

SURVEY OF GLEN ACHALL, RHIDORROCH,
ULLAPOOL, WESTER ROSS.

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Introduction

The reason for undertaking a survey of Glen Achall, apart from the opportunity to be in the locality in the first place, comes under two headings. Firstly the glen is integral to historic lines of communication between the east and west coast at this latitude, and might be considered to yield interesting antiquities relating to traffic through the glen and its control. Secondly the glen appears to have been cleared of settlement early in the 19th century, first as a sheep farm, and later as a hunting estate. It has remained in private ownership up to the present time, and is therefore likely to show clear relationships between pre-Clearance and later settlement without modern disturbance.

The glen extends about 13 km east of Ullapool, after which the River Douchary as its chief source river continues south and east over moorland a further 7 Km, rising in a corrie on the south side of the mountain Seana Braigh. From the head of the glen there are two routes east, one by way of Loch an Daimh and Abhainn Poiblidh to Glen Einig, the other by the Allt nan Caorach tributary of the Rhidorroch River to Strath Mulzie and Glen Einig. These passes are respectively at up to 220 and 305 metres above mean sea level. Glen Einig leads to Strath Oykel at Oykel Bridge and from there to the Kyle of Sutherland. There is also a link from Strath Mulzie, by Abhainn Coire an t-Seilich and its tributary Allt Lon Bhainn into Strath Cuileannach by a pass at 236 metres, leading into Strath Carron and again to the Kyle of Sutherland. Although a much higher and more dangerous pass is involved there is a potential link between Glen Douchary and Glen Beag and Glen Mor to Strathcarron. These configurations are shown in Figure 1. There is a similar link between Strath Kanaird and Glen Einig by way of Rappoch Water, but this involves more open moorland. Yet Strath Kanaird has a fort at Dun Canna on the coast and a dun 5 Km inland which may in part at least be attributed to its role as a line of communication between east and west Scotland. The alternatives, and the modern lines of communication are by Ledmore 22 Km NE in a straight line from Ullapool, as a point of reference, and by the Dirrie More 20 Km SE. Historically Glen Achall served as a main route east to Strath Oykel, yet its significance is not gauged by any significant defence or other settlement.

According to references in "Cromartie: Highland Life 1650 - 1914" by E Richards and M. Clough, Aberdeen University Press, 1989, Rhidorroch/Glen Achall was let to William Henderson from Selkirk in 1810, and by the 1830s certainly to sheep farmers Walker and Mundell. Having been owned by MacKenzie descendents of the Earls of Cromarty, by the marriage of Anne Hay MacKenzie to the Marquis of Stafford and later Duke of Sutherland it came under the administration of James Loch, but it was apparently favoured by Lord Stafford as hunting forest and in 1857 was worth £300 rent a year for shooting compared to £110 for grazing. By 1901 it was being offered for deer hunting, grouse shooting and fishing at £1,200 a year, and in 1914 there were 14 servants on the estate. It was sold in 1920 to John Rose and is now owned by Ewen Scobie. There are only four places of habitation within the glen, at Glastullich, Rhidorroch House, Cadubh and East (or Old) Rhidorroch Lodge. It still serves as

a sheep farming and hunting estate, except for a quarry at the foot of the glen. Consequently most of the old settlement pattern is little disturbed, and provides an opportunity to investigate the transition between tenant farming and management as sheep walk or shoot that followed the Clearances.

Organisation of Survey

Because of the limited number of dry crossing points, namely at the foot of Loch Achall and at East Rhidorroch, the survey was divided into north and south bank sections. The exclusion of deer from some areas for conservation and regeneration by means of high fences with a few gates also broke up the pattern of access. The focus was on the margins of the river flood plain, rising ground and terraces near the valley floor, and higher ground up to a hundred metres above the valley floor. Particular attention was paid to improved ground of any size as an indication of previous settlement, although the larger areas had generally been cleared of stones as sheep pasture.

Fieldwork was based on Ordnance Survey 1:25000 (2½" to the mile) map sheets (NH 09/19 - Pathfinder 111 and NH 29/39, respectively for Ullapool and Strath Mulzie. The sheets were dated 1987 and 1969, the former with heights in metres, the latter in feet, which created problems. A mosaic of late 19th century 6" to the mile plans mounted on the wall at East Rhidorroch Lodge provided additional reference, the only edition information being surveyed altitude of Loch Achall in 1870. The survey was carried out between 19th and 31st July 1992 while staying at East Rhidorroch Lodge.

Full reports were written up daily, enabling errors or confusions to be checked within the survey period, and enabling this report to be compiled within a few days of completion.

Distribution of Sites

Figure 2 shows the numbered locations of sites, which is the basis of the full report of survey. The ravine of the Ullapool river up to the falls of Eas Dubh was not surveyed. There are clusters of sites at the west end of Loch Achall, from the head of Loch Achall to within a kilometre above Cadubh, the vicinity of East Rhidorroch Lodge and the head of the glen. The gaps indicate breaks in the occurrence of settlement.

In the first area there are two large areas of improved grazing and enclosures at Glastullich and Caliskaig, around which numbers of pre-Clearance and later settlement can be found. The shores of Loch Achall are generally steep and covered in bracken, heather and birch woods. While this may be a factor in restricting settlement it also obscured potential finds, and this is admitted as a limitation on the effectiveness of the survey. However the names A' Choille Mhor and Coille Chalaisceig on north and south respectively would appear to support the idea that these were wooded areas. Because the practical route up the valley is on the north shore of the valley because of obstacles on the south side, lack of communication could be a factor in excluding settlement from the south side. The north shore rises in steep fronted narrow terraces, mostly holding back drainage, with steeper ground at

Rhidorroch House, and is therefore topographically unsuited. The house itself is situated on a local terrace about 6 metres above the loch.

The focus of settlement seems to have been above Loch Achall, with the small ravine at Cadubh providing an upper limit, finds above this being either steadings or cairns. At about one kilometre above Cadubh the valley narrows, with little space outside the floodplain of the Rhidorroch River. East Rhidorroch Lodge is therefore isolated above the apparent limits of settlement; there is only one pre-Clearance settlement here and a few huts and shielings besides the lodge itself. About 500 metres above the lodge the river is in a ravine and by a kilometre distance is close bound by steep hillsides and cliffs. Above this were only a few obscure finds around the valley head and the sites on the River Douchary, mainly shielings and some cairns.

Historical Profile

Evidence of prehistoric occupation is represented by at least one dun and a number of cairns. The major find is the dun or broch at Dalavraid (Site 36), but there are two other marginal possibilities of fortification, one near the foot of the loch (Site 15) and one at Cadubh, close to the ravine, (Site 39). A crannog is supposed to exist on Loch Achall (Site 18) though this was not included in the survey. No convincing hut circles were found; six circular enclosures noted are probably sheep folds, but sites 5 and 63 may be of interest, though insubstantial. Attention is drawn to sites 16 and 19 which, while basically shielings in an enclosure, are not so far removed from settlements found on Dartmoor or in Cumbria. Sites 30 and 54 are also early, either Dark Age or mediaeval, and site 58, a building platform on a promontory at the head of the glen, might also be Dark Age.

The major cairn finds are in Glen Douchary (Site 61) and above Cadubh, sites 41, 42 and 45. Some of these are illustrated in Figure 5, and include long and pear-shaped mounds with trenches or passages which might be unfinished cairns. The long stony mound at Pairc a' Chlaiginn, site 26, while a natural explanation is still possible, does suggest a long cairn.

The distribution of pre-Clearance settlement is very distinctive. On the south side of the valley they are associated with debris fans at the foot of gullies. Here, where the hillside finishes close to the floodplain of the river, there is little safe dry ground, and the talus fans provide sources of stone, and proximity to drinking water and shelter. On the north side of the valley morainic ridges flank the hillside, and the debris fans occur much higher, only two showing settlement, at Sites 25/27, where there is a gap in the moraine and the debris fan extends into the floodplain, and at 36-38, comprising the Dalavraid dun, a later building to NE and two structures below the waterfall. Instead the settlements and steadings occur close to where streams cross the road. This must attest to the antiquity of the road, which shows little variation except between Clach Mhor and East Rhidorroch, where a road 2.5 to 3 m wide appears to predate the present course. Also below Loch Achall settlement is associated with terraces on the hillside. Later settlement focusses on large areas of improved grazing.

• LEDMORE

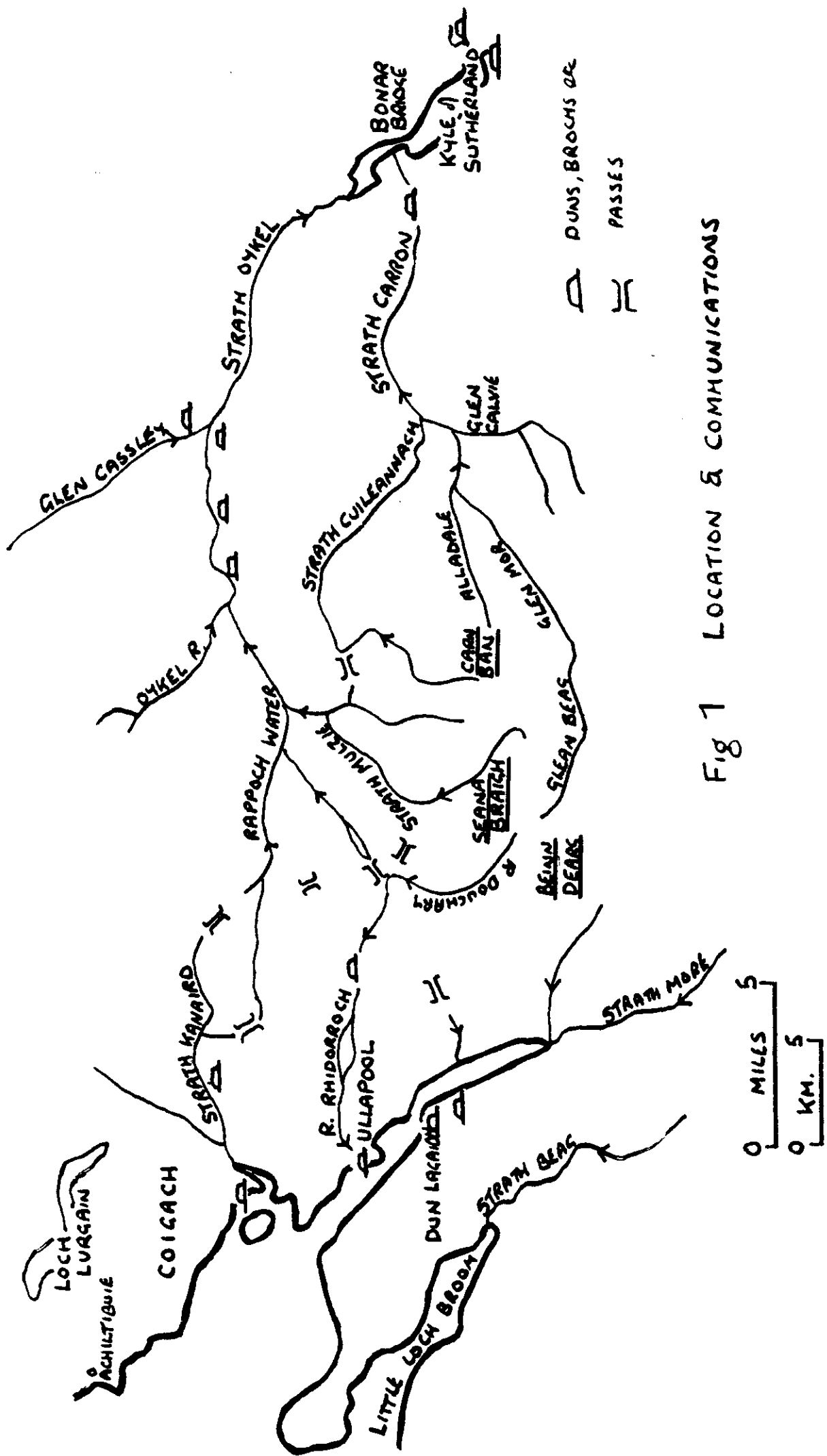
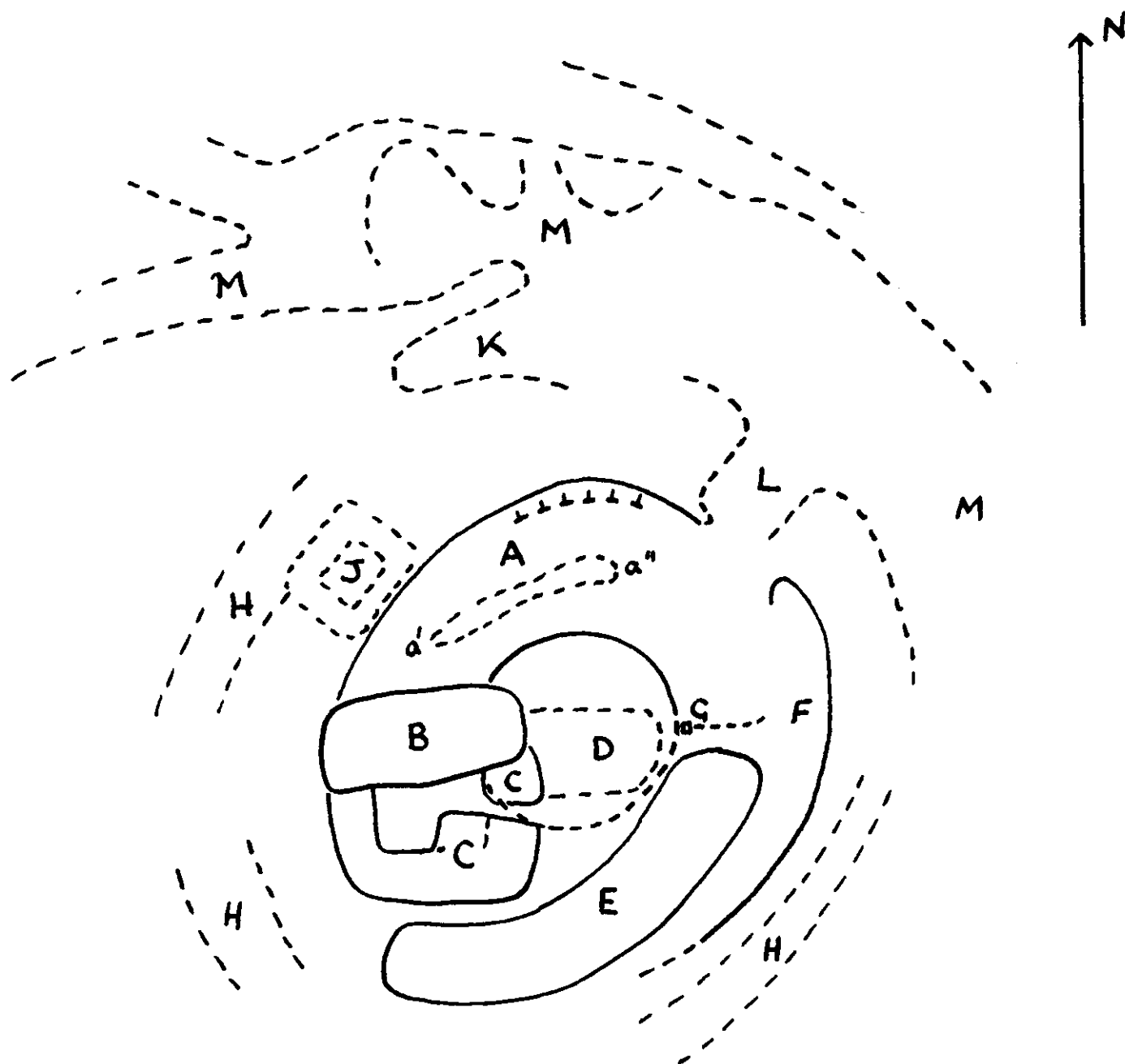


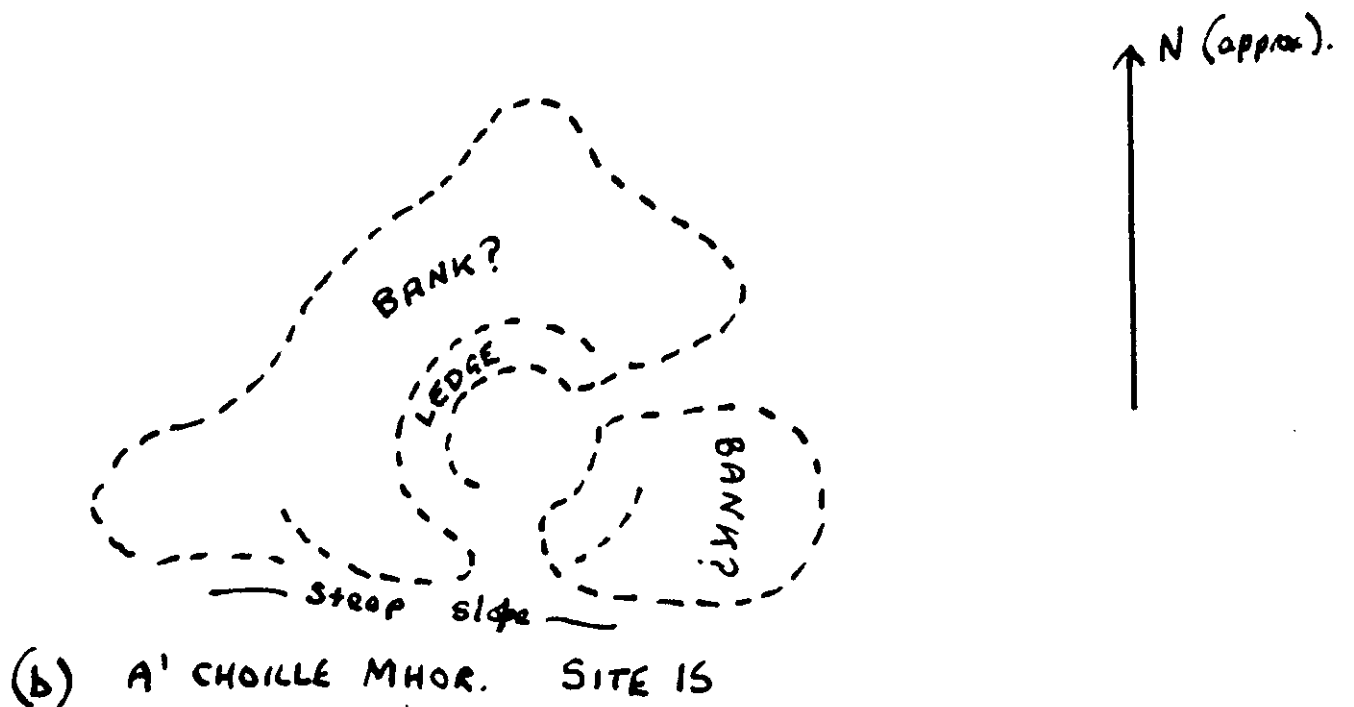
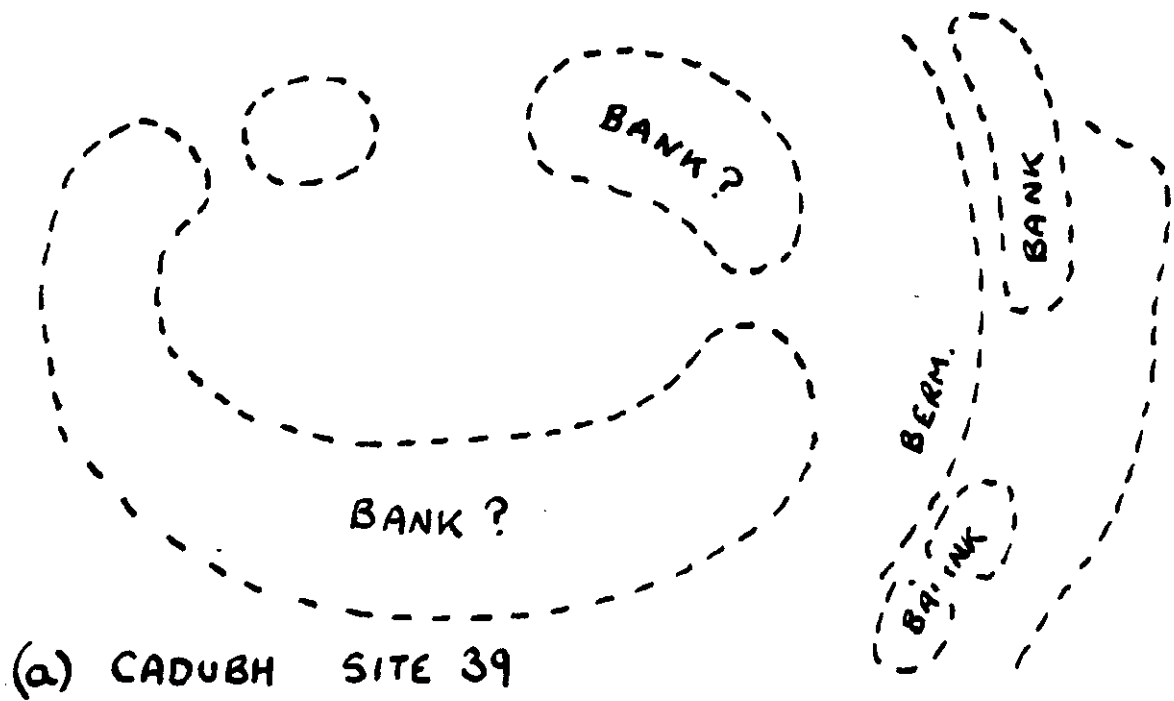
Fig 1 LOCATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Fig. 3. POSSIBLE DUN ALLT DAIR A' BHRAID
NH 21369494 SITE 36



- A POSSIBLE ORIGINAL WALL $a'-a''$ depression suggests gallery
- B CAIRN LIKE PILE OF STONES, PROBABLY PART OF—
- C OVERLYING BUILDING, ALSO D & J (other later features).
- E APPARENT LATER BANK OVERLYING ORIGINAL WALL
- F POSSIBLE PART OF ORIGINAL WALL
- G UPRIGHT STONE AND OTHER INDICATIONS OF ENTRANCE
- H, K, L, M OUTWORKS

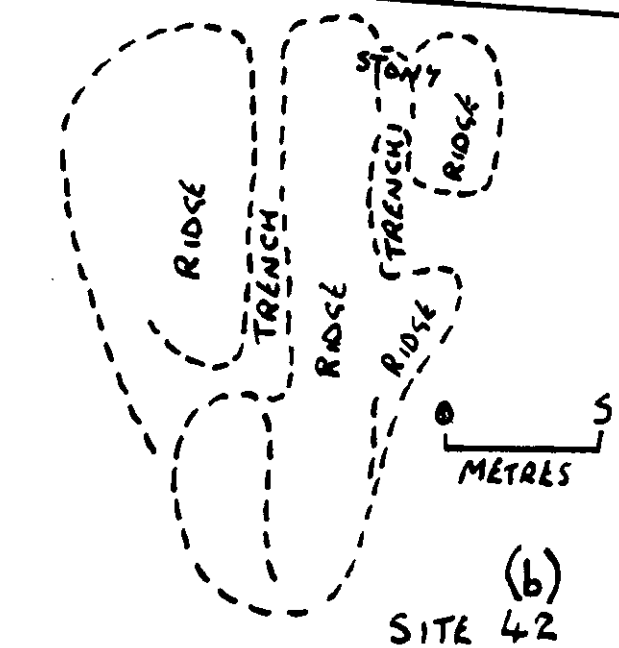
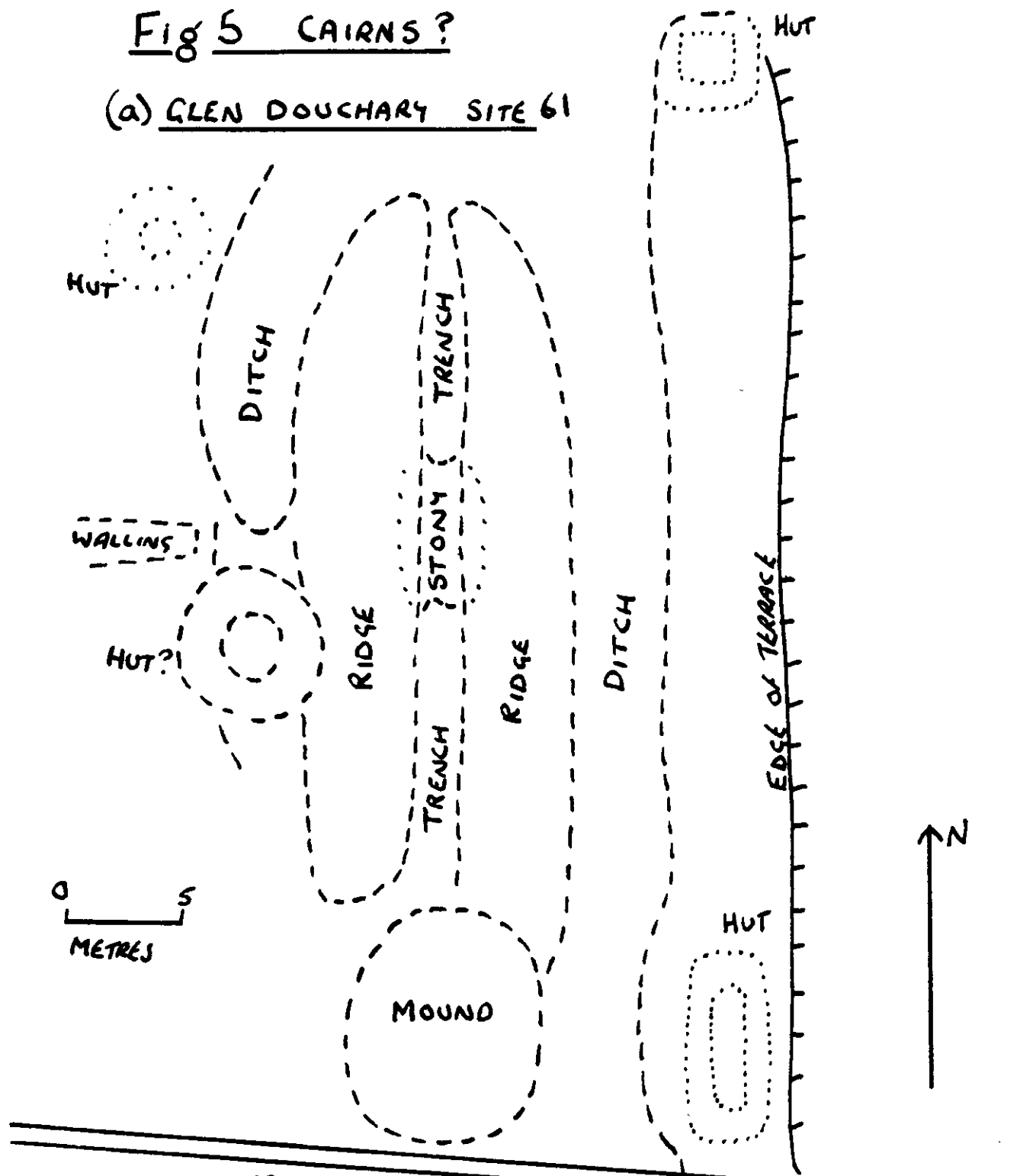
Fig 4 DUN-LIKE SEMI-NATURAL FEATURES



0 5 10 15
METRES

Fig 5 CAIRNS?

(a) GLEN DOUGHARY SITE 61



(b)
SITE 42

(c) near CADUGH SITE 41

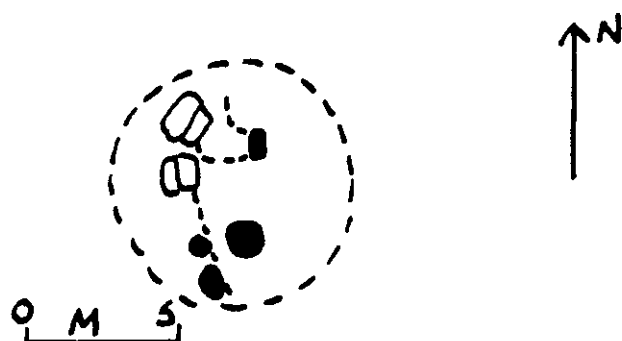
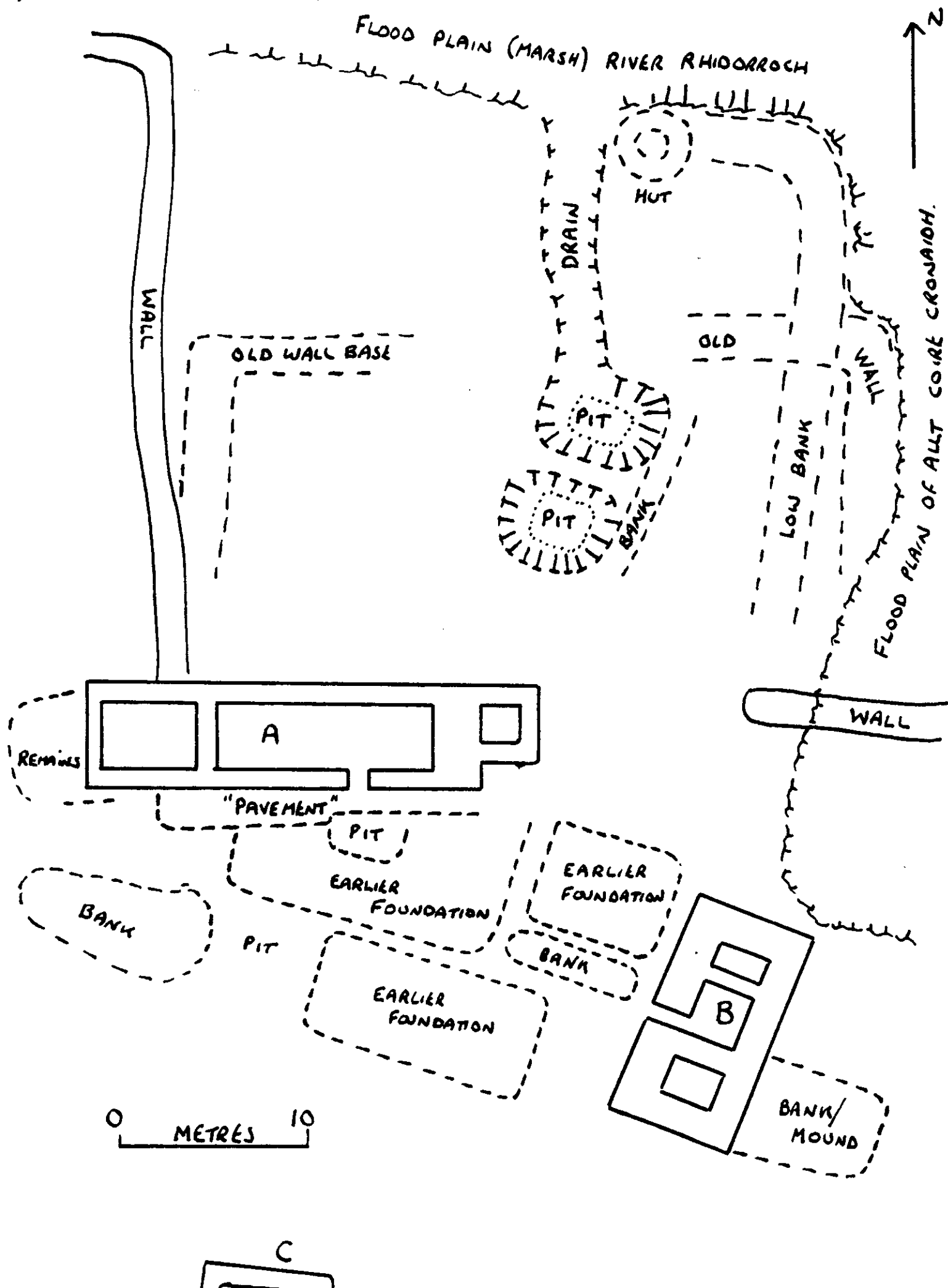


FIGURE 6 ALLT COIRE CRONAIDH. SITE 33

9



Description of Sites

Numbered according to sequence on Fig. 2. Date of identification in brackets, all July 1992, 21st to 31st. Summary list at end.

- 1 (26) South side of Creag nam Broc, NH 148957: traces of settlement including wall across promontory, four short ridges (cultivation ?) within; possible huts nearby. NH19NE0020.

- 2 (26) centred NH 150960, a string of features inside head dyke of Glastullich spanning about 60 m SW-NE. (a) rectangular building on terrace facing SE 5 m from dyke, 16.7 by 6 m overall with 1.7 m end walls. Centre drain 6.5 m from NE end. Flanking wall 2m at 0.75 m gap on NW, carried round SW end, beyond a 3 m round-ended extension. Adjacent NE raised ground for 17 m then a drop emphasised by line of large stones, followed by 13 m low lying. (b) enclosure adjoining dyke 17 by 11 m (plus 2 m steep ground below dyke), with a foundation 5 by 4 m near E end of S side. (c) 1 m NE of enclosure and 5 m from dyke, on neck of small promontory, circular flat-topped mound, 8 m base diameter, 6 m top, quarried on NE (is 70 m from fenced area). (d) oval hut 5 by 5m over 1 m wall built into slope, and 8 x 5 m rough oval on knoll, between (c) and fence. (e) an older wall angle outside blunt angle in modern fence. (f) a walled area against rocks below head dyke NE of (c). (g) oval hut 10 by 7.5 m and other walling. NH19NE0019

- 3 (26) NH 151954 In ravine, N bank of Ullapool River, opposite Eas Dubh, rectangular enclosure 13 by 6.5 m aligned WSW - ENE, with 2 m end walls and rubble within. On a knoll 15 m west, built into slope, circular area 8.5 m d. within wall of large stones, interior slopes S and SW. NH19NE0016

- 4 (27) NH 15169535 E of Eas Dubh, on promontory, an area approximately 3 m square either excavated out of summit or banked round, and a bank 2 m broad across SW approach; minor occupation ? NH19NE0017

- 5 (26) NH 154955 Hut circle ? Marginal evidence for sub-circular enclosure 14 to 16 m d. contained within fragmentary 2 m bank on $\frac{3}{4}$ circumference, relying on cliff edge on E. Other features. NH19NE0018

- 6 (26) Circular enclosure (stell/hut circle), a circular space built into slope with minimum walling, rectangular foundations. Sheepfolds and huts likely explanation. The stell is 10.3 original diameter within 2 m wall, part built into slope, but a splayed entrance up to 3m beyond original wall on SW, with both old and new wall lines evident. 12 m W circular area 12 m d open 6 m wide on S, depending largely on natural bounds, but with 8 by 3.7 m stony platform against perimeter inside SW. 22 m S of stell is rectangular foundation 8 x 5 m, also rectangular building platform. 15 m N of other circle, against rock on far side of defile passing NW, 8 by 5 overall, 2 by 1 m internally, ie heavy structure. NH 150958 NH19NE0021

- 7 (27) NH 156954 The ruin shown on 2½" OS map is placed obliquely across S end of a rectangular building platform 25 by 14 m top, aligned NW-SE, presumably having an earlier

NH19NE0011

function. 48 m S, 7.5 by 4.5 m oval hut on knoll, 10 m SE of this 7 by 4.5 m rectangle, also in vicinity 2.7 x 3.7 m oval, 5 x 3 m oval, fragmentary 7 m d. 100 m S of present building, also indicate earlier use of site.

8 (27) Small clearance or burial cairns close to boundary fence around NH 154949. 4 m N-S, 3.3 wide on N, 2.3 m wide on S and 19 m from fence. 20 m downhill, 21 m from fence, 3.5 by 2.3 m. 15 m further downhill, 10 m from fence 5 x 4.3 m. Also 25 m further downhill, on knoll, 8 m from fence, an oval hut 7.5 by 5 m over 1 m wall.

9 (27) NH 155951 A foundation of a building shown on old 6" plan is sunken 9 x 5 m containing several lines of kerbs, also some half bricks, function unclear.

10 (27) NH 156952 N of lay-by on track fragments of enclosure bank, some curved, some straight.

11 (27) NH 157951 Circular enclosure, probably an old sheepfold, into which a rectangular foundation has been inserted, neither shown on old 6" or later. Situated about 100 m S of road, 100 m W of improved grazing, on an eminence on a terrace, circle 13 m E-W by (at present) 11 m within 2-3 m wall. On N side, involving partial removal of enclosure wall, rectangular foundation 12 by 5.3 m in butt & ben style (central passage entered N and S, drain through passage and W end room).

11 b 50 m uphill, 4.5 by 3.3 m oval hut and small cairn.

12 (27) NH 158948 On a knoll either remains of cairn or enclosure with sub-divisions, overall 8 m N-S by 7m. On S side 1.7 m d semi-circular hollow, stones round; 1 m wide projection for 2 m in from E side, 3 m N of end; 1.3 m from N edge another stone outlined hollow, also a short wall length 1.7 from N for 1.7 m in from E side. Gap in E side etc.

13 (27) NH 159948 c30 m E of a gully, huts 5 x 4 m rect., int. 2.5 x 1.25 m with a 1.25 m square pit contained by flaggy stones a little uphill under a rock outcrop.

14 (27) NH 159950 Remains of two buildings aligned N-S, on W side of enclosure, 11 by 7.5 against wall and 20 m E, 10 x 4.7 m.

15 (26) NH 166957 Marginal evidence for a dun on the edge of a terrace, under heather and bracken (Figure 4b). It is not clear whether this is a natural mound with scooped or eroded interior or a deliberate construction, although it is different from other such mounds in the area and at 35 m S of rear of terrace over level ground is unlikely to be the result of alluvial deposition, rock pile or slip. It appears to comprise a semi-circular arc of very stony bank 6 m thick and over 1 m high, and opposite, with gaps ENE and S, a possible fragment of similar nature. There is a projection N and a low "tail" W on edge of terrace. The interior may be 8 m diameter but there is an irregular ledge or shelf which reduces diameter to about 6 m at lowest level within the mass.

16 b entered here, originally numbered duplicate 14, cairns 8, 5 and 3 m diameter on first terrace above loch, NH 164956

16 (26) NH 163958 A shieling settlement in which the huts are adjoining or close to the inside of an enclosing wall, in the manner of Dartmoor pounds such as Rider's Ring, South Brent, though obviously much less substantial. The enclosure encompasses two hillside terraces, one being offset W of the lower, with the wall crossing the upper, descending the slope between terraces at the rear, and coming back round the front edge of the lower terrace. Given that it is only about 20 metres higher in altitude than Loch Achall and well within the confines of the valley it is probably not transhumance, but of more permanent nature, period unknown. The enclosure is some 50 metres across, with three huts in the higher NW part, 6 x 3.7 oval (1.3 m wall), 4 x 3 m, 5 m d. E to W along lower terrace: 5 x 6 m, 3 x 4 m, 5 m d., 4 m d., 3 m d., 4 x 6 m, 4 m d. Also 3.5 m d on SE. See also Site 19.

17 (27) NH 164951 Sub-rectangular enclosure 30 by 60 m, orientated N-S, within 3 m turf and stone bank, still c0.6 m high, probably 19th c sheepfold lapsed and now under bracken and heather, on NE side 7 x 5m oval hut, 1 m wall, on knoll near loch side.

18 Not investigated. A crannog or causeway is mentioned in Third Statistical Account, being the island which just shows on the surface about 300 metres east from the south bank of the River Ullapool, to which it is linked by a submerged causeway. I had the opportunity of a boat to examine it but left it too late.

19 (27) NH 160949 Either side of a gully (which is not shown on 2½" map) and on a terrace lower than sites 12 and 13. There are similarities with site 16, the site being on two levels and involving huts close inside an enclosing wall. W of gully an oval hut 5 m N-S by 3 m over 1m wall. E side of gully, within enclosure, rectangular foundation 14 m E-W by 7.3, two rooms, entrance N and S on E of divide. A very crude hut (single row of stones) 4 by 2m, 3 m d., 7m rounded square hut, 7 x 4 m, 5 m d., 7 x 4 m, 7 m d. E of enclosure, which is about 40 m across, a cairn aligned NNE 8 x 3 m.

20 (27) NH 165949 About 100 m uphill from Site 17 on the axis of a debris fan from a small stream and beside an old channel, the present course having been diverted west a little uphill, a possible cairn 11 m N-S by 5 m, bulkier than might simply be a stream erosion product. c30 m uphill a 6 m d hut.

21 Rhidorroch House I did not investigate the immediate vicinity, again due to time factor, although the opportunity was available.

22 (27) NH 189945 Four buildings are shown on 2½" OS, although the two eastmost are not shown on the old 6", these bearing the settlement name Badavanich, being east of a stream named Allt Bad a' Mhanaich, possibly "place of the monk". Only the west building is on an improved pasture site, and appears to have had an earlier building under it. The others are on heathery ground and apparently virgin sites. That by the stream clearly occupies an older settlement, situated on or close to two debris fans on two hillside terraces, above and below the present building. They appear to be shepherds' houses replacing a pre-Clearance settlement.

Badavanich cont.

From S to N the earlier remains at Badavanich are: rectangle 11 x 8 m axis NW-SE overlapping edge of circular enclosure, 11.5 m d. within 2 to 3 m thick bank. A head dyke has been built across the N edge. Within ENE and overlapping wall traces of rect. 5 x 2.3 m. There is an extension to the outside of the circular enclosure on E, 3 m above head dyke, oval 10 x 4. About 10 m N are several knolls on a terrace edge. On second E an 8 m d. cairn. The westmost of the mapped buildings (10 x 5) appears to have had an off axis extension S 4.5 m long, suggesting an earlier building. N of this 14 x 5.7 m foundation and nearby 7.3 by 3 with possibly later across axis structure. On a knoll are three storage pits (this also occurs SW of eastmost mapped buildings). As regards the other standing structures the second east has walls to over 2 m high, the third has one room with a very deep drain, the other with no trace of a wall on S side; the last has a smaller building within older foundations, possibly recent use as a store.

Preliminary note on sites 23 to 25 and 27. Pairc a' Chlaiginn is currently occupied by a large sheepfold with a smaller enclosure to west incorporating building foundations. This very large debris fan with very active stream emerging below the ravine of Eas a' Chraosain results in many surface ridges and heaps of stone, and over a wider arc old channels. However there has also been significant stone clearance, resulting in many clearance heaps, which removes not only river debris to improve pasture, but the remains of earlier occupation, leaving behind fragmentary foundations which cannot be defined without risk of confusion with natural features. Given the evidence of earlier buildings towards the margins of the fan it is likely that Pairc a' Chlaiginn formed the main pre-clearance settlement, the name possibly meaning field of the townland.

23 (30) NH 190952 4 m S of modern fence near a stream, hut 5 x 4 m oval over 1 m wall.

24 (30) NH 190952 S side of morainic hill 70 m N of road at head of Loch Achall, E-W aligned rect. foundation 18 x 5 m in improved ground.

25 (24 & 30) North of the smaller sheepfold on the west margin of Pairc a' Chlaiginn are a number of rectangular foundations, some partly robbed out, and some uncertain as a result. The main ones are (a) 43m N of fank NH 19429518, 17 x 7 m, end on to a dry channel to E. This shows part reconstruction of W end from square to rounded, and has three rooms. What may be intended as a drain in the west part is of unusual construction, might also indicate a kiln. Below it are three N-S wall fragments with no clear connection. (b) 30 m W 10.7 x 5 m aligned NE-SW and 6 m N of this 8 x 4.5 m aligned N-S. 10 m above this is an E-W boundary with a curve S at W end. (c) edge of bracken to N, 28 m NNE of (a), 11.5 x 4.5 aligned SW-NE, 2-roomed, with possible 4.5 m ext. SW, and NE of this a large rectangular building platform with some stone structure.

26 (24) Aligned N-S on S side of large sheepfold, is a large stony mound of very symmetrical appearance in spite of minor erosion centre west and dip in top profile. Being 35 to 40 m W of morainic ridges and close to the margin of the debris fan, it does not appear to have an alluvial cause nor glacial

origin. The south wall of the fank rises over the end of it and an old wall runs down the top, transferring from W to E side at the dip, and continuing S of road as part of a network of field boundaries pre-dating the fank (see site 27). Also it is rather high to constitute a clearance cairn, given the effort to raise a uniform feature over 2 m high from a wide area. The possibility of a long cairn might be considered, particularly in view of the possible unfinished long cairn in Glen Douchary, Site 61. The Pairc a' Chlaiginn mound is 45 m long, 17 m wide at base, 5 m wide top, but may extend further south under 1 m high, ending in a roadside quarry. There is a near central dip of c 0.5m over about 10 m length coinciding with an indentation of several metres at base on west side. The E slope is consistently 2 in 7, while the west is 2 in 5. It achieves full height within 8 m of N end, and 10 m of S not counting above mentioned quarried tail. NH 196950

27 (24) There is a pattern of old field boundaries under and west of the large fank which appeared in its present form on old 6" plan. In addition to the wall mentioned in Site 26, one occurs 18m E of NW corner of fank, extending from half way down to 74 m N, at which it is offset by building remains, described below, before continuing to the base of the ravine. Another wall runs from 41 m W of SW corner of fank to 48 m from a point 12 m S of NW angle of fank, where it meets edge of present stream gully. The aforementioned buildings are at NH 196952, comprising rect. 10 x 5.3, oval 7 x 5 m at 3 m E, which has an axial drain. The two are linked by a NW return bank from which projects 5 x 4 m foundation. 6 m N 9 x 4 m rect., N-S against the continued boundary wall, and possible 10 x 4 beyond. Below the buildings are several projections from the E side of the old wall, 4 x 5 and 4.3 x 3m., various clearance cairns and other outlines. 16 m below NW corner of fank and 18 m W, on a low rise, 4.3 m d. hut.

28 (27) NH 20059445 Allt Doir' a Ghleannain. Either side of the debris fan a pre-Clearance settlement, including 9.5 x 5.3 on E bank, rounded end to E, 1m side walls, 1.5m end walls. On W bank but higher up, enclosure 12 x 10 m, and W of this rect. foundation 11 x 4 m with 3 m W extension, slightly narrower. Also a rect. 13 x 4 m and huts 4 m d., 4.7 m square; rect. 10 x 4.5m.

29 (24 & 30) NH 202949 around Fank where road crosses Allt Dail a' Bhraid. There appears to be an earlier structure, represented by stony surface, partly overlain by W end of the building shown on maps. Also there are foundations roundabout and enclosures to W indicating either an earlier sheep farming settlement or pre-Clearance. 24 m E of fank, aligned SE to NW and undercut at SE end by present road, foundation at least 17 m x 6 m. 9 m E on N end of triangular enclosure 14 x 5.5 m aligned E-W. 10 m N a 2 x 2.5 m chamber built into a knoll, and a possible foundation above it. At NH 200949 on W bank of stream and enclosure 70 x 30, with subdivision, and incorporating two incomplete foundations. S of road a rounded square enclosure 12 x 12 m within 2 m turf and stone bank, and to E against slope an enclosure 15 m long, 4 m widening to 11 m on E, within 2 m bank.

30 (27) NH 202945 On the east slope of a prominent knoll, westmost in a group of knolls, an area 20 x 20 m defined by 2 to 3 m bank with some very rudimentary subdivisions and terraces within. Working down S side, 4 m E of top bank, a 2 m broad division bank extending 9 m in from exterior; 3.5 m E of this a rectangular outline in SE corner 5 m wide, two rooms. For N side, after only 1.75 m is a 2 m bank for 7 m in from exterior, with possible end wall; 3 m E a possible hut against N side 5 m wide, extending 7 m from exterior, on a terrace. Also a divide W-E from end of first divide on S side, and other features. On another knoll to SE several dug-out/banked pits for shelter or storage.

31 (27) NH 207945 Circular enclosure 10 m d. within 2 m walls on E side of debris fan from a gully (un-named stream)

32 (27) NH 208945 On W side of debris fan from next small gully rect foundation 7 x 3 m and other remains.

33 (25) NH 210945 On W side of Allt Coire Cronaidh 40 m above confluence with River Rhidorroch, and N of a ridge of steep rock which forms natural protection. The site occupies a raised rectangular platform approximately 40 by 40 metres, and appears to represent at least two periods of use. The most recent are three rectangular buildings, one against the rock ridge, the others free standing, several courses high. These are not shown on late 19th c 6" plans or on current 2½" maps, and the site has no name. The main features are shown in Figure 6. The building by the rocks (C on edge of plan) is 6.7 m long overall by 3.3 m on E widening to 4 m and has a possible extension W 2.5 m. End walls 1.5 m, side wall 1 m. The building B is 12.3 by 4 m, 3 rooms, rather thick walls, and is clearly built across early remains. Building C is 21 by 5.5 m with narrower extension E 3 m. Along the south side is a "pavement" which might be the remains of an earlier building and which lines up with a turf and stone field wall running N of A. Also some remains at W end. However the building lies obliquely across a range of foundations which are under a thick cover of grass and moss, but appear to be substantial. To N of site are two sets of enclosure wall and two pits with a drainage channel. The earlier remains suggest there was an important building/group of buildings on the site, possibly a hunting lodge.

34 (27) NH 211944 SE upstream from site 33 within the flood plain of Allt Coire Cronaidh, rect 9 x 5 over 1 m side walls and 2 m end walls. Against the bank a building 5 x 3 m over 0.7 wall, entrance on N, with square structure in SW corner overall 1.3 m and internally 0.75 m square. ? mill & kiln ?

35 (25) NH 21199482 On a horseshoe of morainic ridge, cairns 15-16 m d. 1 to 1.5 m high, 15 m S 8 m d. with large slabs prostrate, 12 m N of first 5 m d.

36 (24) NH 21369494 Within NW angle of modern fence on the margin of a debris fan formed by the waterfall on Allt Dail a' Bhraid, and thus at the head of a valley between the hillside and the moraine. In this sheltered and rather concealed position above the main valley, a complex series of foundations based on a possible dun or broch overlain by a nearly square building, involving partial reconstruction of the broch wall outwards to contain it (Figure 3).

Allt Dail a' Bhraid continued

With reference to Fig 3 A and F appear to represent the original enclosure which was about 8 m d. internally, 20 m d. overall, with walls 6 m thick including spread base but probably closer to 5 m. Feature a' - a" suggests the presence of a mural gallery. At G a small upright stone and a structural edge suggest an entrance. A/F is built out from the slope rising E so that F is low profile while the N side of A is a pronounced bank up to 0.8 m high. This appears to have been contained within a concentric outwork H, of which K may also be part. On the N and NE is a very substantial curved stony bank 7 to 8 m thick (M) on the outer part of which are dry stone structures with divisions but open to N. First impressions suggested a later building but the structure clearly corresponds to the curve and may indicate buttressing. There is a ditch between M and A except for a linking structure at L, and a ditch on N side of M. On the E side of the site M extends E of modern fence where the ground is rising under heather, but some stone structure continues at ground level. On W, M divides into two banks, one shows intermittently above peat to form an elongated enclosure 25 m west with the return crossing & re-crossing present course of stream, and coming in on the S about 5 m outside H. If the basic dun is comparable with a broch this seems to fit the character of a block-house, albeit out geographically.

B on plan is a cairn like stony mound, but it appears to be part of C which is a building foundation with very thick walls built on top of the foundations of the dun wall so that it appears to lie just inside the perimeter, projecting into the courtyard. Within the wall in the SE angle is a structure up to present wall level but the internal area appears to be at least 4.5 by 3 m with an entrance on E. There is also a possible foundation filling the remaining E-W diameter of the courtyard at D. To accommodate B/C the SE and S wall of the dun was replaced with a 4 m thick bank of different profile and appearance which curves from the inside of the dun wall on the E to the outside on S. Between D and E are three small pits which probably indicate robbing of the underlying wall. At J is either a quarry pit with spoil or a hut partly built into dun wall

37 (24) NH 21409495 10 m NE of main part of dun, lying west of fence and partly overlying M in Fig 3, remains of a building partly built into slope on E and on a raised platform on W. The latter is a mound, base 8 x 8 m, part severed by an oblique cut across E end 4 m wide, either a path or erosion, from the east part which is a stony recess 8 m overall width, floor 3 m wide, 3.5 m deep. The construction implies a timber building of the order 15 x 3 m. On the N side is a sunken courtyard or a section of road (?) as it appears as an E-W camber 3.3 m wide with a ditch to N.

38 (24) NH 21449498 close to base of waterfall on W side of Allt Dail a' Bhraid. A shelf built into the slope to accommodate a N-S area 7 x 5 m open on W, formed by 2 m wall on E overlooking stream, and 2.7 m wall on S. 10 m below this a 4 m square foundation with cut off in NW corner, possibly a kiln. (? could this be an early mill ?)

39 (22) NH 213944 Highest of a group of morainic/rocky knolls SW of Cadubh, with very steep W and S slopes. There is the marginal suggestion of a dun on the summit, basically of scoop-out and raise-around-rim character (Figure 4a). The enclosed area is 19 x 8 m with slight slope to N, but evidence for a north side wall, which could be considered crucial as the side of the hill is less steep and less high, is intermittent, with a large gap midway. Otherwise there appears to be an entrance on E, leading to a berm or terrace with a steep edge, a small ditch and outwork bank in an arc, then some outlying projections of the natural knoll NE and SE before it slopes away E. Unfortunately, given the defensive potential of the site the opportunity to utilise it has not been taken up, and what does occur is marginal man-made/natural. The slight outwork on the more vulnerable E approach does suggest some use being made of the site.

40 (25) NH 215945 20 m S of river bank just upstream from Cadubh ravine on a knoll, possible buildings excavated out of N and E slopes or built up on top, with enclosure bank around SW and S. The N side structure is 13 m E-W by 6 m overall, containing three divisions, the central one lower and open to N, while the eastern is less wide. The E end structure is 8 x 7.5 m overall with an E-W divide with two rooms in N part.

41 (22) NH 219943 Possible cairn 7.5 m d. containing exposed "chamber" 1.8 x 1 m off centre NW and possible natural outcrop running through SE-NW (Figure 5c)

42 (22) NH 219943 Pear-shaped mound 9 m NE of Site 41, containing two long passages or trenches opening to sides 19 m by up to 14 m, Figure 5b. This may be compared with the single trench long mound in the cairn group at Glen Douchary, Site 61 also Figure 5a. Also on this site: 14 m W of Site 41 mound 11 m d. and 8 m NNE of this (9 m W of the pear-shaped mound) cairn 8 m d.

43 (28) NH 216946 E of Cadubh where two branches of a stream meet road, pre-Clearance steading. On E bank 8 x 4.5 m aligned N-S with poss extension N. On interfluvial 12 x 4 m aligned N-S with SE angle eroded by stream, 5 m square hut, 6 x 3.5 m end on to bank of W stream and another 5 m square hut. On 6" map stream called Allt na Clu.

44 (28) NH 219946 Allt Creagan Ghiubhas, on E bank S of road on a knoll 14 by 6 m oval 1.3 m walls, 2 rooms. On W bank 5 m square hut. To east on N side of road, at NH 222946 trapezoidal enclosure, incomplete, lying across road 18 m wide, and at NH 223945 an enclosure 20 by 9 m over 2 m walls, rounded E end and 5m E a 5 m square hut.

45 (22) NH 222942 W end of morainic ridge, cairn, oval, 7.7 by up to 5 m within which is a rectangular stony structure 5 x 1.9 m. At E end is a small upright stone 20 cm at base widening to 24 cm at top, 64 cm high, 8 cm thick, off centre to S. An oblique block lies on S side of cairn. 23 m W a squarish oval mound 9 x 9 m.

46 (28) NH 229942 mound, possibly natural, encroached by peat cuttings, lies 54 m SW of road 45 m NW of stream E of Clach Mhor, 14 m d. 1.75 m high, approx 3 m d. top.

47 (30) NH 222942 turf and stone built enclosure near base of terrace, ground within c 0.25 m higher, 25 x 17 m end walls 2 m, high stony bank on S at base of slope, 3 m wall on N. There is a very low cambered divide 5 m wide, 5.5 m from S side, associated with a slight rise in level S also a slight raise at E end. SW enclosing a recess in the front of the terrace above, 18 m wide, 5 m deep, a 1.3 m bank. 27 m S is a sub-rectangular pond or compound cut out of terrace such that there is a restricted opening W, at present containing shallow pond. On residue of ridge traces of 4 m square hut and 20 m E by modern fence 8 x 4 m oval hut. The terrace has previously been under heather cleared (probably by burning) for grazing, the area S being under heather, which may conceal other foundations. N of these features, on S side of esker, built into slope 8 x 3.5 m foundation. SE of end of esker NH 223943 an enclosure 10 x 11 m within 2 m bank.

48 (22) NH 223942 Situated E of site 47 on the terrace, which has similarly been cleared, 7 x 5.5 m rectangle over 1.5m wall, SW angle overlapping incomplete circle 7.5 m d. over similar wall, trace 5 m square at 13 m E, and oval 3 x 2.3 m within 1.5 m wall, but part into slope.

49 (28) NH 234935 Around the debris fan of an un-named stream SW of East Rhidorroch Lodge and on the river terraces, faint evidence of pre-Clearance settlement, subject to later disturbance. An arc of head wall 4 m broad can be seen near top of fan on E bank, coming down hill 18 m E of a dry gully, with a cross wall 20 m down. W side of dry gully also shows a N-S bank. Lower down and end on to active gully, 8 x 4 m, below which, on edge of a hollow 6 x 3 m, and between hollow and stream 5.3 x 2.75 m oval, and faint 6 x 2 m. On W bank 3 m square hut. On river terraces on E bank and NW from W bank are possible cultivation ridges of varying width, NNE to SSW.

50 (28) NH 239932 Allt Pollain Riabhaich On W bank an enclosure 35 x 18 m with 1 m turf and stone bank, 23 m above confluence. Some huts, incomplete due W. On a knoll on E bank, near gate, 6 x 5.5 m hut, 1 m wall.

51 East Rhidorroch Lodge NH 236935 The present building dates from 1926 and replaces an earlier wooden lodge adjoining the farm buildings 30 m NE, on which a bungalow now stands. The buildings lie near the centre of the Rhidorroch River floodplain, and are on a raised platform contained in a levee most apparent on the N. In the plantation on SE are some curved and straight edges to more elevated ground which are probably higher levels of infrequent flood, but there is one possible building foundation SSE of the farm. The restriction of the river to about 60 m here is probably a major factor in erosion downstream, although this was probably not a serious concern when the lodge was purely for hunting; bank reinforcement is now required to protect pasture downstream. There seems to have been the intention to create a moat on three sides using the river, but on the upstream side the extremity of the meander has been abandoned, and on the downstream it has been filled in (old

bank reinforcement walls can be seen along the abandoned channel at NH 234936). The date of construction of this artificial platform may only be early 19th century, particularly in view of the pre-Clearance settlement nearby, Site 49. However there is supposed to have been a lodge here mid-18th century, it being one of the properties fired in a Government forces raid in 1745, according to local information (the main target was Langwell Lodge in Strathkanaird. See Site 52 following.

52 (28) NH 23569344 There appears to have been a building underlying the present boundary wall and oblique to it (the boundary being as shown on late 19th c 6" plan). It potentially measures 16 x 12 m, but adaptation in the 1920s as a rockery including trees, which forms a centrepiece in front of the present lodge, makes assessment difficult. It includes an area on S side 7 x 6 m bounded by a deep groove or drainage channel, 0.6 m wide, and W of this a 3 x 1 m trench, which has a concrete floor, and shows concrete underlying the adjacent rockery. It might have been a store or other subsidiary building, possibly with a timber super-structure, therefore contemporary with the pre-1920 lodge, but destroyed late 19th century when the present enclosure was built.

53 (29) NH 237932 on a knoll, square, part sunken part walled, 1.3 x 1 m within, and a 3 m square structure to E.

54 (28) NH 240932 An artificial island forward of a river terrace, with ditch round W and S, shallower ditches N and E associated with slightly lower terrace. The island is rectangular, base 35 x 20 m but reduced to 14 m near E end by local indentation, and appearing less high due to change in terrace levels. Top width 12.5 m. In SW angle 7 m d. hut over 1 m wall, then 6 x 4 m oval with a hearth 2 m across to N, then centrally 5 x 3 m oval, then two N-S walls 3 m broad 3 m apart.

55 (29) NH 242932 4 x 2 m cairn, some walling, etc

56 (29) NH 234915 Allt an Luchda, shieling settlement on N bank, above bend northwards - 5.5 x 4 m oval, 4.5 x 3 m, 5 m d. 8 x 4 m oval and 20 m N on a lower terrace a rectangle 9 x 3.7 m with three rooms and oval 5 x 3.5 m. About 50 m NE is a more substantial rectangle 8 x 3 m to 4 courses, which was shown on old 6" plan.

57 (29) NH 244900 Douchary sheepfolds and buildings. The south-west group is arranged round a part sunken circular enclosure against the east bank of Allt Siolar about 50 m diameter. The extant SW building lies within the circle while a hut built into a knoll, shown on old 6" plan lies just outside, as does another building SE. There is a concentric arc of bank at 10 m on S and E, and some rectilinear structures SE of this at the mouth of the gully. The SW building was originally 20 x 4.5 m, with the W part rebuilt. 4 m N of SE building on edge of enclosure foundation 10 x 5m .

58 (21) NH 256930 On a promontory NW of confluence of River Douchary with River Rhidorroch at Eas an t Sinidh. The hillside drops steeply about 10 m to the promontory which is between the present waterfall and its predecessor by a different route, and provides a very dramatic vantage point within the ravine. Initially the promontory is 30 m wide and extends level for 30 m NNW to a mound about 2 m high, bracken covered, occupying all but 4 m of the width. On top of this is a structure formed by two curving banks, overall 14 m across. 11.5 m NW of the mound is a raised platform over 20 m long by 14 m, almost the full width of the promontory at this point, with traces of walling, especially on W side, but the area is birch covered and there are many old tree stumps which prevent assessment. It suggests the base for a large wooden building. Beyond this the promontory rises 3 m over 14 m to continue as a sinuous narrow ridge.

59 (21) NH 258931 Spur between Allt a' Mheirlich and Allt nan Caorach, a hogsback ridge with two natural gullies across like defensive ditches. Between these on the S side is a shelf 6 m wide within a 5 m bank, with a platform against the bank midway.

60 (21) NH 259930 Between River Douchary and Allt nan Caorach at edge of ravine, terrace 20 m long, 5 m wide, losing 1 m height ENE, on which is a rectangle 7 x 3.3 m, within 1 m of edge and 3 m from lower end.

61 (21) NH 257921 On a terrace on W bank of River Douchary, near an island, a mixture of shielings and cairns. The cairns include a possibly unfinished long cairn (Figure 5 a) and two round cairns with some other puzzling structures. The major feature is 43 m long and up to 12 m wide, and comprises an oval mound at the south end, from which two ridges project, that on W after a 2 m gap, side-by-side forming a trench 2 m wide and 30 m long. The ridges are uniformly about 5 m wide, but the E bank becomes low and intermittent after 20 m, the pair taper at the N end to 7 m overall width. There is a ditch over 4 m wide on E and for half the length on W, where shielings and related structures including walling and a hut overly. About midway along the trench there is an infill of stones. There are shielings on the terrace edge N and S, and another on NW. The most obvious, E of the oval mound, is 8 x 3.3 m, several courses high. At 18 m S, 26 m W of edge of terrace, a cairn 8.7 m d. with possible cist orientated E-W, 3.3 by 2.9 overall, 1.3 by 0.7 m internally. This is contained in an enclosure partly of large stones, forming limit of cairn. 2 m N and against slope a terrace with several shieling structures composite 12 x 4 m. SE of cairn and 9 m from edge of terrace a 5 m d. mound with projections S and SE, 3 and 4 m long, 1 and 2 m wide and another projection N. On SW oval hut 4.5 x 3 m. At 31 m S a rectangular mound 11.5 by 5 m, 2 m from foot of terrace backslope; other remains uphill to W. 15 m N of these is a bulge in the upper terrace slope with central drain, and near this semi-circle d = 8.5 m with central pile of stones.

62 (29) NH 247928 A green area 25 m across near a promontory in the Rhidorroch River ravine on which there is a scooped hollow 8 by 2.5 floor. Within 7 m S of green area faint rect. foundation 5 by 6 m aligned E-W and on SW a stone revetted terrace 5.5 x 3.5 against a knoll.

63. (21) NH 261933 SE side of ridge, 6.5 m below summit, on a terrace, circular enclosure extending from rear of terrace onto slope in front 18 m d. containing sub-structures including a later shieling 6 m d on NW edge, also 8 m square foundation 2 m E of shieling and on S edge a rectangle 10 x 4.5 m and link walling within circle. Possibly counts as a hut circle.

Summary Index of Main Sites

5	NH 154955	Possible hut circle
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19	NH 160949	huts within an enclosure
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29	NH 202949	pre-Clearance settlement ?
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61	NH 257921	long cairn ? and round cairns &c.
63	NH 261933	circular enclosure with sub-structures

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