

ARCHAEOLOGY
ARDNAMURCHAN

**Monument
Recording
Form**

Location

Post Maggie Croft,
Portuairk

Monument No

440680.02

Record Date

08.11.13

Surveyor

Jon Haylett

Monument Type

Settlement

What it's made of

Stone, turfs

Monument Condition

(circle one)

V Good

Good

Good/Fair

Fair/Poor

Poor

Dimensions in Metres

Length

Width

Height

Diameter

Photograph Numbers

Grid reference

NGR

Easting

Northing

Accuracy (m):

(local NGR is NM)

NM

44095

68046

3m

Detailed description, further notes, observations – *continued on next page*

A shieling hut or more permanent hut structure, one of three in a row tucked against a steep bank on the east side of the burn. It has well-constructed circular walls with turfs banked against them and a 1m-wide entrance facing the burn. The walls stand to about 0.5m high. The floor is formed of flat slabs very neatly laid.

Present land use

Rough grazing

Past land use

Rough grazing

Present vegetation cover

grass

Nearby monuments or associated features

Topography

On slope of burn's valley

Nearby, associated or incorporated natural features

Date

Don't Know / Prehistoric /
Early Historic / Medieval
Post Medieval / **Post-
Clearance**
19th century / 20th century

Reason for interpretation

See below

**Confidence
in date:**

5 high
4
3
2
1 low

Continuation sheet....

Reason for interpretation: The structure could be a shieling hut from the days when Portuairk was part of Achosnich clachan lands, or it could date from ~1843 when the first people were forcibly moved from Swordle to Portuairk, and had to build shelters quickly while they built more permanent habitations.

Excavation 09.11.13: The floor of the hut was partly excavated 440680.02_b, removing material that had been left from its use as an incinerator. Amongst objects found were broken ?wine-bottle glass, a bucket 440680.02_c, two pieces of a leather shoe, a spike driven into the ground at the back of the hut, what may have been the stones of a hearth 440680.02_d, and a china egg tucked into the wall 440680.02_e.

Excavation 16.11.13: The floor of the hut was further excavated. The main finds included a length of steel which may have been part of a fence post or the leg of a ?table, and some cloth, pushed between two stones, which enclosed three buttons 440680.02_g. The buttons are marked RNYC, which research ascertained was the Royal Northern Yacht Club.