

An Archaeological Survey
of the townships of Hallaig and An Leac
and the surrounding area.

on

Raasay

Portree Parish
Skye and Lochalsh District, Highland Region



Edited by
John Macdonald and J. Scott Wood

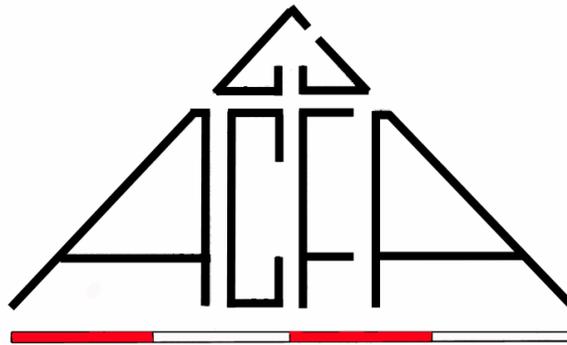
Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists
(Glasgow University)
Occasional Paper No 71
2004

The Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists, Glasgow University (ACFA) was formed in 1987. The 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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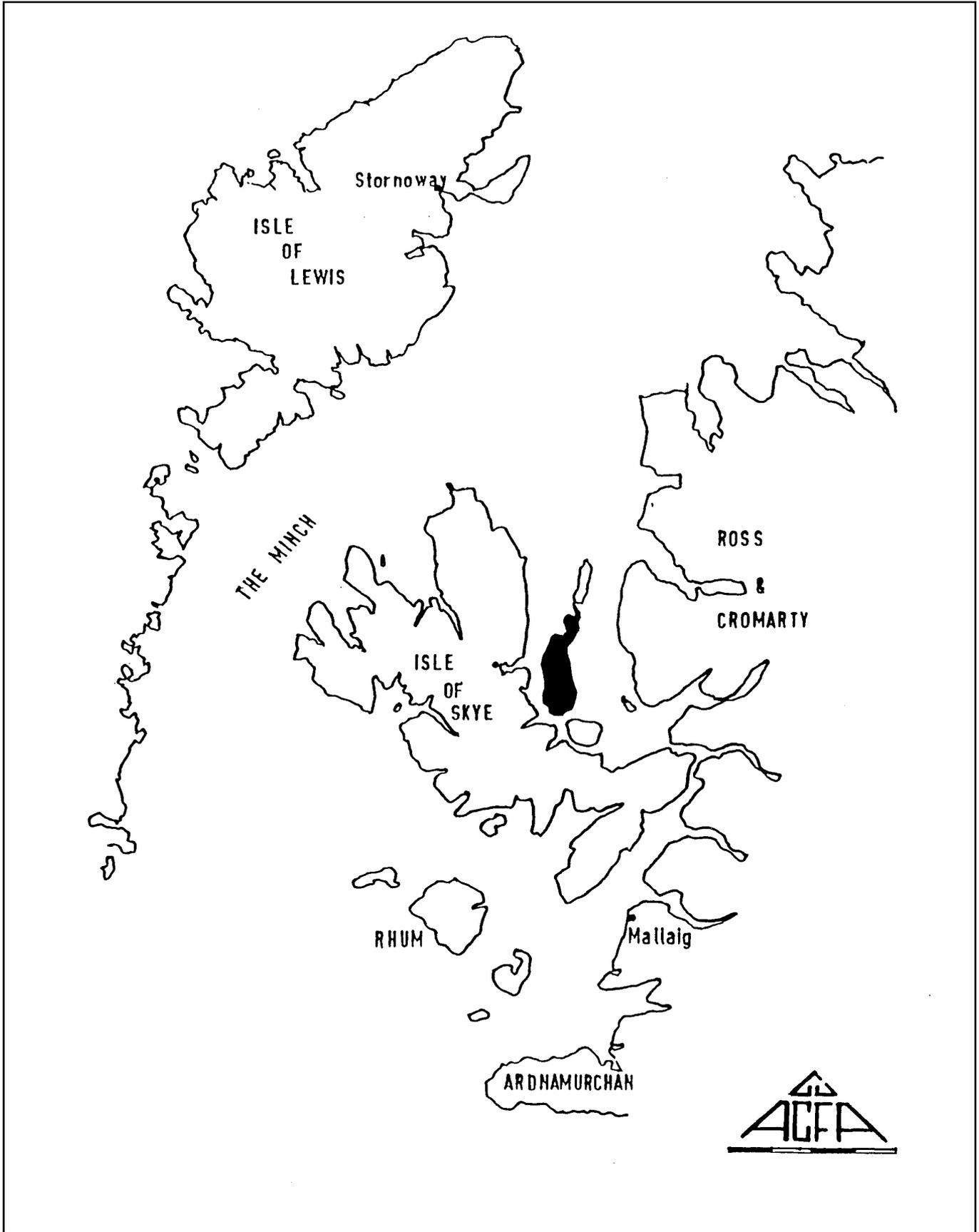
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Last, but not least, the Raasay Volunteers, many of whom return year after year, for all their help in the survey. This year they were.

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**John Macdonald
J. Scott Wood**

RAASAY 2004

Abstract: *The survey of the townships of Hallaig and An Leac and the surrounding area forms part of ACFA's continuing interest in the physical remains of human activity on the Island of Raasay.*

INTRODUCTION

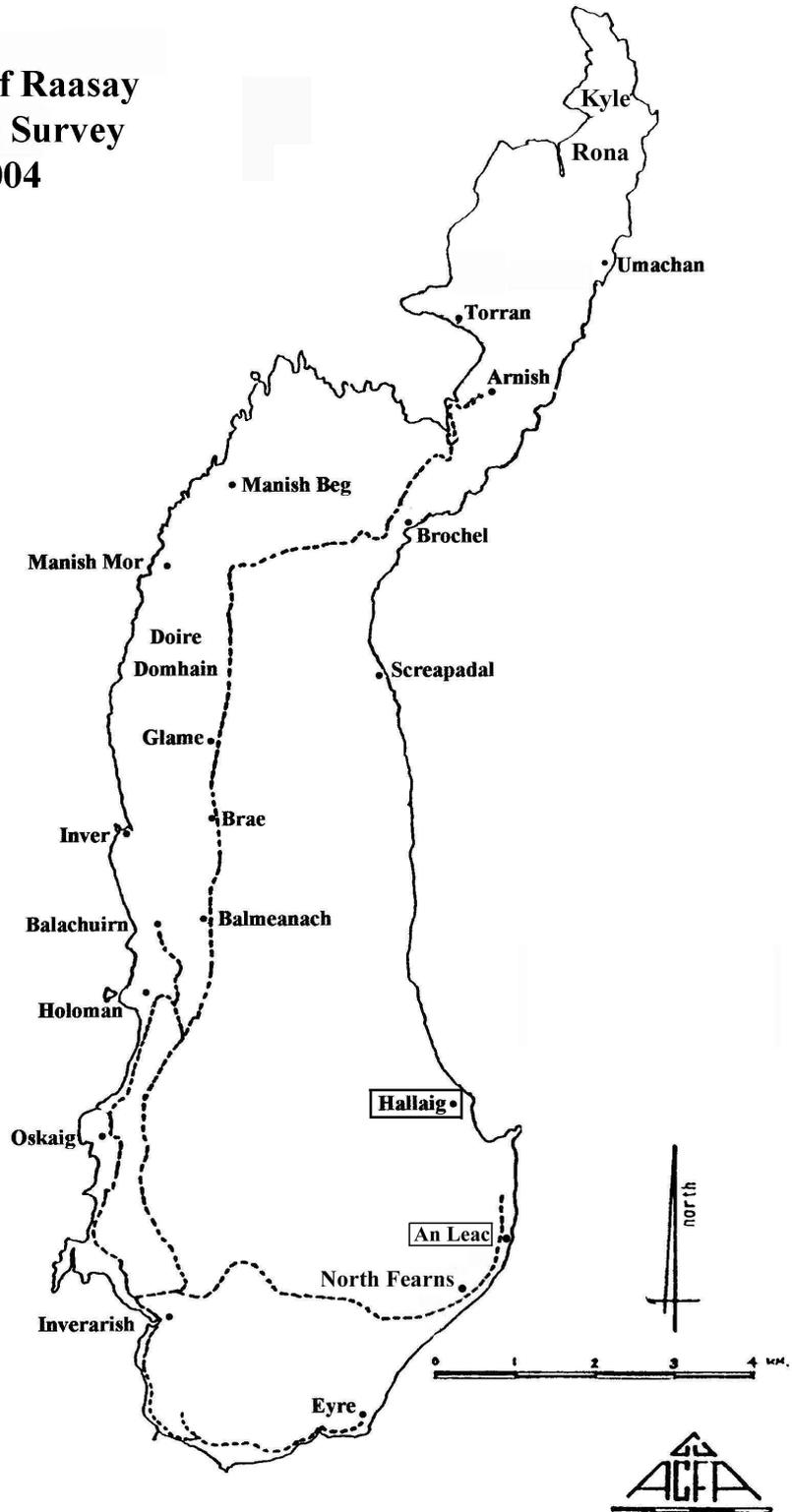
The 2004 survey is a continuation of our 1995, 96, 97, 98, 99, 2000, 2002 & 2003 surveys of the physical remains of human activity on the Island of Raasay.

In 1995 the townships of Oskaig and Holoman were surveyed plus the surrounding area. In 96 the townships of Balachuirn, Balmeanach, Inver and Brae and their surrounding areas were surveyed. In 97 the survey covered the townships of Glame, Manish More, Brochel and Doire Domhain and the surrounding areas. In 98 the twin townships of North and South Screapadal plus the surrounding area, including the forest between Brochel and Screapadal, were surveyed. In 99 we surveyed the township of Manish Beg and the surrounding area. In 2000 we surveyed the townships of Arnish and Torran and their surrounding area. In 02 we surveyed part of North Fearn plus an area to the north of the Fladda to Umachan path and in 03 we completed the survey of North Fearn.

In 1991 a sweep survey of the area was carried out by ACFA on behalf of Mr Roger Miket, the then Skye and Lochalsh museums officer. The results of this survey appear in the NMRS. This year we have returned to the same area to conduct a more detailed survey, in particular of the township of Hallaig.

The report of this survey now follows.

**Island of Raasay
Hallaig Survey
2004**



Hallaig

The cleared township of Hallaig lies on the east coast of Raasay and is situated 2.5km from the end of the public road from Inverarish to Fearn. It is reached via a well constructed track built in the 19th century so that the inhabitants of Raasay house could ride in their pony and trap to visit the deserted township for a picnic. At the end of the track is a substantial square roofless structure, known as the Pony House, which was used to house the pony and trap. A footpath continues on through the birch wood until it emerges on to open moor land and at this point there are the remains of a ruined house just beside the track. From here the track makes its way down to the Hallaig burn which it crosses at a small ford and then climbs up towards the large stone sheepfold which is now the most prominent feature of the township of Hallaig.

Hallaig has been recorded as a settlement from 1596 onwards and the area has clearly been settled and farmed for a very long time. Occasional features noted in the report below may have been of very early date – even prehistoric, but continuous use and development of the landscape destroys traces of earlier remains and frequently features which may be interpreted as being very old are in more remote and less cultivated areas.

This is seen in the other large and fertile settlements on Raasay such as Fearn and Screapadal, where mostly the evidence for the medieval or earlier settlement is lost under the more recent development.

By the 19th century, documentation divides Hallaig into Upper Hallaig and Lower Hallaig, but where exactly the division was is not now known. The population of Hallaig was probably at its height in the last quarter of the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century. In 1830 the township had been told by MacLeod's factor to build a schoolhouse and this was done. In 1833 they were petitioning the Gaelic School Society for a teacher for their school which they said could have 60 scholars and there was a school in Hallaig from 1835 to 1837 although it is not known which of the buildings was the schoolhouse. In 1834 a visiting preacher notes that there was no building in the township which could accommodate the number of worshippers and 'we, therefore, retired to a large cave near the seaside where a numerous congregation sheltered from the storm'. The Enumeration Rolls tell us that Upper Hallaig was completely cleared by the last MacLeod chief in 1841, many of the people emigrating. Both the Hallaig townships and An Leac were heavily over-populated from the 1830's on and were reported in 1846 to be 'on the verge of starvation' following a series of very poor harvests. In 1854, 129 Raasay people sailed on the Edward Johnstone from Liverpool bound for Australia. Of these, 5 families, 37 people in all, were from Lower Hallaig. A few families still remained in Hallaig but these were removed, probably to Skye and to more northern parts of Raasay. In evidence to the Napier Commission, John Gilles of Umachan says that 2 families from Hallaig came to Umachan as 'they would not go to Australia and so were placed among us.' The picture of the clearances at Hallaig is of earlier movement being comparatively voluntary with expenses being paid for by the laird while later movement within Skye and Raasay was forced and accompanied by violence at times.

By 1861 the township and its lands were run as a sheep farm with one shepherd and a labourer living there. In 1871 and 1881 only the shepherd remained and in 1891 the township was empty.

Hallaig



General view from Gualann na Leac looking north towards Hallaig



**View of Hallaig with Sorley MacLean's Monument
in the foreground and Dun Caan on the horizon.**

Hallaig

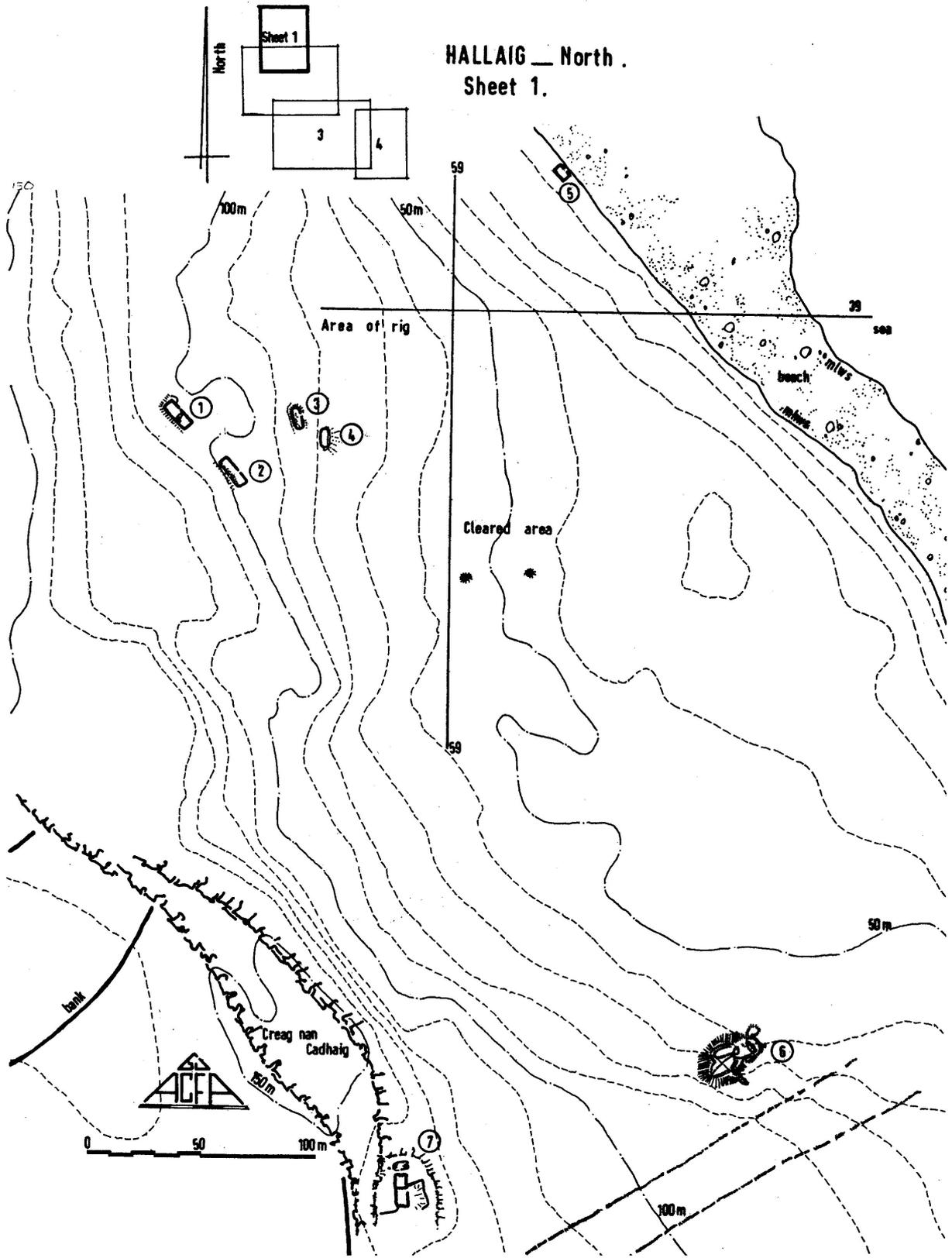


View of Hallaig Upper



**View of Hallaig lower
showing the sheep fank and Feature 41**

HALLAIG _ North .
Sheet 1.



Hallaig - north

Feature 1

Longhouse

NG 5889 3893 [80m OD]

Lying behind a knoll are the upstanding remains of a long house set northwest-southeast on its long axis. The house measures 12.50m x 4m internally with drystone walls 0.80m thick and standing to a height of 1.70m at the north end and 1.50m at the south end. The corners are rounded both externally and internally and the walls incorporate some outcrop. The house has 2 compartments divided by a drop in ground level, the south section being 0.60m higher than the north section. The north compartment is 7m long and the south compartment 5.50m long. An entrance 1.10m wide lies midway in the east wall giving access into the north section and a window, 0.50m wide externally and 0.60m wide internally, lies in the east wall of the south compartment. In the west wall of the south compartment is a small aumbry, approximately 0.40m square. Situated in the northern compartment are two pairs of cruck slots with a possible third pair. In the southern compartment there is a pair of cruck slots in the long walls and in the south gable are a further two cruck slots. In the south compartment, built against the west wall, is a sub-rectangular stone structure, 1.90m x 1.20m x 0.80m high. At ground level in the east face and the north face are 2 vents, both more than 0.50m across, which extend as channels right into the hollow interior of this small structure like a flue. This feature is interpreted as being a small corn-drying kiln for domestic use. Boswell, in his description of his visit to Raasay, notes the presence of a corn-drying kiln inside a house in Screapadal, and this may have been a common feature of the houses.

Feature 2

Longhouse

NG 5891 3891 [105m OD]

Lying behind a knoll and at the foot of a steep slope are the remains of a longhouse set southeast-northwest on its long axis. The house, which lies 20m south of Feature 1, measures 12.80m x 3.40m and is constructed of drystone walling 0.80m thick and standing to a maximum height of 1.80m. The external corners are all rounded; the interior corners are rounded at the south end and squared at the north end. The west wall, which was built into the hillslope, is tumbled along most of its length. An entrance 1.30m wide lies towards the south end of the east wall and 2 windows lie in this wall, both to the north of the door. The more northerly window is 0.60m wide and set at 0.80m above the current ground level. The south window still has its lintel in situ and is 0.80m wide externally and 0.55m wide internally. This window is 0.60m high and sits 0.60m above the ground level. No internal partitions or other features are visible.

Feature 3

House

NG 5894 3893 [80m OD]

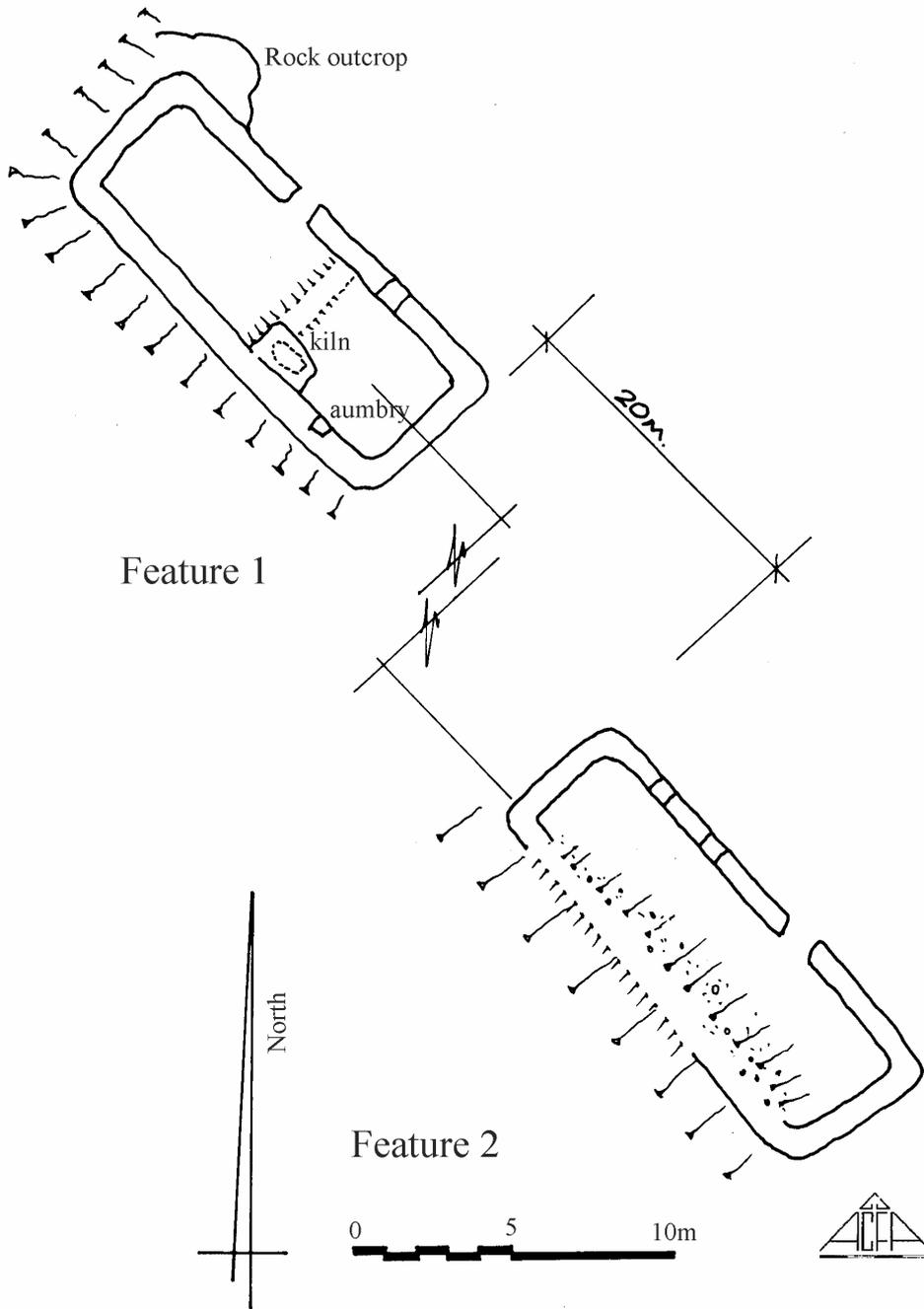
A sub-rectangular structure, 8.40m x 2.50m, lies almost north-south on its long axis. The walls are of drystone construction, 0.70m thick and standing to a maximum height of

Feature 7**House****NG 5898 3861 [135m OD]**

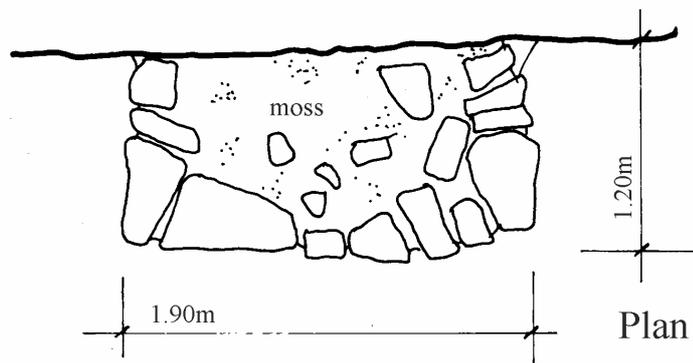
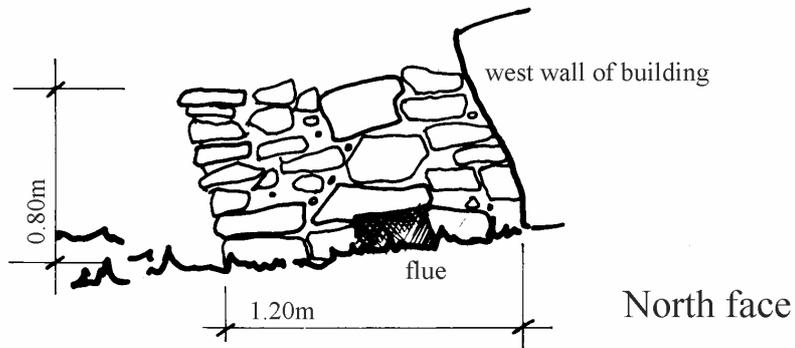
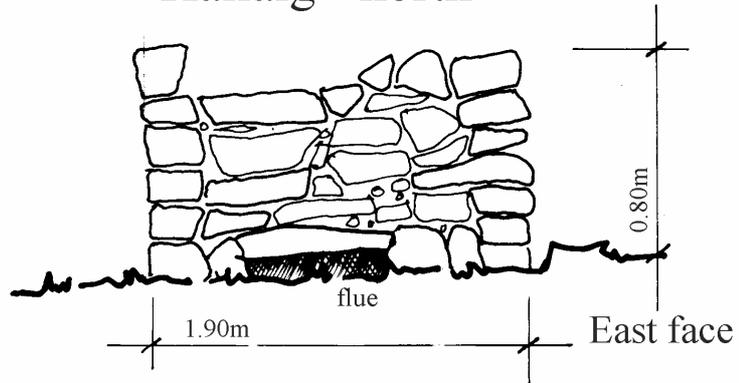
Approximately 80m to the north of the main settlement is an area of fairly steeply rising grass land with several deep fissures. An area of ground is bounded on the west and north sides by rocky scarps some 6m high and on the east side drops away very sharply. Lying within this area a substantial structure set north-south on its long axis measures 12.80m x 4.0m internally. The walls are drystone with some mortar visible. They are on average 0.80m thick and stand to a maximum height of 1.75m. An entrance 1m wide lies in the centre of the east wall. A cross wall 3m long and about 0.60m thick, divides the structure into two compartments, the north being 5.0m long and the south 7.10m long. The cross wall stops 1m from the east wall of the structure to form an entrance between the compartments. A fireplace about 0.70m across lies in the north wall and some breaks in the south wall of the structure may indicate another fireplace. There were no other visible internal features and no evidence of windows in the east wall which is quite tumbled. A stretch of rough drystone walling, 6.80m long, runs westwards from the southwest corner. Attached to the east wall, some 5m from the northeast corner, rough drystone walling forms an enclosure 10.50m x 5.50m which is open at the southwest corner. About 10m from the east wall of the enclosure the ground drops away very steeply and steep rock scarp lies approximately 12m from the west wall of the house. 1.50m from the north wall of the house lie the foundations of a small structure. As best as can be determined the structure has measured 5.60m x 3m internally. The foundations are clearly defined along the south and east sides but the west end is indeterminate and full of tumble. Rock scarp lies not more than 15m from the north wall of the structure.

**Feature 7**

Hallaig - north



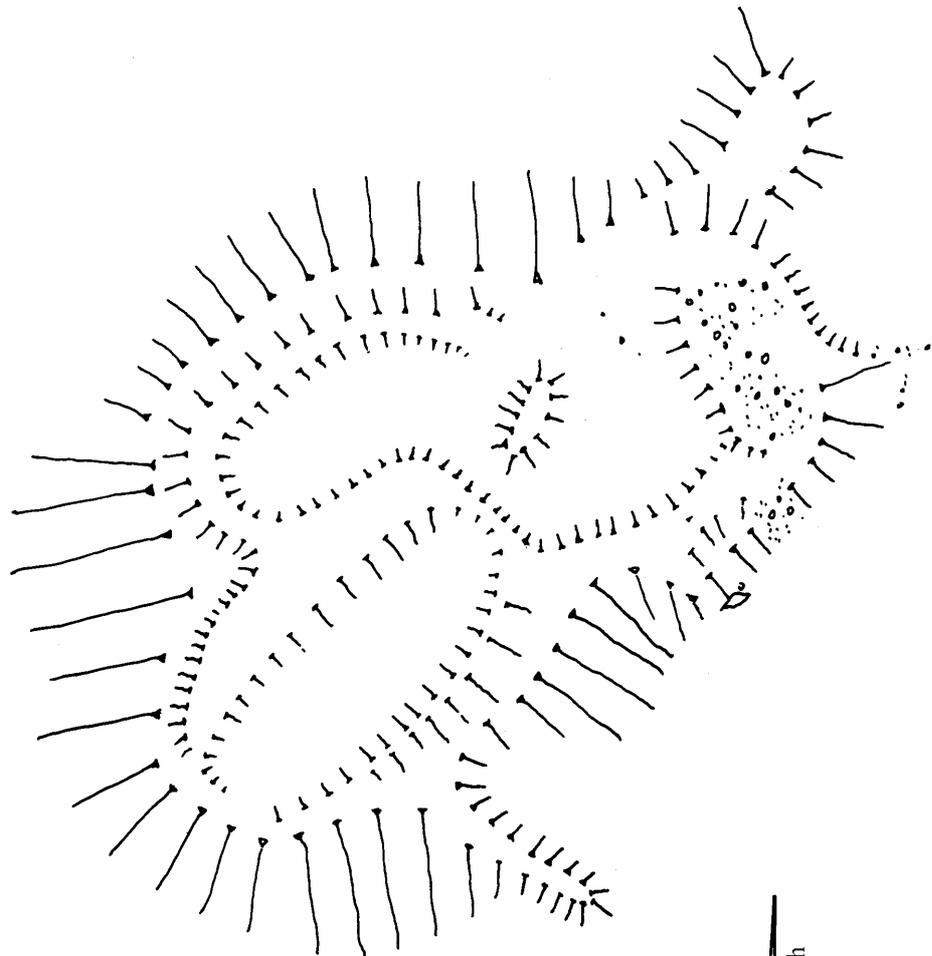
Hallaig - north



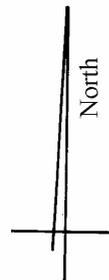
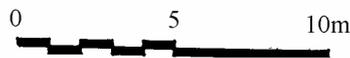
Detail of kiln at Feature 1

Drawings are not to scale

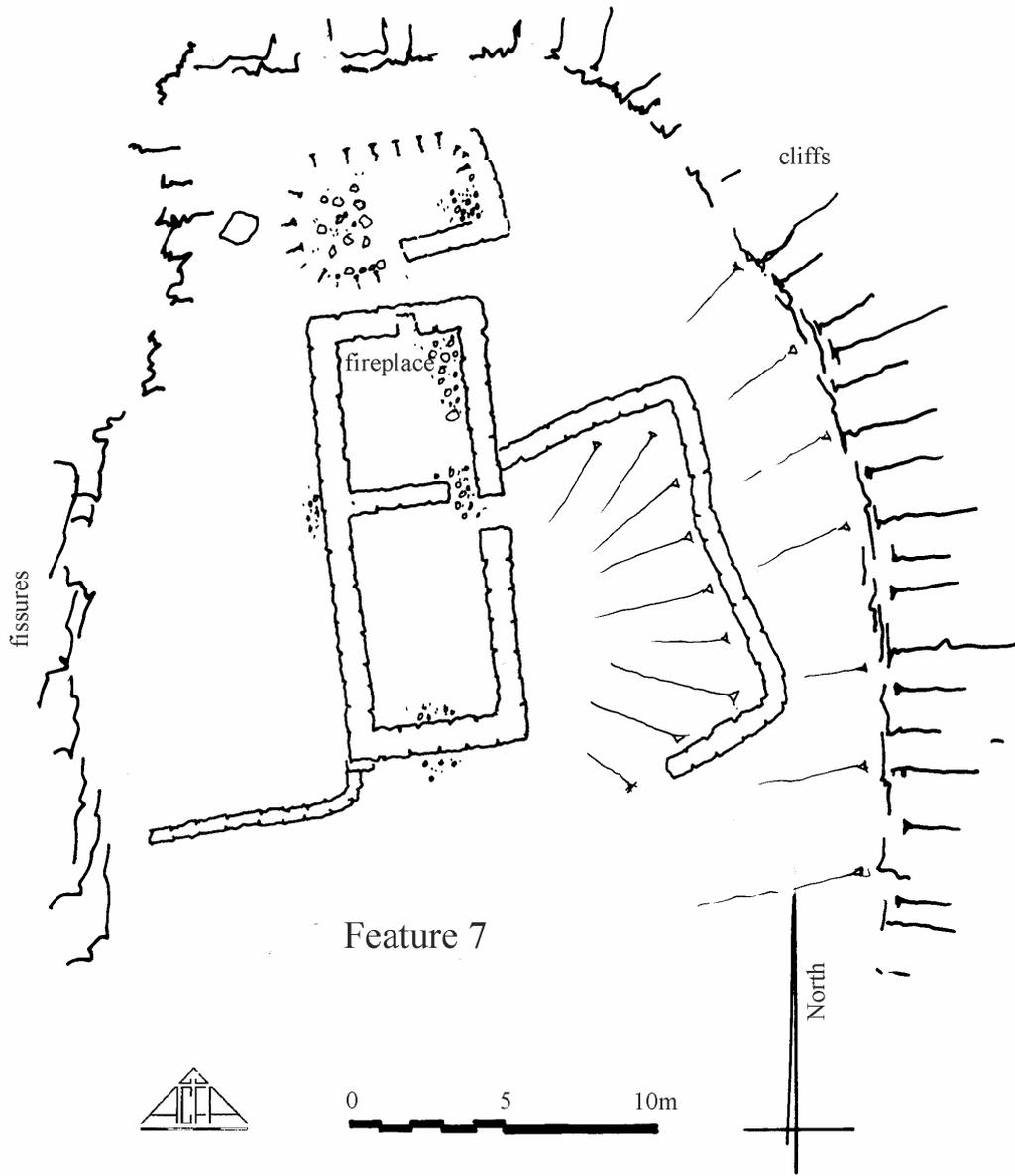
Hallaig - north



Feature 6



Hallaig - north



Hallaig A3 Map
Sheet 2 Hallaig

Hallaig A3 Map
Hallaig - upper

Feature 12**Foundations**

Very low banks, 0.20m high at maximum, form a U-shaped structure open at the northeast end and measuring approximately 6m x 2.60m. Some walling is visible under the moss in the north end of the northwest wall and a small stony mound lies in the centre. This may be all that remains of a longer house or may have been no more than a cattle stand. There may have been an entrance in the southeast wall. A low stone and turf bank, 3.80m long, connects the south end with the northeast corner of Feature 10.

Feature 13**Foundations**

A low oval of turf and stone walling lies in grass and moss, set east-west on its long axis. The feature measures 6.40m x 2.60m internally with walling approximately 0.60m thick and no more than 0.30m high. No entrances or internal features are visible

Feature 14**House**

Lying 7m to the south of Feature 13 a drystone structure, 7.60m x 3.20m, lies east-west on its long axis. There is an entrance, 0.80m wide, in the north wall. The walls are double skinned with rubble infill, are 0.80m thick and stand to a maximum height of 1.70m. There are no internal features visible in the grass and moss covered interior but stone tumble lies in the northeast corner, at the entrance and outside the south wall.

Feature 15**Byre**

Lying 6m to the east of Feature 14 a ruinous structure, 8.80m x 3.80m internally, lies southeast – northwest on its long axis. The walls are of drystone construction, double faced with rubble infill, and are on average 0.80m thick with a maximum height of 1.50m, highest in the south. A doorway, 0.80m wide, is in the east corner and there may have been a window in the northwest wall. No internal features were visible but there is a considerable amount of stone tumble piled in the north corner of the structure. At the northeast end an arc of low walling defines an area 4.0m x 4.0m which is probably the bow ended remains of an earlier house which may have measured 13m x 3.80m, most of which lies under the present structure. A stretch of rough boulder walling 5.0m long adjoins the north corner. From the south corner a length of turf-covered walling, 0.80m wide, has some stone visible. This walling arcs round to join with Feature 16.

Feature 16**Structure**

A low, grass-covered oval structure, lying east-west on its long axis, measures 6m x 3m as best as could be determined. The walling is 0.80m thick and stands now to no more than 0.20m high. There may have been an entrance 0.80m wide in the north wall and to

the east of this entrance is the low bank recorded in Feature 15 while to the west is a short stretch of low turf and stone walling, 2m long. There are no internal features visible but some tumble lies in the west end. From the southeast corner a short 2m stretch of low stone and turf walling connects with Feature 17

Feature 17 **House**

The low footings of a long house lying east-west on its long axis measure 13.50m x 4.50m internally. The turf and stone walling is 0.90m thick and stands now to a maximum height of approximately 0.30m. A cross wall, 0.70m wide, divides the structure into 2 parts 7.60m from the west end. The west section is 7.60m long and the east section is 5.20m long internally. A break in the cross wall at the south probably gave access between the compartments. An entrance >1m wide is in the south wall of the east section. At the entrance an arc is recessed into the grass to form a 'porch' 2m x 2m approximately, protecting the entrance. To the east the structure is scarped into the hillslope.

From the southeast corner of Feature 17 low scarp curves round towards Feature 15 to form an irregularly shaped space 25m x 25m. This scarp is in places natural and in places has been banked and revetted. The space, possibly a small field, is defined by the scarp to the east and by Features 15, 16 and 17 and their connecting walling to the north and west.

Feature 18 **House**

2m southwest of Feature 17 the very low outline of an oval structure lies east-west on its long axis in grass and moss. The structure has measured 9m x 3.80m with walls approximately 0.70m thick and stands now to a height of no more than 0.20m. The walls are turf covered with very little stone showing. A cross wall lies 2.40m from the west end dividing the structure into two compartments, the west 2.40m long and the east 4.20m long. An probable entrance 1m wide lies in the north wall of the east section. No internal features are visible.

Feature 19 **House and Byre**

The faint outline of an oval structure lies northeast-southwest on its long axis and measures 13m x 4.80m internally. The structure shows as grassy banks approximately 0.80m thick and not more than 0.20m high. A cross wall divides the structure into two compartments both approximately 6m long. There may have been an entrance in the northwest wall of the northernmost compartment. Adjacent to the north corner a faint arc of walling, not more than 5m long, may have once defined a kale yard or may be the remains of an earlier structure.

Feature 20**House and Byre**

Lying 2m northwest of Feature 19 and 5m south of Feature 10 is an oval structure set almost north-south on its long axis and measuring 11m x 3.60m internally. The structure is defined by low stone and turf banks between 0.80m and 1m thick. A cross wall 0.60m thick divides the structure into two sections. The upslope section to the south is 5.20m long and that to the north is 5m long. There may have been an entrance in the east wall leading into the south section. Some stone walling is visible in places and tumble is scattered at the north and south ends, within the grassy interior.

Feature 21**Cairn**

Under the crags at Upper Hallaig there is one clearance cairn. It is 4.50m in diameter and 1.20m high and covered with moss and grass with stone showing through on the top.

Feature 22**House**

An oval structure, lying east-west on its long axis adjacent to the south corner of Feature 19, measures 6.50m x 3.50m internally. The low walling of turf with some stone visible stands no more than 0.40m high and about 1m thick, although the west end is spread to 1.80m. The entrance lies midway in the south wall and an arc of banking forms a 'porch', 2m x 2m, which protects the entrance. It was not clear where the entrance to this 'porch' may have been. Within the east end of the house some stone appears to define a bowl, 2m in diameter and at this end the ground lies at a depth of 0.50m.

Feature 23**Possible Kiln Barn**

Lying 2m east of Feature 22, two arcs of stone and turf banking may originally have formed one feature, 10m long externally, lying east-west on its long axis. The west section has banking 1.20m thick around a sunken interior more than 0.50m deep. The east section of the feature has banks 1m thick round the south and east and is dug into the slope at the north end. The function of this structure is not clear but it was speculated that it may have been a kiln barn with the bowl of the kiln at the west end.

Feature 24**Byre**

A small oval structure 3m south of Feature 23 lies north-south on its long axis. A structure, 4m x 2.80m, is defined by low banks approximately 0.35m high and on average 0.60m thick, although the north wall is spread to a width of 2m. A break in the walling and a scatter of stones in the southwest corner probably indicate the position of an entrance.

Feature 25

Complex of Foundations

Lying 6m to the south of Feature 22 is a complex of low foundations which seems to represent several phases of building. It is thought that phase (a) is the earliest structure in the complex, followed by phase (b) and later phase (c).

- (a) Very low turf banks define a sub-circular structure 5m x 4m. It is thought that this is part of a structure lying northwest-southeast on its long axis, the southeast section of which is now overlain by structure (b).
- (b) Phase (b) may have originally been one long house, lying northeast-southwest on its axis and measuring 18m x 5m, as the long southeast facing wall appears to have been built in one piece. A faint low bank defines a rectangular area 3.80m x 2.20m attached to the southeast wall. The walling of (b) is now visible as low turf banking, about 1m thick, with evidence of stone beneath the grass cover. At the southwest end some very large stones form part of the wall and some lie beside it. Dividing structure (b) is a low cross wall which forms two compartments, the northeast measuring 11m long and the southwest 6m long. This wall may have been built with the structure to divide it into a house and a byre or may have been inserted at a later date to make a smaller structure at the northeast end.
- (c) A later structure appears to have been inserted into section (b) at the southwest end. Of this structure an arc of walling intruding into section (b) stands to a height of 0.40m with stone walling visible on the inner face. Lying 16m to the northwest are faint traces which may be the end of structure (c) making a building 16m x 4.50m approximately overall.

Feature 26

Foundations

The very low foundations of an oval structure, set east-west on its long axis, lie 9m southeast of Feature 17. The structure measures 8m x 3.50m internally with walling between 0.60m and 1m in width standing to no more than 0.20m in height. The walling is turf with a little stone visible, particularly in the east end, and a large stone 1.50m long lies within the walling at the northwest corner. A break in the north walling 1m wide may have been an entrance. Lying 1.80m to the east a short stretch of rough boulder walling, 3.50m long, runs north-south.

Feature 27

Structure

A small sub-rectangular structure, 6m x 3.40m, has low ruinous walls which, where they survive, are turf over stone. There may have been an entrance 0.60m wide in the north wall. The building has been scarped into the slope, particularly at the west end. Faint traces of what may have been an earlier structure project from the west end to the east wall of Feature 28.

Feature 28**House**

Lying 4m to the west of Feature 27 and set north-south on its long axis are the vestigial remains of a sub-rectangular structure 12m x 3.80m with low turf-covered walls 0.20m high and 0.80 thick. No entrances or internal features are visible.

Feature 29**House**

A sub-rectangular house lies northeast-southwest on its long axis and measures 11.40m x 3.65m at the northeast end and 2.90m at the southwest end. The walls are of drystone construction with no mortar visible, 1.40m high at maximum and 0.80m thick, but the south half of the west wall is low with tumbled stone under grass cover. The corners externally are all rounded; internally all are rounded except the northwest corner which is square. There may have been an internal cross partition which formed two compartments which measured 4.40m at the northeast end and 6.80m at the southwest end. There have been two opposing entrances 0.75m wide in the north end of the east and west walls but the east entrance has been carefully blocked up. A window 0.50m wide lies in the north end of the east wall. A cruck slot is visible at the north end of the west wall. There were no other visible internal features. From the northwest end of the building a roughly built wall extends for 10m. Outside the northeast end is a considerable pile of tumbled stone.

Feature 30**Byre**

Lying 3m to the south of Feature 29 is a small sub-rectangular structure measuring 5m x 2.50m. The building lies northeast-southwest on its long axis with low walling, on average 0.80m thick. The north end of the feature is bowed and the corners at the south end are rounded externally but squared internally. The south end wall has a single course of stone visible. An entrance 1.50m wide lies in the east wall. There are no internal features visible.

Feature 31**House**

Lying north-south on its long axis are the vestigial remains of a sub-rectangular structure, 13m x 3.50m overall. The external corners are rounded and the west and north sides have been dug into the slope. The east side has some stone walling visible under the grass. The south end of the structure is filled with a pile of tumbled stone with grass and moss cover. No entrance or internal features could be discerned.

Feature 32**Store**

A crescent shaped structure is scarped into the slope and lined with drystone walling 1m high at maximum internally. The feature is open at the south end. There may have been an entrance in the east side.

Feature 33**House**

1m to the east of Feature 32 a sub-rectangular drystone structure lies north-south on its long axis and measures 9.60m x 4m internally. The walls are 0.80m thick and stand to a maximum height of 1.20m. A cross wall 4m long and 1m thick divides the structure. An entrance 1.20m wide lies in the east wall, just south of the internal wall. Beyond the south wall are low walls of stone with turf cover, 0.30m high and 1m thick, which form a sub-rectangular addition to the main house, 1.50m x 4m. It was speculated that this may be the insubstantial remains of an earlier longer house which has lain under the present house. An entrance to this section 0.60m wide lies in the south wall.

Feature 34**House**

Lying 1.50m to the north of Feature 33 are the degraded remains of a house 14.40m x 6m. The structure shows now as an oval depression in the ground. There is some evidence of an internal cross wall. There may have been an entrance 0.80m in the east wall. A length of turf banking 9m long with a spread of 3m runs close to the west wall. It was felt that the structure may have been robbed out to build Feature 33 which has similar dimensions and orientation.

Feature 35**House**

Lying 2m to the south of Feature 27 a sub-rectangular structure lies east-west on its long axis and measures 7m x 3m internally. The walls are of dry-stone construction and are on average 0.80m thick, with a spread of almost 2m at the more ruinous east end. The walls at the east end are turf covered but the external stone facing is visible. Those at the west end are more substantial, standing now to a maximum height of 0.60m. The long walls have been robbed in their middle sections and it is not possible to discern where the entrance may have been.

Feature 36**Store**

Lying 3.5m south of Feature 35 a small 3-sided structure is set northeast-southwest on its long axis and measures 4.80m x 2m internally. The east wall is missing. The walls are of drystone construction with turf covering, are 0.80m thick on average and stand to a height of 0.95m at maximum at the southwest corner where the facing of the wall is

clearly visible internally. The corners are rounded internally and externally. It is not possible to discern where the entrance may have been, but it has probably been in the east wall.

Feature 37 **House**

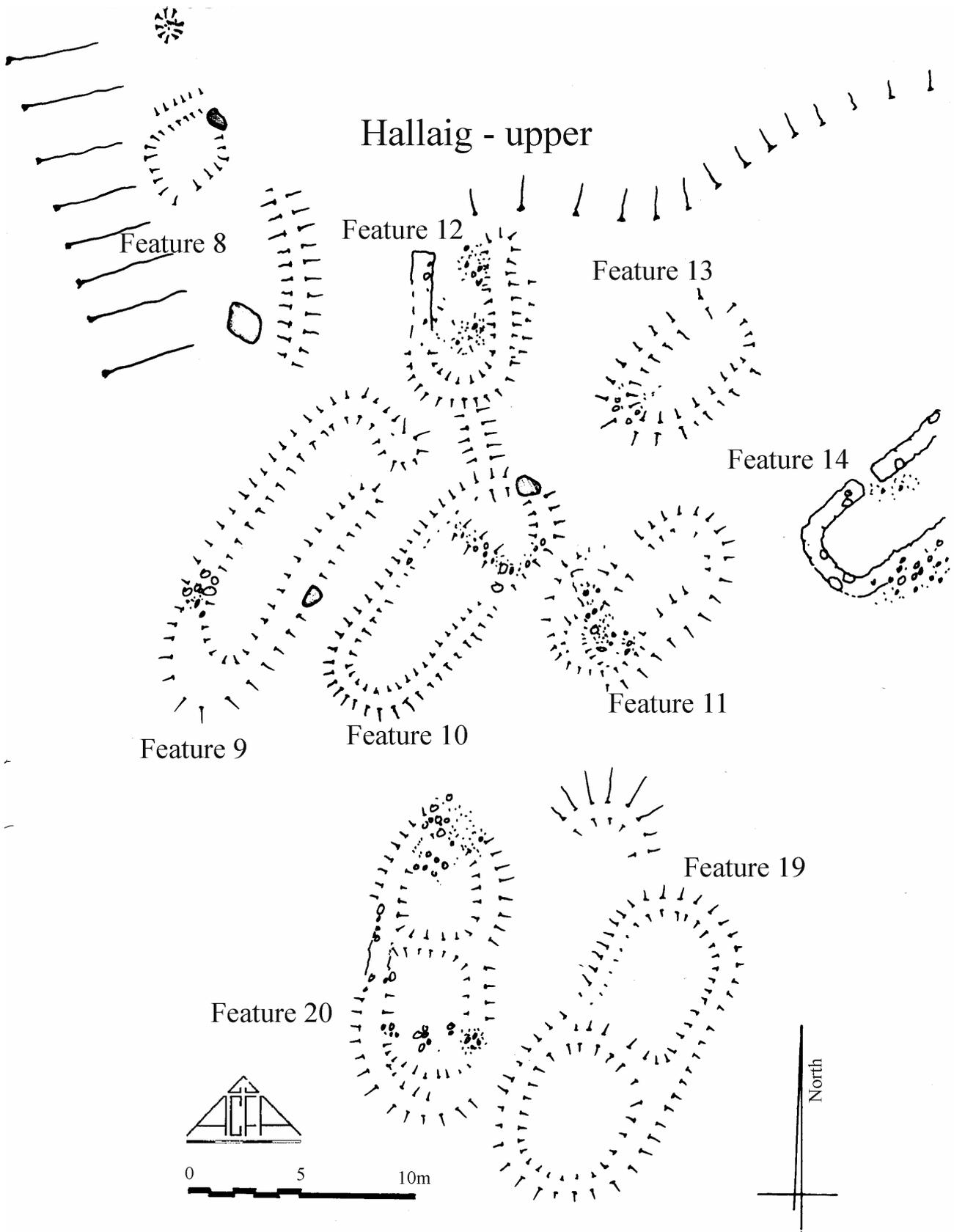
Lying 1m east of Feature 33 is a very ruinous structure, 11m x 5.60m overall, which is now seen as a sub-rectangular scoop in reeds and grass. Walling visible below the present ground level is of drystone construction with one very large stone built into each of the north and south walls. The external facings of the walls are now almost level with the surrounding grass. The east end of the house is very tumbled and has slumped down slope. The house slopes significantly from west to east along its long axis. No internal features are visible and no entrance could be discerned.

Feature 38 **Foundations**

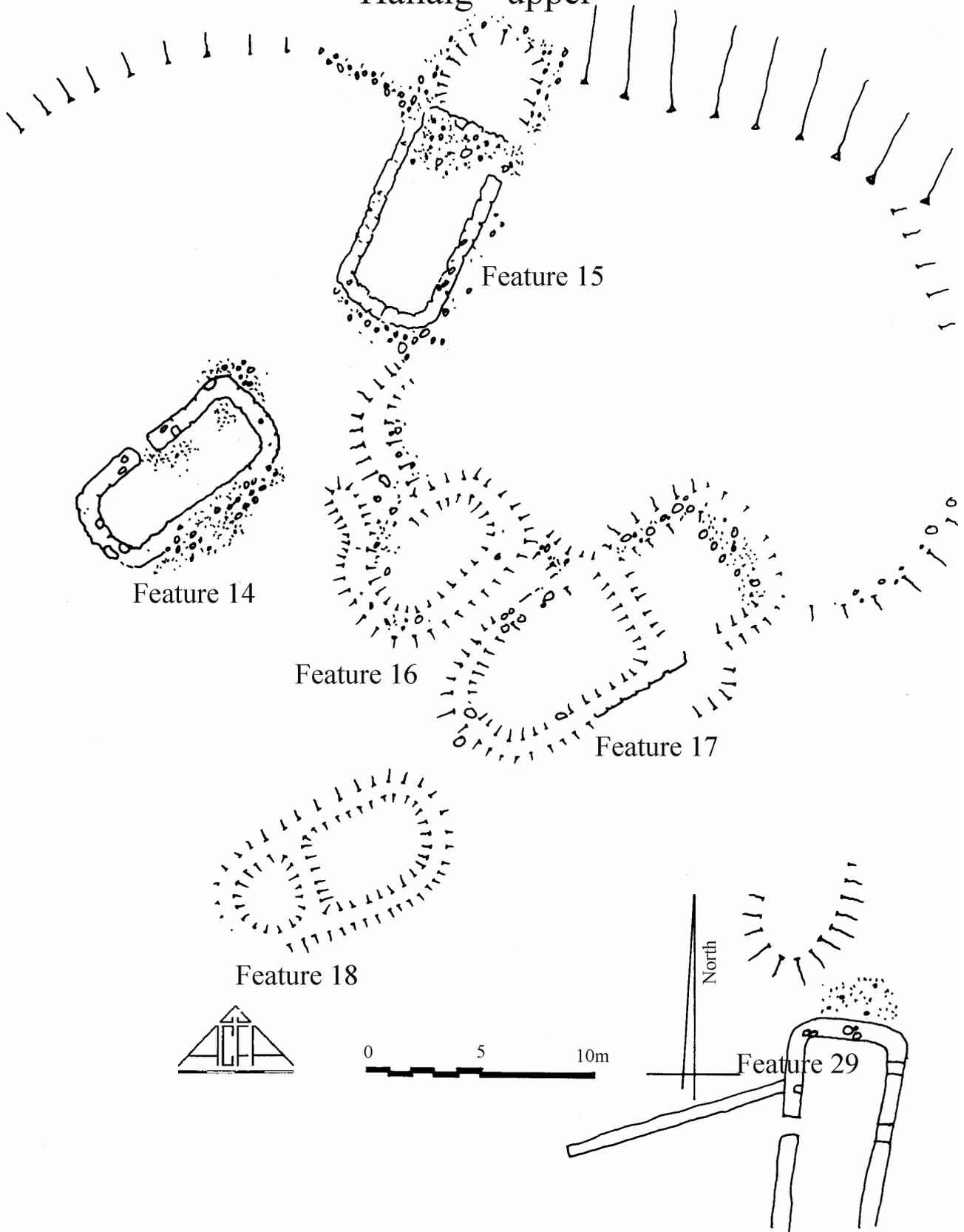
Lying on a fairly flat terrace almost 10m south of Feature 33 are the vestigial remains of what may have been a house, 9.60m x 3.60m internally. The structure shows now as a slight scoop in the grass on its long sides to the east and west but has some stone visible at the north and south ends. To the east of this structure the ground drops away quite sharply.

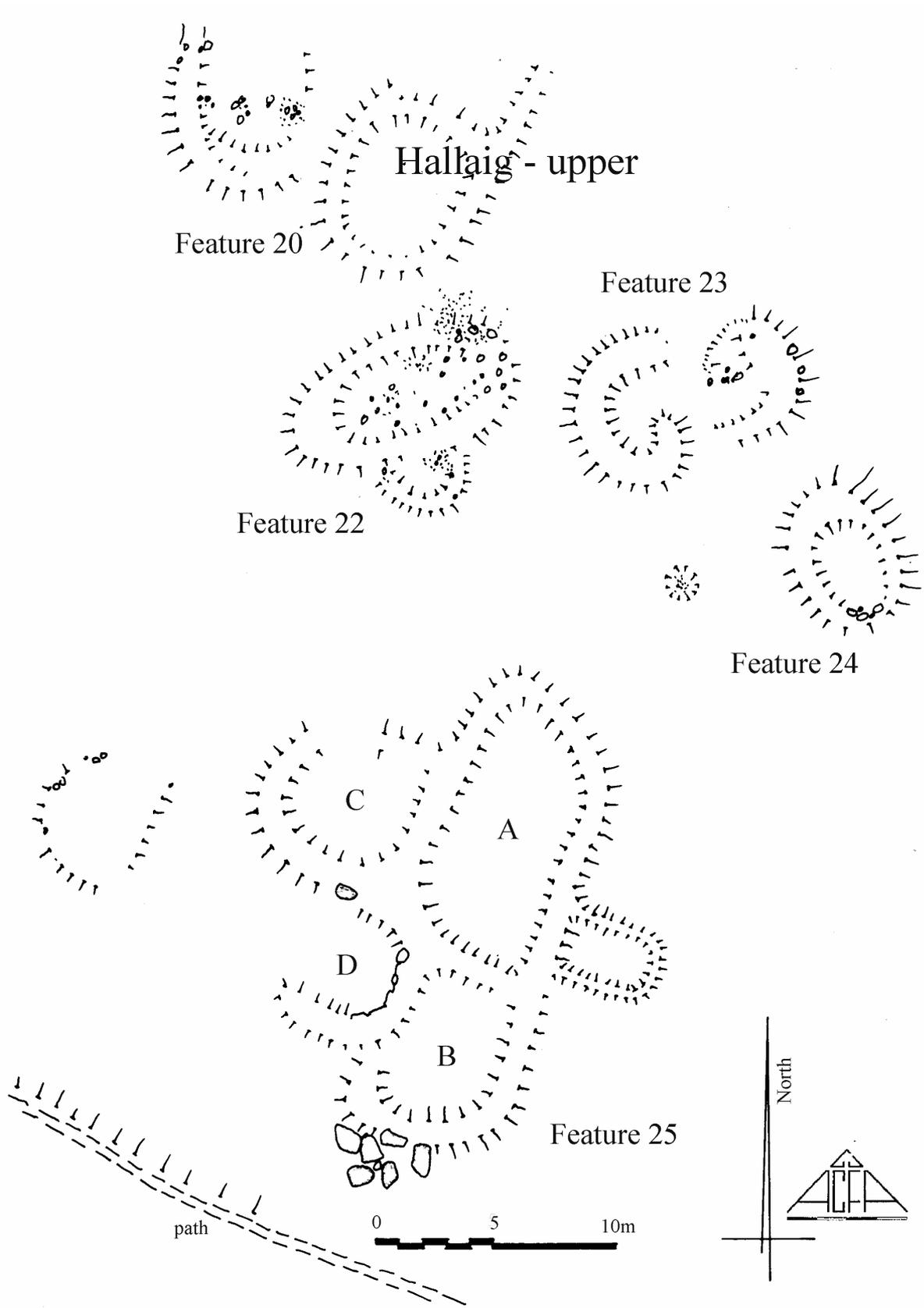
Feature 39 **House**

Lying 12m southwest of Feature 33 and north-south on its long axis are the vestigial remains of a structure which has possibly measured 12m x 4m internally. An oval outline with an internal partition shows now as two depressions in the ground with grass and moss covered stones in the banks, particularly at the north and south ends. A large stone has been built into the northeast corner and 2m from here is a pile of stones roughly 1.20m in diameter. Outside the northwest corner is a very large stone over 1m long. The outline of the structure is of similar dimensions and shape as other houses and is therefore interpreted as being a completely robbed-out house.

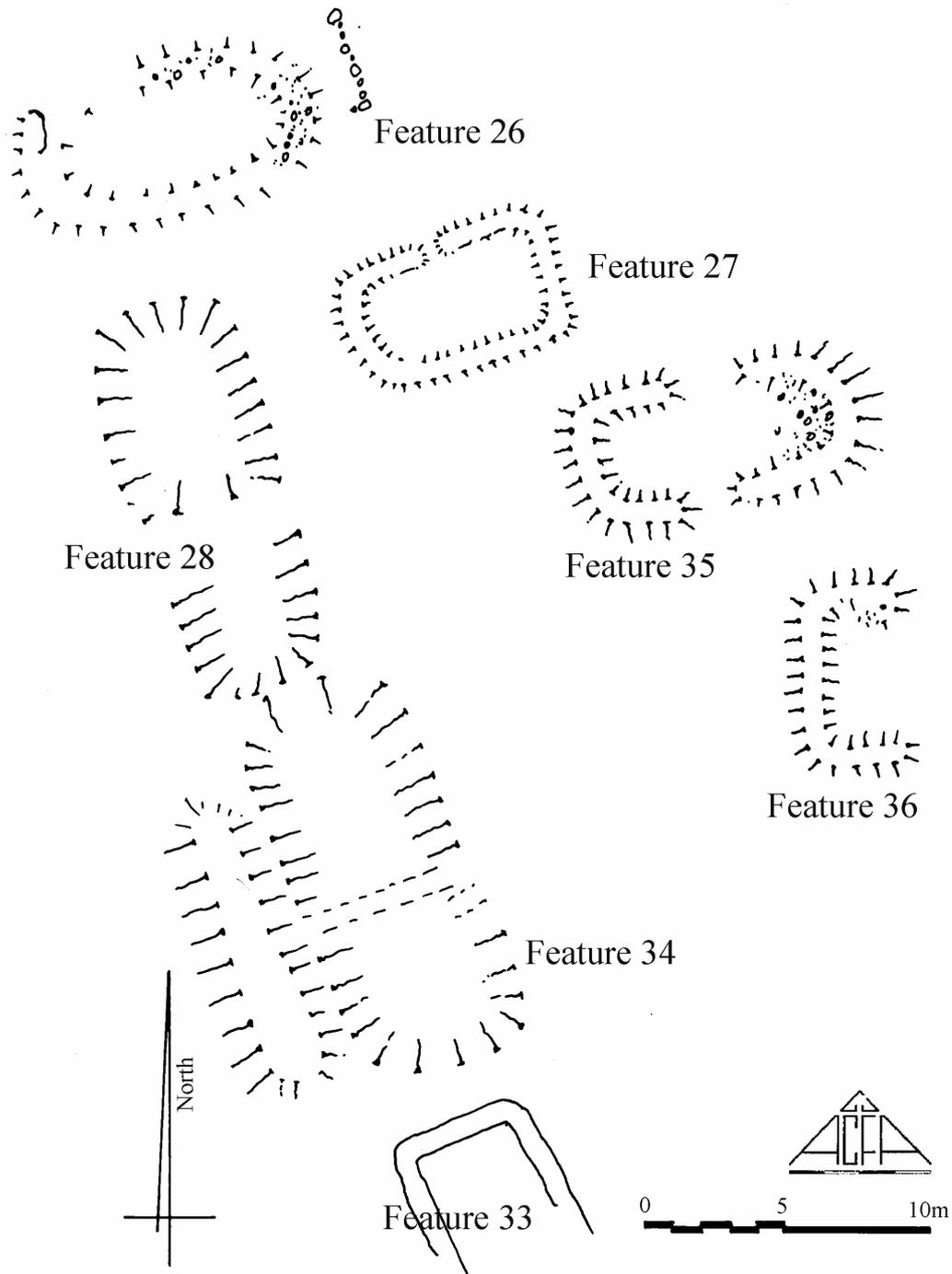


Hallaig - upper

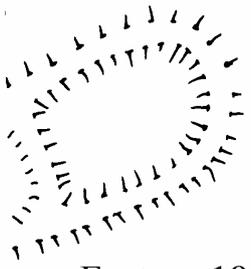




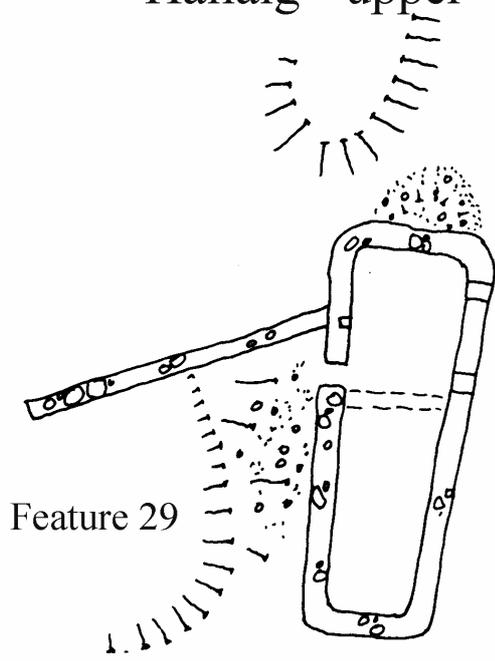
Hallaig - upper



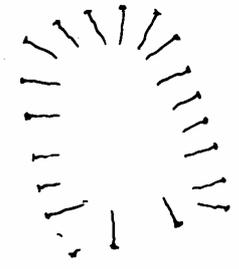
Hallaig - upper



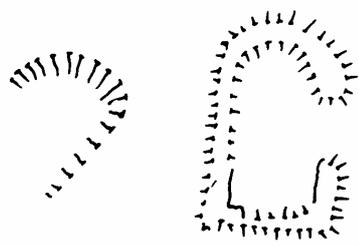
Feature 18



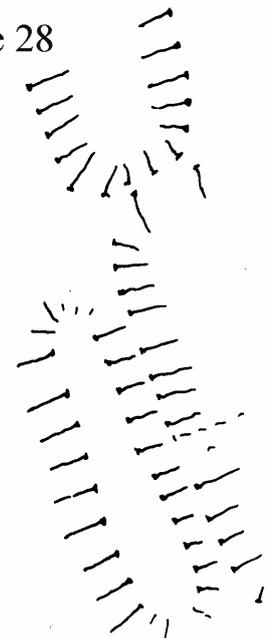
Feature 29



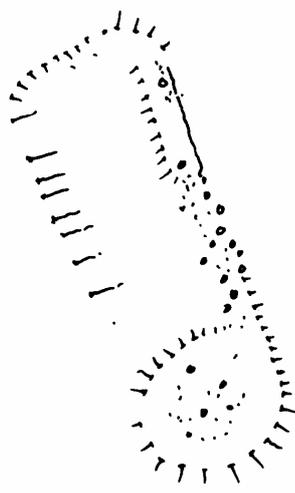
Feature 28



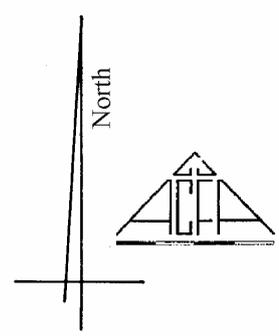
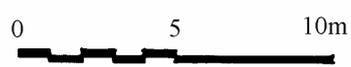
Feature 30



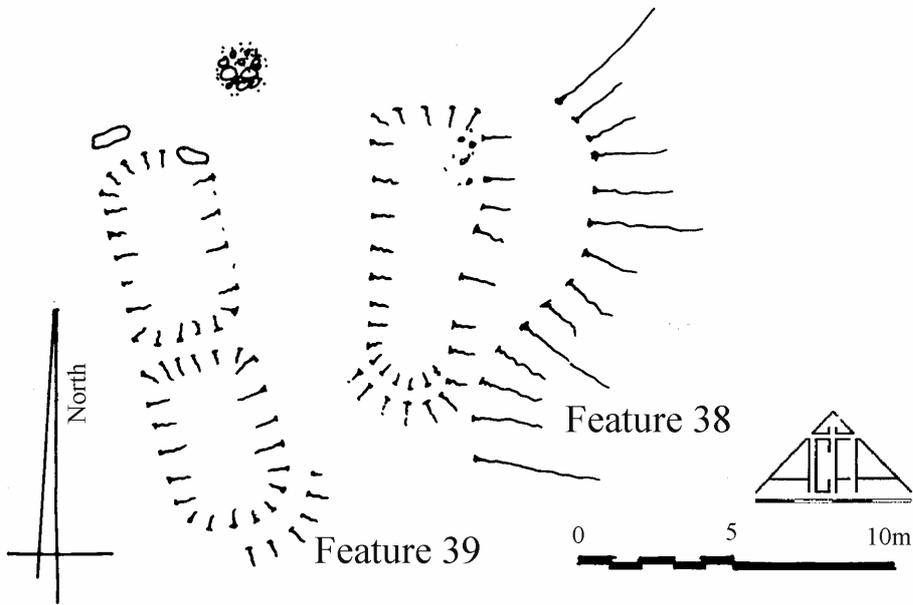
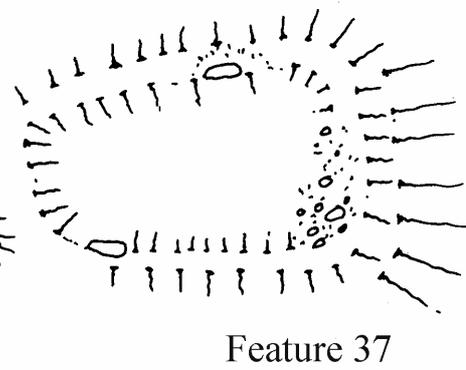
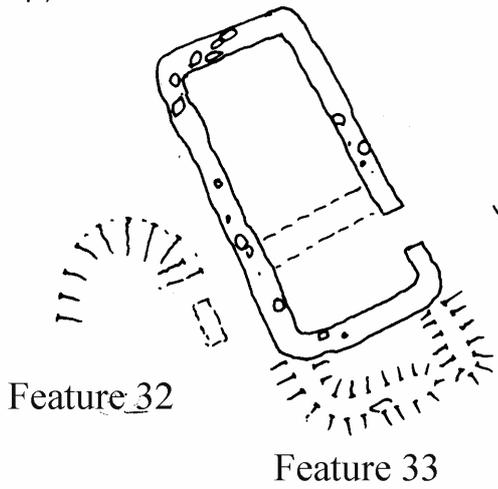
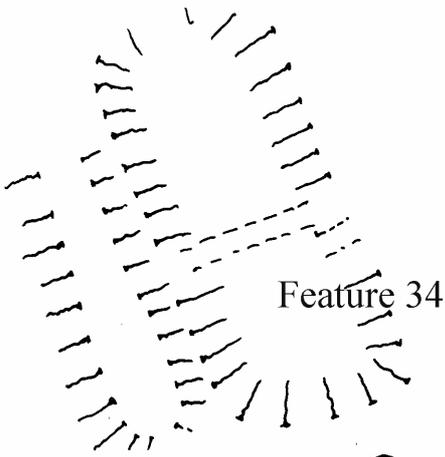
Feature 34



Feature 31



Hallaig - upper



Hallaig Upper



Feature 29



Feature 29

Hallaig Upper



Feature 14



Feature 15

Hallaig A3 Map
Hallaig - lower

feature is interpreted as having been a house, over 10m long and 2.50m wide internally, which has been robbed away, probably for stone to build the sheepfold.

Feature 43 **House**

A sub-rectangular house, 12m x 4m internally, is set northeast-southwest on its long axis. The structure is defined by turf covered banks which average 1.75m wide and stand now to a maximum height of 0.30m. There is a cross wall 1m wide dividing the structure into two compartments, the west compartment being 6m x 4m and the east 5m x 4m. There was no evidence for an entrance or for any internal features. The structure is interpreted as having been a combined house and byre.

Feature 44 **Possible Well**

An oval hollow, 4m x 3.50m x 1m deep and scarped on the inside is interpreted as possibly being a well, although the interior was very dry in very wet conditions.

Feature 45 **House & Stores**

A house set north-south on its long axis lies 3m due south of the southwest corner of Feature 41. The house, which may have been robbed or altered, measures 20m in length externally and is irregular in shape. The walling is low stone and turf banks, 0.50m high and with in places a spread of 2m, although at the internal northeast corner a clear wall face can be seen. The shape of the structure in effect divides it into two compartments, the north section being 6m x 5m internally and the south section, which is narrower, being 4m x 4m internally. There is no evidence of an entrance and no internal features are visible. There is an annexe at the southeast corner, 5m x 5m externally, with an entrance 1m wide on the north side where it adjoins the east wall of the main structure. Along the outside of the west wall is a drainage ditch approximately 1m wide which runs for a total length of 16m and falls into a natural fissure 2m to the north of the northwest corner of the house. A second ditch, adjacent to the east wall of the north section of the house, runs for a length of 6m.

Store (a) 2m east of the annexe at Feature 45 and lying northwest-southeast on its long axis, a structure measures 5.50m x 3.50m internally. The north end is dug into the natural slope and 4 courses of drystone walling are visible to a height of 0.75m. The south end of the structure is defined by a low stony bank. A field bank 2m wide runs from the southeast corner of the store and can be seen for 5m running southeast although it probably extended further.

Store (b) lies 2m north of Store (a) and has similar dimensions, being 3.50m east-west internally by an estimated 5.50m north-south. The north end of the structure is dug deep into the natural slope and shows substantial drystone walling on 3 sides. At the west end the walling is standing 1.50m high. The south end of the store may have been open as there is no trace of an enclosing bank. The walling in the south half of the structure is fragmentary and tumbled.

Feature 46**Structure**

Lying 10m to the west of Feature 43 are the remains of an oval structure lying northwest-southeast on its long axis. The structure measures 11m x 6.50m externally and 7m x 3m internally and is defined by low banks, on average 0.30m high and 1.50m wide. There is no visible entrance and there are no visible internal features.

Feature 47 – a & b**House**

A house site 11m to the west of Feature 43 has remains of two structures lying north-south on their long axes. The site probably shows 3 phases of use. Feature 47a is a much-robbled structure, probably robbed to build Feature 47b, while the south end of Feature 47b has been rebuilt more recently as a third phase of use.

Feature 47a is 22m x 6m externally, defined by stony banks averaging 0.30m high and varying from 1m to 2m in width. It seems to have 3 compartments, the north compartment being 3m x 2m, the central one 4m x 3m and the south one 5.50m x 3m, with a probable entrance, 1m wide, on the southeast corner. The west wall of Feature 47a is overlain by the east wall of Feature 47b.

Feature 47b is better defined than Feature 47a and is 18m x 5.50m externally with walls on average 0.60m high. It has two compartments, the north compartment being 9m x 3.40m and the south 4.80m x 3.40m. The south compartment has been rebuilt or consolidated in more recent times to form a small pen or bothy. The entrance, originally about 1m wide, has been in the east wall giving access into the north compartment. A drainage ditch, 0.40m wide and 0.20m deep, has been dug from the southwest corner of the building along the outside of the west wall for half of its length.

Feature 48**House**

Adjacent to the northwest corner of Feature 47b and set northeast-southwest on its long axis is a sub-rectangular structure, 9m x 3.50m internally. The walls are seen as 2m thick banks, now 0.30m high at maximum. There is an internal division making two compartments, the west compartment being 3m long and the east compartment 4m. The northeast end of the structure has been remodelled with the insertion of extra walling, making it smaller than it had originally been. There was no entrance visible.

Feature 49**Structure**

Lying 9m north of Feature 48 are the low remains of a horseshoe shaped structure measuring 6m x 5m externally and 2.50m x 2.50m internally, with turf banking 0.30m high and 1.30m thick. The structure is open to the northwest. The feature may have been a cart shed.

Feature 50**House**

Lying 19m southeast of Feature 48, set north-south on its long axis, are the foundations of a house. Turf banks with some stone visible define a structure 8.25m x 3m internally. The banks stand to a maximum height of 0.30m and are spread to 1.75m thick. There is an annexe built on to the southwest corner which measures 4m x 2.50m internally. No entrances could be discerned and there were no visible internal features.

Feature 51**House**

Lying 12m northwest of Feature 50 and set roughly north-south on its long axis are the grass-covered foundations of a house which measures 13.75m x 4m internally. The walling is mainly turf with some stone visible under the grass and is 0.30m high and 2m thick. The house is divided by a cross wall into two compartments; the larger south section is 7m x 4m internally and the north section is 4m x 4m internally.

Feature 52**Part of Track**

A length of track, 2m wide and 24m long, is defined by stony banks 1m wide. The track runs past the south end of Feature 51 and leads upslope to the northwest to the higher part of the settlement. The banks beside the track are substantial and were possibly built to contain cattle.

Feature 53**Hollow**

Adjacent to the east wall of Feature 51 the natural slope has been dug out to form a rectangular hollow, 7.50m x 3m. This may have been an area for a shed or for sheltering cattle, possibly in conjunction with the track at Feature 52

Feature 54**Possible House**

Lying north-south on its long axis is a sub-rectangular structure 8m x 4m internally with low turf and stone walls 0.35m high and 1.75m thick at maximum. There was no evidence for an entrance and no internal features were visible. On the outside of the west and south walls is a drain 0.60m wide. A stone and turf bank 5m long connects the northeast corner of Feature 51 with the northwest corner of Feature 54 and a second stony bank projecting from the centre of Feature 51 runs for 7m almost to the southwest corner of Feature 54. These two banks create a small sub-rectangular enclosure, 7m x 5m with an entrance in the southeast corner.

Feature 55**Field Bank**

A turf bank passes under the west wall of the sheepfold 57m from the southwest corner and runs northeast within the sheepfold. It continues through the sheepfold and on under its east wall, continuing downslope. The bank has been formed by digging a shallow ditch with the upcast piled on the south side. The feature is interpreted as having been a demarcation bank, not a stock enclosure, and clearly pre-dates the sheepfold.

Feature 56**House**

At the west edge of the cultivated area of the settlement are the foundations of a house and immediately to the west the ground rises sharply. A track runs northwest-southeast along the slope approximately 11m from the south end of the house. Set northwest-southeast on its long axis the house measures 13m x 5m internally. The walls are seen now as a spread of thick turf banks with some stone visible, at their maximum 2m wide and standing now to a height of 0.35m. The house is divided into two compartments by a cross wall approximately 1m thick. The north section is 8m x 5m internally and the south section is 4m x 3.50m internally. The entrance, 1m wide, lies in the east side of the south compartment. A drain, 0.75m wide, runs along the outside of the west wall for all of its length, opening out at the south end.

Feature 57**House**

Three metres to the east of Feature 56 and lying parallel to it lie the fragmentary remains of what was probably a similar and earlier structure. A stretch of turf covered bank connects the northwest corner to the northeast corner of Feature 56. Feature 57 consists of an L-shaped piece of bank whose north stretch clearly indicates a house or similar structure. The external dimensions are 6.50m wide with a west side stretching for 11m. The northeast corner also survives and, although now incorporated into a bank that borders and defines a track running east-west at right angles to the north ends of Features 56 and 57, it is clearly part of a structure.

There is a clearance cairn, 5m x 2.50m, on the line of what would have been the east wall.

It is thought that Feature 57 represents an earlier house which was substantially robbed to build Feature 56.

Feature 58**House and Enclosures**

This feature is visible on the OS map, located on the west edge of the cultivated area of the settlement and tucked into the foot of the hillslope. Feature 58 is a house, 13.50m x 3.50m internally, with walling of turf and stone 0.40m high and 1.80m thick at maximum. In the internal southeast corner some stone facing is visible. A cross wall, 0.60m thick, divides the house into two compartments, the north section being 7m x 3m

and the south section 6m x 3.20m. The house is dug into the slope so that there appears to be a 1.50m wide terrace along its west side. There is a drainage ditch visible at the south end. There was no evidence for an entrance and no internal features were visible. To the northwest, attached to the building, is a triangular enclosure formed by 2m wide turf and stone banks 7.50m x 10m x 7m long. A drainage ditch has been dug along the outside of the southwest side for its whole length.

To the southeast, some 4m from Feature 58, is an enclosure, 8.50m x 3.50m internally, scooped into the natural slope on its west side where it is deeply dug into the slope, giving a height of 1.60m. On the east side the enclosure is defined by a stony bank running for 3m from the north end. The southeast quadrant is open but the ground falls away to the east. The south end is defined by a stony bank 3.75m long and 1.30m thick. The interior is level. The feature is interpreted as having been a lean-to store or possibly a cattle shed.

Feature 59

Scoop with Clearance

Within the sheepfold, 18.2m from the southwest corner and close to the south wall, are the vestigial remains of a D-shaped scoop, 6.70m x 7m, which has been used for loose field clearance. A small stretch of low banking, about 3m long, forms a lip at the north end.

Feature 60

Cairns

Located on a natural terrace, 31m from the southwest corner of the sheepfold close to the south wall, is a line of 3 cairns. Cairn (a) is 3m x 5m x 0.50m high, (b) is 3m x 3m x 0.50m high and (c) is 3m x 6m x 0.50m high and has a built stretch of regular boulders along its longer northeast face.

There is a suggestion that Cairn (c) could possibly be the remains of some type of burial cairn.

Feature 61

Remains of Structure

Located approximately 17.50m from the internal southwest corner of the large Hallaig sheepfold, within the sheepfold, are the ruinous remains of an oval structure, 5m x 3.50m over drystone walls 1.30m thick and 0.50m high. The structure is defined now by walling on the northeast quadrant and by a scoop on the southwest. There is loose field clearance in the interior which appears to have been used as a depository for clearance material.

Feature 62**Remains of House**

The west wall of the sheepfold bisects Feature 62 20.30m from the southwest corner. The structure measures 5m x 3m internally, with 2m of its length lying within the sheepfold and 3m lying outside. The structure has probably been of drystone construction, 1.50m thick and standing now to a height of 0.50m, although now grass covered. There is no visible entrance and there are no visible internal features.

Feature 63**Possible House**

Located 29.50m along the west sheepfold wall and 6m east of it a structure is defined as a scoop at its southwest end and by walling 1.50m wide along its long sides. The walling at the northeast is more substantial with large stones, some 1m wide, and with a height internally of 1m. The house has possibly been divided into two compartments, the smaller southwest compartment being defined on two sides by scooping. An entrance, 1.50m wide, lies in the southeast wall giving access to the larger, north compartment. A length of banking, 3m long and 1.50m wide, adjoins the southwest corner and runs towards the sheepfold wall, stopping 3m short of it. A length of banking 4m long and 2m thick adjoins the northeast corner, running to the north.

Feature 64**House**

Located at 75.50m from the southwest corner of the sheepfold along the west wall and 8m from the wall, the house measures 10m x 4m internally. The internal west end is deeply scooped and the remaining sides are defined by stony banks, probably drystone with turf and grass cover, 1.50m thick and standing to a maximum height of 0.50m. There is no visible entrance. The east half of the interior has a considerable amount of clearance piled into it, almost filling the interior. A stretch of bank runs from the southwest corner for 5m towards the west wall of the sheepfold. It is thought that this bank has been related to the house.

Feature 65**Clearance Cairn**

Located at 84.80m from the southwest corner of the sheepfold wall along the west wall and 2.50m from it, is a grass-covered clearance cairn, 4m east-west and 2.50m north-south.

Feature 66**Possible House**

Located at 7m east of Feature 65 are the ruinous remains of a house, 7m x 3.25m internally. The structure is oval rather than sub-rectangular and is defined by a drystone, grass-covered bank averaging 1.75m thick and 0.50m high, scooped into the slope at its

west side. The structure seems to have had two compartments and an entrance, 1m wide, lies in the centre of the north wall of the west compartment. The east compartment is filled with small clearance stones. Unlike the nearby houses, such as Features 63 and 64 which are sub-rectangular, this house is clearly oval and has its entrance in the north rather than in the more usual south or east.

Feature 67 **Cairns**

Located approximately 60m along the south wall from the southwest corner and 66m into the sheepfold are two cairns set in a hollow. Cairn (a) is dome shaped, noticeably circular and very regularly formed and measures 2m in diameter. Cairn (b) is oval-shaped 2.50m x 1.50m. The cairns are seen as probably being clearance although they are in a slightly unusual situation for clearance.

Feature 68 **Cairn**

Located 80m from the southwest sheepfold corner along the south wall and offset 48m into the sheepfold is a well-constructed moss-covered cairn. Set on a little knoll within a hollow, making it a prominent feature in the landscape, the cairn is composed of small stones and comes to a rounded point making it conical in shape. It measures 2m x 3m x 1.25m high and is probably clearance.

Feature 69 **Cairn**

Located in a hollow 18m to the north of Feature 68 is a crescent shaped clearance cairn of small stones with moss cover measuring 6m x 2.50m.

Feature 70 **Cairn**

Located 44m from the northeast corner of the sheepfold along the east wall and offset 16m into the sheepfold is a small, round, moss-covered clearance cairn, 2.50m in diameter.

Feature 71 **Cairn & Bank**

Located 73m from the southeast sheepfold corner and offset 12m inside the east wall is an oval clearance cairn, with some small stones showing under grass and moss. The cairn measures 6m x 3m. Lying 5m to the southwest is a U-shaped bank, open at the north end and dug into the slope, creating a feature measuring 8m x 8m over banks 2m wide.

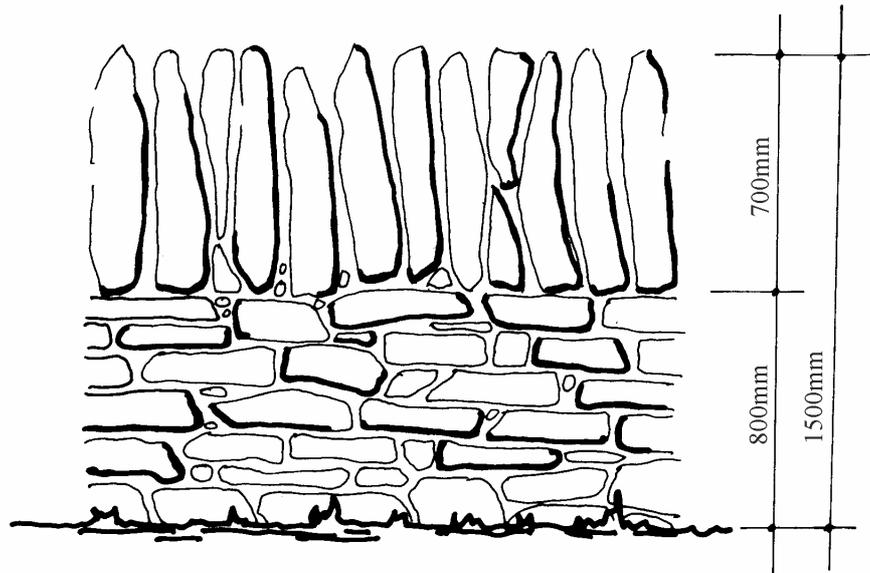
Feature 72**Cairn**

Located at 90m from the southeast corner of the sheepfold and offset 2m outside the east wall is an oval clearance cairn 5m x 2m. There are some stones visible under grass and moss cover.

Feature 73**Clearance Cairn****NG 59270 38310**

The remains of a clearance cairn 7.0m long from east to west by 2.5m wide with no appreciable height are visible as a thin layer of small stones among grass and heather. The feature is crossed by the current route of the sheep track leading to the south west corner of the large stone walled enclosure. With summer vegetation this feature will not be visible.

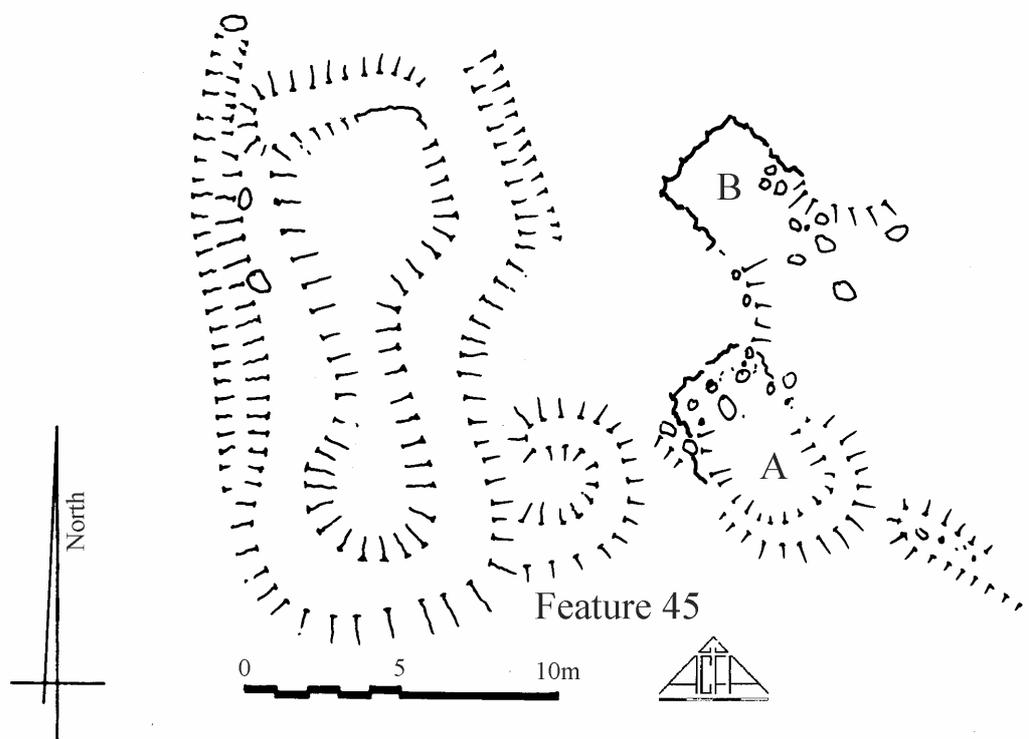
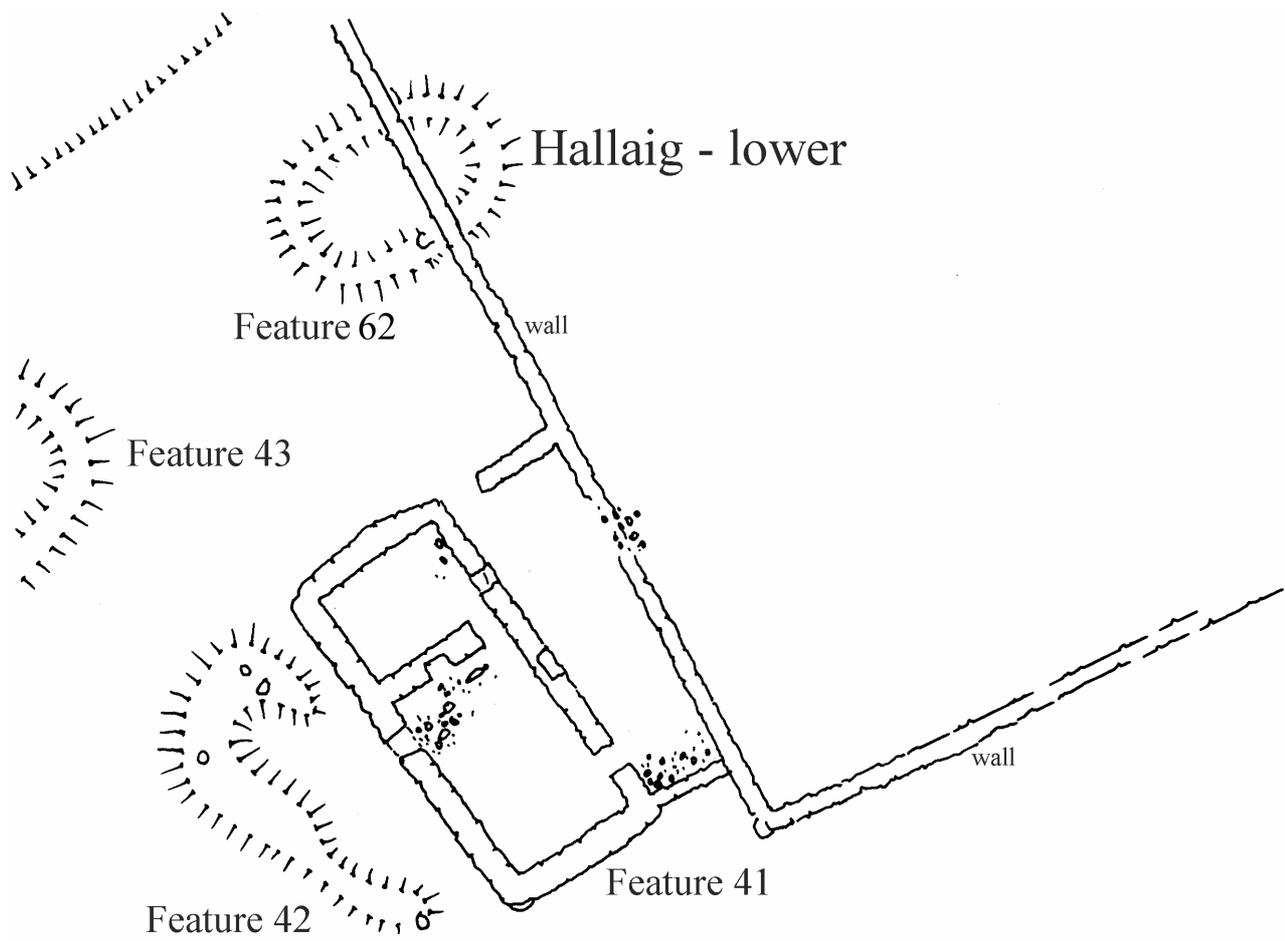
Hallaig & An Leac

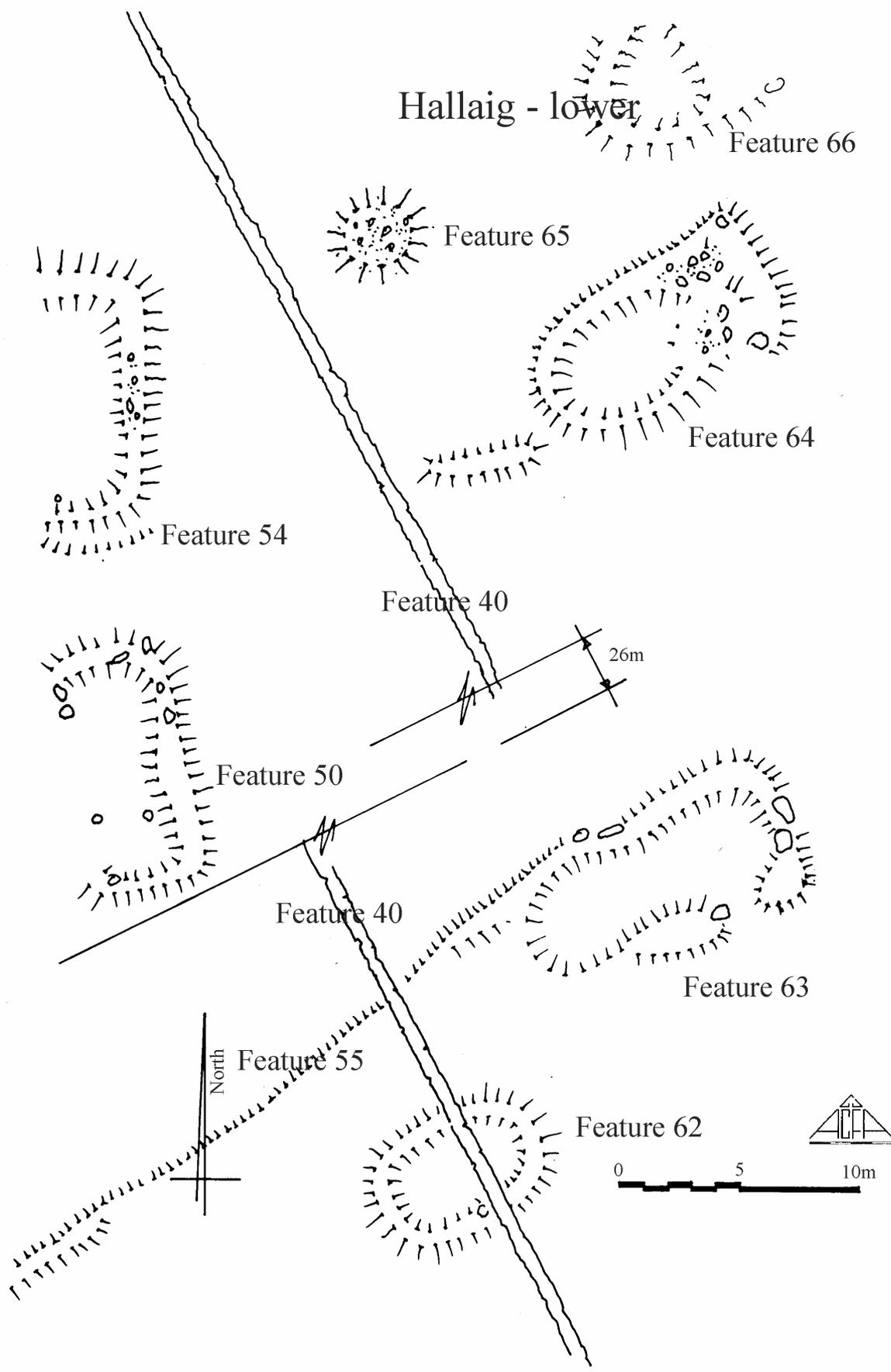


Feature 40

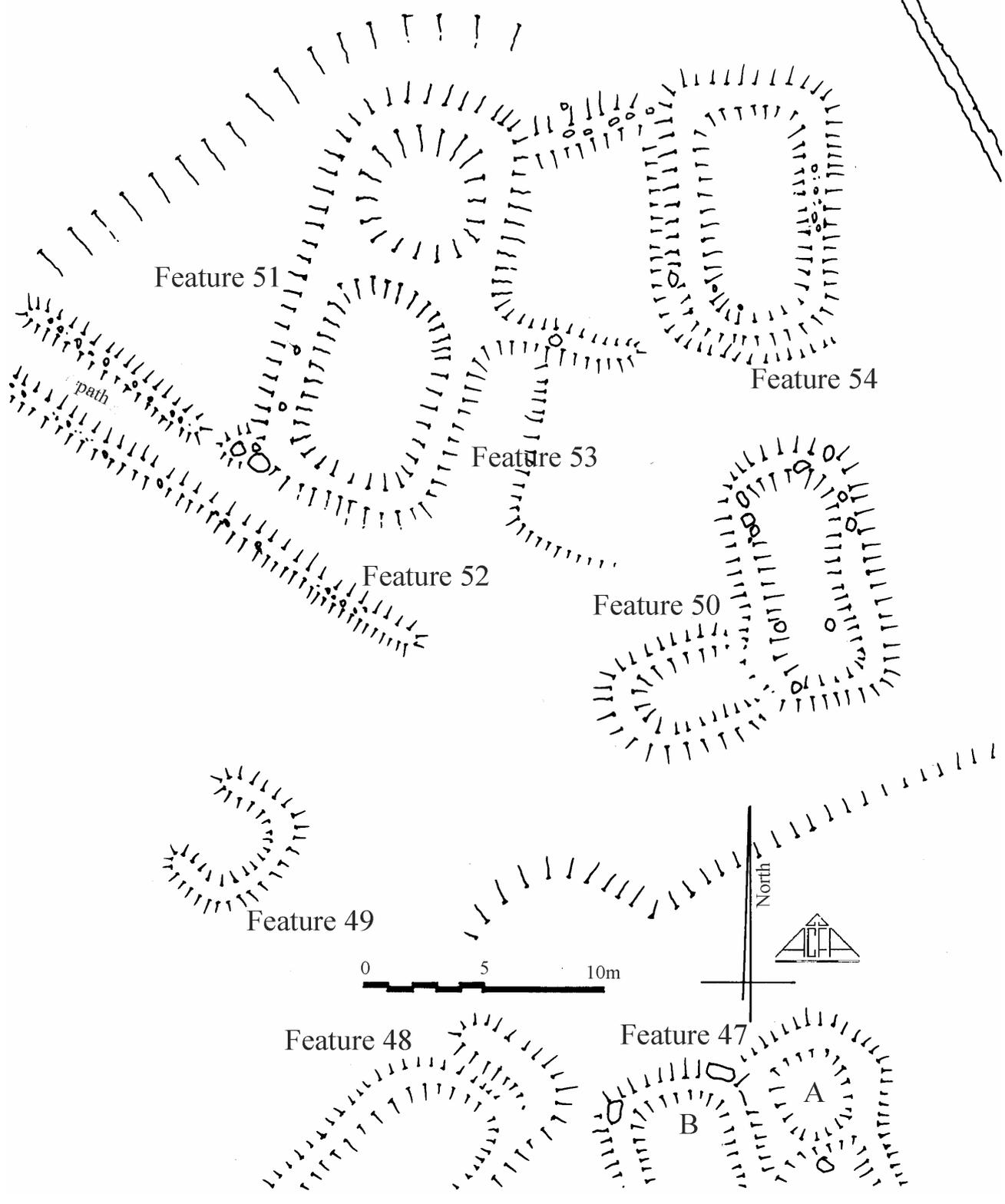
Detail of construction of enclosure walls
at Hallaig and An Leac



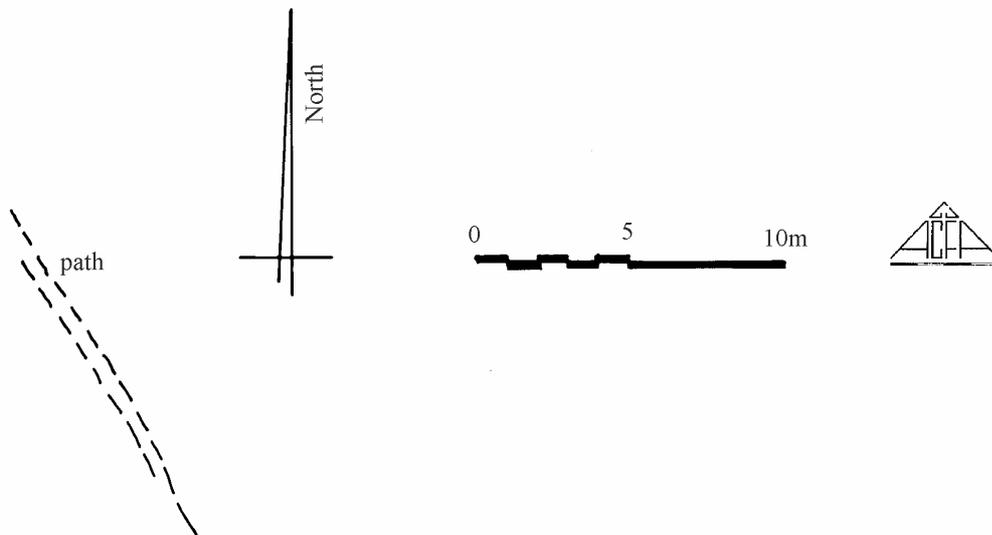
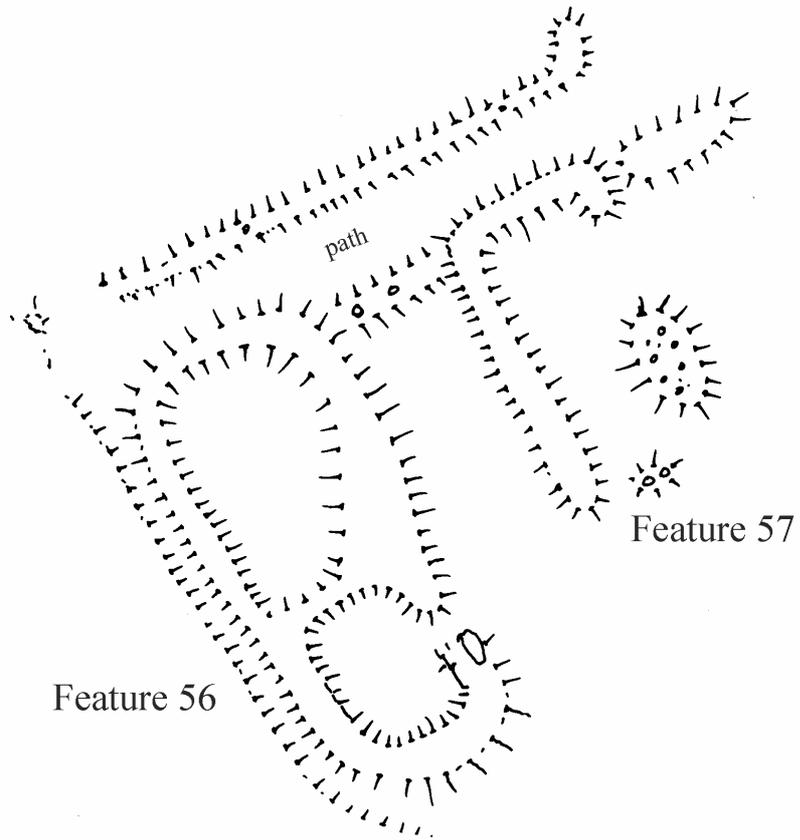




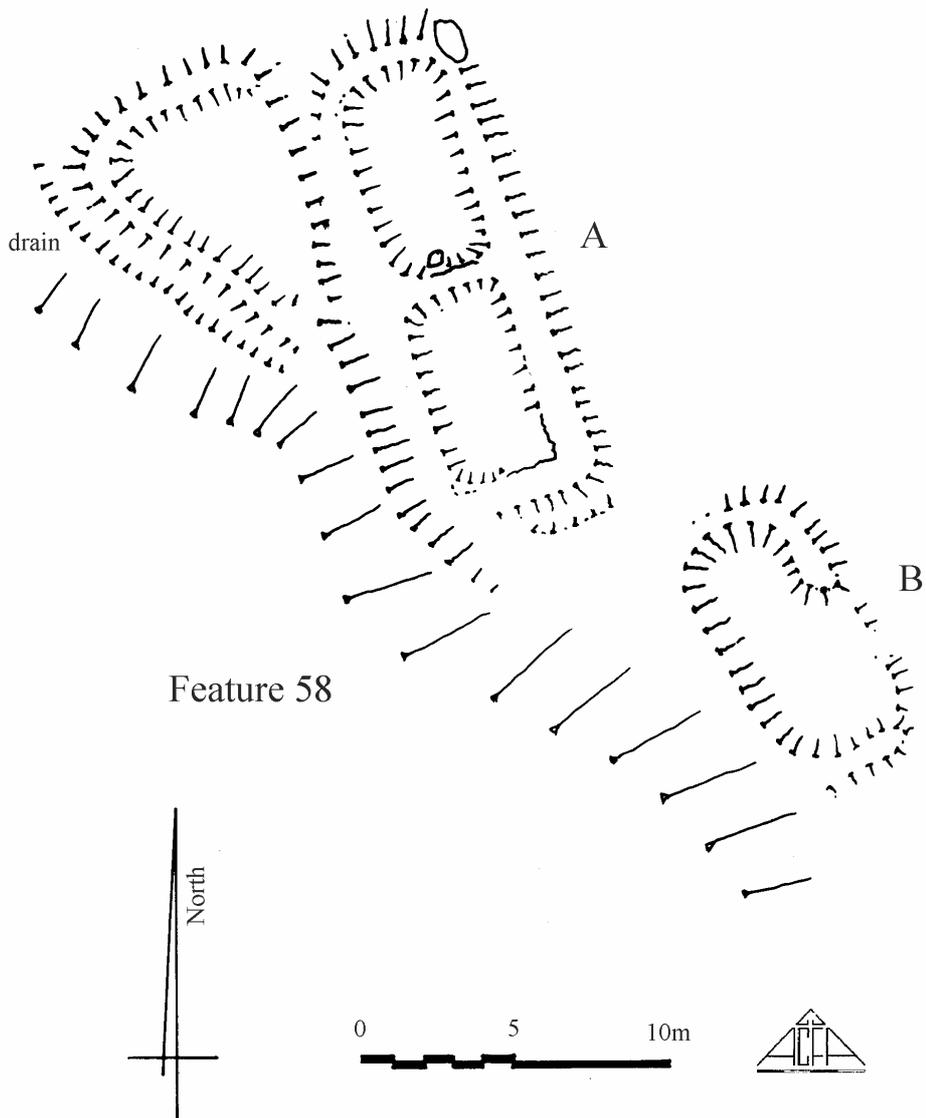
Hallaig - lower



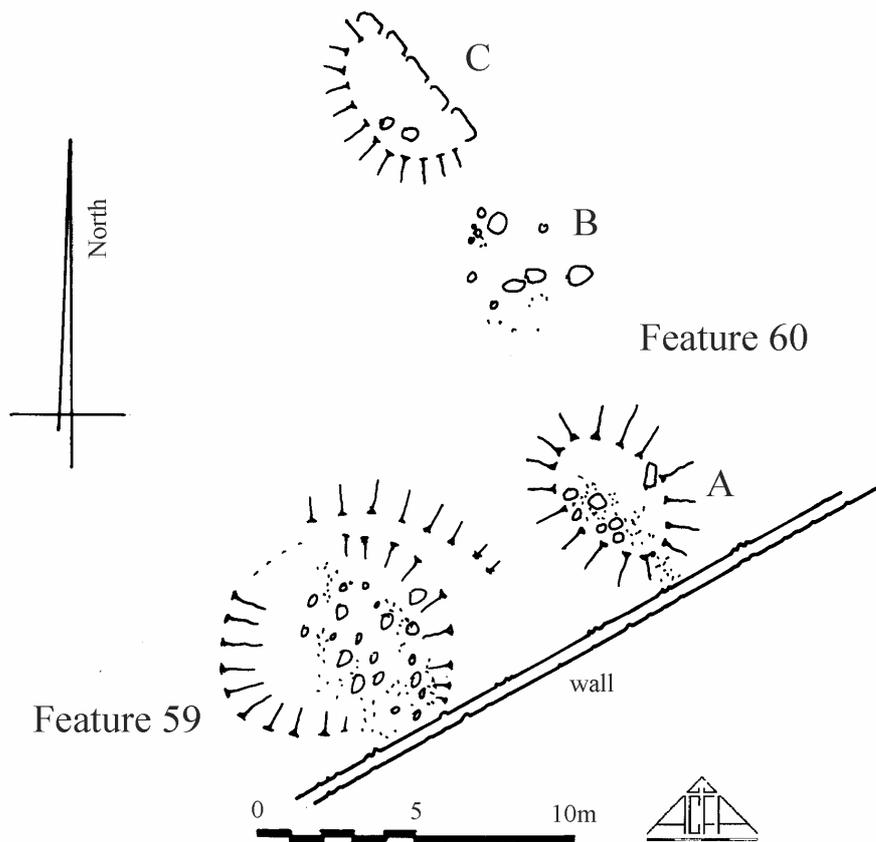
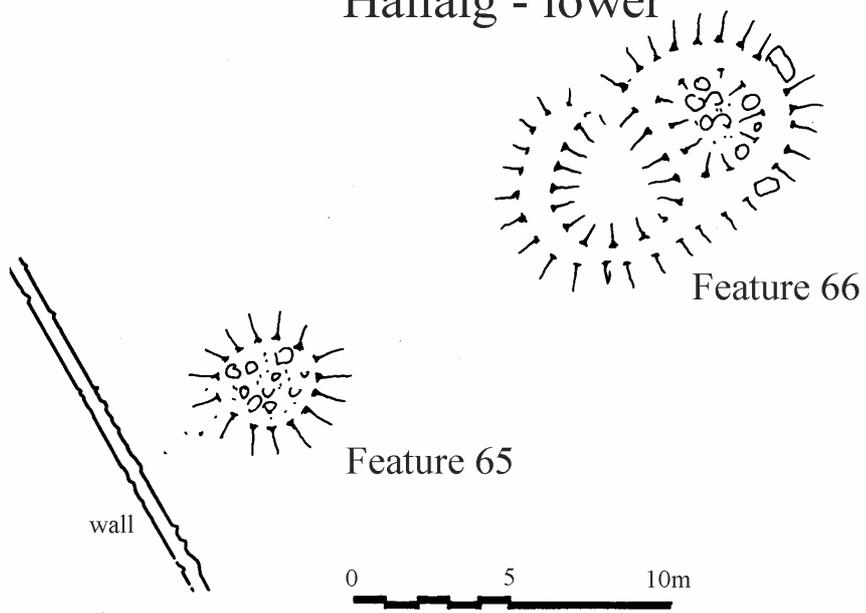
Hallaig - lower



Hallaig - lower



Hallaig - lower



Hallaig A3 Map
Sheet 3 Hallaig south

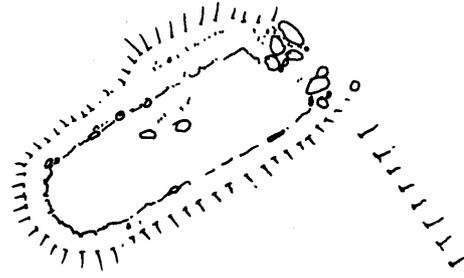
Feature 77**Stable****NG5964 3789 [100m OD]**

Lying adjacent to the south side of the Fearnas to Hallaig track, 25m northwest of the 5-mile milestone and tucked in below a curving rocky scarp, is a well-built rectangular dry stone structure. Set east-west on its long axis the structure measures 7m x 5m externally over walls 0.80m thick. The wall head all round is level but, due to the sloping ground, the wall is 1.80m high at the northeast corner, 1.20m high at the northwest corner and much lower still on the southern sides against the hillside. Internally the whole wall is 1.80m high all round. An entrance, 1.80m wide, lies at the east end of the north wall. There are no internal features visible. It is felt that the walls stand to their original height and it is questionable whether there has ever been a roof. Local sources call this structure The Pony House or Stable and say that it was used to stable ponies (and possibly traps also) when guests from Raasay House came to view the ruins of Hallaig.

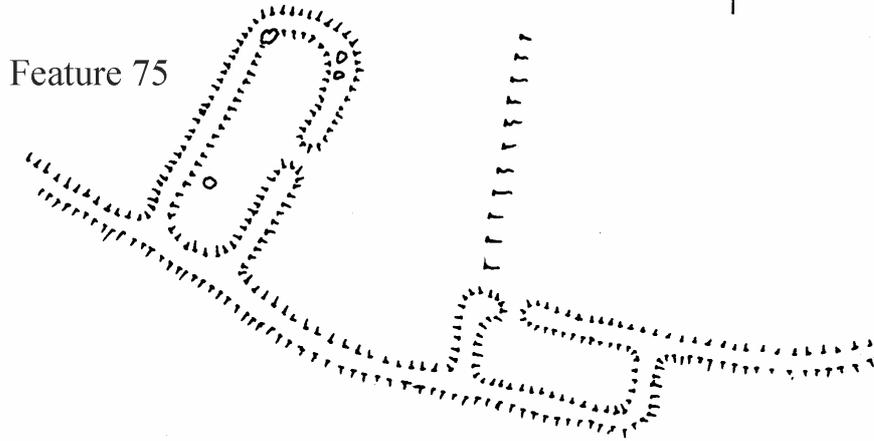
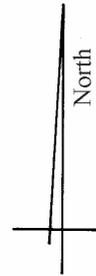
Feature 78**Monument****NG 5978 3788 [90m OD]**

A beehive-shaped cairn of mortared stone lies on the seaward side of the Fearnas to Hallaig track above Rubha na Leac. The monument stands 1.50m high, is 1.20m in diameter at its base and 0.60m in diameter at its top with entasis to the sides. Three brass plates are set around the monument. One contains an inscription in memory of Sorley MacLean and the other two bear the verses of his well-known poem 'Hallaig', one in Gaelic and one an English translation.

Hallaig - south



Feature 74

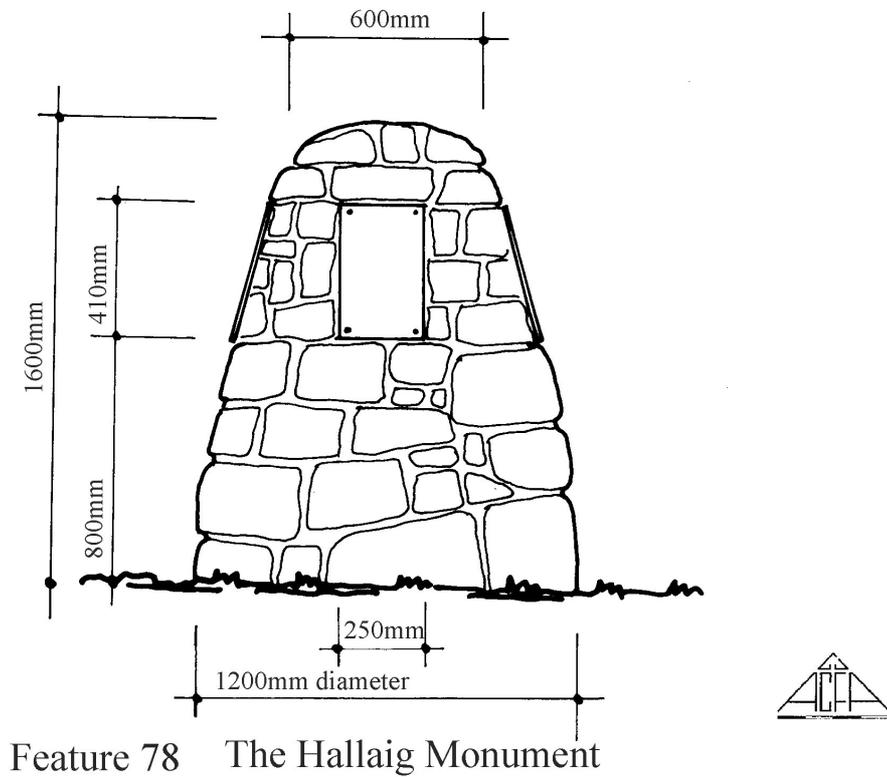
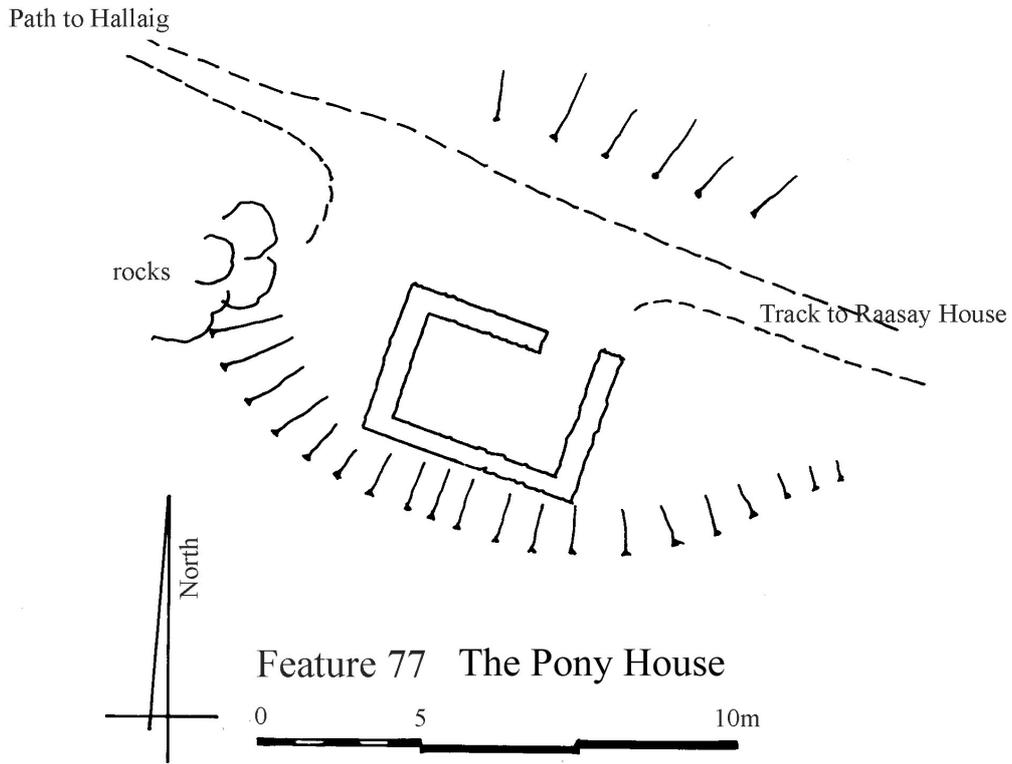


Feature 75

Feature 76



Hallaig - south



Hallaig South

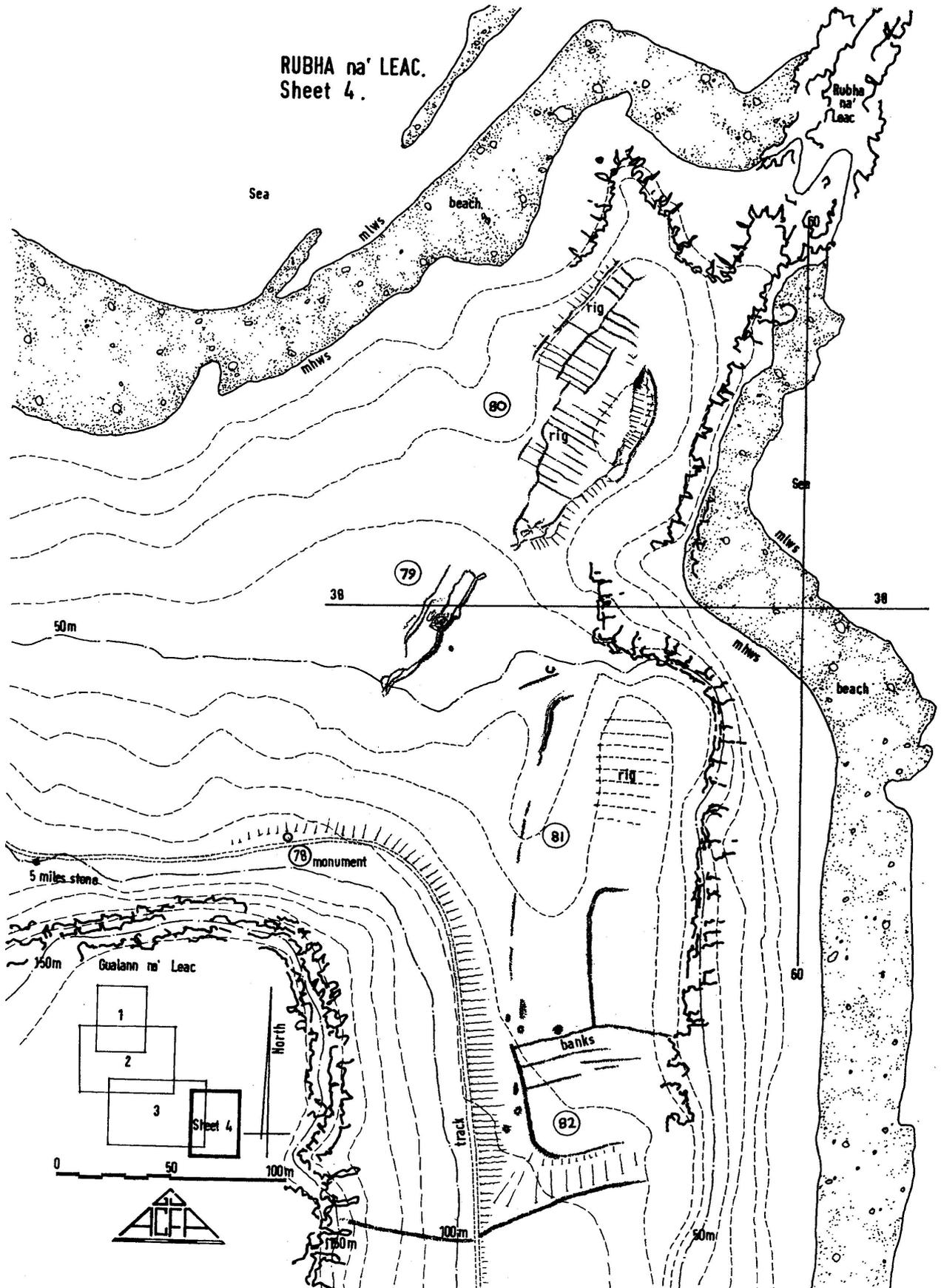


Feature 74



Feature 77 “The Pony Stable”

RUBHA na' LEAC.
Sheet 4.



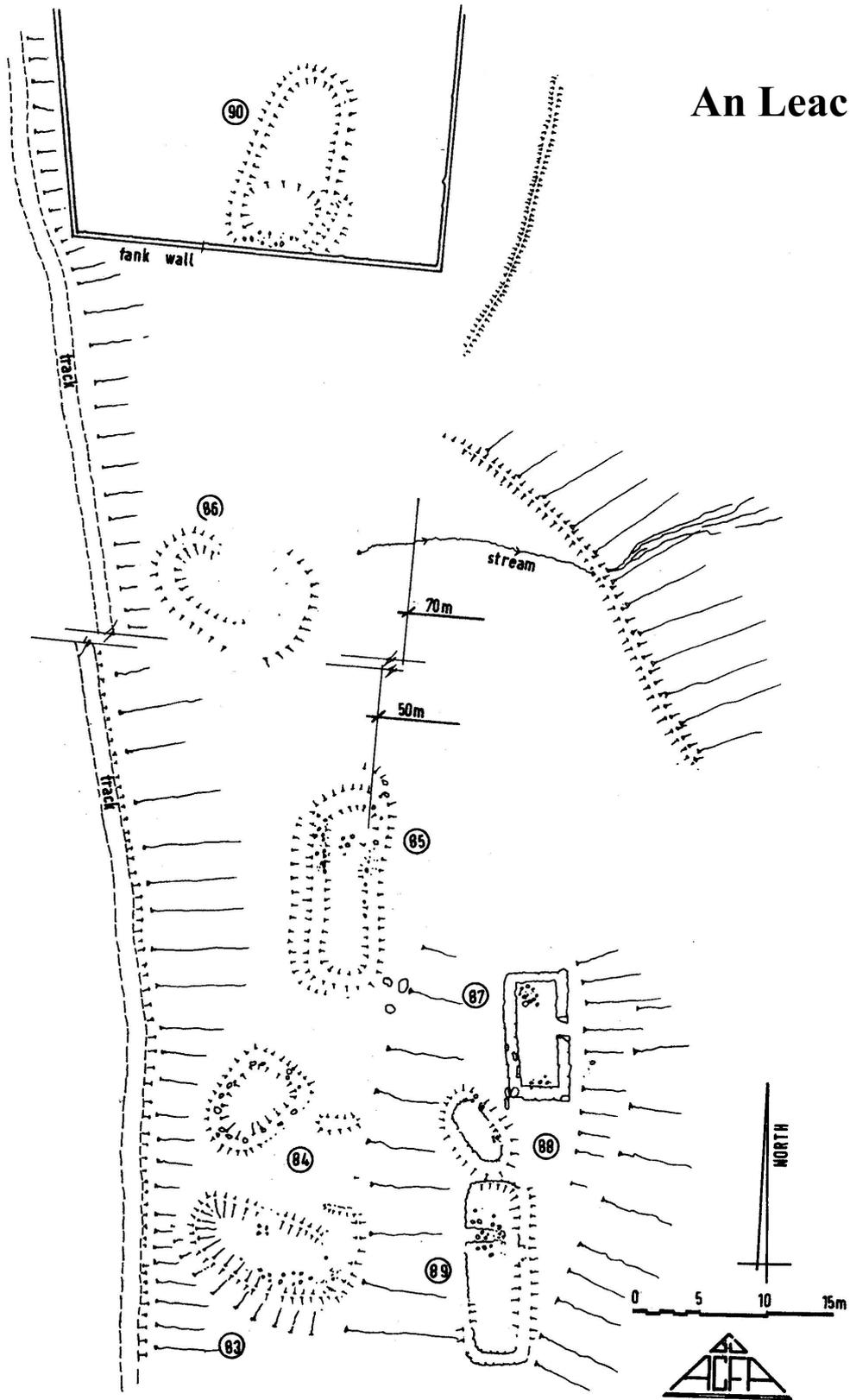


Rubha na Leac field system. Feature 79



Feature 82

An Leac



An Leac Township **Centred on NG 5984 3720 [110m OD]**

At NG5981 3726 an irregularly shaped drystone enclosure, 140m north-south and 40m across at the widest point, has been built on a long terrace on the 110m contour with the ground dropping very steeply away in a series of small terraces to the sea. It is of similar construction to that of the large sheepfank at Hallaig. South of the enclosure along the terrace are found the ruins of a small township, spread over an area of about 100m x 40m bounded on the west side by the Fearnas to Hallaig track. The now deserted township has been surrounded by a large turf and stone bank which has marked the area of the settlement, passing under the more modern sheepfold and running along the contour downslope of the houses. The township, which comprises of some 8 structures, clearly pre-dates the modern enclosure and some vestigial remains are found within the sheep fank which contains piles of clearance and must stand on what has been some of the cultivable land of the township. The enclosure is named on the OS map and by people locally as An Leac.

In the records of 1596 a settlement called Auldali is recorded as being between Hallaig and Fearnas. By 1630 Auldali has disappeared and is replaced by Larg which in turn, by 1688, has become Leaghk. The settlement appears consistently from then on, with variations in spelling, as Leac. In the Census of 1841 12 families are recorded as living on this crowded strip of land between Beinn na Leic and the sea, but their arable and grazing grounds probably stretched from the Rubha na Leac to the north to the bordering fence with Fearnas to the south, where areas of extensive field systems are probably associated with the township of An Leac. Richard Sharpe suggests that the population was steadily declining throughout the 1840's and early 1850's, with people moving to nearby Fearnas. In the 1851 Census there were 9 families with just 45 people at Leac. In 1854 in the exodus of 129 Raasay people on the Edward Johnstone, 3 families, 18 people in all, left for Australia from Leac. Sharpe suggests that these 3 families were all that remained of the population of Leac by 1854 and after this the land is recorded as being let for grazings.

Feature 83

House

A long house, 12m x 6m internally, lies east-west on its long axis and is dug into the hillslope on the west end where the 'floor' is over 1.50m deep. Some stones can be seen and felt in the low walls but all is covered with turf, grass and bracken. The entrance may have lain mid-way along the north wall or in the northeast corner and there are no internal features visible.

Feature 84

House

Lying 3m north of Feature 83 is the low outline of a bow-ended structure set northeast-southwest on its long axis and measuring 7m x 4m internally. The walling contains some stone but is mostly covered over by grassy turf and bracken. The walling is between

0.80m and 1m thick and is internally 1.60m high at the southwest end which is dug into the hillslope directly below the Fearn's to Hallaig track. The northeast end of the house is almost totally eroded but it is felt that this must have been where the entrance lay. Immediately to the east are the very faint traces of low walling which may have been a protecting bank or may be the remains of an earlier structure.

Feature 85 **House**

Set approximately north-south on its long axis 6m north of Feature 84 are the vestigial remains of a sub-rectangular structure measuring 13m x 4m internally. Some stone is visible but mostly the walling is grass and moss covered turf, 0.6m high at maximum and 1m thick. A break in the east wall was probably the entrance. A channel has been dug out along the outside of the west wall. A platform at the north end is formed on bedrock with some stone.

Feature 86 **Possible House**

Approximately 20m to the south of the An Leac enclosure, an oval platform, 11m x 7m, has been formed by scooping out the hill slope and pushing the material forward. On this platform are the vestigial remains of a bow-ended structure, the shape of which is only traceable at the northwest end, where it is scooped to a depth of 1.50m. Situated 4m downslope from Feature 86 is a natural spring which emerges from the hill-slope and has been set round with large stones. All is now grass and moss covered but the water is still flowing freely.

Feature 87 **House**

Lying 10m to the east of Feature 85 a rectangular house is set north-south on its long axis. The house measures 8m x 3m internally and the south gable wall, which is of double-faced drystone construction with rubble infill, stands to a height of 1.30m. The other walls have been reduced to about 0.40m. The entrance, 1m wide, lies in the east wall. There are no obvious internal features and there is no sign of a fireplace. The standing south wall has some very large stones at its base and the wall may have been rebuilt in comparatively modern times. The hill slope drops away very steeply about 2.50m from the east wall.

Feature 88 **Byre**

An oval structure, 5m x 2.20m internally, is set northwest-southeast on its long axis and is dug into the hill slope at the northwest end. The walls, roughly made of small stones and boulders, are about 1m thick and 0.80m high internally at the northwest end. An entrance 0.90m across is in the north corner. The whole structure is now grass and moss

covered with no visible internal features. A rickle of stones runs between this feature and the southwest corner of Feature 87 about 1m away.

Feature 89 **House**

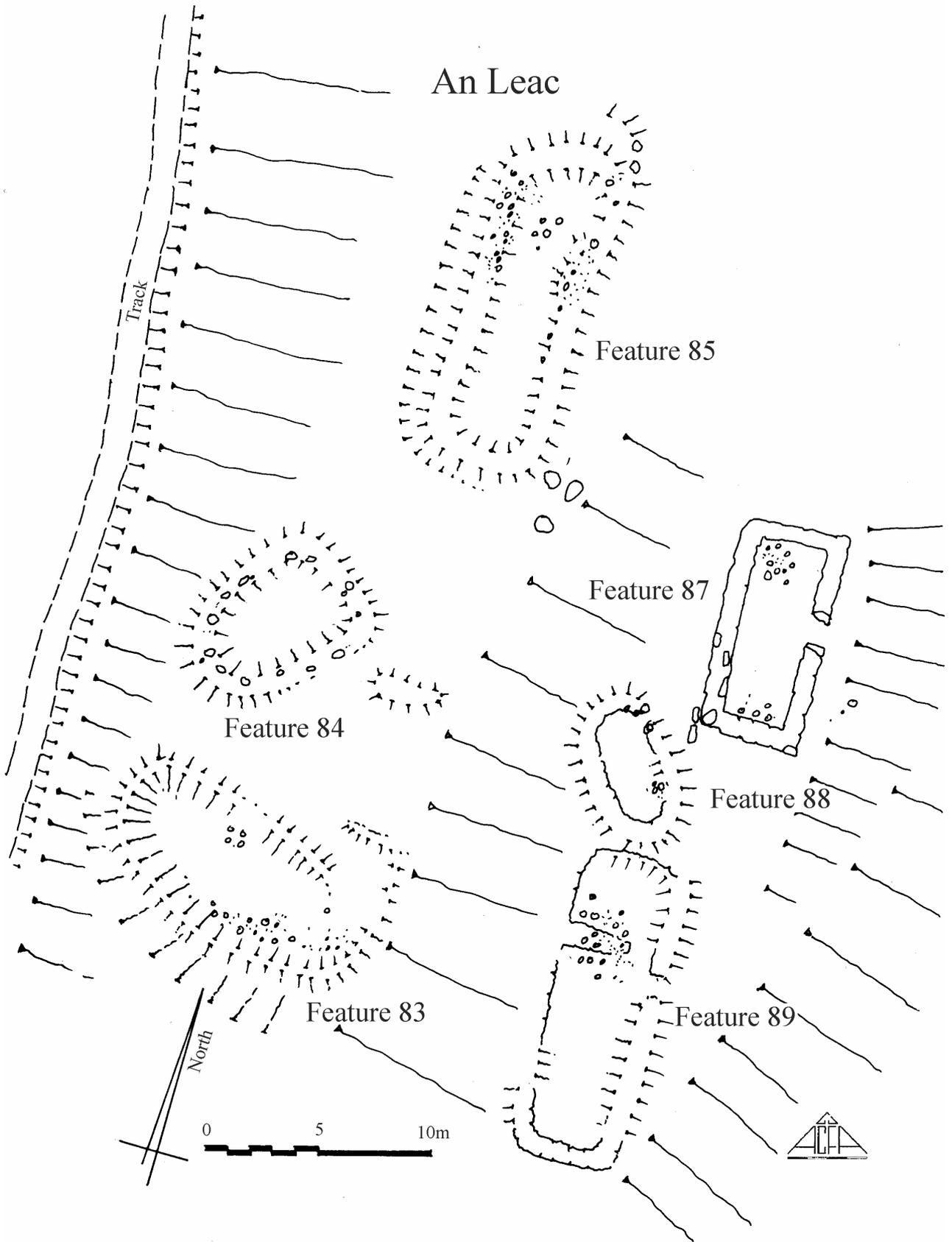
Adjacent to the south end of Feature 88 is a long house which lies north-south on its long axis along the contour of the very steeply sloping hillside. The house measures 13m x 4m internally and an interior wall, 3m long and 1m thick, divides the house into sections. The north section measures 4m x 4m and the south section 8.20m x 4m. The house slopes noticeably to the south end where water gathers now in a reed covered pool. The long west wall of the house is built into the hill slope and some natural bedrock is incorporated into it. Double faced drystone walling 1m thick with rubble infill is clearly visible at the south end, where it stands to 1.20m high at maximum and at the north end where it stands to 1.40m high. The long east wall is reduced to grass covered low stony walling, 1m thick and on average 0.50m high. An entrance lies in this east wall giving access into the south section of the house. It is difficult to say with certainty how wide this entrance may have been but it is thought to have been about 1m.

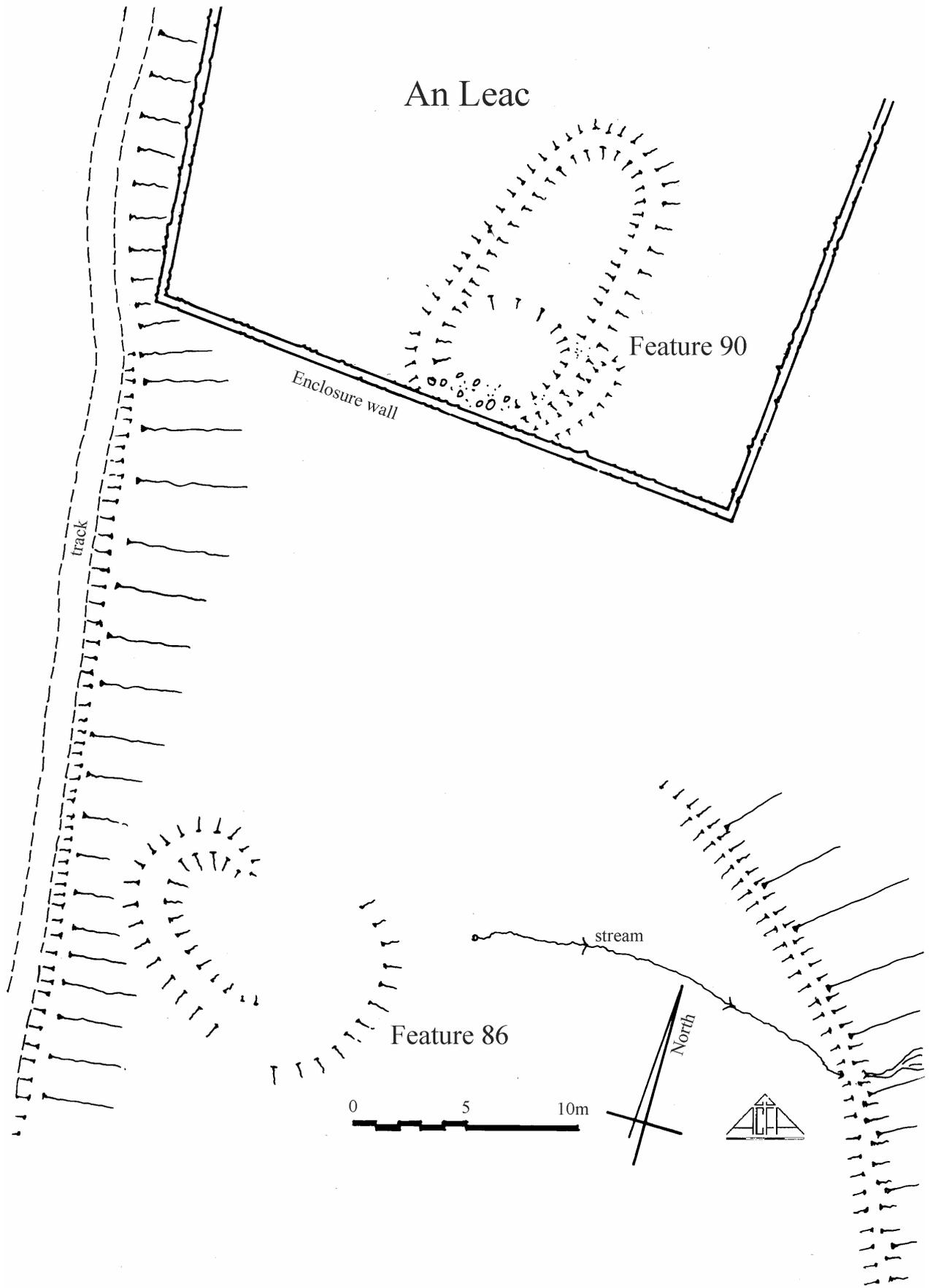
Feature 90 **Foundations**

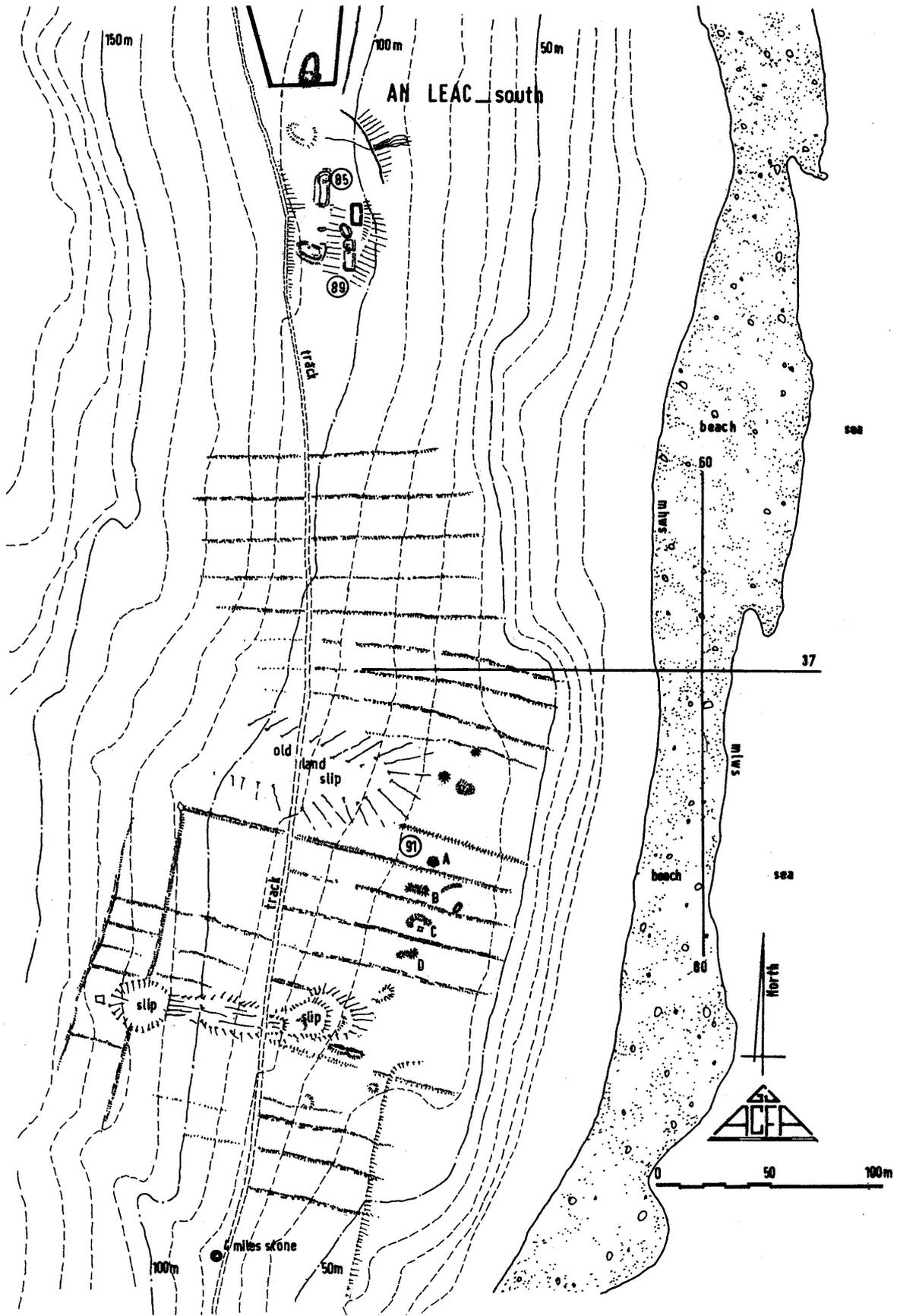
The exiguous traces of a bow-ended house, approximately 13m x 6m internally, lie within the An Leac enclosure against the south wall. It was not possible to define any features and the foundations lie in grass, moss and bracken cover. It was not possible to tell whether the south end of the structure had originally lain outwith the enclosure as the feature has been completely robbed away probably for use in the construction of the wall.



Feature 83







situation. Other similarly carefully built clearance cairns were noted at Fearn (ACFA Paper No. 59 2002).

Feature 91B. 10m to the south of Feature 91A lies a grass covered mound of clearance material 10m long, 3.0m wide and 1.0m high close to the steeper west side. Its long axis lies from east to west parallel to the land division banks. Further to the east beyond the break of ground as it falls to the sea are a further two small cairns.

Feature 91C. Situated as above, adjacent to the steep western slope and oriented on an east to west axis, are two grass covered cairns which are running together. Overall they are 10m long and have diameters of 4.50m at each end. The mound stands 1.0m high. A large erratic stone slab similar to that under Feature 91A lies close to the eastern end.

Feature 91D. This pile of stones stands 1.80m high and is laid on a stone slab as at Feature 91A above. It is possible that this feature has also been a built cairn and has since slumped.

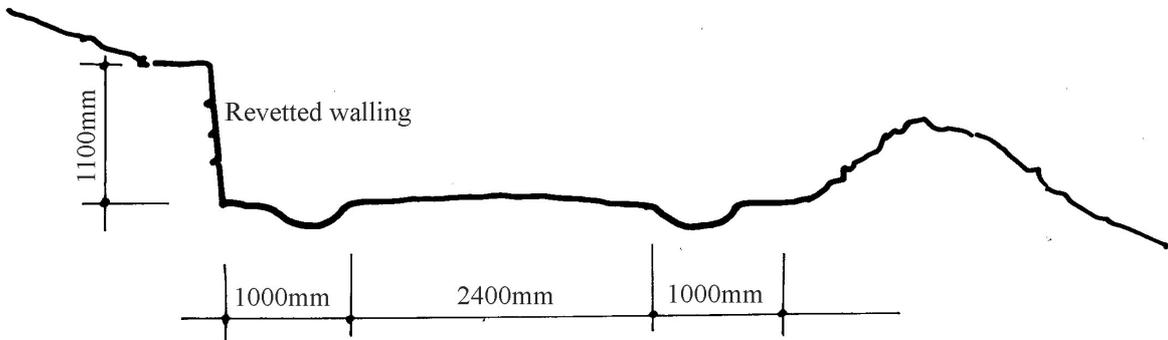
Hallaig Track.

From the end of the public road at Fearn (NG 5925 3596) is a well formed trackway leading north towards Hallaig. The trackway runs for 2.50 kilometers and terminates at a building referred to as the Pony House (Feature 77) only 25m beyond the 5 miles stone from Raasay House and 100m from the Hallaig Monument to Sorley MacLean (Feature 78)

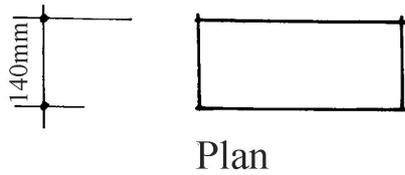
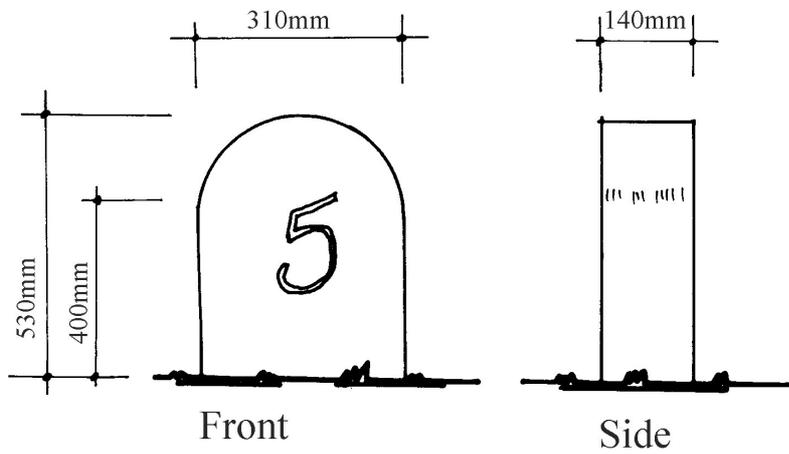
The trackway, dating from the 19th century, has been built along a steep cross slope for much of its length resulting in a revetted stone wall protecting its western or inland side and a bank of spoil material on the eastern or seaward side. In places the revetment is up to 1.10m high. The carriageway is 2.50m wide, raised and cambered to both sides, with 1.0m wide drainage channels on both sides. The entire track is overgrown with grassy vegetation and the drainage channels are silted up. The once well built revetment is beginning to collapse in places. It is sad that this once excellent carriageway is now rapidly disappearing.

Beyond the Pony House the route to Hallaig becomes a footpath of poor quality and is often difficult to trace.

Details of the Track to Hallaig



Section across the Track





Field systems south of An Leac Feature 91

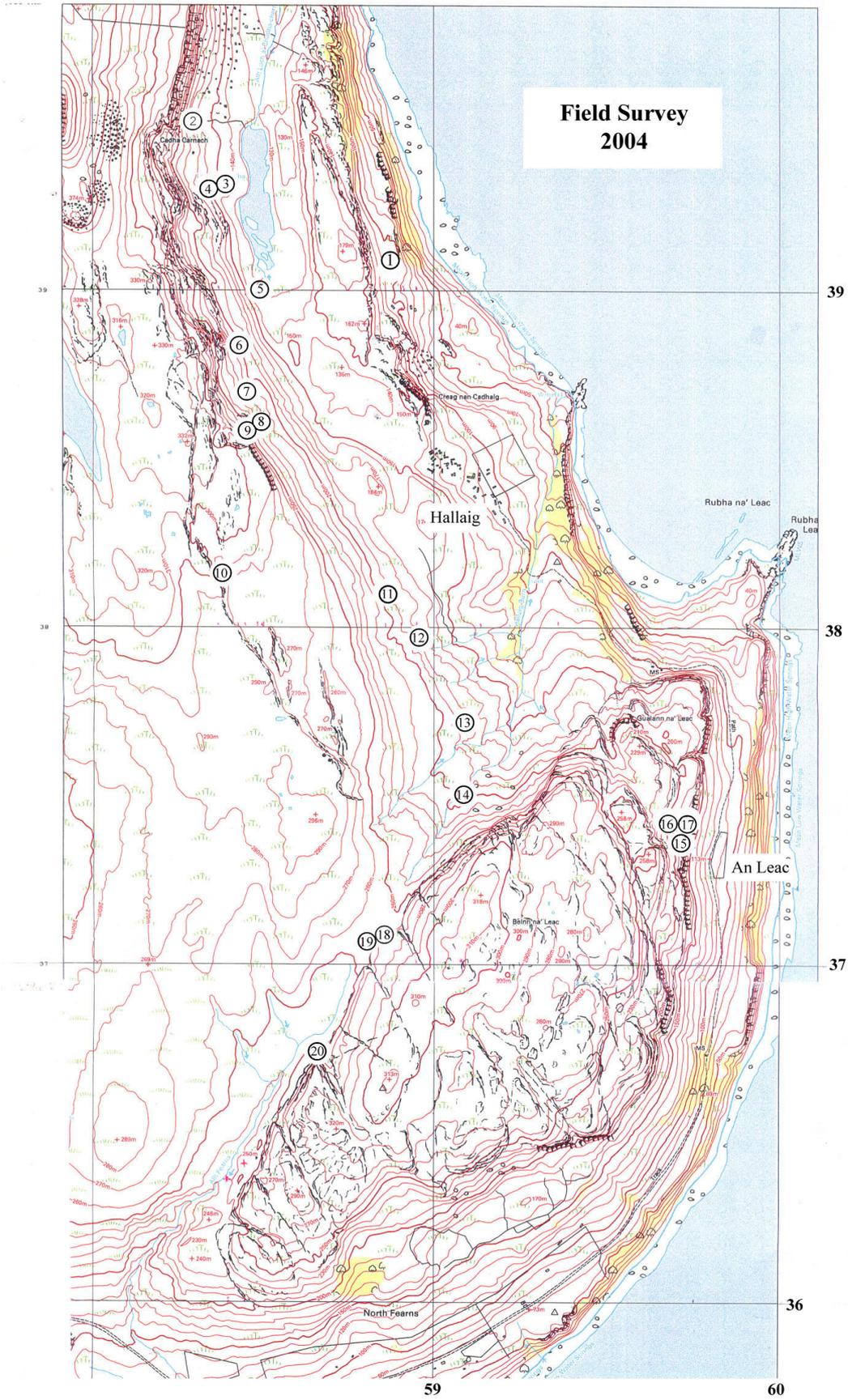




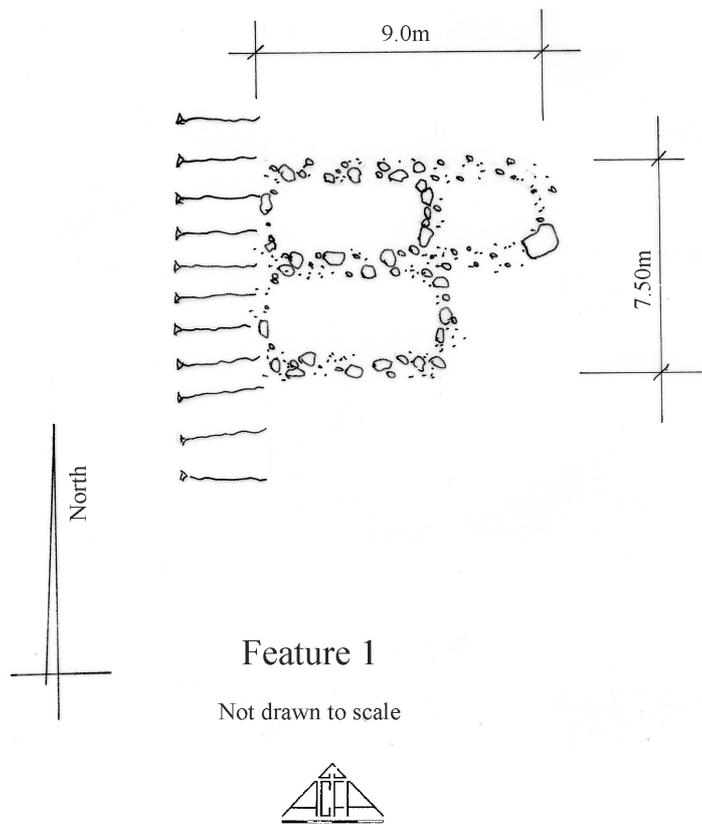
The track from Fearnis to Hallaig

Feature 91a

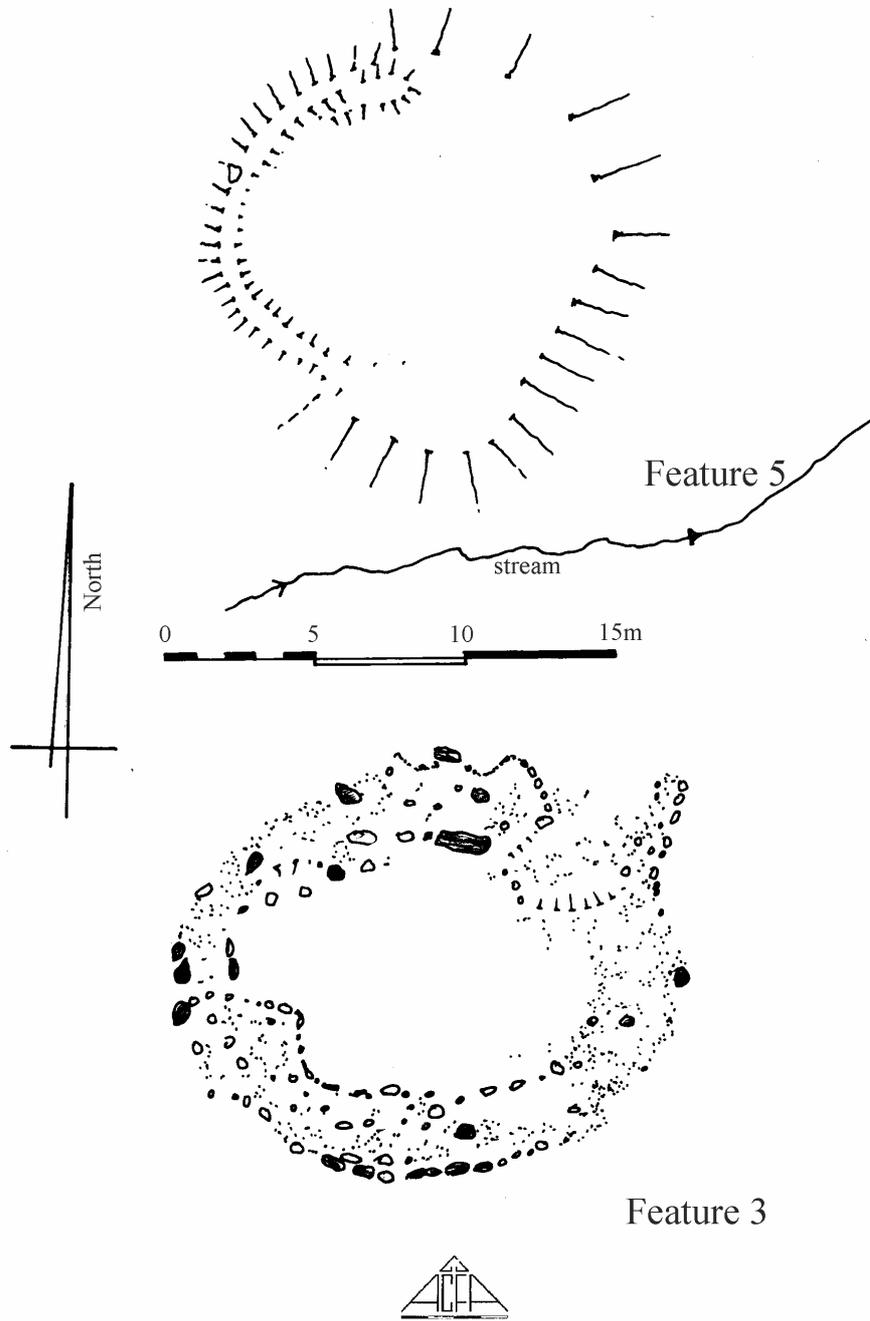




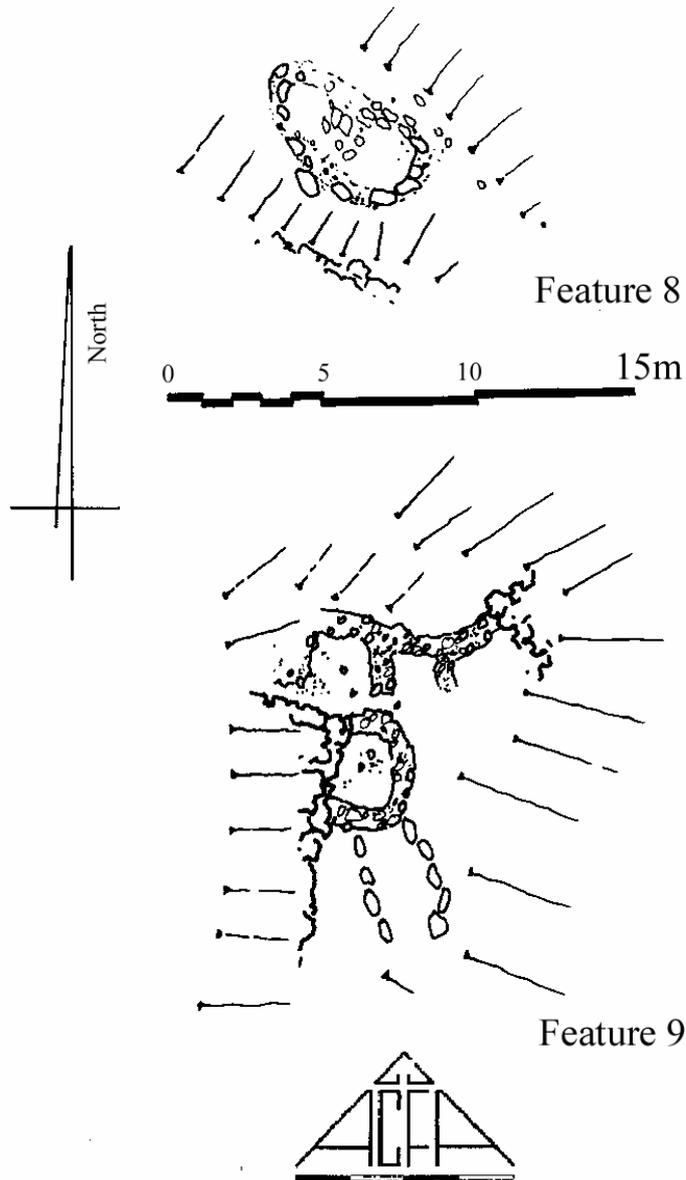
Field Survey

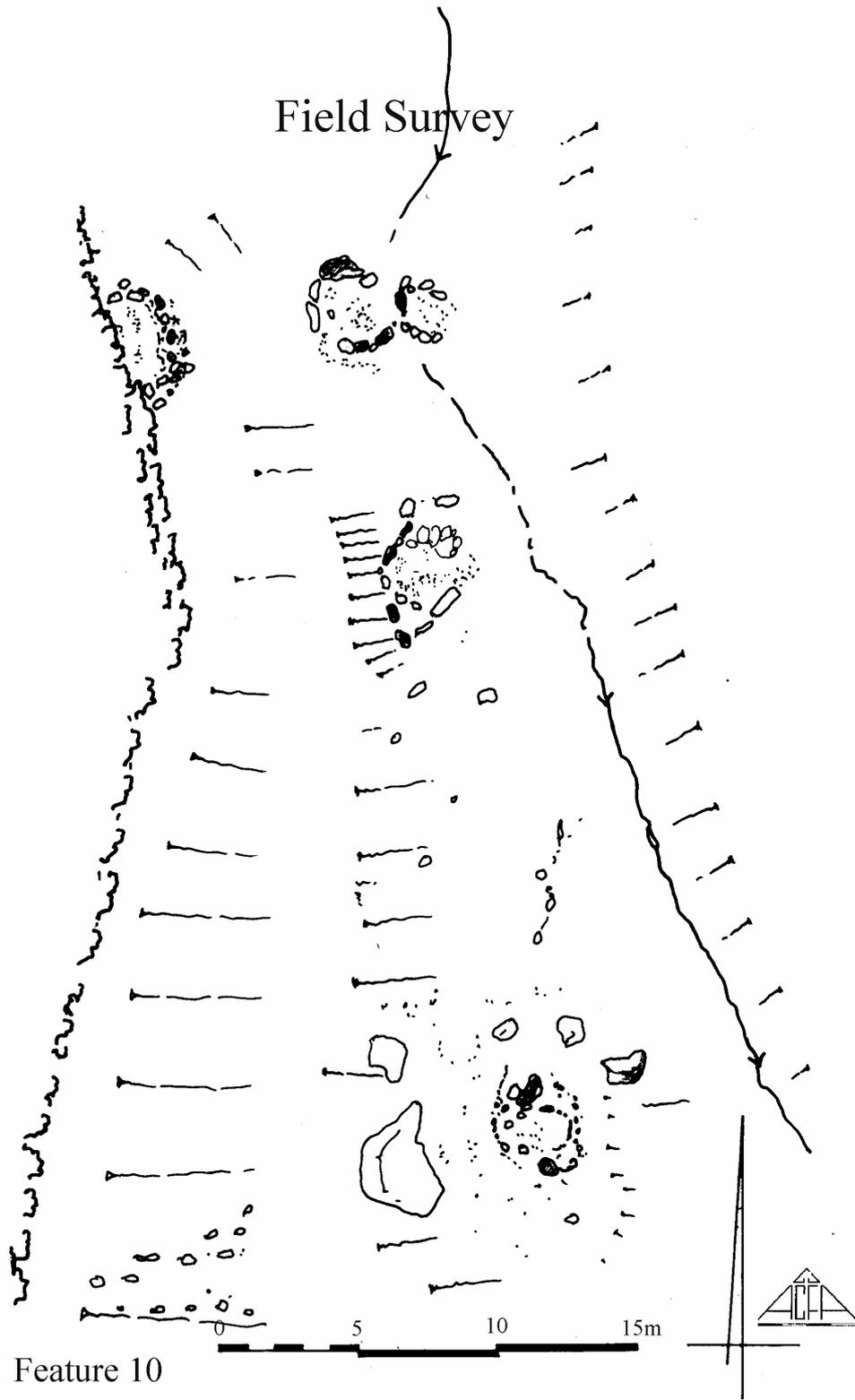


Field Survey



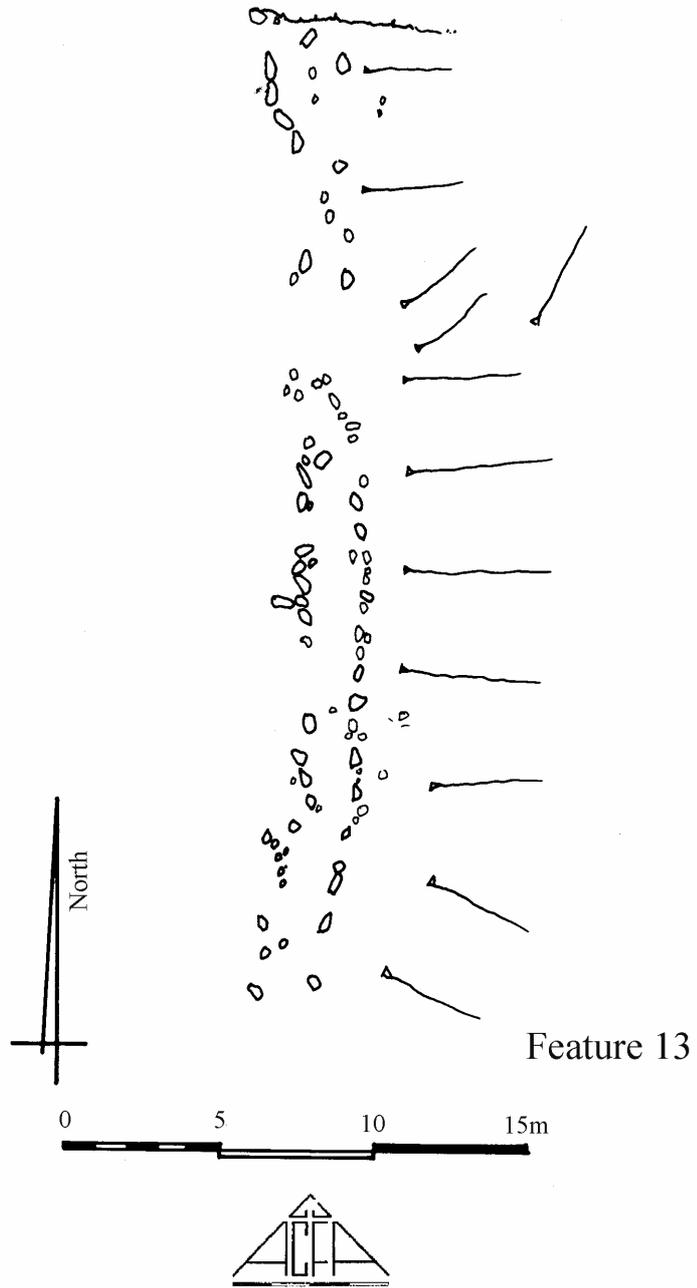
Field Survey





Feature 10

Field Survey



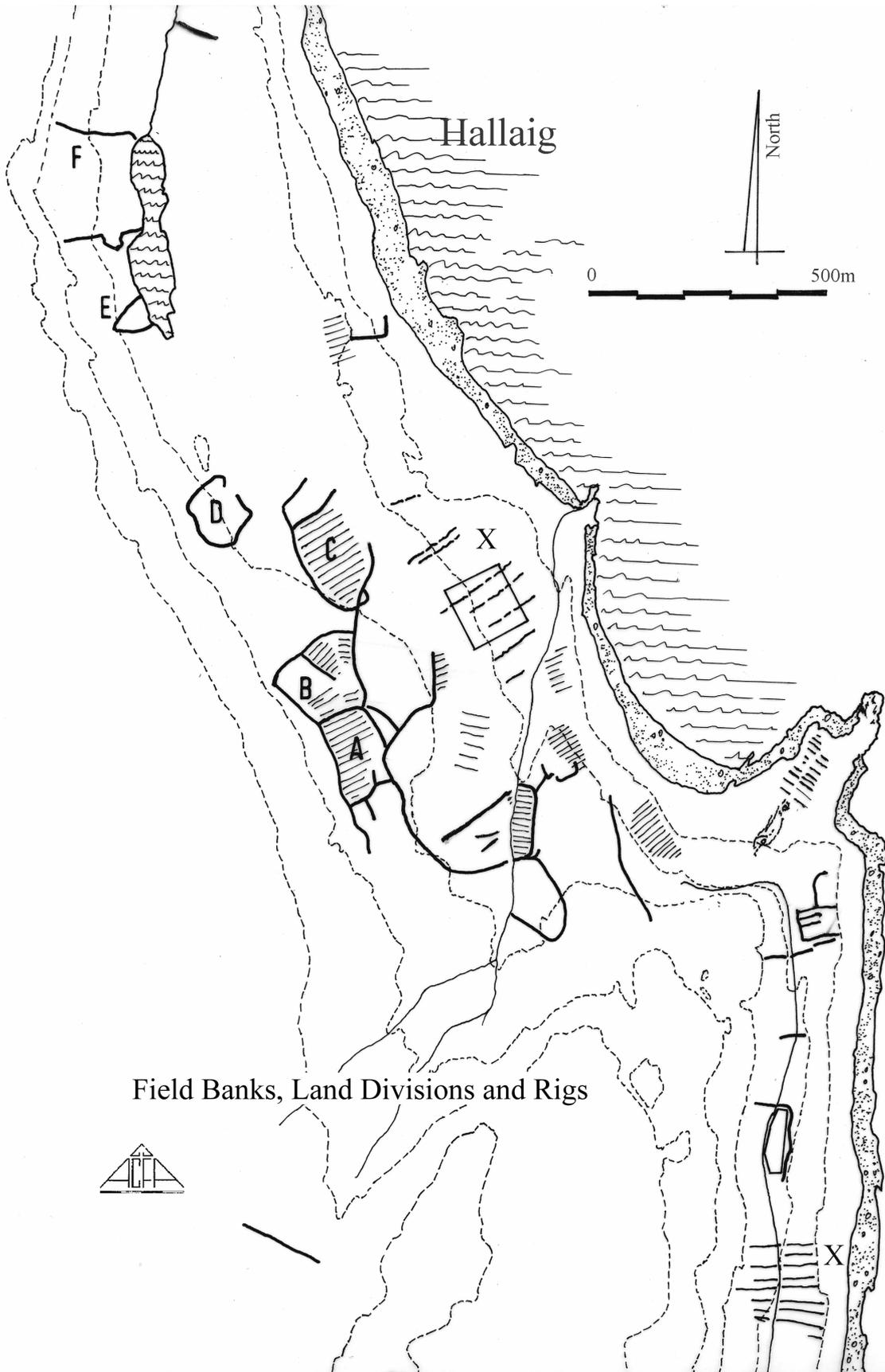
Field Survey



Feature 4 Iolainn/Hut Circle



Feature 13 Parallel stone lines.



Field Banks, Land Demarcations and Rigs.

In ACFA Occasional Paper 58, R. Golightly shows the area around Hallaig to be of medium to high archaeological potential due to the underlying limestone, sandstones and shales, with arable and permanent pastures. The area further west shows heather moor with a low to moderate potential. This is borne out with the extensive areas enclosed on the west of the settlement which itself shows evidence of long term use.

In the area there are field banks of the normally accepted type constructed of stone and turf of various widths and heights. These often follow no particular pattern. However across the whole area starting at Fearn and reaching to north of Hallaig are demarcation banks or lines. All of these have been formed by placing upcast stones or turf on the south side. They tend to be parallel, running east to west across the long terrace from Fearn to Rubha na Leac and northeast to southwest across the settlement at Hallaig.

The distance between the lines varies from 9m to 30m and in some sections they cross the Fearn to Hallaig track to run up relatively steep slope, obviously predating the path. It is obvious that the banks could not have been constructed to contain the movement of animals but are part of a system of land division imposed on this southeast corner of the island. These banks are seen most clearly on the east side of the track from Fearn to An Leac. No rig is visible within the strips formed by the lines.

The lines are seen less clearly within the Hallaig settlement where the land has been more heavily used since their construction. Several run through and beyond the large stone enclosure and there is tentative evidence of their presence on the ground east of Creag nan Cadhaig. These predate the enclosure but it is difficult to relate them to any of the houses which often show several periods of construction.

Within the settlement there are several areas of now faint rig. South of the buildings, around Feature 74, rig of various widths is found within the enclosing bank. At the southwest corner of the enclosure, just northwest of Feature 75, are four beds of rig at 1.40m to 1.80m centres which are notably narrower than the others within the area.

A turf dyke lies between NG 5955 3782 and NG 5947 3807, 1.0m high and 1.40m wide starting at a small bluff running approximately north. There is a well formed stepped opening through the dyke 0.50m wide, 11m north of its south end. It has been suggested that this is the line of the old Inverarish to Hallaig path shown on the Landranger Map 24. At about NG 5948 3794 a spur runs off eastwards for 10m ending at the edge of a very steep slope.

A field bank of stone and turf (NG 5910 3835) runs north east and north into the settlement curving round a slope. From it, a few banks similar to the demarcation banks run eastwards down a steep slope. These are some 8m to 10m apart.

The bealach to the south west of Hallaig at 256m OD is closed by a field bank between NG 58845 37071 and NG 58608 37146. The south east end is a decayed stone wall which continues as a turf and stone dyke, in parts 1.0m to 1.60m high, to stop abruptly in the north west.

Along the east side of the Hallaig Burn, at NG 5927 3800, a field 120m by 30m, contained within a field bank, shows 4.50m centred rig, while south of it is an irregular area enclosed by a similar stone and turf bank reaching 1.50m high in places and 0.80m wide on top, which has no visible rig. This latter bank continues across the burn to run up the hillside beyond and it is tempting to believe that it is part of a head bank reaching to north of the settlement at Creag nan Cadhaig.

To the west of this putative head bank larger areas have been enclosed presumably at a later date when demand for agricultural land was greater. These field banks are clearly seen on the aerial photographs of the 1947 survey.

Area A (approximately 200m from north to south by 100m) shows an abundance of field banks criss-crossing the land with evidence of farming activity in rigs of 4.50m to 5.50m in width with a few at 3.5m centres. The average width of the main field banks is 0.90m to 1.20m at the top and approximately 2.0m at the base, when the natural slope was used with upcast or revetment. Many banks are now eroded by the passage of water in particular at NG 5902 3842 where the construction is seen to be of earth and stone. A small semi circular feature is attached at NG 5902 3821 measuring 2.0m by 0.80m and 0.30m high. All the banks are capped by grass, moss and heather. Within the fields are some demarcation banks in parallel lines approximately 0.20m to 0.30m in height and 0.50m wide.

Area B (about 200m by 200m) lies to the north of Area A and is similar but has poor drainage with many reeds in the lower lying areas where the banks are barely visible. At one point, NG 5884 3841, the bank peters out near the summit of a small knoll but restarts several metres lower towards the east. An intermediate bank curves about the shoulder, being cut into the hill side with no visible up stand and 0.50m deep on the lower side. On the 1947 aerial photograph faint rig is seen within this area running in various directions.

Area C (300m north to south by 200m) lies closest to Hallaig village, sloping gently to the west with relatively regular rig spaced at between 3.50m to 4.50m, running generally east to west. The south west bank is well built and acts as a “dam” to keep excess drainage off the cultivated area. Nevertheless, the west area is extremely marshy and the bank has been frequently breached to facilitate drainage.

Area D (150m by 150m) is very similar to C.

Area E (50m by 50m) is a small triangular plot of grassy hillside with rig and furrow that is barely visible.

Area F (220m north to south by 150m) is unique in that the area is peppered with boulders of all sizes and the rig and furrow is extremely irregular, winding around boulders to utilise as much cultivatable land as possible. The banks here are substantial, being constructed of large boulders and utilising the more massive tumble where suitable. The ends terminate at the loch in the east and against the cliffs at the upper west extremities. The average bank width is about 0.70m and they average 1.0m in height. The bank degenerates into little more than a rickle of smaller stones where it abuts the larger 'field' boulders.

Around Field Survey Feature 1, rig was observed in 1991 and an area appeared stripped of turf as if for fuel or building use. A field bank runs eastwards down the slope from there around present day woods.

Between the terrace, Features 1 to 4 and the shore there are clearance cairns indicating agricultural activity. Tentative evidence of very old field banks can be seen on the slopes under the crags.

Around NG 5955 3795 on a steep slope a considerable area of rig lies to the east of the path. Faint rig can also be seen within the lightly wooded area around NG 5935 3835.

Around NG 5980 3800, four small circular turf foundations were noted in 1991, 2.0m in diameter with low walls 0.50m wide by 0.10m high. These were not visible in 2004.

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Map References

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

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(Glasgow University)**

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

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Fife KY15 4YJ or

details on www.acfabaseline.info or email secretary@acfabaseline.info

- 1 Chalmerston, Cumnock & Doon Valley
- 2 Gleniffer Braes, Renfrewshire
- 3 Garscadden Wood, Drumchapel, Glasgow
- 4 Auchengaich, Parish of Rhu, Argyll
- 5 Millbank Mill, Renfrewshire
- 6 Meall Darroch, Tarbert, Argyll
- 7 Clachaig Limekiln, Isle of Arran
- 8 Coalburn, Lanarkshire
- 9 Tirai, Glen Lochay, Killin, Perthshire
- 10 Glen Orchy, Dalmally
- 11 Neilston, Renfrewshire
- 12 Cathkin Braes, Glasgow
- 13 Raasay 1995, Oskaig & Holoman
- 14 Greens Moor, Lanarkshire
- 15 Bail' a Mhuilinn, Bridge of Balgie, Stirling District
- 16 Queen's Park, Glasgow
- 17 Little Cumbrae
- 18 Raasay, 1996 – Balachuirn, Balmeanach, Inbhire & Brae
- 19 Glen Luss, Argyll & Bute
- 20 Gargadale, Isle of Arran
- 21 Milton of Lawers, North Loch Tayside – Part 1
- 22 Castlemilk Ice House, Glasgow
- 23 Irvine Valley, East Ayrshire
- 24 Island of Gigha, Argyll
- 25 Craigmaddie Muir, East Dunbartonshire
- 26 Raasay 1997, Glame, Manish More, Brochel & Doire
Domhain
- 27 Alexandra & Springburn, Two Glasgow Parks
- 28 Waulkmill Glen Ruin, Darnley, Glasgow
- 29 Castlemilk Glen, Glasgow
- 30 The Survey Director's Handbook
- 31 Duncroisk East, Glen Lochay, by Killin
- 32 Raasay 1998, North & South Screapadal
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35	Milton of Lawers, Part 2
36	Tulloch Farm, Glen Lochay, nr Killin
37	Corry Charmaig, Glen Lochay
38	Duncroisk Farm, Glen Lochay
39	Four Worked Flints from Lorn, Argyll
40	Sandwood Estate, Sutherland (Survey 1)
41	The Island of Coll, A Preliminary Survey
42	Loch Restil & Glen Croe, Argyll
43	Raasay 1999, Manish Beg
44	Grimsay Wheelhouse, North Uist
45	Sites on Arran, Jura and Raasay
46	North & South Kirktonmoor, Eaglesham
47	Raasay 2000, Arnish and Torran
48	An Excavation at South Kirktonmoor, Eaglesham
49	North Moorhouse Farm, Eaglesham
50	South & East Moorhouse Farms, Eaglesham
51	Blackhill, Lesmahagow
52	Meldalloch Island, Kilfinan, Argyll
53	Leny Wood, Callander
54	Bracken Store, Glen Lochay
55	Coldstream Mill, by Beith, North Ayrshire
56	Survey at Sangachal, Azerbaijan.
57	Inverarish Mill, Isle of Raasay
58	Soils and Geology of Raasay.
59	Raasay 2002, North Fearn (Part 1)
60	Bonnyton Moor, Eaglesham
61	Sandwood Estate, Sutherland (Survey 2)
62	Raasay 2003, North Fearn (Part 2)
63	Raasay 2003, Umachan
64	Hign Botaurnie, Glen Lochay (forthcoming)
65	Low Botaurnie, Glen Lochay (forthcoming)
66	Innischoarach, (forthcoming)
67	Cairns and Standing Stones on Raasay (forthcoming)
68	Dalgirdy in Tullich (forthcoming)
69	Blackhouse, Castlehill and Crosslees, Eaglesham (forthcoming)
70	Langlee, Bennan & Shieldhill Farms Eaglesham (forthcoming)
71	Raasay 2004 Hallaig & An Leac