

An Archaeological Survey of
The Loch na Droma Buidhe Area,
Drimnin Estate,
Morvern, Argyll.

For Scottish Woodlands Ltd.

December 1997.



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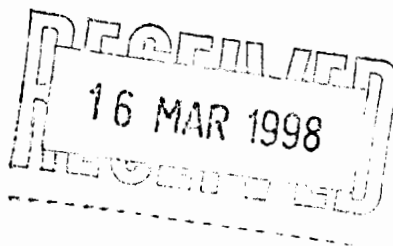
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12th March 1998

Mr. A.J.R. Wood,
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Dear John,

Enclosed is a copy of my report on an Archaeological Survey of part of Drimnin Estate, Morvern, Argyll. I don't know if you receive this automatically from Scottish Woodlands Ltd., but here is another copy anyway.

The survey consists almost exclusively of a pre-clearance landscape, which was interesting to record as a whole. There are also two structures, which look like prehistoric hut-circles, but which are very small (only 2m in diameter internally). (These are described in the report, p. 62, No. 87). I feel that small prehistoric structures can be too easily dismissed as shieling huts, but I wonder what you think.

I also have a query about circular platforms. I recorded five circular platforms (p. 16, Nos. 55, 76a, 79, 80 and 115), which, elsewhere in Morvern, I would have interpreted as charcoal-burning platforms. However, these were all associated with arable fields rather than woodland. An alternative possibility that they were platforms for horse-whims seems unlikely as there are several close together and none has evidence for any mechanism. I would be grateful for your comments.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer G. Robertson.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	1
2. Working Methods	1
3. Acknowledgments	2
4. The Survey Area	2
5. A History of Occupation and Land-Use	2
6. The Archaeological Sites	9
7. Recommendations	18
8. Gazetteer of Sites	20
9. Bibliography	141
Appendix A Colour Plates	
Appendix B Maps of the Survey Area	

1. INTRODUCTION

An archaeological survey of the NE end of Drimnin Estate was commissioned by Scottish Woodlands Ltd. as part of a Woodland Grant Scheme application. The aim was to provide an inventory of sites, including a record of character, extent, state of preservation and date, to enable the marking of sites on the ground with numbered posts.

2. WORKING METHODS

A gazetteer of sites was compiled using a combination of field survey and desk-based research.

2.1 Desk-Based Research.

A preliminary stage of desk-based research involved the consultation of a variety of sources.

2.1.1 A most valuable resource was provided by Mrs. Joanne Semple of Druimbuidhe House. This included field notes and photographs from her own field surveys of the area and detailed historical notes from extensive documentary research, as well as syntheses of the results of this research. These sources are described collectively hereafter as the Joanne Semple Papers.

2.1.2 Early maps were consulted:

- a) Principally "A Plan of the Estate of Drimnin The Property of Sir Charles Gordon 1836", made by David Wilson in 1836. This is held in the Scottish Record Office (RHP 3258) but a copy was kindly loaned by Joanne Semple. This map was particularly useful in identifying arable fields, which are otherwise difficult to discern.
- b) The Second Edition of the OS 6" Map, 1900, which is a revision of the 1872 First Edition. A copy was again kindly loaned by Joanne Semple.
- c) OS 1:10,000 Sheets NM 55 NE and NM 65 NW..
- d) William Roy: "Map of Scotland", 1747-55.
- e) George Langlands and sons: Map of Argyleshire, 1801.
- f) Alexander Bruce: "A Plan of Loch Sunart", dedicated to Lieutenant General George Wade in 1733.

2.1.3 Aerial Photographs, held by the National Monuments Record of Scotland. Copies were kindly loaned by Joanne Semple:

- a) CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frames 4180, 4181, 4182, dated 30/4/48.
- b) 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frames 3174-3179, dated 19/5/46.

These aerial photographs are clear and at a sufficiently large scale (approx. 1:10,000) for archaeological purposes. Numerous archaeological remains, chiefly houses and boundaries, were detected during their examination. However, in the course of fieldwork, it became apparent that a considerable amount of archaeological sites could not be detected, particularly unenclosed fields or remains masked by even sparse woodland.

2.1.4 The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS), held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) was consulted and NMRS Site numbers are included in the relevant gazetteer entries.

2.1.5 Further unpublished sources were consulted, principally the OS Name Books, dating to the Argyllshire Survey of 1868-1878, held by the NMRS.

2.1.6 Several published sources contain information relevant to the survey area:

- a) Philip Gaskell: Morvern Transformed, includes details of the history and occupation of the settlements.
- b) Eric Cregeen: Argyll Estate Instructions 1771-1805, throws light on some of the monuments in Poll Luachrain, part of the Argyll Estate in the late 18th century.

- c) Walter Weyndling: Ferry Tales of Argyll and the Isles, 1996 provides information on Doirlinn.
- d) Evidence given to the Napier Commission in 1883, published in 1884 as the condition of the crofters and cottars in the highlands and islands of Scotland, throws some light on the archaeology of Oronsay.
- e) Further published sources, listed in the bibliography, provided comparative evidence.

2.2 Fieldwork

The desk-based research was followed by a programme of field-walking, in which the entire area, as far as was possible, was covered. This was carried out during April, May and June 1997 before the maximum growth of vegetation and benefitted from exceptionally dry weather.

Sites already identified from desk-based research were recorded in detail with sketches and photographs. Many more, notably unenclosed fields and small structures, were identified and also fully recorded. A total of 288 monuments was recorded and these are described in the Gazetteer of Sites, included in this report.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

I am most grateful to Mrs. Joanne Semple of Druimbuidhe House, who willingly shared the results of her own researches into the area, as well as lending much of the documentary source material. Grateful thanks are also expressed to Mr. Matt Wilson, stalker, who indicated all the sites, known to him in the survey area.

4. THE SURVEY AREA.

The survey area consists of the land surrounding Loch na Droma Buidhe, forming the NE end of Drimnin Estate. The area comprises about 625 ha. and is bounded by a fence, erected in 1997.

The area is situated on the band of metamorphic Moine granulites, schists and gneisses, which occupies the central part of the Morvern peninsula, just beyond the more fertile basalt plateaus in the western part of Drimnin Estate. The terrain is very rocky and rugged, containing some very steep slopes and cliffs and few level patches of ground.

5. A HISTORY OF OCCUPATION AND LAND USE.

5.1 Prehistory

Evidence from sites in the immediate vicinity of the survey area, suggests a long, though not necessarily continuous, history of occupation. A shell midden on the adjacent island of Risga and a flint scatter by the Barr River, SE of the survey area, attests Mesolithic activity in the area. (Lacaille, 1954, 115-28; NMRS NM 65 NW 005) Occupation in the 3rd or 4th millennium BC by an early agricultural community may be indicated by the chambered cairn on the E side of Loch Teacuis at Rahoy, where the later prehistoric period is also represented in the form of a vitrified dun. (RCAHMS 1980, 48, 115; Childe and Thorneycroft, 1937-8, 23-43) The latter site was found to contain artefacts dating to the 3rd century BC. Another possible dun at Carraig and a fort at Eilean Uillne may also date to the later 1st millennium BC. (RCAHMS, 1980, 98, 84)

The four "cup-marks" on the island of Carna and over 60 on Risga were once thought to be part of the suite of Neolithic cup and ring markings, so well-represented in Mid- and South Argyll. However, these are now considered more likely to be bait mortars (crotagan) of more recent origin, on account of their location immediately above sea-level in recognized

fishing grounds. (Morris, 1967-8, 53-5, 62, 64, Plate 4a) The "cup-marks", "like those on Carna", recorded on Oronsay in 1921-22, were not found in 1967 by Ronald Morris despite "a long hunt" and were not sought in the present survey as such remains are unlikely to be at risk from woodland encroachment, while such a search would be extremely time-consuming. (Mann, 1921-22, 122; Morris, 1967-8, 64)

The paucity of prehistoric monuments in the present survey to add to this corpus was disappointing though, perhaps, not unexpected. Existing distribution maps reveal a relatively sparse scatter of prehistoric remains in Morvern, compared to other parts of Argyll. (Ritchie, 1997, Figs 5.1, 5.16; Harding, 1997, Fig. 7.1) It should, however, be stressed that this is unlikely to reflect the original prehistoric occupation and land-use of the peninsula as a whole or the survey area in particular. Morvern has been an area of intensive land-use, particularly in the densely-populated 18th and 19th centuries and, in the course of fieldwork, it was strikingly apparent that every scrap of cultivable land had been used. Thus any earlier remains may have been swept away or may lie undetected beneath later features.

Only three monuments may be ascribed, rather tentatively, to the prehistoric period: two possible hut circles, Nos. 87a and b, on the E side of Abhainn Poll Luachrain and a possible enclosure, No. 64, in the extreme S of the survey area. It is difficult to ascertain, from surface evidence, if the "hut circles" are indeed prehistoric or shielings of more recent origin. The classification of these monuments will be discussed more fully below (p.62) but it may be pointed out here that the recognition of prehistoric hut circles in Morvern would be a significant development. The hut circle, a feature of Bronze Age settlement elsewhere in Scotland, was previously considered to be absent in Morvern and N. Argyll. In the RCAHMS Inventory of Argyll, Vol 3, published in 1980, not a single hut circle is recorded in Morvern, Ardnamurchan or Mull and the only settlements, thought to be contemporary with the many cairns and cists, were those found in the sand-hills of Ardnamurchan. (RCAHMS, 1980, 15) However, since then, hut circles have become more fully understood and recognized elsewhere in Argyll and it is possible that more remain undetected in the northern parts of the county. (Ritchie, 1997, 48-54)

5.2 Early Christian Period

As in the prehistoric period, some occupation in the Early Christian period is evident in the vicinity of the survey area. Two cross-decorated grave markers, possibly dating to the 6th century AD, were found at Killundine adjacent to the remains of a chapel, which is probably medieval in date but on the site of an Early Christian monastery, founded by St. Fintan. (RCAHMS, 1980, 28, 149-50, Figs. 180, 181) A later cross-decorated stone, dating to the 9th or succeeding centuries, lies alongside the highest point of an old track, which runs from Drimnin via Mungasdail to Barr on Loch Teacuis, a short distance to the SE of the survey area. (RCAHMS, 1980, 29, 137, Fig. 167) According to a local tradition, St. Columba may have used this track en route to Ardnamurchan, and thus have passed along the shore of the present survey area. (Donaldson, 1926, 301)

No monuments in the present survey area can be ascribed to this period, though, as noted above with reference to prehistoric remains, evidence of Early Christian occupation may well have been destroyed or overlain by later settlement.

Any occupation or land-use by the Norse can also only be speculated. The Vikings certainly sacked Iona four times between 795 and 826 AD and possible Viking burials have

been recorded on Mull and Ardnamurchan. (RCAHMS, 1980, 29; Brown, 1997, 212, 229) The place-names Oronsay, Carna and Risga are all of Norse origin but it is accepted that a sea-faring people, such as the Norsemen, would take care to identify and name landmarks, such as islands, without necessarily exerting any greater influence on them. (Gillies, 1906, 107)

5.3 Medieval and Post-Medieval Periods

5.3.1 It is to the Medieval and, more particularly, the Post-Medieval periods that the bulk of the monuments belongs. The earliest date of these settlements is impossible to ascertain from surface indications alone but, inevitably, at each site it is the latest phase of occupation, which is most visible today. These remains comprise the settlements of Sornagan, Poll Luachrain, Druimbuidhe, Doirlinn, Gleannaguda and Oronsay, each set within a complete agricultural landscape.

These lands comprise the eastern part of the present Drimnin Estate, though the latter was not united into a single property until c. 1817-18. Previously the area was divided among two different landowners. Thus Sornagan, Druimbuidhe and Oronsay, along with the settlements of Drimnin and Achleanan, were, in the 16th century, in the possession of the Macleans of Coll and became the estate of Maclean of Drimnin in the mid-16th century. (Gaskell, 1868, 159) Poll Luachrain and Gleannaguda were part of the lands seized by the Duke of Argyll in the 1670's from Maclean of Duart. In 1750, Poll Luachrain was set to Maclean of Drimnin, together with two other Argyll properties, Auliston and Portabhata. (ibid.)

After the bankruptcy of Maclean of Drimnin, the latter's estate, including Sornagan, Druimbuidhe and Oronsay, was sold in 1800 to Alexander MacDonald of Glenaladale. (ibid.) In 1817 or 1818, these lands were then sold by Glenaladale's trustees to John Maclean of Boreray, who at about the same time also acquired Auliston, Portabhata and Poll Luachrain from Argyll, thereby uniting the north-western end of Morvern into a single estate. (ibid.) Later, the area around Gleannaguda was added to complete the present day boundary.

National events impinged on the survey area during the 1745 Rebellion. Thus the proprietor of most of the survey area, Charles Maclean of Drimnin, served with Bonnie Prince Charlie's army throughout the campaign and was killed at Culloden, leading the Macleans in the absence of their chief. His brother, Allan Maclean, was also "out" and, while a fugitive, hid in a cave just to the W of the survey area. Many of the inhabitants were Camerons or Macleans, owing allegiance to their chiefs and, therefore, also joined the rebellion.

However, the survey area may not have suffered from Government reprisals as much as other parts of Morvern, notably when a force from the Terror, anchored off Mingary, landed on 10th March 1746 and burnt "near 400 houses amongst which were several barns well filled with corn, stacks of corn, horse, cows, meal and other provisions were destroyed by fire-arms." (Letter from Capt. Hay to Major-General Campbell in Joanne Semple Papers.) This force started at "Drumnin McCleans town", ie. Drimnin settlement, and proceeded southeastwards to Ardtornish, thus bypassing the eastern end of Drimnin's estate. (Letter from Capt. Duff to Major-General Campbell in Joanne Semple Papers.)

However, the inhabitants around Loch na Droma Buidhe were still harrassed by Government troops. Thus, on 19th February 1746, a boat "landed at the Isle of Oranse there to destroy all the boats we could find Soon after our appearance on the isle a party gathered on the mainland [ie. within the survey area] fiering on us the same being briskly returned. The Highlanders soon retreated. Finding no boat neither on the isle or about it we shot some cows of which we took six into the boats ..." (Letter from Capt. Hay to Major-General Campbell in Joanne Semple Papers)

At the end of March, Naval officers, still searching for boats along the Sunart coast, heard that "Drumnin's wife was lying [near] at his farm near Oransay" [Druimbuidhe] and landed at his house hoping to find Maclean but found it deserted. (Letter from Capt. Duff to Major-General Campbell in Joanne Semple Papers) After Culloden, Morvern suffered no further serious reprisals as the houses had already been burnt, and Maclean of Drimnin's estate was not forfeited. (Letter from Major-General Campbell to Sir E. Fawkener in Joanne Semple Papers)

In 1835, the estate was sold to Sir Charles Gordon, in whose family it remained until 1943. It was under the Gordon family that some of the most drastic depopulation in Morvern took place. While some of this may, as Gaskell points out, have been a result of the famine of 1846-7, the Gordons were undoubtedly responsible for widespread evictions, the circumstances of some of which "helped to make Lady Gordon the most unpopular of Morvern's resident proprietors". (Gaskell, 1968, 37) The removal, from Oransay, of several families, who had already been evicted from Auliston and Carraig 25 years before, was one of the particular grievances put before the Napier Commission on the condition of crofters in the Highlands, when it gathered evidence in Lochaline in 1883. (Nap. Comm. Evidence, 2288-9) The population within the survey area dropped from a peak of c. 77 in 1841 to 12 in 1891. (Gaskell, 1968, 154, 157-8) The latter lived in the only two remaining permanently occupied houses, those at Druimbuidhe and Gleannaguda. By that time, Druimbuidhe was a large farm, probably controlling much of the survey area. This house and another at Doirlinn remain in use today.

The history of each settlement may be considered in more detail.

5.3.2 Sornagan (See Colour Plate 1)

The earliest occupation of the settlement at Sornagan is unknown on present documentary or archaeological evidence. Roy's Map, dating 1747-55, shows an area of arable land but no houses. The earliest reference to any occupants dates to 1799, when a John MacPherson was noted to be eligible for the Militia (Joanne Semple Papers), and, in 1801, a map made by Langlands shows houses on either side of a track, running parallel to the coastline at a lower level than the present track.

In 1807-8, a shepherd and family were in residence and between 1825 and 1835, two tenants, two weavers and a labourer/cottar all lived at Sornagan. (Joanne Semple Papers) Neil Morison, the manager of Drimnin Farm, had held the tack of Sornagan from MacDonald of Glenaladale from at least 1815 for a rent of £50 and in 1834, immediately prior to the sale of the estate to Sir Charles Gordon, Sornagan and "Drumbuy" were let to William Flint, the manager of Drimnin farm under Boreray, for a total rent of £75 for the first two years and subsequently £80. (ibid.)

A map made by David Wilson in 1836 for the new owner shows three houses and arable land divided into four main parcels, which can to some extent be traced on the ground today :-

- i) the area around the houses. (Nos. 22-24, 25d, 26c, and 27d)
- ii) another area just to the S, further up the slope. (Nos. 6 and 8)
- iii) an area at the mouth of Allt Port an Eorna. (Nos. 17, 19 - 21)
- iv) a small field in the gully to the W of Torr nan Con. (No. 12)

Boundaries are also shown:

- i) between Sornagan and Portabhata.
- ii) between Sornagan and Poll Luachrain. (Nos. 42, 45 and 46)
- iii) between Poll Luachrain and Druimbuidhe. (No. 47)
- iv) along the top of Sgeir Buidhe. (No. 1)

Tenants must still have been retained; thus a crofter is recorded in 1837 and 1839, while two households are listed in the 1841 census. (Joanne Semple Papers) By 1849, however, Sornagan, Druimbuidhe and Poll Luachrain were amalgamated with Portabhata and advertised for let and by 1851, the settlement of Sornagan had been abandoned. (Joanne Semple Papers)

5.3.3 Poll Luachrain. (See Colour Plate 2)

The earliest reference to Poll Luachrain dates to 1750, when it was let by Argyll to Maclean of Drimnin and described as "the sheilling of Pulcherine or Polcharan formerly a pendicle of ... Mungastill" (Gaskell, 1968, 159) It is possible that the shieling huts, Nos. 68a - c and 70a and b, date to this early period prior to 1750, associated with Mungasdail, but they may simply relate to the occupation of the stone houses at Poll Luachrain, Nos. 49a and 50a, which may date no earlier than c. 1800. (see below)

In 1785, when the Duke of Argyll was considering the enclosure of his woodlands in Morvern for their more profitable use, "the wood of Pollicheran" was described as "a bad and scattered thin birch wood [which] lyes at a distance from the sea, the ground so coarse that some part of it will come up tho' left open and is by no means worth inclosing and should be left open." (Cregeen, 1964, 126)

In 1787, Argyll agreed to continue letting "the small pendicle of Polichoran" to Maclean for £4 per annum, "provided he agrees to inclose it with stone dykes." (Cregeen, 1964, 144) This condition was accepted and obviously fulfilled by Maclean, and these boundaries survive today, No 47 marking the march between Poll Luachrain and Druimbuidhe and Nos. 42, 45 and 46 defining the march between Poll Luachrain and Sornagan.

The first record of any inhabitants on the site is in 1804, when Hugh MacPherson was a tenant of Polcharan. (Joanne Semple Papers) Two households were in residence in 1814, presumably in the houses, Nos. 49a and 50a, but by 1836, these were abandoned; the Wilson Map shows two roofless buildings within arable land, though no arable is listed in the table of land use acreages. (Joanne Semple Papers; Wilson Map, 1836) No occupants were recorded in the 1841 Census and, in 1849, "Polachre" was advertised for let, amalgamated with the farms of "Portavata, Sornagan and Drumbuy". (Gaskell, 1968, 158; Joanne Semple Papers)

5.3.4 Druimbuidhe.

The earliest date of settlement at the head of Loch na Droma Buidhe is unknown. No houses are marked on Roy's Map of 1747-55 and only a very limited amount of arable land. Nevertheless, Maclean of Drimnin's house "at his farm near Oransay", which was searched by Government troops in March 1745, might be supposed to correspond to a house at Druimbuidhe.

Settlement is only clearly documented by 1801, when two houses were recorded on Langlands Map. By 1836, there were seven buildings marked on the Wilson Map, though not necessarily all were dwellings; in the 1841 Census, only three households are recorded at Druimbuidhe. (Gaskell, 1968, 157) The Wilson Map also shows the head-dyke, No. 107, the boundary between Druimbuidhe and Doirlinn, No. 112 and four patches of arable:

- a) A large area E of the present house in the approximate position of the later enclosure, No. 95.
- b) Another large area, bounded on the E side by the head-dyke and corresponding to the western portion of the later enclosure, No. 99. The small field, No. 101, partly enclosed by clearance cairns, is presumably a remnant of this arable.
- c) A small parcel of arable, possibly corresponding to the lazy beds, No. 103.
- d) A small parcel, bounded on the NE side by the head-dyke and corresponding to the enclosure, No. 104. No traces of cultivation are visible here today, though the lazy beds, No. 108, lie just beyond the head-dyke.

The population rose to a peak by 1851, when five houses were occupied by a population of about 28. (Gaskell, 1968, 157) By this time, Druimbuidhe was amalgamated with Portabhata, Sornagan and Poll Luachrain, becoming a large sheep farm by the 1860's. (Joanne Semple Papers; Gaskell, 1968, 214) In 1891, a single house was occupied by a farmer, Donald McMaster, with his family of two, a dairymaid, a ploughman, a shepherd and a domestic servant. (Valuation Roll) Occupation on an agricultural basis continued until the 1950's and a house and outbuildings are still in use today.

5.3.5 Gleannaguda.

The earliest date of settlement at Gleannaguda is unclear; no houses are marked on any of the early maps, such as Roy's (1747-55), Langlands' (1801), or Wilson's (1836), though some arable is marked on Roy's Map.

The surviving remains of Gleannaguda seem to have been shared by two estates. Thus, although no settlement is marked on the Wilson Map, the Drimnin Estate boundary follows a line between the sites of eastern Gleannaguda, Nos. 119-123 and western Gleannaguda, Nos. 124-127. The settlement of Gleannaguda, recorded in the OS Name Books of 1868-1878, as belonging to Lady Gordon, presumably refers to western Gleannaguda, while eastern Gleannaguda represents the settlement recorded as part of Barr farm, formerly the property of the Duke of Argyll. (Gaskell, 1968, 154) Woodlands at "Glengoud" were considered for enclosure by the Duke of Argyll's factor in 1785, though only a tract "next the houses of Barr" was chosen. (Cregeen, 1964, 123, 126)

Gaskell (1968, 154) considers eastern Gleannaguda to have been occupied, and abandoned, before 1841 as no inhabitants are recorded in the census. Outside Drimnin Estate, these would have been beyond the limits of the Wilson Map. Western Gleannaguda was occupied in 1841, possibly associated with the arable, marked on the Wilson Map,

corresponding to the fields, Nos. 129 and 130. (Gaskell, 1968, 124) This settlement was again occupied in 1871 and 1881 and, in 1891, "Glengud" was inhabited by a crofter and general labourer, Donald Gilles with his family of four. (Gaskell, 1968, 154; Valuation Roll, 1891)

The length of occupation is unknown and at some point, possibly in the 20th century, the narrow tract of land containing eastern Gleannaguda, was acquired by Drimnin Estate, creating the present SE boundary.

5.3.6 Doirlinn.

The three houses marked at Doirlinn are the only houses within the survey area to be recorded on Roy's Map of 1747-55. The antiquity and longevity of occupation on this site depends largely on the ferry, which operated between Doirlinn and Glenborrodale on the Ardnamurchan shore of Loch Sunart from before 1800. The naturalist, James Robertson, (noted below p.12) presumably crossed by this route in 1768 and, in 1794, it was one of only two ferries linking Morvern with the outside world. (Henderson and Dickson, 1994, 81; McLeod, 1794, 368) Doirlinn House, No. 136, was the drovers' change house from at least 1800 until c. 1880. (Weyndling, 1996, 114; MacDonald, 1985, 24) The slipway, No. 140 and the track, No. 138, leading to the landing stage, are further archaeological remains of this episode.

The settlement also had an agricultural aspect and, on the Wilson Map of 1836, the whole area N of the head-dyke, No. 133, is marked as arable, associated with two houses.

The ferry was probably the main reason for the continued occupation of the site; although, by 1881, Doirlinn House, No. 136 was no longer an inn, the ferry still operated occasionally between the wars and the house remains in use today. (Gaskell, 1968, 157; Weyndling, 1996, 114)

5.3.7 Oronsay.

A house is marked on the "island of Oranse" on the approximate site of Nos. 156-7, on the Plan of Loch Sunart, made by Alexander Bruce and dedicated to General Wade in 1733, though no house is marked on Roy's Map of 1745-55, which, instead, shows the island thickly wooded. On Langland's Map of 1801, two houses are marked on the central part of the island and in 1836, nine buildings were recorded: five in the centre with associated arable, corresponding to Nos. 187-191 and four again with arable beside an unnamed bay in the eastern part of the island, corresponding to Nos. 156-7 and either 160 or 161. Three further areas of arable were recorded in 1836, which are visible today as Nos. 209, 194-6 and 142. (Langlands Map, 1801; Wilson Map, 1836) The 1841 census recorded a population of 42 living in these nine houses. (Gaskell, 1968, 158)

In c. 1843, several families from Auliston and Carraig were moved to Oronsay in the first of the Gordons' restructuring of the estate. Their new home was later described as "the most barren spot on the whole estate" and consisting of "little else than rocks and heather, with stretches of unreclaimed moss". (Nap. Comm. Evidence, 2289; Oban Times 6.5.1882 in Gaskell, 1968, 214) While such descriptions, as Gaskell points out, ignore the fact that people were already living there, it may not be a great exaggeration that they needed "years of hard and unremitting toil [to make] this barren spot a fairly productive farm". (Oban Times 6.5.1882 in Gaskell, 1968, 214) Thus, "they had to carry all manure and sea-ware on

their backs, as the place was so rocky that a horse would be of no use. Notwithstanding all these disadvantages, they continued through time to improve the place very much by draining and reclaiming mossy patches, and by carrying soil to be placed on rocky places where there was no soil." (Nap. Comm. Evidence, 2289) Today the contrast between Oronsay and the mainland, for example, at Sornagan, and more particularly, Auliston is marked and it is noticeable that the fields, such as Nos. 146, 148 and 154, painstakingly created, have already reverted to reed-filled marsh.

By 1851, the population had risen to 54, living in eleven houses, but by 1861 this had dropped to 31 in six houses. According to later accounts, the 1843 arrivals "came to be fairly prosperous by their industry in fishing and by every other available means", so much so that in the 1860's they built better houses at a cost of £50 - £60. (Oban Times 6.5.1882 in Gaskell, 1968, 214) These may equate with the gable-walled houses, Nos. 156a, 183a and 188). However, in c. 1868, three households were evicted for a second time so that, by 1871, only 17 people occupied three houses and, by 1881, even these were deserted. (Gaskell, 1968, 158) This last eviction was blamed, later, on "a neighbouring sheep farmer", possibly the tenant of Druimbuidhe, who, it was alleged, sought to expand his "already extensive run". (Oban Times 6.5.1882 in Gaskell, 1968, 214)

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

A total of 288 separate monuments were recorded during the present survey, described in the 209 entries in the gazetteer. These monuments may be classified into categories, each of which is considered in detail.

6.1. Stone Houses.

Nos. 25a, 26a, 27a, 28a, 34, 43a, 49a, 50a, 89, 96a, 119a, 122, 124, 127, 131, 136, 137, 141a, 143, 155, 156a, 156b, 157, 160a, 161a, 162, 163, 165, 168, 174a, 183a, 187a, 188, 189a, 190 and 191.

A total of 36 houses was recorded. Many betray different phases of construction and, in all cases, it must be stressed that the present remains represent only the last phase of occupation.

6.1.1 Gable Walls.

Five houses have gable walls of mortared stone and are, therefore, relatively late in date. No. 96a at Druimbuidhe and No. 136 at Doirlinn are still occupied and were, therefore, not examined in detail. The remaining three are all on Oronsay and may relate to the documented rebuilding in the 1860's. (see above.) The presence of blocked-up cruck slots in No. 183a suggests that the present gable-walled house is a conversion of an earlier hip-roofed house. New gable walls were built but the earlier side walls were retained. It is significant that only the gable walls are mortared, while the side walls consist of drystone masonry. In the house, No. 156a, the walls are mortared throughout and no cruck slots were recorded, though this too represents the rebuilding of an earlier house; it partly overlies a round-cornered drystone house, No. 156b. No traces of an earlier phase were found at No. 188, though again this house may have replaced an earlier one; only five houses were recorded in this part of central Oronsay (Nos. 187-191) to account for the five, recorded in 1836. (Wilson Map, 1836)

6.1.2 Round-Cornered Houses.

a) Construction.

The majority of houses in the survey consist of round-angled rectangular structures of drystone masonry, typical of this part of the West Highlands. Some are remarkably well-preserved, surviving to wall-head level around most of the perimeter, notably Nos. 25a, 26a, 28a, 34, 124, 160, 161 and 168.

These houses generally consist of thick battered walls, particularly noticeable at the corners. These taper from widths of, for example, 0.85m at the base to 0.60m at the top. (eg. No. 89) or 0.75m at the base to 0.55m at the top (eg. No. 124). Some houses were built on a slope and a level interior floor was provided by either cutting into the slope (eg. Nos. 34, 124, 160a, 168 and 187a) or by building up from below on boulder plinths (eg. Nos. 141a, 143, 161a, 174a, 188 and 189a).

b) Cruck Frames.

The round-angled rectangular houses would have had hipped roofs (ie. roofs with rounded ends), supported on wooden cruck frames. Some narrow vertical recesses, in which the crucks would have been inserted, are visible in most of these buildings, starting from a height of c. 0.70m above the present floor level. (See photos in Nos. 34, 141a and 161a.) In many cases the cruck slots have been blocked up, indicating a later phase of use, in which rafters would have rested on the wall head. (See photos in No. 183a.) Occasionally, internal collapse of the wall may indicate the former position of a cruck slot, presumably a weak point in the masonry, notably No. 191.

In some cases, the walls are too dilapidated to preserve evidence of cruck slots. However, in twelve houses, cruck slots are absent in walls, which seem to be sufficiently well-preserved to reveal them. (Nos. 26a, 89, 124, 127, 137, 155, 156a, 162, 163, 174a, 188 and 189a.) Two of these have gable walls and are obviously late in date. (Nos. 156a and 188) Of the remaining ten, all but three (Nos. 26a, 137 and 189a) do not appear on the Wilson Map of 1836, and, of these, No. 137 has been clearly rebuilt, including some elements with mortared stone, while the house on the Wilson Map in the position corresponding to No. 26a may, in fact, relate to No. 25a, which does have cruck slots, leaving No. 26a as the one post-1836 house at Sornagan. Thus it may be inferred that the adoption of wall-head rafters is a post-1830's development though the old tradition must have persisted as cruck frames are evident in other post-1836 houses. (eg. Nos. 34, 141a, 168 and 183a.)

6.1.3 Orientation.

The houses are mostly oriented along variations of E-W, ie. from NW-SE, through W-E, to SW-NE, thereby presenting a solid end wall to the prevailing westerly winds. A few houses are oriented N-S, but these are either tucked beneath N-S cliffs or steep slopes, eg. Nos. 34, 89, 124 and 168, or are aligned along a river valley or inlet, eg. Nos. 174a and 183a.

An entrance can be identified in most houses, always in one of the side walls, and in two cases with the lintel intact (Nos. 183a and 188).

6.1.4 Windows.

Evidence of windows survives in 20 houses, often on one or both sides of the door and usually splayed to allow the maximum amount of light with the minimum of glazing. (Nos. 26a, 28a, 34, ?49a, 96a, 124, 136, 137, 141a, 155, 156a, 160a, 161a, ?162, ?165, 168, 174a, 183a, 188, ?189a.) Lintels survive in four cases, Nos. 124, 168, 183a and 188. Occasionally, apertures are placed in an end wall, ie. Nos. 28a, 155 and 161a; in these cases the edges are straight rather than splayed. Elsewhere, collapsed parts of the wall may

indicate the former position of a window, which, as with cruck slots, would have formed a weak point in the wall. (eg. Nos. 25a, 127 and ?191.)

6.1.5 Compartments.

Six houses (Nos. 25a, 26a, 34, 155, 163 and 190) are divided into two compartments by a stone partition, though, of courses, many more may have been divided by wooden or wicker partitions. In all but one case (No. 163), the partition wall is not bonded to the outside wall, though this does not necessarily imply a long interval of time between the two phases of construction. However, a significant time lapse is indicated in the three examples, Nos. 34, 163 and 190, in which a two-compartment house was later reduced to a single compartment. and in a further house, No. 27a, which seems to have extended by the addition of a second compartment.

6.1.6 Function.

All the monuments listed in this category have been classified as dwellings. In only one case, No. 28a, is there evidence of a byre-dwelling, in which animals and humans shared the same roof. Thus, at Sornagan, a slightly raised platform, revetted with stone, occupying the E upslope end, may be interpreted as the living quarters, while the aperture at floor level through the western downslope end-wall, would be consistent with a drain from a byre. A drain is also recorded at No. 26a, which might suggest the existence of a byre, while the unusual length of No. 174a on Oronsay may have been designed to accommodate a byre and dwelling. Other houses may have had a similar dual function, though this may only be established by excavation. Alternatively, some of the houses are accompanied by ancillary structures, which may be interpreted as byres or barns, eg. Nos. 25a, 124, 143, 183, 187 and 189.

6.1.7 Date.

It is likely that most of these houses date to the documented occupation of the settlements, ie. from about 1800 onwards. Some correspond directly with houses marked on the Wilson Map of 1836, ie. Nos. 27a, 28a and either 25a or 26a, all at Sornagan, Nos. 49a and 50a at Poll Luachrain, probably No. 96b at Druimbuidhe, Nos. 136 and 137 at Doirlinn, Nos. 156b, 157 and either 160 or 161 in E Oronsay and Nos. 187 and 189-191 on central Oronsay.

The date of the initial construction of these houses is, however, difficult to establish. While the earliest documented references to inhabitants at individual settlements date no earlier than eg. 1799 at Sornagan and 1801 at Poll Luachrain, it seems unlikely that this area was not settled before then, so that some of the extant remains may well be of greater antiquity. A house certainly existed at Druimbuidhe in 1745, when it was searched by Government troops. Houses are marked at Doirlinn on Roys Map of 1747-55 and another house was recorded on Oronsay in 1733. The latter houses may well correspond to extant remains, eg. Nos. 136 and 137 at Doirlinn and either Nos. 156b or 157 on Oronsay.

However, it is generally assumed that peasant housing in the West Highlands was not constructed of stone until around 1750, so that the stone houses may not date much before then. Prior to this, houses were constructed of perishable materials, such as turf or wicker, and possible traces of these, recorded in the survey, are discussed below. (Category 6.2)

Most of the remaining houses post-date 1836. Some may be dated to a particular episode; thus the three gable-walled houses presumably date to the 1860's (see above p. 9), while the earlier version of one of them, No. 183a, as a round-cornered cruck-frame house, must date to a significant time earlier, yet no earlier than 1836 as it does not appear on the

Wilson Map. It may, therefore, have been built by some of the new arrivals in 1843. (see above p. 8)

Houses constructed without cruck slots, as noted above (6.1.2.), are also relatively late in date. Furthermore, although the state of preservation is not always a reliable indicator of age, houses built with cruck slots but at present well-preserved, may still be post-1836, eg. Nos. 34 and 141a. Conversely, it is possible that poorly-preserved examples may have been long abandoned and not worth recording in 1836, such as No. 43 on the W bank of Abhainn Poll Luachrain.

Some longevity of occupation is evident in many of the houses. As well as the conversion of round-angled to gable-walled houses, the reduction from two-compartment structures to a single compartment (see 6.1.5), also implies two distinct phases, while the frequently recorded blocking of cruck slots indicates at least two phases of the roof. Nevertheless, considering the documentary evidence, the occupation of most of these extant remains may be compressed to within less than a century.

6.2. Turf or Creel Houses.

Nos. 741, 52a, 56, 81a, 781b, (97), 106

Seven rectangular structures were not included in the category of stone houses. One, No. 97, may be the remains of a stone house, one of the seven at Druimbuidhe in 1836, but not enough of it survives to identify it clearly. The remaining six may be the remains of turf or wicker houses, the latter known as creel houses. Nos. 56 and 106 consist of low foundations of stone, which, in the absence of any evidence of collapsed masonry, must have had a superstructure of turf or wicker. Nos. 52a and 81a also consist of low walls, but seemingly composed mostly of turf, with some stone protruding through the turf at the latter. Finally, Nos. 41 and 81b are rather tentatively suggested as stances for houses, in which the entire structure consisted of perishable material, now rotted or removed.

Such houses may have been typical of the period prior to the construction of stone houses, though it must be remembered that the tradition may have persisted for a long time and does not necessarily indicate a pre-1750 date. A turf house was photographed, still in use, on the N shore of Loch Sunart in around 1900. (Sunart Archives, published in *De tha Dol?* Sept 1997) A creel or basket house was described by a naturalist, who, in 1768, journeyed from Mull to Mungasdail and on to Ardnamurchan, probably via the Doirlinn ferry:

“the houses in which they live they call basket houses, the method of building them is this, they first mark out both breadth & length of the house, then drive stakes of wood at nine inches or a foot distance from each other, leaving four or five feet of the them above ground, then wattle them up with heath and small branches of wood upon the outside of which they pin on very thin turf, much in the same manner that slates are laid. Alongst the top of these stakes runs a beam which supports the Couples, & what they call Cabers, and this either covered with turf, heath or Straw.”
(Henderson and Dickson, 1994, 81)

More of these houses may well have existed throughout the survey area but were later rebuilt in stone. It is highly likely that settlement would have continued at the most favoured spots. An example of a later house (No. 156a) built directly on top of an earlier one has already been noted. Only houses in less valued locations would survive, eg. Nos 81a and b.

6.3. Outbuildings.

Nos. 25b, 28b, 96b and c, 125, 126, 144, 183b, 183e, 187b and 198b.

Eleven rectangular structures were interpreted as outbuildings, namely byres or barns, a classification based on their proximity to houses. Apart from No. 183e, which is an ancillary building of unidentified function, all are of very similar construction to their associated houses.

It is not always possible to distinguish, on surface evidence alone, a byre from a barn. Barns were certainly in use in Morvern by the mid-18th century; "several barns well filled with corn" were burnt in 1746. (Joanne Semple Papers) A drain issuing out from the downslope end might indicate a byre, though such a feature is only found at No 96c and at the proposed byre/dwelling, No. 28a, noted above. (6.1.6) Excavation might establish drains elsewhere. Further evidence for a byre is recorded at No. 189b on central Oronsay and No. 96c at Druimbuidhe, where a low opening through the wall may have been a calf-creep. Such a device allowed calves to enter the byre for feeding and be kept separate from their mothers prior to milking.

A similar low door in No. 183b seems too low (0.50m high) for such a function, while its location, opening into the kailyard, would hardly be appropriate. Alternatively, this low door, directly opposite the main door into the structure, may have provided a through-draft for winnowing, and thus the structure may be interpreted as a winnowing barn. A similar winnowing door was recorded at No. 96b at Druimbuidhe. The structure, No. 28b, adjacent to the "byre-dwelling", No. 28a, may also have been a barn.

6.4. Small structures.

Nos. 16, 37b, 54, 62, 67, 69, 76b, 82, 83, 100, 151, 173 and 186.

13 crudely-built small structures were recorded, of unknown date and presumably some agricultural function. Five (Nos. 16, 37b, 100, 151 and 173) are adjacent to and are presumably associated with fields or enclosures. Two (Nos. 54 and 76b) adjoin and are presumably associated with circular platforms. Three (Nos. 82, 83 and 186) are D-shaped structures abutting vertical cliff faces and a further three (Nos. 62, 67 and 69) are in isolated upland locations, probably reflecting a pastoral function.

6.5. Shielings.

Nos. ?66, 68a-c, 70a-b and ?117.

Five small, sub-rectangular, or almost oval, structures, Nos. 68a-c and 70a and b, were interpreted as shielings. These are situated about 350m to the SE of, and uphill from, the main settlement at Poll Luachrain. Arranged in two groups, each group may have been specifically associated with one of the two houses at Poll Luachrain, though, as noted above, (see p. 6) they may date to an earlier period of land use.

A further two sites, Nos. 66 and 117, were identified as possible stances for shielings. Both are situated near the former SE boundary of Drimnin estate, No. 63, which raises an alternative possibility that these were sites of structures used by grasskeepers, who patrolled the boundaries to prevent trespass by livestock from other farms. (Cregeen 1963, 126)

6.6. Hut Circles.

Nos. 87a and b.

Two small circular structures were recorded and tentatively identified as hut circles. These are fully discussed above (p.3) and in the gazetteer.

6.7. Corn-Drying Kilns.

?No. 102.

Only one corn-drying kiln has been identified in the whole survey area, and only tentatively at that. This contrasts with other settlements in the Sunart area, where there is usually at least one corn-drying kiln, such as at Bourblaige, Ardnamurchan (RCAHMS, 1980, 238) and up to seven at Inniemore, Morvern. It would be surprising if corn-drying kilns were not generally used in the survey area, as a means of drying the grain before milling was an important feature in the damp West Highland climate. It is particularly surprising, considering that the place-name, Sornagan, means "Little kilns". (OS Name Books; Gillies, 1906, 106) The best explanation may be that the kilns in use were light and impermanent, perhaps to warrant the description "little", and, therefore, have not survived.

6.8. Fields.

The largest category of monuments in the present survey consists of fields. These may be subdivided into:

6.8.1 Unenclosed or only partially enclosed fields.

Nos. 6, 8, 12, ?14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25d, 26c, 27d, 39, 49e, 50b, 50c, 53, 58a, 59, 61a, 74a, 75a, 78, 84, 86, 101, 113, 114, 116, 121, 129, 130, 142, 184, 194, ?196 and 209

6.8.2 Large enclosures containing evidence of cultivation.

Nos. 36, 146, 148, 158b, e and f, 169a-f, 175a, 192, 195 and 206a and b.

6.8.3 Large enclosures with no evidence of cultivation.

Nos. 37a, 48a and b, 64, 95, 99, 104, 134, 150, 153, 154, 176, 179-181, 200 and 201.

6.8.1 The vast majority of fields are unenclosed or partially enclosed. In most cases during the survey, these were instantly recognizable by their vegetation cover of herb-rich grassland containing bracken in contrast to the surrounding mixture of heather and molinia grass. On closer examination, further distinguishing features were often identified, notably the presence of rig and furrow, clearance cairns, a partially enclosing wall or a correspondence with arable marked on the Wilson Map of 1836. While it seemed most accurate to restrict identification of a field to those areas with at least one of the corroborating features, rather than record every patch of bracken, it was felt necessary to take particular care with the recording of unenclosed fields, which, under the change of vegetation concomitant with a programme of natural regeneration, will simply disappear. Thus, several fields were included simply because they looked too suspicious to leave out, ie. Nos. 14, 23 and 53.

A glance at the map shows how small and how spread out these fields are. Many are much smaller than the equivalent area of arable marked on the Wilson Map and undoubtedly the vegetation has degenerated since the land was intensively farmed. Nevertheless, some of the fields cannot have been much larger in 1836 as they are restricted to small terraces within steep slopes. It is, therefore, likely that the arable marked on the Wilson Map simply marks out the whole area, within which fields were located. Thus some of the fields were probably originally very small and a considerable distance from the parent settlement. For example, fields, Nos. 19 and 20 cover areas of only 29m x 16m and 26m x 13m respectively, both at a distance of c. 300m from the Sornagan houses, while the field, to the W of Torr nan Con, No. 12, lies 700m from the settlement.

That such an arrangement is not unusual on a township in the West Highlands is borne out by Margaret Leigh's account of crofting in Smirisary, Moidart during the Second World

War. Thus “in Smirisary there were some plots, no more than a few square yards in area, carefully marked off with stones or rods stuck in the ground.” (Leigh, 1949, 144) Further, Margaret Leigh’s own holding contained six different parcels of arable, of which “only one adjoined the house, while two ... were ... a good 500 yards away up a steep hill.” (Leigh, 1949, 51)

6.8.2 There are nine examples of large enclosures, which contain evidence of cultivation. It is notable that nearly all of the enclosed fields occur on Oronsay, a result possibly of the later date of occupation on the island and/or of greater pressure on the land.

6.8.3 A further 14 enclosures were recorded, which contain no evidence of cultivation. It is likely that at least some of these were cultivated, particularly Nos. 154, 200 and 201, all on Oronsay. The latter closely resemble other late (ie. post-1836) enclosures on the island, which have clear evidence of cultivation, eg. Nos. 146 and 148. Nos. 95 and 99 may also have been cultivated, though these enclosures were built on top of pre-existing arable and do not necessarily relate to any evidence of cultivation. No. 64 is possibly of prehistoric origin.

In all these fields, oats and barley may have been grown, as indicated in the Old and New Statistical Accounts of 1791-99 and 1843 respectively. The place-name Port an Eorna, meaning Port of the Barley, indicates the importance of that crop at Sornagan. (OS Name Books)

6.9. Lazy Beds.

Nos. 103, 108, 109, 110, 111, 170, 172 and 185a.

A total of eight parcels of ridges were recorded, in which the height and width of the ridges and the width of the gap between them, suggests that these were spade-dug lazy beds rather than ploughed rig and furrow. A clear distinction between lazy beds and other methods of cultivation is seen at East Gleannaguda, where lazy beds occupy the NE portion of a large arable field, No. 121, the rest of which was presumably ploughed, though no rig and furrow is discernible. This implies that the lazy beds were reserved for a particular function, presumably as was usual, the production of potatoes. (McLeod. 1791-99, 364) By the 1790’s, however, potatoes began to be raised in ploughed fields using the drill, in preference to lazy beds. (ibid.) This later development may account for the absence of lazy beds in much of the survey area, notably at Sornagan.

6.10. Kailyards.

Nos. 25c, 26b, 28c, 43b, 119b, 159, 174b, 183c and 189c.

Nine enclosures, defined by substantial stone walls, situated immediately adjacent to houses, are interpreted as kailyards or vegetable gardens. Following standard practice, few of the cultivated fields are enclosed, as stock was always herded and kept away from the crops. However, green vegetables would have been particularly prized by animals and humans and may have needed extra protection. Most are fully enclosed without an entrance.

6.11. Yards.

Nos. 27b and c; 49b, c and d; 52b and c; 119c and d; 141b and c; 183d and 189d.

At seven houses, short walls, leading off from one or more of the corners, were presumably designed to define small areas for a particular function, such as a stackyard.

6.12. Small enclosures.

Nos. 7, 11, 33, 57a, 90, 145 and 164.

Seven small enclosures of unknown function were recorded.

6.13. Circular Platforms.

Nos. 55, 76a, 79, 80, 115 and possibly 9.

Six level platforms, circular or sub-circular in plan were recorded. All have been terraced into the hillside and built up from below, where they are edged with a roughly-built boulder revetment.

The purpose of these platforms is unclear. In size and character, they closely resemble charcoal-burning platforms but all seem to be associated with arable land and are situated outside areas of existing woodland, while No. 55 is immediately adjacent to the houses of Poll Luachrain settlement.

A further example, No. 9 may be included in this category as it is a level platform associated with arable land, though not circular.

6.14. Boundaries.

There are 23 stone walls or turf banks, which seem to define boundaries. These may be sub-divided into:

6.14.1 Boundaries between holdings.

Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 5 may be part of a single boundary along the top of Sgeir Buidhe.

No. 10.

Nos. 42, 45 and 46 mark parts of the Poll Luachrain / Sornagan boundary.

No. 47 marks the boundary between Poll Luachrain and Druimbuidhe.

No. 63 marks the old march of Drimnin Estate.

No. 65 may have divided holdings pertaining to Barr.

No. 88 divides the E bank of Abhainn Poll Luachrain.

No. 112 marks the boundary between Druimbuidhe and Doirlinn.

Nos. 152 and 166 divide eastern from Central Oronsay.

No. 204 may have divided western from Central Oronsay.

6.14.2 Head-dykes around holdings.

No. 60 may have been a head-dyke around Poll Luachrain.

No. 107 and possibly No. 94 around Druimbuidhe.

No. 120 and possibly No. 123 around eastern Gleannaguda.

No. 128 around western Gleannaguda.

No. 133 around Doirlinn.

These boundaries are composed of a variety of construction methods and often several are found along the course of a single monument. For example, No. 47, marking the boundary between Poll Luachrain and Druimbuidhe, consists of a carefully coursed stone wall in places, but also a turf bank and a boulder wall in others. No. 47 also exemplifies the importance, which must have been attached to marking the boundary. Thus the stream, which already defined the boundary was obviously not considered to be sufficient and a physical barrier had to be built in addition. Documentary evidence reveals that this was required under the terms of a lease. (Cregeen, 1964, 144; see above p. 6)

The importance of boundaries is also implied on coastal margins in the continuation of the walls or banks right to the water's edge, often along the beach. (See Category 6.15).

6.15. "Beach Walls".

Nos. 92, 93, 105, 133c, 135, 167 and 205.

Seven stone walls were recorded, located below the High Water Mark. For want of a better term, these were called "beach walls".

No. 93 consists of two parallel walls, running down the beach into the sea and is probably relatively modern and a result of clearing a landing place for a boat. No. 92 consists of a wall parallel to the shore, partly enclosing a small area, perhaps for some specific purpose.

The remaining five might be assumed to be fish traps. Although none, apart from perhaps No. 167, encloses an area, in which fish could be trapped and netted, fish could still be driven against the wall for netting. However, considering the relationship to adjacent monuments, it seems more likely that these were primarily boundary walls. Thus the walls, Nos. 105, 135, 133c, 167 and 205 all continue the line of boundary walls, Nos. 104, 133a/134, 133b, 166 and 204 respectively. These "beach wall" elements of the boundaries may have been important to divide the resources of the sea-bed or to guide cattle. Trapping fish may still have been a subsidiary function.

6.16. Walls.

Nos. 18, 38a-d, 44, 177, 197 and 198.

A further nine stone walls were recorded, which have no clear function. All are relatively short and do not enclose or bound any obvious features but presumably defined particular areas for some specific purpose.

6.17. Clearance Cairns.

Nos. 49f and g; 52d, e and f; 57b; 58b and c; 61b; 74b, c and d; 75b; 158d and g; 175b; 185b and c; 193b-e and also parts of Nos. 15 and 17.

25 clearance cairns were recorded, usually on the edge of arable fields, though occasionally in the middle. Sometimes the cairns are the only feature to indicate the former existence of an arable field, for example, Nos. 193b-e. "Walls", partly defining the fields, Nos. 19, 20, 101 and 114, were also probably a result of field clearance.

6.18 Cairns.

Nos. 149a and b, 202 and 207.

A further five cairns were recorded. Nos. 149a and b may be clearance cairns but are not situated in any obvious arable ground and are, therefore, interpreted as boundary markers. Nos. 202 and 207 are relatively modern hill-top cairns, though the latter may have earlier origins.

6.19. Mounds.

Nos. 171a and b.

Two oval mounds of indeterminable origin and function were recorded.

6.20. Peat Cuttings.

Nos. 13, 30, 77, 118, 203 and 208a - c.

Eight areas of peat cutting have been identified. Nos. 13 and 30 presumably served the inhabitants of Sornagan and No. 77 the settlement at Poll Luachrain. No. 118, straddling the boundary between Druimbuidhe, Dorilinn and Gleannaguda as presumably shared by all

these settlements. Peat cuttings on Oronsay, Nos. 203 and 208a - c, were all at the western end, a long haul for the inhabitants of, for example, the house, No. 141a.

6.21. Tracks and Paths.

Nos. 3, 29, 31, 35, 40, 51, 98, 132, 138, 158c, 160b and 161b.

Twelve tracks and paths were recorded. Two, Nos. 29 and 31, may be remnants of earlier routes of the Drimnin - Doirlinn road. No. 29, with a gateway leading into Sornagan settlement, may be part of the road marked on Langlands Map of 1801. No. 138 completes the present Drimnin - Doirlinn road as far as the original ferry landing stage. No. 40 is a substantial track, probably sufficient for a cart, leading from Druimbuidhe Bridge to the ford below Poll Luachrain settlement. The footpath, No. 51, completes the route up to the houses. Another cart track, No. 98, leads to the enclosure, No. 99 at Druimbuidhe. No. 132 is a long path from Doirlinn to Gleannaguda. Nos. 35, 160b and 161b are short paths leading to individual houses.

6.22. Bridges.

No. 4.

A single bridge is recorded along the Drimnin - Doirlinn road.

6.23. Mileposts.

Nos. 91 and 139.

Two mileposts were recorded, examples of a series situated at one-mile intervals along the Drimnin - Doirlinn road. A third, marked on the map at NM 5876 5761, is now missing.

6.24. Drainage Ditches.

No. 178.

One extensive area of drainage ditches was recorded on Oronsay, in the level bowl enclosed by the coursed walls, Nos. 176a and b.

6.25. Fish Traps.

Nos. 147, 182 and 199.

Three fish traps were recorded, all on Oronsay. Two, Nos. 182 and 199, consist of low walls of roughly piled-up beach stones, but the third, No. 147, consists of a very substantial stone wall of carefully coursed masonry. The "beach walls", noted above (see Category 6.15), which are of similar construction to Nos. 182 and 199, may also have been used for trapping fish, though they were primarily boundaries.

6.26. Slipway.

No. 140.

A slipway was recorded at the site of the Doirlinn - Glenborrodale ferry.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS.

On the understanding that sites are to be marked on the ground with numbered posts, it is assumed that the archaeology is to be protected. Nevertheless, some recommendations may be made and, as these consist of mostly general remarks, they are listed here rather than burden the gazetteer with numerous repetitions.

It should first be noted that the WGS application involves natural regeneration rather than active planting, thereby avoiding potentially damaging use of heavy machinery and drain-digging. Nevertheless, the sites are still at risk from tree and vegetation growth.

7.1 It is hoped that the houses, in Categories 6.1 and 6.2, as well as outbuildings, 6.3, and shielings, Category 6.5, can be protected from tree growth. A number already have trees growing within and root damage is likely to undermine the walls.

7.2 In the case of the possible prehistoric remains, the hut circles, Nos. 87a and b, and the possible enclosure, No. 64, particular care should be taken to protect these, as prehistoric settlement remains are extremely rare in this area. A second opinion on the date of these sites is recommended and, if still considered prehistoric, they should be kept clear of trees.

7.3 While some individual sites are important because of their antiquity or because they are good examples of their type, it may be suggested that, with regard to the Post-Medieval remains, it is the complete landscape, which is significant, rather than individual sites. Thus the conjunction of houses, barns, byres, kailyards, stackyards, fields and clearance cairns, boundary walls and banks, shielings, peat cuttings, fish traps, tracks and paths comprises an entire agricultural landscape, illustrating the farming practice of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. For example, one aspect of the way of life is poignantly illustrated by the distance and inaccessibility of some of the fields from their parent settlement.

The fields are particularly vulnerable to vegetation change; as already noted, unenclosed fields are often only discerned by contrasting vegetation and such distinctions will disappear during regeneration. If the fields cannot be protected, it is important to fully record this complete agricultural landscape. The present survey goes some way towards this and particular care was taken with the unenclosed fields. Nevertheless, the production of an accurately measured plan at a scale of perhaps 1:500 of representative sites would ensure the survival of this information. Sornagan and Poll Luachrain, in particular, would lend themselves to such a plan.

8. GAZETTEER OF SITES

Abbreviations: Dimen. = Dimensions NGR = Grid Reference Orient. = Orientation
L = Length W = Width H = Height
D = Depth Diam. = Diameter ext. = external int. = internal

(NB Positions of doors and windows are measured on the external face of the wall unless otherwise stated. Positions of cruck slots are measured on the internal face.)

1. **Boundary Bank.**

NGR: (SE end) NM 5905 5706

(See Colour Plate 3)

(NW end) NM 5864 5741

Long sinuous bank of turf and stone, running along the top of Sgeir Bhuidhe. It crosses the survey perimeter fence, where the latter dog-legs around a high rocky knoll with a modern cairn on top. The bank continues westwards outside the survey area and, according to the Wilson Map of 1836 and OS maps, stops at a bend in the Allt Port an Eorna. However, it may join up with the wall, No.2, to form a continuous boundary, consisting of Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 5.

At its southeastern end, the bank stops at the cliff edge, just to the N of a waterfall on one of the main tributaries of Abhainn Poll Luachrain. At its NW end, it consists of a turf bank, c. 0.80m wide, visible principally as a drop, 0.20m in height, to the SW. Further SE, the bank is more pronounced, 1.60 - 1.80m wide, with a stone revetment on the SW side, 0.60 - 0.80m high, and a drop of 0.20 - 0.30m on the NE side, though it still peters out completely in places.

This bank is marked on the Wilson Map of 1836, though it is not clear exactly what is being defined. Both sides of the boundary are within the perimeter of the Somagan holding. Possibly, it distinguishes between upper and lower moorland or, more likely, it may relate to a much earlier division of land.

Dimen: L (within survey area) 520m x W 0.80 - 1.80m x H 0.20-0.80m

Orient: NW-SE

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836;

OS 2nd ed. 6" Map Sheet.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

2. **Boundary Wall.**

NGR NM 5840 5750

Wall of irregularly-shaped stones, piled around natural boulders along the NE side of Allt Port an Eorna. This wall is beyond a rocky knoll from the revetted track, No. 3, which itself seems to be a continuation, along the stream, of the wall, No. 5. The wall also continues outside the survey area to the SE along a low rocky ridge, possibly joining up with the boundary bank, No. 1 to form a single boundary with Nos. 1, 3 and 5.

Dimen: L (within survey area) 12m x W 0.60 - 0.80m x H 0.60m.

Orient: NW-SE.

3. **Track / ?Boundary.**

NGR NM 5836 5762

Track, revetted with a boulder wall on its SW side, running along the NE side of Allt Port an Eorna. The broad level track appears to curve eastwards into a gully, giving access to the slopes above Sgeir Bhuidhe, though the track cannot be traced any further. However, the revetment continues southeastwards to a rocky knoll, beyond which the wall, No.2, runs in the same alignment alongside the Allt Port an Eorna. At their NW end, the track and

revetment are truncated by the present Drimnin - Doirlinn road, but may have originally joined the wall, No. 5, to form a single boundary, consisting of Nos. 5, 3, 2 and 1.
Dimen: L (at present) 53m x W (track) 2.80m x H (revetment) 0.80m.
Orient: NW-SE.

4. Bridge.

NGR NM 5835 5763

Well-built stone bridge across Allt Port an Eorna, on the present Drimnin - Doirlinn road, built around 1880. (Gaskell, 1968, 110) The construction, of large boulder plinths and a large lintel with small roadstone above, is particularly well-displayed on the N side. *NM 5835 5763*
Dimen: W (of culvert) 0.50m x D (of culvert) 1.15m.

5. Wall.

NGR NM 5833 5764

Heather-covered stone wall along the W side of Allt Port an Eorna, stopping, at its northern end, at the cliff edge above Sornagan settlement. It is truncated at its southern end by the present Drimnin - Doirlinn road, beyond which the track /?boundary, No.3, continues along the stream, though on the opposite bank. It is thus possible that this wall forms part of a longer boundary, consisting of Nos. 5, 3, 2 and 1. The wall consists of two to three courses of rough stones. *NM 5833 5764*
Dimen: L 30m x W 1.40m x H 0.80m.

6. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5822 5768

Bracken-covered, sub-rectangular, unenclosed field, situated in a level gully between a rocky knoll to the N and a steep slope up to the present Drimnin - Doirlinn road, to the S. A short wall of four or five boulders marks the eastern end. Rig and furrow is clearly visible within and at least six furrows can be traced, oriented E-W. Together with the adjacent field, No.8, this may equate with the southernmost arable pertaining to Sornagan settlement, marked 6 and 7 on the Wilson Map of 1836. *NM 5822 5768*
Dimen: Area 35m (E-W) x 17m (N-S).
Orient: E-W.
Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

7. Enclosure.

NGR NM 5815 5767

Small rectangular enclosure, defined on three sides by grass-covered turf and boulder banks and on the fourth by a natural rock outcrop. The enclosure is situated between two areas of rig and furrow cultivation, Nos. 6 and 8, and is presumably associated with arable activity. *NM 5815 5767*
Dimen: Area enclosed 11.5m x 9m;
W of bank 0.90m x H 0.35m.
Orient: NW-SE.

8. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5810 5776

Grass-covered, sub-rectangular, unenclosed field, separated from the adjacent field, No. 6, by a rocky knoll, which constricts the gully, in which they are situated. The interior is hummocky but rig and furrow is still clearly visible, oriented NW-SE. Together with the adjacent field, No. 6, this may equate with the southernmost arable pertaining to Sornagan settlement, marked 6 and 7 on the Wilson Map of 1836, though there is no trace of any enclosing wall around the W end, as indicated on the map. *NM 5810 5776*
Dimen: Area 55m (NW-SE) x 26m (NE-SW).
Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

9. Platform.

NGR NM 5802 5783

Sub-rectangular, almost oval, platform with a level interior, possibly built up from below. There is a slight trace of a turf and stone bank enclosing the W side, though identification is hampered by the thick cover of heather over the whole area. This platform is presumably associated with the cultivation in the gully above Sornagan cliff, represented by the fields, Nos. 6 and 8.

Dimen: L 14m (E-W) x W 7m (N-S).

Orient: E-W.

10. Boundary Bank.

NGR (SE end) NM 5812 5780

(NW end) NM 5802 5791

Turf bank, containing some stone, running along the top of the cliff above Sornagan settlement. It continues westwards outside the survey area, still along the cliff top. The purpose of this boundary is unclear. It does not seem to correspond with the boundary of Sornagan settlement, as indicated on the Wilson Map of 1836, while, furthermore, cultivated fields, Nos. 6 and 8, lie beyond it. In construction and situation, it closely resembles the bank, No. 1, along the top of Sgeir Bhuidhe and thus, like it, may belong to an earlier phase of land division..

Dimen: L (within survey area) 115m x W 1.20m x H 0.50m.

Orient: approx. NW-SE.

11. Wall.

NGR NM 5805 5795

Stone wall, running southwards from the W end of a rocky knoll, until it peters out at the S end. 18m from the N end is a trace of a wall joining from the E. This may continue for 7m to a large boulder, so that a triangular area is enclosed on two sides by walls and on the third by the knoll.

Dimen: L 27m x W (of wall) 0.65m x H (of wall) 0.35m.

Orient: -

12. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5796 5841

Sub-rectangular, unenclosed field, immediately outside the survey area, but part of Sornagan settlement. It is situated in a steep-sided, level-floored gully to the W of Torr nan Con, immediately above the shore. The survey perimeter fence runs along its eastern side. Any trace of rig and furrow is difficult to discern in the bracken-covered interior. This field is marked as arable on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: Area 50m approx. (N-S) x 45m approx. (E-W).

Orient: N-S.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

13. Peat Cuttings.

NGR NM 5821 5812

Area of peat cuttings, situated on level waterlogged ground between two rocky knolls. Two parallel ditches, 3.30m apart, run eastwards, presumably to drain the working area.

Dimen: Area 54m (N-S) x 12m (E-W)

D (of cutting) 0.40m.

Orient: E-W

14. ?Arable Field.

NGR NM 5819 5805

Small level plot on top of a large rocky knoll. Under the criteria listed above, this would not normally be classified as a field: there are no traces of an enclosing wall, clearance cairns or rig and furrow. Nor is there documentary evidence of arable use. Nevertheless, its thick bracken cover stands out amidst the surrounding boggy vegetation and its location on top of a knoll would afford some protection from cattle at least. Probing revealed a depth of soil of 0.40m and it would be surprising if this plot, admittedly very small, had not been used at some stage for some form of cultivation.

Dimen: Area 12m (N-S) x 10m (E-W).

15. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5833 5805

Y-shaped, unenclosed, bracken-covered field, situated between rocky knolls and outcrops. Its plan is dictated by the position of the knolls. Rig and furrow is discernible within, though it is not possible to trace each furrow. Smaller stones piled around the natural outcrops are probably a result of field clearance.

Dimen: Area 19m (from rocky outcrop) x 10m max.

Orient: -

16. Structure.

NGR NM 5844 5808

Small, squarish stone structure, built between two boulders of a rocky outcrop. The boulders form the E and W sides. The N wall is constructed of rough masonry, built to the same height as the boulders. The S side consists of a low wall, 0.25m high, with a gap, 0.65m wide, at the SE corner, presumably to provide access. This structure is situated on the N side of an arable field, No. 17, and may have been used for storage in connection with the lower Sornagan fields, Nos. 17, 19, 20 and 21.

Dimen: 1.60m square internally x H (of N wall) 0.90m

Orient: -

17. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5845 5805

Squarish unenclosed, bracken-covered field, situated on gently-sloping ground between rocky knolls. The surface is very uneven and no rig and furrow can be discerned. A pile of stones in the approximate centre of the field is presumably a result of field clearance. The structure, No. 16, lies on the N edge and a wall, No. 18, runs parallel to and below the S side, following alongside a small stream rather than enclosing the field. Together with fields, Nos. 19 and 20, this may correspond to the arable, marked 3 on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: Area 20m (E-W) x 20m (N-S).

Orient: -

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

18. Wall.

NGR NM 5846 5804

Stone wall, running ENE from a rocky outcrop alongside a small tributary of Allt Port an Eorna. It appears to cross the stream but peters out on the other side. The wall consists of large boulders piled up roughly. The purpose of this wall is unclear; it runs parallel to the S side of the field, No. 17, but it is downslope from the field and could not be described as enclosing it.

Dimen: L 40m (from outcrop to stream) x W 0.80m x H 0.60m.

Orient: ENE - WSW.

19. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5851 5808

Rectangular, bracken-covered, partially enclosed field, situated on a naturally level terrace on an otherwise steeply sloping hillside. It is located directly below the field, No. 17, separated by a steep, wooded, rocky slope. A large linear heap of stones, which is probably a result of field clearance, encloses the S side and the southern end of the E side. No rig and furrow is discernible. Together with the fields, Nos. 17, and 20, this may correspond to the arable, marked 3, on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: Area 29m (N-S) x 16m (E-W).

“wall” = L 16m x W 1.40m x H 0.80m.

Orient: N-S.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

20. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5855 5805

Rectangular, bracken-covered, partially-enclosed field, situated on a level terrace on an otherwise steeply-sloping hillside. This terrace may be man-made; it appears to have been cut into the slope on the SW side and also built up from below at the N corner. A large boulder revetment defines the N corner. The W corner is marked by a large boulder, augmented by smaller stones, which presumably resulted from field clearance. This “boulder wall”, measuring 1.80m wide and 0.50m high, runs for 3m and then continues as a low overgrown mound up to the boulder revetment on the N corner. No rig and furrow is discernible. Together with the fields, Nos. 17 and 19, this may correspond to the arable, marked 3, on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: Area 26m (NW-SE) x 13m (NE-SW).

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

21. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5862 5806

Very flat grassy area on the shore of Port an Eorna, on the E bank of the stream. No enclosing wall, clearance cairns or rig and furrow were discerned but this area corresponds to the arable land marked on the Wilson Map of 1836, with furrows oriented NE-SW, and may, therefore, be assumed to have been cultivated at some time.

Dimen: Area 30m (NW-SE) x 25m (NE-SW).

Orient: NE-SW.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

22. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5833 5795

Irregularly-shaped, bracken-covered arable plot, situated on a spur to the N of Sornagan settlement. In plan, the plot is a long oval, constricted in the middle and is the easternmost of three plots along the spur. No enclosing walls or clearance cairns were detected but traces of rig and furrow, oriented approximately E-W, can just be discerned from the other side of the valley.

Dimen: Area 28m x 10m max.

Orient: E-W.

23. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5826 5895

(See Colour Plate 5)

Sub-rectangular, sloping, bracken-covered plot, situated on a spur to the N of Sornagan settlement. There are no traces of enclosing walls, clearance cairns or rig and furrow but its bracken cover, cleared smooth surface and depth of soil distinguish it from the

surrounding heather-covered rocky slopes. Furthermore, the two other similar pockets, Nos. 22 and 24, on this spur have clear evidence of cultivation in the form of rig and furrow.

Dimen: Area 30m (N-S) x 20m (E-W).

Orient: N-S.

24. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5820 5791

Sub-rectangular, unenclosed, bracken-covered field, situated on a spur to the N of Sornagan settlement. It is the westernmost of three arable plots, Nos. 22, 23 and 24, along this spur. Rig and furrow, oriented N-S, is clearly visible within the field, from the other side of the valley.

Dimen: Area 35m (E-W) x 20m (N-S).

Orient. E-W.

25. House and Associated Structures.

NGR NM 5825 5787

House, another structure, possibly a byre or barn, a small enclosure and a patch of unenclosed arable land, which are all part of Sornagan settlement. These may correspond to the one group of existing buildings, which is not marked on the Wilson Map of 1836.

25a. House.

(See Colour Plate 4)

Well-built and well-preserved, round-angled rectangular, two-compartment building of drystone masonry. The house is best preserved on the N and W sides, where the wall survives to perhaps the original height of 1.56m. At the E end and the eastern end of the S side, the wall is very dilapidated, reaching only 0.80m at the SE corner. An entrance, 0.70m wide, opens through the S wall, 4.10m from the W end, facing away from the other building, No. 25b. No evidence of a window survives, though there may have been one in the collapsed part, E of the door. Three or four cruck slots are discernible:

(i) In the N wall; W edge only, 1.10m from the W end.

(ii) In the N wall; 0.13m wide, 1.05m from the E end.

(iii) In the S wall; 0.15m wide, 1.15m from the W end.

(iv) Internal collapse of the N wall, just E of the partition, may indicate the former position of a cruck slot.

The interior is divided by a stone partition, 2.65m from the W end. This wall, 0.60m wide, is not bonded to the external walls and was therefore added later, though not necessarily after any great interval. Other features do betray some time-lapse in construction. Thus, at the W end of the N side, the wall has been rebuilt so that only the western edge of the cruck slot, (i), remains. The opposing cruck slot, (iii), in the S wall has been partially filled in and the wall rebuilt across the upper part.

Dimen: L 7.70m x W 4.50m ext.

W of wall 0.60m x H of wall 1.56m max.

Orient E-W.

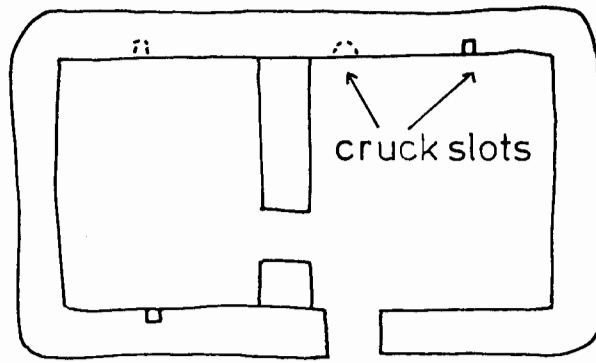
Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 7 (part of).


OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

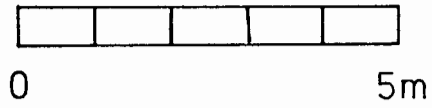
OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Gaskell, 1968, 158.

Visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3174.




 No 25a



No 25a Cruck slot ii) in the N wall.

25b. Outbuilding.

Dilapidated, round-angled, rectangular building of drystone masonry, which may have been a byre or barn, associated with the adjacent house, No. 25a, though it could, alternatively, have been another house. It is larger but less well-preserved than its neighbour. The wall survives to a maximum height of 1.60m at the E downslope corner, but the rest of the structure is reduced to a height of c. 0.90m. The structure has an undivided interior, with an entrance opening away from the adjacent house, in the NE side, 3.80m from the SE end. On either side of the entrance, a flat-topped platform, 0.80m wide and 0.30 - 0.40m high, abuts the external face of the wall. A large flat slab, lying beyond the platforms, may have been the door lintel. A possible cruck slot, partly filled-in, is visible in the NE wall, 2.30m from the NW end. The walls are too dilapidated to discern any further evidence of cruck slots or windows. An enclosure, No. 25c, adjoins the NW end of the structure.

Dimen: L 9m x W 4.90m externally.

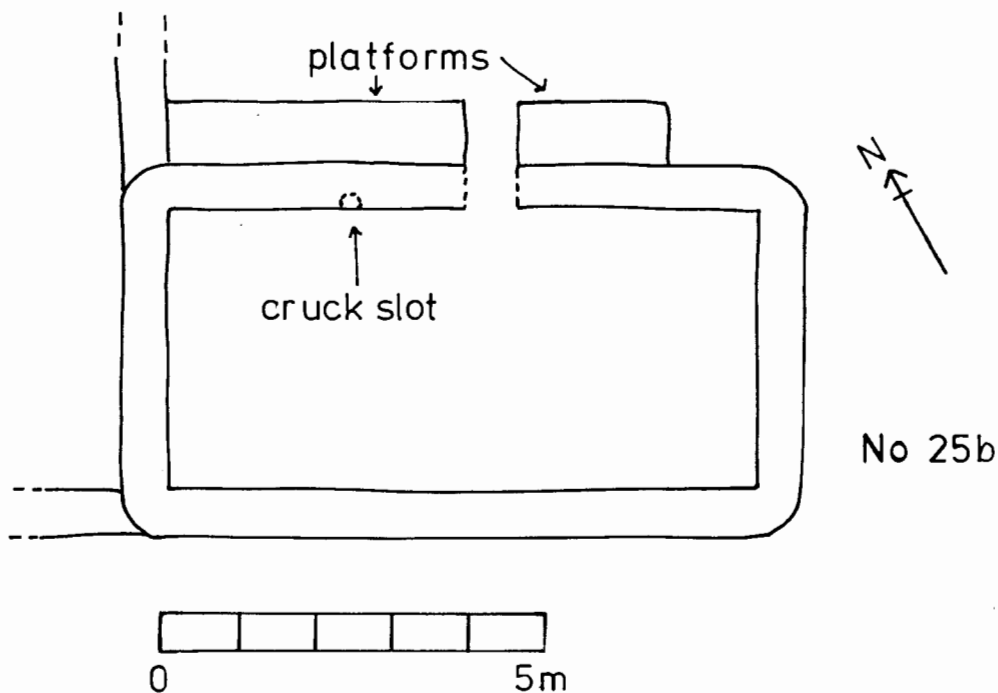
W of wall 0.60m x H of wall 1.60m.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs. OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE

Visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3174.



25c. Enclosure.

Small, trapezoidal enclosure, abutting the NE end of the outbuilding, No. 25b. The reed-filled interior is enclosed by a low wall of drystone masonry.

Dimen: L 8.80m (SE end); 8.40m (NW end) x W 7.60m (NE end); 5.20m (SW end)

W of wall 0.60m x H of wall 0.70m

Orient: -

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

25d. Arable Field.

Sub-rectangular area of unenclosed arable land, to the E of and incorporating the house, No. 25a. The arable is distinguished mainly by its bracken cover amidst a vegetation dominated by reeds, heather and molinia grass. The extent of the area is best viewed from a height rather than on the ground. This presumably corresponds to part of the extensive arable, surrounding the houses at Sornagan settlement, on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: Area 40m (N-S) x 30m (E-W).

Orient: -

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

26. House, Enclosure and Arable Field.

NGR NM 5832 5788

House, associated enclosure and unenclosed patch of arable land, belonging to Sornagan settlement. The house may correspond to one of the buildings, marked on the Wilson Map of 1836.

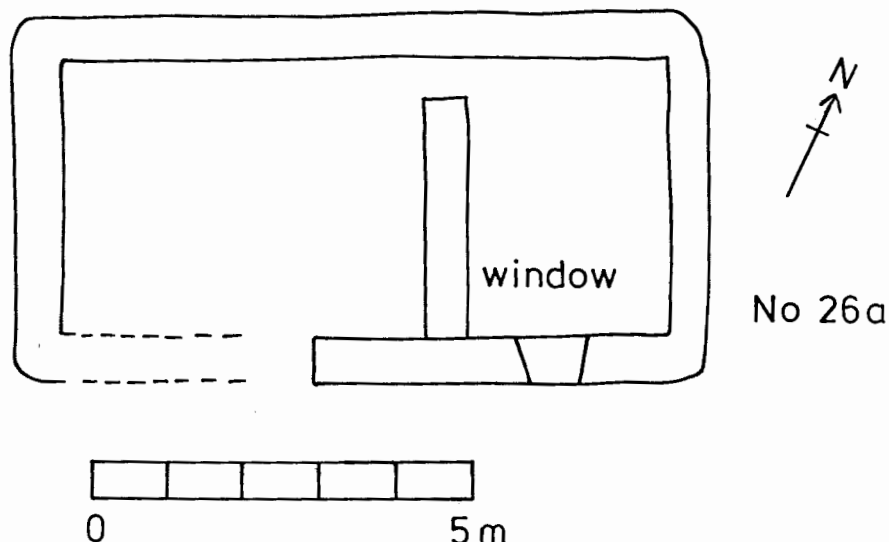
26a. House.

(See Colour Plate 5)

Well-built and well-preserved, round-angled, rectangular building of drystone masonry. The wall is best preserved at the NE end, with traces of the turf coping surviving at the E corner, at a height of 1.95m. At the SW end, the wall is much reduced, to a maximum of 1m in height, and completely absent SW of the door on the SE side. Only the NE side of the door remains, 5.20m from the NE end. The door jamb incorporates one fine edge-set flat slab.

A splayed window, 0.60m wide externally and 0.75m wide internally, is set into the SE wall, 2.70m NE of the door. The interior is divided by a stone partition wall, NE of the door, 2.65m from the NE end. This wall, 0.55m wide, is not bonded to the external wall and was, therefore, added later, though not necessarily after any great interval. A gap, 0.65m wide, at the NW end of the partition provides access into the NE compartment. No cruck slots are discernible.

An arrangement of stones, consisting of edge-set stones, partly covered by a flat slab, lies outside the SE wall to the NE of the door. The function of this construction is unknown. A ditch, running northwards from the NW into the adjoining enclosure, No. 26b, may have been the original drain from the house.



Dimen: L 9.10m x W 4.90m externally.
W of wall 0.55m x H of wall 1.95m max.
Orient: NE-SW.
Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 7 (part of).
Wilson Map, 1836.
OS 2nd Ed. 6" map.
OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE
Gaskell, 1968, 158.
Visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3174.

26b. Enclosure / ? Kailyard.

Small sub-rectangular enclosure, adjoining the NW side of a house, No.26a. The enclosure is defined by a wall of rough boulders, occasionally set on edge. A ditch, running into the enclosure from the house may have been an original drain. The interior is hummocky and slopes down towards the N corner, though may still have been used as a kailyard.

Dimen: Area 10.70m (NE-SW) x 9.60m (NW-SE).
W of wall 0.75m x H of wall 0.50m.
Orient: NE-SW

26c. Arable Field.

Sub-square, almost circular area of unenclosed arable land around the house and enclosure, Nos. 26a and b. The arable is distinguishable mainly by its bracken cover amidst a vegetation dominated by reeds, heather and molinia grass. The extent of the area is best viewed from a height rather than on the ground. This presumably corresponds to part of the extensive arable, surrounding the houses at Sornagan settlement, on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: Area 30m (NW-SE) x 30m (NE-SW).
Orient -
Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

27. House, Walls and Arable Field.

NGR NM 5836 5784

House and walls within associated arable land, belonging to Sornagan settlement. The house may correspond to one of the three buildings marked on the Wilson Map of 1836.

27a. House.

Dilapidated and partly grassed-over, multi-phase, round-angled, rectangular structure of drystone masonry. The house is best-preserved on the S and W sides, the latter surviving to a height of 1.30m. The N and E sides are low and overgrown, reaching only 0.50m in height. The S wall, while still standing, is very bowed and probably about to collapse. The house has two compartments, though this seems to be a result of extension rather than partition. The western smaller compartment is the earliest element with a definite rounded corner at the E end, abutted by the eastern compartment. The E end of this early phase is now also grassed over.

No entrance is discernible and an insufficient amount of the walls survives to show evidence of windows or cruck slots. Two walls, Nos. 27b and c, lead off from the NW corner and E end.

Dimen: Western earlier compartment: L 6.30m x W 4.90m
Eastern compartment: L 7.90m x W 4.90m
Total L: 14.20m

W of West wall 0.65m x H 1.30m; W of North wall 1m x H 0.50m.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 7 (part of).

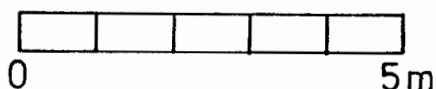
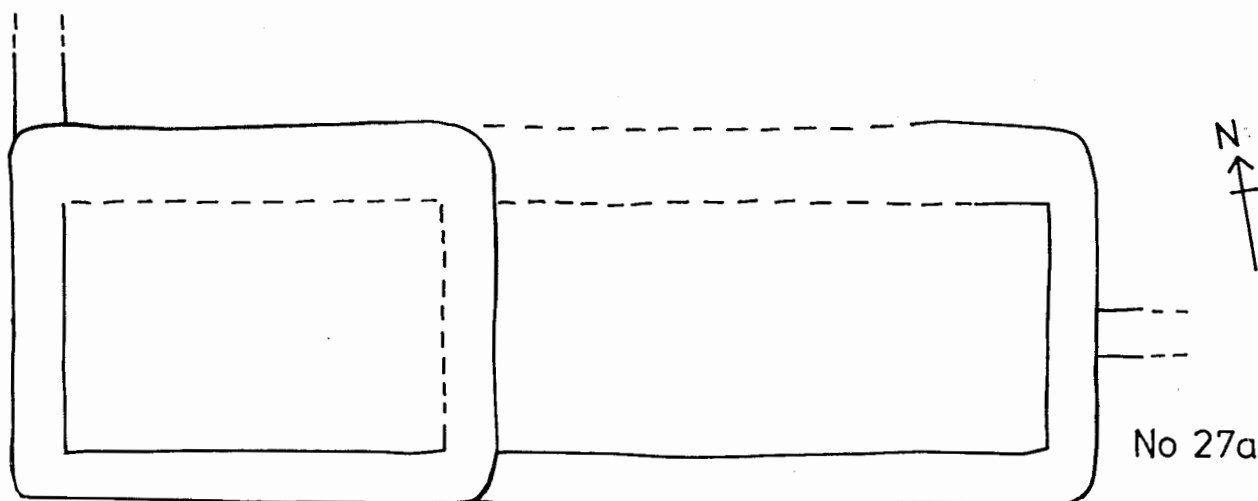
Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,00 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Gaskell, 1968, 158.

Visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3174.



27b. Wall.

Short wall, leading N from the NW corner of the house, No.27a. It may originally have delineated a yard, but now peters out after only 3m. Another wall appears on the aerial photograph to run westwards from the house, No. 27a, to the house, No. 25. This would correspond to the wall enclosing the arable field, marked 4 on the Wilson Map of 1836. However, this could not be traced on the ground.

Dimen: L 3m x W 0.60m x H 0.40m.

Orient: N-S.

Refs: AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3174.

27c. Wall.

Short wall, leading E from the E end of the house, No.27a. It may have been constructed with the wall, No. 27b, to define a yard.

Dimen: L 5.40m x W 0.60m x H 0.50m.

Orient: E-W.

27d. Arable Field.

Irregularly-shaped area of unenclosed arable land around the house, No. 27a. The arable is distinguishable mainly by its bracken cover amidst a vegetation dominated by reeds, heather and molinia grass. The extent of the area is best viewed from a height rather than on the ground. This presumably corresponds to part of the extensive arable, surrounding the houses at Sornagan settlement on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: Area 30m (NE-SW) x 25m (NW-SE).

Orient: -

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

28. House, Outbuilding and Enclosure.

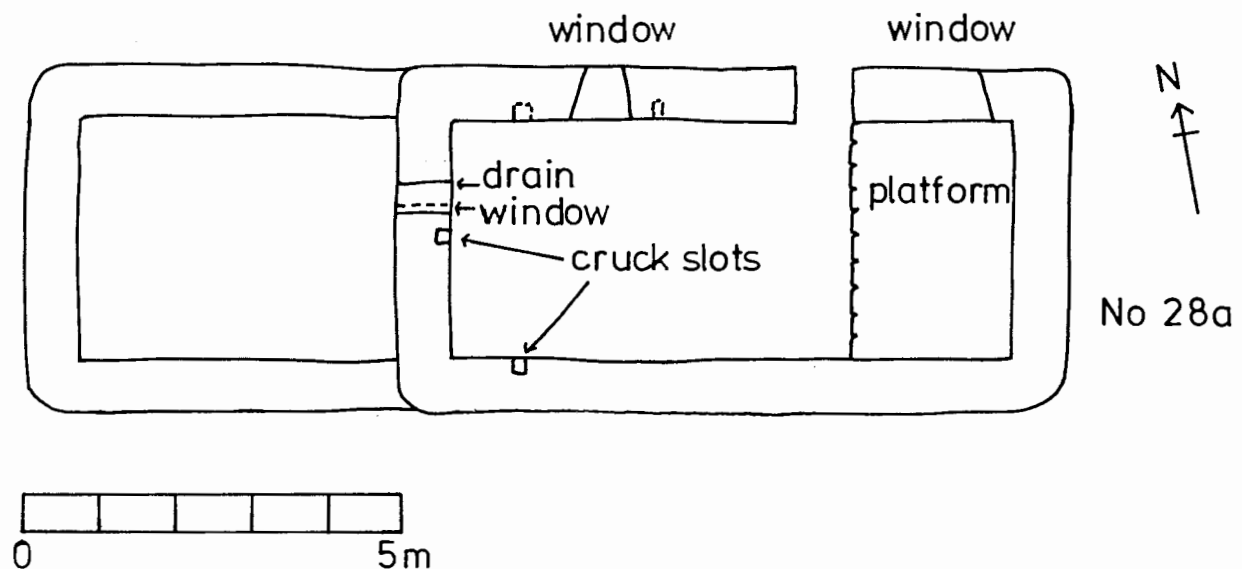
NGR NM 5832 5779

House, another house or outbuilding and an enclosure belonging to Sornagan settlement. The house may correspond to one of the three buildings marked on the Wilson Map of 1836.

28a. House.

(See Colour Plate 6)

Well-built and well-preserved, round-angled, rectangular building of drystone masonry, 1.50m W of a second building, No. 28b, on the same alignment. The wall is best preserved at the W end, where some of the turf coping survives at a height of 2m externally and 1.75m internally. The S and E walls have largely collapsed, apart from at the corners. The walls are slightly battered, tapering from a width of 0.69m at the base to 0.59m at the top. The entrance, 0.75m wide, opens in the N side, 2.85m from the E end. The house has no stone partition, but the interior has been divided by the construction of a stone platform, c. 0.20m high, E of the door. This is now covered with rubble, but a revetment can be traced, running southwards from the E door jamb to the opposite wall.



A splayed window, now blocked up, measuring 0.75m wide internally and 0.55m externally, opened through the N wall, W of the door, 1.60m from the W internal end. The E side of another window is visible, 0.26m from the E internal end of the N wall.

A further window, now partly blocked up, survives with lintel intact, in the W end wall. This window, measuring 0.34m wide and 0.56m high, is not splayed and is situated 1.95m from the S side, 0.74m above the floor. Directly below this, at floor level, is another aperture through the wall, probably a drain. Measuring 0.26m wide and 0.17m high, it is situated 2.30m from the S side.

At least five cruck slots are discernible:

- (i) In the N wall; 0.85m from the W end, western edge only.
- (ii) In the N wall; 2.82m from the W end, eastern edge only.
- (iii) In the S wall; 0.12m wide, 0.81m from the W end.
- (iv) In the S wall; 1.20m from the E end, eastern edge only.

- (v) In the W end wall; 0.14m wide, 1.60m from the S side, 1.30m above the floor.
(vi) Wall collapse in the N wall, directly opposite cruck slot (iv) probably marks the original position of another slot.

The evidence of the surviving cruck slots suggests that the roof was supported on three pairs of crucks and another pair of end crucks.

An annexe abuts the W end of the house. This was added later, though not necessarily after a long interval; the masonry is very similar to that of the main house.

The presence of the stone platform at the E upslope end and the drain through the W downslope wall suggests that this may originally have been a byre/dwelling with living quarters E of the door and animals to the W. Partial blocking of the windows and the cruck slots indicates some later use but the rough unfinished nature of this work suggests that it may have been for temporary shelter rather than permanent occupation.

Dimen: L of main compartment 8.80m x W 4.55m; total L including annexe 13.70m

W of wall 0.69m x H 2m max..

Orient: E-W

Refs: NMRS NM 55 NE 7 (part of).

Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd. Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Gaskell, 1968, 158.

Visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3174.



No. 28a Internal face of W end, showing cruck slot, window and drain.

28b. Outbuilding/?House.

Round-angled, rectangular building of drystone masonry, situated 1.50m E of the house, No. 28a, on the same alignment. It may have been an outbuilding associated with No.

28a, or another house. More dilapidated than No. 28a, it is best preserved at the W end, where the wall survives to a maximum height of 1.50m. The walls are slightly battered, tapering from a width of 0.70m at the base to 0.56m at the top.

An entrance, 0.75m wide, opens 3.75m from the W end, onto a 2m wide terrace, which runs along the front of the building. The western splayed edge of a window is discernible in the N side, W of the door, 1.85m from the W end.

Two cruck slots are discernible:

(i) In the N wall; 0.70m from the W end; width is indeterminable because it has slightly collapsed.

(ii) In the S wall, 0.70m from the W end, western edge only.

The walls are too dilapidated to show any further evidence of cruck slots or windows.

Dimen: L 9.60m x W 5.20m externally.

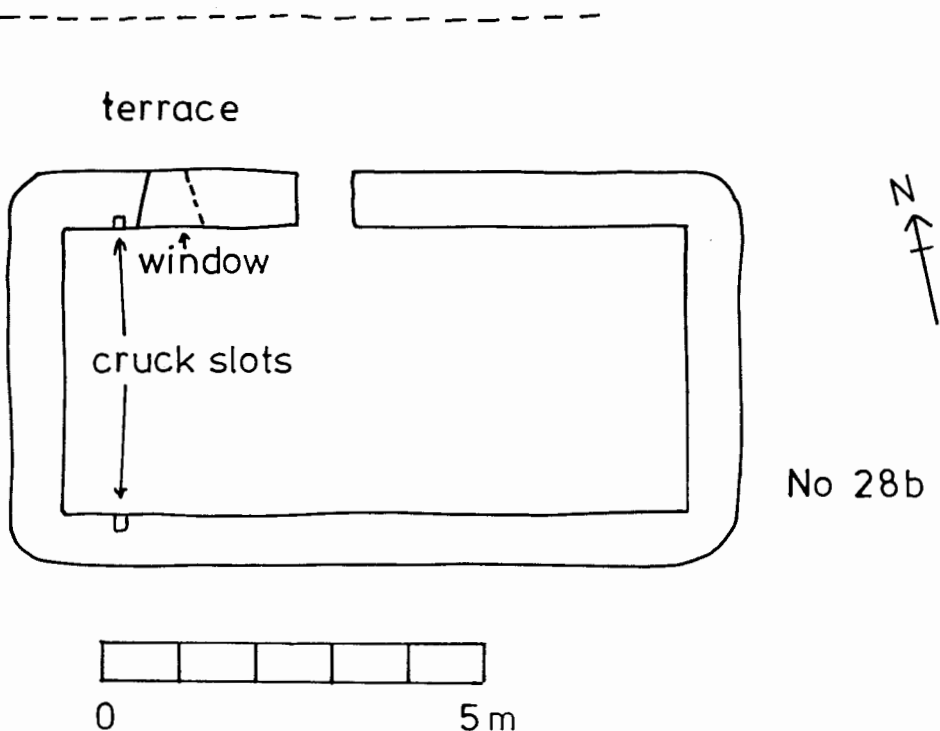
W of wall 0.70m x H 1.50m max.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3174.



28c. Enclosure - Kailyard.

Level platform, trapezoidal in plan, 1.50m from the S side of the houses, Nos. 28a and b. It has been built up above the surrounding level of the ground so that the path between the houses and the kailyard appears sunken. It is enclosed by a wall, 0.70m wide and 0.80m high, along the E side, but the W side is simply defined by a revetment, 0.70m high, along the platform edge. Such accumulation of soil suggests that this platform was deliberately and carefully constructed for cultivation, probably for green vegetables, though in its present form, it is hardly stockproof.

Dimen: L 16m (N side); 15m (S side) x W 11m (W side); 15m (E side).

W of wall 0.70m x H 0.80m.

H of platform 0.70m.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.
OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.
Visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3174.

29. Path and Gateway.

NGR (W end) NM 5832 5778

29a. Footpath.

Footpath from Sornagan settlement, leading across the stream, Allt Port an Eorna, to the peat cuttings, No. 30. This may be part of the track, marked on Langlands Map of 1801, running parallel but downslope from the present Drimnin - Doirlinn track.

Dimen: L 180m.

Orient: E-W approx.

Refs: ? Langlands Map, 1801.

29b. Gateway.

At the stream, Allt Port an Eorna, a rough boulder wall has been built on either side of the path to form a gateway into the settlement. The gate is situated 15m E of the house or outbuilding, No. 28b.

Dimen: L of walls 3m x W 0.70m x H 0.80m.

Orient: -

30. Peat Cuttings.

NGR NM 5848 5772

Sub-rectangular area of level ground between the foot of the steep slope below Sgeir Bhuidhe and a ridge of rocky knolls. The surface is uneven and ridged but clear trenches, rectangular in plan with vertical sides, can be discerned, particularly at the southern end. These were presumably cut for peat by the inhabitants of Sornagan settlement; a footpath, No 29a, leads from the settlement to these cuttings.

Dimen: Area 60m (SE-NW) x 42m (NE-SW).

Orient: SE-NW.

31. Track.

NGR NM 5840 5770

Old track, which diverges from the present Drimnin - Doirlinn road at the hairpin bend above Sornagan, and curves further to the N, before dropping steeply down to the level area of peat cuttings, No. 30. The track is level and grass-covered with no discernible stone revetment.

Dimen: L 150m x W 2m.

Orient: approx. E-W.

32. ?Cairn.

NGR NM 5856 5765

Low, oval grass-covered mound of stones arranged around two large boulders, situated at the foot of the steep slope below Sgeir Bhuidhe. While many stones have tumbled down this slope and can be seen all along its foot, this arrangement of stones is formed in a clear oval shape, slightly scooped into the hillside and could be man-made, though this is uncertain. The two boulders, occupying an almost central position within the cairn are probably misleading.

Dimen: 6.60m NW-SE x 5.30m NE-SW.

H 0.20m.

Orient: -

33. Enclosure.

NGR NM 5916 5788

Sub-rectangular level area, defined on its E and S sides by the slightly "scalloped" edge of the hillslope and on the N and W sides by a low broad bank of turf and some stone. A narrow gap in the NW corner may have been an entrance. Several trees are now growing in the interior and the banks are covered with bracken.

Dimen: L 13m (N-S) x W c. 5m max. (E-W).

W of wall 2.50m x H 0.50m.

Orient: N-S.

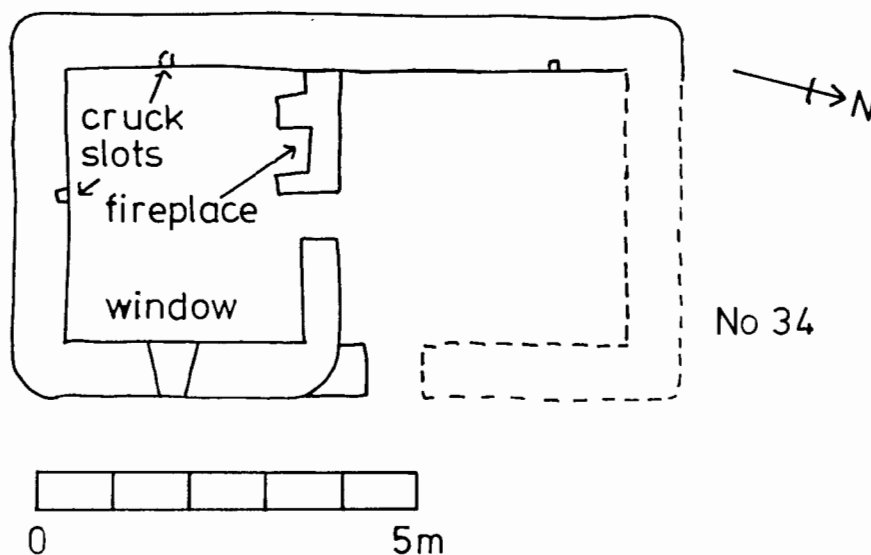
34. House.

NGR NM 5920 5782

(See Colour Plate 7)

Well-built and well-preserved, round-angled, rectangular building of drystone masonry. It is particularly well-preserved in the S compartment, where the turf coping survives all the way round at a height of 1.80m externally and 1.95m internally. The walls are thick, battered and contain some very large blocks of stone.

There were at least two phases of construction. The house was initially built as a rectangular structure, 8.80m long and 5.10m wide. Subsequently this was reduced to an almost square structure, occupying only the S end. The W wall of the original house remains intact but, along the E wall, a new wall was built, 4.30m from the S end to form a new N end. The rounded corner of this wall clearly curves round over the foundations of the original E wall



N of this corner, the original E and N walls are now reduced to turfed-over banks. A gap in the E wall, 0.35m N of the Phase II corner, may be the entrance into the Phase I house. Presumably contemporary with the rebuilt NE corner, is a partition wall, which abuts the W wall, directly opposite. A fireplace, measuring 0.65m wide and 0.40m deep, is built into this partition, which widens from 0.45m to 0.80m at this point. The entrance into the Phase II house is through a gap, 0.60m wide, E of the fireplace. A large flat slab, inclined on the ground blocking this entrance, was probably the original lintel.

A splayed window, 0.40m wide externally and 0.65m internally, opens through the E wall of the Phase II house, 1.95m from the S end.

Three cruck slots are discernible:

- (i) In the W wall; 1.45m from the S end, northern edge only.
- (ii) In the S wall; 0.12m wide, 1.85m from the E wall.

(iii) In the W wall; 0.15m wide, 0.90m from the Phase I North wall.



No. 34 Cruck slot iii) in W wall of N compartment.

The house has been terraced into the hillslope and a ditch runs around the W and S sides.

Dimen: Phase I L 8.80m x W 5.10m externally
Phase II L 4.30m x W 5.10m externally
W of wall 0.70m x H 1.95m max.

Orient: N-S.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.
OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.
Gaskell, 1968, 158.

35. Track.

NGR NM 5921 5780

Stone surfaced and revetted track, leading from the Drimnin - Doirlinn road downslope to the house, No 34. It incorporates a well-built culvert over a tiny stream.

Dimen: L 40m x W 2m.

Orient: N-S.

36. Enclosure.

NGR NM 5930 5785

Irregularly-shaped enclosure, defined by a well-built and well-preserved wall of drystone masonry. The wall is battered, tapering from a width of 0.60m at the base to 0.40m at the top. The turf coping survives along much of its length at a height of 1.50m. The wall encloses the area around the mouth of Abhainn Poll Luachrain, known as An Fhaodhailin, meaning the Sea-Margin Field. (OS Name Books) The W side is presently mostly wooded, but the E side includes a large area of level grassland, which corresponds to the arable, marked on the Wilson Map of 1836. The W wall runs parallel to the house, No. 34, at a distance of 4m. A gateway into the enclosure is situated to the S of the house. Within the enclosure are traces of an earlier enclosure, No. 37, and short walls along the stream bank, No. 38.

Dimen: Area 220m (E-W) x 200m (N-S).

W of wall 0.60m x H 1.50m.

Orient: -

Refs: Arable marked on Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

OS Name Books.

Visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3176.

37. Enclosure and Structure.

37a. Enclosure.

NGR NM 5920 5784

Irregularly-shaped, gently sloping enclosure, comprising the only area clear of trees within the W side of the later enclosure, No. 36. It is defined on the N side by a broad, curving, grass-covered turf and stone bank and on the E by a steep escarpment, which drops down to the stream, Abhainn Poll Luachrain. A series of walls, Nos. 38b, c and d, at the foot of this escarpment may be connected with this enclosure. The W and S sides are formed at present by the later enclosure wall, No. 36. A small rectangular structure, No. 37b, abuts the N wall, E of a gateway. This enclosure is marked on the Wilson Map of 1836, though is not included as arable.

Dimen: Area 78m (E-W) x 65m (N-S).

W of bank 2.10m x H 0.60m.

Orient: -

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd. Ed. 6" Map.

37b. Structure.

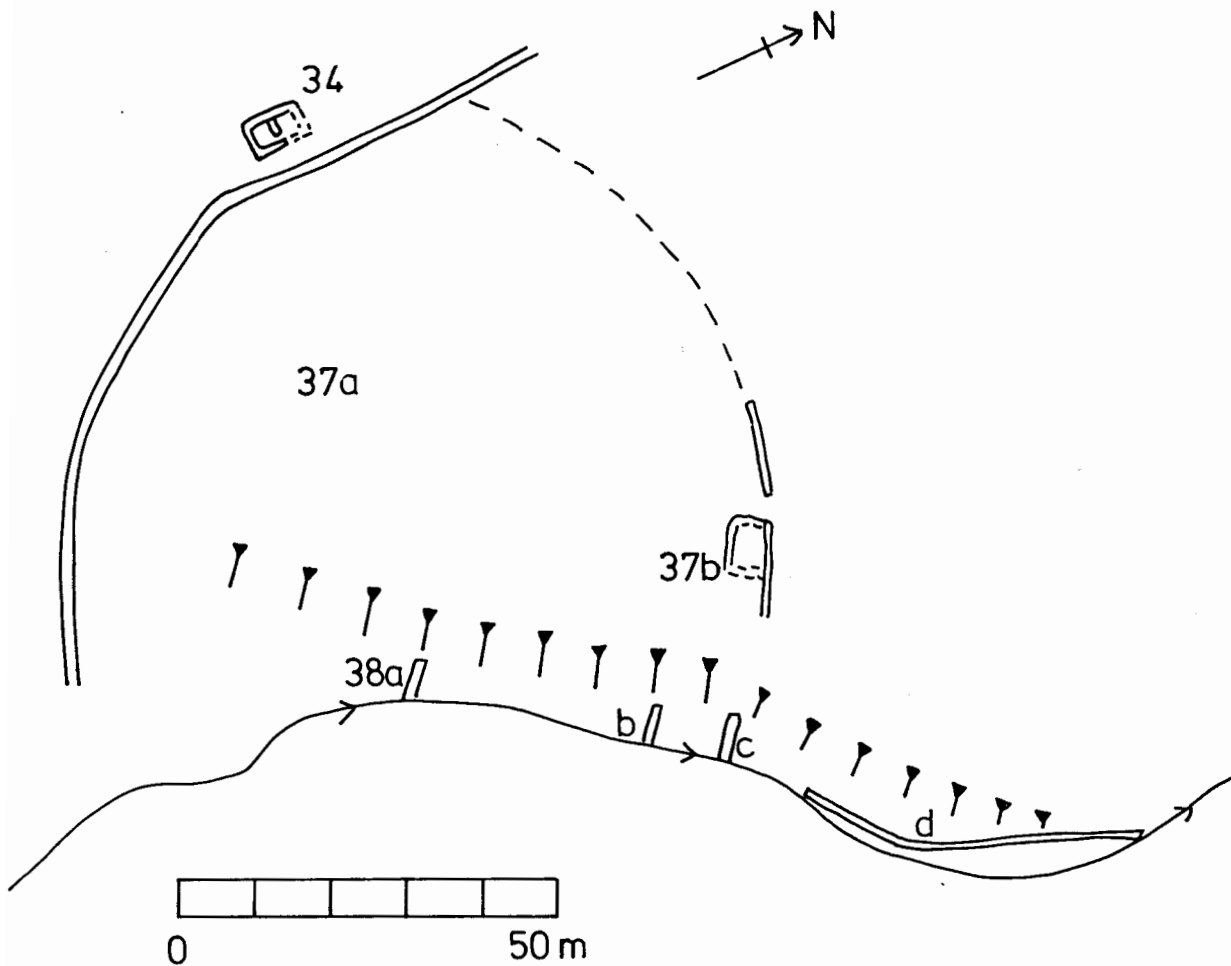
NGR NM 5925 5787

Small rectangular structure, which abuts the inner face of the N side of the enclosure, No. 37a, E of a gateway. It consists of a low narrow wall, which is very overgrown but seems to be a row of single stones.

Dimen: Area 7m x 6m

W of wall 0.50m x H 0.30m.

Orient: E-W.



38. Walls.

NGR NM 5927 5783

A series of short walls on the W bank of Abhainn Poll Luachrain, within the enclosure, No. 36, and possibly associated with the earlier enclosure, No. 37. All are situated at the foot of a steep escarpment, which seems to define the E side of the enclosure, No. 37.

38a-c. These consist of linear spreads of stones, running from the foot of the escarpment to the stream.

Dimen: 38a (29m S of No. 38b) L 15m x W 1.30m x H 0.70m.

38b (8m S of No. 38c) L 6m x W 1.20m x H 0.30m.

38c (continues the line of No. 37) L 5m x W 0.90m x H 0.45m

38d. 11m E of the wall, No. 38c, a wall of drystone masonry runs alongside the stream to a point at which the latter turns westwards, thereby enclosing a sub-rectangular area, approximately 40m by 8m, between the escarpment and the stream.

Dimen: L 50m x W 1.30m x H 0.60m.

Orient -

39. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5927 5754

Level area of unenclosed arable land, sub-rectangular, almost oval in plan, distinguishable by its thick bracken cover within a vegetation otherwise dominated by heather and molinia grass. Rig and furrow, oriented N-S, is visible from across the valley.

Dimen: Area 36m (N-S) x 21m (E-W)

Orient: N-S.

40. Track.

NGR (N end) NM 5930 5768
(at ford) NM 5932 5729

Well-built track, following the W side of Abhainn Poll Luachrain, leading from the Drimnin - Doirlinn road at Drumbuidhe Bridge to Poll Luachrain settlement. The track was probably sufficient to carry carts. 17m from the N end, a horseshoe-shaped quarry scoop, 5m in diameter, presumably provided hardcore for the track. The track crosses Abhainn Poll Luachrain at a ford and continues on the E side of the stream, though is difficult to trace after a few metres.

Dimen: L 440m x W 2m.

Orient: approx. N-S.

41. ?House Stance.

NGR NM 5926 5737

Rectangular level area, roughly defined by some stones and heathery hummocks, which could be the stance of a house originally built of turf or wickerwork. Probing revealed little stone beneath the hummocks and there is little evidence otherwise but the site is persuasive. The herb-rich grassland cover stands out amidst a vegetation, dominated by molinia grass. Furthermore, it is located on a broad natural terrace above Abhainn Poll Luachrain, next to the track, No. 40, a location eminently suitable for a dwelling.

Dimen: L 5.70m x W 4m.

Orient: NNE-SSW.

42. Boundary Wall.

NGR NM 5633 5732

A short stretch of stone wall, forming part of the Poll Luachrain march, which was required to be built under the terms of the lease of Poll Luachrain to Maclean of Drimnin. (see above p. 6) It consists of a heap of stones rather than coursed masonry, on the Sornagan side of the river. It runs from the confluence of Abhainn Poll Luachrain and its eastern tributary along the river to the ford. (see No. 40.) S of this, the steep slope alongside the W bank may have been a sufficient boundary as a wall does not reappear until the confluence with another tributary. Here the wall, No.45, may be a continuation of the Sornagan / Poll Luachrain boundary.

Dimen: L 50m x W 1.70 - 1.80m x H 0.60m.

Orient: NNE-SSW.

Refs: Cregeen, 1964, 144

43. House and Enclosure.

NGR NM 5928 5725

House and enclosure beside Abhainn Poll Luachrain, on the Sornagan side of the boundary.

43a. House.

Very overgrown, round-angled rectangular, single-compartment building of drystone masonry, situated on the W bank of Abhainn Poll Luachrain. Masonry is only clearly visible at the W end. No entrance is discernible or any other internal features. A small triangular area to the S, No. 43b, is enclosed by a wall. The absence of much tumbled stone suggests that the walls were never any higher than this and were possibly surmounted by turf or wicker.

Dimen: L 6.65m x W 4.35m

W of wall 0.65m x H 0.55m.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 4 (part of).

Gaskell, 1968, 158.

43b. Enclosure.

Small triangular area to the S of house, No. 43a, enclosed on the E and S sides by a curving wall, which follows the river. The W side is defined by the foot of a steep escarpment. A gap, 2.50m wide, between the house and the wall gives access into the interior.

Dimen: Area 10.50m (N-S) x 7.50m (E-W)

W of wall 1.60m x H 0.90m.

Orient: -

44. Wall.

NGR NM 5929 5717

Short stretch of roughly-built wall, plunging down a steep escarpment to the stream, Abhainn Poll Luachrain. The wall starts at a large natural boulder and consists of stones roughly piled up.

Dimen: L 7.50m x W 0.90m x H 0.50m.

Orient: E-W.

45. Boundary Wall.

NGR NM 5930 5710

Stone wall, forming part of the Poll Luachrain march, which was required to be built under the terms of the lease of Poll Luachrain to Maclean of Drimnin. (see above p. 6) It consists of roughly-built drystone coursed masonry, on the Sornagan side of the stream. It runs from the confluence of the Abhainn Poll Luachrain and its western tributary, southwards along the river to a rocky knoll. N of the wall, the steep slope alongside the W bank may have been a sufficient boundary as a wall does not reappear until the confluence with the eastern tributary. Here the wall, No. 42, is presumably also part of the Sornagan / Poll Luachrain boundary.

Dimen: L 45m x W 0.60m max. x H 0.90m max.

Orient: N-S.

Refs: Cregeen, 1964, 144.

46. Boundary Wall.

NGR NM 5934 5731

Stone wall, forming part of the Poll Luachrain march, which was required to be built under the terms of the lease of Poll Luachrain to Maclean of Drimnin. (see above p. 6) It consists of a linear heap of stones along the Poll Luachrain side of the stream, opposite another boundary wall, No. 42, on the opposite bank. It starts 3m S of the ford (see No. 40) and runs to the NNE, to the confluence of Abhainn Poll Luachrain and its eastern tributary, though it stops short of the boundary wall, No. 47.

Dimen: L 24m x W 1.20m x H 0.80m max.

Orient: NNE-SSW.

Refs: Cregeen, 1964, 144.

47. Boundary Wall.

NGR (NW end) NM 5935 5734

(SE end) NM 6040 5696

Stone wall, forming part of the Poll Luachrain march, which was required to be built under the terms of the lease of Poll Luachrain to Maclean of Drimnin. (see above p.6) The wall follows the eastern tributary of Abhainn Poll Luachrain, thereby marking the boundary between Poll Luachrain and Drumbuidhe. The boundary changes in character along its considerable length and each section will be described individually.

47a. The boundary starts directly at the confluence between Abhainn Poll Luachrain and its eastern tributary, in the form of a stone cairn, 3m long. A well-coursed wall continues for 10m, becoming gradually more dilapidated until it merges into the steep hillslope. Dimen: L 25m x W 0.70m x H 1.10m downslope; 0.40m upslope.



No. 47a Boundary wall.

47b. After a gap of 181m, the boundary reappears on the Drumbuidhe side of the stream, at a confluence with another tributary. It is a well-built, though slightly dilapidated, coursed wall with large boulders at the base and smaller stones on top. The wall stops at a bend in the stream.

Dimen: L 22m x W 0.90m x H 0.80m downslope; 0.40m upslope.

47c. Across the stream on the Poll Luachrain side, the boundary continues as a low turf and stone bank before merging into the slope.

Dimen: L 16m x W 1.20m x H 0.30m.

47d. After a gap of 25m, the boundary picks up again as a coursed wall of mostly small flat slabs.

Dimen: L 42m x W 0.65m x H 1m downslope.

47e. In this small stretch, the boundary consists of large natural boulders with some coursed masonry filling in the gaps.

Dimen: L 9m x W 0.70m x H 0.70m.

47f. The boundary continues as a coursed wall, though not so carefully built as No. 47d and more dilapidated. After 35m, it appears to drop down into the stream, but no traces of a wall or bank can be seen on the opposite bank. At this point, a wall, No. 73, joins from the SW.
Dimen: L 35m x W 0.65m x H 1m downslope.

47g. After a gap of 120m, the boundary reappears on the Drumbuidhe side of the stream, seeming to emerge from the stream. It consists of a well-built wall of coursed masonry. After 50m, it again curves down towards the stream.
Dimen: L 50m x W 0.50m x H 1.05m.

47h. After a gap of 234m, in which occasional small boulders may mark the boundary, a neatly-coursed stone wall of small blocks appears, still on the Drumbuidhe side of the stream. After 14.5m, a gap in the wall is probably an original gate, 1.40m wide, where a ford crosses the stream. After another 64m the wall crosses the stream.
Dimen: L 80m x W 0.55m x H 1.10m max.

47i. The boundary continues immediately on the Poll Luachrain side of the stream, where a cross-section through the wall reveals its construction. Here, it consists of a massively-built stone wall, completely covered with vegetation, so that further to the SE it is hardly visible, merging with the hillslope. It is distinguishable as a break in slope, marked by stones.
Dimen: L 65m x W 1.50m (at NW end) x H 1.35m (at NW end).

47j. The boundary is defined by a turf bank, just traceable within hummocky ground and molinia tussocks. It becomes difficult to trace after 70m, but continues for another 107m.
Dimen: L 177m x W c. 1m x H 0.40m.

47k. The boundary becomes a stone wall again, though very overgrown with heather and molinia.
Dimen: L 18m x W c. 0.50m x H 0.60m.

47l. The boundary changes to a turf bank. At its SE end, it reaches the turf boundary, No 63, at the top of the stream.
Dimen: 31m x W c. 1m x H 0.40m.

Dimen: Total L (of 47a-l) 1130m

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: ? Wilson Map, 1836.

Cregeen, 1964, 144.

Visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3178

48. ?Enclosure, Terrace and Clearance Cairns. NGR NM 5932 5720

Remains of an enclosure at the foot of the Poll Luachrain fields on the E bank of Abhainn Poll Luachrain. It consists of two short walls, interrupted by sheep tracks and trees, but which may originally have been part of one long enclosure wall, running westwards down to the stream. At the E end, the wall stops at a level terrace, which seems to have been cut into the slope. A clearance cairn stands at either end of this terrace, suggesting that an area has been levelled and cleared of stone for some purpose.

48a. The northern surviving element of the possible enclosure wall.

Dimen: L 1.70m x W 0.40m x H 0.20m.

48b. The S surviving element of the possible enclosure wall.

Dimen: L 3m (probably extending to 8m) x W 0.70m x H 0.30m.

Presumed total L (48a and b) 17m

48c. Level terrace. 5.5m x 4m.

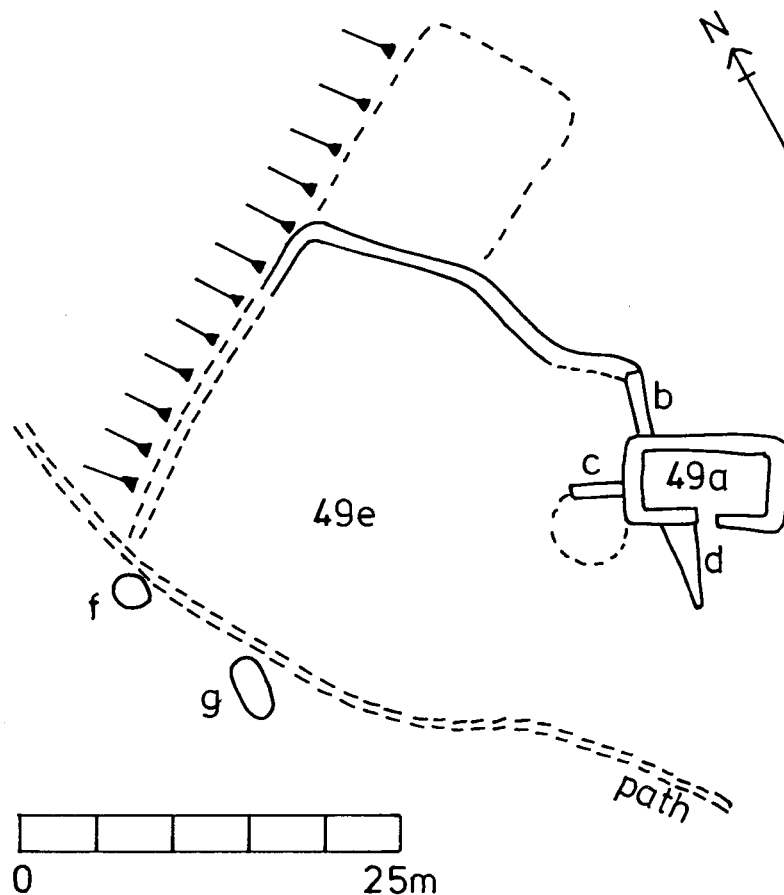
48d. Northern clearance cairn. 2.20m diameter x H 0.60m.

48e. Southern clearance cairn. 2m diameter x H 0.90m.

49. **House, Walls and Enclosure with Arable.**

NGR NM 5941 5712

House with short adjoining walls and an adjacent enclosed arable field, belonging to Poll Luachrain settlement. The house was presumably one of two at Poll Luachrain, occupied in 1814, though abandoned by 1836. (see above p. 6)



49a. **House.**

(See Colour Plate 8)

Massively-built, rather dilapidated, round-angled rectangular building of drystone masonry. It is best preserved at the massive corners, which survive to a height of 1.90m at the S corner and 2.30m at the W downslope corner. Elsewhere the walls reach only c. 1m in height. The wall is slightly battered and incorporates some large stones, particularly at the base.

An entrance, 0.80m wide, opens into the SW side, 4.45m from the NW end. Flat, horizontal slabs in the SW wall on either side of the door may be the sills of otherwise collapsed, rubble-filled windows. The walls are too dilapidated to show any evidence of cruck slots. The house is abutted by three short walls, Nos. 49b-d, which may define areas devoted to specific functions.

Dimen: L 10.30m x W 5.40m

W of wall 0.70m x H 2.30m max.

Orient: NW-SE.

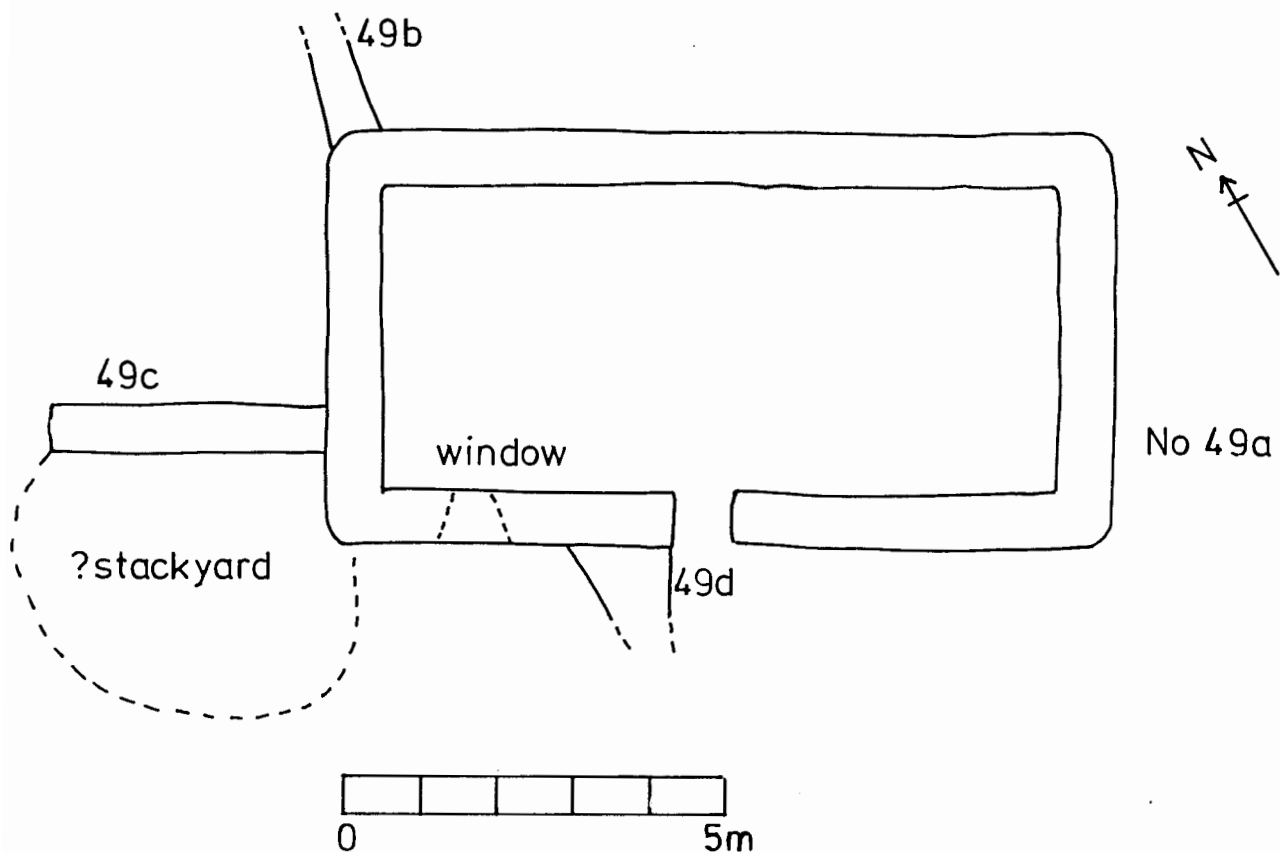
Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 4 (part of).

Marked as a roofless building on the Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Gaskell, 1968, 158.



49b. Wall.

Wall, which abuts the N corner of the house, No. 49a, and runs northwards, curving slightly westwards. It encloses the E corner of the arable field, No. 49e, though it is situated on a rocky knoll, above the level of the field.

Dimen: L 4.30m x W 0.90m x H 0.55m.

49c. Wall.

Wall, which abuts the NW end of the house, No. 49a, 1.90m from the SW side of the latter. It encloses the NE side of a roughly circular level stony platform, which could be interpreted as a stackyard. It consists of a roughly-built line of boulders.

Dimen: L 3.60m x W 0.55m x H 0.25m.

49d. Wall.

Wall, which abuts the SW side of the house, No. 49a, on the NW side of the entrance. It tapers in width from 1.10m at the N end to 0.60m at the S end. It appears to curve slightly round the entrance, as if to protect it, but this may be simply because it is bowed and about to collapse.

Dimen: L 5m x W 0.60m - 1.10m x H 0.75m.

49e. Enclosed Arable Field

Westwards and downslope from the house, No. 49a, is a large sub-rectangular field, partly enclosed by a turf and stone bank. This bank encloses the N side and continues along the W side but peters out after 10m, after which the field is defined by a slight escarpment. The S side of the field is defined by a footpath, No. 51, beyond which are situated two clearance cairns, Nos. 49f and g. Rig and furrow, oriented E-W (ie. downslope), is visible within this field, particularly from across the valley.

To the N of the enclosure, a smaller sub-rectangular area, distinguishable by herb-rich grassland with bracken, may have been an unenclosed extension of the arable.

Dimen: Area 25.70m (E-W) x 23.5m (N-S).

“Extension” area = 11m (E-W) x 14.40m (N-S).

Orient: of rig and furrow E-W.

Refs: Part of the large patch of arable marked on the Wilson Map, 1836.

49f. Clearance Cairn.

The northern of two clearance cairns, to the S of the enclosed field, No. 49e.

Dimen: 2.60m (N-S) x 2.40m (E-W)

49g. Clearance Cairn.

The southern of two clearance cairns, to the S of the enclosed field, No. 49e.

Dimen: 3.5m (N-S) x 2m (E-W).

50. House and Arable Fields.

NGR NM 5942 5712

House, associated with two arable fields, belonging to Poll Luachrain settlement. The house may be one of the two at Poll Luachrain, which were occupied in 1814, though abandoned by 1836. (see above p.6)

50a. House.

Dilapidated, round-angled rectangular building of drystone masonry. It is not so massively-built as its neighbour, No. 49a, and is now more dilapidated. The walls are best preserved at the rounded corners, surviving to a maximum height of 1.30m at the N downslope corner. Elsewhere, the walls reach between 0.60m and 1.10m in height.

The SE side of a now rubble-filled entrance is discernible in the SW wall, 2.95m from the SE end. The walls are too dilapidated to reveal any other features, such as windows or cruck slots.

Dimen: L 8.35m x W 4.60m.

W of wall 0.70m x H 1.30m max.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 4 (part of).

Marked as a roofless building on the Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.



No. 50a. House, from E.

50b. Arable Field.

To the NE of the house, No. 50a, is a rectangular unenclosed arable field, distinguishable by herb-rich grassland with bracken amidst vegetation, which is otherwise dominated by heather and molinia grass. Rig and furrow, oriented NW-SE, is visible from across the valley.

Dimen: Area 22m (NE-SW) x 12m (NW-SE)

Orient: of field NE-SW; of rig and furrow NW-SE.

Refs: Part of the large area of arable marked on the Wilson Map, 1836.

50c. Arable Field.

S of the House, No. 50a, and W of a rocky knoll is a sub-rectangular unenclosed field, distinguishable by herb-rich grassland with bracken amidst a vegetation, which is otherwise dominated by heather and molinia grass. Rig and furrow, oriented NW-SE, is visible from across the valley.

Dimen: Area 31m (NW-SE) x 19m (NE-SW).

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: Part of the large area of arable marked on the Wilson Map, 1836.

51. Footpath.

NGR NM 5938 5711

Footpath through Poll Luachrain settlement. It is only clearly visible on the S side of the house and enclosed field, No. 49, but presumably continues northwards to the ford across Abhainn Poll Luachrain and the track, No.40.

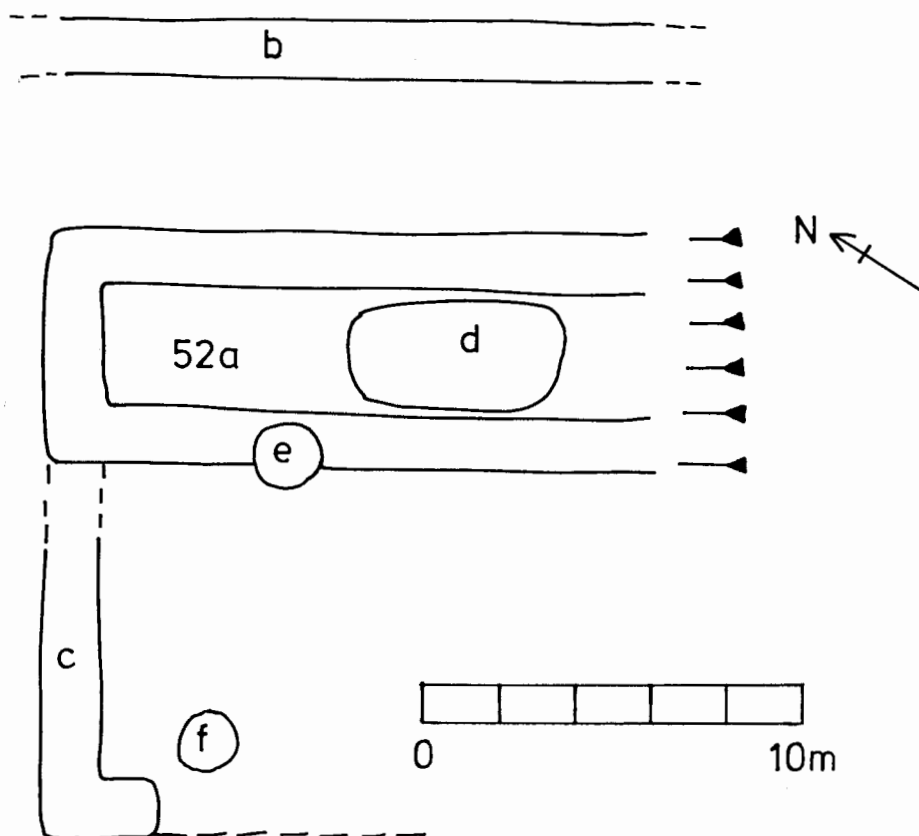
Dimen: ?

Orient: -

52. ?House, Enclosures and Arable.

NGR NM 5940 5707

A complicated assemblage of features, which is difficult to interpret and may represent several phases of occupation. The area seems to have been used for cultivation; at present the herb-rich grassland with bracken contrasts with the surrounding heather and molinia vegetation. Furthermore, three clearance cairns, Nos. 52d, e and F, are recorded. However, these overlie an earlier arrangement of turf banks, which may be the remains of a house and enclosures.



52a. ?House.

Sub-rectangular structure, consisting of low, broad banks of turf. The structure is very denuded and has been considerably disturbed. One clearance cairn, No. 52e, lies atop one of the turf banks and another, No. 52d, is situated within. It is possible that this was a house.

Dimen: L 16.10m x W 6.20m

W of bank 1.50m x H 0.20m.

Orient: NW-SE.

52b. Bank.

Turf bank, lying 4m to the NE of and parallel with the ?house, No.52a.

Dimen: L 16.10m x W 1.50m x H 0.20m

Orient: NW-SE.

52c. Bank.

Turf bank, running westwards from the W corner of the ?house, No. 52a. It appears to turn southwards, as if to enclose a rectangular area parallel with No 52a, but the bank peters out after 2m.

Dimen: L 10.70m x W 1.50m x H 0.20m.

52d. Clearance Cairn.

Large oval cairn of moss-covered stones, situated within the ?house, No 52a.

Dimen: 5.30m x 3.20m x H 0.20m

52e. Clearance Cairn.

Circular cairn of moss-covered stones, built on top of the SW side of the ?house, No. 52a, 8.90m from the SE end.

Dimen: 1.30m diameter x H 0.30m.

52f. Clearance Cairn.

Circular cairn of moss-covered stones, situated within the partially-enclosed area, SW of the ?house, No. 52a.

Dimen: 1.30m diameter x H 0.30m.

53. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5951 5702

Rectangular sloping area, which may have been used for cultivation. There is no evidence of an enclosing wall, clearance cairns or rig and furrow, but its cover of herb-rich grassland with bracken, which contrasts with the surrounding mixture of heather and molinia suggests that this was arable land.

Dimen: Area 11m (E-W) x 12m (N-S).

Orient: N-S.

54. ?Structure.

NGR NM 5954 5709

Small roughly-built, rectangular structure, set into the slope behind the platform, No.

55. The walls consist of large irregular boulders and the outline is confused by a considerable amount of rubble within. However it is possible to trace three sides of a rectangle, built against the slope.

Dimen: L 4m x 3.20m.

W of wall 0.90m x H 0.55m.

Orient: NW-SE.

55. Platform.

NGR NM 5955 5710

Sub-circular platform, built up from below to create a level interior. It is revetted on the N downslope sector, by roughly-coursed boulder masonry, which is 0.70m wide and protrudes only 0.10m above the surface of the interior. The S sector has been cut into the slope and is defined by a stone wall, again of roughly-coursed stone masonry. This upslope wall is nearly straight, producing an outline, almost D-shaped in plan.

This platform is akin to others in the survey area, Nos. 76a, 79, 80, 85, 115 and possibly No. 9. They might be interpreted as charcoal-burning platforms but all seem to be associated with arable fields and are situated outside existing woodland. This one, in particular, lies in the heart of Poll Luachrain settlement.

Dimen: 7.80m (N-S) x 6.55m (E-W).

W of northern revetment wall 0.70m x H 0.90m.

W of southern enclosing wall 1.30m x H 0.30m.

Orient: -

Refs: OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

56. Rectangular Structure.

NGR NM 5953 5711

Foundation of a round-angled rectangular building, consisting of a maximum of four courses of small stones. There is no evidence of collapsed masonry, suggesting that the walls were never any higher than at present. Thus, either the structure stood as it is, or it had walls of turf or wicker above this stone foundation.

An entrance, 0.75m wide, opens in the SW side but no other features are discernible. The interior is very hummocky.

Dimen: L 8.80m x W 4.10m

W of wall 0.60m x H 0.65m.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

57. Terrace and Clearance Cairns.

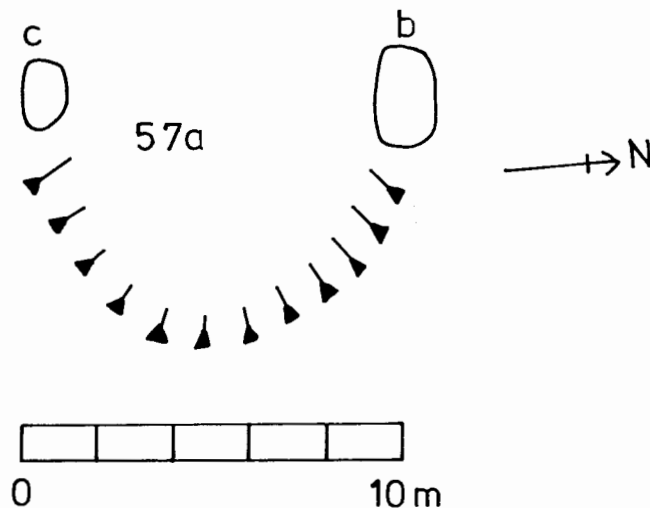
NGR NM 5950 5714

57a. Terrace.

A level terrace, semi-circular in plan, which is cut into the hillslope. The eastern curving sector is defined by a vertical face, 0.70m high, cut into the slope. At each end of this curving face is a clearance cairn, Nos. 57b and c, suggesting that, like No. 48c, an area has been deliberately levelled and cleared of stone for some purpose.

Dimen: 8m (N-S) x 5.5m (E-W)

H of E "face" 0.70m.



57b. Clearance Cairn.

Oval clearance cairn at the N end of the terrace, No. 57a.

Dimen: 2.60m x 1.60m x H 0.50m.

Orient: E-W.

57c. Clearance Cairn.

Oval clearance cairn at the S end of the terrace, No. 57a.

Dimen: 1.90m x 1.40m x H 0.40m.

Orient: E-W.

58. Arable Field and Clearance Cairns.

NGR NM 5946 5720

58a. Arable Field.

Trapezoidal, naturally - level terrace, situated between a rocky knoll to the E and a steep slope below, to the W. It is not immediately recognizable by its vegetation as in other arable plots; its cover of heather and molinia varies from the usual herb-rich grassland and bracken. However, it has been cleared of stone; four clearance cairns are placed around the perimeter and it was presumably used for cultivation. It acts almost as a northern extension of the arable field, No. 50b, though it is distinctly marked out as a separate area, 20m away. Dimen: Area 21m (NE-SW) x 12m (NW-SE at SW end); 18m (NW-SE at NE end).

Orient: NE-SW.

Refs: Part of the large patch of arable marked on the Wilson Map, 1836.

58b. Clearance Cairn.

Oval moss- and heather-covered clearance cairn, at the S corner of the arable field, No. 58a.

Dimen: 2.40m x 2m x H 0.50m.

Orient: NW-SE.

58c. Clearance Cairn.

Long oval moss- and bracken-covered clearance cairn at the NE end of the arable field, No. 58a.

Dimen: 5.30m x 1.90m x H 0.50m.

Orient: NW-SE.

58d. Clearance Cairn.

Pronounced circular, moss-, heather- and bracken-covered cairn at the N corner of the arable field, No. 58a.

Dimen: 2.80m diameter x H 1m.

58e. Clearance Cairn.

Circular, moss- and heather-covered cairn at the W corner of the arable field, No. 58a.

Dimen: 1.80m diameter x H 0.70m.

59. Arable Field and Clearance Cairns.

NGR NM 5957 5717

59a. Arable Field.

Rectangular level unenclosed area, presumably used for cultivation. Its cover of herb-rich grassland with bracken stands out amidst the surrounding mixture of heather and molinia. No rig and furrow is discernible but the interior has been cleared of stone and three clearance cairns mark three of the corners.

Dimen: Area 35m (NW-SE) x 21m (NE-SW)

Orient: NW-SE.

59b. Clearance Cairn.

Circular clearance cairn at the N corner of the arable field, No 59a.

Dimen: 2.50m diameter x H 0.40m.

59c. Clearance Cairn.

Oval clearance cairn at the E corner of the arable field, No. 59a.

Dimen: 3.50m x 2m x H 0.50m.

59d. Clearance Cairn.

Rectangular clearance cairn at the S corner of the arable field, No.59a.

Dimen: 5m x 2m x H 0.60m.

60. Boundary Wall.

NGR NM 5968 5705

Boundary, which may have been a head-dyke around Poll Luachrain settlement, though the fields, No. 61 and probably No. 53, are outside it. It runs alongside a tiny stream, which flows down the E side of the spur, on which Poll Luachrain settlement is located.

At the E end, it consists of a well-built, though occasionally dilapidated, wall of coursed drystone masonry, 0.70m wide and 0.80m high. After 30m, it continues as a heather-covered turf and stone bank, 1.10m wide and 0.60m high. It is difficult to trace after 40m, though it may originally have continued across the spur and along the tiny stream, which flows westwards.

Dimen: L 70m (at present) x W (of wall) 0.70m x H (of wall) 0.80m

W (of bank) 1.10m x H (of bank) 0.60m.

Orient: E-W.

61. Arable Field and Clearance Cairn.

NGR NM 5962 5700

61a. Arable Field.

Almost square, level unenclosed area, presumably used for cultivation. Its cover of herb-rich grassland and bracken stands out amidst the surrounding mixture of heather and molinia. No rig and furrow is discernible but the interior has been cleared of stone and one clearance cairn, No. 61b, has been placed in the SE corner.

Dimen: Area 29m (E-W) x 27m (N-S).

Orient: E-W.

61b. Clearance cairn.

Oval clearance cairn in the SE corner of the arable field, No. 61a.

Dimen: 2.20m x 1.60m x H 0.30m.

62. Structure.

NGR NM 5947 5680

Round-angled, sub-rectangular structure, roughly-built of irregular stones, abutting two huge natural boulders. The latter presumably fell from the cliff above. Another even larger boulder lies to the N. The structure is set on a levellish grassy terrace below the top of the cliff. The W side is defined by the natural boulders. At the S end, one forms a flat face, 3m long and 2.10m high. The other boulder fills the NW corner. The other two sides are crudely-built and mostly tumbled so that the only surviving coursed masonry is at the N end. No entrance is discernible.

Dimen: L 8.30m x W 5.40m.

W of wall c. 1.20m x H 0.80m

Orient: NNW-SSE.

63. Boundary Bank / Wall.

NGR (SW end) NM 6003 5640

(See Colour Plate 9)

(NE end) NM 6086 5763

Long sinuous bank, running from the foot of Sgeir Bhuidhe, over Tom nan Eildean, towards Loch Teacuis, opposite Eilean nan Eildean. The boundary appears to commence in the upper reaches of a small tributary, which rises at the foot of Sgeir Bhuidhe. In this area,

it consists of a pronounced turf and stone bank, though for one stretch of 4m it consists of four courses of rough stone blocks. After this, it crosses a level, rather boggy area, where it consists of a turf bank, difficult to trace on the ground and distinguishable mainly by an accompanying ditch on its W side. In this area, it is best viewed from a height. It meets and joins the E end of another boundary, No. 47, which defines the march between Poll Luachrain and Drumbuidhe. Rising to cross over Tom nan Eildean, it again becomes more pronounced with some stone coursing visible, on Tom nan Eildean itself, and at the head of a tiny stream near the ?shieling stances, Nos. 117.

The boundary continues to drop downhill to the NE but becomes difficult to trace amidst heavier vegetation growth, notably a thick cover of heather, and a possible junction with the boundary, No. 112, could not be discerned. The boundary peters out just before this, but possibly originally continued to the shore.

This boundary corresponds to the SE march of Drimnin Estate on the Wilson Map of 1836, though the present boundary lies a little further to the SE. It is presumably of greater antiquity, connecting with other boundaries between individual settlements, at least one of which, No. 47, dates to at least 1787. (see above p. 6

Dimen: L 1500m at present (as marked on map)

W of bank c. 1.30m x H of bank 0.80 - 0.90m; H of wall 1.10m.

Orient: NE - SW.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 65 NW.

Cregeen, 1964, 144.

Visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frames 3176, 3178

64. Enclosure.

NGR NM 6007 5630

(See Colour Plate 9)



No. 64. Enclosure, W wall, from S.

Irregularly-shaped enclosure, immediately below a cliff, SE of the S end of the boundary bank, No. 63. This enclosure has a prehistoric character, consisting of a boulder wall, which follows a sinuous course to partially enclose a sub-rectangular level area. The wall is composed mostly of a single layer of boulders, rather haphazardly placed; some are set transversely across the wall and some with facing edges towards the interior. The herb-rich grassland with some bracken in the interior stands out amidst the surrounding mixture of heather and molinia.

Dimen: Area 32m (NE-SW) x 19m (NW-SE).

W of wall 0.70m x H 0.40m.

Orient: NE-SW.

65. Boundary Wall.

NGR NM 6009 5619

Boundary wall, running along the E side of a small stream at the SE end of Sgeir Bhuidhe. It is possible that it originally joined the SW end of the Boundary wall, No 63, but it is now only clearly detectable from the W side of enclosure, No. 64. From here, it runs southeastwards through a narrow saddle between two knolls, towards the perimeter of the survey area.

It consists of a broad linear heap of stones rather than a coursed wall, and occasionally of two parallel lines of stones. This presumably marks a boundary of some sort. It is outside the former boundary of Drimnin Estate (ie. No. 63) and may, therefore, have divided lands belonging to Barr.

Dimen: L ?

W of wall 1.60m - 2m x H 0.30m.

Orient: NW-SE.

66. ?Shieling Stance.

NGR NM 6014 5660

Small circular, almost oval, level area, which was possibly the site of a shieling. It is situated 5m to the NW of the boundary wall, No. 63, where the latter crosses the level area between two streams. It is distinguishable by a cover of herb-rich grassland amidst a vegetation, dominated by molinia. There is no outline bank but the oval area looks slightly raised above the general ground level.

Dimen: 5.50m (N-S) x 4.70m (E-W).

Orient -

67. Structure.

NGR NM 5995 5680

Irregularly-shaped, slightly trapezoidal stone structure, tucked in between a high rocky knoll to the W and a smaller outcrop to the E. The plan of the structure is dictated by the location of these knolls and other outcrops. It consists of a wall of drystone masonry, occasionally incorporating boulder outcrops. The wall is composed of very large blocks, mostly flattish slabs. An entrance, 1.35m wide, opens through the N side, 3.20m from the E end. This structure was presumably some sort of enclosure, being too big to have been roofed.

Dimen: L 6.60m (NW side); 4.80m (SE side) x W 6.70m (NE side); 8m (SW side)

W of wall 0.60m x H 1.10m.

Orient: -



No. 67. Structure, from SW.

No. 68. Shieling Huts.

NGR NM 5979 5689

Three small oval structures, which may have been the foundations of shieling huts, possibly belonging to Poll Luachrain settlement or to an earlier phase when Poll Luachrain was referred to as "the sheilling of Pulcherine or Polcharan". (Gaskell, 1968, 159) They are possibly associated with two other shieling huts, Nos. 70a and b.

68a. Shieling Hut.

Dilapidated oval structure, which is the least well-preserved of three possible shieling huts. It consists of a low mossy bank. No stone is visible, but some was found, by probing, to lie just below the surface. It is situated 4.90m to the W of No. 68b.

Dimen: L 4.90m (ext.); 2.90m (int.) x W 3.45m (ext.); 1.60m (int.).

H of bank 0.25 - 0.30m

Orient N-S.

68b. Shieling Hut.

(See Colour Plate 10)

Oval structure, which is the most substantial of three possible shieling huts. It consists of turf and stone walls, possibly built around a natural outcrop. The walls reach 0.60m in height at the N downslope end, though they almost merge with the slope at the S uphill end. It is situated 4.90m to the E of No. 68a and 36m to the N of No. 68c.

Dimen: L 5.57m (ext.); 3.75m (int.) x W 3.25m (ext.); 1.90m (int.).

H of bank 0.60m.

Orient: N-S.

68c. Shieling Hut.

Small oval structure, consisting of a turf and stone wall. The wall thickens on the E and W sides, creating an almost circular plan externally, though the interior retains an oval shape. It is situated 36m to the S of No. 68b.

Dimen: L 3.70m (ext.) ; 2.55m (int.) x W 3.55m (ext.); 2m (int.).

H of bank 0.40m.

Orient: N-S.

69. Structure.

NGR NM 5982 5693

Sub-rectangular structure, situated between natural outcrops, which define the NW, SW and SE sides. The NE side consists of a roughly-built wall of irregular stones. This encloses an interior, in which the herb-rich grassland contrasts with the surrounding thick heather.

Dimen: L 3.50m (int.) x W 2.20m (int.)

W of NE wall 0.75m x H 0.30m.

Orient: NE-SW.

70. Shieling Huts.

NGR NM 5988 5699

Two small oval structures, which may have been the foundations of shieling huts, possibly belonging to Poll Luachrain settlement, or to an earlier phase, when Poll Luachrain was referred to as "the sheilling of Pulcherine or Polcheran". (Gaskell, 1968, 159) They may be associated with three other shielings, Nos. 68a - c. They are both distinguishable, mainly by the cover of herb-rich grassland on a level terrace, within the surrounding mixture of heather and molinia, but on closer scrutiny, outlines of turf banks can be discerned.

70a. Shieling Hut.

Small oval structure, defined by a very low turf bank. The outline of the bank is not well-defined so that the structure looks like a raised oval area, with a central depression. No stone is visible or was revealed by probing. It is situated 8.50m to the SW of No. 70b.

Dimen: L 3.30m x W 2.75m

W of wall c. 0.70m x H 0.20m.

Orient: N-S.

70b. Shieling Hut.

Small oval structure, defined by a low turf bank. The structure is more substantial than No. 70a, which lies 8.50m to the SW. No stone is visible on the surface or was revealed by probing.

Dimen: L 4.40m x W 2.70m.

W of wall 0.75m x H 0.20m.

Orient: NE-SW.

71. Wall.

NGR NM 5972 5711

Stone wall across a spur between two small streams. It defines the SE side of the field, No. 74, though the wall is separated from the field by a rocky knoll. The latter may, however, itself form part of the boundary, ie. between the walls, Nos. 71 and 73.

The wall consists of well-built coursed masonry of irregular blocks. At its western end, the wall starts directly at a stream. After running northeastwards for 36m, it turns to the N and continues for 4m before merging with the rocky knoll. The steep and almost vertical edge of the knoll here may define the enclosure as far as the wall, No.73.

Dimen: L 40m x W of wall 0.80 - 1m x H 0.90m.
Orient: NE-SW.

72. Wall.

NGR NM 5970 5713

Short stretch of wall, which is situated along the bank of a stream and fills a gap between rising ground at either end. It presumably defines the SW side of the field, No. 74, which runs right across the spur. The wall consists of roughly-built coursed masonry of irregular boulders.

Dimen: L 8m x W 0.65m x H 0.60m.
Orient: NW-SE.

73. Wall.

NGR NM 5979 5715

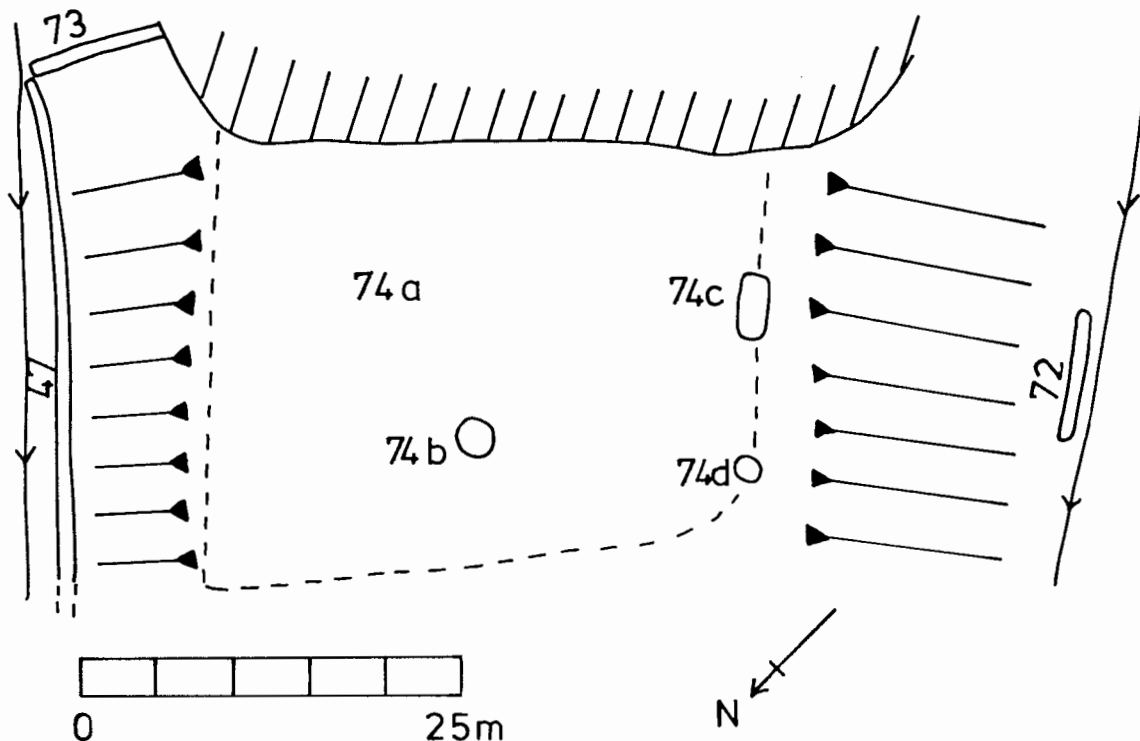
Low, slightly curving wall, which runs downslope from a rocky knoll to join the Poll Luachrain / Drumbuidhe boundary wall, No. 47 at a point, where the latter (No. 47f) curves towards the stream. The wall probably defines the E corner of the field, No. 74, which runs across the spur. It consists of roughly-built coursed masonry of irregular blocks.

Dimen: L 9m x W 0.50m x H 0.45m (on E side); 0.20m (on W side).
Orient: NE - SW.

74. Arable Field and Clearance Cairns.

NGR NM 5972 5715

74a. Arable Field.



Sub-rectangular area, stretching across a spur between two tributaries, which was probably used for cultivation. Its bracken cover contrasts with the surrounding mixture of heather and molinia. It is enclosed on the SE side by the walls, Nos. 71 and 73 and the steep face of the rocky knoll between. The SW side is partially defined by the wall, No. 72. A steep slope, dropping to the Poll Luachrain / Drumbuidhe boundary, No. 47, marks the edge

of the field in the NE. The interior is uneven and slopes towards the SW. Three clearance cairns are situated within.

Dimen: Area 35m (NE-SW) x 30m (NW-SE)

74b. Clearance Cairn.

Pronounced circular mound of stones, built around a natural boulder.

Dimen: Diam: 2.50m x H 1.40m (from below); 0.50m (from above).

74c. Clearance Cairn.

Low oval mound of stones.

Dimen: L 4.50m x W 1.80m x H 0.30m.

74d. Clearance Cairn.

Low, circular mound of stones.

Dimen: Diam: 1.60m x H 0.20m

75. Arable Field and Clearance Cairn.

NGR NM 5975 5726

75a. Arable Field.

Unenclosed narrow, sub-rectangular field, presumably used for cultivation. It is situated on a steep slope on the N side of the Poll Luachrain / Drumbuidhe boundary. No rig and furrow is discernible but at least one clearance cairn on the NW side indicates that stone has been cleared from the surface. Furthermore, its bracken cover contrasts sharply with the surrounding mixture of heather and molinia. The circular platform, No. 76a and its associated D-shaped structure, No. 76b, are situated in the N corner. This field would logically belong to Poll Luachrain settlement, though it is technically part of Druimbuidhe.

Dimen: Area 12m (NW-SE) x 25m (NE-SW).

Orient: NE-SW.

75b. Clearance Cairn.

Circular mound of a few large boulders and smaller stones, situated within the field, No. 75a, 9m to the SW of the circular platform, No 76a.

Dimen: Diam: 1.80m x H 0.30m.

76. Platform and D-shaped Structure.

NGR NM 5974 5728

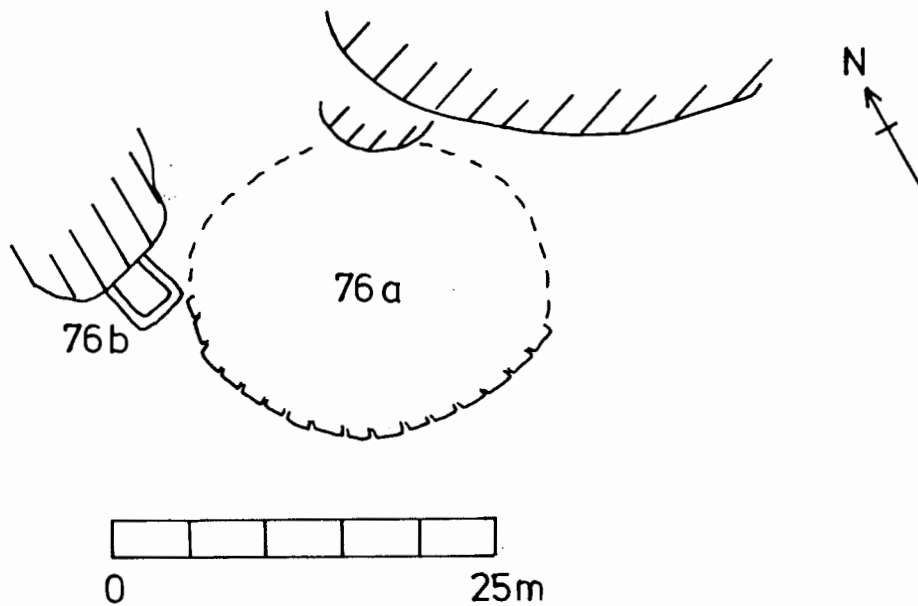
76a. Platform.

Sub-circular platform, built up from below to create a level interior. Its situation, at the foot of a rocky knoll, has dictated its outline plan, which is almost fan-shaped, rather than circular to fit in between outcrops. A revetment of large irregular boulders defines the S and SE sectors. A D-shaped structure, No. 76b, adjoins the W sector. The platform is situated in the N corner of an arable field, No 75a.

This platform is akin to others in the survey area, No. 55 at Poll Luachrain, Nos. 79, 80 and 85 on the Drumbuidhe side of the Poll Luachrain march, No. 115 at Drumbuidhe and possibly No. 9 at Sornagan. These might be interpreted as charcoal-burning platforms, but all seem to be associated with arable fields and are situated outside existing woodlands.

Dimen: 9.10m (ENE-WSW) x 7.50m (NNW-SSE).

Orient: ENE-WSW.



76b. D-Shaped Structure.

Small, low, sub-rectangular structure, wedged between a rocky knoll and the circular platform, No. 76a. It abuts the smooth, almost vertical face of the knoll and consists of a wall of piled up boulders rather than coursed masonry. No entrance is discernible.

Dimen: L 1.45m (ext.); 1.05m (int.) x W 1.95m (ext.); 0.95m (int.).

H of wall 0.65m.

Orient: N-S.



No. 76b. D-shaped structure, from E.

77. Peat Cuttings.

NGR NM 5974 5743

Level peaty area in the saddle between the two large knolls on top of the hill above Abhainn Poll Luachrain and its eastern tributary. Vertically cut edges provide evidence of peat cutting, though it is difficult to trace any plan of the working area in the broken up, densely heather-covered ground.

Dimen: Area 70m (NE-SW) x 35m (NW-SE).

Orient: NE-SW.

78. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5960 5735

(See Colour Plate 11)

Long slightly-trapezoidal, unenclosed field, running down a steep slope on the Drumbuidhe side of the Poll Luachrain march. Although very steep, the ground has some depth of soil, the surface is relatively clear of stone in an otherwise very rocky slope and the herb-rich grassland with bracken contrasts sharply with the surrounding mixture of heather and molinia. From the other side of the valley, some rig and furrow is just detectable at the top, oriented NE-SW, though this cannot be traced down the full length of the field. These factors strongly suggest that the field was used for cultivation. Two circular platforms, Nos. 79 and 80, are situated within. This field would logically belong to Poll Luachrain settlement, though it is technically part of Drumbuidhe.

Dimen: Area L 83m x W 15m (SSW end); 25m max..

Orient: NNE-SSW.

79. Platform.

NGR NM 5959 5735

(See Colour Plate 11)

Level, circular platform, situated on the W side of the steeply-sloping arable field, No. 78, approximately 52m from the top. It is terraced into the slope; the NE sector of the platform is flanked by a steep, though not quite vertical, escarpment, 1.40m high, which continues round to the NW and SE sectors. The SW sector has been built up from below and is revetted with roughly coursed masonry of large irregular blocks.

This platform is situated 26m to the N of another circular platform, No. 80, and is similar to others in the survey area, No. 55 at Poll Luachrain, Nos. 76a and 85 also on the Drumbuidhe side of the Poll Luachrain march, No. 115 at Drumbuidhe and possibly No. 9 at Sornagan. These might be interpreted as charcoal-burning platforms, but all seem to be associated with arable land and are situated outside existing woodland.

Dimen: Diam 9m x H of revetment 0.65m.

Orient: -

80. Platform.

NGR NM 5960 5733

(See Colour Plate 11)

Level, circular platform, situated on the E side of the steeply-sloping arable field. No. 78, approximately 74m from the top. It is less well-defined than the latter with a more hummocky interior. However, it has been clearly terraced into the slope; the NE sector is flanked by a steep escarpment, 0.80m in height, which continues round towards the NW and SE sectors. The SW sector has been built up from below and is revetted with irregular boulders.

This platform is situated 26m to the S of another circular platform, No. 79, and is similar to others in the survey area, No. 55 at Poll Luachrain, Nos. 76a and 85 also on the Drumbuidhe side of the Poll Luachrain march, No. 115 at Drumbuidhe and possibly No. 9 at

Sornagan. These might be interpreted as charcoal-burning platforms, but all seem to be associated with arable land and are situated outside existing woodland.

Dimen: Diam: 9.30m x H of revetment 0.40m.

Orient: -

81. Structures, remains of.

NGR NM 5958 5744

81a. Structure, remains of.

Remains of a round-angled, sub-rectangular structure, almost oval in plan, situated in a sheltered saddle between two rocky knolls at the top of the hill above Abhainn Poll Luachrain and its eastern tributary. It consists of low hummocky mounds of turf, through which some stone protrudes, particularly on the W side, while more is detectable by probing. The absence of tumbled stone suggests that any stone content formed the foundation only in a structure otherwise composed of turf. These turf banks have spread so that the interior is at present a narrow strip. The site is marked by its cover of herb-rich grassland, which contrasts sharply with the surrounding mixture of heather and molinia. The structure is situated 13m to the ESE of another structure, No. 82.

Dimen: L 8.20m (ext.); c. 6.20m (int.) x W 4.10m (ext.); c. 2.10m (int.).

H of bank 0.30m.

Orient: N-S.

81b. Structure, remains of.

23m to the NNW of No. 81a, is an almost level platform, also marked by its cover of herb-rich grassland, which may be the stance of another building. Some stones protrude through the surface but there is no raised bank, conforming to any recognizable plan.

Dimen: not measurable

Orient: N-S.

82. D-Shaped Structure.

NGR NM 5956 5745



Small, D-shaped structure, almost horseshoe-shaped in plan, which abuts the E face of a rocky knoll. It is situated 13m to the WNW of the structure, No. 81a, and 49m SSE of another D-shaped structure, No. 83, in the sheltered saddle between the two rocky knolls at the top of the hill above Abhainn Poll Luachrain and its eastern tributary. It is roughly-built of very large boulders, which are propped on their sides or against each other. The walls have collapsed at the rounded corners.

Dimen: L 3.90m (ext.); 2.80m (int.) x W 3.60m (ext.); 2.20m (int.).

W of wall c. 0.80m x H 0.50m.

Orient: E-W.

83. D-Shaped Structure.

NGR NM 5956 5747

Small, D-shaped structure, which abuts the W face of a rocky knoll. It is situated 49m to the NNW of another D-shaped structure, No. 82, in a sheltered saddle between two rocky knolls at the top of the hill above Abhainn Poll Luachrain and its eastern tributary. It is roughly-built of large boulders, which are propped on their sides or against each other.

Dimen: L 2.10m (ext.); 1.70m (int.) x W 2.70m (ext.); 1.20m (int.).

W of wall 0.80m x H 0.50m.

Orient: NE-SW.

84. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5950 5736

Sub-rectangular, gently-sloping, unenclosed field on the Drumbuidhe side of the Poll Luachrain march. This was presumably used for cultivation; rig and furrow, oriented WSW-ENE, is visible from across the valley. A circular platform, No. 85, is situated on the N side. This field would logically belong to the Poll Luachrain settlement, though it is technically part of Drumbuidhe.

Diemn: Area 31m (WSW-ENE) x 20m (NNW-SSE).

Orient: WSW-ENE.

85. Platform.

NGR NM 5950 5738

Level circular platform, situated on the N side of the arable field, No 84. It is situated in a sheltered position at the foot of a rocky knoll and is protected from the W and NW by a projecting spur of this knoll. The platform has been terraced into the slope; the NE sector is defined by a vertically-cut edge, which curves round to the NW and SE sectors. The SW sector has been built up from below and revetted with roughly-coursed masonry of flattish slabs.

This platform is similar to others in the survey area, No. 55 at Poll Luachrain. Nos. 76a, 79 and 80 also on the Drumbuidhe side of the Poll Luachrain march, No. 115 at Drumbuidhe and possibly No. 9 at Sornagan. These might be interpreted as charcoal-burning platforms, but all seem to be associated with arable fields and are situated outside existing woodland.

Dimen: Diam: 7.5m x H of revetment 0.50m.

Orient: -

86. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5944 5742

Rectangular, gently-sloping, unenclosed field on the E side of Abhainn Poll Luachrain. It was presumably used for cultivation; rig and furrow, oriented E-W, is visible from the other side of the valley.

Dimen: Area 30m (E-W) x 18m (N-S).

Orient: E-W.

87. ?Hut Circles / Shieling Huts.

NGR NM 5945 5744

(See Colour Plate 12)

Two small, circular structures, which may possibly be interpreted as prehistoric hut circles. However, as noted above (p.3), hut circles have not previously been identified in Morvern or North Argyll and these might, therefore, normally be interpreted as shieling huts. Nevertheless, it is only recently that hut circles have been recognized in other parts of Argyll and it is accepted that more hut circles await identification.

One of the structures, No. 87b, is very residual, so that its classification depends largely on its proximity to No. 87a. The latter, better-preserved example consists of a turf-covered stone wall with facing stones visible at intervals on the inner and outer faces. The wall at the entrance widens to form an extended passage or porch, protecting the doorway. Such features, ie stone facings and protected entrances are consistent with hut circles elsewhere and could be used to establish a prehistoric date.

However, these monuments are very small, measuring only c. 2m in diameter internally, well below the usual range of 5m - 15m. (RCAHMS, 1984, 13; Gourlay, 1997, 9) The wall, 0.55m wide, is also narrower than the usual width of at least 1m. (RCAHMS, 1984, 13) Conversely, shieling huts, though usually roughly rectangular, can be circular with internal diameters as little as 6ft. (Miller, 1967, 202) While these monuments, Nos. 87a and b, are clearly circular in contrast to the oval shieling huts above Poll Luachrain settlement, shieling grounds have been recorded elsewhere in Morvern with examples of both round and rectangular plans, eg, Coire Bhorradail. (RCAHMS, 1980, 240)

The entrance in No. 87a, in the NNW sector, contrasts with the normal orientation of the doorway in the S "in order to admit as much light as possible" and to avoid the westerly winds. (RCAHMS, 1984, 13; Gourlay, 1997, 9) However, the N sector in this particular structure has the brightest aspect, facing downslope towards Loch na Droma Buidhe, in contrast to the dark forbidding view facing Sgeir Bhuidhe to the S, while still avoiding the westerly winds. Furthermore, hut circles with North-facing doors do occur elsewhere. (Gourlay, 1997, 58)

Finally, it may be argued that these monuments are at too low an altitude and too close to the settlement of Poll Luachrain to have been used as shieling huts. They are, indeed, situated immediately beside an arable field. It is possible that they were used as shelters or stores associated with the field, but in such a case the entrance might be expected to face the field rather than, as here, in the opposite direction.

Therefore, while size may favour classification as shieling huts, construction, orientation and location are consistent with interpretation as hut circles. However, this is by no means certain and awaits affirmation.

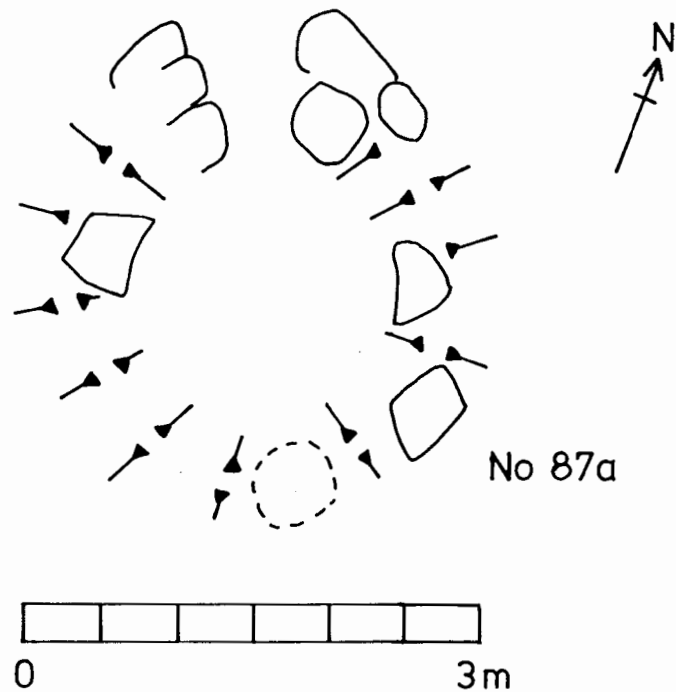
87a. ?Hut Circle / Shieling Hut.

Small circular structure, consisting of a turf-covered stone wall, enclosing a clear level interior. The wall is mostly visible as single boulders protruding through the turf, but probing reveals stones across the full width of the wall, often forming facings along the inner and outer faces. The wall widens in the NNW sector on either side of a gap, forming an extended porch to protect the entrance. The structure is situated 2.80m to the SSE of No. 87b.

Dimen: Diam: 3.30m (N-S across widening at entrance); 3.20m (E-W)

W of wall 0.55m; W of wall at entrance 0.90 -1m x H 0.30m.

Orient: NNW.



87b. ?Hut Circle / Shieling Hut.

Remains of a small circular structure, recognizable chiefly by its proximity to No. 87a, 2.80m to the SSE. It consists of a very low turf-covered bank, though probing revealed stone just below the surface all around the circular outline. The bank encloses a cleared level interior. No entrance is discernible.

Dimen: Diam 3.50m (ext.) x 1.90m (int. N-S); 2.20m (int. E-W)

H of wall 0.25m.

88. Boundary Wall.

NGR (W end) NM 5932 5758

(E end) NM 5948 5761

Stone wall, which divides the E bank of Abhainn Poll Luachrain, running from the foot of the rocky knoll in the E, westwards to the edge of the stream. From the E end, consisting of a roughly-built heap of stones rather than coursed masonry, it runs downslope southwestwards for 37m until it reaches a natural terrace. Here it turns westwards and follows a sinuous course as a turf and stone bank, 0.60m high. After 50m, the bank is only 0.30m high and after another 13m is hard to follow and detectable mainly by the ditch on its S side. After another 35m the bank is again pronounced, 0.40m in height, and 10m further on becomes a 1.10m high coursed stone wall for a few metres on either side of a gateway. 160m from the E end, the bank reaches the steep slope immediately above Abhainn Poll Luachrain and a rickle of stones down this slope may mark the course of this boundary to the very edge of the stream. This wall is situated 28m S of the house, No.89, and presumably enclosed land pertaining to it.

Dimen: L 174m x W 0.80m x H 0.30 - 1.10m max.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: Visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3176.

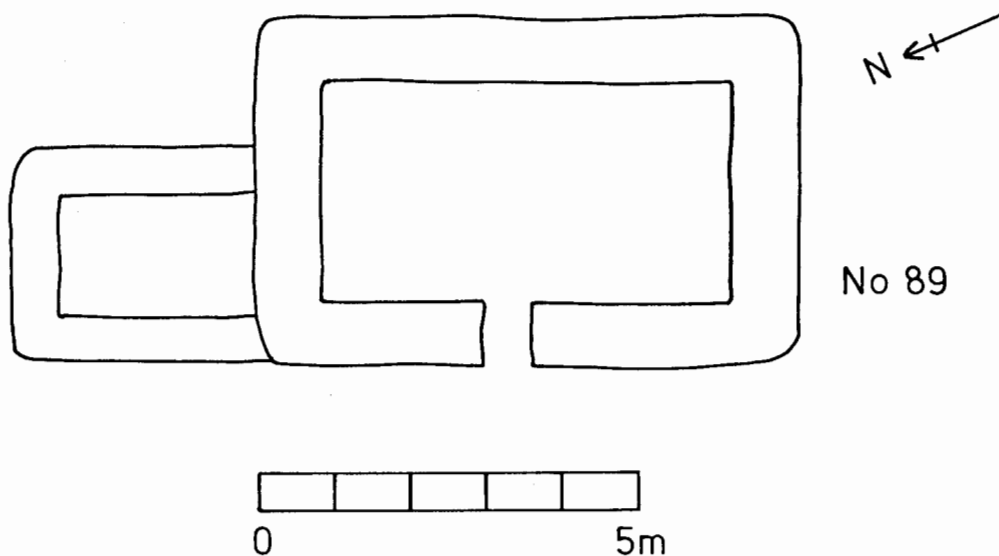
89. House.

NGR NM 5948 5763

Round-angled rectangular building, situated at the foot of a steep rocky escarpment, facing a broad natural terrace. The N end is the best preserved, surviving at the NW corner to a height of 1.55m. The wall, roughly-built of large irregular blocks, has collapsed in places especially along the E side. The walls have a distinct batter, particularly noticeable at

the corners, tapering from a width of 0.85m at the base to 0.60m at the top. An entrance, 0.65m wide, opens into the W side, 3.45m from the S end. There is no evidence of cruck slots and a sufficient amount of the walls probably survives to reveal any slots if they did exist. This suggests that this house was a relatively late construction.

An annexe, 2.80m wide and 3.20m long, abuts the N end. This post-dates the main compartment, though not necessarily after a long interval of time. There is no apparent entrance into this annexe. This house is presumably associated with the wall, No. 88, 28m to the S and the enclosure, No. 90, further W.



Dimen: L (main compartment) 7.10m x W 4.60m.

Total L 10.30m

W of wall 0.60 - 0.85m x H 1.55m.

Orient: N-S.

90. "Enclosure".

NGR NM 5940 5760

Sub-rectangular, level, cleared area, defined on the NE and SW sides by natural outcrops and on the SE side by a turf covered bank. The NW side remains unenclosed. The interior is possibly sub-divided by another broad low bank, 1.30m wide and 0.30m high. It is situated 12m to the N of the boundary wall, No. 88, at a point, 87m from the latter's E end. and may be associated with the wall and with the house, No. 89.

Dimen: NW compartment L 5.50m (int.) x W 5.30m (int.).

SW compartment L 4.50m (int.) x W 4.80m (int.)

Total L 11.30m (ext.) x W 8.20m (ext.)

W of SE wall 0.95m x H 0.50m.

Orient: NW-SE.

91. Milepost.

NGR NM 5965 5801

Cast iron milepost, one of two surviving within the survey area, which mark every mile from Doirlinn to Drimnin. One other, No. 139, marks the end of the road at Doirlinn and another marked on the map at NM 5876 5761 is missing. Recorded on the milepost is the following information:

DRIMNIN	DORLIN
5¾	1
MILES	MILE

SMITH PATTERSON & CO
FOUNDERS
BLAYDON

92. Wall ("Beach Wall").

NGR NM 5967 5805

Roughly-built but substantial stone wall, situated on the muddy beach between two large boulders. Running parallel with the boulder revetment along the Drimnin - Doirlinn road, it thus encloses an area 15m x 6m, though open at both ends. The purpose of this wall is unclear; it is hardly a fish trap, nor is it part of any territorial boundary like other "beach walls", eg. No. 105. Possibly it formed a collection point for seaware.

Dimen: L 15m x W 3m x H 0.50m.

Orient: E-W.

93. Walls ("Beach Walls").

NGR NM 5970 5812

Two parallel walls, consisting of roughly piled up stones, situated on a muddy beach below the high water mark. The area between the walls is relatively free of stones. Presumably the walls are a result of clearing a landing place for a boat and may be relatively recent.

Dimen: L 80m x W 0.80m x H 0.40m.

Orient: NW-SE.

94. Bank.

NGR NM 6000 5784

Very overgrown heather-topped turf bank, which runs southwestwards from a small stream, at a point 31m downstream from the SW end of the boundary, No. 107. At its NE end, it consists of a substantial turf bank, 0.80m wide and up to 1.10m high. It runs for 20m in a westerly direction, then turns to the SW and after a gap of 9m, continues for 24m. It then turns westwards again and runs for 60m upslope before stopping at a large outcrop near the foot of a steep slope. At this SW end it appears as a stone wall of large irregular boulders.

Dimen: L 113m x W of bank 0.80m x H 1.10m; W of wall 1m x H 0.70m.

Orient: NE-SW.

95. Enclosure.

NGR (NW end) NM 6005 5810

(SE end) NM 6015 5789

Trapezoidal enclosure, surrounding Drumbuidhe House and garden. It consists of a well-built and well-preserved wall of three to four courses of large blocks of stone. The remains of a wire fence and wooden fence posts survive on top.

Dimen: Area 230m (NW-SE) x 105m (NE-SW at NW end); 175m (NE-SW at SE end)

W of wall 0.50m x H 0.60m.

Orient: -

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 65 NW.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180

96. Drumbuidhe House and Outbuildings.

NGR NM 6010 5801

96a. Drumbuidhe House.

Drumbuidhe House is still occupied and was not examined in detail.

96b and c. Outbuildings.

The outbuildings are also still in use but the main features have been recorded. The conjoined outbuildings cover three sides of a rectangle, partially enclosing a central courtyard. This present plan represents the latest phase in a multi-phase development, probably dating to the late 19th century, when Druimbuidhe was a large farm.

96b. Winnowing Barn.

Round-angled rectangular structure of drystone masonry. The walls have a slight batter, tapering from a width of 0.80m at the base to 0.65m at the top. An entrance, 1m wide, opens through the S wall, 3.40m from the W internal end. Directly opposite the main entrance is a low opening, now blocked, 1m wide and 0.85m high, which is interpreted as a winnowing door. Four cruck slots, also blocked, are discernible:

- i) In the N wall, 0.30m wide, 1.05m above the floor; 2.65m from the E end.
- ii) In the N wall, 0.30m wide, 0.80m above the floor; 0.55m from the E end.
- iii) In the S wall, E edge only, 2.50m from the E end.
- iv) In the S wall, W edge only, 0.75m from the E end.

This building is interpreted as a winnowing barn, though the function undoubtedly changed throughout its, probably long, history of use.

Dimen: L 9.40m x W 5.20m.

W of wall 0.80m x H 1.70m max.

96c. Byre and Dairy.

This L-shaped building seems to have been constructed as a single unit, though the S wing may have earlier origins. The S wing consists of a round-angled rectangular structure, reaching a massive 2.50m in height at the western downslope end, which is built up on a boulder plinth. The interior is divided by a partition wall, 7.80m from the W internal end. An opening, 0.90m wide, at the N end of the partition wall provides access between the two compartments. A further opening, 1.50m wide in the N wall, at the E end of the structure, gives access into the E wing.

The main entrance, 1m wide opens through the N wall, 4m from the W internal end. A further external entrance, 0.70m wide but only 0.90m high opens through the S wall into the E compartment, 2.10m from the E internal end. This is interpreted as a calf-creep.

Two splayed windows are found:

- i) In the W end, 0.80m wide int. and 0.55m wide ext.
- ii) In the E end, 0.80m wide int. and 0.55m wide ext.

The floor is cobbled, with a gully running across the floor, 5m from, and parallel to, the W end. W of the drain, a line of edge-set stones marks a division between the E and W parts of the compartment. No cruck-slots are discernible.

The S wing is interpreted as a dairy; a dairymaid was listed among the occupants of Druimbuidhe in 1891. (Valuation Roll)

Dimen: L 13.60m x W 4.70m.

W of wall 0.60m x H 2.50m max.

The E wing, which abuts No. 96b and is integral with the S wing, is interpreted as a byre. A drainage channel runs the full length of the cobbled floor, with side channels issuing through the doors. Two entrances open into the courtyard, both flanked on the outer face by large flat slabs:

- i) In the W wall, 0.70m wide, 2m from the S wall of the N wing.
- ii) In the W wall, 0.90m wide, 2.40m from the N wall of the S wing.

The interior is divided by a stone partition wall, 4.10m from the N internal end. No cruck slots are discernible.

Dimen: L 19.30m x W 4.65m.

W of wall 0.60m x H 1.80m

Refs: NMRS Site NM 65 NW 8

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180

97. Structure, Remains of.

NGR NM 6012 5809

Possible remains of a rectangular structure, situated immediately W of the Drimnin - Doirlinn road. It is visible as a level interior, terraced into the slope, which defines the SW side. It is enclosed on the NW and NE sides by a low overgrown turf and stone bank and at the SE end by a "wall" of single intermittent stones. It is possible that this is a much dilapidated survivor of the early settlement at Drumbuidhe, one of the seven houses marked on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: L 7.90m (ext.); 5.70m (int.) x W 4.20m (ext.); 3.70m (int.).

W of bank 0.50m x H 0.30m.

Orient; WNW-ESE.

Refs: ?Wilson Map, 1836.

98. Track.

NGR NM 6020 5807

Track, leading from the Drimnin - Doirlinn road to the SW corner of the enclosed field, No. 99. It has become submerged in marshy ground on either side of a stream and is hardly detectable. Remains of a bridge across the stream survive

Dimen: L 105m x W c. 2m.

Orient. E-W

99. Enclosed Field.

NGR NM 6032 5810

Large sub-rectangular enclosed field, situated to the ENE of Drumbuidhe House and reached by a track, No.98, which leads from the Drimnin - Doirlinn road. It is enclosed by a low well-built wall of one or two courses of large blocks of stone, topped by a layer of coping stones set on edge. This was originally heightened by a fence; remains of iron stanchions survive at the corners, as well as wooden fence posts and strands of wire elsewhere. The interior of this field is level at the N end but slopes down to the S, becoming ridged and hummocky. A small D-shaped structure, No. 100, abuts the inner face on the W side. This enclosed field is a relatively late feature. It is not marked on the Wilson Map of 1836. It encloses part of the arable marked on the Wilson Map, but straddles the E boundary of the latter, No. 107, and encloses an additional area further E.

Dimen: Area 140m (WNW-ESE) x 100m (NNE-SSW).

W of wall 0.35m x H 0.65m.

Orient: WNW-ESE.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 65 NW.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180

100. D-Shaped Structure.

NGR NM 6025 5814

Small D-shaped structure, which abuts the inner face of the W side of the enclosed field, No. 99. It is visible mainly as a level platform, built up above the level of the field. It

is revetted on the N side, and possibly on the E, by a wall of single stones. The S side is defined by a break in slope.

Dimen: L 4m (N-S) x W 3.30m (E-W).
W of North wall 0.35m x H 0.15m
H of platform 0.30m.

Orient. N-S.

101. Arable Field and Clearance Cairn.

NGR NM 6021 5816

101a. Arable Field.

Trapezoidal, partially enclosed field, which runs from the NW corner of the field, No. 99. It consists of a relatively level area, thickly covered with bracken, enclosed by a stone wall on the N and W sides. The E end of the N side consists of a series of conjoined clearance cairns, partly built around natural outcrops and reaching 5m in width and 1m in height. After 12m, this diminishes to a roughly-coursed wall, 0.90m wide and 0.35m high. The E side is defined by the enclosed field, No. 99, and the S side by a rocky knoll. Another clearance cairn, No. 101b. lies to the N.

This is presumably part of the arable, marked on the Wilson Map of 1836, enclosed on the E side by the boundary, No. 107.

Dimen: Area 35m (E-W) x 16m (N-S at E end); 14m (N-S at W end).

W of wall 0.90m x H 0.35m.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

101b. Clearance Cairn.

Small circular clearance cairn of small stones, situated 8m to the N of No. 101a.

Dimen: Diam: 1.20m x H 0.50m.

Orient: -

102. ?Corn-Drying Kiln.

NGR NM 6019 5816

(See Colour Plate 13)

Circular structure, built around a natural outcrop, which may be a corn-drying kiln, the only one to be recorded within the survey area. The natural outcrop defines the S and W sectors and is augmented by a bank of small stones around the E and N sectors. It is possible that this is simply a clearance cairn; it is situated on the W side of the arable field, No. 101a, around which other clearance cairns are located. However, a definite central depression can be discerned at the top of the cairn. Though now rubble-filled, probing reveals that it is stone-lined, similar to the bowl of a kiln. Furthermore, a gap in the base of the N sector may be the site of the flue, though this again is rubble-filled and the full extent of the gap cannot be ascertained.

Dimen: Diam 4.70m (ext.); Diam of bowl 1.50m.

H 0.65m (in N sector); 1.50m (in S sector)

Orient: -

103. Lazy Beds.

NGR NM 6018 5820

A series of parallel pronounced broad ridges, separated by broad gaps. The height and width of these ridges and the width of the gaps between them contrasts with rig and furrow, recorded elsewhere in the survey area. (eg. in the fields, Nos. 39, 50b and c, 84 and 113) This suggests that this site, along with similar examples mostly at Drumbuidhe or Oronsay (Nos. 108-111, 170 and 172) are spade-dug lazy beds rather than ploughed rig and

furrow. Seven ridges, oriented NE-SW, are visible, filling the space between two rocky knolls. These may be part of the arable marked on the Wilson Map of 1836, to the W of the boundary, No. 107.

Dimen: Area 18m (NW-SE) x 12m (NE-SW)

L of ridges 12m x W 1.30m x H 0.40m; W of gap between ridges 0.70m.

Orient: of ridges NE-SW.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180.

104. Enclosure.

NGR NM 6021 5835

Enclosure wall, which may have originally joined the boundary wall, No. 107, to enclose a sub-rectangular area on the E side of a small promontory, projecting into Loch na Droma Buidhe. The construction of the wall varies around the perimeter:

- a) From the top of the cliff above the Drimnin - Doirlinn road, an overgrown stony bank, 0.90m wide and 0.70m high, runs southwards for 38m, where
- b) It abuts a rocky knoll, which then forms the wall for 47m, though coursed masonry is still used to fill the gaps between outcrops.
- c) S of the knoll, a mossy coursed stone wall, 0.80m wide and 0.80m high, continues for 23m until it reaches a gap, 0.85m wide, possibly an original gateway.
- d) After the gap, a coursed stone wall continues southwards for 40m, curving slightly eastwards. The ground drops away to the E, so that the E side of the wall is now 1.20m high, in contrast to 0.60m on the W side.
- e) The wall curves further E, up and over a small knoll, which marks the summit of the spur. It continues as an overgrown stony bank for 25m until it reaches the circular feature, No. 104f.
- f) A small sub-circular structure interrupts the line of the wall. It may be a D-shaped structure, abutting the wall but the relationship between the two is difficult to determine as the wall is lower here and less prominent. It is possible that the structure is much later in date and has damaged the wall. It consists of a turf and stone bank, 1.20m wide and 0.60m high.

Dimen: Diam: 4.10m (ext. N-S); 3m (int. N-S);

4.50m (ext. E-W); 2.10m (int. E-W).

Orient: E-W.

- g) E of the structure, No. 104f, the wall continues curving slightly for 25m before plunging downhill to the NE and petering out after another 20m on flat marshy ground. It incorporates natural outcrops along its route.

Dimen: Area 120m (N-S) x approx. 80m (E-W).

Total L of wall 223m

Orient: of enclosure NW-SE.

Refs: Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180.

105. Wall ("Beach wall").

NGR NM 6017 5844

Wall, consisting of roughly piled-up beach stones, running from an outcrop on the shore to a small tidal islet. It is possible that this was built on the shore to create a fish trap, leaving a gap of 11m to be netted between the other end of the islet and another rocky promontory further E. However, it is more likely to be a continuation of the enclosure, No. 104, possibly marking the seabed boundary, so significant for the collection of seaweed, between Drumbuidhe and Doirlinn, in a similar way to No. 167 on Oronsay.

Dimen: L 20.90m x W 1.70m x H 0.60m.

Orient: NE-SW.

106. Structure.

NGR NM 6028 5845

Round-angled rectangular building, situated in a grassy tree-shaded gully, within a rocky promontory, jutting into Loch na Droma Buidhe. It consists of a slightly sloping floor, sunk below the surrounding ground level, enclosed by a very overgrown low stone wall, which is continuous on three sides but intermittent at the SSE end. The wall consists of boulders, including some with facing edges especially on the ENE and NNW sides. It is most pronounced on the ENE side, whereas it merges with the slope on the WSW side. No entrance is discernible. The absence of fallen stone in the vicinity suggests that the walls were originally no higher than at present, and may have been surmounted by turf or wicker.

There is a possibility that this is associated with the placename Rubha na h-Eaglaise, suggesting that it was church. Although this placename refers to a promontory further W, no evidence of a structure could be found there.

Dimen: L 7.20m x W 4.90m.

W of wall 1.10m x H 0.50m.

Orient: NNW-SSE.

107. Boundary.

NGR (N end) NM 6027 5839

(S end) NM 6010 5786

Long, curving bank, which, according to the Wilson Map of 1836, marks the head-dyke around the arable pertaining to Drumbuidhe settlement. It runs southeastwards from the shore of Loch na Droma Buidhe, and curves round southwestwards to the SE side of the enclosure, No. 95. Several patches of lazy beds, Nos. 108 - 111, lie immediately outside this head-dyke. These may represent cultivation of the outfield, or a post-1836 development. At a later date, the enclosure, No. 99, truncated the boundary.

The boundary varies in construction along its perimeter:

- a) The boundary, consisting of a wall of roughly-coursed stones, starts at a rocky knoll, 14m S of the Drimnin - Doirlinn road. It runs from W to E for 5m and then continues southeastwards, with a ditch on its NE side for 90m until it becomes submerged in marshy molinia tussocks.
- b) After a gap of 22m, the boundary reappears as a turf bank, 0.80m wide and 0.60m high. At a point opposite the E end of the enclosure wall, No. 104, the latter is also submerged in marshy ground and the two boundaries may originally have met. The bank continues for 229m, again with a ditch on the NE side, the latter now flowing to the SE.
- c) The bank is truncated by the N wall of the later enclosure, No. 99, 18m from the E end of the latter. The ditch is channelled into a subterranean drain, the route of which can be traced on the ground and from the air, across the enclosed field. Presumably the bank was removed when the field was enclosed, though traces of it are just visible on the W side of the drain.
- d) 16m before the boundary reaches the S wall of the enclosure, No.99, the drain turns to the W, and a large bank, 1.20m wide and 1.50m high, accompanies the former, now dry, course of the drain, which continues southwestwards to the enclosure wall.
- e) The bank is again truncated by the enclosure wall, No.99, but continues as a low bank before stopping at a stream.
- f) S of the stream, the boundary consists of an overgrown turf bank, 0.75m wide and 0.55m high, with visible stone content at either end, which runs southwestwards across a flat area before rising up a slope and stopping 20m short of a fence at the E corner of the enclosure, No. 95.

g) SW of the fence, a high overgrown turf and stone bank, up to 0.80m high, continues to the SW, parallel with the S wall of the enclosure, No. 95, before stopping at another stream. It does not appear to continue beyond this stream, though another bank, No. 94, further downstream may have been constructed to extend the boundary to the far side of the valley.

Dimen: L 650m x W c. 0.80m x H c. 0.60m

Orient: -

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 65 NW (Northern part only)

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180.

108. Lazy Beds.

NGR NM 6032 5834

(See Colour Plate 14)

A series of parallel pronounced broad ridges, separated by broad gaps. The height and width of these ridges and the width of the gaps between them, contrasts with the rig and furrow recorded elsewhere in the survey area (eg. in fields, Nos. 39, 50b and c, 84 and 113). This suggests that this site along with similar examples mostly at Drumbuidhe or Oronsay (eg. Nos. 103, 109-111, 170 and 172) are spade-dug lazy beds rather than ploughed rig and furrow.

16 ridges, oriented NE-SW, are visible, running down a gentle slope, E of the boundary, No. 107. The seven ridges, nearest the NW end, are 24m long, filling the space between two rocky knolls. However, further SE, the ridges extend for at least another 15m to the bottom of the slope.

These lazy beds, along with Nos. 109-111, lie immediately outside the Drumbuidhe head-dyke, No.107. They may, therefore, represent cultivation of the outfield or a post-1836 development.

Dimen: Area 32m (NW-SE) x 24m (NE-SW at NW end); 39m (NE-SW at SE end).

L of ridges 24m - 39m x W 1.30m x H 0.20 - 0.30m.

W of gaps 0.70m.

Orient: of ridges NE-SW.

Refs: Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180.

109. ?Lazy Beds.

NGR NM 6038 5818

A series of parallel broad ridges, running down a gentle slope, E of the boundary, No. 107. These are less pronounced than the lazy beds to the N and S, Nos. 108 and 110, and it is difficult to determine the width of the ridges or the gaps between them. Identification is hampered by a very thick cover of bracken, which, even when dead, masks shallow features. However, they seem to be of similar dimensions to No. 108, which along with Nos. 103, 110 and 111, was interpreted as spade-dug lazy beds rather than ploughed rig and furrow,

These lazy beds, along with Nos. 108, 110 and 111, lie immediately outside the head-dyke, No. 107. They may, therefore, represent cultivation of the outfield, or a post-1836 development.

Dimen: Area 58m (N-S) x 12m max. (E-W).

L of ridges 5m - 12m x W ?1.30m x H ?0.20 - 0.30m.

W of gaps ?0.70m.

Orient: of ridges E-W.

Refs: Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180

110. Lazy Beds.

NGR NM 6040 5809

A series of parallel pronounced broad ridges, separated by broad gaps. The height and width of these ridges and the width of the gaps between them contrasts with rig and furrow recorded elsewhere in the survey area (eg. in the fields, Nos. 39, 50b and c, 84 and 113). This suggests that this site, along with similar examples, mostly at Drumbuidhe or Oronsay (eg. Nos. 103, 108, 109 and 111, 170 and 172) are spade-dug lazy beds rather than ploughed rig and furrow.

Four broad ridges, possibly five, are visible, oriented NNE-SSW. At present, they are 8m long, but have been truncated by animal tracks, which criss-cross through the level area between two small rocky knolls next to the E wall of the enclosure, No. 99. Originally, the ridges may have continued into this level area.

This site, along with Nos. 108, 109 and 111, lie immediately outside the Drumbuidhe head-dyke, No. 107. They may, therefore, represent cultivation of the outfield or a post-1836 development.

Dimen: Area c. 11m (WNW-ESE) x 8m (NNE-SSW)

L of ridges 8m x W 1.40 - 1.60m x H 0.25m.

W of gaps 0.70m.

Orient: of ridges NNE-SSW.

Refs: Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180.

111. Lazy Beds.

NGR NM 6042 5804

A series of parallel pronounced broad ridges, separated by broad gaps. The height and width of these ridges and the width of the gaps between them contrasts with rig and furrow recorded elsewhere in the survey area (eg. in the fields, Nos. 39, 50b and c, 84 and 113). This suggests that this site, along with similar examples mostly at Drumbuidhe or Oronsay, (eg. Nos. 103, 108 - 110, 170 and 172) are spade-dug lazy beds rather than ploughed rig and furrow.

At present, three broad ridges, 10m long are visible, but there may originally have been more, extending for a greater length. This area has been greatly disturbed by animal tracks and modern drains. Occasional short stretches of bank can be distinguished further S, but no clear pattern can be traced.

This site, along with Nos. 108- 110, lies immediately outside the Drumbuidhe head-dyke, No. 107. They may, therefore, represent cultivation of the outfield or a post-1836 development.

Dimen: Area 10m (N-S) x 7.50m (E-W)

L of ridges 10m x W 1.70 - 1.80m x H 0.20m.

W of gaps 0.70m.

Orient: of ridges N-S.

Refs: Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180.

112. Boundary.

NGR (W end) NM 6033 5802

(E end) NM 6098 5782

Turf bank, which runs along the NE side of a stream and, according to the Wilson Map of 1836, marks the march between Drumbuidhe and Doirlinn. It emerges 5m to the SE of the Drumbuidhe head-dyke, No. 107, which appears to have truncated it. No. 112 is, therefore, older, though its original course at this point is unclear. It may have continued northwestwards, though this would bisect the Drumbuidhe settlement. It is perhaps more likely to have stopped here, joining an earlier version of the head-dyke. The boundary varies in construction along its perimeter:

- a) At the NW end, the boundary consists of a hummocky, heather-covered bank, 0.70m - 0.90m wide and 0.40m high, which is difficult to trace at times. It runs southeastwards for 152m, incorporating large boulders in one place, 35m from the NW end.
- b) A coursed stone wall, 1m high, marks the boundary for 18m. The NE face is vertical but the SW face slopes so that the wall tapers from a width of 1.20m at the base to 0.60m at the top. It is not clear why such a significant boundary should have been built here. There is no evidence of any structure abutting it. It does define the NE side of a broad level well-drained area of ground, which might have been cultivated, though no rig and furrow can be traced within the thick cover of heather. It may alternatively have been an important area for grazing.
- c) The boundary continues southeastwards for another 150m as an overgrown turf bank until it reaches the end of the level marshy plain around the stream.
- d) The boundary climbs up the rocky slopes but continues in a straight line, southeastwards, when the stream veers to the S after 60m. The heather-covered bank is more difficult to trace and is just visible, c. 2m wide and 0.30m high, protruding above the surrounding heather. It can be followed for another 300m, until it is level with a right-angled bend in a modern fence, c. 20m to the S. Originally, it may have joined the boundary bank, No. 63, as indicated on the Wilson Map of 1836, but both have disappeared in this very overgrown hummocky ground.

Dimen: Total L 680m.

W of bank 0.70m x H 0.30 - 0.40m.

W of wall 1.20m x H 1m.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

Visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3178.

113. Arable Field.

NGR NM 6052 5785

Rectangular, gently-sloping field, which seems to have been used for cultivation, situated on the NE side of a modern fence. It is detectable mainly by its cover of herb-rich grassland with bracken amidst the surrounding mixture of heather and molinia, though a ditch also defines the SE, NE and NW sides. Rig and furrow, oriented NW-SE, is just visible. The lower end is criss-crossed by deep vehicle ruts, leading to a gate through the fence. This field, in conjunction with fields, Nos. 114 and 116, presumably represents cultivation of the outfield at Drumbuidhe.

Dimen: Area 41m (NW-SE) x 22m (NE-SW).

Orient: NW-SE.

114. Arable Field.

NGR NM 6063 5766

Rectangular, gently-sloping field, which seems to have been used for cultivation. It is detectable mainly by its cover of herb-rich grassland with bracken amidst the surrounding mixture of heather and molinia. A "wall", 0.60m - 1.40m wide and 0.40m high, resulting from field clearance, defines the northwestern, downslope end. No rig and furrow can be distinguished. A circular platform, No. 115, is situated on the SW side. This field, in conjunction with Nos. 113 and 116, presumably represents cultivation of the outfield at Drumbuidhe.

Dimen: Area 19m (NW-SE) x 16m (NE-SW).

Orient: NW-SE.

115. Platform.

NGR NM 6063 5764

Circular platform, situated on the SW side of an arable field, No. 114. It is terraced into the slope; the SW sector is defined by a vertically-cut edge, 0.70m high, which curves round into the W and S sectors. The NE sector has been built up from below, though is not revetted.

This platform is similar to others in the survey area, No. 55 at Poll Luachrain, Nos. 76a, 79, 80 and 85 on the Drumbuidhe side of the Poll Luachrain march and possibly No. 9 at Sornagan. These might be interpreted as charcoal-burning platforms but all seem to be associated with arable fields and are situated outside existing woodland.

Dimen: Diam: 10m (NW-SE) x 9m (NE-SW).

H of NE sector 0.60 - 0.70m.

Orient: -

116. Arable Field.

NGR NM 6079 5776

Square, gently-sloping, unenclosed field, which may have been used for cultivation. It is detectable by its cover of herb-rich grassland with bracken amidst the surrounding mixture of heather and molinia. Rig and furrow, oriented NW-SE, is just visible, though obscured by bracken, which even when dead, masks the surface. This field, in conjunction with fields, Nos. 113 and 114, presumably represents cultivation of the outfield at Drumbuidhe.

Dimen: Area 32m x 32m.

Orient: of rig and furrow NW-SE.

117. ?Shieling Huts, remains of.

NGR NM 6082 5757

Two small circular areas, in which the cover of herb-rich grassland with bracken and some molinia, contrasts sharply with the surrounding heather. Within these areas, there are very slight traces of raised banks in a circular or oval shape, though they are very difficult to distinguish. Probing revealed little stone beneath the surface. It is possible that these are the stances of shieling huts, originally constructed of turf or wicker.

Dimen: Diam: 5m.

Orient: -

118. Peat Cuttings.

NGR NM 6100 5781

Area of peat cuttings around the SE end of the boundary, No 112. These are clearly visible from the air but difficult to detect on the heather-covered hummocky ground.

Dimen: Area approx. 60m (NE-SW) x 60m (NW-SE)

Orient: -

Refs: Visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3178.

119. House and Enclosure.

NGR NM 6111 5786

House and enclosure, situated on the slope above Loch Teacuis. They seem to be part of Gleannaguda settlement, though they lie outside the 1836 boundary of Drimnin Estate.

119a. House.

Large, round-angled rectangular house, situated at the NE end of a large rectangular enclosure, No. 119b. The house is neatly-built of drystone coursed masonry with relatively small regular blocks and survives to a maximum height of 0.65m. The absence of much tumbled stone suggests that the walls were not originally much higher than this and were possibly surmounted by turf or wickerwork. An entrance opens into the NE side, 4m from

the NW end. There is no evidence of cruck slots, though the walls are not sufficiently high enough to reveal any. An annexe, 4.20m long, abuts the SE end and is, therefore, later, though not necessarily after a great interval of time. As well as the enclosure, No. 119b, the house is joined by two other walls, Nos. 119c and d.

Dimen: Main Compartment L 9.25m x W 4.40m.

Total L 13.45m.

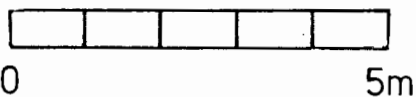
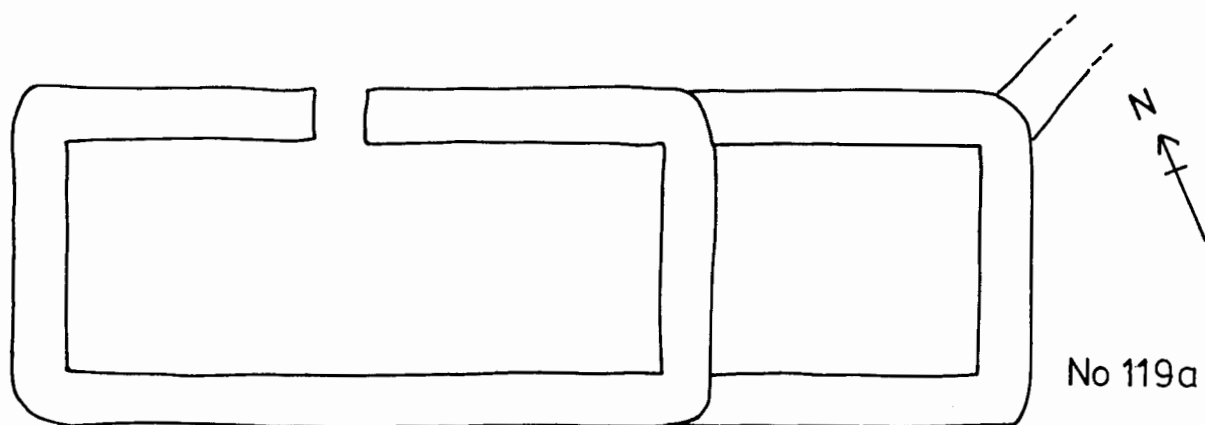
W of wall 0.70m x H 0.65m max.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: NMRS Site 65 NW 21 (part of).

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 65 NW.

Gaskell, 1968,154.



119b. Enclosure / ?Kailyard.

Rectangular enclosure, which abuts the SW side of the main compartment of the house, No. 119a. It is defined by a well-built wall of coursed masonry with rounded corners at the SW end. The enclosure seems to have been constructed on top of pre-existing lazy beds; the northwesternmost ridge within the enclosure is incomplete and the ridges continue northwestwards beyond the enclosure, defined on the NE side by the wall, No. 119c. Within the enclosure, the lazy beds, oriented NE-SW, consist of broad banks, 1.50 - 1.60m wide and 0.30m high, separated by gaps, 0.70m wide. The enclosure may have been used as a kailyard.

Dimen: Area 15.20m (N-S) x 9.25m (E-W).

W of wall 1.10m x H 0.50 - 0.60m.

Orient: NE-SW.

Refs: NMRS Site 65 NW 21 (part of).

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 65 NW.

119c. Wall.

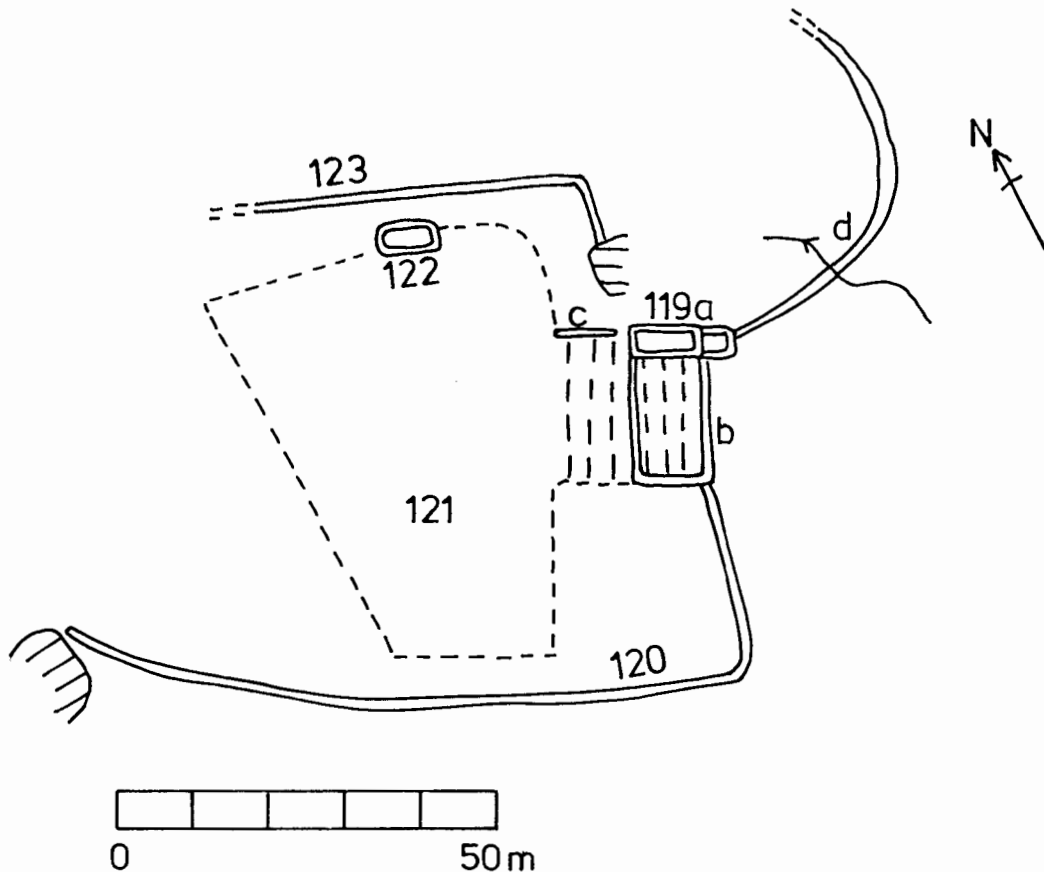
Wall of drystone coursed masonry, which runs northwestwards from the N corner of the house, No. 119a, after a gap of 1.30m. It defines the NE end of the lazy beds, which continue from the enclosure, No. 119b.

Dimen: L 8m x W 0.70m x H 0.55m.
 Orient: NW-SE.

119d. Wall.

Wall, which abuts the E corner of the annexe compartment of the house, No. 119a. Consisting of coursed stone, it runs for 15m eastwards to a small stream. On the other side of the stream it continues as a turf bank, curving round for 35m to the NE and N before petering out in a hummocky birch wood.

Dimen: L 50m (at present) x W 0.70m x H 0.45m.
 Orient: -



120. Enclosure Wall / ?Head-dyke.

NGR NM 6106 5785

Large enclosure, defined by a coursed stone wall, which abuts the S corner of the kailyard, No. 119b. It may represent the head-dyke, associated with the house, No. 119a. Originally the whole of the interior may have been arable, but, at present, only an irregularly-shaped area within is distinguishable as a cultivated field, No. 121. The rest is thickly covered with high heather and even the wall is difficult to detect. From the S corner of No. 119b, it runs to the SSW for 26m and curves northwestwards, continuing for 83m, before stopping at a rocky knoll and disappearing in very hummocky heather. The wall, No. 123, may define part of the NE side of this enclosure.

Dimen: Total L of wall 109m x W 0.80 - 0.90m x H 0.50m
 Orient: -

121. Arable Field.

NGR NM 6106 5787

Irregularly-shaped area, which may have been used for cultivation. It is distinguishable by its cover of herb-rich grassland with bracken, in sharp contrast to the surrounding heather and molinia. It is situated within a much larger enclosure, No. 120, and it is possible that originally the arable extended to the enclosure wall. Lazy beds, oriented NE-SW, are situated on the SE side of the field, defined at their NE end by the wall, No. 119c, and continuing into and beneath the enclosure, No. 119b.

Dimen: Area 65m max. (NE-SW) x 45m max. (NW-SE).

Orient: NE-SW.

122. Structure.

NGR NM 6106 5779

Small, dilapidated, round-angled rectangular structure, situated in the N corner of the arable field, No. 121, within the enclosure, No. 120. The structure is best-preserved on the NE side, where a clearly-defined wall of coursed masonry survives, 0.85m wide and 0.50m high. Around the NW, SW and SE sides, the walls have collapsed so that they now appear as heaped up stones, c. 1.30m wide. An entrance opens into the NE side, 3.60m from the NW end.

Dimen: L 6.80m (ext.); 4.60m (int.) x W 4.25m (ext.); 2.60m (int.).

W of wall 0.85 - 1.30m x H 0.50m.

Orient: NW-SE.



No. 122. Structure, from W.

123. Wall / ?Head-dyke.

NGR NM 6108 5790

Wall, consisting of roughly-built stone masonry, which may define the NE side of the large enclosure, No. 120. From a rocky knoll, SE of the structure, No. 122, it runs

northwards for 9m and then turns to the NW and continues parallel to the structure, No. 122, at a distance of 6m, before petering out in a birch wood.

Dimen: L 51m x W 0.60m x H 0.50m (downhill); 0.10m (uphill).

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 65 NW 21 (part of).

Gaskell, 1968, 154.

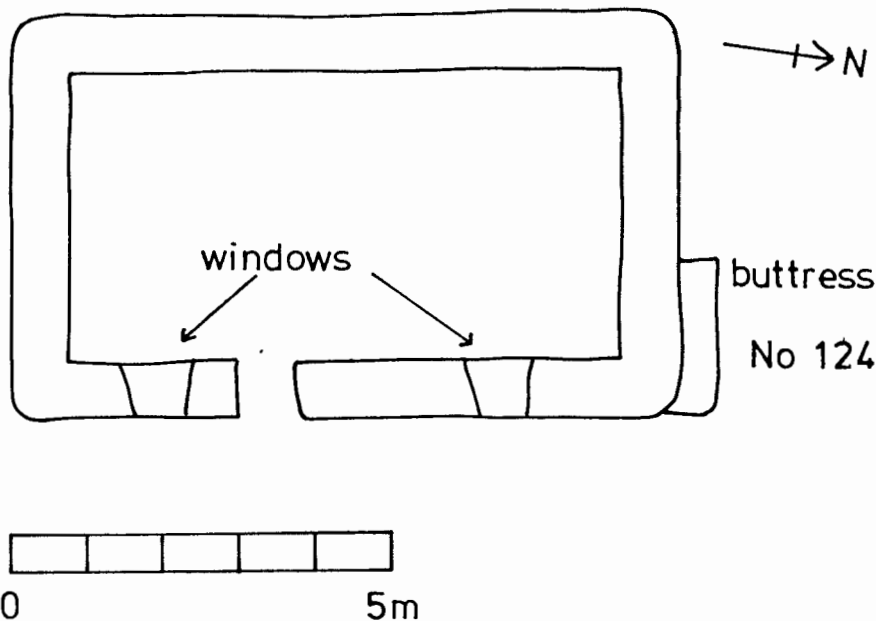
124. House.

NGR NM 6099 5799

(See Colour Plate 15)

One of two particularly well-preserved buildings, possibly a house and byre, situated in a secluded wooded gully on the shore of Loch Teacuis. These are part of Gleannaguda settlement, falling within the 1836 boundary of Drimnin Estate. They probably represent the latest phase of occupation at Gleannaguda, documented at least as late as 1891.

The house consists of a single-compartment, round-angled rectangular building, which survives probably to its original height all the way round, reaching a maximum of 1.85m at the SE corner. The moss-covered turf coping is still visible along the top of the walls. The level floor has been terraced into the slope; the W wall is 1.30m high internally, but only 0.35m externally. The walls have a pronounced batter, particularly at the corners, tapering from a width of 0.75m at the base to 0.55m at the top. A buttress, 2m long and 0.50m wide, abuts the N wall.



An entrance, 0.80m wide, opens into the E wall, 2.95m from the S end. Two splayed windows, still with lintels intact, open into the E wall on either side of the door.

i) The S window opens 0.35m from the S internal end.

0.74m wide ext.; 1.05m wide int.; 0.78m high from lintel to sill.

ii) The N window opens 1.20m from the N internal end.

0.70m wide ext.; 0.92m wide int.; 0.85m high from lintel to sill.

There is no evidence of cruck slots.

The house is situated in the same alignment, 2.90m S of another building, probably the associated byre, No. 125.

Dimen: L 8.70m x W 5.30m

W of wall 0.75m x H 1.85m max.

Orient: N-S.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map
Gaskell, 1968,



No. 124 Window i), from E

125. ?Byre

NGR NM 6098 5800

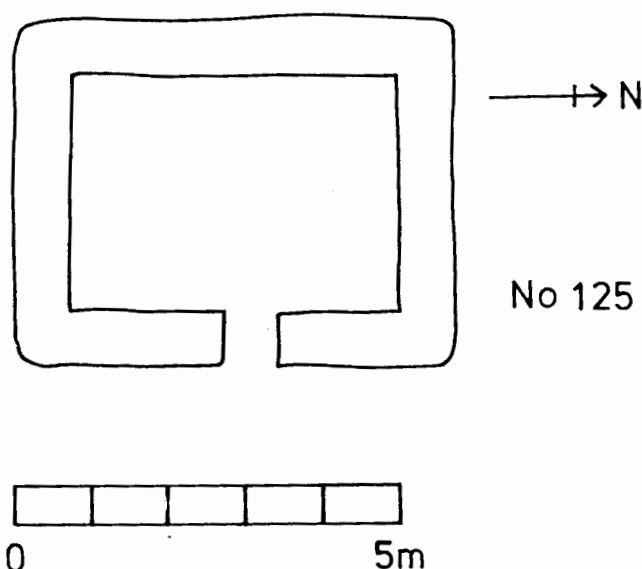
(See Colour Plate 16)

One of two particularly well-preserved buildings, possibly a house and byre, situated in a secluded wooded gully on the shore of Loch Teacuis. These are probably part of Gleannaguda settlement, falling within the 1836 boundary of Drimnin Estate. They probably represent the latest phase of occupation at Gleannaguda, documented at least as late as 1891.

The byre consists of a single-compartment, round-angled rectangular building, which survives probably to its original height all the wall round, reaching a maximum of 1.65m in the E wall. The moss-covered turf coping is still visible along the top of the walls. The level floor has been terraced into the slope; the W wall is 1m high internally, but only 0.45m high externally. The walls have a pronounced batter, particularly at the corners, tapering from a width of 0.70m at the base to 0.55m at the top.

An entrance, 0.70m wide, opens into the E side, 2.30m from the N end. Its lintel is still intact, 1.36m above the floor. There is no evidence of windows or cruck slots.

The byre is situated, in the same alignment, 2.90m N of another building, probably the associated house, No. 124.



Dimen: L 5.70m x W 4.50m.

W of wall 0.70m x H 1.65m max.

Orient: N-S.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 65 NW 21 (part of).

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 65 NW.

Gaskell, 1968, 154.

126. Structure.

NGR NM 6097 5801

Remains of a rectangular structure, probably associated with the house and byre, Nos. 124 and 125. It consists of a slightly sloping rectangular floor, enclosed by a single layer of large boulders. Some superstructure of turf or wicker may originally have surmounted this. There is no discernible entrance.

Dimen: L 6m x W 5m

W of wall 0.60m x H 0.30m.

Orient: N-S.

127. House.

NGR NM 6093 5805

Round-angled rectangular house, situated on a level terrace within birch woods, near the shore of Loch Teacuis. It was presumably part of Gleannaguda settlement, possibly associated with the enclosure, No. 128 and the arable field, No. 129. The walls of coursed drystone masonry survive best at the NW and NE sides, reaching a height of 1.35m at the W corner.

An entrance, 0.85m wide, opens into the NW side, 3.65m from the NE end. There may have been windows on either side of the door but this NW side is the most dilapidated and no evidence survives; the wall may have been weakened by the existence of windows. A sufficient amount of the E wall survives to demonstrate the absence of cruck slots.

Dimen: L 9.20m x W 4.80m.

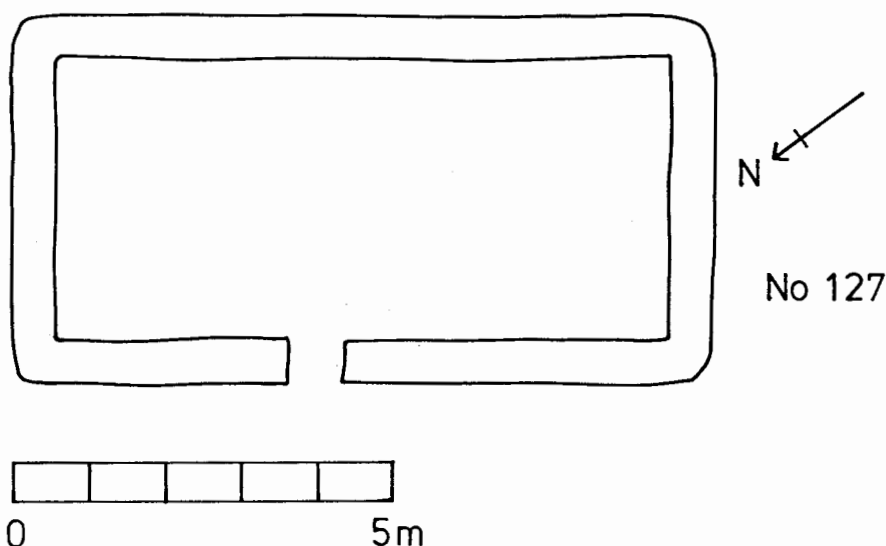
W of wall 0.55m x H 1.35m max.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 65 NW 21 (part of).

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

Gaskell, 1968, 154 (probably the site recorded at NM 609 579).



128. Enclosure.

NGR NM 6087 5814

Sub-rectangular enclosure on the shore of Loch Teacuis, opposite Eilean nan Eildean, probably associated with the house, No. 127. It may originally have joined the boundary, No. 133, as marked on the OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map. Within are two discrete areas of arable, Nos. 129 and 130, separated by rocky knolls. The enclosure is defined by a wall, which consists of large boulders, often incorporating outcrops and knolls along its perimeter. The N side consists of two stretches of wall, separated by a rocky hillock.

128a) A wall of large boulders, 0.50m wide and 0.60m high, runs for 16m, southwestwards from a knoll on the seashore to the footpath, No. 132, at the foot of a hillock.

128b) SW of the hillock, the wall continues for 12m, consisting of irregular boulders, measuring 0.90m wide and 0.55m high. This stretch defines the NW end of an arable field, No. 130.

The W side of the enclosure is marked by two longer stretches of wall, again separated by a rocky hillock:

128c) From the SW end of No. 128b, a turf bank, in which some stone is visible, measuring 0.65m wide and 0.70m high, rises up a slope and curves to the S for 17m and then to the W for 10m, before stopping at the foot of another hillock.

128d) S of the hillock, a substantial stone wall, roughly-built of large boulders, measuring 0.70m wide and 1.10m high, runs S for 104m, turns SE for 28m and then ENE for 27m, before petering out at a gully, beyond which lies the house, No. 127. The second arable field, No. 129, lies within this part of the enclosure.

Dimen : Area 190m (N-S) x c. 50m (E-W).

Orient: N-S.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

Enclosure containing rig and furrow is visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3178.

129. Arable Field.

NGR NM 6088 5810

Sub-rectangular, gently-sloping area, surrounded by rocky knolls, within the S part of the enclosure, No. 128. It was presumably used for cultivation. Rig and furrow is visible from the air, though difficult to detect on the ground, masked by a thick cover of bracken. The field is situated to the S of another smaller arable field, No. 130, separated by rocky

knolls, within the same enclosure, No. 128. This is probably part of the arable, marked to the SE of Doirlinn, on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: Area

Orient: N-S.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

Rig and furrow is visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3178.

130. Arable Field.

NGR NM 6087 5819

Irregularly-shaped, almost oval, level area, occupying the small space between rocky knolls, situated within the enclosure, No. 128. It was presumably used for cultivation; rig and furrow is visible from the air, though difficult to detect on the ground, masked by a thick cover of bracken. The field is situated to the N of another larger field, No. 129, separated by rocky knolls, within the same enclosure. It is probably part of the arable, marked to the SE of Doirlinn, on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: Area 45m (N-S) x 14m max (E-W); tapers in width at both ends.

Orient: N-S.

Refs: Rig and furrow is visible on AP 106G/Scot/UK/101 Frame 3178.

131. House.

NGR NM 6105 5827

A house is recorded on Eilean nan Eildean, which was, according to Gaskell, occupied by a fisherman, 1871 - 81. This was not inspected during the present survey.

Dimen: ?

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 65 NW 20.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

Gaskell. 1968, 154.

132. Footpath.

NGR (N end) NM 6073 5849

(S end) NM 6099 5800

Footpath from Doirlinn to Gleannaguda. It starts at the end of the road at Doirlinn and is difficult to follow at first in a wet, marshy area. It is more clearly distinguishable within the woodland, leading to the house and byre, Nos. 124 and 125.

Dimen: L 570m.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

133. Boundary.

NGR (NW end) NM 6065 5842

(SE end) NM 6085 5834

A boundary, which may have been a head-dyke around Doirlinn settlement. The enclosure corresponds to the arable marked on the Wilson Map of 1836, though the latter is unenclosed. At present, little cultivable ground can be recognized here; the interior is thickly-covered with heather. It may originally have been joined by the enclosure, No. 128, as marked on the OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

The boundary varies in composition along its length:

133a) The boundary starts at the S corner of the enclosure, No. 134, and continues southeastwards for 140m as a very overgrown turf bank, 0.90m wide and 0.60m high, though difficult to follow within the thick cover of heather.

133b) The boundary curves to the ENE, consisting at first of a low turf bank, but becoming, as it runs down the slope, a prominent stony bank, 0.80m wide and 0.80m high. After 74m, it reaches the seashore.

133c) A wall of heaped up beach stones, 1.30m wide and 0.30m high, continues the line of the boundary, along the stony beach for 8m to a tidal islet.

Dimen: L 222m x W 0.80m - 1.30m x H 0.30m - 0.80m.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 65 NW

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180.

134. Enclosure.

NGR NM 6062 5843

Sub-rectangular enclosure, which occupies a level plain between rocky slopes to the S of a small inlet in Loch na Droma Buidhe. The interior is very wet and marshy, particularly in the western part, which is covered with reeds. A boundary, No. 133, runs southeastwards from the S corner. On the W side, the enclosure is defined by a roughly-coursed stone wall, 0.60m - 0.70m wide and 1.08m high, which hugs the foot of a rocky slope. Along the S and E sides, the enclosure is defined by a broad, very overgrown stony bank, 1.40m wide and 0.70m high.

Dimen: Area 45m max. (E-W) x 19m (N-S at W end); 30m (N-S at E end).

Orient: approx. E-W.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 65 NW.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180.

135. Wall ("Beach Wall").

NGR NM 6055 5846

A wall, consisting of heaped up beach stones, which bisects the beach in a small bay in Loch na Droma Buidhe. Presumably it acts as a boundary, dividing the resources of the seabed and may be a continuation of the boundary, No. 133. The latter, at its other end, also continues onto the beach, as No. 133c.

Dimen: L at least 50m x W 1.40m x H 0.30m.

Orient: NNW-SSE.

136. Doirlinn House.

NGR NM 6071 5851

Roofed house with gable ends, which is still occupied. It was a drovers' change-house for cattle crossing from Glenborrodale from at least 1800 until c. 1880. It was a private house in 1881, and was empty in 1891, though has been occupied intermittently up to the present day. It may be one of the houses marked at Doirlinn on Roy's Map.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 65 NW 7 (part of).

Roy's Map, 1747-55.

Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 65 NW.

Gaskell, 1968, 157.

MacDonald, 1985, 24.

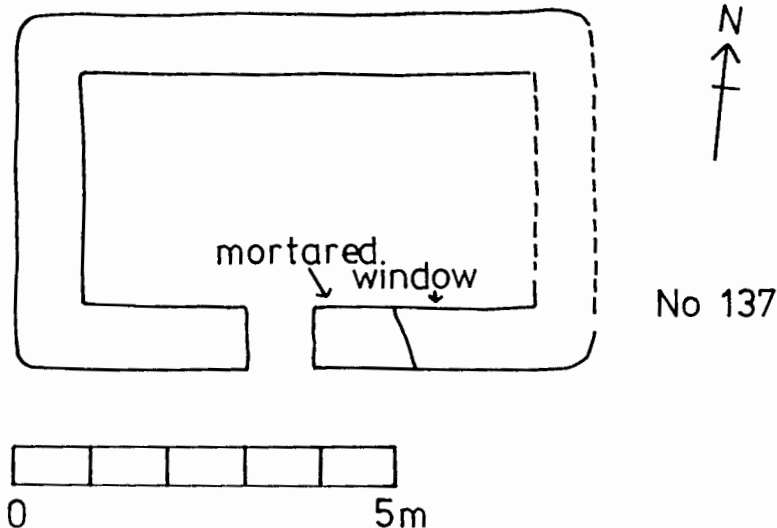
Weyndling, 1996, 114.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180.

137. House.

NGR NM 6073 5851

Round-angled rectangular house, situated 7.50m from Doirlinn House, No. 136. It is best-preserved at the W and S sides, where the wall survives to a maximum height of 1.65m. The E side is completely demolished. The walls consist of roughly-built coursed masonry, mostly drystone, of large blocks, and including some slate courses at the W end.. The wall has a slight batter, tapering from a width of 0.80m at the base to 0.65m at the top. An entrance, 0.90m wide, opens into the S side, 3m from the W end. The W side of a splayed window is visible, 1.30m to the E of the door. The masonry between this window and the door is the only part, which is mortared. There is no evidence of cruck slots. This house may be one of those marked at Doirlinn on Roy's Map.



Dimen: L 7.55m x W 4.65m.

W of wall 0.80m x H 1.65m max.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 65 NW 7 (part of).

Roy's Map, 1747-55.

Wilson Map, 1836

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 65 NW.

Gaskell, 1968, 157.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180.

138. Track.

NGR NM 6075 5851

Track, which continues from the end of the present Drimnin - Doirlinn road, to the S of the house, No. 137, and curves round to the N, before stopping on the shore. There is no man-made landing stage at the end of the track, but the rocks shelve steeply here, probably forming a natural jetty. This marks the location of the ferry, which operated between Doirlinn and Glenborrodale. A cast-iron milepost, No. 139, marks the end of the track.

Dimen: L 80m

Orient: -

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

139. Milepost.

NGR NM 6078 5855

A cast-iron milepost, which marks the end of the track, No. 138, and bears the following information:

DRIMNIN	DORLIN
6 ³ / ₄	=
MILES	
SMITH PATTERSON & CO	
FOUNDERS	
BLAYDON	

It is one of two surviving mileposts within the survey area, which mark every mile from Doirlinn to Drimnin. One other, No. 91, is situated W of Drumbuidhe and another marked on the Map at NM 5876 5761 is missing.



No. 139. Milepost

140. ?Slipway.

NGR NM 6075 5857

Broad, stone-cobbled path, 4m wide, which starts 14m to the E of Doirlinn House, No. 136, and runs northwards to the sea. A ditch, 0.35m wide and 0.60m deep, runs along each side. It was presumably used as a slipway for launching the ferry boats.

Dimen: L 50m x W 4m.

Orient: N-S.

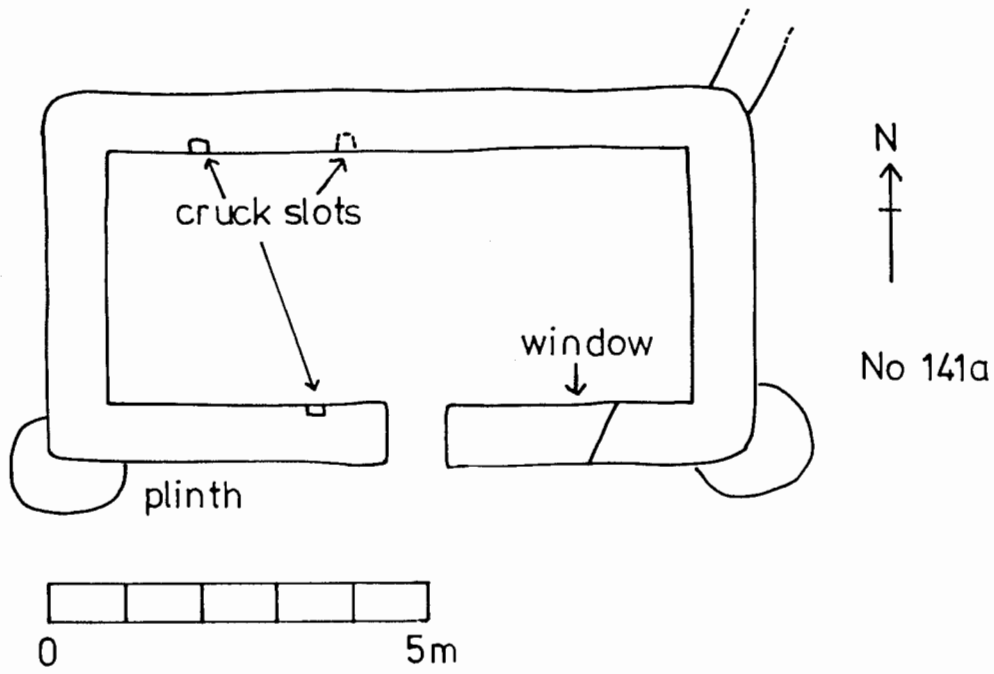
141. House and Walls.

NGR NM 6062 5871

141a. House.

(See Colour Plate 17)

Well-built, well-preserved, round-angled rectangular house of coursed drystone masonry, situated at the foot of a rocky knoll, at the E end of Oronsay. The house is best preserved on the N and E sides, where the SE corner survives to a height of 1.45m. The wall



No. 141a. Cruck slot i) in N wall.

has a pronounced batter, tapering from a width of 0.80m at the base to 0.60m at the top. The house has been built on a slope, and a boulder plinth supports the downslope SE and SW corners. Large boulders have also been incorporated in the wall near the base.

An entrance, 0.70m wide, opens into the S wall, 3.90m from the E end. One angled straight edge of masonry to the E of the door, may be the E side of a splayed window.

Another window may have existed to the W of the door, where the wall has now collapsed, possibly weakened by the window. At least two, possibly three, cruck slots are discernible:

- i) In the N wall, 0.20m wide, 1.10m from the W end; 0.90m above the floor.
- ii) In the S wall, now blocked, 0.12m wide, 2.75m from the W end; 0.45m above the floor.
- iii) A possible cruck slot in the S wall, 3.10m from the W end, is indicated by internal collapse of the wall, opposite cruck slot ii).

The position of these slots suggests that the roof was originally supported by four pairs of crucks. However, there is no evidence of even blocked slots E of the door, where the wall is sufficiently well-preserved to reveal them. The wall at the E end was probably rebuilt in a later phase of occupation.

Dimen: L 9.25m x W 4.95m.

W of wall 0.80m x H 1.35m max.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

Arable marked in this position on the Wilson Map, 1836, but no house.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 65 NW.

Probably one of the 19 houses recorded on Oronsay by Gaskell, 1968, 158.

141b and c. Walls.

Two short walls run from the N side of the house, No. 141a, to the rocky knoll behind, enclosing a narrow level rectangular area within.

141b. Wall of irregular stones abuts the NE corner of the house, No. 141a.

Dimen: L 5m x W 0.90m x H 0.40m.

141c. Wall of irregular stones runs parallel to No. 141b, but stops 6m W of the NW corner of the house, No. 141a.

Dimen: L 7m x W 0.90m x H 0.40m.

142. Arable Field.

NGR NM 6061 5868

Rectangular unenclosed field, which was presumably used for cultivation, situated on the S side of the house, No. 141. It is distinguished by its cover of herb-rich grassland with bracken in contrast to the surrounding heather and molinia. The interior slopes gently to the E and S. Some stones, presumably resulting from field clearance have been added to outcrops, marking the S side. Further structures, Nos. 143 and 144, lie on the W perimeter. This corresponds to the arable marked on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: Area 56m (E-W) x 31m (N-S).

Orient: E-W.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

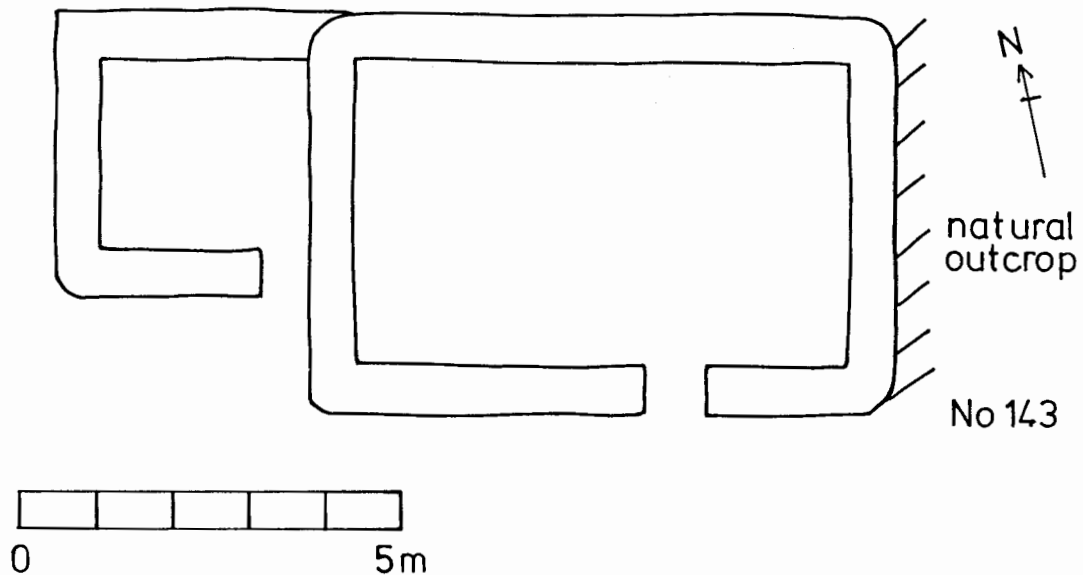
143. House.

NGR NM 6058 5868

Dilapidated, round-angled rectangular house of coursed drystone masonry, situated on the W side of the field, No. 142, 5m N of the structure, No. 144. It is best preserved on the W, N and E sides, where the W wall survives to a maximum height of 1.05m. The S side is almost completely demolished and the interior is full of fallen stone. The E wall rests on a

natural outcrop. The remaining basal stones in the S wall reveal a straight-edged gap, 0.75m wide, which was presumably the entrance, 4.50m from the W end. An insufficient amount of the wall survives to reveal windows or cruck slots, though the collapsed central portions of the W and E ends may have resulted from weakening of the wall around cruck slots.

An annexe, 3.25m long and 3.70m wide, abuts the W end and is, therefore, later though not necessarily after a long interval. Consisting of coursed masonry of small stones, the annexe is best preserved at the W end, reaching a height of 0.90m, while the N and S walls are reduced to 0.30m. A gap at the E end of the S wall marks the entrance into the annexe.



Dimen: Main compartment L 7.70m x W 5.20m.

W of wall 0.60m x H 1.05m max.

Total L 10.95m.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

Arable marked on the Wilson Map, 1836, but no houses.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

Probably one of the 19 houses recorded on Oronsay by Gaskell, 1968, 158.

144. Structure / ?Byre.

NGR NM 6058 5866

Small dilapidated and very overgrown, round-angled rectangular structure of coursed drystone masonry, situated on the W side of the field, No. 142, 5m S of the house, No. 143. It is best preserved at the W end, which survives to a height of 0.80m, but the E end has collapsed downhill. The entrance may have been in the N, facing the house, No. 143, though there are no distinguishing features here. This structure may have been a byre, associated with the house, No. 143, a use, supported by its very thick cover of vegetation in the interior.

Dimen: L 4.20 x W 3.30m.

W of wall 0.60m x H 0.80m max.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: Arable marked on the Wilson Map, 1836, but no houses.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

145. Enclosure.

NGR NM 6052 5866

Small trapezoidal enclosure, roughly built of large blocks of stone against natural outcrops. The vertical face of an outcrop forms the whole of the N side. Another outcrop is incorporated in the W side. Elsewhere, the enclosure is defined by walls of piled up stones rather than coursed masonry.

Dimen: L 9m (N-S) x W 7m (E-W at N end); 5.50m (E-W at S end).

Orient: -

146. Arable Field.

NGR NM 6040 5876

Irregularly-shaped enclosure, filling a natural level flood plain to the N of Sailean Ban at the E end of Oronsay. It is defined by a turf and stone bank, which, around the W, N and E sides, closely follows the foot of hills and rocky knolls. The S side cuts across the valley to complete the perimeter. This field may have been cultivated; traces of rig and furrow are visible at the eastern end from the air. There is no arable marked here on the Wilson Map of 1836, and this field may be associated with the 1843 expansion of population. (see above p.8) The interior is now extremely wet, marshy and covered with reeds.

Dimen: Area 205m max. (NW-SE) x 140m max. (N-S).

Orient: -

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180.

147. Fish Trap.

NGR NM 6010 5862

Two walls project across a narrow inlet, which opens from Loch na Droma Buidhe into a very large tidal basin, within the E end of Oronsay. The walls are very substantial and well-built with vertical sides and flat tops, constructed of large irregular stones. At present, the W wall is 7m long and the E wall 3m long, leaving a wide gap between them. However, the walls may have originally continued further.



No. 147. Fish Trap, from SW

It may be assumed that this wall was intended as a fish trap. It contrasts with other recorded fish traps, for example, Nos. 182 and 199 on Oronsay, and elsewhere in Morvern eg. Ardtornish Bay (NM 694 433) and Inninmore Bay (NM 726 417), which consist of low walls of piled up small stones. However, this obviously had to be considerably stronger to retain the large volume of water in the basin. Gaskell describes this trap as follows:

“The trap at Oronsay makes use of the considerable tidal flow into and out of the large eastern inlet, and consists of a massive double wall at the neck (possibly used with one-way entrances as a corf) with a lagoon inside them contained by a further wall 110 yards further back. All [the Morvern] traps are in a ruinous condition (having been breached, tradition says, following the passage of the Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Act, 1868, which forbade the use of “fixed engines” for fishing).” (Gaskell, 1968, 170)

Dimen: Total L 20m (E-W across inlet)
W of wall 1.30m x H 0.90m.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.
OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 65 NW.
Gaskell, 1968, 170.

148. Arable Field.

NGR NM 6001 5905

Trapezoidal-shaped field, filling a level area between low rocky ridges on the N side of the large tidal basin at the eastern end of Oronsay. It is defined mostly by an overgrown stony bank, 0.90m wide and 0.60m high. On the N side, the bank abuts a natural outcrop, though a line of boulders still marks the perimeter along the top of the outcrop. E of the outcrop, the bank continues across a wet hummocky area to a rocky ridge. The bank hugs the foot of this ridge, running southeastwards, becoming, 47m from the S end, a wall of piled-up boulders, 0.70m wide and 1.10m high. The S side is defined by an overgrown bank, difficult to distinguish within hummocky ground and detectable mainly by a drop in height on the S side.

This field was presumably cultivated; rig and furrow is visible from the air, oriented N-S, and just detectable on the ground, at the S end. There is no arable marked here on the Wilson Map of 1836, and this field may be associated with the 1843 expansion of population. (see above p. 8) The interior is now wet, marshy and covered with reeds.

Dimen: Area 120m (N-S) x 50m (E-W at N end); 115m (E-W at S end).

Orient: approx. N-S.

Refs: W side marked on OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.
Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180.

149. Two cairns.

NGR NM 5989 5901

Two small cairns, 2.30m apart, consisting of small stones, piled up on natural outcrops. These could be clearance cairns, but, although they are situated on level ground, they are not within any obviously defined area, which might be interpreted as a field. They are situated approximately midway between the enclosed fields, Nos. 148 and 150, and it is possible that they mark a boundary between holdings.

149a. Oval cairn, situated 2.30m N of the cairn, No. 149b.

Dimen: L 1.60m x W 1.30m x H 0.90m.

149b. Oval cairn, situated 2.30m S of the cairn, No. 149a.

Dimen: L 2.30m x W 1.80m x H 0.70m.

150. Enclosure.

NGR NM 5979 5905

Irregularly-shaped enclosure, which adjoins the E side of the long boundary wall, No. 152. The enclosure is probably contemporary with the latter, though there is no clear relationship between the two. The perimeter of the enclosure is dictated by the location of rocky knolls. From a gateway in the S side, flanked by a tall orthostat, a stone wall of coursed masonry, 0.50m wide and 0.65m high, runs downslope for 19m to swampy ground. It then follows a sinuous course, as an overgrown stony bank, 0.60m wide and 0.35m high, round the N side of a rocky knoll before turning northeastwards. This bank continues for 38m, and then turns to the NW for 36m and stops at the foot of another knoll. After a gap of 9m, a wall of coursed masonry, 0.50m wide and 0.90m high, picks up again on top of the knoll and again follows a slightly sinuous course to the boundary wall, No. 152.

The upper NW part of this enclosure is well-drained and bracken-covered but the lower part is wet and marshy.

Dimen: Area 110m (NW-SE) x 35m (NE-SW).

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

151. Structure.

NGR NM 5970 5901

Small, round-angled, trapezoidal structure, which abuts a rocky knoll, 5.50m S of the enclosure, No. 150. The NE, NW and SW sides consist of a wall of coursed drystone masonry, which is well-preserved apart from at the partly-collapsed N corner. The knoll forms the SE side. The structure is terraced into the slope; the wall is only 0.55m high externally on the SW side, but 0.95m internally and reaches a maximum height of 1.30m on the NE side.



No. 151 Structure, from S

An entrance, 0.70m wide, opens into the NE side, 1.35m from the SE end. This structure is presumably associated with the activity in the enclosure, No. 150.

Dimen: L 4.20m x W 3.45m (at NE end); 2.60m (at SW end).

W of wall 0.55m x H 1.30m max.

Orient: NE-SW.

152. Boundary Wall.

NGR NM 5976 5905

Long boundary wall, running NE-SW from above the shore of Port Phadruig to the marshy area around a stream on the N side of the field, No. 158. It consists of a well-built well-preserved wall of coursed drystone masonry. Flat coping stones, laid horizontally, survive along much of its length. There are only a few gaps, where the wall has collapsed.

This wall may be contemporary with the adjoining enclosure, No. 150, though there is no clear relationship between the two. At the NE end, another wall, the S side of the enclosure, No. 153, continues the route of No. 152, right to the shore of Port Phadruig, though on a slightly different alignment.



No. 152. Boundary wall, from NE. Note coping stones.

Dimen: L 185m x W 0.55m x H 1m.

Orient: NE-SW.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

153. Enclosure.

NGR NM 5978 5915

Sub-rectangular enclosure on the S shore of Port Phadruig. The SE wall abuts the N wall of the enclosure, No. 150, and runs northeastwards parallel with the long boundary but starting 4m further E. Consisting of a stone wall of coursed masonry, 0.60m wide and 0.70m high, it continues right to the shore, running on top of the inclined bedrock at the NE end. It

then turns slightly to the W onto the beach but does not continue right across. The W side is defined by an overgrown stony bank, 0.90m wide and 0.70m high.

Dimen: Area 70m (NE-SW) x 25m (NW-SE).

Orient: NE-SW.

154. Enclosed Field.

NGR NM 5984 5875

Sub-rectangular enclosed field, filling the level area between rocky knolls. The plan is dictated by the location of the knolls. The field is enclosed by an overgrown stony bank, 0.90m wide and 0.70m high.

There is no evidence of rig and furrow on the ground or from the air. However, its similarity to the enclosed fields, Nos. 146 and 148, suggests that it may have been cultivated. There is no arable marked here on the Wilson Map of 1836 and this field may be associated with the 1843 expansion of population. (see above p. 8) The interior is now wet and marshy.

Dimen: Area 70m (N-S) x 50m (E-W).

Orient: NNE-SSW.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

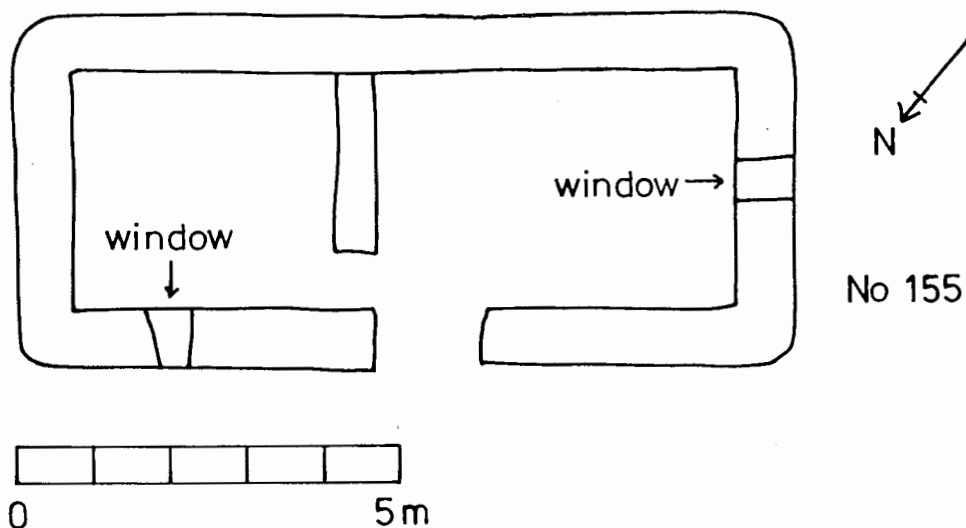
Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4180.

155. House.

NGR NM 5975 5875

Well-built and well-preserved, round-angled rectangular, two-compartment house, constructed of coursed drystone masonry. It is situated immediately above the shore, on the E side of an unnamed bay. Consisting of small stones, the walls have a pronounced batter, tapering from a width of 0.75m at the base to 0.55m at the top. The house is divided by a wall, 3.40m from the NE end; this partition abuts the inner face of the SE wall and is, therefore, later though not necessarily after any great interval

An entrance, 1.50m wide, opens into the NW side, 4.10m from the SW end. Access into the NE compartment is by a gap, 0.75m wide, at the NW end of the partition. A splayed window, measuring 0.35m wide externally and 0.55m wide internally, opens through the NW wall, 0.95m from the internal NE end. Another window, 0.58m wide, opens straight through the SW wall, 1.20m from the internal SE end. No cruck slots are visible.



Dimen: L 10.20m x W 4.70m.

W of wall 0.75m x H 1.30m max.

Orient: NE-SW.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Probably one of the 19 houses on Oronsay recorded by Gaskell, 1968, 158.



No. 155. House, from S.

156. House.

NGR NM 5971 5880

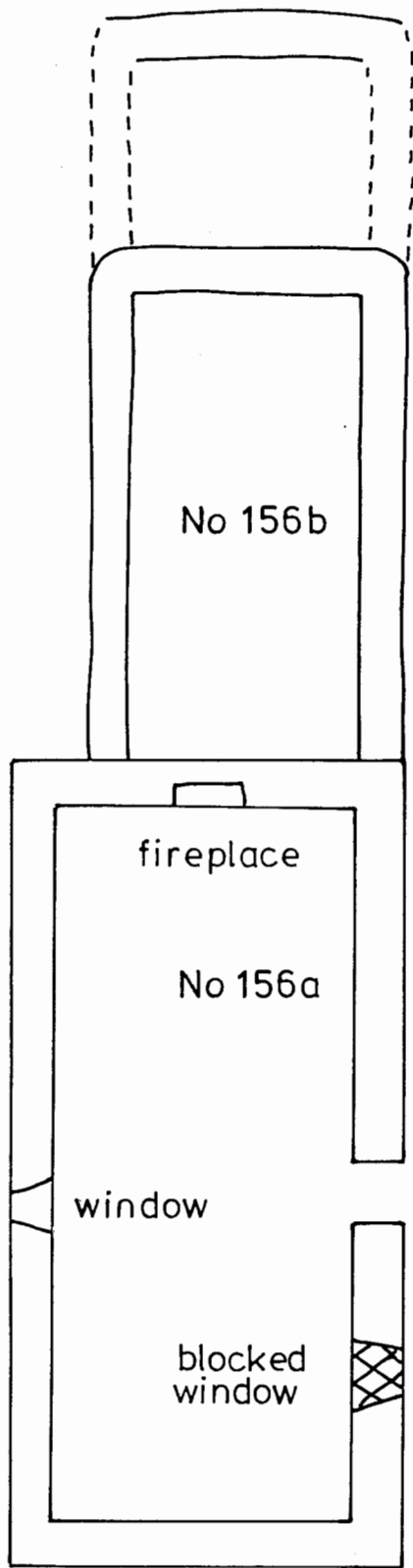
Rectangular, gable-walled house of mortared stone, No. 156a, built on top of an earlier round-cornered structure, No. 156b. They are situated immediately above the shore of an unnamed bay, 2.50m E of another house, No. 157, at the foot of a long field, No. 158.

156a. House.

Rectangular gable-walled house of mortared stone. The house is best-preserved at the E end, where the gable wall survives to a height of 3m, with a chimney on top reaching a total of c. 4m. The W gable end has completely collapsed as well as much of the eastern ends of the N and S side walls. A large amount of tumbled stone lies to the S, some of which has been gathered into a heap.

The house has been terraced slightly into the slope; the N wall measures 1.35m in height internally and only 0.65m externally. A door opens through the S wall, 4.70m from the W end. A splayed window, now blocked and measuring 0.95m wide inside and 0.70m outside, is situated to the W of the door, 1.45m from the W internal end. A corresponding window may have existed E of the door, but this part of the wall has collapsed. Another splayed window, 0.50m wide internally and 0.37m externally, is situated in the N wall, opposite the door, 4.70m from the W end.

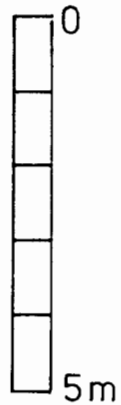
A fireplace, 0.95m wide and 0.65m high, survives in the E gable wall, topped by a large flat slab, measuring 1.20m wide and 0.45m high, which forms a chimney breast. A



N ←



No. 156a. E gable wall.



small square hole, 0.23m wide and 0.20m high, above this presumably controlled ventilation. Above the fireplace, at a height of 1.70m above the floor, a scarcement ledge marks the position of a second storey or attic. No cruck slots are discernible.

This house, like the two other gabled houses, Nos. 183a and 188, may have been part of the rebuilding, recorded on Oronsay in the 1860's, noted above. (see p. 9)



No. 156a. Fireplace in E wall.

Dimen: L 10.90m x W 5.25m.

Total L (with No. 156b) 17.80m

W of wall 0.60m x H 1.25 - 1.35m (N and S walls); 3m (to gable ridge)

H approx. 4m (to top of chimney)

Orient: E-W.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Probably one of the 19 houses recorded on Oronsay by Gaskell, 1968, 158.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

156b. House.

The gabled house, No. 156a, appears to have been built partially on top of an earlier narrower, round-angled structure, No. 156b. The latter protrudes beneath the E gable and its S wall is continuous with the foundation layers of the later house. The wall of the earlier structure consists of fairly large blocks of unmortared stone and survives to a maximum height of 0.55m. A wall, lying parallel to its E wall, at a distance of 2.50m, may be the remains of an annexe.

This house may be one of the three marked in this location on the Wilson Map of 1836. The adjacent round-cornered structure, No. 157, is presumably another and the third

may underlie the western end of the gabled house, No. 156a. One or all of these houses may correspond to the house sign on this site on the map, made by Bruce for General Wade in 1733.

Dimen: L 6.90m (at present) x W 4.15m.

W of wall 0.60m x H 0.55m max.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: Bruce Map, 1733.

Wilson Map, 1836.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

157. House.

NGR NM 5970 5880

Very overgrown, dilapidated, round-angled rectangular house of drystone masonry, situated above the shore of an unnamed bay, 2.50m W of another house, No. 156a, at the foot of a long field, No. 158.

The rounded corners are the best-preserved parts of the wall, surviving to a height of 1.25m in the SE. Elsewhere, the N side is the best-preserved, reaching a height of 1.15m internally. The structure has been terraced into the slope; this wall is only 0.60m high externally. There is no evidence of cruck slots. The door was presumably in the S wall but its position cannot be identified because of dilapidation.

This house may be one of the three marked in this location on the Wilson Map of 1836. The adjacent round-cornered structure, No. 156b, is presumably another and the third may possibly underlie the western end of the gabled house, No. 156a. One or all of these houses may correspond to the house sign on this site on the map, made by Bruce for General Wade in 1733.

Dimen: L 6.30m x W 4.50m.

W of wall 0.55m x H 1.25m max.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

Bruce Map, 1733.

Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Probably one of the 19 houses on Oronsay recorded by Gaskell, 1968, 158.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

158a. Arable Field, Walls and Clearance Cairns.

NGR NM 5971 5885

158a. Arable Field.

Long narrow, partially-enclosed field, occupying a smooth slope between rocky knolls, to the N of houses, Nos. 156 and 157. This field is marked as arable land on the Wilson Map of 1836 and was presumably cultivated. No traces of furrows can be detected but the field is covered with thick bracken, which, even when dead, masks surface features.

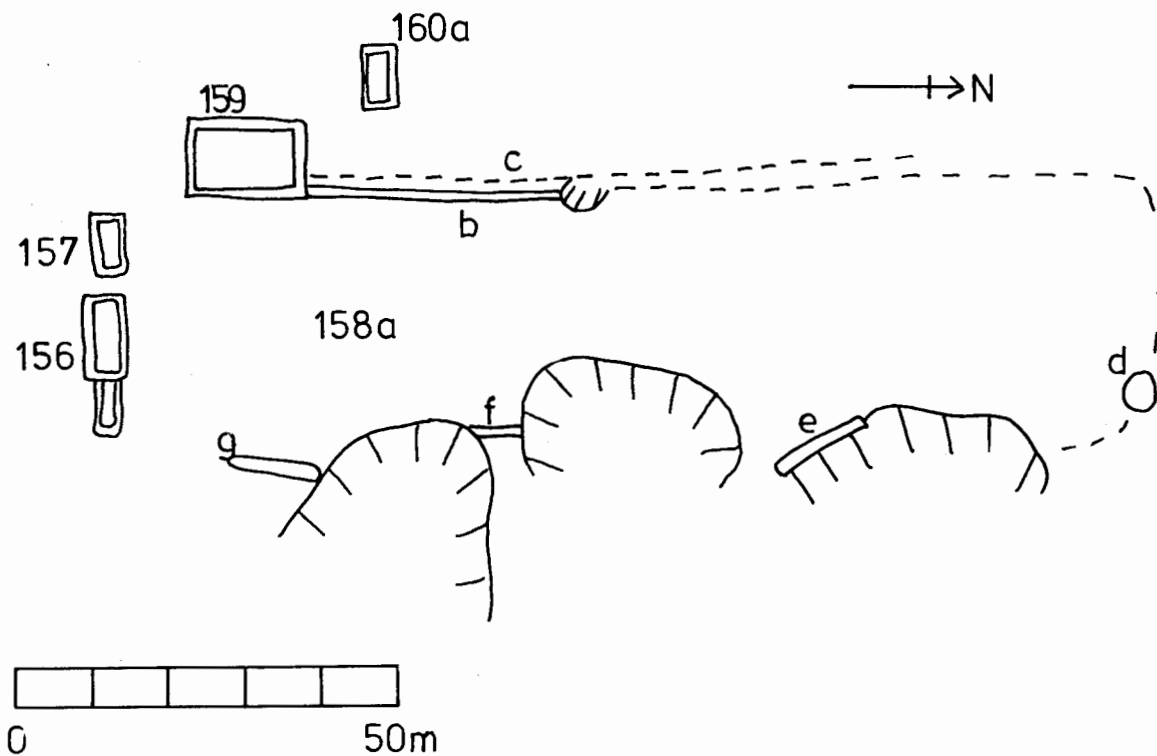
The field is enclosed on the W side by a stone wall, No. 158b, and on the E side by short stretches of wall, Nos. 158 e and f, which run between rocky knolls. Two large clearance cairns, Nos. 158d and g, also mark the limits of the field.

Dimen: Area 114m (N-S) x 34m (at S end); 19m (in approx. centre)

Orient: N-S.

Refs: Arable marked on the Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.



158b. Enclosure Wall.

Coursed stone wall, which encloses part of the W side of the field, No. 158a. From the NE corner of the kailyard, No. 159, it runs northwards for 35m to a small outcrop near the top of the slope, though the field continues beyond this. The wall incorporates some large boulders. A track, No. 158c, runs along the W side.

Dimen: L 35m x W 0.80m x H 0.60m max.

Orient: N-S.

158c. Track.

Track, which follows along the W side of the enclosure wall, No. 158b. It continues northwards beyond the outcrop at which the wall stops, but peters out in marshy ground at the top of the slope.

Dimen: L 50m x W 2m.

Orient: N-S.

158d. Clearance Cairn.

Large circular, very overgrown cairn, probably built around a natural outcrop. It marks the N end of the field, No. 158a, and presumably results from field clearance.

Dimen: Diam: 3m x H 0.80m.

158e. Enclosure Wall.

Curving coursed stone wall, constructed around a knoll on the E side of the field, No. 158a.

Dimen: L 9m x W 0.45m x H 0.85m.

Orient: NW-SE.

158f. Enclosure Wall.

Coursed stone wall, connecting two rocky knolls on the E side of the field, No. 158a. It consists of large boulders.

Dimen: L 6m x W 0.95m x H 1m.

Orient: N-S.

158g. Clearance Cairn.

Linear heap of stones, running southwards from a rocky knoll on the E side of the field, No. 158a. It presumably results from field clearance.

Dimen: L 12m x W 2.20m x H 0.90m.

Orient: NNE-SSW.

159. Enclosure / ?Kailyard.

NGR NM 5969 5882

Rectangular enclosure on the W side of the field, No. 158a. It consists of a coursed drystone wall, which incorporates some large boulders and natural outcrops, notably in the SW corner and at the N end. The level interior has been terraced into the slope. The absence of an entrance is consistent with its use as a kailyard.

Dimen: L 14.50m x W 9.90m.

W of wall 0.60m x H 1m.

Orient: N-S.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

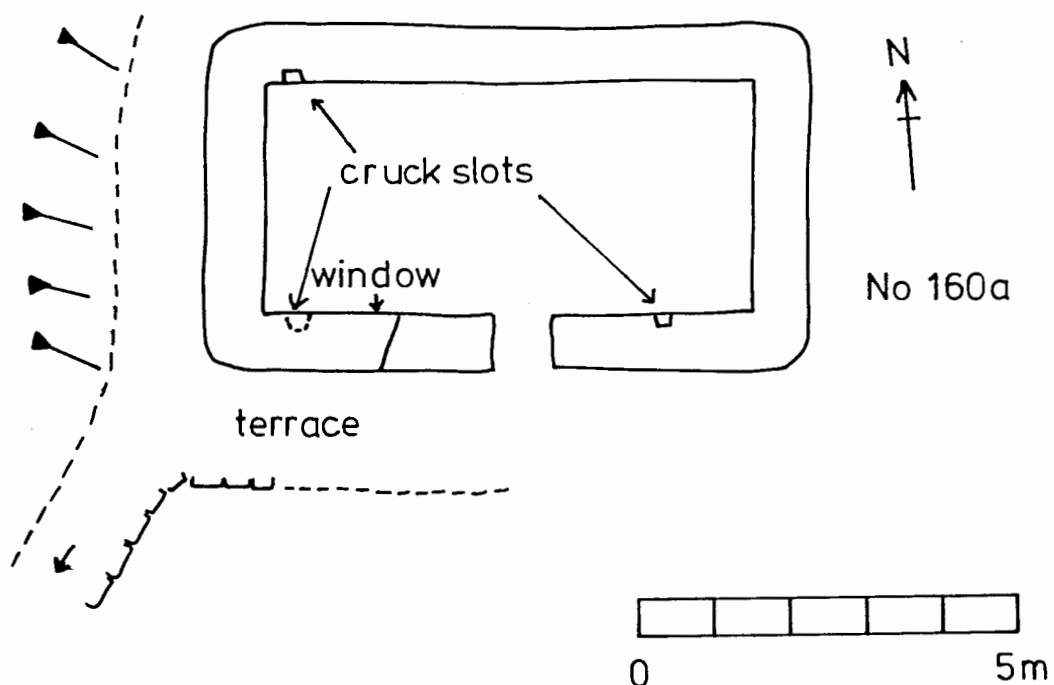
OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

160. House and Track.

NGR NM 5968 5885

160a. House.

Well-built and well-preserved, round-angled rectangular house of coursed drystone masonry, situated on the W side of the field, No. 158a. The wall, consisting of regular blocks, survives to almost its original height around most of its perimeter, except in the NE corner. The walls have a slight batter, tapering from a width of 0.75m at the base to 0.65m at the top. The house has been terraced into the slope; a ditch surrounds the W end.



An entrance, 0.75m wide, opens through the S wall, 3.80m from the W end. A straight angled edge, visible in the masonry, 1.40m W of the door, may represent the E side of a splayed window. Two cruck slots, and the probable remains of two others, are visible, all very near the corners:

- i) In the N wall, 0.25m wide, 0.30m from the W end; 0.70m above the floor.
- ii) In the S wall, 0.20m wide, 0.60m from the E end; 0.85m above the floor.
- iii) Directly opposite i), internal collapse of the wall probably indicates the former position of a cruck slot.
- iv) Opposite ii), the whole wall has partly collapsed, probably around a cruck slot.

On the W side of the door, a level terrace, 1.50m wide, runs along the S side of the house. At the SW corner of the house, it is edged with a stone revetment, which then continues to the SW along the edge of a track, No. 160b.



No. 160a. House, from W.

Dimen: L 7.95m x W 4.60m.

W of wall 0.75m x H 1.55m max.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

?Wilson Map, 1836 (Corresponds to a house in the right position but not on the right alignment).

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

Probably one of the 19 houses on Oronsay recorded by Gaskell, 1968, 158.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

160b. Track.

Track, which runs to the SW from the terrace along the S side of the house, No. 160a. It is revetted with a coursed wall of small stones, up to a height of 1.10m. It stops at a gully, which may itself have been used for access to the adjacent houses, Nos. 161-163.

Dimen: L 6m x W 1.50m x H of revetment 1.10m max.

Orient: NE-SW.

161. House and Track.

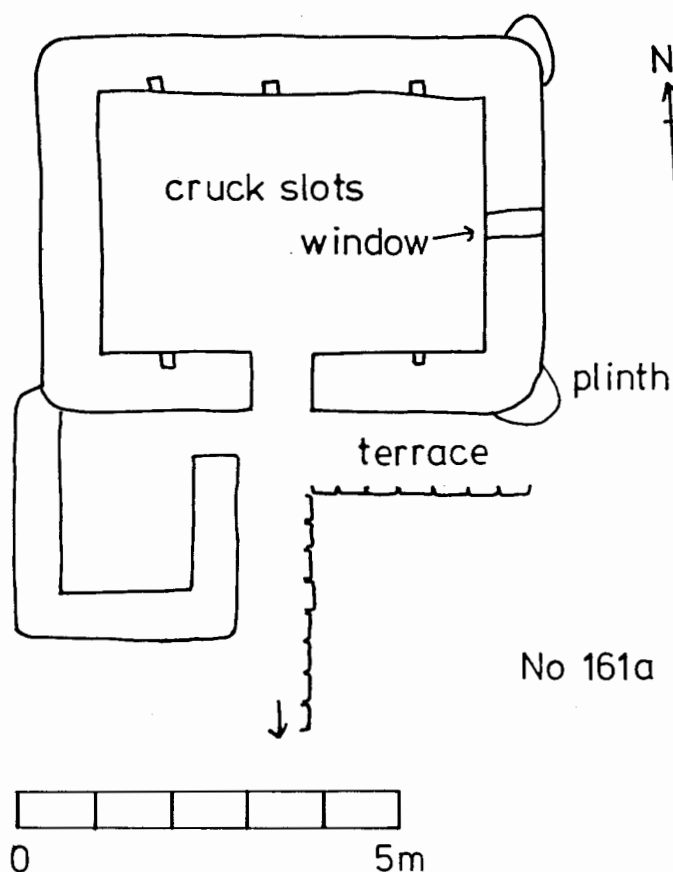
NGR NM 5963 5885

161a. House.

(See Colour Plate 19)

Well-built and well-preserved, round-angled rectangular house of coursed drystone masonry, situated on a natural wooded terrace, adjacent to the houses, Nos. 162-3.

The walls survive to their probable original height, with the turf coping intact all around the perimeter at a maximum height of 1.70m. The walls have a pronounced batter, tapering from a width of 0.75m at the base to 0.60m at the top. The house is slightly terraced into the slope and the NE and SE corners rest on boulder plinths.



An entrance, 0.85m wide opens through the S side, 3m from the E end. A single small, almost square, window opens straight through the E end, 2.30m from the S side. This window, with lintel intact, measures 0.31m wide and 0.28m high, and is situated just below the top of the wall, 1.10m from the floor. Five well-preserved cruck slots are visible:

- i) In the S wall, 0.20m wide, 0.80m from the E end; 0.75m above the floor.
- ii) In the N wall, 0.20m wide, 0.80m from the E end; 0.70m above the floor.
- iii) In the N wall, 0.17m wide, 2.75m from the W end; 0.65m above the floor.
- iv) In the N wall, 0.25m wide, 0.70m from the W end; 0.80m above the floor.
- v) In the S wall, 0.15m wide, 0.80m from the W end; 0.85m above the floor.



No. 161a. Cruck slot iii) in N wall.

These slots indicate that the roof was supported by three pairs of crucks. The partner of iii) must have been set above the door.

A small round-angled rectangular annexe, 2.90m x 3m, abuts the western side of the S wall. Its W wall protrudes slightly beyond the W wall of the main house. Access is by an opening, 0.60m wide, at the N end of the E wall. The E side of the S wall is flanked by a terrace, 3m wide. This turns southwards alongside the E wall of the annexe and continues as a revetted track. No. 161b, to the house, No. 162.

Dimen: L 6.60m x W 4.90m

W of wall 0.75m x H 1.70m max.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

The house marked in this position on the Wilson Map, 1836 may be No. 161 or 162.
OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

Probably one of the 19 houses on Oronsay recorded by Gaskell, 1968, 158.

161b. Track.

Track revetted with stone on the eastern, downslope edge, running from the entrance of the house, No. 161a, to the NE end of the house, No. 162.

Dimen: L 21m x W 3m.

Orient: NNE-SSW.

162. House.

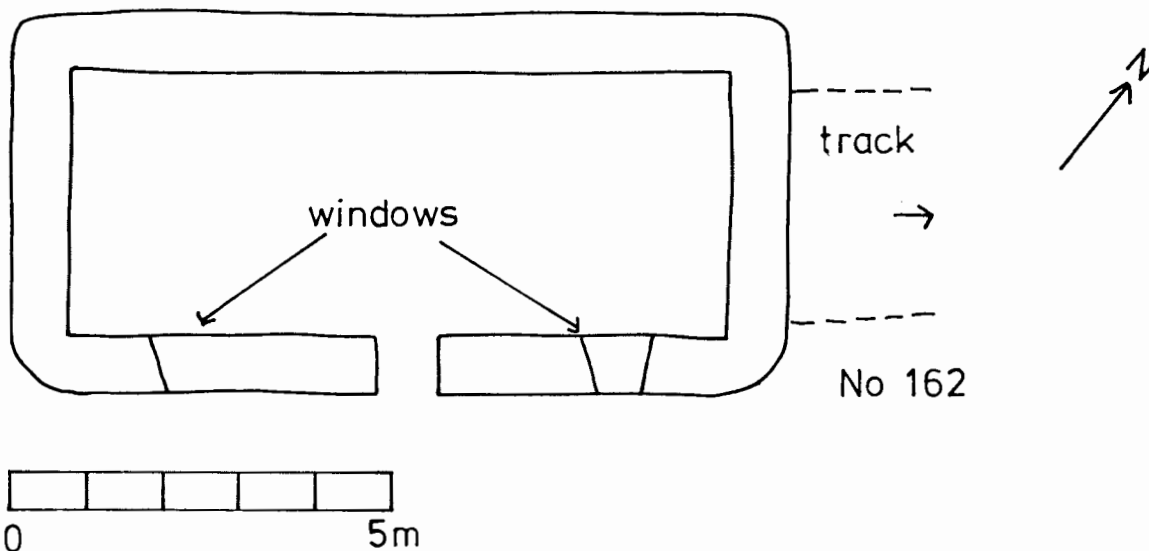
NGR NM 5962 5882

(See Colour Plate 19)

Well-built and well-preserved, round-angled house of coursed drystone masonry, situated on a natural wooded terrace, adjacent to houses, Nos. 161 and 163.

The walls are best-preserved at the rounded corners, surviving to a maximum height of 1.40m at the NE end. The walls have a pronounced batter, tapering from a width of 0.75m at the base to 0.55m at the top.

An entrance, 0.85m wide, opens through the SE wall, 4.40m from the NE end. A splayed window, measuring 0.60m wide externally and 0.85m internally, also opens through the SE wall, 1.70m from the NE end. A straight, angled edge, visible in the masonry on the other side of the door, may represent the SW side of a splayed window, 2m from the SW end. No cruck slots are visible. A track, No. 161b, runs from the NE end to the house, No. 161a.



Dimen: L 10.20m x W 5m.

W of wall 0.75m x H 1.40m max.

Orient: NE-SW.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

The house marked in this position on the Wilson Map, 1836 may be No. 161 or 162. OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

Probably one of the 19 houses on Oronsay recorded by Gaskell, 1968, 158.

163. House.

NGR NM 5960 5879

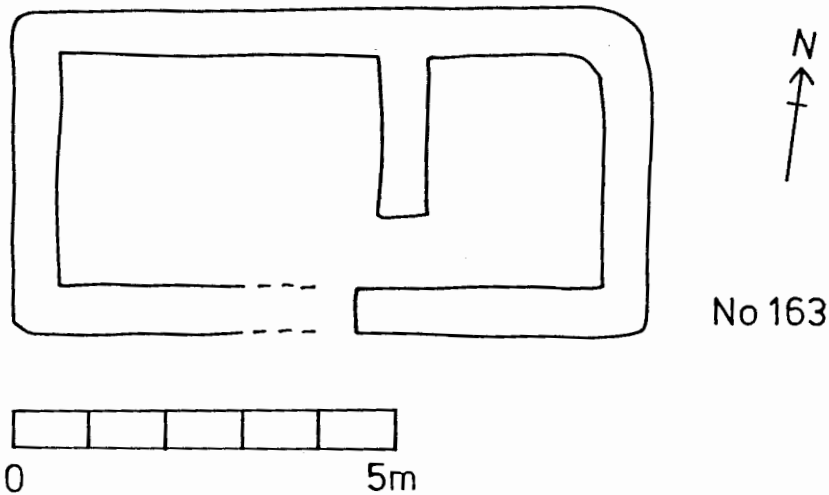
Partly-demolished, two-compartment, round-angled rectangular house of coursed drystone masonry, set on a natural terrace, adjacent to houses, Nos. 161 - 2.

The house seems to have been built as a two-compartment structure; the partition wall seems to be integral with the N outer wall. However, at some stage the house was reduced to a single compartment. The W compartment was demolished and only the

foundation layer remains, reaching a height of 0.20m. The absence of tumbled stone suggests that the wall was deliberately removed and the stone reused elsewhere.

The house is represented now by the eastern compartment, where the W, N and E walls survive to a height of 1.20m, reaching a maximum of 1.60m at the SE corner. Access into this compartment is by an entrance, c. 1m wide, at the S end of the W wall. Access into the original two-compartment house may have been by an entrance in the S wall, indicated by a straight edge, 3.80m from the E end.

No windows or cruck slots are discernible and the only noteworthy internal feature is the NW corner, which is, unusually, rounded internally as well as externally.



Dimen: L 8.30m x W 4.25m.

W of wall 0.60m x H 0.20m (in W compartment); 1.60m (in E compartment).

Orient: E-W.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

Probably one of the 19 houses on Oronsay recorded by Gaskell, 1968, 158.

164. Wall.

NGR NM 5963 5879

Wall, which consists of coursed stone, boulders and natural outcrops and defines a roughly trapezoidal area to the SE of the houses, Nos. 162 and 163. From a rocky outcrop, SE of No. 162, the wall follows the cliff edge, defining three sides of a trapezoid, before running up to a natural rocky ridge, SE of No. 163.

Dimen: Area enclosed 16m x 8m.

W of wall 0.70m x H 0.60m.

Orient: NW-SE.

165. Structure.

NGR NM 5967 5876

Dilapidated, round-angled rectangular structure, built against a natural outcrop right on the shore, below the terrace occupied by the houses, Nos. 161-3.

The structure is best preserved on the N and W sides, where the wall survives to a maximum height of 1.50m. The SE wall has collapsed, reaching only c. 0.50m, and the NW end of the NE wall is formed by the smooth, almost vertical, face of a rocky outcrop.

Access was presumably by a gap, 0.60m wide and now blocked, in the SW wall, 3.90m from the SE end. A gap in the opposite wall may have been a window. No other internal features are discernible, though examination was hampered by a birch tree fallen across the top. A wall, oriented SW-NE, abuts the W corner.

Dimen: L 8.70m x W 5.50m

W of wall 0.60m x H 1.50m max.

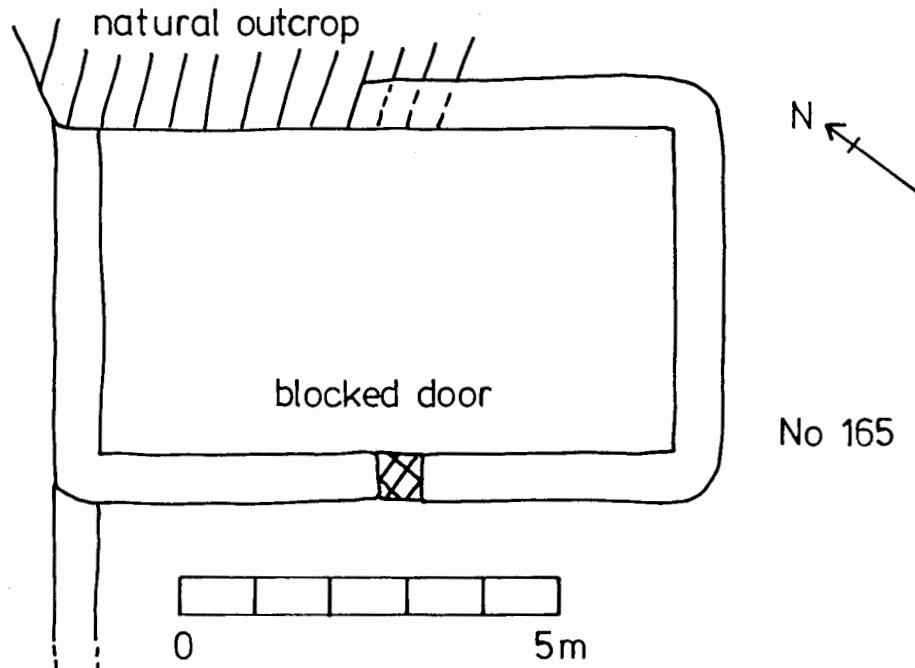
Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Probably one of the 19 houses on Oronsay recorded by Gaskell, 1968, 158.



166. Boundary Wall.

NGR (N end) NM 5062 5903

(S end) NM 5963 5873

Stone wall, partially enclosing an area of land to the N of the houses, Nos. 160-3. It consists of three distinct parts:

166a) A sinuous wall of drystone coursed masonry, incorporating some very large boulders, particularly at the base. From the NE end, where it abuts a rocky outcrop, it follows a curving course southwestwards before turning to the WNW as No. 166b.

Dimen: L 55m x W 0.50m x H 1m.

Orient: NE-SW.

166b) Overgrown stony bank, which follows a fairly straight course to the WNW from No. 166a, before turning to the SE as No. 166c.

Dimen: L 108m x W 0.80m x H 0.40m

Orient: ESE-WNW.

166c) Overgrown stony bank, which runs southeastwards from No. 166b. After 150m, it becomes a coursed stone wall, which continues to the shore, curving slightly eastwards. For the last 50m, it runs down a rocky ridge and consists partly of coursed masonry and partly of piled-up boulders. On the lowest slope, it dog-legs to enclose a small rectangular area, 1.90m x 1.40m. On reaching the shore, the line of the wall is continued by the wall, No. 167.

Dimen: L 324m x W 0.80m x H 0.30m.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: OS current 6" Map.

167. Wall. ("Beach wall").

NGR NM 5963 5872

Sinuuous wall of piled-up beach stones, which runs along a stony beach from one rocky promontory to another. It thus cuts off a small bay in the W sector of a much larger bay, and might be interpreted as a fish trap. However, it continues the line of a long territorial boundary, No. 166c, which runs down to and along the first rocky promontory. It is, therefore, perhaps more likely to have been a boundary, dividing the resources of the seashore in a similar way to the wall, No. 105 between Drumbuidhe and Doirlinn. Trapping fish may well have been a by-product.

Dimen: L 26m x W 0.50m x H 0.50m (though rises to 0.90m at NW end).

Orient: NW-SE.



No. 167. "Beach Wall", from NW.

168. House.

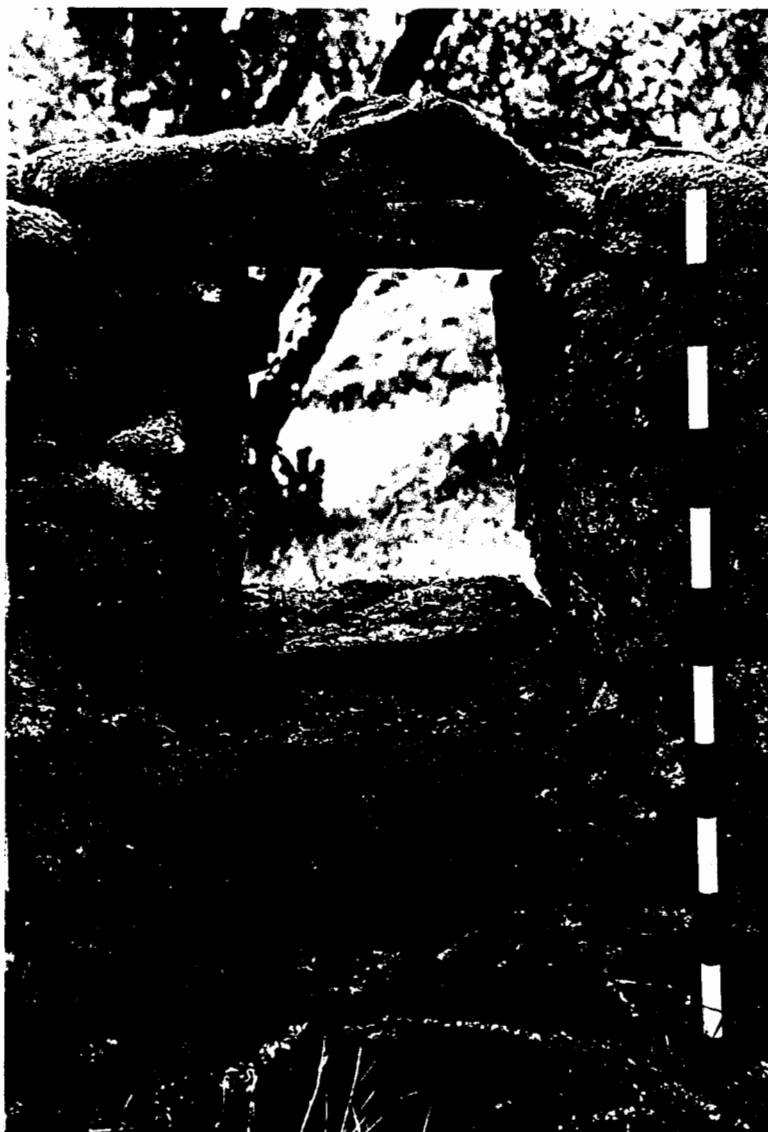
NGR NM 5957 5872

(See Colour Plate 20)

Well-built and well-preserved, round-angled rectangular house of drystone masonry, situated on a natural terrace to the SW of a group of houses, Nos. 161-3.

The house has been terraced into the slope; the front E wall measures 1.55m in height externally, while the back W wall reaches only 0.40m. The walls survive to probably their original height all around the perimeter, and have a pronounced batter, tapering from 0.70m wide at the base to 0.55m at the top. Some large stones are incorporated in the wall, particularly at the base.

An entrance, 0.75m wide, opens through the E wall, 3.90m from the N end. A splayed window, with lintel intact, also opens through the E wall, 1.75m from the N end. It measures 0.45m wide externally and 0.65m wide internally, and 0.55m in height.



No. 168. Window in E wall.

A single cruck slot, 0.15m wide and 0.85m above the floor, is discernible in the W wall, 0.70m from the N end. Some internal collapse of the wall, further S, may indicate another slot directly opposite the door.

Dimen: L 7.20m x W 4.70m.

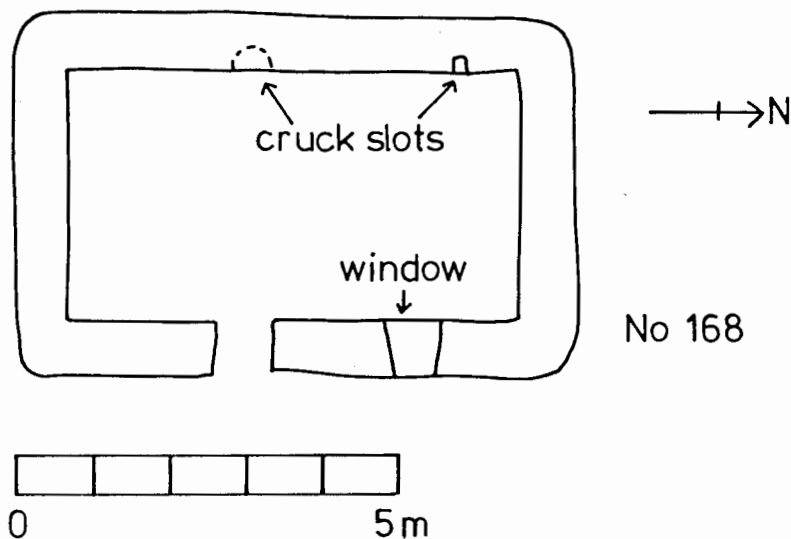
W of wall 0.70m x H 1.55m max.

Orient: N-S.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

Probably one of the 19 houses on Oronsay recorded by Gaskell, 1968, 158.



169. Field System.

Field System, consisting of one long boundary wall and at least one rectangular field, partly overlain by a later boundary, No. 176a.

169a. Field Wall.

NGR NM 5938 5918

Long stone wall, forming the SW side of the field system. At its W end, it consists of a well-preserved coursed, battered wall, tapering from a width of 0.70m at the base to 0.50m at the top, and reaching a height of 1.25m. This wall runs southeastwards from the top of a steep rocky cliff, but after 100m becomes an overgrown turf bank, 0.90m wide and 0.35m high. At its SE end, it turns to the NE as No. 169b.

A small structure, No. 173, abuts the NE side of the wall, 11m from its NW end. At the foot of the rocky cliff, beyond the NW end, another bank, No. 181, continues on the same alignment to the wall, No. 180, enclosing the isthmus between two long inlets, with another bank, No. 179.

Dimen: L 184m x W of wall 0.70m; W of bank 0.90m.
x H of wall 1.25m; H of bank 0.35m.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

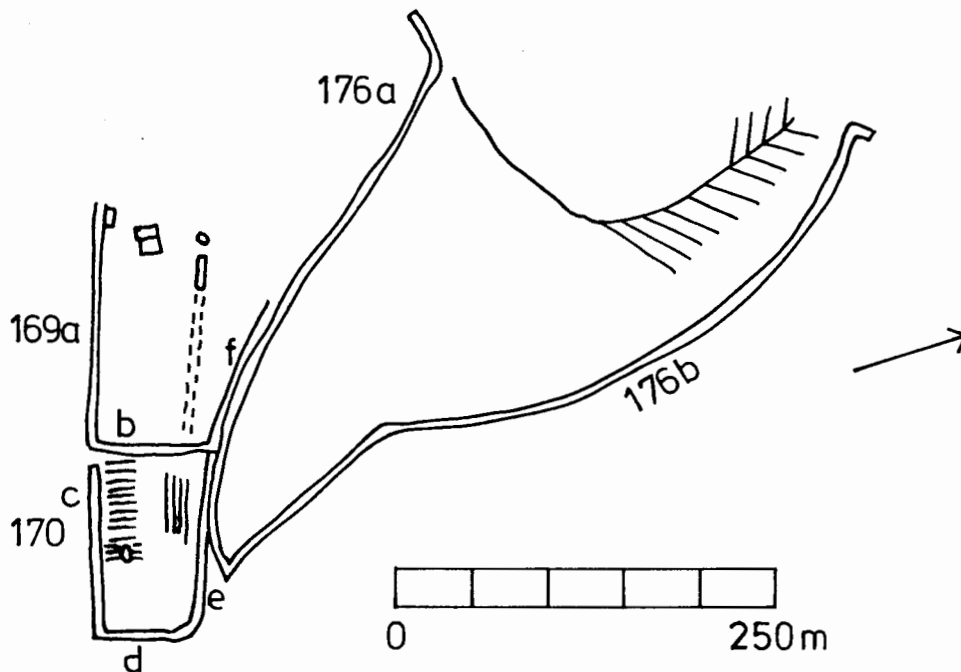
Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

169b. Field Bank.

NGR NM 5948 5920

Overgrown turf bank, which runs northeastwards from an integral junction with the field wall, No. 169a, to an integral junction with another turf bank, No. 169f. The latter junction underlies the later stone wall, No. 176a, and is abutted by the turf bank, No. 169e. The turf bank, No. 169b, defines the NW side of a sub-rectangular field, otherwise enclosed by banks, Nos. 169c, d and e.

Dimen: L 93m x W 0.90m x H 0.35m.
 Orient: NE-SW.
 Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.
 OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.
 Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.



169c. Field Bank.

NGR NM 5952 5915

Overgrown turf bank, which defines the SW side of a sub-rectangular field, otherwise enclosed by banks, Nos. 169b, d and e. A 3m wide gap, between the NW end of the bank and the junction between Nos. 169a and b, presumably represents a gateway.

Dimen: L 114m x W 0.90m x H 0.35m.

Orient: NE-SW.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

169d. Field Bank.

NGR NM 5958 5917

Overgrown turf bank, which defines the SE side of a sub-rectangular field, otherwise enclosed by banks, Nos. 169b, c and e.

Dimen: L 63m x W 0.90m x H 0.35m.

Orient: NE-SW.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

169e. Field Bank.

NGR NM 5955 5922

Overgrown turf bank, which defines the NE side of a sub-rectangular field, otherwise enclosed by banks, Nos. 169b, c and d. At its NW end, it abuts the junction of Nos. 169b and 169f, where it is overlain by the stone wall, No. 176a. It underlies the latter for 50m, until the latter wall curves slightly to the E, while the bank continues in a southeasterly direction. At the SE end, it turns to the SSE for 12m, before joining No. 169d.

Dimen: L 115m x W 0.70m x H 0.35m.
Orient: NW-SE.

169f. Field Bank.

NGR NM 5948 5924

Turf bank, now overlain by the stone wall, No. 176a, but which may have originally defined the NE side of a field, otherwise enclosed by Nos. 169a and b. From an integral junction with No. 169b, it runs northwestwards beneath the later wall, but peters out after 50m.

Dimen: L 50m x W 0.70m x H 0.35m.
Orient: NW-SE.

170. Lazy Beds.

NGR NM 5950 5917

A series of broad pronounced parallel ridges, separated by broad gaps, running NE-SW, between a natural hillock and the field bank, No. 169c, within the field, enclosed by Nos. 169b-e. 14 ridges are visible between the bank, No. 169b, and the mound, No. 171a, and a further seven continue on either side of the mound. It is difficult to ascertain whether the mound was built on top of the ridges or whether the ridges abut a pre-existing mound.

Dimen: L of ridges 37m x W 1.30m x H 0.30m
W of ditches 0.70m.

Orient: NE-SW.

171. Mounds.

NGR NM 5953 5918

Two overgrown oval mounds, covered with grass, moss and thick bracken. The mound, No. 171a, is situated within a patch of lazy beds, No. 170, but, as noted above (see No. 170), it is not clear whether the mound pre- or post-dates the ridges.

Probing revealed little stone content, which presumably rules out their origin as clearance cairns. However, the dense vegetation cover still suggests an association with agriculture.

171a. Western mound. Dimen: L 5.90m x W 2.90m x H 0.60m.

171b. Eastern mound. Dimen: L 9.40m x W 4.30m x H 0.80m.

172. Lazy Beds.

NGR NM 5952 5922

A series of broad, pronounced, parallel heather-topped ridges, separated by broad gaps, situated between the field bank, No. 169e and a natural hillock, within the field enclosed by the banks, Nos. 169b-e. Four ridges are visible.

Dimen: L 30m x W 1.70 - 1.80m x H 0.30m.

W of ditches 0.40 - 0.50m.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

173. Structure.

NGR NM 5934 5922

Well-preserved, small, round-angled rectangular structure of coursed drystone masonry, which abuts the NE face of the boundary wall, No. 169a, 11m from its NW end.

The wall survives to probably its original height around most of the perimeter, apart from a small gap in the NW wall. The NE wall has a slight batter, tapering from a width of 0.60m at the base to 0.45m at the top. The SE wall has a width of 0.60m from base to top. Some long transversely-set stones protrude through the external wall-face. The structure has

been terraced into the slope; the NW downslope wall measures 1.20m in height externally while the SE upslope wall reaches only 0.65m externally.

The entrance, 1.60m wide, is situated at the SW end of the SE wall.



No. 173. Structure, from NE.

Dimen: L 5.60m x W 3.50m.

W of wall 0.60m x H 1.20m max.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Probably one of the 19 houses on Oronsay recorded by Gaskell, 1968, 158.

174. House and Kailyard.

NGR NM 5935 5925

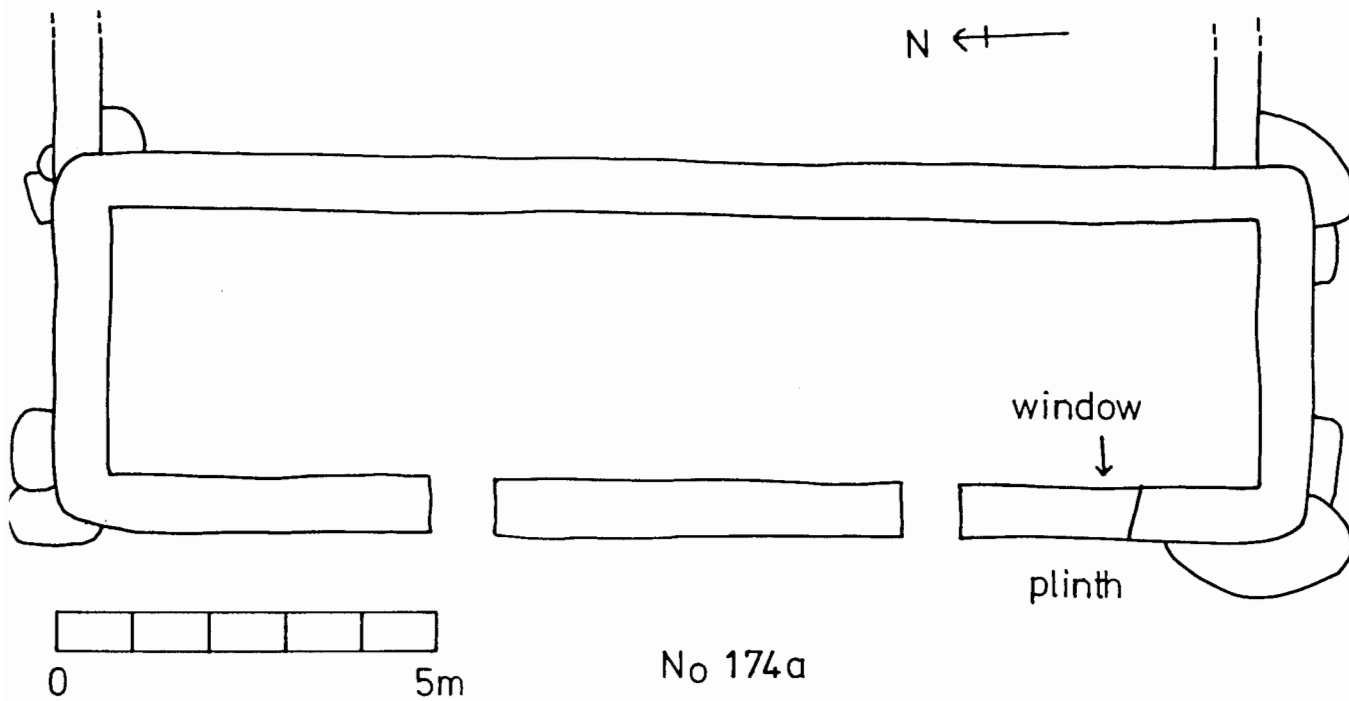
174a. House.

(See Colour Plate 21)

Long, slightly dilapidated but well-built, round-angled rectangular house of coursed drystone masonry, situated within the field system, No. 169.

The walls are best preserved at the N end and at the corners, particularly the NW corner, which survives to a height of 1.70m, probably its original extent. Elsewhere, the wall has collapsed in places. The walls have a pronounced batter, tapering from a width of 0.70m at the base to 0.50m at the top. Some large blocks have been carefully incorporated in the masonry, especially at the base and around the entrances. The corners rest on plinths of huge boulders.

Two entrances open through the W wall; the N door, 0.85m wide, is particularly well-constructed, faced with large flat slabs, and lies 5m from the N end. The S door, 0.75m wide and 11.20m from the N end, is more dilapidated. An angled straight edge in the W wall, 2.35m from the S end, presumably formed the S side of a splayed window. Another



No. 174a. House, SW corner with boulder plinth.

window may have been situated in, and probably caused, the collapsed part of the wall to the N of the northern door.

No cruck slots are discernible, though a sufficient amount of the wall survives to reveal them. The kailyard, No. 174b, abuts the E side of the house, and a track, marked on the OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map, once led to it from Sailean nam Ba, cutting through the field wall, No. 169a.

Dimen: L 16.50m x W 4.90m.

W of wall 0.70m x H 1.70m max.

Orient: N-S.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Probably one of the 19 houses on Oronsay recorded by Gaskell, 1968, 158.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

174b. Kailyard.

Rectangular enclosure, which abuts the E side of the house, No. 174a. It is defined by a coursed drystone wall, which runs up over the plinths at the NE and SE corners of the house. The enclosure is slightly shorter than the house.

A gap in the N wall, 2.10m wide and 2.50m from the W end, probably dates to a later phase of use; the masonry has been pushed out to form "terminals", flanking the gateway. Originally there would have been no entrance, as appropriate in a kailyard.

Dimen: L 15.80m x W 9.10m.

W of wall 0.60m x H 0.60m.

Orient: N-S.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

175. Field Wall and Clearance Cairn.

NGR NM 5940 5926

175a. Field Wall.

A 9m long stretch of wall, consisting of large boulders atop a base of overgrown small stones, stands out within the "field", defined in the SW by No. 169a., and in the SE by No. 169b. However, at the SE end, this boundary can be traced continuing all the way to No. 169b, as a very low bank, mostly distinguishable by its cover of reeds. This may, therefore, have originally been a field boundary and part of the field system, No. 169. The boulder element may be a result of field clearance, akin to the clearance cairn, No. 175b, 11m to the NW.

Dimen: L ?125m x W 0.70m x H 0.30 - 0.40m.

Orient: NW-SE.

175b. Clearance Cairn.

Pronounced conical cairn of stonnes, aligned with the field bank, No. 175a, 11m to the NW of the boulder wall element of the bank.

Dimen: Diam: 4.20m x H 1.50m.

Orient: -

176. Boundary Wall.

Well-built and well-preserved stone wall, which defines two sides of a roughly triangular area, to the E of the central isthmus on Oronsay. This wall of coursed drystone masonry is particularly finely-constructed, with a base of large boulders, surmounted by stones gradually decreasing in size. It has a pronounced batter, tapering from a width of 0.80m at the base to 0.30m at the top. A course of transversely-set stones, 0.50m long, protrudes beyond the wall-face on both sides, 0.10 - 0.20m below the top.

176a. Boundary Wall.

NGR (NW end) NM 5932 5944
(SE end) NM 5958 5922

Wall, which defines the SW side of the triangular area. At its SE end, it seems to have been built on top of earlier turf banks, Nos. 169e and f. At the NW end, the boundary is marked by a prominent turf bank, which runs from the bottom of the slope for 41m to the beginning of the stone wall and then continues for another 27m parallel to, on the S side of, the wall. The turf bank reaches a height of 1.25m and tapers from a width of 1.20m at the base to 0.80m at the top.

Dimen: L 320m x W 0.80m x H 1.50m max.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.



No. 176a. Boundary wall, from SE. Note course of transversely-set stones.

176b. Boundary Wall.

NGR (N end) NM 5943 5971
(S end) NM 5958 5922

Wall, which defines the E side of the triangular area. At its N end, it abuts a natural outcrop.

Dimen: L 510m x W 0.80m x H 1.50m max.
Orient: NNE-SSE.
Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.
OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.
Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

177. Wall. NGR NM 5963 5945

Wall of boulders, roughly piled-up rather than coursed, which follows a sinuous route between two natural outcrops along the edge of a rocky ridge, which protrudes into Port Phadruig.

Dimen: L 20m x W 0.60m x H 0.70m.
Orient: NW-SE.

178. Drainage Ditches. NGR (N end) NM 5942 5967
(SW end) NM 5933 5945

A series of ditches, draining the large level area surrounded by rocky hillocks, which lies within the triangular area defined by the walls, Nos. 176a and b. The drainage system consists of one long curving ditch, running the full length of the area, with numerous parallel side ditches, joining at an angle on both sides to form a herringbone pattern. 19 side ditches are now traceable on the E side and four or five on the W side. The SW end of the main ditch is now blocked and the S part of the level area is rather boggy.

Dimen: L of main ditch 260m x W 0.50m x D 0.50m.
W of side ditches 0.30m x D 0.15m

Orient: NE-SW.
Refs: Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

179. Bank. NGR NM 5928 5945

Low turf bank, which encloses the N side of the level central isthmus between Sailean nam Ba and Sailean Dubh to the N. The bank runs from the NW end of the long boundary, No. 176a, across the isthmus to the wall, No. 180. A similar bank, No. 181, encloses the S side. The bank is marked, on the OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map and OS 1:10,000 Sheet, as one continuous boundary with No. 176a.

Dimen: L x W 0.80m x H 0.30m.
Orient: ENE-WSW.
Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.
OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

180. Wall. NGR (N end) NM 5926 5952
(S end) NM 5924 5918

High, well-preserved wall, flanking the foot of the rocky ridge on the W side of the central isthmus between Sailean nam Ba and Sailean Dubh to the N. It encloses the level area of the isthmus, along with banks, Nos. 179 and 181, though it continues to the N and S respectively of both.

The wall of coursed drystone masonry is well-built with a base of large boulders, surmounted by stones, gradually decreasing in size under a coping of large flat stones. The wall has a pronounced batter, tapering from a width of 0.70m at the base to 0.50m at the top. It incorporates natural outcrops frequently along its length.

Dimen: L 340m x W 0.70m x H 1.70m.
Orient: N-S.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.
OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

181. Bank.

NGR NM 5927 5923

Low, turf bank, which encloses the S side of the level central isthmus between Sailean nam Ba and Sailean Dubh to the N. It runs from the foot of the cliff below the NW end of the boundary wall, No. 169a, across the isthmus to the wall, No.180. A similar bank, No. 179, encloses the N side. The bank is marked on the OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map and OS 1:10,000 Sheet as one continuous boundary with No. 169a.

Dimen: L 181m x W 0.80m x H 0.30m.

Orient: E-W.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.
OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

182. Fish Trap.

NGR NM 5926 5892

Low sinuous wall, which presumably acted as a fish trap. It runs across the muddy floor of a long inlet, Sailean nam Ba between the rocky shores on each side. It consists mostly of a line of single large boulders and stops at a large outcrop at each end.

Dimen: L 46m x W 0.40m x H 0.50m.

Orient: E-W.

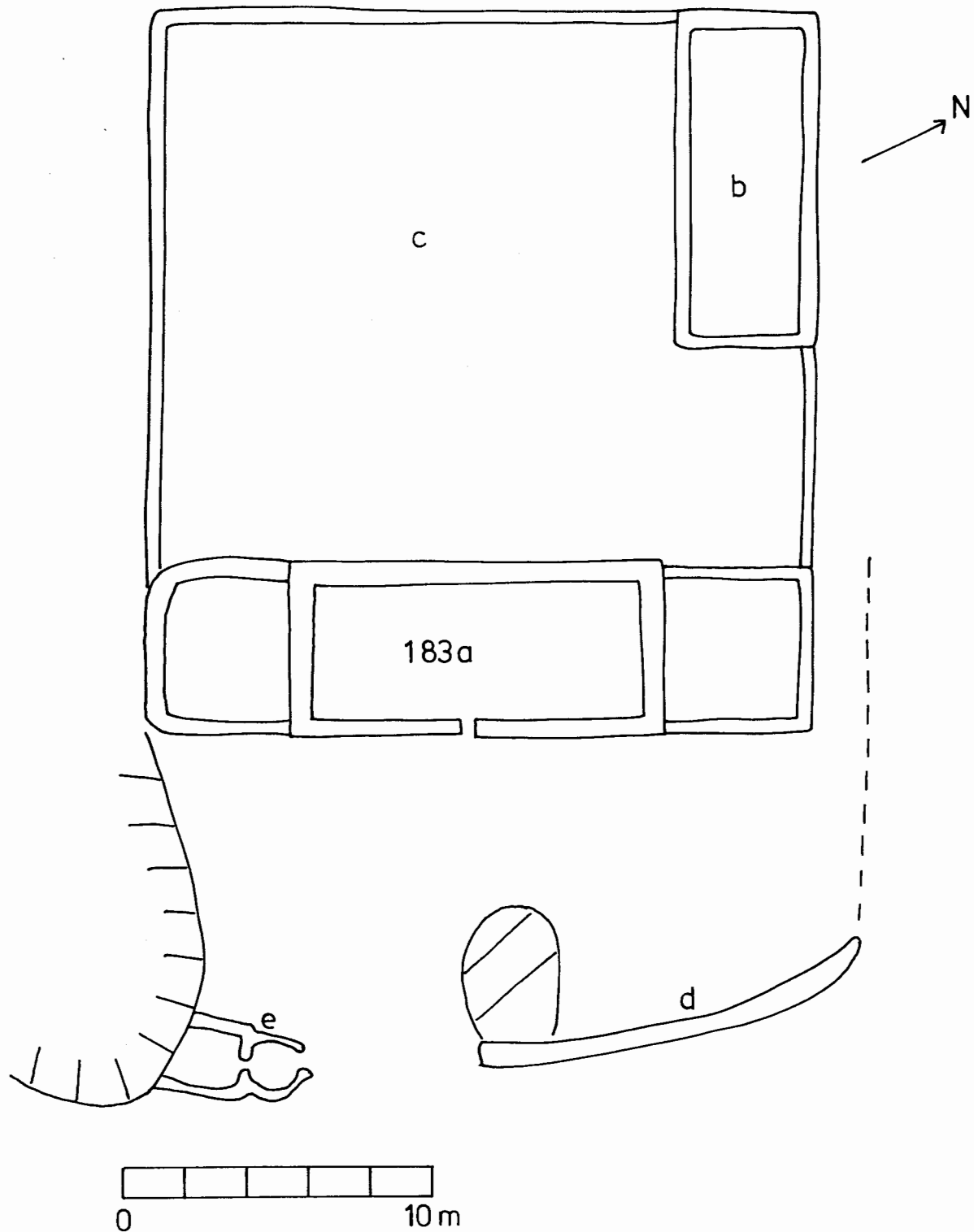


No. 182. Fish Trap, from W.

183. House and Associated Structures.

NGR NM 5911 5910

House, barn and kailyard, associated with another structure and enclosure, situated at the SE end of the broad level plain on central Oronsay.

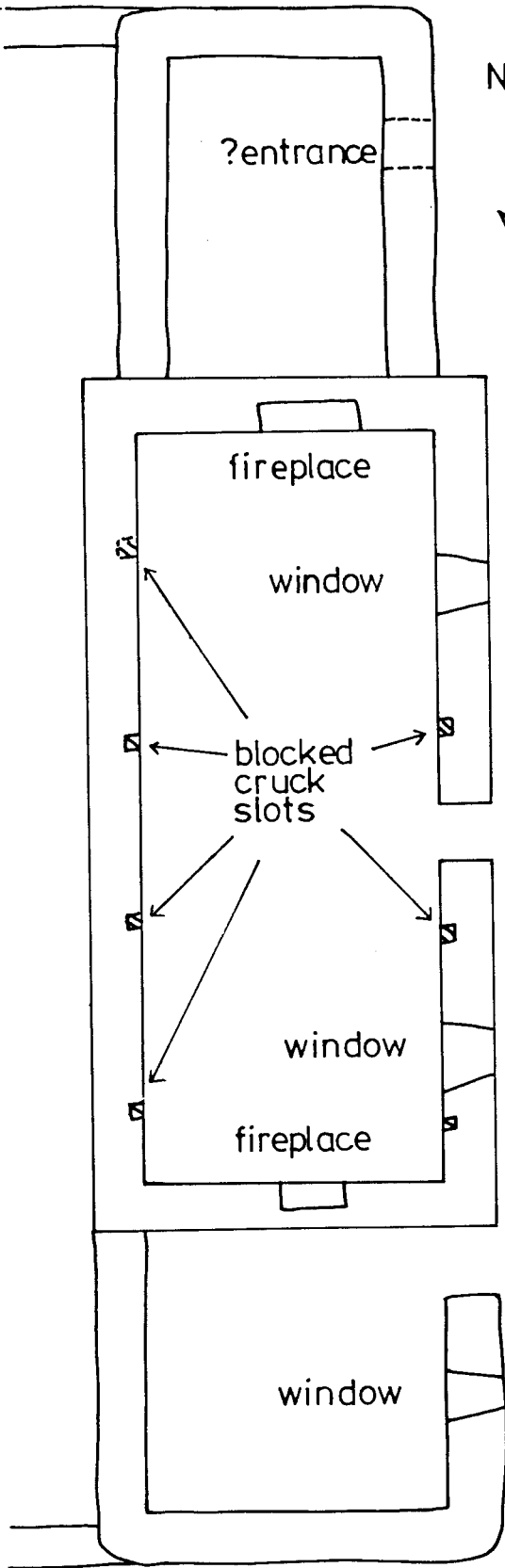


183a. House.

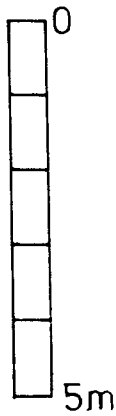
(See Colour Plate 22)

Large, well-built and well-preserved gable-walled rectangular house, which forms the E side of a compact rectangular arrangement of house, barn and kailyard.

It survives to its original height all around the perimeter, with gables and chimneys almost intact. The walls are composed of regular squarish blocks with the largest at the base. The corners, especially the NE, are particularly fine, with broad flat slabs alternately lining



No 183a



No. 183a. Flat slabs edging the NE corner.

each face. (cf. No. 188) Small thin flakes fill the interstices of the drystone side walls, while the gable walls are mortared inside and out.

An entrance, 0.80m wide, opens through the E wall, 5.95m from the N end. Two narrow flat slabs form the lintel, 1.72m above the floor. Two splayed windows also open through the E wall:

- i) 0.53m wide ext. and 1.03m wide int., 0.78m high from sill to lintel, situated 2.60m from the N end.
- ii) 0.62m wide ext. and 1.02m wide int., 0.80m high from sill to lintel, situated 9.10m from the N end.

A fireplace is situated at each end:

- i) In the N gable, 1m from the E side; 1.03m wide and 0.77m high, below a chimney-breast, measuring 1.35m wide and 0.36m high.
- ii) In the S gable, 1.35m from the E side; 0.92m wide and 0.84m high, below a chimney-breast, measuring 1.30m wide and 0.57m high.

A scarcement ledge, to support a second storey or attic, is visible across each gable wall, 1.65m above the floor.



No. 183a. Cruck slot ii).



No. 183a. Cruck slot vii).

Seven cruck slots, all blocked up, are discernible, indicating that the roof was supported by four pairs of crucks:

- i) In the W wall, 0.22m wide, 0.95m from the S end, 0.65m above the floor.
- ii) In the W wall, 0.25m wide, 3.65m from the S end, 0.45m above the floor.
- iii) In the W wall, 0.20m wide, 6.10m from the S end, 0.50m above the floor.
- iv) In the W wall, 8.80m from the S end; one straight edge only.
- v) In the E wall, 0.18m wide, 0.80m from the S end, 0.50m above the floor.
- vi) In the E wall, 0.20m wide, 3.40m from the S end, 0.50m above the floor.
- vii) In the E wall, 0.20m wide, 6.30m from the S end, 0.50m above the floor.

An annexe abuts each gable end:

i) A small round-angled rectangular structure of drystone coursed masonry abuts the S gable wall. The wall has a pronounced batter, tapering from a width of 0.70m at the base to 0.40m at the top. An entrance, 1m wide, opens through the N end of the E wall. A splayed window, 0.45m wide externally, 0.65m wide internally and 0.71m high from sill to lintel, also opens through the E wall, 2.10m from the S end.

Dimen: L 4.70m x W 5.65m

W of wall 0.70m x H 1.75m

ii) A small, roughly-built and more dilapidated, rectangular structure abuts the N gable. Narrower than the main house, it is set 0.50m inside the W side and 0.70m inside the E side. A possible entrance, 0.60m wide and now rubble-filled, opens through the E wall, 2.95m from the S end.

Dimen: L 5.20m x W 4.50m.

W of wall 0.70m x H 1.10m max.

This house is not marked on the Wilson Map of 1836 and may, therefore, have been built by newcomers from Auliston and Carraig in the 1840's. It may originally have had rounded corners and a hipped roof, similar to the adjacent barn, No 183b, but was later converted, with the construction of mortared gable walls and the blocking up of cruck slots. This later phase, like the two other gabled houses, Nos. 156a and 188, presumably corresponds to the rebuilding recorded on Oronsay in the 1860's, noted above (see p. 9).

Dimen: L of main house 11.90m x W 5.65m

Total L (including two annexes) 21.80m.

W of wall 0.75m x H of wall 1.90; H of gable 3.30m; H of chimney c. 4.30m.

Orient: NNE-SSW.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

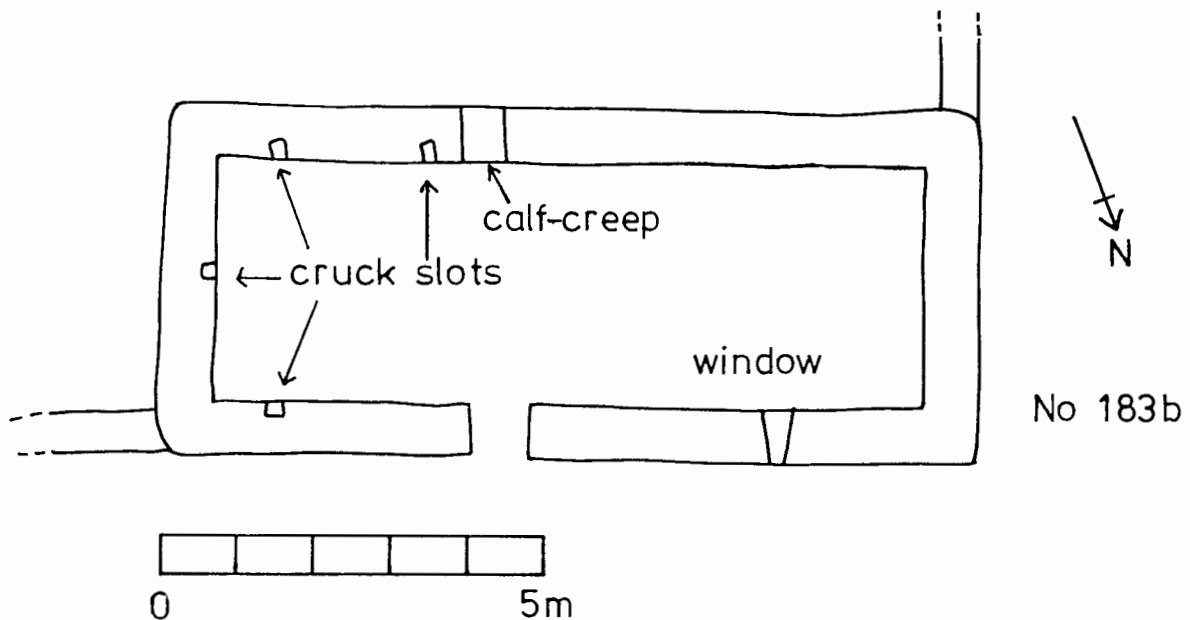
Probably one of the 19 houses on Oronsay recorded by Gaskell, 1968, 158.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

183b. Barn.

Well-built and well-preserved, round-angled rectangular building, which presumably served as a barn, and forms the N side of a compact rectangular arrangement of house, barn and kailyard.

It survives to its original height all around the perimeter. The walls of coursed drystone masonry, are composed of regular blocks with small, flat coping stones at the top. The barn has been terraced into the slope; the E wall measures 1.70m high externally while the W wall reaches only 0.70m externally.



No. 183b. Byre, showing, from left, cruck slot iv) and calf-creep.

An entrance, 0.75m wide, opens through the N side, 4.10m from the E end. A narrow splayed window, 0.18m wide externally and 0.30m wide internally, now blocked and slightly dilapidated, also opens through the N wall, 2.55m from the W end.

Directly opposite the door, is an opening, 0.50m wide and 0.50m high, through the S wall, 3.90m from the E end. A low door might be interpreted as a calf-creep, similar to those at Nos. 96c and 189b. However this example seems too low (only 0.50m) while its location, opening into the kailyard, is hardly appropriate. Therefore, it is more likely that this opening, directly opposite the main door, provided a through-draft for winnowing and that

this structure may be classified as a winnowing-barn. A large flat slab, propped against the wall was presumably used to block the opening when not in use.

Four unblocked cruck slots are discernible, all at the E end:

- i) In the N wall, 0.20m wide, 0.75m from the E end, 1m above the floor.
- ii) In the E end wall, 0.15m wide, 1.60m from the N side, 0.80m above the floor.
- iii) In the S wall, 0.20m wide, 0.75m from the E end, 0.85m above the floor.
- iv) In the S wall, 0.15m wide, 0.30m E of the calf creep, 0.70m above the floor.

The absence of cruck slots at the W end suggests that this part has been rebuilt. The barn is situated 7.20m to the W of the northern annexe of the house, No. 183a.

Dimen: L 10.75m x W 4.60m

W of wall 0.70m x H 1.70m max.

Orient: NNW-SSE.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

183c. Enclosure / Kailyard.

Wholly-enclosed, rectangular area, defined on the N side by the barn, No. 183b, on the E side by the house, No. 183a, and on the W and S sides by a moss-covered wall of coursed stone. The absence of a gateway is consistent with use as a kailyard. The interior consists of rough ground, sloping from W to E.

Dimen: Area 16.60m (N-S) x 17.45m (E-W).

W of wall 0.50m x H 0.65m.

Orient: -

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

183d. Enclosure.

Small, irregularly-shaped area on the E side of the house, No. 183a, defined by a curving turf bank. At its S end, the bank runs alongside a natural outcrop, opposite the door of the house. At its N end, the bank curves westwards into the slope and peters out, though a stone-revetted path, 1.80m wide, continues westwards along the N side of the house. This bank may have defined a working area, possibly a stackyard.

Dimen: Area 13m (N-S) x 10m (E-W).

W of bank 1.30m x H 0.40m.

Orient: N-S.

183e. Structure.

Small, cell-like structure of coursed drystone masonry, set into the slope to the E of the house, No. 183a. It consists of two compartments. The inner, sub-rectangular compartment, which abuts a natural outcrop, has been damaged by a rowan tree growing within. The outer compartment is almost circular in plan, with an entrance, 0.75m wide, in the N sector. An outward turn of the wall at the entrance, forms a porch, 1.70m long.

At first glance, this outer circular compartment might be interpreted as a corn-drying kiln, in which the "porch" corresponds to a flue. However, the opposite opening into an inner compartment, which has no other access, renders this unlikely. Furthermore, the circular plan may have resulted from partial collapse of the wall. This may, therefore, be interpreted at present simply as an ancillary structure of unknown function.

Dimen: Diam. of N compartment 1.70m

W of wall 0.60 - 0.70m x H 1.05m internally; 0.20m externally.

L of S compartment 2.20m x W 1.60m internally.

Orient: N-S.

184. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5924 5908

Unenclosed, sub-rectangular area of herb-rich grassland with bracken occupying a naturally-sloping bowl, surrounded by heather-covered rocky knolls, to the SE of the house, No. 183a. This is situated within the large area, marked as arable ground on the Wilson Map of 1836, though there are no visible distinguishing features on the ground to identify it as a cultivated field.

Dimen: Area 40m (NW-SE) x 20m (NE-SW)

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: Arable marked on the Wilson Map, 1836.

185. Lazy Beds.

NGR NM 5928 5912

Small rectangular field, distinguishable by its cover of herb-rich grassland within the surrounding heather. It contains a series of broad parallel ridges, which by their width and distance apart, may be interpreted as lazy beds. Three ridges, 2.30m wide and 0.25m high, are clearly detectable, set 0.70m apart.

Two oval mounds, presumably the result of field clearance, lie at either end of the field:

i) In the NW corner. Dimen: L 4m x W 2.20m x H 0.70m.

ii) In the SE corner. Dimen: L 4m x W 2.10m x H 0.40m.

This field corresponds to an eastward projection of the arable land, depicted on the Wilson Map of 1836, on the level plain in central Oronsay.

Dimen: Area 37m (E-W) x 20m (N-S).

Orient: of ridges W-E.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

186. Structure.

NGR NM 5896 5910

Small, squarish structure, abutting a vertical cliff face at the foot of a low rocky knoll. A long boulder forms the E side, while walls of coursed drystone masonry form the N and W sides. An entrance, 0.40m wide, is situated at the W end of the N wall.

Dimen: L 2.60m (N-S) x W 2.30m (E-W).

W of walls 0.40m x H 1.30m.

Orient -

187. House and Associated Structure.

NGR NM 5895 5912

House and ancillary structure, comprising the southernmost of a series of five houses, Nos. 187-191, some with ancillary buildings, arranged roughly in a line, oriented SW-NE, on the level plain in central Oronsay.

187a. House.

Neatly-built but slightly dilapidated, round-angled rectangular house of coursed drystone masonry. The walls have collapsed in some places (in the middle of the N end and in parts of the E and W sides), but survive in others to probably their original height. The walls have a very slight batter, tapering from a width of 0.65m at the base to 0.60m at the top.

The house has been terraced into the slope; the S upslope wall measures 1.20m in height internally but only 0.70m externally.

An entrance, 0.80m wide, opens through the E side, 4.45m from the N end. No windows or cruck slots are discernible, though these may have once existed, and indeed caused, the now collapsed parts of the wall. The rectangular structure, No. 187b, lies directly in front of the entrance, at a distance of 1.30m. This house probably corresponds with the southernmost in the series of five houses in this location on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: L 10.30m x W 5m.

W of wall 0.65m h 1.55m max. (NE corner)

Orient: N-S.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

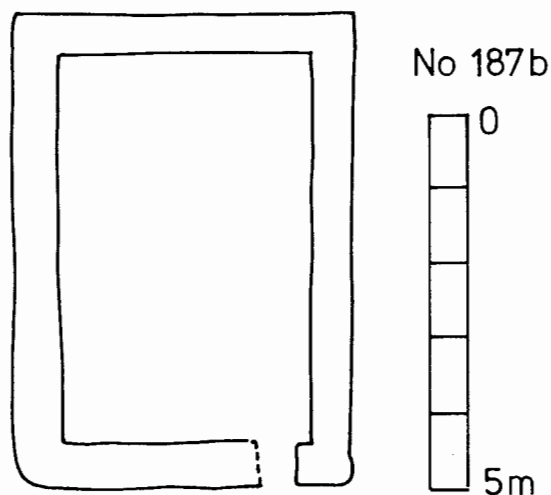
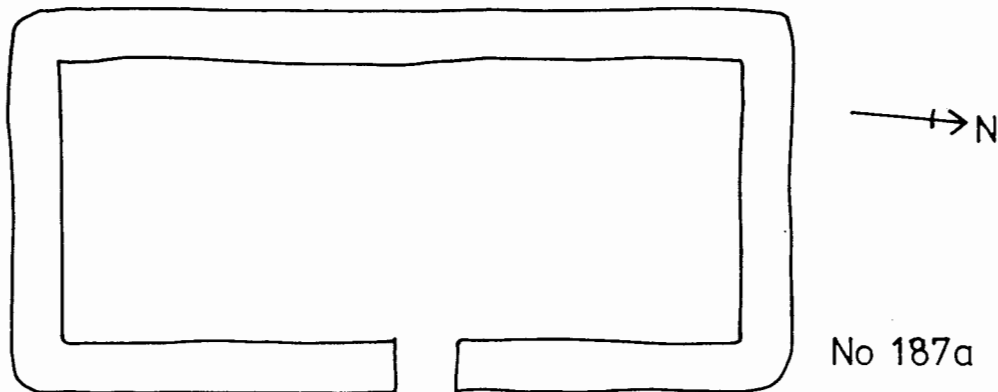
Wilson map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Probably one of the 19 houses on Oronsay recorded by Gaskell, 1968, 158.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.



187b. Structure.

Well-preserved rectangular structure of coursed drystone masonry, situated directly opposite the entrance into the house, No. 187a, at a distance of 1.30m. The structure has rounded corners at one end (E) and square corners at the other (W), a feature unique within the survey area, but found, for example, on the N side of Loch Sunart. The walls survive to probably their original height all around the perimeter, though the E wall is slightly

dilapidated around the entrance. The structure has been terraced into the slope; the S upslope wall measures 1m in height internally, but only 0.45m externally. An entrance of indeterminable width, opens through the E wall, 0.75m from the N side. No windows or cruck slots are discernible.

Dimen: L 6.35m W 4.45m.

W of wall 0.55m x H 1.50m max. (N wall).

Orient: W-E.

Refs: OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

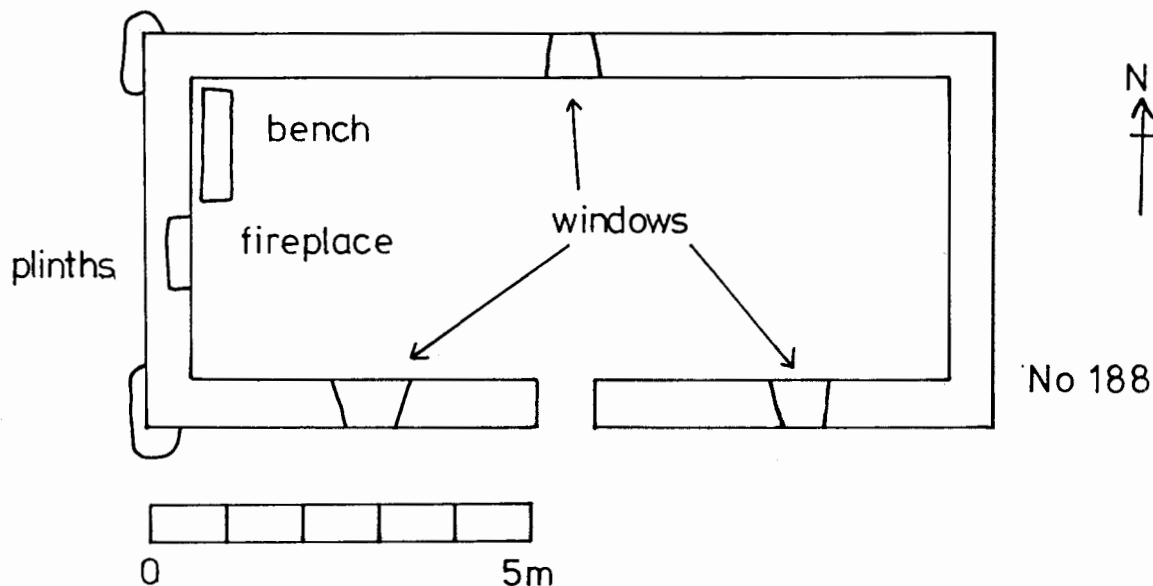
188. House.

NGR NM 5900 5915

(See Colour Plate 23)

Well-built and well-preserved, rectangular gabled house of mortared stone, comprising one of a series of five houses, Nos. 187-191, arranged roughly in a line, oriented SW-NE, on the level plain in central Oronsay.

The E gable has collapsed, but, otherwise, the walls survive to their original height., including the W gable with part of its chimney, precariously balanced on top. The walls are composed of regular squarish blocks with small stones filling the interstices. The corners are particularly fine with broad flat slabs, alternately lining each face. (cf. No. 183a) Coarse pebbly mortar is clearly visible, particularly in the internal faces. The house is situated on a slight slope and has been built up on a plinth at the W downslope end. The walls, to eaves level, reach a height of 1.50m and 1.70m at the upslope NE and SE corners, but 2.10m and 2.15m at the downslope, NW and SW corners.



A lintelled entrance, 0.75m wide and 1.70m high, opens through the S wall, 5.25m from the E end. Three lintelled splayed windows also survive:

- i) In the S wall, 2.20m from the W end, 0.60m wide ext., 1m wide int., 0.80m high.
- ii) In the S wall, 2.25m from the E end, 0.60m wide ext., 0.80m wide int., 0.75m high.
- iii) In the N wall, 5.50m from the W end, 0.52m wide ext., 0.65m wide int., 0.80m high.

A fireplace, 0.92m wide and high, beneath a chimney-breast, measuring 1.45m wide and 0.30m high, is situated in the W gable wall, 1.15m from the S end. A seat, consisting of a long slab, 1.45m x 0.35m, is propped up on small stones at a height of 0.40m on the N side of the fireplace.

There are no traces of cruck slots or a scarcement ledge on the W gable, similar to the other gabled houses, Nos. 183a and 156a, suggesting that there may have been no attic floor.

This house, like the two other gabled houses, Nos. 156a and 183a, may have been part of the rebuilding, recorded on Oronsay in the 1860's. (see p. 9) There is no trace of an early pre-1860's phase and it is not clear if this house existed in 1836; only five houses were recorded on the ground to correspond with the five marked on the Wilson Map of 1836.
Dimen: L 11.20 x W 5.20m.

W of wall 0.60m x H 2.15m max. (SW corner).

Orient: E-W.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

? Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Probably one of the 19 houses on Oronsay recorded by Gaskell, 1968, 158.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK376 Frame 4181.

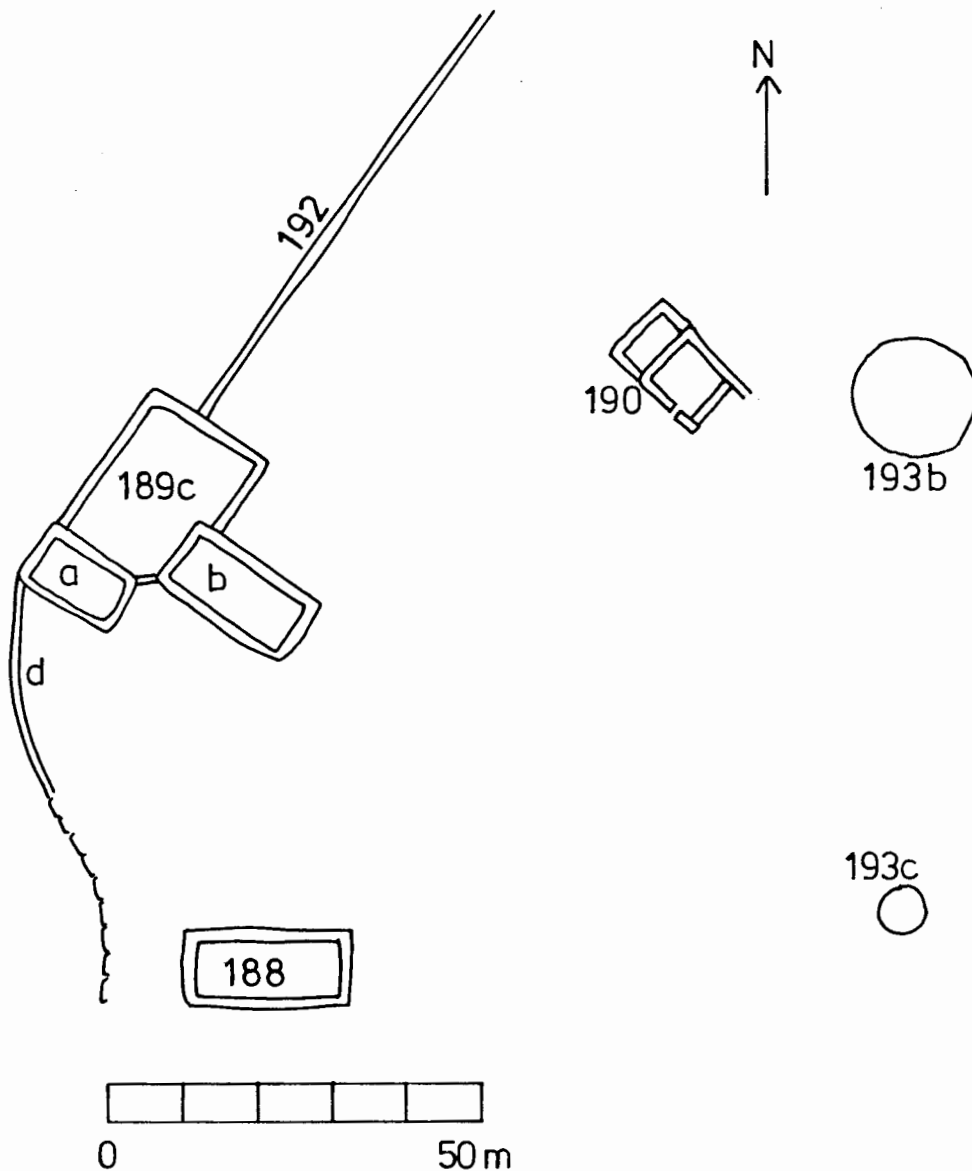


No. 188. Entrance in S wall and window opposite.

189. House, Byre and Kailyard.

NGR NM 5900 5918

Slightly dilapidated house with associated byre and kailyard, comprising one of a series of five houses, Nos. 187-191, some with ancillary structures, arranged roughly in a line, oriented SW-NE, on the level plain in central Oronsay.

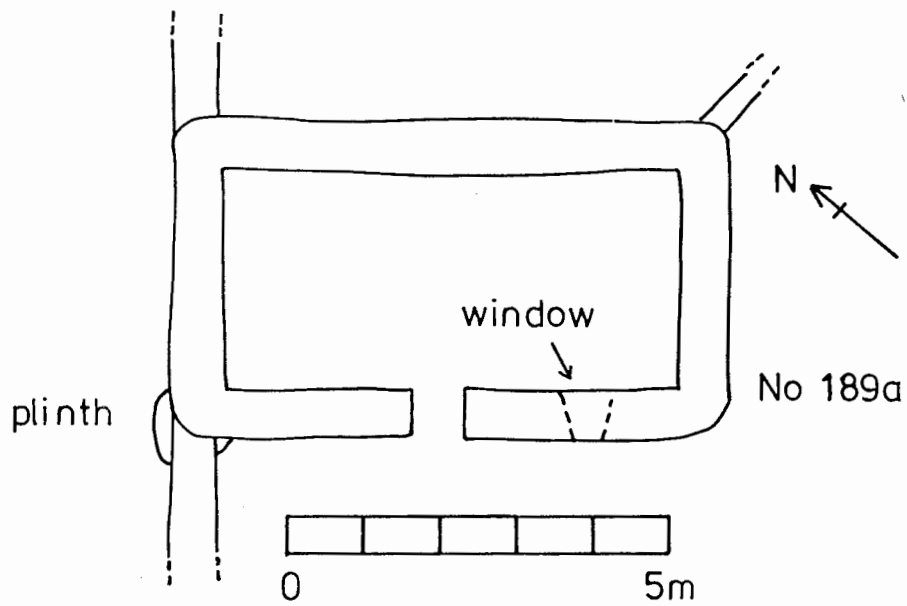


189a. ?House.

Small, round-angled rectangular structure of coursed drystone masonry. It was probably a dwelling house, though it is smaller than the adjacent structure, No. 189b, which is interpreted as a byre because of the calf-creep in its NE wall. The walls are dilapidated in some places, though survive to probably their original height in others. The walls have a pronounced batter, tapering from a width of 0.65m at the base to 0.50m at the top. The house is situated on a slope and the W downslope corner has been built up on a huge boulder plinth to a height of 2m externally, in contrast to the external height of 0.90m in the S corner.

An entrance, 0.70m wide, opens through the SW side, 3.45m from the S corner. A gap through the SW wall, 1.70m from the S corner, defined by splayed edges, may correspond to a window, though as the gap is only one course deep, it could simply be the

result of a single fallen stone. However, a gap in the corresponding position on the other side of the door, may also have been (and was possibly caused by) a window.



No. 189a. W corner and plinth.

No cruck slots are discernible. The house defines the SW side of the enclosure, No. 189c. Another wall, No. 189d, runs southwestwards from the boulder plinth at the W corner towards the gable house, No. 188. This house probably corresponds with one of the five houses in this location on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: L 7.30m x W 4.20m.

W of wall 0.65m x H 2m max.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

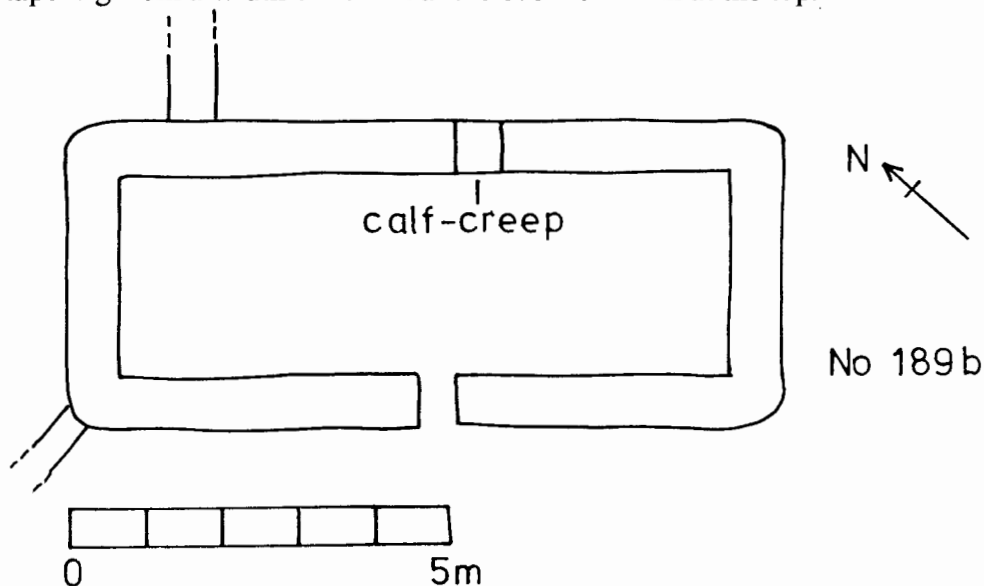
OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Probably one of the 19 houses recorded on Oronsay by Gaskell, 1968, 158.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

189b. Byre.

Round-angled rectangular structure of coursed drystone masonry, which, though larger than the adjacent "house", No. 189a, is interpreted as a byre because of the calf-creep in its NE wall. The SW wall is slightly dilapidated, but the NW, NE and SE walls survive to probably their original height, reaching 1.40m on the NE side. The wall has a pronounced batter, tapering from a width of 0.70m at the base to 0.55m at the top.



An entrance, 0.50m wide, opens through the SW wall, 4.30m from the S corner. Another entrance, now blocked, is situated in the NE wall, 3.70m from the E corner. This entrance, 0.60m wide and 0.95m high with lintel intact, is interpreted as a calf-creep. No windows or cruck slots are discernible, though a sufficient amount of wall survives to reveal them. This byre defines the SE side of the kailyard, No. 189c.

Dimen: L 9.40m x W 4.05m.

W of wall 0.70m x H 1.40m max.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.



No. 189b. External face of calf-creep in NE wall.

189c. Enclosure / Kailyard.

Sub-rectangular enclosure, defined on the SW side by the house, No. 189a, on the SE side by the byre, No. 189b and on the NW and NE sides by a coursed drystone wall. A short wall, 1.40m long and 0.30m wide and 1.05m high, closes the gap between Nos. 189a and 189b. The interior is sloping and thickly covered with bracken. The absence of any gateway is consistent with use as a kailyard.

Dimen: Area 11.50m max. (SW-NE) x 10m max. (NW-SE)

W of wall 0.50m x H 1m max.

Orient: NE-SW.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

189d. Wall.

Sinuous wall of coursed drystone masonry, which runs southwestwards from the W corner of the house, No. 189a. It curves round to the S and then the SE, becoming more of a

revetment edge to a terrace, 0.40m high. It finally stops level with the E wall of the gabled house, No. 188 at a distance of 6m.

Dimen: L 27m x W 0.60m x H 0.70m.

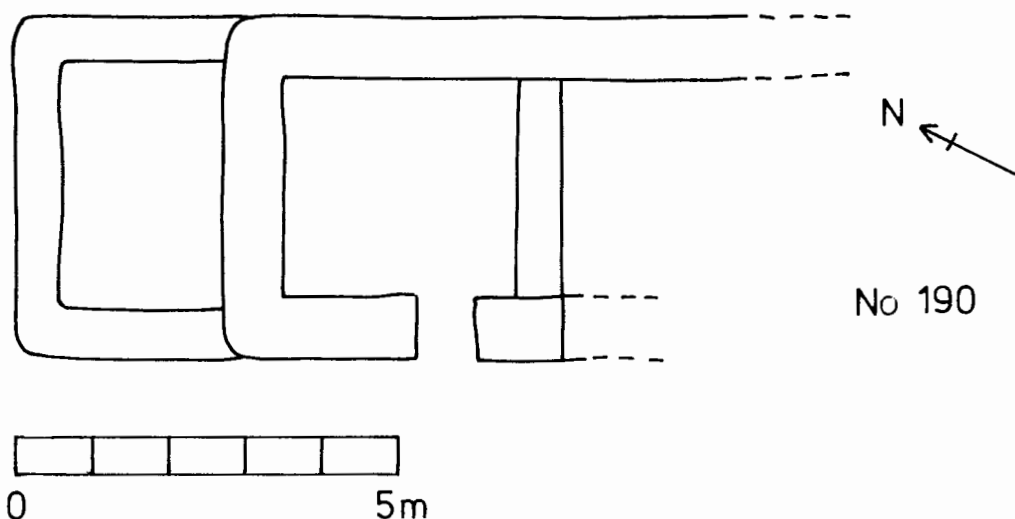
Orient: N-S approx.

190. House.

NGR NM 5904 5920

Partly-demolished, round-angled rectangular house of coursed drystone masonry, comprising one of a series of five houses, Nos. 187-191, arranged roughly in a line, oriented SW-NE, on the level plain in central Oronsay.

The house seems to have originally been longer; traces of the NE and SW walls are visible, continuing to the SE, though their full extent is indeterminable. At some stage, the house was reduced to a small, almost square, compartment, defined on the SE side by a wall, which seems to abut the NE and SW walls. The absence of any access through this wall suggests that it was not an original partition, but added later, probably when the house was reduced.



The walls of the remaining square compartment are relatively well-preserved, surviving to a height of 1.50m at the N corner. The walls have a pronounced batter, tapering from a width of 0.80m at the base to 0.60m at the top.

An entrance, 0.75m wide, opens through the SW side, 2.60m from the W corner. No windows or cruck slots are discernible. A dilapidated, round-angled annexe abuts the NW end. Access into the annexe may have been by an indistinct gap at the SE end of its NE wall. This house probably corresponds with one of the five houses in this location on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: L of square compartment 4.45m x W 4.50m.

Total L including annexe 7.15m. (at present)

W of wall 0.80m x H 1.50m max.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Probably one of the 19 houses recorded on Oronsay by Gaskell, 1968, 158.



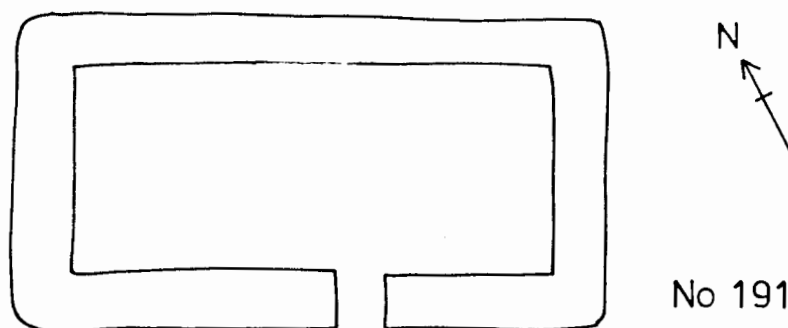
No. 190. House, from E.

191. House.

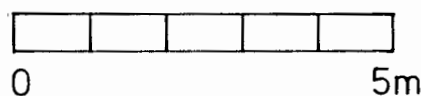
NGR NM 5906 5925

Dilapidated, round-angled rectangular house of coursed drystone masonry, comprising the northernmost of a series of five houses, Nos. 187-191, arranged roughly in a line, oriented SW-NE on the level plain in central Oronsay.

The walls are rather dilapidated, particularly on the NW, NE and SW sides, though the corners survive to possibly nearly their original height, reaching 1.25m at the N corner and 1m at the E corner. The wall has a slight batter, tapering from a width of 0.70m at the base to 0.60m at the top.



No 191



An entrance, 0.60m wide, opens through the SW side, 2.95m from the SE end. No windows or cruck slots are discernible, but the internal collapse of the wall in the NW end, in three places along the NE wall and on either side of the door in the SW wall, might be

interpreted as a result of the weakening of the wall around cruck slots. This house probably corresponds to one of the five houses in this location on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: L 7.80m x W 4.20m.

W of wall 0.70m x H 1.25m max.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: NMRS Site NM 55 NE 8 (part of).

Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Probably one of the 19 houses recorded on Oronsay by Gaskell, 1968, 158.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.



No. 191. House, from SE.

192. Wall.

NGR (SW end) NM 5900 5919

(NE end) NM 5916 5937

Long boundary wall, which defines the NW side of a long level plain on central Oronsay, corresponding to the large area of arable depicted on the Wilson Map of 1836. Three of the five houses, Nos. 189-191, arranged roughly in a line along this plain, as well as the cultivated area, No. 193, denoted by clearance cairns, are enclosed within this boundary.

From its SW end, where it abuts the kailyard, No. 189c, it follows a sinuous course in a northeasterly direction to the rise in ground, marking the NE edge of the central plain. The wall consists of roughly-built coursing of large irregularly-sized and -shaped boulders.

Dimen: L 260m x W 0.65m x H 0.90m max.

Orient: SW-NE.

Refs: Follows the edge of the unenclosed arable marked on the Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.
Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

193. Arable Field and Clearance Cairns.

NGR NM 5905 5919

193a. Arable Field.

Large level area on central Oronsay, which corresponds with an arable area depicted on the Wilson Map of 1836. The long boundary wall, No. 192, presumably defines its NW and NE sides, though it is difficult to say if the whole area was cultivated; no rig and furrow is discernible, on the ground or from the air.

However, the interior has definitely been cleared of stone, some of which has been piled up in at least four clearance cairns to the E of the house, No. 190.

Dimen: Area ?

Orient -

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

193b. Clearance Cairn.

Circular cairn, situated 8m E of the E corner of the house, No.190. Clearance stones have been piled up around and atop a natural outcrop.

Dimen: Diam: 7m H 1.20m

193c. Clearance Cairn.

Circular cairn, situated 27m S of No. 193b.

Dimen: Diam: 2.50m x H 0.60m

193d. Clearance Cairn.

Circular cairn, situated 47m NE of No. 193c and 35m ENE of No. 193b.

Dimen: Diam: 2.50m x H 0.75m.

193e. Clearance Cairn.

Circular cairn, situated 9m S of No. 193d.

Dimen: Diam: 1.50m x H 0.20m.

194. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5917 5945

Unenclosed, irregularly-shaped area of rig and furrow, filling the space between rocky knolls, to the N of the level plain on central Oronsay. In plan, the field resembles the shape of an "I", consisting of a central rectangle, 64m x 36m, with offshoots, protruding outwards at each corner. At least eight pronounced broad ridges, oriented NW-SE, run down the central part of the field and the possibility exists that these are spade-dug lazy beds. This field corresponds to part of a large irregularly-shaped area of arable, depicted on the Wilson Map of 1836, which also includes Nos. 195 and 196.

Dimen: Area 64m (N-S) x 36m (E-W).

Orient: of furrows NW-SE.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

Rig and furrow is visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

195. Enclosed Arable Field.

NGR NM 5912 5955

Irregularly-shaped field, enclosed on the S and E sides by an earthen bank. The interior is waterlogged and hummocky and no rig and furrow is discernible. This field

corresponds to part of a large irregularly-shaped area of arable, depicted on the Wilson Map of 1836, which also includes Nos. 194 and 196.

Dimen: Area 210m (E-W) x 90m (N-S at E end)

W of bank 1.10m x H 0.50m.

Orient: E-W approx.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Part of the southern bank is visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

196. ?Arable Field.

NGR NM 5906 5968

Small, sub-rectangular level area, situated between rocky knolls and outcrops. No distinguishing features of a cultivated field, such as rig and furrow, clearance cairns or an enclosing wall, are present, but it corresponds to part of a large irregularly-shaped area of arable, depicted on the Wilson Map of 1836, which also includes Nos. 194 and 195.

Dimen: Area 65m (E-W) x 30m (N-S)

Orient: E-W.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

197. Wall.

NGR NM 5889 5913

Wall of roughly-coursed boulders, which runs northwestwards downslope from the SW corner of the level plain on central Oronsay to the seashore, adjacent to the fish trap, No. 199.

Dimen: L 120m x W 0.60m x H 0.80m.

Orient: NW-SE

Refs: OS 2nd Ed 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

198. Wall.

NGR NM 5883 5910

Wall of roughly-coursed boulders, which runs across a saddle between two rocky knolls. At its NE end, it curves to the NW around one of the knolls.

Dimen: L 90m x W 0.60m x H 0.80m.

Orient: NE.-SW

Refs: OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

199. Fish Trap.

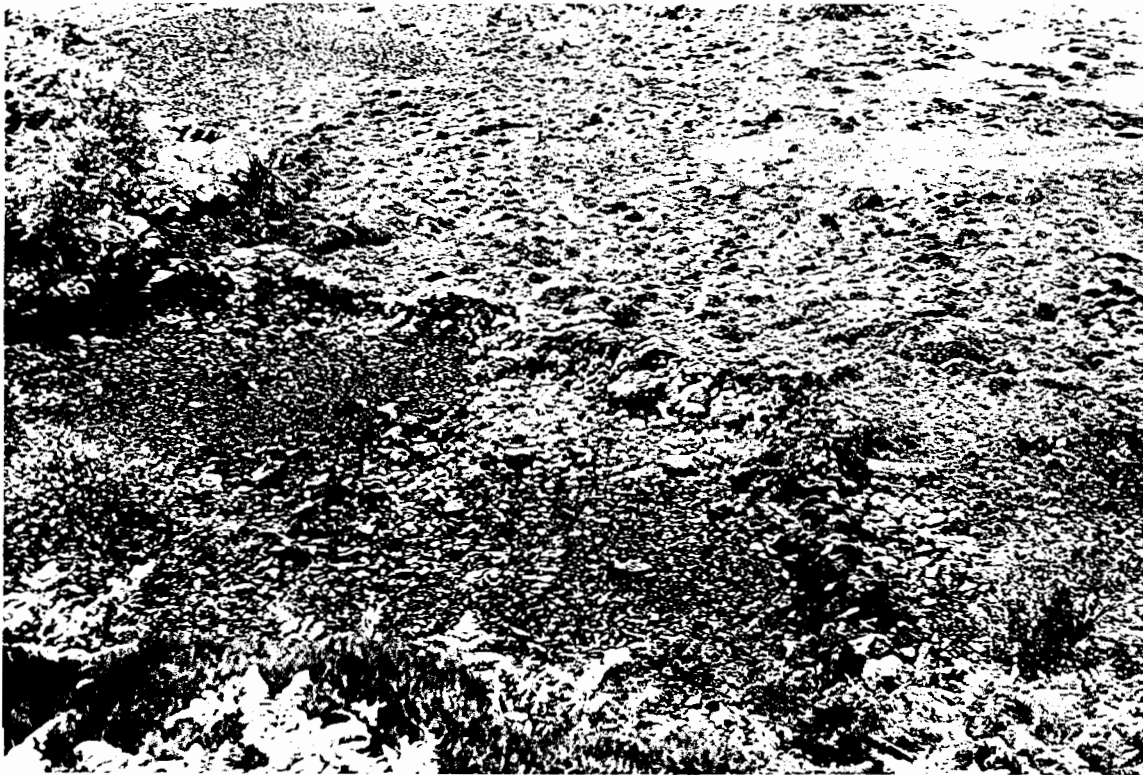
NGR NM 5884 5916

Substantially-built wall of large blocks, arranged in a roughly V-shaped plan, across a small bay within the long inlet, Sailean Mor. This was presumably a fish trap.

Dimen: L 40m x W 1.20m x H 0.50m.

Orient: NE-SW approx.

Refs: OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.



No. 199. Fish Trap, from S.

200. Enclosed Field.

NGR NM 5890 5895

The smaller of two adjacent enclosures, Nos. 200 and 201, situated in the saddle between two hills, Tom Mor and Druim Mor. The field is irregularly-shaped in plan and is enclosed by a substantial earthen bank, which measures 0.60m high externally but only 0.20m high internally. In the absence of any obvious ditch around the outer edge, this suggests that the interior has been built up to provide a depth of soil. No rig and furrow is discernible within. Neither of these enclosed fields is marked on the Wilson Map of 1836 and they presumably correspond to the expansion of population in the 1840's, noted above. (see p. 8)

Dimen: Area 60m (NW-SE) x 30m (NE-SW)

W of bank 1.20m x H 0.60m.

Orient: NW-SE.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Visible on Ap CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

201. Enclosed Field.

NGR NM 5883 5890

The larger of two adjacent enclosed fields, Nos. 200 and 201, situated in the saddle between two hills, Tom Mor and Druim Mor. The field is irregularly-shaped in plan and is enclosed by a substantial earthen bank, which measures 0.60m high externally but only 0.20m high internally. In the absence of any obvious ditch around the outer edge, this suggests that the interior has been built up to provide a depth of soil. No rig and furrow is discernible within. Neither of these enclosed fields is marked on the Wilson Map of 1836 and they presumably correspond to the expansion of population in the 1840's, noted above (see p. 8).

Dimen: Area 90m max. (N-S) x 55m max. (E-W).

W of bank 1.30m x H 0.60m.

Orient: N-S.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.

OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

202. Cairn.

NGR NM 5855 5870

Relatively modern circular cairn of roughly piled up stones, situated on the top of a knoll.

Dimen: Diam: 1.50m x H 0.80m.

Orient: -

Refs: OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.

203. Peat Cuttings.

NGR NM 5853 5875

Waterlogged peaty area, almost square in plan and defined by vertically-cut edges, situated on a level saddle between rocky knolls. This was presumably cut for peat.

Dimen: Area 33m (N-S) x 36m (E-W).

D of cuttings 0.45m.

Orient: E-W.

204. Boundary Bank.

NGR NM 5856 5880

Earthen bank, which runs from the top of an escarpment above the southernmost end of Sailean Mor, southwestwards uphill to the level saddle, on which the peat cuttings, No. 203, are situated. The bank is no longer discernible once it reaches the level area, but it may originally have continued further to the SW, thereby defining the western peninsula of Oronsay. At the NE end, this boundary continues as a stone wall, No. 205, running from the foot of the escarpment across the beach.

Dimen: L 90m x W 1.20m x H 0.30m.

Orient: NE-SW.

205. Wall ("Beach Wall").

NGR NM 5860 5889

Substantial wall of coursed stone, which runs northwards from the foot of a steep escarpment across a stony beach, thereby dividing the southernmost inlet of Sailean Mor into two parts. The wall continues from the boundary bank, No. 204, at the top of the escarpment and is presumably part of the same boundary, dividing the resources of the seabed, similar to other "beach walls", notably No. 135.

At its S end, the wall abuts a large natural outcrop and then runs northeastwards, curving gradually round to the N. It follows the E side of a small tidal islet but continues beyond it to the end of the stony part of the beach.

Dimen: L 60m x W 0.80m x H 0.90m.

Orient: NE-SW.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.



No. 205. "Beach Wall", from S.

206. Enclosed Fields.

Two conjoined enclosed fields with clearly-defined rig and furrow, situated on the western peninsula of Oronsay. The fields, enclosed by earthen banks, may have been constructed in two phases: the N end of No. 206b appears to have truncated the S end of No. 206a and may have been a later addition.

These fields are not marked on the Wilson Map of 1836 and, therefore, presumably correspond to the expansion of population in the 1840's, noted above (see p. 8).

206a. Enclosed Field.

NGR NM 5846 5917

Rectangular field, situated on the N side of No. 206b. It contains nine parallel ridges, oriented E-W.

Dimen: Area 77m (E-W) x 50m (N-S).

W of bank 1.60m x H 0.30m.

Orient: E-W.

206b. Enclosed Field.

NGR NM 5846 5910

(See Colour Plate 24)

Trapezoidal field, situated on the S side of No. 206a. Rig and furrow is only clear in the northern half of the field, in which six ridges can be counted, oriented NW-SE. A further three or four may have continued to the S end of the field. There is now no trace of the buildings, recorded on the OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map, adjoining the W and S banks of this field.

Dimen: Area 75m (NE-SW) x 90m max. (NNE-SSW).

W of bank 1.60m x H 0.30m.

Orient: NNE-SSW.

Refs: OS 2nd Ed. 6" Map.
OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.
Visible on AP CPE/Scot/UK/376 Frame 4181.

207. Cairn.

NGR NM 5829 5913

Cairn, consisting of one large, needle-shaped orthostat, wedged in between two earthfast stones, surmounted by numerous loose small stones. The cairn appears to be of relatively modern construction and the orthostat is not earthfast, but the earthfast stones at the base and the use of the needle-shaped stone could have some antiquity.

Dimen: Diam of cairn: 0.90m x H 0.30m.

H of orthostat. 0.90m.

Orient: -

Refs: OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM 55 NE.



No. 207. Cairn, from S.

208. Peat Cuttings.

The central plain of the western peninsula of Oronsay is relatively level but waterlogged and covered with a thick layer of peat. Much of this peat has been broken up where natural channels have cut through it. However, three sub-rectangular gullies with vertically-cut sides presumably represent areas of peat cutting.

208a. Peat Cuttings.

NGR NM 5845 5931

Situated within gently-sloping ground between knolls. It consists of numerous parallel cuts, oriented E-W, running up to the main N-S cutting.

Dimen: Area 60m (NW-SE) x 30m (NE-SW).

D of cutting 0.50m.

Orient: NW-SE.

208b. Peat Cuttings.

NGR NM 5852 5960

A sub-rectangular gully with vertically-cut sides.

Dimen: Area 20m (E-W) x 10m (N-S).

D of cutting 0.50m.

Orient: E-W.

208c. Peat Cuttings.

NGR NM 5854 5965

A sub-rectangular gully with vertically-cut sides.

Dimen: Area 20m x 6m.

D of cutting 0.50m.

Orient: E-W.

209. Arable Field.

NGR NM 5872 5968

Unenclosed arable field, containing rig and furrow, situated on the western peninsula of Oronsay. The parallel ridges are oriented mostly NE-SW, though, at the southern end of the field, they are constricted by a knoll and splay slightly round to a N-S alignment. This field corresponds to an area of arable, marked on the Wilson Map of 1836.

Dimen: Area 67m (NW-SE) x 54m (NE-SW)

W of ridges 3m - 4m x H 0.20m; D of furrows 0.25m.

Orient: of furrows NE-SW.

Refs: Wilson Map, 1836.

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Plate 1. Sornagan settlement, from SE.



Plate 2. Poll Luachrain settlement, from W.



Plate 3. Boundary bank, No. 1 (crossing horizon in centre of photo).



Plate 4. House, No. 25a, from E.



Plate 5. House, No. 26a, from S, with field, No. 23, in background.



Plate 6. House, No. 28a, from S.



Plate 7. House, No. 34, from SW.



Plate 8. House, No. 49a, from SW.



Plate 9. Boundary bank, No. 63, (in centre of photo) with enclosure, No. 64, (bottom right).



Plate 10. Shieling, No. 68b, from N.



Plate 11. Field, No. 78, from S, showing platforms, Nos. 79 and 80.



Plate 12. ?Hut Circle, No. 87a, from NW, through entrance.



Plate 13. ?Corn-drying kiln, No. 102, from N,
through fluc.



Plate 14. Lazy Beds, No. 108, from SE.



Plate 15. House, No. 124, from W.



Plate 16. Byre, No. 125, from SW.



Plate 17. House, No. 141a, from N.



Plate 18. House, No. 161a, from W.



Plate 19. House, No. 162, from NW.



Plate 20. House, No. 168, from W.



Plate 21. House, No. 174a, from NW.



Plate 22. House, No. 183a, from SE.



Plate 23. House, 188, from S.



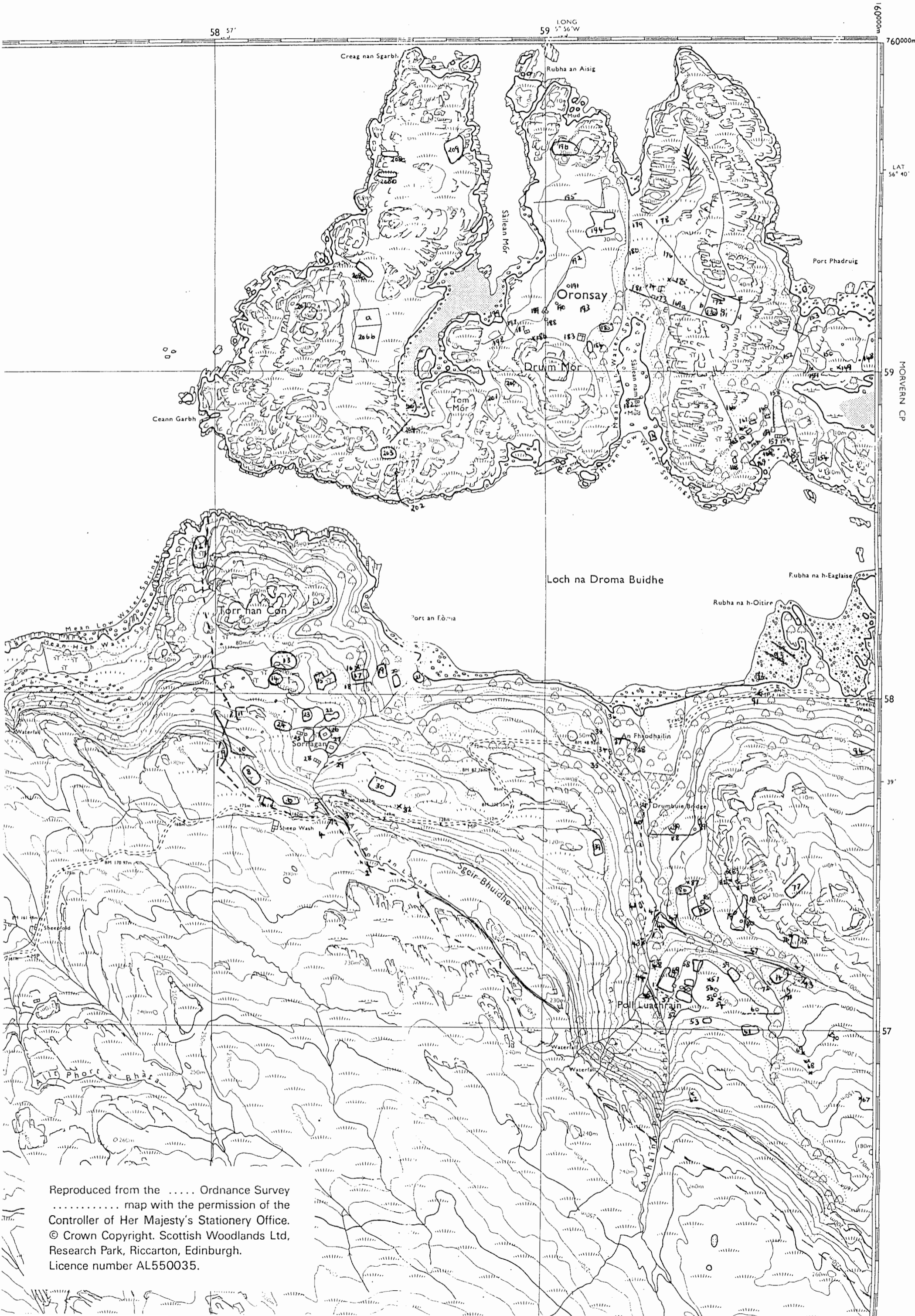
Plate 24. Enclosed field, No. 206b, from W.

(a) ARDN MURCHAN DISTRICT (D+U)
(a) ARDN MURCHAN CP (Det)



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