

An Archaeological Survey
of the townships of Oskaig and Holoman
and a field survey of 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. 13

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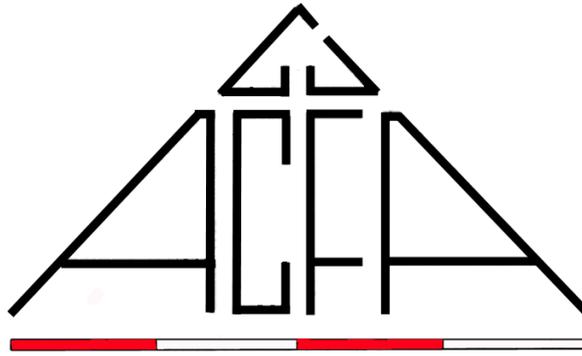
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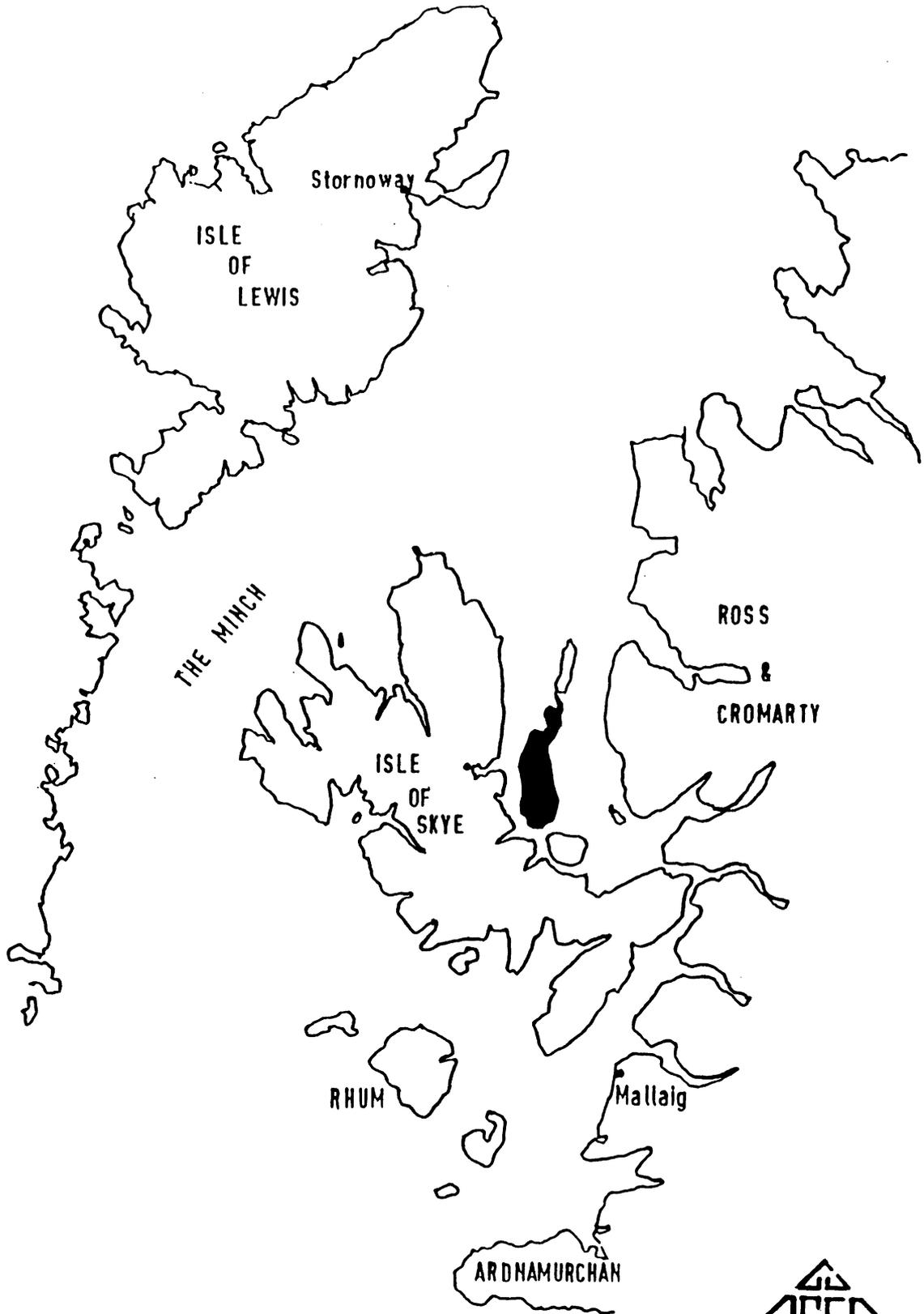
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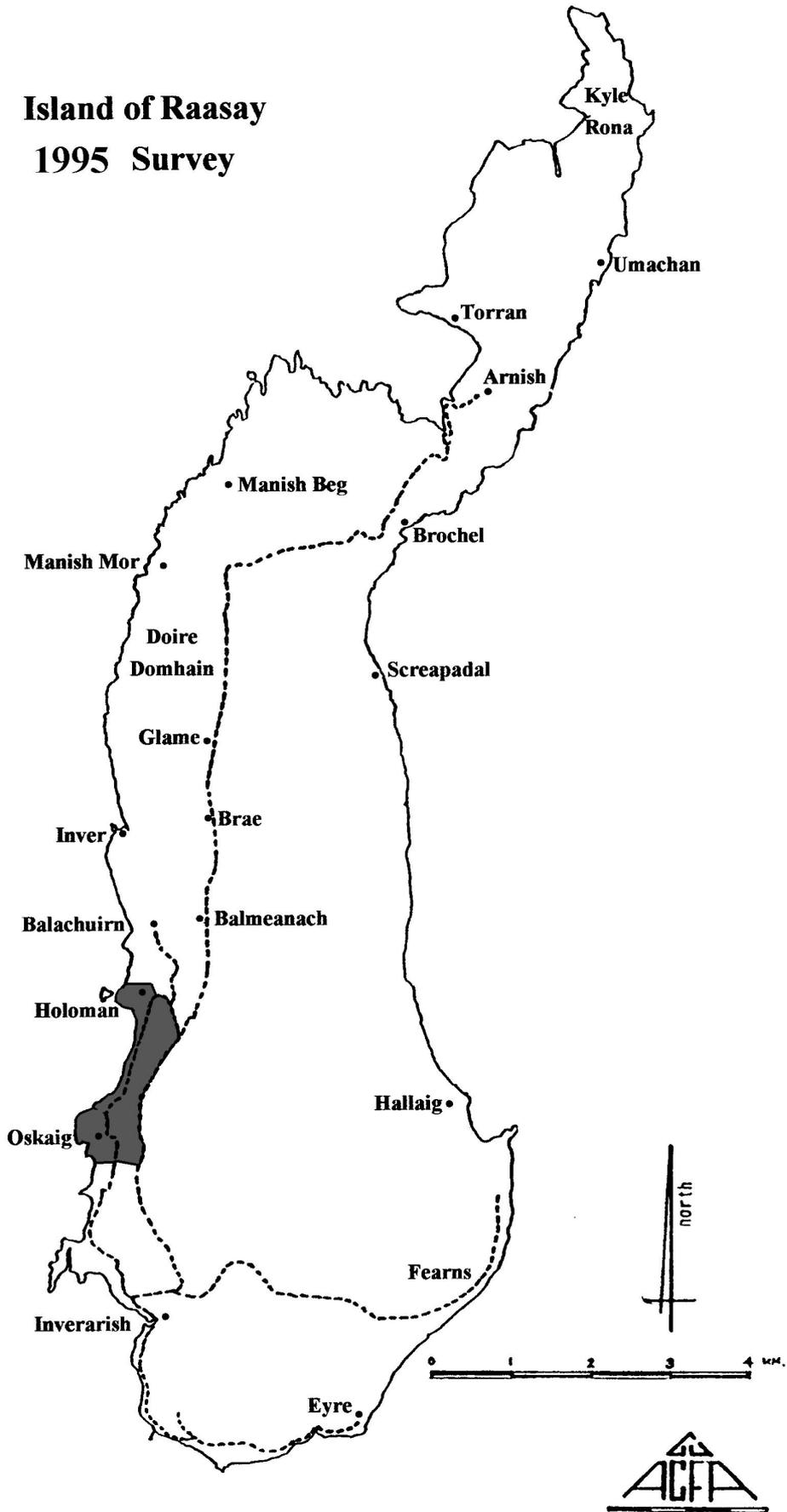
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Island of Raasay 1995 Survey



RAASAY 95

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We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for their help in the 1995 Raasay survey:

Rebecca McKay for her help with the historical and local knowledge of the settlements surveyed, Calum McKay in his capacity as the Clerk to the Grazing for allowing us access to the sites and to the land in between and both of them for their hospitality in February during our reconnaissance and in April during the survey.

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to David Lodge for his kind assistance in making sure the hostel was ready for use.

Last but not least to the 95th Raasay Volunteers for all their help in the survey and for being such good companions under somewhat poor weather conditions. They were:-

Irene Hughson, Anne Johnstone, Anne Macdonald, Willie Dugan, Gerry Hearn, Donald McKay and Jim Waterton.

INTRODUCTION

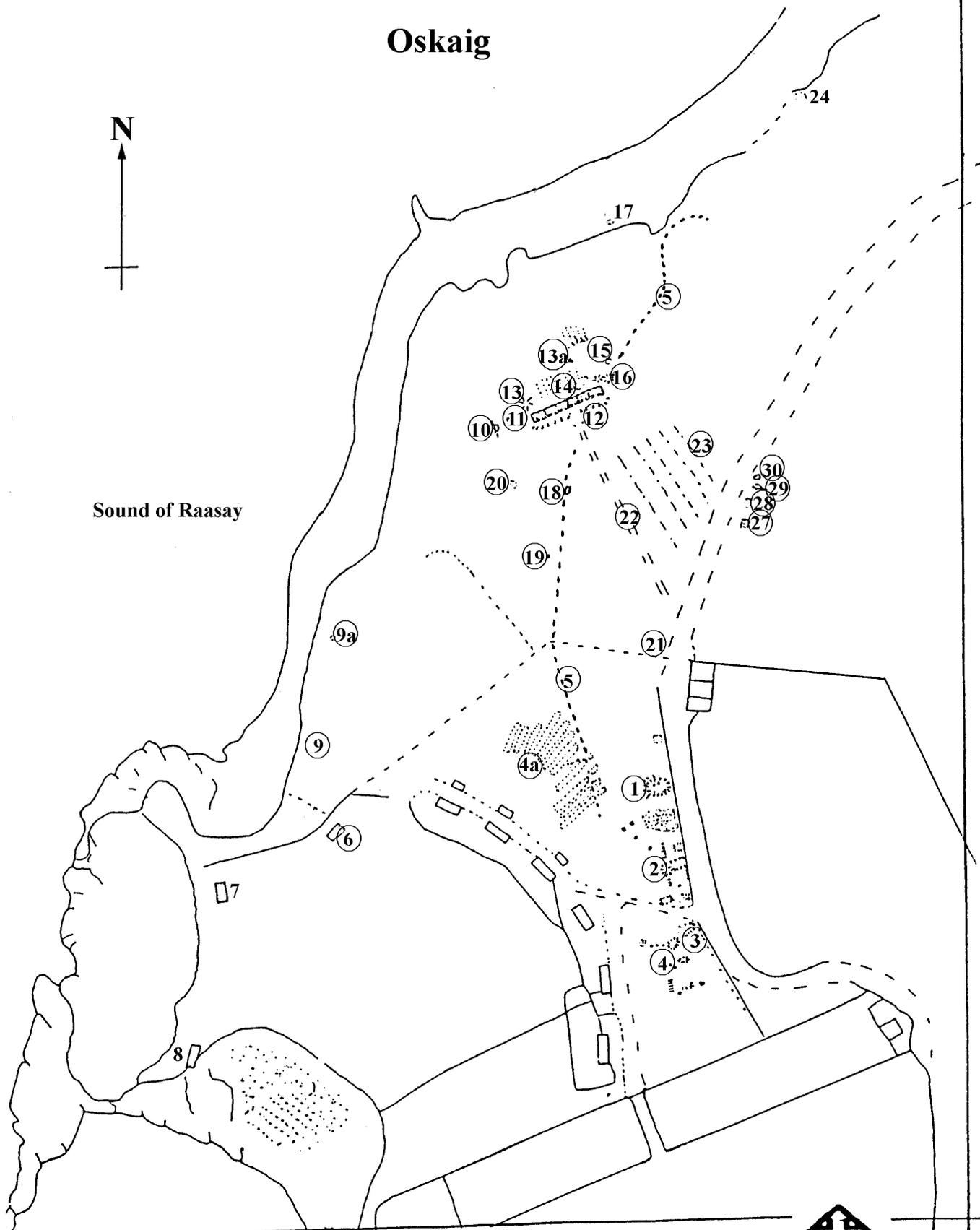
In 1991 A.C.F.A. were asked by Roger Miket, the Skye and Lochalsh Museums Officer, to carry out a Field Survey of the East coast of Raasay and this was duly done.

Since that time we have been considering returning to the island to carry out a survey of the West coast. Thus in 1995 it was finally decided to carry this out. Scott and I were to be the joint Directors and we decided on a reconnaissance in February. As a result of this, we decided to concentrate on full scale surveys of the settlements on the West coast rather than on a more general field survey. It is hoped that this will be an ongoing programme of survey spread over the next few years. The settlements of Oskraig and Holoman were selected this year and the survey was carried out in April. The report of this survey now follows.

Oskaig



Sound of Raasay



55

38



OSKAIG

Oskaig is situated on the West coast 1.5m North of Raasay House and both the new and older parts of the settlement lie beside the road to Holoman and the beach.

The township is known from the 16th and 17th century charters. The remains of this period are probably those beside the road and perhaps the remains which lie behind Manitoba. The settlement had decayed by the early 19th century when in 1827, there was no rent on it. In 1846 the Register House Plan for Raasay and Rona shows enclosures but only 2 buildings, the lands having been taken over as part of the House Farm at Raasay House. In that year, Camusrannoch paid rent as did Oskaig Park, south of the modern township. In 1851/2 the land was held by Mr Rainy. In the 1840s through to the 1860s there were never more than one family holding land and in the latter decade the population had dwindled to nothing. In 1878, however, Mr Wood decided that this would be the site of a settlement of tradespeople, and built 6 cottages. These are the ones which are still inhabited to-day. In the 1880s a row of 6 cottages lying to the North of the main settlement were built by Mr Wood and these were intended for widows. These are known as Manitoba.

The area surveyed is bounded in the west by the occupied houses, lying in a semi-circle on the shore line of a small bay, to the east by the road, to the south by the substantial post improvement wall separating the improved from the unimproved ground and to the north by the shore line below Manitoba.

The site has a number of phases ranging from the slight remains of very old houses beside, and cut through by, the road, to the houses which are still occupied.

Feature 1. N.G. 5481 3827

The remains of a sub-rectangular vegetation covered structure. It measures 14m X 10m and is possibly a house. It lies beside the road in an area of bed rock and field clearance.

Feature 2. N.G. 5482 3822

The remains of a sub-rectangular vegetation covered structure. It measures 15m X 8m and is possibly a house. The structure has been truncated by the modern road. It lies 40m to the South of Feature 1 and in the same area of bedrock and field clearance.

Feature 3. N.G. 5483 3818

The remains of a sub-rectangular vegetation covered structure. It measures 15m X 8m and is possibly a house.

Feature 4. N.G. 5482 3816

Features 1,2 and 3 are surrounded by the slight remains of smaller structures/enclosures, small field clearance cairns, short lengths of robbed out walling and a possible well. In the immediate vicinity of the house remains there are patches of celandine growing which could indicate that the area was once wooded.

Feature 4a. N.G. 5475 3829

Lying to the West of the houses is an area of broad rig or possible lazy beds.

Feature 5. From N.G. 5478 3825 to 5484 3862.

The above area is crossed by a very old stone dyke which runs from in front of the inhabited houses at Oskaig to the front of Manitoba and then continues on down to the beach behind Manitoba. It is constructed from very large stones and has a possible Cist incorporated into it (Feature 18.). The rig/lazybeds on the Eastern side of the wall do not run right up to it but are separated by a narrow gap which could indicate that the wall is older than the rig. This, coupled with the possible Cist, may mean that the wall is pre-historic.

Feature 6. N.G.5462 3825

A sub-rectangular structure measuring 9m X 5.5m with walls 1m high. It is of dry-stone construction and is built into a dry-stone dyke. There is an entrance in the West wall and another one, which has been blocked up, in its East wall. Inside the South-West corner is a curious sunken feature 4m x 2m and 200mm deep, the purpose of which is unclear. The structure was probably used in connection with the keeping of livestock.

Feature 7. N.G. 5455 3821

A sub-rectangular structure built under the cliff on the storm beach measuring 17m X 5m with walls up to a height of 2m. It is of drystone construction the walls being 0.8m thick. There is an entrance facing East and evidence of 3 internal dividing walls but no evidence of windows or of a fire place. It is of at least 2 phases as it has been roughly rebuilt within the foundations of its Southern gable and the East wall, thus reducing its breadth to 4m. It was probably used in connection with fishing activities.

Feature 8. N.G. 5453 3811

A substantial rectangular stone built structure situated on the Southern shore of the headland. It lies on an area of ground which has been levelled by cutting away the slope to the West and by building it up to the East. The structure measures 14m X 5.8m, is of mortared stone construction and is partially roofed with corrugated iron. It is internally divided by ruinous timber screens. There is an entrance in its East wall. A man-made quay runs out along the edge of the wave-cut platform. There are 2 boat noosts at the head of the beach. There are two possible uses, one as a net drying store and the other as a curing shed.

Feature 9. N.G. 5460 3831

A small enclosure which measures 7m X 3m. It is formed from a curve of stones on one side and the rocky shore line on the other. One end is a rock outcrop which runs down to the sea and the other is a grassy bank. About midway along the curved line of stones is a line of stones which runs inland for a distance of 2.6m. This may carry on for a further 4m as there are a number of stones partly hidden in the grass.

Feature 9a. N.G. 5462 3837

A small oval structure situated on the grass below a rock scarp 9.5m East of the High Water mark. It measures 4m X 2.5m and is built of rough dry-stone walling standing 3 to 4 courses high. A

probable entrance lies in the North wall and there are no internal features visible. It is possibly a fisherman's shelter.

Feature 10. N.G. 5471 3850

A small subrectangular structure constructed from large stones built

Feature 11. N.G. 5472 3850

A small oval shaped scoop with stone edging situated 10m East of structure 10. It measures 2.5m X 1.5m.

Feature 12. N.G. 5476 3852 Manitoba

At the Northern extremity of Oskaig on land falling gently northwards to the sea lies a substantial and impressive ruin known as Manitoba.

The stonebuilt terrace of six houses lies on an east to West axis with doors and windows only in the South elevation. the structure is 46m long X 5.3m wide built with mortared stonework. The Eastern gable is almost intact at a height of 3.45m while the Western one is ruinous at barely 1m high. The North wall, apart for some 7m at the West, is also largely intact at a height of 2m. The South front is pierced by six doors and twelve window openings; a door with a window on either side serving each of the six dwellings. The wall head course and the lintels are mostly missing. the dwellings are separated by stone built mutual walls with back to back fireplaces and flues within the wall thickness. All walls including the gables are 0.7m thick.

Each house unit is 6.8m long X 3.9m wide. A series of 75mm square sockets cast into the concrete floor slab indicate a small hallway behind the door with a room on each side; the room to the West around 300mm larger than that on the East. The fire opening in each room is 0.9m wide X 0.3m deep X 0.95m high and separated from that in the adjoining house by 0.10m thick stone work. The openings each have large stone lintels 0.35m high X 0.10m thick behind which the flues are quickly tapered to 0.3m square. Above the lintel a 12mm diameter steel bar is set across the flue for hanging utensils over the fire basket still in situ in a number of instances.

The door openings are 0.9m wide at the exterior with 0.15m reveals and 0.05m checks. The door jambs are splayed to give an internal opening width of 1.05m.

No evidence of a roof remains but it is reported that the structure was of timber trusses with purlins clad with corrugated iron sheeting. It is believed that the range of houses was built in 1889 for widows and paupers. The name Manitoba is said to have been coined from a remark questioning why people should wish to go to Canada when such fine facilities were available on Raasay.

Feature 13. N.G. 5473 3851

A large grass mound which measures 8m in diameter and 1.7m high. It is situated at the North West corner of Manitoba and is almost certainly a domestic midden from the occupation of Manitoba.

Feature 13a. N.G. 5475 3853

A number of parallel stony rickles run from behind Manitoba down to the beach. They vary in length from a few meters to 20m and are about 2.5m apart. They appear to be a form of field clearance.

Feature 14. N.G. 5476 3852

Possible remains of a house situated at the rear of Manitoba. It measures 9m X 4.5m. It is in a very ruinous condition and all that remains is a stony edge. Its South end is covered by a large mound, probably a domestic midden. Its North end is a small sub-circular structure which is obviously secondary. No evidence of an entrance.

Feature 15. N.G. 5478 3854

A sub-circular structure which measures 4m X 3.5m. It is in a very poor condition with a considerable amount of tumbled stone. There is no evidence of an entrance. It is possibly contemporary with Feature 14 and then reused as a store during the occupation of Manitoba.

Feature 16. N.G. 5478 3852

A number of large grassy mounds situated at the North East end of Manitoba, similar to Feature 13, again probably domestic middens. The largest measures 9m in diameter and 1.6m high.

Feature 17. N.G. 5478 3862

A sub-circular structure which measures 5m X 4m. It is situated on the shore below Manitoba. It is constructed of various sizes of boulders and is scooped into the shore.

Feature 18. N.G. 5476 3846

A possible cist or the chamber of a robbed out cairn. It lies 40m to the South of Manitoba on the line of the old field boundary (Feature 5) and appears to have been incorporated into it. It consists of 2 large stones 1m apart lying N-S on its long axis. The east stone measures 1.3m X 0.8m high and the West stone 1.2m X 0.7m high. Across the gap between the 2 stones there is a dry stone wall 2 courses high. There is a quantity of stone scatter inside and out of the structure.

Feature 19. N.G. 5475 3842

A possible well situated 85m South of Manitoba and lying 7m West of the very old dyke (Feature 5). It is square shaped and is edged on 3 sides with stone. It measures 0.8m across and is filled with water.

Feature 20. N.G. 5473 3846

A small D shaped enclosure 5m long with walls 0.5m high. It is built against a rock face which forms the straight leg of the D.

Feature 21. From N.G. 5482 3835.

An old stone dyke which is still in use on the East side of the road but is no longer used on the Oskaig side. It continues for 80m and then bifurcates, (5473 3836) one leg running down to the beach (5467 3842) and the other joining up with a more substantial wall to the West of the settlement (5463 3827). It then continues until it finishes beside Feature 6.

Feature 22. N.G. 5479 3844 The remains of a track which runs from the main road down to Manitoba.

Feature 23 N.G. 5482 3846

An area of Rig which lies between Feature 22 and the main road.

Situated in an area between Oskaig and Holoman and bounded by the road in the East and the shore in the West are the following features.

Feature 24. N.G. 5492 3871

A small shelter situated on the shore against a rock face just above the High Water mark. It has been constructed by using a natural crevice and has been built up on the East side, it measures 4m X 1.5m and the built up section is 1m high.

Feature 25. N.G. 5515 3925

Possible foundations of a small oval structure 4m X 2.5m. It is situated in an area beside the road which has bracken/grass cover and measures 40m X 10m. There is possibly rig in this area.

Feature 26. N.G. 5515 3930

Remains of a possible robbed out circular cairn measuring 10m in diameter. It is situated at the North edge of Feature 25. It has a scooped out interior 1m deep and has piles of stones plus large stones in it. Possibly robbed out for use on the adjacent road.

Situated in an area below and to the North of the Youth Hostel and on the opposite side of the road from Oskaig are a number of Features. This area is bounded in the East by the modern road, in the West by the coast road from Oskaig to Holoman, to the South by a modern field boundary which runs from the Hostel to the modern cottage opposite Oskaig and to the North by a deep gully cut by the Allt Thomais which cuts off this area from the area of East Holoman.

Feature 27. N.G. 5487 3843

A small subrectangular structure 5m X 3m. It is built on a small area of comparatively flat ground and is constructed of dry stone walling on its downslope side and is cut into the hill slope at the rear. At its South side there is a low stone and turf bank and at its North side a number of large boulders. A possible entrance lies in its West wall. Its interior is covered in tumble. It has been used for a number of different purposes over the years but the most recent was described as a hen house.

Feature 28. N.G. 5487 3845

Lying to the North and upslope from structure 27 are the remains of a small subrectangular enclosure. It measures 8m X 4m, is constructed on its upslope side by large boulders and is partly dug into the hillside. The rest of the structure comprises a low stone and turf bank. There is a possible entrance at its North East end.

Feature 29. N.G. 5487 3846

Lying to the North and downslope at a distance of 6m from 28 is a small semi-circular enclosure or shelter. It is built against the side of a rock face and on its remaining sides it is constructed from a low stone and turf bank. It measures 7m X 4m with a possible entrance on its downslope side.

Feature 30.

A small moss and bracken covered sub-circular enclosure measuring 5.5m X 5m constructed of large boulders and some drystone walling. It is situated below Feature 29 and lies just beside the east side of the main road.

Feature 31. N.G. 5523 3788

Two parallel lines of stones running across the area. These were laid out with the intention of constructing a field boundary which was never built.

Feature 32. N.G. 5520 3794

Traces of a heather covered stone and turf bank following the line of a small burn.

Feature 33. N.G. 5523 3800

Remains of a possible sheiling measuring 3m X 2m.

Feature 34. N.G. 5525 3801

A very slightly raised sub-rectangular area measuring 3.5m X 2m situated on the opposite side of the burn.

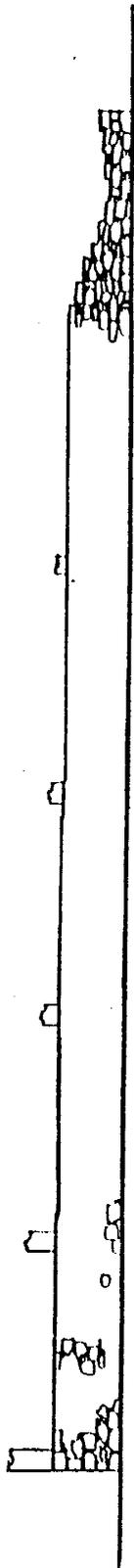
Feature 35.

Substantial stone wall on the South side of the Allt Thomais. It is built about two thirds of the way down between the edge of the gully and the burn. It is not continuous but stops where the gully sides are very steep and the gully is very narrow.

Feature 36. N.G. 5501 3829

Remains of a rectangular stone structure 5m X 3m. There is a possible entrance facing East and lots of tumble around it.

Manitoba



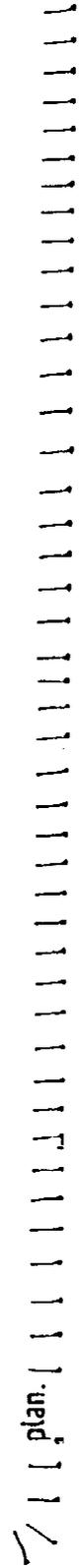
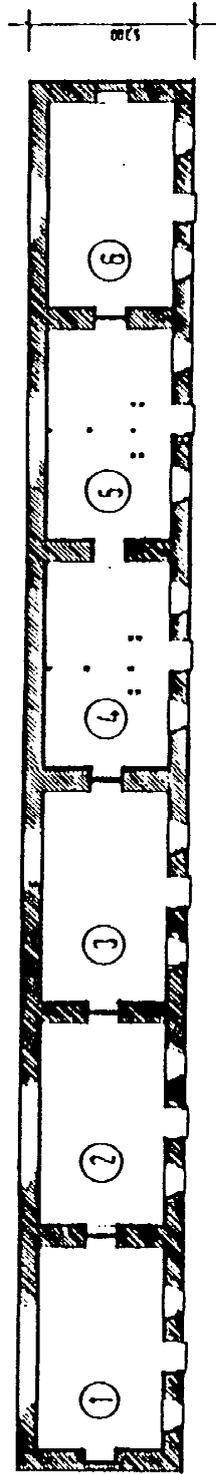
north elevation.



south frontage.



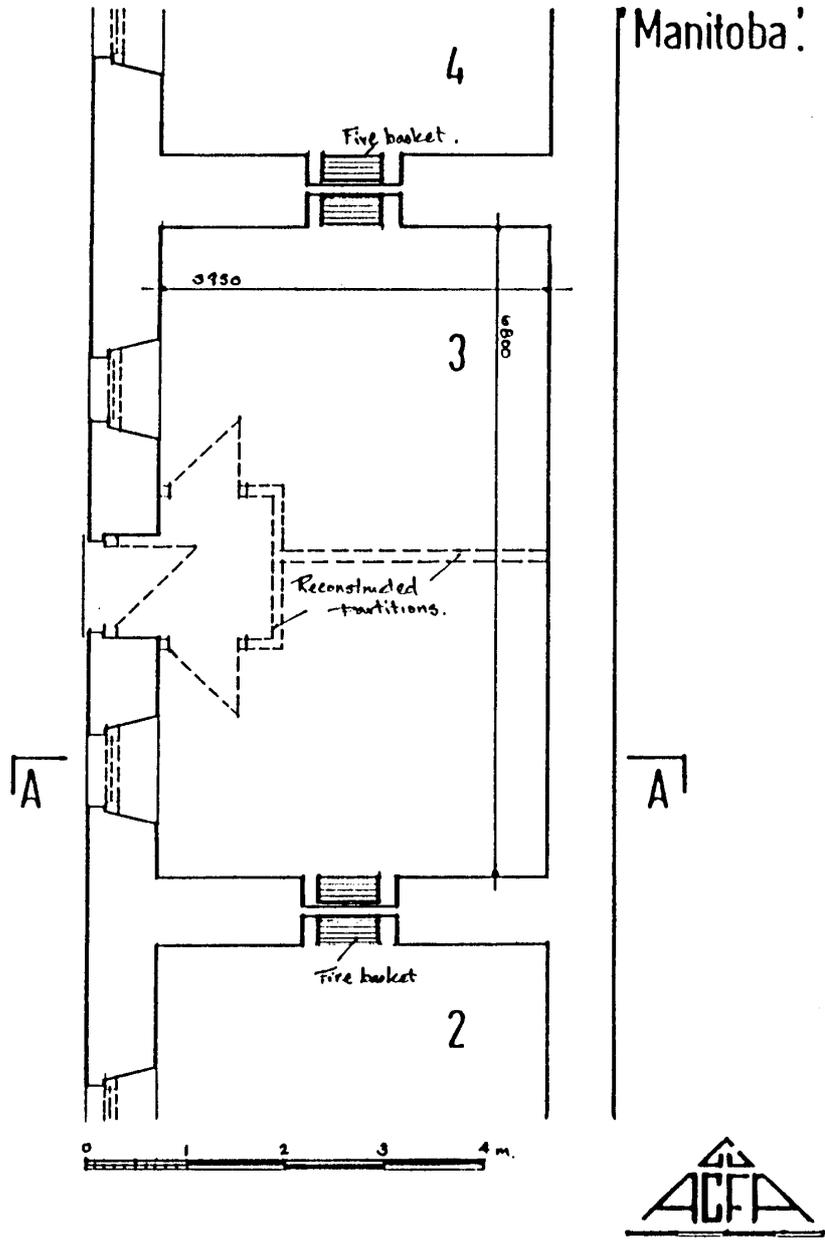
east gable.



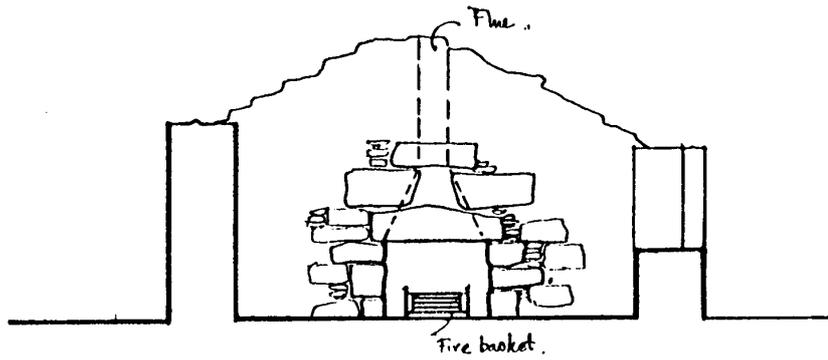
Feature 12

Oskaig.

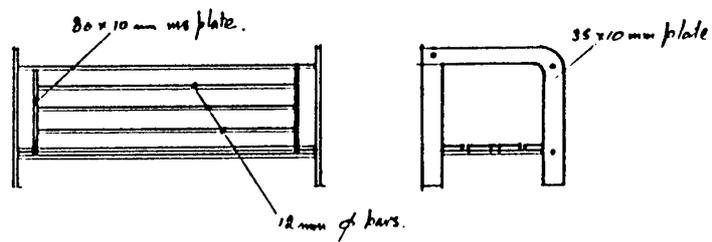
Manitoba.



Oskaig
'Manitoba'.



section A_A. 1.50



fire basket.

1.10



Manitoba
Oskaig

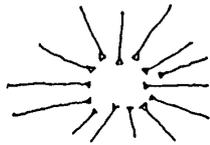


Feature 10

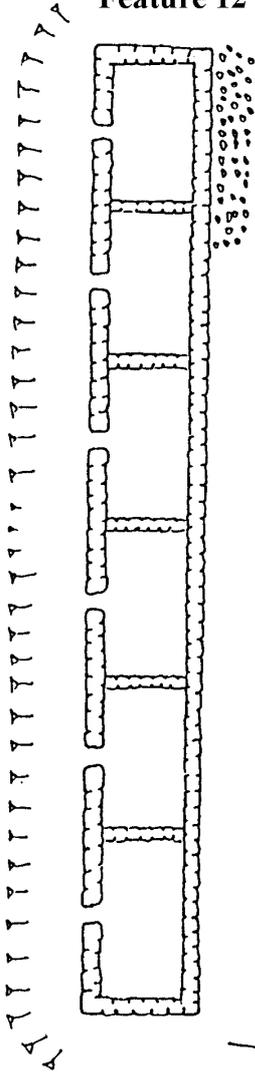


Feature 11

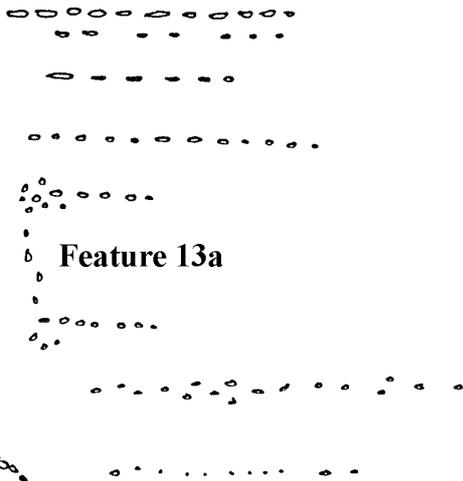
Feature 13



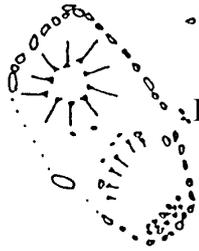
Feature 12



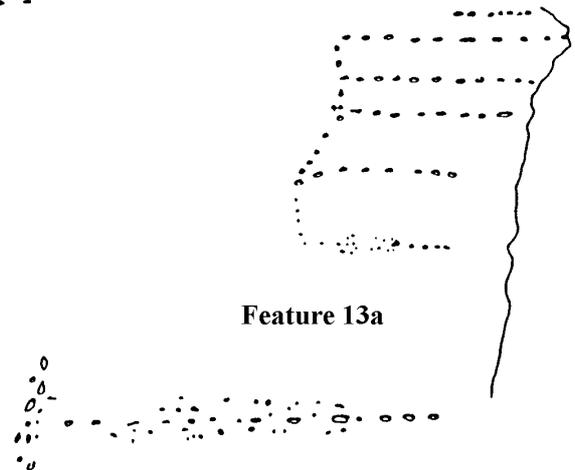
Feature 13a



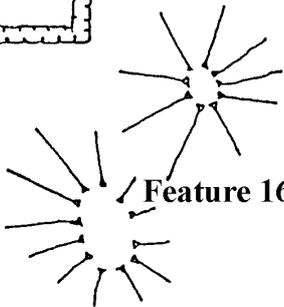
Feature 14



Feature 13a

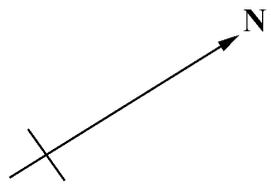
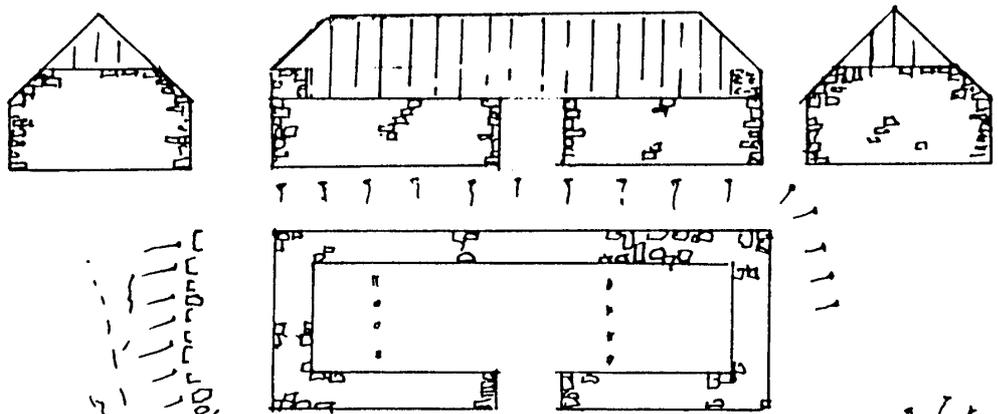
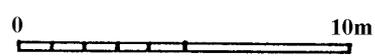
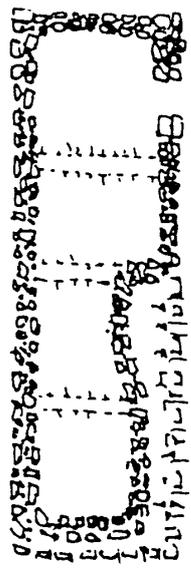
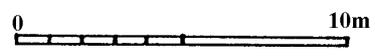
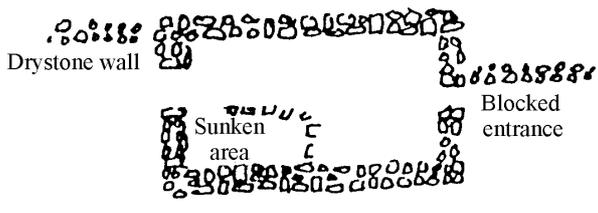


Feature 16

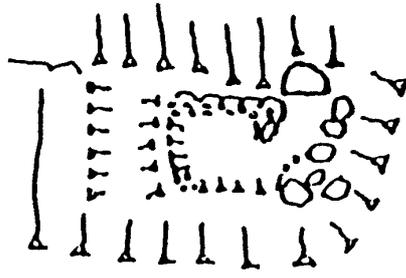
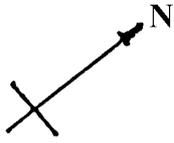


Feature 15

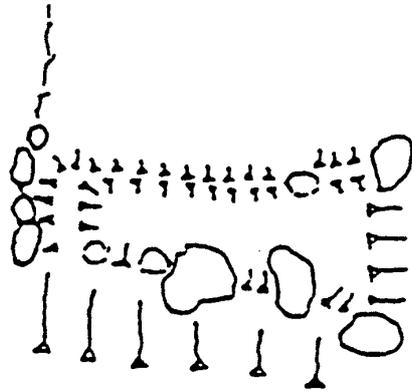
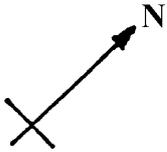




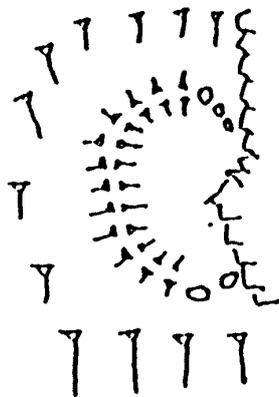
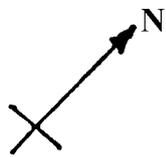
OSKAIG



Feature 27



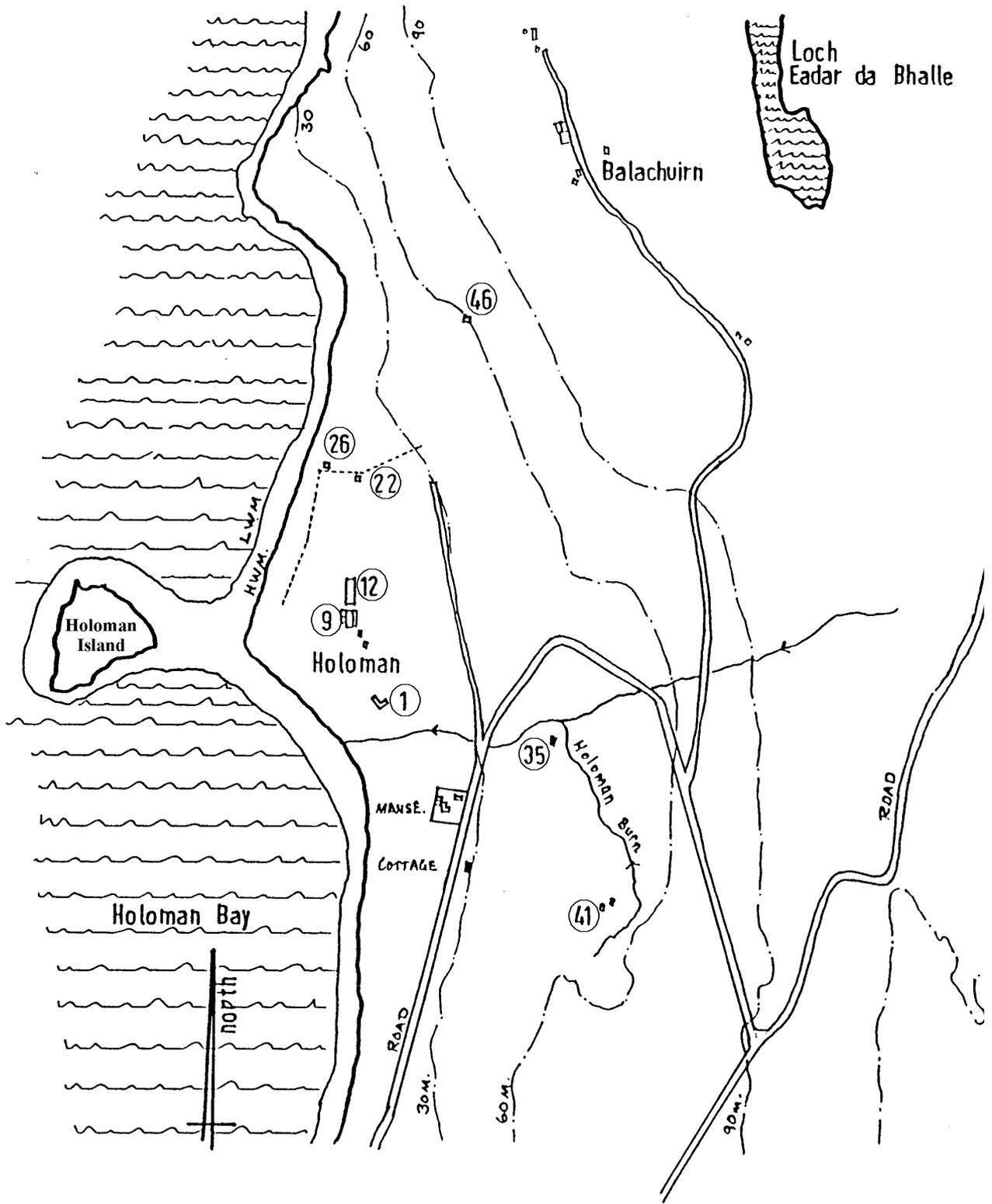
Feature 28



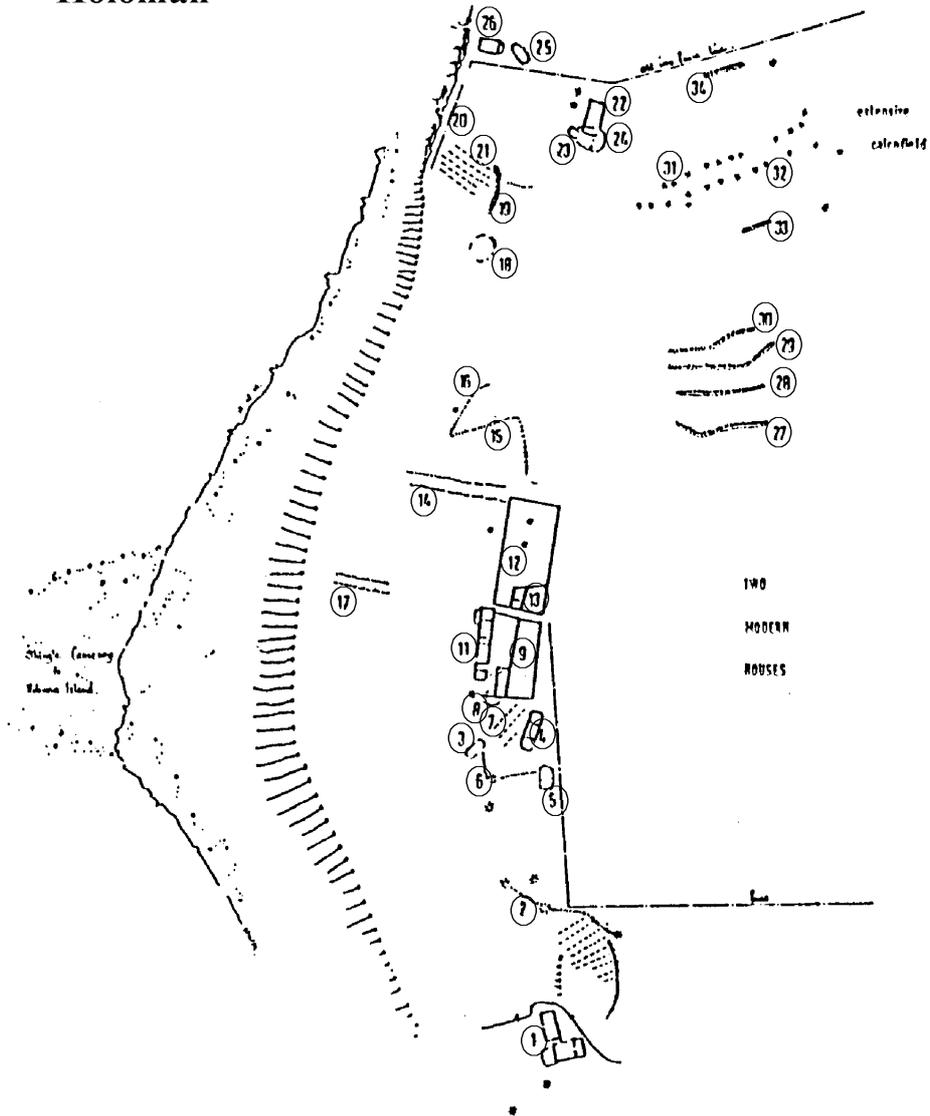
Feature 29



Holoman



Holoman



Holoman Church & old manse



Holoman

Holoman is located on the west coast of Raasay some 3.5 km north of Raasay House at a point where the coast road begins to climb away from the shore and move inland. The township appears on the plan as 'Raasay and Rona' (1846) as buildings within a sizable area of cultivation on the coast where Holoman Island is joined at low tide. No population is recorded in either the 1841 or 1851 censuses, but it is possible that the inhabitants were recorded with Balachuirn, the adjacent township. In 1861 the population included one crofter, one shepherd, three fishermen, four agricultural labourers and four paupers. Three crofters are listed in 1871 though their crofts are not listed in the Valuation Rolls, presumably being rented at less than £4 per annum. The male population in 1881 was a crofter, a cowherd and a labourer of whom only the labourer remained in 1891. The houses then occupied were the two, now ruined, near the shore towards the north of the complex and there was a salmon fishing station.

On the south east side of Holoman Island are traces of a slipway and two huts. This is the only evidence to suggest that, at some time, people had lived on the island. Permanent occupation is unlikely as in winter, with gales and high tides, the island must be singularly uncomfortable.

Holoman was for a short time the site of a Gaelic School. From 1846 the school was run by Alexander MacMillan until 1850 when he moved to Fearn in the south of Raasay. At first, the roll shows 35 students attending, presumably from a wide area around. When it closed the numbers had fallen to 14.

The creation of a Free Presbyterian Congregation on Raasay in 1893 led to the need for a church building to serve the Island. This, together with the manse, was built at Holoman around 1908 on land donated by Mrs. Wood. The site, being a compromise, proved an inconvenient location, especially when the north of the island became depopulated. A new church was built at Borrodale in 1929 and the manse at Holoman was sold off and is now a private residence. The church building is roofless and, being within the grounds of the house, has not been included in this work.

Comment

Throughout the site there is evidence of reuse, alteration and of rebuilding over or adjacent to older buildings. It is likely that the structure at the north, feature 26, was the last occupied house, having had a new east gable inserted with an integral fireplace and flue. Immediately adjacent, no. 25 is an abandoned earlier building stripped to the foundations to supply material for the new house.

Nos. 9 to 12 represent the salmon fishing station overlying earlier structures which are most obvious at the south end in nos. 3 to 8. The sheep rank, no. 1, at the extreme south, is the reuse of two buildings with windows and is probably the site of the Gaelic School.

The process of reuse of the land continues with the building of two new houses at the time of the survey.

Holoman

Feature 1. NG 5523 3996 On improved ground 15m above sea level two much altered stone structures, with walls reaching 2m in height, lie at right angles to each other.

The east to west oriented building, 10.2 m x 4m, has walls approximately 0.6m thick with rounded corners at the east end. There are staggered entrances on both long sides. The building is partitioned by an inserted stone wall with a central doorway forming a compartment over 3m long in the east end. A blocked window is apparent on the south wall of this section. The west gable of the building is apparently an insertion into existing walling showing blocking of what was probably a fireplace and mural cupboard. A foundation on the west side indicates an earlier structure extending some 5m on almost the same alignment. To the west of the southern entrance, a section of walling extends 1.5m with a concrete apron continuing eastwards, terminating against an earlier foundation which extends south some 3m from beneath the building.

Separated from this by rough walling and rubble blockage, the second structure is aligned approximately north to south, with squared comers and traces of mortar. Measuring 8m x 3.8m, with walls 0.6m - 0.8m thick, the building has an entrance on the central west wall. Opposite this entrance, on the east wall, is a blocked up window. Also on the west side a blocked window occurs between the entrance and the north gable with another possible window south of the entrance. An opening in the south gable, now blocked, may have been a fireplace. Fallen rubble outwith the north end may cover a small annex.

This complex of buildings has originated with two small buildings, traces of whose foundations still appear. The upstanding structures represent two later houses with fireplaces. These were all modified to act as a sheep fold as the final use.

Feature 2. NG 55284001. A sinuous stone field bank running almost east to west past the corner of the new fence is over 50m long and contains clearance cairns within its length. To the south of this there is evidence of 2m wide rig.

Feature 3. NG 5518 4006 Faint banks may be the remains of the foundations of a turf structure 1m x 3m.

Feature 4. NG 55204006 Originally a house, the feature is sub rectangular and measures 11 m x 6m. It has rounded corners at its north end and square corners at the south end. However, it has additional curved waiting at its south end lying 2.5m from the gable. The probability is that the house was originally longer with rounded comers at both ends. The walls are of drystone construction with an inner and outer facing and rubble infill. The walls are approximately 0.8m thick. There is evidence of an entrance in the east wall. At its north end the wall survives to a height of 1 m. At 2.5m from the inner face of the north gable is a cross wall, probably recent, to form a sheep shelter. At the south end is a considerable amount of rubble.

Feature 5. NG 5520 4005. The feature is the remains of a sub rectangular structure measuring 805m x 5m. The construction is of drystone walling using large rough pebbles or boulders and the walls are approximately 0.8m thick. Its north west gable is rounded and stands to a maximum height of 1 m. The south east end appears to have had square corners. At first glance the feature appears to be just a pile of stones, possibly field clearance, with various items of rubbish such as an empty oil drum, coils of wire etc. piled on top. At its southern end there is evidence of quarrying.

Feature 6. NG 5517 4005. A low stone wall, more substantial than the other rickles, runs north to south for some 10m. At the south end of this feature there is a hollow from which a stone fickle runs eastwards to Feature 5.

Feature 7. NG 55194006. Possible traces of short rig.

Feature 8. NG 55174007. There is tentative evidence, in the curved end of old foundations at the south end of the large stone complex, that an early structure stood on this site.

Centering on NG 5518 4010, a complex of structures covering an area of some 70m x 25m north to south, was constructed over earlier buildings for the fishing activities which were carried out in the 19th century at Holoman. It falls into two parts with a passageway between.

The Southern Section

Feature 9. A large stone walled enclosure, averaging 26m x 8m, lies east of the buildings. It has no entrances. A wall joins the north side of this feature to structure (c) forming another enclosed area.

Feature 10. This much ruinous sub rectangular structure of some 7m in length, has its east side forming part of feature 9. It may be an earlier building whose position determined the placing of the enclosure wall.

Feature 11. On the west side, a line of buildings stands 25m long and some 5m wide, but there is evidence of at least two earlier phases on this site.

Structure (a) A well built stone structure 6m x 3.8m with walls some 0.6m thick standing to a height of 2m, has an entrance at the south west corner. This building has been constructed slightly back on earlier foundations which are visible on the west side.

Structure (b) South of (a), across a narrow stone filled passage, a building 4m x 4m, probably part of the south end of an earlier house, is more ruinous.

Structure (c) The northern, more ruined, part of the row is 10m x 3.8m and a possible entrance in the north west corner has tumbled large stones outside whose purpose is not clear. The structure has an internal stone partition 3.8m from the gable. Some 1.5m from the south gable is evidence of an old foundation running halfway across the building. To which phase this- belongs is not obvious.

The Northern Section

Feature 12 This consists of a large stone enclosure some 38m x 19m with no apparent entrances.

Feature 13: Within the large enclosure's south east corner is a smaller enclosed area with only a very tentative entrance at the middle of the south wall. It has been divided into three irregularly shaped compartments which may have been stores.

Two centrally placed cairns in Feature 12 are thought to be associated with a structure for net drying.

Feature 14 NG 55144014 Two stone rickles about 40m long run west from the corner of the complex. The ground between them is cleared of stone. An area to the south of the lines is uncleared while to the north is a five-rig field formed by another stone rickle 25m long (Feature 15)

Feature 16 This curved stone rickle, along with Feature 15, encloses a small triangular cleared field.

Feature 17 NG 5512 4010. Running west down the slope towards the shore a low turf/stone bank is visible in the heather for some 20m. A parallel bank 4m to the south is less obvious, but these appear to enclose a track from the sea.

Feature 18. NG 55144020 The tentative remains of a hut circle lie in an area of birches, grass and bracken within a wide expanse of heather. Stone work of both outer and inner faces could just be detected at some points, suggesting a circle of 10m internal diameter.

Feature 19. NG 55154022. A north to south lying stone clearance bank covers the edge of the slope and, with two Ticks to the east side, forms a cleared field 10m x 10m, now heather covered.

Feature 20. NO 5513 4028. A line of stone following the edge of the flat ground is the foundation remains of an old iron fence.

Feature 21. NG 5514 4025. To the east side of Feature 20 is a field, some 15m x 22m, with six rigs showing in the grass and bracken and at least one in the heather.

Feature 22. NG 55194028 A sub rectangular house measures 12.5m x 6m. Construction is drystone walling using in places, as a foundation, very large boulders, some as big as 1m high x 1m broad, particularly in the east wall. The walls are 0.8m thick and at their highest point at the north east are 1.6m high. All the external corners are rounded. The entrance is at the south east end and is approximately 1 m wide. There is no evidence of any windows. At the south end and lying 2.4m from the south gable is a partition wall with an entrance through to the main part of the building situated beside the entrance. It is possible that the south end of the building was a cattle stall but no drain was discovered. There are a number of areas of rubble inside and outside of the structure. There are 2 large clearance cairns each 1 m high and 2m in diameter which are situated 4m from the west wall of the structure.

Feature 23 NG 5519 4028. The remains of a ruinous sub rectangular building which measures 5m x 3m. It is situated at the south west corner of Feature 22 and is constructed of stone and turf. It has an entrance in its north west corner. Its south end is partially covered by the large pile of rubble outside Feature 22. It is possibly the remains of a store associated with Feature 22.

Feature 24. NG 55194028. Leading from the doorway of Feature 22 is a bank which turns round the outside of the southern wall and ends amidst a large pile of rubble at the south west corner. It is possible that this may be the remains of an earlier feature.

Feature 25. NG 55164031. This feature ties to the east of Feature 26 and is the remains of a much older house or byre. Only the east half remains but it appears to have been sub rectangular with rounded corners. The remains of the walling show that it was constructed of large boulders with some drystone walling, all now covered in moss and bracken and only surviving to a height of 0.5m. There is a small drainage ditch which runs around the outside of the north wall. There is an entrance in the north wall and a flat stone slab has been placed over the ditch at this point. The north west end of this feature has been totally destroyed and can no longer be traced. It is possible it is the predecessor of house 26. Lying close to the north of feature 25 among some reeds may be the very faint remains of some rough shelters.

Feature 25a is a small subrectangular shelter which measures 3m x 2m. It is constructed of rough boulders and turf, and has a possible entrance facing south.

Running up from the cliff edge and past features 25 and 26 is an old boulder dyke.

Feature 26 NG 5515 4031. This feature, situated 40m downslope from feature 22, is a house which is subrectangular and measures 7.5m x 6m. It is of drystone construction with inner and outer facing with rubble infill. The walls are 0.8m thick with the exception of the east wall which is 1m to 1.2m thick. The walls survive to a height of 1.75m which is probably the original height. All its corners are rounded and the walls have a distinct inward batter. There is an entrance midway along the east wall, which is 0.7m wide. To the east of the door is a window, measuring 0.5m wide and 0.6m high, which has been blocked up. Built into the east wall is a fireplace 1 m high x 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep. There is no evidence of any internal divisions and the interior is grassy, flat and relatively free of rubble. Lying 1 m from the east gable is a length of walling the same breadth as the house. It is possible that the house was originally longer and, when it was decided to install a fireplace, the east wall was moved

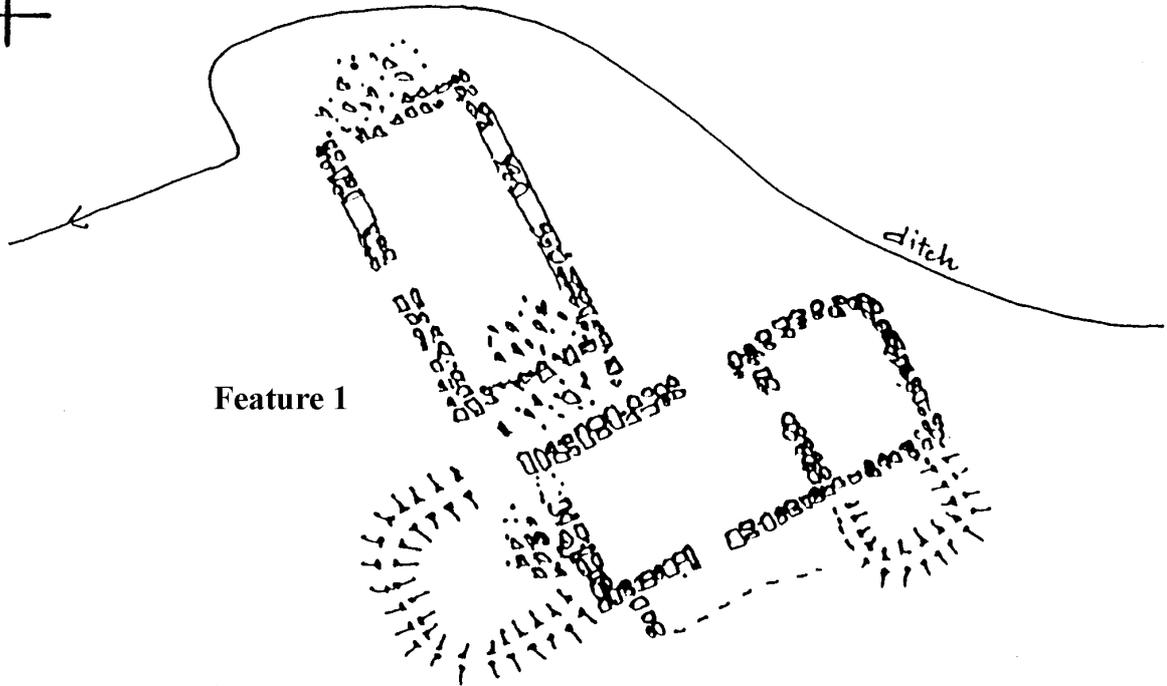
1 m to the west and its thickness increased to accommodate the fireplace and chimney. The west end of the house lies 6m from where the land drops steeply down to the shore.

Features 27 - 30 are long stony clearance banks forming small fields running west to east.

Features 31 and 32 are lines of clearance cairns. The eastern ones in the group define the edge of an extensive cairnfield.

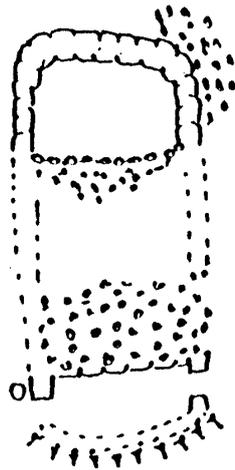
Features 33 and 34 are shorter banks similar to features 27-30.

Holoman



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Holoman



Feature 4

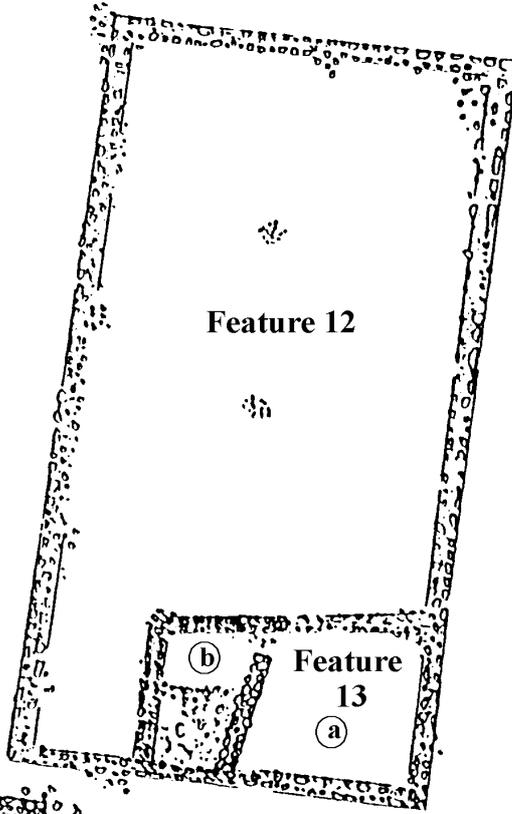


Feature 5

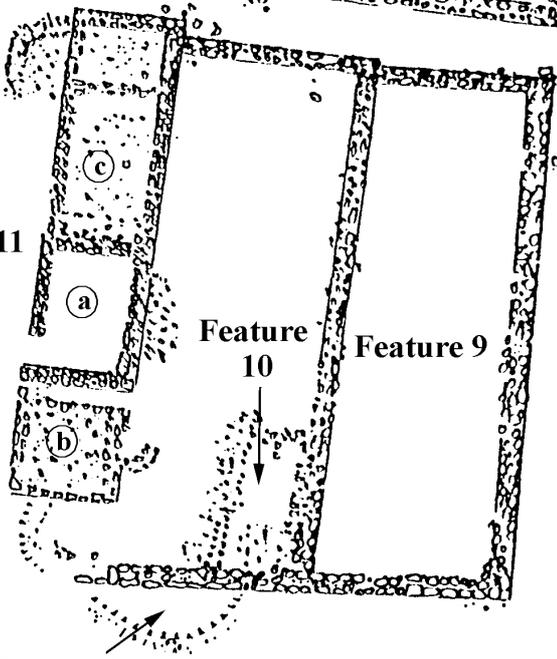


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Holoman



Feature 11



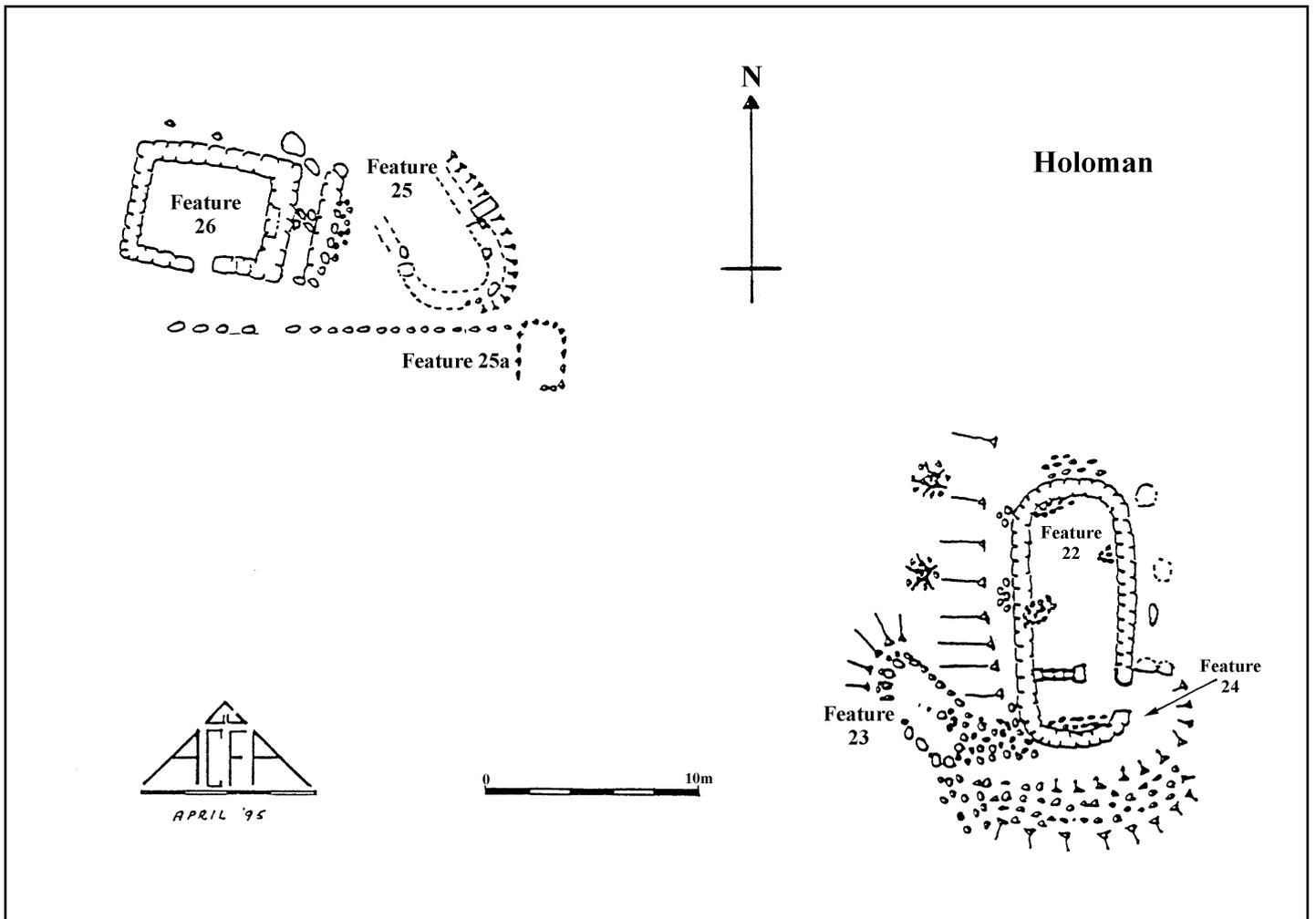
Feature 8

Feature 8

0 10m



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East Holoman

NG 5547 3990

The site, which is situated above the road to Holoman, lies in an area of improved ground, now bracken covered, surrounded by bog and heather covered rocky ground. It consists of four features, a large house and three smaller ones.

Feature 35. A substantial rectangular house 10m x 5.5m constructed of drystone walling 0.8m thick and 1.2m high. There is an entrance facing east, no evidence *of* windows or cruck slots. There is a small square platform in the south west corner, measuring 3m x 2.5m and

190mm high, the purpose *of* which is unclear. There is a small secondary cross wall, running from just inside the entrance, which is built *of* rubble for use as a sheep bank and obviously secondary .

Feature 36. A subrectangular feature 7m x 4m is constructed in places of dry stone walling and, at its south west end, *of* a stony, grass covered bank. Its eastern wall continues for a distance *of* 4m and tapers out into the bog. There is a possible entrance facing west. Of the three smaller features this one is the most substantial.

Feature 37. A second feature is subrectangular and measures 8m x 4.5m. It is constructed *of* large boulders with smaller ones in between them. They are covered in vegetation. - A possible entrance faces the west.

Feature 38. A third feature is really an annex to feature 37 and is the least distinct of the three. It is roughly rectangular in plan and measures 7m x 5m. It is constructed *of* a few large boulders and a low bank which is vegetation covered. A possible entrance once again faces west.

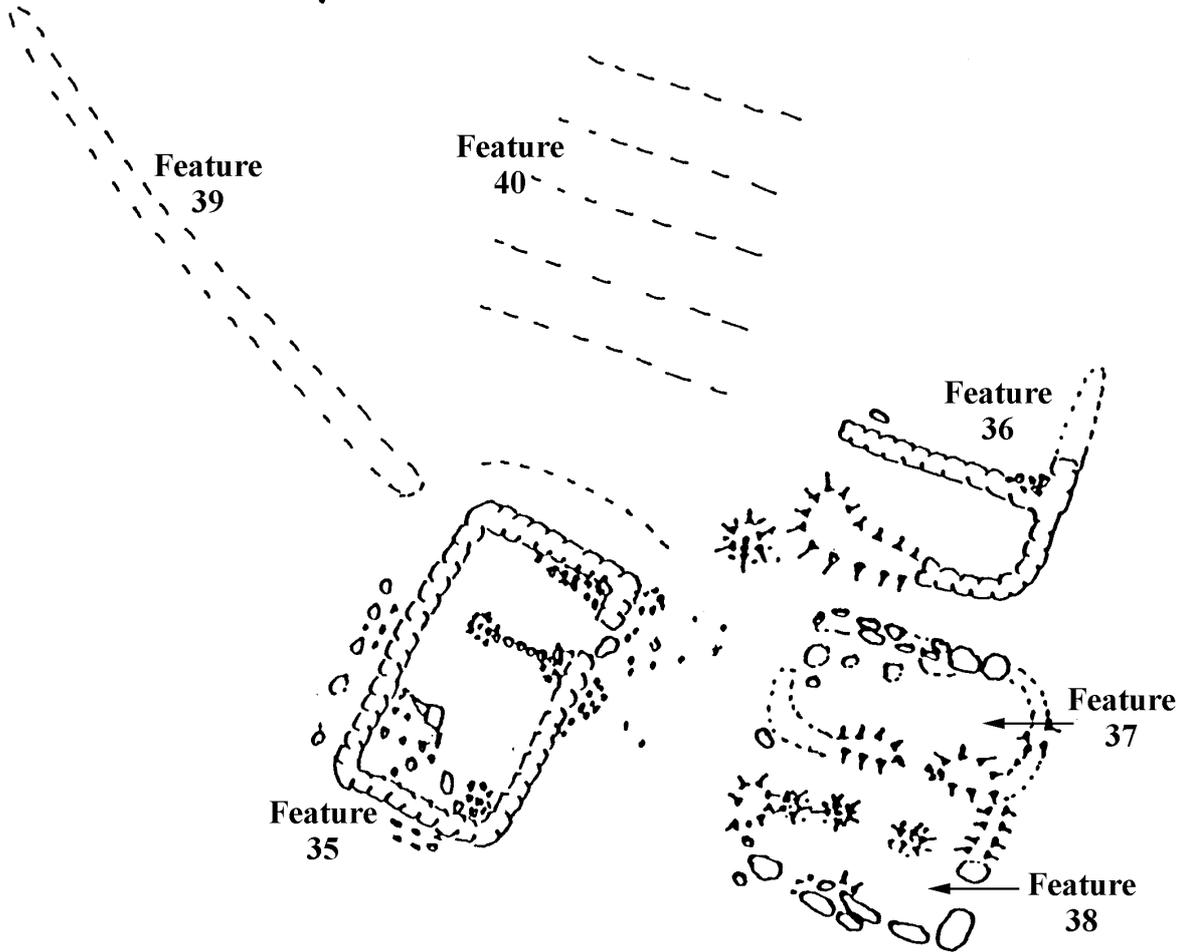
Whether the three smaller features are contemporary with the house and thus possibly used for storage etc. or whether they belong to a much earlier period before the house was built is unclear.

Small find. Part of an iron pot 0.3m x 0.23m was found in feature 41.

Feature 46. NG 5534 4052. 45m approximately north west of the main Holoman complex at a height of 60m above sea level a still substantial house exhibits two phases of construction. The later stone structure 6.8m x 3.6m, internally, running nearly north to south, stands in six to eight courses to a height of 1.75m at the original wall head, with wall thickness of 0.6m. The north gable has well rounded corners with an angled buttress on the north west side. An entrance 0.9m wide, is seen in the south east corner. No evidence of a chimney is apparent. Evidence of the earlier phase was noted in the foundation extending southwards suggesting that the structure was 10m x 3.6m internally.

The building lies in a small but sheltered hollow with a nearby burn dammed to provide water. A reported shell midden associated with a former occupation could not be found.

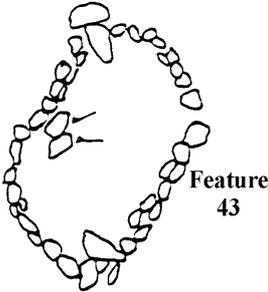
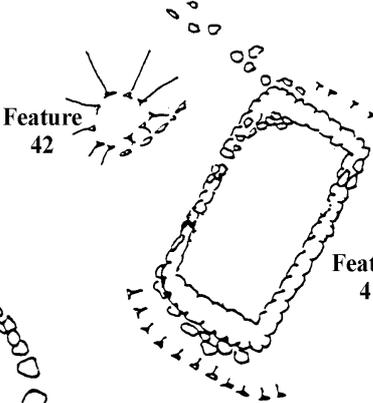
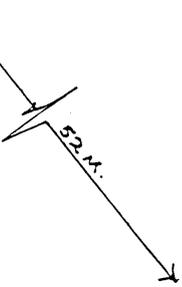
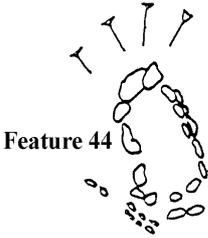
East Holoman



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East Holoman

NORTH ↑



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Holoman cottage

Feature 47. NG 5535 3973

The remains of this substantial stone cottage lie some 50m south of Holoman Manse on the east side of the road on gently rising ground. The building lies parallel with the road and is excavated into the slope so that its floor is fully 1.30m below ground level at the rear or inland side. The house is 11.5m long x 3.75m wide internally with walls 0.9m thick. The gables at the north and south ends are 1.10m thick with fireplaces and internal flues in both. A doorway - is located centrally in the west wall with a window on either side. This wall stands to just above cill height about 1.20m high externally. The basal stones are massive along the length and at the gables. The east wall, or retaining wall, is 1.30m high to the exterior ground level only.

The fire openings in the gables are 0.95m wide x 0.85m high and recessed 0.60m. The lintel over the fire opening on the south gable is a large slab 1.40m long x 0.45m high x 0.15m thick. The flue rises vertically behind the lintel, initially 0.40m square but tapers to a 0.25m square above the lintel. Some 0.85m above the fireplace the wall thickness reduces to 0.90m and forms a scarcement 0.3m deep. To the left of the fireplace, but in the south gable only, is a mural cupboard recess some 0.35m deep and 0.65m wide.

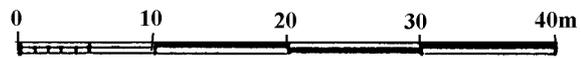
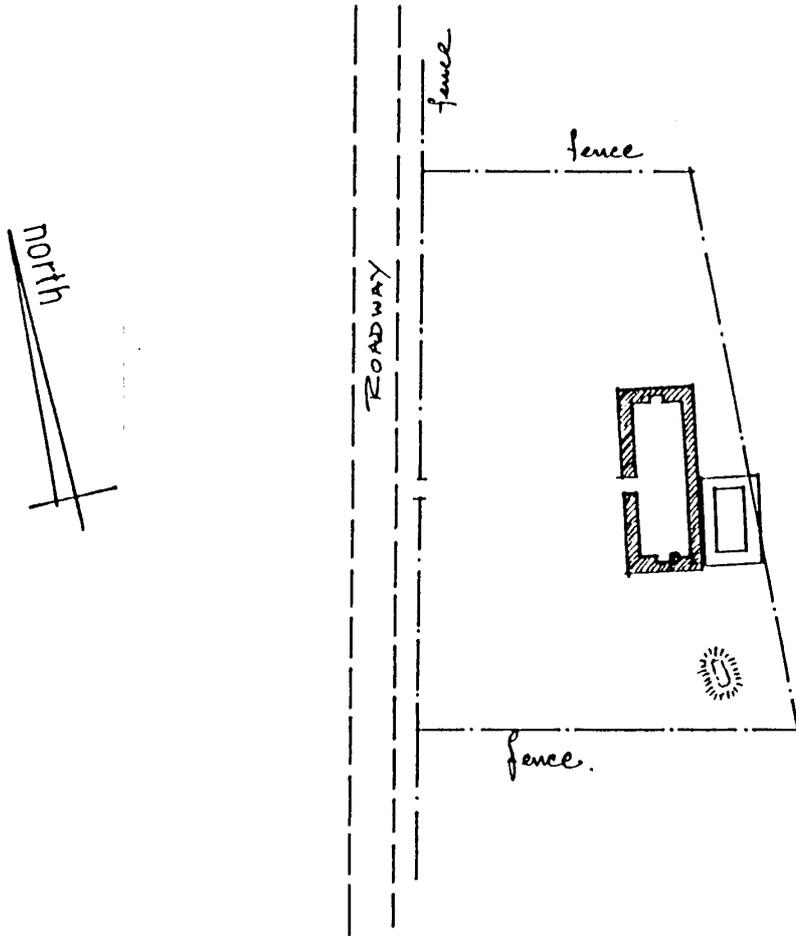
No evidence of the roof remains but it is reasonable to assume that the roof was clad with corrugated metal sheeting.

Behind the cottage, on the higher level, is a rectangular outbuilding 5.00m x 2m internally with walls 0.80m thick built against the house.

Some 7.0m from the south east corner of the cottage is a low stony oval shaped mound 5.00m long x 2.5m at the widest. The centre of the mound is hollow measuring 1.75m x 0.90m. Folk lore has a story of twins buried in the garden of the cottage.

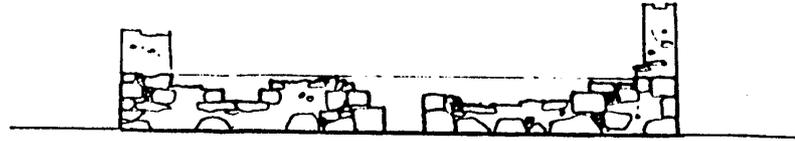
It is known that the house has been empty since the first years of this century and that it was the home of a Miss Kate McLean, daughter of William McLean mentioned as leveling the road from Raasay House to the shore in the Raasay House Weather Diaries 15/3/1852.

Holoman cottage



April 95.

Holoman. cottage

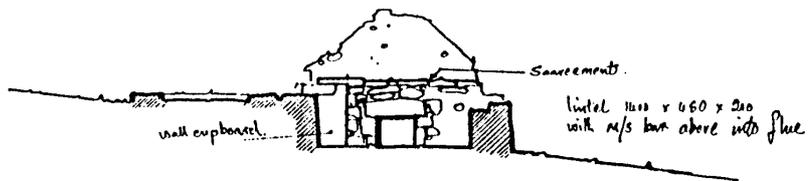


west elevation.

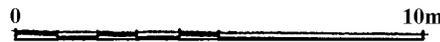
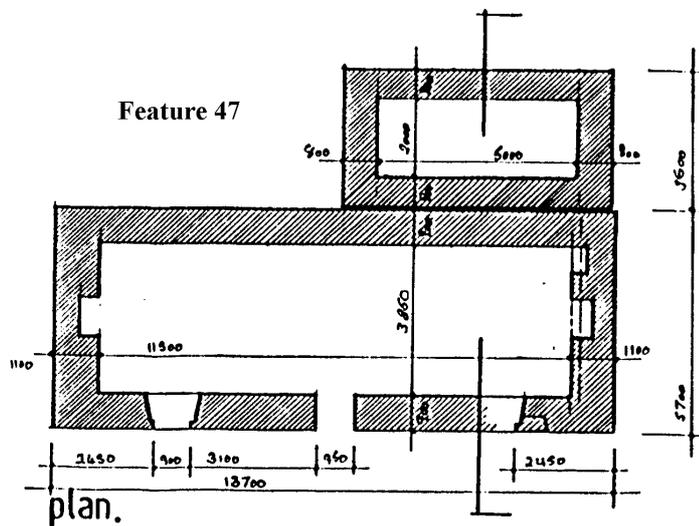


north gable.

south gable.



section



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Map References

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

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- 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
- 33 Dun Daraich, Glen Finart, Argyll
- 34 Largs Parish, Part 1
- 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