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An Archaeological Field Survey  
of the Settlement at  
Unimore, Morvern, Argyll

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The settlement at Unimore, Morvern (NM 656519), with its well-preserved remains and rare contemporary documentation of the clearances is a site of regional, if not national, importance. It was planted throughout, even within buildings, by the Forestry Commission in the 1930's. The present survey was commissioned by Forest Enterprise, to identify and record the archaeological features as an aid to their protection during harvesting, due to commence in Nov/Dec 1993.

Unimore is situated on moderately sloping ground below the extremely steep and now severely-eroded slope of Aoineadh Mor, facing northeastward towards Loch Doire nam Mart / Durinemast. The settlement consists of at least 22 houses and outbuildings, four substantial kailiyards as well as smaller enclosures, seven corn-drying kilns and the possible site of a mill, all enclosed within a head-dyke, No. 1. The buildings are arranged in groups of two or three, along both sides of a burn, Allt an Aoinidh Mhoir.

On the E side of the settlement, within a roughly rectangular area enclosed by the head-dyke, No. 1, and a partition wall, No. 15, a succession of natural breaks in slope form a series of level terraces, presumably used for cultivation. These have been accentuated, particularly at the S end, by the placing of clearance cairns (ie. stones gathered in field clearance), Nos. 17a-n, along the edges.

Further evidence of field clearance to the W of No. 15, in the form of cairns, Nos. 2a and b, 12a-d, and a linear scatter of stones incorporating two large cairns, No. 13, as well as traces of rig and furrow, indicate former agricultural activity in this area also.

On the W side of the settlement, a series of parallel, roughly equidistant walls, Nos. 52, 55, 58 and 59, runs southeastwards from the head-dyke across the relatively level ground above the steep slope, which defines the NW side of the settlement. These enclose at least three fields of similar size, suggesting their use in a run-rig system of agriculture.

Apart from distinctive structures, such as winnowing barns, recognisable by their exposed locations and their opposed doors, which open into prevailing winds, the positive identification of the function of buildings, without excavation, can be difficult.

Most of the rectangular structures at Unimore may be presumed to be houses, probably the combined byre/dwellings typical of Argyllshire (Nos. 6, 7, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 31, 32, 36, 42, 43 and 51)<sup>2</sup>. All of these, except No. 42, have a roughly E-W orientation, presenting a solid end wall to the prevailing Westerly winds. In all these cases the doorways open towards the stream. The buildings measure mostly between 9m and 11m long and between 4.5m and 5.50m wide but some smaller examples, such as No. 19 and No. 51 could still be houses, possibly without the byre element.

Other smaller structures may have been outbuildings, notably two examples, Nos. 37 and 44, which have entrances opening away from the stream and towards the doorways of adjacent houses, Nos. 36 and 43 respectively. The absence here of the diagnostic features of winnowing barns may not entirely preclude their use as barns. Only one structure at Unimore is tentatively identified as a winnowing barn (No. 39 see below) and there must have been more barns in a settlement of this size. On a well-documented site elsewhere in Argyll, a barn and bothy were associated with each dwelling.<sup>3</sup>

The later phase of No. 5, in which a squarish structure, 4.80m x 4.50m, was built on top of rectangular foundations, 6.90m x 4.50m, may represent the conversion of a ?house into a store or barn associated with the adjacent houses, Nos. 6 and 7. The function of a small doorless compartment attached to its NW end is unclear.

The clearest evidence of a winnowing barn is No. 39. Its elevated position at the eastern projecting end of a kailyard, No. 40, is appropriate and a straight-edged gap in the W wall is almost (though not quite) opposite a definite door in the E wall.

Some houses have small level areas partly enclosed by low walls (Nos. 6, 24 and 25) while stone has been cleared from a level area in front of houses Nos. 31 and 32 and piled up into a cairn No. 34. All these areas may have been small killyards or stackyards associated with the houses.

The function of some smaller buildings and enclosures is less clear. The small squarish structure, No. 23, presumably provided storage for the adjacent kiln, No. 22. No. 35 (7.20m X 4.35m) might be an example of the smaller houses but its position directly on the river bank, parallel to a former course of the stream suggests that it is associated with milling activity, though there is no trace of a leat, wheel pit or suitable pond in the present stream.

Clearer evidence of milling is represented by the rectangular pit, No. 48, dug into the bank and opening onto the stream. Fragments of a leat can be traced from the pit towards a bend in the river further upstream. It is possible that this pit corresponds to the lower chamber of a horizontal mill, originally furnished with a wooden superstructure, of which no trace now survives. The enclosure, No. 50, which extends behind the pit was presumably associated.

It is most likely that none of the extant buildings relates to the earliest occupation of the site, which dates from at least 1674<sup>4</sup>. The earliest dwellings were probably constructed of perishable materials such as the "wickerwork between oak beams, completely covered with heather and turf outside and lined with wood within", occupied at Acharn in the 18th Century.<sup>5</sup>

Tenant houses in the West Highlands were not generally constructed of stone until after c.1750<sup>6</sup> and early examples were usually rudimentary. Even by 1820 the peasant houses of Morvern were described as "most primitive... They were built of loose stones and clay; the walls were thick, the door low, the rooms numbered one only, or in more aristocratic cases two. The floor was clay; the peat-fire was built in the middle of the floor, and the smoke, when amiable and not bullied by a sulky wind, escaped quietly and patiently through a hole in the roof. The window was

like a porthole, part of it generally filled with glass and part with peat."<sup>7</sup> Most of the houses at Unimore fit this description.

All the houses and outbuildings are constructed of dry-stone masonry, mostly a mixture of the basalt and granite available locally. All have rounded corners, some seemingly hammer-dressed to produce the rounded outline. All have thick walls, with a gentle, though sometimes more pronounced (eg. Nos. 6 and 7), batter. Several have been terraced into the slope, often with a basal course of massive boulders building up the front, downslope, wall. This boulder plinth projects beyond the front wall in some cases, notably No. 7.

The roofs of probably all the houses were supported by a wooden cruck-frame, partially built into the wall. Some recesses, or cruck-slots, in which the cruck-couples rested, survive in most of the buildings, starting from a height of c. 0.50m above the present floor level. Where cruck slots are not visible, it is usually because the wall has been reduced to below 0.50m in height, or because it has collapsed around the slot, presumably a weak point in the wall.

However enough slots survive in Nos. 6 and 20 to suggest that these were originally 5-bay houses divided by four pairs of cruck-couples, and this may have been the norm in houses of comparable length. The position of the single slot in the outhouse, No. 5 suggests that it comprised 3 bays divided by 2 cruck-couples.

Only a few end-slots survive (Nos. 24 and 32). However the internal collapse of most of the end walls is presumably a result of the weakening effect of end-slots, suggesting that all the buildings had the hip-roofs typical of North Argyll.<sup>8</sup> It is noticeable that usually the best preserved parts of each building are the elements between the slots, principally the round-ended corners. In a few cases these corners survive to the original wall-head level, eg. Nos. 25 and 42, the latter reaching a massive 2.30m in height.

Two types of kiln occur at Unimore. Six are of the most common open bowl type, which consists of a conical stone revetted pit, partly or wholly dug into the hillslope or river bank. Small stone rubble has often been added around the opening, forming a level platform. A flue, originally lintelled, reaches the base of the pit. These kilns are found in varying degrees of preservation, the best preserved being Nos. 33 and 38 and the least being No. 8, which is identifiable only by the short arc of revetment stones indicating the position of the bowl.

The seventh kiln, No. 9, is not dug into the slope but built into a free-standing stone structure. Its straight E wall and rounded corners of its western wall produce a D-shaped plan, similar to another kiln recorded in Argyll, at Dounie, Mid-Argyll. <sup>9</sup>

The dearth of distinctive features, which hampers the identification of function, as well as the conservatism in building traditions prevalent among rural peasantry, make it difficult to determine the absolute date of any particular structure. However, some fixed points help to build a chronological framework. Thus the suggested date of c. 1750 for the earliest tenants' houses, built of stone (see above) and the known date of c. 1841 for the final clearance of Unimore <sup>10</sup> provide the range, within which the extant remains belong. Within this framework a relative chronology can be established.

Some features have been recorded, which indicate a relatively late date. Notable examples are the splayed window embrasures, found at No. 7 and 24, which contrast with the earlier "porthole" type of windows, described above. <sup>7</sup> Similarly, stone partitions, recorded at Nos. 25 and 31, are a relatively late development, contrasting with earlier partitions of wood, if they existed at all. The drill mark in the NW corner of No. 24, indicating a method of stone quarrying, not in general use until c. 1810, also gives some indication of date.

The degree of preservation may also reflect age, though this is not always a reliable indicator. Structures of different composition may degrade at different rates, while a completely reduced building may have been deliberately demolished and removed. However, as most of the buildings seem to have been constructed in a similar manner, preservation may be taken into account.

Therefore, it is possible to divide some of the remains into chronological groups. The group of ruinous and moss-covered houses, Nos. 18, 19 and 20 and possibly the demolished structure, No. 21, may represent the earliest phase of extant remains. These may have been associated with the kiln, No. 22 and small enclosure, No. 23.

The relatively late distinguishing features, noted above, indicate two groups of relatively late date: the two adjacent houses, Nos. 24 and 25, with associated kiln, No. 26, and the house, No. 7, probably associated with the adjacent houses, Nos. 5 and 6 and the kiln, No. 8. This ruinous kiln may have been superseded by the D-plan kiln, No. 9, which itself represents a late phase on the same site, possibly associated with the demolished structure, No. 10.

N of the stream, relative dating is restricted to adjacent buildings. Thus the long two-compartment house, No. 31, with its different construction, possibly squared corners and stone partition, seems a later addition to, if not replacement of, the adjacent house, No. 32. The ruinous, moss-covered condition of buildings, Nos. 43 and 44, give an air of antiquity, similar to the early group, Nos. 18 - 20, in contrast to the adjacent house, No. 42, but this may have been exaggerated by the effect of fallen trees.



## DESCRIPTION OF SITES

Abbreviations: L = Length; W = Width; Diam. = Diameter;  
ext. = external; int. = internal; max. = maximum

### No. 1. Head-Dyke

Wall, which surrounds Unimore settlement, enclosing an area of ca. 16 hectares. It consists of roughly coursed masonry of irregular stones and boulders, with a boulder facing on the outer edge in places. It survives to a maximum height of 0.90m comprising 3 or 4 courses of masonry, but is mostly reduced to a height of ca. 0.50-0.60m. For most of its length, erosion has led to a build-up of soil on the outer side, particularly to the N of the settlement where it traverses a steep slope.

There is at least one gate, marked on its W side by a large transversely-set boulder, opening through the S wall, 51m E of a tributary which feeds Allt an Aoinidh Mhoir. There are other breaches, some of which may have been made in the forestry period to facilitate drainage, eg. at drain, No. 3.

At the E end, the S wall curves round to the N and follows the course of a stream, but traces of a wall continuing eastwards may mark an earlier phase.

Dimensions: W of wall 1.20-1.50. H 0.90m max.

### Nos. 2a and b. Clearance cairns

Pair of well-defined oval cairns consisting of boulders and small rubble, presumably the result of field clearance.

Dimensions: Diam. 2-3m H 0.30-0.50m



### No. 3. Drain

Drain, flowing northwards from a breach in the head-dyke, No. 1. It may have resulted from natural wash from the breach, but the latter was possibly deliberately made to drain the wet area above the wall and the vertically cut sides in places look man-made. The ditch may have been dug to facilitate drainage, possibly during forestry operations.

Dimensions: L 150m; W of ditch 0.60m - 0.70m; Depth 0.40m.

### No. 4. Platform

Trapezoidal area cut into the slope on the SW side and built up from below on the NE side to produce a level platform. It is defined by a low earthen bank on the SE side and by the stream, Allt an Aionidh Mhor, on the NW.

Dimensions: L of SE side 13m; of SW side 12m; of NE side 7m  
W of bank 1m H 0.50 max.

### No. 5. ?Outbuilding

Round-angled squarish structure of dry-stone coursed masonry. The S wall is the best preserved, surviving to a height of 1.35m, comprising six courses of masonry, compared to three courses in the N and E walls. The roof was probably supported by two pairs of cruck-couples. A single cruck-slot, 0.20m wide, survives in the S wall, 1.20m from the E end. A second slot was also situated further W in a now damaged part of the wall. A straight vertical edge in the interior of the E wall may mark one side of an end-slot, the remainder of which has collapsed. The entrance 0.75m wide is situated in the N wall, 3.50m from the E end.

This structure is built on the foundation of an earlier building, traces of which survive to the W; the basal course of the S wall continues for a further 2.10m beyond the SW rounded corner. The southern part of this earlier element has been completely demolished and stones were

presumably removed for use in the later phase but the northern part may have been retained. Up to three courses of masonry survive in this NW doorless compartment.

Dimensions: (Phase II) L 4.80m x W 4.50m ext.

W of wall 0.50-0.60m NW compartment 1.65 x 1.30m int.

H 1.35m max.

Total L 6.90m

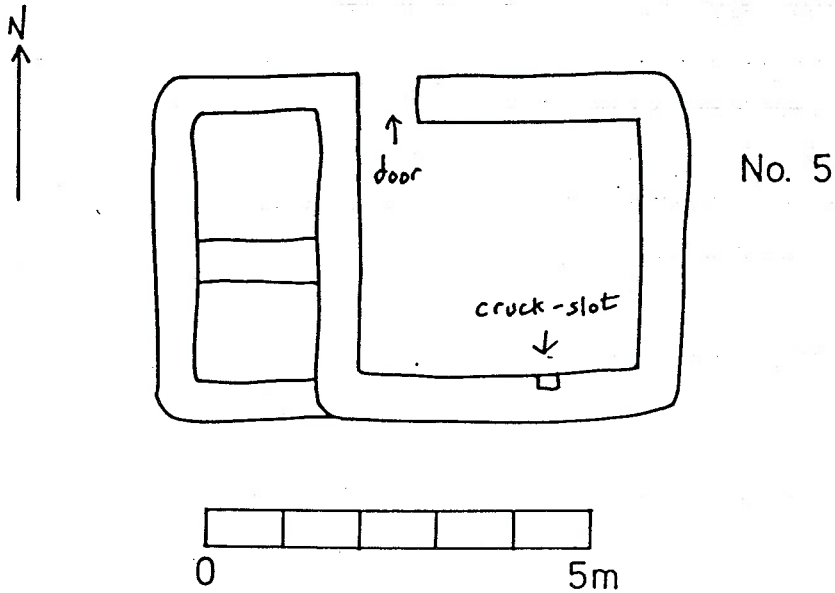


Photo 1



No. 6 House and yard

sound-angled rectangular building of dry stone coursed masonry. The massive walls of large blocks have a pronounced batter, tapering from 1.20m wide at the base to  $\approx$  0.80m near the top. The NE corner is the best preserved, surviving to a height of 1.82m, possibly wall-head level. The building probably comprised a beehive house divided by 4 rock-sockets.

Three rock-sockets survive in the S wall, all  $\approx$  0.50m above present floor level.

- a) 0.20m wide, 1.05m from E end.
- b) 0.30m wide, 5.50m from E end.
- c) 0.20m wide, 7.40m from E end.

A fourth slot was probably situated  $\approx$  3.70m from the E end in a now damaged part of the wall.

An entrance, 1m wide, opens through the N wall, 4.70m from the E end.

A low wall consisting of a single course of stones curves southwards and eastwards from the SW corner to define a yard 10m long.



Dimensions: L 10.20m x W 5m W of wall 0.80-1.30m  
H 1.82m max.

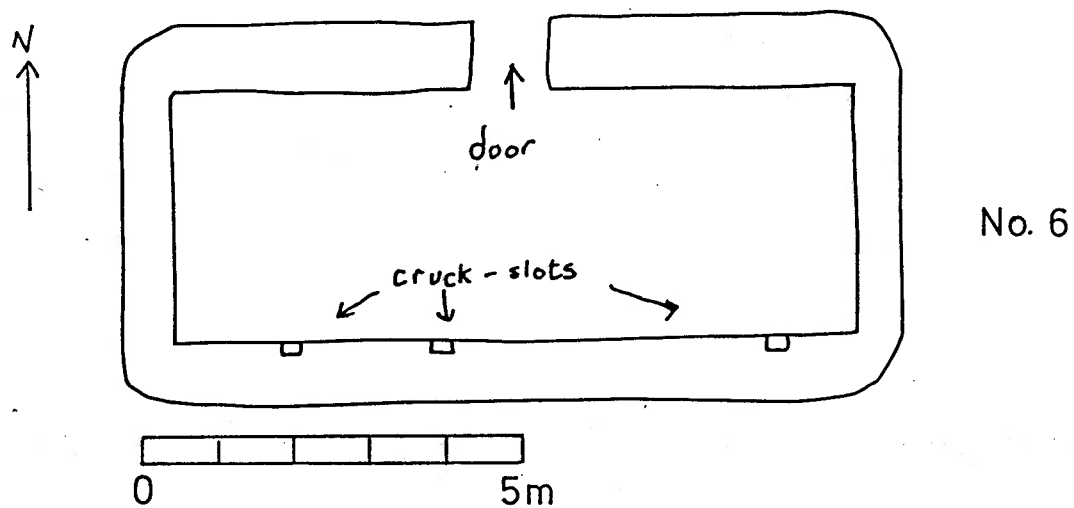
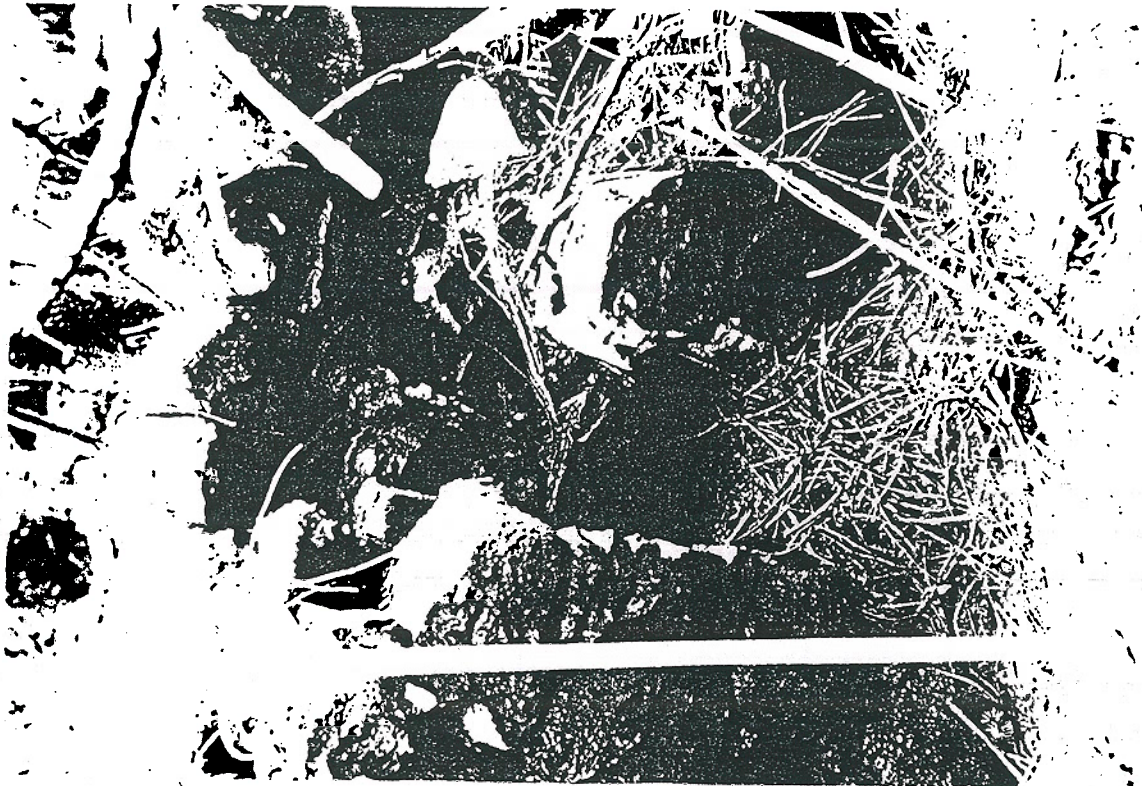


Photo 4



Photo 5



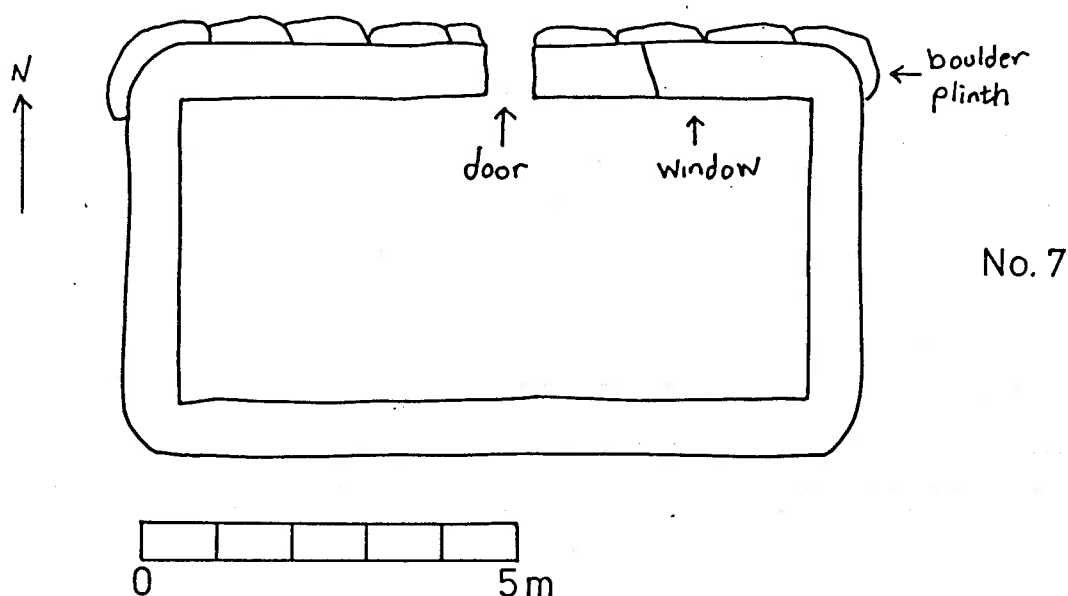
No. 7. House

Round-angled rectangular building of dry-stone coursed masonry. The massive walls of large blocks have a pronounced batter, tapering from 1.15m wide at the base to 0.70m wide at the top. Huge basal boulders on the N side project 0.20-0.30m beyond the wall. The N wall is the best preserved surviving to heights of 1.70m at the NW corner and 1.85m on the E side of the door. Fallen trees lying on top of the S and W walls have obliterated any trace of cruck slots.

A straight, slightly splayed edge in the N wall, 3.75m from the E end may mark the W side of a splayed window embrasure, the remainder of which has collapsed. The entrance opens in the N wall, 5.40m from the E end.

The level platform, on which the house stands, is built up from below and projects 3m beyond the front, N, side of the house. This terrace continues towards the kiln, No. 8

Dimensions: L 9.65m x 5.40m ext. W of wall 0.70m-1.15m  
H 1.85m max.



#### No. 8. Corn-drying kiln

Corn-drying kiln of open bowl type, partly cut into the hillslope. Now in a ruinous condition, it is distinguishable as a kiln, rather than other types of structure, by an arc of revetment in the E sector of the kiln bowl and by the flue, now a 0.80 wide gap. Small rubble, which was built around the bowl incorporating a huge natural boulder to provide a working platform, also survives, particularly in the E sector.

The kiln is approached by the terrace which projects in front of the N side of house No. 7.

Dimensions: Diam. of working platform 5.05m  
Diam. of kiln-bowl indeterminate.  
E edge of bowl 1.30m from E edge  
Depth ca. 0.40-0.50m.



No. 9. Corn-drying kiln

Corn-drying kiln, which is the only example at Unimore not dug into the slope but set within a separate building. The great amount of fallen rubble masks structural detail and its removal would greatly aid interpretation.

The straight E wall and rounded corners of the W end produce a D-shaped plan. The now rubble-filled kiln bowl is set approximately centrally within a working platform at the W end. Only the uppermost part of the circular revetment is now visible amidst the rubble, but presumably the bowl tapers towards the base. The lintelled flue, which is at least 1.70m long, opens into a chamber, 1.15m wide, entered by a 0.85m wide door at the E end of the N wall. The outer wall projects above the platform on the N side and this area may originally have been enclosed on three sides.

The kiln was built on the foundations of an earlier building, the basal course of which projects beyond the E end.

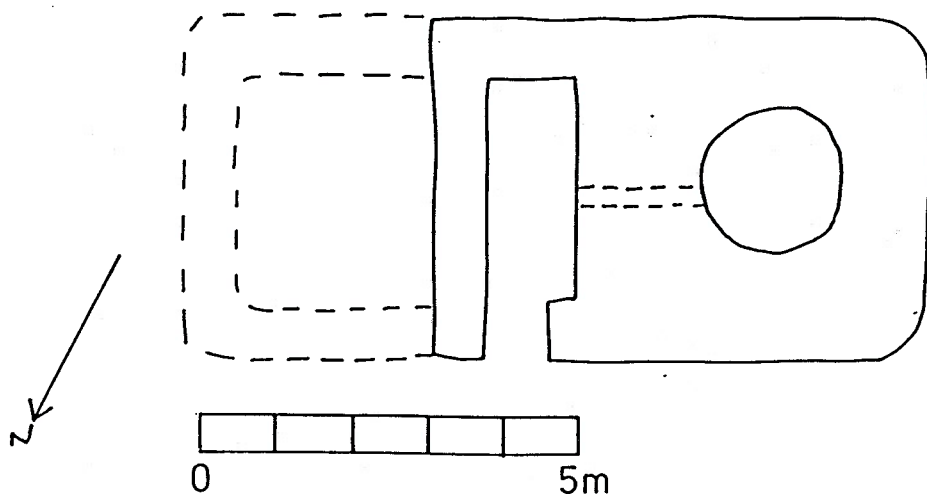
Dimensions: L of kiln 6.40m X W 4.50m ext. W of wall 0.80m H 1.40m max.

Diam of kiln bowl 1.80m at top

Depth of bowl indeterminate

L of earlier compartment 3.40m X W 4.50m

Total L 9.80m



No. 9



No. 10. Structure

Basal course of a small rectangular building, possibly associated with the earlier phase of the adjacent kiln, No. 9. The absence of rubble suggests that the structure was deliberately demolished and stones removed for use elsewhere, possibly in the construction of the kiln.

Dimensions: L 5.25m x W 3.55m ext. W of wall c. 0.50m  
H 0.35m max.

No. 11. Kailyard.

Large enclosure, terraced into the slope and built up from below on the NE side to produce a level interior. It is defined by a coursed wall of rounded boulders on the NW, SW and SE sides. The wall is most prominent at the SW curving end, four courses of which survive to a height of 0.90m. Towards the NE downslope end, the SE side of the enclosure is gradually built up from below and the wall is marked by a foundation course of boulders. The NE end is defined by a sharp break in slope, revetted with stone to a height of 0.80m. The N corner is being eroded by the river. A hummocky bank projecting northwestwards towards the stream from the W corner may represent an earlier phase of the wall, later truncated by the rounded western corner.

Dimensions: Area of enclosure L 27.20m x W 18.70m  
W of wall at SW end 1.40m H 0.90m max.

No. 12a-d. Clearance cairns

Cluster of four well-defined oval cairns consisting of boulders and small rubble, presumably the result of field clearance.

Dimensions: Diam. 2-3m H 0.30-0.50m

No. 13. ?Clearance cairn

Linear arrangement of stone rubble, probably resulting from field clearance. It spreads northwards from the head-dyke, No. 1, and incorporates two large cairns of small rubble.

Dimensions: L 32m X 1 - 2m  
W of cairns 4-4.40m  
H of N cairn 1.40m max.

No. 14. Enclosure

Rectangular enclosure, abutting W side of wall, No. 15. Presumably it is an enclosure associated with adjacent agricultural activity; it seems too wide to be a roofed building. The interior is sloping, though the enclosure is built up slightly from below at the N end. It consists of coursed masonry of irregular boulders. No entrance is discernible.

Dimensions: L 11.50m x W 5.90m ext. W of wall 0.80m  
H 0.90m max.

No. 15. Partition wall

Wall enclosing an area of ca. 2 hectares within the SE corner of the head-dyke, No. 1. The western element is the best preserved, consisting of roughly coursed rubble. The northern element is severely eroded, though traceable for all of its length.

Dimensions: W of wall ca. 1m H 0.70m max.

No. 16. ?Clearance cairn

Sub-rectangular cairn of stones including large boulders and small rubble, probably resulting from field clearance, though it is possibly a wrecked building.

Dimensions: L 12m x 3.5m H 0.50m

No. 17a-n. Clearance cairns

14 small cairns consisting of boulders and small rubble, occasionally built atop massive natural boulders. The circular or oval cairns are the result of field clearance and are sited on the edges of irregularly-shaped terraces, defined by natural breaks in slope.

Dimensions: Diam 2-3m H 0.30-0.50m

No. 18. Structure

Round-angled rectangular, almost oval, structure, set on level ground within a natural bowl. The moss-covered wall consists of rubble which has been roughly piled up, occasionally on large basal boulders, rather than coursed masonry. The corners are rounded internally as well as externally. There are no gaps in the wall to indicate an entrance, or any internal features.

Dimensions: L 6m x W 3.70m ext. W of wall 0.80-0.90m  
H. 0.70m max.

Photo 14





No. 19. ?House

Round-angled rectangular building terraced into the slope. It consists of dry-stone coursed masonry now ruinous with a thick cover of moss. The S wall is the best preserved, surviving to a height of 0.80m. The N wall is reduced to a height of 0.30m.

The entrance probably opened through a gap in the N wall, though no definite door edge survives.

The building is terraced into the slope.

Dimensions: L 7.90m x W 4.75m ext. W of wall 0.65m

H 0.80m max.



No.20. House

Round-angled rectangular building, terraced into the slope. It consists of dry-stone masonry, now ruinous with a thick cover of moss. The S wall is the best preserved, surviving to a height of 1.30m, while the N wall is reduced to a height of 0.35m. The building probably comprised a 5-bay house, divided by 4 cruck-couples. Three cruck-slots survive in the S wall, all 0.50m above the present floor level.

- a) 0.20m wide, 0.80m from W end
- b) 0.15m wide, 2.90m from W end
- c) 0.10m wide, 4.90m from W end

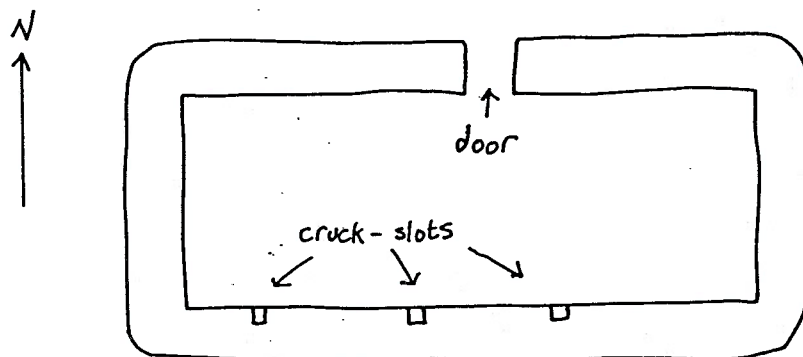
A fourth slot was probably situated ca. 6.90m from the W end in a now damaged part of the wall.

An entrance, 0.65m wide opens into the N wall, 3.80m, from the E end.

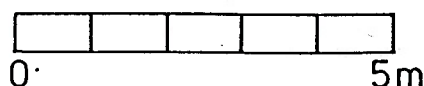
The level platform, on which the house stands, is built up from below to a height of 0.80m and projects 2.90m beyond the front, N, side of the house. A second terrace, possibly an earlier building platform is situated to the N at a distance of 7m.

Dimensions: L 8.90m x W 4.70m ext. W of wall 0.70m

H 1.30m max.



No. 20

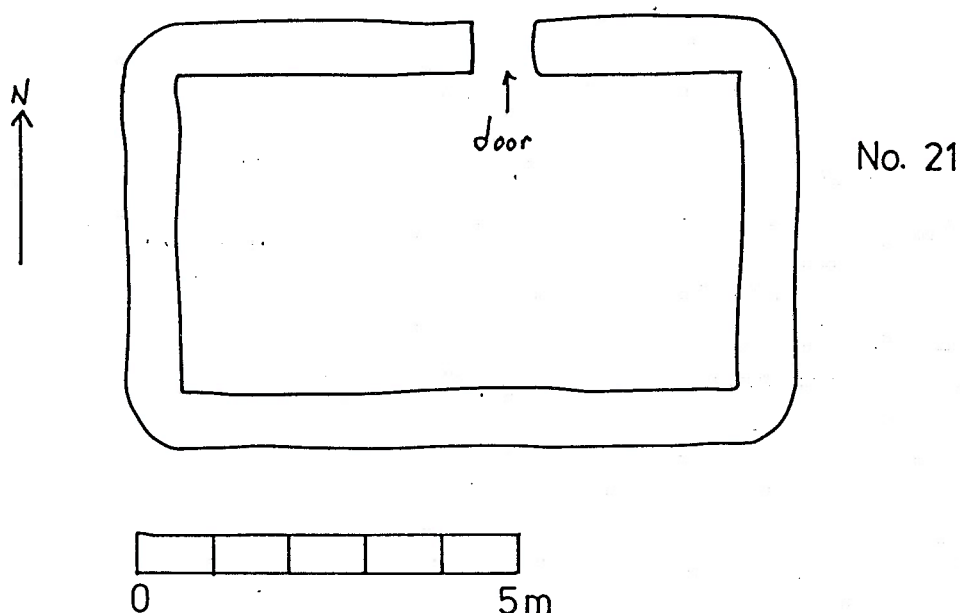


No. 21. ?House

Round-angled rectangular building, of which only the foundation course survives. The absence of loose rubble suggests that the building was deliberately demolished and the stones removed for use elsewhere. Its size is comparable to that of other houses in the settlement. The entrance was probably within the 0.80m wide gap in the N wall, 4.60m from the W end but no other internal features survive. The building is set on fairly level ground.

Dimensions: L 8.75m x W 5.55m ext. W of wall 0.70m

H. 0.40m max.



No. 22. Corn-drying kiln

Corn-drying kiln of open bowl type, cut into the river bank on the S side of Allt an Aoinidh Mhoir. It consists of a conical pit, revetted with coursed dry-stone masonry. The flue, now an overgrown gap, can be traced leading northwards towards the stream.

Dimensions: Diam. of kiln bowl 1.35m

Depth 1.40m



No. 23. Structure

Rectangular, almost square, structure set into the slope on the S bank of Allt an Aoinidh Mhoir, adjacent to the corn-drying kiln, No. 22. It consists of very overgrown mossy banks of turf and stone. The entrance, 0.60m wide, is on the S side, 2m from the E end.

Dimensions: L 5m x W 4m ext. W of wall 0.60m  
H 0.50m max.

No. 24. House

Round-angled rectangular building set on level ground. It consists of dry-stone coursed masonry atop a basal course of large blocks. The corners are the best preserved, surviving to heights of 1.45m and 1.30m at the NW and NE corners respectively. A drill mark, indicating the method of stone quarrying, is visible on the outer side of the NW corner.

Two cruck-slots survive:

- a) 0.20m wide in the S wall, 1.20m from the E end.
- b) 0.20m wide in the E end wall, 0.50m from the N wall.

An entrance, 0.70m wide, opens through the N side, 5.05m from the E end. A splayed window embrasure also opens in the N wall, to the E of the entrance, tapering from a width of 0.75m on the inside to a width of 0.45m on the outer side. A gap in the E end wall may be a result of later damage.

The western end has been partly reconstructed and a timber frame, supporting a corrugated iron roof, inserted. This presumably relates to a later re-use of the site, probably during forestry planting.

A wall extends northwards from the NW corner for 4.80m, partly enclosing a small area, possibly a small kailyard or stackyard. Another wall runs eastwards from the NE corner for 9.45m to join the adjacent house, No. 25.

Dimensions: L 10.60m x W 4.90m ext.  
W of wall 0.70m H 1.45m max.

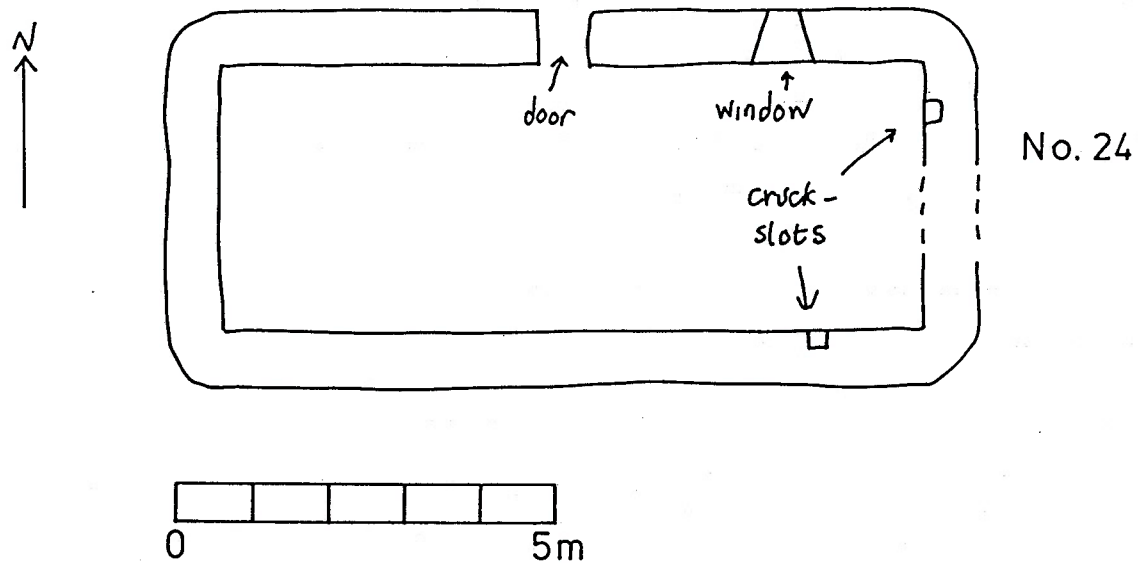


Photo 23



No. 25. House

Round-angled rectangular building set on level ground. It consists of dry-stone coursed masonry atop a basal course of very large blocks. The E end is the best preserved, surviving to wall-head level at the NE and SE corners at heights of 1.65m and 1.78m respectively.

It is divided into three compartments by two stone partitions, 4.55m and 8.70m from the E end. These are not bonded to the side walls and were, therefore, built later, though not necessarily after a long interval. A 1.50m wide gap at the S end of the eastern partition wall provides access between the two compartments. A 1.10m wide gap in the E end wall, 2.10m from the S side, was presumably the entrance to these eastern compartments.

Three cruck-slots survive in the side walls, all in the eastern compartment:

- a) 0.15m wide, in the N wall, 1.30m from the E end.
- b) Partly collapsed, ca 0.10m wide, in the N wall, 3.50m from the E end.
- c) 0.15m wide, in the S wall, 3.80m from the E end.

A cruck-slot in the E side of the easternmost partition wall suggests that this must have been an outer end wall at some point. The eastern compartment would, therefore, presumably have been the only one to be roofed at that time. It is unlikely to represent an early phase, later extended by the central and western compartments, as the partitions are late features and the side walls are continuous. This may, therefore, suggest a later contraction of the building. The central compartment may then have comprised an unroofed enclosed yard.

A wall extends eastwards from the NE corner for 13.20m, partly enclosing a small area, presumably a small kaillyard or stackyard. Another wall runs westwards from the SW corner to join the adjacent house, No. 24.

Dimensions: Total L 14.15m x W 5.70m ext.

W compartment L 4.25m x 4.27m int.

Central compartment L 3.15m x 4.27m int.

E compartment L 4.95m x 4.27m int.

W of wall 0.60m H 1.78m max.



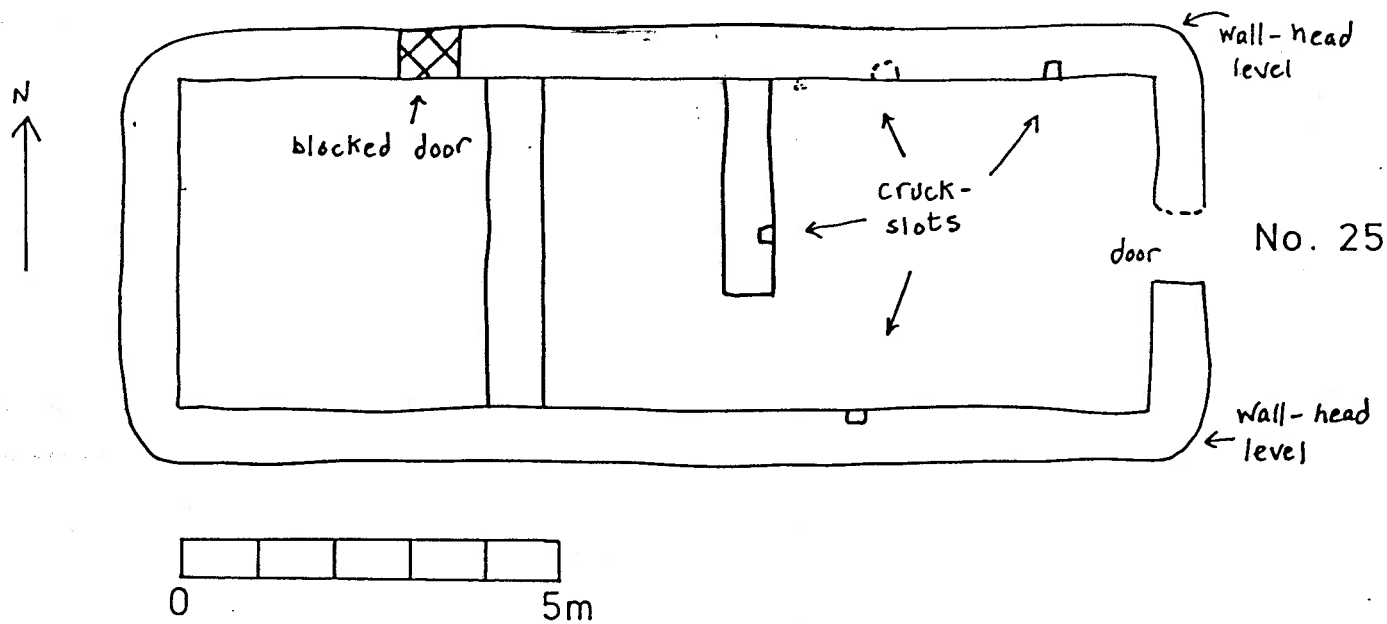
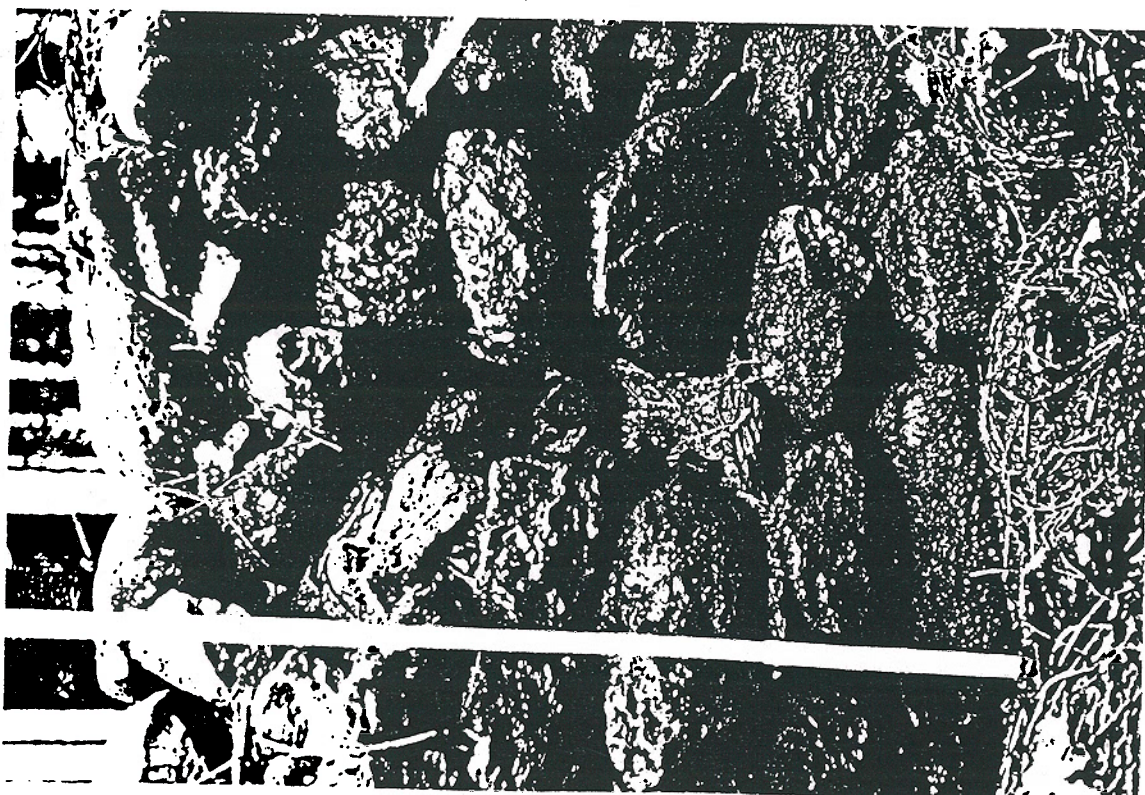


Photo 25



No. 26. Corn-Drying Kiln

Corn-drying kiln of open bowl type, partly cut into the hillslope above, to the S of, the houses, Nos. 24 and 25. Now in a ruinous condition, it consists of a shallow pit, circular in plan, revetted with stone. Small rubble has been built around the opening to provide a working platform. The flue opens in the N sector.

Dimensions: Diam. of working platform 5.70m  
Diam. of bowl 1.70m Depth 0.60m

No. 27. Wall

Very well-built and well-preserved wall, which cuts through the head-dyke, No. 1, and continues to the N and E. It is presumably associated with the sheep farming which followed the clearance of Unimore. The wall has a gentle batter, tapering from a width of 0.75m at the base to 0.50m at the top. It is strengthened by frequent transversely-set boulders, which occasionally protrude, and survives to wall-head level for much of its length within the Unimore head-dyke.

Dimensions: W of wall 0.50m-0.75m H 1.40m

No. 28. Enclosure

Trapezoidal enclosure, slightly terraced into the slope and built up from below to produce a level interior. It is defined by a roughly coursed wall of medium-sized stones.

Dimensions: L 12m x W at S end 7.30m, at N end 6.5m ext.  
W of wall 1m H 0.50m

#### No. 29. Wall

A wall on the E side of, and approximately parallel to, the enclosure, No. 28, defines a further slightly trapezoidal though open-ended level terrace. The roughly coursed wall is more denuded than that of No. 28 and may have been robbed for the adjacent wall, No. 27.

Dimensions: L 12m x W 0.90m H 0.35m

#### No. 30. Enclosure

Rectangular platform, terraced into the slope on the N bank of the stream, Allt an Aionidh Mhoir. It is enclosed by an overgrown earth and stone bank. There are some gaps through the bank on the S side and one on the W side but none is a definite entrance.

Dimensions: L 13.50m x 15.20m ext. W of bank 0.95m  
H 0.40m

#### No. 31. House

Rectangular building of dry-stone coursed masonry, quite distinct from the adjacent No. 32 and other houses at Unimore. The narrower vertical walls are built of smaller stones and may have square corners. The outer corners have collapsed (SE end) or are obliterated by rubble (NW end) but the SE end of the NW compartment, which is abutted by the later SE compartment, has definite square corners. The SE compartment may have been a later extension, built some time after the NW compartment. This suggests that the SE end of the latter was originally an outer wall and thus, with its square corners, quite distinct from all the other buildings on the site. However the SE compartment may have been planned according to the original design and built immediately after the NW compartment, as is perhaps more likely because of the small size of the NW compartment. Therefore square corners are essential to provide straight side walls for the 2-compartment

house as a whole. In this case the provision of a stone-built partition wall is in itself a distinct feature comparable at Unimore, only to No. 25.

Entrances into both compartments open on the SW side, 2.70m and 10.20m from the NW end. The width of both is indeterminate because of damage to their SE sides. Both compartments have square corners internally and walls are too damaged for the survival of cruck-slots.

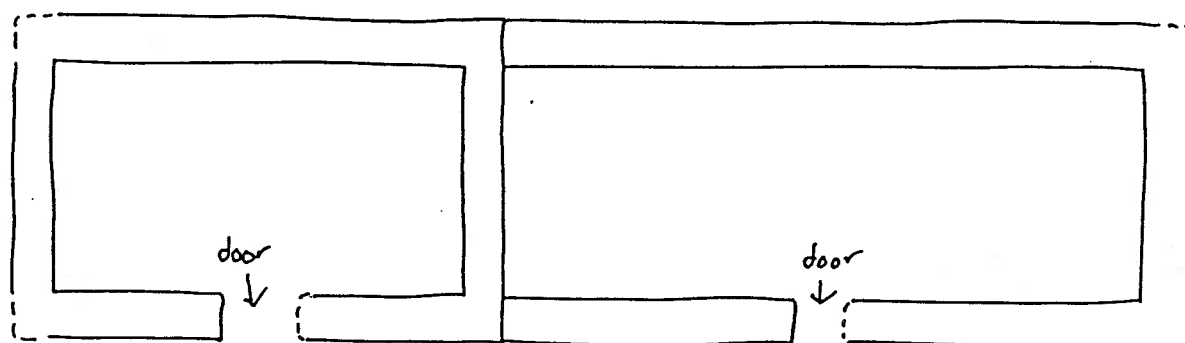
The house is situated 0,80m to the SE of another house, No. 32.

Dimensions: L of NW compartment 6.40m x 4.20 ext., 5.30m x 3m int.

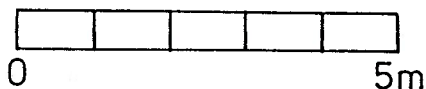
L of SE compartment 5.30m x 3m int.

Total L 15.40m x 4.20m ext.

W of wall 0.60m H 0.95m max.



No. 31





No. 32. House

Round-angled rectangular building of dry-stone coursed masonry, similar in appearance to Nos. 6 and 7. The massive walls of large blocks have a pronounced batter, tapering from 1.20m wide at the base, to 0.80m wide near the top. It is built on a basal course of large blocks, including one huge boulder, which projects beyond the S corner. The wall is best preserved in the S corner, surviving to a height of 1.40m.

The side walls are too eroded for the survival of cruck-slots but slots are visible at both ends.

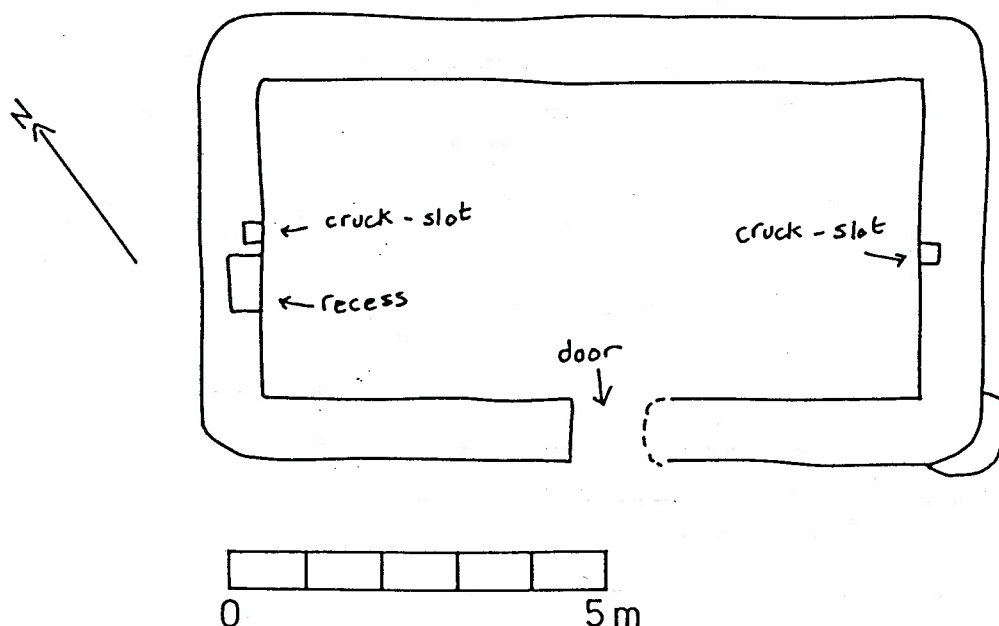
a) in NW wall, 0.20m wide, 2m from SW wall.

b) in SE wall, 0.20m wide, 1.85m from SW wall.

A recess, 0.75m wide and 0.20m deep, set into the NW wall, 1.10m from the SW wall may have been a cupboard.

The entrance opens in the SW wall, 4.90m from the NW end though the original width is indeterminate because of damage to the SE side. The house is situated 0.80m to the NW of another house, No. 31.

Dimensions: L 10.30m x 5.80m ext. W of wall 0.80m-1.20m  
H 1.40m max.



No. 32

No. 33. Corn-drying kiln

Well-built and well-preserved corn-drying kiln of open bowl type, cut into the slope above houses, Nos. 31 and 32. It consists of a conical pit revetted with dry-stone coursed masonry, now overgrown. Small rubble has been built around the opening to provide a working platform. The flue, now rubble-filled, opens in the S sector.

Dimensions: Diam. of working platform 3.20m

Diam. of bowl 2.10m at top, 1.35m at base

Present depth 0.90m

No. 34. Clearance cairn

Moss-covered oval cairn of small rubble, presumably removed from the cleared area to the S of houses, Nos. 31 and 32, perhaps to provide a small, though seemingly unenclosed, kaillyard or stackyard.

Dimensions: Diam. 2m H 0.40m

No. 35. Structure ?Mill

Rectangular building of dry-stone coursed masonry. Its situation, so close to the stream, parallel with an earlier course of the river bank suggests an association with milling, though there is no other evidence of milling at the site. The entrance may have been through a gap in the S wall facing the river.

Dimensions: L 7.20m x W 4.35m ext. W of wall 0.60m

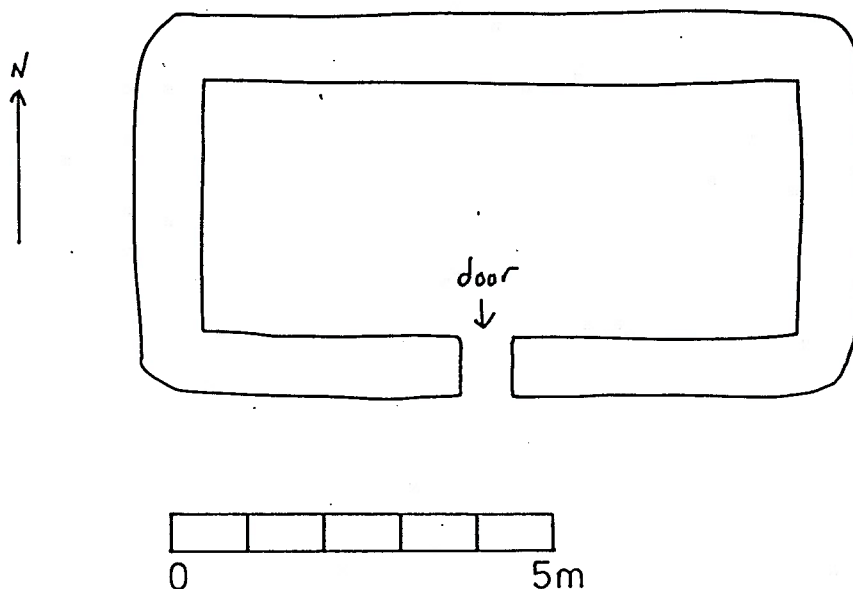
H 1.20m max.

No. 36. House

Round-angled rectangular building, terraced into the slope. It consists of massive walls of dry-stone coursed masonry. The NW corner is the best preserved surviving to a height of 1.20m.

The side walls are too reduced for the survival of cruck-slots, but internal collapse of the end walls presumably marks the former position of end-slots. The 0.70m wide entrance opens in the S wall, 4.20m from the W end.

Dimensions: L 9.40m x W 5m ext. W of wall 0.80-0.85m  
H 1.20m max.



No. 36

No. 37. ?Outbuilding

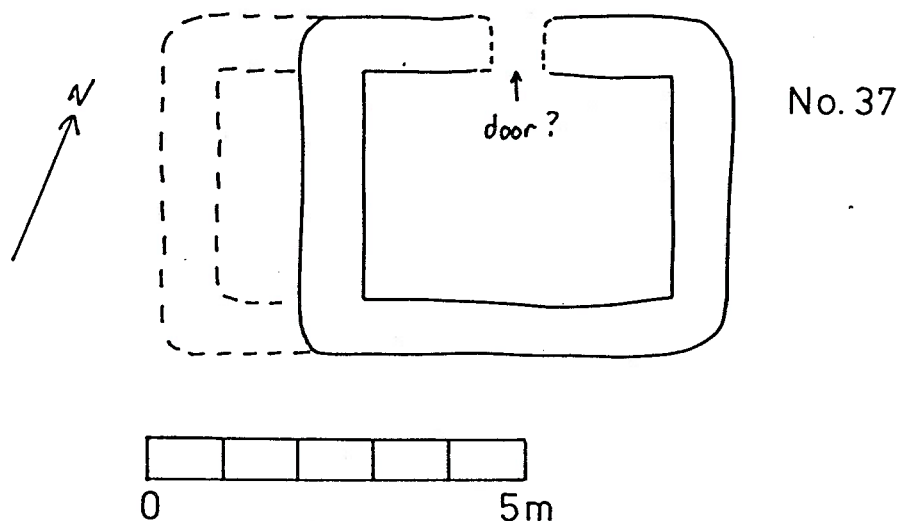
Round-angled rectangular building, possibly an outbuilding associated with No. 36. It is less well-built and preserved than the latter, consisting of dry-stone coursed masonry of small rubble. The SE corner is the best preserved, surviving to a height of 0.70m. Interpretation is hampered by fallen trees, but the entrance is presumably in the rubble-filled gap in the N wall. The W end is particularly roughly-built and may be a later reconstruction.

The building stands on the foundations of an earlier structure, which projects, marked only as occasional single stones, beyond the W end.

Dimensions: L 5.60m x W 4.40m ext. W of wall 0.70m

H 0.70m max.

Total L including earlier foundation 7.40m



No. 38. Corn-drying kiln

Well-built and well-preserved corn-drying kiln of open bowl type, built into the slope below the ?winnowing barn and enclosure, Nos. 39 and 40. It consists of a conical pit revetted in dry-stone coursed masonry. Small rubble has been built around the opening to provide a working platform. The well-defined flue, which is covered with a large boulder lintel, opens in the E sector.

Dimensions: Diam. of working platform 5.10m

Diam. of bowl 1.90m at top; 1.10m at base.

Depth 1.15m at present.

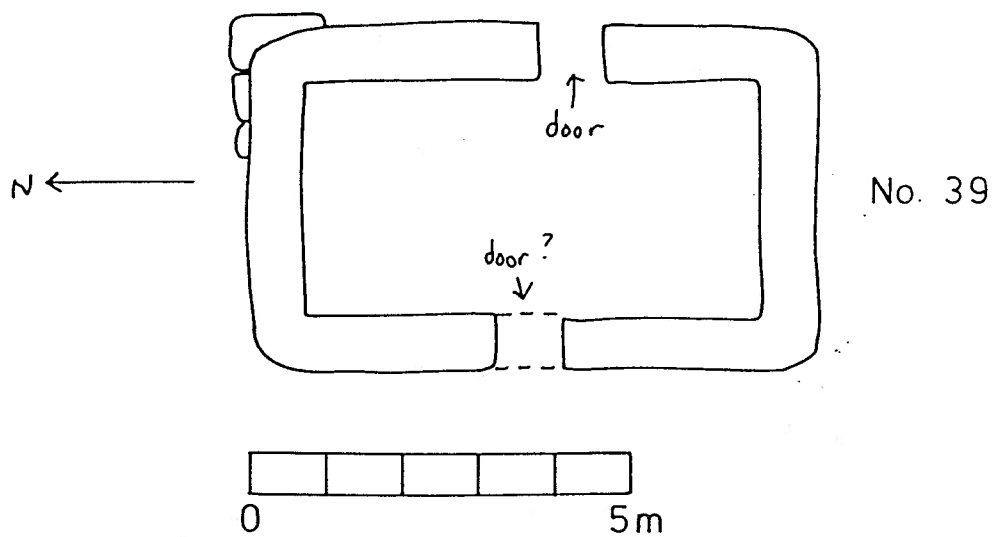
No. 39. ?Winnowing barn

Round-angled rectangular building consisting of dry-stone coursed masonry, abutted by the NE corner of enclosure, No. 40. It has been terraced into the slope and built up from below. The boulder plinth projects beyond the NE corner. The NW corner is the best preserved, surviving to a height of 1.20m. The side walls are too reduced for the survival of cruck-slots but internal collapse of the end walls presumably marks the former position of end-slots. An entrance, 0.85m wide, opens in the E wall, 3.80m from the N end. Almost, though not quite, directly opposite, is a gap in the W wall, ca 0.90m wide, 3.20m from the N end, which may be an opposed entrance. A large stone continues across the base of the gap but this could be a doorstep. Opposed doors, the N-S orientation with doorways into prevailing winds, in contrast to the roughly E-W orientation of most other buildings, and the exposed location at one end of a raised level enclosure are all indicative of a winnowing barn.

Dimensions: L 7.40m x W 4.50m ext. W of wall 0.70m

H 1.20m max.

Photo 42



No. 40. Kaillyard

Large trapezoidal enclosure terraced into the slope and built-up from below on the E side to produce a level interior. It is defined by a coursed wall of small rubble on the N and W sides. The S and E sides are defined by a sharp break in slope revetted in stone to a height of 1.20m. At the NE corner the enclosure abuts the winnowing barn No. 39.

Dimensions: L 15.20m x W 14.50m W of wall 0.80m  
H 0.70m max.

No. 41. Kaillyard

Large sub-rectangular enclosure slightly terraced into the slope but not built up from below, resulting in a sloping interior. It is defined by a coursed wall of small rubble. A gate, 0.80m wide and flanked by a large transversely-set boulder, opens in the S side, 9.90m from the SE corner.

Dimensions: 17.70m x 13.20m  
W of wall 0.80m H 0.50m

No. 42. House

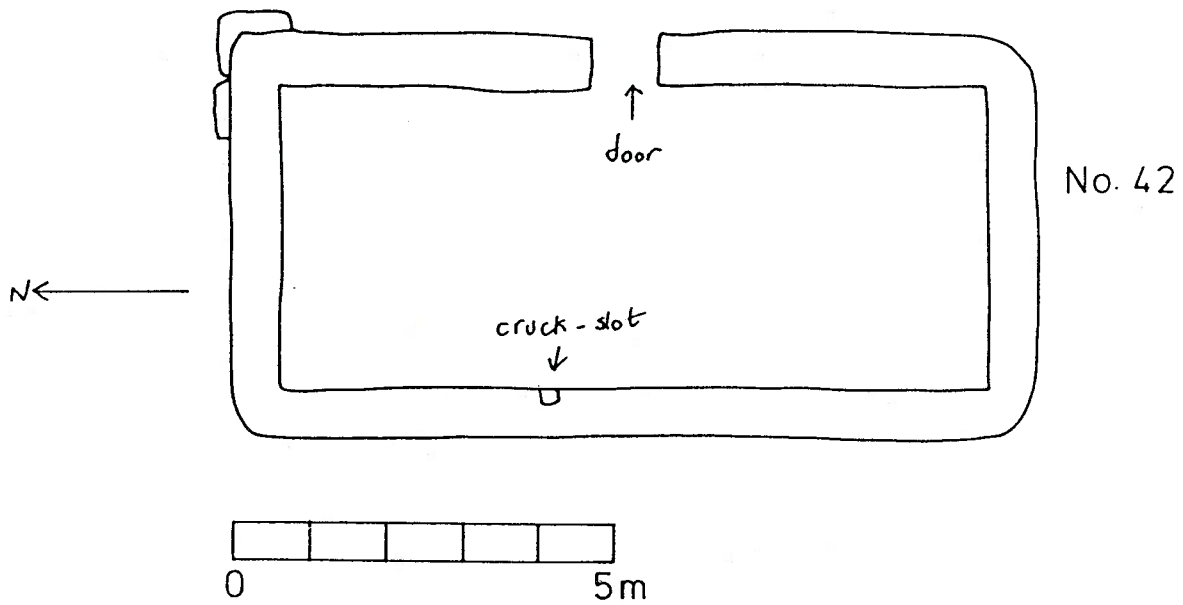
Round-angled rectangular building consisting of dry-stone coursed masonry. It is terraced into the slope and built up from below; a boulder plinth projects beyond the NE corner. The massive walls of large blocks have a pronounced batter tapering from 1.10m at the base to 0.60m wide at the top. All four corners are particularly well-preserved, surviving to heights of 2.30m (SE), 2m (NE), 1.75m (NW) and 1.80m (SW) but the centres of the walls have collapsed. One cruck-slot, 0.15m wide, survives in the W wall, 3.45m from the N end. A well-defined entrance, 1.25m wide, opens in the E wall, 4.70m from the N end.

Interpretation is severely hampered by fallen trees.

Dimensions: L 10.50m x W 5.25m ext. W of wall 0.60m  
H 2.30m max.



Photo 44

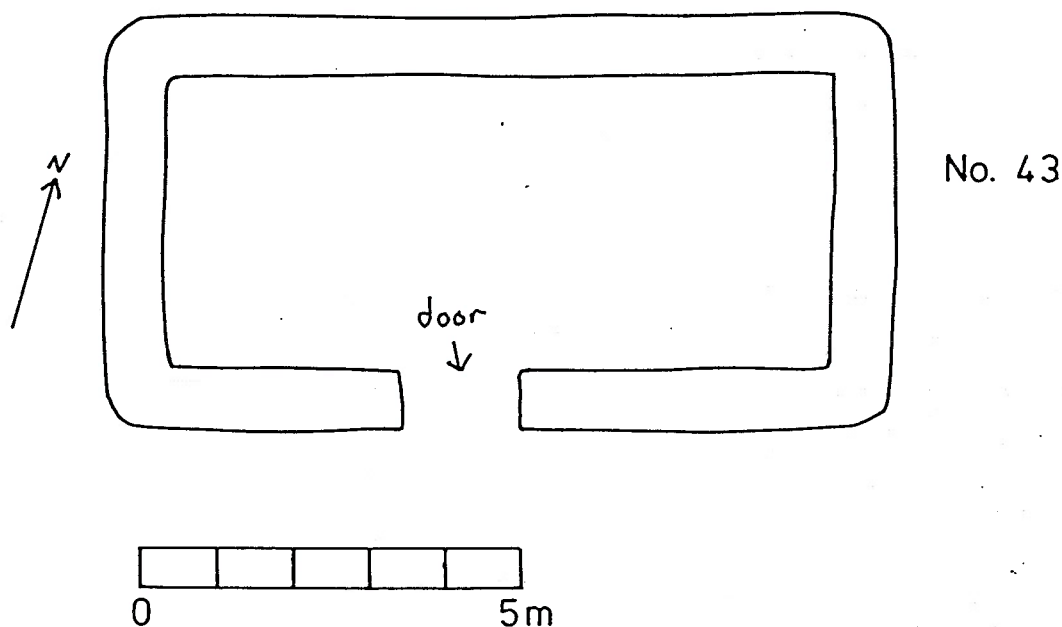


No. 43. House

Round-angled rectangular building terraced into the slope. It consists of dry-stone coursed masonry, not so massively-built as the adjacent No. 42 and now ruinous with a thick cover of moss. Interpretation is severely hampered by fallen trees. The end walls are the best preserved, surviving at the NE corner to a height of 1.40m. Traces of end-wall slots are visible but they have been displaced by internal collapse of the walls. An entrance, now 1.50m wide, opens in the S wall, 3.90m from the E end. A level terrace 1.10m-2.10m wide, curves round the E end, leading into the kaillyard No. 45.

Dimensions; L 10.30m x W 5.40m ext.

W of wall 0.80m H 1.40m max.



No. 44. ?Outbuilding

Small rectangular building with slightly rounded corners, probably an outbuilding associated with No. 43. It consists of dry-stone coursed masonry now ruinous with a thick cover of moss.

Interpretation is severely hampered by fallen trees and any internal features cannot be distinguished. The entrance opens on the N side, 2.30m from the W end; its width is indeterminate because of damage to its E side.

Dimensions: L 7m x W 4.40m ext.; W of wall 0.60m; H 0.75m.

No. 45. Kaillyard

Large sub-rectangular enclosure adjacent to the E end of house, No. 43. It is now covered in fallen trees and impossible to survey or record accurately. However it seems to have been built up from below, though the interior is not completely level. The S side is defined by a break in slope revetted with a boulder facing to a height of 0.50m. This incorporates some huge boulders especially at the SE corner. Walls of smaller rubble can be traced along the W side and intermittently on the E side.

Approximate dimensions: 32m x 20m

W of wall c. 1m x H 0.50m

No. 46. Structure

The remains of a rectangular structure set on level ground on the N bank of the stream. It consists of a series of single moss-covered boulders. There are several gaps but none is a distinct entrance.

Dimensions: L 8.90m x W 3.40m ext.

W of wall 0.50m H 0.40m-0.50m



No. 47. Corn-drying kiln

Well-built and well-preserved corn-drying kiln of open bowl type cut into the river bank, though opening away from the stream. It consists of a conical pit revetted with dry-stone coursed masonry. Small rubble has been built around the opening to provide a working platform. The flue, 0.80m wide, opens in the N sector.

Dimensions: Diam. of working platform 5m  
Diam. of bowl 2.20m at top; 1.20m at base  
Depth 0.80m at present.

Photo 49



No. 48. ?Wheel pit

Sub-rectangular pit cut into the river bank opening onto the stream. The sides seem to have been revetted with stone but are now heavily overgrown. This may have been the lower chamber of a horizontal mill, probably originally with a wooden superstructure, which has now perished or been removed. It was fed by the leat, No. 49, running from the NW.

Dimensions: L 6.30m x W 3.20m Depth 1.20m

No. 49. Leat

A fragment of a leat, visible as a shallow overgrown depression, can be traced for c. 18m, running eastwards to the NW corner of the ?wheel-pit, No. 48.

Dimensions: L 18m W 0.60m Depth 0.20m

No. 50. Enclosure

Sub-rectangular area enclosed on the W and N sides by a single course of stones. The S side is defined by the leat, No. 49 and the E side curves round to the N edge of the wheel-pit, No. 48.

It is presumably associated with milling.

Dimensions: L 9.40m x W 8.40m

W of wall 0.75m H 0.40m max.

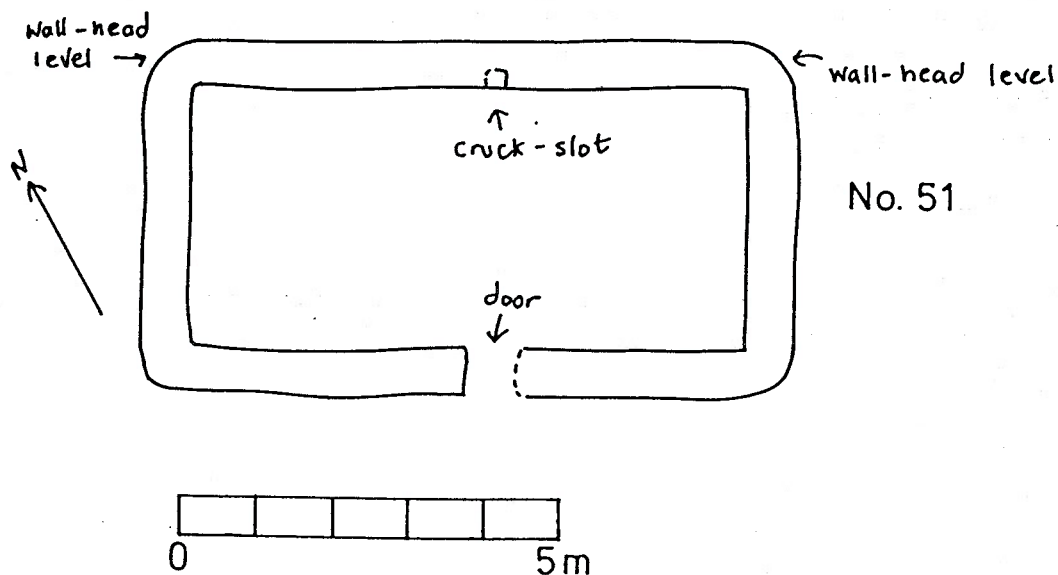


No. 51. House

Round-angled rectangular building consisting of dry-stone coursed masonry. It is terraced into the slope and built up from below on a boulder plinth at the NE end. The walls, which have a gentle batter, are best-preserved at the NW and NE corners, which survive to wall-head level at heights of 1.50m and 1.72m respectively. The side and end walls seem to have collapsed internally around cruck-slots; one straight edge in the N wall, 3.20m from the E end may mark the E side of a slot. An entrance opens in the S wall, 4.20m from the W end, though the width is indeterminate because of damage to the E side.

Dimensions: L 8.50m x W 4.60m ext.

W of wall 0.60m H 1.72m max.



No. 52. Wall

Curvilinear wall, which runs southeastwards from the head-dyke, No. 1, and follows the course of a small stream, flowing into Allt an Aoinidh Mhoir. It consists of irregular boulders, visible as a boulder facing on the stream bank in places.

Dimensions: L 245m; W of wall 0.80m; H 0.40m.

No. 53. Clearance Cairn

Linear arrangement of large boulders and rubble, presumably resulting from field clearance.

Dimensions: L ca. 20m x W 1.50m H 0.50m.

No. 54. Clearance Cairn

Large circular cairn of large boulders, presumably resulting from field clearance.

Dimensions: Diam. 2m H 0.70m.

No. 55. Wall

Low wall of single stones, running southeastwards from a point, 10m SE of ?enclosure, No. 56. It peters out at the SE end.

Dimensions: L 38m; W of wall 0.40m; H 0.40m.

No. 56. ?Enclosure

Rectangular feature, abutting the S side of the head-dyke, No. 1. Its steeply sloping, rubble-filled interior suggests its use simply for field clearance but its rectangular plan and traces of a wall-edge imply a more definite structure, possibly an enclosure, similar to No. 14, abutting the partition wall, No. 15.

Dimensions: L 9m x W 7m; W of wall indeterminate; H 0.70m.

No. 57. Clearance Cairn

Large sub-rectangular cairn of large boulders, abutting the head-dyke, possibly resulting from field clearance.

Dimensions: L 10m x W 2m H 0.50m.

No. 58. Wall

Wall of large boulders and smaller rubble, running southeastwards from the head-dyke, No. 1. It peters out at the SE end.

Dimensions: L 50m; W of wall 0.50m; H 0.40m.

No. 59. Wall

Wall of large boulders and smaller rubble, running southeastwards from the head-dyke, No. 1. It continues to the NW of the head-dyke.

Dimensions: L 50m (at least); W of wall 0.50m; H 0.40m.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

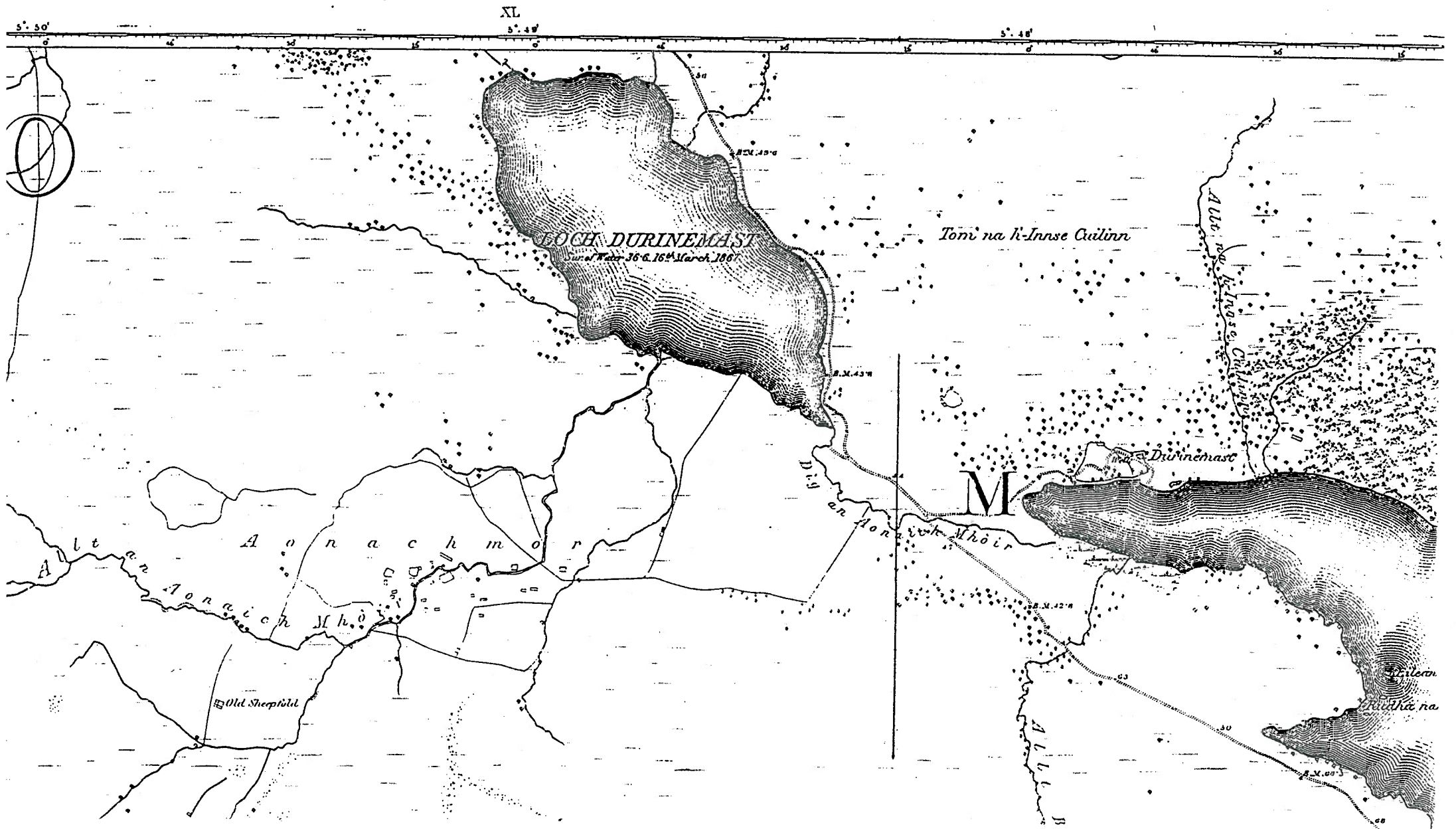
I am most grateful to Huw Rowlands for assistance with the field survey.

## LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

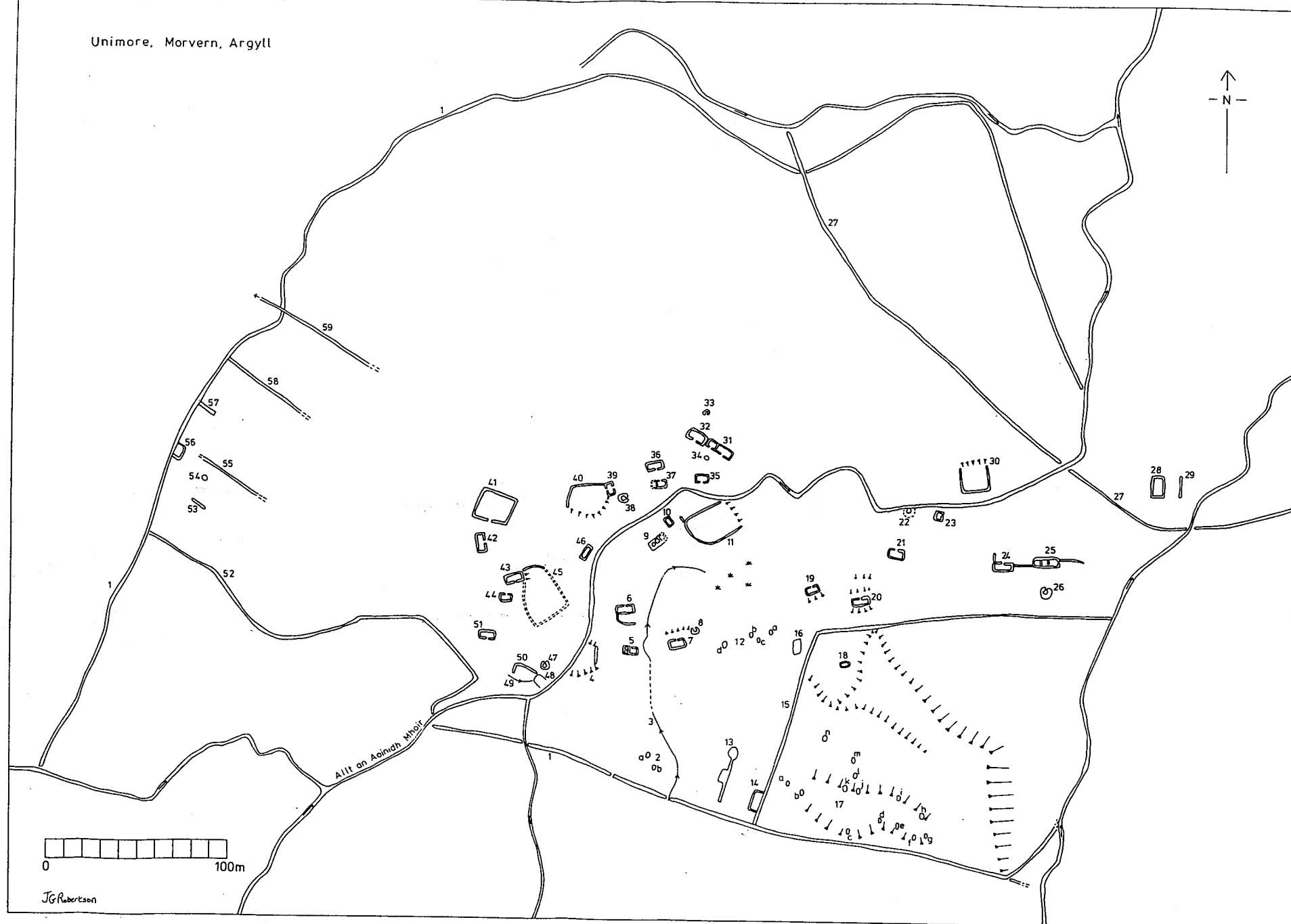
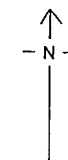
1. No.5. SE corner from SE.
2. No.5. Cruck-slot in S wall, possible former slot to the left, from N.
3. No.6 From E.
4. No.6. Door in S wall, from N.
5. No.6. Cruck-slot in S wall, from N.
6. No.7. NW corner from NW, showing basal course of large boulders.
7. No.7. Door in S wall, from N.
8. No.8. Kiln from N, through flue.
9. No.9. Kiln; curve of the bowl from SW.
10. No.9. N wall and NW corner, from NW.
11. No.9. Through door, from N. Shows chamber with entrance to flue in centre.
12. No.10 from SE.
13. No.11 Enclosure. External wall face, from NW
14. No.18 from E.
15. No.19 from E.
16. No.20 from E.
17. No.20. Easternmost visible cruck-slot, from N.
18. No.21. NE corner, from E.
19. No.22. Kiln, from N.
20. No.23 from E.
21. No.24 from E.
22. No.24. Easternmost cruck-slot in S wall, from N.
23. No.24. Window embrasure in N wall, from S.
24. No.25. Eastern partition wall, from E, showing door and end-slot.
25. No.25. Cruck-slot in N wall, from S.
26. No.25. SE corner, showing outer wall to wall-head level, from SE.
27. No.26. Kiln, from NE.
28. No.31. SE compartment, from SE.
29. No.31. NW compartment from E.
30. No.31. Straight-line joint in NE wall, where SE compartment abuts NW compartment, from NE.
31. No.32 from NW.
32. No.32. Cruck-slot and recess in NW wall, from SE.



33. No.32. Cruck-slot in SE wall, from NW.
34. No.32. S corner, from SE, showing W corner of No.31, with rubble between.
35. No.32. Door, from SW.
36. No.33. Kiln, from S.
37. No.35 from SW.
38. No.36. Exterior from NE. Shows best preserved wall at NW corner.
39. No.36. Door from S.
40. No.37. Best preserved wall at SE corner, from SE.
41. No.38. Kiln, from SE across flue.
42. No.39. ?Winnowing barn. NW corner, showing basal boulders, from NW.
43. No.39. Possible opposed door on W side, from E.
44. No.42. Massive SE corner, from S.
45. No.42. Massive SW corner, from S.
46. No.43 from W.
47. No.43. Best preserved wall at NE corner, from E.
48. No.44. Best preserved wall at SW corner, from SW.
49. No.47. Kiln, from S.
50. No.48. Wheel-pit, from E across river.
51. No.51. Best preserved wall at NE corner, from NE.
52. No.51. E edge of cruck-slot in N wall, from S.
53. No.51. Door in S wall, from N.



Unimore, Morvern, Argyll



Unimore, Morvern, Argyll

