 4m diameter.

[C] A larger U-shaped enclosure on the west side of the burn, similar in situation to A, lies 50m nearer the beach but on the west side of the burn. Measuring 70m long by 20m wide at the upper end, it too consists of a low stone setting, open on its uphill side. On the west side of this enclosure, and incorporated within its line of walling, a more considerable spread of stone, 8m long by about 3m wide, suggests the site of a possible house.

[D] Two clearance cairns of 3m diameter are found at the upper open end of the enclosure.

[E] The burn now runs into a small lochan about 70m long and 30m wide which has formed behind a considerable storm boulder beach, the margins of the lochan gradually expanding as marsh with site abandonment. The burn exits through the boulder beach at its eastern end, the outflow clearly once controlled by a boundary stone bank created within the storm beach from stones from it. A section of this wall can be clearly seen at the lochan outfall

[F] A submerged dyke or structure within the lochan may be the remains of a revetment associated with the control of the lochan.

[G] On the lochan side of the storm beach a small boat noost may have been constructed.

Twenty metres to the west of the lochan and in the lee of the rock outcrop at the rear of the beach are two more substantial structures.

[H] A triple compartment longhouse, 13.6m long northeast-southwest by 6m wide externally, is constructed of unmortared beach boulders with double skinned walls 0.8m thick and still

standing up to 1m high. There is a doorway 0.8m wide on its east side allowing access into the central compartment. No internal features or windows are visible.

[I] A single compartment stock or gear storage structure, 4m square internally, is also constructed of beach stone and standing 0.8m high. The structure has been constructed against a length of outcrop and the rear wall consists of a large natural boulder with a similar large boulder used as foundation for its southwest corner. There is a possible entrance with ephemeral evidence of a porch or work area on its east side.

[J] Across the other side of the outcrop, towards the beach and within a natural rock gully, a small enclosure, 8m x 13m, has been constructed by a wall coursing across gaps and around the rim of the surrounding rock.

Feature 43

Settlement

NG 5833 4811 [8m OD]

Across the headland to the east of Feature 42 lies a similar small settlement of house, enclosures and clearance cairns with the additional feature of a substantial byre and yard. The site again exploits the enriched ground of a stream outflow between headlands of volcanic trap dykes, although here the settlement sits in a more spacious valley about 100m from the beach.

[A] A two compartment stock house and yard enclosure, 14.8m long northeast-southwest by 6m wide at its south end and 4.1m at the north end. Built of unmortared beach stone it still stands 1.6m high all round. Both this and [B] have been constructed from the considerable rock scree of the eroding scarp behind them and in whose protective lee they lie.

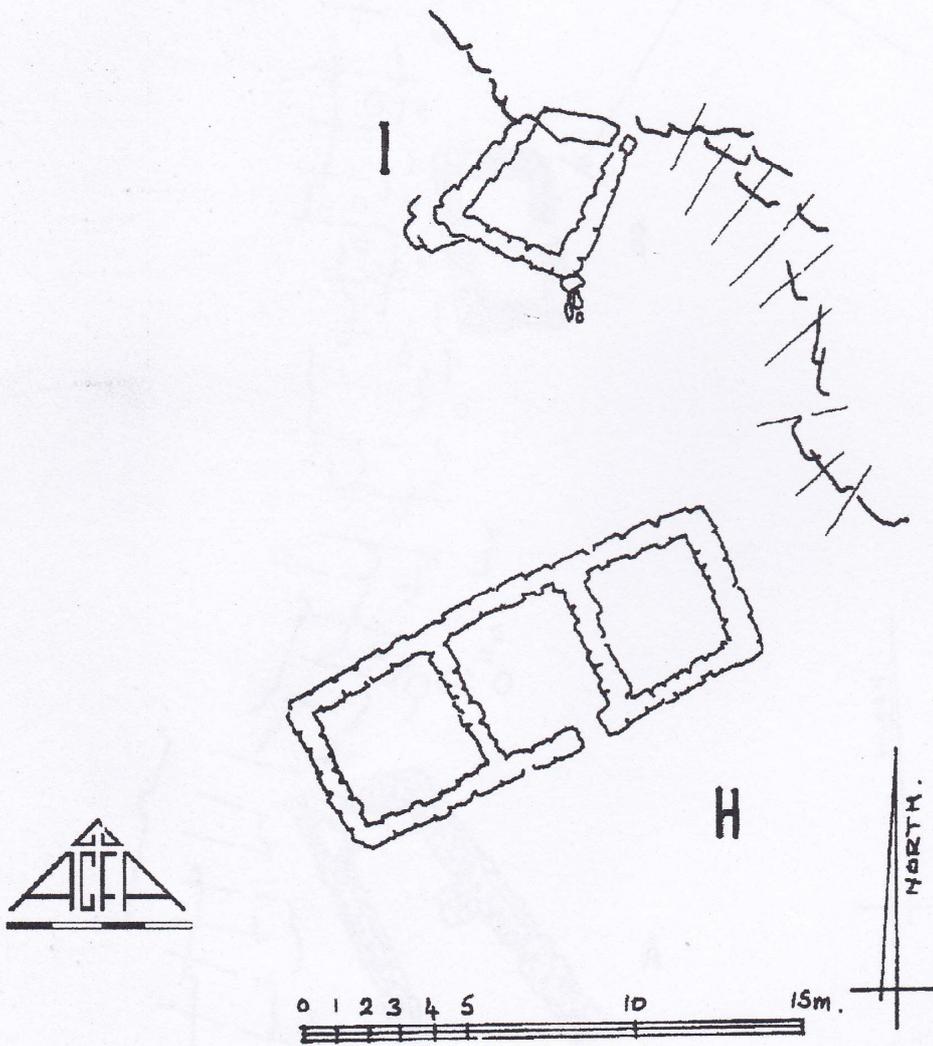
The north compartment measures 3m x 2m internally, with a small secondary stock pen in its northeast corner. No other internal features are evident. It is separated from the south compartment by a non-bonded wall with communication by a 2m wide entrance. Although there is no visible structural evidence it seems feasible that this compartment may have been roofed as a stock byre.

The south compartment is likely to have been an open yard, 8m x 4m internally, with the only entrance to the complete structure at the south end of its west wall, 0.8m wide.

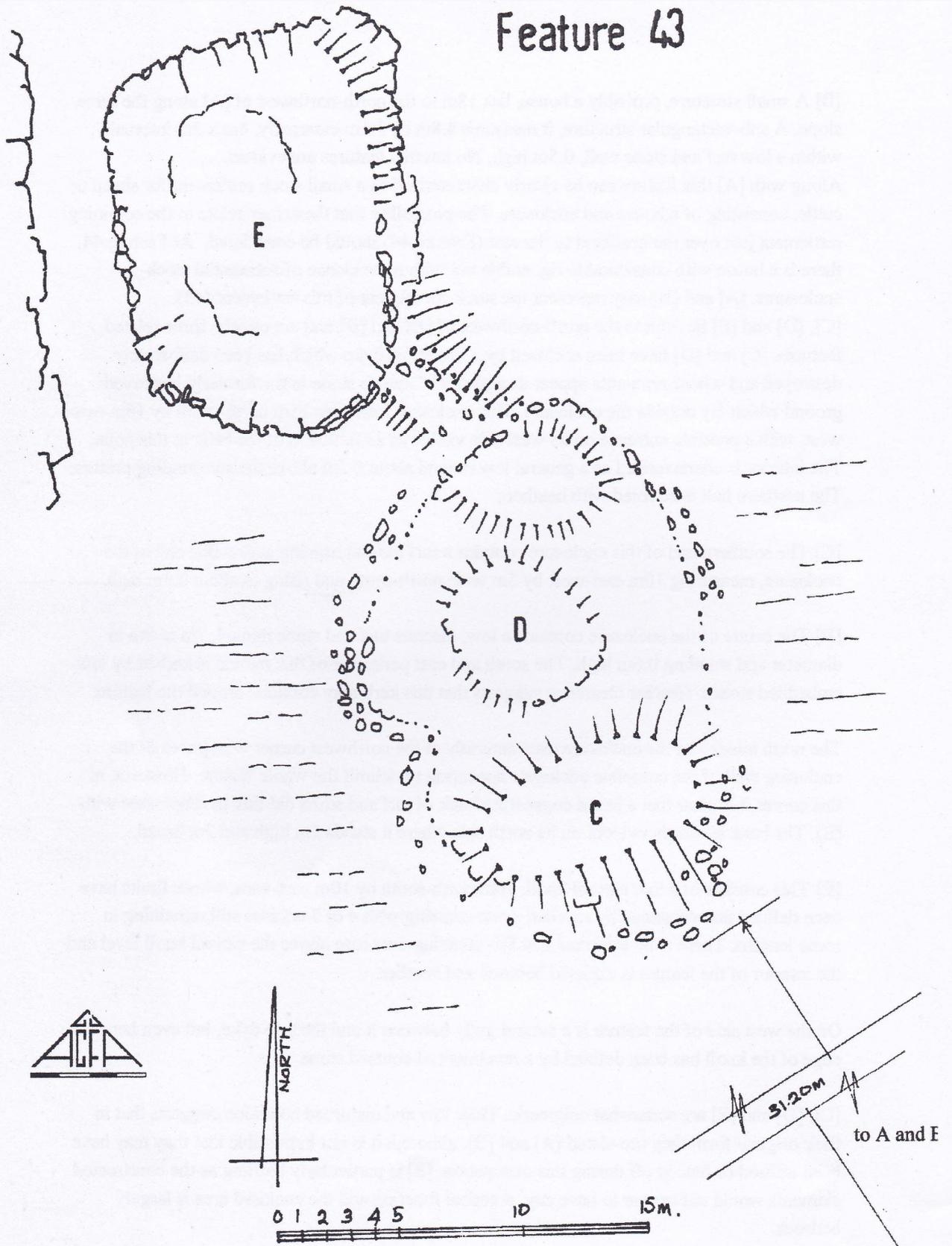
The structure appears to be relatively modern and crudely built.

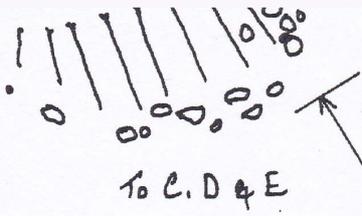
About 40m to the south of this structure on the rising ground of the valley are two cairns (not shown on the plan), the larger 2.5m by 2.0m, the smaller 2m in diameter.

Feature 42

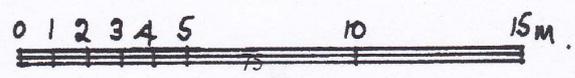
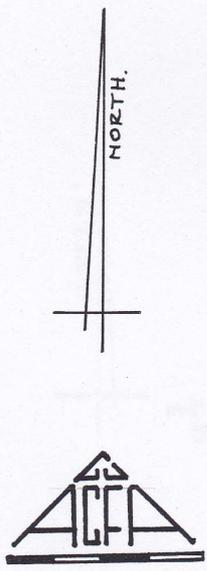
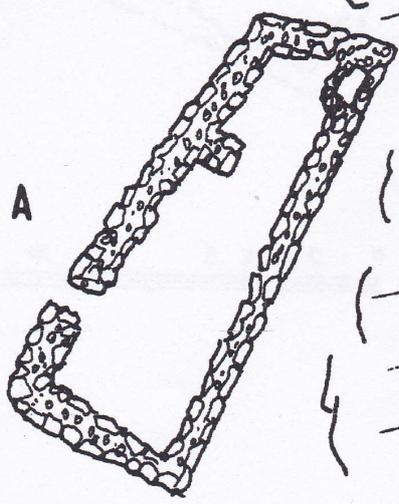
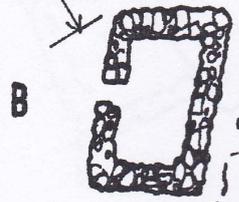


Feature 43





Feature 43



[B] A small structure, probably a house, lies 18m to the north-northwest of [A] along the scree slope. A sub-rectangular structure, it measures 4.8m by 3.1m externally, 4m x 2m internally, within a low turf and stone wall, 0.5m high. No internal features are evident.

Along with [A] this feature can be clearly characterised as a small stock settlement for sheep or cattle, consisting of a house and enclosure. The possibility that these may relate to the adjoining settlement just over the headland to the east (Feature 44) should be considered. At Feature 44, there is a house with considerable rig, arable but with no evidence of substantial stock enclosures. [A] and [B] may represent the stock component of this settlement (43).

[C], [D] and [E] lie 30m to the north-northwest of [A] and [B] and are clearly three related features. [C] and [D] have been enclosed by a low stone dyke which has been deliberately destroyed and whose remnants appear as a scatter of spread stone in the formerly improved ground which lay outside the enclosure. This enclosure measures 25m north-south by 16m east-west, with a possible entrance on its west side visible as an intrusion of the bank at this point. The interior is characterised as a general low mound about 0.5m above the surrounding pasture. The northern half is covered with heather.:

[C] The southern end of this enclosure contains a turf mound running across this end of the enclosure, measuring 10m east-west by 5m wide north-south and rising to about 0.8m high.

[D] The centre of the enclosure contains a low, discrete turf and stone mound, 7m to 8m in diameter and standing 0.6m high. The south and east perimeter of this mound is kerbed by low, embedded stones. Heather clearance suggests that this kerb may continue around the feature.

The north interior of the enclosure rises naturally at the northwest corner with traces of the enclosing wall of the complete enclosure appearing to delimit the whole feature. However, at this corner it is clear that a broad connecting bank of turf and stone did link the enclosure with [E]. The bank is clearly evident on its north side where it stands 1m high and 2m broad.

[E] This consists of a low natural knoll, 16m north-south by 10m east-west, whose limits have been defined and enhanced by revetted stone coursing with 4 or 5 courses still remaining in some lengths. There is no evidence that this coursing ever rose above the natural knoll level and the interior of the feature is exposed bedrock and heather.

On the west side of the feature is a natural gully between it and the trap dyke, but even here the edge of the knoll has been defined by a revetment of coursed stone.

[C], [D] and [E] are somewhat enigmatic. Their low and disturbed condition suggests that in their original form they pre-dated [A] and [B], although it is not impossible that they may have been utilised or fenced off during this occupation. [E] is particularly baffling as the constructed elements would not appear to have any practical function and the enclosed area is largely bedrock.

Feature 44**Settlement****NG 5848 4775 [20m OD]**

This site is situated on the west side of Loch Arnish, on an extensive terrace above the cliffs which run from Rubha Crion Point around the south side of the loch. Access to the site by land is from the Tairbeart inlet by a path which skirts the foot of the steep headland and cliffs above or from the small settlements to the west, described at Features 41 to 43. In reality, the most practical access to these settlements must have been by boat across Arnish bay from the Arnish and Torran settlements. The quickest modern access by land is from the north end of Loch Beag from where a post and wire fence can be picked up and followed directly down into the settlement.

For most of its length this fence sits upon the base of an earlier boundary of probably Royston Mackenzie vintage as described in Feature 34. However, as it approaches the sea, a more substantial stone dyke, 1.2m high, of well built 19th century construction diverges to the east and runs down to the sea cliff (see [H] below). This dyke seals off the Mackenzie sheep run from the Arnish townships along the coast to the east. There are two entrances through the dyke in areas between knolls of outcrop which controlled entry into the area of Feature 44.

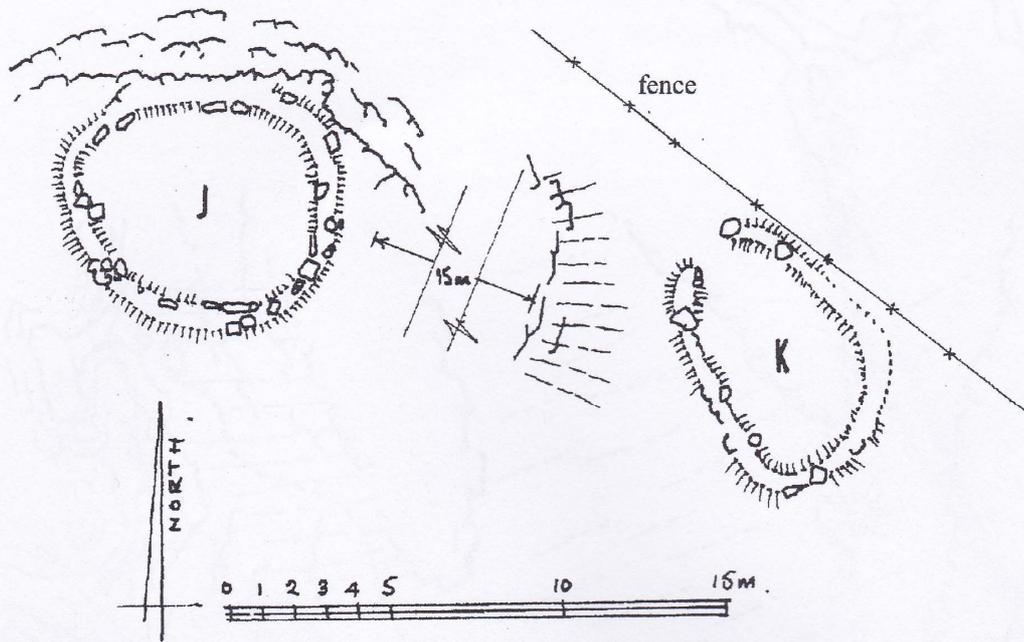
The settlement has clear evidence of at least two separate episodes of occupation, both of which exploited the small patches of fertile arable land available on this sea cliff terrace.

The roundhouse, rectangular turf and stone structure, and possibly the rock shelters, [J], [K] and [N], represent the earliest phase. It seems likely that these are the remnants of the prehistoric occupation of the area. The remaining features possibly represent two phases. An earlier one, indicated by the evidence of the structure platforms underlying [A] and [B] and the longhouse [E], may be the contemporary survivor of what was a pre-clearance settlement. A final phase is represented by the small stock pens, cleats or sheilings represented by [A], [B] and [D], and indicate a transient exploitation of the cleared site before the arrival of Mackenzie and the final terminus to the millennia of human occupation.

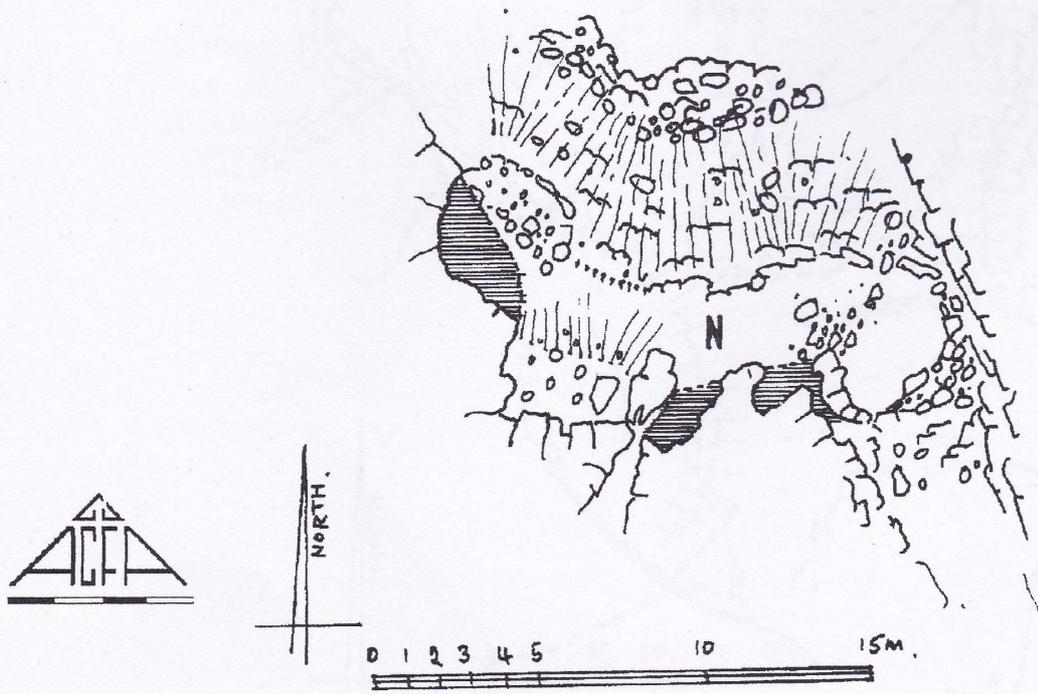
[A] A small circular structure of unmortared stone has an external diameter of 2m with a possible entrance on its northeast side and a wall height of 0.6m. This may have been a store cleat or stock pen. The structure appears to be sited on a platform of an earlier rectangular structure, reduced to a turfed destruction scatter of stone, 10m x 5m and most clearly evident at its southeast corner.

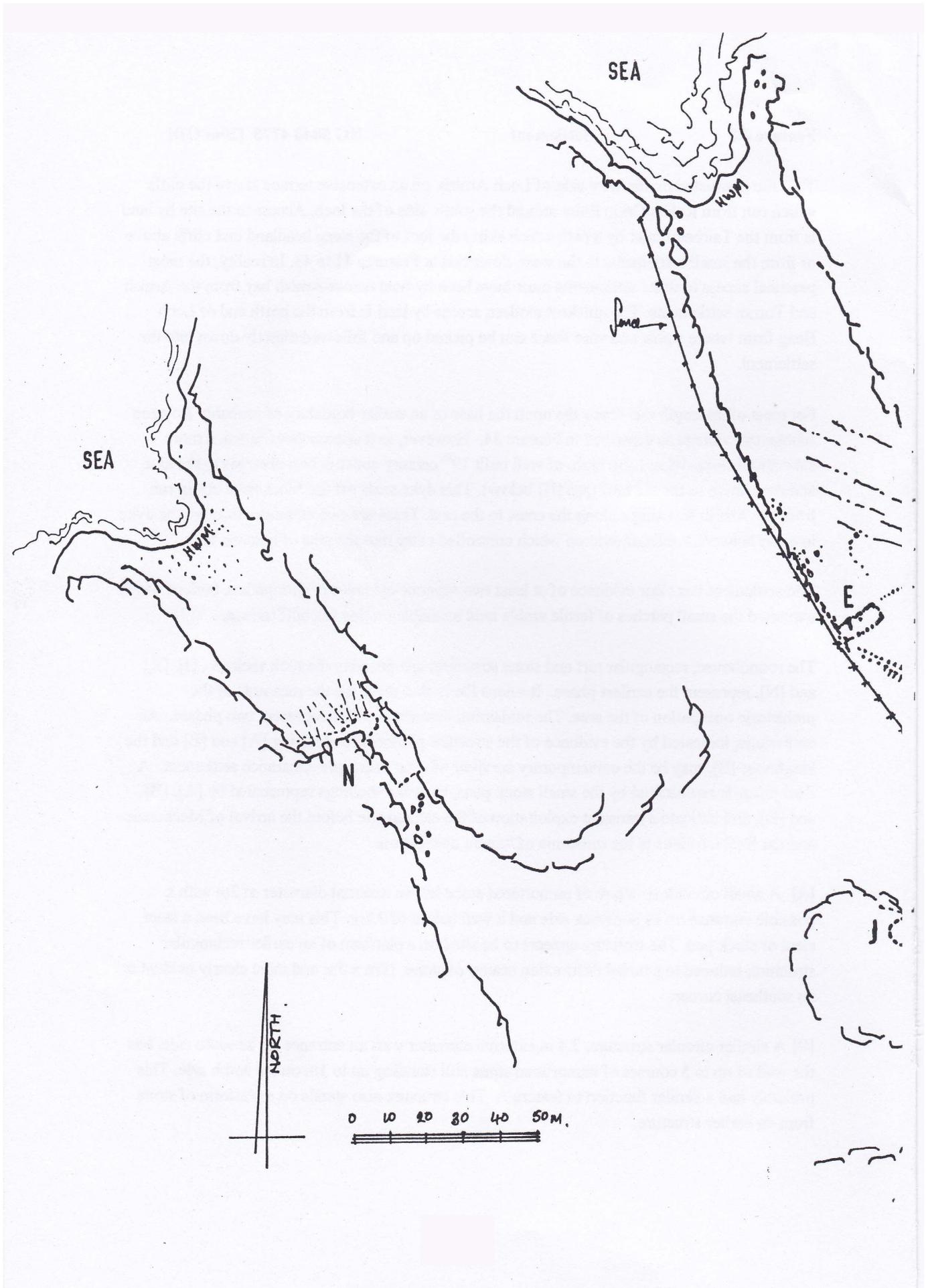
[B] A similar circular structure, 2.4 m external diameter with an entrance on its south side, has the wall of up to 5 courses of unmortared stone still standing up to 1m on the south side. This probably had a similar function to feature A. This structure also stands on a platform of stone from an earlier structure.

Feature 44 hut circles

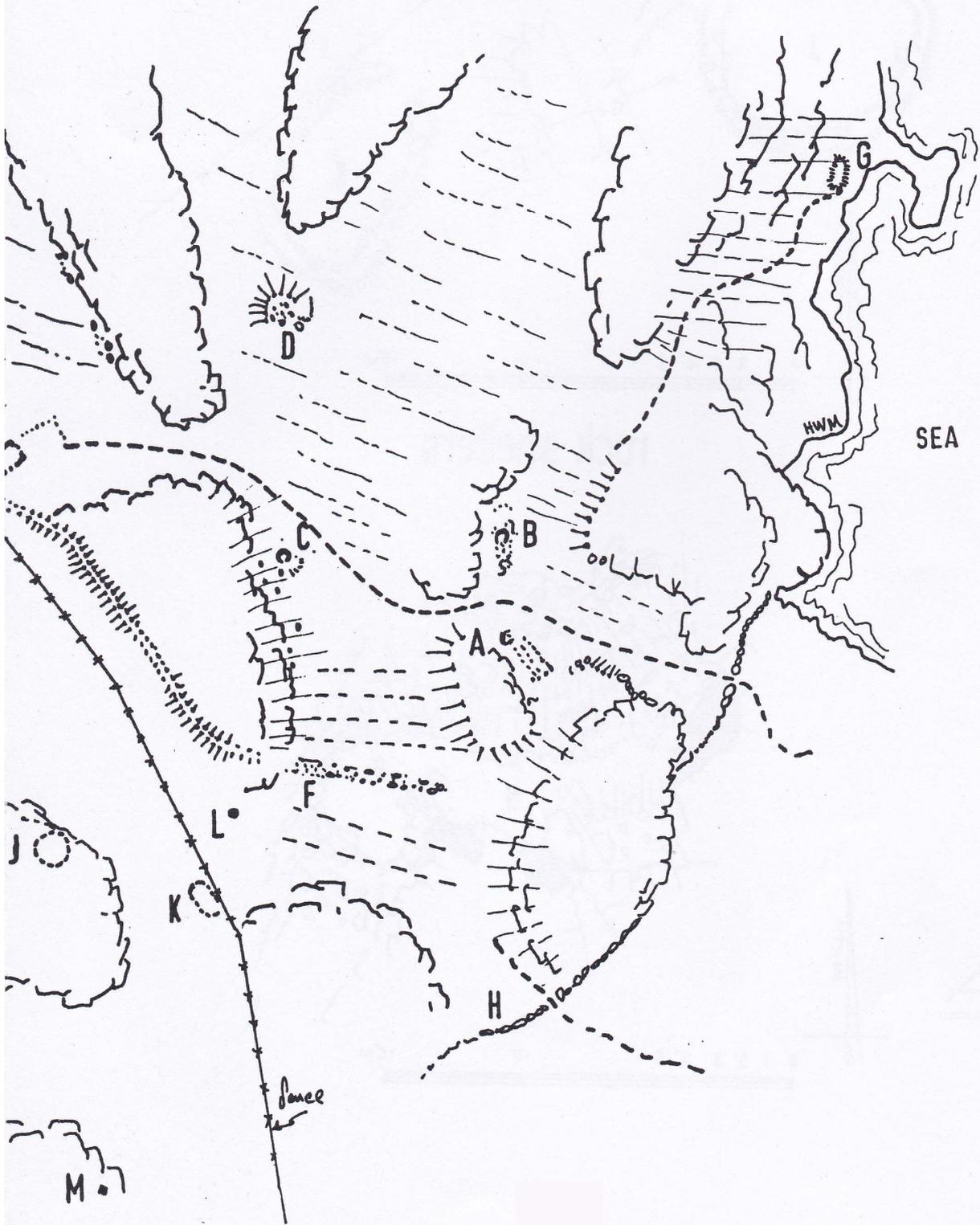


rock shelters





Feature 44



[C] Situated on the slope and from the scree of an eroding natural knoll is a small circular structure, 2.4m external diameter and 1m internal diameter. The walling is still standing up to 0.8m high with an entrance on its south side.

[D] A large, ovoid clearance cairn 6m to 8m long still stands 1.8m high in the centre. It appears to have been created on a natural knoll which tails off to the north. On its east side a sub-rectangular sheiling has been created from its material measuring 5m long north-south by about 3m wide, the south end and the east long wall being most evident.

[E] At the head of a long gully running down to a small rocky cove is a two compartment longhouse measuring externally 11.7m east-west by 4.6m north-south. The walls of this structure have been robbed to foundation level, probably in the construction of the stone dyke which cuts across its west gable and obscures its features at this end. Internally it measures 10.1m by 2.7m. An internal partition visible at the west end creates a small compartment 2.6m x 2.2m, probably the domestic accommodation adjoining the longer byre. A possible entrance is on the north side looking down the gully. Considerable amounts of clearance can be found against the rock walls of this gully.

From the southwest corner of [E] a low turf bank can be traced for about 80m defining the rear of a natural knoll to the south of the house. This bank would appear to be contiguous with [F], although a length is lost as it collapses down the slope on the south end of the knoll.

[F] From the lower east end of the knoll above a turf and stone bank, still standing 0.4m high, can be traced for 35m. The bank separates two areas of 3.5m wide rig, which run downslope between natural knolls of outcrop.

[G] From the area of [B] a narrow path leads down an increasingly steep slope to a large rock at sea level which defines two possible boat landing sites – deeper water for mooring to the south, a small rocky inlet to the north. Just above, in the lee of the cliff, are three small adjoining stone and turf hollows, each measuring about 1m across. These may be the remains of kelp kilns but their true function unclear.

[H] A well-built stone dyke has defined the eastern approach to this settlement from the sea cliff to the steep hillslope behind. It still stands 1.0m to 1.5m high between the knolls and is revetted around their edges. There are two entrances through this dyke – a well built, stone jambed one on its upper southeast length, and a lower one nearer the sea cliff. Paths lead from both of these; the lower one strikes between [A] and [B] and past [C] before running between two outcrop knolls to the site of longhouse [E] and seems to relate to the former functioning of the settlement. The dyke is possibly the northern limit of Royston Mackenzie's 1854 sheeprun.

[J] On the summit of a small but prominent heather covered knoll lie the foundations of a well built roundhouse. The north wall of the structure sits on the very edge of the knoll scarp, but the rest of the circuit is readily definable. This circular structure measures externally 8m east-west by 7.6m north-south, across a wall of 0.5m width which stands 0.2m high. The inner and outer wall facings are intermittently ascertainable. The interior measures 7m east-west by 5.5m north-south and is featureless. There is no apparent entrance but clearance of the heavy heather cover might reveal this along the southern circuit. The structure commands extensive views across Loch Arnish and the northern Sound of Raasay.

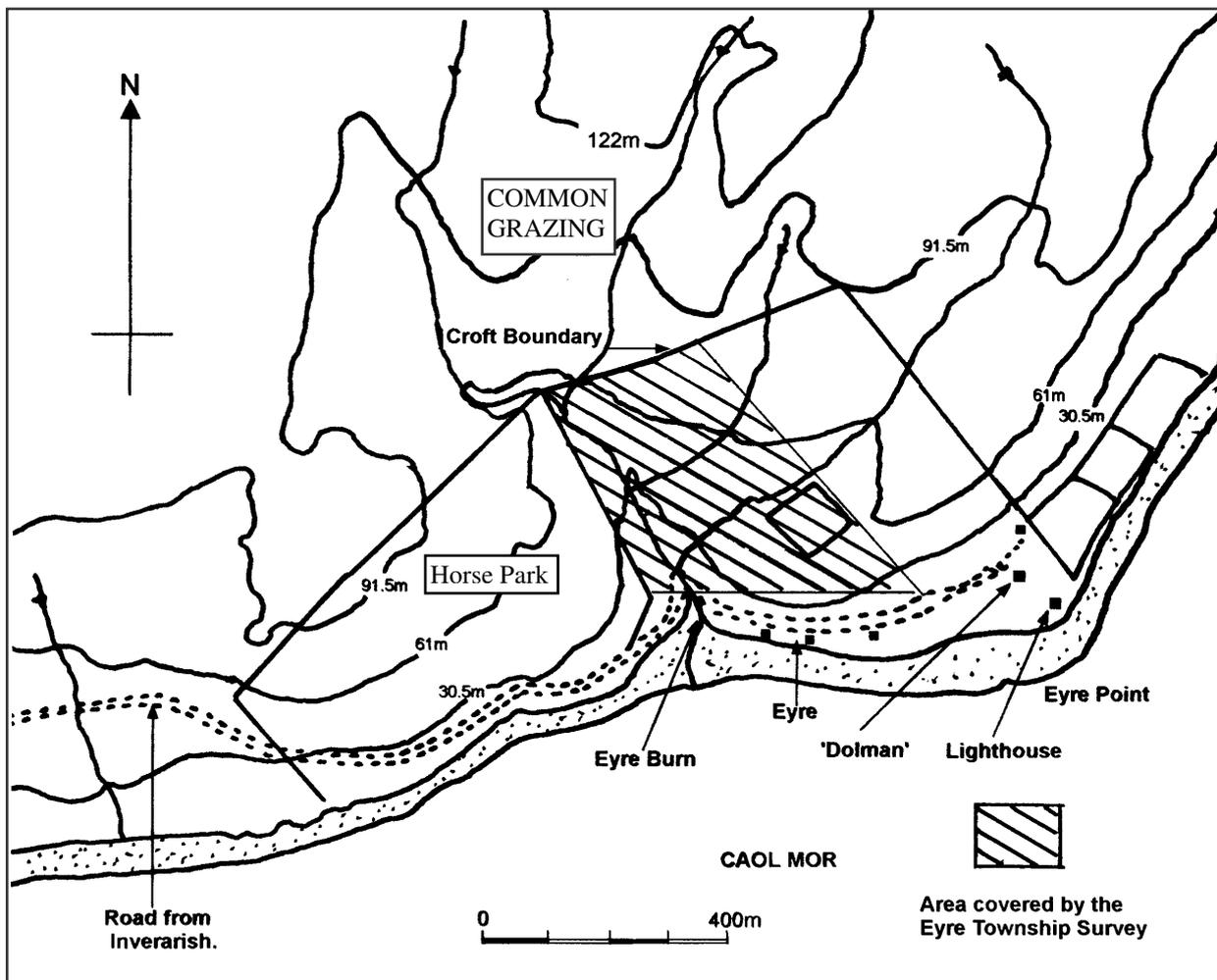
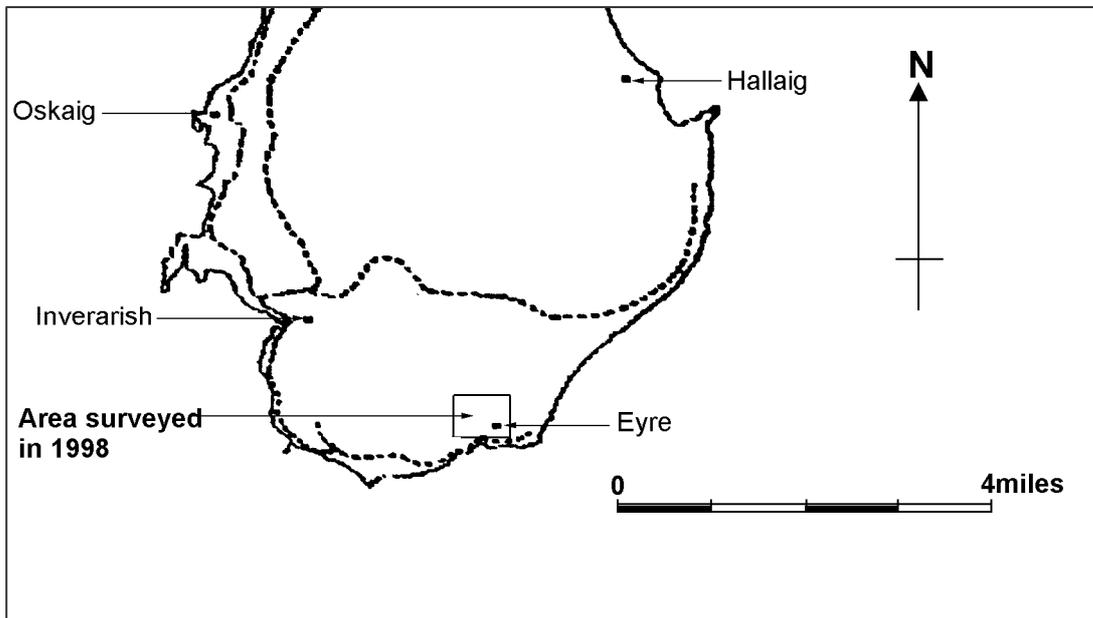
[K] To the northeast of [J], and at the foot of the knoll on which it stands, is a sub-rectangular stone and turf walled structure with external measurements 8m long north-south by about 5m east-west. The bank of this structure is 0.8m wide and levelled to 0.2m high, the east side having been destroyed by the construction of first a stone dyke and then a modern post and wire fence. There is a probable entrance 1m wide at the narrower northern end of the structure. There are no internal features. It is possibly a hut circle or enclosure associated with [J].

[L] and [M] On the east side of the post and wire fence and at the head of the small gully running up from the lower rig area is a possible stone chocked marker stone [L], 0.2m high. A similar stone, [M], can be found on a terrace of rising ground to the southwest and a third, fallen stone over the rise further to the southwest. No function for these stones is offered as the alignment of the stones does not seem to relate to any current boundaries or features recorded.

[N] About 150m to the northeast of the roundhouse a natural rock dyke, whose scarp carries lengths of a stone boundary dyke, runs down to the sea. At the northern end of this feature a narrow gully allows access to a small, secluded inlet. The upper end of the gully has some evidence of a stone wall blocking access down into it, now reduced to a scatter of stones difficult to discriminate from the considerable rock falls above. However, at the lower end of the gully, a circular structure, 3.5m diameter, has been constructed across the width of the gully. The structure is open on its west side allowing access to a terrace beneath the rock face which extends for 15m around the base of the face. The terrace is artificial, being revetted by a substantial bank of stones. Along the foot of the rock face are several natural rock shelters and overhangs, some of which can be accessed from the gully. The most western shelter carries a secondary wall across its entrance. From the revetted terrace, a talus of masses of tumbled rock falls away and although some is natural, much clearly consists of the fallen remnants of a former wall which screened both the shelters and the terrace from the sea. The difficulty of access and the attempts to obscure the site by the rock wall might suggest a possible illegal still site; however, shelters such as these have probably extensive histories of multi-purpose function.

APPENDIX. 1.

Eyre Point Survey 1998



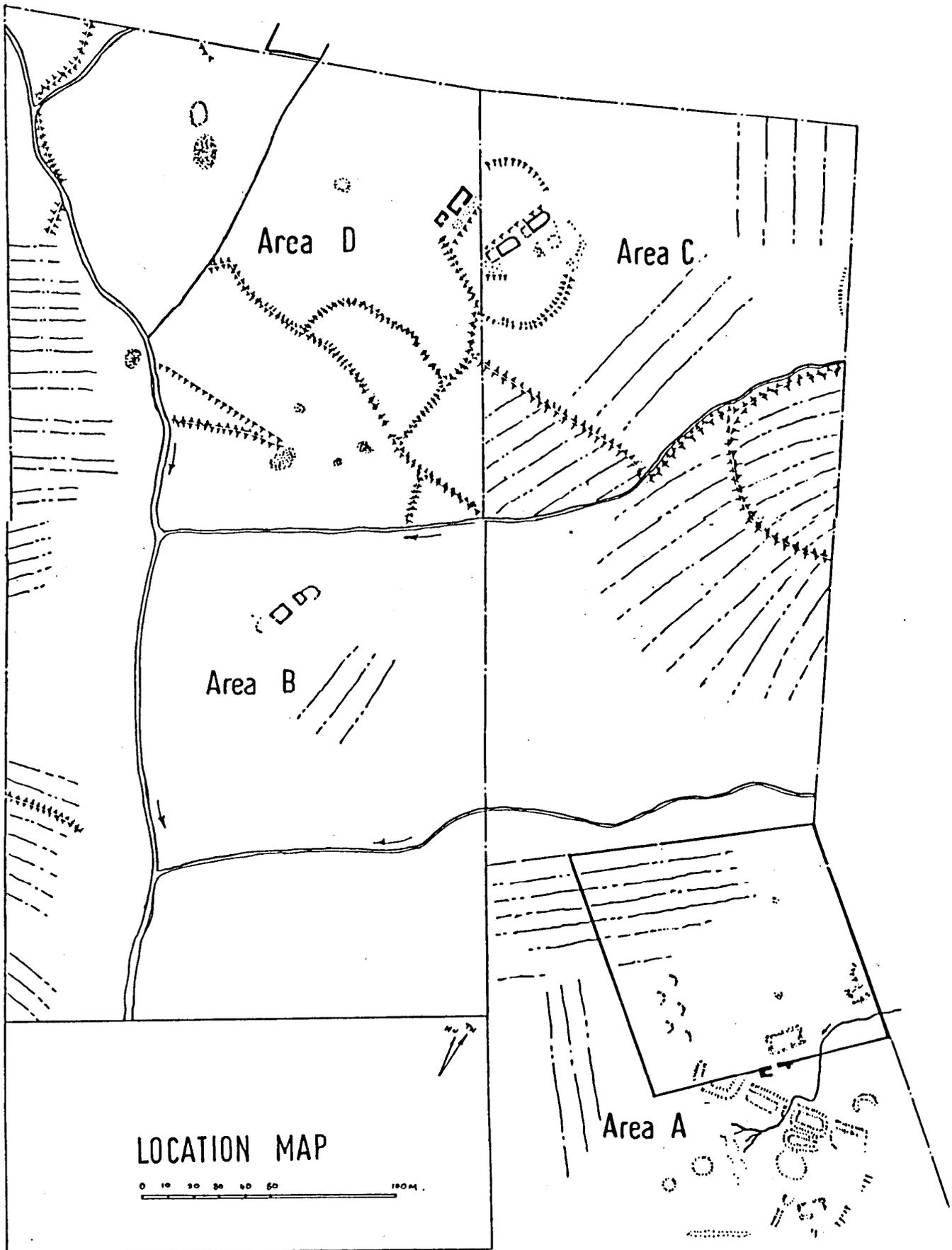
Eyre Point Survey 1998

The survey at Eyre Point was carried out by the second year students of the Certificate in Field Archaeology Course at Glasgow University. Mr Lionel Masters, who runs the Certificate Course, was supervising the survey. The survey was part of the students' training and was designed to teach them the techniques of field surveying in an area which contained monuments of different periods. They were continually assessed by Mr Masters throughout the survey and later in the preparation of their report.

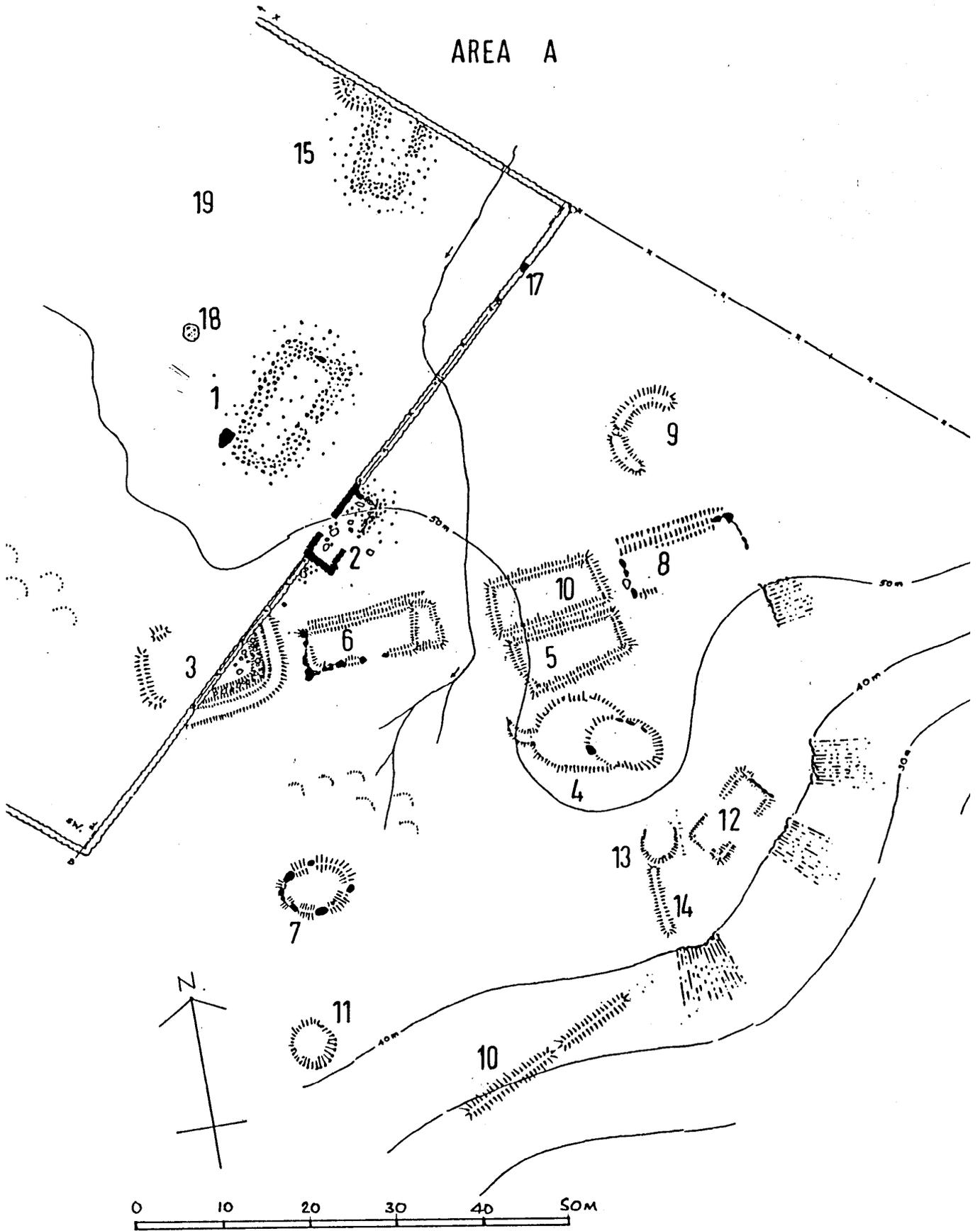
The survey was divided into two parts. Part one was a detailed survey of an area which lay within two crofts. This contained the remains of a number of houses and other structures of different periods. Part two was a general field survey of an area in the common grazing which lies to the north and west of the two crofts.

All who took part would like to thank the Scottish Office, Mr W. MacLeod and Mr J. Macleod for their very kind permission to allow them access to the site.

Any alterations to the students' original report have been carried out by the editors purely to bring it into line with the preceding A.C.F.A. report.



AREA A



Feature 4 **Oval Area** **NG 5777 3426**

This feature is an oval shaped area, 7m x 4m, cut into the side of sloping ground with a rear scarp rising to 1m in height and with a front apron dropping 0.3m onto a lower circular area of approximately 8m in diameter. This circular area then drops 0.3m to the natural ground surface.

There is a short elevated 'tail' of vegetation-covered stone connected to the lower apron at the northwest corner of the feature. There is a single large earth-fast stone measuring 0.6m wide by 0.4m high which forms part of the upper circular area and there are some earth-fast stones at the east side of the scarp.

Feature 5 **House** **NG 5777 3427**

A sub-rectangular structure measuring 12m x 6m appears as a low bank which is grass covered. There is no evidence of an entrance or of any internal features. The structure lies parallel to Feature 10.

Feature 6. **House** **NG 5773 3427**

A sub-rectangular structure measuring 12m x 5m has large earth-fast corner stones. The walling, which is 0.4m high, is grass covered. There is an entrance in the south wall which is marked by two stones on either side and entrance is 1m wide. On the eastern side, and attached to the feature, there is a smaller sub-rectangular structure measuring 5m x 3m which is also grass covered. On the northern side of the structure is a ditch measuring 0.8m wide by 0.3m deep, running parallel with the entire length of the structure. There is no evidence for any internal feature in either of the structures.

Feature 7. **Possible Hut Circle** **NG 5773 3426**

An oval setting of large earth-fast stones with grass and vegetation cover measures 7m x 5m internally. This is possibly a hut circle.

Feature 8 **House** **NG 5777 3429**

A sub-rectangular structure measuring 14m x 5m is similar in construction to Feature 6 with large earth-fast stones and a linking ditch. The northeast corner stone has a quarry drilling mark in it. The southern wall is in a much poorer condition than the other three. There is no clear evidence for an entrance or any internal features.

Feature 9. **Possible Hut Circle** **NG 5776 3431**

A semi-circular structure of grass covered stones measures 0.3m high and approximately 7m in diameter.

Feature 17. Stone NG 5775 3432

A large earth-fast stone within the construction of the south sheep fank wall lies approximately 8m from the southeast corner. The stone measures 1.3m in height, tapering at the top and is roughly 0.3m x 0.6m in section. This weathered stone, which interrupts the stability of the top course of the wall, appears to be in contrast to the careful selection of the stones in the lower courses.

Feature 18. Field Clearance Cairn NG 5772 3432

A grass covered field clearance cairn 2m in diameter and 0.4m in height.

Feature 19. Field Clearance Cairn NG 5770 3436

A grass covered field clearance cairn 1m in diameter and 0.3m in height.

Feature 20. Field Bank NG 5777 3422

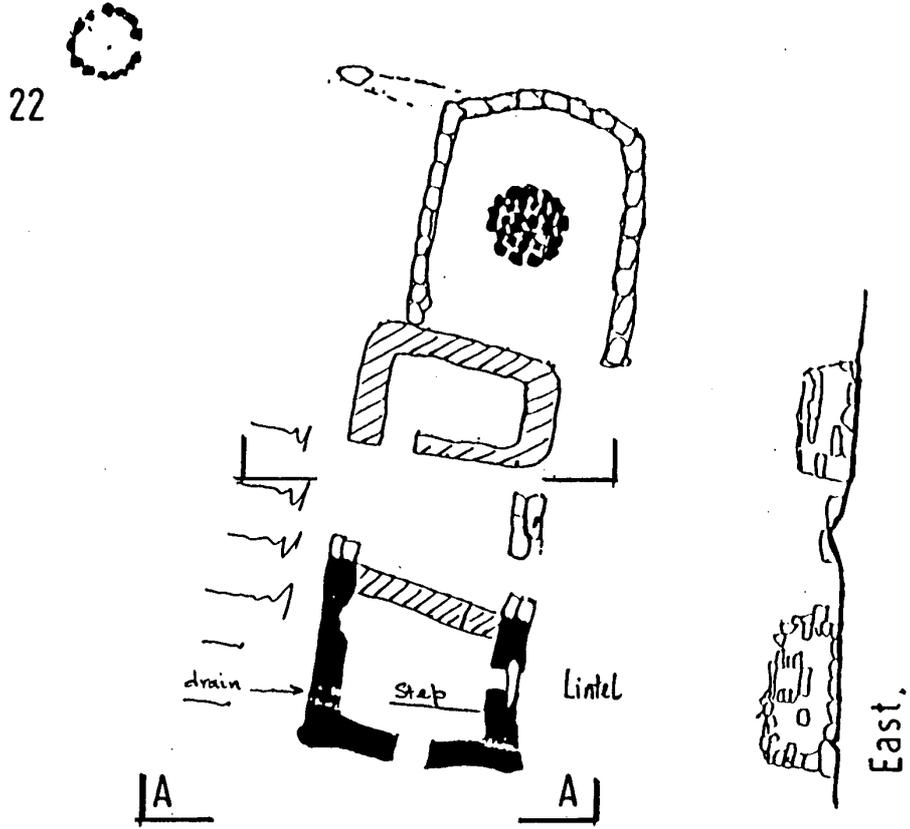
A grass covered stone and turf field bank measures 20m in length , is 0.5m wide and varies in height from 0.3m to 0.5m. It lies within a large depression flanked by higher ground to its east and west and with the cliff edge to the south of the bank. This feature is probably a field boundary to prevent cattle from wandering too near to the edge of the cliff.

Feature 21. House/Complex NG 5747 3436

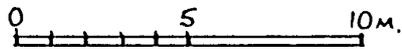
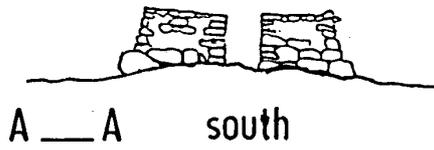
A structure lies on a southwest facing slope, approximately 35m above sea level. The overall external measurement of the structure is 12.5m x 6m. There appear initially to be two single-compartment buildings, but closer examination reveals that the section have been originally been one building. However, some features may indicate a more complex past than simply one building converted into two. The southern building has an east facing window and a south facing door. The northern wall, which may be later than the other walls, has a blocked up door in its eastern side. Inside the door there is a raised step, reminiscent of a stall area for milking cows, but the space inside this building seems too small for that purpose. The northern building is rounded on its south-east corner, although it was thought that this may have been rounded when the building was being converted from one building to two. Outside the building to the north is a 0.5m footing for a small enclosure. Inside is a 2.5m diameter circle of stones, which may have been a stack stand.

Lying 4m to the south there is a low semi-circular structure 4m in diameter. A raised area nearby may have been a midden.

AREA B



Plan feature 21



Feature 22. Circle of Stones NG 5746 3436

Lying 10m to the north-west of Feature 21 is a circle of stones 2m in diameter with a break in the east quadrant 0.5m wide.

Feature 23. Rig and Furrow NG 5749 3434

Almost all the area surrounding Features 21 and 22 has been rigged. The rigs average 3m peak to peak and in places two rigs appear to run into one wider one.

Feature 24. Rig and Furrow NG 5743 3418

An area of rig and furrow with rigs measuring 3.5m peak to peak. The rig and furrow noted here and in Features 27 and 34 extends to the top of the steep valley.

Feature 25. Field Dyke NG 5741 3422

A 10m length of dyke footing.

Feature 26. Field Clearance NG 5742 3422

Several upright stones are surrounded by a tumble of larger stones. Probably field clearance.

Feature 27 Rig and Furrow NG 5739 3425

An area of rig and furrow. The rigs measure from 4m to 4.5m peak to peak.

Feature 28. Track NG 5743 3424

A possible section of an old track 2m wide.

Feature 29. Field Dyke NG 5740 3426

A 30m length of slightly curving dyke footing cuts through feature 27.

Feature 30. Wall NG 5738 3428

It was thought that this may be all that remains of a house wall. Only one wall footing could be distinguished but there is a concentration of tumbled stones in the vicinity.

Feature 31. **Field Clearance Cairn** **NG 5737 3430**

Field clearance cairn, 4m in diameter.

Feature 32. **Field Dyke** **NG 5737 3430**

A length of dyke footing, 15m long.

Feature 33. **Field Clearance Cairn** **NG 5737 3432**

A field clearance cairn, 5m in diameter.

Feature 34. **Rig and Furrow** **NG 5736 3434**

An area of rig and furrow, approximately 3m peak to peak and up to 0.5m deep.

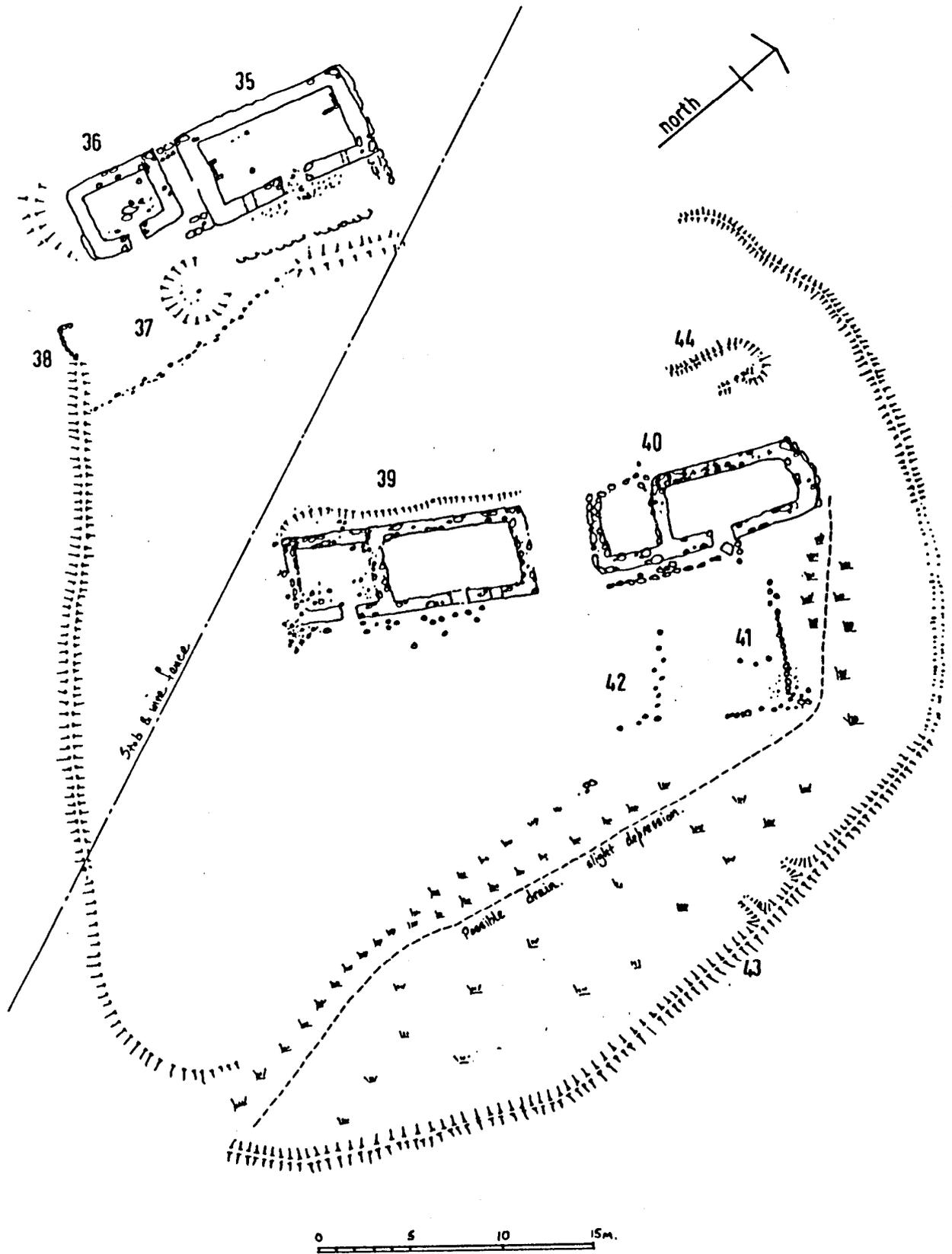
Feature 35. **House** **NG 5744 3454**

A sub-rectangular structure measuring 7.7m x 3.8m lies north-south and is situated with Features 36, 37 & 38 on a small plateau at a natural break of slope at 70m O. D. The structure has been well built of dry stone walls of two faces with a rubble core. The walls have a batter on the outer face, are 0.9m wide at the base and 0.7m wide at the top. The two northern corners are rounded externally but not internally. There is a door, 0.9m wide, and two small windows on the east wall. The windows are partly filled with loose masonry. Across the door threshold is a poured cement slab. The building has been maintained as a shelter and presents a uniform level wallhead at window lintel level. Both window lintels are in place. Due to the slope of the ground at this point the walls are 1.7m high at the northern end and 2.1 m at the south. There is an internal feature (a) located against the south wall. This feature consists of a semi-circular shaped slab, 0.6m in length and broken into two pieces set upright against the wall. A vegetation covered stony area in front of the upright slab has two small lengths of kerbing on either side. The kerb to the right is 0.4m long, that to the left 0.3m. This feature has the appearance of a stone-backed hearth.

There are the fragmentary remains of another internal feature (b) located in the north-west corner. This consists of a single course of stone in an L-shaped setting of 1.2m in length lying along the side of the north wall with a short limb 0.3m in length projecting outwards. The purpose of this feature is unknown.

In front of the house is a stony area some 3.6m out, with a possible low kerb along the east side, giving the impression of a formed platform.

AREA C



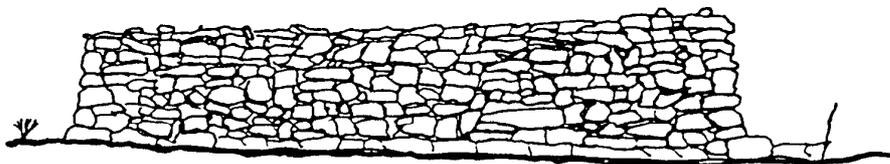


EAST



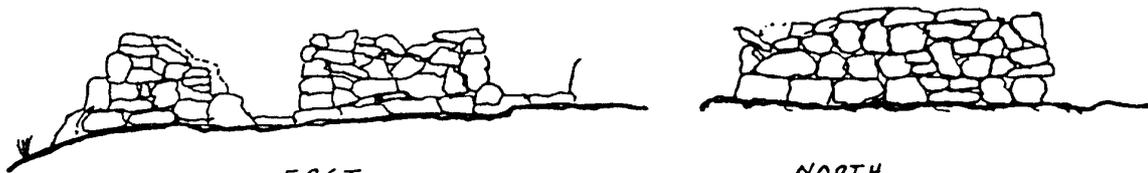
SOUTH

NORTH



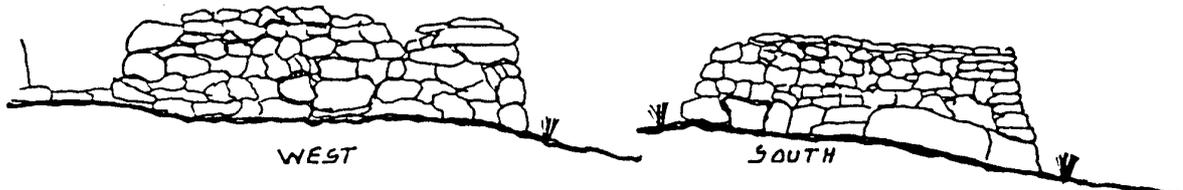
WEST

Feature 35. elevations.



EAST

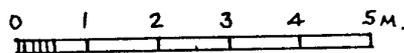
NORTH



WEST

SOUTH

Feature 36. elevations.



Feature 36.**Store****NG 5743 3453**

Lying 1.2m to the south of Feature 35, and along the same axis, is a square structure 3.7m x 3m. It is of drystone construction, the walls being vertical to a height of 1m to 1.5m. They are of two faces with a rubble core, and are 0.8m thick. The corners are rounded except the northwest which is square. The base course of stones projects beyond the outer face on the south wall. There is a considerable amount of tumble both inside and out. There is an entrance 0.8m wide on the east wall but no discernible internal features.

The workmanship is significantly inferior to that of Feature 35.

A low, barely discernible curved bank, 3m long and less than 0.5m high and wide, lies to the south of the structure.

Feature 37.**Stack Stand****NG 5744 3453**

Lying to the south-east of Feature 36 is a small ring of stones 3.6m in diameter. It is heavily overgrown and stands to only a single course high. There are small loose stones within, again overgrown, and a single small pointed stone, not earth-fast, sits in the centre.

Feature 38.**Crescent of Stones****NG 5743 3452**

A roughly crescent-shaped stone bank, heavily covered with vegetation, lies roughly on an east-west axis. It is 0.6m wide and approximately 1m at a maximum height. It stands a single course high. A low field boundary 0.5m high continues south-east from it to form an enclosure around Features 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41 and 42.

Feature 39.**House & Annex****NG 5746 3454**

A sub-rectangular structure measuring 8.6m x 5m externally lies at an elevation of 70m OD. Its long axis runs north-northeast to south-southwest parallel to the slope of the hillside. It is of drystone construction with the walls rising to a height internally of between 1.35m. and 1.5m. They are 0.85m thick at the base and 0.6m at the wallhead and are slightly battered on the outside. The internal corners are slightly rounded although those at the two northerly corners are more so. There is an entrance in the east-southeast facing wall 0.9m wide. Also in this wall are two windows both of which are blocked up. Both the windows and the doorway still have their lintels in place.

The interior although clear of fallen rubble shows no evidence of any internal features.

Uphill and parallel to the long west-northwest facing wall is a drainage ditch some 1.6m wide and with a maximum depth of 1.6m. This is partially blocked by tumble in two places.

The building is in a relatively good state of repair.

Annex

The annex, while of a similar construction to the main building, is in a much more dilapidated state. Its remaining walls vary in height from 0.25m to 0.8m and the building measures 4m x 3.4m with an entrance in the east-southeast facing wall. There is no evidence of any internal features. The annex is not obviously butted onto the main building and therefore the two structures may have been built as one.

Feature 40.**House & Annex****NG 5747 3456**

A sub-rectangular structure measuring 9m x 4.1m externally is of similar construction to Feature 39 but is in a poorer state of repair and appears to be older. The walls vary in height from 1.1m to 1.3m internally and vary in thickness from 0.95m at the base to 0.67m at the wallhead. The walls have a distinct batter and have rounded corners. There is an entrance in the east-facing wall 1.1m wide,

There is clear evidence of a stone-kerbed pathway running parallel to the east-southeast facing wall. There is no evidence for any windows but there is evidence for an internal partition.

Annex

The annex is attached to the south wall of the main building and is in a very poor state of repair. It measures 4m x 4m externally and the walls vary in height from nil to 0.4m. There is a possible entrance in the west facing wall. Much of the interior is filled with rubble.

Feature 41.**Store****NG 5748 3456**

An area of tumble 8m east of the doorway of Feature 40 and measuring 7m x 4m has a rowan tree growing from it. Although only the basal course is visible in places, there is clear evidence of at least two adjacent walls with the maximum amount of tumble within the apex. The only other feature which can be distinguished is the line of a possible ditch leading from the north-northeast corner of Feature 40, running behind Feature 41 and continuing on downslope.

Feature 42.**Stock Enclosure****NG 5748 3456**

A trapezoidal area of stone tumble measures some 4m x 4m. The centre of the tumble is located 6m east-southeast of the south-southeast corner of Feature 40's annex. The south wall basal course is reasonably well defined by a line of large boulders, the largest of which is 0.95m high. There is a possible drain in the east-southeast corner.

Feature 43.**Enclosure/Kail Yard****NG 5747 3455**

The principal Features 35, 36, 39 and 40 are surrounded by a sub-circular field bank. The bank reaches a maximum height of 0.75m and a maximum width of 1m enclosing an area approximately 40m to 60m in diameter. The uphill area slopes relatively steeply and has a grass and heather covering. The area down slope from the houses is rather damp and there appears to be a possible drain running from the north corner of Feature 40 to a gap in the field bank.

Feature 44.**Scooped Area****NG 5747 3458**

Lying 5m from the west of the north-northwest corner of Feature 40 is a small scooped area 5m x 3.5m x 1m deep. There is a small mound of stone on the inside. Purpose unknown.

Feature 45. **Rig and Furrow** **NG 5755 3460**

An area of irregular rig and furrow.

Feature 46. **Rig and Furrow** **NG 5750 3455**

An area of rig and furrow.

Feature 47. **Rig and Furrow** **NG 5752 3448**

An area of rig and furrow.

Feature 48. **Rig and Furrow** **NG 5760 3452**

An area of rig and furrow.

Feature 49. **Rig and Furrow** **NG 5760 3440**

An area of rig and furrow.

Feature 50. **Structure** **NG 5754 3439**

Although only relatively few stones remain, a prominent line of flat elongated kerb stones terminates in a mound of stones. This mound is 0.75m high.

Feature 51. **Field Clearance Cairn** **NG 5763 3446**

A field clearance cairn 1 m in diameter and 0.5m high.

Feature 52. **Gate Post** **NG 5757 3451**

Located at the junction of three field banks and immediately to the north of an obvious gap is an inclined stone pillar measuring 0.6m in height and 0.5m x 0.26m in cross-section. On the southeast facing side and 0.1m from the top there is a slot 65mm x 20mm x 40mm deep.

Feature 53. **Enclosure** **NG 5739 3453**

An oval shaped overgrown enclosure measuring 6m east to west and 4m north to south is constructed from loose and earthfast stones sitting one course high, and with tumble on the inside. There is no obvious entrance.

Feature 54.**Revetment****NG 5732 3456**

A small revetment at 60m O. D. measures 6m long x 5m high on a northwest-southeast axis. It is anchored on three large earthfast stones. There is no obvious function for this feature, but it is clearly man-made.

Feature 55.**House****NG 5733 3453**

An oval shaped heavily ruined house measures 7.1m on its north-south axis and 3.4m on its east-west. It is of drystone construction, the walls reach a maximum height of 1m and are approximately 1m thick. There is a great deal of tumble both inside and out. There is no evidence for an entrance, but a possible gap 0.8m wide is suggested at the south-east. This may be mirrored by a similar gap at the south- west.

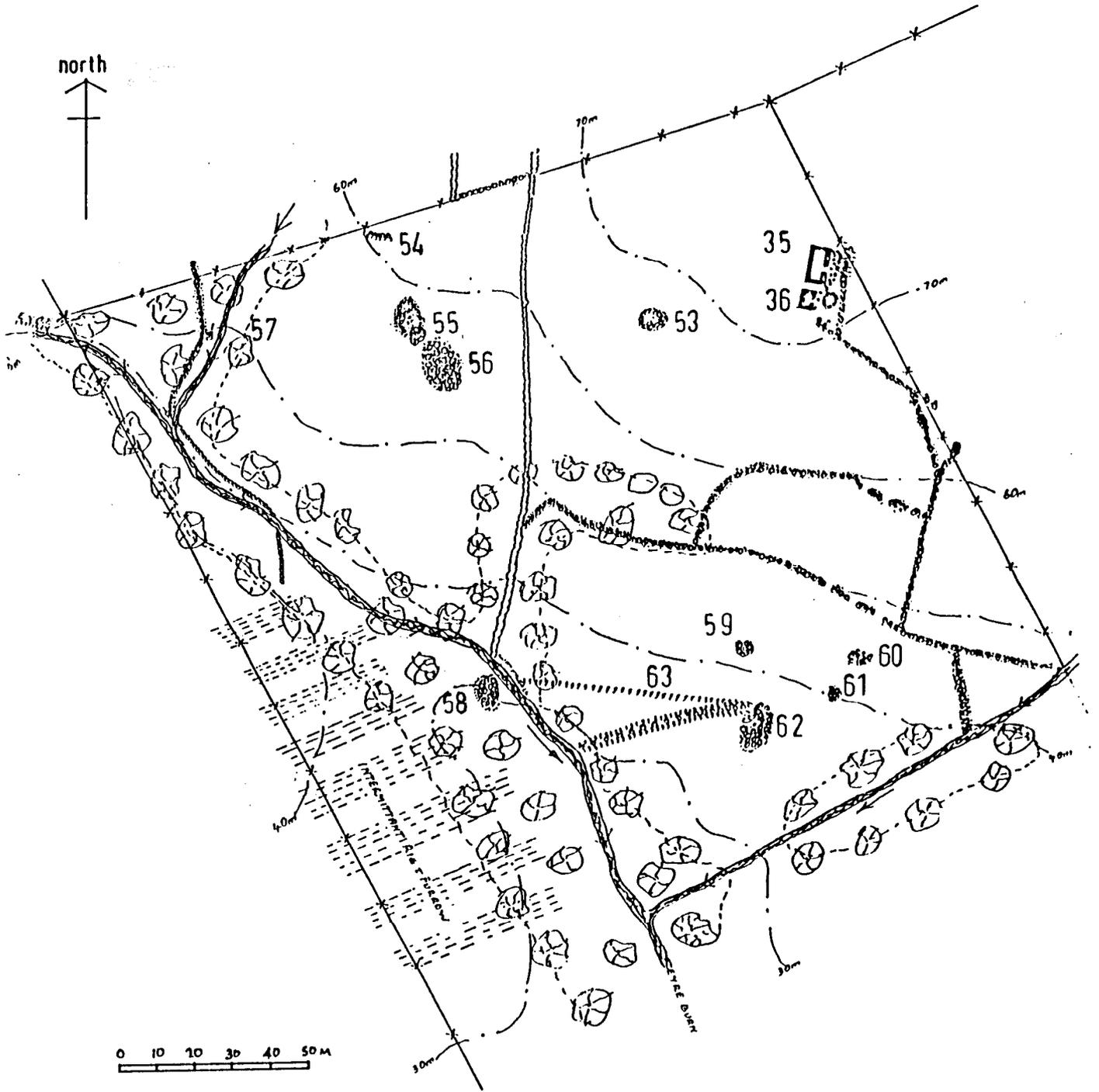
Internally there is a partition wall across the short axis. A small stone platform sits against the south face of the division wall at its junction with the west wall.

The structure lies in an area of fairly level ground at a height of 60m above O.D.

Feature 56.**Field Clearance Cairn****NG 5734 3452**

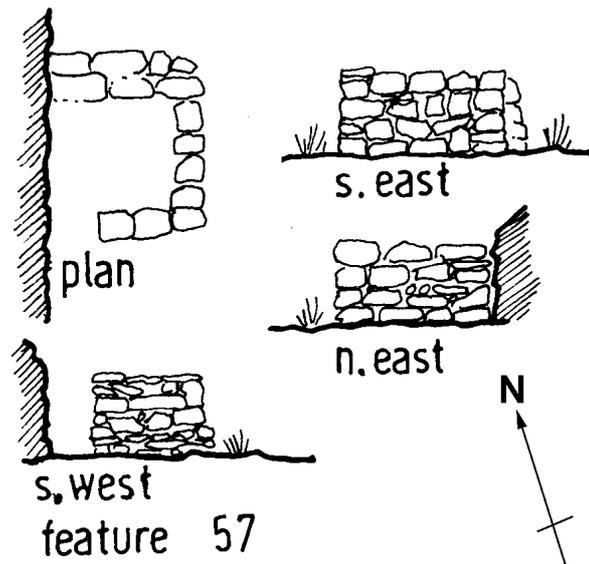
Situated immediately to the south of Feature 55 is a large oval shaped vegetation covered clearance cairn. It measures 13.6m north-south and 6m east-west and is 2m high at its south face.

AREA D



Feature 57.**Pen****NG 5728 3453**

A small stone built pen, measuring roughly 2m square, is of drystone construction with walls 1m high and 0.5m thick. There is an entrance 0.5m wide on the south wall. The structure is situated in deep woodland beside a burn. It is well hidden from the surrounding countryside and according to tradition is a spirit still.

**Feature 58.****Structure****NG 5734 3443**

This feature comprises of a ruin of stone, heavily overgrown and of indeterminate size and shape. The only recognisable feature is the "west wall" which comprises of drystone masonry 3m in length and rising from a single course to 1.5m at the north end. Its purpose is unknown but as it lies adjacent to the Eyre burn at a swift three-tier waterfall it may be that it was a mill.

Feature 59.**Field Clearance Cairn****NG 5741 3444**

A vegetation covered clearance cairn, 4m in diameter and 1m high.

Feature 60.**Field Clearance Cairn****NG 5744 3443**

A vegetation covered clearance cairn, 6m in diameter and 1m high.

Feature 61.**Field Clearance Cairn****NG 5743 3442**

A vegetation covered clearance cairn 3m in diameter and 1m high.

Feature 62. Field Clearance Cairn NG 5741 3441

A large semi-circular mound of irregular, partly vegetation covered stones measures 13.4m along its north-south axis and a maximum of 7m wide. It is 1.7m high at its south face.

**Feature 63. Lynchet or Track NG 5735 3443 to
NG 5741 3441**

This feature runs from Feature 62 to the bank of the Eyre burn opposite Feature 58 and stands 1m high over its length. The grass on the top is sparser than on the surrounding area and the feature gives the impression of an old track. As it is postulated that Feature 58 may have been a mill this would be consistent with a track leading to a once significant structure.

Feature 64. Rig and Furrow centred on NG 573 344

An area of rig and furrow is situated on the west bank of the Eyre Burn. In places the rigs are 2m-3m wide.

Field Survey

Feature 1.

Sheiling

NG 5742 3491

An oval shaped two cell structure measuring 4.5m x 2.6m internally is constructed from both large and small boulders. The walls reach a maximum height of 0.8m with an average thickness of 0.4m. There is a south-east facing entrance 0.7m wide flanked to the east by two large boulders in line. The floor of the cell nearest the entrance is very wet but the inner cell is raised up 0.3m and this area is relatively dry. The feature is situated on a gently sloping hillside overlooking the Sound of Raasay and is tucked under a knoll. This is the first of three sheilings which follow a ridge beside the burn.

Feature 2.

Sheiling

NG 5743 3492

This structure has two separate cells which are roughly circular and measure 1.8m in diameter and 1.4m in diameter internally. The entrances face in opposite directions, one to the north-east and one to the south-west. The walls are constructed of large and small boulders and are up to 1.2m thick in places. An unusual feature is that of an aperture in the north wall of the larger of the two cells which leads to a much smaller cell sitting on a raised platform.

Feature 3.

Sheiling

NG 5743 3493

A two-cell structure contains a larger oval section which measures 3.2m x 1.8m and a smaller cell which is roughly circular and measures 1.5m in diameter. The entrances to both cells are on the east side of the structure. There is a small opening between the cells which has an extant lintel in place. The larger of the two cells has a raised platform inside. Two lines of boulders project from the northeast and northwest corners possibly indicating the former existence of an annex. The construction is similar to features 1 & 2.

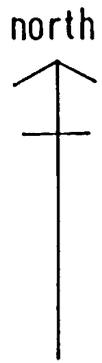
Feature 4.

Sheiling

NG 5756 351 9

This structure is the first of three sheilings located 300m up a tributary of the Eyre Burn. It is oval in shape with two cells and a small enclosure just inside the entrance which is in the northeast wall. The structure measures 4.5m x 1.7m internally and the walls, which are 1m high, vary in thickness. In this feature also the inner cell has a raised platform. The small enclosure or pen at the entrance measures 1m in height. It has battered walls and an opening at the top which measures 1m x 0.7m. The construction of the sheiling is similar to those previously described.

FIELD SURVEY.



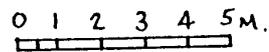
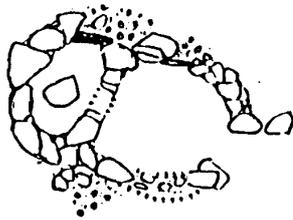
feature 3



feature 2

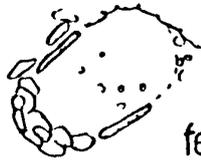


feature 1



FIELD SURVEY

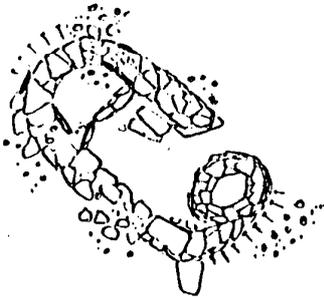
north



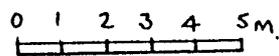
feature 6



feature 5



feature 4



Feature 5.**Sheiling****NG 5758 3520**

An oval shaped structure measures 5.6m x 2.2m with walls reaching a maximum height of 0.75m and a thickness from 0.7m to 0.85m. There is a possible entrance in the west facing wall. In common with the previously described sheilings there is a raised platform at the rear of the structure and the sheiling is of similar construction. Unlike the other structures this one lies away from the shelter of the cliffs and is located downslope about 20m from the burn.

Feature 6.**Sheiling****NG 5757 3521**

This is a single-cell structure measuring 3.4m x 1.9m with wall thickness varying from a single slab (0.1m) to 0.6m. It has been constructed by using two large vertically positioned rock slabs and walling comprising a mixture of natural outcrop and small boulders. There are no obvious internal features. The structure is located at the very base of an overhanging cliff face some 3m higher than Feature 5 and 15m from it.

Feature 7.**Stone Alignment****NG 5759 3488**

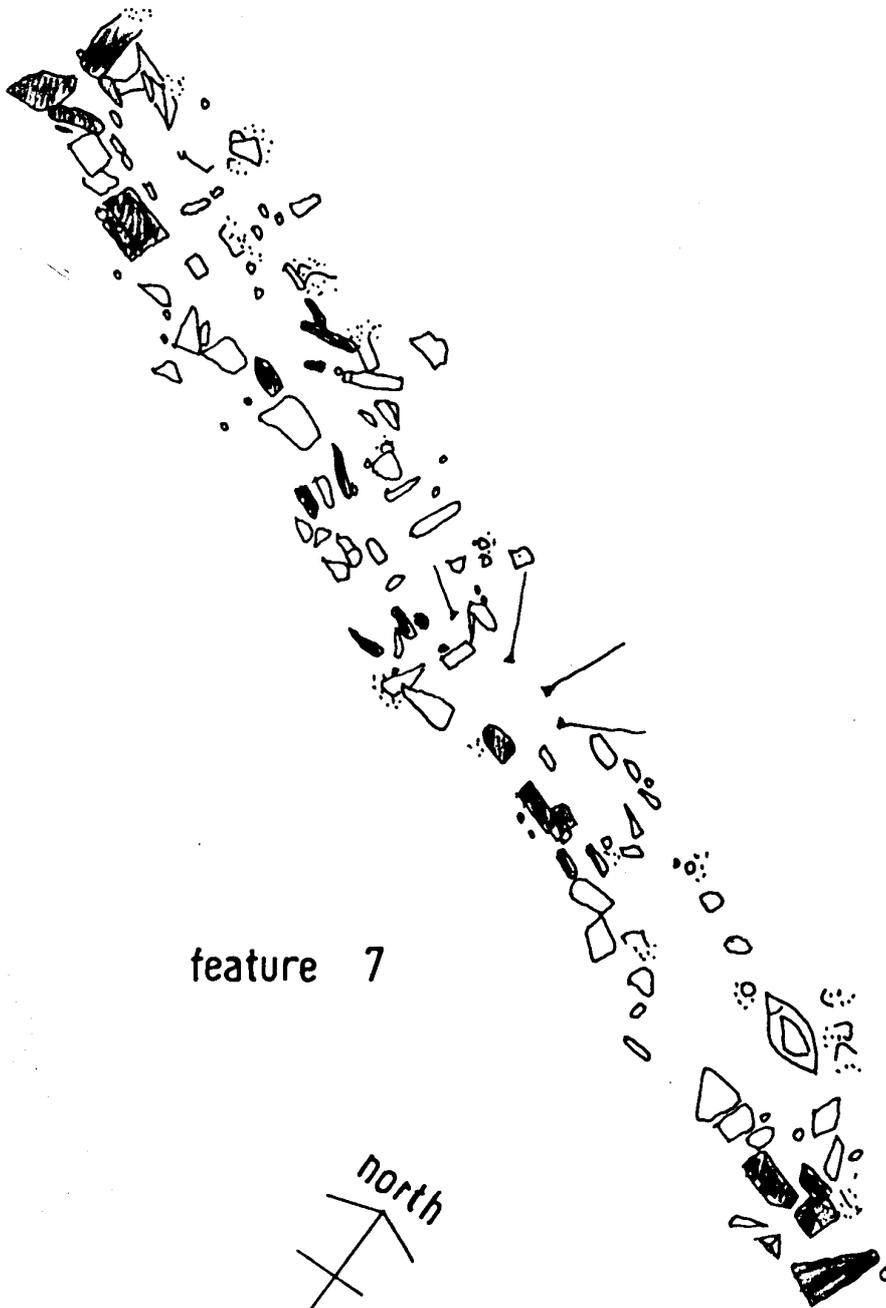
On a west facing slope, just below the summit at about 122m OD, a double row of stones lies on the east side of a small burn. The feature is located in a well-drained area sloping down westward towards the burn with grass and bracken cover, in contrast to the surrounding area of heather-covered bog. The alignment is visible from the site of a possible hut circle (Feature 13) approximately 250m away to the west. No other features were noted in the immediate vicinity apart from a drystone dyke over the summit of the hill and 3 small sheilings on the other side of the burn and some 140m away.

The alignment consists of a double row of stones running upslope on a roughly west-east axis for 20m, with a large upright stone across each end marking the limits of the alignment. The upright at the west (downslope) end is 0.6m high and that at the east (upslope) is the largest of all the stones in the setting, being 0.9m high. Along the length of the alignment five pairs of upright stones are set opposite each other. The upright stones vary in height from 0.2m to 0.5m. The stones in the rows are positioned close together.

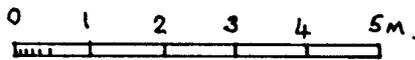
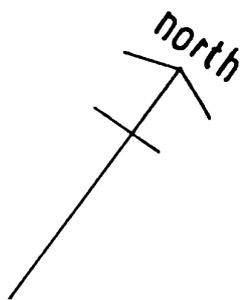
The two rows of stones are roughly parallel, although the stones of the north line are less uniform and this row has a more tumbled appearance. The width of the alignment varies but the rows are on average 1m apart. The alignment falls into 3 sections. The east section curves very slightly to the north. In the centre section a low grass- and moss-covered mound, 2m in length, lies among the stones and the west section ends in an almost box-like setting of stones.

Despite considerable conjecture, the purpose and age of this feature could not be determined.

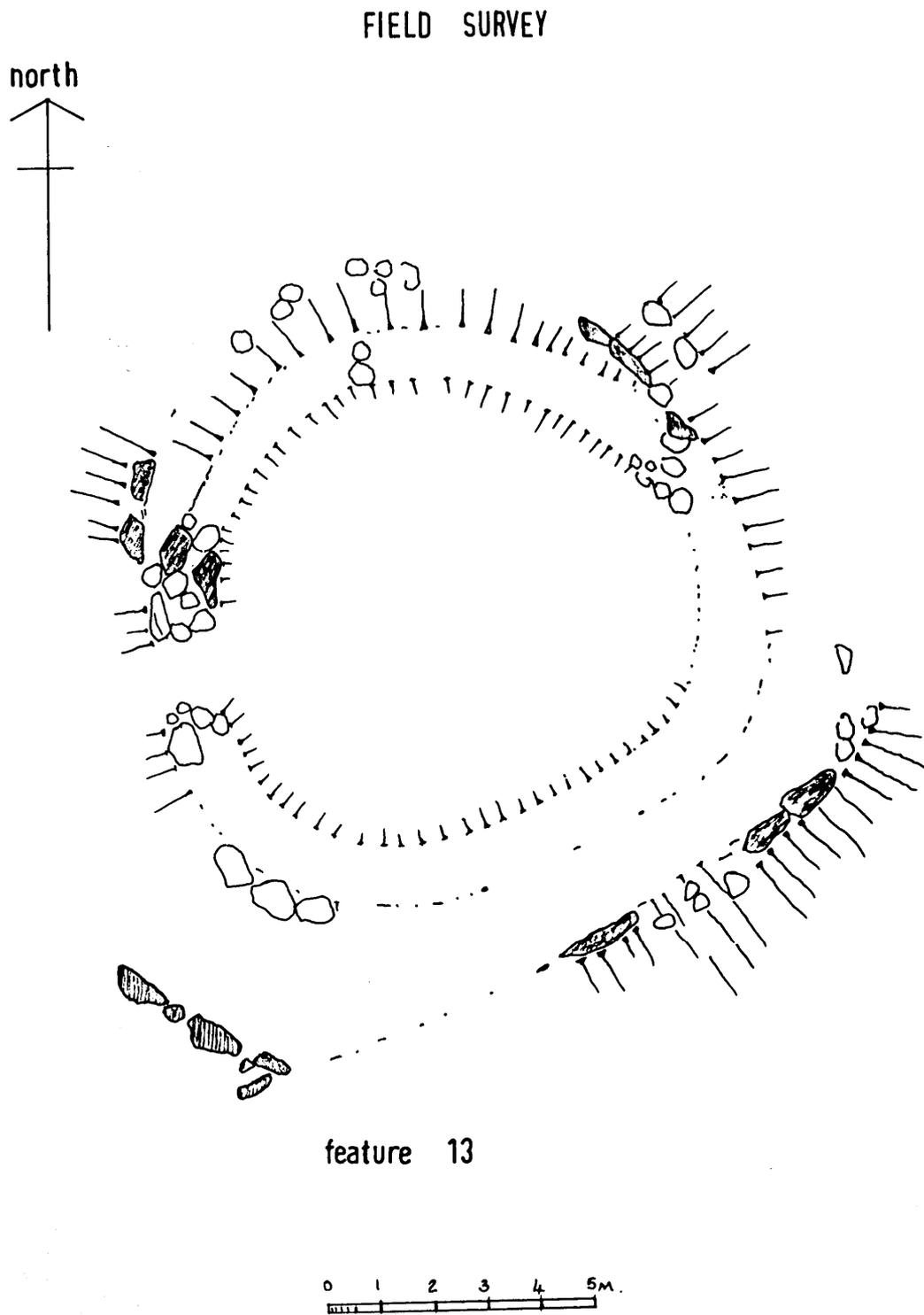
FIELD SURVEY.



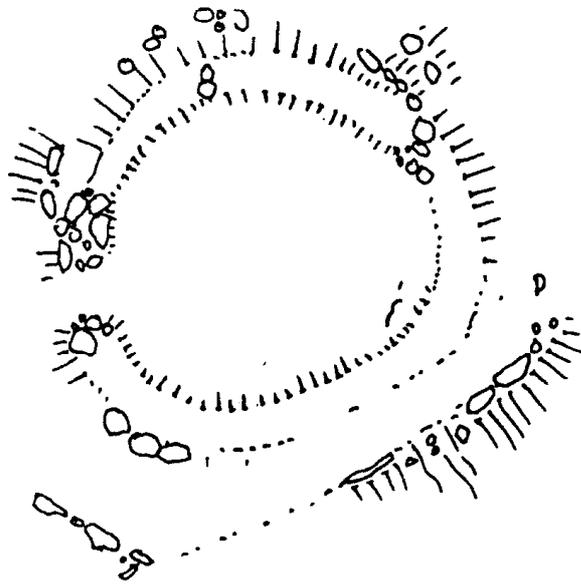
feature 7



lying slightly below the circle, almost revetted into the slope. This may be part of another structure of indeterminate shape although there is very little evidence of it continuing into the northern section of the site. Internally the ground is level and contains very few stones.

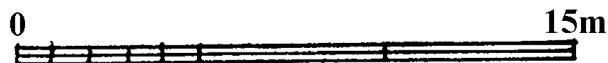
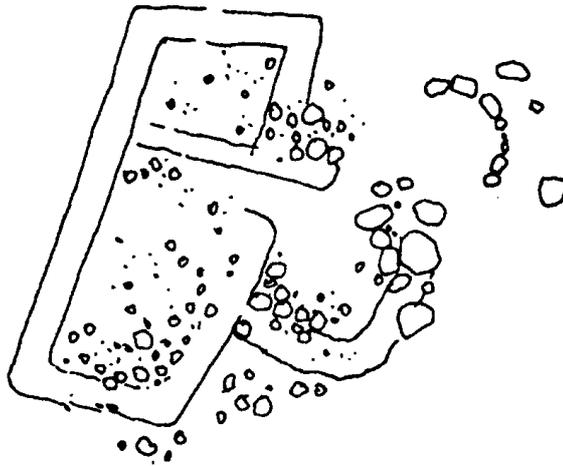


FIELD SURVEY



feature 13

feature 14



Feature 14.**House****NG 5730 3467**

Situated on a south facing plateau 6m south-east of Feature 13 lie the remains of a ruined longhouse. It measures 9.8m x 3.3m internally and is constructed from rough boulders with walls 0.9m thick reaching a maximum height of 1m. Internally the north wall has square corners and is in a better condition than the rest of the structure. There is an internal dividing wall 0.6m thick which is situated 2.6m from the north wall.

A sub-circular structure adjoins the east wall, possibly a porch. It measures 3m x 3m internally. It is also constructed from rough boulders with walls 0.8m thick and a maximum height of 0.4m. There is a possible entrance 1m wide in the north wall and a possible entrance through to the main structure.

To the northeast of the 'porch' lies a small crescent of stones 2.5m wide. There is a considerable amount of stone in the immediate vicinity and that gave rise to the suggestion that the house overlies an older structure, although there is no clear evidence for this.

The site is covered in bracken and most of the stones are moss covered.

Feature 15.**Dun Pairc nan Each****NG 57113 3428**

To the west of the Eyre Burn in an area known as the Horse Park (Pairc nan Each) at a height of 80m OD stands a large knoll, 6m high, of conglomerate rock. To the northwest, at the foot of the knoll, a field with evidence of rig and furrow is surrounded by a rough boulder and turf bank. The foundations of a rectangular structure, approx. 4m x 2.5m, lie against the western foot of the knoll. In a grass and bracken slope to the northeast, approximately 100m from the foot of the knoll a circular stone and turf bank may be the remains of a hut circle.

On the vegetation covered sub-rectangular top of the knoll, which measures 27m x 24m, are found the remains of defences and settlement. To the north and west some remains of stone defences can still be seen around the upper edges of the knoll and considerable quantities of large stone tumble can be seen at the foot of the scarp to the north, west and east. A discernible banking can be seen around the perimeter to the north and west but this is much less clear to the east. At the south side of the feature evidence would suggest that there have been 3 arcs of stonework with spaces between, and there is considerable stone lying heaped in the southwest corner. The stone piles indicate that there has been an entrance at this point. The remains here are substantial but very tumbled and it is not possible to determine with any certainty whether there have been guard cells in the walling.

In the interior of the dun lies a circular bank of turf with some stone under the vegetation, 7m in diameter. To the north, east and south of this feature the banking is clearly visible with a thickness of 0.8m. To the west the outer edge of the banking has fallen away. There is no obvious entrance. In the southwest sector of the feature a stone rectangle, 3m long x 1.2m across may be the remains of an inserted lambing pen.

Beyond the tumbled walling at the entrance the surface of the knoll tapers to the southeast for a further 10m before dropping sharply away. From the southeast point can be seen the faint trace of a bank running south to the base of another small knoll, approximately 30m away. This knoll is faced to the west by another and the two flank what is thought to have been the approach to the dun. From the approach 'track' to the dun three rickles of stones run east to the faint bank, possibly having formed small enclosures or cattle/horse stands.

The approach to the dun can be traced fairly easily going south towards the modern road about 200m away.

It is thought that the remains indicate a defended settlement consisting of a hut circle on a flat knoll with defensive walling built all round.

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Map References

- Ordnance Survey – First Edition 6 inch Map
1:10000 Map

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The following papers can be obtained from the Association by contacting:

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