

An Archaeological Survey  
of four townships at Balachuirn, Balmeanach, Inbhire & Brae

on

**Raasay**

Skye and Lochalsh District, Highland Region

Edited by  
John Macdonald and J. Scott Wood

Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists

( Glasgow University )

Occasional Paper No. 18

1996

The Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists, Glasgow University. (A.C.F.A.) was formed in 1987. Its membership comprises holders of the University of Glasgow Certificate in Field Archaeology, organised by the Department of Adult and Continuing Education. The three year part-time 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, and may be contacted:

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Glasgow  
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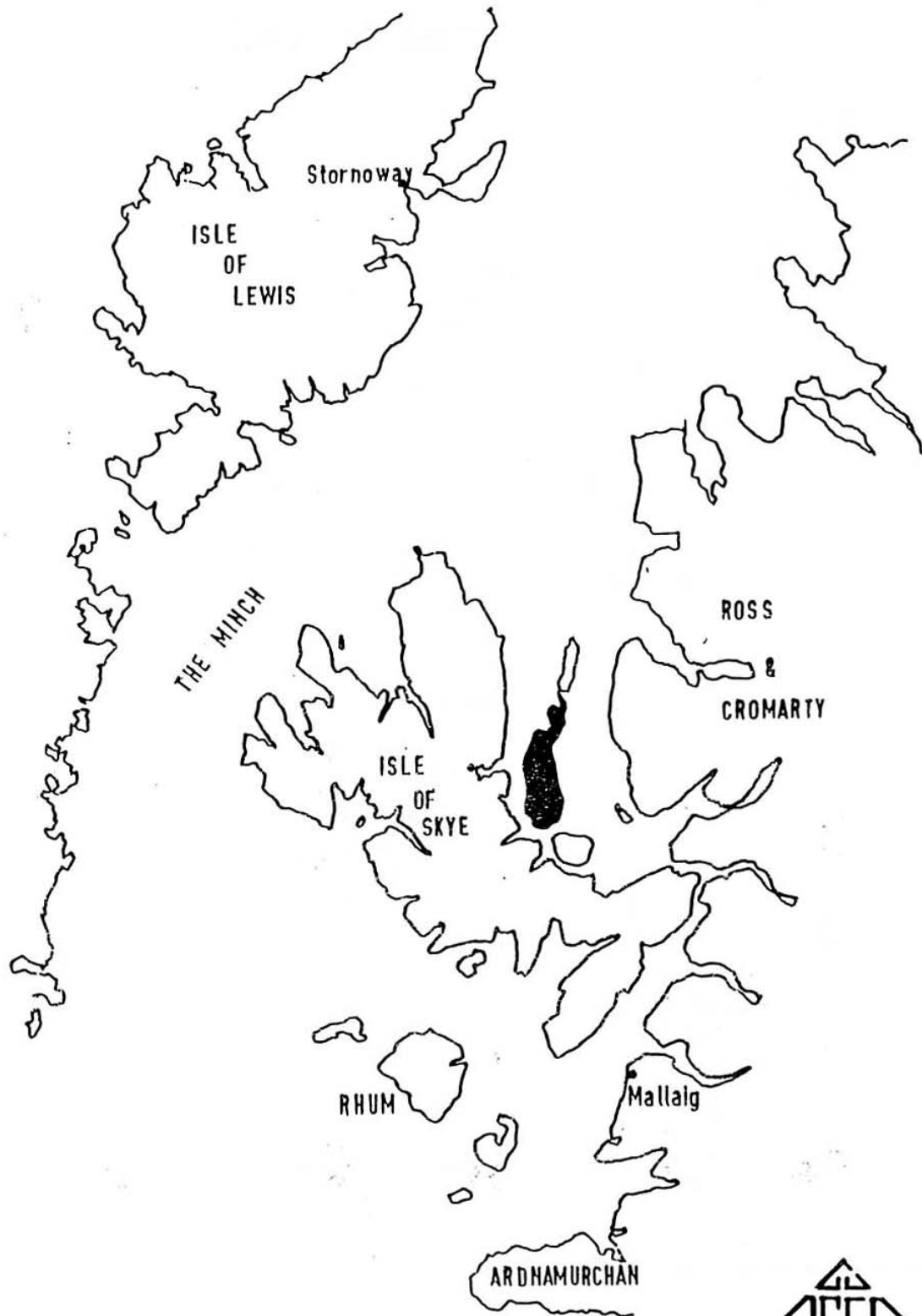
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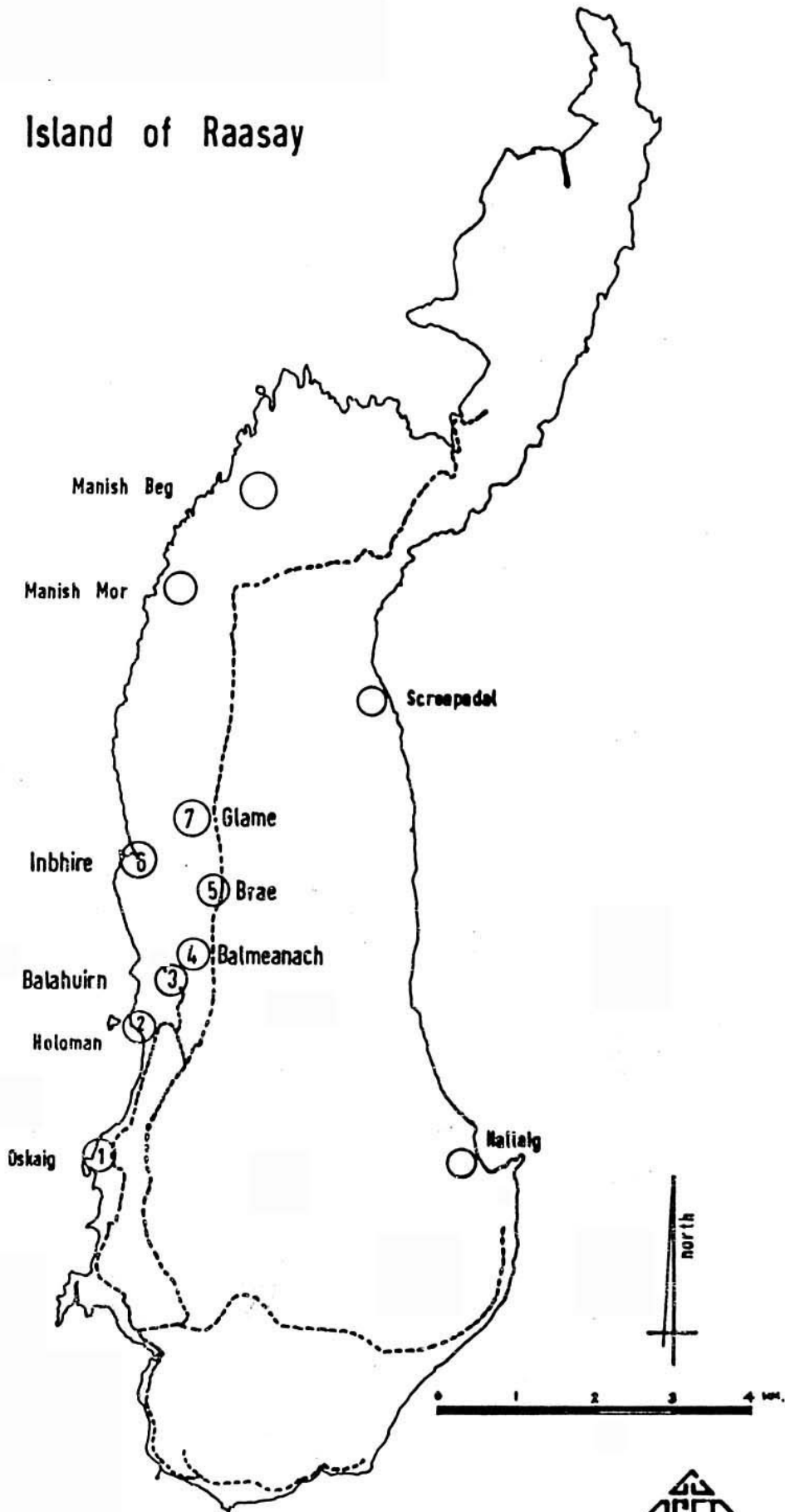
University of Glasgow, Department of Adult and Continuing Education.

ISBN 0 86389 051 2



April 1996

# Island of Raasay



# RAASAY 96

**Abstract:** *The survey of the townships of Balachuirn, Balmeanach, Inbhire and Brae form part of ACFA's continuing interest in the physical remains of human activity on the Island of Raasay*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for their help in the 1996 Raasay survey:

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

To Messrs Gillies for allowing us access to the sites and to the land in between.

To Roger Miket, the Skye and Lochalsh Museums Officer, for providing the 1:10000 maps of the area.

Our thanks also go to the Glasgow Archaeological Society and to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland for their very kind financial support.

Last but not least to the 96th Raasay Volunteers for all their help in the survey and for being such good companions under somewhat poor weather conditions. They were:-

Ethel Anderson, Veronica Baker, Sue Bryson, Margaret Gill, Frances Hood, Irene Hughson, Anne Johnstone, Anne Macdonald, Helen Maxwell, Amy Gazin-Schwartz, Bob Diamond, Willie Dougan, Gerry Hearns, Bruce Henry, Jim Mair, Donald McKay, Ian Marshall, Dennis Topen, and Jim Waterton.

## INTRODUCTION

The 1996 survey is a continuation of our 1995 survey of the physical remains of human activity on the Island of Raasay.

In 1995 we surveyed the townships of Oskaig and Holoman and the areas in between. This year, after a reconnaissance in February, we decided to concentrate our attention on the townships of Balachuirn, Balmeanach, Brae and Inver with a field survey of the areas between the townships.

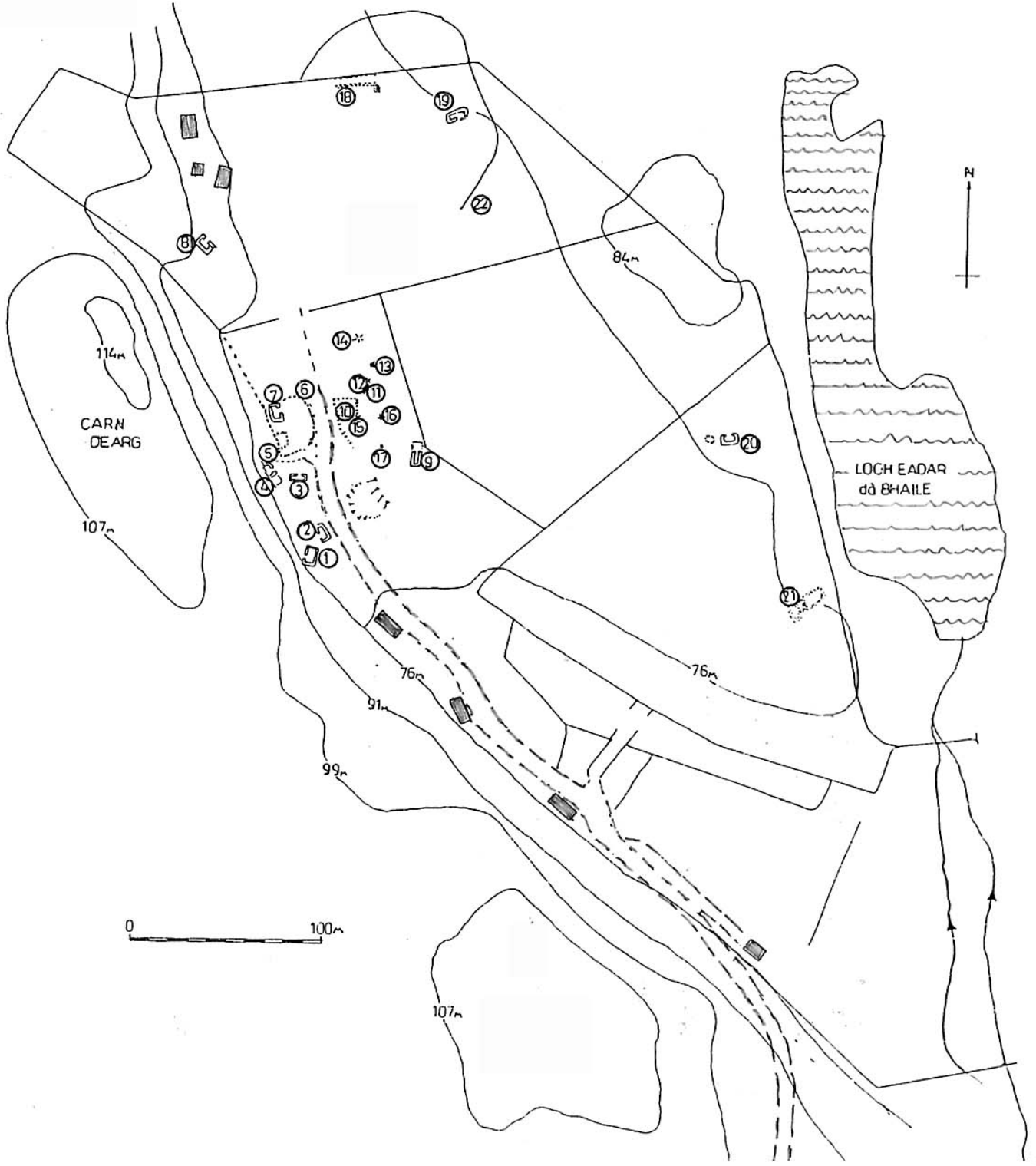
The report of this survey now follows.

**John Macdonald**

**J.Scott Wood**

**ACFA 1996**

# BALACHUIRN



APRIL 1996



## BALACHUIRN

NG 556 407

The township of Balachuirn lies in a reasonably fertile valley into which runs the Storab Burn. It is bounded in the east by Loch Eadar da Bhaile which separates it from the neighbouring township of Balmeanach, and, in the west, by the steep cliffs of Carn Dearg. In the north the fertile area becomes an area of rough moorland and bog before ending in Loch an Rathaid. To the south the valley narrows to a point where the Storab Burn runs into it. The township consists of a number of houses and structures of different periods including two which are still inhabited, one permanently and the other as a holiday house.

### **Feature 1.** House/Barn

NG 5548 4068

A sub-rectangular structure which measures 8m x 5m. It is situated close to the modern post and wire fence which runs alongside the track. The building lies roughly northwest-southeast on its long axis and is made of double lines of large boulders with small stones infilling and some dry-stone between the stones. The walls are between 1m and 1.2m thick and stand 0.75m high at the tallest point. There is considerable stone tumble within the building but no sign of internal walling could be seen. An entrance, 0.8m wide, lies in the east wall.

### **Feature 2.** House/Barn

NG 5549 4070

A sub-rectangular structure which measures 13m x 6m. It lies 5m. from the southwest corner of feature 1 and roughly north-south on its long axis. A doorway, 1m wide, is in the east wall. The interior contains large stones and is grass and moss covered. There were no signs of internal dividing walls. To the east of feature 2 a stone-edged platform runs along the east front to the corner of feature 1 above a low-lying boggy area. The west wall of feature 2 lies close to a steep and very stony slope. 1m from the south wall a very large stone, 1m x 2m, covers a natural spring. The water has been channelled under stones which are now grass covered [and now all covered by corrugated iron]. The water, which is still flowing, seeps away into the boggy area between here and the track

### **Feature 3.** House/Barn

NG 5547 4073

A sub-rectangular structure measuring 9m x 5m lies roughly east-west on its long axis. The walls are low, constructed of stone which is now grass-covered, and average 0.8m in width. A very large boulder has been incorporated into the structure's base in the east wall. A break in the stonework is probably an entrance of about 0.8m width in the north wall. Remains of stone walling are possibly indicative of an internal wall. Stone which is accumulated in the southwest corner may be the remains of later usage as a lambing pen. Some 2m north of the north wall rough boulders form a wall some 4m long which may have been built to protect the entrance.

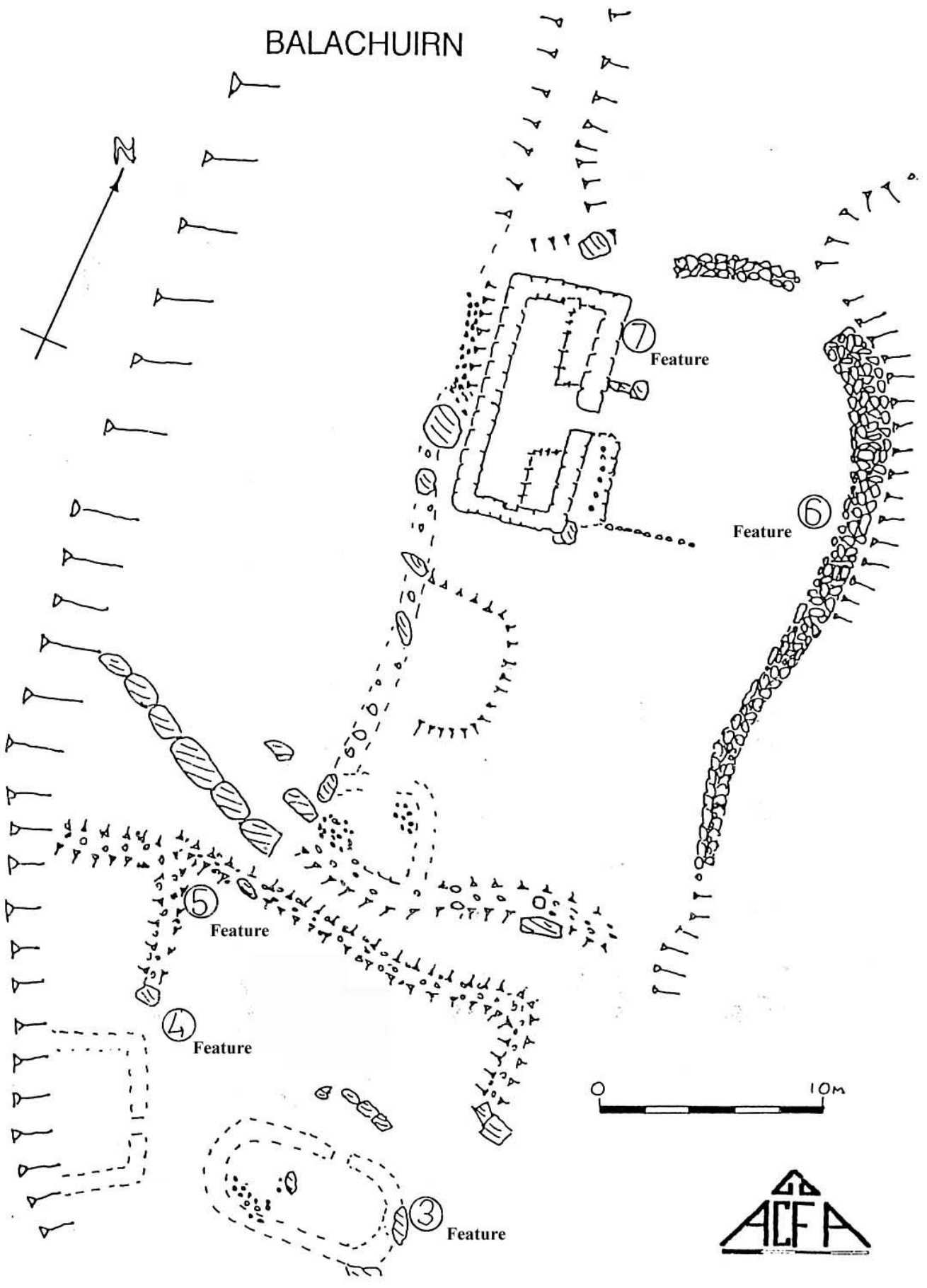
### **Feature 4.** Bi-cameral structure

NG 5546 4073

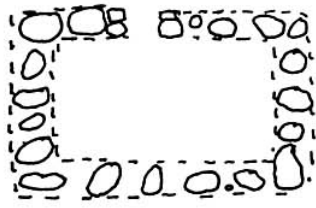
The low-lying remains of a bi-cameral structure measuring 16m overall with a division across its centre. It is situated 3m west of feature 3 and is lying roughly north-south on its long axis. It is constructed from large, moss-covered stones, and is divided by a post and wire fence. There



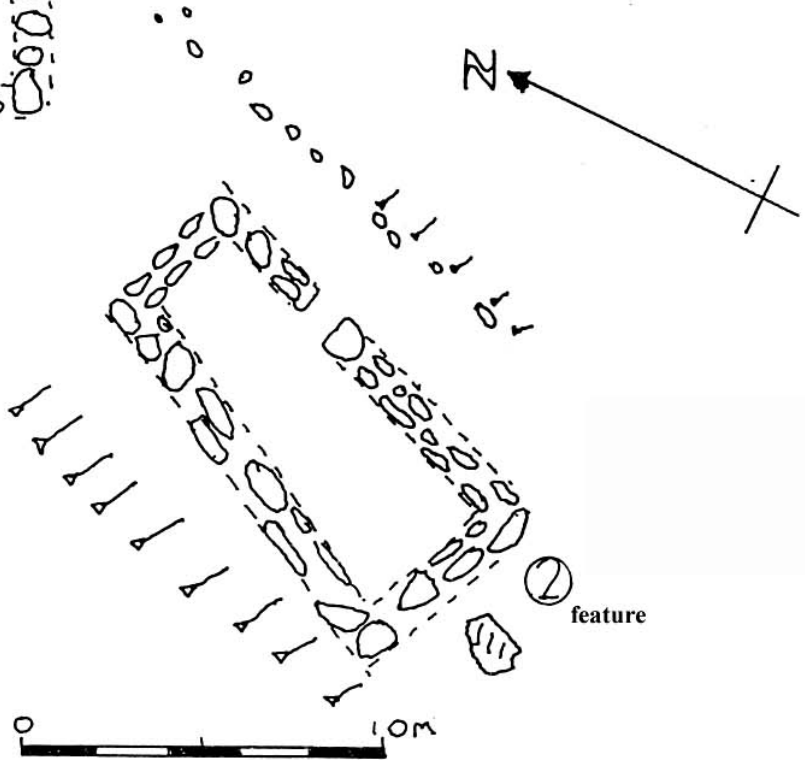
# BALACHUIRN



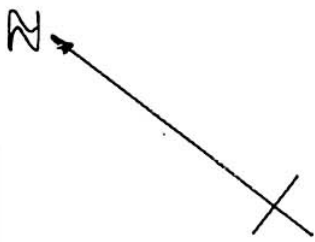
# BALACHUIRN



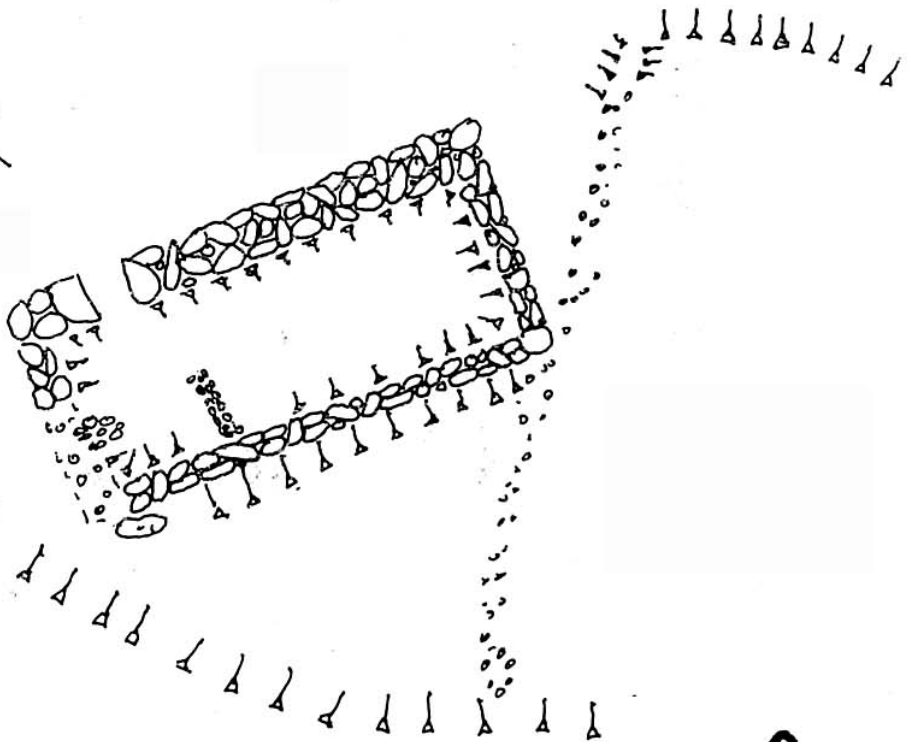
Feature ①



feature ②



Feature ③



is an entrance in each section of the structure, in the east wall. The stonework of the structure is built into the steep hillside on the west side and there is a considerable amount of large boulder tumble in the interior.

**Feature 5. Field Banks**

NG 5546 4075

From the northeast corner of structure feature 4 a stone and turf wall runs eastwards, passing 8m from feature 3. and curving to the south for 6m once past the east end of feature 3. Some 2m north of this walling, another wall is built into the hillside and runs eastwards. The initial 12m of this walling are built of very large boulders, almost 1m high and thick, with smaller stone packing between them. The walling, at 12m from the hillside, meets a large stone and turf built bank which runs northwards across the whole site, roughly parallel with the hillside. This bank is, in places, more than 1.5m high and has some very large boulders incorporated into it. The bank cuts uphill, beyond the limits of this site, and continues towards Inbhir.

**Feature 6. Field Bank & Wall**

NG 5547 4076

At the junction of the banks noted above a turf bank with some stones built into it runs eastward to the edge of the modern track. This bank is, on average, 0.5m high and 1m wide. A substantial dry-stone wall then runs northwards, revetting the bank above the modern track and curving round to meet the northeast corner of feature 7. This walling, combined with the walling to the south and West, effectively forms an enclosure around feature 7. In the southwest corner of this enclosure, low moss-covered stone walling forms a sub-rectangular enclosure. A quantity of stone lies heaped in the southwest corner. The purpose of this structure is not clear. Suggested uses were a store, a midden or, tentatively, a kiln. 3m north of this small enclosure is a sub-circular raised area, about 0.4m high, grass covered with some stone felt beneath, which was thought to be the remains of either a midden or a stack stand. 4m north of this lies feature 7.

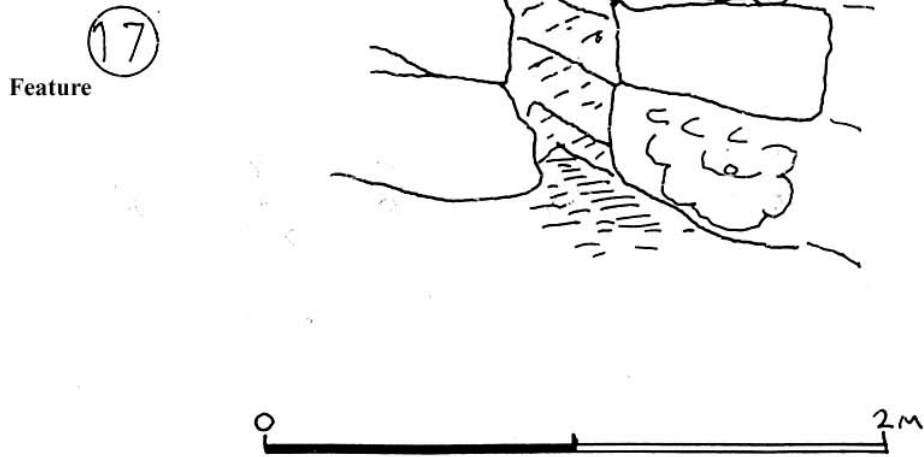
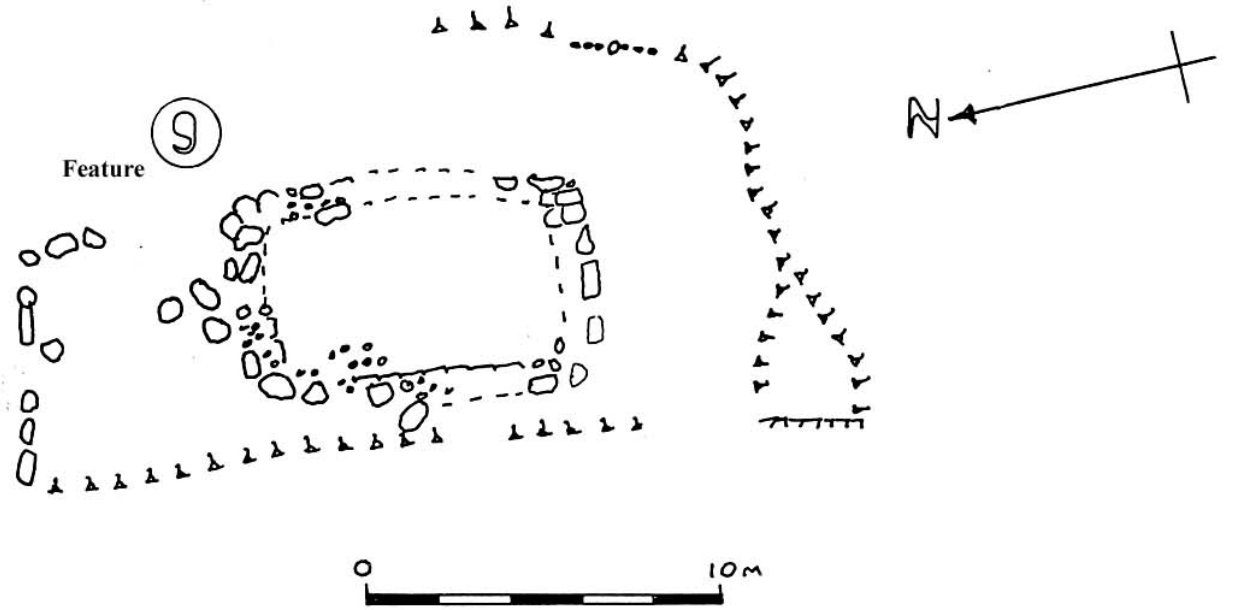
**Feature 7. House**

NG 5546 4076

A rectangular house lies roughly north-south on its long axis and measures 11m x 5m. It is of dry-stone construction with walls still standing at the highest point to 1.6m high. At places where the walling is broken it can be seen that the walls are double-faced with stone and rubble infill. An entrance, 1m wide, lies in the east wall. Refilled sections in the east wall on either side of the doorway suggest earlier windows. In both the north and the south walls an infilled section suggests that a fireplace has been filled in. In the northeast and southeast corner modern wooden sections have formed bучts for working with sheep. To the north of the doorway, outside the house, a short, 2m, length of stones has been set into the ground. To the south of the doorway a setting of stones has been laid in a curving line from the doorway to the end of the house where it meets a setting of stones running down to the east for 5m. Modern gating then lies between the end of this line of stones and the edge of the modern track. Around the house and within the enclosure the ground is grassy and clear of stones, in sharp contrast to the area between the enclosing bank and the hillside to the west which is covered with very large boulder tumble.

A post and wire fence divides the above section of the site from an area of ground which is boggy and strewn with great quantities of very large boulder tumble. Among these boulders lie features 1 & 2.

# BALACHUIRN



**Feature 8. House**

NG 5542 4085

A sub-rectangular structure measuring 14m x 7m situated on the hillside above and to the south of the modern, occupied house and below a rocky scarp. It lies roughly northwest-southeast on its long axis in an area of ground with 2 clearance cairns on it. The house has been dug into the ground with the 'floor' lying below the surrounding ground height. To the south the wall has been built into the hillside. The walls are of dry-stone construction with double faces and rubble infill. They remain standing to a height of 1.1m at the tallest point in the southwest. The entrance lies in the north wall. There was no evidence of windows or fireplaces. A low setting of stones 2m long at about 3m from the west wall suggests some internal walling foundations. The interior contained some stone which was grass and bracken covered. From the rocky scarp at the west of the house, low rough stone walling runs past the southeast corner and continues on to the edge of the steep drop to the track, effectively cutting the house off from the area of cleared ground to the south. To the northwest of the house is a shallow sub-circular depression about 4m x 2m which was thought to be natural. Above the rocky scarp to the west a track has led up to an area of cleared ground with clearance heaps in it and some natural outcrop. It was not possible to determine rig in this area with any certainty. This area was bounded to the southwest by the large turf and boulder bank described earlier which is visible running across the hillside to the north.

**Feature 9. House**

NG 5553 4074

A sub-rectangular structure lying approx southwest-northeast and measuring 8m x 5m. Walls are constructed from large boulders with smaller stone infill. The walls are 1m wide and in places are 0.8m high. There is an entrance in the centre of the north wall which measures 1.1m wide. The east wall is much broken down at its central part. The interior is grassy with a certain amount of rubble and rubbish.

Extending to the north end of the house for 6m are stones/boulders indicating an extension with an entrance in the centre of the north wall but again broken in the east side and with a grassy interior. There is the possibility of a platform area around the south end of the house with occasional stone visible.

The house lies east of a hillock of 22m x 15m [aligned southwest-northeast] with some field clearance on natural rock outcrop. It has a central depression approx 7m in diameter. In the west slope is a peculiar configuration in the outcrop face where a cleft appears to be artificially enlarged with stone added at the top [see note on feature 17].

**Feature 10.**

NG 5550 4076

A depressed grassy area 100m x 12m which lies between the road and the previous features. This appears to have been under cultivation at one time, narrow strips may indicate that potato crops have been grown here. A well built revetment supports the road. There are two terraces giving three slightly different levels with outcrop and clearance encroaching from the road side.

**Feature 11. Cairn**

NG 5551 4076

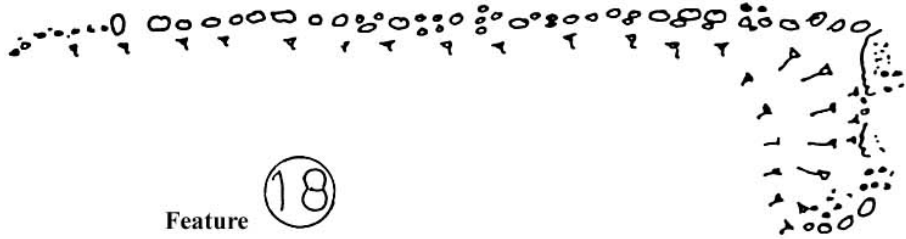
Field clearance cairn 5m x 7m and 1.5m high on top of outcrop.

**Feature 12. Cairn**

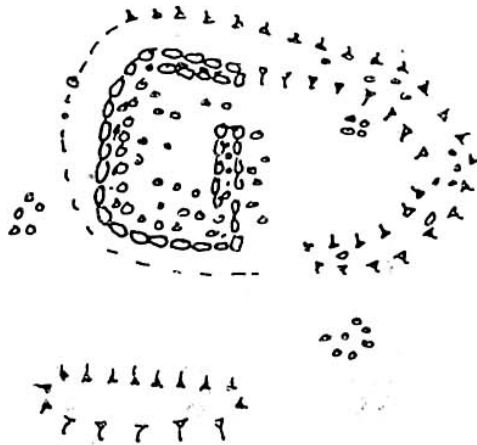
NG 5551 4078

Field clearance cairn 1.5m diameter.

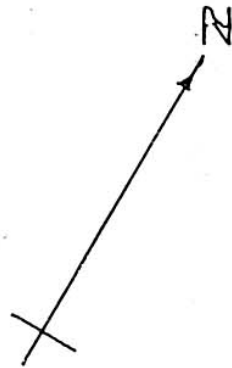
# BALACHUIRN



Feature (18)



Feature (19)



**Feature 13.** Cairn NG 5551 4079

Field clearance cairn 3m in diameter and 1m high on top of outcrop.

**Feature 14.** Mound NG 5550 4080

Grass covered mound, 5m in diameter.

**Feature 15.** Cairn NG 5550 4076

Field clearance cairn, 2m in diameter.

**Feature 16.** Scoop NG 5551 4076

Oval shaped scoop with clearance material, 3m x 6m.

**Feature 17.** Cleft NG 5551 4074

Cleft in rock face.

**Feature 18.** Stone Alignment NG 5550 4094

A line of stones of varying sizes on a slope lies east-west with a curved extension at the east uphill end. Purpose unknown.

**Feature 19.** House NG 5555 4092

A sub-rectangular structure lying east-west which measures 5m x 4m. It is constructed of large stones interspersed with smaller ones. It has rounded corners with an entrance 1.1m wide in its NE corner. The wall reaches a maximum height of 0.8m at its south end. The house is lying on the remains of an earlier structure which measures 11m x 7m overall.

**Feature 20.** House NG 5570 4076

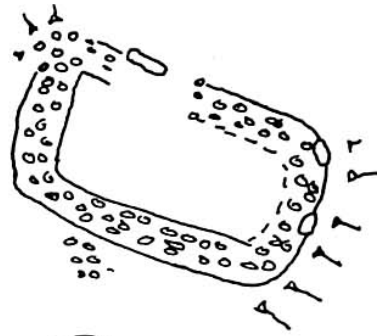
A sub-rectangular structure lying east-west which measures 8m x 5m overall. It is constructed from drystone walling comprised of large stones interspersed with smaller ones. The wall is 0.5m high in places with rounded corners and an entrance 0.7m wide in its north wall. It is very tumbled with a great deal of stone in the interior. There is a tree growing out of the centre of the house with rotted branches and fencing wire piled beside it.

Lying 2m to the west is a small depression with some stone visible surrounding it. It is approximately 4m square.

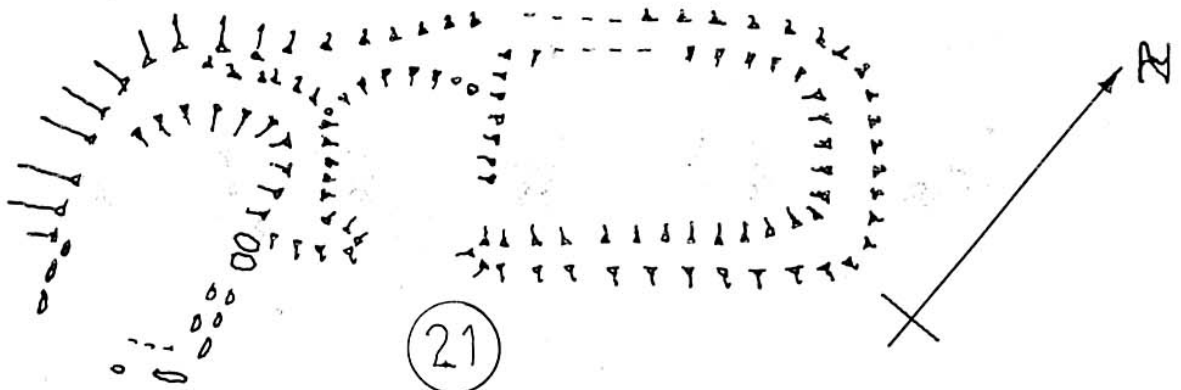
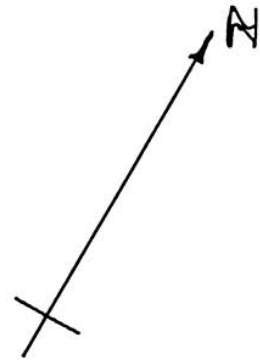
**Feature 21.** House NG 5574 4067

A sub-rectangular structure which measures 8m x 4.5m lying approximately north-south on a slope. It is constructed from turf banking with a few large stones visible. There is an entrance 1.1m wide in approximately the centre of the west wall. The interior is grassy with a few scattered stones.

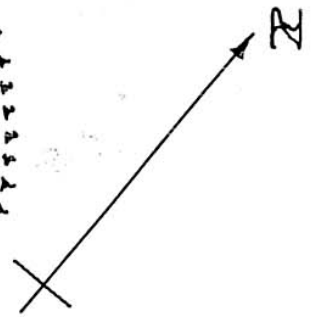
# BALACHUIRN



20



21





Adjacent to the house and lying upslope is an enclosed extension which measures 3m x 4m with a large 2m opening in its south side. It is constructed of banks which are grass covered with some stone visible and are 0.5m high.

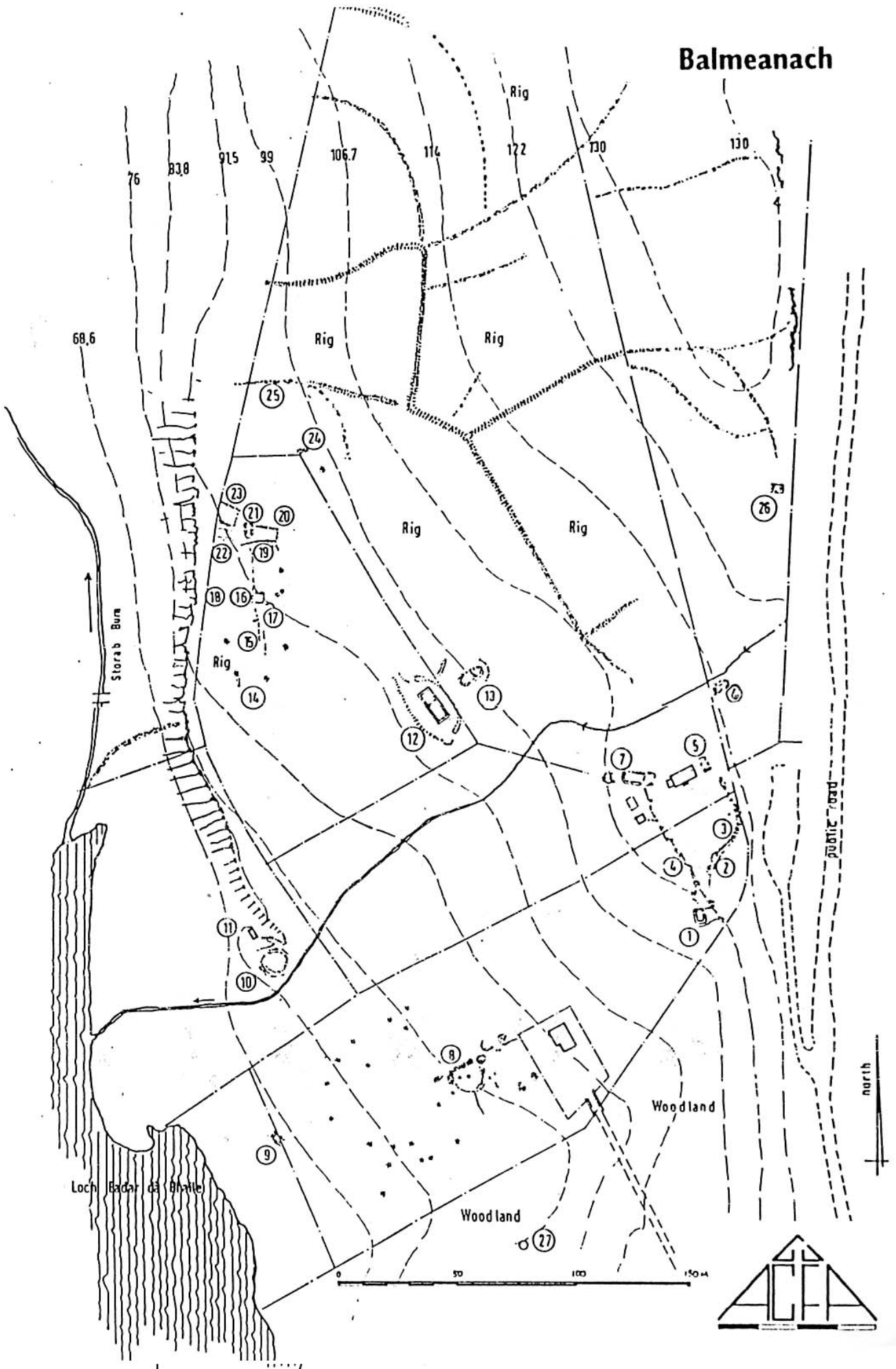
Situated upslope and into the trees is an enclosure which measures 10m x 6m. It is constructed of banks which are grass covered with stone visible and are 0.5m high. In the interior are the remains of a blackcurrant bush and some rhubarb roots. Obviously this enclosure has been the house garden.

**Feature 22.** Field bank

NG 5557 4091

A field bank, constructed of turf with stone visible, curves round from the cleared area near feature 19 and then into the rough moorland beyond the modern boundary fence.

# Balmeanach



## BALMEANACH

NG 559 409

Balmeanach township lies on the steeper east bank of the valley of the Storab Burn, overlooking the Loch Eadar da Bhaile. (OD 60 m) It is west of the road, (OD 103 m) bounded on the south by woodland and the poorer ground to the north. There are the remains of various structures and features associated with agriculture and two houses in use today. The land is pasture in the southern part of the township. Evidence of long agricultural use in all other areas still exists, with a system of field banks of various ages.

### Feature 1 Bothy

NG 5603 4090

It is a drystone rectangular building, 5 m by 3 m internally, aligned north to south along its long axis. It is built into the slope on the north and west sides. The inside of the north wall and the outside of the south wall, are battered. The corners are rounded inside and out. The walls are uniformly 0.8 m in width and stand 1.5 m high internally, probably the original height. The foundation courses contain some large boulders up to 1 m across. The entrance is on the north east corner and is 1 m wide. The south of the entrance, still standing, is built with squared corners. The north side at the entrance has fallen. To the south the ground falls away quite steeply and has been revetted with large boulders to form a level walkway 1.5 m broad, parallel to the south wall. This gives access to the door on the east side and to an entrance through the tumbled stone wall which passes diagonally to the east 4 m from the building. This entrance is accessed by a path that approaches from the north.

To the north, 2.6 m from feature 1 is a stone setting shaped like a "D". The setting does not link up with the tumbled wall that passes diagonally to the east (going north west to south east) but the area it defines seems to be slightly higher than the ground immediately to the west. This building has very little vegetation growing between the stones and does not appear to be particularly ancient. Perhaps a date in the late 19th century would be appropriate. It is probably a bothy or shepherd's hut.

### Feature 2 Rig

Immediately to the north east of Feature 1 there is a small patch of fragmentary rigs, each about 3 m broad running north east to south west. The patch is about 10 m diameter. The rigs peter out in unimproved ground with many outcrops on the east and south. On the north and west the ground has been cleared and flattened. It would appear that this area has originally been used for arable agriculture but has been flattened and put down to grazing.

### Feature 3 Wall

This wall runs along the foot of rising ground south east of Balmeanach cottage. In places it forms a revetment. A path runs alongside the wall towards feature 1.

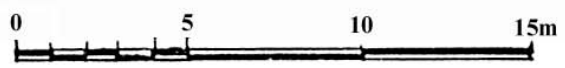
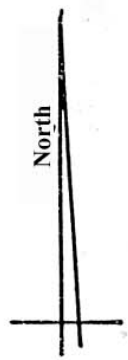
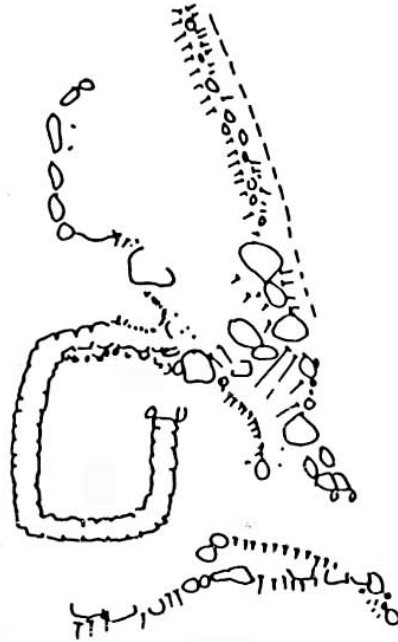
### Feature 4 Wall

This is a tumbled stone wall 55 m in length running north west to south east from a stone pillar situated 16 m south west of Balmeanach cottage to terminate at a wire fence on the edge of the cultivated area 5 m south east of feature 1. The wall averages 0.6 m high, surmounted by a more recent wire fence.

These walls, features 3 and 4, appear to form an enclosure.

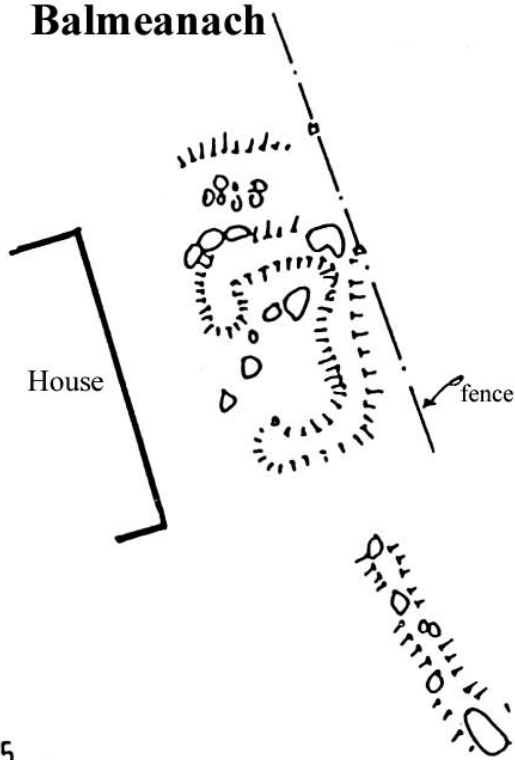
# Balmeanach

Feature ①

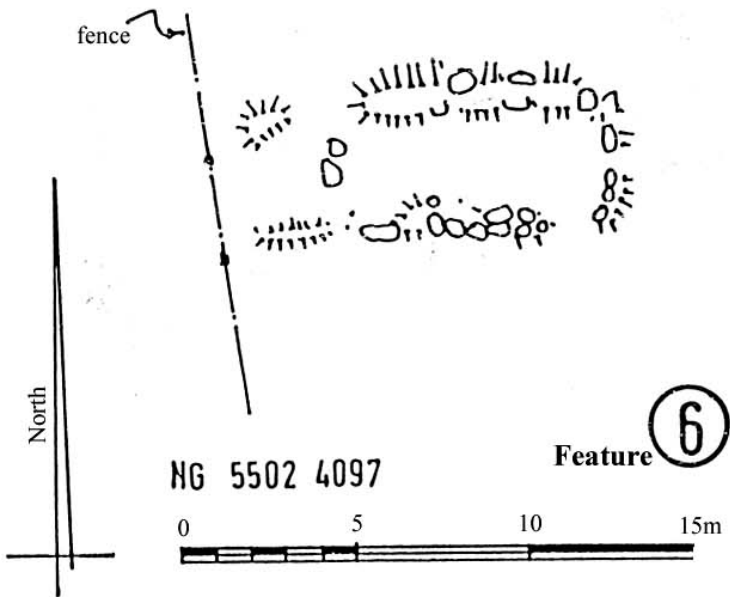


Balmeanach

Feature 5



NG 5503 4095



NG 5502 4097

Feature 6



**Feature 5** Enclosure or shed

NG 5603 4095

This is a fragmentary sub rectangular enclosure located 2.5 m from the east gable of Balmeanach cottage. The enclosure is 6.4 m by 4.3 m externally and consists of a stony bank up to 0.3 m high. The west side, nearest the cottage has a large gap 3 m wide, perhaps an entrance. On the NE is a built corner of 2 courses.

To the north, immediately adjoining feature 5, is a rectangular hollow about half the dimensions of feature 5.3 m by 2 m. This feature does not appear to be a fragment of a larger structure, It is a small single building, perhaps a shed. There is loose stone inside the structure and in the hollow to the north recent disturbance.

**Feature 6** House

NG 5604 4100

The remains of a sub rectangular house, measuring 9 m by 5 m, is aligned east to west. It consists of a fragmentary stony bank, averaging 0.4 m high, with rounded corners on the east. At several points on both the long walls there are wall faces showing 2-3 courses high. To the west there is a small extension, continuing the line of the side walls but much slighter, perhaps built of turf with a little stone. This extension is 4.2 m by 2.2 m. There is an opening on the south east corner which may be an original entrance but no built door jambs are visible. Stone has been robbed from this structure. There is peat in the immediate area and inside the structure.

**Feature.7** House

NG 5601 4095

The remains of a house, aligned east to west, are positioned to the north west of the porch of Balmeanach cottage. The east end has been disturbed, presumably by the building of the porch but the house appears to have survived to its full length of 17 m by 7 m . The west end is rounded. There is an internal division 4 m from the east end which appears to be original. There is an opening in the south east corner which might be an entrance. The wall has a face 2 courses high on the north west corner. The wall averages 0.4 m, rising to 1.1 m at the west end where the ground begins to fall away.

5 m to the west of feature 7 there is a D shaped feature, perhaps a fragment of a structure. It has a built face around its rounded west point. This feature is 6 m by 4 m.

**Feature 8** D shaped structure

NG 5592 4081

A flattened "D" shaped area is some 12 m long north east to south west and 8 m wide north west to south east. It is bounded by a natural outcrop on the north west through to the south east utilising the natural land formation and clearance stones. The south is designated by a lynchet like lip. Within the area are two small circular marks of cobbling covered with vegetation each with a diameter of 1 m

Clearance cairns close by the north east and east occur over natural outcrops. Stumps of three fence posts, with some old wiring, occur around the site suggesting that the area had been partly enclosed.

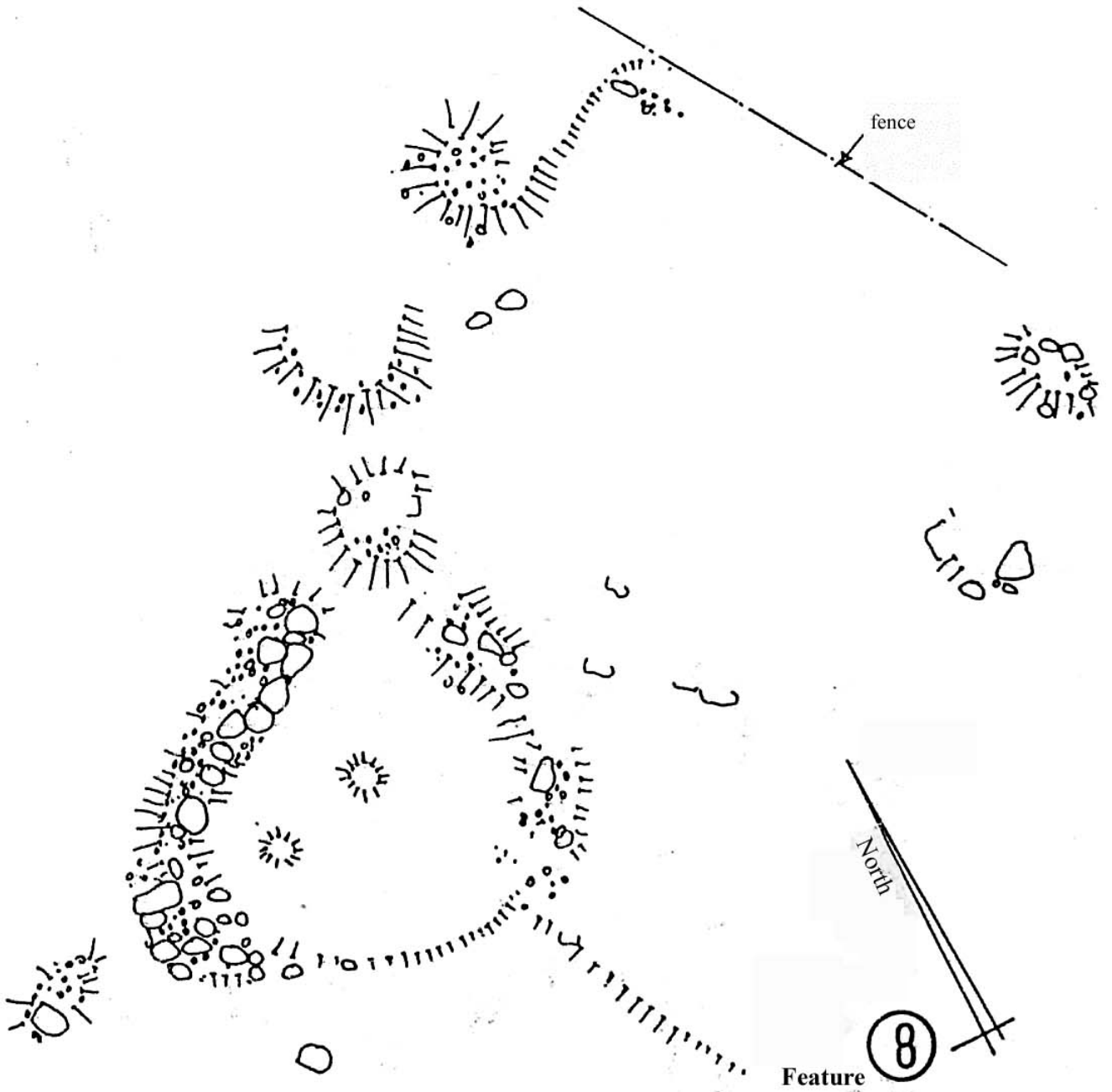
It is suggested that this was an animal feeding compound of recent date and that the two small circles in the centre were the stances for feeding bins with the clearance cairns being of an earlier period.

**Feature 9** Possible sheep pen

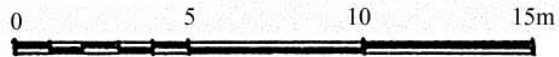
NG 5584 4479

This is a rectangular stone structure lying approx. north to south, 3.5 m by 1.5 m internally. It is built into a slope of natural rock on the east side with a dry stone facing The walling to the

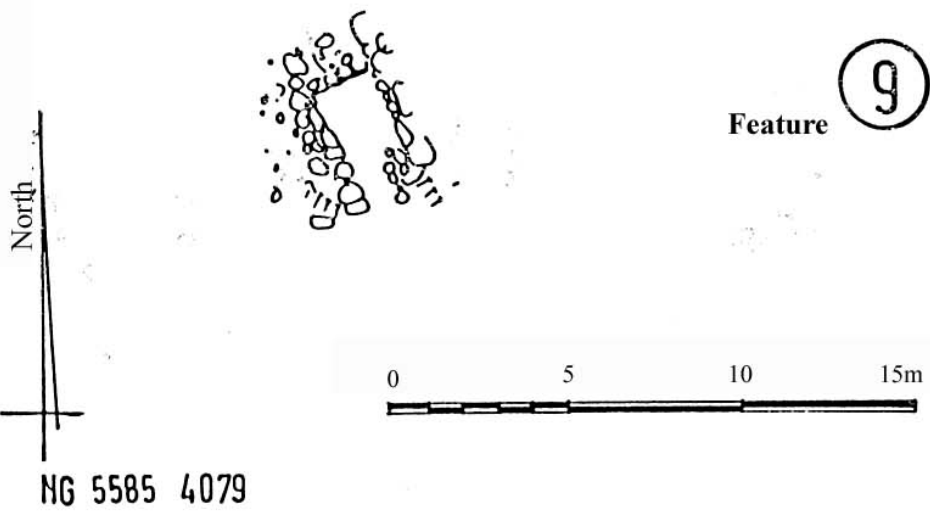
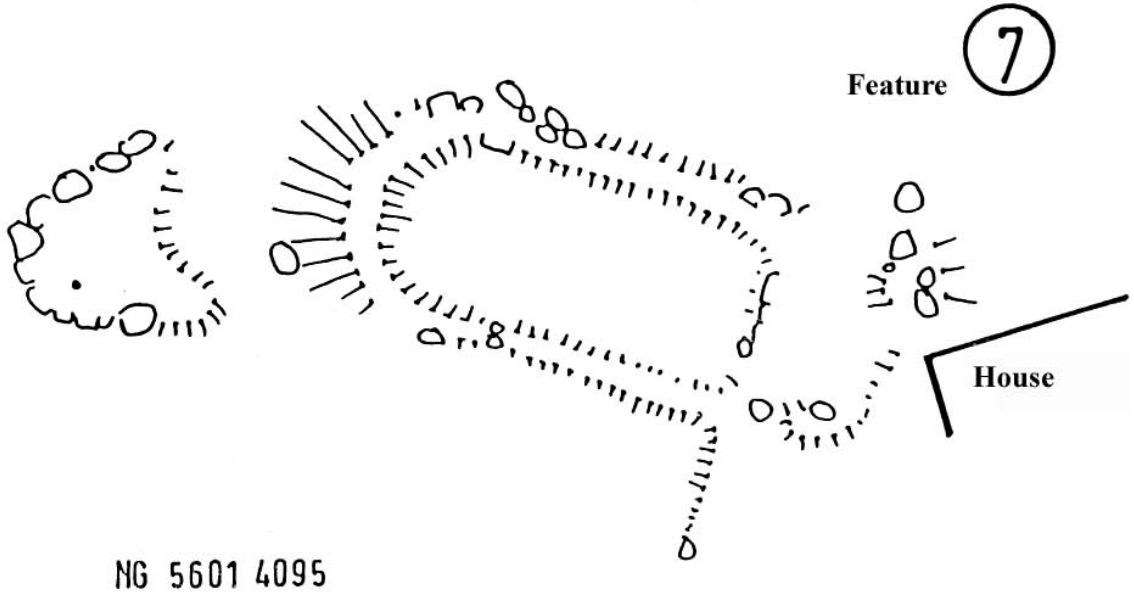
# Balmeanach



NG 5595 4081



# Balmeanach





west and south stands 1 m high. A narrow entrance occurs in the south .  
Between features 8 and 9, centred on NG 559 408 there are many clearance cairns of average diameter 1 m shown on the area plan.

**Feature 10 Platform**

NG 5583 4089

This is a roughly circular platform, 11 m in diameter. It is a natural feature, formed by a projection of the underlying rock but it has evidence of artificial shaping. To the east the slope has been scooped and the same hollowing is visible in the southwest quadrant. On the north arc, outcropping has been added, to create a curving bank. An opening on the northwest may be an original entrance. To the west and south, the ground falls away very steeply.

**Steps** 4 m to the north there is a curving flight of narrow, rough steps giving access to the lower, flat and improved area that runs along the foot of the slope by the side of the loch.

**Feature 11 Stone bothy**

NG 5584 4090

This is a sub rectangular drystone building measuring 6.6 m by 4.5 m. It is located on improved level ground 58 m from the east shore of Loch Eadar da Bhaile and is tucked under wooded crags. The walls are well built, 1 m thick and stand to their original height of 2 m, apart from some collapse in the east side of the gable and on the interior of the north gable. The building is slightly trapezoidal, being wider at the north end. There is an entrance on the west side, facing the loch. The jambs are slightly splayed towards the outside. In the south gable there is a half of a splayed opening, but only the upper part is visible so that it is unclear whether it is a door or a window.

Feature 11 is probably a bothy or shepherd's hut and does not appear to be particularly old, perhaps later 19th century.

To the west there is a short flight of rough steps giving access to this area from the higher ground to the east ( these steps are also mentioned in relation to feature 10)

**Feature 12 House**

NG 5592 4099

A substantially built house is situated on the north side of the burn which runs through the settlement at Balmeanach. It lies on a scooped and banked platform. The house measures 11.2 m by 4.4 m internally with wall thickness of 0.7 m, standing 2 m high in places. There is an opening 1.6 m wide on the south west side 1.5 m from the north west corner. On the same wall are two blocked doors and midway along the opposite wall is a partly blocked up window. The foundations of a secondary partition can be seen 5 m from the north west gable. Centrally placed in each gable is a fireplace, each with a massive 'sandstone' lintel. The lintel in the south gable has several fossils exposed on the surface of the stone. The interior shows traces of parging with mortar particularly on the lower courses. Remains of timber roof trusses and domestic debris attest to its use, probably, first as a house and latterly as a steading.

There are two small banks up the slope north of the house running up the hill, disappearing just short of the high stone and earth bank

**Feature 13 Structure**

NG 5594 4099

Across the new fence to the east at 12 m from feature 12 are the remains of an older structure, probably a house, 11 m by 5 m internally lying north east to south west. It is outlined by a few stones on the downhill slope and a bank around the uphill side. The upper section appears to have been reused as the foundations of a small structure some 5 m in diameter, with a small gap in the north corner.

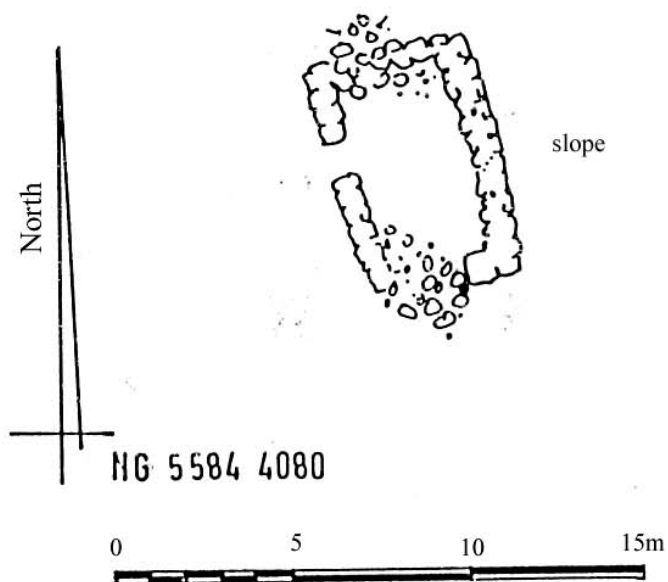
# Balmeanach



feature **10**

NG 5586 4089

Feature **11**

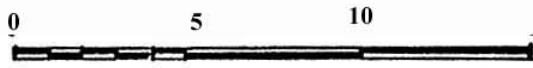
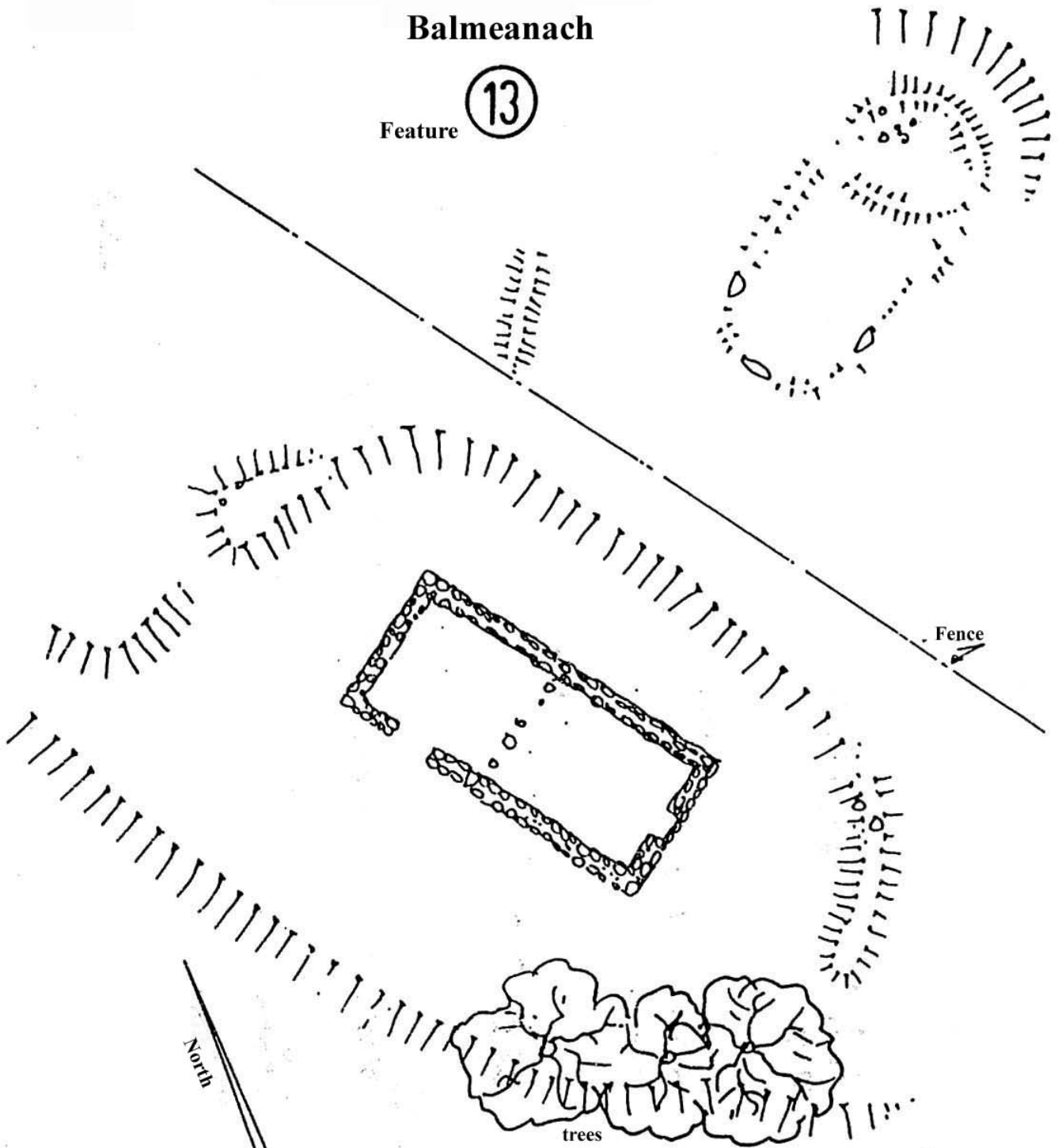


NG 5584 4080



Balmeanach

Feature ⑬



Feature ⑫



### **Area centred on NG 5584 4106**

At the bottom of the slope there is a flat area of ground bounded by the modern fence on the east, woodland on the north, a fence along the top of the cliff on the west and another fence on the south. This area has all the signs of old cultivation showing at the edges of the most recently improved ground which is bracken free pasture. Running north to south along this area of improved ground a low band of outcrop, over 50 m long and on average 12 m wide, rises above the general ground level. It has birch trees and scrub covering its north end. It is on and around this outcrop that the following features lie. Also around this area are several clearance cairns averaging 2 m in diameter and varying in height. These have not been described individually.

#### **Feature 14 Rig**

An area showing some wide drainage features or rig lies to the south west of the outcrop

#### **Feature 15 Bank**

A very low bank 5 m long and 0.5 m wide runs west of the outcrop.

#### **Feature 16 Structure**

NG 5584 4104

A small structure measuring 4.2 m by 2.4 m rises to a maximum height of 1.5 m. The back wall of this structure is revetted into the outcrop. The side walls are dry stone built, double skinned with a rubble core but there was no evidence of a front wall. It appears to be a fairly recent structure.

#### **Feature 17. Quarry scoop**

A small curved quarry scoop 3 m east to west and 1 m wide probably associated with the building of feature 4.

#### **Feature 18.**

Narrow grass covered spread of stone some 8 m long running westwards from the outcrop band. Some low furrows run westwards from the outcrop north of this feature.

#### **Feature 19 Wall**

NG 5583 4106

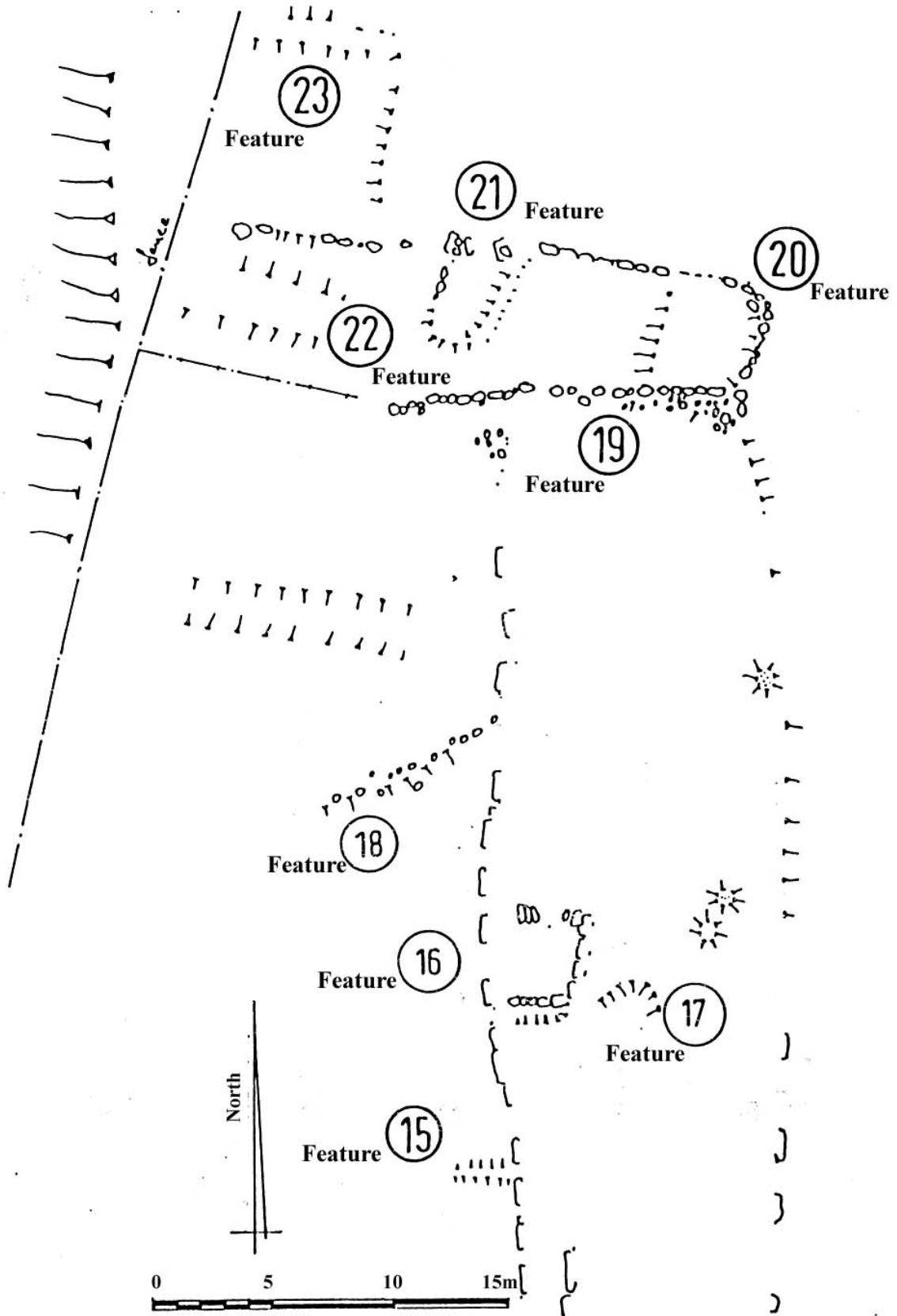
A wall running east to west some 15 m in length. The north side is defined with large stones with small stone rubble on the south side. A large area of clearance lies on the south east side amongst trees. Old iron fence posts follow the line of this wall westwards towards the fence along the cliff edge.

#### **Feature 20 Wall**

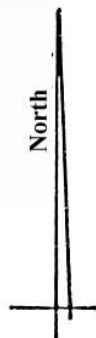
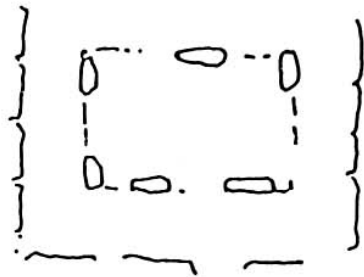
NG 5584 4107

The remnants of a wall constructed of large stones form an enclosure with feature 19. The east enclosing wall appears to be loose rubble lying on bed rock. Much small stone clearance has been piled on the south side of the wall. The enclosure has an average width of 5 m. Within this enclosure there is a slight change of level 4 m from the east.

# Balmeanach



# Balmeanach



Feature (26)

NG 5605 4108



### **Feature 21** Structure

Within the area described above the faint remains of a small structure, 4 m by 2 m, can be traced in a low grass covered stone bank. An entrance 1 m wide lies on the north side.

### **Feature 22** Rig

A small area to the west of feature 21 is enclosed by an old iron fence to the south and the boundary fence to the west and a continuation of feature 20, which at this point is of grass covered stone. Within this area can be seen evidence of rig.

### **Feature 23**

NG 5582 4109

An area 8 m by 8 m lies slightly lower than the surrounding field as if treated differently in the fairly recent past.

A modern fence joins the western one almost at the same place as the older one. Remnants of the posts of the old fence shown on the 1:10,000 map can be seen.

### **Feature 24** Clearance cairn

A large clearance cairn 3 m by 4 m lies on the slope.

### **Feature 25** Field bank

A very substantial 'crisp' edged stone field bank over 1 m high in parts.

**Notes.** West of the new fence, just above the new pasture land, signs of the earlier cultivation appear as rigs which run up and down the slope continuing up the hillside under the fence. Along the edge of this area are several clearance cairns. These are also dotted over the land east of the fence.

### **Feature 26** Structure

NG 5605 4108

Within the area east and north east of the features described above the only evidence of a structure was found utilising a flat terrace of outcrop. The foundations of a small structure 6 m by 4 m lie east to west overlooking the deep gully which runs parallel to the road on the east. It may well have been foundations for a worker's hut.

### **Field banks.**

The area to the north shows field banks of several different styles of construction and in different states of preservation. These were roughly surveyed.

The banks nearest to the area already described are well built stone banks which appear in many places to stand to their original height.

To the north of the main bank a similar, slightly less substantial, bank abuts it curving north west in a wooded area. Rig is prominent throughout this area.

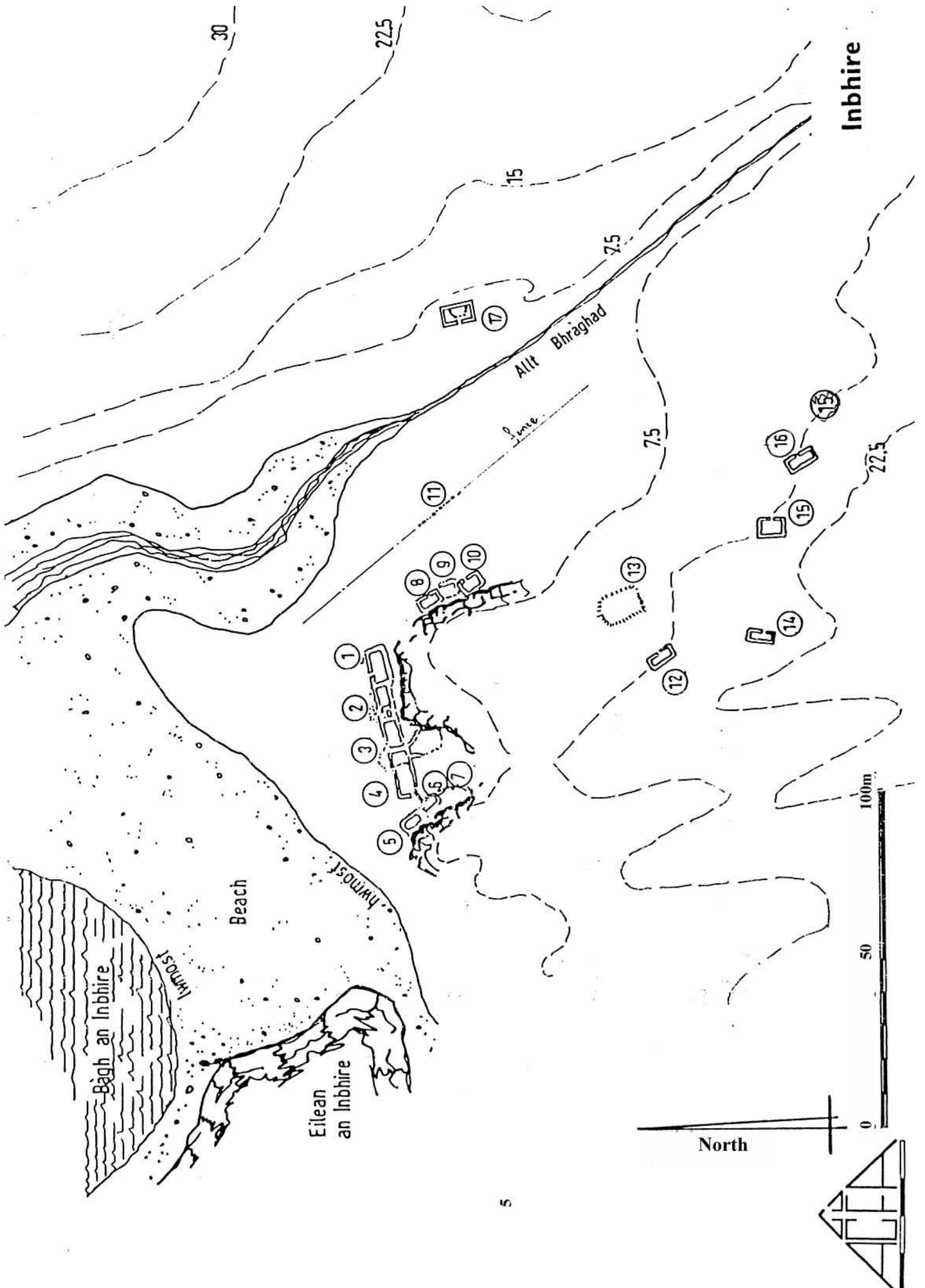
The ground rises to the north and north east and becomes poorer with less evidence of rig and in places the soil (or peat) has been stripped. Across these poorer areas traces of low turf banks, stone and turf banks and boundaries, now marked only by separated stones, can be traced.

**Feature 27** Reported Chambered Tomb

NG 5597 4077

On a northwest facing slope above Balmeanach and in the birch wood, a formation of large stones was reported as the remains of a suspected chambered tomb. Two very large boulders lie on their sides with another very large stone lying on top, forming a roughly triangular cleft 1.5m high by 1.2m across and 1.5m deep. Within the wood the hillside is steep and strewn with large stones and boulders which are the remains of an ancient landslide. The survey teams were not able, however, to discern any evidence of cairn material in the vicinity. It was felt that the setting is probably natural.





## **INBHIRE** NG 5504 4224

The settlement at Inbhire is around the bay where the Allt a' Bhraghad reaches the sea on the west side of Raasay. The bay, looking north west, with its sandy beach is sheltered from the south west by the Eilean an Inbhire. There is no access by road to the shore and Inbhire is reached by a faint track over moorland from Balachuirm on the west side of Loch an Rathaid or by an attractive path through woodland from Brae. However access to the houses from the latter route is dependent on the time of year and tides since the burn can be fast flowing and deep.

The settlement at Inbhire falls naturally into three parts and will be described in this way.

Part 1 A row of connected structures along the main shore of Inbhire bay, just above the high water mark and tucked in under the cliffs

Part 2 A range of buildings located "round the corner" at the foot of the cliffs facing the mouth of the Allt a' Bhraghad;

Part 3 Four structures and an enclosure at a higher level on heather and scrub covered ground above the cliffs.

### **Part 1**

#### **Feature 1** Structure

NG 5503 4224

The most easterly compartment is rectangular, measuring 9.4 m by 4 m (internally) with rounded corners and survives to a height of 0.5 m. There is an entrance on the north side, facing the bay, 6 m from the north east corner. The rear, or south, wall is recessed into the slope. At the south east corner, 1.2 m from the actual corner, a stretch of walling 2 m in length closes the gap between the building and the cliff face.

#### **Feature 2** Structure

The second compartment is similar to the first but slightly narrower, the front wall being a continuation of the wall of the first compartment. In fact the range seems to have been built as a piece, given that the front wall is clearly on one alignment, and the three compartments are of almost the same dimensions, depending on the proximity of the cliff face. Compartment 2 averages 3.2 m in width, given that the cliff is close at this point. At the west end of the second compartment a D-shaped structure has been inserted, 2 m by 2.2 m, internally, perhaps a kiln for smoking fish. This kiln must have been built after this compartment had ceased to perform its primary function.

#### **Feature 3** Structure

The third compartment is similar to the other two, 9.4 m by 4 m, but is even more ruinous. The back wall has been taken down and survives as a straggling bank of stones. Beyond this bank, to the south, a stretch of dry stone walling has been constructed, from the south west corner up to the cliff face. This walling is clearly later than the main range of buildings. Beyond this walling, 5 m from it, there is another stretch of walling which revetts the bank between the two sides of a cleft in the cliff.

### **Feature 9** Structure

The 2<sup>nd</sup> structure is a compartment 5 m by 3 m. The west side is represented by a scoop in the ground at the foot of the cliff and the east side by a curving bank with little stone visible. No entrance can be seen. This feature has the appearance of a robbed out building once like the one above.

### **Feature 10** Structure

The 3<sup>rd</sup> structure is the best built and the best preserved. It measures 5 m by 2.4 m internally and has square corners. There is an entrance on the north east side at the north corner. A lambing pen measuring 2 m externally, has been built in the north west corner. The east wall is battered.

### **Feature 11** Walling

To the east, there are two stretches of walling, each 4 m long, from 23 m from the south east corner of feature 10 to 18 m from the south east corner of feature 8. This 'walling' is in reality stone infill below a wire fence, filling hollows which may be furrows between rigs running from the buildings towards the river Allt a' Bhraghad. Fragments of iron fence wire lie along the line of the walling.

## **Part 3**

On a steep heather and birch scrub covered slope, on the west side of the Allt a' Bhraghad four structures and an enclosure stand on different levels on small patches of less steep ground. These structures have been exceptionally well built of dry stone walling, with two standing almost to the original height. The construction is of large basal stones chosen to form a good foundation on sloping ground. There is evidence of coursing above these very large boulders. The walls are double skinned with rubble fill and the inner skin is constructed of smaller stones than those outside. They have no windows and all the doors face towards the river.

### **Feature 12** House

NG 5505 4216

Almost rectangular, internally measuring 6.5 m x 2.8 m at the north gable and tapering to 2.4 m at the southern end, the walls of this well constructed house stand to a maximum height of 1.3 m inside.

The walls have a width of 0.7-0.8 m at maximum height but the north west gable and the east wall, which is tumbled around the entrance, are about 1.0 m wide at the base, causing a slight batter on the long east wall and what is in effect a plinth, in some parts 0.6 m wide. The north west gable with a batter reaching 0.2 m at the top gable has a very large boulder at its base. The entrance, about 0.8 m wide, lies midway along the east wall.

The features of note internally are the cruck slots occurring in the north corner of the north west gable and 0.6 m from there in the long wall. These average 0.2 m wide. In the other corner of the gable they are less obvious but, as the top of the wall has deteriorated, the internal filling seems to have slipped into the slots. 2 m from the south corner, on the westerly wall a cruck slot 0.5 m high and 0.2 m wide can be seen.

A later addition of a well constructed stone fireplace occurs against the south east gable with a compartment for a fire 0.3 m wide, 0.35 m high and 0.5 m deep. Above this, a stone lined space reaching a width of 0.6 m and depth of 0.3 m, is now topped with an asbestos cement board.

### **Feature 9 Structure**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> structure is a compartment 5 m by 3 m. The west side is represented by a scoop in the ground at the foot of the cliff and the east side by a curving bank with little stone visible. No entrance can be seen. This feature has the appearance of a robbed out building once like the one above.

### **Feature 10 Structure**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> structure is the best built and the best preserved. It measures 5 m by 2.4 m internally and has square corners. There is an entrance on the north east side at the north corner. A lambing pen measuring 2 m externally, has been built in the north west corner. The east wall is battered.

### **Feature 11 Walling**

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## **Part 3**

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### **Feature 12 House**

NG 5505 4216

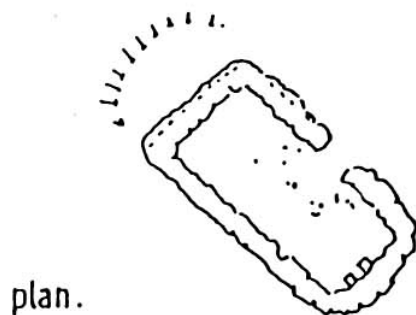
Almost rectangular, internally measuring 6.5 m x 2.8 m at the north gable and tapering to 2.4 m at the southern end, the walls of this well constructed house stand to a maximum height of 1.3 m inside.

The walls have a width of 0.7-0.8 m at maximum height but the north west gable and the east wall, which is tumbled around the entrance, are about 1.0 m wide at the base, causing a slight batter on the long east wall and what is in effect a plinth, in some parts 0.6 m wide. The north west gable with a batter reaching 0.2 m at the top gable has a very large boulder at its base. The entrance, about 0.8 m wide, lies midway along the east wall.

The features of note internally are the cruck slots occurring in the north corner of the north west gable and 0.6 m from there in the long wall. These average 0.2 m wide. In the other corner of the gable they are less obvious but, as the top of the wall has deteriorated, the internal filling seems to have slipped into the slots. 2 m from the south corner, on the westerly wall a cruck slot 0.5 m high and 0.2 m wide can be seen.

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# Inbhire

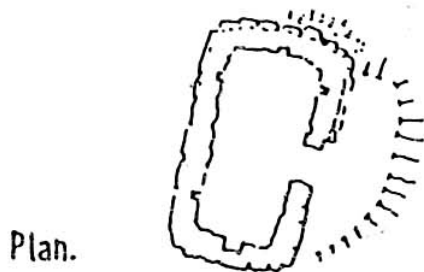


Feature **12**



S.W. elevation.

NG 5505 4216



Feature **14**



West elevation.

NG 5506 4213



**Feature 13** Enclosure

NG 5506 4217

About 15 m north east from feature 12, across a heather filled hollow, is a sub-rectangular enclosure approximately 14.m x 7 m. The bank is mainly turf and stone with more stone on the south side. There are no features in the heather covered interior and the ground on the east falls sharply into a gully.

**Feature 14** House

NG 5506 4213

30 m south of feature 12, on a higher level, a similarly well constructed house stands mostly to its original height. As with feature 12, its south end is narrower than the north end and its gables are rounded. Again very large basal stones have been chosen to form a plinth around the northern half of the building. One stone with stepped appearance has been incorporated into the plinth and its upper part forms the lower part of the wall. There is a substantial batter on the north wall. The wall is of double skin construction with rubble infill. Above the large base stones there is evidence of an attempt at coursing.

Internally it measures 5.6 m in length and 2.4 m at the south gable and 2.8 m at the north gable. The walls are 0.8 m wide at the top and 1 m wide at the base, as is shown at its collapsed entrance which is 1.0 m wide in the centre of the east wall.

The only features internally are the cruck slots, centrally placed on opposing gables and 0.4 m from three of the corners on the long walls. These average 0.15 m wide and vary in height above ground level from 0.8 m to 1 m. The maximum wall height is 1.3 m in the south west corner. While there is slight evidence of a platform outside the entrance, the ground now falls away steeply, making it impossible to walk easily around this house.

**Feature 15** House

NG 5509 4213

Some 20 m east of feature 14 and at a lower level a dry stone structure, 6 m x 4 m internally lies on a narrow terrace, which 1 m east of the structure falls away precipitously. The walls are 0.8 m wide at the top, being battered from 1 m at the base at the north gable on a plinth. As with features 12 and 14 much of the wall stands to its original height.. Its entrance has been in the east. There are no internal features.

**Feature 16** House

NG 5511 4212

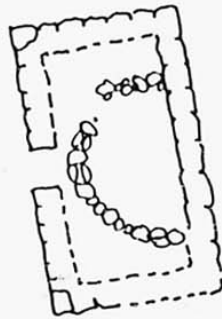
14 m south east of feature 15 a house, almost identical to features 12 and 14 is in a more ruinous state, although parts of the wall stand to the original height. Measuring internally 5.8 m in length, its width increases from 2.4 m to 2.8 m from south to north. The walls have a width of 0.8 m to 1.m. It shows a plinth, constructed of very large stones up to 2 m in length on the north and west sides. The heavily battered north gable is now leaning dangerously to the inside. The entrance has been on the east side.

**Comment**

These four structures show an outstanding quality of building. The beautifully rounded corners, the narrower southern ends, the well chosen basal stones, forming plinths, necessary for stability at the northern ends all indicate construction of a high standard. The gables standing to the same height as the side walls and the presence of cruck slots in no's 12 and 14 indicate that the roofs were hipped.

South of the settlement, centred on NG 5520 4205, there is a fairly large area of flat heather and moor grass covered ground which has been cultivated as rigs can be seen running in several directions

# Inbhire



Feature 17

NG 5516 4222



## Postscript

The settlement of Inbhire lies on the west side of the Allt a'Bhraghad, but one house was noted on the east side of the burn.

### Feature 17 House

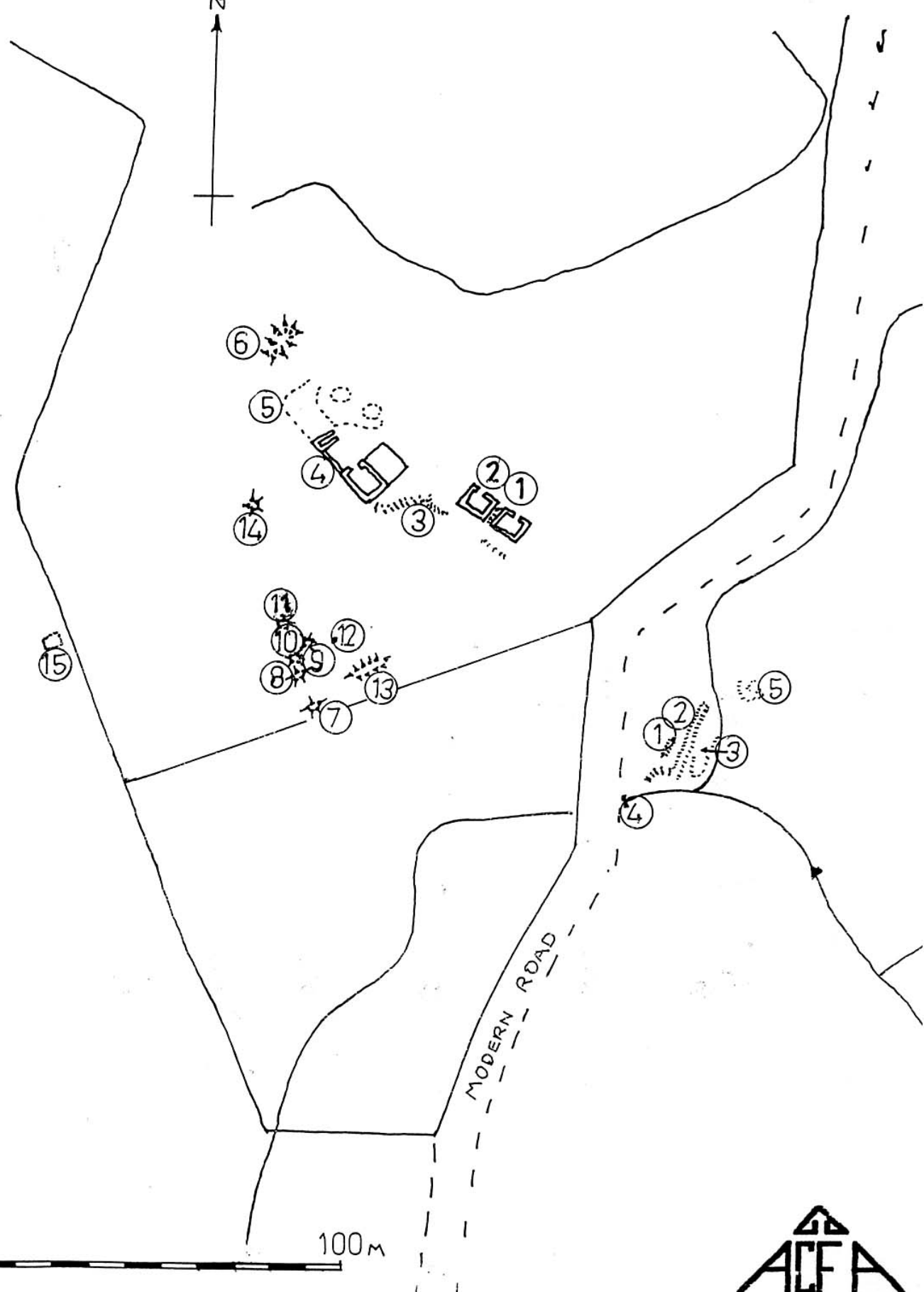
NG 5516 4222

15m east of the Allt a'Bhraghad, a single structure lies on flat ground under some crags, roughly north-south on its long axis. Originally a rectangular structure measuring 7m x 3m internally, of double faced drystone construction with rubble infill. An entrance, 1m wide, lies in the centre of the west wall. The walls have been 0.9m thick. The rear, east, wall is virtually intact and probably stands to its original height - 1.3m at the highest point. The stones from the other walls have been removed to build a D-shaped structure within the original house, 4.2m on its straight side and 2.6m wide at the extent of the arc (internally). An entrance, 1m wide, lies in the north-west.

In the crags to the east of the house a triangular cleft, 1m x 1m x 1.5m deep may be partly natural and partly man-made, possibly a store.



BRAE



## BRAE

West of the Road

NG 561 417

The Township or Farmstead of Brae is situated close to the west side of the road to Brochel and lies on a flat area of ground above the Allt a'Bhraghad. It is uninhabited and consists of two reasonably upstanding houses and the remains of barns or other structures.

### Feature 1. House

NG 5613 4668

A house structure lying north-south which measures 11m x 6m overall. It is well constructed of drystone walling which rises to a height of 1.6m in places and is 1.1m thick. It has square corners and an entrance 1m wide in the centre of the east wall. It also has a window opening situated 1.9m from the southwest corner. There are the remains of a fireplace in the north wall with the lintel lying beside it. The interior is grass covered and, lying beside the south wall, is another large lintel which is possibly from a second fireplace.

On the exterior there is a revetment bank running parallel to the west wall and situated 2m from it and there is a considerable amount of stone scattered around the exterior.

There is a gap of 1.7m between this house and the next which is full of fallen stone work.

### Feature 2. House

NG 5612 4169

Lying on the same alignment as the above house is another house of similar construction. It measures 11m x 6 m with walls standing to a maximum height of 1.5m. It has an entrance 1.2m wide in the east wall in approximately the centre. There are no apparent window openings. At the north end, just visible under a temporary shelter [containing a wheelbarrow and tools], is a fireplace with a lintel stone 1m in length. The interior is grass covered with some fallen rubble.

An extension adjoining the house measures 4m in length and the full width of the house. It has an entrance in its east wall, the walls being much broken down and the interior is rubble filled.

There is an amount of stone around the north and east side which may be the remains of a platform area.

In front of the house are the remains of a possible garden delineated by a low bank with stone visible.

### Feature 3. Turf banks.

NG 5610 4170

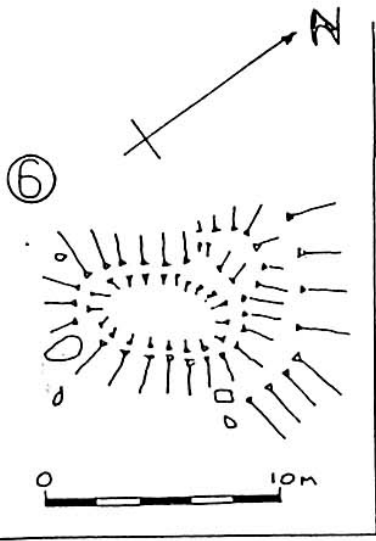
Situated between Features 2 & 4 are a number of turf banks.

### Feature 4. Enclosure & House

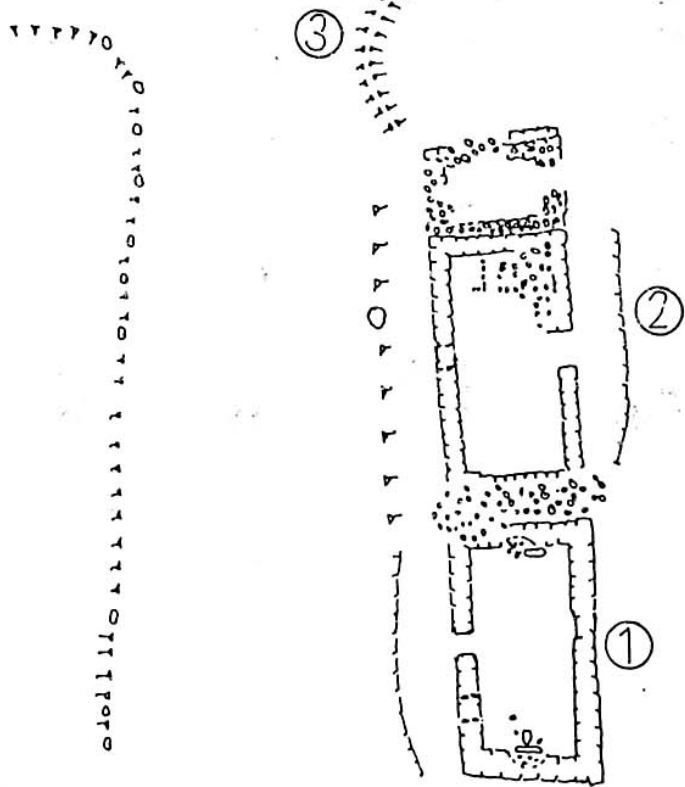
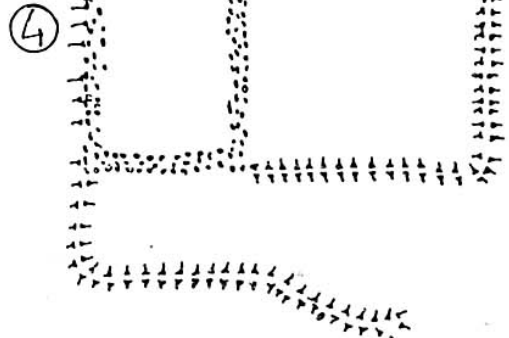
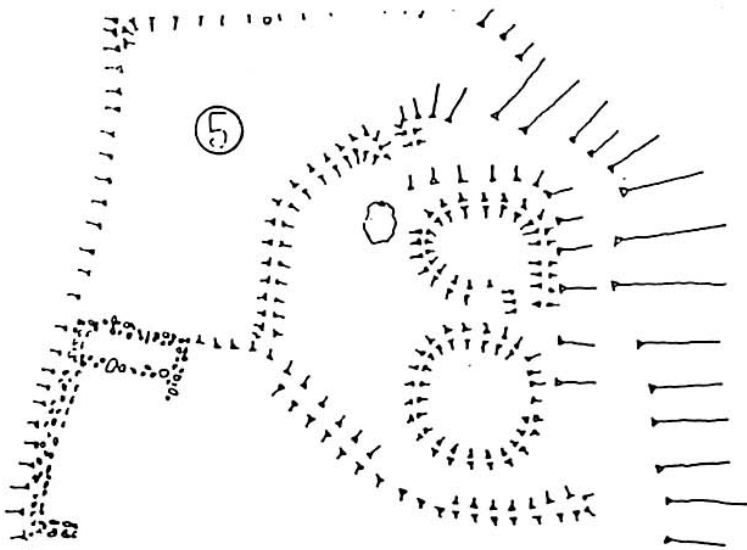
NG 5607 4170

Situated west of Feature 2 is an enclosure of tumbled stone which measures 10m x 6m. It appears to have the remains of a garden attached to its northeast side.

To the north of the enclosure are the possible remains of a double leaved house but the northeast side is missing. The north end has recently been altered for use as a twinning pen.



BRAE  
FARMSTEAD



- Feature 5.** Stockyard NG 5606 4171  
Situating to the north of feature 4 are a number of curved low turf and stone platforms. These may be the remains of a stockyard or of a ring house.
- Feature 6.** House NG 5605 4174  
The remains of a possible sub-rectangular house lying to the north of feature 5 and situated on a small knoll measure 5m x 3m. The structure now appears as a slightly raised lip on the top of the knoll and has a possible entrance facing south.
- Feature 7.** Field Clearance Cairn NG 5607 4164  
Field clearance cairn 4m x 1m.
- Feature 8.** Field Clearance Cairn NG 5607 4165  
Field clearance 1m in diameter.
- Feature 9.** Field Clearance Cairn NG 5607 4165  
Field clearance 1m in diameter.
- Feature 10.** Field Clearance Cairn NG 5607 4166  
Field clearance 1.5m in diameter.
- Feature 11.** Field Clearance Cairn NG 5606 4167  
Field clearance 1m in diameter.
- Feature 12.** Stone NG 5608 4166  
Upright stone 0.5m high and triangular in shape.
- Feature 13.** Mound NG 5609 4165  
A stony mound 6m long and 1.5m to 2m wide and 0.6m high.  
Marked on O.S. 1:25000 map as "Storab's Grave"
- Feature 14.** Field Clearance Cairn NG 5606 4170  
Field clearance 1m in diameter.
- Feature 15.** Sheiling NG 5600 4166  
A small structure, constructed of turf, which measures 5.7m x 4m. A possible sheiling

## **BRAE**

East of modern road.  
NG 5118 4163

A low-lying area, c.70m north-south and c.50m east-west with a burn flowing through it from north to south and joining the Glac Dhorcha. The area is grass covered and fairly dry. There is evidence of some working in this area although the purpose is not clear.

**Feature 1.** Trench NG 5617 4163

A trench, 9m long, dug into the slope with a 1m wide bank along its eastern edge.

**Feature 2.** Channel NG 5618 4164

A shallow channel which appears to have been used to run off water from the burn to the Glac Dhorcha.

**Feature 3.** Platform NG 5618 4163

A raised platform is edged with stones. There is a considerable amount of stone scattered on it with the area at the northeast of the platform suggestive of the remains of a bi-cameral sheiling with sub-circular compartments.

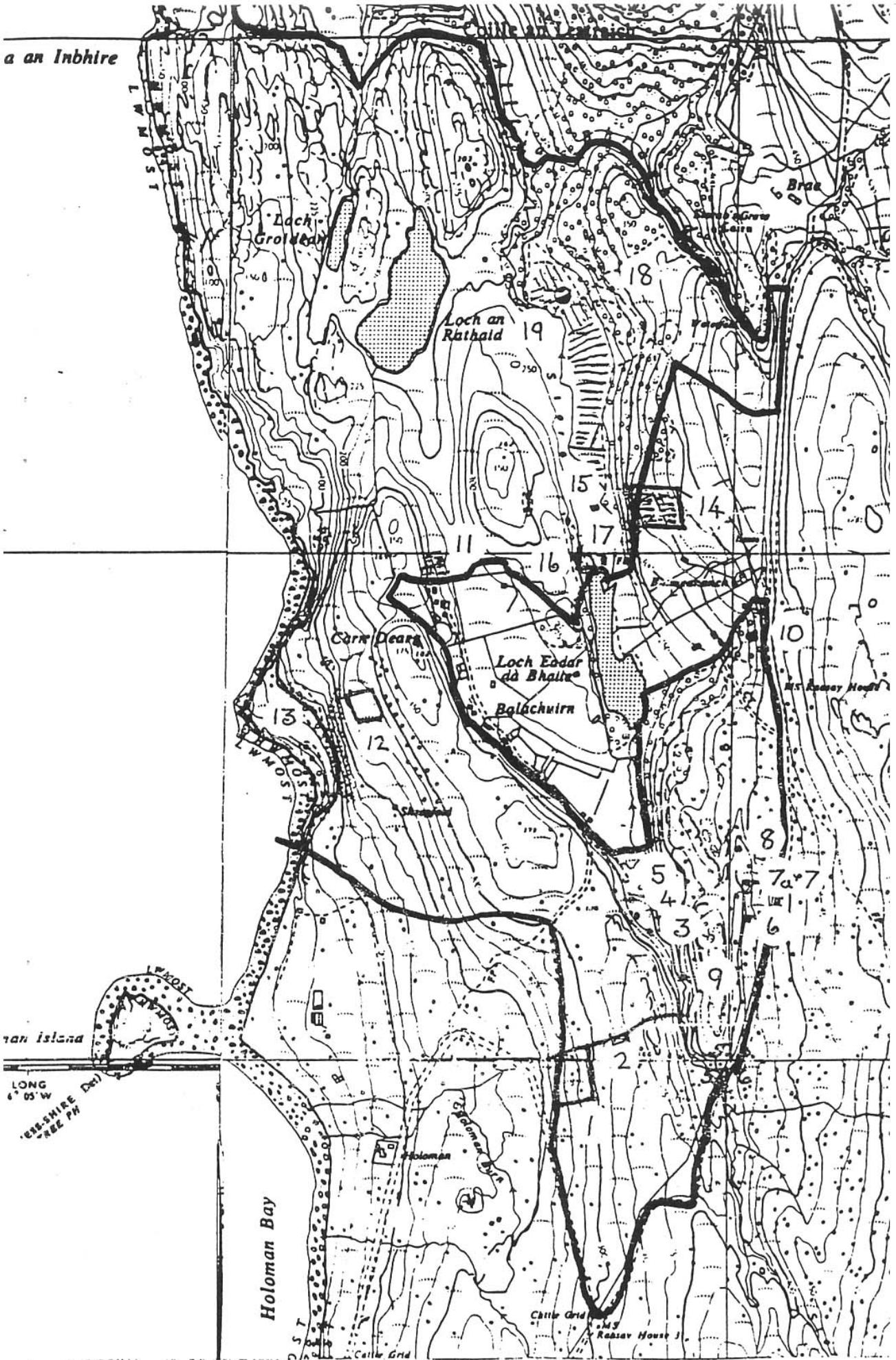
**Feature 4.** Concrete blocks NG 5616 4166

Two concrete blocks on either side of the Glac Dhorcha protrude into the river. Each has a slot in it and this would appear to have been the supports for a sluice gate. It is suggested that this may have been used to stop the flow of water either when the bridge was being built or when it was strengthened to take the weight of the modern road.

**Feature 5.** Stony scatter NG 5619 4165

Across the burn to the east is a stony scatter on a slightly raised bank. Purpose unknown.

a an Inbhire



BOUNDARY OF PERIPHERAL SURVEY

## RAASAY FIELD SURVEY

### Balachuirn to Inbhire

**Feature 1.** Enclosure

NG 5571 3997

Overlooking the road to Balachuirn, just east of the junction with the main road, lying between the 225ft to 300ft contours. A drystone dyke enclosure, about 75m east-west by 100m north-south, constructed of large slabs of stone with uphill (east) boundary revetted into hill slope. The dyke stands to about 1.2m in places particularly on north and east sides. A probable gateway lies about halfway up the southern side. The northern boundary dyke continues beyond the feature for about 200m to the top of the ridge. The feature is already recorded on OS map (1:10,000).

**Feature 2.** Shepherd's shelter

NG 5578 4005

On the south side of feature 1 about 40m east and above the enclosure, at 325ft contour lies a subrectangular drystone structure abutting the dyke. It measures 2.5m east-west x 1.5m. The entrance is in the east. About 1m of walling is still upstanding in the southwest corner.

**Feature 3.** Shepherd's shelter or lambing pen

NG 5584 4027

At the south end of a marginally improved flat area at Balachuirn, where the Storab Burn flows from a gorge at the 250ft contour is a small feature. It is constructed of drystone walling between large boulders. The feature measures 1m x 2m north-south with an opening in the south. The walling stands to 1m at its highest point.

**Feature 4.** Cairn

NG 5582 4030

About 35m to north of feature 3, at the same level, is a loosely constructed pile of stones. It is possibly clearance but other scatters of loose stones from burn wash are evident in the surrounding area.

**Feature 5.** Hut Circle

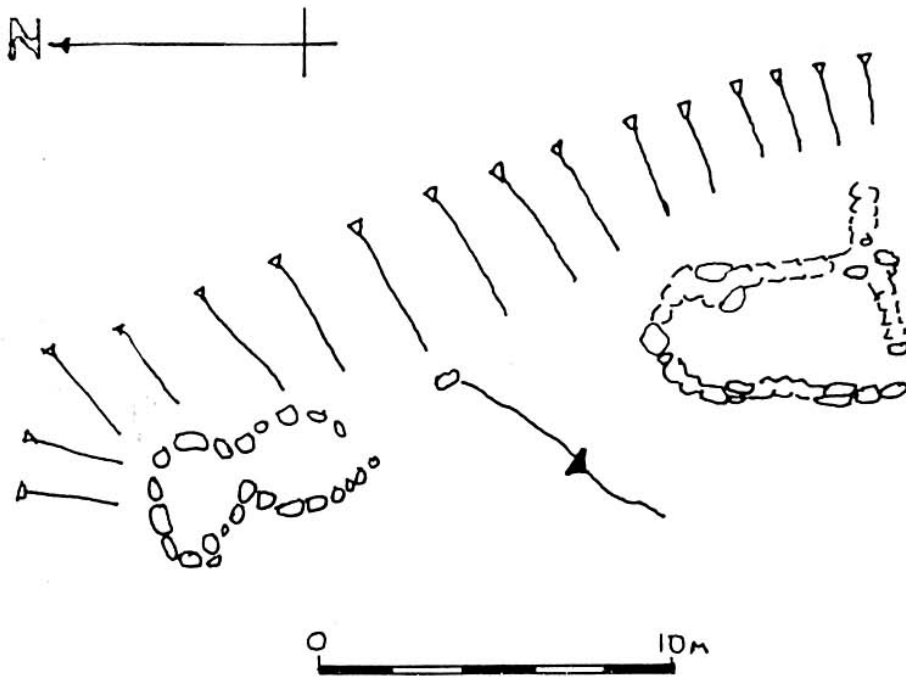
NG 5581 4034

About a further 30m north of feature 4 and at the same level is a hut circle. It is situated close to the steep bank at the southern end of the still fertile glen of Balachuirn. It measures 8m in diameter and shows evidence of a double wall with a possible entrance on the east side. There are two "D" shaped single walled expansions on the west side. There is a possible entrance to the north extension but no evidence for an entrance in the southern extension. No internal features were obvious.

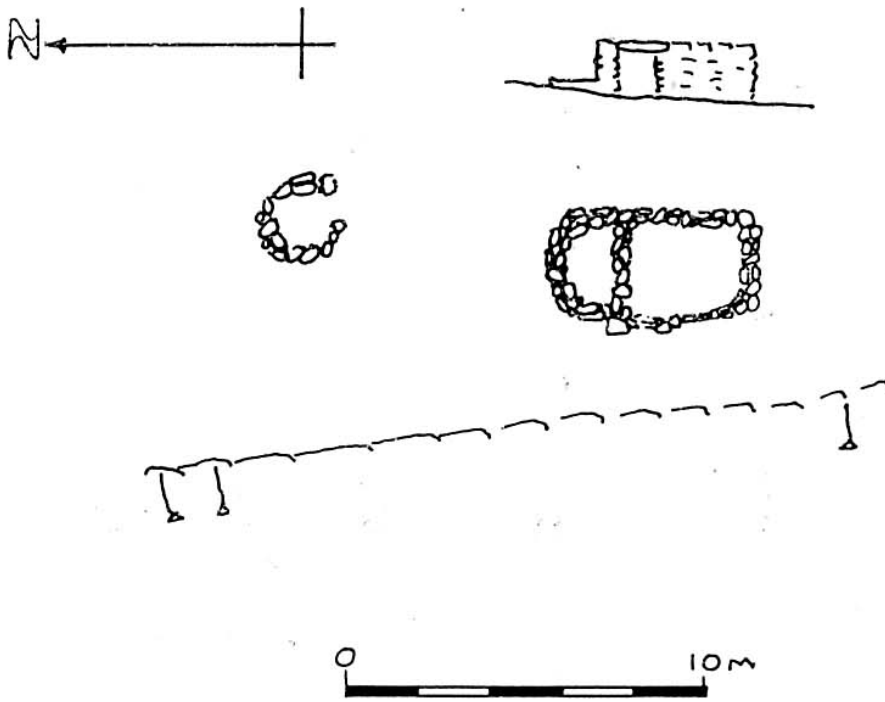
**Feature 6.** Shepherd's shelter

NG 5603 4025

Nestling under crags on the west side of a blind valley just to south of the modern fence and above boggy area, almost at 400ft contour, is a drystone constructed structure. It has rounded corners, and measures 2m north-south x 4.3m east-west internally, with walls 0.75m thick. The doorway is in the north and there may possibly be a second doorway in the south.



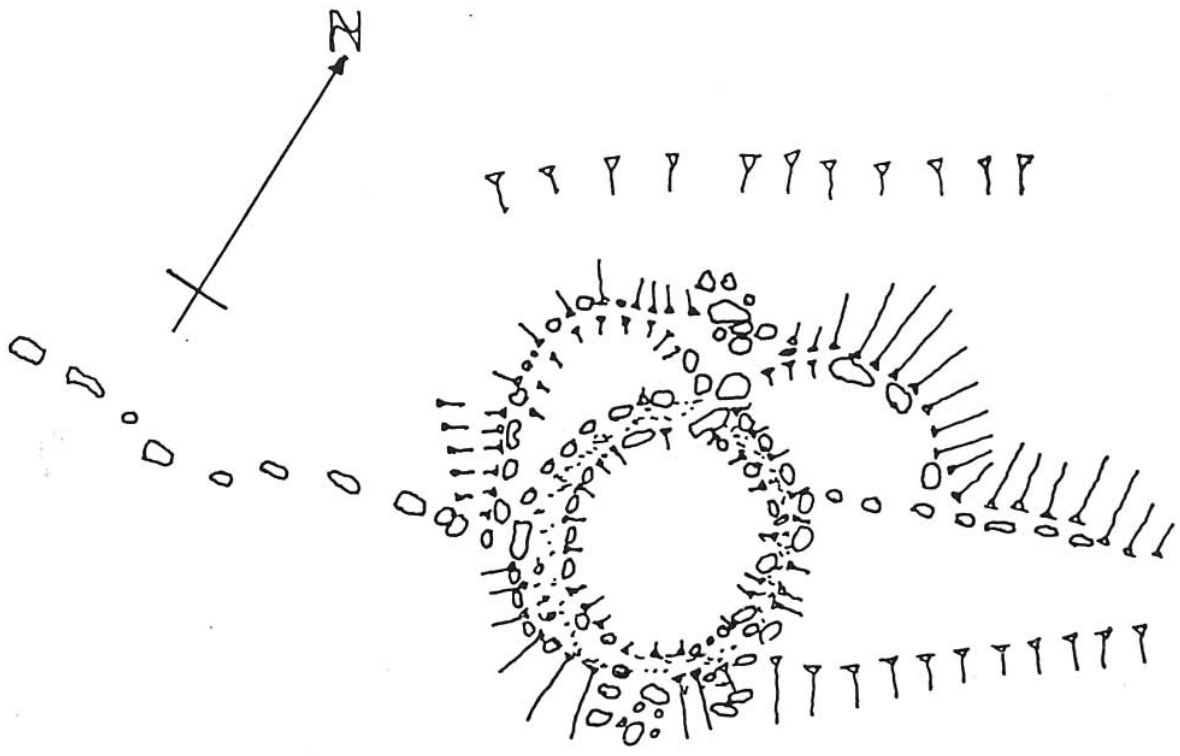
FEATURE 7



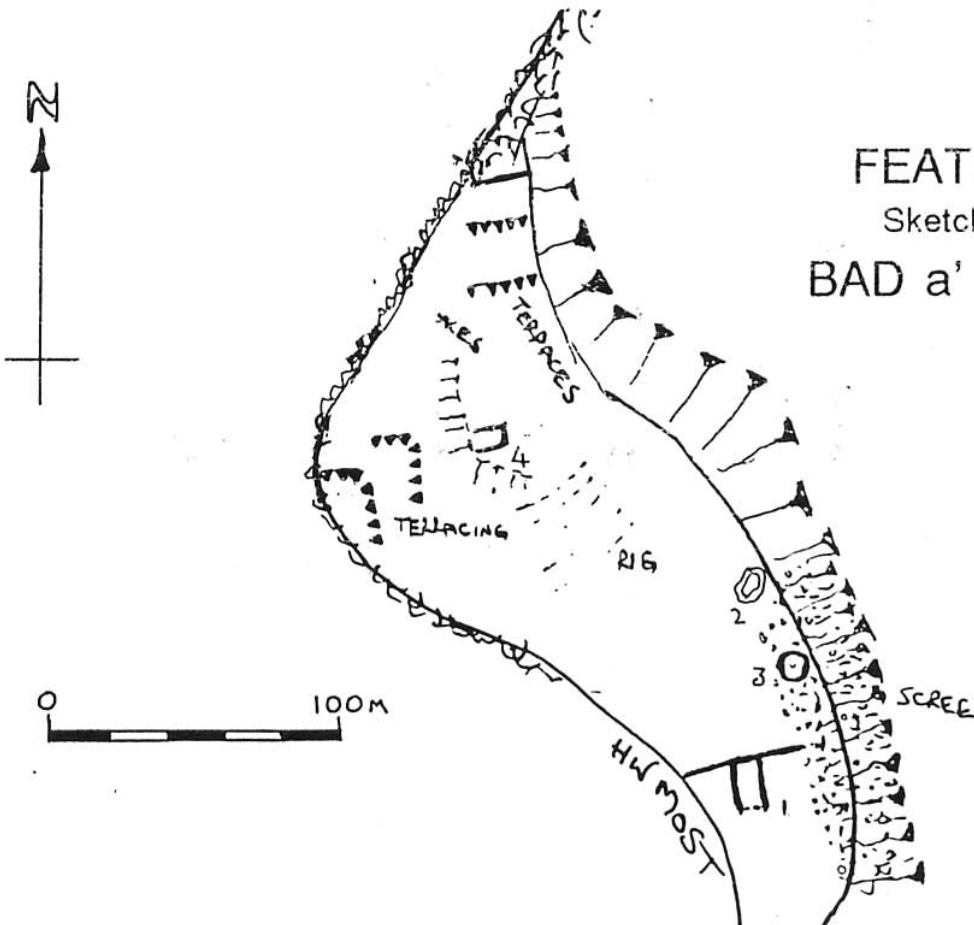
FEATURE 7a







FEATURE 5



FEATURE 13  
Sketch plan of  
BAD a' CHOILLE



**Feature 7** Sheiling

NG 5606 4035

Situated on the east side of the blind valley and close to a rock face is a structure which measures 8m x 4.5m. It has a very irregular shape and is loosely built using fallen blocks in situ with stone filling in between. It has an entrance at the south end and may have been an unroofed structure. The walls have an average height of 1m.

To the north across a small burn is a figure of 8 structure which measures 6m x 4m and was possibly a store.

**Feature 7a.** Sheiling

NG 5603 4034

About 70m north of feature 6 and in the same relationship to the bog known as the "wet yellow-grass place", the features are sheltered from the south by a belt of birch.

a) the substantial remains of a building standing over 1.2m and measuring 3.9m north-south x 3.3m east-west externally. The south end has rounded corners, and the north end are squared. The doorway in the west wall still has a lintel over it. There is clear evidence of rebuild on a D-shaped earlier building extending to the north. This has also had squared corners in the north wall, and the rebuild does not sit squarely on the earlier foundations.

b) About 6m to the north is an oval structure set into the slope, 2.3m x 3.0m (long axis east-west) with 0.5m thick walls - a possible kiln.

**Feature 8.** Shepherd's shelter/lambing pen

NG 5603 4041

On the top of the rise about 80m to the north, north-west of feature 7 and about 12m higher OD, just above the 400ft contour. A drystone built structure, using boulders in situ, measures 4.5m x 1.8m with walls standing about 1m high.

**Feature 9.** Sheep pen

NG 5593 4016

Beside the burn, below cliffs about halfway between the lands of Balachuirm and the roadbridge, at about the 250ft contour. A crudely built drystone wall using some large slabs of stone and with the rockface forming the east side of an enclosure 8m north-south by 4m east-west.

Revetment is in evidence at several points along the burnside.

**Feature 10.** Possible platforms

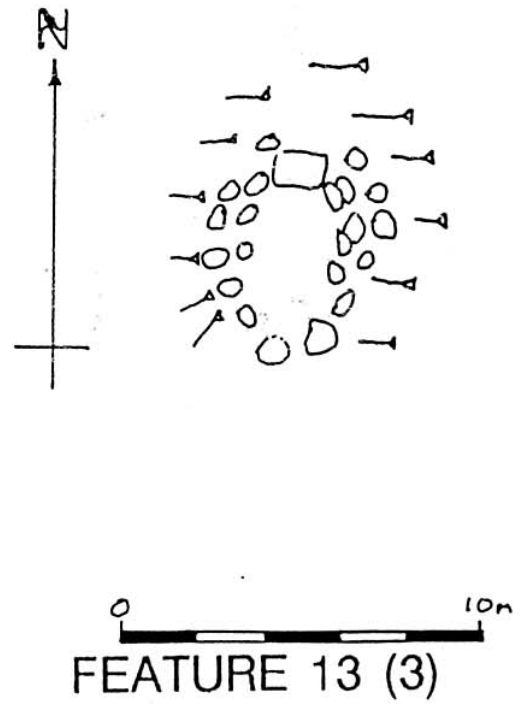
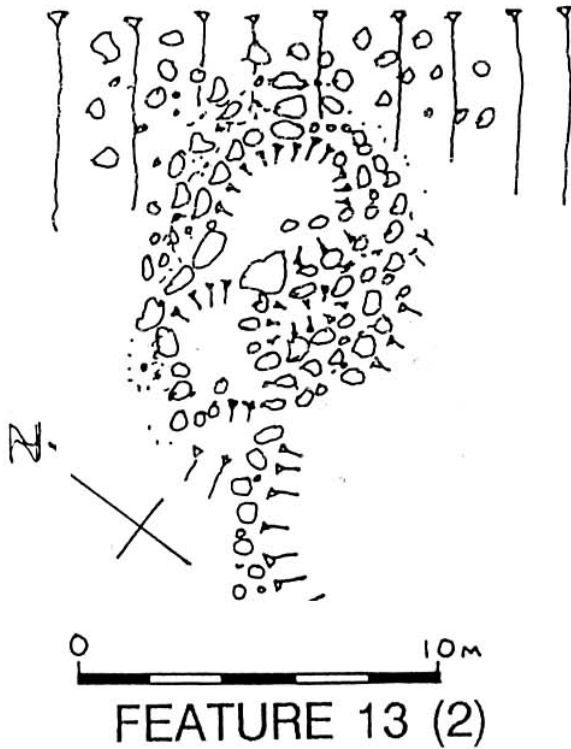
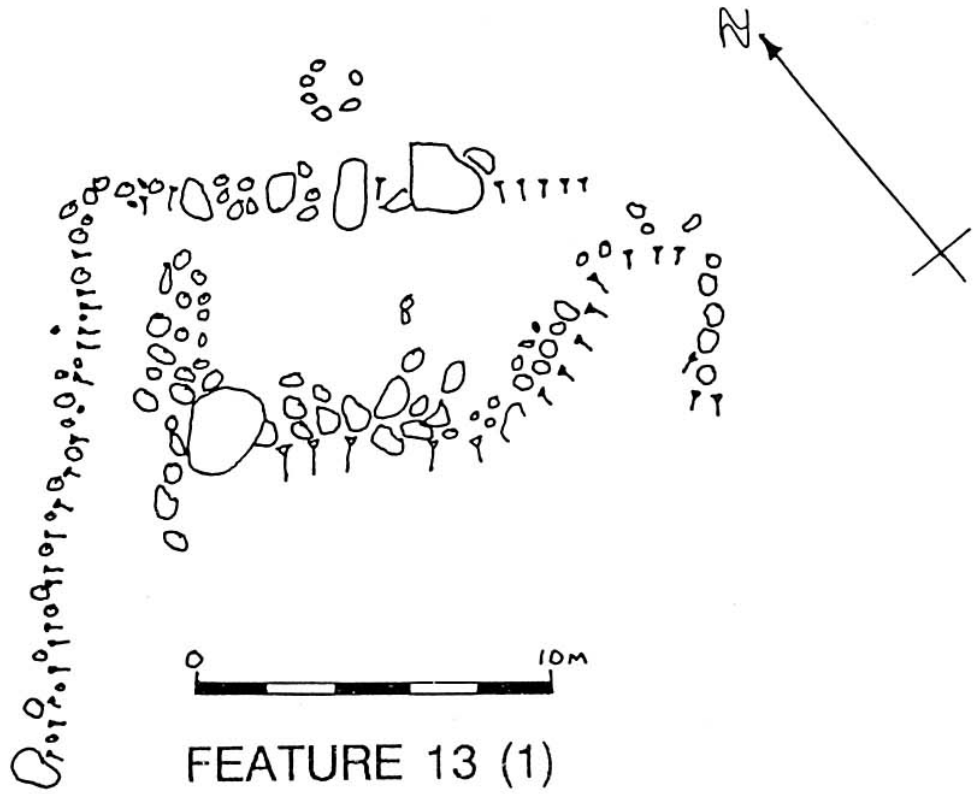
NG 5603 4084

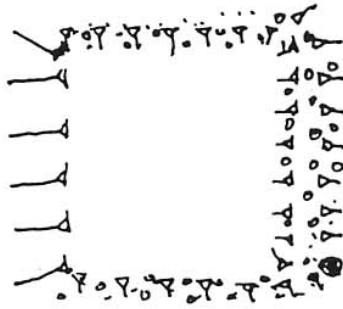
On the wooded slope at about the 375ft contour, overlooking the "new" house at Balmeanach. At least 4 scooped platforms at different levels measuring 5m from back to front and 8.5m across. One platform has clear evidence of a 3m diameter circular setting of stones.

**Feature 11.** Enclosure and lazybeds

NG 554 410

Straddling the burn from Balachuirm to Loch an Rathaid, just beyond the northern limits of the present enclosed fields, between the 250ft to 300ft contours. An area of unenclosed lazy beds lies on both sides of the burn. On the west side of the burn is a drystone walled enclosure about 65m square.





FEATURE 13 (4)



**Feature 12. Enclosure**

NG 5528 4063

On the west (seaward) slope of Carn Dearg, behind Balachuirm and between the 225ft to 250ft contours, is a drystone walled enclosure, 70m x 50m.

**Feature 13 Settlement/Farmstead**

NG 551 407

Situated on a promontory about 600m to the north of Holoman Island are the remains of an old settlement known locally as Bad a'Choille. The settlement lies below steep scree slopes and cliffs on the seaward side of Carn Dearg below the 100ft contour. It consists of a small area of thin but reasonably fertile ground which has been cleared. Evidence of multi-period buildings, lazybeds, enclosures and terraces can be seen.

The features are as follows:-

## 1). House

NG 5515 4060

A sub-rectangular structure which measures 4m x 3m internally with evidence of two leaved construction approximately 1.2m thick. There is a possible entrance to the north which would have been protected by an east-west running wall which forms a small passage leading to a small field overlooking the sea. The south end of the structure has been largely lost but opens out into an area of small stretches of walling.

## 2). Sheiling/Hut circle

NG 5519 4070

Situated on the northeast. face of Carn Dearg is a hut circle which measures approximately 5m in diameter. The wall of the structure has inner and outer leaves of very large boulders. There appears to be an entrance in the north-east which is protected by a porch and passage which turns south-west. A "D" shaped expansion lies to the south-west of the single leaf wall. External to the hut there are a number of small enclosures. It is possible that the hut has been altered in more recent times to become a sheiling structure.

## 3). Sheiling

NG 5517 4068

A small sheiling measuring 5m x 4m is situated between features 1 & 2. It is constructed from large boulders with walls 1-2m thick. There appears to be an entrance in the south-west. The structure is in a very exposed location overlooking the sea.

## 4). Enclosure

NG 5512 4069

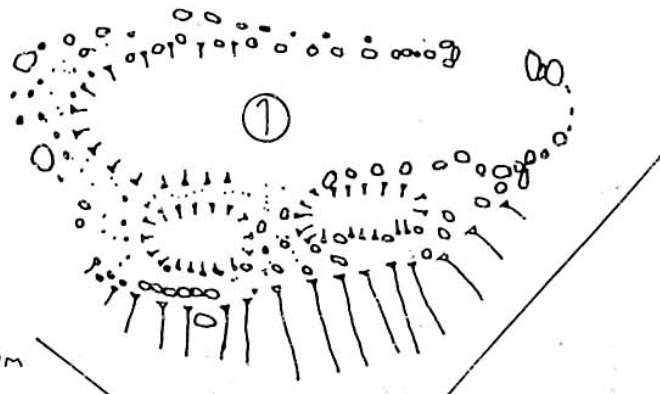
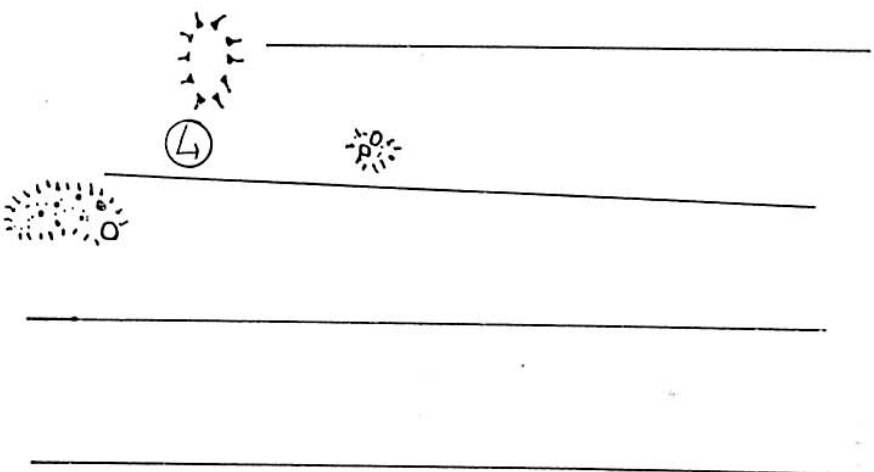
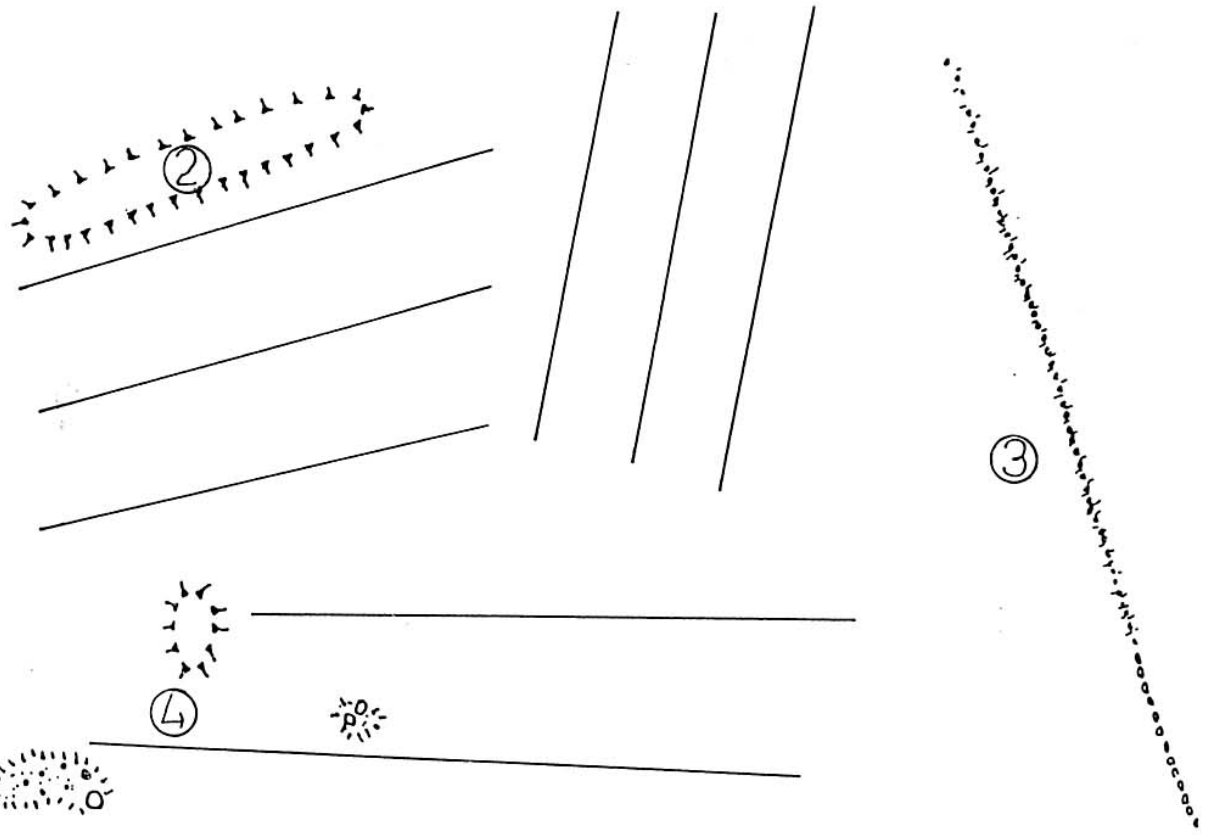
A sub-rectangular crudely constructed feature which measures 6.5m x 6m. It has three sides constructed from loose stone and earth and the 4th side is formed by the steeply sloping hill which runs down to a small flat area above the sea.

**Feature 14. Enclosure with rig & furrow**

NG 5512 4069

On the west facing slope of the hill below and west of Balmeanach, above and into the wooded area between the 325ft and 425ft contours, is a substantial turf banked enclosure, with occasional stone, standing up to 1m high. The enclosure extends into the present lands of Balmeanach as a sub-rectangle measuring about 95m north-south by 120m east-west..

A considerable area of broad rig was visible among the trees, clearly predating the timber growth. (see also Field Banks, Balmeanach. page 11)



FEATURE 19

**Feature 15.** Enclosure and rig and furrow

NG 5573 4122

On the east side of the Storab Burn below the 225ft contour. A roughly triangular turf and stone banked enclosure about 50m x 27m. The west side eventually joins the revetment running along the foot of the wooded hill slope delineating the limits of the wooded area. The south side of the enclosure extends beyond to the burn. There is also an extensive area of rig and furrow between the enclosure and the burn to the west and south. There is no evidence of rig within the enclosure despite being covered in marginally improved grass.

**Feature 16.** Enclosure

NG 5573 4098

At the north end of Loch Eadar da Bhaile, to the west of the Storab Burn, below the 225ft contour. A turf and stone banked enclosure 54m x 25m.

**Feature 17.** Stone circle

NG 5573 4107

On the top of a mound on the west side of the Storab Burn, opposite a bluff on the other side, at about the 225ft contour. A 5.2m diameter circle of earthfast stones hidden by heather growth on the outside but exposed internally. A total of 10 stones were visible, regularly spaced and about 0.4m high on average. Some stones were missing on the eastern arc of the circle. The feature is reminiscent of the minimalist stone circles found on Arran.

**Feature 18.** Stone lines

NG 557 416

Above feature 19 and stretching from within the southern end of the wooded area around the Allt a' Bhraghad towards the present boundaries of Balmeanoch between the 225ft and 275ft contours. Lines of stones which converge at the edge of the wood to a single line and possibly become contiguous with the fence line to the north of Balmeanoch. The stones, some substantial, are set on edge with considerable gaps between them. While they may delineate a boundary they are insufficient to be evidence of a bank or dyke.

**Feature 19.** Farmstead and rig and furrow /lazybed

NG 556 415

On a rise below the 225ft contour on the east bank of the Storab Burn surrounded on three sides by the southwest corner of the Allt a' Bhraghad wood lie the following features.

1) A substantial stone structure, horseshoe shaped, containing a possible yard and with at least two "rooms" built into the south wall. It measures approximately 24m x 12m and is surrounded by other enigmatic mounds and banks.

2) A consumption dyke measuring 17m long and 0.3m high.

3) A substantial head dyke which runs northwest-southeast and measures 1.5m wide and 1m high. This separates off an area of approximately 1 hectare which has been under cultivation. Within this area there are widespread areas of rig which run in various directions and at various widths ranging from 2.5m to 5m.

4) Three clearance cairns.

The area is known locally by the Gaelic name which denotes the "wet milking place".

**Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists  
(Glasgow University)**

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

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Senior Lecturer in Archaeology  
Department of Adult and Continuing Education  
59 Oakfield Avenue  
Glasgow G 12 8LW

Occasional Papers

- No. 1 Chalmerston, Cumnock and Doon Valley
- No. 2 Gleniffer Braes, Renfrewshire
- No. 3 Garscadden Wood, Drumchapel, Glasgow
- No. 4 Auchengaich, (forthcoming)
- No. 5 Millbank Mill, Renfrewshire
- No. 6 Meall Darroch, Kintyre, Argyll
- No. 7 Clachaig Limekiln, Arran
- No. 8 Coalburn, Lanarkshire
- No. 9 Tirai, Killin
- No. 10 Glen Orchy, Dalmally (forthcoming)
- No. 11 Neilston, Renfrewshire
- No. 12 Cathkin Braes, Glasgow
- No. 12 Raasay, Oskaig and Holoman
- No. 14 Bail a Mhuilinn, Perth and Kinross
- No. 15 Greens Moor, Lanarkshire
- No. 16 Queen's Park, Glasgow
- No. 17 Little Cumbrae
- No. 18 Raasay, 1996
- No. 19 Luss
- No. 20 Gargadale, Isle of Arran



