Assynt's Hidden Lives

An archaeological survey of the parish






Graeme Cavers & Gemma Hudson

with contributions by
Malcolm Bangor-Jones, John Barber, Robin Noble and Gordon Sleight



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LEADER+

AOC Archaeology Group

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Historic Assynt

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Preface

Historic Assynt was created in the 1990's to investigate, conserve and interpret Assynt's built heritage. Its first project was focussed around Inchnadamph, the historic centre of the parish. The redundant Old Parish Kirk was becoming ruinous, and the remains of Assynt's two former Laird's residences, Ardvreck Castle and Calda House, were in danger of partial collapse. The project was highly successful and the conservation work on all three structures was completed by 2006. Subsequently the churchyard walls and the burial vault of the MacLeods of Assynt, which is in the churchyard, were also conserved. Interpretative displays and booklets were also created, and the Old Kirk has become a valued community resource.

Once the bulk of the Inchnadamph Project was completed Historic Assynt began to turn its attention to other historically or archaeologically significant remains within the parish. It joined the 'Scotland's Rural Past' scheme being promoted nationwide by the Royal Commission for the Archaeological and Historic Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and began to survey some of the many deserted townships and farmsteads of the last few hundred years. Almost immediately it became apparent that far more remains had survived than previously recognised and that in many cases much earlier features could also be detected. At the same time it undertook a feasibility study into the possibilities for future investigation and conservation of the important Iron Age Broch at Clachtoll, which has resulted in the development of a stabilisation plan and suggestions for future investigation.

Both these initiatives resulted in a growing awareness of very extensive nature of settlement remains of all periods across Assynt and the general lack of systematic study that they have received. The Hidden Lives Project was devised as a first step towards a better understanding of what survives, an opportunity for the local community to become involved in that investigation and as a springboard for further work in the future.

Robin Noble
Gordon Sleight

Acknowledgements

Large collaborative projects such at the Hidden Lives Survey invariably involve the dedicated support of a large number of people. Of course, the fund-raising work of Gordon Sleight, Robin Noble and other members of Historic Assynt was the basis for everything achieved during this project, and their tireless enthusiasm for all aspects of the survey was the foundation of the Hidden Lives programme. Chris Rix managed the financial aspects meticulously, and the project was consistently guided by the advice and mentorship of Pat Buchanan and Andy Heald. Without their commitment to the ethos of community archaeology, none of this work would have taken place.

The field survey supervisors, Vicky Clements, Alan Duffy and Alan Hunter-Blair deserve particular thanks, having endured surveying in one of the harshest winters in recent memory and particularly challenging conditions for much of the project. They were ably assisted in the field by volunteers David Allen, Jonie Guest, Mandy Haggith, Marc Monro, James Morrison, Robin Noble, Bill Ritchie, Gordon Sleight, Lesley Sleight, Scottie Sutherland, Andrew Taylor and Andrew Whelan. The enthusiasm of these volunteers, and of the many attendees at the project seminars and meetings, was a constant source of encouragement; it is hoped that the Hidden Lives project paves the way for further collaborative community archaeological programmes in this fascinating part of Scotland.

GC & GH, May 2010

Cartographic data used in this report was derived from the Ordnance Survey OS OpenData, Crown Copyright.

Introduction

The Assynt Hidden Lives Project

The Assynt Hidden Lives Project was conceived in order to address the limited state of our knowledge of the archaeology of the parish. Assynt and the rest of north-west Sutherland has long been recognised as an area with a rich archaeological resource, yet due to the relatively low level of archaeological fieldwork in the area that archaeology is rather poorly understood. In line with the aspirations of Historic Assynt to investigate and develop the heritage resource of the parish and present the history of the area to the visiting public, the Hidden Lives Project (HLP) was designed to assess the archaeological resource of the region, to provide a platform for an improved archaeological understanding of the resource and to record key representative sites.

The project was designed with three key phases. The first comprised a desk-based assessment of the existing archaeological records for the area and the compilation of a master database upon which the field programme could be based. Secondly, a walkover survey targeting all of the known sites within the study area was carried out. This phase of the project looked to assess each of the sites visited on their archaeological value and interest, level of preservation and 'legibility' as well as considering aspects relevant to visitor experience, such as aesthetic value and physical accessibility. The third phase of the project involved detailed topographic surveys of a representative cross-section of sites throughout the study area, aiming to record good examples of sites from across the chronological range of Assynt's archaeology. This phase of the project involved a range of survey techniques, from plane table survey to laser scanning, with any given approach chosen to most appropriately record the important features of the site in a suitable level of detail.

Community Archaeology

The ethos of the Hidden Lives Project was for community involvement from the beginning, and a comprehensive outreach and training programme accompanied the archaeological work. This ranged from a project launch weekend, hosted in Lochinver by members of Historic Assynt, where a series of seminars were held considering the nature of Sutherland's archaeology from the earliest prehistory to the present. This initiation event allowed interested volunteers from within Assynt and beyond, from beginners to experienced archaeologists become acquainted with the most interesting aspects of Assynt's archaeology and to begin considering questions for future research.

During the fieldwork stages, the survey team from AOC Archaeology were joined by volunteers from the local community and further afield, giving local people the opportunity to work alongside the archaeological survey team, recording their heritage. As part of the community outreach programme, regular updates on the progress of the project were submitted to the local press, and a daily diary was kept by the field team and posted on the project website.

In parallel with the archaeological programme, the project included an education programme and visits were made to local schools to introduce Assynt's schoolchildren to the types of archaeological site found in their region. A teachers pack was compiled, based on the work of the archaeological programme, to assist teachers in delivering future lessons on the archaeology of northern Scotland.

The final outcome of the project was a small touring exhibition, presenting the results of the field survey, shown in visitor and community centres around the parish as a further means of dissemination of the results and providing an introduction for visitors to the area to Assynt's archaeology.

The Hidden Lives project was an archaeological survey designed by the local community, for the local community, and the principle of inclusion, outreach and dissemination sets a precedent to which more archaeological programmes can aspire in future. The model of collaborative archaeology is one which it is hoped can be used as the foundation for further, more detailed studies of Assynt's field archaeology.

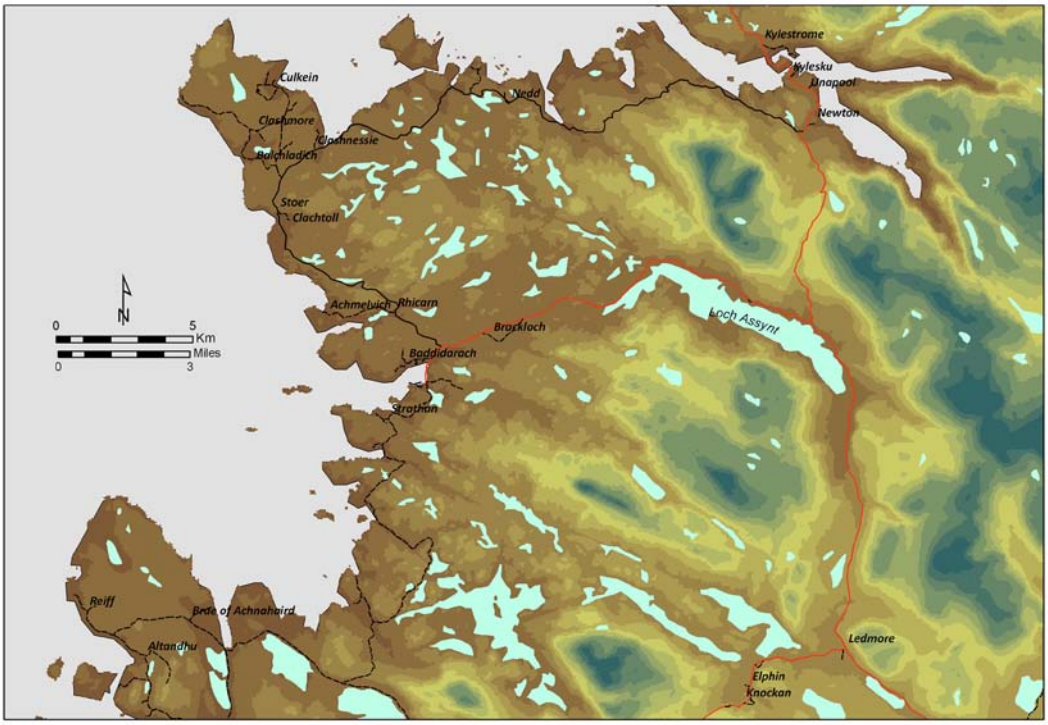


Figure 1: Assynt: topography and locations of settlements.

Aims of the Hidden Lives Survey

Perhaps best known for its geology and areas of outstanding natural beauty, Assynt has also been recognised as an area rich in archaeological sites, and is well known as one of the parishes most affected by the Highland clearances, in the years 1806 to 1821. However, despite the recognition that the area is rich in field monuments, very little in the way of concerted field survey has taken place prior to this programme, with only a few walkover surveys in advance of construction or forestry adding to Henshall's survey of the chambered cairns of the area (Henshall and Ritchie 1995) in terms of formal archaeological survey.

The work of the Historic Assynt survey team, partly through the RCAHMS Scotland's Rural Past initiative laid the groundwork for a systematic survey of the parish, and has demonstrated the breadth and quality of surviving field monuments. On the back of this work, it was the aim of Historic Assynt to promote the archaeology of the parish more formally, presenting the history of settlement, agriculture, ritual and religion to the public in a meaningful way. In order to do this, it was clear that a systematic assessment of the archaeological resource was required as a prelude to targeted investigation and presentation of key sites.

In addition to these practical requirements, the Hidden Lives programme was seen as an opportunity for a reconnection with the past inhabitants of Assynt. The systematic survey of sites of all periods, from the Neolithic to modern day, presented the opportunity for studies of landscape development through time, plotting the changing course of settlement patterns through prehistory and history. This report aims to provide an introduction to these studies, mapping key sites and study areas, and introducing patterns visible in the currently recorded data.

Rationale and Scope

As an initial survey of the parish, aiming to provide a framework for further archaeological study, the project scope was limited to visiting existing record entries held by the National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS) and the Highland Council's Historic Environment Record (HER). Given the long-term aim to develop Assynt's archaeological sites and present key areas to the public, an approximate limit of 300m from road access was placed on the scope of the survey. This reduced the number of sites to be included in the survey from over 600 to around 300. During the desk based assessment stage, 47 sites were eliminated from the study, being entries in the NMRS and Highland HER that are known to be false, or deemed outwith the remit of the study (such as shipwrecks, middens, artefact findspots and some modern buildings still in use). For practical reasons the target area excluded much of Rubha Stoer in the NW of the parish, particularly in the areas around Stoer and Clachtoll; it is hoped that future survey campaigns may fill in these omitted areas.

A desk based assessment was carried out in advance of the fieldwork, assessing each of the sites in the

study area on the basis of currently existing information as well as other key data such as reliability of the report and potential significance, providing a guide for the field survey team and allowing a priority list to be collated.

No prospective survey was designed as part of this programme of works, although where known sites were found to be more extensive than had previously been recognised, or where new sites were identified casually during the survey, these were included and recorded fully.

Project Methodology

Desk based assessment

Since the remit of the Hidden Lives project was to gather information on the known sites and monuments in Assynt for which there are no detailed records, a database of known and potential information was constructed based on downloads of data from the National Monuments Record (NMRS) and the Highland Council's Historic Environment Record (HER). An Access database was constructed in order to relate the NMRS and HER records, before augmenting them with data relating to probable period, date of most recent survey, potential for future work and confidence. The Highland council HER records contained 91 sites that were not referenced by equivalent entries in the NMRS; these were listed as additional sites to be considered by the HLP.

Fieldwork Phase 1

The first phase of the Assynt Hidden Lives Project occurred between Monday 23rd November and Friday 11th December 2009, when 15 days of walkover field survey were carried out. Four members of AOC Archaeology and a number of Assynt resident volunteers visited more than 220 sites, which ranged in time period from the Neolithic to modern day, across the parish of Assynt. Most of the sites were located using a handheld GPS and evaluated in comparison to their previous records from the Highland Council Historic Environment Record (HER) or National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS), however, some of the sites were found during general field walking and others were pointed out by knowledgeable members of the local community.

The sites were recorded using standard pro-forma recording sheets, giving detailed descriptions and sketches of their archaeological features along with observations on their setting, general condition and



Figure 2: AOC staff training volunteers in total station survey.

any recommendation for further work necessary. Photographs were also taken of every identified site and a GPS position marked. The site record is sizeable and was complex to manage, but fulfils the requirements of its design as an invaluable resource for the future management of Assynt's heritage. The site records will be submitted the National Monuments record of the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS)and the Highland Council HER, thereby bringing Assynt's site records up to date, some of which have not been updated for a number of decades.

Of the 220 sites visited, 70 sites were strongly recommended for further survey work and possible future trial excavation, while an additional 63 sites had optional further survey work recommended. 39 sites were seen to not benefit from any sort of further survey and 48 sites were visited that now appear to have no remains, or were false reports.

The task of selecting which sites to survey in the second phase of the project began with shortlisting the 133 sites that were considered by the field team to benefit from further survey work. Many of these sites were found to be situated within close vicinity of one another. This situation presented to opportunity to study archaeological landscape development in the parish, and to this end a number of study areas for further detailed work were identified. These included site complexes at Glenleraig, the valley between Lyne and Ledbeg, Ardvreck, Inchnadamph, Knockan and Loch Borralan.

Fieldwork Phase 2

The second phase of fieldwork aimed to revisit some of the more archaeologically rich areas of Assynt and carry out detailed survey on the well preserved structures. Once in the field the area of Knockan was also revisited, since weather and tide conditions prohibited the team from reaching certain sites in the selected study areas. The area around Loch Borralan was selected as the venue for a survey open day to demonstrate to the local community techniques of archaeological field survey.

The survey aimed to produce site plans within each of the study areas, placing the sites in their landscape context. At this stage, emphasis was placed on sites that had not previously been the subject of detailed archaeological survey. Detailed individual site plans and elevations of important features were also created. A range of survey techniques were employed for these varied purposes. The majority of the sites were planned using differential GPS (a Trimble R6 rover running Trimble Survey Controller) or total station (a Trimble S6) instruments with solid walls and rubble spread areas outlined along with natural features such as rock outcrops and rivers. Sites were surveyed using AOC Archaeology's survey coding system, allowing topographic detail to be logged in the field for illustration at the processing stage.

Several of the cairns that were revisited were laser scanned to produce micro-topographic models of their surfaces, allowing the production of contour maps and the extraction of profile sections. The cairns that were not scanned were surveyed with a total station to produce data terrain models (DTM). DTM surveys were also used to investigate and establish the extent of some buildings which were indistinct and difficult to detect on the ground. Hand drawn elevations and plans were also carried out on some of the more detailed or intricate structures, using plane tables and section lines. This variety of techniques reflected the varying requirements of the sites, but was also a result of the training element of the project, which aimed to introduce volunteers to a variety of survey techniques (figure 2).

All of the sites were photographed and detailed descriptions were produced, with cross reference to the photographic record. Where necessary features were given context numbers and Harris matrices used to distinguish different build periods. The geology and soil types of the surveyed areas were also noted.

This report constitutes a collated and edited version of the full project archive. The full archive includes all field sketches, digital photographs and written descriptions made by the field teams and project volunteers.

Survey Conditions

The Hidden Lives Survey was carried out in the particularly cold winter of 2009/2010. Phase One of the survey was carried out in reasonable conditions, and despite often challenging weather, archaeological visibility was good. Phase Two, however, took place in February 2010, when heavy snowfall intermittently affected much of the northern mainland of Scotland. Survey methodology was adjusted in order to maximise the recording possible in these adverse conditions, but inevitably archaeological visibility was reduced in some areas. The survey results presented here, then, should be taken as the first detailed observations resulting from systematic survey, but in certain cases it may be inevitable that further details will be detected during future work.

Other survey work

In addition to the two primary phases of fieldwork, a short reconnaissance survey was undertaken by the North of Scotland Archaeology Society's rock art group. The group inspected several areas identified as typical locations for carvings, but no rock art was located. A diary of the team's survey was posted to the project website.

The Assynt Landscape

Assynt comprises the area of north-west Sutherland from Ledmore in the south-east to Kylesku in the north, stretching to the coastal headlands of Stoer in the northwest (Figure 1). The topography of the area is typical of the far north-west, combining spectacular mountain ranges with expansive peat moorland and coastal machairs. The geology of the area is famously complex, combining some of the country's oldest rocks in the pre-Cambrian Lewisian gneiss with the 900-million year old Torridonian sandstones and the intrusive metamorphic rocks of the Moine Thrust.

Geology and Geomorphology

Robin Noble

The landscape of Assynt can justly be described as spectacular; it derives from a complex and world-famous geology (Figure 3). If, travelling from the south and via Ullapool, you enter the Parish at Knockan, the road which takes you north through Elphin, via Ledmore Junction to Inchnadamph, and via Skiag Bridge to Kylesku, (successively the A 835, A 837 and A 894),



Figure 3: View of the Ledbeg valley, looking SW: a typical Assynt landscape

effectively divides the Parish into two unequal portions, constituting geologically distinct zones.

The eastern zone, perhaps a quarter or a third of the western in area, is one of great geological complexity, where a mobile crustal plate from the east collided with a stable mass to the west. The resultant impact caused folding, uplifting of masses of rock, and changes in the nature of the rock as temperatures increased dramatically with such movement. The most easily visible signs of all this upheaval are the thrust planes, seen in cliff faces at Knockan Crag and beside Lochs Glendhu and Glencoul. In fact, most travellers pass by oblivious, as the resultant range of hills to the east of the road is partly hidden by foothills, and obscured by quartzite scree. On the lower ground the high rainfall has encouraged the formation of blanket peats, except in the best drained parts of the road corridor, where the underlying limestone bedrock is, crucially, not only porous but in fact soluble. These limestone areas consequently equate to some of the most viable agricultural land in the parish. This area contains a number of physical features unusual in the Highlands, with springs, caves, sink-holes and dry river beds. Here, there still remains in many places a true, grassy turf, giving good grazing and some patches suitable for arable agriculture.

The zone to the west is effectively a three-layer sandwich of rocks, the underlying being the ancient, and contorted-looking plateau of Lewisian Gneiss, which represents the slowly-cooling and consolidating earth's crust from up to 3 thousand million years ago. This rough landscape is cut into by a complex of volcanic dykes (vertical cracks in the rock), which add variety to the scenery and soil chemistry. After perhaps 1 thousand million years, this was covered by a great thickness of sediment, the eroded remnants of which can be seen in the dramatic sandstone mountains of Canisp, Suilven and Quinag. This hard layer was in its turn capped by a marine sediment, the consolidated remains of which we see as the white or grey quartzite on the summits of some of the hills.

Much of this landscape is now waterlogged, either bog or a myriad of freshwater lochs, connected by complexes of small burns and rivers. There are a number of islands of fertility here, perhaps deriving from glacial deposits, but the most feasible areas for settlement are around the coast, where low-lying glens retain natural woods and wind-blown sand has tempered the naturally acidic soils.



Figure 4: Extract from Blaeu's Atlas, AD 1654, showing the parish of Assynt.

Historic Map Sources

A full and detailed analysis of all available historic map evidence for the 300 sites in the study area is outside the current remit of the project. However, the sources of information from historic map evidence can be summarised to reflect the regional picture at this stage, and the map sources described here are referred to at several points in the following survey reports.

The earliest map of the area to depict settlements is Pont's map of the late 16th century, which depicts the area around Ben Mor Assynt and Loch Assynt. Ardvreck castle is clearly marked on his map, as are several settlements such as Stronechrubie (Figure 5).

Bleau's Atlas (AD 1654) also shows Ardvreck castle as occupied, and several of the developing township settlements such as Clachtoll ('Clawhoill') and Inverkirkaig ('Inner Chircaig') (Figure 4). Moll's map (AD 1745) shows a similar level of detail, with settlements at Ledmore ('Ledmoir') now appearing (Figure 5).

Assynt benefits from the detailed estate maps prepared by John Home in 1774, which map major topographic features of agricultural significance, such as arable land and sheiling structures (Figure 5). Although the positional accuracy of the map is low, it is often possible to identify structures occupied or in use at the time of mapping, and correlate them to the first edition of the Ordnance Survey six-inch-to-the-mile map, surveyed in the early 1870s.



Figure 5: Selected historic map sources: Moll's Atlas, AD 1754 (top), the area around Culkein, depicted on Home's estate map, AD 1774 (centre), Thompson's Atlas, AD 1832 (bottom left) and extract from Pont's map, AD 1580-1590, showing Loch Assynt, Kirkton and Inchnadamph.

Landscape Patterns

Regional patterns

Typically for such a remote rural area unsurveyed by a concerted RCAHMS programme, the distribution of Assynt's known archaeological monuments is concentrated around major roads and settlements. Discernible patterns in the distribution of monuments are apparent however, reflecting chronological developments that would repay further investigation. The earlier prehistoric monuments, the chambered cairns, are concentrated inland, particularly around Ledmore, Knockan and Inchnadamph, with few Neolithic or Bronze Age monuments yet identified in coastal locations. This contrasts with the pattern of later prehistoric settlement, where, typically for the period, the identifiable settlements are clustered around the coast, with few identified inland. The medieval and later rural settlement (MoLRS) pattern is more amorphous, though increasingly clustered around small village settlements in the modern period.

Earlier Prehistory

Little evidence has been recovered for human activity in Assynt prior to the Neolithic. However, considerable interest has been focussed on the parish for the highly controversial evidence recovered from early 20th century excavations at Creag nan Uamh, or the 'Bone Caves', Inchnadamph (Figure 6). The significance of the objects recovered from this complex of caves have been the source of some debate throughout much of the 20th century, and have only recently- through several thorough re-examinations of the stratigraphic and artefactual evidence- been dismissed as evidence for Palaeolithic activity in Scotland. The mass of antlers, large numbers of bones including those of a wide range of arctic species and several human and small number of artefacts had initially led the original excavators to interpret the caves as shelters used in the late Glacial period (e.g. Cree 1927), an interpretation which was treated with varying degrees of acceptance and scepticism. The proposition was, however, re-established after a programme of radiocarbon dating and discussion of the taphonomy of the large numbers of antlers (e.g. Lawson and Bonsall 1986), which were postulated as a cache of raw materials for tool working.

Recent radiocarbon dating and reanalysis of the artefactual and stratigraphic records have again cast this interpretation from favour, however. Saville (2005) has demonstrated the Viking and later prehistoric dating of the artefacts, and has convincingly dismissed the antler 'point' of late Glacial date as natural. Combined with the radiocarbon dating of the human remains to the Neolithic, this would seem to be the final condemnation of the evidence for Palaeolithic activity at the caves. The dismissal of Creag nan Uamh as the only evidence for pre-Mesolithic activity in Scotland, however, should not detract from the importance of the evidence from the caves of Neolithic burial, and Saville raises interesting questions over the significance of later prehistoric and particularly Viking period activity at the caves, hinted at by the artefacts (Saville 2005:359). The full archaeological potential of the site and other caves in the parish is far from having been realised.

Leaving aside the evidence from the Bone Caves at Inchnadamph, the earliest identifiable archaeological remains in the parish date from the Neolithic and consist almost exclusively of chambered cairns. These earlier prehistoric sites are clustered inland, focussing on the glens around Ledmore, Knockan, Stronechrubie and Inchnadamph (Figure 8). There are at least 17 possible chambered cairns that fell within the remit of the HLP, with several additional possible cairns, some of which have been identified comparatively recently (e.g. Creag Sron Chrubaidh, NC22SE 16). Several of these were recorded as part of Henshall and Ritchie's (1995) survey of the chambered cairns of Sutherland, the most complete and systematic record of these structures to-date.



Figure 6: Creag nan Uamh, Inchnadamph.

The Neolithic Cairns of Assynt

John Barber

The chambered cairns of Sutherland are typified by the forms and ground plans of their chambers and passages and of the cairns in which the chamber/passage are enclosed. Henshall (1963, 1972) and Henshall & Ritchie (1995) have studied and described the cairns of the area in considerable detail. They suggest that the Sutherland monuments are, with the sole exception of Ardvreck (SUT 9), of Henshall's Orkney-Cromarty passage grave group. The chambers may comprise one, two or three sections and the segment between the main chamber and the passage is defined as the ante-chamber (Henshall & Ritchie 1995:20). The passages, whilst the most vulnerable to damage, are clearly very short, typically less than 3 m long. The ante chamber, which Henshall describes as the outer compartment of a two or three compartmented chamber, may in fact be formed to meet the challenges of bringing the entrance passage through the heavy corbelled structure of the main chamber.

The main chambers seem to have been constructed of large boulders or slabs intermixed with dry stone walling at their lower courses, or sometimes of dry stone walling alone. The stone used was sometimes quarried and often simply gathered from the locality. Roofing was by corbelling to form a beehive shaped compartment. Occasionally, an additional cell was added opposite the entrance and where it occurs it seems to have had a lower roof than the main chamber. At Acaidh (SUT 2) the roof was intact when excavated in 1909 and rose to 2.2 m above the floor level. The illustration of the Ord North (SUT 48) reproduced by Henshall & Ritchie (1995:31) illustrates the main features of a typical Sutherland chambered cairn of bipartite chamber. The enclosing cairns are, in the main, round in plan with some heel-shaped and some short horned or long cairns.

Radiocarbon dates from The Ord North range from 3435 ± 65 bp (GU 1167) to 4665 ± 70 bp (GU 1169), whilst those from Embo range from 3720 ± 70 bp (GrA 772) to 4340 ± 70 bp (GrA 771). Calibrated, these dates place activity at these cairns between 1500 BC and 3614 BC. The later terminus is representative of secondary use of The Ord North during the Bronze Age whilst we should look to the second quarter of the fourth millennium BC for the origins of these cairns.

The identification of chambered cairns in the field is fraught with difficulty and we rely heavily on the positive identifications made by Henshall (1963) and subsequently by Henshall & Ritchie (1995) for unambiguously positive identifications. However, and as the current survey demonstrates, the landscape also contains a range of cognate forms that might, on excavation, expand the inventory of Neolithic cairns in the area.

The survey recorded twenty two monuments to which the term 'cairn' was applied, often with some adjectival qualifier. Of these, ten monuments are identified as Chambered Cairns and these correlate with the identifications of Henshall & Ritchie (1995). In Table 1 below, the standard Henshall identification numbers (prefixed by 'SUT') have been added to aid cross correlation with the primary published source (ibid) for information on Sutherland's chambered cairns. A single Kerb (or 'Kerbed' Cairn) has also been positively identified.

Like most of the Sutherland chambered cairns, eight of the ten monuments examined in this survey were circular in plan while the other two were too badly damaged to permit identification of the original cairn form. However, this information cannot be taken at face value. To begin with, in decay, D-, or heel-shaped cairns approximate to circles of cairn material and their true nature can only be established by excavation. The surviving cairns are relatively small, ranging from 9 m to 20 m in diameter. Where the evidence exists, the chamber roofs are uniformly corbelled. Thus, there is a possibility that the visible remains may only represent the core-cairns within which the chambers were erected. Virtually all of the monuments give evidence for the removal of cairn material and in some cases, that dilapidation continues. At Loch Borralan West (SUT 44), the surviving cairn lies within an enclosing kerb which now lies between 1.5 m and 3 m outside the cairn. There can be little doubt that the cairn originally extended to the kerb and that the stone of the larger, enclosing cairn has been removed. The cited cairn diameters are therefore minima and the original monuments would have been larger. It may not seem that an increase in diameter of 6m (the maximum at SUT 44) would be a significant increase on the 17 m diameter of the surviving cairn remnant, constituting a (roughly) 35% increase in diameter. However, when we convert this into an estimate of the volume of cairn material required to place a roughly hemispherical cairn on the footprint, we find that the increase in volume, i.e. in the volume of the stone required, would be an additional 148% of that required on the smaller footprint. Considered in terms of the social commitment required to build the larger cairn, therefore, even relatively slight increases in the monument's footprint can represent almost two and a half times as much effort required to construct the monument.

The chambered cairns in Assynt are uncharacteristically high; surviving to heights of between 1.5 and 3 m. This implies that whilst some stone robbing clearly took place, mainly in antiquity, the scale of destruction observable elsewhere in Scotland may not have been replicated in the Assynt area. This may be related to the absence of industrial-scale farming from the area. In general, we anticipate that the survival of chambered cairns across the whole of Western and Atlantic Europe is not better than one in twenty, but the survival ratio may be better than this for Assynt. However, cultivable land in Assynt exists in small pockets, and the re-use of that land over time no doubt eliminated many of the area's earliest monuments. This should encourage a level of prudent caution in the interpretation of the distribution of chambered cairns and indeed, of all earlier monument types. Despite the relatively good survival, overall the survey, by comparison with earlier surveys in the early 1900s and by Henshall in 1963 and again by Henshall & Ritchie for their 1995 volume, all indicate a low level of continual erosion and stone loss. Active management of this precious resource must be an urgent priority.

Chambered cairns ***Monument name***	**HLP No.**	**Henshall No.**
Loch Borralan East	5	SUT 43
Loch Borralan West	12	SUT 44
Ledmore	17	SUT40
[Lyne] Ledbeg River	33	SUT 46
Knockan [West]	108	SUT 80
Knockan [East]	109	SUT 79
Allt Sgiathaig	117	SUT 8
Carrachan Dubh Inchnadamph	139	SUT 82
Ardvreck	146	SUT 9
[Loch Borralan South] Altnacealgach	2	SUT 81

Table 1: The names or name elements in square brackets are the monument names used by Henshall & Ritchie (1995)



Figure 7: Cairn at Glenbain, Traligill (HLP139).

The chambered cairn at Ardvreck is of the type designated by Henshall as 'Clyde Cairns' and all of the others are varieties of her Orkney-Cromarty class of relatively simple passage graves. The term 'passage grave' is used to describe one of the two fundamental classes of megalithic structure and passage graves are characterised by having distinct passages that lead to the main chamber in the cairn. In the Sutherland cairns, the passage leads to an ante-chamber which, in turn gives access to the main chamber. Structurally, the weakest point in a passage grave lies at the intersection of passage and corbelled chamber because the great weight of the densely-built, corbelled core cairn must be carried over the void of the passage.

In all of the Assynt group of chambered cairns in which the evidence survives, it is clear that the core cairns were corbelled. Indeed the high survival rate for corbels is an index of how relatively well preserved these monuments are. In Sutherland and Caithness, the relieving structures used to carry this weight of the corbelled core-cairn over the passage have evolved into the compact and very strongly constructed ante chamber. For this reason they are particularly interesting for studies in Neolithic engineering.

Other Cairns

Apart from the Neolithic cairns, the survey noted the presence of one Kerb Cairn, a monument attributable to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period, dating perhaps to around 2000 BC. As monuments used in burial rites, this attests to the continuity of settlement and landuse of the area over the transition to the Bronze Age; an association confirmed by the records of hut circles and hut circle groups. In addition five instances of clearance cairns (Surveyed sites 32, 132, 149, 169 and 126) have been surveyed and many of these have proved on excavation to have been created or re-used in the Later Bronze Age (Barber 1997, Tipping & McCullagh 1998). However, it is also worthy of note that some clearance cairns (see for example Barber 1997, 39: Cairn16/2) had Early Bronze Age cists inserted into them when they were already ancient monuments. We must consider that some clearance cairns belong to the Neolithic period, even if most are clearly Bronze Age and potentially late in that period. Ethnographic parallels suggest that clearance cairns are created in the clearance of land for pasture as well as for tillage and their occurrence early in the Neolithic should not be dismissed.

Six sites remain which have been identified as cairns or potential cairns, including survey monuments 35, 122 and 141 – which seem certainly to be cairns of some sort - and 6, 11 and 110 which are less certain in their identifications. It is clear that the Assynt area contains numbers of oval to circular mounds, out of the tops or flanks of which some stone protrudes (see 141 or 110, for examples). It is unlikely that these are natural features but their identification remains difficult. Shetland, like Sutherland, contains heel-shaped Neolithic chambered cairns and some writers (e.g. Ashmore 2000) have suggested a stream of influence flowing from Sutherland northwards. Shetland has many stone houses, a proportion of which have been demonstrated by excavation to have been built during the Neolithic period (Calder 1956 & 1964, Whittle 1986). These houses were built with stone wall faces inside and out. In decay, the stone of the outer faces seems regularly to have been robbed out for re-use whilst the stone built inner wall faces are protected at their lower courses by the initial collapse of the structure. The wall core which comprises earth, with large admixture of peat ash, then erodes out to form a gentle and apparently stone-free outer slope surrounding an oval to circular mound in the centre of which some stone can be observed. We may speculate therefore that some of the poorly defined cairns could represent the remains of prehistoric houses: a speculation that is readily testable by modest fieldwork.

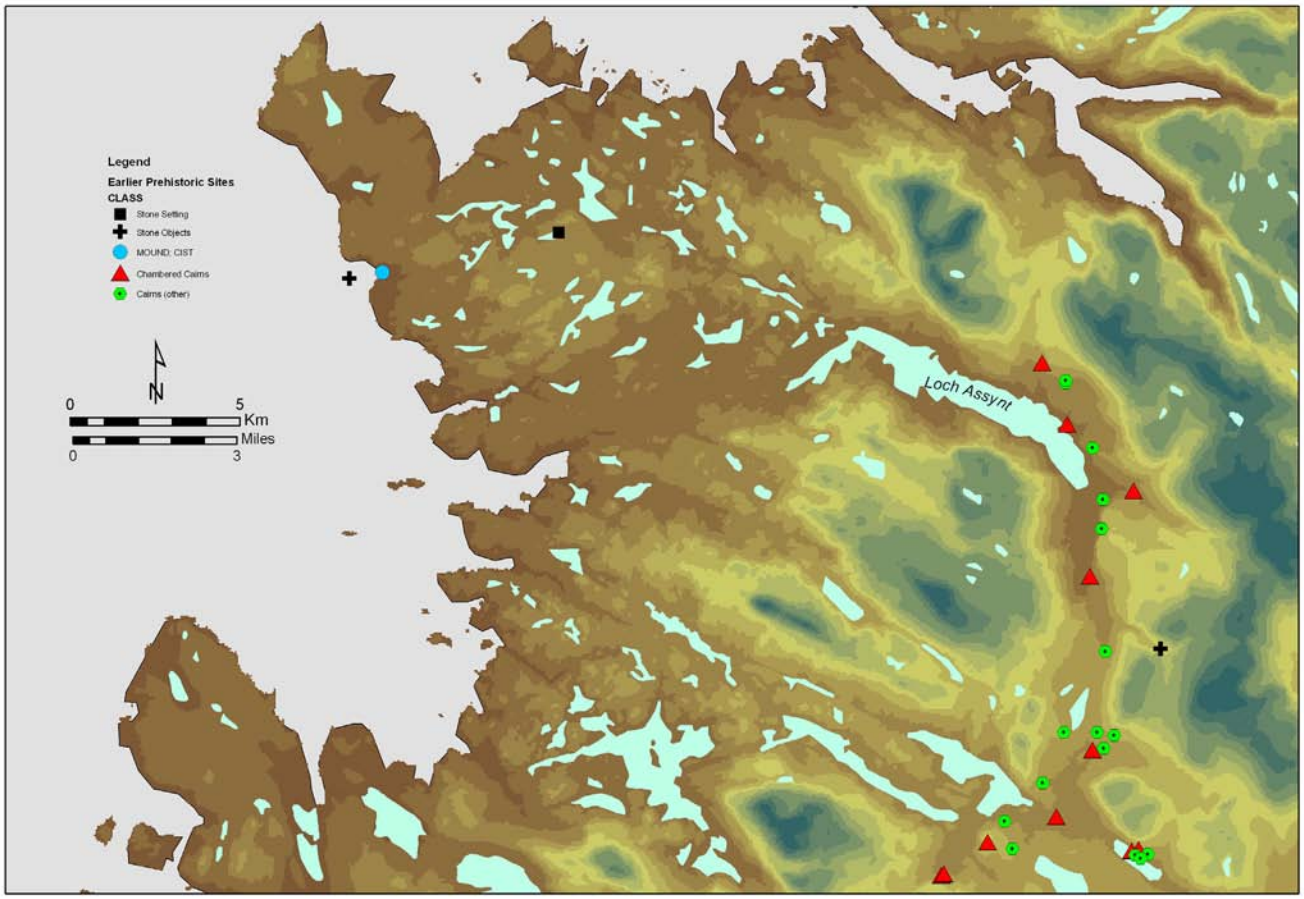


Figure 8: Distribution of earlier prehistoric sites in Assynt.

Later prehistory and early history

The archaeological remains relating to the later prehistoric and early historic periods in Assynt are not documented in detail, and little intrusive work has been carried out on any of them. The surviving evidence for activity in this period, however, is rich and is suggestive of a high quality settlement record for this period. The sites that are recognisably attributable to later prehistory include brochs, duns, crannogs and souterrains (see Figure 13).

Perhaps typically for Sutherland, the extent and character of the later prehistoric settlement record is enigmatic, and it is not clear how the sequence of the north west mainland fits into the overall picture of the Atlantic late Bronze and Iron Ages. Atlantic roundhouses, the currency of domestic architecture from the mid first millennium BC onwards, are not found in large numbers, and there are few large settlements of any kind that can be easily identified. Similarly, the extensive hut-circle landscapes and associated field systems that typically date from the mid-late Bronze Age and into the Iron Age (e.g. McCullagh and Tipping 1998; Fairhurst and Taylor 1974) have not yet been identified- particularly puzzling given their abundance in south eastern Sutherland, Wester Ross and Caithness. There are caveats to this unusual pattern- no significant prospective survey has been carried out in large parts of the interior of Assynt- but the limited distribution of later prehistoric sites and monuments in the parish, when viewed alongside neighbouring regions, is enigmatic.

This is not to say that Assynt lacks evidence for later prehistoric settlement. One of the most spectacular Atlantic roundhouses on the north-west mainland is found at Clachtoll on the NW coast of Assynt (Figure 9). This large broch tower is located on a rocky knoll which dominates the sandy beach of Clachtoll, Stoer. Despite having suffered a serious collapse caused by the erosion of its coastal footings, the broch retains many of the complex architectural features of the type, with well preserved intra-mural galleries standing to over 3m in height in places. Although no significant intrusive work has yet been carried out on the site, surface remains suggest the presence of significant associated outbuildings and enclosures. There can be little doubt from the scale, complexity and key location of Clachtoll broch that it was one of the most important Iron Age settlements in Western Sutherland. A

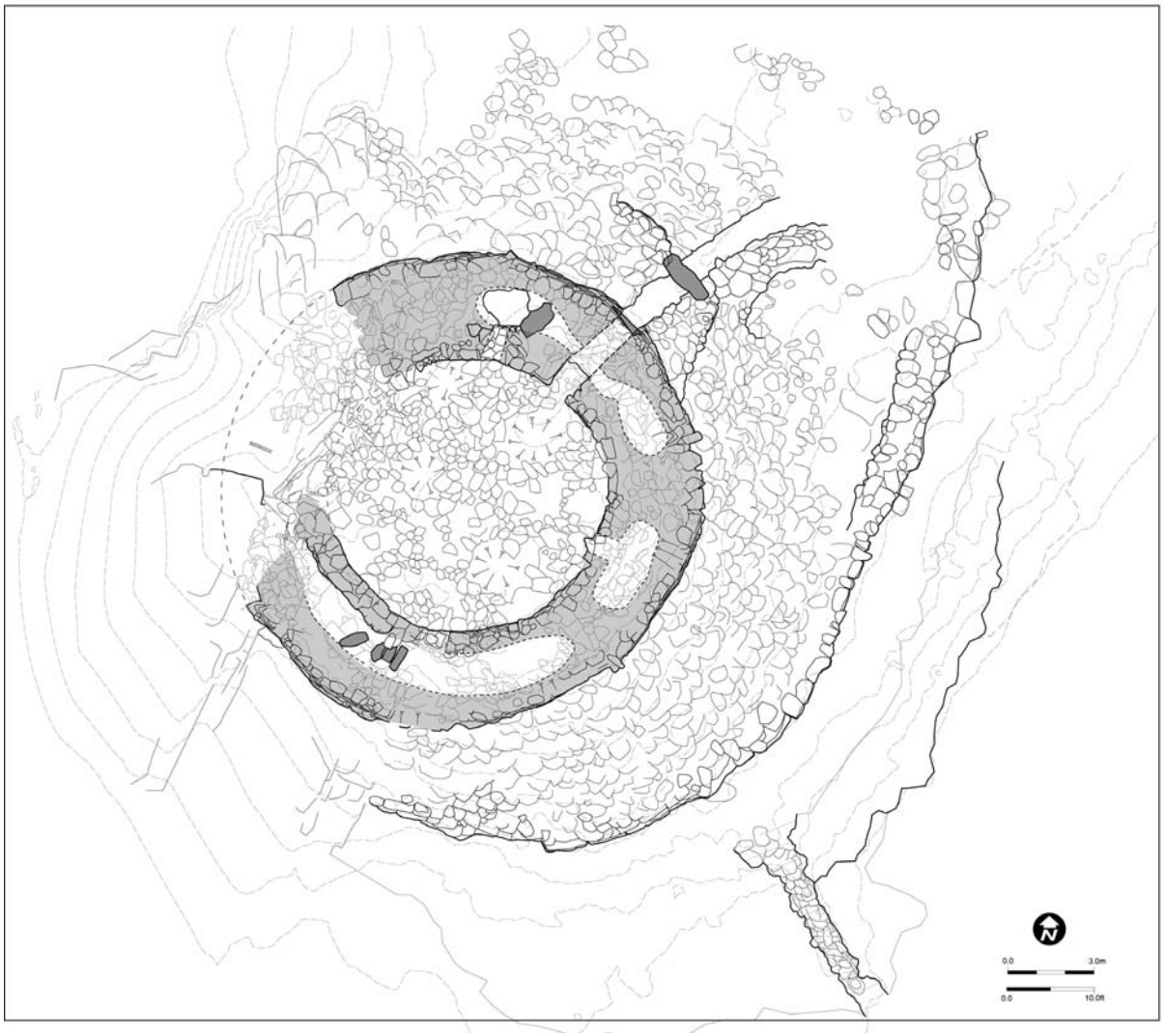


Figure 9: The Complex Atlantic Roundhouse at Clachtoll.

detailed survey of the site has been carried out, and plans are currently underway for the conservation of the monument which is threatened by a number of erosive factors (Cavers et al 2008). Very little intrusive work has been carried out on Atlantic roundhouses in Sutherland, although the greatly denuded remains of the broch at Durcha in the south east of the county were excavated in the 1990s (Dunwell 1999); some indication of the scale of Sutherland's broch structures may also be indicated by the well preserved remains of Dun Dornaigil (Dornadilla), one of Scotland's most complete brochs, standing to over 6.5m in height (see e.g. MacKie 2007).

The other major Atlantic roundhouse in Assynt is located at An Dun, Ardbhair (HLP 96), on a tidal islet in Loch Ardbhair. This massive walled roundhouse shows signs of complex architecture, including an intra-mural staircase, and although the site is somewhat smaller than the Clachtoll broch it was certainly a monumental construction: the walls were over 3m thick and could originally have stood over 4m in height. The location of the Atlantic roundhouse, on a tidal island, recalls the island dun tradition of the Outer Hebrides, and may indicate that the significance of other island settlements in later prehistory may have been underestimated. There are five sites listed as 'crannogs' in the sites and monuments records for Assynt. Although this classification could be misleading in the connotations of the wooden island dwellings typical of the south west of the country, there can be little doubt that the artificial island settlements found in the north west of Scotland were essentially a local interpretation of the same intention: to occupy an island dwelling. The dating of artificial islets is notoriously complex, but the overall pattern confirms that the majority of them should be assigned to the Iron Age, with origins in the mid to late first millennium BC, and the concurrence of radiocarbon dating patterns with the results of excavations of 'island duns' in the Hebrides may render divisive terminology based on superficial differences in construction somewhat redundant (see e.g. Cavers 2010). Sites of this type are known to date from at least as early as the late Bronze Age, and demonstrably continue

to be used into post-medieval centuries; interestingly, Pont's map of the late 16th century may indicate an occupied island in the northern area of Loch Assynt (see Figure 2). On the basis of our current understanding, however, the crannogs of Assynt may be expected to have origins in the Iron Age, even if they were reused in later centuries, and in their stone construction (e.g. Loch na Claise (NC03SW 4), Loch Borralan (NC21SE 5) and Loch Awe (NC21NW 2)) somewhat blur the distinction with terrestrial duns and brochs on the basis of comparison with similar sites in the Hebrides.

Again, Assynt has not seen large scale systematic survey, but from cursory assessment of aerial photographs there are indications that the submerged settlement record of the parish is more extensive than has previously been recognised. Although these features await field verification that was not within the scope of the Hidden Lives survey, aerial photographs suggest that large submerged structures, perhaps joined to the shore with causeways are located in several of Assynt's freshwater lochs, one such example can be seen to the south of Ardvreck Castle in Loch Assynt (see figure 10). One artificial islet was surveyed as part of this project, in Loch Borralan (HLP 13), and was found to comprise a boulder mound connected to the shore by a short causeway. Given the abundance of later prehistoric islet settlements in the neighbouring Hebrides and the indications of close similarity of form of the Assynt islet settlements, further systematic survey of the lochs of the parish would be valuable. It is interesting to note that settlement of freshwater bodies in Assynt could account for later prehistoric settlement of the inland zone that is otherwise conspicuous by its absence.

A single example of a souterrain is found in Assynt at Gleann Learaig (HLP 151), located centrally within the abandoned township of Glenleraig (HLP 97). There are numerous souterrains distributed widely throughout Sutherland, often associated with hut-circles, brochs and other structures as at Kilephedir, Kinbrace Hill (Fairhurst and Taylor 1974) and Cyderhall Farm, Dornoch (Pollock 1992). The example at Gleann Learaig has puzzled previous surveyors, partly for its unusual topographic location in the base of a secluded gully, a very damp location that presumably would have made it unsuitable for storage of foodstuffs in the traditional interpretation of the site type, and prompting the suggestion that the site may rather be a drain associated with the deserted township. There is no evidence for a domestic or other superstructure associated with the Gleann Learaig souterrain, but a large earth and stone bank encloses part of the area surrounding the site, while the massive construction of the structure would suggest that is was designed to be more than a drain. Recent investigations of subterranean structures has led to the recognition that such buildings may have had strong ritual functions in Atlantic Iron Age society, beyond any practical purposes to which they might also have been put (e.g. Armit 1999; Miket 2002), and this might help to understand the unusual setting of the Gleann Learag souterrain. The site bears some close similarities with a souterrain excavated by Corcoran at Rosal, Sutherland, not least in its situation amongst a pre-clearance township



Figure 10: Ardvreck Castle, showing possible submerged structure and causeway to the south (image: Google).

(Corcoran 1968; Fairhurst 1968). This structure had been badly disturbed in the modern period- to the extent that nothing relating to a prehistoric construction date was recovered- but the construction style is very similar to other Iron Age souterrains (Figure 11). The Gleann Learaig souterrain, then, is certainly a candidate for excavation, in the expectation that modern sampling and dating techniques might shed more light on the site type in Sutherland.

Related to brochs in their coastal location and, on the basis of parallels outside Sutherland, in chronological terms are the duns and promontory forts of Assynt. An Dun, Clashnessie (NC03SE 4) and An Dunan, Culkein (NC03SW 1) are good examples of coastal promontory duns with complex walling and associated outworks. Assynt's later prehistoric archaeological record also includes more enigmatic sites and the vitrified enclosure on the stack at Clachtoll beach is one such example (Figure 12). The enclosed space on top of the stack is improbably small and precarious for use as a domestic space, and perhaps interpretations as a lookout or beacon site may be more appropriate. The presence of significant vitrification of the defences of the site is similarly surprising, given the scale of conflagration that is known to be required to vitrify stone ramparts. Coastal promontory fortifications may be further evidence of the similarity of Assynt's Iron Age record to that of the Hebrides (see Burgess 1999), but excavation of unusual sites like the Clachtoll stack fort (figure 12) would be very worthwhile.

While our knowledge of the Iron Age of Assynt is limited, then there is clear scope for rapid expansion of that knowledge with targeted and well-chosen excavation campaigns. Prospective survey can certainly be expected to increase the number of known later prehistoric sites, while excavation of key sites could elucidate the status of high profile monuments like Clachtoll broch and An Dun, Ardbhair in Iron Age and Early Historic society in Assynt.



Figure 11: View of the interior of the Glenleraig souterrain (HLP 151).

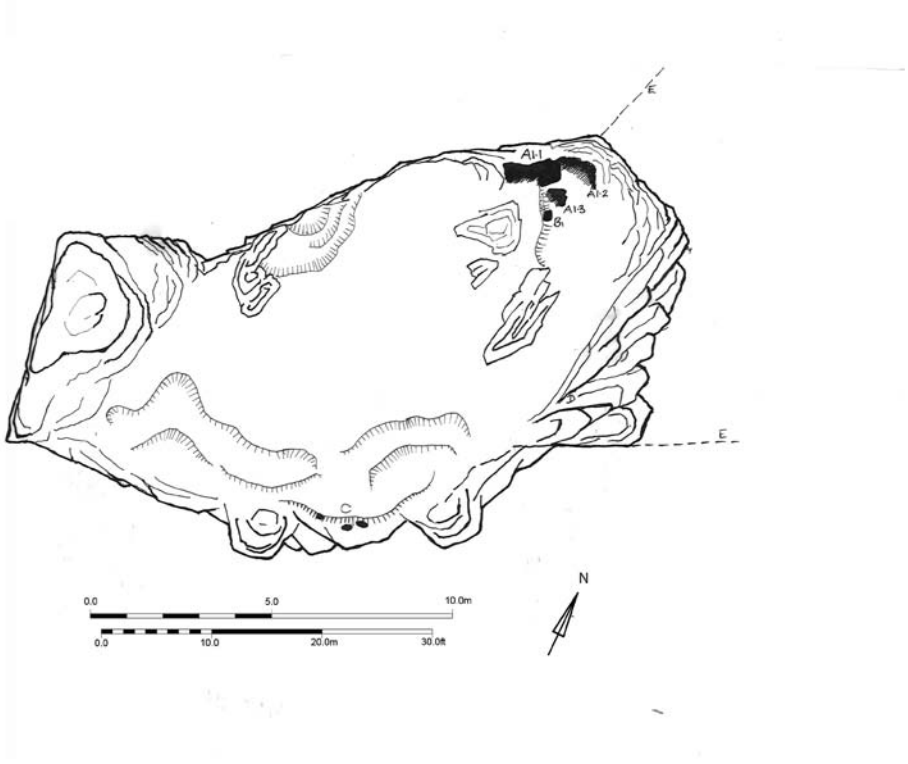


Figure 12: Survey of the vitrified enclosure on the split stack at Clachtoll (survey by Historic Assynt survey

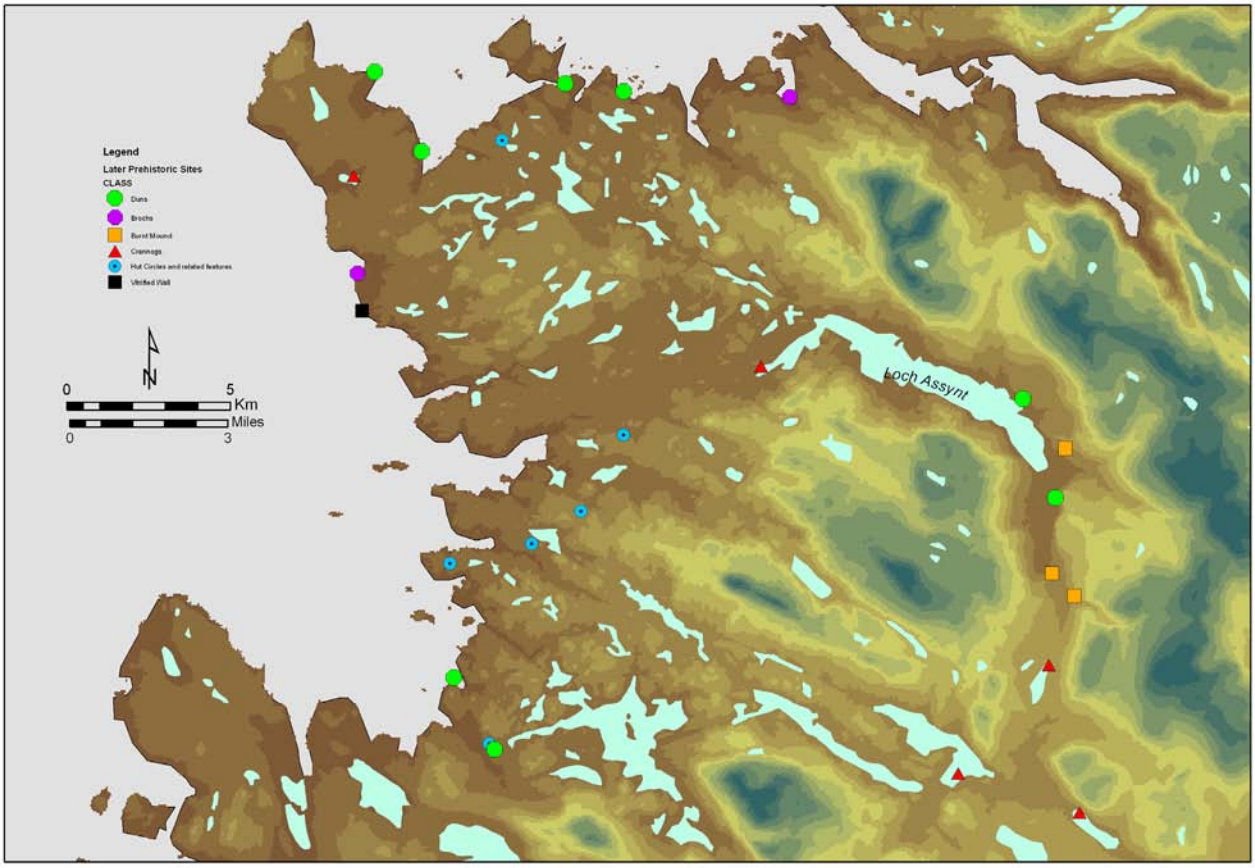


Figure 13: Distribution of later prehistoric sites in Assynt.

The medieval period

Little in the way of early medieval settlement archaeology can be demonstrated in existing monuments records for Assynt. This is almost certainly an artefact of limited and unsystematic field survey, but also perhaps due to the continuity of medieval settlements into later periods, which subsequently obscure or destroy the original foundation. Sites of importance, such as the homestead moat at Inchnadamph dominate the archaeological record for the period. Similarly, ecclesiastical sites often constitute the most visible medieval activity: the original parish church at Inchnadamph was founded before AD 1274 and in 1993 fragments of an unusual early historic cross, possibly influenced by the Anglo-Scandinavian style were found in the churchyard. The precise archaeological and stylistic context for these fragments- and the significance thereof- has yet to be fully established.

North-west Sutherland has often been noted in syntheses of medieval archaeology in Scotland for its anonymity (e.g. Crawford 2000), and in comparison to neighbouring regions of the Western Isles and Caithness very little evidence for the Viking and Norse centuries has been recorded (see Graham-Campbell and Batey 1998). There is no reason to expect the area to be less rich in monuments of this period, however, and parallels with Viking period archaeology of these neighbouring areas should be actively sought. A small number of artefacts, such as the unusual walrus-ivory ring headed pin from Creag nan Uamh, indicate contact between Assynt and the wider medieval world in the Viking period (Saville 2005). Certainly, Norse place name evidence (Oldanay, Unapool) suggests significant impact of Norse settlement in the area, the archaeological traces of which await identification.

While little evidence for other medieval archaeology is apparent, it is probable that many of the site types identified with the later prehistoric period continued in use as settlements into the medieval centuries: this could certainly be considered likely in the case of the brochs and island settlements. Similarly, several indeterminate ‘buildings’ thought to be associated with post-medieval activity may have origins in these centuries. It is likely that only concerted field survey and excavation programmes will clarify this picture, however.



Figure 14: Post-medieval buildings at Achadh Na H-Aghan (HLP 107).

Post-medieval and modern activity

Over 66% percent of the archaeological sites and monuments in the study area relate to the post-medieval and modern centuries (Figure 14). Owing to a range of factors both historical (the effects of the Clearances on Assynt) and methodological (the impact of the RCAHMS First Edition Settlement Project (FESP)) the parish has a large number of documented settlement and industrial structures relating to the post-medieval centuries. The clearances were a major reason for the abandonment of farmsteads and townships in Assynt and the adoption of the crofting system, although it has been noted that in Assynt there was particularly strong resistance to this process and as a result, many crofts retain unusual or irregular arrangements deriving from their pre-crofting origins (Bangor-Jones 2000, RCAHMS 2002:63). Examples of the juxtaposition of pre-crofting and crofting settlements are cited by the RCAHMS within the study area at Raffin and Clashmore. There are over thirty townships in the study area, comprising groups of buildings numbering more than five and their associated structures; these range in date and degree of preservation, and indeed vary in date within sites. The township at Glenleraig (HLP 153) consists of over fifty buildings and associated structures, but only three unroofed buildings are depicted on the 1st edition OS map, illustrating the continual evolution of these post-medieval settlements. In many cases, such as at Strathan, townships are associated with agricultural remains and a head-dyke, delimiting improved land from rough grazing. The HLP study area incorporates four crofting townships, at Culkein, Baddidarach, Achnacarnin and Bachladich, which reflect the post-clearance movement towards the crofting arrangement.

On a scale below the township are numerous farmsteads throughout the parish. Many of these have been identified by the RCAHMS FESP project, and comprise groups of between one and five buildings and associated agricultural structures. Many of these farmsteads retain pre-improvement layouts and the RCAHMS FESP project identified many abandoned examples depicted on first edition that seem likely to have origins in the late medieval and early post-medieval period. As many of the known farmsteads were identified by the FESP project and have not been verified in the field, information is limited as to the range of types and quality of preservation. Some are well preserved but others, such as Rubha An Doira Chuilinn survive only to 0.5m in height, within an earth and stone boundary enclosure. The farmstead site at Clashmore has been surveyed by members of Historic Assynt as part of the Scotland's Rural Past project and through map-regression has been shown to have reached a peak of activity and declined between the time of Home's survey in 1774 and the first edition OS map in the early 1870s (Sleight 2009).

In addition to the townships, farmsteads and crofts of the study area, there are a range of structures termed 'buildings' by the NMRS, to denote isolated buildings of indeterminate function. Some, such as Ceann Loch were possibly steadings, while others such as Loch Drumbeg may have been bothies. Again, such an indeterminate and inclusive category of field monument can be expected to vary widely in date. It is possible that some buildings can be identified as shieling huts, of which there are a large number in Assynt, reflecting the region's pastoral transhumance practice in the medieval and later centuries.

Similar issues surround the identification of the many 'enclosures' in Assynt: a large proportion can be assigned to sheep-farming in the post medieval and modern centuries, but equally some could be representative of much earlier activity.

In addition to the settlements described above, the



Figure 15: Calda House (HLP 142), with Adrvreck Castle to the north (Historic Assynt).

HLP study area incorporates a number of industrial buildings, including several mills and kilns. Prior to this survey, two kilns were discovered during a pre-afforestation survey in 1996 at Creag Sron Chrubaidh, while a possible kiln-barn was noted in 1985 at Aird Bhreac. The derivation of these sites from fieldwalking would suggest that many more examples await identification, and that a large number of the indeterminate structures already recorded could be reinterpreted as industrial buildings of this type. More reliable perhaps are horizontal mills, of which there are several in the HLP study area. A good example is located at Alltan Na Bradhan, where the mill structure survives to over 1m in height and two millstones were discovered among the rubble collapse.

As well as the pre-Clearance townships, excellent examples of nineteenth century vernacular buildings may be found abandoned in crofting townships or as former shepherd's houses. The standing archaeology provides important evidence for the incremental improvement of houses and associated structures, but its long-term survival is threatened by the processes of decay.

Late Medieval and Early Modern building developments in Assynt

Gordon Sleight

Assessing the dates of Assynt's many ruined buildings from this period is not straightforward. Firm construction dates exist for only a few structures built before the clearances of 1812 – 1821. However those few dateable buildings together with information gleaned from such sources as Home's survey of 1774, the First Statistical Account (FSA) of 1794 and the surviving evidence on the ground can be used to build up a general picture of the development of building techniques and styles through the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. With the exception of Ardvreck Castle little can be said with any certainty about buildings from the 16th or 17th century, although some educated guesswork can offer suggestions.

Lairds and Factors

Assynt oldest Laird's residence is Ardvreck Castle (HLP23), the seat of the Macleod's of Assynt. Recent investigations during the course of conservation work suggest that it began life as a simple tower house built at the very end of the 15th century or early in the 16th century. A now lost date stone of 1591 or 1597 indicates the probable date of an extensive remodelling and enlargement at the time of Donald Ban MacLeod. A projecting high tower and connecting corridor were corbelled out from the main structure in a typically late 16th century manner, but the poor workmanship suggests that the mason may have been unfamiliar with the techniques required.

By the late 17th century control of Assynt had passed to the MacKenzies and in 1726 Kenneth and Frances Mackenzie of Assynt built Calda House (HLP142, Fig-



Figure 16: Extract from Home's map (1774), showing Eader a' Chalda.

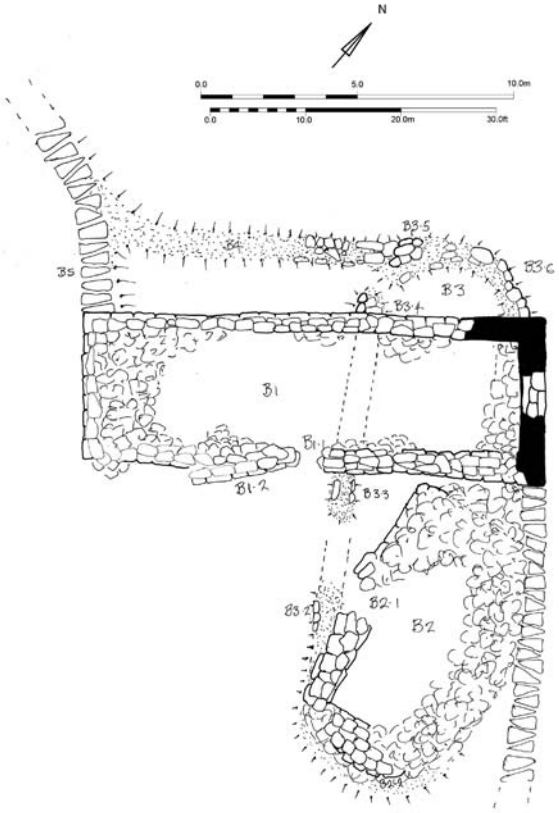


Figure 17: Plan of the multi-phase tacksman's house at Eader a' Chalda (survey by Historic Assynt, used with permission).

ure 15) as a replacement for the castle. The first classically inspired mansion in the north-west Highlands, Calda was of double pile construction with M gables, a rectangular plan, and symmetrically placed windows and doorways. It was reported as possessing '14 bedchambers with the conveniency of chimnies or fireplaces' (FSA). However the MacKenzie's considerable financial difficulties resulted in Assynt being put up for sale in 1736. Calda House was destroyed by Mackenzie supporters the following year to prevent it falling into the hands of the Earl of Sutherland.

Calda House, however, had already set a fashion. Other Mackenzie mansions on the west coast adopted similar designs and Assynt's largest tacksman built himself a more modest classical style house in the 1740's. Mackenzie of Ardloch had acquired lands at Ledbeg during the period of Mackenzie ascendancy and stayed on as Factor for the Sutherland Estate, which finally acquired Assynt in 1757. The Ledbeg house survives largely as built, has two stories, two reception rooms opening to either side of a central hallway, from which an archway leads to a staircase to the upper floor, and access to the kitchen area running the full length of the back of the house. The main rooms on both floors have fireplaces in the gable walls.

Houses of Tacksmen and Subtenants

Smaller tacksmen soon followed suit and the best surviving example is the ruined Eddrachalda (Eadar a Chalda) Farmhouse (HLP142) built in the later 1770's. It is smaller than Ledbeg House (HLP 27) (10.5 by 4.1m internally with no surviving internal walls), of one and a half stories, and the ground floor appears to have had an entrance hall, staircase with closet behind, and two main rooms with fireplaces and wall cupboards, the subdivisions presumably of lath and plaster. All the internal walls were plastered. Similar houses were almost certainly built at Achmore, Stronchrubie, Ardvar and on other single tack farms, but most were entirely rebuilt in the 19th century. Eddrachalda farm was amalgamated with Achmore and the house given over to the ground officer in 1812 before being abandoned c 1819. Home's survey map of Eddrachalda does not show the new farmhouse, although the enclosure onto which it backs does appear (figure 16), together with several associated structures and some further buildings elsewhere on the farm of which several can be identified.

On the north-east corner of the enclosure Home shows a large building, now a rectangular dry-stone foundation some 13 by 3.5m internally. The stones appear to have been carefully selected and some have been shaped. There are no internal divisions or fireplaces but a centrally placed doorway in the south wall. Also as indicated on Home's map, a smaller irregular foundation lies to one side of the central door. Underlying both buildings, at right angles to the main one, are the fragmentary remains of a 16 by 3.8m long semi-circular ended dry-stone structure (Figure 17). The rectangular structure could have been an earlier house, or an outbuilding associated with the new house; it is a possibility that construction work was in process when Home visited. The underlying structure, however, has the largest ground plan of any building at Eddrachalda, is built on ground sloping to the south and appears to have been a large byre house of a type found elsewhere in Assynt; as such it might have been the main farmhouse from of the mid 18th century, and could conceivably have been originally built appreciably earlier. Several other ruins are located close to the enclosure, most of them semi-circular ended dry-stone constructions approximately 8 by 3.5m, some overlying earlier ones and all interpreted as barns and outbuildings of various periods.

To the south and east of the main farm buildings are two other structures located where Home indicated roofed buildings. One appears to have once been a turf and dry-stone semi-circular ended building 10 by 4m, subsequently reduced in length to 6m and reconstructed in dry-stone over part of the earlier structure. The other is a 6 by 3m dry-stone semi-circular ended building with an associated small enclosure. At several other sites on the farm there are the foundations of very similar sized small buildings with associated enclosures, none of which appear on Home's map. In each case the surviving building remains suggest the use of a few large stones to create an inner face to a turf wall. It could be conjectured that these are the homes and kaleyards of the estate subtenants, two still occupied in 1774, the others already abandoned and presumably of an earlier date.



Figure 18: The Loch Beannach township.

Small Tenants

Not all of Assynt's farms were let to a principal tacksmen with subtenants. Several were held jointly by a group of small tenants and the remains of their homes can be found at several sites.

The small Loch Beannach settlement on the Little Assynt Estate (Figure 18) provides several good examples of different kinds of dwellings, some with associated ancillary buildings. Home's map shows five structures in two clusters and that clustering is replicated in the surviving ruins, although the number of buildings is significantly larger. Some of the population were cleared to Loch Beannach 1812 but the township did not survive for much longer, and was cleared in 1821 and the land incorporated into a sheep farm.

There are two semi-circular ended byre-houses with no associated outbuildings or kaleyards. One, well away from the main settlement is of dry-stone, the other, within the head-dyke may have been of turf construction with an inner stone lining for the lowest courses.

Four building complexes of byre-house, barn, a further outbuilding and a kaleyard form the main focus of the settlement. Two of these byre-houses are of dry-stone with semi-circular ends and no subdivisions. One measures 10 by 3.5m internally and the other was probably larger but is now so fragmentary that its size is uncertain. The other two byre-houses show some distinct advances in style and building technique. One is largely rectangular in plan, but with rounded corners, two internal walls with interconnecting doorways and a single entrance into the byre. The surviving stonework does not show signs of having been worked, but the house appears to have been built with clay mortar. The byre and main room are 4m sq and the third compartment 3m by 4m. There are no fireplaces and the surviving walls are too low to be certain that there were windows.

The final byre-house is larger and more sophisticated with a mix of collected and worked stone and it too had clay mortar. There is a doorway into the byre which is separated from the main house by a cross wall with an inter-connecting doorway. The ground plan of the main house is almost as large as the Eddrachalda farmhouse and like it has no stone subdivisions, its own entrance with a window to either side. However it is unlikely to have had a second floor and has no fireplaces or wall cupboards. The plan, proportions and general appearance are more reminiscent of a shepherd's house at nearby Poll Tigh Charraigein, built in 1811 on the site of a former small settlement cleared in 1806, but the construction methods and use of clay mortar are more advanced. It is possible that this house at Loch Beannach was also constructed for a shepherd after the settlement was cleared but there are no known inhabitants after 1821.

All of the outbuildings at the Loch Beannach township are dry-stone, semi-circular ended, oval or more irregular in plan and the probable barns are all placed in exposed positions to provide maximum air circulation. There are also numerous shieling huts in various places across the Loch Beannach farm area. They are generally about 5 x 3m internally, oval, with walls one stone thick, perhaps with a turf outer face. A high proportion have a small circular 'dairy' either attached or close by. The majority of these huts are found on known shielings. However one of those with a dairy lies well within the township head-dyke, close to the main houses, and three, of which two also have dairies, lie just outside a small extension to the head-dyke. Given that the settlement name is Loch Beannach, where structural remains are very few, and the main area of 18th and 19th century housing is a considerable distance from the loch, perhaps the settlement moved to a former shieling a comparitively short time before the Clearances.

Rectangular, clay mortared byre-houses similar to the latest two at Loch Beannach, with internal divisions, clay mortar, but still without fireplaces, are to be found at Clashmore. However all the Clashmore houses seem to have been built with worked stone and each house usually has at least two associated rectangular, clay mortared outbuildings and an enclosure. This would seem to suggest a later date than the Loch Beannach structures and so at least a few years after 1820. The majority of these Clashmore structures lie outside the area of the township as indicated on Home's map and were all subsequently cleared when the estate developed a model farm on the site in the 1870's. Thus all these structures probably date to the second quarter of the 19th century or a little later. The first edition OS 6inch map was based on a survey conducted while the model farm was being created and reflects a transitional phase when some of these structures were still occupied and not all of the new fields had been laid out. The second edition of 1907 marks those to the east of the old settlement area as unroofed, but several which survive to the west- and which have clearly been more assiduously demolished- are not marked at all. It would appear that at some time after Home's survey some of the tenants of Clashmore moved out of the clustered township he indicates and built small farmsteads well spaced out along the edges of the arable fields. The evidence of the first edition 6 inch map (figure 19) suggests that a similar development had taken place in the old township area as those tenants who remained expanded their holdings, but these buildings were completely destroyed by the model farm development.

One complex of buildings at Clashmore is something of a puzzle. The remains of a rectangular structure survive as a single course of large stone blocks to the

east of, and parallel to, the burn that divides the old settlement area from the mid nineteenth century buildings to the east. It has no internal walls but two possible alignments of stones might mark the lines of two timber or creel partitions. Home's map shows a building on this site, also parallel to the burn. Adjoining this structure on its northwest corner are the remains of a small click mill, and the burn still flows along the underground laid through the mill, except when in spate it overflows into its old course. Against the centre of the east wall of the main building is a possible corn-drying kiln and the whole complex is partially obscured by large piles of stone similar to several others in Clashmore and associated with clearing for the model farm. None of these buildings is marked on the first edition 6inch map (Figure 19), not even as unroofed, so they had presumably gone out of use by that stage. There are no known records of a mill on this site, but Assynt has a large number of unrecorded mills. Most probably date to the period after the ending of Thirlage in 1775, but some could be earlier, perhaps dating to the two decades of chaos that preceded the Sutherland estate's purchase of Assynt in 1757. Shortly after this time the estate made efforts to enforce Thirlage suggesting that it had lapsed. That the Clashmore mill adjoins a rectangular foundation which may have had timber or creel partitions, but which was long gone by the 1870's perhaps suggests a date for the whole complex in the first quarter of the 19th century.

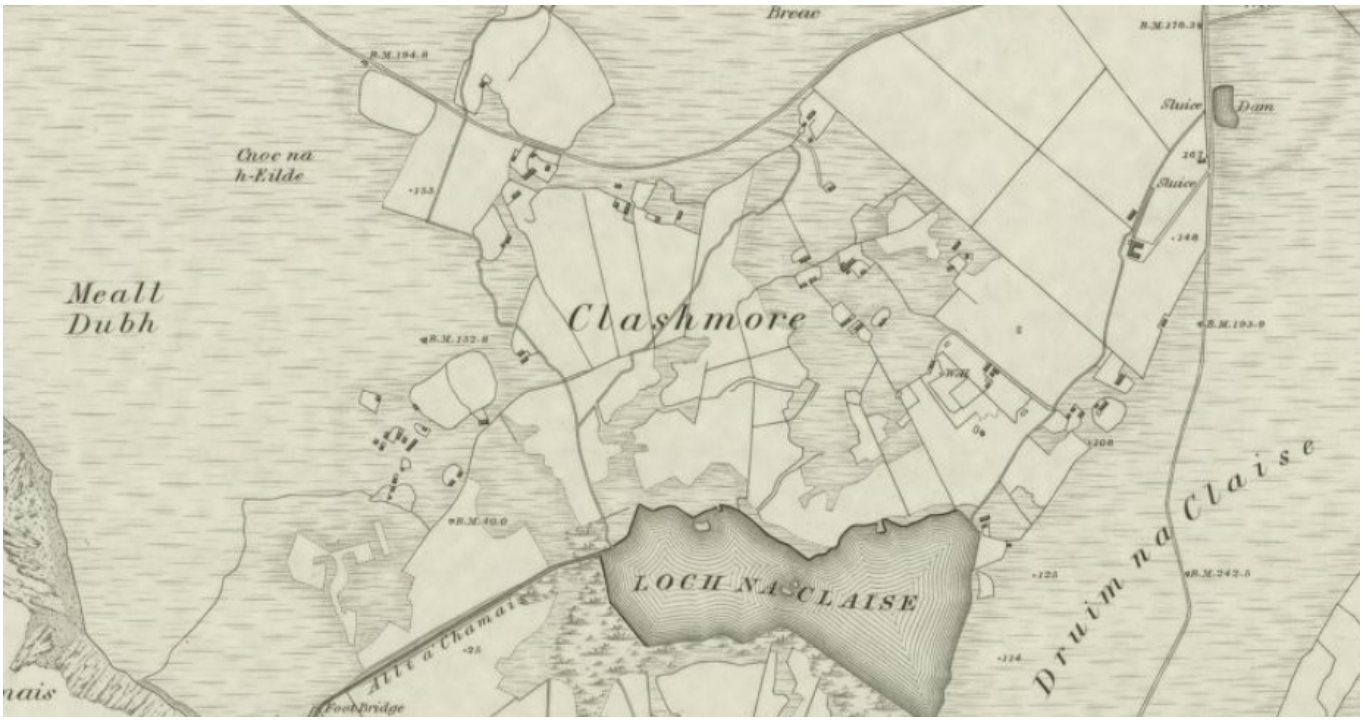


Figure 19: Clashmore, as depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (Sheet LVIII, surveyed 1875, published 1878).

Study Areas

The following sections present the detailed surveys carried out in several study areas within Assynt. The study areas were selected as being particularly representative of the archaeology of the parish as a whole, incorporating sites typical of the region, and spanning the chronological range found across Assynt. Clusters of sites were targetted for survey, with particular emphasis placed on multi-period landscapes, so that the development of settlement and agriculture in the parish could be studied. The study areas were surveyed using a combination of techniques, described in the Introduction, including differential GPS, total station and laser scanning, as well as manual techniques such as plane table survey.

Study Area 1: Glenleraig

Glenleraig

Glenleraig constitutes one of the most extensive and complete site complexes surveyed during the project. The pre-Clearance village extends over much of the valley to the S and E of the modern settlement and comprises over 50 surviving buildings, enclosures, trackways, field systems and cultivation. The township was thriving when Home undertook his survey of the parish, and he marks around eighteen occupied buildings on the corn lands and meadow surrounding Abhainn Gleann Leireag (Figure 20). The mill on the river (HLP 152) was also still in use at this time. The township was cleared in 1812, at which point there were 17 tenants and three cottars there; by the time of the first edition OS map (sheet LIX, 1875), only three unroofed structures are marked (Figure 21).

As discussed above, Glenleraig features the only known souterrain in Assynt. In the absence of excavation, it is difficult to discern much detail of this structure. However, its presence indicates the likelihood that a significant Iron Age settlement was located in the vicinity, further traces of which are no longer obvious amongst the post-medieval settlement.

The area today is a combination of wet, craggy moorland and birch woodland. The modern settlement is focussed in the lower reaches of the glen, around the head of Loch Nedd.

HLP 153

Township (Figures 20-27)

The following sections outline the buildings that constitute the abandoned township at Glenleraig. Detailed measurements of the structures are included in the site gazetteer, while detailed notes, sketches and descriptions can be found in the project archives.

The surviving township spans much of the S-facing slopes of Glenleraig, with the majority of buildings located in the NW, upslope areas north of Allt Mhathain, a tributary stream of Abhainn Gleann Leireag. To the S and E of the township are extensive cultivation remains and clearance cairns. These seem to be bounded to the E by a large earth and stone embankment (A) running N from the river. To the W of this boundary are numerous clearance cairns and fragmentary stretches of cultivation, partially disturbed by the regeneration of birch woodland. Directly to the N of the cultivated area are two rectangular buildings. Building B is typical of the township, aligned NW/SE and constructed in dry stone with walls 0.5m thick and standing up to 0.9m high. The building is subdivided into two compartments and like many pre-clearance township structures has one apsidal end, in this case the NW end of the building. The building was entered from the NE side. A short distance to the SW, structure C is more simple, and may have comprised a store or other functional building. Measuring 8m by 5m and surviving to 0.6m in height, this structure was a single compartment, entered from the SW. A short length of curvilinear walling abutting the structure on the SE wall may indicate the presence of an associated enclosure. Like several of the Glenleraig structures, building C makes use of bedrock for foundations, and occupies a rocky platform.

To the NW of these buildings are three curvilinear enclosures (E, F and G), which face onto the small stream that bisects the township. These structures enclose areas of around 10m by 10m each, and were built from earth and stone; they may have been used as stock pens.



Figure 20: Extract from Home's map, showing the area around Glenleraig.

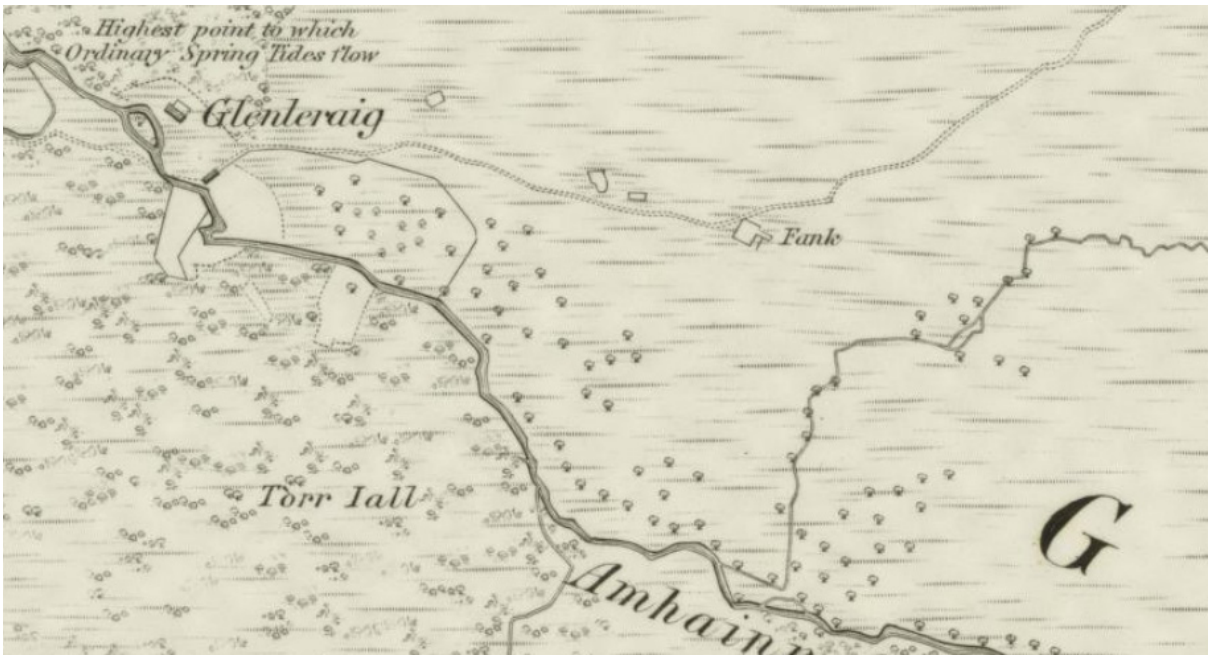


Figure 21: Extract from the OS first edition map of Glenleraig (Sheet LIX, 1875).

The main concentration of surviving buildings is located to the north of the stream. Like building B, structures L and S have apsidal ends, and measure 17m and 19m in length respectively. Both have curvilinear annex structures, giving the interior space an L-shaped arrangement. Excavation of similar structures at Rosal, Strathnaver have shown that long sub-rectangular houses of this date often had dual functions as accommodation and byres (Fairhurst 1968); this interpretation would seem appropriate for several of the bipartite long-houses at Glenleraig. Others, more simple structures with single compartments such as H, J and K, could not have had such dual functions, measuring only c.7m by 4m on average.

Previous surveyors have suggested that the more rectangular buildings close to the modern road, structures M, N, O, P, Q and R may be later than the apsidal-ended longhouses, and although no direct relationship is easy to demonstrate, this interpretation would be supported by the generally better level of preservation of these latter structures. Typically they are between 12m and 18m in length by 4 or 5m in width, some with internal partitions (e.g. M). The construction of the modern road has obliterated some of these long rectangular buildings, but stretches of walling from destroyed buildings are visible at P, and on the N side of the road to the NE at AAA, AAB and AAC. Some of the structures in this area, such as R and



Figure 22: General plan of the Glenleraig township.

Q, may have had associated yards, but the remains of their enclosure walls are now very vestigial. These structures were clearly part of a small complex, probably in use at the same time.

To the N of the road, several further rectilinear structures are located close to the foot of a rocky outcrop. They are built from gathered, unbonded stone, with walls averaging 0.5 to 0.7m thick. One of these, structure AW, a rectangular building with two compartments separated with A N/S dividing wall has a visible cruck slot in the N wall. Further to the N, a small cluster of simple, single compartment sub-rectangular/oval buildings (AAD to AAG) were clearly associated, and may have been in use at the same time, possibly enclosed by the now fragmentary wall AAH.

One of the best-preserved areas of the township is located to the N, where a complex of long apsidal ended buildings are connected by a series of enclosure walls forming yards. Building AD is typical of the structures in this area, built in dry stone with irregularly coursed walling and with rounded ends. Structure AD is on a similar NW/SE alignment to buildings AF, AH, AK, AL and AI, and was linked to structure AG by the low enclosure wall AE. Most of the structures in this area appear to have been single compartments, although some, such as structure AL and the L-shaped AH had multiple compartments suggesting possible dual function as a byre. Structure AU also has a porch annex added to the entrance to the structure, in the S wall. Fragments of trackway survive leading to this complex from the W, and to the N; the latter of these incorporates a 3.5m wide bridge or ford over a small stream (AM).

A long curvilinear drystone wall (AO) may mark the northern limits of the Glenleraig township, although a sub-circular enclosure (AN), similar to other probable stock enclosures (at AR and AAB) may be associated with the settlement.

HLP 151

Souterrain

The souterrain, situated in on the north bank of Allt Mhathain, which bisects Glenleraig township, is diffi-

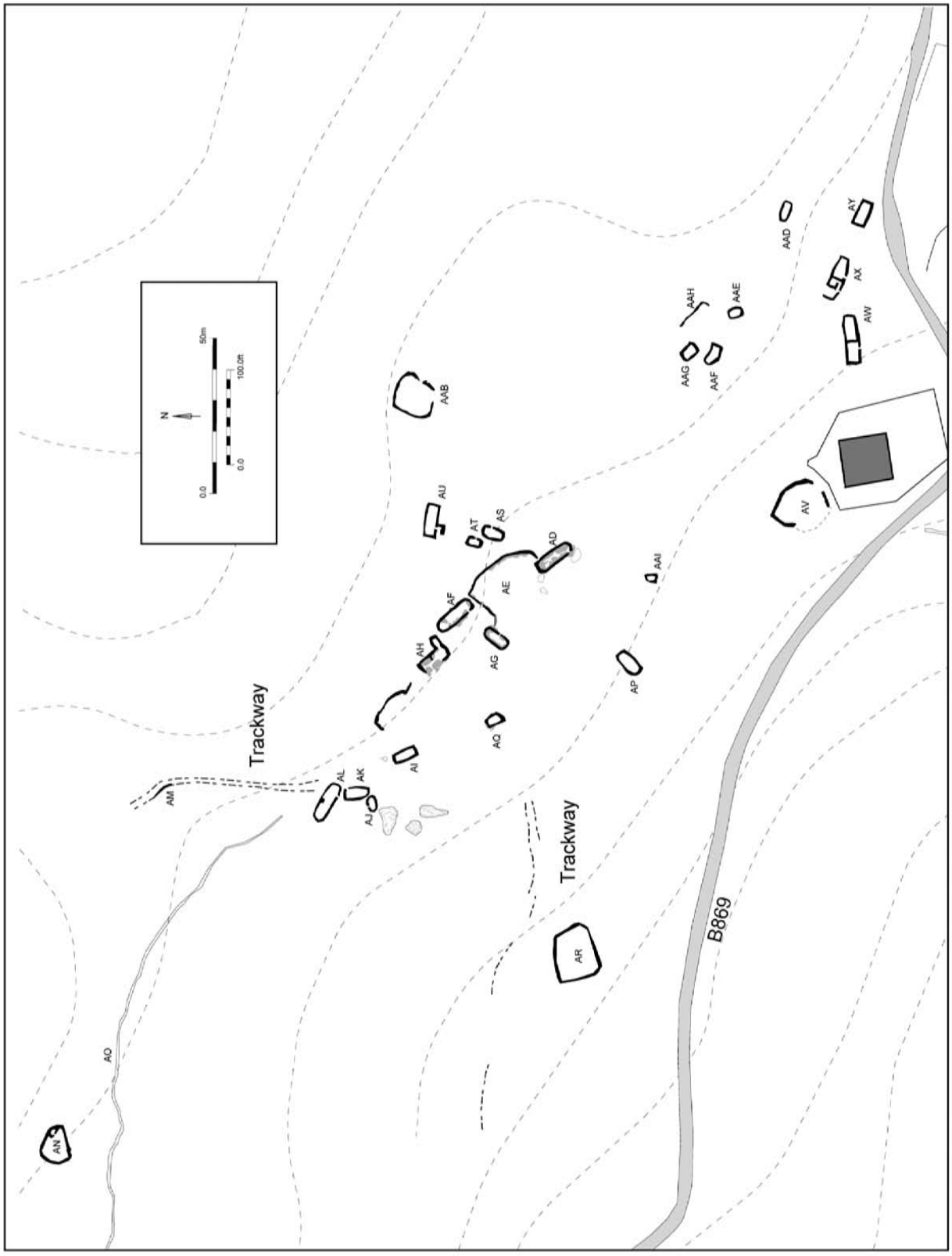


Figure 23: The Glenleraig township (north area).

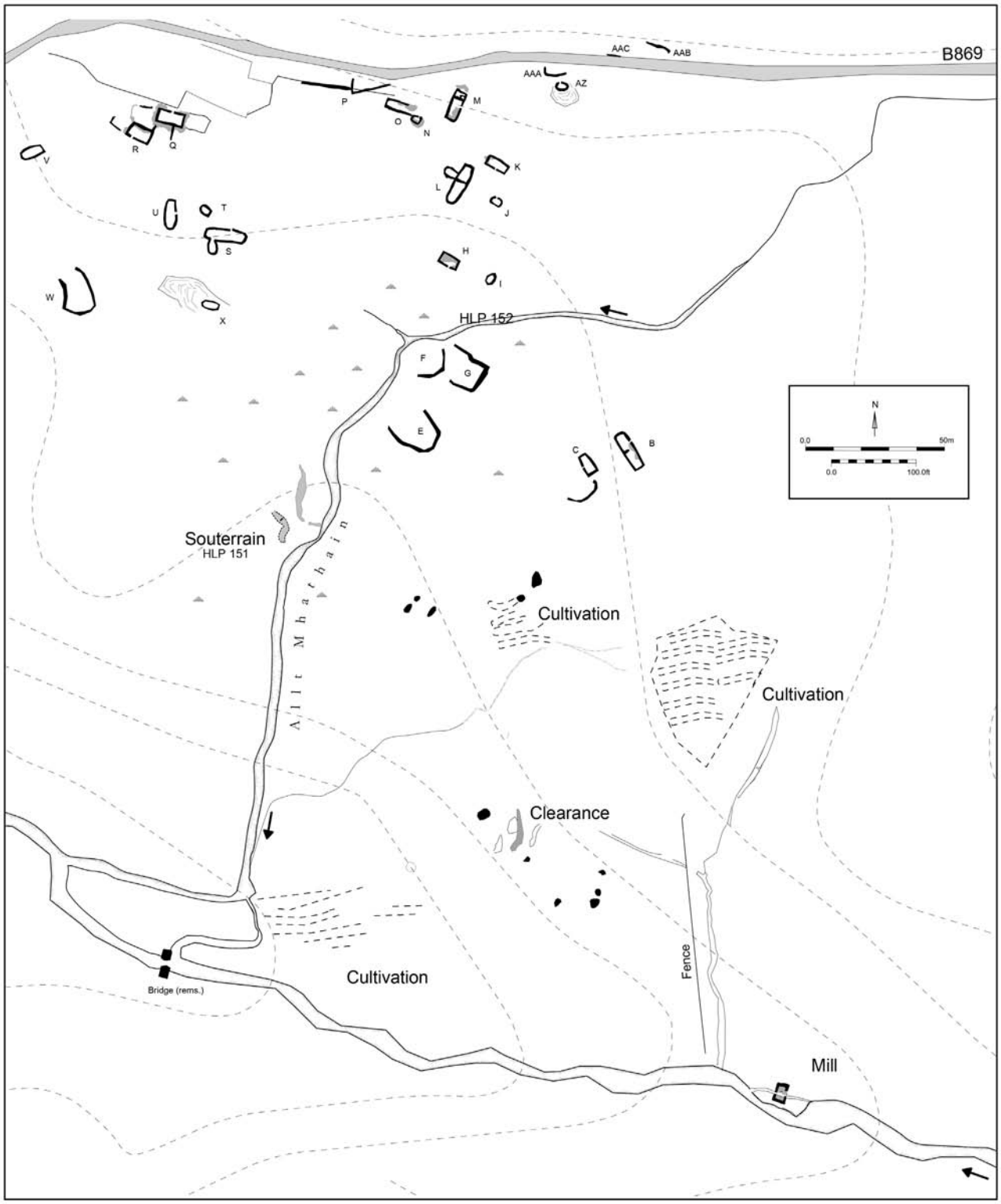


Figure 24: The Glenleraig township, south area.

cult to inspect in detail; the interior is partially blocked with rubble collapse, and cannot easily be accessed. The entrance to the passage is visible from the S as a large lintel laid over low walls, which are a single stone in width and two courses high at the entrance. The entrance apace measures 0.55m by 0.9m, though the passage widens to over 1m in width further to the N. The passage curves to the NW for at least 11m, and at a point of collapse further to the N the capping stones c.1.5m in length have collapsed to show the interior space, which is 1.2m wide at this point. Water is running through the structure, which is situated at the base of a small hollow overlooked by higher ground.



Figure 25: Cruck slot in building AW, Glenleraig.



Figure 26: Building B, Glenleraig, typical of the apsidal-ended, bipartite longhouses on the site.

No structures obviously associated with the souterrain are apparent, although to the NE of the passage there is a sub-rectangular enclosure with an entrance in the S wall. The enclosure is drystone, and makes use of a large bedrock outcrop on the E side. This construction style is similar to other enclosures/buildings in the township, although there is no more reliable indication of date.

HLP 152

Mill

The Glenleraig mill, located on the N bank of Abhainn Gleann Leireag sits on ground which slopes steeply to the N, over a now rubble-clogged lade (Figure 27). The mill is of dry stone construction, apparently mostly of gathered stone although some of the facing stones appear to have been roughly worked. The N and S walls survive to the greatest height, standing to almost 2m in places in irregular courses. The structure was entered from the E, upstream side through a doorway 0.65m wide. In the interior, the floor is levelled into the slope and at least two steps survive leading down into the wheel pit, which is 1.60m wide, 1.10m deep from the floor and spans the width of the building. The walls of the mill run over the lade/wheel pit on the E side, but have collapsed at the corresponding point on the W. Two fragments of a sandstone millstone are visible among the rubble of the wheelpit.

The lade is 21.5m in length, and 2.0m wide at its maximum; gathered stone revetting walls are just visible in places on the N and S sides; there are traces upstream of walling intended to divert the stream into the lade.

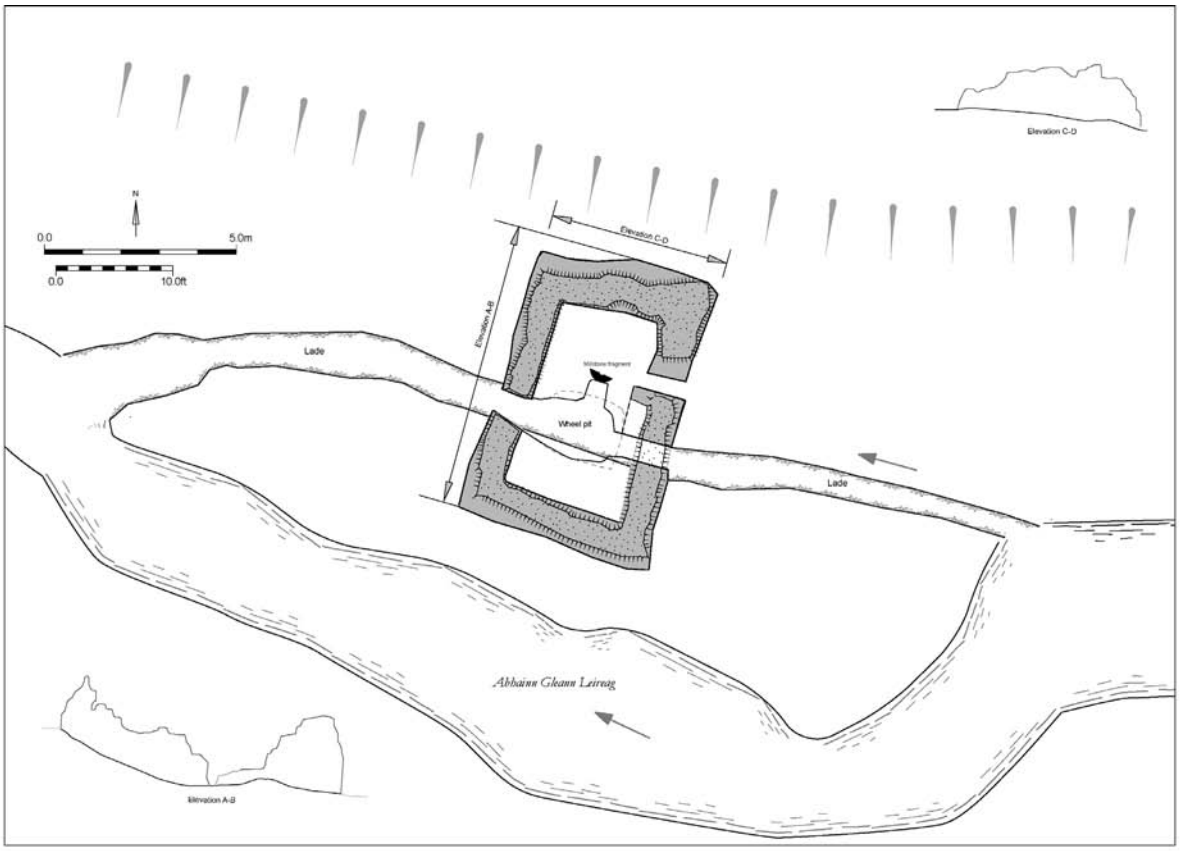


Figure 27: The Glenleraig mill (HLP 152)

Study Area 2: Inchnadamph

The Inchnadamph area

The Inchnadamph area comprises a mix of low lying wetland next to Loch Assynt rising up into the rocky crags of the hills to the west of the A835. There are areas of improved pasture along the River Traligill, areas of overgrown and undulating bracken land higher up beside Loch Assynt and the A835 and areas of peat moorland in the northernmost reaches. The views are spectacular throughout the valley; some of the archaeological sites- such as chambered cairn HLP 139- are quite prominent in the landscape.

The archaeological sites range from the Neolithic (chambered cairn HLP 139) to a 1930s monument commemorating Ben Peach and John Horne, who pioneered geological recording of the area. A number of modern buildings were also recorded, such as the 1740s church (HLP 144) and 1820s Manse (HLP 134) which are still in use today. Typically for Assynt, the Inchnadamph area represents a focus of settlement and agriculture through time, and remains from a long chronological timespan are detectable in a relatively confined area.

Map evidence

Home's estate map splits the Hidden Lives project study area of Inchnadamph into the estates of Inchnadamph (Figure 28) and Kirkton (Figure 29). The area was a focus of activity at the time of Home's survey, with many shielings, the kirk (HLP 144) and manse (HLP 134), many roofed buildings and areas of worked land, many of which are still visible. The area around the branch of the river to the east of the manse marked as 'sheeling' may be the sites recorded as HLP 138. Home notes the variable character of the topography, with steep and rocky high ground including , 'A ridge of white limestone craigs' and lower ground of , 'good sweet grassy pasture in the lower areas of Kirkton to the north of the, 'River Trarigill'. To the south of the river the terrain is mostly described as, 'mossy ground'; these descriptions are still fitting for the current state of the land. The roads, however, have changed: Home's map shows the road going from the manse travelling north-west and joining another route heading west from the manse to the kirk, before turning north to Calda House (HLP 142). The current road (A835) runs between the kirk and the manse, taking higher ground than the route shown on Home's map.

The first edition OS map (Figure 30) shows the centre of Inchnadamph to north of the river by the manse and the church; further occupied buildings have developed around them. Many of the shielings were apparently out of use by this stage, although the enclosures of Na h-Innsean (HLP 89A) and Ach'an Droighinn (HLP 88) were now marked, along with the farmstead and boundary dyke (HLP 138). Some of the structures of the Na Cuilean township (HLP 97) are marked to the east of the modern A835 and a structure that is shown as in use is now barely distinguishable in the field as HLP 140.

Key Sites

The following sites were recorded in detail as part of phase 2 of the Assynt survey.

HLP 88

Farmstead (Figure 32)

HLP 88 is comprised of two drystone buildings (A and B), two curvilinear banks (C and D), two springs (E and F) and a well (G). 88A is a N/S aligned longhouse divided into two compartments with no obvious entrance into the building or on the internal wall between the compartments. A possible third compartment exists as a single 4.9m stretch of wall attached to the south wall of the building although it has been truncated by a NE/SW aligned stone dyke field boundary. The building measures 17.2m by 5.2m with walls 0.8m wide that survive up to one metre in height. There is a possible porch feature almost halfway down the east wall although it is too covered in grass and snow to see. 88B is an L-shaped, drystone rubble enclosure measuring 10.8m by 8.1m, aligned NW/SE, probably associated with the longhouse 88A.

88C and 88D are curvilinear earthen banks visible on the lower ground to the south side of the site which may be part of the larger enclosure to the south-east of the site, which is marked on many versions of the OS maps. The banks are between 0.6m and 0.9m wide and survive up to a height of 1.1m.

88E and 88F are both springs that feed the Allt Druim nan Torr stream. 88E has possible stone modifications around the mouth and there is a stone built well (88G) between it and 88F to the north which was probably built around the mouth of a now dry spring. The stone of 88G measures 1m in height, is sub-oval in shape and 1.3m wide.

HLP 89

Enclosures (Figure 32)

Situated on a flat terrace of a west-facing slope overlooking Loch Assynt are two irregularly-shaped enclosures. Both are aligned NNW-SSE and are surrounded by mostly turfed over earth and stone banks. 89A,



Figure 28: Extract from Home's estate map, 1774, showing the area around Inchnadamph.



Figure 29: Extract from Home's estate map, 1774, showing the area around Kirkton.

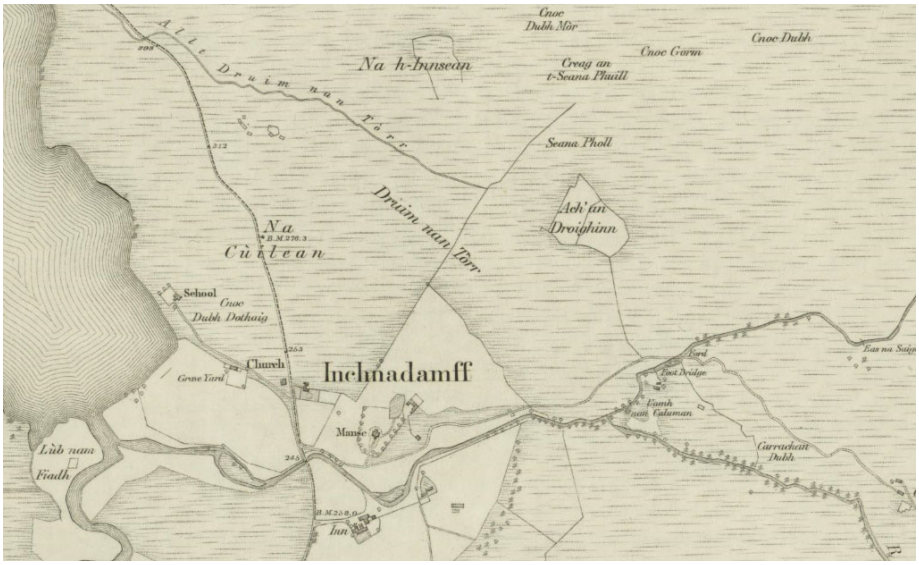


Figure 30: Extract from six-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of Sutherland, 1879

situated to the south-east of 89B, is the larger of the enclosures at 135m long with a width of 24.2m at the southern end and 80m at the northern end. It is an irregular shape with 1m wide banks reaching up to 0.6m high on average. The banks of 89B are 1.5m wide and up to 1m high in places, with much more stone present than in enclosure 89A, but the overall size is much smaller at 70m x 50m.

A previous listing of this site by the RCAHMS (as NC-22SE 15) only recorded one enclosure, although this record was from what was shown on the 1st edition OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1878, sheet 1xxi). Also, when visited by OS in 1980 the enclosures were deemed to be part of the township Na Cuilean (HLP 97).

HLP 97

Township (Figure 31)

HLP 97 has previously been identified as the township of Na Cuilean (MHG 12101) with the most detailed description by the OS in 1980 noting, 'Remaining are the footings of a nucleus of twenty or more buildings, dimensions from 17.0m by 4.5m to 5.0m by 3.0m, with associated enclosures and banks…' When the site was visited during the second phase of the hidden lives project 38 structures were identified and recorded.

Na Cuilean is situated to the east of the A835 up on a hill. The structures are separated by rocky cliffs and ridges and can be described as split into five areas. The largest area of buildings, including HLP 97A-HLP 97V, is on a slightly undulating plane next to but much higher than the road. The area is around 180m N/S and 70m E/W with a track snaking N/S through the structures and stopping in the north at the Allt Druim nan Torr stream which separates the main area from the most northerly structures of HLP 97V. Almost all of the structures in this area are drystone, sub-rectangular buildings with walls between 06m and 0.8m wide. The dimensions range from 18m by 5.2m (HLP 97G) to 5.15 by 3.7m (HLP 97L) and almost all the buildings survive to a height less than 0.5m with some only having single course stone rubble remains (HLP 97U). The buildings are mostly aligned N/S or E/W with their entrances closest to the track running through them. HLP 97J-L differ with their west wall entrances because their east side is blocked by a ridge. HLP 97O has a E/W aligned wall to the east of it, this may have been attached at some point as an extra room or enclosure. 97S and 97V are both enclosures that have been formed using the natural land undulations as walls. 97S has two short sections of wall used to close a natural enclosure formed by steep rises to the east, south and west. A small cell, perhaps a lambing pen, is also present within the enclosures. 97V is aligned NE-SW and uses the natural rock outcrop cliff as its NE wall. A NE/SW aligned wall sits to the east of the enclosure and may have been associated with it. 97I is a further single stone line wall which is at the southern end of this area and runs from 97D up to the base of the steep slope to the east, it is broken by the track.

The remainder of the township can be reached by climbing the steep, rocky slopes and cliffs that enclose the first area to the north and east. In the north there are three more drystone buildings which are sub-rectangular and all aligned NW/SE with entrances on their SW wall. These buildings tend to have more curved walls than the lower lying structures, although their remains are much more dilapidated. As at Glenleraig, the bow-walled apsidal structures may be the earlier structures at Inchnadamph.

Around 80m south across the Allt Druim nan Torr stream is another group of three small buildings which are almost oval in plan. Although located on top of a ridge there is a small rise around the edge creating a sheltered area.

Further south is another cluster of drystone, sub-rectangular buildings mostly aligned NW/SE, although in this area there is also an enclosure and bank system (97AE). 97AE is a building aligned N/S measuring 10.7 by 5.35m and standing to a height of 1.05m. It is joined to and surrounded by an enclosure which is sub-rectangular, aligned NW/SE, measuring 28.7m by 21m with walls spreading up to 3m wide. Earth and stone banks run in an eastern direction from the enclosure up the hill and from the west of it across to the other buildings before turning south. The banks survive to a height of 1.2m and have an entrance in the north-west corner. Building 97AF stands out in this area as it is the only building with a possible drystone internal dividing wall which is protruding from its north-east side almost halfway along the structure.

The final area of the township is located further up the slope to the north around 15m south of the Allt Druim nan Torr stream and 20m west of 97Y. It is a 40m length of stone wall running E/W situated between two outcrops of rock. It is 1.6m wide and 0.75m high.

The group structures recorded as HLP 137 may also be part of Na Cuilean (see HLP 137).

HLP 98

Burnt Mounds (Figure 31)

HLP 98 was previously listed as at least seven burnt mounds situated along Allt Druim nan Torr. When the site was visited by AOC in December 2009, five candidate burnt mounds were identified along the stream

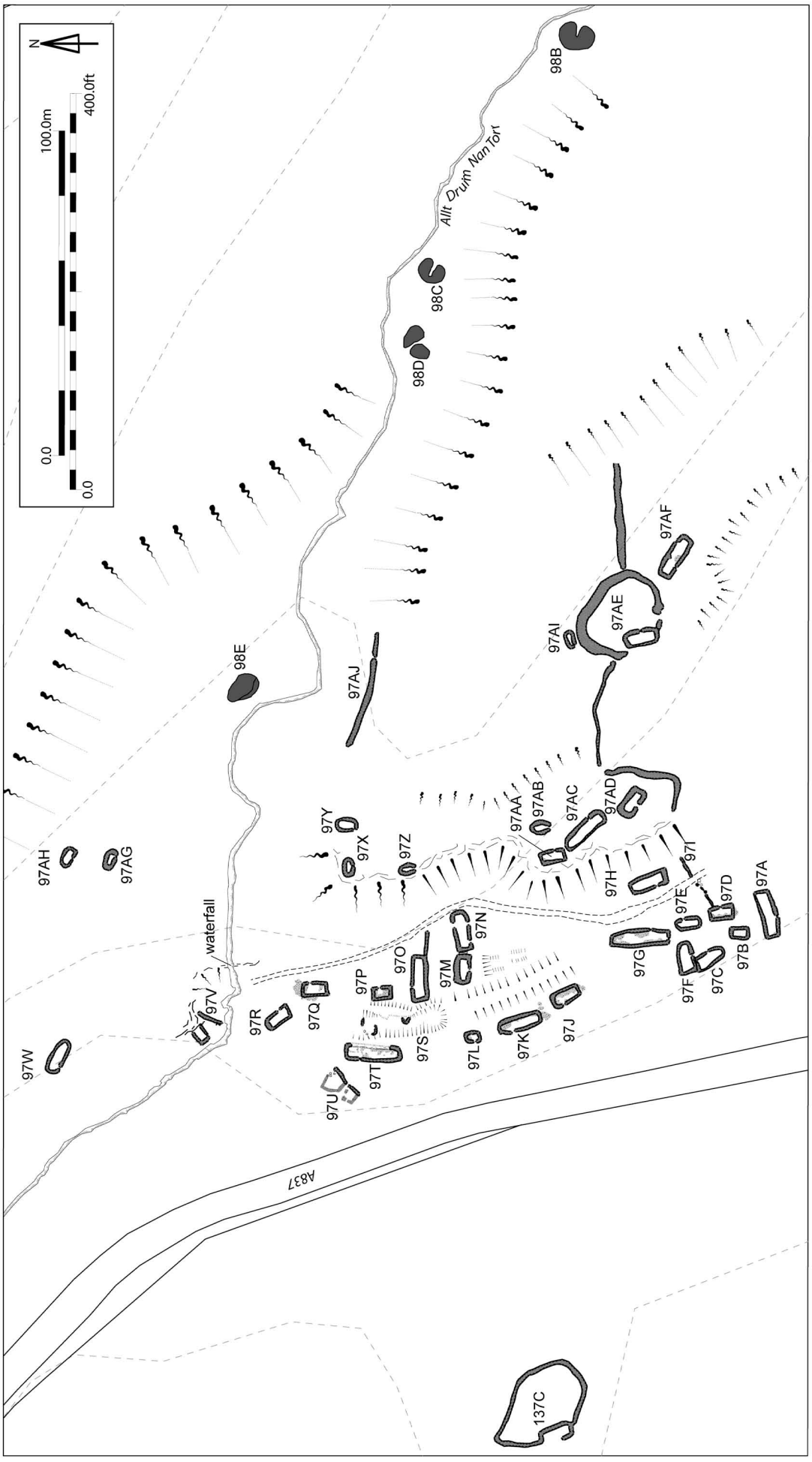


Figure 31: Plan of Kirkton township (HLP 97).

but when revisited in February 2010 only four were visible due to the snow conditions during the second phase of survey.

The Allt Druim nan Torr stream splits and meanders across a low valley making the base of the valley quite boggy in places. Five possible burnt mounds were initially identified along the stream banks, mainly on the south side of the valley, four were surveyed during the second phase. 98E is 8m by 4.7m and 0.8m high, at the highest point, and aligned NW-SE. 98D is 0.5m by 6.4m and 0.6m high and aligned NW-SE. 98C is 7.65m by 5.2m and 0.6m high and aligned E-W. 98B is 10.7m by 6.1m and 1m high and aligned ENE-WSW. All are possible burnt mounds, although in the absence of excavation this can only be a provisional identification.

HLP 135

Homestead Moat (Figure 33)

Situated on relatively flat ground to the south-west of Inchnadamph church and to the east of Loch Assynt is an oval shaped enclosure, aligned NE-SE, surrounded by an earthen bank. The bank is mostly 4m wide but is up to 6m wide on the west side and reaches between 0.2m and 0.8m in height. There are three breaks in the bank on the north, east and south-west. The south-west break is 3.5m wide and the land where the bank is missing is very flat. The other two breaks are both quite uneven and are less than 2m across. The land in the middle of the enclosure rises up towards the centre, there is a shallow depression, perhaps a ditch between the bank and the central area.

HLP 137

Township (Figure 32)

While searching for the township of Na Cuilean (previously recorded as MHG12101), in the phase 1 walkover survey, two buildings and two enclosures were discovered and recorded as HLP 137a-c. The structures are situated on uneven land comprising rocky outcrops to the east of Loch Assynt about 600m north of HLP 135.

137a is a drystone enclosure composed of unworked, angular stones of less than 50cm in width which survive in walls up to 0.5m high and 0.7m wide, although there is up to 1m spread of walls in places. The enclosure is sub-rectangular in plan and is situated on uneven ground that slopes from down from north to south and west to east. The west wall is situated on top of a ridge and survives only with a few sparse stones spread along its route. There are no obvious internal features and although the east wall is truncated there does not appear to be an entrance anywhere.

137b is a ruinous, drystone building, aligned N-S, consisting of two compartments. The walls survive up to 0.6m high, but are mostly no more than 0.3m, with a width of 0.7m or a spread width of up to a metre in places. Moss and bracken covered rubble debris from the walls litters the interior and surrounding area. There are two possible entrances on the east wall, one into each of the compartments and a possible internal entrance to the east of the internal dividing wall. None of these possible entrances are well defined and could instead be areas of collapse. There is an additional length of walling attached to the north-east corner of the building and aligned N-S which could have been another compartment or part of an enclosure, although only a 3.7m stretch of this remains.

137c consists of a drystone building measuring 10.4m by 5.3m, aligned N/S, with a conjoined, almost triangular enclosure measuring 32m by 22m, aligned NW/SE. The structures measure no more than 0.5m high and have collapsed in several places. The building has almost no remaining west wall.

Although initially identified as the township of Na Cuilean since HLP 97 was discovered it could be thought of as a previously unrecorded site or perhaps one part of Na Cuilean which seem very separate due to the position of the A835 cutting through the township.

HLP 138

Farmstead (Figure 33)

HLP 138 is farmstead comprised of four unroofed buildings, a mill, two stone platforms, a trackway, a shieling and a number of enclosures and clearance cairns. 138A and 138C are both drystone, rectangular, single compartments buildings aligned NE/SW with an entrance on their south-east wall. Both measure about 8m by 5m, but whereas A stands to a height of 0.9m, C barely survives higher than one stone course. 138A also has an L-shaped wall attached to its south-east corner forming a possible enclosure (138G).

138B and 138D are also drystone, rectangular buildings although they both have three compartments and are aligned NW/SE with entrances on their south-west wall. Only one entrance is visible on 138B leading into the western most, largest compartment (9m by 3.7m) which is separated from the next compartment by a 2m wide wall and has a large displaced lintel present which may by from a fireplace. The other two compartments are much less wide as the south-west wall juts in at the dividing wall. An extra compartment or porch exists to the west of the entrance outside the

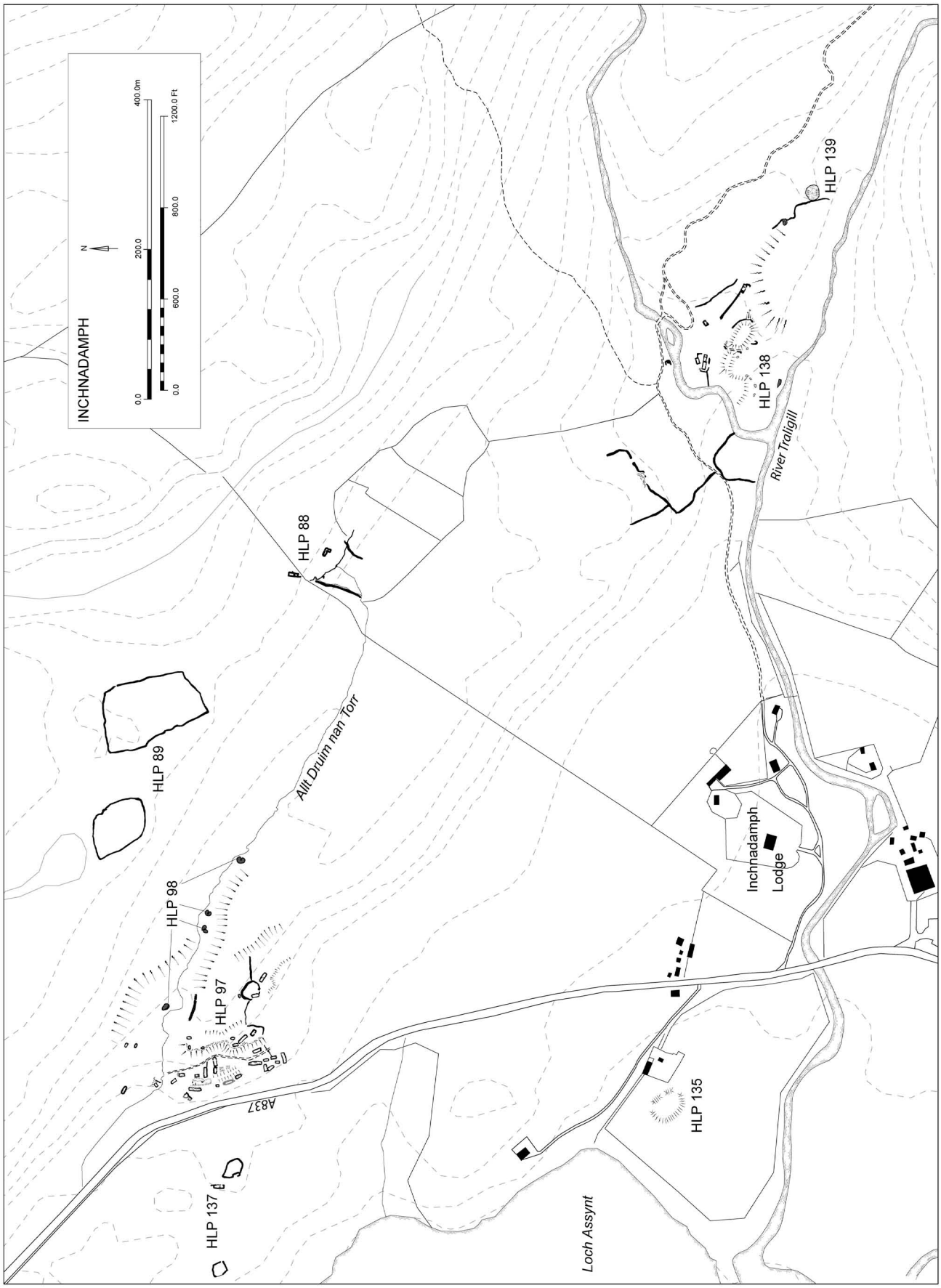


Figure 32: Map of Inchnadamph, showing the sites surveyed.

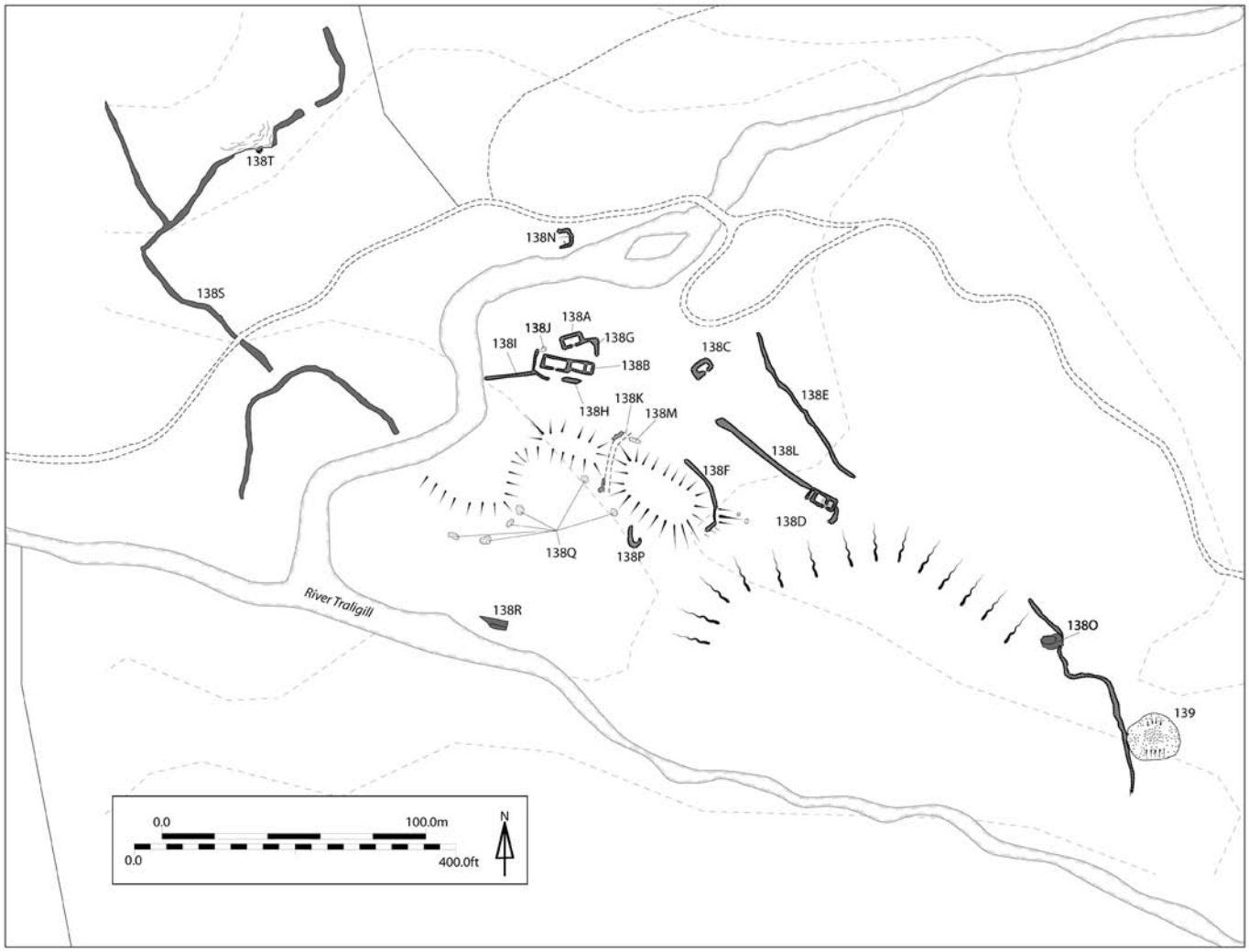


Figure 33: Plan of the farmstead at Inchnadamhp (HLP 138).

structure, this area is filled with small pieces of rubble. 138D survives much less well with spread walls and much rubble both inside and outside the structure. There are two entrances on the south-west wall leading into one large compartment in the east and one small compartment to the west. The large compartment is then sub-divided into two by an internal stone wall creating perhaps a byre and a single domestic room. Another possible porch exists just to the west of the entrance on the outside of the structure and a large stone dyke (138L) abuts the building on both the north west and south-east corners.

A number of stone dykes (138E-I and 138L) exist on the site which are composed of earth and stone over a metre wide with no real construction style. 138I respects 138B and may have once been attached to 138H which only remains as an 8m length. 138F is a curvilinear wall surviving in places only as a single line of stones which follows the base of a rocky outcrop but does not complete a continuous circuit. 138E has been previously recorded as a boundary dyke and a separate site of its own (Highland HER ID: MHG 44038). It is almost 70m long and up to 0.6m high, possibly at one point connected to the wall associated with HLP 139 forming a complete eastern boundary for HLP 138.

138P is also a earth and stone bank which curves to form an enclosure 7m by 3m aligned N/S. It lies on the south side of a ridge which runs E/W through the site. The ridge is split through the middle by an apparently man-made track 8.2m long and 2m wide (138K) which has two areas of varied stone rubble forming ramps. The track leads from the buildings on the north side of the ridge through to probable cornfields on the south side. A number of clearance cairns (138Q) exist in this probable cornfield perhaps explaining where the rest of the stone from the ruinous buildings has gone. Other clearance cairns (138J and 138M) exist around the buildings also.

Also in the cornfield is a stone platform (138R) measuring 6.3m by 2m, aligned E/W, and standing to a height of 0.75m. 138O is a grassy mound situated north-west of HLP 139 which may also be a stone platatform.

To the north of 138A across the River Traligill are the low grass covered stone wall remains of a mill (138N). North, east and south walls, 0.8m wide and 0.65m high with three courses of stone, are visible along with a wheelpit although the west wall is completely missing. A red sandstone mill wheel is visible at the west end of the wheel pit, but there are no obvious signs of a lade.

Over 100m to the W of the mill (138N) is a field system of earth and stone banks (138S) forming enclosures filled with bracken. The track truncates the system and there are a number of other breaks visible. A small shieling structure (138T) is visible abuting a rocky outcrop on the south edge of a NE/SE aligned bank.

HLP 139

Cairn (Figure 34)

Situated on an area of flat land at the top of a steep slope leading down to the River Traligill in the south is a sub-circular stone mound. It measures almost 20m in diameter and is made up of uneven stone rubble with no distinctive building pattern. Stone robbing and collapse is evident in the top and on the north side although the stone pile still reaches 2.0m in height. The views across to Loch Assynt are good from the site which itself is quite prominent in the landscape from the north, east and the hills to the south of the river.

A curvilinear, drystone wall begins 15m south of the cairn, passing by its west side and travelling north east for almost 100m. It is 0.7m wide and 0.5m high, and of earth and stone construction.

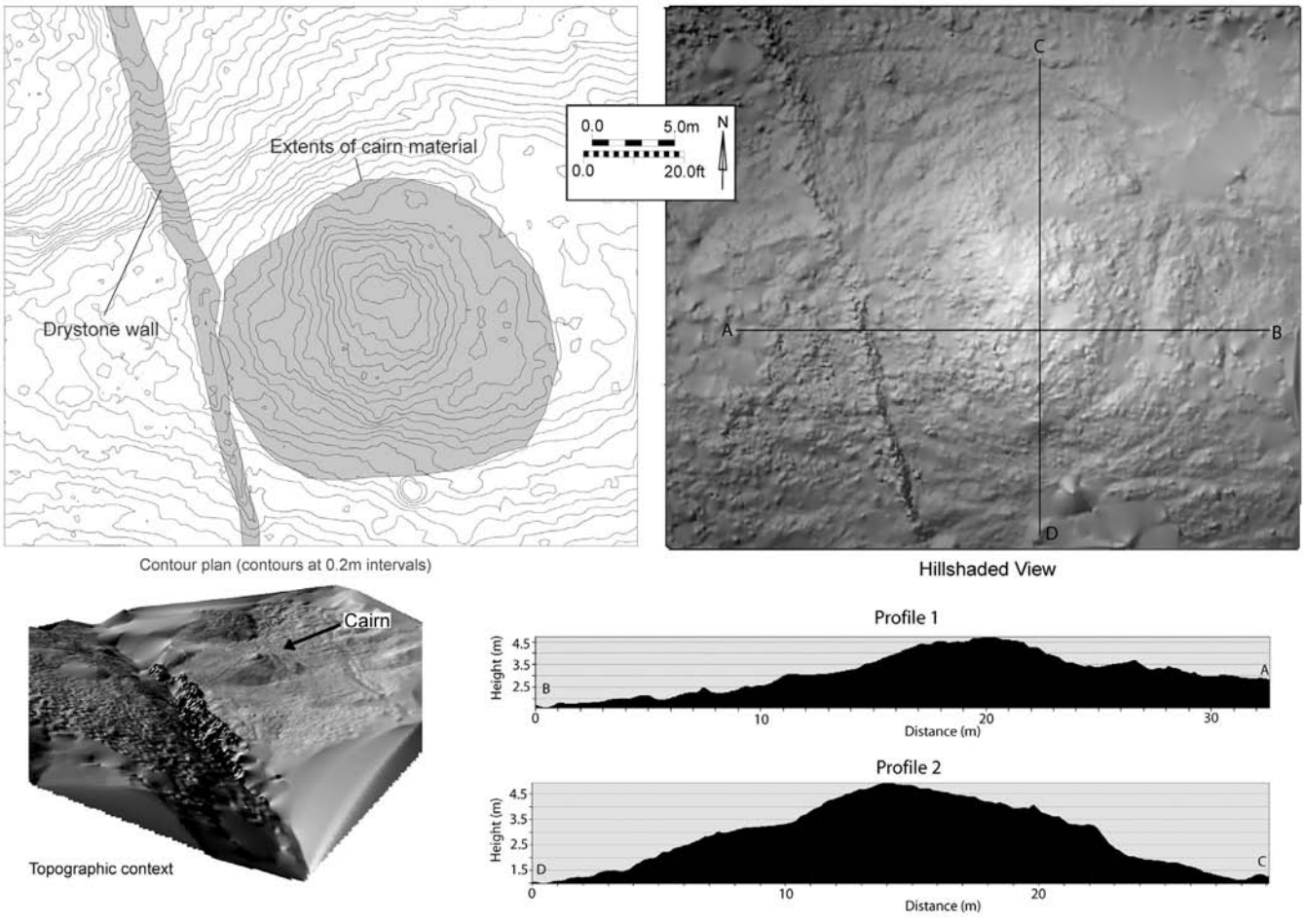


Figure 34: Survey of cairn HLP 139.



Figure 35: HLP 97, structure O, from the east.



Figure 36: HLP 138, structure N, mill building and wheelpit.

Study Area 3: Lyne and Ledbeg

The Lyne/Ledbeg area

The concentration of sites found around Lyne and Ledbeg constitutes one of the most archaeologically rich areas in the parish. Situated in Assynt's 'limestone corridor', the terraces formed by the Ledbeg river and the shores of Loch Awe have provided some of Assynt's more fertile land, a feature which may be reflected in the focus of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity evidenced by the chambered cairns as well as a wide range of medieval and post-medieval settlements. Home's 1774 map of the area notes extensive cornfields and areas of wet meadow in the area now occupied by Ledbeg House, indicating the presence of a farmstead in this location. The upland slopes of the glen were also used extensively by sheilings, and several are noted by Home. Today, the area is wet, boggy rough grazing with occasional conifer plantations; a large limestone quarry is active south of the Ledbeg River, at Creag Mac a Ghille Ghlais.

Like Inchnadaph to the north, the Lyne/Ledbeg area is illustrative of the focus of activity on limited areas through time in Assynt, resulting in the juxtaposition of sites of very variable types and periods. The area includes several large chambered cairns, characteristically located on the shoulders of the valley slopes (e.g. HLP 122) and often overlain by later buildings or enclosures (such as HLP 34 and perhaps 35).

Map evidence

Home's estate map indicates relatively intense use of the Lyne/Ledbeg and the shores of Loch Awe ('Loch Ha') area in the pre-clearance period (Figure 37), with several areas of improved field systems marked. The land around Ledbeg is noted as 'good grassy pasture' and there are extensive improved fields associated with the farmsteads at both Ledbeg (HLP 29) and Lyne (HLP 125). It is probable that the numerous enclosures recorded as part of this survey work (e.g. HLP 127, HLP 31, HLP 34) are associated with the shielings recorded by Home.

The evidence for settlement of the area is greatly reduced in the post-clearance period, and by the time of the OS first edition map there are no occupied structures marked, other than the houses at Ledbeg and Lyne ('Loyne'); the buildings recorded at HLP 30 are marked as unroofed. The enclosure at Loynemore (HLP 34) is marked on the OS first edition map, but the ruinous buildings are not noted. In all, the cartographic sources confirm that the majority of the activity in the Lyne/Ledbeg area predates the clearances.

Key Sites

The following sites were recorded in detail as part of phase 2 of the Assynt survey.



Figure 37: Extract from Home's estate map showing the area around Ledbeg.

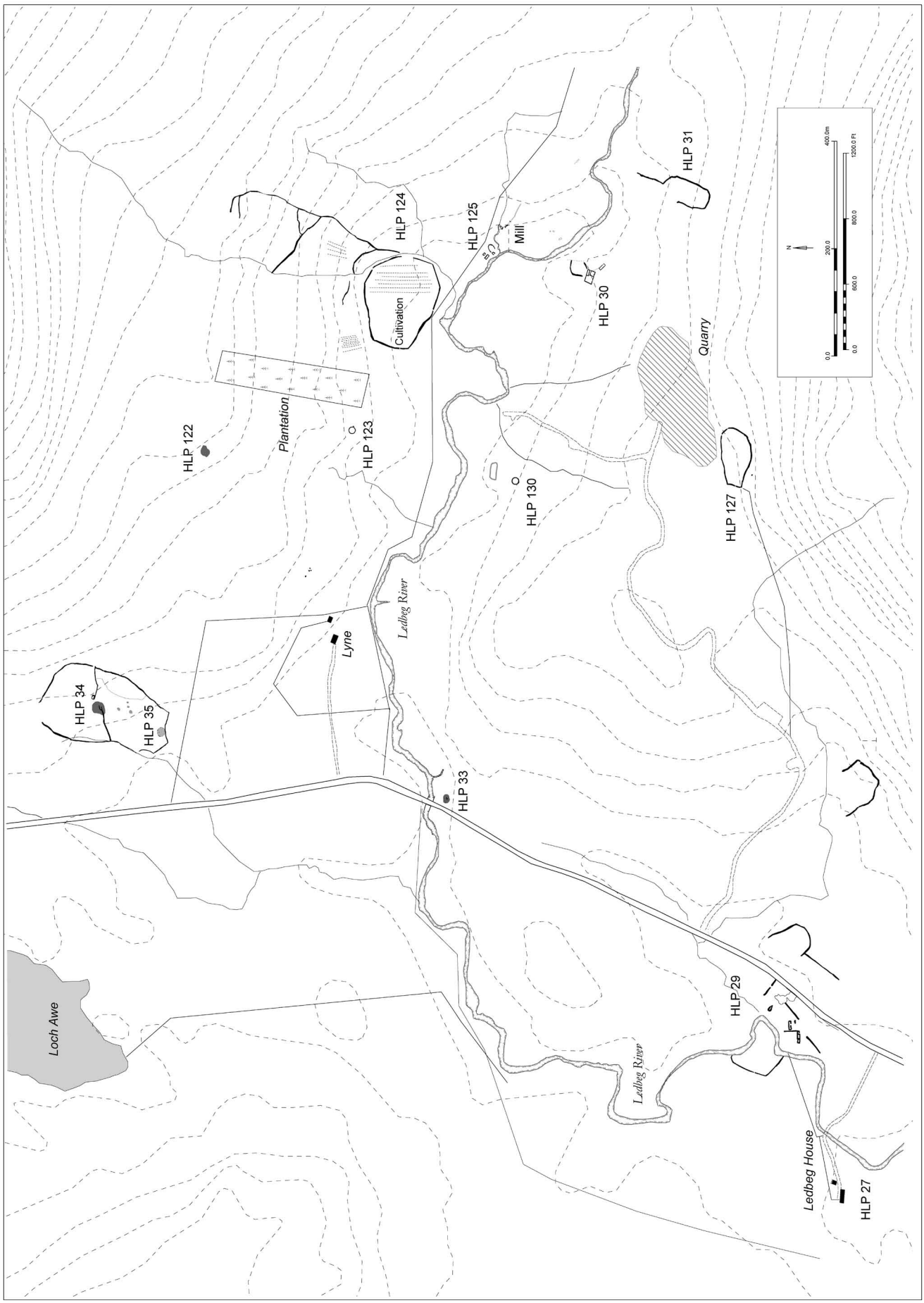


Figure 38: General plan of the sites around Ledbeg and Lyne.

HLP 30

Enclosure and structures (Figure 39)

This site comprises a conjoined complex of rectilinear structures associated with a curvilinear earthen bank, situated on a terrace on the south side of the Ledbeg River. The curvilinear enclosure- located to the north of the conjoined structures- is composed of an earth and stone bank of maximum width 1.9m and standing to a maximum height of 0.5m. The enclosure (A) backs onto a steep slope down to the Ledbeg River to the north, and abuts the building complex, forming a sub-circular space with two entrances, one 2.0m in width on the SW side and the second, slightly narrower on the SE. The main building complex comprises ruinous dry stone wall footings up to 0.7m in thickness, standing up to 0.6m high within the rubble of their collapse. A rectilinear enclosure (B) incorporates a rectangular building (C) measuring 11.0m by 6.0m with drystone walls 0.8m thick and standing up to 0.9m high. The building has a single entrance in the east; a possible, more ruinous entrance is located in the southern wall. In the south east of the complex, a square enclosure (D) measuring 8.0m by 8.0m is entered from the north and south, through gaps 0.40 and 0.5m in width. These remains may represent buildings which have been converted into a sheep fank.

A further structure (E) is located 10m to the SE, a rectangular building comprising ruinous walling 13.0m by 4.0m, oriented NW/SE. The walls stand to 0.90m in height, and are a maximum width of 0.90m. No entrance is visible among the rubble of the collapse.

The buildings are marked as unroofed, and were probably ruinous, by the time of the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1874).

HLP 29

Buildings, field banks (Figure 40)

A complex of buildings located on the banks of the Ledbeg River comprises HLP 29, including a longhouse (A), divided into three compartments and entered through two doors in the south wall. The walls of this structure are now visible as grassy mounds, with only occasional stones protruding above ground level. There is little evidence of tumble surrounding the building, suggesting turf may have been a major structural component of the walls. Structure B is similar in character, comprising a long rectangular building of similar construction, but apparently a single compartment, 17m long and 5m wide. This building was also entered through the S wall, through an entrance 0.5m in width. The buildings seem likely to be of similar date, with structure B possibly a barn, while structure A seems more likely to be domestic. A small square enclosure, of similar construction (G), is located directly to the N of building A, entered by an entrance 1.5m in width.

The buildings are surrounded by field banks of earth and stone, measuring up to 2.0m in width and up to 0.5m in height (C, D & H), some of which (H) were marked on the OS first edition map. A linear ditch, 1.3m in width (F) runs in a NE/SW direction to the E of the buildings, and is truncated by modern road quarry pits; the purpose of this feature is unclear.

A curvilinear mound of material (E) is located to the SE of building B, measuring 6.7m by 3.2m and standing to 0.75m in height. The nature of this mound is unclear, although it could relate to clearance, or perhaps to earlier features on the site.

To the N of the building complex, a ramp has been constructed of earth and stone, sloping down to the river opposite the mound of Cnoc an t-Seagaill. This feature is 12m in length and 1.5m in width at the top.

Although the presence of a broch on Cnoc an t-Seagaill was suggested by previous surveyors (Mercer 1980), no evidence of this structure was seen during the Hidden Lives Survey project. The knoll is enclosed on its W side, however, by earth and stone banks,

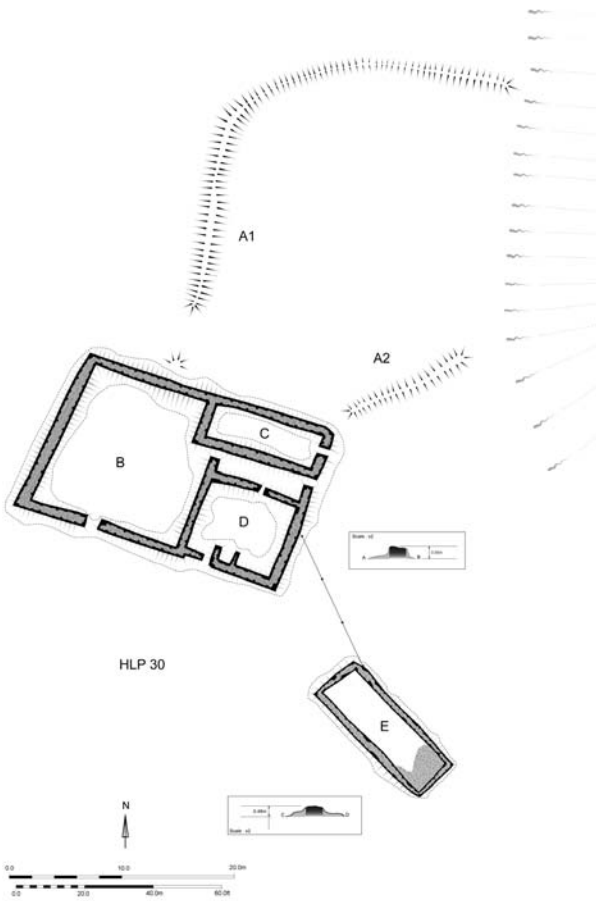


Figure 39: Plan of HLP 30, buidings and enclosure.

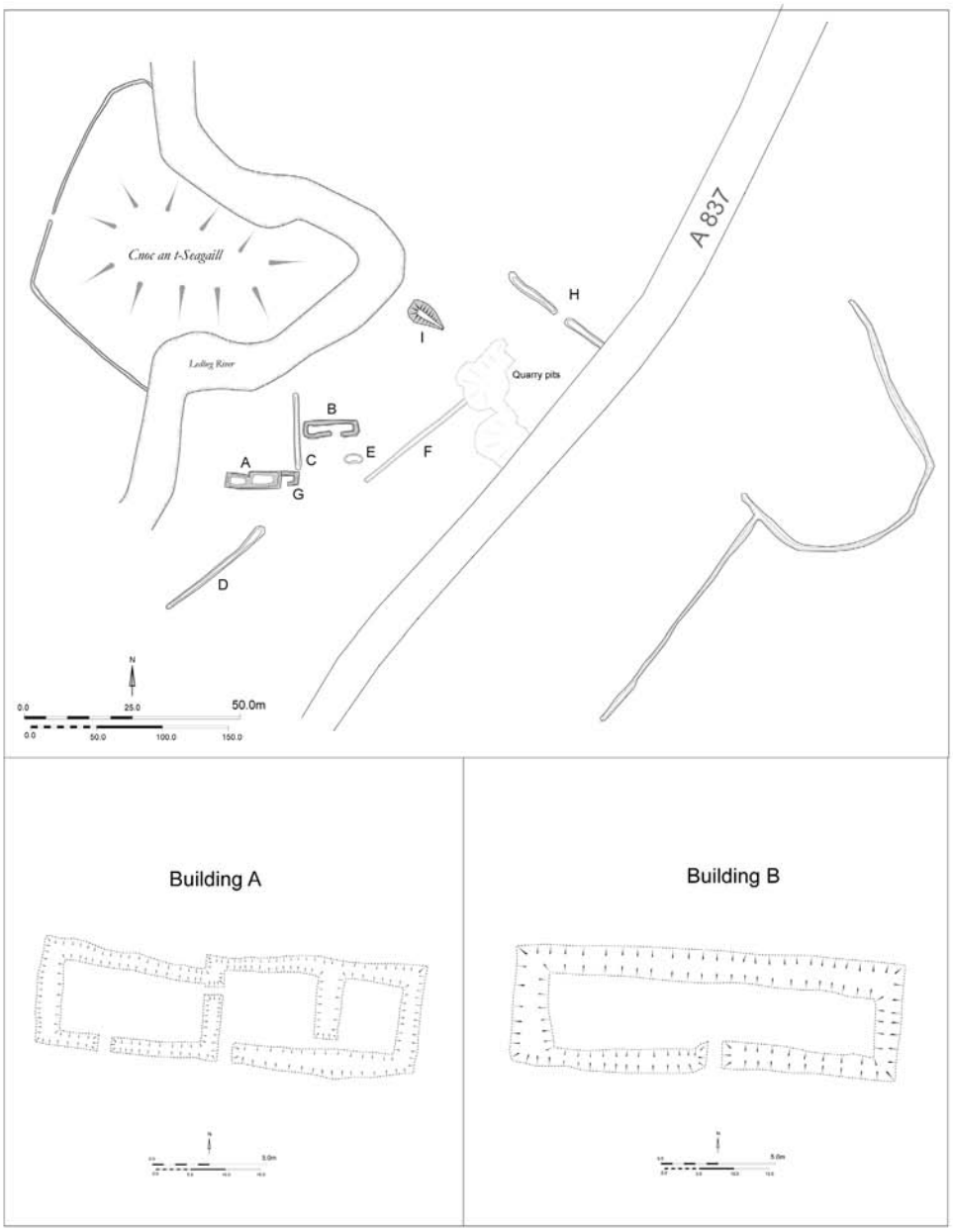


Figure 40: Plan of the Buildings and enclosures at Cnoc an t-Seagaill, HLP 29.



Figure 41: Structures C and D, HLP 30.

forming an enclosed promontory on the W bank of the river. These banks are shown on the OS first edition map.

HLP 34

Buildings, enclosure, cairn (possible)

The large enclosure at Loynemore comprises a turf and stone bank, averaging 1.6m in width and enclosing a large sub-rectangular area of improved ground and several clearance cairns, up to 5m in diameter (figure 42).

The enclosure is divided into two areas by a bisecting bank which terminates with the ruinous remains of a building (figure Y, B). This structure is very poorly preserved, but is visible as the stone footings of a rectangular building measuring approx 10.2m by 3.6m; few stones appear to be in situ and the E end of the structure is almost entirely destroyed. The relationship of this building to the enclosure cannot be demonstrated, but the field bank does not continue beyond building B, so that their contemporaneity seems likely. Similarly, building A, located at the W terminal of the bisecting bank in enclosure 34 comprises a small ruinous building, of which only the footings are visible, forming a rectangular structure with two internal compartments measuring c. 3m by 4m.

The bisecting wall (figure 42) and structure B overlie a mound of stony cairn material, which may represent the denuded remains of a chambered cairn. Several large stones protrude from this mound, and although the mound is turf covered, cairn-like rubble can be traced in a sub-circular shape measuring c.12m in diameter. Excavation would be required to confirm the site as a cairn, but its size and topographic location are similar to both HLP 35, 100m to the S, and HLP 122, located c.500m to the E.

HLP 35

Cairn (Figure 43)

Underlying the earth and stone bank of enclosure 34 on its S side are the remains of a circular chambered cairn measuring 16m in diameter and standing to 2.5m

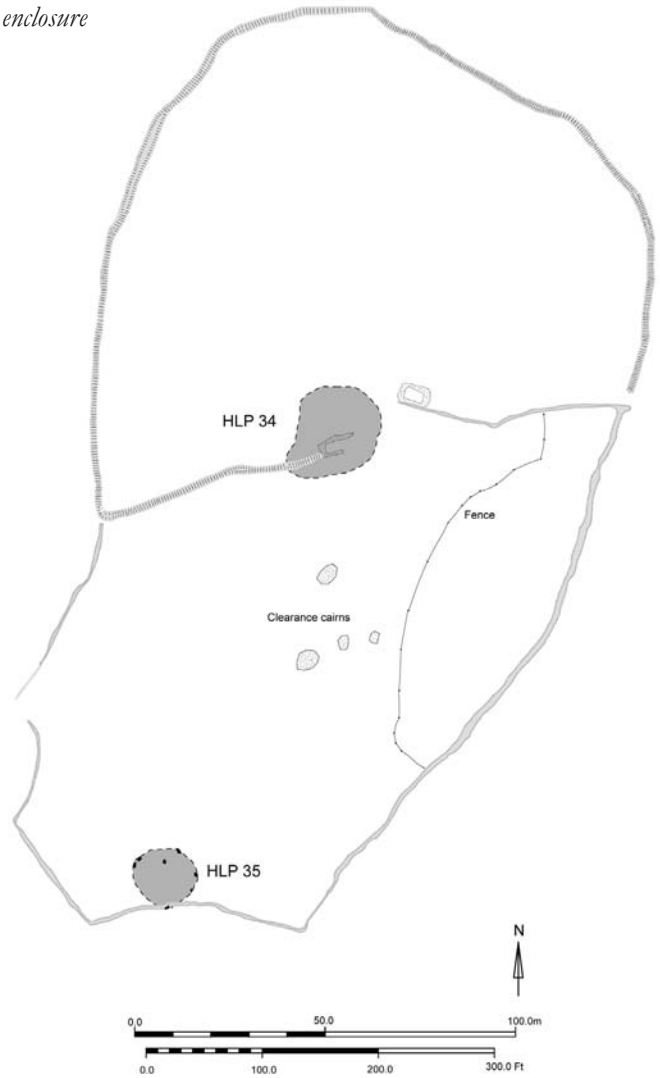


Figure 42: Plan of the Loynemore enclosure and cairns HLP 34 and 35.

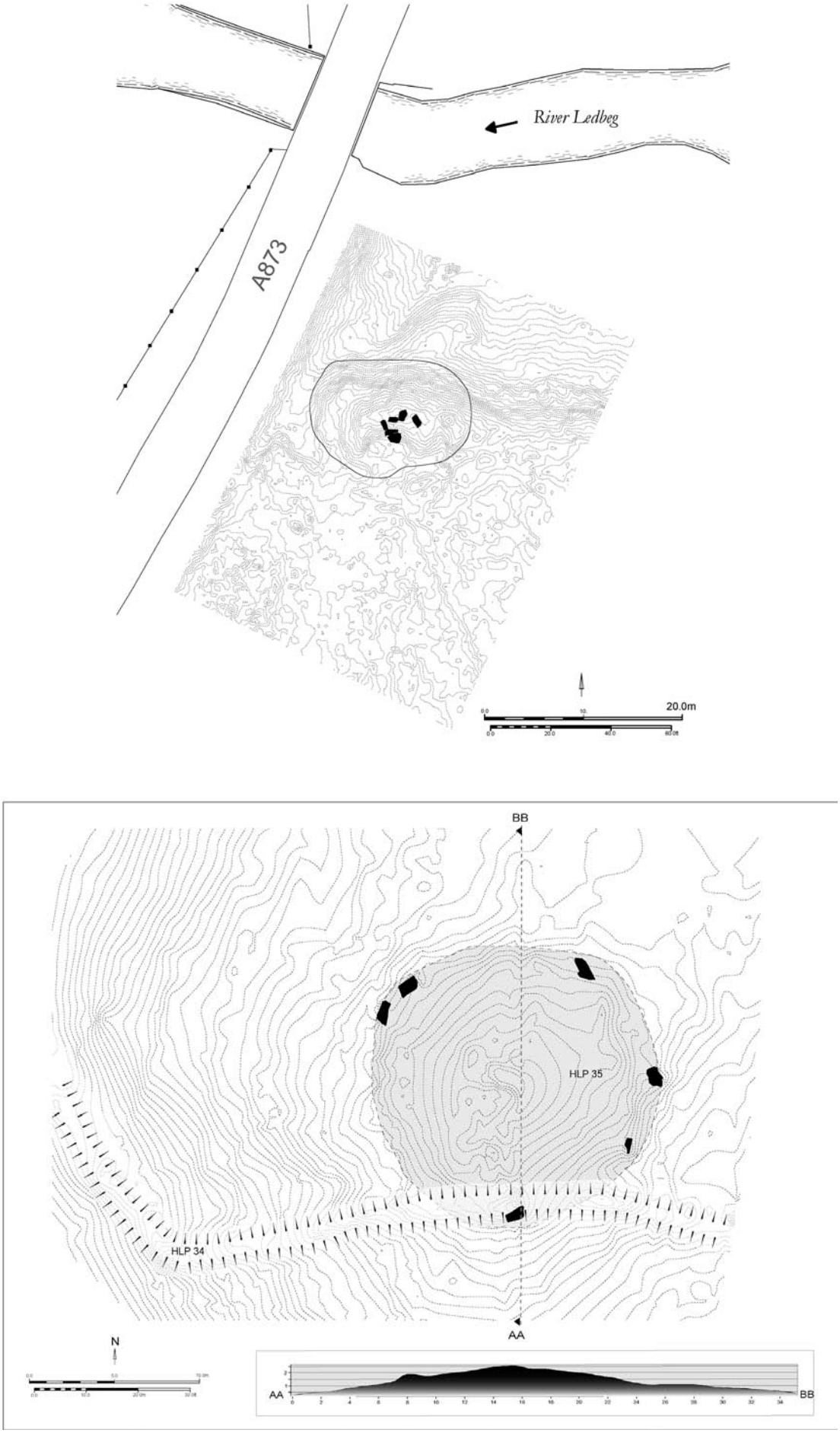


Figure 43: Surveys of cairns: HLP 33 (top) and HLP 35 (bottom).

in height. Six earthfast boulders are visible around the base, and although the cairn is turf-covered a shallow depression in the crest of the mound may mark the position of the internal chamber. No other constructional details are evident.

HLP 122

Cairn (figure 44)

HLP 122 is a well preserved chambered cairn, located near the 220m OD contour overlooking Lyne and Ledbeg (figure 44). The cairn comprises a teardrop-shaped mound of stones averaging c.40cm in diameter, located on a shoulder of rock overlooking a steep SW-facing slope. Directly beneath the cairn is a roughly circular scarped platform (C), bounded by a curvilinear bank c.2m in width and standing up to 0.5m in height to the NW (B). The function of this feature is not apparent, but the position of the platform below the cairn serves to create a 'forecourt' area, which is enhanced by the natural slope upon which the cairn is positioned. It is possible that this arrangement was deliberately chosen to enhance the impression of the cairn when viewed from below; this characteristic of using the natural topography to enhance the impression of the monument is common to many of the Assynt cairns. The views of the valley from this site are commanding, and the large cairn on the opposite side of the valley, at Cnoc Bad na Cleithe, is clearly visible.

HLP 33

Cairn (Figure 43)

This cairn is situated close to the road, and is visible as a large mound and projecting orthostats close to the bridge over the River Ledbeg. The cairn has been badly disturbed, probably during the construction of the road, and parts of the mound have been quarried away; this is particularly visible on the south side of the monument. The large stones projecting from the top of the cairn probably mark the position of the internal chamber, although this is badly disturbed and reliable dimensions cannot easily be obtained. Like the other cairns in the Ledbeg valley, the site is sub-circular/oval in plan, measuring around 9.0m in diameter and standing to almost 2m.

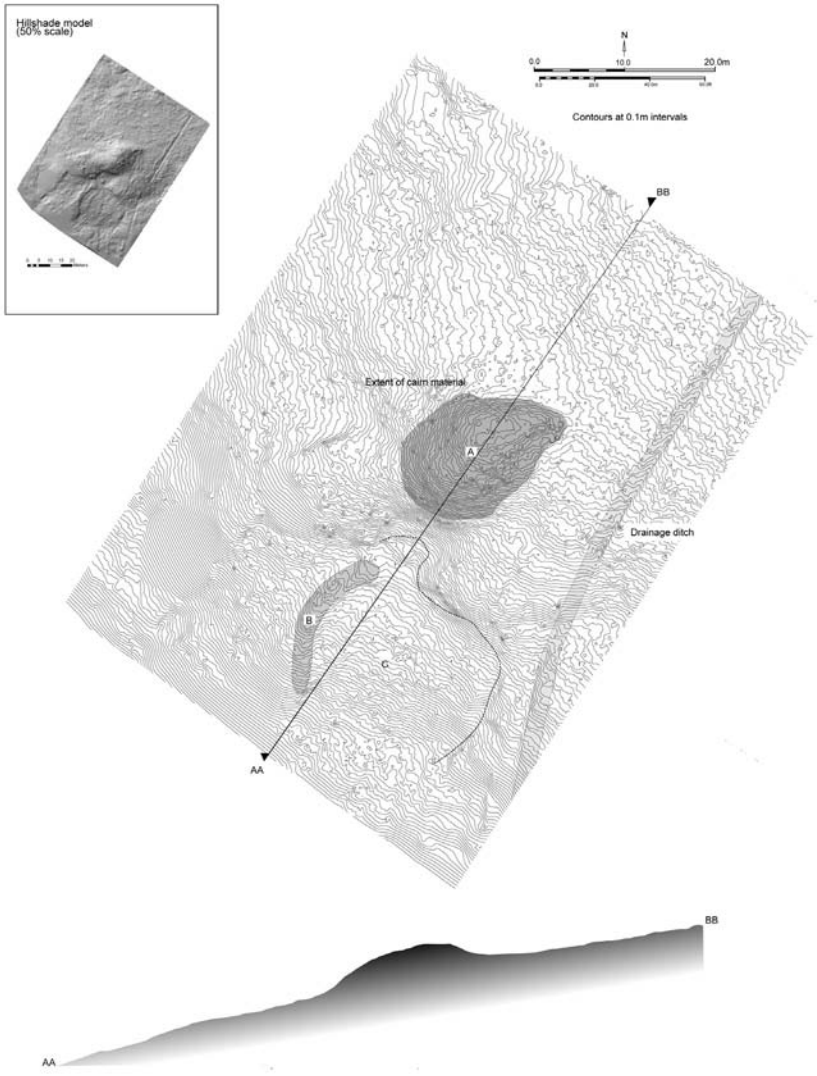


Figure 44: Surveys of cairn at HLP 122.

Study Area 4: Knockan

The Knockan area

The Knockan study area is mostly improved pasture although there are rocky outcrops to the west, which may be the source of much of the building stone used in the area. The land is split into high ground to the south and east of the A835 and the low valley bottom to the west of the road.

The area has archaeology representative of a number of periods in time ranging from chambered cairns (HLP 108 and HLP 109) to the modern township of Knockan (HLP111). A number of field systems (HLP 107A, 107D, 107E and 107G) present in the late 18th century and more modern buildings including a horizontal watermill (HLP 107C) and a sheepfold (HLP 107H) date from the post-medieval period.

Map evidence

Home's estate map (Figure 45) shows Knockan as a mix of 'high rocky ground yieling coarse pasture' with 'steep braes yielding good grassy pasture' leading down to 'mossy ground with grassy pasture' in the north and 'steep rocky braes yields fine grass' in the west. The study area was focused to the north west where the area is still a mixture of meadow grass and rocky braes. The area of Knockan was highly active at the time of Home's survey, with a number of buildings surrounded by corn lands situated towards the north of his map. There are also a number of separate enclosures and two shielings up on the hill next to 'The Blind Burn'.

As depicted in the first edition OS map (Figure #) by 1879 the farmstead of Knockan had grown into the Knockan township (HLP 111) that still exists today, and a track going from Ullapool right through the town has been established which is now the A835. Two of the enclosures exist on the OS map as Achadh na h-Aghaidh (HLP 107E and HLP 107G), although the shielings do not appear on the map and were outwith the study area.

Key Sites

The following sites were recorded in detail as part of phase 2 of the Assynt survey although the area of Knockan was not originally part of the second phase of survey but was revisited for one day when heavy snow blocked the route to all the other areas. The survey is therefore not as detailed as for the other study areas and would repay further survey in the future.

HLP 107

Enclosures; building; sheep fank; mill; clearance cairns (Figure 46)

HLP 107 is made up of a number of different sites and includes the Achadh Na H-Aghan field system of two conjoining enclosures (HLP 107E and HLP 107G) shown as in use in 1774 on Home's map. The remains are vestigial now with only sections of curvilinear earth and stone banks remaining. HLP 108A and HLP 108D may also be parts of enclosures which are made of earth and stone now spread to up to 1.5m wide and surviving only to a height of



Figure 45: Extract from Home's estate map, 1774 showing the area around Knockan (left) and Extract from six-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of Sutherland, 1879 (right).

0.5m. 107A has clear west and south walls although the north and east walls are almost completely missing and 108D survives only as a 40m length of wall, aligned E-W, with much of it made up of single stones. Unfortunately only 15m of it was clear enough to see in the deep snow at the time of survey.

HLP 107C is a drystone, horizontal watermill aligned WNW-ESE on the east bank of the Allt Lochan Fhionnlaidh stream. It sits against a natural rock outcrop that the water of the stream tumbles over as it passes the mill. A possible lade splits off of the stream to the south of the mill and would have taken the water NE through the mill, although it is now dry. The building measures 6m by 4.3m with a maximum height of 1.6m in the west corner and a possible entrance on the east end. The interior is rubble filled and overgrown with grass and moss although a 1.5m diameter millstone is still visible in situ. The mill site does not appear to have been previously recorded.

HLP 107B is a drystone, E-W aligned croft building measuring 14.1m x 5.3m with 5 courses of varied rubble, averaging 0.5m x 0.2m, making up a maximum height of 1.2m in places. Two entrances exist on the southern wall with one leading into a 7.7m wide room in the west and the other leading into a smaller 4.1m wide room to the east which is further divided by an internal wall into two rooms less that 1.8m wide. The larger room has a 1.7m long sub-dividing wall in its north-east corner which may be a secondary addition for use as a lambing cell.

HLP 107H is a drystone sheepfold, aligned E-W, measuring 21.1m x 8.3m made up of 3 compartments. The largest compartment is situated on the east of the building, has an internal dimensions of 9.9m x 6.2m and is entered through the east wall of the building. A 1.9m sub-dividing wall is situated in the north-east corner of this compartment and as with HLP 107B this may be a small lambing cell. From this compartment there is an entrance in its west wall into the next largest compartment measuring 8m x 2.7m. Once in this second compartment there is only a sheep entrance into the smallest compartment situated in the north-west corner of the building. The entire building is quite ruinous with barely any remains of the eastern wall, although some areas of stone survive up to over a metre.

The other site recorded as HLP 107 is 107F which consists of two clearance cairns measuring 3m in diameter and 1m in height. Both are stone piles covered sparsely in turf which unfortunately due to the snow depth could not be seen at the time of survey so are marked on the map with their GPS position.

HLP 108

Chambered Cairn (Figure 47)

The chambered cairn HLP 108 is situated on a narrow terrace of a steep slope leading from the A835 down to the Allt Lochan Fhionnlaidh stream in the north. It exists as a sub-circular grass and moss covered stone mound measuring about 19m in diameter. The cairn is 3.5m high when measured from the centre of the slope. The angular stones are unstructured and measure on average 0.3-0.4m x 0.2m. Just south of the centre of the cairn are two large stones (1m x 0.6m) which may be lintels or orthostats. They sit in the middle of two depressions which suggest a collapsed chamber below. The stone appears to be slipping north down the steep slope so the overall outline is difficult to define and no entrance is visible.

HLP 109

Chambered Cairn (Figure 47)

Situated on a terrace almost at the bottom of the valley in Knockan, to the south of the Allt Lochan Fhionnlaidh stream and within the field system of Achadh Na H-Aghan are the ruinous remains of a chambered cairn. The moss and grass covered stone mound measures 14m NE-SE, 9.4m NW-SE and is almost 2m high. The height is aided by 3 large vertically-set stones protruding from the top which are possible remnants of a cist-type structure. The mound is sub-oval in plan and has become seriously pitted on the west side by rabbit burrowing.

HLP 110

Cairn (possible) (Figure 46)

30m north of HLP 109 is a grass covered oval mound, aligned N-S, measuring 33m x 14m x 2m which is respected by HLP 107G. Small stones are visible across the mound which are similar to cairn material. The possibility exists that the site may be a long cairn although it is quite even all over so it could equally be a natural mound. It was not surveyed during phase 2 so is marked on the map only with its GPS position.

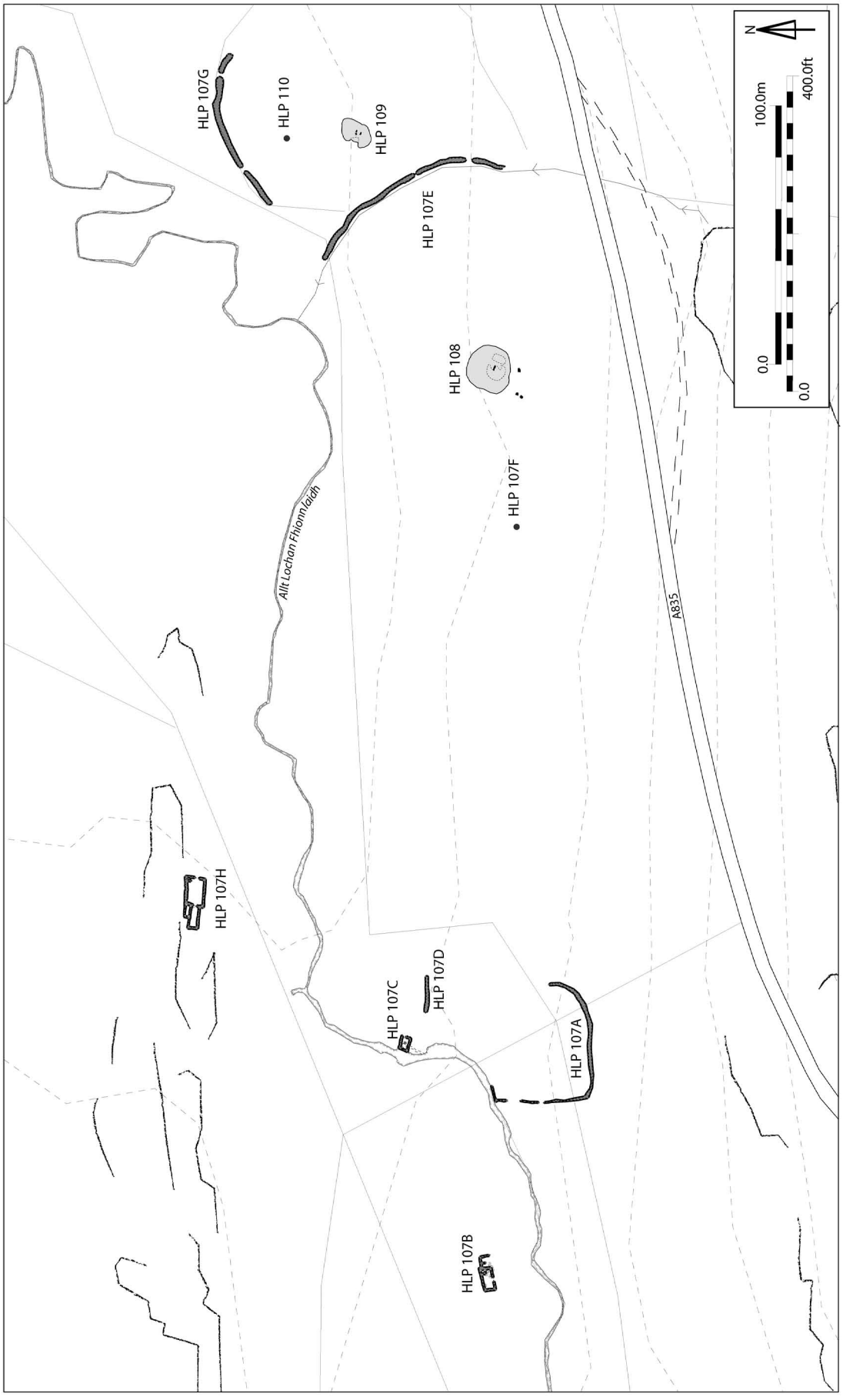
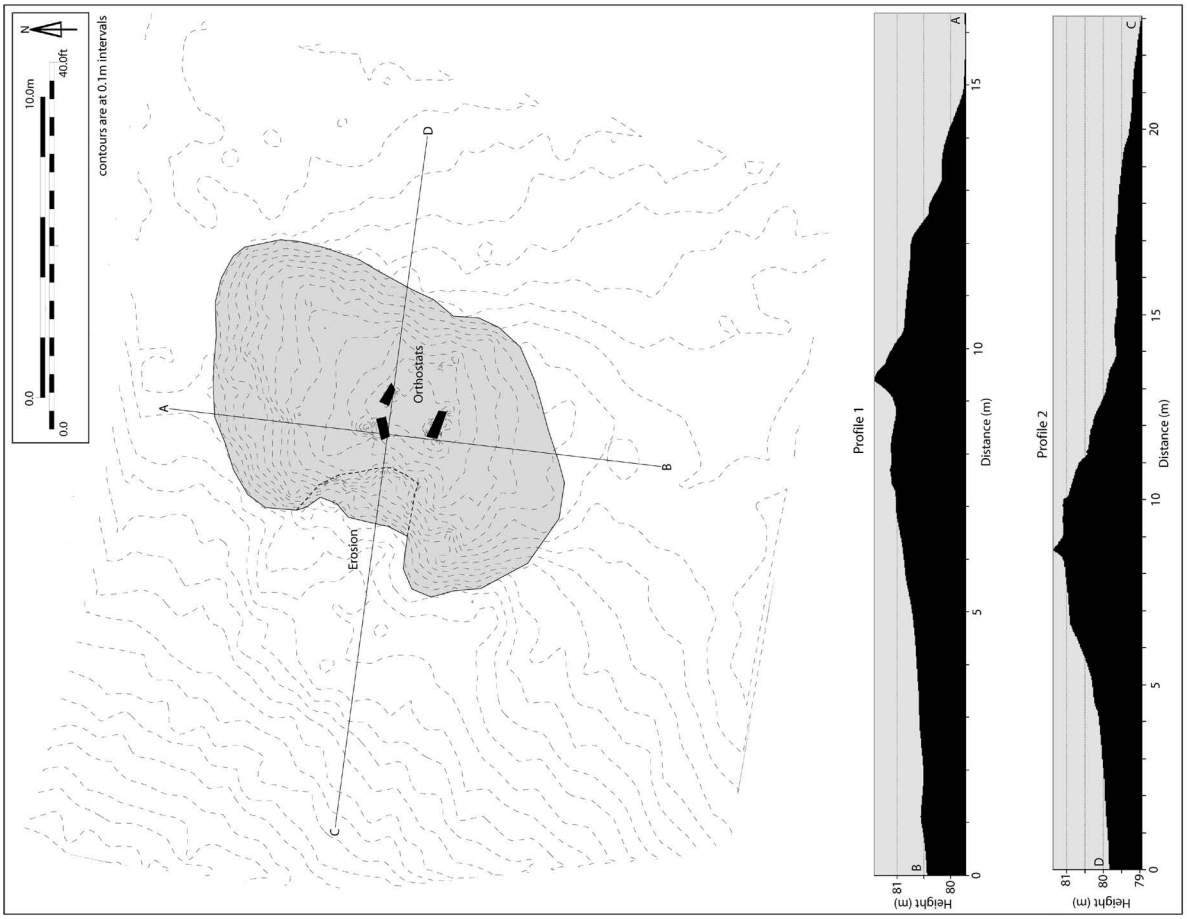


Figure 46: General plan of Knockan.



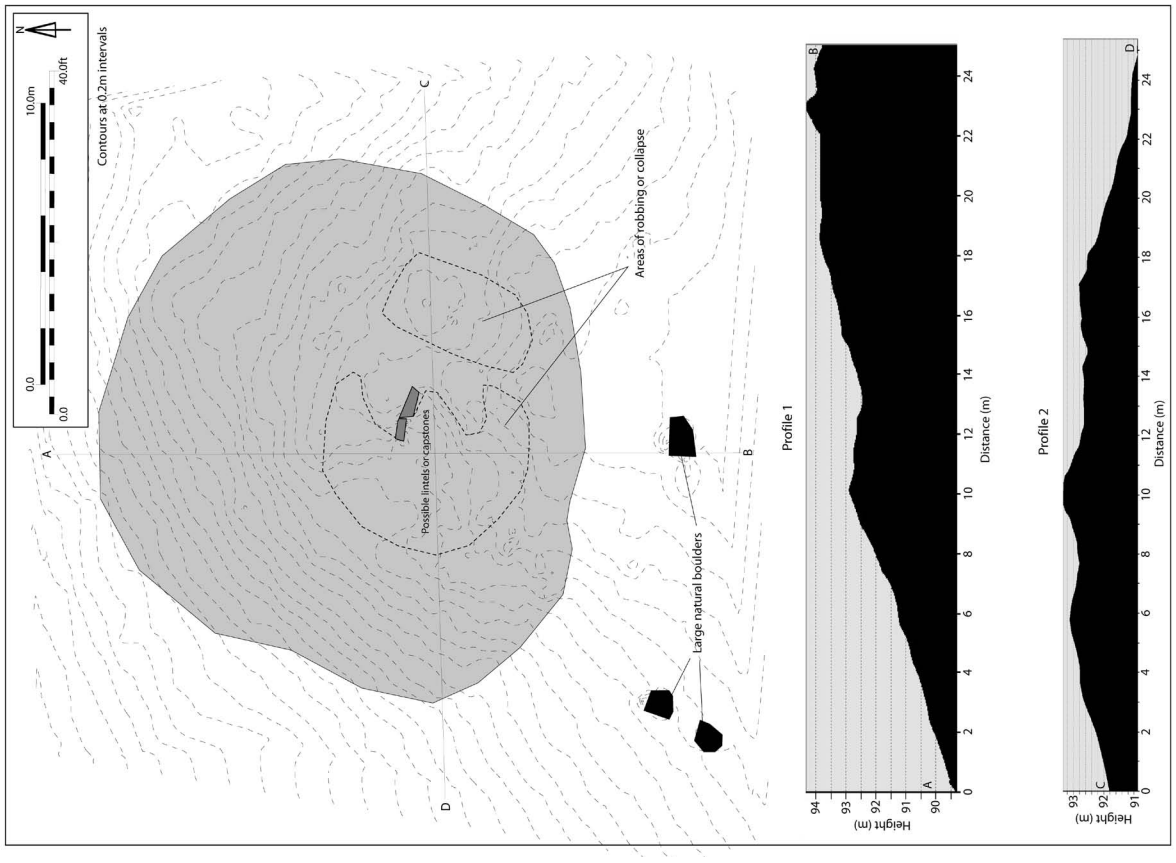


Figure 47: Plans of cairns: HLP 108 (left) and HLP 109 (right).

Study Area 5: Loch Borralan

Loch Borralan

Located in the southernmost area of the parish, the Loch Borralan valley marks the start of the limestone corridor of Assynt. Like elsewhere in the valleys running north to Loch Assynt, there are a range of field monuments of different periods. Prehistory, however, is well represented around the loch, with a concentration of Neolithic chambered cairns and two artificial islets dating from later prehistory.

The area is currently dominated by rough grazing in the form of upland blanket peat, interspersed with areas of abandoned improved fields. Commercial forestry has claimed much of the land to the south and west of Borralan.

Map evidence

Home's map (Figure 48) shows the area around Loch Borralan to be similar to that of today, with the upland slopes dominated by 'mossy heath'. Several sheilings were located on the slopes of the valley, particularly on the northern side. Few traces of these now survive, although the remains of cleared areas and field systems can still be seen (e.g. HLP 3 and 4). A small enclosure now visible on one of the promontories on the north side of the loch (HLP 2) may be associated with one of these sheilings.



Figure 48: Extract from Home's map (1774) showing the area around Elphin and Loch Borralan.

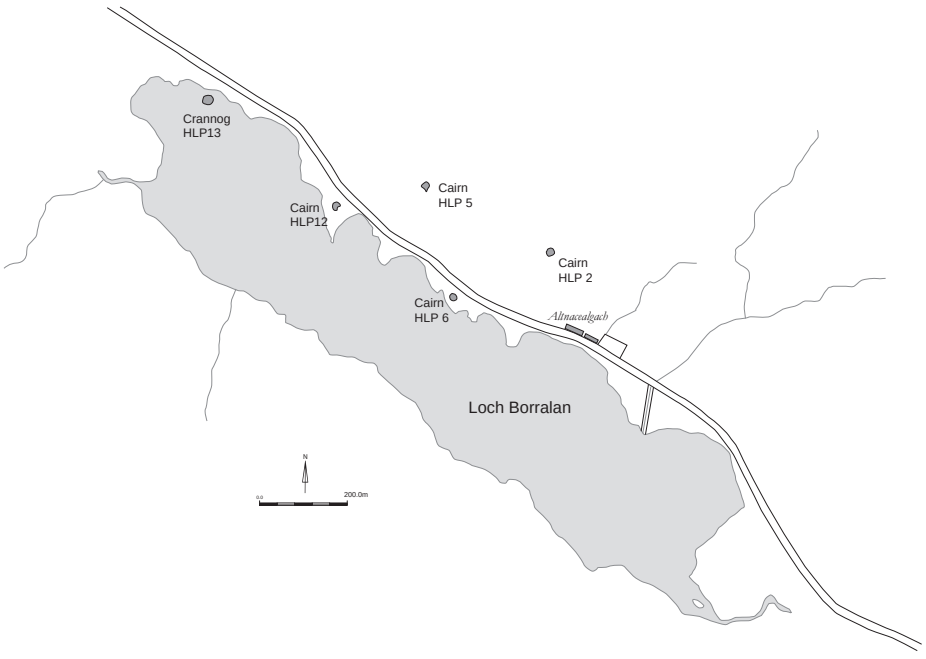


Figure 49: Location of surveyed sites around Loch Borralan.

HLP 13

Crannog (Figure 52)

An artificial islet is located off the NE shore of Loch Borralan. At the time of survey the loch was frozen over so that inspection beneath the water level was not possible. However, a contour survey was carried out of the stone mound, which is oval in plan, with basal dimensions of 21m NW/SE by 26m SW/NE and consists of rounded boulders averaging c.0.3 to 0.4m across. A short length of causeway leads from the closest point on the island to the shore to the NE; this was submerged c.20cm below the surface of the water at the time of survey. Few other structural features are apparent on the site, although a raised area on the dry parts of the island in the NE may suggest the presence of walling.

HLP 5

Chambered cairn (Figures 50 & 51)

This chambered cairn is one of the more accessible cairns in Assynt, partly due to the collapse of the chamber roof, which allows access into the chamber and inspection of the interior. The cairn consists of an approximately circular mound of stones measuring 12.5m in diameter; projecting low mounds of stone downslope from the main cairn body give the impression of hornworks or other associated structures, but these are low and ruinous, and this identification could only be confirmed by excavation. Perhaps more convincing is the presence of a long 'tail' of material, which appears to extend northwards from the rear of the cairn along the ridge. Although this is denuded and has been eroded badly in places, it is possible that the cairn was enhanced to elongate the structure.

The internal chambers is constructed from vertically set orthostats arranged to create a curvilinear cell entered from the S via a narrow passage. Collapse obscures much of the E wall face of the chamber, but it is possible that this internal face has been rebuilt: the coursed walling [102] may represent reconstruction in front of the original orthostatic chamber face. The W face of the chamber is more intact, comprising four large orthostats in-filled with coursing stones c.0.2 to 0.3m across. The chamber was corbelled, with large slabs of the roof corbelling still visible above the chamber walling, particularly on the W side. The entrance passage was probably lintelled, although the only lintel that is visible appears to be the threshold stone, located at the S end of the passage.

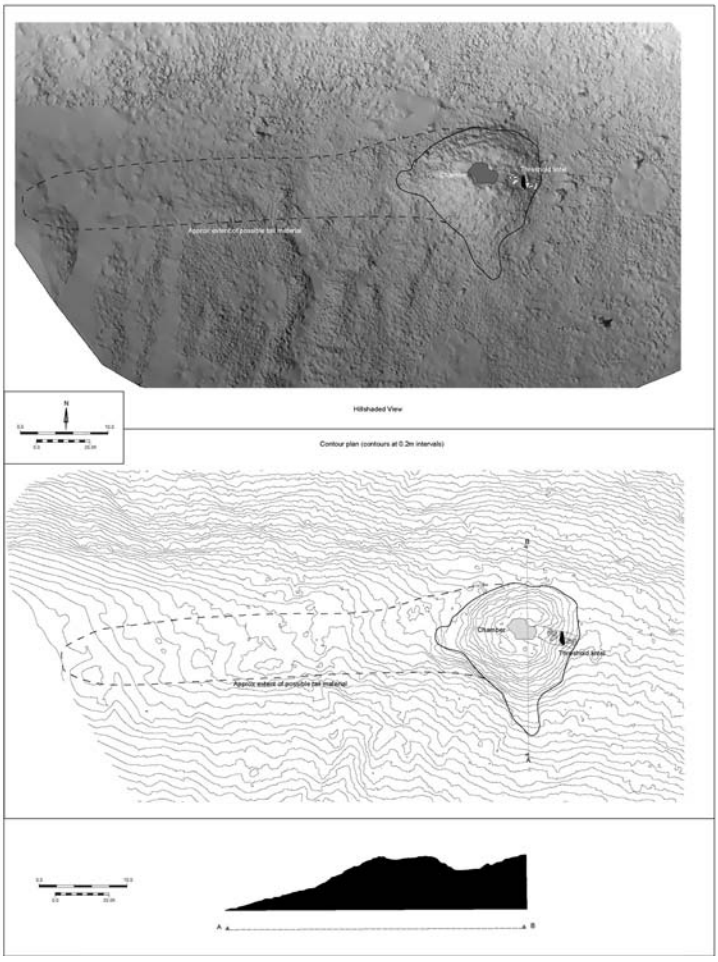


Figure 50: Cairn HLP 5: terrain survey.

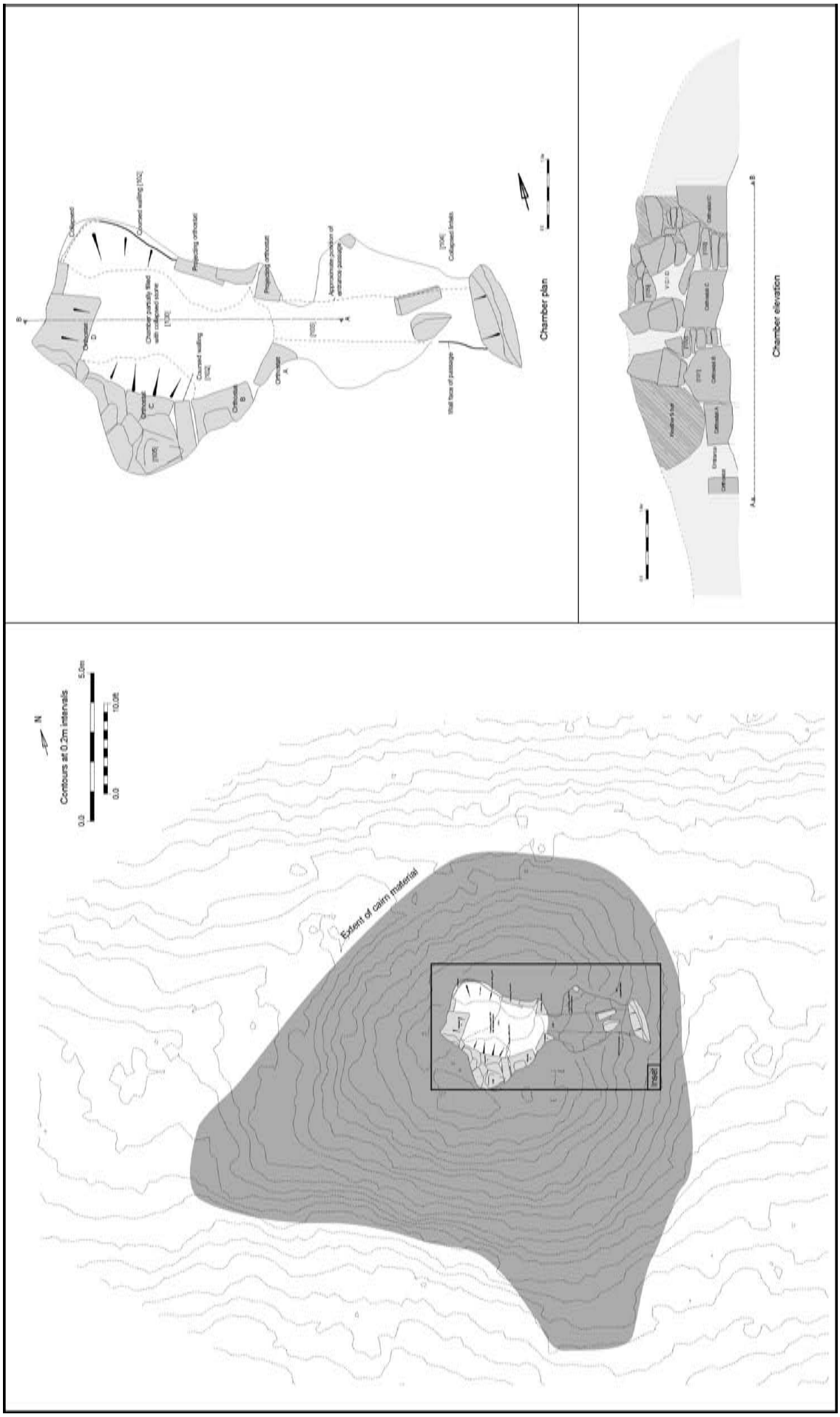


Figure 51: Chambered cairn, HLP 5.

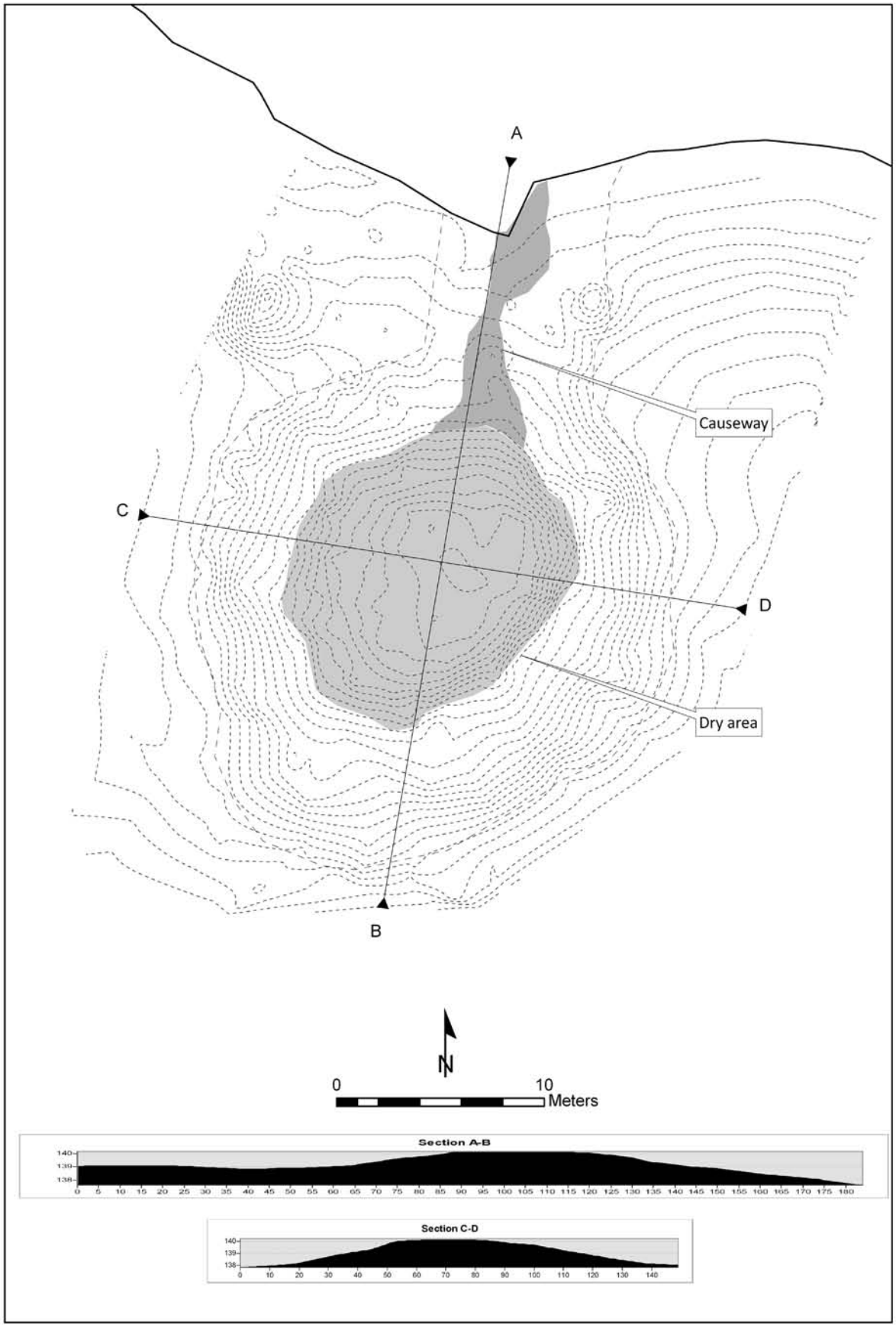


Figure 52: Contour survey, Loch Borralan crannog (HLP 13).

Discussion: Assynt's Hidden Lives

The survey reported here was successful in its aim to gain a better understanding of the archaeological resource of Assynt. As all successful surveys should, however, the results have raised as many new questions and avenues for future research as they answered. In many respects, the archaeological record of Assynt can be thought of as a microcosm of the west Highlands more generally, and the opportunity exists to explore some of the wider research questions that could be posed for site types and distributions across the wider region. In particular, where construction styles vary from the wider regional pattern, as in the apparently varied forms of chambered cairn in the parish, targeted excavation and further detailed survey could shed light on the place of Assynt within the wider archaeological context of NW Scotland.

While patterns in the distribution of sites and monuments in Assynt can be detected and, as remarked earlier in this report, chronologically significant differences are apparent, it is perhaps the absence of evidence for certain key periods that is most intriguing. Most obvious from this report will be the minimal presence of sites relating to the medieval period. The reasons for this no doubt reflect archaeological methodology as much as survival and recovery: it is a characteristic of archaeology of the historic periods that field monuments are much less chronologically diagnostic, and the distinction between early and late forms of rectangular domestic structures is not easily made. The continuity of seasonal transhumance practices in Assynt, and the persistence of the small, cellular style of shieling hut construction into recent centuries make the identification of archaeology relating to the post-Iron Age period very problematic without excavation. To this end, exploratory excavation of the turf and stone buildings of the type found on many of the farmsteads surveyed here (e.g. Cnoc an t-Seagaill (HLP 29), Loch Beannach (HLP77) etc) warrant exploratory excavation so that a more reliable chronological framework can be constructed. Based on superficial comparison with Norse and later medieval settlement in the Hebrides (e.g. Parker Pearson et al 2004) it would be reasonable to expect that such an investigation, coupled with further prospective survey might result in the extension of the chronology of the known historic settlement back into the current gaps in Assynt's archaeological record.

As in many areas of Highland Scotland, it is clear from studies of the range of archaeology in Assynt that the restriction of agriculture to relatively limited oases of favourable land has resulted in palimpsests of activity spanning several millennia. The study areas chosen for phase 2 of the survey were identified partly for the presence of particularly representative, extensive or complete examples of the archaeology of the parish, but also for their scope to act as study areas in landscape development through time. While none, perhaps, span the entirety of human history in Assynt, several span much of prehistory (Borralan), while others (Inchnadamph, Glenleraig) span both prehistory and more recent periods. Targeted excavation, further detailed survey and associated environmental studies in these areas could greatly enhance our understanding of the settlement, evolution and abandonment of these focal points in the Assynt landscape. In particular, areas where prehistoric and historic settlement is so closely integrated, such as at Glenleraig (hut-circles, souterrain and township) and Inchnadamph (chambered cairns, burnt mounds, farmsteads and townships), multi-disciplinary landscape study could greatly enhance our understanding of changing agricultural and settlement strategies over the course of several millennia.

It was recognised prior to undertaking fieldwork for the Hidden Lives Project that the archaeological record of the parish is dominated by the archaeology of the post-medieval period, and the particularly extensive and well-preserved remains dating to the pre- and post-clearance centuries account for the majority of the sites recorded. It is often remarked that the archaeology of the historic period, particularly the most recent centuries, has lacked a concerted research agenda, perhaps owing to the perception that archaeology can add little to documented history in the study of the recent past. Dalglish (2002) has recently reviewed archaeologists' approach to post-medieval rural archaeology in the Highlands, and demonstrated clearly how an archaeological approach to post-medieval settlement can yield a far richer understanding of life in these centuries

than documentary study alone. Furthermore, landscape studies of the function and chronological development of areas of post-medieval settlement are essential to a proper contextualisation of human activity in all periods, including the most recent (see discussion by Dalglish 2002:486 and Dalglish and Dixon 2008). Assynt, with its wealth of well-preserved historical settlement situated in complex prehistoric landscapes would be an ideal location for a study of evolving settlement, land-use and abandonment.

The breadth of historic settlement types found in the parish provides an ideal basis for the study of historic settlement development. While there are hints of chronologically significant changes in form and construction style, such as the replacement of apsidal-ended longhouses with more regular rectangular forms, these remain to be tested and there is rarely any indication of the functions of the wide variety of structures found within farming nucleated settlements. McCullagh's excavations of House 9 at Lairg suggested that the bipartite longhouse, occupied in the 15th or 16th century was constructed on what was probably a well-developed agricultural landscape of some longevity- radiocarbon determinations from a buried soil in the 11th-12th centuries suggested that the longhouse may have been the latest in a long-lived sequence of occupation spanning several centuries (McCullagh and Tipping 1998:64).

Assynt is well known for the events that took place during the Highland Clearances, over the period 1806-1820, resulting in the abandonment of extensive settlements and the introduction of fomalised crofting arrangements. This period of history is well-studied from the documentary perspective (e.g. Bangor Jones 1998), but detailed archaeological work has been limited. The range and quality of the sites recorded during this survey demonstrate clearly that there is scope for a much clearer understanding of pre-Clearance settlement. This is a unique and valuable resource, and the study of the many well-preserved abandoned townships should constitute one of the priorities for further research in Assynt.

Reconnecting with Assynt's Hidden Lives

This survey has taken a major step forward in the study of Assynt's human past, and provides the basis for future studies of the area's inhabitants through time. Over 350 structures were recorded as part of this survey, with around 150 surveyed in detail, and as such the project constitutes a major advance in the documentation of the archaeology of the parish. However, as discussed here, this survey should be seen as the preliminary foundations for further research, which might work to re-establish the connection with the Hidden Lives of Assynt.

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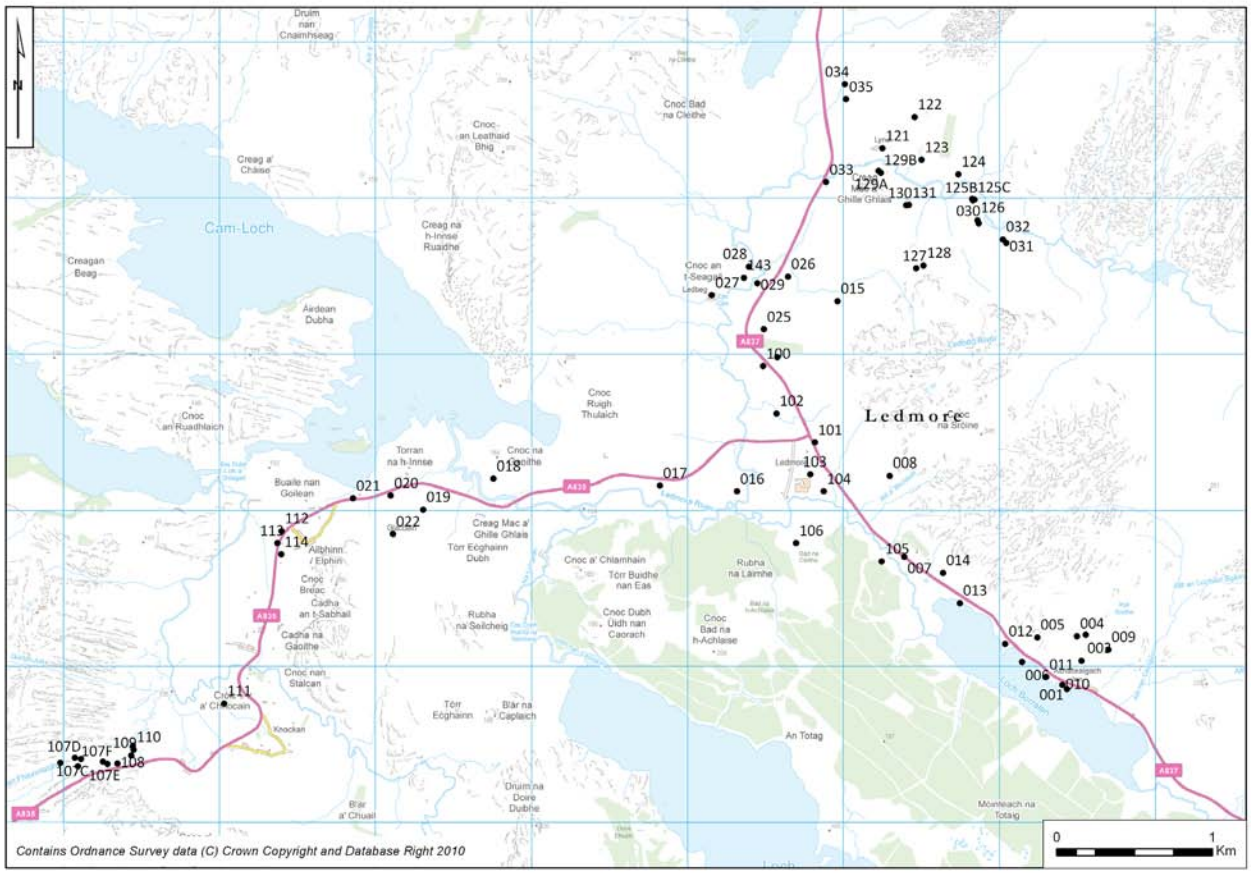
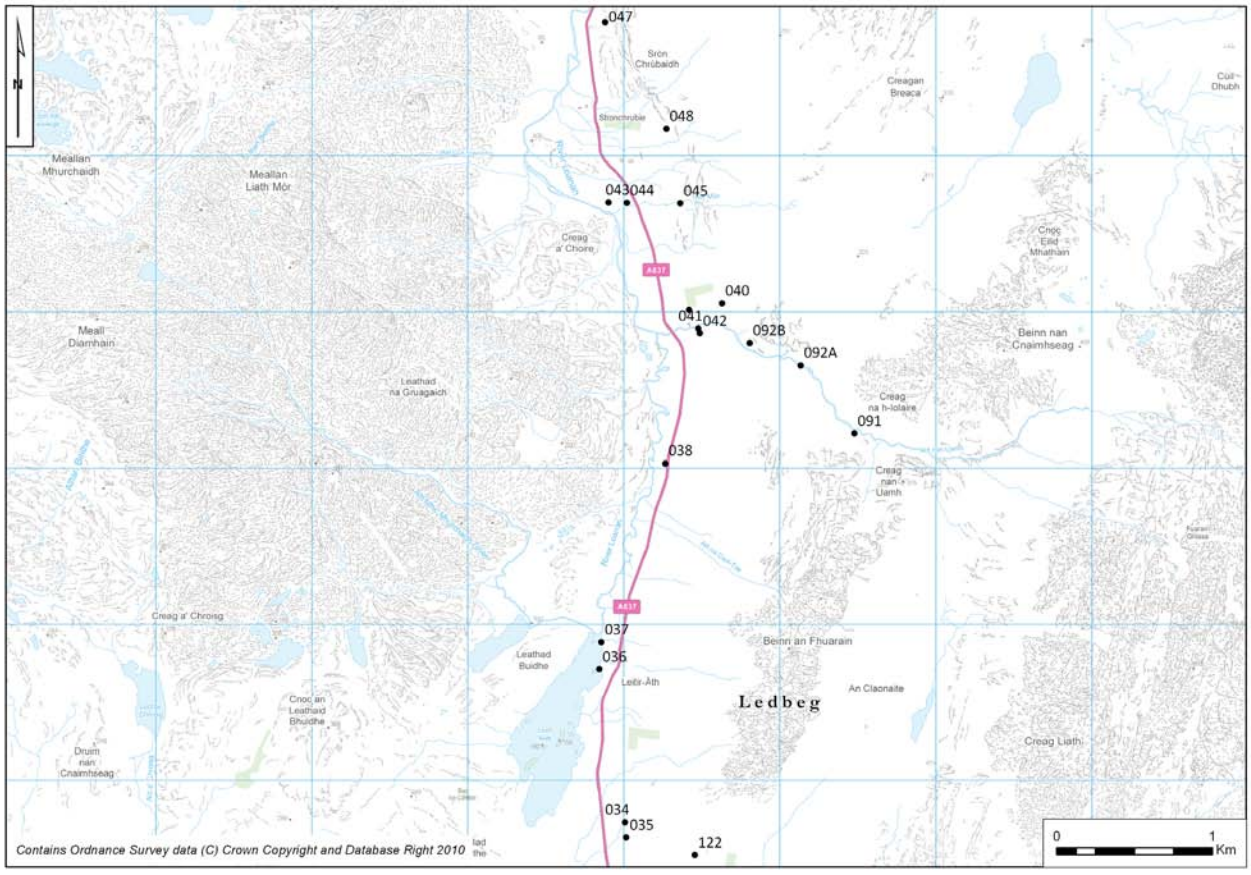
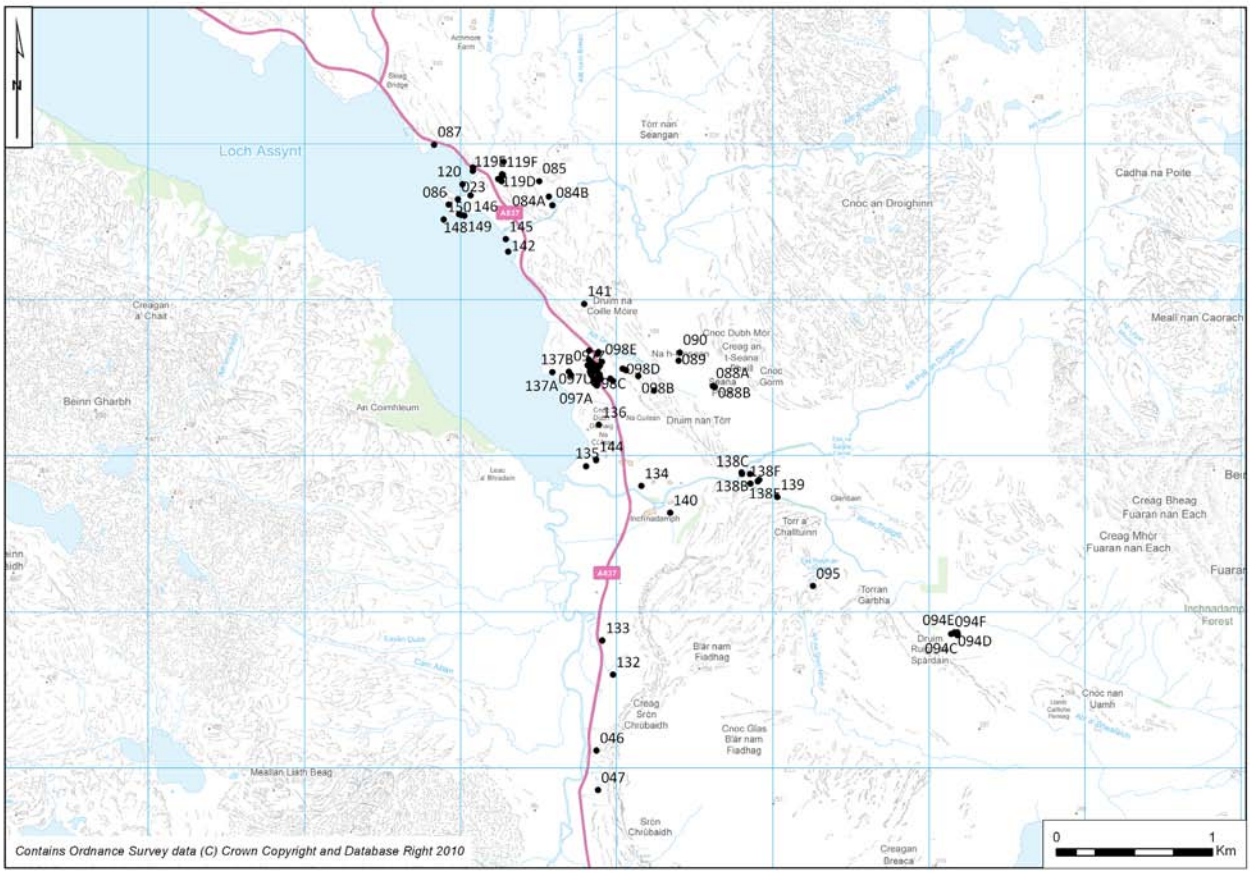
Phase One Maps



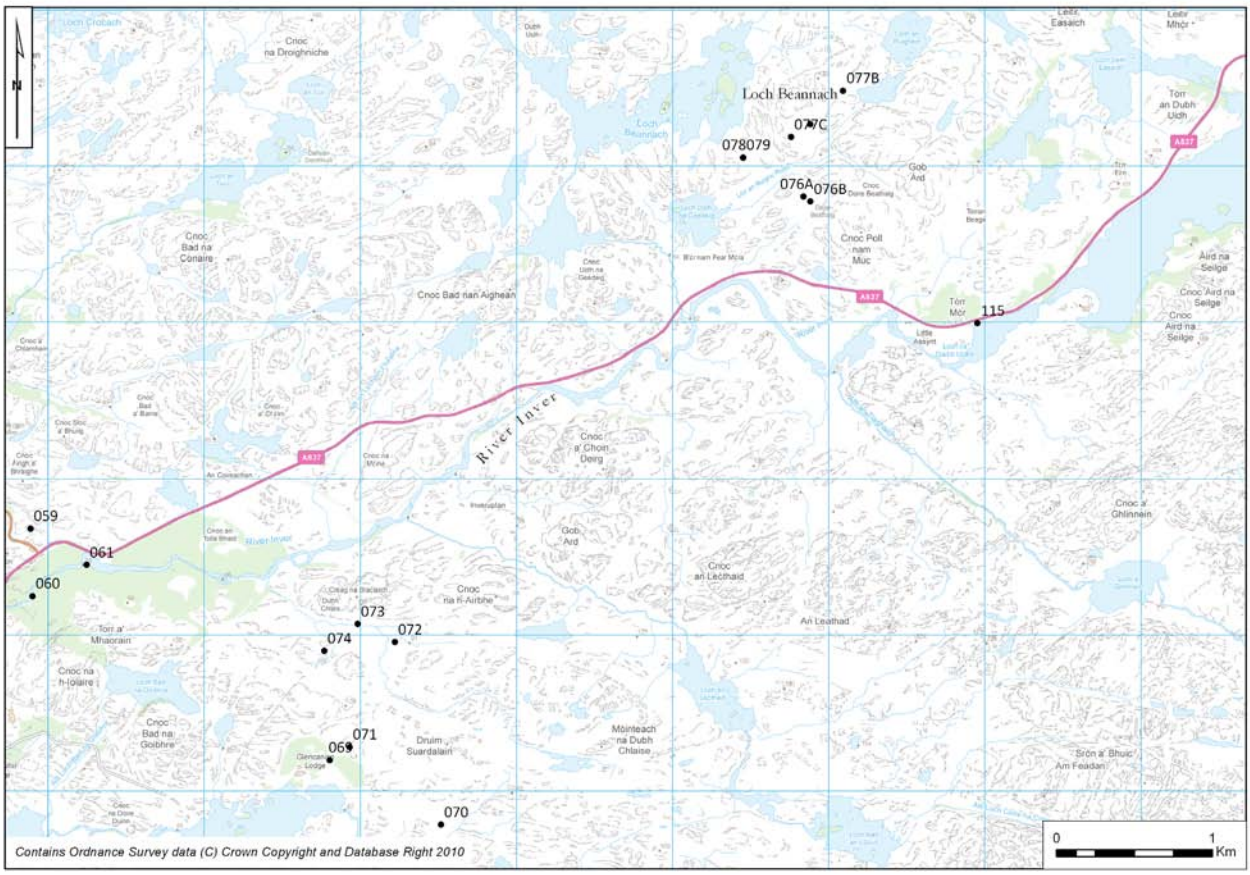
Sites located around Knockan, Elphin and Loch Borralan.



Sites located around Ledbeg, Lyne and Stronechrubie.

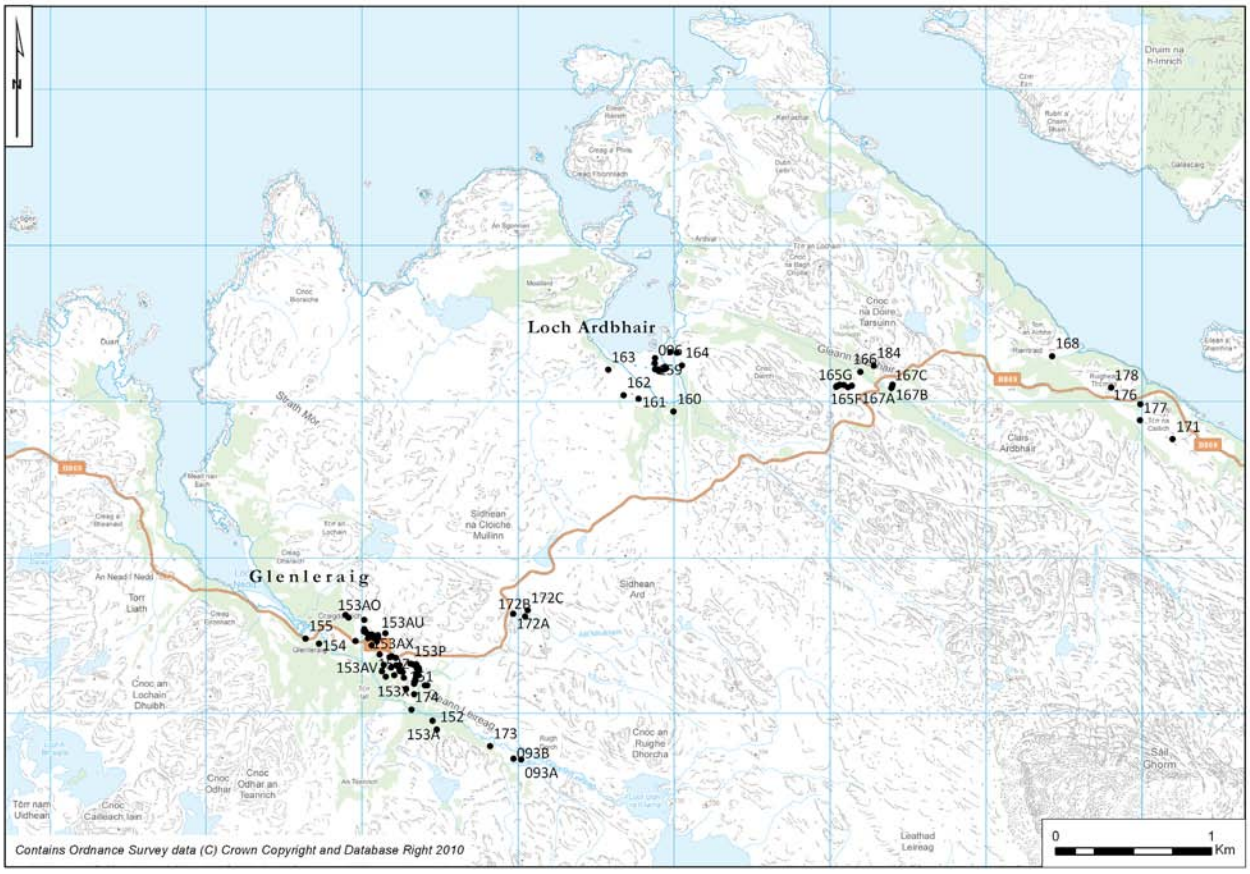


Sites located around Inchnadamph and Loch Assynt.





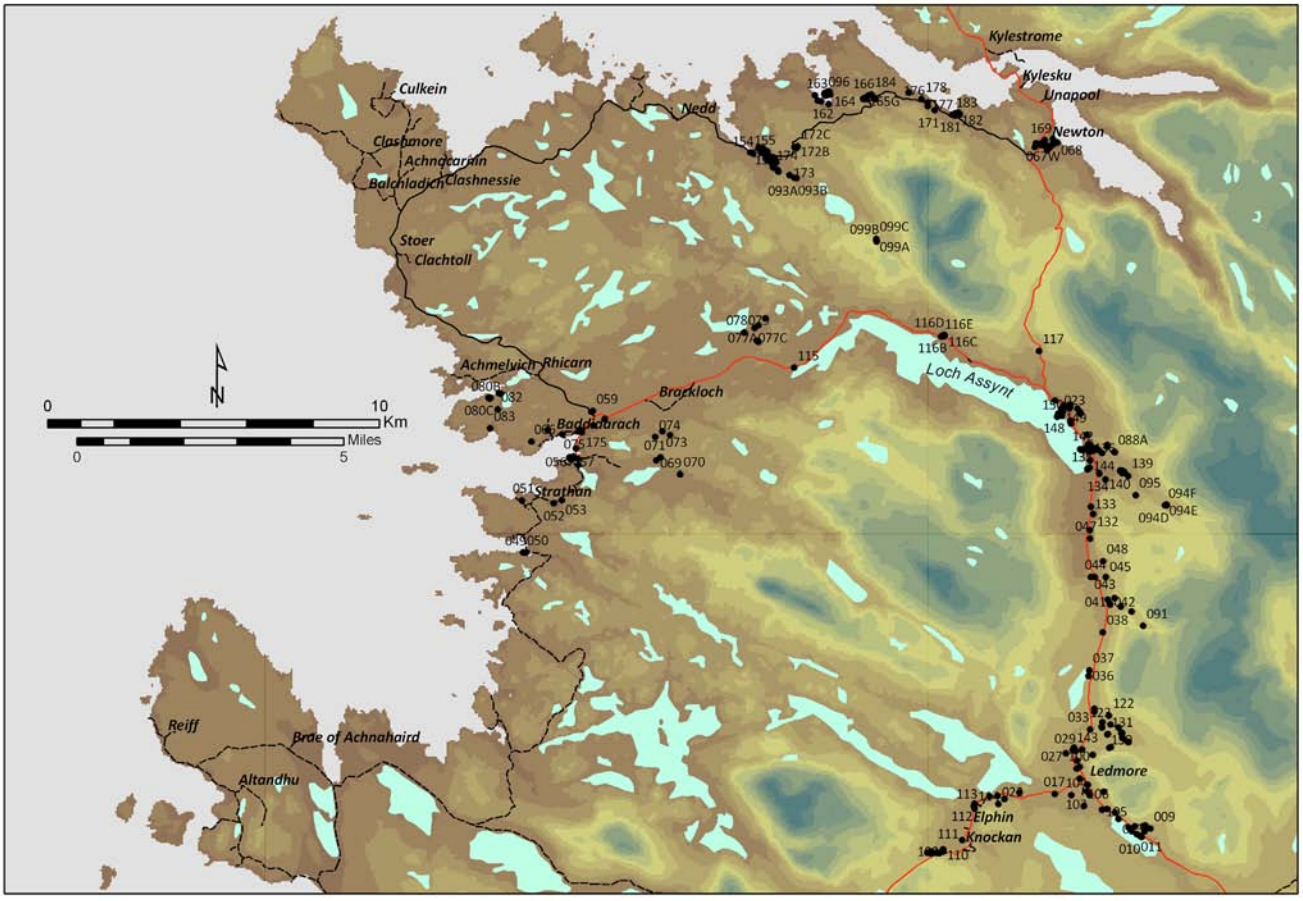
Sites located around Lochinver, Inverkirkaig and Little Assynt.



Sites located around Glenleraig and Ardbhair.

Survey Gazetteer

The following gazetteer comprises the summarised results of the Hidden Lives Project walkover survey. The sites are referred to by their Hidden Lives Project Number (HLP number), and where possible, cross reference is given to existing numbers in the NMRS and Highland Council HER. Grid references were collected by the field team using hand-held GPS, and are cited here in numerical format; for Assynt these can be converted to Ordnance Survey Grid References (NGRs) by removing the first '2' from the easting and the first '9' from the northing, then prefixing with 'NC'. For example, the grid reference cited 'X: 226433 Y:910856' would equate to NC 26433 10856. The sub-numbers quoted in the text equate to grid reference points supplied in the project survey database; the full list of grid references in standard format is included at the end of this gazetteer.



Distribution of sites surveyed during the walkover phase.

Site name: **Loch Borralan**
HLP no: **1**

X: 226435 **Y:** 910844

Site type(s): Enclosure (possible building)

Condition: Mostly ruinous

Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

A series of turf covered banks forming an enclosure adjacent to Loch Borralan are located on a small promontory. Dimensions average 11m by 6m, aligned E/W. No obvious function of these banks could be determined, nor is their any indication of probable date.

Surveyed: 23/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 8 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13042

Site name: **Altnacealgach Hotel**
HLP no: **2**

X: 226529 **Y:** 911026

Site type(s): Cairn

Condition: Well preserved in places

Accessibility: Short, hard walk

Description:



This cairn is situated next to a stream in a hollow leading down to Loch Borralan, on a steepish, undulating slope. The site comprises a stone mound measuring 17m by 15m aligned N/S with a height of between 1.5 and 2m. Much of the top and outside of the cairn is moss and heather covered, similar to the surrounding terrain. The cairn consists of a stone pile within which a central chamber made up of sub-angular stones (ave. 30-40cm long) is visible. The stones are be mostly gathered although some larger (over 1m long) stones appear to be quarried/shaped. The probable entrance on the south side comprises two wall faces, four courses high, creating a passage 1.5m wide which leads to a rubble filled chamber measuring 3m by 1.8m internally. The wall faces of the passage may not be original, and seem indicative of the secondary reuse of the site.

Surveyed: 23/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 3 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13047

Site name: **Loch Borralan**
HLP no: **3**

X: 226557 **Y:** 911194

Site type(s): Shieling Huts

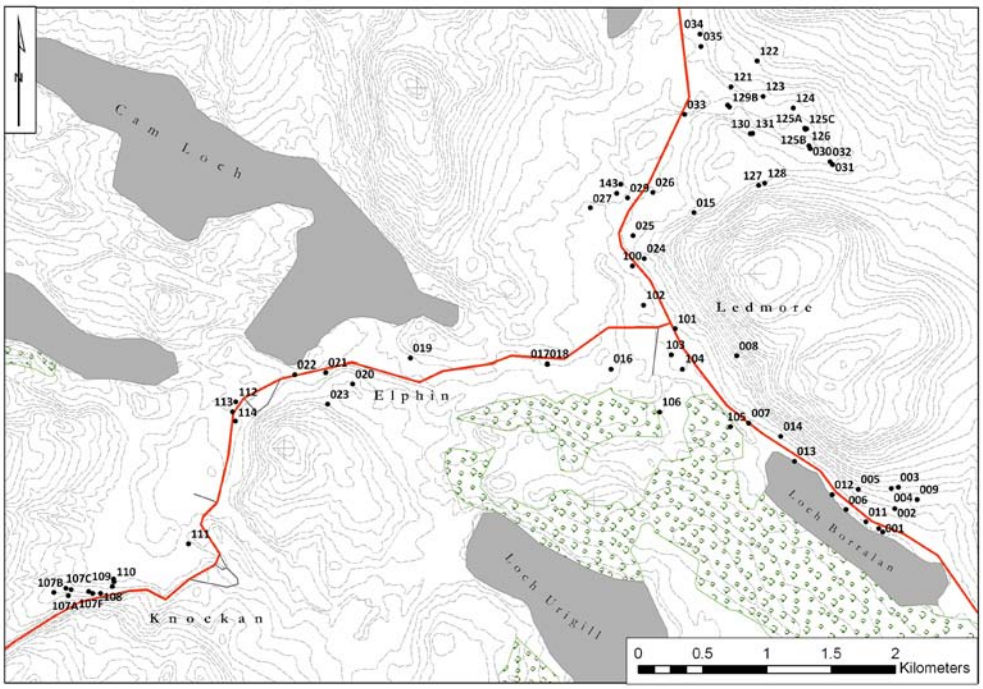
Condition: Very poorly preserved

Accessibility: Short, hard walk

Description:

No evidence of the previously reported structural remains or turf banks were observed, although a few areas of improved pasture (see HLP 4) which may suggest the presence of a sheiling.

Surveyed: 23/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 13 **Highland HER ID:** MHG11292



Distribution of sites around Knockan, Elphin and Loch Borralan

Site name: **Loch Borralan**
HLP no: **4**

X: 226500 **Y:** 911184
Site type(s): Field systems
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short, hard walk
Description:

Irregular patches of improved ground are visible at this location. The land is currently mossy grass but is succumbing to encroachment by heather moorland. No structural remains were observed in association with this relict field system but areas of spread unstructured rubble are visible across parts of these grassy areas.

Surveyed: 23/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 14 **Highland HER ID:** MHG11293

Site name: **Loch Borralan East**
HLP no: **5**

X: 226245 **Y:** 911177
Site type(s): Chambered Cairn
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, easy walk (no path)
Description:

This chambered cairn is situated on a sloping hillside under heather moorland with good views to Cul Mhur to the north-west and over Loch Borralan to the south. The cairn is oval in plan, measuring 18m by 12m, aligned NW-SE, and standing up to 3m in height. There are suggestions of possible horns protruding from south and west edges. The main cairn fabric consists of gathered, rounded rubble averaging 0.35m across, although the major structural elements are built from angular stone up to 1.5m in length. Several of the larger stones around the SE edge are displaced. A 3-4m long passage is entered from the south-east leading into a chamber measuring approximately 3m by 2m by 1.5m. The collapse of the chamber roof suggests robbing. A very vestigial mound of material extends to the N, suggesting the possibility of an extended 'tail'.

Surveyed: 23/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 2 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13048



HLP 5

Site name: **Loch Borralan**
HLP no: **6**

X: 226149 **Y:** 911020
Site type(s): Cairn (possible)
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

This cairn is situated on a flat promontory on the eastern side of Loch Borralan. The site is oval in plan measuring 12m by 6m, aligned E-W. It is constructed of large, angular stones with no obvious entrance.

Surveyed: 24/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 6 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13044

Site name: **Ledmore River**
HLP no: **7**

X: 225393 **Y:** 911693
Site type(s): Enclosure
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Easy, short walk
Description:

This enclosure has been obscured by modern development and is now largely destroyed.

Surveyed: 24/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 30 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18758

Site name: **Brisdeadh A'Chnoic**
HLP no: **8**

X: 225299 **Y:** 912211
Site type(s): Shieling Huts (possible)
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Long, hard walk
Description:

Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded at this location.

Surveyed: 24/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 9 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13041

Site name: **Loch Borralan**
HLP no: **9**

X: 226702 **Y:** 911098
Site type(s): Settlement
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short, hard walk
Description:

The settlement reported at this location could not be located.

Surveyed: 24/11/2009 **NMRS no:** None **Highland HER ID:** MHG13125

Site name: **Loch Borralan**
HLP no: **10**
X: 226406 **Y:** 910872
Site type(s): Crannog
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Inaccessible without a boat
Description:

A crannog lies within Loch Borralan about 10-15m from the eastern shore. The islet is visible as a small stony island, covered in long grass and small scrubby trees. No causeway was noted.

Surveyed: 24/11/2009 **NMRS no:** None **Highland HER ID:** MHG13128



HLP 10



HLP 12

Site name: **Loch Borralan**
HLP no: **11**
X: 226303 **Y:** 910922
Site type(s): Cairn (possible)
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

This site consists of a large moss and heather covered mound lying very close to the eastern edge of Loch Borralan and about 20m S of the A837, over boggy moss and heather covered ground.
The mound may be mostly natural, measuring approximately 22m by 21m by 1.5m. No stonework or other evidence of construction is apparent.

Surveyed: 25/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 7 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13043

Site name: **Loch Borralan**
HLP no: **12**
X: 226041 **Y:** 911135
Site type(s): Chambered cairn
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

The cairn lies on a gently sloping area about 30m from the A837 leading to Loch Borralan. It is

approximately 15m by 12m, aligned E-W with a maximum height of 2m. The cairn body consists of gathered stones of varying shape and size, though most are sub-angular and angular, averaging 0.4m long. The stones are piled to form a sub-circular cairn which has been robbed, particularly on the east side. The chamber is no longer visible, although a depression on the top of the mound may indicate this. No orthostats or lintel stones are visible and the kerb described by previous surveyors is barely visible.

The site has been described as a round cairn of Orkney-Cromarty group with a polygonal chamber. There is no evidence of the slabs of the bi-partite chamber as described in 1911 and the site appears to have been considerably disturbed since the last report from 1962.

Surveyed: 25/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 1 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13051

Site name: **Loch Borralan**
HLP no: **13**

X: 225749 **Y:** 911395
Site type(s): Crannog
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

This crannog appears as a circular flat-topped island approximately 8m from the shoreline of the loch. It is covered in grass with no trees. The island was about 15m in diameter and 1m high above the water line at the time of survey. A causeway is suggested from the east side connecting to the shoreline of the loch but due to high water levels it was inaccessible and therefore not wholly visible at the time of survey. No details of construction methods were visible from the shoreline.

Surveyed: 25/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 5 **Highland HER ID:** MHG44807

Site name: **Loch Borralan**
HLP no: **14**

X: 225641 **Y:** 911590
Site type(s): Field system
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

This field system was not observed at the previously quoted grid reference. However, on the east side of the road, a relict field system lies within a field of improved pasture on the lower slopes of a hill which slopes quite steeply from NW to SE. No trace of the described head dyke or upstanding stones noted previously was observed but turf covered linear stone banks up to 0.5m in height were recorded. At least three upstanding banks were seen with two running NE-SW and one running NW-SE covering an area of approximately 100m by 100m, probably representing field divisions. The construction method is unclear due to turf covering the surviving stonework and there is significant modern disturbance.

Surveyed: 25/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 27 **Highland HER ID:** MHG 11330

Site name: **Ledmore**
HLP no: **15**

X: 224965 **Y:** 913328
Site type(s): Field boundary
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long, hard walk over rough boggy moorland

Description:

This site is located on the lower slopes of a very steep hill, in terrain which slopes fairly gently from SE to NW and is situated within rough heather and bracken moorland. The site consists of long, rounded, earthen turf-covered banks, forming three sides of an enclosure. The banks are fairly well-preserved surviving to a height of up to 0.7m and approximately 0.8-1m wide at base with quite steeply sloping sides in places. The banks run on the north side for a length of about 70m, the east side for about 30m, and on the west side curving towards the south for a length of 80m. A very large gap/entrance is present between the ends of the west and east banks but it is unclear whether this derives from post-abandonment disturbance.

Surveyed: 25/11/2009 **NMRS no:** None **Highland HER ID:** MHG13106

Site name: **Ledbeg River**
HLP no: **16**
X: 224321 **Y:** 912113
Site type(s): Enclosure
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short, hard walk
Description:

No enclosure was located at the existing NGR. A small sub-rectangular raised area was found near the existing NGR along with several other raised hummocks although all of these appear to be natural.

Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 21 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18756

Site name: **Ledmore**
HLP no: **17**
X: 223827 **Y:** 912149
Site type(s): Chambered Cairn
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:



This site sits on ground c.25m from the A835 which slopes slightly from NW to SE. The chambered cairn is roughly circular in plan but appears to have been heavily robbed or disturbed. It is constructed of rough, irregular gathered stones with an average diameter of 0.3-0.5m. Occasional larger stones of up to 1m long are visible towards the top of the cairn as described in the NMRS entry for 1963. No trace of the chamber can be seen, although there are several depressions in the upper surface. There is no sign of an entrance in the east or of the lintels observed in 1976.

Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 3 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13031

Site name: **Cnoc Na Gaoithe**
HLP no: **18**

X: 222759 **Y:** 912194
Site type(s): Building
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

This site is located on the lower slopes of a small hill c.50m E of the River Ledmore, sloping from NW-SE. The site consists of rough stone foundations of a small rectangular building c.10m long and 5m wide with a maximum surviving height of wall of 0.5m. It is oriented roughly E/W on its long axis. The construction is mostly of rough stones which do not appear to have been worked and are now almost covered by turf, suggesting turf may have been a significant structural component. An entrance approximately 1m wide was observed in the south wall but no internal walls or features were noted. The sites lies around 40m east of the previously quoted NGR.

Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 28 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18747



HLP 19

Site name: **Glacbain**
HLP no: **19**

X: 222309 **Y:** 911996
Site type(s): Cairn, Kerb, Cist
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long, hard walk, boggy in places with a steep hill
Description:

This cairn consists of a small, sub-rounded cairn located on top of a small hill some distance to the S of the A835. Some angular/sub-angular kerb stones on the outer edge survive to between 0.4-0.7m high, but most of the rest of the cairn structure has been lost. A cist remains in the centre of the cairn measuring c.1.1m by 0.5m, aligned

NW-SE, but the capstones have been broken and the cist has been heavily disturbed. No obvious re-use or phasing is apparent. The site lies about 25m further S, up the steep hill than the previously quoted NGR.

Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 4 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13030

Site name: **Rhisalach**
HLP no: **20**

X: 222101 **Y:** 912086
Site type(s): Field wall, structure (possible)
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short, hard walk
Description:

This site consists of a turf covered bank forming a field wall running NW/SE up a steep hillside, approximately 25m S of the A835. No trace of any associated building could be found. Some stone remains interpreted as foundations are now heavily covered by turf, moss and heather and are only visible as a bank.

Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 24 **Highland HER ID:** MHG44133

Site name: **Graveyard, Elphin**
HLP no: **21**

X: 221858 **Y:** 912069
Site type(s): Cemetary
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:



A very small graveyard surrounded by drystone walls on all four sides c.0.9m high with over 1m long lintel stones either side of the wooden gate in the south-east wall. The enclosed area is 22m by 10m, aligned SW-NE. There are twelve upstanding grave markers, one of which has a square area of c.3m by 3m associated with it to the north of the marker and delineated by small angular stones. Several other markers exist but many have fallen over and are broken; some are barely visible at all.

Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** None **Highland HER ID:** MHG31464

Site name: **Glacbain**
HLP no: **22**

X: 222115 **Y:** 911839
Site type(s): Farmstead (Possible)
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Long, easy walk
Description:

The farmstead reported at this location cannot now be identified. The current house that stands on this site land was built in 1870, the walls standing NE of the house front date to 1921 and include a small square outhouse c.5m by 5m, according to the landowner. The walls are constructed of squared stones with mortar bonding and may have been a walled garden c.30m by 30m. They stand to a height of c.1.5m but are in a poor condition and collapsed entirely in places.

Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 32 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13100

Site name: **Ardvreck Castle**
HLP no: **23**

X: 223980 **Y:** 923630
Site type(s): Castle
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short, easy walk on well maintained gravel path directly from car park to castle
Description:

The remains of Ardvreck Castle are located on a rocky promontory in Loch Assynt. The surviving walls of the rectangular keep structure measure approximately 12m by 10m, aligned E/W; the north wall does not survive. There are two well preserved stone arches in the surviving walls, both with very low doors through to the south. Joist holes are visible indicating the positions of internal floor levels; it is thought that there were four floors in the building. There is a round round stair tower on the south-east corner, now squared off towards the top half, which gave access to the upper floors. Traces of a possible wall running from the south-west corner in a south-south-west direction are now only visible as a turf covered bank with occasional stones. The remains of a rampart and possible ditch enclosing the castle are visible running across the neck of the promontory. A seat of the Macleods, Ardvreck Castle is thought to have been orignially constructed in the late 15th century as a relatively modest tower house, developing later in the 16th century into the castle visible today.

Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SW 2 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12103





HLP 23, Ardvreck Castle

Site name: **Ledbeg**
HLP no: **24**

X: 224578 **Y:** 912970
Site type(s): Enclosure
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

To the north of the Ledbeg junction, at the east side of the A837 there are the remains of an enclosure. Constructed of a turf bank it is up to 40m by 32m by 0.8m, aligned E/W. The western side is largely truncated by the N-S track and there is no discernible entrance.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 19 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13111

Site name: **Ledbeg River**
HLP no: **25**

X: 224492 **Y:** 913148
Site type(s): Settlement
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

At the site of the existing NGR are the last remains of a destroyed settlement. It consists of a small, rectangular structure 7m by 5m and up to 0.3m high, aligned N/S, set at the west end of a grassy knoll 29m by 14m, aligned E/W. The structure appears to have been turf-built; the location of the entrance is not apparent.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** **Highland HER ID:** MHG13107

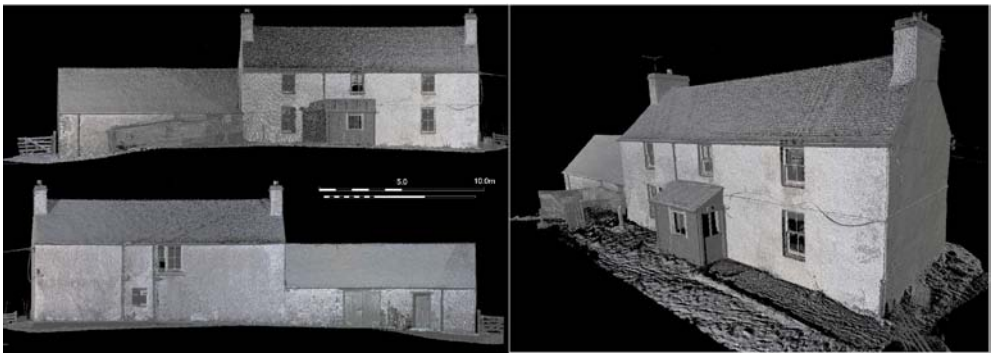
Site name: **Ledbeg**
HLP no: **26**

X: 224647 **Y:** 913486
Site type(s): Field system (possible); wall
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Easy, short walk
Description:

The remains of a field system comprising a turf bank which surrounds the north, south and east sides of a grassy knoll. The bank is aligned N/S and stands up to 0.3m high with no discernible entrance.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 20
Highland HER ID: MHG45703





HLP 27, laser scan survey

Site name: **Ledbeg House**
HLP no: **27**

X: 224159 **Y:** 913367
Site type(s): House
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

A well preserved two storey building with a porch on its south elevation is situated in a small garden adjacent to open fields. The house measures 16m by 6m by 6m, aligned E/W, and has an extension on its east elevation measuring 10m x 6m x 4m. The external walls are harled. The house was unnoccupied at the time of survey.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 31 **Highland HER ID:** MHG17081

Site name: **Cnoc an T-Seagall**
HLP no: **28**
X: 224397 **Y:** 913550
Site type(s): Enclosure
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

The remains of a stone built enclosure measuring up to 75m by 50m by 0.4m, aligned N/S. The stone wall encloses a natural mound which has been previously described as a possible broch, with both the east and west ends terminating at the river. An entranceway is discernible halfway along the western side.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 18 **Highland HER ID:** MHG39680

Site name: **Cnoc an T-Seagaill**
HLP no: **29**
X: 224450 **Y:** 913442
Site type(s): Field System
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Remains of two structures and field banks can be found 50m E of the existing NGR. The westerly structure is 22m by 3m, aligned E/W, with three divisions and entrances present both externally and internally. The easterly structure is 11m by 4m, also aligned E/W, with no entrances of internal divisions. The buildings are divided by a linear bank which is aligned N/S. A second linear bank is also visible to the south of the western structure and is aligned NE/SW. Both banks are up to 0.3m high.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:**

Highland HER ID: MHG44144



HLP 29

Site name: **Lair/Ledbeg River**
HLP no: **30**
X: 225870 **Y:** 913826
Site type(s): Settlement
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Long, hard walk
Description:

Close to the existing NGR lie the remains of a settlement comprising stone built structures including enclosures and turf field banks. The main part of the site consists of a probable building, 16m by 16m aligned N/S-E/W, and two probable enclosures, one of which is 11m by 6m aligned E/W and the other is to the south of that and is 8m by 8m. Another structure is located c.10m to the east and is probably MHG13124, it is 13m x 4m and is aligned E/W.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 26

Highland HER ID: MHG13118, MHG13124, MHG11329, MHG45771, MHG45772, MHG45773, MHG13123, MHG13121

Site name: **Ledbeg River**
HLP no: **31**

X: 226046 **Y:** 913702
Site type(s): Field system
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long, hard walk
Description:

A curvilinear length of field boundary around 210m long. It consists of a stone and earth bank which survives up to 0.5m high.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** None **Highland HER ID:** MHG42973

Site name: **Ledbeg River**
HLP no: **32**

X: 226025 **Y:** 913724
Site type(s): Clearance Cairn
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Long, hard walk
Description:

Turf-covered, sub-circular mound of stones; probably deriving from field clearance.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** None **Highland HER ID:** MHG42975

Site name: **Ledbeg River**
HLP no: **33**

X: 224892 **Y:** 914092
Site type(s): Chambered Cairn
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:



Close to the bridge crossing the Ledbeg River and c.10m E of the road, lies a cairn on a flat terrace. The cairn is approximately 9m in diameter and survives to a height of 1.5m on the north side, although two larger stones standing upright on the top take the height to almost 2m. It has suffered badly from robbing on its south side where a large depression is present and only the kerb stones survive. Major structural elements survive only on the north side where the majority of the cairn material appears undisturbed and several larger stones, up to 1m in size, are visible. The cairn is almost circular in plan and is mostly turfed over. There are no obvious entrance stones or lintels.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 2 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13032

Site name: **Loynemore**
HLP no: **34**

X: 225011 **Y:** 914720
Site type(s): Enclosure
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk, slightly boggy at present
Description:

A very large enclosure subdivided by an E-W aligned earth and stone bank which curves towards the south. A stone and earth bank also runs along the top eastern edge of the enclosure and continues to form the southern boundary. It is enclosed by an area of improved pasture of mossy grass; there is no heather or bracken within the enclosure. There are two structures towards the top of the slope, abutted by a bisecting stone and earth bank. Structure A consists of an E/W wall c.3.5m long attached to a square structure 4m by 3m. Structure B is rectangular in shape, approximately 13m from E to W in total. The walls are both c.1m thick and up to c.0.6m high. A possible clearance cairn was observed approximately 20m to the south of the other structures and is about 5m by 3m, aligned NNE/SSW. Also observed were several terraces/platforms towards the east of the enclosure but these appear to be natural. The enclosure runs over site HLP 35, a cairn, at its southern edge.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 29 **Highland HER ID:** MHG40811



HLP 34



HLP 35

Site name: **Loynemore**
HLP no: **35**

X: 225019 **Y:** 914624
Site type(s): Cairn
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Close to the existing NGR lies a cairn sitting on a gentle west facing slope enclosed by site HLP34. The cairn is heavily turfed over, almost no stone is visible apart from a few large, possible kerb stones around its exterior, which are up to 1m long. There is a large but shallow depression in the top of the cairn which may represent a chamber or be the result of damage, robbing or collapse. The slope from the top to the base of the cairn is quite gentle and mostly turf covered so no construction style can be determined. There is no sign of an entrance, lintels or orthostats.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 4 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13046

Site name: **Loch Awe**
HLP no: **36**

X: 224845 **Y:** 915702
Site type(s): Crannog
Condition: Well preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk to loch edge over boggy ground
Description:

A possible crannog is located close to the north end of Loch Awe, approximately 20m from the eastern shore. Only c.0.5m of the island is visible above the waterline at the present time. It is covered with moss, grass and trees and there is no evidence of any man-made activity. There is no apparent stonework and no causeway visible at the time of survey. It lies approximately 200m from another possible crannog (HLP 37).

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** None **Highland HER ID:** MHG13095



HLP 36

Site name: **Loch Awe**
HLP no: **37**

X: 224859 **Y:** 915876
Site type(s): Crannog (possible)
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk to loch shore over boggy ground
Description:

A possible crannog sits at the north end of Loch Awe, approximately 20m from the eastern shore. Only 0.5m of the island was visible above the waterline at the time of survey. It was covered with grass, moss and a few trees. There is no obvious causeway but some stone is visible around the edges of the island. The crannog lies approximately 200m north of another crannog in Loch Awe (HLP 36).

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21NW 2 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13053

Site name: **River Loanan**
HLP no: **38**
X: 225269 **Y:** 917019
Site type(s): Enclosure
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

A stone built turf covered bank/dyke was observed forming part of an enclosure or field system which may have been truncated by the road, as it appears to continue on the east side of the road. There are no obvious internal features although it probably also enclosed a circular drystone built sheep fold. The walls of the sheep fold stand up to 1m high at a width of c.0.75m. There is a possible entrance on its south-west corner where one edge is neatly squared off, but the other side has collapsed.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No pevious record



Site name: **Allt nan Uamh**
HLP no: **39**
X: 225422 **Y:** 918003
Site type(s): Structure/Enclosure
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

About 50m to the north-east of River Allt Nan Uamh is a roughtly square, sub-divided structure, constructed of drystone and standing up to 1.5m high with walls c.0.75m wide. The walls consist of two separate wall faces with a rubble core. Several obvious entrances including one low covered entranceway through a wall suggests use as a sheep/stock enclosure or building. The structure is sub-divided into five separate rooms. A low stone bank/dyke, now mostly turf covered, runs from the south-west corner out to the west before turning south-west down towards the river. A further stone bank was observed to the east of the structure also running downslope towards the river which may represent the far end of the enclosure. The area between the banks and the structure appears to be improved pasture and may relate to the circular sheepfold on the opposite side of the river.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No pevious record

Site name: **Allt Nan Uamh**
HLP no: **40**
X: 225632 **Y:** 918045
Site type(s): Platform
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

There is no sign of the burnt mound at the previously-cited NGR. A pile of unstructured stones is visible, but this does not resemble a burnt mound. Further upslope, adjacent to the issue of a small spring/stream a crude platform is apparent, comprising varied stones up to 50cm in length and built to a height of no more than 1m. The platform levels an uneven area of ground forming an visible area of 7m by 6m but may continue below the bracken to the north-west. It is roughly aligned SW-NE and abuts a steep hillside to the north-east. The south-west extent ramps down over a distance of 3m and up to 1m in height.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21NE 7 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18483

Site name: **Fuaran Allt Nam Uamh**
HLP no: **41**

X: 225480 **Y:** 917883
Site type(s): Mill
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Situated at the base of a steep cut on a flat terrace, at the south side of Allt Nan Uamh, is a mill 10m by 4.5m aligned NE/SW. The walls consist of two drystone faces brought to course with a rubble core, built from varied stone-probably mostly gathered- averaging 0.5m long, standing up to 2m high. The interior is filled with rubble collapse but an entrance is still visible on the SE wall. No lade is visible but a rubble filled channel is present in the river bank slightly upstream from the mill. A track leads down a moderate gradient to the mill from the north-west.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21NE 3 **Highland HER ID:** MHG11408



HLP 41

Site name: **Fuaran Allt Nam Uamh**
HLP no: **42**

X: 225489 **Y:** 917852
Site type(s): Sheepfold
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Easy, short walk
Description:

Situated in improved pasture on flat ground at the bottom of a hill is a drystone circular sheepfold. The wall comprises two single course faces brought roughly to course with a rubble infill. An entrance is visible on the south-west measuring 0.6m wide and 0.8m high. Areas of the structure stand to full height but other areas are greatly diminished.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Stronechrubie**
HLP no: **43**

X: 224905 **Y:** 918691
Site type(s): Burnt mound
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Situated on flat ground to the east of River Loanan is a burnt mound measuring 13m by 10m by 0.75m, aligned E/W. The mound is crescent shaped and completely grassed over with an opening towards the river to the south. Four small clearance cairns, HLP 44, are situated to the east and south-east of the mound which itself seems completely undisturbed.



Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21NW 3 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13052

Site name: **Stronechrubie**
HLP no: **44**

X: 225022 **Y:** 918689
Site type(s): Clearance cairns
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Five small heaps of stones lie along the eastern edge of an area of improved pasture. The stone piles average 3m by 2m by 0.6m and are sub-oval in plan. They lie to the east of a burnt mound HLP43.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Sron Chrubaidh**
HLP no: **45**

X: 225366 **Y:** 918685
Site type(s): Township
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

A series of very ruinous structures are situated along the south side of Allt Mor stream. On two of the structures only partial wall remnants are now visible although others may survive below the thick heather and mossy grass cover. A flattish area to the west of the two buildings is visible and partially enclosed on the east and south by a low earth and stone bank. The eastern limit of the site may be delineated by an earthen dyke, aligned N/S with an E/W return at its northern limit, measuring 1.5m wide and c.0.75m high.



Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21NE 4
Highland HER ID: MHG11407

Site name: **Creag Sron Chrubaidh**
HLP no: **46**

X: 224875 **Y:** 920101
Site type(s): Kiln
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

A single short length of stone wall was observed running N/S for 7m before possibly turning E/W at its south end and continuing for another 4m. This short section is mostly turfed over and very indistinct. The site sits at the base of high steep cliffs in a grass and bracken covered area sloping east down towards the road at the west. There was nothing to support the identification as a kiln although it is possible the structure has been damaged during the erection of a wooden telegraph pole directly to the east of the N/S wall since previous inspections. The wall may represent the edge of a trackway which can be seen directly adjacent to it, and runs roughly N/S in both directions for some distance; this feature has not been previously reported.

Surveyed: 29/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SW 18 **Highland HER ID:** MHG28717





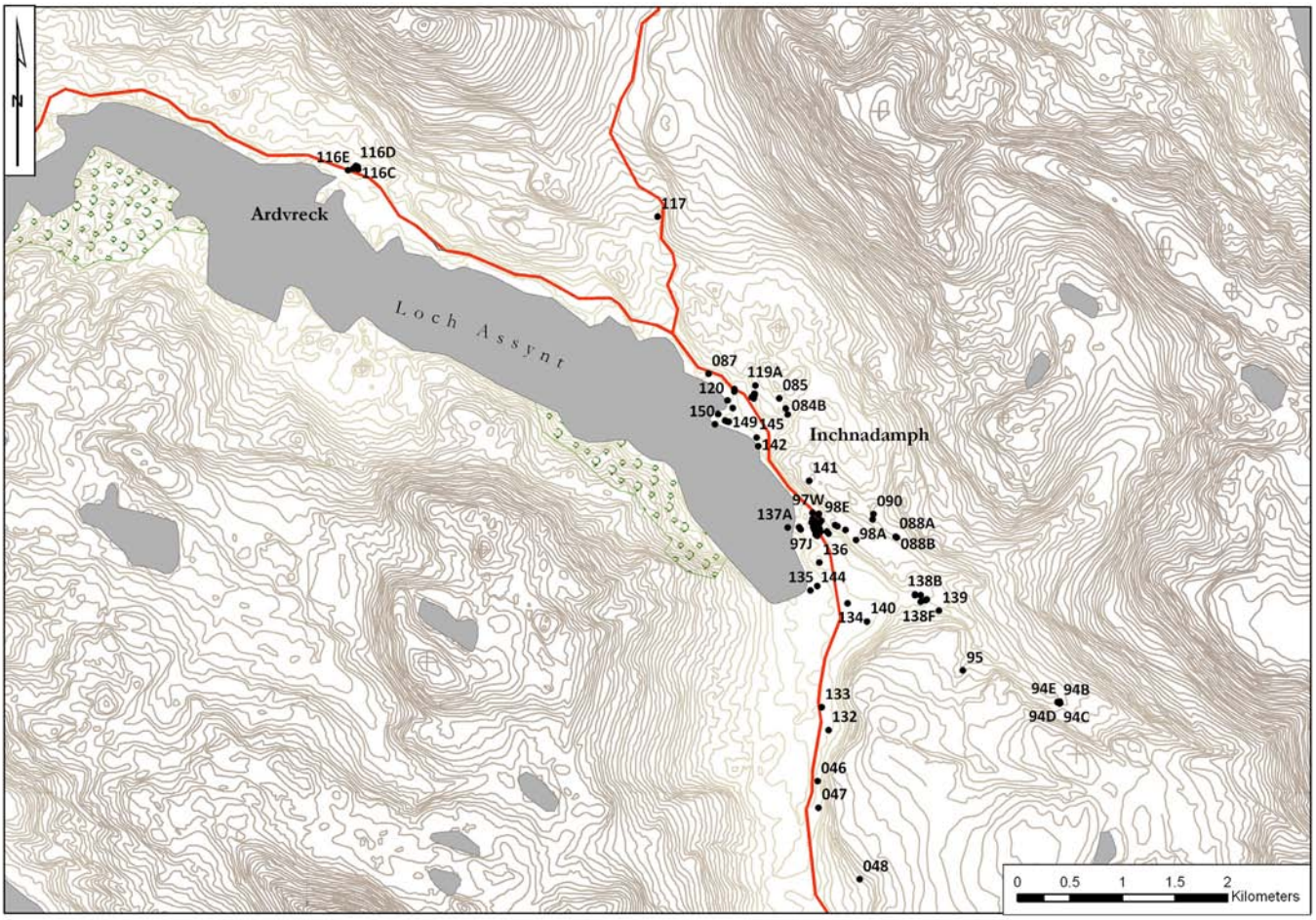
HLP 47

Site name: **Stonechrubie**
HLP no: **47**

X: 224884 **Y:** 919848
Site type(s): Kiln, Deserted Settlement
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

A roughly circular/trapezoidal, drystone constructed kiln in poor condition, heavily turfed over but easily visible. It measures 5m by 4m by 1m, aligned E/W with walls up to 2m thick. A flue/opening is present on the south-west corner and a chamber of c.1.8m diameter is clearly visible. The walls are 0.5m thick at the chamber, 1.15m at the outside and 1.5m long. A drystone bank running E/W for 130m was also observed. It was c.0.8m wide (max.) by 0.5m high (max.) and runs from the base of the cliffs to the road. The bank is heavily turfed over and in poor condition. There were no other traces of a deserted settlement; the kiln is located c.60m N of the previously cited NGR.

Surveyed: 29/11/2009 **NMRS no:** None **Highland HER ID:** MHG13096; MHG43676



Distribution of sites around Loch Assynt and Inchnadamph.

Site name: **Inchdauf**
HLP no: **48**

X: 225275 **Y:** 919164
Site type(s): Settlement (possible)
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Long, moderate walk
Description:

The only evidence of a deserted settlement in the general area are relict field boundaries consisting of two stone dykes and a curvilinear earthern bank. A third stone dyke was observed running from the cliffs down towards the conifer plantation in a roughly NE/SW direction, in a very ruinous condition. Also observed, at the midpoint between the A837 and the cliffs to the east, and just to the north of the conifer plantation were two small possible clearance cairns c.2-3m in diameter. These lie adjacent to a small grassy cleared area. A modern farmstead with well preserved outbuildings lies to the south. Although no evidence of structures of the deserted settlement were found there is abundant evidence of land-use in the area.

Surveyed: 29/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG13097

Site name: **Inverkirkaig**
HLP no: **49**

X: 207868 **Y:** 919411
Site type(s): Burnt mound (possible)

Condition: Well preserved in places

Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

A previously unreported possible burnt mound is located within a fenced off field along the southern edge of Inverkirkaig, in the corner between the River Kirkaig and the shore of Loch Kirkaig, on a flat river terrace directly above the river. The mound is large, 20m by 11m by 2m, and has a typical crescent shape with a central depression about 6m across. On the south-west horn of the mound an area of stones is visible which are very similar to the rounded stones seen on the shore of the loch. The mound is mostly covered with moss and grass. Approximately 10m to the east two roughly circular clearance cairns were noted, c.2-3m in diameter. Both are located on the same flat terrace as the putative burnt mound.

Surveyed: 29/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Inverkirkaig**
HLP no: **50**



X: 207789 **Y:** 919421
Site type(s): Stone structures
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

On the beach, close to the mouth of the River Kirkaig a stone feature comprising a pile of stones, sub-rectangular in shape, 4m by 2m by 0.4m and aligned N/S. The piled stones have been deliberately placed and may represent the remains of a boat noost, although the location would not easily support this interpretation. Approximately 1m to the south-east there two lines of three stones c.0.3m apart and c.0.75m long which may form part of some sort of setting, resembling a hearth. The function of these features is not clear.

Surveyed: 29/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Badnaban**
HLP no: **51**

X: 207746 **Y:** 920995
Site type(s): Township, Head dyke
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Modern township of Badnaban. Two small slipways are apparent at the small harbour and a ruinous stone dyke was observed between two plots running roughly SE-NW towards the river. A ruinous stone built structure was recorded at the top of the road to Badnaban, along with two weirs and the possible remains of a structure by the side of the river.

Surveyed: 29/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC02SE 19 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18548

Site name: **Strathan**
HLP no: **52**

X: 208709 **Y:** 920913
Site type(s): Head dyke, Township
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

The modern village of Strathan is now located on the road. To the south of the modern township there are five ruinous stone built structures on the north facing slopes of a hill. Stone dykes were also observed running along the contours of the hill leading up to the possible head dyke which runs E/W. In the flatter area at the base of the valley lazy beds or rig and furrow were observed.

Surveyed: 30/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC02SE 18 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18532



HLP 53.

Site name: **Loch Culag**
HLP no: **53**
X: 208950 **Y:** 921003
Site type(s): Settlement
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Very little of the Loch Culag settlement survives. The modern houses situated along the road are part of the modern settlement of Strathan. At the cited NGR, within a field of improved pasture close to two modern houses, lies an E/W aligned drystone building approximately 12m by 4m by 3m at the gable ends. The western half of the building has been roofed with corrugated sheeting and is still in use. It is a single storey building, the eastern half is not used and has fallen into disrepair. From the west end of the building a line of stones curves out to the north-west for 3m and probably forms the edge of a trackway still visible running north-west before turning west to join the modern track. Lazy beds are visible on the low-lying land to the north-north-east of the structure. To the far south-east by a stream running downslope were two possible ruins which may be associated with a mill, according to local knowledge. Directly adjacent to the stream on the west bank was a possible corner of a stone-built structure, while on the east bank a ruinous stone-built structure, approximately 10m by 4m, was observed within the garden of a modern house. This structure was subdivided into at least three rooms but is in very poor condition. Some stone dykes in disrepair were also observed in this area. No other traces of a settlement were found.

Surveyed: 30/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC02SE 23 **Highland HER ID:** MHG19992

Site name: **Lochinver Mill**
HLP no: **54**

X: 209449 **Y:** 922042
Site type(s): Grain mill; Saw mill
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

The mill is a combination of two buildings aligned roughly NW/SE just to the south of the bridge across the river at Lochinver. The 18th/19th century buildings consist of a rectangular, one-storey, rubble stone building, now unroofed, which was a sawmill. Directly across the lade and attached to it by a small metal bridge is a much larger two-storey, rubble stone building. This was a cornmill and has now been converted to modern housing. The lade which separates them is approximately 1.5m wide and rock-cut, taken from a bend in the river higher upstream to the south-west. Towards the upper end of the lade the sides are rendered rubble walling. The sawmill building has several blocked up openings in each of its walls, some are blocked with modern breeze-block material and some with much older masonry.

Surveyed: 30/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC02SE21 **Highland HER ID:** MHG19771

Site name: **Lochinver**
HLP no: **55**

X: 209441 **Y:** 922232
Site type(s): Building
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

A building is depicted as unroofed on the OS first edition map. It has a lower half to two-thirds built of stone; the new roof of the building is modern concrete and is currently used as a garage. The building measures 9m by 5m by 3m.

Surveyed: 30/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC02SE 17 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18531

Site name: **Lochinver, Culag Hotel, Culag Pier**
HLP no: **56, 57 & 58**

X: 209217 **Y:** 922207
Site type(s): Town, hotel, pier
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

The modern village of Lochinver comprises a thriving settlement, including the Baronial style Culag Hotel and the working Culag pier.

Surveyed: 30/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC02SE 24; NC02SE 3; NC02SE 37

Highland HER ID: MHG 24079, MHG36006 & MHG12231

Site name: **Airidh A' Bhraighe**
HLP no: **59**

X: 209891 **Y:** 923671
Site type(s): Field System
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, moderate walk
Description:

A field system and enclosures are visible from a distance but difficult to see on the ground. Four distinct areas of improved ground are visible, demarcated by changes in vegetation rather than visible features. The site is situated in a sheltered spot, on flat ground at the base of the valley near a stream, covering an area c.45m by 30m and sub-divided into small plots. There are no obvious banks or other boundaries but it does define an area of relatively clear grass, as opposed to the bracken and heather moorland which surrounds it.

Surveyed: 01/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record



Site name: **Mill pond, Cnoc Mhuilinn**
HLP no: **60 & 61**

X: 209902 **Y:** 923238
Site type(s): Mill Pond; wall
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long, easy walk on paths
Description:

HLP60: A small stretch of drystone wall was observed on the north bank of the river at the end of a possible small lade. The wall is c. 4m long and 1m maximum height. This is the only feature which was found near the existing NGR.
HLP61: To the east of HLP 60 was a large pool, with a series of weirs further up the river to the east, which may be the mill pond referred to in previous records of the site. There is small hut built on the south shore of the pond. Several fishing platforms have been built into the river beside the weirs and a modern concrete dam at the is located at the west end of the pond with a wooden bridge built over it. The weirs are stone built and the first one, closest to the pond has stone walls associated with it. It is possible that the mill pond and has been enlarged/refurbished to provide a fishing facility. If this was originally a mill pond then it appears to have been considerably enhanced by later reuse/adaptation.

Surveyed: 01/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG13065, MHG13061



Site name: **Cemetry, Lochinver**
HLP no: **62**

X: 209456 **Y:** 923048
Site type(s): Cemetry
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

A small irregularly shaped cemetery is located on the north bank of the river near its mouth. It sits on a terrain gently sloping from north to south and just to the west of the associated church. It is surrounded by a well constructed rubble stone wall, bonded with cement mortar and some areas have been rendered. Two pairs of iron gates provide entry.
The cemetery is still in use. There are a variety of markers of all shapes and sizes, with over 100 standing markers along with a number of fallen ones mostly situated at the back of the cemetery. Behind the north cemetry wall is a curving kerb of stone c.18m long, possibly the edge of a disused track.

Surveyed: 01/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG31466

Site name: **Sunrise (L) and Inver Cottage (R), Baddidaroch Rd, Lochinver**
HLP no: **63**

X: 209520 **Y:** 923103
Site type(s): House
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Two conjoined cottages built as one stone-built structure with a slate roof, on the north side of Baddidarach Road. The building is one storey, with chimneys at either end. There is one door in the centre of the south face of the building, and one door in the small extension on the north of the building at the west end. The front elevation of the building is symmetrical with four windows on either side of the door; the chimneys are also symmetrically placed. The windows at the back (N elevation) are not symmetrical. The building is still in use as a dwelling but appeared to be unoccupied at the time of survey.

Surveyed: 01/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC02SE 30; NC02SE 29 **Highland HER ID:** MHG17097

Site name: **North Lochinver Estate**
HLP no: **64**

X: 208965 **Y:** 922972
Site type(s): Estate
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

The site consists of a modern complex of one and two storey, harled buildings including a shop. It is a thriving modern housing estate situated between Lochinver and Baddidarach.

Surveyed: 01/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC02SE 31 **Highland HER ID:** MHG23767

Site name: **Tigh Fiodha**
HLP no: **65**

X: 208527 **Y:** 923095
Site type(s): Township
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Roads all the way into the township
Description:

The township of Tigh Fiodha has developed into a modern settlement. A number of large drystone walls are apparent running across the heather and bracken moorland to the east of the township but these would appear to be no older than 19th century.

Surveyed: 01/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC02SE 16 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18530

Site name: **Baddidarach**
HLP no: **66**

X: 208041 **Y:** 922751
Site type(s): Crofting Township; head-dyke
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Tarmac road throughout township



HLP 66.

Description:

The majority of the township of Baddidarach is modern, running either side of the modern road. At the SW end of the modern township a roughly metalled track approximately 1.5m wide with stone edging along one side runs to the NW, leading uphill between two rocky outcrops. Between these outcrops two small dry stone built walls run across to the edges of the trackway forming a distinct boundary. Approximately 10m beyond this boundary on the east side of the road resting against the rocky outcrop are the remains of a small structure with only two dry-stone built walls surviving, approximately 4m by 2m, standing only to a height of 0.5m. Around 30m up hill another structure lies on the north side of the trackway, which turns to the east at this point. This structure is rectangular with an entrance in the north side and measures 6m by 3.5m and is constructed of dry stone, standing to a maximum height of c.1.5 m.

Around 20m to the NW is a slightly larger stone built house, standing up to c.3m in height, with one gable end almost complete, to the chimney. The main house is 8m long by 4m wide with a chimney at one end. The house is aligned roughly NW/SE and has an annex built onto the NW end. The structure is conjoined to a drystone enclosure. The house is constructed from quarried stone - a mix of pink/red stone and grey lewisian gneiss with squared sandstone quoins on all the corners, the stone is bonded with lime mortar and the structure has remnants of a rough lime mortar harling on the exterior. Some areas of fine lime plaster survive on the interior walls.

The house has one entranceway in the south-west side and four windows, one on either side of the doorway, one in the opposite wall, and one in the SE end wall. Large red sandstone lintels, up to c.1m in length are either in situ or lying nearby. In the NW gable wall are two fireplaces, both of which also have red sandstone lintels above. The main fireplace is on the ground floor in the centre of the wall. The second fireplace is at first floor level, smaller and slightly to the right of centre. The remains of a small iron bedstead were found within the rubble of the main house.

The annex at the NW end of the house is also built of red and grey sandstone with lime mortar, but is not of the same high quality build as the rest of the house. It stands to c. 1m in height and appears to have an entrance in the south-west side.

Approximately 40m to the ENE a curvilinear section of drystone wall was observed, c. 17m in length. It lies within an area of possible improved pasture which is probably associated with the house and other buildings. The area is relatively clear of heather and moss as compared to the surrounding moorland.

Surveyed: 01/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC02SE 15 **Highland HER ID:** MHG43726; MHG18529

Site name: **Unapool, Newton**
HLP no: **67**
X: 223597 **Y:** 931661
Site type(s): Township, Field-system
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short easy walk
Description:

The ruinous remains of an abandoned township lie just to the south of modern Unapoll, adjacent to a small river running down to the loch below. The remains are divided by the N/S running A894, with the structures located to the east of the road, and the majority of the visible enclosures and lazy beds visible to the west side.

15 rectangular unroofed drystone structures were identified, all ruinous and in various degrees of collapse and submerged in vegetation. A possible 16th rectangular building was noted but this was too ruinous to make out a definite shape. In addition one oval drystone structure was observed with a pile of rubble nearby which might represent another.

The structures spread over a considerable area on either side of a small stream which joins to the river Allt a' Ghamhna. The first structure encountered ('A' on field sketches) has been re-built and modified and now contains a stone and corrugated iron shed.

The structures vary in size, from c. 7m by 3m, up to c. 12-13m by 4m, and generally stand to c. 0.5m in height - none more than 1m. Some of the structures (A, C, D, M, N) contain the remnants of internal divisions which may indicate that they had two rooms.

Structure F comprises either one long narrow structure, or two adjoining structures, attached to a large enclosure, approx. 33m by 12m, also bounded by drystone walling. Located to the SE of this enclosure, on the banks of the river, a possible lade was observed curving around to the north before rejoining the river. A large area of rubble lies up against the lade towards its east end which may be the remains of a mill structure (L).

To the NE of the possible mill are two rectangular structures which appear to be surrounded and possibly joined by a drystone rubble dyke. At least three trackways were observed; two towards the east end of the township and one towards the west.

An enclosure was observed upstream of the main farm steading, a D-shaped earth and stone bank on heather moorland. Numerous clearance cairns, mostly around 2m by 3m, and large tracts of improved ground are contained within this structure. A long, low mound located towards the river is also likely to be a clearance cairn.

Q, R, S
A series of earth and stone banks (structures Q, R and S), now covered by heather and bracken, form large enclosures on either side of the A894. Within the enclosures on the west side of the road several small clearance cairns were observed. A series of possible lazy beds were noted on the east facing side, closest to road, approx 4m wide each.

T, U, V, W
A further three structures T, U and W were observed on a flat plateau above the valley where the other structures are located, to the W of the enclosures. Structure T is a small drystone building approx 3m by 3m with an entrance in the east wall, with a large drystone enclosure attached to its south and east sides. The enclosure is 16m long by c. 10m wide with entrance to NE c. 3m wide.

Alongside the enclosure, on its west wall another drystone structure (U) was observed, possibly an outbuilding/barn, measuring 4m by 11m and so overgrown that no entrance could be determined.

Further to the NW another small drystone structure was identified, c. 5m x 3m in size (structure W). Most of these structures are ruinous and indistinct; only structure T stands to any height (c. 0.75m); the others only c. 0.3m high and very heavily overgrown, only just visible.

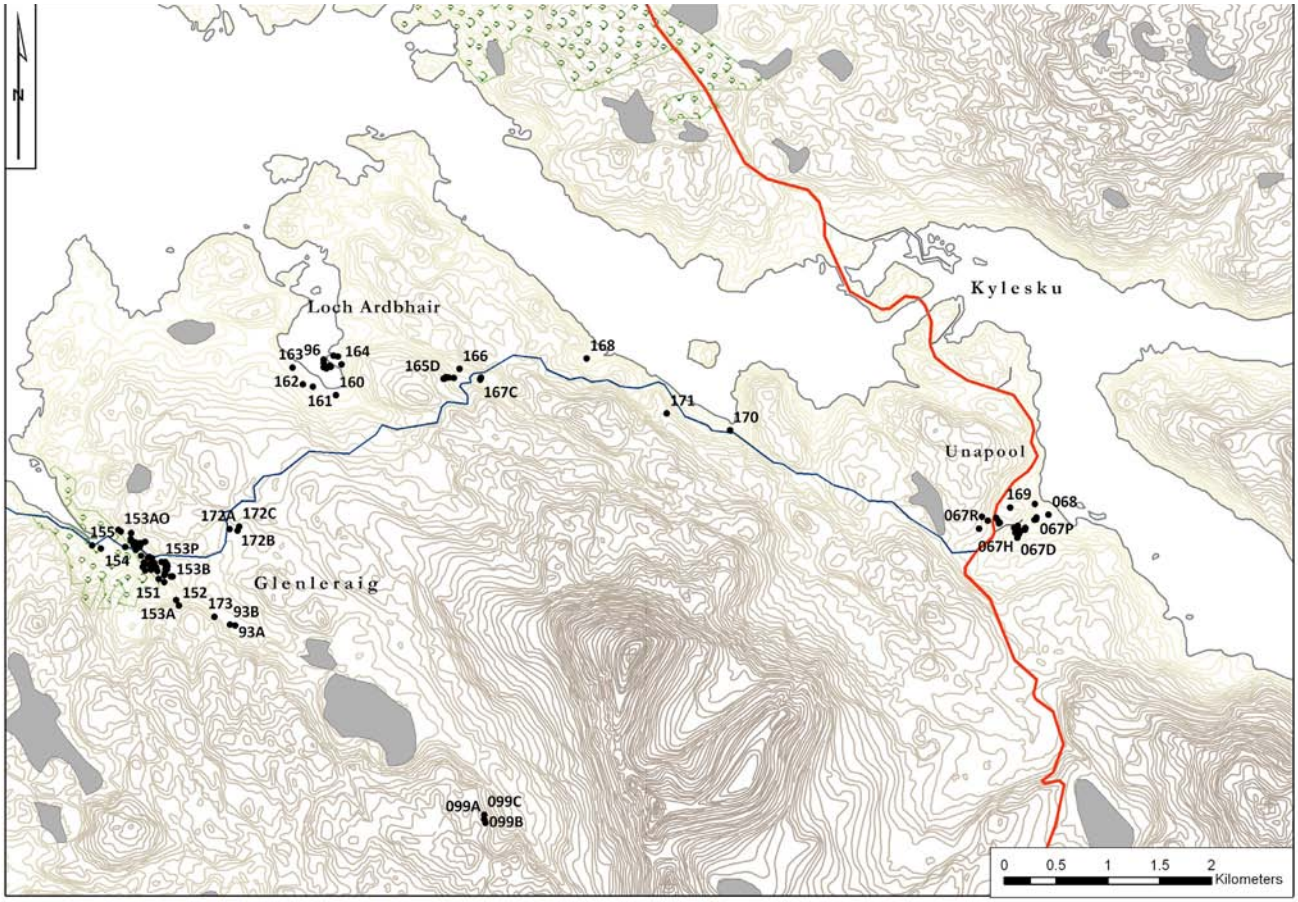
Between structures U and W a large clearance cairn was observed c. 4m in diameter and up to 1.5m in height.

Surveyed: 02/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC23SW 7 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12123





HLP 67.



Distribution of sites between Kylesku and Glenleraig.

Site name: **Unapool, Newton**
HLP no: **68**

X: 223897 **Y:** 931766

Site type(s): Sheep enclosure

Condition: Very well preserved

Accessibility: Medium moderate walk down public footpath; boggy in places

Description:

A very large drystone built enclosure for working with sheep, aligned roughly N/S. It is close to the abandoned part of the township at Unapool, Newton (see HLP 67).

The enclosure is very solidly built of drystone rubble, with walls approx. 0.75m wide towards top and c. 1m at base. The walls stand to a maximum height of c. 1.4m and almost all survive to up to 1m high. All entrances are still clearly visible, including the low openings for sheep to pass through.

The enclosure is sub-divided into four main rooms with an additional two smaller rooms surviving, attached to the outside of the enclosure at its NE corner. Traces of a further third room survive (at the east end of Room G in field sketches) but this barely survives.

The enclosure has been in use until quite recently as a modern concrete area has been inserted into the NE corner of Room A, and an iron tank for dipping has been added.

Surveyed: 02/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Glencanisp**
HLP no: **69**

X: 211806 **Y:** 922187
Site type(s): Building
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short easy walk
Description:

This building uses varied rubble, roughly brought to course and bound by a lime mortar. The construction makes use of frequent pinning and chocking stones. The building sub-divided into two compartments, with the gables partially preserved. The otherwise ruinous walls are reduced to below cill level and there is no obvious entrance. There is a probable fire place in NW gable. The walls of the building are 0.7m wide, comprising two faces with a rubble core.The structure is aligned NW/SE abutting a dry stone dyke at its SE end. This wall may form enclosure yard tied to building.

Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG52708



HLP 69.

Site name: **Druim Suardalain**
HLP no: **70**

X: 212519 **Y:** 921774
Site type(s): Enclosure
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short easy walk along good track
Description:

This enclosure covers an area of c. 90 metres square, containing grassy pasture succumbing to bracken. The enclosure is constructed in dry stone, using varied rubble and forming a sub-square shape in plan.

Much of the enclosure stands to original wallhead although short sections have collapsed entirely. A complex sheep bucht is situated on the east shore of Loch Druim Suardalain. The area has been improved, and there is good grazing around the shores of the loch.

Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC12SW 7 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18780

Site name: **Building/Sheiling**
HLP no: **71**

X: 211806 **Y:** 922187
Site type(s): Sheiling
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Longish easy walk.
Description:

A small building, 4m by 3m and 0.4m high is situated at the end of a short valley with good views to north. The building comprises stone footing, possibly for turf walls, and is rectangular in plan, oriented E-W.The structure is ruinous, with no obvious sign of the entrance. The local area comprises improved pasture.

Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Dubh Chlais**
HLP no: **72**

X: 212220 **Y:** 922960
Site type(s): Township
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Long easy walk along good track
Description:

This site occupies flat, low lying ground near small streams, within improved pasture surrounded by heather moor. There is some evidence of cultivation marks at base of hills to NW. Several structures are located within the township; they are generally poorly preserved.
Building A: a rectangular structure, 8m by 3.5m and 0.45m high. The walls are 0.7m wide, and the structure is aligned E-W.
Structure B: A rectangular structure 9m by 10m and 1.1m high. The walls are 0.6m wide; a stock pen sructure lies adjacent.
Structure C: A rectangular structure 3m by 4m and 0.3m high. The internal area deepens markedly, containing a possible stone lined pit; its purpose is not clear. The structure is oriented E-W.
Structure D: a very ruinous building with dimensions approximately 10m by 4m and 0.3m high with an E-W orientation.
Structure E: A platform 17m long by 5m wide and 1m high. The purpose of this feature is not clear.
Structure F: This wall is a partial remnant of a larger feature aligned N/S, comprised of large vertically set stones.
Feature G: A curvilinear earth and stone bank forming an enclosure within the site complex. The enclosure measures 23m by 2.2m and the bank stands to 1m in height.
Building H: a rectangular sturcture measuring 9m by 5m and standing to 0.45m in height.
Structure I: Wall remains measuring 19m by 10m and standing 0.6m high. The rubble of the wall, which is ruinous in places, spreads to 1.5m in width. The wall forms an enclosure.





Buildings J and K: two structures located on a river terrace overlooking the township, aligned SW/NE. Structure J comprises a longhouse, and measures 22m long by 6m wide and stands 1.5m high; its walls are 0.8m wide. Three internal compartments were identified. The building featues a small lintened opening into the main compartments; no other entrances are visible. Building K measures 12m by 5m and 0.5m high with walls measuring 0.6m wide. The structure is oriented NE to SW, is rectangular in plan with rounded corners. There is no visible sign of the entrance into the main internal space. Building J may have been accessed through small lintelled compartment at SE end of building. The walls of both J and K comprise two wall faces with rubble fill, incorporating very large field boulders. Structure M is a ruinous stone walled enclosure, measuring 20m square. The walling is poorly preserved, measuring 0.6m wide to 0.45m in height.

Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC12SW6 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18778

Site name: **Dubh Chlais**
HLP no: **73**
X: 211985 **Y:** 923060
Site type(s): Hut circle (possible)/enclosure
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long easy walk
Description:

This possible hut-circle comprises a sub-circular earth and stone bank, 19m in diameter and up to 1m in height, located at the edge of the Dubh Chlais township. The bank is very eroded in places and there is no obvious evidence of the entrance. There is an additional, probably secondary, structure built along the northern limit, comprising a stone built rectangular structure with dimensions of 6m by 3m and 0.85m high. The site is located in improved pasture, on a flat terrace within the western limits of the township, and is overlooked by structures J, K and L of HLP 72.

Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC12SW13 **Highland HER ID:** MHG19450



HLP 73.

Site name: **Dubh Chlais**
HLP no: **74**

X: 211772 **Y:** 922888
Site type(s): Hut Circle
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long easy walk
Description:



Located within improved pasture, this structure lies on fringes of the Dubh Chlais township (HLP 72), overlooking the township from SW from an elevated position on hillside. The structure is sub-circular in plan, measuring 14m in diameter. The bank consists of a broad, low mound which is grass and heather covered and formed from field cobbles varying in size up to a maximum of 0.8m by 0.3m. The mound measures 2m wide x 0.7m high and has a small spur at its SE end. There are possible openings in the Nand SE ends. There is a large quantity of stone down the western edge/bank of this structure and several piles of stones lie elsewhere around it. The relationship of these to the hut-circle is unclear and would repay further investigation.

Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC12SW12 **Highland HER ID:** MHG19449

Site name: **Lochinver Fishing Station**
HLP no: **75**

X: 209300 **Y:** 922299
Site type(s): Fishing Station Harbour Pier
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short easy walk
Description:

A modern pier and associated containers providing fishing boat moorings.

Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC02SE7 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12227

Site name: **Doire Beathaig**
HLP no: **76**

X: 214840 **Y:** 925794
Site type(s): Sheilings
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short easy walk
Description:



Small circular sheilings occupy a terrace on SE facing slope overlooking a small burn. Unenclosed grazings are also visible around this area. Structure A is sub-circular in plan, and measures 6m by 4m and 0.8-1.2m high. The structure seems to have been remodelled to form a single smaller shelter aligned N/S. The construction is of dry stone rubble, and the walls are 0.75m wide. Structure B is 2.2m in diameter and is of crude dry stone construction. The walls are 0.6m wide and 0.4m high. Sheep enclosures are associated, consisting of a series of five drystone compartments.

Surveyed: 08/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC12NW4 **Highland HER ID:** MHG11289

Site name: **Loch Beannach**
HLP no: **77**
X: 214884 **Y:** 926258
Site type(s): Township, mill, sheilings
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short easy walk up new track
Description:

Two neighbouring townships are located on high, flat ground, with a dyke separating the lands between them. The area to SW comprises site 77, and the area to the NE is Site 77B.

Site 77 comprises six reasonably well preserved building remains. Two of the buildings have attached enclosures. The buildings are of dry stone construction, with walls around 0.7m wide, consisting of two faces containing a rubble fill. The walls of these structures survive to 1.8m in height and are built from gneiss. Remnants of cultivation are visible around both townships.

Site 77B is a neighbouring settlement to the NE, comprising four buildings with associated enclosures of the same build style as HLP 77. A dam and mill at the south end of Loch An T Sabhail were also visited. The mouth of the loch is revetted and narrowed with stone rubble; large stone rubble formed the dam. Around 20m downstream of the dam lie the mill and lade which are both constructed from varied rubble. The mill is a curving broad wall built against the bank of the burn circa 5m by 4m, and 1m in height. The lade is visible running through and exiting the centre of the mill walls, which are 2m wide.



HLP 77.

Both sites had sizeable longhouses. Build quality was somewhat better in the longhouse in site 77B, which features dressed quoins. The building is sub-divided internally, and has a single window opening.

Building A has dimensions of 8m x 5m x 0.35m high
Building B has dimensions of 5m x 4m x 1.8m high

Building C has dimensions of 11m x 5m x 1.2m high
Building D has dimensions of 11m x 4m x 1.8m high
Building E is a longhouse with dimensions of 16m x 5m x 2m high. Building is sub divided internally into three compartments c.4m squared with walls up to 1m thick
Building F has dimensions of 7m x 3m x 0.45m high
Building G has dimensions of 6m x 3m x 1.45m high joined to building H by a short wall.
Building H has dimensions of 10m x 5m x 0.35m high
Building I has dimensions of 8m x 4m x 1.2m high
Structure J is an enclosure d-shaped with area 30m squared with ancillary wall to east side. The dimensions are 8m x 5m x 0.35m high.
Building K has dimensions of 6m x 3m 0.45m high
Building L is a longhouse with dimensions of 16m x 5m x 2m high and walls measuring 0.6m wide. The building is divided internally into three compartments with sub-division in NE room. Quoins form corners of building with two possible entrances into main central and NW compartments. There is one window visible in E Wall.
Building M is an enclosure with dimensions of 20m x 16m x 1.5m high with an entrance from SE.

77C: Sheilings
Setting: Terrace overlooking Site 77 to the North.
These lie to SW of Site 77 on an improved area of Heather Moor terrace with good views to North and East. 3 small stone rubble structures are visible. Structure A measures 4m by 3m, Structure B measures 2m by 2m and Structure C measures 5m by 3m.
These are possibly sheilings associated with HLP 77.

Surveyed: 08/12/2009 **NMRS no:** n/a **Highland HER ID:** n/a



HLP 77, structure E.

Site name: **Ruigh Ruadh**
HLP no: **78**

X: 214454 **Y:** 926044
Site type(s): Field system, enclosures, structures, cultivation remains
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Easy short walk from new path
Description:

Improved areas of ground are visible lying within field boundaries and enclosures, rough hill grazing around elsewhere. Bracken and grass denotes the improved areas. The banks are constructed of stone and turf. Two enclosures/field systems are located to the S of HLP77c, the southernmost contains four stone built structures probably sheilings 4m by 3m, standing to 0.3m in a sheltered part of the site. One further structure at the W end of the enclosure is possibly a clearance cairn or ruinous stone platform. Two further structures are located towards the centre of the enclosure; these measure c.2m in diameter.

Surveyed: 08/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC12NW 10 **Highland HER ID:** MHG45142; MHG45143

Site name: **Ruigh Ruadh**
HLP no: **79**

X: 214455 **Y:** 926044
Site type(s): Sheiling hut
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Easy short walk from new path
Description:

A ruinous shieling hut, part of the complex described above (HLP 78).

Surveyed: 08/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC12NW 10 **Highland HER ID:** MHG11279



HLP 80, structure B.

Site name: **Ardroe**
HLP no: **80**
X: 206800 **Y:** 924074
Site type(s): Buildings and corn drying kiln
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short precarious walk
Description:

Structure 80A
Situated at the E end of Loch Roe is a kiln, 3m by 3m and 1m high. The kiln is built of dry stone rubble, with a squared chamber and a short passage on the NW side. The walls form horns around the opening to the kiln. The opening to the stoke hole is visible, measuring 0.4m wide by 0.3m high. The chamber measures 1m by 1m internally; the walls are 0.6m wide.

Structure 80B
A building with a main room 11m by 6m, standing to 2m in height. To the NW there is a further room 5m by 5m and 0.7m high. A platform projects 1.2m along the NE-facing side of building. The platform along the SE end of the building is 4m wide by 9.5 m long. The building is of dry stone construction, using two single stone face walls with a rubble core. A doorway into the building is 0.85m in width; a single window opening measures 0.45m tall by 0.35m in width. The structure is in good condition.

Structure 80C
A structure with walls 0.7m wide, measurings 7m by 5m and standing 1.6m high. A further room to the N measures 4m by 5m, standing to 0.9m. The walls are constructed from two single stone face walls with a rubble core, and an there is an entrance opening in the E wall 0.8m wide. The rubble core is brought roughly to course with pinning and chocking stones. There is an internal partial sub-division within the main room and there are stone pediments protruding into the room.

Surveyed: 09/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record



HLP 80, structure A, corn drying kiln.

Site name: **Loch Roe**
HLP no: **81A**

X: 207059 **Y:** 924203
Site type(s): Mill lade and associated weirs and dam
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

HLP 81A
A mill is situated at the south-east end of Loch Roe just above the beach head. A number of posts are visible along the beach head at low tide. Large boulders form the remains of diminished walls measuring up to 1.2m by 0.5m and 1.3m high, surviving to two courses in height. The mill is aligned N/S with an entrance opening in the west wall. The lade runs through the north end of the mill; although it is largely filled in, it would appear to have driven a vertical wheel. It turns to the north and rejoins the burn before entering Loch Roe.
An enhanced promontory to the immediate north-west of the mill on the beach-head appears to have been constructed in order to divert the mouth of the burn into Loch Roe. From the south the promontory is protected from erosion by a series of weirs and a dam.

Surveyed: 09/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record



HLP 81A, lade walling.

Site name: **Loch Roe**
HLP no: **81B**

X: 207110 **Y:** 924210
Site type(s): Horizontal Mill
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

HLP 81B
Situated on heather moorland upstream on a burn that flows into the south-east end of Loch Roe, fed by Loch Dubh to the east are the remains of a horizontal mill. Varied rubble is used in crude but sturdy walls which are too spread to clearly see any structural form or any possible entrance.
The banks of the burn have been modified to the east and west of the mill to guide the burn through and out of the mill. The mill lies either side of the burn with the greater portion positioned on the north bank of the burn. This site may have been superseded by a larger vertical wheel driven mill (HLP 81A).

Surveyed: 09/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC02SE 13 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18527

Site name: **Ardroe**
HLP no: **82**

X: 207019 **Y:** 923727
Site type(s): Township
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

The township comprises five buildings, one of which was a large dwelling house. A circular drystone sheep bucht was also recorded. Numerous stone dykes forming field boundaries and enclosures are visible here. Frequent clearance cairns are also visible on improved areas of associated land.

Surveyed: 10/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC02SE 12 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18526



HLP 83A.

Site name: **Ardroe**
HLP no: **83**

X: 206791 **Y:** 923154
Site type(s): Farmstead, mill
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

HLP83A
The site consists of two buildings and walled enclosures perched on a relatively flat terrace on a low hillside overlooking a broad rocky bay to the south. It is a large, well-built and proportioned structure

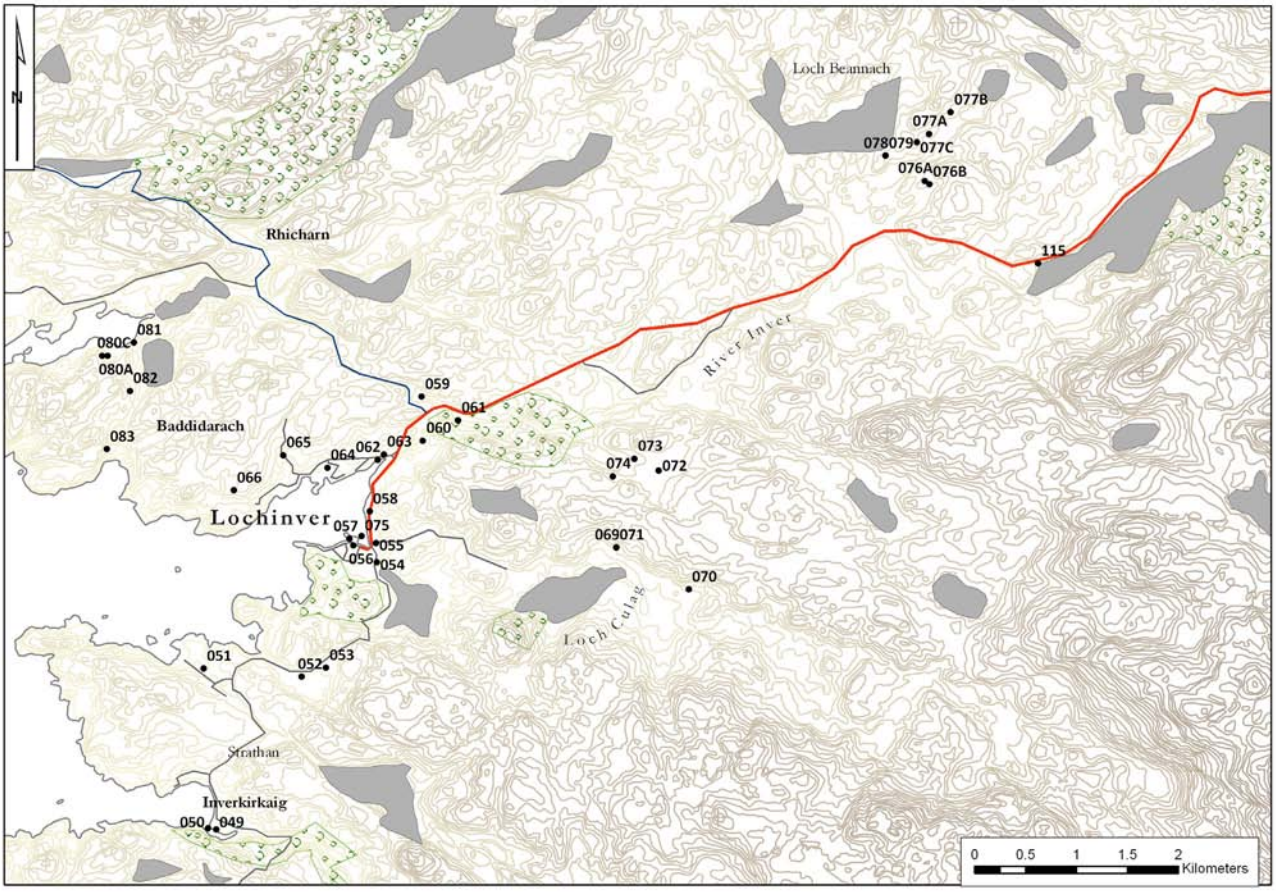
with one single compartment. An entrance opening is present on the east wall along with two chambered window bays. The west wall has only a single window bay with only one chambered side and the north gable houses a large fireplace with a small opening directly above it. On the east side of the fireplace is a wall press. There is no opening in the south gable. There are good quoins and lintels on the windows and door surrounds, which use good quarried stone. Construction is otherwise in varied rubble, with evidence of lime mortar bonding and lime render externally. A small building with a gable end abuts the north end of the main structure. The building is enclosed on its east side by a drystone wall and features a built up platform in front of its east wall. The building is of a typical construction with varied rubble brought roughly to course with frequent pinning and checking stones.



Clearance cairns and other walled enclosures are visible within this complex.

HLP 83B
A drystone building is associated with the farmstead situated to the west (HLP 83A). A mill is built on top of a rocky outcrop above beach head made from beach stone and random rubble, low walls. A burn runs through the centre of this structure which is in a hidden spot and almost seems deliberately concealed. A stone built porst 8m long by 4m wide with two parallel drystone walls sit just above the beach head below the mill.

Surveyed: 10/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record



Distribution of sites around Lochinver and Inverkirkaig.

Site name: **Allt A'Chalda Mor**
HLP no: **84**

X: 224568 **Y:** 923652
Site type(s): Buildings
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Situated on a flat terrace north of a burn are two drystone structures. Structure A consists of one main room with a curvilinear additional compartment to the north abutting the south side of the head dyke associated with the settlement of Eader A' Chalda.
Structure B is a rectangular structure of random rubble construction with a similar associated enclosure. It measures 6m by 4m. Both are built from limestone, aligned N/S with their front wall on the west.

Surveyed: 10/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SW 13 **Highland HER ID:** MHG40842



HLP 84.

Site name: **Eader a' Chalda marshes**
HLP no: **85**

X: 224507 **Y:** 923750
Site type(s): Building
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

A ruinous building of dry stone construction lies within the Eader A Chaldar marsh and west of the head dyke. The building is aligned E/W and was probably a typical low stone walled building with two compartments. The walls are spread to over a metre wide in places.

Surveyed: 10/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Ardvreck Castle**
HLP no: **86**

X: 223928 **Y:** 923598
Site type(s): Enclosure
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Easy, short walk
Description:

A grassed over rectilinear stone walled enclosure with walls up to 1m wide is part of the Ardvreck Castle complex. It is aligned NW/SE and sits on the banks of the Loch Assynt and less than 100m north of Ardvreck Castle itself. The enclosure is thought to have been a walled garden.

Surveyed: 10/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** N/A

Site name: **Loch Assynt**
HLP no: **87**

X: 223835 **Y:** 923983
Site type(s): Field Boundary
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Easy, short walk
Description:

Situated on land overlooking Loch Assynt to the west is a drystone dyke. It is constructed of varied rubble, two courses wide with a rubble core. It is aligned NE-SW and curves WSW as it enters the loch. The dyke is generally in fair condition although it may have been truncated by the road. A number of clearance cairns are visible on the west side of wall.

Surveyed: 10/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Inchnadamph**
HLP no: **88**

X: 225619 **Y:** 922436
Site type(s): Farmstead
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Two limestone buildings forming a farmstead along with a field boundary and enclosures visible to the west and south. Structure A is a drystone longhouse 16m by 6m by 1.2m, aligned NNE-SSW, with two compartments and a wall spread of up to 1m in width. Structure B is a drystone L-shaped building 11m by 3m N-S and 6m by 3m E/W up to a height of 1m and a wall spread over 1m in width.



Surveyed: 11/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SE 7

HER ID: MHG11336

Site name: **Inchnadamph**
HLP no: **89**

X: 225400 **Y:** 922599
Site type(s): Enclosure
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

Situated on a flat terrace is an earth and stone bank forming an enclosure aligned N/S with a small pond in its internal north-east corner. The area enclosed measures 150m by 70m, and the bank ranges in height from 0.5m to 2m.

Surveyed: 11/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SE 15 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18816

Site name: **Inchnadamph**
HLP no: **90**

X: 225408 **Y:** 922650
Site type(s): Hut Platforms (possible)
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

A natural terrace could potentially form a platform for huts. No clear evidence for structures was observed and most features appeared to be natural. 300m to the west is an area cleared of stones, forming a terrace, but no significant archaeology was observed.

Surveyed: 11/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Allt nan Uamh**
HLP no: **91**

X: 226481 **Y:** 917210
Site type(s): Shieling Huts
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:



On a flat terrace at the base of the Strath Noar caves, adjacent to a bend in the river there are up to six possible structures with two being very well defined. The structures are built from varied rubble, mostly sandstone and quartzite, and the walls are now very spread. Structure A is sub-square, 5m by 4m and 0.8m high, aligned NW-SE, with a wall spread of over 1m in width. Structure B is circular, measuring 2m in diameter and 0.4m high.

Surveyed: 11/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21NE 2 **Highland HER ID:** MHG11409

Site name: **Allt nan Uamh**
HLP no: **92**

X: 226137 **Y:** 917647
Site type(s): Enclosure
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk along a rough track
Description:

Structure A is a square stone setting with large stones forming a square enclosure 7m by 6m, aligned E-W. Structure B is a rectilinear enclosure on the south facing slope to the north of the river. It is built from varied rubble with possible associated clearance cairns within the structure. It is approximately 150m by 150m, standing to 1m in height with a wall spread of over 1m.

Surveyed: 11/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21NE 8 **Highland HER ID:** MHG27054

Site name: **Ruigh Dorch**
HLP no: **93**

X: 216100 **Y:** 930733
Site type(s): Building, enclosure
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long easy walk, boggy in places
Description:

A 10m long sub-rectanguar drystone structure was identified c. 40m north of the river with an associated stone and earth bank enclosure to the south-west. The building is constructed of gathered stone, standing to max of 1.0m high, 10m long and 5m wide, with walls 0.6m thick. The east wall bows out slightly forming a slight curve; the entrance is in south wall, c.1m wide. In the SE corner a very small cell is formed with internal dimensions of c.0.5m by 0.7m.
From the W wall, beside the entrance, a stone wall continues to the south for a further 15m but becomes discontinuous and very overgrown - this may originally have continued down to the river. Approximately 40m to SE lies an associated sub-circular enclosure, formed by earth and stone banks, now very degraded and heavily overgrown. There is a possible entrance in the E side, where the bank is very flat. The enclosure forms a raised platform at the S where the bank and natural slope drop away steeply, approximately 10m by 9m and standing to a maximum height of 0.8m at the NW corner. Several clearance cairns were observed in the surrounding area.

Surveyed: 09/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SE 13 **Highland HER ID:** MHG 18741



HLP 93.

Site name: **Torran Garbha; Gleann Dubh**
HLP no: **94**

X: 227263 **Y:** 920895
Site type(s): Shieling Huts
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Long easy walk
Description:

A cluster of six shieling hut footings, located in a fairly sheltered valley between two streams. The footpath cuts through the cluster. Five of the shielings are roughly circular in shape and average between 2m and 3m in diameter. The position of the entrances are not clear due to ruinous condition. The sixth shieling is sub-oval in shape and 4m by 3m in size, with no obvious entrance. None of the shielings survive to more than c.0.4m in height, and generally only a single course of drystone is visible. Some are so overgrown by turf they are barely visible.

Surveyed: 09/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SE 3 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13021

Site name: **Ruigh an T-Sagairt**
HLP no: **95**

X: 226339 **Y:** 921191
Site type(s): Shielings, building, field system
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Long hard walk
Description:



This site is located on a gentle N facing slope above a much steeper slope down to the River Traligill, approximately 50m to the east of the Allt Na Glaic Moire river. A small rectangular structure is present built of stone with no bonding material, approx. 7m long by 4m wide, with walls standing to a maximum of 0.8m high; only three courses are visible. The walls are between 0.8m - 1.0m thick but obscured by rubble collapse. A small wall runs off the NE corner of the structure for 7m in a NE direction; this is alsodry stone.

All of these walls appear to be built from a mix of quarried and gathered stone. A stone and earth bankruns from the top of the hill down directly past the structure before continuing downhill for over 100m, running in a roughly N/S direction. The bank encloses an area of improved pasture while the areas outside are covered with bracken and heather. Several clearance cairns were present within the enclosed area. There is no evidence of the second building mentioned by previous reports.

Surveyed: 09/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SE 13; NC22SE 10 **Highland HER ID:** MHG45990; MHG45991

Site name: **An Dun, Loch Ardbhair**
HLP no: **96**

X: 216881 **Y:** 933240
Site type(s): Broch
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, difficult walk- tidal
Description:

A well preserved Atlantic roundhouse with walls averaging 3.5m thick and standing to over 2.5m in height is sited on a tidal islet in Loch Ardbhair. The outer wall face is visible on the north side, but is obscured by rubble elsewhee. The roundhouse has an internal diameter of 7m. There are stairs to the left of what appears to be the original the entrance on the SE side. Three steps are visible, c.0.7m wide between inner and outer walls. The entrance to the structure is 0.7m wide at the internal wall face, widening at the exterior. The rubble from the collapse of the walls spreads to c.4m out from the outer wall, and there is evidence that the S side is slumping/collapsing.
It was reported to the present surveyors that a trench had previously been excavated on the inside of the roundhouse from NE to SW, c.1m wide by c.5m long from the SW face. A grassy rubble mound on the NE side of the islet may indicate the presence of spoil from this excavation.

Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SE 1 **Highland HER ID:** MHG 12239





HLP 96.

Site name: **Na Cuilean**
HLP no: **97**

X: 224949 **Y:** 922477
Site type(s): Township
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Long, easy walk
Description:

A large, dispersed township, located c.100m to east of the A837 on a series of flat plateaus/ledges. The township is surrounded by improved pasture, grass and moss, while much of the surrounding area is bracken covered; there are excellent views over the loch to the W and hills to the N, S and E.

All of the houses observed are of drystone construction, with no bonding material visible in any structures. The stone all appears to be gathered rather than quarried.
Around 30 structures were identified, most of which were rectangular in shape, with only one or two showing a possible sub-oval shape or appearing to have rounded gable ends. Most of the buildings are between 5 and 9m long and average between 3 and 4m wide, nothing survives above a height of 0.75m.

Structure A was one of the larger buildings, with footings 14m long by c. 3.5m wide, with a possible additional room or building having been added to the E end. As with all of the buildings, the walls were very spread, and it was therefore difficult to identify any entrances. Structures B, C, D, E and F are all very similar in size and shape to structure A.

A somewhat fragmentary stone wall, Structure I, runs roughly E/W for 8m, from the middle of Structure D, with a gap of 2m before continuing for another 7m where it meets the base of the surrounding crag.

Structure G is a 16m long building on a roughly N/S alignment. Structure H, is mid-sized at 10.5m long, located close to the crags and stone wall I.

Structures J, K, M and N are rectangular buildings similar to those described above. Structure L is quite small, only 4m by 2.5m and sub-square in shape. Structure O is one of the larger structures at 12m long, with a small stretch of now mostly turf covered stone wall c.7m long running from its east gable.

Structures P, Q and R are further rectangular buildings in the same style, although R is poorly preserved and barely visible. To the west of structures O and P is a fairly steep sided narrow gully with two or three possible stone walls, S, running across the gully - perhaps forming small enclosures.

Structure T used the stone face of the gully as one of its long walls so that only three walls needed to be constructed. Structure U is poorly preserved, with very spread walls and lots of tumble, making it difficult to identify whether this was one long structure or two smaller ones. Across the small stream, a small (4m by 3.5m) roughly square structure was identified, nestled up against the crags with a small stone wall just to the east running between the crags and the stream. Above Structure V, on the next plateau, approximately 30m away, another rectangular structure, W, aligned roughly NW/SE was identified, c.10m long by 4m wide. On the same ridge/plateau three smaller rectangular buildings were observed c.5m long by 2-3m wide, clustered together (X, Y and Z). Further to the south on the same level, three more rectangular structures were found, between 7m and 15m in length and 3-4m wide (Aa, Ac and Ad). Also in this cluster was a roughly sub-oval structure, Ab, c.6m long by 3m wide.



HLP 97, building M.

Directly to the east of this cluster, a stone and earth bank was observed which runs from the edge of the crag, 5m east before turning north for 15m where a 1.5m gap may be an entrance, it then continues for 5m before another 1.5m gap which my be another entrance. The bank then turns east for 20m, then south east for 16m. A this point the bank splits to the NE and SE to form an enclosure c.26m by 13m in size, which incorporates a rectangular building, Ae, c. 10m by 4m in size. The bank then continues east up the hill to the base of the next crag. Just outside the enclosure on its south east side a further rectangular building, Af, c.15m by 3.5m was located. The banks are c.1m wide at the base and up to 0.5m high. The final two structures are located c.50m to the NNE of the cluster of small structures X, Y and Z.

Two further structures consist of a rectangular building Ag, c.6m x 3.5m and a sub-oval building Ah, c.5m x 3.5m. Ai is located on flat ground directly adjacent to the north side of enclosure Ae; sub-rectangular in plan, with no obvious entrances and very poorly preserved.

Structure Aj consists of a stone and earth bank running roughly NW/SE between two outcops of rock, close to Structures X, Y and Z; around 40 m long it may be part of a boundary for the settlement.



HLP 97, building O.

Although most of the structures only have footings remaining, the buildings are clear and this pre-clearance settlement is in excellent condition.

Surveyed: 10/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SW 10 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12101

Site name: **Allt Druim Nan Tor**
HLP no: **98**

X: 225319 **Y:** 922441
Site type(s): Burnt mounds
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long easy walk
Description:

In a low valley with small Allt Druim Nan Torr stream running through are five possible burnt mounds distributed along the stream banks, mainly on the west side of the valley. While these are large piles of stone, averaging around 9m in diameter, their identification as burnt mounds could only be established confidently by excavation.

179a - 8m N/S by 4m E/W standing to 0.5m max height
179b - 10m E/W by 9m N/S standing to 0.9m max height
179c - 10m by 9m standing to c 0.5m max height
179d - 10m E/W by 9m standing to 0.75m max height
179e - 9m NE/SW by 6m NW/SE standing to 0.5m max height.

Surveyed: 10/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SE 17 **Highland HER ID:** MHG 34505

Site name: **Coire Nam Mang**
HLP no: **99**

X: 218509 **Y:** 928856
Site type(s): Shieling huts
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Very long walk, hard in places
Description:



99A - A rectangular drystone building measuring 6m by 4m, aligned E/W. The walls are constructed of quarried stone with no bonding material, and stand to a height of about 0.85m. An entranceway is clear on the south side and is c.1m wide.
99B - c.30m south of 99A is a small circular shieling hut in very poor condition, c.2m diameter.
99C - c.30m north of 99A is a small oval shieling footing, c.4m by 3m aligned NE-SW, with a possible entrance on the E side. All three structures are located on a fairly flat terrace on a steep hill slope. There is no sign of the previously recorded field system.

Surveyed: 11/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC12NE 5 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12243

Site name: **Ledmore**
HLP no: **100**

X: 224564 **Y:** 912945
Site type(s): Enclosure
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Very short, easy walk
Description:

Located on gently sloping ground overlooking the Ledmore River to the south-west there is an earthen bank enclosure (previously listed as a sheepfold). It encloses an area measuring 150m by 100m, standing to 1m and 2m in width. The enclosure is surrounded by heather moorland but itself surrounds an area of bracken and grass. There are no visible entrances although one may be obscured by one of the many truncated areas. The enclosure is also truncated by the A837 on its south-west end and a modern track to the east.

Surveyed: 24/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG13110

Site name: **Ledmore**
HLP no: **101**

X: 224897 **Y:** 912456
Site type(s): Field system
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Situated in heather moorland, enclosed by two earthen banks are areas of improved ground. The most westerly enclosure is sub-rectangular with its SW end truncated by the road. It is 100m long, aligned NNE-SSW, with a subdivision running N/S across its eastern side. The eastern enclosure is L-shaped, 50m long, aligned NE/SW with a subdivision running N/S through its W side. Both enclosures have overgrown earthen banks which are 2m wide and up to 1m high. There are no obvious entrances to either enclosure although there are a number of eroded/damaged areas on both.

Surveyed: 24/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG13109

Site name: **Ledmore**
HLP no: **102**

X: 224651 **Y:** 912641
Site type(s): Burnt mound (possible)
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

A tentatively identified burnt mound was reported to the survey. The mound is characteristically crescent shaped but it does appear to follow the base of a natural contour. Identification could only be confirmed by excavation. It measures 20m by 6m, and stands up to 1.5m high.

Surveyed: 24/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Ledmore**
HLP no: **103**

X: 224867 **Y:** 912254
Site type(s): Sheiling huts
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Situated to the south-west of Ledmore Farm are two rectilinear structures. Both structures have three partially visible sides with overall dimensions of 10m by 10m, defined by earth and stone banks 1m wide and up to 0.4m high. The site also has a curvilinear bank to the SW of the structures.
The A837 has truncated the series of features at the north end of the site. They may represent ancilliary structures associated with Ledmore Farm.

Surveyed: 24/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG13108

Site name: **Ledmore**
HLP no: **104**

X: 224954 **Y:** 912146
Site type(s): Field system
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Easy, short walk
Description:

An L-shaped earthen bank was found close to the previously cited NGR. This may be a remnant of an enclosure which was part of the field system listed as MHG13102. The bank was up to 1.5m wide and stood up to 0.7m high. It was truncated by the A837 to the south-east, terminates after 16m to the north-west and is aligned NW/SE.



Surveyed: 24/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG13102

Site name: **Ledmore River**
HLP no: **105**
X: 225326 **Y:** 911698
Site type(s): Enclosure
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Outwith the south-east side of the enclosure is heather moor, regenerating improved pasture is to the north-west. An earthen bank surrounds an area of improved pasture, and measures 100m by 80m and standing to 1m in height. The bank is in poor condition; part of the enclosure runs directly alongside River Ledmore and a section here is completely absent probably due to river erosion. The bank does not appear on the north-east side of the road possibly due to a modern housing platform development and forestry. The feature is also truncated by a forestry track.

Surveyed: 24/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 30 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13120

Site name: **Ledmore**
HLP no: **106**
X: 224776 **Y:** 911814
Site type(s): Enclosure
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long, easy walk
Description:

Situated on undulating improved pasture is a circular enclosure consisting of an earth and stone bank 2.5m wide, with no visible entrance. It has previously been listed amongst a complex of other features; however, the only associated feature identified within this group was the remains of ruinous croft buildings around the more recent crofts at Ledmore crofting settlement. Those ruins may be contemporary with the field systems and other earthworks on the E side of Ledmore river.

Surveyed: 24/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 7 **Highland HER ID:** MHG44342



HLP 107, structure B.



HLP 107, mill building, C.

Site name: **Achadh Na H-Aghan**
HLP no: **107**

X: 220173 **Y:** 910382
Site type(s): Field System, building, mill
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, hard walk
Description:

107A - A ruinous semi-circular stone dyke 60m by 30m standing to 0.4m with a wall thickness of 1.5m.
107B - A dry stone croft building measuring 11m by 4m and standing 1.2m high, with one large room and two small. The large room has a small division in its north corner, possibly secondary. The walls survive up to 1.2m in places in up to five varied rubble courses with stones averaging 0.5 by 0.2m. There are very good views to the north and north-east.
107C - A dry stone, horizontal water mill situated to the east of the river Allt Lochan Fhionnlaidh, against a natural rock outcrop. The interior is very rubble filled but the lade is still visible. The building is rectangular in shape, 6m by 3.5m aligned E/W, and standing up to 1.6m high. The lade is 0.6m wide and the wheel pit 1.5m in diameter; the mill stone is still in situ . A possible entrance is visible on the east side.
100m north of 107C is a drystone building which was not accessible due to a deer fence. It is approximately 20m wide.
107D - A linear dyke aligned E-W, east of 107C, constructed of stone and earth and measuring 40m by 1m and up to 0.5m in height.
107E - A curvilinear earth and stone dyke, starting at the road and running 300m down to the river, 1.2m wide, 1m high with a ditch (2m wide by 0.8m deep) on its west side.
107F - Clearance cairns comprising two small heaps of stones 5m apart and about 3m in diameter and 1m high.
107G - A curvilinear earth and stone dyke, 150m x 1.5m wide on average, curves around HLP110, was perhaps originally joined to 107D.



Surveyed: 25/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 29
Highland HER ID: MHG18796

Site name: **Knockan**
HLP no: **108**

X: 220425 **Y:** 910400
Site type(s): Chambered Cairn
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, hard walk (down v. steep slope)
Description:

This cairn comprises a circular grass and moss covered mound, 19m in diameter and 3.5m high with a spread of angular unstructured stone 30-40cm by 20cm. Two large depressions in the top suggest robbing and/or collapse of the chamber. Towards the centre two large stones are visible, possibly lintels/capstones 1m by 0.5m by 0.4m deep. There is no obvious trace of the entrance. The cairn is situated on a natural terrace in sloping ground.

Surveyed: 25/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 12 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13037



HLP 108.

Site name: **Knockan**
HLP no: **109**

X: 220514 **Y:** 910453
Site type(s): Chambered Cairn
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short, hard walk (down a very steep hill)
Description:

Situated on a terrace between the A835 and the river Allt Lochan Fhionnlaihis a grass and moss covered mound with stones visible in places. The cairn is 12m by 9m, standing to 2m in height and aligned NE-SW. Three large, vertically set stones protrude from the top and are possibly remnants of a cist-type structure. The mound has suffered from rabbit burrowing on its west side making it uneven and pitted, in plan it is an irregular oval.

Surveyed: 25/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 13 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13036



HLP 109.

Site name: **Knockan**
HLP no: **110**

X: 220529 **Y:** 910489
Site type(s): Possible long cairn; ruinous structure
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short hard walk (down a very steep slope)
Description:

Situated on a terrace 30m north of HLP 109 is a grass covered mound 33m by 14m and 2m in height, aligned N/S. Small stones resembling cairn material are visible in a number of places and there is no obvious robbing or other damage to the mound. The mound is respected by the curvilinear bank HLP107G. No in-situ construction is apparent, so identification must remain tentative.

Surveyed: 25/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Knockan**
HLP no: **111**

X: 221109 **Y:** 910785
Site type(s): Township
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Long, easy walk
Description:

The modern settlement of Knockan has grown from the original settlement depicted on early maps. Few traces of the early settlement survive, having been developed by modern construction. Several unroofed buildings are visible, however, on the S side of the road.

Surveyed: 25/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 25 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18789

Site name: **Elphin**
HLP no: **112**

X: 221477 **Y:** 911892
Site type(s): Township
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Long, easy walk
Description:

The modern township of Elphin, comprising many buildings of different ages, including modern buildings. Few traces of the original settlement are visible.

Surveyed: 25/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SW 23 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18754

Site name: **Cuil Breac, Elphin**
HLP no: **113**

X: 221451 **Y:** 911814
Site type(s): Longhouse (possible)
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Very short, easy walk (on track next to main road)
Description:

Situated on flat land at the bottom of the valley, 120m north of Cuil Breac house is a longhouse measuring 26m by 6m, standing to 1m, aligned E/W. It is constructed of varied rubble and is subdivided into two compartments; the a 7m long compartment in the east appears to be secondary. The walls mainly survive to 1m high but the wall separating the two compartments stands to 2.5m. The east compartment appears to be slightly narrower than the west. Footing stones are visible in many places on the west and south sides and there is a possible threshold towards the west end of the south elevation. Robbing and collapse has occurred on the north elevation of the additional compartment and generally all over the structure with loose rubble surrounding. There appear to be two blocked entrances, one in the NW corner of the main compartment over a culvert, and one in the additional compartment 3.5m from the north end. The second blocked entrance may be a break in construction as only one side of this possible entrance is clear.

Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG51535



HLP 113.

Site name: **Cuil Breac**
HLP no: **114**

X: 221475 **Y:** 911742
Site type(s): Building
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk (situated on a track off of the main road)
Description:

A 19th century house with modern extension situated on the east slope of the valley. The house is of varied rubble build, with the stones brought roughly to course.

Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG51534

Site name: **Loch Assynt**
HLP no: **115**

X: 216032 **Y:** 925018
Site type(s): Crannog (possible)
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk to view
Description:

An oval-shaped, grass covered mound, aligned E/W protrudes less than 1m out of Loch Assynt. At the time of survey it was well submerged in the loch as the water level was high although there were obvious small birches growing upon it visible above the water. No features were visible from the shore.



Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC12NE 3 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12241

Site name: **Rubha An Doira Chuilinn**
HLP no: **116**

X: 220521 **Y:** 925979
Site type(s): Farmstead
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Very short, easy walk (next to road), but have to cross a deep gutter ditch
Description:

116A - A rectangular, uneven rubble building 8m by 4m and 0.4m high, aligned N/S. The walls are 0.6m wide and there is an entrance in the east wall.
116B - Moss covered, rectangular rubble footings of a structure 12m by 5m and 0.5m high, aligned E/W. The walls are 0.7m wide and the structure is split into two compartments with the larger one 7m long; the position of entrances is not clear.
116C - A pile of rubble 4m by 3m, aligned E/W, indicating the presence of a building. Very vestigial traces of wall lines remain.
116D - Rectangular rubble footings 4m by 3m and 0.3m high, aligned E/W, with possible entrance in the north.
116E - An earth and stone dyke respecting the natural hill, perhaps used to enclose the buildings. Over 100m of it survives with an average height of 1m and 1.5m width.
An earthen dyke is present on the other side of the road where the existing NGR is situated. The dyke is 1.5m wide and 1m high with no discernible internal features.

Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22NW 2 **Highland HER ID:** MHG11331

Site name: **Allt Sgiathaig**
HLP no: **117**

X: 223423 **Y:** 925520
Site type(s): Chambered Cairn
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk on a trodden path from the road
Description:

An uneven, sub-triangular grass covered cairn. Stones are visible in the structure but there is no sign of in situ construction. The mound is uneven and is now largely covered by moss, grass and heather; no entrance is apparent. There are signs of robbing and collapse on the NE side and the W side has been completely truncated by the road. The cairn sits on a slope, so that it is 3.5m high at the W and 1m high on the E; it is 2.5m high from the middle of the slope. Large stones are present on the top which are perhaps displaced lintels or capstones. There are up to 0.3m deep, 1m long and 0.5m high. The remainder of the stone rubble averages 0.3m by 0.2m and is sub-angular. A modern walkers' cairn has developed on the top.

Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22NW 1 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13024





HLP 117.

Site name: **Ardvreck**
HLP no: **118**

X: 224159 **Y:** 923872
Site type(s): Millstone, watermill
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

118A - A grassed over wall and disturbed platform, measuring 5m by 2m and aligned NE-SW are the remains of a watermill. The NW edge of the platform has been eroded away by the river. The SE area is more fully preserved. The NE wall survives to 0.6m high for a 1m stretch. None of the rest of the building is visible.



118B - Less than 100m S from the watermill lies a well preserved millstone over 2m in diameter and 0.26m deep.

Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG39053,MHG39985

Site name: **Eadar A'Chalda**
HLP no: **119**

X: 224159 **Y:** 923852
Site type(s): Township; Head-Dyke
Condition: Very well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, hard walk up a very steep climb
Description:

119A - A head-dyke with associated dykes and enclosing a meadow area. Consists of a curvilinear, truncated earth and stone dyke up to 0.6m high and 2m wide at the north edge of the site. At the north end of the dyke is a 3m diameter, 0.5m high grass covered stone clearance cairn.

119B - An uneven rubble building measuring 3m by 3m and up to 0.4m in height with 1m thick walls that are very badly slumped. It is situated in a corner of the head-dyke and enclosure of 119C. There is a possible entrance on the south elevation and an associated 2m diameter clearance cairn 2m to the south.



HLP 119, general view.

119C - An uneven rubble building measuring 9.5m by 3m and up to 0.5m in height, aligned E/W with 0.6m wide walls. It has an associated enclosure to the N/NE with the north wall of the building acting as the south wall of the enclosure. The enclosure walls are very spread and up to 1m wide in places; dimensions are 27m by 22m, aligned N/S.

119D - The most completely preserved building in the township. An uneven stone rubble building with patches of lime render, 11m by 4m and 3.5m to the gable top. An adjoining secondary compartment only survives as low ruins 6m by 3.5m and up to 0.4m in height, attached onto the E end of the building. Lime mortar with large inclusions is present throughout the structure. There is a window, a blocked window (with a large chamfer on the interior) and a door on the south elevation. The internal west gable has an obvious chimney flue which is showing through the wall due to areas of collapse. There is also a window on each gable end and a slanted arrow slot-type feature on the north elevation.









HLP 119, structure D (top), general view (centre), detail of chimney, structure D (bottom left) and detail of window (bottom right).

119E - Uneven stone rubble building remains 11.5m by 4m and up to 1m high, aligned N/S with 0.75m wide walls. The building sits within the head-dyke, which forms its N wall. An entrance is clear on the E elevation.

119F - Uneven stone rubble building remains 7.5m by 5m and up to 0.6m high, aligned WNW/ESE. The walls are 0.7m wide and an entrance is clear on the SW elevation.

All of these structures are built predominantly with limestone, sub-angular random rubble averaging 0.3m by 0.4m by 0.15m but using some larger stones up to 1m by 0.4m by 0.4m (especially on 119E). The stones tend to be roughly brought to course with pinning and chocking stones.

Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SW 12 **Highland HER ID:** MHG39005, MHG11334



HLP 120.

Site name: **Ardvreck**
HLP no: **120**

X: 224092 **Y:** 923765
Site type(s): Watermill (Possible)
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

An indistinct, overgrown rubble mound 6m by 6m and 1m high, aligned NE/SW, with an internal compartment 1.7m by 2.25m. The walls are very spread and badly collapsed and the south-west wall is missing, if it ever existed. There is no evidence of internal features except a possible stepped entrance in the north-east wall.

Surveyed: 26/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SW 17 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13131

Site name: **Lyne**
HLP no: **121**

X: 225330 **Y:** 914342
Site type(s): Buildings
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Situated on a plateau beneath a rocky outcrop, north of River Ledbeg, is an uneven stone rubble footing of a two-compartment building, aligned E/W, with the smaller compartment to the east. Both compartments have an entrance to the south and appear to be built of rounded, gathered boulders. The walls are 0.75m wide and up to 0.4m high, but are quite uneven.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 17 **Highland HER ID:** MHG11296

Site name: **Loynemore East**
HLP no: **122**

X: 225535 **Y:** 914544
Site type(s): Cairn
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long, easy walk
Description:



Situated at the top of a gully overlooking the River Ledbeg to the south is an uneven, stony, grass covered, circular mound. The position of the unstructured rubble heap at the top of the gully means heightens the impression on the viewer when seen from the south. The cairn is about 15m in diameter, 2m high to the south-east, 1.4m high to the north. There are no obvious structural features visible nor is the position of an entrance apparent. Smaller spreads of stone to the SW may be related features, though these are not clear. A short length of curvilinear earth/stone bank is visible on the terraced platform below the cairn; the purpose of this is unclear although it may define a forecourt area.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 10 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13050

Site name: **Lyne**
HLP no: **123**

X: 225581 **Y:** 914268
Site type(s): Sheepfank/Sheepfold
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Situated below a rocky outcrop north of River Ledbeg, within view of the road, is a circular drystone enclosure, 11m in diameter, with walls 0.6m thick standing up to 1.5m high. Larger stones are positioned at the bottom of the walls and separated from smaller stones by a projecting course starting at 0.7m high. The stones are roughly brought to course with pinning stones and the walls is made up of two faces with a rubble core. The wallhead is undulating through collapse. Two large areas of collapse are on the north-east edge where the wall remains to only 0.7m high. The uneven sub-angular rubble averages 0.3-0.4m by 0.15-0.20m and in places is obscured by moss and earth. In the south-east there is a sheep entrance 0.8m high by 0.5m wide with a lintel stone 1.2m wide by 0.3m high.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Ledbeg River**
HLP no: **124**

X: 225816 **Y:** 914176
Site type(s): Enclosure, field boundary
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long, easy walk
Description:

An earth and stone dyke encloses an area of improved pasture 155m by 115m, aligned E-W. The bank is 0.75m wide and 0.5m high with many truncated areas and no sign of an entrance. Within the enclosure is evidence of rig and furrow at the east end running NNW/SSE, approximately 6m in width.

North of the enclosure is a series of earth and stone, curvilinear dykes separating the land. One of the dykes is much stonier than the others and runs N/S down the hillside: this equates to the head-dyke

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 28 **Highland HER ID:** MHG42536, MHG42539

Site name: **Ledbeg River**
HLP no: **125**

X: 225904 **Y:** 914019
Site type(s): Shieling; Settlement
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long, easy walk
Description:



Just above the valley floor on a small mound, on the north banks of the River Ledbeg are three stone rubble shieling footings.
125A - 10.5m by 4.8m building, aligned E/W with walls spread up to 1m in places, constructed of varied gathered sub-angular blocks with an entrance to the south.
125B - A building 4.8m by 4.6m and up to 0.3m in height, with walls up to 1m spread. The structure is very overgrown with moss and bracken, much rubble infill and the south wall has been lost to the river.
125C - An enclosure 14m by 12m and up to 0.7m high, constructed of an earth and stone bank with very spread walls. The east wall may curve around the river bank by the south end of HLP 125B. A fourth sturcture HLP 125D was identified on the opposite bank of the stream to the SE, which appears to be the remains of a small mill, c. 7.2 m long x 4.3 m wide, rather poorly preserved but does have evidence of a mill lade running to the south.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 28 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18750

Site name: **Ledbeg**
HLP no: **126**

X: 225939 **Y:** 913882
Site type(s): Mound/cairn
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long, easy walk
Description:

Sitting in a previous river meander is a sub-oval, grass covered stone mound 10m by 5m, and up to 0.9m high, aligned NW/SE. Seems likely to derive from field clearance.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Cnoc Na Stroine**
HLP no: **127**

X: 225547 **Y:** 913572
Site type(s): Enclosure
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long, hard walk
Description:

An earth and stone walled enclosure is situated on gently sloping ground surrounded by heather moorland. The enclosure surrounds an area of improved pasture 107m by 80m, aligned N/S. The walls are 2m wide and up to 1.5m high.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 20 **Highland HER ID:** MHG11299

Site name: **Ledmore**
HLP no: **128**

X: 225594 **Y:** 913592
Site type(s): Shieling
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short, hard walk
Description:

No structural remains are visible at this site, but a rectangular grassy area 6m by 5m, aligned NE/SW may indicate the former presence of a shieiling.

Surveyed: 27/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 24 **Highland HER ID:** MHG11327

Site name: **Lyne**
HLP no: **129**

X: 225305 **Y:** 914198
Site type(s): Horizontal mill (possible)
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Situated on flat land at the bottom of the valley, overlying a stream which adjoins River Ledbeg is a line of rubble 1m long, covered in earth and overgrown by heather. In the stream is a small stone pile. Together these features were tentatively identified as the remains of the horizontal mill.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 32 **Highland HER ID:** MHG34507

Site name: **Ledmore**
HLP no: **130**

X: 225481 **Y:** 913976
Site type(s): Sheepfold
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long, easy walk
Description:

Lying on a gently sloping area looking north over River Ledbeg, and 20m SW of HLP 131 is an earth and turf covered circular stone sheepfold. It is 12m in diameter, 0.2m high with 1m thick walls. There is rubble spread both inside and surrounding the enclosure and the south side is extremely overgrown with heather and long grass. There is no obvious entrance.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 16 **Highland HER ID:** MHG40161

Site name: **Ledmore**
HLP no: **131**

X: 225501 **Y:** 913979
Site type(s): Building (possible)
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Long, easy walk
Description:

Situated on a relatively flat area on the south side of the valley, south of River Ledbeg, NE of HLP 130 and west of HLP 30 is an area of stone spread. This is potentially the remains of a building although virtually nothing remains.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC21SE 16 **Highland HER ID:** MHG11295

Site name: **Creag Sron Chrubaidh**
HLP no: **132**



X: 225057 **Y:** 920623
Site type(s): Cairns; platforms
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

On a gentle slope leading to the Blar Nam cliffs is a circular, moss, bracken and turf covered, stoney mound which may be a chambered cairn. It has a slight central depression suggesting a collapsed chamber and is constructed of uneven, sub-angular gathered rubble. There are a number of larger stones averaging 0.50m by 0.30cm by 0.15cm on the NW side, which may be kerb stones. A possible horn exists on the north north west side although this feature is indistinct and may be due to collapse.

The mound is surrounded by natural mounds on its N, E and S sides and 50m NE of it are two relatively flat areas, 15m by 7m aligned N/S, which are possibly prepared platforms.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SE 16 **Highland HER ID:** MHG24942

Site name: **Creag Sron Chrubaidh**
HLP no: **133**



X: 224989 **Y:** 920842
Site type(s): Gun butt
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

An uneven rubble circular wall which may have been used as a gun butt. Thoughtby previous surveyors to be a modified cairn or possibly a modified kiln. It is 2.5m by 2m and 1.2m high, aligned NW/SE and is dug into the edge of a grassy mound. The walls are 0.4m thick and there is an area of collapse which may have been an entrance on the west side.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SW 19 **Highland HER ID:** MHG28718

Site name: **Inchnadamph, Assynt Parish Manse**
HLP no: **134**
X: 225237 **Y:** 921833
Site type(s): Listed Building, Manse
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

On a flat area in the valley north of the bridge over the Ledbeg River, along a gravel track where there are a number of inhabited houses, sits the Inchnadamph Lodge, a seasonal hostel. It is a two storey building facing the south with an M-shaped gable on its east and west sides. Garden walls frame the north and south elevations and the E elevation supports two chimneys and a blocked window.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SE 6 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12099

Site name: **Inchnadamph**
HLP no: **135**
X: 224884 **Y:** 921958
Site type(s): Homestead mote
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

A circular, earthen enclosure bank measuring 40m in diameter and 0.4m high. Truncated in the east, south, north-west and north edges with a wall spread of up to 5m. It is situated in a flat area which is boggy. There is no sign of a definite entrance.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SW 6 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12107



HLP 136.

Site name: **Cnoc Dubh**
HLP no: **136**
X: 224910 **Y:** 922210
Site type(s): Commemorative Monument
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Quarried stone mortared blocks monument in very good condition. A bronze inscription plaque on the south elevation reads: “To Ben N Peach and John Horne who played the foremost part in unravelling the geological structures of the north west Highlands 1883-1897. An International tribute erected 1930”.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SW 22 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13130; MHG50358

Site name: **Allt Druim Nan Torr**
HLP no: **137**

X: 224667 **Y:** 922559
Site type(s): Township
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Spread around the area west of the A837 and east of Loch Assynt on undulating land with apparent natural rock outcrops are the remains of three structures.
137A - stone rubble enclosure 20m by 18m and 0.4m high, aligned N/S with walls up to 1.5m spread, very overgrown. A few clearance cairns are located nearby.
137B - Stone building footing measuring 18m by 5m and up to 0.4m high, aligned NE/SW, with a 1m wall spread.
137C - A stone rubble building, measuring 11m by 5m and 0.4m high, aligned NE/SW with walls up to 1.2m wide, attached to a sub-rectangular enclosure 30m x 20m. Part of the west enclosure wall makes up part of the south-east building wall.
Only indistinct footings of each structure remains.

Surveyed: 28/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record



HLP 137.

Site name: **Inchnadamph**
HLP no: **138**

X: 225882 **Y:** 921909
Site type(s): Farmstead; Head-dyke
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long, easy walk
Description:

138A - Footings of an uneven stone rubble building 16m by 4.5m and 1m high, aligned E/W with walls 0.6m wide. The building is made up of three compartments with entrances in the S. A large quantity of smaller stones are piled up at the SW corner by the main entrance, perhaps a lean-to supporting structure or the material from a rubble fill core.
138B - similar building to A, with dimensions 8m by 4.5m and 0.8m high, aligned E/W with 0.8m wide walls. Rubble has fallen both in and out and is spread widely. There is a S entrance and a rubble wall attached to the SE corner going south.

138C - Similar building to A and B, measuring 4.5m by 3m and 0.2m in height, aligned NE/SW with very spread walls. There is an entrance on the S.
138D - Rectangular building measuring 8m by 4m, aligned E/W with a wall running W from the NW corner and another running S from the SE corner.
138E - Head-dyke, 75m long running from a large ridge around the entire site made of grass covered earth and stone.
138F - Rubble deriving from a wall, 40m long, 0.5m high, 0.7m wide.
138H - Dry stone rubble wall remnant aligned E/W immediately south of 138B, c. 8.15 m long.
138I - A dry stone rubble wall on the eastern side of 138B, c. 12.5 m long.
138J - A small mossed over mound, c. 7 m x 6 m x 1.45 m high.
138K - A track built up with varied rubble forming a ramp, more pronounced on west side, leading through a cleft in a rock outcrop to probable cornfields, c. 8.2 m long by 2 m wide and up to 1m high.
138L - A dry stone dyke visible as a linear heap of stones abutting the NW and SE corners of 138D.
138M - A low grass covered mound, probable clearance cairn, 4.2m by 1.2m and 0.7m high.
138N - A mill building on the side of the burn adjacent to the main farmstead buildings. Low, grassed over walls visible along three sides, with a circular wheel pit up to three courses in height and 0.5 m high. A platform is visible on N side of wheel pit. Part of the red sandstone mill wheel is visible at W end of pit. There is no obvious sign of the lade.
138O - A platform NW of chambered cairn HLP139, possibly natural but may represent a prepared standing, measuring c. 6 m by 6 m and 2 m high.
138P - A small enclosure at the edge of a rocky outcrop, cosisting of a low stone and earth bank, c. 7m by 3m and 0.4m high.
138Q - Numerous clearance cairns.
138R - A stone platform at S side of cornfield, measuring c. 6.3m by 2m and 0.75m high.
138S - Enclosures to the NW and W of the main farmstead, truncated by road/track. Cosntructed from earth and stone banks forming a complex of field systems. A small shieling structure was visible abutting a rocky outcrop on the S edge of the dykes/banks.

Surveyed: 29/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SE 13 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18814; MHG44038



HLP 138, structure A.

Site name: **Carrachan Dubh, Inchnadamph**
HLP no: **139**

X: 226110 **Y:** 921762
Site type(s): Chambered cairn
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Long, easy walk
Description:

On flat land just above the river is an uneven circular stone mound, partially covered in grass, 20m in diameter and 2.5m high. The cairn is composed of uneven stone rubble, with no structural elements visible. There is evidence of robbing on the top and N side. Larger stones protruding from the top are possible lintels or capstones and are up to 1.2m long.
A earth and stone bank curving around the cairn and heading north-west starts at the river and is 100m long, 0.5m high and 0.7m thick.

Surveyed: 29/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SE 1 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13023



HLP 139.

Site name: **Inchnadamph**
HLP no: **140**

X: 225423 **Y:** 921661
Site type(s): Building
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Situated on a slight mound in the middle of a boggy field are the remains of a building. The footings measure 14m by 6m and 0.4m high, and are aligned E/W with two rooms and an entrance to the south. There is a possible further room at the W end, where a few low grass covered mounds remain but this is not clear.

Surveyed: 29/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SE 14 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18815

Site name: **Druim Na Coille Moire**
HLP no: **141**

X: 224871 **Y:** 922998
Site type(s): Cairn
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short, hard walk
Description:



Surrounded by rocky outcrops is an uneven rubble cairn 10m by 7m and 1m high, aligned NE/SW. It is situated upon a natural rock base and is grass covered. A stone protruding from the top may be an orthostat, or a displaced lintel stone.

Surveyed: 29/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SW 20 **Highland HER ID:** MHG34504



HLP 142.

Site name: **Calda House**
HLP no: **142**

X: 224385 **Y:** 923331
Site type(s): House
Condition: Well preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk, right next to the road
Description:

Situated on the flat land between the A837 and Loch Assynt are the remains of Calda House. The structure is 17m by 13m and 7m high, and comprises a three storey mortared stone house, aligned N/S. There is a subdivision within the structure running N/S but not the whole way across the building. The W elevation and W end of the E elevation have collapsed. The collapsed E elevation lies on the ground where it collapsed, but the stone from the W elevation is missing. The building survives on both gable ends and was the first M-shaped gable house in NW Scotland. Holes for the roof joists are evident on the internal elevations as are a number of fireplaces. An area of collapse has made the chimney flue visible on the south elevations and there are a number of obvious replaced concrete and wooden lintels throughout.

Surveyed: 29/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SW 3 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12104

Site name: **Cnoc an T-Seagaill**
HLP no: **143**

X: 224443 **Y:** 913513
Site type(s): 'Broch' (nothing visible)
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

A very large, grass-covered, circular 12m diameter mound is situated on a natural grassy knoll. Previous surveyors noted the location as a possible broch, but although there are occasional scattered stones on the mound and depsite the general circularity of the site there is little to support this identification.

Surveyed: 30/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG13113



HLP 144.

Site name: **Inchnadamph, Assynt Parish Church and Macleod Vault**
HLP no: **144**

X: 224948 **Y:** 922000
Site type(s): Church; Burial Ground; Burial-Vault; Cross
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Situated on flat land, accessed by a track leading down from the main road is the current Assynt Parish Church. The building measures 15m x 6m and is aligned E/W with an attached walled area at the W end measuring c. 5m x 5 m. It is surrounded by stone boundary walls which also encompass the graveyard, c. 32m x 26 m from north to south. Exterior walls are pebble-dashed and whitewashed. The gable ends at E and W are up to 7.5m high, the main entrance is in the south wall. There is a spire at the west end. Four windows are present on the south side, two on the north side. A royal air force commemorative monument is located at the west corner of the enclosing wall.

Surveyed: 30/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SW 5 **Highland HER ID:** MHG31465; MHG41522; MHG12106

Site name: **Near Calda House**
HLP no: **145**

X: 224371 **Y:** 923412
Site type(s): Sheep Fank
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Two conjoined, uneven dry stone rubble enclosures are situated on flat ground, 30m north of Calda House, with two walls leading up a slope next to the road. The S enclosure is very ruinous on three sides, where the stone was robbed for the new wall around the curchyard, while the N enclosure survives up to 1.3m high. The connecting area between the two enclosures has entrances on the E and W, with iron fixings for gates.

Surveyed: 30/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG39054

Site name: **Ardvreck**
HLP no: **146**

X: 224144 **Y:** 923693
Site type(s): Chambered Cairn
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:



E of Loch Assynt on top of a sloping grassy mound is a chambered cairn. It measures 6m by 5m and 2m in height, and is aligned NW/SE, with a chamber 3m by 1.3m. A portal stone is present on the east side of the chamber measuring 1m high, 1.7m wide and 0.10m thick. The top has been robbed and the chamber and passage collapsed.

No wall faces or other signs of construction are now visible internally or externally. The entrance is to the SE and a 3m long passage would have allowed entry to the chamber. Due to the sloping nature of the mound it is difficult to see the full height of the cairn. At the W it is 0.2m high but to the S it is 2m high.

Surveyed: 30/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SW 1 **Highland HER ID:** MHG40634

Site name: **Buildings, near Ardvreck Castle**
HLP no: **147**

X: 224083 **Y:** 923567
Site type(s): Building
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Situated on an area of flat land next to Loch Assynt are the uneven rubble ruins of a building 5m by 4m and 0.3m in height, aligned NW/SE, with a wall spread of up to 1.5m. The walls are completely grassed over, with an annex section at the W corner. The structure may be a kiln or related to the nearby iron working site.

Surveyed: 30/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG39052

Site name: **Buildings, near Ardvreck Castle**
HLP no: **148**

X: 224070 **Y:** 923573

Site type(s): Kiln

Condition: Very poorly preserved

Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

An extremely indistinct, anular grassy mound with a depression in the middle was tentatively identified as the remains of a kiln. It is 2m in diameter and 0.2m high with a 1m diameter depression in the middle. The structure may be related to the nearby iron working site.

Surveyed: 30/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG39751



Site name: **Cairns, near Ardvreck Castle**
HLP no: **149**

X: 224104 **Y:** 923562

Site type(s): Clearance cairns

Condition: Partially preserved

Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

Situated on flat land between HLP 147 and HLP 146 are five clearance cairns. They are sub-circular and about 3m in diameter and all are under 1m high. They are grass covered rubble and perhaps come from clearance of the collapse of the surrounding structures.

Surveyed: 30/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG39051



HLP 150.

Site name: **Aird Bhreac**
HLP no: **150**

X: 223973 **Y:** 923537
Site type(s): Kiln Barn
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Situated on a flat area at the top of a slope above Loch Assynt are the grass covered remains of rubble building footings measuring 16m by 6m and 0.4m high, aligned NE/SW. Internally at the south end are the remains of a grassed-over kiln, 2.5m by 1.5m. The walls are very spread and the north-east corner is truncated. The position of the original entrance is unclear, but there appears to be one in both the E and W walls.

Surveyed: 30/11/2009 **NMRS no:** NC22SW 11 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12102

Site name: **Gleann Leireag**
HLP no: **151**

X: 215361 **Y:** 931185
Site type(s): Souterrain, enclosure
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

Situated on a slope in scrub woodland is a lintelled passage, running north from an entrance near a stream. Access is not easy, but wall faces are clearly visible in the interior and although they are very moss covered some stones are visible from the outside. The passage is less than 10m long and about 1.5m wide, and c.0.75m high inside at the lowest point, although the interior is choked with rubble. The lintels are of quarried, shaped stone and are mostly intact, although some collapse is apparent. A stream runs through the passage, to join the nearby burn.

6m to the NE is a sub-rectangular ruin, perhaps an enclosure, incorporating some bedrock outcrops and measuring 20m N/S and 10m E/W. The association of this enclosure to the souterrain cannot easily be demonstrated; the construction style is not markedly different from that of many of the buildings and enclosures in the surrounding township (HLP153).

Surveyed: 01/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SE 6 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12261





HLP 151.

Site name: **Gleann Leireag**
HLP no: **152**

X: 215319 **Y:** 930998
Site type(s): Watermill
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Long, easy walk
Description:

A ruinous stone mill, constructed of uneven rubble with both gathered and quarried blocks is situated on the north banks of the river Abhainn Gleann Leireag. The lade is filled in but can be traced to the east and runs through the S end of the building. The building itself measures 6.7m by 4.9m and is aligned N/S, standing to up 1.7m in the S; the N wall appears to have been poorly built and is bowing. The ground in the wheel pit is 1.15m below the rubble infill. Two large fragments of the mill stone are visible amongst the rubble.

Surveyed: 01/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SE 8 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12263



HLP 152.

Site name: **Gleann Leireag**
HLP no: **153**

X: 215531 **Y:** 930980
Site type(s): Township
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

A very large township with over 50 structures remaining, including buildings and enclosures/pens. All appear to be constructed from gathered rubble.

153A - Bank running up from river to the North. Earth and stone, moss covered. 100m N then 45m W, curvilinear, 0.7m wide and up to 2.2m high and steeper on the outside face.
153b - 12m x 3m, NW-SE alignment, wall thickness of 0.5m and up to 0.9m high. Consists of two compartments, 7.5m to division from the SE. Entrance is to the NE, a bowed end to the NW. The division wall has an entrance to the east, the door is 2m after division.
153c - 8.8m x 5m x 0.6m. NW-SE. Possible entrance on the SW side. Bowed end to the NW. Extra footings to the SE, unclear as to whether it was a lean-to shack or the remains of the building being shortened at some point. Wall leads from S corner and curving around the ridge. Walls up to 1m spread.
153d -Three clearance cairns all 2m diameter x 0.4m high situated in a 15m area.
153e - Enclosure 0.4m high made of stone and earth and covered with bracken and grass. 0.8m wide bank.
153f - Enclosure with 0.5m high stone wall, 1m wide.
153g - Semi-circular enclosure like a sheepfank. 8m diameter, 0.5m high and constructed of stone.
153h - Building 7m x 3.5m, stone walls. V spread to 0.7m wide, aligned NW-SE. Entrance to the south. Much rubble infill.
153i - 6m x 4m stone boulder footings, aligned NNE-SSW. Possible east entrance. Made of a single line of boulders.
153j - 4m x 3m stone building footings aligned NW-SE and very grassed over.
153k - 10m x 5m, aligned NW-SE building with an entrance to the SW. Built on bedrock with walls up to 0.5m high and 0.7m wide.
153l - 17m x 5m x 0.75m stone building aligned NNE-SSW. Divided into two compartments of 7m and 10m. 8m x 4.5m outbuilding to NW side, with an entrance to the S. South end bowed with no obvious entrance.
153m - 12m x 5m x 0.9m stone building, aligned NNE-SSW. Open ended 1.5m cell in NE corner. Walls 0.6m wide. Situated on a slope.
153n - 3m x 2m x 1m stone wall aligned NW-SE. 0.6m wide.
153o - 10m x 3m x 0.4m, aligned NW-SE. Up to 1m wall spread. Stone.
153p - Enclosure truncated by road, 6m x 11m aligned NE-SW. 18m wall running W from enclosure to modern sheepfank.
153q - 9m x 4m x 0.75m, aligned E-W, stone building. Awful collapse to the N and S walls. Entrance to the N.
153r - 8m x 5m stone footings aligned E-W
153s - L-shaped building, stone walls up to 1.2m spread, bowed ends, 0.4m high.
153t - 4m x 3m, aligned E-W, rubble very spread.
153u - 12m x 6m x 0.3m, aligned NNW-SSE. Very spread walls.
153v - ruinous enclosure, 3m x 4m, aligned NW-SE, single boulder remains, no NE wall.
153w - 20m x 12m x 0.8m, aligned NNE-SSW, walls 0.6m spread, no north wall.
153x - 3 x 5m, aligned E-W, barely footings, very uneven and ruinous.
153y - 4m x 4m, aligned NW-SE, only NW and SE walls remain, very ruinous footings.
153z - 2 clearance cairns, 0.5m high, oval 2m x 1m, aligned NW-SE.
153aa - curvilinear wall, leading around and across a natural ridge, made of earth and stone. 0.4m high, and leads 70m uphill and 100m across a ridge, curving round to the road.
153ab - Uneven, almost circular enclosure, 8m in diameter, 0.5m high, walls very spread rubble.
153ac - 17m x 16m oval sheepfank situated on a slope, up to 0.5m high walls but uneven spread of 1m walls, made of Lewisian Gneiss.
153ad- Stone, 14m x 4m with bowed SE end, aligned NW-SE, walls 0.6m wide, 0.4m high. Rubble spread everywhere. Clearance cairn 2m x 1m by SE end.
153ae - Enclosure joining 3 buildings (153ad, 153af and 153ag). No S wall, 0.4m high and 0.6m wide walls.
153af - 10m x 4.5m stone building, walls 0.6m wide and 0.5m high, aligned N-S, entrance to the East.
153ag - 17m x 6m x 0.5m stone building, aligned NW-SE, includes boulders up to 1m x 1.2m.
153ah - L-shaped building, 13m x 9.5m, walls 0.4m spread. (see sketch).
153ai - 9m x 4m x 0.4m, aligned NW-SE, walls up to 1m spread, entrance either on N or S side, SE wall survives up to 0.8m.
153aj - 6m x 3.5m x 0.3m, aligned NE-SW, situated on a slight slope. Entrance to the NW
153ak - 8m x 5m x 0.8m, aligned NW-SE, very close to 153aj, 0.6m wide walls.
153al - 16m x 7m x 0.6m, aligned NW-SE, long enclosure with up to 1m wall spread.
153am - bridge/ford, 3.5m wide with a wall face going over a stream.
153an - 13m x 10m x 1m enclosure, 0.6m wide walls. Semi-circular cell in NE corner. Entrance in SE corner and on S side of the cell, truncated on the N.



HLP 153, structure E.

153ao - Curvilinear wall, 300m long and 0.4m high, 0.8m wide aligned E-W
153ap - 6m x 4m x 0.9m stone building on a slight slope, walls 0.6m wide
153aq - 9m x 6m x 0.5m building, walls up to 1m spread.
153ar - sub-rectangular sheepfank 16m x 16m NE-SE. Walls up to 1.2m high, 0.6m wide. Entrance in SW corner, truncated in many places.
153as - 8m x 3.5m building, 0.6m high, aligned NNW-SSE, entrance to the E, bowed N wall.
153at - 5m x 3m stone building aligned NNW-SSE.
153au - 12m x 5m (see sketch).
153av - 18m x 18m enclosure, square, up to 1m high. N and E side footings, aligned NW-SE

153aw - 2 equal compartments in a 16m x 4m structure. Footings barely on the N and S. Up to 1m high, 0.6m wide walls. Much rubble infill.
153ax - 17m x 4m x 0.4m stone building. 5m from west to first partition, 3m to next partition. Aligned E-W, very rubble spread.
153ay - 10m x 5m, aligned E-W, very rubble spread.
153Az - sub-rectangular drystone rubble building c. 5.2m x 3.5 m with opening in N wall, built on a large cairn-like feature c. 9 m in diameter.
153AAA - sub-rectangular building appears to have been disturbed during road construction, mossed over drystone rubble 7.5 m long x 3.5 m wide.
153AAB - possible wall remnant of drystone construction , truncated by road, c. 13.5 m long x 0.65 m wide and up to 0.7 m high.
153AAC - drystone wall remnant, badly truncated by road, 0.45 m wide x 0.8 m high x 7.5 m long.
153AAD - Rectangular drystone building with no obvious entrance, c. 7.2 m x 3.8 m x 0.5 m high.
153AAE - Sub-square drystone building, no obvious opening, large boulders form part of wall construction, c. 5.4 m x 4 m x 0.45 m high.
153AAF - Rectangular structure, barely visible, no obvious entrance, c. 7.6 m x 4 m x 0.6 m high.
153AAG - Sub-rectangular structure, mossed over rubble walls, opening in S wall, c. 6.8 m x 4.6 m x 0.45 m high.



HLP 153, structures AS and AT.

Surveyed: 01/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SE 4 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12259

Site name: **Drumbeg, Glenleraig cottage, shed**
HLP no: **154**

X: 214803 **Y:** 931475
Site type(s): Store
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short easy walk
Description:

A storehouse measuring 19m by 4m, aligned E/W with an additional 3m by 4m shed on the E end built in corrugated iron. Built from stone and mortar with large inclusions, and with a lime render. The site has two doors, two garage doors and one window on S elevation, one door on the extra shed addition to S. The structure is 1.8m to the wall head, almost 4m to the roof apex.

Surveyed: 02/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SW 22.01 **Highland HER ID:** MHG36185

Site name: **Glenleraig**
HLP no: **155**

X: 214717 **Y:** 931508
Site type(s): Bridge
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Easy short walk
Description:

A small bridge is located on the Abhainn Glenn Leireag at Glenleraig. The bridge is 12m long by 4m wide and 3.5m high. The arch is 3.5m across; the water level was c.1.5m from the top of the arch at the time of surevy. The bridge springs from natural outcropping bedrock and has buttresses on either side, with curved parapets at road level, c. 1m high, slightly curving outwards. It is constructed of mortared stones with vertical stones framing the arch. A footpath/walkway runs under the bridge on S side.

Surveyed: 02/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SW 25 **Highland HER ID:** MHG 35932



HLP 155.



HLP 156, structure D.

Site name: **Loch Ardbhair**
HLP no: **156**

X: 216982 **Y:** 933219

Site type(s): Farmstead

Condition: Mostly ruinous

Accessibility: Short easy walk

Description:

156A An uneven rubble rectangular structure measuring 7m by 4.5m and 0.2m high, aligned ENE/WSW. The walling comprises footings only, and there is no sign of the original entrance.

156B A grass covered depression, with no stone visible but possibly indicating the presence of a structure, measuring 7m by 4m and 0.2m high, aligned ENE/WSW.

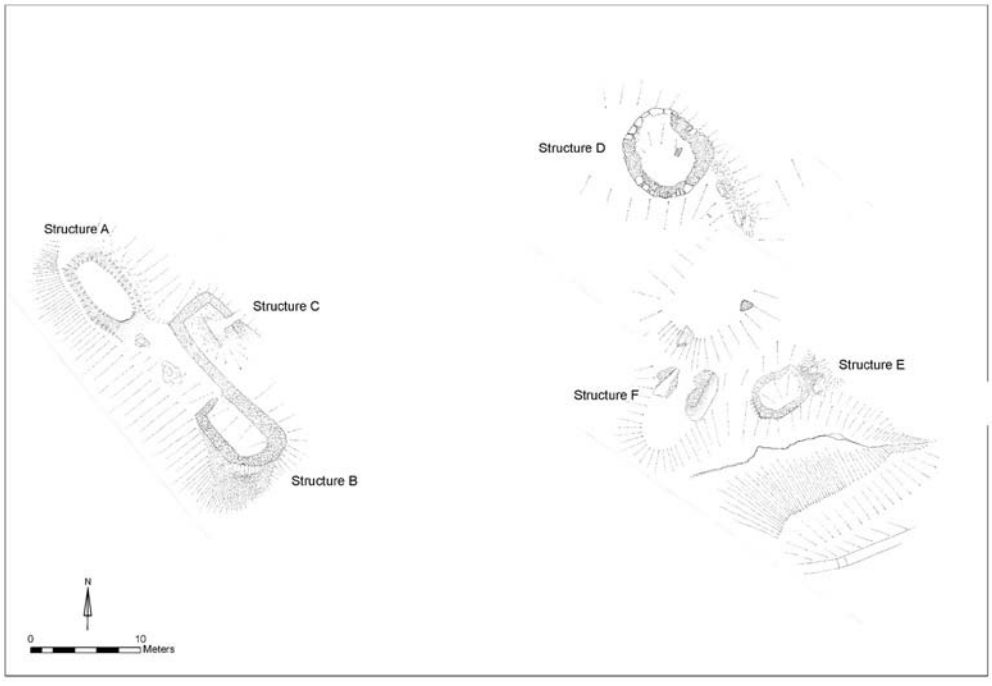
156C A ruinous structure measuring 7m by 4.5m and 0.2m high. The stone is covered in moss, and is overgrown with bracken. Aligned ENE/WSW. The E side of the structure is very vestigial.

156D A circular enclosure measuring 7m by 8m, and up to 0.5m high, aligned E/W. There is a possible entrance on E and N edges but tumble obscures this. The walls are spread to 0.6m, and incorporate some large stones, up to 1m long.

156E An earth and stone bank,16m in length and up to 0.7m high and incorporating natrual stone outcrops with an entrance 1m in width. There are several clearance cairns near by.

165F Two irregular areas of stone rubble, which may represent the remains of a structure 5m by 4.4m, aligned NE/SW.

Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SE 9 **Highland HER ID:** MHG 13011



HLP 156.

Site name: **Ardbhair**
HLP no: **157**

X: 217097 **Y:** 933337
Site type(s): Enclosure, building
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short easy walk
Description:

This enclosure is situated on a terrace of a hill sloping up from Loch Ardbhair. It is 13m ESE/WSW but peters out on rock outcrop. 8m further it turns 90 degrees to the east for 22m. The enclosure comprises an uneven rubble wall, having three sides with the hill on the E forming the enclosure. There is a possible entrance at the point where the bank meets the hill. The bank is spread up to 1m in width.

157A: A small structure measuring 5m by 2m internally, with walls 0.75m wide and 0.3m high. Possible drying barn.

Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Loch Ardbhair**
HLP no: **158**

X: 216958 **Y:** 933304
Site type(s): Jetty (possible)
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short easy walk
Description:

A possible jetty/unloading area for boats, formed by a line of stones lining the edge of the loch over a distance of 12m, fitting the curve of the bank. The single line of stones is clearly man-made, possibly as a revetment to stop erosion.The stones rise to a maximum of 0.5m from the bed of the loch, with a maximum width of 0.75m.



Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A
Highland HER ID: No previous record

Site name: **Loch Ardbhair**
HLP no: **159**

X: 216956 **Y:** 933231
Site type(s): Jetty (possible)
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

A low wall of stone leading out from the shore heading south-east into the loch. At the time of survey only 1.5m length was visible above water, but this could be seen to extend into the water for at least another 4m. The wall is 0.8 m wide at its maximum.

Surveyed: 07/11/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Loch Ardbhair**
HLP no: **160**
X: 217076 **Y:** 932960
Site type(s): Wall/bank
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

A discontinuous earth and stone bank, up to 0.9m high, is located in a forested area. The bank continues over 100m, curving around the loch.

Surveyed: 01/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Loch Ardbhair**
HLP no: **161**
X: 216853 **Y:** 933041
Site type(s): Cemetery
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short easy walk
Description:

A cemetery surrounded by a grass covered stone wall. It has a great spread of stones over the site with no order to them. A few larger sub-rectangular stones up to 0.8m by 0.3m, possible headstones, are visible, although none appear to be inscribed. The north edge of the cemetery was 3m from the loch edge at the time of survey.



Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SE 2 **Highland HER ID:** MHG 12257

Site name: **Ardbhair**
HLP no: **162**
X: 216755 **Y:** 933065
Site type(s): Sheep fank, building
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short easy walk
Description:

A compartmental sheepfank is located on slightly sloping ground. It is very well preserved with only a few collapsed areas. It has a range of entrances, including low ones for sheep. The fank comprises dry stone rubble walls, mostly with two faces and a rubble fill, with a vertical capping course. Some of the walls are mortared to stabilise. Wooden posts and metal fixings for gates are apparent in places. Some very large upright slates have been used to face wall.

15m to the SW is an associated bothy measuring 12.7m by 5.1m E/W externally, with walls 0.5m wide is associated. The N roof is slated, corrugated aluminium is used on the S. There are two windows on north, and sandstone quoins on the corners and surrounding doors and windows. The building is lime rendered externally. There is a slate tile floor in one half of the bothy and large earth-set stones in the other half. It has timber roof struts and an angled arrow slit type window to south side.

Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Loch Ardbhair**
HLP no: **163**

X: 216657 **Y:** 933228
Site type(s): Slag
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short easy walk
Description:

Quantities of slag can be seen at this point, as noted in previous records, perhaps related to bloomery.

Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SE 7 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12262

Site name: **Loch Ardbhair**
HLP no: **164**

X: 217129 **Y:** 933257
Site type(s): Boundary wall
Condition: Well preserved in places
Accessibility: Short easy walk
Description:

A wall, 1.2m high without the coping stones and up to 1m wide at bottom, 1.8m high at its maximum. It breaks to allow the road through and also to allow entry to area of farmstead. Its is truncated in places and 170m from shore to road and continues for hundreds of metres beyond the road.

Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG52712

Site name: **Glen Ardbhair**
HLP no: **165**

X: 218162 **Y:** 933100
Site type(s): Shieling huts
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Short easy walk
Description:



HLP 165, structure B.

Six possible shieling huts in ruinous condition are located in Glen Ardbhair.
165A - An oval rubble structure measuring 4m by 2.5m.
165B - An oval structure, 5m by 3m; rubble stands to 0.2m high.
165C -A 2.5m diameter circular rubble built structure.
165D - A sub-circular rubble built structure, measuring 2.5m by 2m N/S, with rubble standing up to 0.5m.
165E - A very ephemeral, 4m by 2.5m structure, aligned N/S. No evidence of walling, only single stones survive.
165F - A sub-rectangular mound measuring 6m by 25m E/W. Several clearance cairns in the vicinity; a mound of stones at E end may indicate structure.
165G - A 20m long earth bank up to 0.6m high (locates 20m SE of GPS reference).

Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SE 3 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12258

Site name: **Gleann Ardbhair**
HLP no: **166**

X: 218273 **Y:** 933215
Site type(s): Shieling hut (possible)
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short easy walk
Description:

A circular, moss-covered rubble structure, 3m in diameter and standing up to 0.7m high in two or three courses. An additional circular structure to is located to the W, although this is in a very ruinous condition.

Surveyed: 07/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SE 5 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12290; MHG43246



HLP 167.

Site name: **Allt Ardbhair**
HLP no: **167**

X: 218480 **Y:** 933132
Site type(s): Structure and enclosures
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short easy walk
Description:

This site is located on the lower slope of a S facing hill in the small valley N of River Ardbhair. At the base of the site the slope ends and becomes a flat plateau to the river. The site comprises three stone structures: a probable dwelling (167A) approx. 6.5m E/W by 4.5m N/S and 1.2m maximum height remaining. The structure is of drystone construction with walls c. 0.8m thick and a doorway set to the E of the S facing wall.
To the E is a stone built enclosure, 167B, aligned roughly NW/SE, which may have been attached to structure 167A, although this is unclear. The enclosure has internal dimensions of c. 8m by 3m and is 0.6m. It is of drystone contruction with walls 0.8m thick.
To the S of 167A is another stone built enclosure, 167C, which appears to have been subdivided. The main section is c. 8m long by 6m wide and 0.75m high. To the east is a further section c. 7.5m long by 3m wide and 0.5m high. Both of these may have been connected to the front of the house but it is difficult to tell due to the large amount of dispersed rubble. Both are drystone builts and have c. 0.8m wide walls. No obvious entrances are visible. There is evidence for post-abandonment damage/robbing.

Surveyed: 08/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SE 11 **Highland HER ID:** MHG18749

Site name: **Rientraid**
HLP no: **168**

X: 219400 **Y:** 933300
Site type(s): Farmstead
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Driveway from road or long hard walk down hill.
Description:

A modern house stands at the site of the Rientraid farmstead; it seems probable that the original farmstead has been completely developed.

Surveyed: 08/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SE 12 **Highland HER ID:** MHG 18774

Site name: **Newton,Unapool**
HLP no: **169**

X: 223601 **Y:** 931875
Site type(s): Field clearance cairns
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short easy walk
Description:

Field clearance cairns piled on top of natural rock outcrops.

Surveyed: 08/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC23SW 5 **Highland HER ID:** MHG 12121



Site name: **Torgawn**
HLP no: **170**

X: 220889 **Y:** 932621
Site type(s): House
Condition: Mostly ruinous
Accessibility: Short hard walk
Description:

A long stone house, aligned E/W remains with an enclosure surrounding it. The site is located in woodland on the NE bank of the River Allt A Ghamhna, close to the mouth of Loch A Chairn Bhain. The remnants of the drystone constucted dwelling house comprise three rooms. The two smaller rooms at the E end of the house are c. 5m and 4m long by 4.5m wide, the walls are 0.6m wide. The largest room at the W end is c. 9.5m long by 5.5m wide, with walls 0.8m wide; the wall of this larger room protrudes toward the river. The maximum remaining height of house walls is to 1.2m.
At the E end of the house a triangular enclosure with drystone walls, a maximum of 1m high and 15m in length was observed. A further section of walling was noted to the NW of the house c.2m long x 1.3m high. There was no indication that this wall connected to any of the others.

Surveyed: 08/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC23SW 9 **Highland HER ID:** MHG 12125

Site name: **Loch a' Chairn Bhain**
HLP no: **171**

X: 220276 **Y:** 932783
Site type(s): Farmstead (possible)
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Long hard walk
Description:

Nothing found around the previously cited NGR. However considerably further north and downhill towards the road, an earthern and stone bank was indentified running N/S downhill. This is the only trace of any farmstead in the area. The bank is 100m long by 0.8m high, and 0.75 wide at its base.

Surveyed: 08/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC23SW 11 **Highland HER ID:** MGH12115

Site name: **Bad an Dioboirich**
HLP no: **172**

X: 216048 **Y:** 931667
Site type(s): Buildings, cultivation remains
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short hard walk
Description:

Around 100m from the previously cited NGR a stone and earth bank running NNW/SSE was observed. It is c.100m in length, up to 0.75m high and c. 0.7m wide. The bank runs downslope towards the corner of an area of possible cultivation/lazy beds, now covered with heather.
To the north-east of the field system/ lazy beds, five obvious clearance cairns were identified. The cairns are on average c.2.5m by 4.0m and a maximum of 1.5m high. A further stone and earth bank was also observed running from the E end of the field system in a NE direction.

Surveyed: 08/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SE 10 **Highland HER ID:** MHG12256



HLP 172, clearance cairn.

Site name: **Gleann Leireag**
HLP no: **173**

X: 215900 **Y:** 930817
Site type(s): Hut Circle (possible)
Condition: Very poorly preserved
Accessibility: Long easy walk, boggy in places
Description:

An area of stone, roughly sub-oval in plan. Very heavily overgrown with moss and bracken. The putative hut-circle consists of large stones c.0.6m by 0.4m roughly piled together. Little evidence can be seen of construction, and the identifiaction as a hut-circle must remain uncertain.
50m to the E lies an earth and stone boundary running from the river up the hill to the N. The wall curves, standing up to a maximum of 1.1m high and a 1.5 in width, with an almost vertical side to the W and curved bank to the east. The boundary is of earth and gathered stone construction.

Surveyed: 09/12/2009 **NMRS no:** NC13SE 0011 **Highland HER ID:** MHG13079; MHG40530

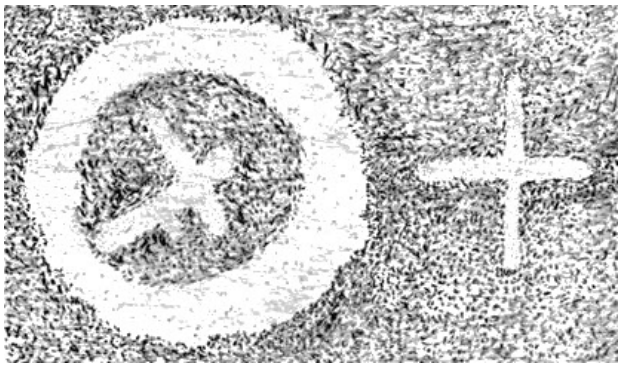
Site name: **Glenleraig Bridge**
HLP no: **174**

X: 215320 **Y:** 931030
Site type(s): Bridge
Condition: Partially preserved
Accessibility: Short, easy walk
Description:

A rubble platform is the only remains of a timber bridge, the E side of which is partially eroded; the W side is intact. The platform has been scoured by the burn and root damaged. The bridge is probably associated with the Glenleraig township.

Surveyed: 09/12/2009 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record





HLP 175; rubbing of the carvings made by John Wombell (right).

Site name: **Lochinver**
HLP no: **175**

X: 209560 **Y:** 923040
Site type(s): Cross-incised stone
Condition: Very well preserved
Accessibility: Short, hard walk
Description:

A large stone, roughly triangular in shape, lies below the high-water mark beside the river in Lochinver, below the church. On its upper surface is an incised cross c.0.09m by 0.10m, and a second incised cross within a circle c.0.13m in diameter. Now moved to churchyard (July 2010).

Surveyed: 26/2/2010 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** MHG52538

Site name: **Rientraid**

HLP no: **176**

X: 219988 **Y:** 932983

Site type(s): Bridge/culvert

Condition: Well preserved in places

Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

A bridge/culvert on an older road line to the S of present road in a steep sided valley. Roadway approx 7m wide. Two substantial stone built abutments leaving a half metre passage for the burn, now partially blocked. Impossible to see the form of the bridging over the culvert.

Surveyed: 9/5/2010 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Rientraid**

HLP no: **177**

X: 219987 **Y:** 932877

Site type(s): Structures

Condition: Well preserved in places

Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

Conjoined structures. To the W 5m by 3m internally, rectangular but with rounded corners and doorway in w end of N wall and to the E an extension 4.5 by 2.8m with doorway in centre of N wall. Walls of stone and turf standing to between 1 & 1.5m with bracken growing over. No obvious signs of drains.

Dyke continues S/SSE crossing a tributary burn which comes in from SSW. Main burn flows from the E and turns right angle just S of structures. Another dyke runs E-W along N side of main burn below structures.

Surveyed: 9/5/2010 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Rientraid to Torgawn**

HLP no: **178**

X: 219801 **Y:** 933087

Site type(s): Structures

Condition: Well preserved in places

Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

The remains of a structure of dry-stone, similar in build to the many storage structures found all over former farmlands, but triangular in plan, enclosing space 3m long and narrowing from 1.5m to a point. There may be one, or two internal divisions. To the E several suspiciously flat topped mounds - ?hut platforms.

Surveyed: 9/5/2010 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Rientraid to Torgawn**

HLP no: **179**

X: 220814 **Y:** 932664

Site type(s): Jetties

Condition: Well preserved in places

Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

Two facilities for bringing small boats up towards the shore of Poll a Ghamhna.

Structure A is a N-S aligned quay below the cliff roughly 30m long and built of substantial blocks of stone. The quay stands up to 1m or more above current shore level, but the shore level could have been dug out further in the past. The quay could have taken a boat of up to 5m length. Structure B is a less substantial clearing of a channel through the stones of the shore to pull smaller boats up.

Surveyed: 9/5/2010 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Rientraid to Torgawn**

HLP no: **180**

X: 220910 **Y:** 932689

Site type(s): Clearance cairns

Condition: Well preserved in places

Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

Clearance cairns; the latter, at 220907, 932649, is more substantial.

Surveyed: 9/5/2010 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Rientraid to Torgawn**

HLP no: **181**

X: 220946 **Y:** 932626

Site type(s): Clearance cairns

Condition: Well preserved in places

Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

Clearance material on either side of a small burn draining a marshy area to E and running W towards bay. The cairns also serve to channel the water and may have been part of more extensive clearance and drainage efforts.

Surveyed: 9/5/2010 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Rientraid to Torgawn**

HLP no: **182**

X: 220896 **Y:** 932639

Site type(s): Structure

Condition: Partially preserved

Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

A substantial section of end wall of curved ended structure aligned SE/NW of which most seems to have been demolished and removed. The whole may overlie a larger structure, perhaps an earlier long house.

Surveyed: 9/5/2010 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Rientraid to Torgawn**

HLP no: **183**

X: 220731 **Y:** 932615

Site type(s): Structure

Condition: Partially preserved

Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

Possibly a hut circle, or platform with clearance cairns around edge

Surveyed: 9/5/2010 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site name: **Rientraid to Torgawn**

HLP no: **183**

X: 218280 **Y:** 933230

Site type(s): Sheiling huts

Condition: Well preserved in places

Accessibility: Short, easy walk

Description:

Conjoined shieling huts on S slope above Glen Ardvar. An oval one enclosing 2m by 2.3m and to the S a more rectangular one with bowed sides 3m long and between 2 and 2.3m wide with a doorway in centre of W wall and also interconnecting with the oval structure

Surveyed: 9/5/2010 **NMRS no:** N/A **Highland HER ID:** No previous record

Site Coordinates

The following table gives the locations of each of the surveyed structures in standard OS grid reference format.

HLP Site	OS Grid Reference		
001	NC	2644	1084
002	NC	2653	1103
003	NC	2656	1119
004	NC	2650	1118
005	NC	2625	1118
006	NC	2615	1102
007	NC	2539	1169
008	NC	2530	1221
009	NC	2670	1110
010	NC	2641	1087
011	NC	2630	1092
012	NC	2604	1114
013	NC	2575	1140
014	NC	2564	1159
015	NC	2497	1333
016	NC	2432	1211
017	NC	2383	1215
018	NC	2276	1219
019	NC	2231	1200
020	NC	2210	1209
021	NC	2186	1207
022	NC	2212	1184
023	NC	2398	2363
024	NC	2458	1297
025	NC	2449	1315
026	NC	2465	1349
027	NC	2416	1337
028	NC	2440	1355
029	NC	2445	1344
030	NC	2587	1383
031	NC	2605	1370
032	NC	2603	1372
033	NC	2489	1409
034	NC	2501	1472
035	NC	2502	1462
036	NC	2485	1570
037	NC	2486	1588
038	NC	2527	1702
039	NC	2542	1800
040	NC	2563	1805
041	NC	2548	1788
042	NC	2549	1785

HLP Site	OS Grid Reference		
043	NC	2491	1869
044	NC	2502	1869
045	NC	2537	1869
046	NC	2488	2010
047	NC	2488	1985
048	NC	2528	1916
049	NC	0787	1941
050	NC	0779	1942
051	NC	0775	2100
052	NC	0871	2091
053	NC	0895	2100
054	NC	0945	2204
055	NC	0944	2223
056	NC	0922	2221
057	NC	0918	2227
058	NC	0938	2254
059	NC	0989	2367
060	NC	0990	2324
061	NC	1025	2344
062	NC	0946	2305
063	NC	0952	2310
064	NC	0897	2297
065	NC	0853	2310
066	NC	0804	2275
067A	NC	2360	3166
067B	NC	2356	3164
067C	NC	2360	3157
067D	NC	2359	3154
067E	NC	2361	3158
067F	NC	2363	3161
067G	NC	2367	3164
067H	NC	2358	3159
067I	NC	2377	3187
067J	NC	2360	3161
067K	NC	2362	3161
067L	NC	2367	3162
067M	NC	2367	3164
067N	NC	2376	3172
067O	NC	2378	3172
067P	NC	2378	3174
067Q	NC	2333	3178
067R	NC	2330	3167

HLP Site	OS Grid Reference		
067S	NC	2339	3175
067T	NC	2350	3173
067U	NC	2349	3172
067V	NC	2349	3174
067W	NC	2347	3177
068	NC	2390	3177
069	NC	1181	2219
070	NC	1252	2177
071	NC	1181	2219
072	NC	1222	2296
073	NC	1199	2306
074	NC	1177	2289
075	NC	0930	2230
076A	NC	1484	2579
076B	NC	1489	2576
077A	NC	1488	2626
077B	NC	1510	2647
077C	NC	1476	2618
078	NC	1445	2604
079	NC	1446	2604
080A	NC	0680	2407
080B	NC	0678	2405
080C	NC	0675	2408
081A	NC	0706	2420
081B	NC	0711	2421
082	NC	0702	2373
083	NC	0679	2315
084A	NC	2457	2365
084B	NC	2459	2360
085	NC	2451	2375
086	NC	2393	2360
087	NC	2384	2398
088A	NC	2562	2244
088B	NC	2563	2243
089	NC	2540	2260
090	NC	2571	2265
091	NC	2648	1721
092A	NC	2614	1765
092B	NC	2581	1779
093A	NC	1610	3073
093B	NC	1605	3074
094A	NC	2726	2090

HLP Site	OS Grid Reference		
094B	NC	2726	2088
094C	NC	2726	2088
094D	NC	2724	2089
094E	NC	2724	2089
094F	NC	2722	2088
095	NC	2634	2119
096	NC	1688	3324
097A	NC	2495	2248
097AA	NC	2496	2254
097AB	NC	2497	2254
097AC	NC	2497	2253
097AD	NC	2498	2252
097AE	NC	2504	2252
097AF	NC	2506	2250
097AG	NC	2496	2269
097AH	NC	2496	2268
097AI	NC	2503	2254
097AJ	NC	2502	2261
097B	NC	2494	2249
097C	NC	2493	2249
097D	NC	2495	2249
097E	NC	2494	2250
097F	NC	2493	2250
097G	NC	2494	2251
097H	NC	2496	2251
097I	NC	2495	2250
097J	NC	2492	2254
097K	NC	2491	2255
097L	NC	2491	2256
097M	NC	2493	2257
097N	NC	2494	2257
097O	NC	2493	2258
097P	NC	2492	2260
097Q	NC	2493	2262
097R	NC	2492	2263
097S	NC	2491	2259
097T	NC	2490	2260
097U	NC	2489	2260
097V	NC	2490	2264
097W	NC	2490	2270
097X	NC	2496	2260
097Y	NC	2497	2260
097Z	NC	2496	2258
098A	NC	2532	2244
098B	NC	2522	2253
098C	NC	2514	2257
098D	NC	2512	2258

HLP Site	OS Grid Reference		
098E	NC	2499	2263
099A	NC	1851	2886
099B	NC	1852	2882
099C	NC	1851	2890
100	NC	2456	1295
101	NC	2490	1246
102	NC	2465	1264
103	NC	2487	1225
104	NC	2495	1215
105	NC	2533	1170
106	NC	2478	1181
107A	NC	2017	1038
107B	NC	2006	1041
107C	NC	2015	1044
107D	NC	2019	1043
107E	NC	2033	1041
107F	NC	2036	1040
107G	NC	2052	1051
108	NC	2043	1040
109	NC	2051	1045
110	NC	2053	1049
111	NC	2111	1079
112	NC	2148	1189
113	NC	2145	1181
114	NC	2148	1174
115	NC	1603	2502
116A	NC	2052	2598
116B	NC	2056	2600
116C	NC	2057	2597
116D	NC	2055	2601
116E	NC	2047	2596
117	NC	2342	2552
118A	NC	2416	2387
118B	NC	2416	2385
119A	NC	2436	2391
119B	NC	2435	2382
119C	NC	2434	2378
119D	NC	2432	2380
119E	NC	2435	2383
119F	NC	2435	2383
120	NC	2409	2377
121	NC	2533	1434
122	NC	2554	1454
123	NC	2558	1427
124	NC	2582	1418
125A	NC	2590	1402
125B	NC	2591	1401

HLP Site	OS Grid Reference		
125C	NC	2592	1401
126	NC	2594	1388
127	NC	2555	1357
128	NC	2559	1359
129A	NC	2531	1420
129B	NC	2532	1419
130	NC	2548	1398
131	NC	2550	1398
132	NC	2506	2062
133	NC	2499	2084
134	NC	2524	2183
135	NC	2488	2196
136	NC	2491	2221
137A	NC	2467	2256
137B	NC	2477	2256
137C	NC	2479	2254
138A	NC	2588	2191
138B	NC	2588	2192
138C	NC	2593	2191
138D	NC	2598	2186
138E	NC	2599	2187
138F	NC	2594	2185
138G	NC	2589	2193
138H	NC	2588	2192
138I	NC	2586	2192
138J	NC	2587	2193
138K	NC	2590	2188
138L	NC	2596	2189
138M	NC	2591	2189
138N	NC	2588	2197
138O	NC	2607	2181
138P	NC	2591	2185
138Q	NC	2586	2186
138R	NC	2586	2182
138S	NC	2572	2193
138T	NC	2573	2200
139	NC	2611	2176
140	NC	2542	2166
141	NC	2487	2300
142	NC	2439	2333
143	NC	2444	1351
144	NC	2495	2200
145	NC	2437	2341
146	NC	2414	2369
147	NC	2408	2357
148	NC	2407	2357
149	NC	2410	2356

HLP Site	OS Grid Reference		
150	NC	2397	2354
151	NC	1536	3119
152	NC	1532	3100
153A	NC	1553	3098
153AA	NC	1521	3130
153AAA	NC	1546	3137
153AAB	NC	1550	3138
153AAC	NC	1549	3138
153AAD	NC	1529	3143
153AAE	NC	1526	3144
153AAF	NC	1524	3145
153AAG	NC	1524	3146
153AAH	NC	1526	3146
153AAI	NC	1516	3147
153AB	NC	1522	3134
153AC	NC	1523	3154
153AD	NC	1517	3149
153AE	NC	1516	3151
153AF	NC	1515	3151
153AG	NC	1516	3153
153AH	NC	1514	3153
153AI	NC	1511	3154
153AJ	NC	1509	3155
153AK	NC	1509	3156
153AL	NC	1509	3157
153AM	NC	1509	3163
153AN	NC	1497	3166
153AO	NC	1499	3164
153AP	NC	1512	3151
153AQ	NC	1514	3147
153AR	NC	1504	3149
153AS	NC	1518	3151
153AT	NC	1518	3152
153AU	NC	1518	3153
153AV	NC	1519	3141
153AW	NC	1526	3139
153AX	NC	1527	3139
153AY	NC	1529	3138
153AZ	NC	1547	3136
153B	NC	1550	3121
153C	NC	1548	3121
153D	NC	1541	3115
153E	NC	1541	3122
153F	NC	1542	3123
153G	NC	1542	3125
153H	NC	1543	3128
153I	NC	1544	3127

HLP Site	OS Grid Reference		
153J	NC	1545	3131
153K	NC	1544	3132
153L	NC	1543	3132
153M	NC	1543	3134
153N	NC	1541	3134
153O	NC	1541	3134
153P	NC	1539	3135
153Q	NC	1532	3134
153R	NC	1531	3133
153S	NC	1534	3129
153T	NC	1533	3130
153U	NC	1532	3130
153V	NC	1527	3132
153W	NC	1529	3127
153X	NC	1535	3126
153Y	NC	1530	3134
153Z	NC	1523	3127
154	NC	1480	3148
155	NC	1472	3151
156A	NC	1698	3322
156B	NC	1697	3323
156C	NC	1698	3323
156D	NC	1702	3325
156E	NC	1703	3324
156F	NC	1702	3324
157A	NC	1710	3334
157B	NC	1706	3334
158	NC	1696	3330
159	NC	1696	3323
160	NC	1708	3296
161	NC	1685	3304
162	NC	1676	3307
163	NC	1666	3323
164	NC	1713	3326
165	NC	1816	3318
166	NC	1827	3322
167A	NC	1848	3313
167B	NC	1848	3312
167C	NC	1847	3311
168	NC	1940	3330
169	NC	2360	3188
170	NC	2089	3262
171	NC	2028	3278
172A	NC	1605	3167
172B	NC	1612	3165
172C	NC	1614	3169
173	NC	1590	3082

HLP Site	OS Grid Reference		
174	NC	1532	3103
175	NC	0956	2304
176	NC	1999	3298
177	NC	1999	3288
178	NC	1980	3309
179A	NC	2081	3266
179B	NC	2090	3277
180A	NC	2091	3269
180B	NC	2091	3265
181	NC	2095	3263
182	NC	2090	3264
183	NC	2073	3262
184	NC	1828	3323



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