THE ARTIFICIAL ISLETS OF THE CENTRAL INNER HEBRIDES
FIRST APPROACHES

In two volumes
Volume 2
Appendices, Illustrations, Plates and Plans

Mark W. Holley

Ph.D.

The University of Edinburgh
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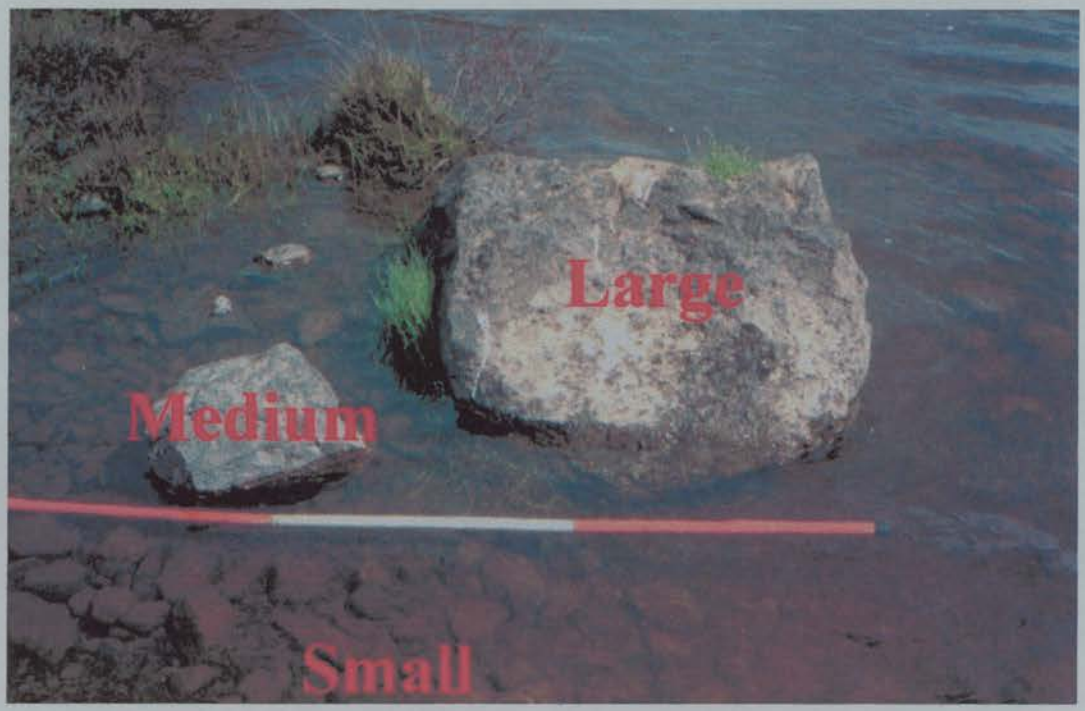
Stone Size

Throughout the site reports presented in Appendix A stones are described based upon their size. The size ranges used are displayed in the picture below and are defined as follows:

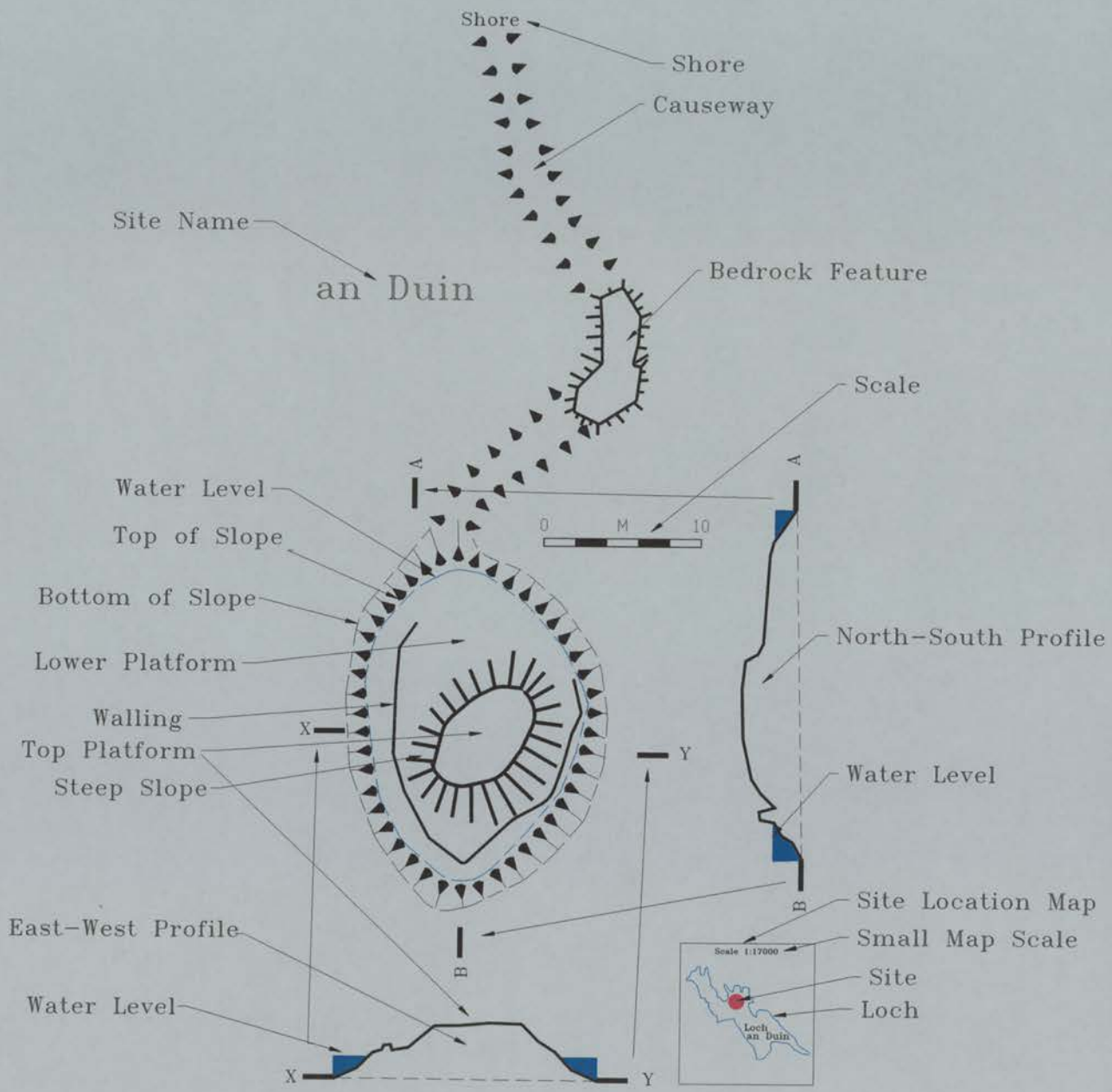
Small: fist-sized stone (displayed at the bottom of the picture).

Medium: fairly large pieces of stone which can be lifted by a single man.

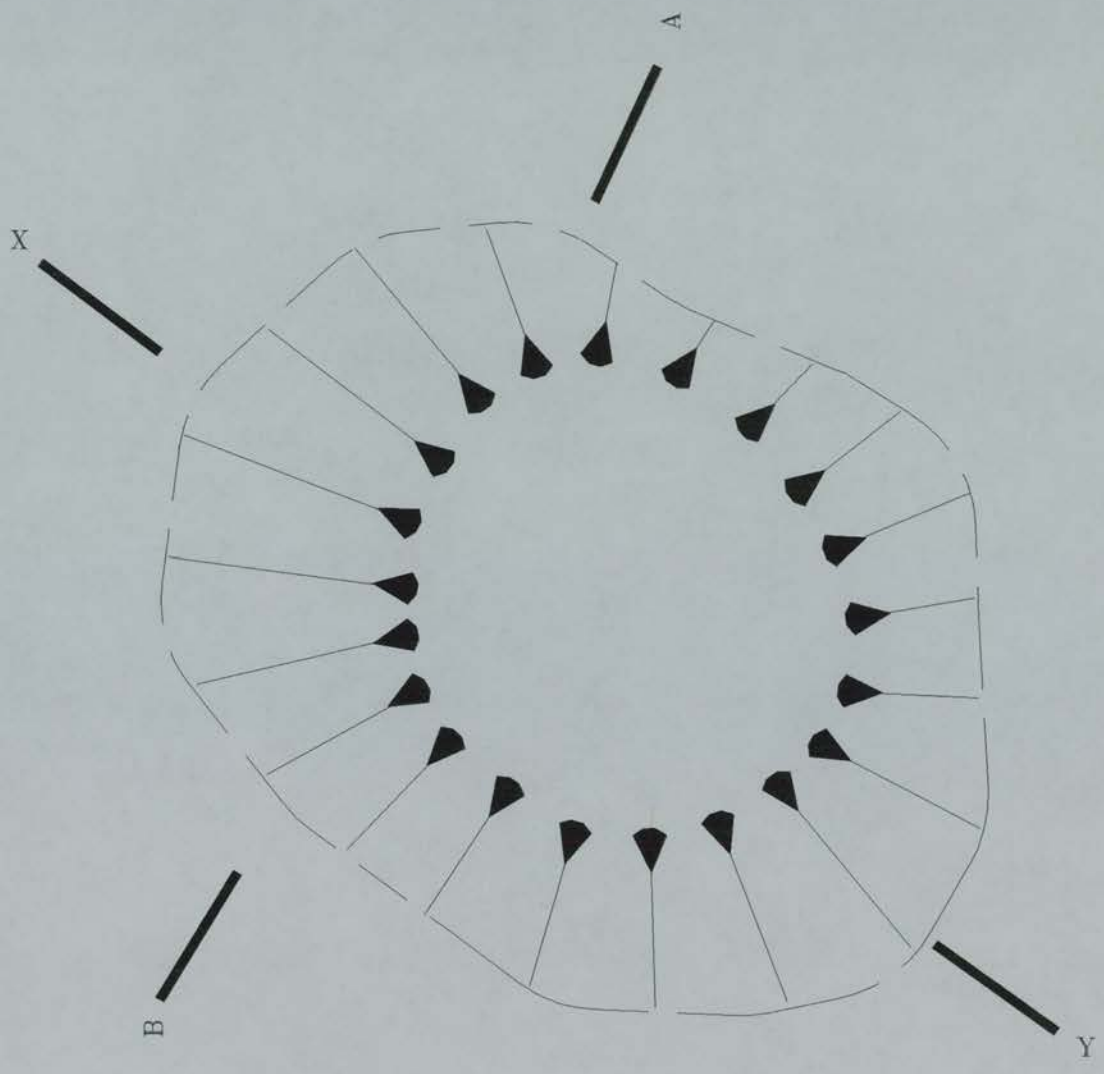
Large: stone which is too large to be lifted by a single man. This ranges widely in size, from that pictured below to single stones which are several m^3 in volume.

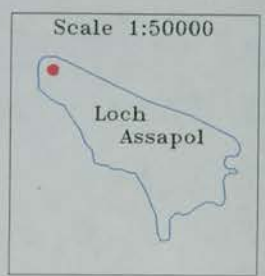


Key to Site Plans



Assapol





The Artificial Islets of Mull

Loch Assapol NM 3985 2108

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first labelled as a "crannog" by the Duke of Argyll in the 1915 Argyll County Councils list of Ancient and Historic Buildings. This term was also applied to the site by J.P. MacLean, a local Mull historian, in his two volume work, The History of Mull (1923). MacLean states that "Old people in Mull remember having seen a large part of the ruins above water", and that, "A clachan leads from the shore to the ancient ruins, but a little submerged" (1923, 116). Another historian named Mac Cormick confirmed that the islet was accessed by submerged stepping stones and believed that the site was a "Neolithic Age" lake dwelling (1923, 156). The site was also mentioned by Blundell and described as "a stone-built lake dwelling" (1913,291). Macnab notes the site as a "crannog" (1970, 63).

The site was visited by the Royal Commission in May 1975 and included in the Inventory for Mull as a "crannog" (RCAHMS 1980, No.244). The site was described as, "a mass of rounded boulders, roughly circular in plan, measuring 5m across", and "located 0.6m below the surface of the water". The site surveyor searched the area surrounding the site for the submerged causeway mentioned by MacLean but did not find any trace of it (Card NM 32 SE 8).

Local Geography - Loch Assapol is located on the Ross of Mull, 2km SE of the village of Bunessan. The loch has a shoreline of 3.9km and is roughly oval in shape measuring 1.3km NW-SE by 0.42km SW-NE. The lochbed consists of hard packed machiar which is also found on the coastal beaches in this part of Mull. The firmness of the lochbed is demonstrated by the abundance of 18th C pottery and various glass bottles which are still clearly visible. It appears that very little silting is occurring, in the N end of the loch, and water visibility was between 2m and 3m at the time of survey. The N and W margins of Loch Assapol's bed are covered with a spread of well-rounded, fist-sized stones roughly 30m in width. The inside edge of this stone

spread was 0.8m below the water-level at the time of survey and probably represents an old shoreline. Beyond the stone spread the N end of the loch gradually edges out to a fairly uniform depth of between 2m and 3m. Loch Assapol is fed by the Abhainn Tir River Chonnuill which empties into its SE end and is drained from its NW end by the Bunessan River which empties into Loch na Lathaich 2km to the NW.

The land directly adjacent to Loch Assapol is covered by soils which will support arable agriculture. Directly N and W of Loch Assapol are large tracts of land which slope gently, are well drained and ideal for arable agriculture. These areas were still being till farmed at the time of survey and any traces of ancient field-systems have been buried by the modern farm machinery.

Site Description - This site is located 70m from the N shore of Loch Assapol, near Assapol House. The site consists of an oval-shaped mound of well-rounded stone, measuring 14.8m E-W by 18.2m N-S at its base. None of the stone appears to be worked and it is all local in origin. Roughly 35% of the stone is too large for a man to lift, with some pieces weighing at least 100 kg. The remaining 65% is large but of manoeuverable size. Only a limited amount of smaller stone was noted. The stone mound breaks sharply at a 10-15° angle with the surrounding lochbed of hard-packed machair and rises to a height of 1.2m. Due to the lack of silting, the edge of the stone spread is clearly visible. Water depth varies between 2m and 2.5m at the base of the stone spread, with the deepest measurement being taken on the S side of the artificial islet.

The stone mound is crowned by a roughly level, circular platform which measures 9m in diameter. This platform was located 0.8m below the surface of the water at the time of survey. No structures, walling, or timbers were visible on the platform or elsewhere on the site. The lochbed surrounding the site was searched and no evidence for a causeway, as previously noted by MacLean, was found. The site does not appear to be situated on a particularly special section of lochbed, as all areas in the N end of the loch are fairly uniform in depth and consistency.

Discussion - This site is certainly artificial. The stone which comprises the site sharply contrasts with the surrounding lochbed, and other stone of this size and concentration is not found elsewhere in the loch. Unfortunately there are no clues with which to date the site.

The firmness of the lochbed calls into question MacLean's and Mac Cormick's description of the causeway to the site. A causeway could not have existed between the shore and the site at the time they indicate, as the stonework would not have sunk into the firm sand without a trace in the course of only 60 years. The presence of 18th C pottery in this very area indicates that the lochbed is quite stable. The loch is relatively small and sheltered, eliminating the possibility that wave action dispersed the causeway. It is also unlikely that humans would go to the trouble of totally robbing a submerged causeway of its stone.

MacLean also stated that old people could remember seeing the top of the artificial islet above water-level. This indicates that the water-level in Loch Assapol has fluctuated in the past. In order for the artificial islet to be visible the current water-level would have to be lowered by at least 1m. This drop would expose all of the stone spread which has been labelled as a 'possible old shoreline'. A drop in the water-level of this magnitude would bring the shoreline to within 50m of the site. The water-level in Loch Assapol appears to be presently controlled by a small outlet stream located 100m W of the artificial islet. This stream is presently dammed and could easily be altered to lower the water-level of the loch by 1m. In recognition of this fact and MacLean's account, it seems likely that the water-level in Loch Assapol, when the artificial islet was in use was at least 1m lower. If this was the case the islet could have easily been waded to from shore.

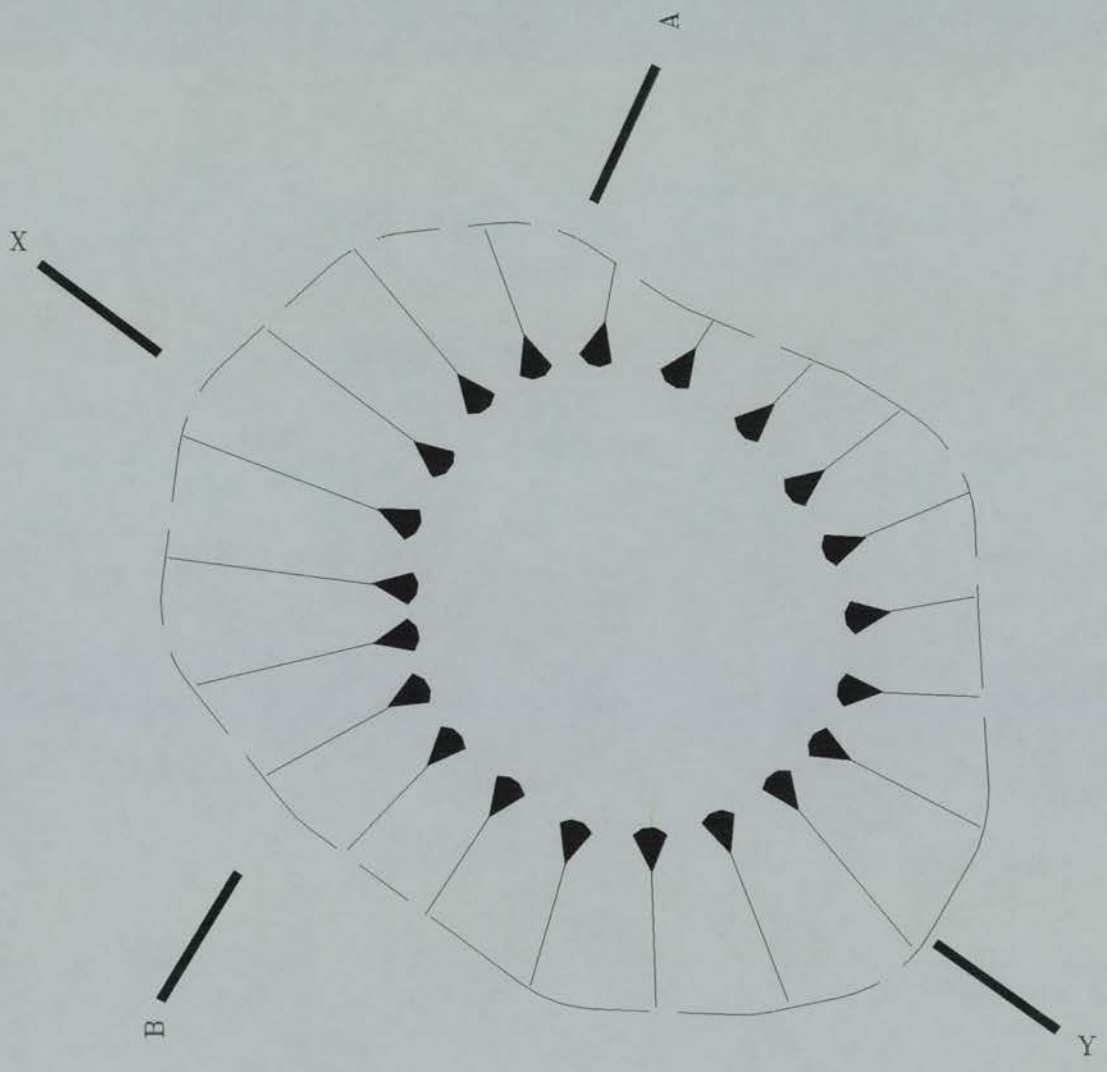
Site Surveyed: May 25, 1994

See: Holley DES 1994: 52

****Note****

This site was revisited in August 1997 when it was discovered that a small hydro-electric dam had been placed at the outlet to Loch Assapol. Water-levels were noted to have risen between 1m and 2m higher than those noted in this survey.

Assapol



Eilean Ban, Loch Frisa NM 477 493

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first labelled as a "crannog" in 1970 (MacNab 1970, 63), although it may be one of the two artificial islands (in an unnamed loch) referred to by Campbell (1870). The RCAHMS include the site as a "crannog" in the Inventory for Mull, (RCAHMS 1980 No.241, Card NM 44 NE 1) noting that it is, "the only artificial island in Loch Frisa". The site was described as an island of small, round stones, measuring 14.5m by 17.5m. A dry-stone wall 1.6m in thickness encloses the perimeter of the island and still stands several courses high in the NE sector. The RCAHMS report states that the site is locally believed to have been a prison and, as discussed below, probably dates to the 17th Century. Eilean Ban appears on the first edition Ordnance Survey maps as a small, oval islet, but has been omitted from older maps of the area.

Local Geography - Eilean Ban is located in the mid-section of Loch Frisa, Mull's largest freshwater loch, which measures 7km NW-SE by 0.8km NE-SW, and covers an area of 43.5km². The loch is located 4km NW of Aros, near the centre of a glen which cuts across the N section of Mull between Aros and Dervaig. Loch Frisa is the deepest fresh-water loch on Mull (and in the study area), with a recorded depth of 93m (Murray and Pullar 1910). Both the water-depth and the consistency of the lochbed vary widely throughout the loch. An attribute particular to this loch, is that large patches of bedrock rise up to within 1.5m of the water's surface. These patches are present in all sections of the loch and would have provided a variety of ideal building sites for artificial islets. The lochbed near Eilean Ban consists of a series of exposed bedrock ridges broken by deeper, heavily silted valleys. The water-depth in this section of the loch varies from 1.5m to 2.5m near the top of the bedrock ridges, to 4m+ near the bottom of the silted troughs. Water 10m+ in depth can be found 25m E of the site. The water visibility near Eilean Ban was very good and extended up 5m. Loch Frisa is largely spring fed and is extremely cold throughout the year. The loch is

drained from its SE end by the River Aros which empties into the Sound of Mull, 4km to the SE.

The land immediately adjacent to Eilean Ban is gently rolling and is now heavily forested and under the care of the Forestry Commission. All the land surrounding the site has been highly disturbed by forestry planting, which has substantially altered the local environments and micro-ecology. Even though the soils in this area will support arable agriculture, at the time of survey all of the land for 2km W of the loch was planted with pine trees. The shoreline directly adjacent to the site is edged by bedrock cliffs slightly over 3m in height, which continue both N and S for several hundred meters. These cliffs are sheer and make it difficult to access the shore of the loch.

Only 300m S of Eilean Ban exists two bedrock islands, Eilean Dubh and its unnamed neighbour. These islands have the appearance of being entirely natural and are now heavily vegetated. They are located close to shore, in shallow water, with one measuring 20m by 80m and the other 23m by 27m (roughly the same size as Eilean Ban). No structures or other signs of human modification were noted on, or around, these islands.

Site Description - Eilean Ban is located 42m from the W shore of Loch Frisa, at roughly the midpoint of the loch. The area of lochbed surrounding the site is a complex mixture of textures and depths. A large portion of the site is built upon a bedrock outcrop which extends S from the site for 5m to 6m. This bedrock ridge is clearly visible and delimits the NW section of the site where it abruptly ends in a sheer 4m drop. The N, S and E sides of the site taper off more gradually to a depth of 2m. A trench, 5m deep by 20m wide, lies between the artificial islet and the shore, making it impossible to wade to the site. The bottom of this trench is heavily silted and subject to a considerable current which sweeps anything approaching the site from the land side, out into mid-loch. A careful search was made of this trench and other areas between the site and shore and no evidence of a causeway was found.

The artificial islet is roughly circular in shape and composed of a mass of medium-sized, angular-shaped stones. This mass measures 29m E-W by 35m N-S at its base and is crowned by a nearly circular platform 25m in diameter, roughly 1.2m

above the surrounding lochbed. The islet's surface is occupied by several notable features which confirm that it has been subject to human activity. The W side of the islet's surface, the side facing the shore, is protected by a 3m thick wall of roughly shaped, stacked, stone which was partially covered with turf at the time of survey. The S section of this wall still stands six courses high (2m) but its faces are obscured by tumble and turfs. Slightly S of this walling are the remains of what appears to be a single corner of a building's foundation. This 1m wide section of angular, stacked stone walling runs N-S for 2m and then terminates at an angular corner which seems to turn E. Another considerable section of walling, five courses high, can be found in the NE sector of the islet. This section, measuring 1.5m in width, is well preserved and still displays vertical faces 1.4m in height. The RCAHMS has theorised that these two sections of walling form part of a perimeter wall which encircles the islet, taking the form of collapsed rubble in other sections. This observation is possibility and could easily be verified with a minimum of excavation.

The SE section of the site is penetrated by a feature which the RCAHMS has labelled as a boat-inlet. This feature consists of a sharp, vertical break in the walling, 7m in width, which looks to be intentional. This break corresponds with a low spot on the islet's surface, which faces open water. The exact nature of this feature is not clear. While a boat-noost is a possibility, the feature might alternatively be an entrance through the perimeter walling, which is presumed to have surrounded the site. This type of entrance positioning is characteristic of walled artificial islets in the Western Isles (Armit 1992).

The most remarkable features discovered by the underwater investigation are two alder timbers, found at the bottom of the NW cliff-edge projecting from a section of the stone rubble. Each of the timbers is about 0.3m in diameter and protrudes from the base of the rubble for 6m. Both have been split in half giving them the appearance of boards. This appearance is most likely due to erosion, as a strong underwater current was encountered on this side of the site. Each of the timbers are firmly embedded in the bottom of the islet's stone spread and are likely to be part of the islet's lower structure which has collapsed outward. The outward collapse is suggested by the timbers lying parallel with each other and conforming to the slope of the bedrock upon which the artificial islet is built. Their most likely purpose was to

provide some kind of bracing for the stone-work atop the cliff-edge, however, it will take further research to determine their exact function and context.

One of the timbers was sampled and submitted for radio-carbon dating. It produced a determination of 2200±70 b.p. (Beta-78832), calibrated at 2σ to 395-45 BC, setting at least one phase of Eilean Ban firmly in the centre of the later prehistoric (Holley and Ralston 1995).

Discussion - There is a wealth of evidence to suggest that at least one phase of Eilean Ban dates to the later prehistoric period. The typology of the surface features on the site broadly agree with the radio-carbon determination from the sampled timber. The perimeter of the islet is enclosed by massive stone walling which is characteristic of that found on the later prehistoric brochs and duns on Mull. The shape of the walling (roughly circular), exterior diameter (c. 8m), thickness (2m-3m) and height (2m) indicates that the artificial islet may be occupied by the remains of an Atlantic roundhouse or broch type structure. The positioning of the suspected entrance to the rear of the site, facing open water, finds parallels with the brochs and islet dunes of the Western Isles and strengthens the suggestion that the islet may be occupied by this type of structure.

The RCAHMS has speculated that the presence of the angular walling and the "boatnoost" dates the site to the 17th century. The presence of a boatnoost alone does not support such a date. Boat noosts are not unique to the 17th century and have been found on artificial islet sites, such as Milton Loch (Piggott 1953) and several examples in Loch Awe (McArdle and McArdle 1973), which date well into prehistory (Guido 1974). The presence of the sharp-angled walling may indicate that there has been a reoccupation of the site at some later period, but so little of this walling remains that its use as a chronological indicator is tentative. However, it is not unreasonable to suggest, based on the typology of the perimeter walling, that most of the structure is broadly contemporary with the radio-carbon determination of 395-45 BC obtained from the sampled timber.

The positioning of Eilean Ban on this particular bedrock outcrop was quite deliberate. Only 300m to the S of the artificial islet lie two other natural islands, Eilean Dubh and its unnamed neighbour, which would also have provided possible

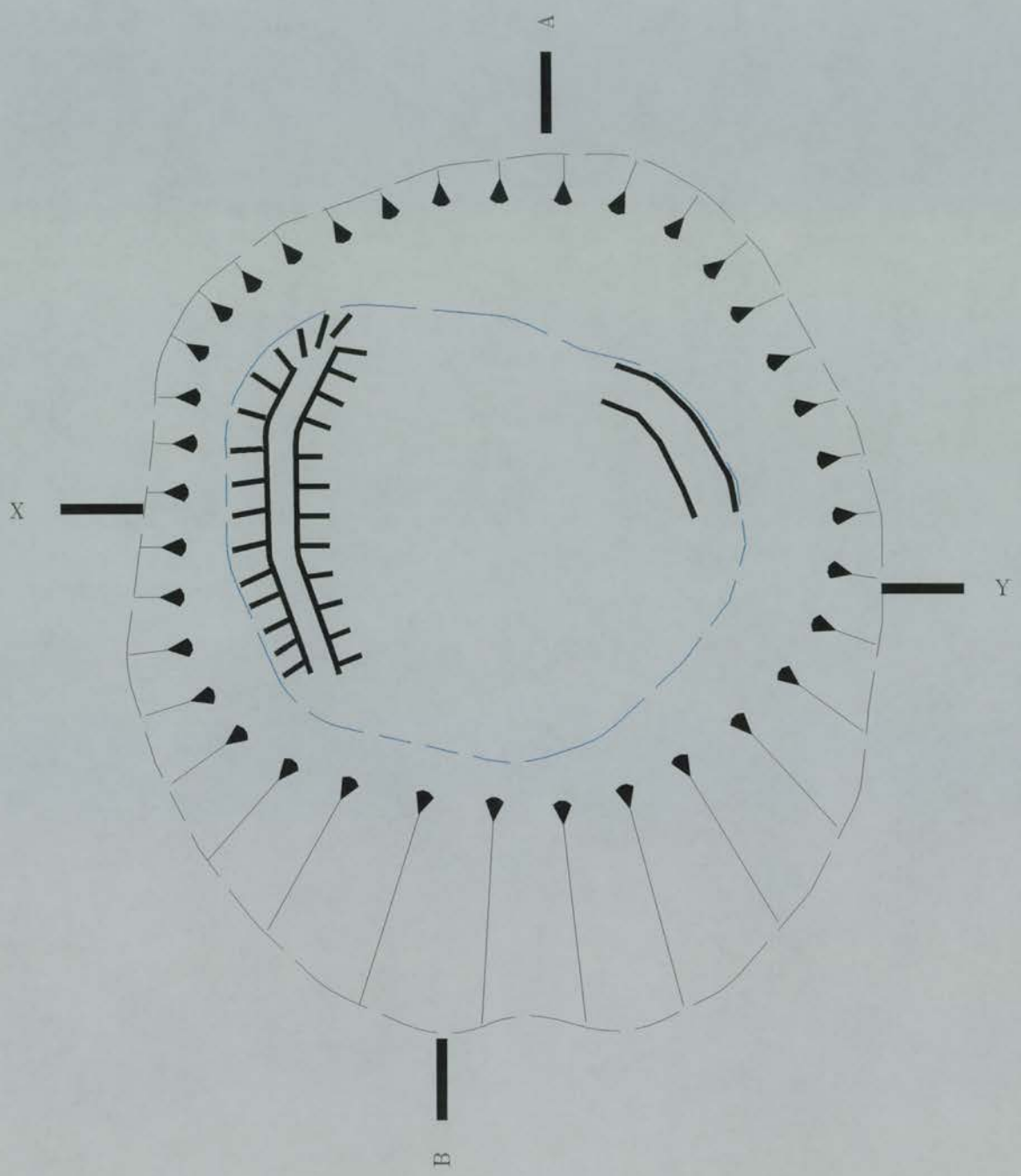
building areas. These islands, however, are not located as far from the shore of the loch and can easily be accessed by wading. In this case it is apparent that the artificial islet's builders deliberately chose a site which was not accessible from shore, rather than one which was. The two other islands are also composed of bedrock and would have been much easier to build upon as their upper platforms are located above the water's surface. The choice of Eilean Ban shows that the artificial islet's builders were willing to expend additional energy transporting material over water, rather than building upon a site which was accessible from shore.

Eilean Ban's position in Loch Frisa is different from those of the other artificial islets surveyed on Mull. All the other sites have been situated at the ends of lochs, whereas Eilean Ban has an exposed central position. This site is also the only one where the adjacent shoreline is difficult to access due to the presence of bedrock cliffs. These features, in combination with the depth of water surrounding the artificial islet, suggest that the builders of the site were primarily concerned with security.

Site Surveyed: October 21, 1994

See: Holley DES 1994: 57

Eilean Ban



Eilean Ban
Looking East

Eilean Ban: Section of walling
Looking North

Eilean Ban: entrance feature
Looking West

Eilean Ban: Section of walling
Looking North

Caisteal Eoghainn a' Chinn Bhig NM 631 307

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - Caisteal Eoghainn a' Chinn Bhig is the only artificial islet on Mull to have a substantial literary record associated with it. The site's traditional name is Caisteal Eoghainn a' Chinn Bhig, which means, 'The Caisteal of Ewen of the little head'. This historical figure was a son of John Og, 5th MacLean of Loch Buy, who lived some time during the second quarter of the 16th century. MacLean notes that, "John Og gave Hugh the lands of Mornish, in Mull, where the latter built a castle in an islet between Loch Buy and Duard" (MacLean 1923, 203). The presence of this castle in "Loche Strathsenaban" was commented upon by Sir Donald Monro who wrote in 1549 that "Ellan Strathsenaban" was a place of 'inhabited strength' (Monro 1549, 498). The Mull historian, Hannan, also indicates that a castle stood on the island in Loch Sguabain and states that, "the island is artificial, and consequently it is reasonable to assume that the castle is of very ancient date, doubtless going back beyond history. It is, in fact, on the site of an old 'Lake dwelling'" (Hannan 1933, 186). Hannan does not indicate why he believes that the site is located on "an old lake dwelling." Macnab notes the site as a "crannog" (1970, 63).

The concurrence of these literary accounts led the RCAHMS to date the site to the late medieval period and include it in its Inventory for Mull as a "crannog" (RCAHMS 1980 No.238). The RCAHMS describes the site as "a small islet", 'measuring 10m by 22m, and enclosed by a dry-stone perimeter wall, up to 3.3m thick in places'. A circular shelter was found at the northern end of the islet but was discounted as a "recent construction". A scatter of small stones, thought to be the remains of a causeway, was suspected to link the NE side of the site to Loch Sguabain's NW shore.

Local Geography - Loch Sguabain is the northern-most of four small lochs, located near the Craignure-Iona road in Glen More. The loch is roughly oval in shape, measuring 200m NW-SE by 600m NE-SW and is 2m deep at its deepest point. Most

of the lochbed is covered with heavy peat-based silts which support a thick mass of aquatic vegetation. The water visibility in the loch was extremely good, when not blocked by vegetation, and extended up to 10m. The water-level in Loch Sguabain is controlled by two, 2m high, concrete dams of modern construction. One of the dams is located at the SW end of the loch, at its inflow which comes from the other three lochs in the W end of Glen More. The other dam is located in the NE end of Loch Sguabain, at its outflow into the River Lussa, which drains the loch in Loch Spelve 7km, to the E.

The E and W sides of Loch Sguabain, as well as the shorelines of the other three lochs, are dominated by steeply rising bens. To the N of Loch Sguabain, Glen More widens to form a peat-covered valley through which the River Lussa flows. Large sections of this valley are quite level, but poorly drained, and do not display signs of past agricultural exploitation. Although Loch Sguabain is located in a seemingly isolated, mountainous region of Mull, it is situated near the intersection of two ancient pathways. According to MacLean (1923), Loch Sguabain is located on the main inland trail connecting the MacLeans of Loch Buy and Duart. The loch is also near the old drovers' road which runs across Mull through Glen Forsa.

Site Description - Caisteal Eoghainn a' Chinn Bhig is located 68m from the NW shore of Loch Sguabain, 135m S of the outlet to the Lussa River. The feature which the RCAHMS has listed as a 'possible causeway', is a broken and spread-out succession of large stones. This feature does not appear to have any real form and is not linear. It is unlikely that it was once a causeway. The water surrounding the islet is 1.5m to 2m in depth and reaches a maximum depth of 1.75m between the site and shore. The lochbed surrounding the site is heavily silted to a depth of at least 2m, obscuring the bottom of the islet and any potentially exposed timbers.

This islet measures 15m NE-SW by 30m NW-SE at its base, and has steep stone covered sides which break at a 20° angle from the surrounding lochbed. The stones which comprise the mound are angular in shape, medium sized and undoubtedly come from the scree slopes underneath the bluffs, overlooking the SE side of the loch. The upper platform of the islet, measuring 11m NE-SW by 24m

NW-SE, stands 3.5m above the surrounding lochbed and was heavily vegetated at the time of survey. As noted by the RCAHMS, the upper-platform is enclosed by the remains of a dry-stone, perimeter wall, 3m in average thickness. This wall still stands 0.5m high in the SE part of the islet and appears to extend down beneath the vegetated surface of the site into the stone tumble.

The N end of the islet is occupied by the remains of a circular structure, measuring 5m by 5.9m, which still has sections of walling standing 6 courses (2m) high. Both the interior and exterior faces of this structure are well defined and are composed of medium-sized shaped stone. The wall thickness varies between 1.3m and 2m, with the most substantial section facing the near shore of the loch. The interior of the structure measures 2m by 3m and was heavily overgrown at the time of survey. No entrance was found to the structure. The RCAHMS describe this structure as a 'recent construction' but this is unlikely as it blends smoothly into the perimeter walling. No timbers or unrecorded underwater features were found.

Discussion - The chronology of this site remains unclear. The perimeter walling which surrounds the site is similar to that of the later prehistoric brochs and duns of Mull but the circular structure located at the N end of the site has no obvious precedents. Monro's account of "Ellan Strathsenaban" in 1549 implies that he observed its occupation, at the time, first-hand. However, Hannan's insistence that the site was built upon the remains of an old 'lake dwelling' may imply that there are multiple phases of occupation on the site. Future surveys should look at the perimeter walling and the circular structure in more detail.

The exact nature of the site is also unclear. There is some evidence to indicate that it may have been located on dry land in the past. Loch Sguabain is only 2m deep at its deepest point, and there is some confusion as to whether it was a loch or just marshy ground, in antiquity. A letter contained in the Tobermory Museum indicates that the loch was substantially deepened in 1933 by damming the Lussa River. If this is true, it could indicate that the site was located in a shallow pool or river, rather than a loch. Consequently, as crannogs are by definition structures which were intended to be surrounded by water or marshy land (Morrison 1985, 19) this site may

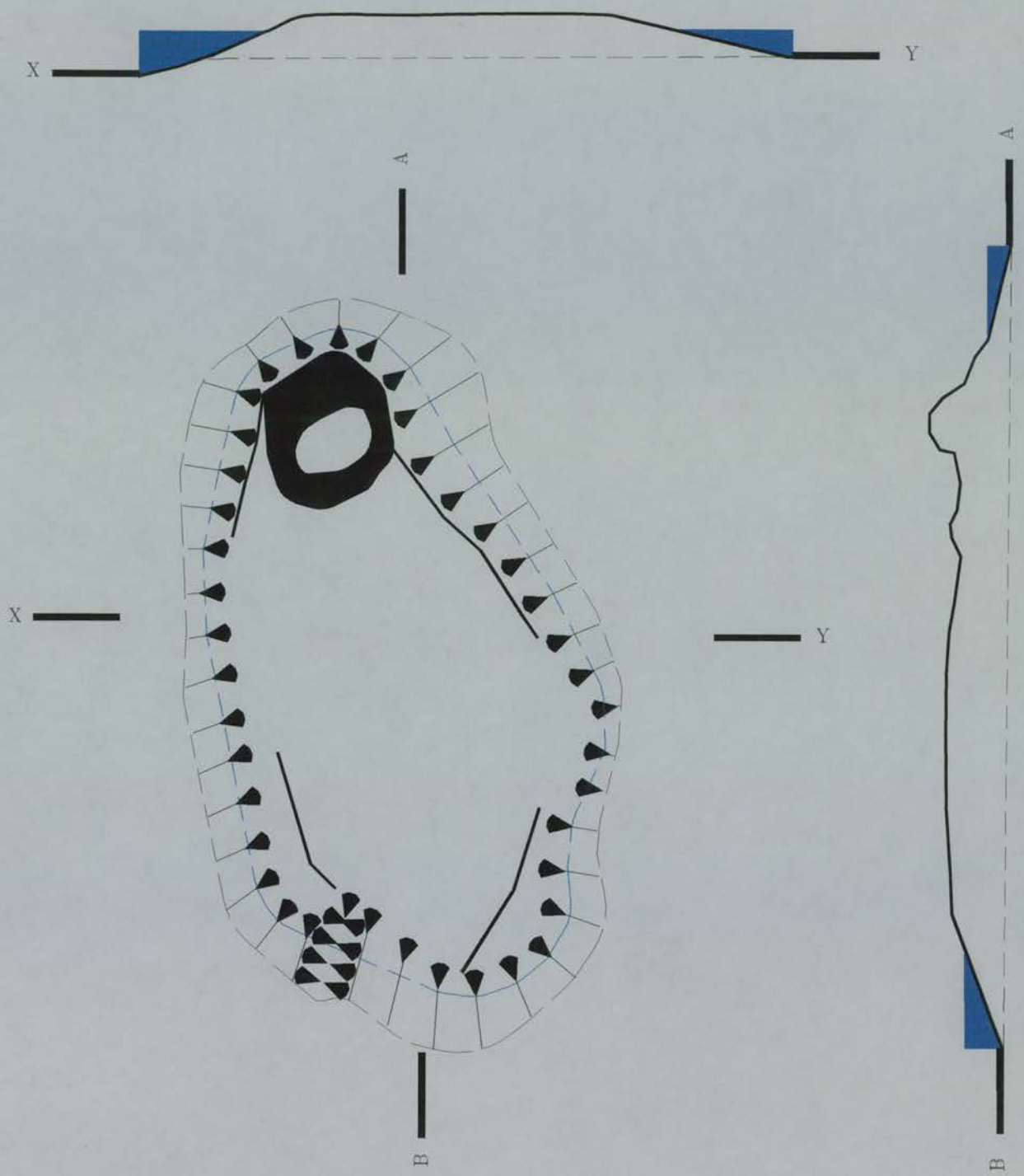
be more characteristic of a dun than an artificial islet. The Ordnance Survey first edition map of the area contradicts the Tobermory letter and shows the loch to be roughly the same size as it is today. Indeed, Monro, also indicated that the site was located in a loch (Monro 1549, 498).

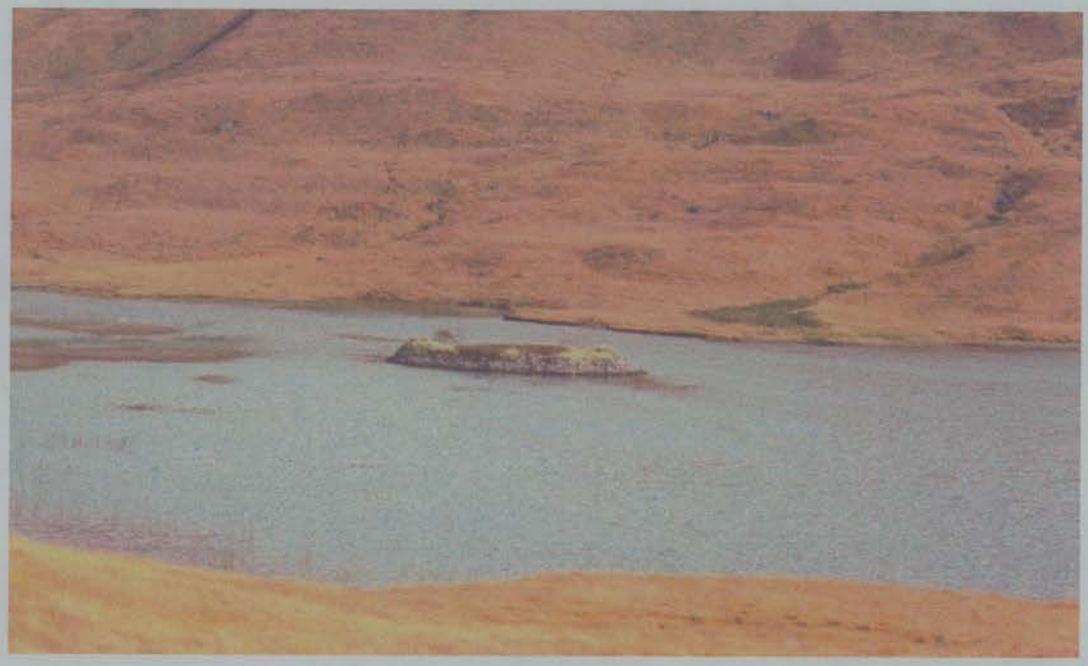
Despite Hannan's insistence that the site was inhabited throughout antiquity, Loch Sguabain is located in one of the most uninhabitable landscapes on Mull. All the land within 2km of the loch is covered by peat-bog or heathland and has been since the Neolithic (Walker and Lowe 1985). The nearest arable soils are located 4.7km to the E near the shores of Loch Spelve. The high altitude, exposed position, and cold wet climate would have further limited the attractiveness of this area for settlement.

This site is the only one in the study area which suffers from such severe environmental constraints. It leads one to speculate that the forces which led to its construction and habitation must have been unusual, as compared to the other artificial islets in the study area.

Site Surveyed: March 7, 1994

Caisteal Eoghainn a' Chinn Bhig





Caisteal Eoghainn a'Chinn Bhig
Looking East

Gruline, Loch Ba NM 513 392

New site - Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first suspected to be an artificial islet by Mr. Melles of Gruline House and was listed as a possible crannog in the Argyll County Council's List of Ancient and Historic Monuments of 1915. The RCAHMS visited the site in 1972 describing it as, "a submerged, circular pile of stones, about 12m in diameter and 2m in height, located 20m from shore" (RCAHMS Card NM 53 NE 5). A causeway was suspected to link the site to the N shore of Loch Ba. The site was not included in the RCAHMS Inventory for Mull.

Local Geography - Loch Ba is Mull's second largest loch, measuring 4.6km NW-SE by 0.8km NE-SW and has a shoreline of 12.3km. The loch covers an area of 31km^2 and has a maximum depth of 144ft (Murray and Pullar 1910). The depth and consistency of the lochbed varies from area to area throughout the loch. Near the artificial islet, the lochbed appears to consist of gravel which is covered with 40cm of silt (however only a cursory examination was made - see below). The water visibility in this section of the loch was good and extended to 7m. Loch Ba is drained from its NW end by the river Ba which empties into the sea 1.2km to the NW. The loch is fed by the Clachaig and Glencannel Rivers and a plethora of small mountain streams.

The majority of the land surrounding the loch is dominated by the peaks of the Ben More mountain group. The E and W edges of Loch Ba are bordered by steep mountains which rise to heights of over 300m. Mountains also enclose the level river valleys which protrude from the W and S sides of the loch. These mountains prevent easy access to the loch from any direction other than N. Level areas suitable for agriculture exist to the S, SW and extensively to the N. These flat areas are well-drained and conform with the river valleys which feed and drain the loch. The land area immediately adjacent to the artificial islet is a level, well-drained plain which is covered with soils which will support arable agriculture. This area was under cultivation at the time of survey and has been intensively farmed throughout the

historic period. All of the land between the N end of the loch and the sea is also fairly level and covered by good arable soils.

Site Description - *Note: The land owner who controlled the shore nearest to the site, directly in front of Gruline House (Loch Ba) denied the survey team access to this site. However, with the aid of the landowner of the opposite side of the loch, a brief examination of the site was made under the cover of twilight. Therefore, all of the measurements quoted here are approximate, as there was no way to adequately measure the site without being observed upon the water's surface.

This artificial islet is located approximately 30m from the N shore of Loch Ba near Gruline House. The water surrounding the islet is between 1.5m and 2m in depth and reaches a maximum depth of 2.3m between the site and the shore. The site is built upon, what appears to be, a gravel ridge which rises 1m above the surrounding lochbed. No evidence for a causeway, previously noted by the RCAHMS, was found.

The artificial islet is a circular-shaped mound of loose stone, which measures roughly 15m in diameter at its base. The stone mound is composed of 50% large boulders, too big for a man to lift, and 50% medium-sized stone which ranges greatly in size and shape. The summit of the stone mound is crowned by a circular-shaped platform, of undetermined size and shape. The outside edge of this platform appeared to be located approximately 2m above the base of the site and 1m below the water-level at the time of survey. Several circuits were made of the site but no walling or timbers were found.

Discussion - It is unfortunate that access to this site was denied. The site is certainly artificial and is worthy of survey. As only a cursory examination in low light conditions was possible, it would be overly speculative to comment on any of the site's structural features.

Site Examined: March 12, 1994

See: Holley DES 1994: 60

Knock, Loch Ba NM 554 389

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This artificial island was first mentioned by Sir Donald Monro who wrote in 1549 that there was a place of 'inhabited strength' on an isle in "Lochebaa" (Monro 1549, 498). The site was next mentioned by Odo Blundell (1913, 290-291) who stated that, 'local sources indicated that there was an artificial island in Loch Ba'. However, he never visited the site himself. The site was suspected to be an artificial islet by Mr. Melles of Gruline House and was listed as a crannog in the Argyll County Council's List of Ancient and Historic Monuments of 1915. The RCAHMS surveyed the site in June 1973 and subsequently included it as a "crannog" in its Inventory of Mull (RCAHMS 1980 No.245). The crannog was described as, 'a circular, boulder-covered mound which measured 12m in diameter and stood 1.2m above the waters surface'(RCAHMS 1980 No.245).

Local Geography - Loch Ba is Mull's second largest loch, measuring 4.6km NW-SE by 0.8km NE-SW and has a shoreline of 12.3km. The loch covers an area of 31km^2 and has a maximum depth of 144ft (Murray and Pullar 1910). The depth and consistency of the lochbed varies from area to area throughout the loch. Near the artificial islet the lochbed consists of bedrock which is covered with 30cm of silt. The water visibility during the survey in this section of the loch was good and extended to 7m. The SW section of Loch Ba, near An Dubh Aird, contains a variety of natural features which the RCAHMS has described as possible crannog sites. These features are most likely to be glacial in origin and do not show any signs of human modification. Loch Ba is drained from its NW end by the river Ba which empties into the sea 1.2km to the NW. The loch is fed by the Clachaig and Glencannel Rivers and a plethora of small mountain streams.

Most of the land surrounding the loch is dominated by the peaks of the Ben More mountain group. The E and W edges of Loch Ba are bordered by steep mountains which rise to heights of over 300m. Mountains also enclose the level river

valleys which protrude from the W and S sides of the loch. These mountains prevent easy access to the loch from any direction other than N. Level areas suitable for agriculture exist to the S, SW and extensively to the N. These flat areas are well drained and conform with the river valleys which feed and drain the loch. The land area immediately adjacent to the artificial islet is a level, well-drained plain, which is covered with soils that will support arable agriculture. This area was under cultivation at the time of the survey and has been intensively farmed throughout the historic period. All of the land between the N end of the loch and the sea is also fairly level and covered by good arable soils.

Site Description - This artificial islet is located 90m from the W shore of Loch Ba, near Knock Farm. The water surrounding the islet is between 1.5m and 2m in depth and reaches a maximum depth of 5m between the site and the shore. The site is built upon what appears to be the end of a bedrock ridge which rises 3m above the surrounding lochbed. No evidence for a causeway was found and the depth of water surrounding the site excludes the practicality of one.

The artificial islet is an oval shaped mound of loose stone, which measures roughly 25m E-W by 30m N-S at its base. The base of the site is built directly on top of bedrock and was well defined and clearly visible at the time of survey. The stone mound is composed of 70% medium-sized stone and 30% large boulders, all of which are well-rounded. The summit of the stone mound is crowned by a circular-shaped platform, measuring 21m E-W by 23 N-S, which has a surface area of 379m^2. The outside edge of this platform is located 2m above the base of the site and 0.7m below the water-level at the time of the survey. Only a small 7m by 7m mound of stone breaks the water's surface and can be seen from shore. This discrepancy from the RCAHMS measurements shows that the water-level can fluctuate in Loch Ba from year to year, season to season. Several circuits were made of the site but no walling or timbers were found.

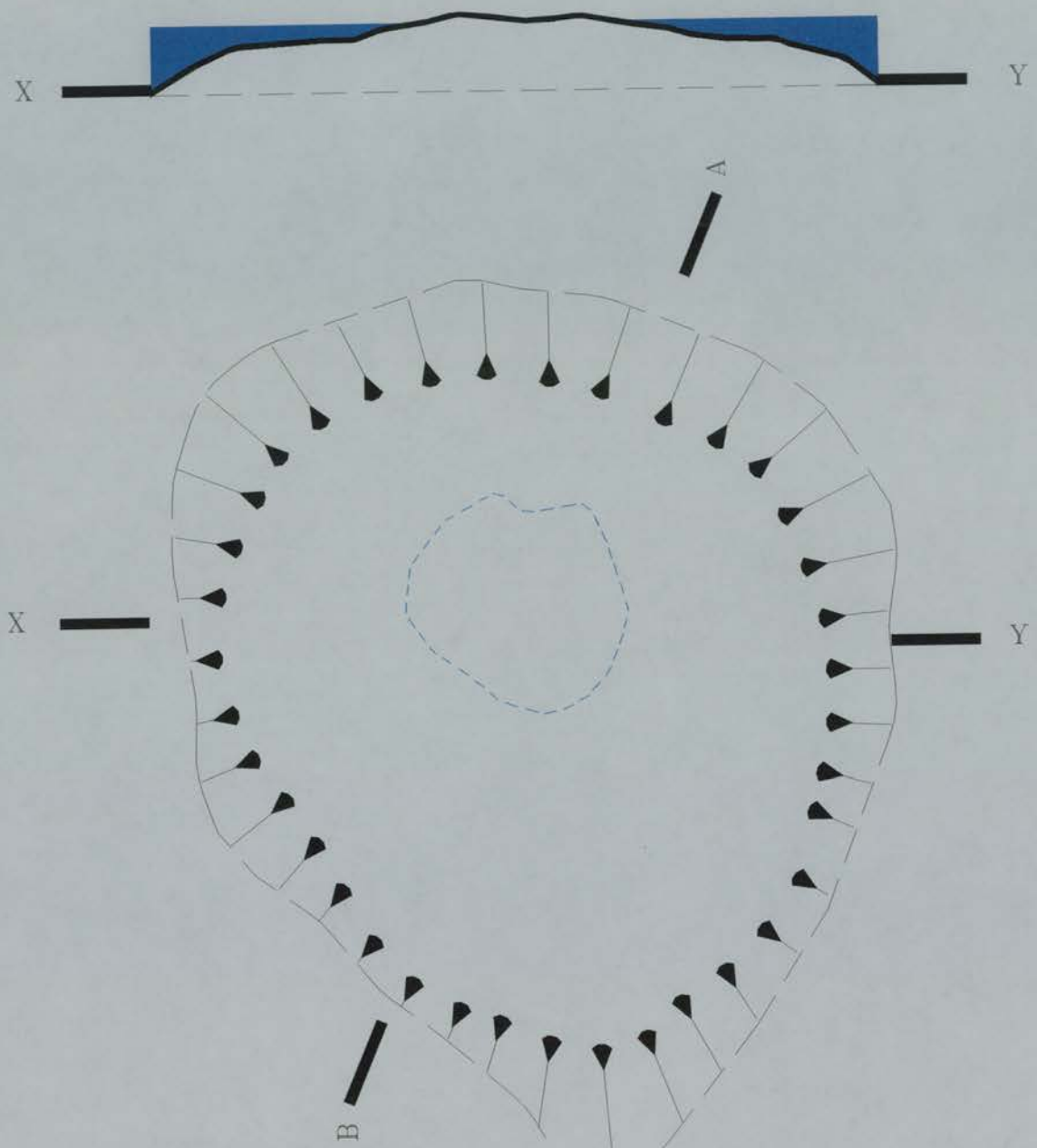
Discussion - The positioning of this artificial islet suggests that its builders found it desirable to be located in the N end of Loch Ba, possibly because the site could be

surrounded by deep water and close to arable land. Like most of the other artificial islets on Mull, Knock is located next to land which is covered with soils which will support arable agriculture. A map commissioned by the Duke of Argyll in 1770, indicates that the 30 acre field bordering the shoreline W of the site, was at that time used as arable land. Although land to the S and SW of Loch Ba is also potentially arable it is less well drained and receives a higher rate of precipitation. The SW section of Loch Ba contains at least three natural features which rise to within 1m of the water's surface. These features were of suitable size, shape and distance from shore, yet were not apparently exploited. Unlike the natural mounds in the SW section of the loch the Knock site is surrounded by deep 5m water. This indicates that the builders were deliberately choosing sites which could not be accessed from shore. The Knock site's distance from shore also adds to its inaccessibility and eliminates the possibility of a causeway. It seems unlikely that this isolation from shore is coincidental. Some may argue that the artificial islets builders were only capitalising on natural features where they were found to exist. If this was the case it would seem that the other features in the SW section loch which are closer to shore and more easily accessible would have been chosen for building sites before the knock site. Alternatively the Knock site could have been built in the N end of Loch Ba in order to control access to the loch, as the loch and its prime lands are only easily approached from the N.

Site Surveyed: March 12, 1995

See: Holley DES 1994: 60

Knock



Knock, Loch Ba
Looking East

Ledmore, Loch Frisa NM 515 469

New site - Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction -This site is located 80m off the E shore of Loch Frisa, in a small bay near Ledmore Farm. The site and has not previously been labelled as an artificial island unless it is one of the two (in an unnamed loch) referred to by Campbell (1870). The site is not included in the RCAHMS Inventory for Mull and has apparently never been investigated by the RCAHMS field surveyors, as there is no card for it in the RCAHMS card file. The site has probably remained undiscovered because so little of it is exposed above the water-level and it could, therefore, have been entirely covered by water when RCAHMS officers visited Mull, in the spring of 1976. The site does appear, however, on the Ordnance Survey first edition map (1878) and later maps as a small oval island.

Local Geography - This site is located in the S end of Loch Frisa, Mull's largest freshwater loch, which measures 7km NW-SE by 0.8km NE-SW, and covers an area of 43.5km². The loch is located 4km NW of Aros, near the centre of a glen which cuts across the N section of Mull between Aros and Dervaig. Loch Frisa is the deepest fresh-water loch on Mull (and in the study area), with a recorded depth of 93m (Murray and Pullar 1910). Both the water-depth and the consistency of the lochbed varies widely throughout the loch. An attribute particular to this loch is that large patches of bedrock rise up to within 1.5 meters of the water's surface. These patches are present in all sections of the loch and would have provided a variety of ideal building sites for artificial islets. The lochbed in the S end of the loch consists of gravel covered by approximately 30cm of sand. The water in this end is quite shallow, 2m-3m in depth, and extremely clear, allowing visibility that extended up to 3m at the time of survey. Loch Frisa is largely spring-fed and is extremely cold throughout the year. The loch is drained from its SE end by the River Aros which empties into the Sound of Mull, 4km to the SE.

Much of the land which surrounds the S end of Loch Frisa, is now owned by the Forestry Commission and is currently covered by pine trees. The soils which surround the loch are capable of supporting arable agriculture but those areas not covered by trees are currently being used as grazings. Loch Frisa is bordered on the E and W by rolling hills which slant down gently to the loch's edge and serve to aid the drainage of nearby soils. Peat cuttings and lazy beds are clearly visible in the hills 0.5km SW of the loch near Tenga Farm.

Site Description - This site is located 80m from the E shore of Loch Frisa, in a small bay near Ledmore Farm. The water surrounding the islet is between 1.5m and 2m in depth and reaches a maximum depth of 2m between the site and shore. The lochbed which surrounds the site consists of gravel which has been covered with 20cm of sandy silt. The base of the site is clearly visible and well defined. No evidence for a causeway has been found and the firmness of the lochbed excludes the possibility that one has sank into the sediments.

The site, which is proposed to be a artificial islet, is an irregularly shaped mound of loose stone, which measures roughly 22m by 24m at its base. The stone which comprises the mound is uniformly medium in size, well rounded, and could have only been transported to the site through human action. No extreme variations in size, such as large boulders, were noted. The stone cover of the islet breaks at a sharp 20° angle with the surrounding lochbed and rises steeply to form a fairly level, oval-shaped platform, which measures 10m by 12m. At the time of survey, the edge of this platform stood 2m above the surrounding lochbed and was 0.2m below the water-line. The only part of the site visible from the shore was a small, 5m by 6m hump, located near the middle of the upper platform. No walling or other diagnostic features were found on the upper platform.

A piece of timber was found projecting into the loch on the S side of the site near the bottom of the stone spread. The visible portion of the timber is 4 cm in diameter, 0.5 m in length, and is firmly embedded into the base of the rubble. The position of the timber indicates that it may be a structural component of the artificial islet and it is unlikely that it is driftwood, or that it was put there before the

surrounding stone. The timber has been sampled, identified as oak, and submitted for radio-carbon dating. A surprising determination of 700±50 b.p. (Beta-78833), calibrated at 2σ to AD 1250-1395, has been returned (Holley and Ralston 1995).

Discussion - This site is one of the few in the study area which can be firmly dated. Although there are undoubtedly risks in drawing conclusions from a single date, it is reasonable to assume that the radio-carbon date represents at least one phase of activity on the site. The positioning of the timber near the bottom of the stone spread suggests that it represents one of the primary phases of activity. The Ledmore date is currently the most recent isotopic determination for a crannog in Scotland and is only the second to have been made, the other being from Lochrutton (Dumfries and Galloway Region; Barber and Crone 1993: table 1), which dates constructional timber from this type of site to the medieval period (Holley and Ralston 1995).

The positioning of the Ledmore site in the loch, is substantially different to that of the later prehistoric site of Eilean Ban (P. 6), which is located 3.5km NW from the W side of Loch Frisa. The Ledmore site is situated at the end of the loch, twice as far from the shore, and is in relatively shallow water. This may imply that the needs of the builders of artificial islets were changing over the course of time. Access seems to have been less important at the Ledmore site and defence less of a consideration.

As Morrison (1985, 74) has noted of the crannogs in Loch Awe, on the mainland of Scotland, the Ledmore site is located next to relatively level ground, which is well drained and has soils which will support arable agriculture. A map commissioned by the Duke of Argyll in 1770 (held in the Royal Map Library, Edinburgh) shows that the 15 acre field directly N of the artificial islet was cultivated at that time. Other fields surrounding Ledmore Farm were also described as arable. This map clearly establishes the fact that the field-systems surrounding the artificial islet once had agricultural potential which could have been exploited by the artificial islet builders.

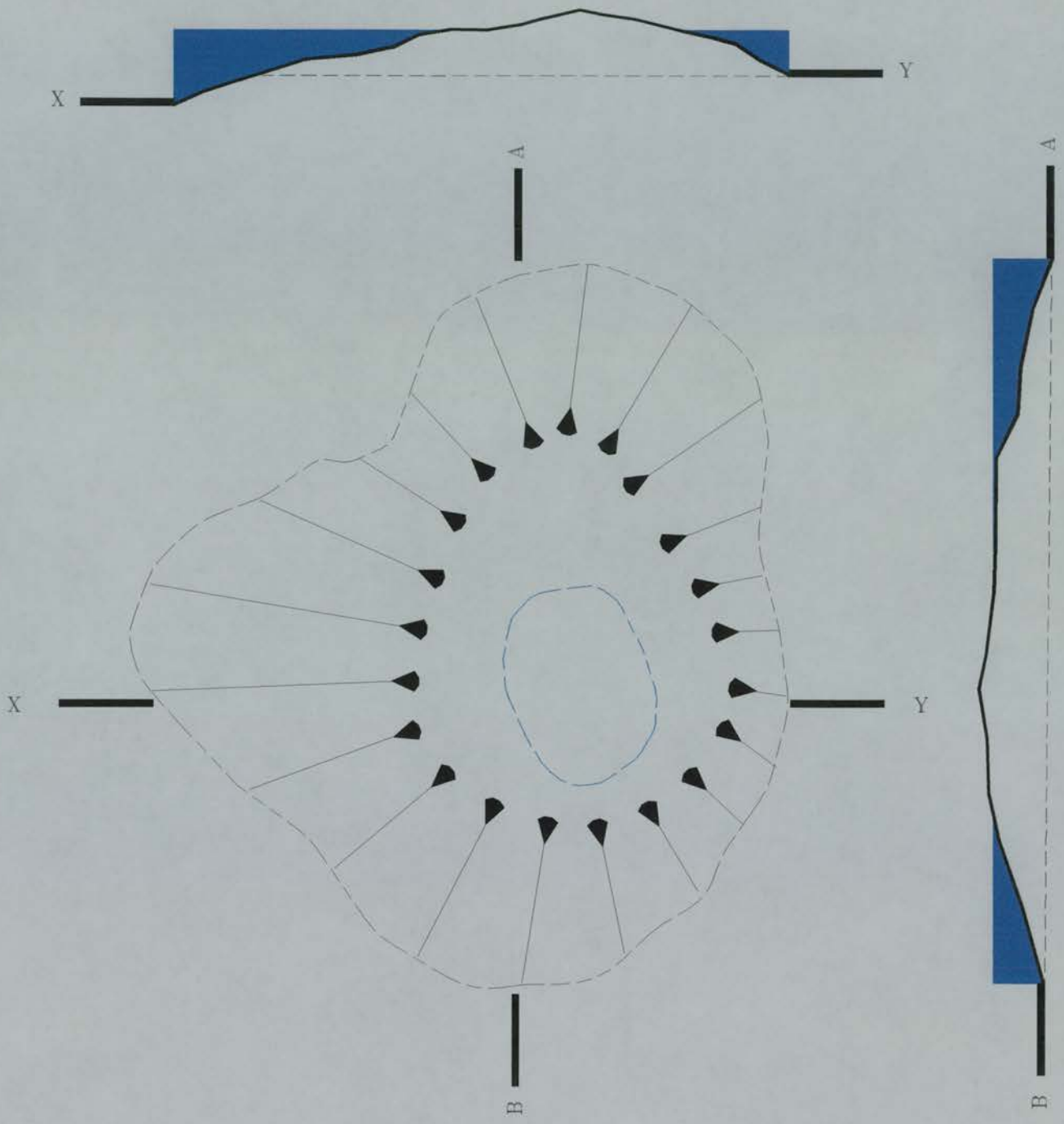
Before the Highland Clearances decimated Mull of 50% of its population (MacCormick 1923, 204; Macnab 1995, 67), there were eight other farming settlements, of various sizes similar to Ledmore, around the edges of Loch Frisa (M.

Douglass *pers. comm.* 1995). In the series of maps commissioned by the Duke of Argyll in 1770, over 200 acres on the E shore of Loch Frisa were considered arable. Other areas surrounding the loch, such as Tenga Farm, were also considered good pasture land.

Site Surveyed: March 11, 1994

See: Holley DES 1994: 57

Ledmore



Ledmore
Looking South West

Loch na Meal NM 518 527

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - The artificial islets of Mull were first brought to public notice in 1870 by Mr. F. Campbell who discovered an artificial islet after draining a loch located 1 mile S of the village of Tobermory. In The Proceedings of The Society of Antiquaries (Campbell 1870) Mr. Campbell wrote that, upon draining Loch na Meal for farming purposes, he discovered what he described as, "one of the artificial islands which are found in almost all the lochs of Mull" (*ibid.*). Mr. Campbell notes that Loch na Meal was fifty acres in size, about six feet deep and had a bed of mud several feet deep. The crannog was described as, "a quantity of loose stones which sat on the only rock near the surface of the loch" (*ibid.*). Campbell also found what he described as "a stone causeway laid upon oak trees" (*ibid.*). This feature, which was also 4 feet below the surface of the mud, ran directly from the former shore to the island (Campbell 1870; MacLean 1923, 115; Mac Cormick 1923, 14).

In order to aid the draining of the loch, ditches were dug around the perimeter. It was during this operation that a dugout log canoe was discovered between the artificial island and the shore. The canoe was located 4 feet under the surface of the mud and appeared to be made of black oak. It measured 17 feet in length, 3.5 feet in width, and was described as, "being quite fresh and sound". Several other smaller canoes, along with 3 modern clinker-built boats, were also found near the surface of the mud but were not studied as they were in a half decayed state. Campbell submerged the dugout Canoe near the Tobermory pier in order to preserve it from cracking, but by 1883 it had disappeared (Campbell 1883).

The RCAHMS inspected the site in May 1974 and included it as a "crannog" in the Inventory for Mull (RCAHMS 1980, No. 251) The crannog was described as, "a partly grass-covered mound of boulders, roughly oval on plan and measuring approximately 14m from NW to SE by 9m transversely and about 1m high" (RCAHMS 1980, No. 251). The site surveyor noted that the mound of stone was crowned by "a near circular level area measuring 6.8m NW-SE by 6.0m, delimited

by intermittent paving stones" (RCAHMS card file NM 55 SW 2), thought to be the remains of a dwelling. This upper platform was surrounded by a lower "level platform on average 1.4m in width and up to 1.0m high, faced with rough coursing and vertical slabs" (RCAHMS card file NM 55 SW 2). The SE portion of the lower platform diverged from the dwelling to form a projection 0.7m high and 1.5m wide, thought to be the remains of a jetty.

Local Geography - Loch na Meal is located 2km SE of Tobermory amid the stepped hills which dominate northern Mull. The loch was formerly oval in shape, with its long axis oriented N-S, and covered an area of approximately 50 acres (Campbell 1870). As mentioned above, the loch was drained prior to 1870, and is now approximately 1/10th its previous size. At the time the loch was drained, the water was least 5m deep and the lochbed was covered with at least 2m of mud. Loch na Meal was formerly drained from its N end by a small stream, named the Abhuinn Loch nam Miol, which emptied into the Aros Burn and eventually the Sound of Mull 1km to the N.

The landscape surrounding Loch na Meal has been radically altered since this site was occupied. After the loch was drained, Campbell notes that it was dredged and used as a hay meadow (1870). When the RCAHMS visited the site in 1974 blanket-peat bog had developed over much of the area. Shortly after this, the estate was acquired by the Forestry Commission and planted with pine trees. At the time of survey, all the land within 1km of the site was covered with a mature pine forest. The activities of the last hundred years have radically altered the nature and composition of the local soils and destroyed any evidence of ancient field-systems. In light of such disturbances, little can be said about the landscape which surrounded the artificial islet during its period of occupation.

Site Description - This artificial islet is located at the end of a bedrock outcrop (1.3m in height), above a section of boggy ground 200m NE of the present shoreline of Loch na Meal. No trace was found of the causeway previously mentioned by Campbell and it is unfortunate that he did not indicate from which direction it

accessed the site. The RCAHMS also failed to locate the causeway. It is probable that it has been destroyed, most likely by Campbell as he used the area to produce hay.

Although visible traces of the causeway have now been lost, another notable feature can still be observed, in the form of the bedrock outcrop upon which the artificial islet sits. This natural outcrop of bedrock rises 1m above the level of the surrounding marshland, is irregular in shape measuring 12m E-W by 43m N-S and extends from the SE side of the artificial islet for 28m. The surface of this outcrop is fairly level but slopes slightly to the SE.

Between the shore and the bedrock outcrop upon which the artificial islet sits, there exists another bedrock outcrop, larger than the first but roughly the same height. This outcrop is joined to the first by a bedrock ridge, 2m wide and 8m long, and bridges all but 10m of the distance between the E shore of the loch and the artificial islet. The surfaces of both the bedrock areas are covered with a mixture of grass and bracken (growing in no more than 5cm of soil) and exposed bedrock. No evidence of any man-made features, other than the artificial islet, were found on top of the bedrock areas.

This artificial islet is an oval-shaped mound of stone which rests directly on the bedrock and measures 14m E-W by 19m N-S at its base. The mound is made up of 80% medium-sized stone and 20% large boulders. Stone of this size range can still be found lying loose in the local area. Roughly half of the stone was noted to be angular in shape, which would have made stacking easier. The centre of the mound is crowned by a roughly level, oval-shaped platform which was covered with grass at the time of the survey. This platform measures 6m E-W by 12m N-S, and stands 1.0m above the surrounding bedrock. A facing of "rough coursing and vertical slabs" noted by the RCAHMS to enclose the upper platform, was not found during the survey. Instead the platform was edged with sloping areas of stone tumble.

Two spreads of small, loose stone are attached to the base of the artificial islet. The first is located on W side of the site, facing what would have been open water. This platform is located 0.83m below the level of the upper platform and is roughly circular in shape, measuring 4.5m in diameter, and covering 16m^2. The second

platform can be found projecting from the SE quadrant of the artificial islet. This platform is roughly level with the first and has an hour-glass shape which covers 15m².

The remains of two short sections of dry stone-walling are located at the back of this platform where it is joined to the SE edge of the artificial islet. The E section of this walling is five courses high (0.5m), and runs in a straight line for 1.8m. Stone tumble covers each end of this walling and it is likely that it continues in each direction. The W section of the walling stands three courses high (0.4m) and is 1.6m long. This walling is shaped like an outward facing arc and intrudes into the stone mound to the base of the upper platform. A minimal shifting of the stone tumble shows that the two sections of walling are connected and that they continue down into the stone tumble for at least 0.5m.

Discussion - This site displays a range of features which makes it unique among the artificial islets in the study area. Mr. Campbell's account of the causeway suggests that it was different in nature to causeways which have been found associated with the crannogs on the mainland of Scotland. The Loch na Meal causeway was described as, "loose stone laid upon oak trees" (Campbell 1870). This implies that the causeway was not free standing or supported by piles driven into the loch bed, as is the case at Oakbank, Loch Tay (Dixon 1982) and Milton Loch, Kirkcudbrightshire, (Piggott 1953), but instead was a solid mass of material deposited directly onto the lochbed. The oak trees were presumably laid horizontally in order to distribute the weight of the stones across a wide section of the lochbed. This would have preventing the stones from sinking into what Campbell referred to as, "a great depth of mud" (Campbell 1870). All the causeways which access other artificial islets in the study area are also composed of stone.

A certain degree of speculation is called for when considering the relationship between the bedrock platforms and the artificial islet. Due to the uncertainty of the water-level, it is not known whether the bedrock platforms were covered by water when the artificial islet was in use. In the case of either contingency, they could have served a purpose to the builders of the site. If the surfaces of the bedrock platforms

were above water, they would have provided 900m² of useable space which could have been exploited. Such a large area would have been ideal for activities which required some degree of security, such as storing animals. However, if the surfaces of the platforms were beneath the water-level, they would have provided a subsurface walkway to the shore. It is unclear from the account given by Campbell exactly where the causeway existed, but the two bedrock areas would have provided an ideal surface upon which to build.

The positioning of the artificial islet upon these bedrock platforms is quite singular. It appears that the builders placed the artificial islet at the end of the succession of bedrock outcrops, where it would be next to deep water and as far from shore as possible. This positioning suggests that the builders knew the layout of the bedrock outcrops and fuels speculation that the outcrops were dry.

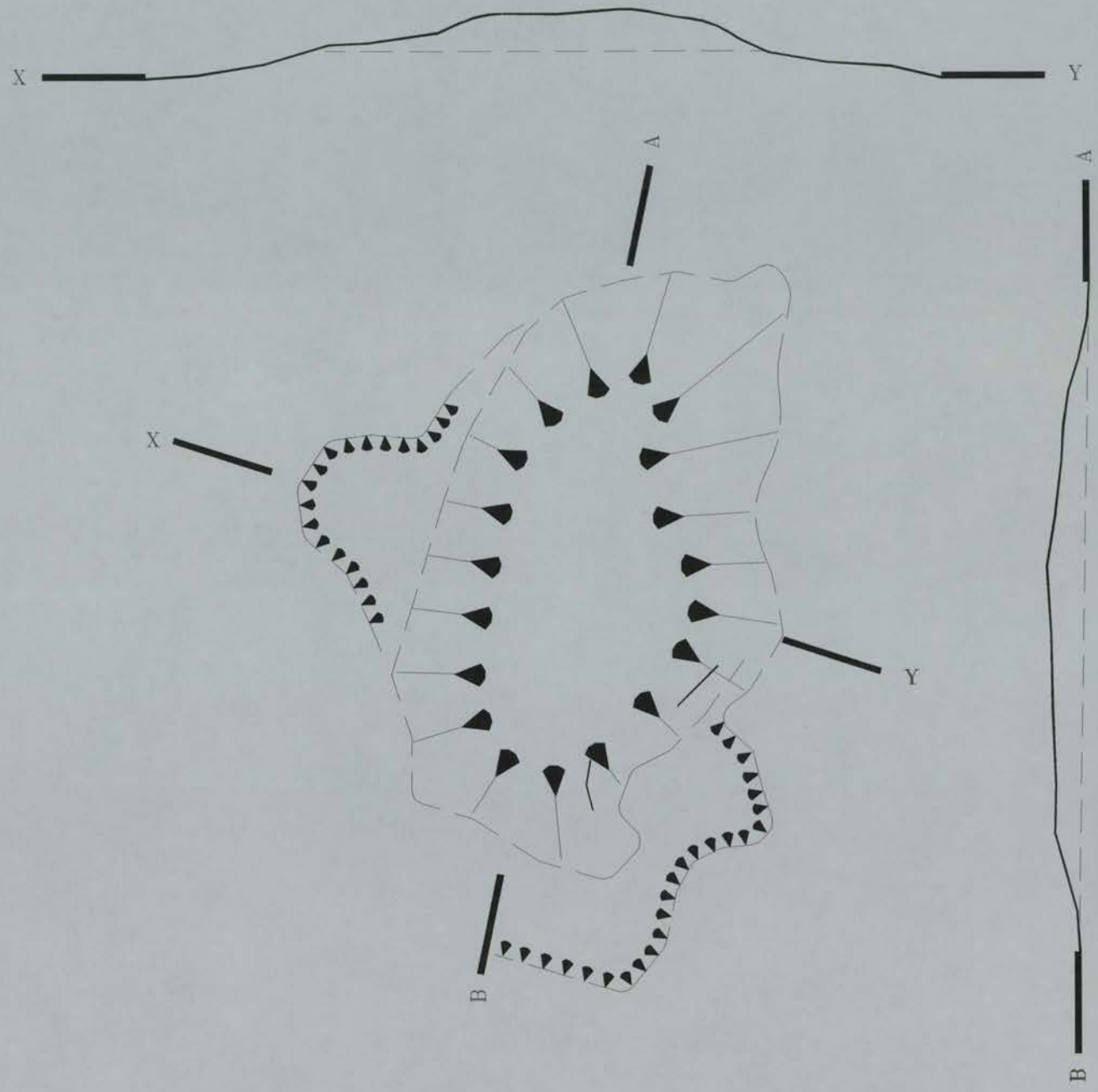
Another clue indicating that these platforms may have been dry, can be found 3m from the junction of the bedrock platforms, 35m S of the artificial islet, where there is what appears to be a stone pier or dock. This feature measures 1m in width by 5m in length and slopes down into the marsh to the SW, towards where open water would have been. The pier stands 0.2m high and its surface is located a vertical distance of 0.157m below the bottom of the artificial islet. The pier is constructed of angular-shaped stone which has been tightly fitted together to form a level, even surface and sides. This feature is not the remains of a field-wall, as it terminates at a definite vertical end and it is unlikely to be a post-drainage disturbance. Although the pier's relationship to the artificial islet is uncertain, if we assume that the top of the pier was above water-level, the large bedrock platforms which were just discussed would have also been.

The two stone platforms which edge the W and SE sides of the artificial islet are unique features in this study area and may indicate multiple phases of activity on the site. It seems likely that the platforms served a specific purpose or were perhaps a part of the artificial islet's working area, as they appear to have been deliberately built. If this is the case the platforms would have added 31m² of useable area to the artificial islet. However, for these platforms to be dry, the water-level would have had to have been at least 1m below the top of the artificial islet's upper platform. It

may be that the platforms are the remains of an earlier occupation which has been covered by the present stone mound. The outwards facing walling which backs the SE platform may be part of a circular structure, the base of which the stone tumble obscures. Radial structures such as this have been found projecting from beneath the artificial islets of the Western Isles, notably Dun Bhaarabhat on Lewis (Harding and Armit 1990), and have been interpreted as representing earlier phases of occupation. In this case, excavation would be needed to determine if the walling was associated with the upper platform or represents an earlier phase of occupation.

Site Surveyed: March 10, 1994

Loch na Meal



Loch na Meal
Looking East

Loch Poit na h-I NM 313 231

"Possible" artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - The site in Loch Poit na h-I was first brought to notice by Odo Blundell (1913) who published a letter from McCormick labelling the site as an "artificial island", and describing it as "an accumulation of boulders very slightly above the surface of the water, overgrown with brush" (1913, 291). Macnab also notes the site as a "crannog" (1970, 63) in his description of Mull.

The RCAHMS visited the site in May 1975 and included it as a "possible crannog" in the Inventory for Mull (RCAHMS 1980 No.252). The site was described as, "a stony islet which appears to be at least partly artificial in origin. Roughly oval in shape the islet appears to consist of a mass of rounded granite boulders measuring approximately 13m by 11m" (*ibid.*). The site surveyor did not note any built walling, exposed timbers, or evidence of a causeway (RCAHMS Card NM 32 SW 13).

Local Geography - Loch Poit na h-I is located near the W end of the Ross of Mull, 1km E of the Iona ferry and village of Fionnphort. The loch has a shoreline of 3.4km and measures roughly 1.2km N-S by 0.3km E-W. The water-level throughout the loch ranges between 1.5m and 2m in depth. The lochbed is a mixture of 90% heavy silt and 10% degraded granite. The silted sections of the lochbed are soft and are a minimum of 1.5m in depth. These sediments reduce visibility in the loch to under 0.4m, and are stirred up quite easily. In contrast, the sections of decayed granite are firm enough to support a large person. Loch Poit na h-I is drained from its S end by a small peat-choked stream which empties into the Atlantic Ocean 1km to the SW.

The land immediately surrounding Loch Poit na h-I is covered with a mixture of blanket peat-bog and soils which will support cereals and prime grazing. The soils in the local area are fairly thin and are underlain by granite bedrock which juts up into the landscape in large irregular rises. In the NE section of the loch these rises form three natural islands. Although peat-bog has spread across much of the

landscape, evidence of previous cultivation can be found in the pasture lands directly N of the loch in the form of lazy beds.

Site Description - This artificial islet is located 65m from the N shore of Loch Poit na h-I near Achaban House. The water surrounding the site was between 1m and 1.5m in depth, at the time of survey, which allowed the site to be accessed by wading from the shore. The lochbed surrounding the site was heavily silted and very soft. No evidence was found to indicate that the site was serviced by a causeway.

The artificial islet is a circular mound of well-rounded, water-worn, granite stones measuring 19m by 19m at its base. This mound of stone sits atop a talus of decayed granite which breaks at a 15° angle with the surrounding silty loch-bed and extends the radius of the artificial islet's base by an average width of 3m. The stone which composes the mound is uniformly medium-sized and well-rounded. Much of the stone is severely decayed and appears to be eroding. This is probably the reason that the site appears to sit upon a base of decayed granite.

The edges of the stone mound rise 2m above the surrounding lochbed, to form a roughly circular platform measuring 12m in diameter. Most of this platform was above the water-level at the time of survey but was heavily vegetated and covered with turfs. No walling, timbers, or worked-stone were observed on the platform.

Discussion - This site has few features by which its function and chronology can be determined. The advanced decay of the granite stones covering the mound suggests that the site is older rather than newer, but any estimation of the age would be extremely speculative. There is little doubt that the site is artificial but whether it was a habitation or served some other purpose has yet to be determined. The site's position in the N end of the loch places it next to the fairly good, well-drained arable ground indicating that perhaps this was an important feature to the builders.

The positioning of this site is curious, as there is no clear motive for building an artificial islet in this end of Loch Poit na h-I. Three other natural bedrock islands are located just over 100m E of the site. These islets are surrounded by depths of

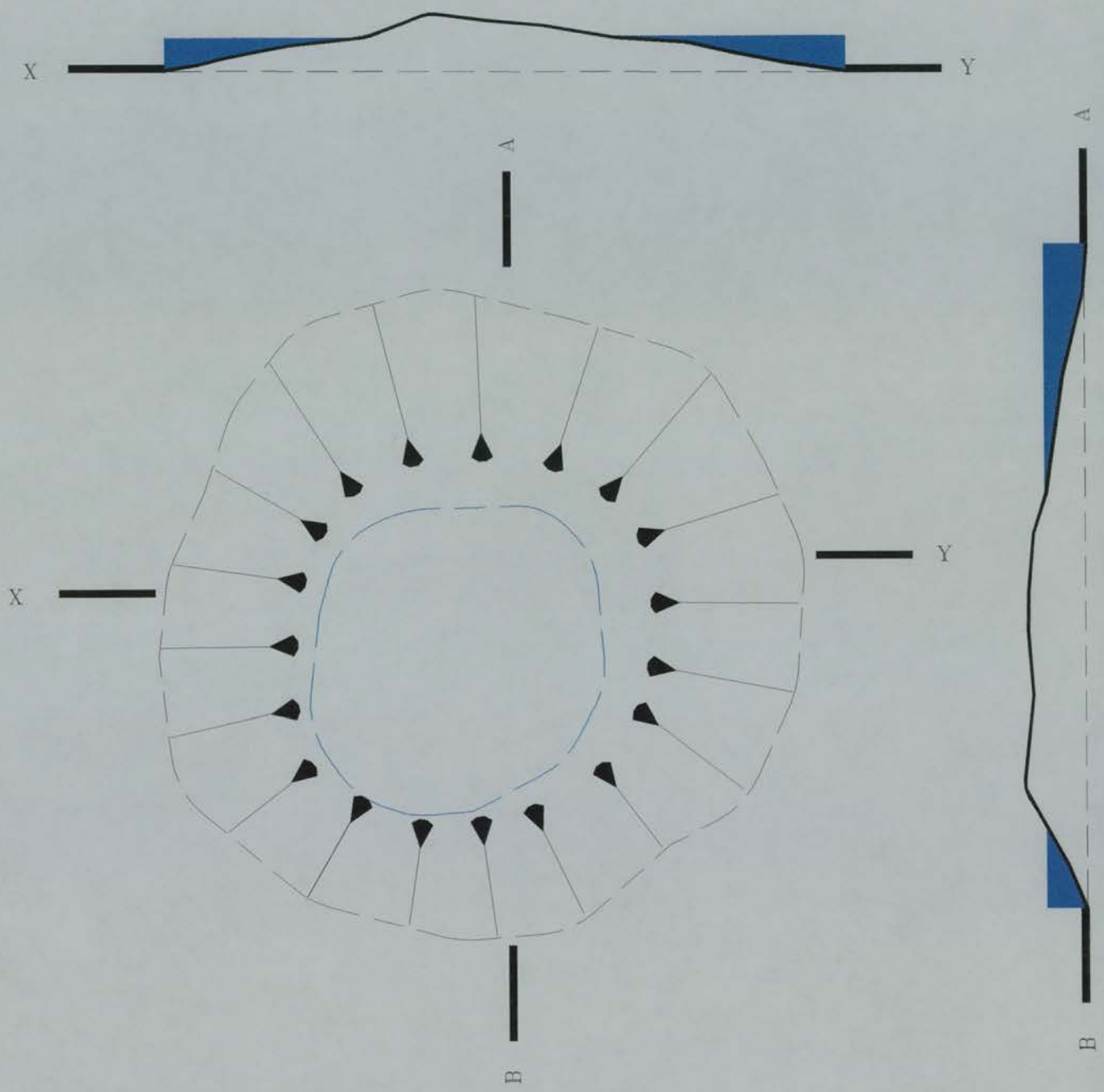
water identical to those found around the artificial islet and are located comparable distances from the shore. The surface areas of these islets are between 4 and 6 times larger than that of the upper platform of this site, and they are located between 3m and 5m above the water-level. The upper platforms of these islets are heavily vegetated with heather and scrub brush and as a result no traces of human activity have been found. The eastern most of the three islets has the appearance of being terraced. Terracing occurs naturally in the granite of this area and would have provided ideal settlement platforms which could easily have been built upon. Although these natural islets are slightly larger than the artificial islet, there does not appear to be any other reasons why they would not be utilised. It seems a pointless exercise to have built an artificial islet when such natural islets were located only 100m away. The construction of an artificial islet would have required substantial amounts of material to have been moved, merely to raise a platform above water-level. Such a large outlay of energy seems unnecessary and leads one to speculate that the other natural islets may have already been inhabited.

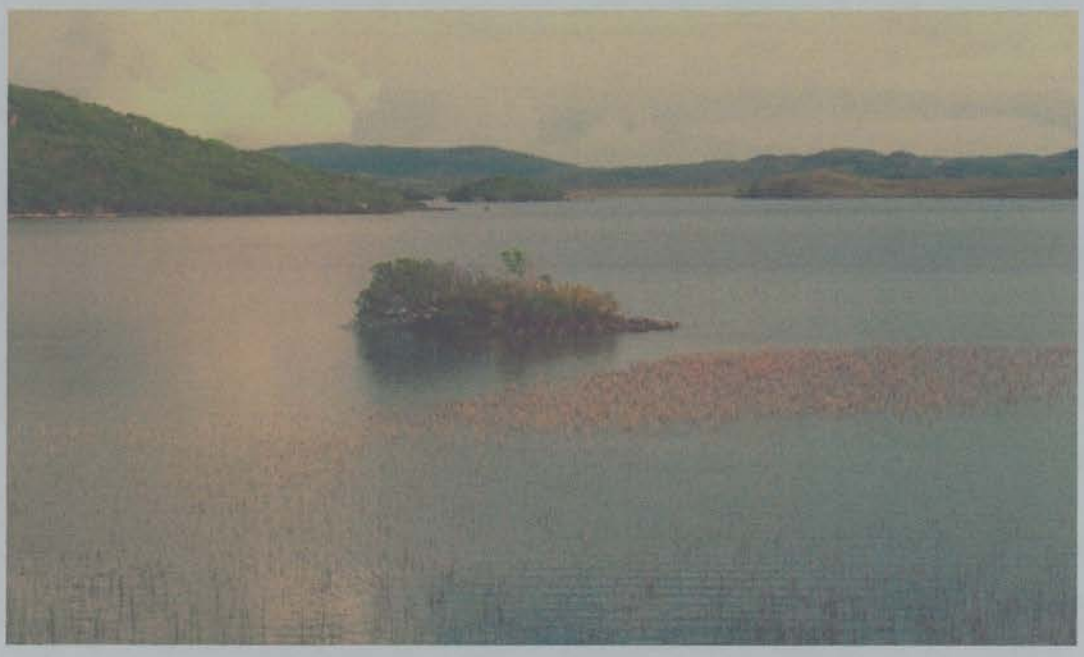
Alternatively, the artificial islet may have been constructed to serve some special purpose which the natural islets could not. Armit has suggested that artificial islets were constructed in the Western Isles in order to, "structure the landscape and stamp a human imprint on it" (Armit 1996, 54). The construction of the islets brought communities together giving them a group identity, a feeling of ownership and a sense of place. Most of all, the creation of artificial islets could have demonstrated man's control over nature and symbolised the separation of culture and the natural world. In this context, the natural islets would not have suited the builders' purposes.

Site Surveyed: June 27, 1994

See: Holley DES 1994: 52-53

Poit na h-I





Loch Piot na h-I
Looking South

An Dubh Aird, Loch Ba NM 5804 3677

"Possible" Artificial islet - discounted

Introduction - This site was first noted to be a natural feature by the Duke of Argyll, who in Blundell's "*Artificial Islands in Highland Areas*" records that, "there are one or two (artificial islets) underwater off this low shore at the foot of Glen Clachaig, but these may be mere mounds of stone at the foot of some old glacier" (1913, 290-291). This site was suspected to be a submerged artificial islet by Mr. E. Mather, formerly of Gruline House. The RCAHMS visited loch Ba in 1973 but only noted that this position was, "believed locally to be the site of a sunken artificial island" (RCAHMS Card NM 53 NE 2). The site was not included as a "crannog" in the RCAHMS Inventory for Mull, however the possibility of its existence is noted (RCAHMS 1980, No. 245).

Field Search - An extensive search, 300m in radius, employing both divers and echo-sounding equipment, was made in this section of the loch but no evidence was found which indicated the existence of an artificial islet. The water in this section of the loch ranged between 1.5m and 2.5m in depth and was fairly clear with visibility extending up to 8m. The lochbed is a fairly uniform plain and consists of gravel covered with light silt.

A large natural mound of heavy clay and gravel, perhaps 30m in diameter, was discovered 60m SE off the centre of An Dubh Aird point, on the W shore of Loch Ba. The mound rises gradually from the lochbed to within 1m of the water-level but does not appear to have a definable shape and no large stones, timbers or other man-made alterations are notable. The feature has a smooth curvature to it and no distinct platforms are identifiable. This is the only such feature found near An Dubh Aird and is assumed to be the "sunken artificial island" noted by the RCAHMS.

This site has been ruled out as a possible crannog because it does not show any evidence of human modification. Although the feature is heavily silted, the silt

was probed and no stone found. Additionally the site does not have a coherent shape and is surrounded by shallow water. As previously suggested by the Duke of Argyll the site is probably a natural glacial feature, and many such humps can be seen on the nearby shoreline.

Site Inspected - March 14, 1994; October 20, 1994

Coill an Duidh-aird, Loch Ba NM 5823 3655

"Possible" Artificial islet - discounted

Introduction - This site was first noted to be a natural feature by the Duke of Argyll, who in Blundell's "*Artificial Islands in Highland Areas*" records that, "there are one or two (artificial islets) underwater off this low shore at the foot of Glen Clachaig, but these may be mere mounds of stone at the foot of some old glacier" (1913, 290-291). This feature was not previously suspected to be an artificial islet and was not recorded by the RCAHMS.

Field Search - This feature was discovered by divers 70m off Coill an Duidh-aird on the W shore of Loch Ba while searching for An Dubh Aird. The water in this section of the loch ranged between 2m and 3m in depth and was fairly clear with visibility extending up to 8m. The lochbed is a fairly uniform plain and consists of sandy clay and silt.

The feature consists of a haphazard spread of large and medium sized , well-rounded stone which covers an area approximately circular in shape, measuring between 10m and 15m in diameter. The mound is extremely broken up and has no obvious ridges or platforms. Only a single layer of stone was observed which it does not appear to extend down into the lochbed and is not mounded to form an island. The surface of this feature is located 1.5m below the water-level is was extremely uneven. No evidence of a causeway was noted.

This site has been ruled out as a possible crannog because it does not show any evidence of human modification. The stone covering the feature is large and extremely broken up and does not appear to have any coherent shape or to be purposely built up. This feature had neither the form or solidity of structure found on the other artificial islets of Mull and as the Duke of Argyll has previously suggested, it is probably glacial in origin.

Site Inspected - March 14, 1994; October 20, 1994

Glac nan Ramh, Loch Ba NM 563 392

"Possible" Artificial islet - discounted

Introduction - This site was first suspected to be a submerged artificial islet by Mr. E. Mather, formerly of Gruline House. The RCAHMS visited loch Ba in 1973 but only noted that this position was, "believed locally to be the site of a sunken artificial island" (RCAHMS Card NM 53 NE 3). The site was not included as a "crannog" in the RCAHMS Inventory for Mull, however the possibility of its existence is noted (RCAHMS 1980, No. 245).

Field Search - An extensive search, 300m in radius, employing both divers and echo sounding equipment, was made in this section of the loch but no evidence was found which indicated the existence of an artificial islet. The water in this section of the loch ranged between 1.5m and 2.5m in depth and was very clear with visibility extending up to 10m during the survey. The lochbed is a fairly uniform plain and consists of gravel covered with light silt. No unnatural or steep sided profiles are evident.

Site Inspected - March 11, 1994

Knockantivore, Loch Ba NM 5735 3710

"Potential" Artificial islet – discounted

Introduction: This site appears on vertical aerial photographs (21-5-59 B471, Nos. F22 0325-0334,0261-0256 West Sortie No. 58/2875) held at the RCAHMS. These photographs show a clearly defined feature which conforms with the standard size, shape and distance from shore of other crannogs on Mull. The site had not been mentioned in previous literature and does not appear on the RCAHMS 1:10000 maps or card file.

Field Search - An extensive search, employing both divers and echo sounding equipment, was made in this section of the loch but no evidence was found which indicated the existence of an artificial islet. The water in this section of the loch ranged between 1.5m and 2.5m in depth and was fairly clear, with visibility extending up to 8m. The lochbed is a fairly uniform plain and consists of gravel covered with light silt.

This feature in question is located 50m due N of the shoreline in front of the ruins of Knockantivore and is an oval shaped mound of heavy silt, gravel and small stones which measures roughly 12m N-S by 16m E-W. The mound is roughly 3m in height with its top coming within 1m of the water's surface. No large stones, timbers or other man made alterations were noted. The feature has a smooth curvature to it and no distinct platforms were identified.

This site has been ruled out as a possible crannog because it did not show any evidence of human modification. It is a possibility that the feature could be the site of an entirely wooden crannog but no timbers were identified, even though several areas were probed. If timbers do exist, they are deep under the silt and it would require substantial excavation to find them. The feature is probably a natural glacial feature, and many other similar humps can be seen on the nearby shoreline.

Site Inspected - March 14, 1994; October 20, 1994

Loch Frisa NM 4640 5145

"Potential" Artificial islet - discounted

Introduction - MacQuarrie (1982, 19) notes that "Lake dwellings are numerous in the shallow waters at the northern head" of Loch Frisa. Three small unnamed islets are marked on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map (NM 45 SE) but these have not previously been suspected to be artificial islets and were not recorded by the RCAHMS as an antiquities.

Field Search - The north end of Loch Frisa was inspected by divers and other than a few natural banks of gravel, nothing resembling an artificial islet was noted. The islet marked on the OS map is natural and has had an earthen causeway built out to it in recent years. The islet has been enlarged to serve as a platform from which a fishfarm may be serviced and has been highly disturbed.

Site Inspected - July 19, 1994

Loch Poit na h-I #2 NM 3157 2227

"Potential" lake dwelling - discounted

Introduction - This site was first noted by Mac Cormick, who labelled and described it as, "the remains of a lake dwelling where, probably, some recluse had passed his days away from the haunts of men. Or, may it not be another example of structures which belong to Neolithic times?" (1923, 173). The RCAHMS has labelled this island as an "alleged lake-dwelling" and stated that it is not an antiquity (Card NM 32 SW 6).

Field Search - This rather large natural island is located 20m from the S shore of Loch Poit h-I. The water in this section of the loch ranged between 1.5m and 2.5m in depth and was very clouded with peat at the time of survey, reducing the visibility to only 0.5m. The lochbed is a fairly uniform plain and consists of heavy silt and peat which is covered with intermittent aquatic vegetation. A large section of peat has grown out from the E shore of the loch to within 5m of the island.

The suspect feature is a large, tree-covered, bedrock islet, measuring 120m N-S by 40m E-W at the water-line. The islet is entirely composed of bedrock and has not been artificially enlarged. A rectangular structure, measuring 2.5m by 6m stands on the E side of the islet. This structure may be the remains of a blackhouse and one end is partitioned by a stone wall. None of the stone is shaped. Local tradition holds that the building is a smithy. This islet is undoubtedly a natural feature and the remains on its surface are not likely to be older than the later medieval period.

Site Inspected - June 27, 1994

Loch Uisg NM 6265 2518

"Potential" Artificial islet - discounted

Introduction - This feature has not previously been suspected to be an artificial islet and was not recorded by the RCAHMS as an antiquity.

Field Search - This feature was discovered by divers 80m off the W shore of Loch Uisg. The water in this section of the loch ranges between 1.5m and 2.5m in depth and was very clear with visibility extending up to 15m during the survey. The lochbed is a fairly uniform plain and consists of heavy silt which is covered with aquatic vegetation.

The suspect feature is a small, tree-covered islet, perhaps 20m in diameter at the water-line. The islet is composed of small, angular-shaped, chipped or ground stone which has been deposited directly on the lochbed. This feature is likely to be an ornamental islet constructed sometime in the 19th C, as part of a manufactured landscape for Lochbuie House.

Site Inspected - July 18, 1994

The Artificial Islets of Coll

Loch an Duin NM 2128 5785

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first labelled an "Island Fort" by Beveridge (1903, 22) who believed it to be similar in character to the site in Loch Urbhaig. Beveridge described the site as being 'surrounded by walls which were particularly distinct in the south and east sections of the islet'. A causeway was found to run N from the site to a steep bedrock outcrop which it followed to a more accessible beach (Beveridge 1903, 22; Blundell 1913, 292).

The RCAHMS inspected the site in August of 1975 and described it as 'an ovoid islet measuring 20.1m by 14.3m'. They also observed the walling noted by Beveridge but attributed it as a 'duck-shooting hide of modern construction'. A causeway was confirmed to run N from the site and follow a bedrock outcrop to an accessible shore to the E (RCAHMS 1980, No. 242). The site surveyor's notes indicated that the islet was natural in origin and overgrown with peat and thick vegetation (RCAHMS Card NM 25 NW 1).

Local Geography - Loch an Duin is located 1km NW of Arinagour, in the mid-section of Coll, at the southern end of a valley which runs across Coll from Cliad Bay to Arinagour. The sides of this valley are dominated by steep bluffs of Lewisian Gneiss 50m to 60m in height. Loch an Duin is zigzag in shape and measures 0.1km by 0.6km with the longest axis running NW to SE. The bed of Loch an Duin is heavily silted with peat-based mud making it impossible to wade to the site. At the time of survey water depths varied throughout the loch between 1m and 1.5m. Visibility within the loch was fairly good and all areas of the lochbed could be observed by snorkelling on the surface. Loch an Duin is drained from its N end by a peat-choked stream which empties into the southern end of Loch Cliad, 0.5km to the NW.

The land surrounding Loch an Duin is a mix of upland moor and heavily peated valley bottom. The E side of the loch is overlooked by steep bluffs of

Lewisian Gneiss 30m to 40m in height upon which only heather grows. However, to the N, S and SW extends a level valley bottom which is heavily peated. At present, one of the only stands of trees on the island is located in this valley, 0.5km SE of Loch an Duin. Just off the W shore of the loch are the clear signs of agricultural exploitation. A slightly sloping area approximately fifteen acres in size is covered with lazybeds which run perpendicular to the loch. This area is well drained in comparison to the rest of the valley but is now covered with heather and peat, as a result of recent agricultural mismanagement.

Site Description - This site is located 25m off the E side of Loch an Duin mid-way up the loch. The site is surrounded by water 1m to 1.5m in depth and is accessed by a stone causeway, 40m in length, which incorporates a 2m by 9m bedrock outcrop into it's mid-section. The causeway is 2.5m wide, 1.2m high and comprised of large boulders and medium sized stones which were 30cm below water-level at the time of survey. The centre of the causeway has the defensive feature of a right-angle bend. Contrary to what was previously reported by the RCAHMS and Beveridge, the causeway does not run along a bedrock outcrop which occupies a 40m long section of shoreline N of the site, but instead terminates at its base.

The artificial islet is a oval shaped mound which measures 16.5m E-W by 24m N-S at its base. Two separate platforms crown the mound. The first was 40cm above water-level at the time of survey and measures 14.5m E-W by 16m N-S. The second occupies the S end of the site, dominates the other by 1.6m and measures 4.5m NW-SE by 8 m NE-SW. This platform is located 3.8m above the surrounding lochbed and has fairly steep 45° angle sides. The entire site was peated over and overgrown with bracken, briars and small shrubs at the time of survey.

No structures were found on the interior of the site but a perimeter wall was confirmed to enclose all but the N end of the site. This wall is 0.5m wide and stands an average of 0.5m in height. The most well preserved section of this walling is located on the S end of the islet and still stands 8 courses (1m) in height. The walling is composed of 60% large and 40% medium sized boulders of Lewisian gneiss which are unshaped and dry-stacked. The other visible portions of the walling are at least

three courses high and it is likely that the peat and vegetation hid the missing northern section of walling at the time of survey. No trace of the two duck blinds mentioned by the RCAHMS were found but it is possible that the present walling could be misinterpreted as a blind if it was only viewed from shore. The well preserved perimeter walling at the S end of the site is perceived to be contemporary with the other section of the perimeter wall because it was the same width and follows the same course as the lower sections of walling.

Underwater investigation has revealed that the exterior of the site is covered with medium-sized stones and large boulders. Bedrock outcrops can be observed beneath several areas of the southern section of perimeter walling indicating that the site sits on a pre-existing natural feature. Whether the upper portions of the site are entirely artificial, or contain a core of bedrock which has been enhanced has not been determined but the latter seems likely. No underwater walling or timbers were found during the survey but this is unsurprising as the bottom of the site was obscured by heavy silt.

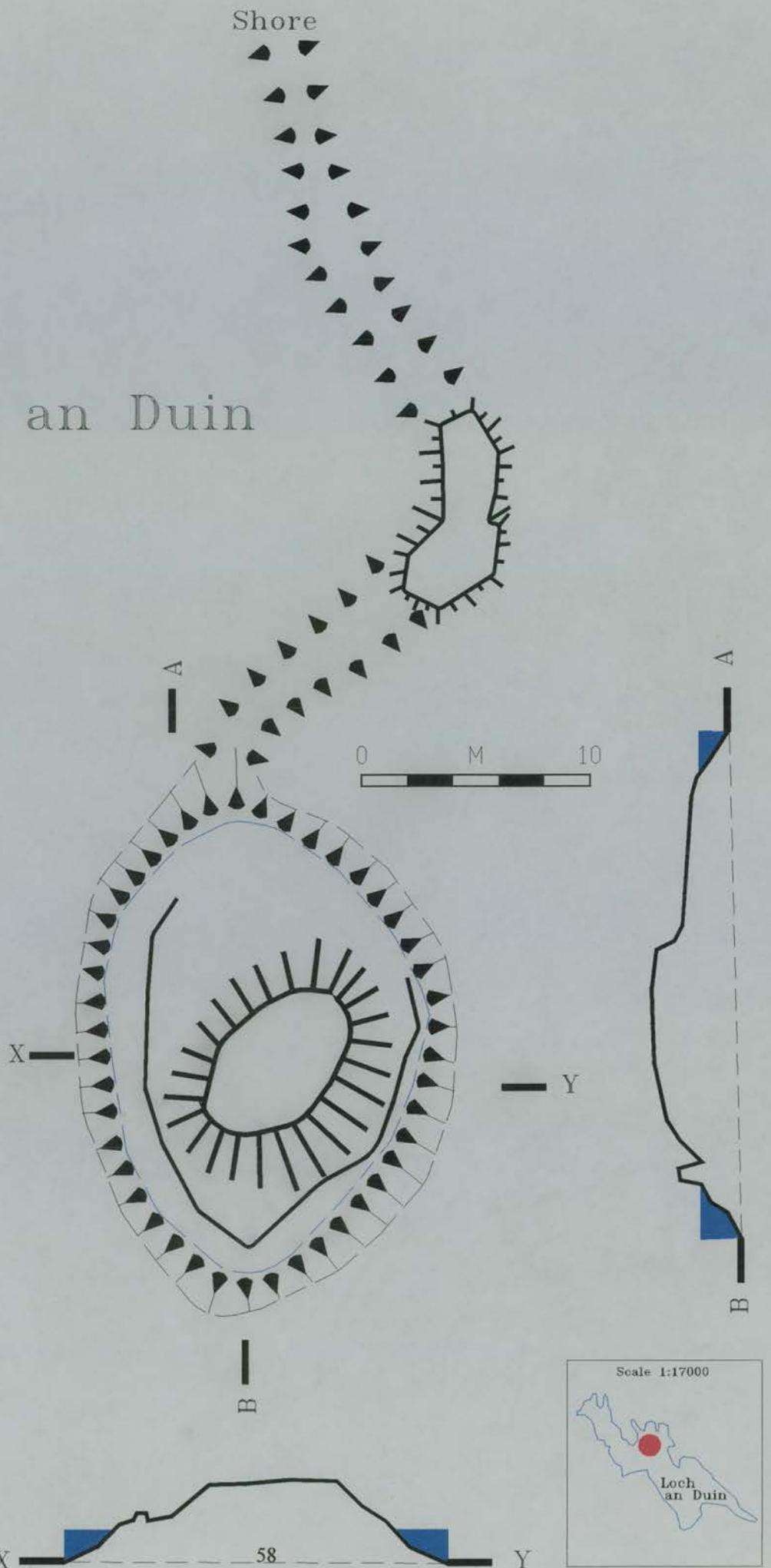
Discussion - Although no clue was found to determine the exact chronology of the site, the character of the site is highly defensive and suggests that it is later prehistoric in date. A combination of the mud and the depth of water makes it impossible to wade to the site. Therefore, other than by swimming, the site may only be accessed by the causeway, which was probably submerged to maximise the feature of its right angle bend. An additional defensive feature of the causeway is that it approaches the most unlikely and easiest point to defend on the shoreline, the 8m tall bedrock outcrop. By placing the causeway here an attacker would have to wade into the loch and walk along the base of the outcrop in order to find it. Meanwhile projectiles could be hurled at them both from atop the rock-face and the site 35m away. The site was certainly also defended by a perimeter wall at least 0.5m in thickness which ran along the water's edge. Although the height of this wall is uncertain, its close proximity to the base of the uppermost platform would indicate that it is a defensive feature rather than a utilitarian one. Though perhaps too small to

be a Broch (see Martlew 1984) the raised platform which occupies the S end of the site is probably some type of dun as suggested by its shape, height and steep sides.

Loch an Duin is positioned close to land which has been agriculturally exploited in the past and is capable of supporting arable agriculture. Whether this positioning is deliberate or not has yet to be established but the proximity does tend to suggest that the builders of the islet may have engaged in agricultural activities. It is curious that the causeway connects the site to the side of the loch which does not have any potential agricultural value but this may be a device to further confuse would-be attackers, as proposed above.

Site Surveyed: May 3, 1995

See: Holley DES 1995: 61


Shore
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Loch
an Duin

Loch an Duin
Looking West

Breachacha NM 15625 53017

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This artificial islet was first discovered in 1875 by Mr. J.L. Stewart during loch drainage operations. The site was described as "an island of boulders, say 40 feet broad at the top", and accessed by "a narrow causeway of stones" (McGillivray 1878). A bronze sword of late Bronze Age, Ewart Park type was found 25 feet from the site, lying on what was described as a bed of sand covered by 3 1/2 feet of peat. Mr Stewart speculated that "at the time the peat began to grow, the outlet of the lake in which it was found must have been several feet deep. Previous to the peat the inhabitants had formed an island of boulders" (*ibid.*). Beveridge visited the site 25 years after it had been uncovered and described it as "a mound some 20 yards in diameter, with many stones, and also the appearance of natural rock on its surface" (1903, 20). He labelled the site as Coll's only "loch dun" but speculated that it may have been the remains of a robbed out "semi-Broch" such as those found on Tiree (*ibid.* 4). Beveridge specifically notes that all traces of the causeway previously mentioned by Stewart had been removed by the time of his visit. The artificial islet was next noted in the 1915 Argyll County Councils list of ancient monuments and is still a secluded site today.

The RCAHMS visited the site in May 1974 and included it as a "crannog" in the Inventory. The site was described as "a flat-topped mound of stones and earth, which measures 2m high, 26m by 21m at the base, and 16m by 11m on the top." (RCAHMS 1980 No. 237, Card NM 15 SE 2.).

Local Geography - The artificial islet at Breachacha is located near the middle of the former Loch "Poll nam Broig" (Beveridge 1903) which is found at the SW end of Coll at the base of a peninsula which is flanked by Crossapol Bay 1km to the W and Loch Breachacha 0.3km to the E. The exact size and depth of the former loch is unknown but an old shoreline can be clearly traced around the margins of the present marsh. It is likely that the landscape surrounding the former loch has been

considerably altered since it was drained in 1875 (Kenneth Stewart *pers. Comm. 1996*) making it impossible to establish its depth but it can be estimated that the former water body was at least 0.25km² in size. The bed of the loch was noted to be heavily peated when it was drained and corings taken in the S end of the loch show that at least 2m of this peat remains. It is not known how much or if any peat was extracted from the lochbed after drainage.

The former Loch Poll nam Broig is surrounded by upland meadow which changes to a machair sand-dune system 0.5km to the W. The land area immediately surrounding the site is fairly level and was used as grazings for cattle at the time of survey. Oral tradition has it that this area of the island was once used to grow vegetables and was extensively till farmed in the 1920s and 30s. The soils surrounding the site are most conducive to grazing but extensive tracts of arable soils may be found 0.8km to the N.

Site Description - The Breachacha artificial islet is located 1km S of Breachacha Castle on the E side of a modern drainage ditch. Marshy ground surrounds the site which can now only be accessed from a slight elevation to the E. The site is an oval-shaped mound of turf from which large and medium-sized stone protrudes. The mound measures 21m E-W by 25.5m N-S at its base and is crowned by a fairly level platform which measures 13.5m E-W by 18m N-S. This platform stands 1m above the surrounding lochbed and most likely corresponds with the former maximum water level of Loch Poll nam Broig. Levels taken across the site, surrounding lochbed and shore showed that if this upper platform was in the dry, the original shoreline would have been 30m distant, assuming that the lochbed has not been significantly altered.

The most striking feature of the site is a series of five separate semicircular pits which have been dug into the E, S and SW sides of the structure. This disturbance most likely dates to a period after the site's discovery in 1875 and presumably after Beveridges note in 1903, as he does not mention either an excavation or these disturbances. The diameters of the intrusions range between 1.3m to 4.8m with the largest in the NE quadrant. Each of the pits have vertical sides 0.7m

in height and three of the five penetrate into the structure to a depth of 1.5m. The largest of the intrusions occurs in the S quadrant and is like a hourglass in shape measuring 6.5m along its greatest axis. The large intrusion noted on the NE side of the site was shallower, penetrating the mound by only 0.3m.

Outside of these gaping disturbances, there is little to note about the site. No trace of the former causeway was found, nor any walling or protruding timbers. The stone which visibly protrudes through the turf is local in origin, fairly angular in shape, and varies in size between medium rocks and large boulders.

Discussion - The Breachacha artificial islet is distinct in its location in comparison to the other artificial islets of Coll. The Breachacha site is located only 300m from the sea, next to an easily serviced port at Port Garbh. The close proximity of an artificial island to the sea is unprecedented on any of the other Hebridean islands in this study. This placement may suggest that maritime resources were exploited, although to what extent is unknown. Armit has suggested that by the Neolithic the inhabitants of the Western Isles would have had small craft maritime technology which would have enabled them to exploit the near shore waters of Coll (Armit 1996).

Although there is no evidence for agricultural exploitation of the land immediately surrounding the artificial islet, this area has been extensively farmed throughout the historic period and the soils are ideally suited for grazing, with good arable land only 0.8km to the N.

The discovery of the Bronze Age sword near the site is curious. Although the sword cannot be directly tied to the site, late Bronze Age crannog sites have been found on the mainland of Scotland (most notably Oakbank crannog (Dixon 1984)). In the absence of other dating evidence, a late Bronze Age date may not be unreasonable for this site.

The nature of the intrusions into the site is unknown, although one can only speculate that they have been made by treasure hunters. The site is situated very near the castle and estates of Breachacha, whose past residents may have had a curiosity in the site. Another factor in favour of modern disturbance, is that the site is next to a modern-ish track which is still in use. Stone could have been quarried out of the site

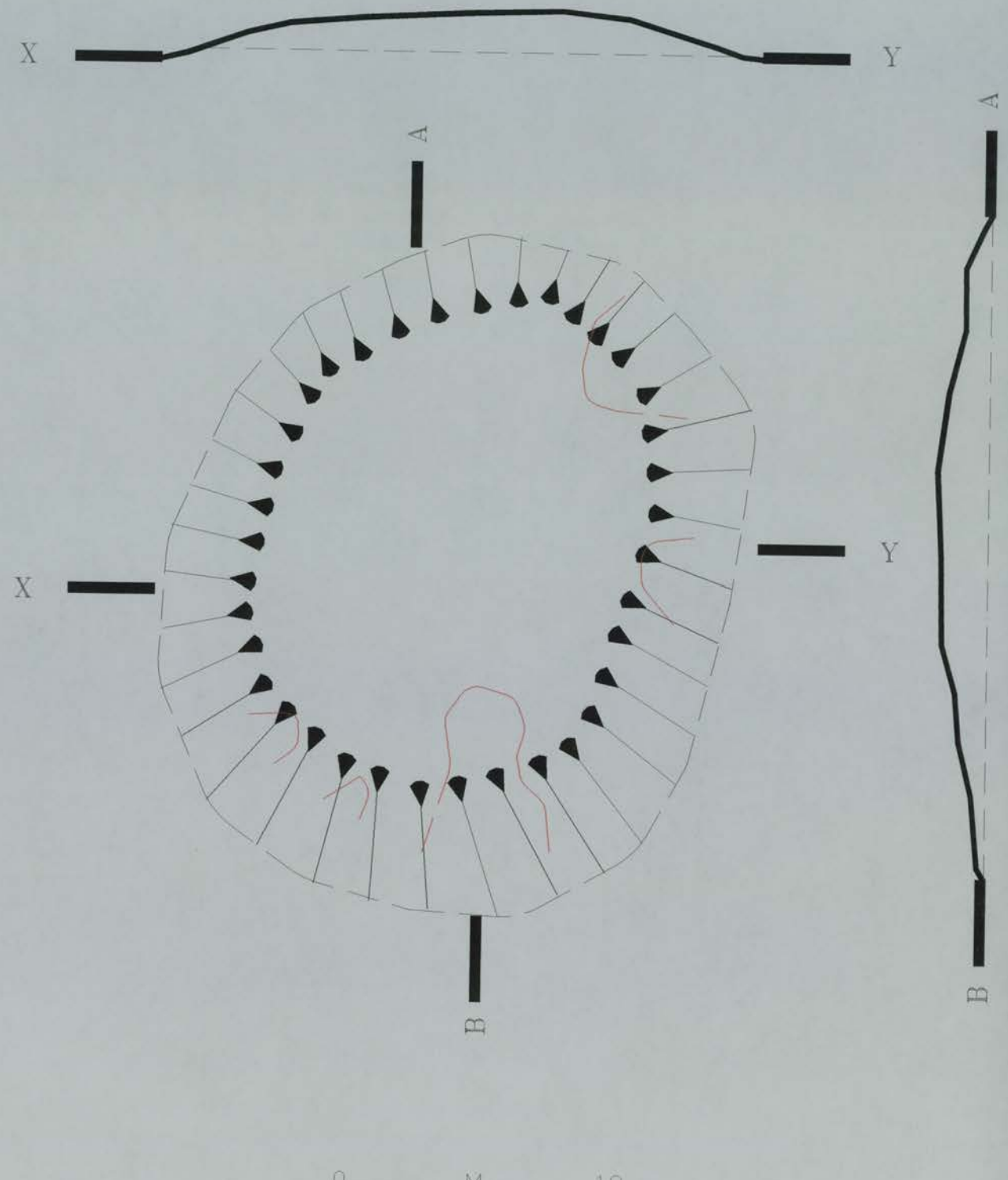
in order to modify and/or build the track, or the nearby bridge which spans the drainage stream.

During an environmental survey of the loch in April 1997, raised beach deposits were discovered eroding from beneath a sand dune 0.3km S of the site. It was noticeable that the stones in these deposits were of the same general size and displayed similar characteristics to those used on the islet. It is therefore likely that the raised beach was the source from which the stone was obtained.

Site Surveyed: May 10, 1995

See: Holley DES 1995: 61

Breachacha



Breachacha
Looking West

Dun Anlaimh, Loch Cinneachan NM 18834 56825

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first classified by Beveridge as an "Island Dun" (1903, 25) and in a letter to Blundell, notes that, "both Loch nan Cinneachan and Loch Anlaimh, contain islands, evidently artificial, with well-preserved causeways through rather deep water" (Blundell 1913, 292). Beveridge recorded a tradition that the islet was once occupied by a Norse Chief named Olaf, who was driven from Coll in 1384 by one of the MacLeans of Duart (Beveridge 1903, 25-29; Macdougall and Cameron 1937, 21). Feachem labelled Dun Anlaimh as an "insular dun" and noted that it compared with "those of the Outer Isles" (1963, 180).

The RCAHMS inspected the site in August 1975 and included it in the Inventory as a "Crannog" (RCAHMS 1980 No. 239, Card NM 15 NE 3). The site is described as a 'circular artificial islet, measuring 23m by 28m, which was accessed by a curved causeway, 29m in length. A dry-stone wall enclosed the perimeter of the islet and still stood 0.8m high'. Three contiguous round-angled buildings of rectangular plan crowned the summit of the islet and were believed to date to the later Middle Ages (RCAHMS 1980 No. 239). The site was later reclassified as a "dun" by Ellis who regarded it as "the dwelling of Early Celtic farmers and fisherman" (1991, 246). This reclassification is most likely due to information obtained from Feachem, as both authors entries for the site are very similar, and it is unlikely that Ellis has visited the site. Dun Anlaimh is featured in Morrison's book (1985, figure 3.21) as an example of a built-up islet crowned by a black house.

Local Geography - Dun Anlaimh is located in the extreme N end of Loch Cinneachan, locally called the "upper mill loch", which measures 1km by 0.15km with the major axis running N-S. Loch Cinneachan is roughly 2.5km from either coast of Coll and occupies the centre of a crescent shaped valley which runs across Coll between Clabhach and Loch Gortan. Beveridge records that the name of the loch translates to "the loch of the heathen (or gentiles)" (1903, 25) and is identified

with a Norseman named Olaf who held power on Coll in the Twelfth Century AD. The southern end of Loch Cinneachan is separated from Loch Anlaimh by 30m to 40m, and Beveridge records that the two lochs were originally one (1903, 25). Most of Loch Cinneachan's bed is heavily silted with the water depth varying between 1.5m and 2m. The water is extremely peaty limiting visibility to 0.5m. Both lochs are drained to the S end by a peat-choked stream which feeds a sluice that once powered a mill at Acha, 0.5km to the S. This sluice is adjustable and indicates that water-levels in both lochs have probably fluctuated widely in the past.

The land surrounding Loch Cinneachan is covered by a mixture of blanket peat-bog and upland heather-moor. Immediately to the W of the artificial islet, the remains of peat-covered rig and furrow, or possibly lazy-bed, field systems were found. On this side of the loch the land slopes up at about a 30° angle to form a well-drained area of potentially fair agricultural land, although the soils in this area are not really suitable for arable agriculture. Inspection of the field systems indicated that they were most likely produced with a spade or other hand held implement, and not a plough pulled by an animal; as they ran right up to the base of large boulders. There were also clear indications, in the form of cross-ploughing, that earlier field systems had underlain those now visible. A low, boggy, peat-filled glen runs N from Loch Cinneachan to Clabhach Burn nearly 1km to the N. This valley also contains traces of rig and furrow field systems. The land to the E of the loch is also covered with field systems which are obscured for most of the year by intense heather growth, and which were only discovered by an inspection of photos of the site held at the RCAHMS. This land has been left to go fallow by an absentee landlord for the past 30 years. In the present landscape, the nearest arable soils to Loch Cinneachan are found 1.5km to the N at Clabhach.

Site Description - Dun Anlaimh is located 26m from the E shore of the extreme N end of Loch Cinneachan. The water surrounding the artificial islet is 1m to 1.5m in depth, with the deeper water to the W. The lochbed immediately surrounding the site is heavily silted to a depth of at least 2m, totally obscuring the bottom of the islet. Dun Anlaimh is accessed by a substantial stone causeway, 28m in length, comprised

mainly of large blocks of Lewisian gneiss. The causeway has two defensive features: a 25° bend at its midpoint and a rocking stone which tilts under pressure.

Dun Anlaimh is a roughly oval, stone-covered mound which measures 28m E-W by 35m N-S at its base. The site is composed of 80% medium-sized stone and 20% large boulders. The upper platform is also oval in plan, measuring 15m E-W by 19.5m N-S. It provides a usable area of 244m² and stands 2.2m above the surrounding lochbed. The slight remains of a perimeter wall, 0.5m in width, can be seen in the N and S quadrants of the islet, just below the edge of the upper platform. A mass of stone tumble lies across most sections of this wall indicating that it may be an early feature of the site.

The summit of Dun Anlaimh is crowned by the remains of three conjoined subrectangular buildings. Each of the building remains were covered with turf and brambles which prevented exact measurements from being taken, but each appeared to be preserved to roughly 1m in height. All three of the remains are dry-stone structures which have rounded corners and are aligned with their long axis N-S, parallel to the closest shore. Building A measures 3.8m by 5.9m internally, and has walls which average between 1.2m and 2m in thickness. The building is accessed by a door 1m wide, situated towards the N end of the rear of the structure, away from the near shore. Building B is located just to the N of and shares its S wall with building A. This building measures 3m by 5m and has walls varying between 1.5m and 1.8m in thickness. Building B is accessed by a splayed doorway located in its NW corner, also to the rear of the structure. Building C measures 1.5m by 3m internally and shares its E wall with buildings A and B. This structure is entered through its S end.

Opposite of the doorway to structure A the RCAHMS found what they described as a "boat noost". This feature was inspected and found only to be a superficial low spot on the islet's surface which did not extend into the stone structure submerged below the water. No other submerged features or timbers were found on the site.

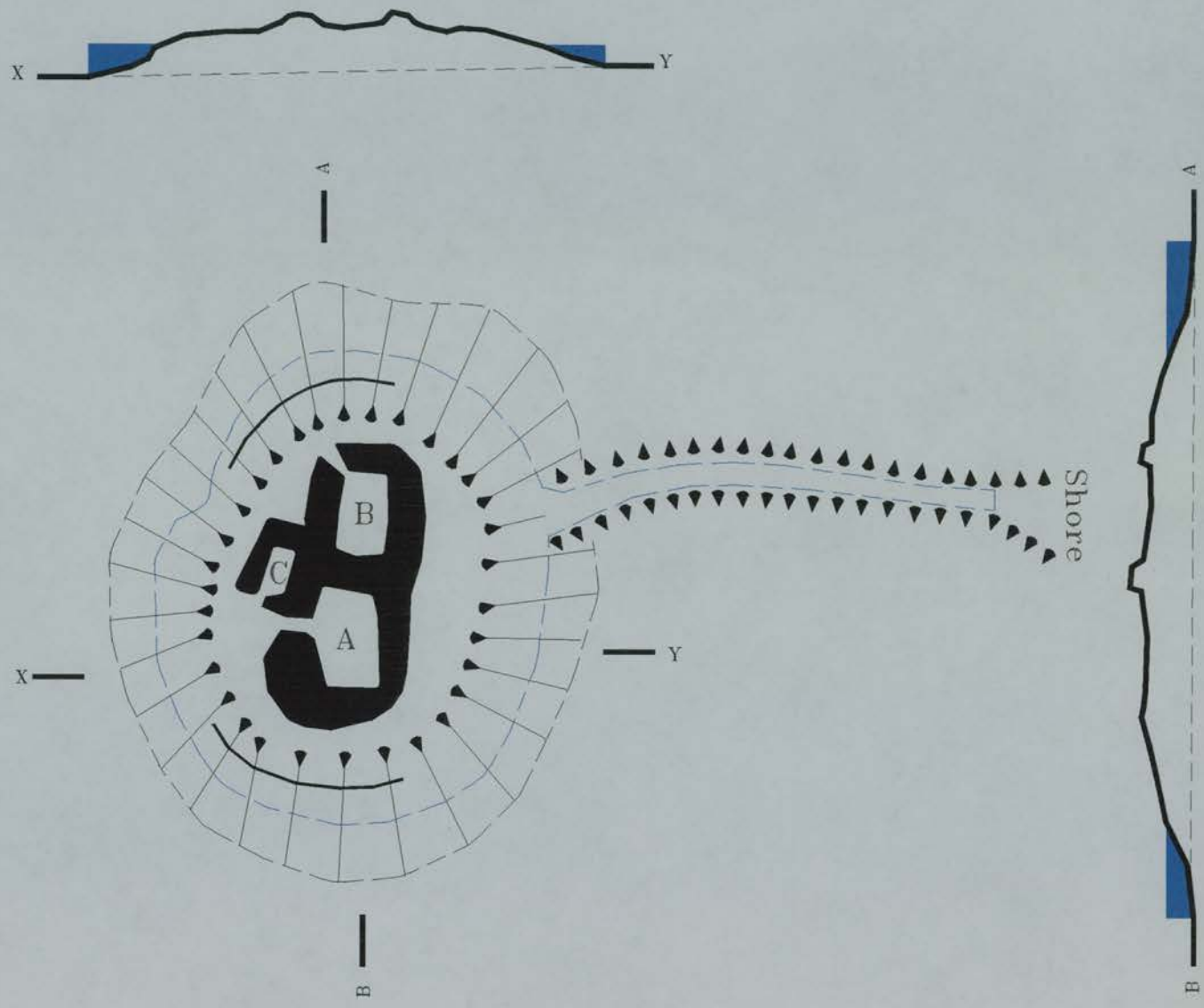
Discussion - The complexity and varying nature of the structures which top Dun Anlaimh site make it difficult to date. Oral tradition, recorded by Beveridge, ascribes the islet to the twelfth century AD but beside the Norse place-name and local legend there is no physical proof to back this claim. Buildings A and B most likely represent some form of black house or other dwelling no older than the latter Middle Ages. Building C is most likely a shed or other form of out-building which has been attached to the main structure. Positioning of the doorways to the rear of the structure and away from the near shore is distinctive of latter prehistory architecture in the Western Isles. The slight walling which surrounds the perimeter of site just above water level is certainly of a different character to that of the buildings, and probably precedes them. This walling consists of a single facing of dry-stacked stone which employs stone which is much larger than that used in the buildings. Many sections of the perimeter walling are completely covered by boulder tumble whereas the building remains are fairly intact and still stand 1m in height. This difference in preservation may indicate that the buildings and the perimeter walling date to separate periods, perhaps one being robbed to build the other.

It is not immediately apparent why an artificial islet was constructed in Loch Cinneachan. The loch is located in one of the least desirable areas of Coll for human settlement because it is surrounded by barren peat moorland. Although the nearest arable land is 1.5km from the site, nearly all of the land surrounding the loch shows signs of past agricultural exploitation. Many of these field-systems were heavily covered with peat indicating that either they are quite old or were constructed when the local environment was less harsh. It is tempting to suggest, based on the buried perimeter walling and the peat covered field-systems, that at least one phase of Dun Anlaimh predates the development of the blanket peat-bog and that it was in use when the surrounding environment was more hospitable to human habitation.

Site Surveyed: May 7, 1995

See: Holley DES 1995: 61

Dun Anlaimh



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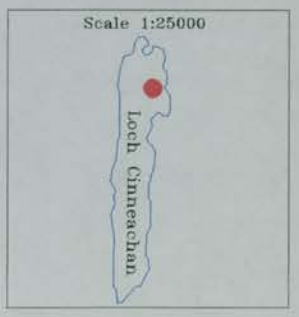


Dun Anlaimh, Loch Cinneachan
Looking North West

Dun Anlaimh, Loch Cinneachan: Causeway
Looking East

Eilean Anlaimh, Loch Anlaimh NM 1889 5579

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first described by Beveridge as an "artificial island with signs of a former Dun" (1903, 26). During his investigation of the site no causeway was found but he notes that one was said to exist. In a later letter to Blundell, Beveridge notes that, "both Loch nan Cinneachan and Loch Anlaimh, contain islands, evidently artificial, with well-preserved causeways through rather deep water" (Blundell 1913, 292). The RCAHMS inspected the site in August 1975 and included it in the Inventory as a "Crannog". The site was described as "a small stony island, which is evidently artificial...apart from a short projecting spur of boulders on the N side, it is roughly circular on plan, measuring about 12.8m in diameter" (RCAHMS 1980 No. 243). During this investigation no trace of a causeway was found.

Local Geography - Eilean Anlaimh is located in Loch Anlaimh, locally known as the "lower mill loch", which measures 0.6km by 0.2km with the major axis running N-S. Loch Anlaimh is roughly 2km from either coast of Coll and occupies the centre of a crescent shaped valley which runs across Coll between Clabhach and Loch Gortan. Beveridge records that the name of the loch translates to "the loch of Olaf" (1903, 25) and is identified with a Norseman of that name who held power on Coll in the Twelfth Century AD (See Beveridge 1903, 25-29). The northern end of Loch Anlaimh is separated from Loch Cinneachan by 30m to 40m and Beveridge records that the two lochs were originally one (1903, 25). Most of Loch Anlaimh is 1m to 1.5m in depth with a deeper 2+m section being located near its centre. Water conditions within the loch are poor, with visibility extending only 0.5m, due to peat particles suspended in the water. The lochbed consists of a layer of hard packed sand 30cm in depth underlain by very soft silt of unknown depth. When weight is placed on the lochbed it suddenly gives way to the soft silt. Loch Anlaimh is drained from its S end by a peat-choked stream which feeds a sluice that once powered a mill at

Acha, 0.5km to the S. This sluice is adjustable and indicates that water-levels in both lochs have probably fluctuated widely in the past.

The land surrounding Loch Anlaimh closely resembles that of Loch Cinneachan. The E side of the loch is dominated by a upland moor of peat and outcrops of Lewisian gneiss. Areas to the W and S of the loch consist of fairly-level areas of valley bottom which have been covered by blanket bog. Peat covered field systems of indeterminable type were observed running away from the W side of the loch, although the soils in this area are now unsuitable for arable agriculture. In the present landscape, the nearest arable land to Loch Anlaimh is found 1.5km to the S at Friesland.

Site Description - Eilean Anlaimh is located 31m off the E shore of Loch Anlaimh midway along the loch. Underwater investigation revealed that a submerged causeway of large boulders links the site to shore. This causeway is 30m long, 4m wide, 1m tall and has a slight curve near its centre. At the time of survey the tops of the large boulders of Lewisian gneiss which make up the causeway were submerged by 0.5m. The site is surrounded by water 1m - 1.5m in depth and is most easily approached by the causeway which provides firm footing.

Eilean Anlaimh is a circular shaped artificial mound of stone which measures 20m by 20m at its base. The top of the site is crowned by an ovoid 10m N-S by 12m E-W platform which was 1m above the water-level and heavily overgrown by scrub brush at the time of survey. No walling was observed on the site but a strange 3.5m long spur was found to project from the NE quadrant of the site. This spur was interpreted as a pier or dock. The stone which comprises the site is local in origin and consists of 80% medium sized stones and 20% large boulders.

Underwater investigation revealed that the stone mound extends at least 1m under the present lochbed surface, increasing its total height to 3m. No walling or timbers were found around the site but a saddle quern was discovered submerged in the rock tumble in the SE quadrant. The quern measures 11cm by 19cm and is formed from a single piece of Lewisian gneiss. Underwater investigation further revealed that the artificial islet rests on the end of a bedrock outcrop which can be

traced running NE from the site. This outcrop was the only bedrock feature found in the loch.

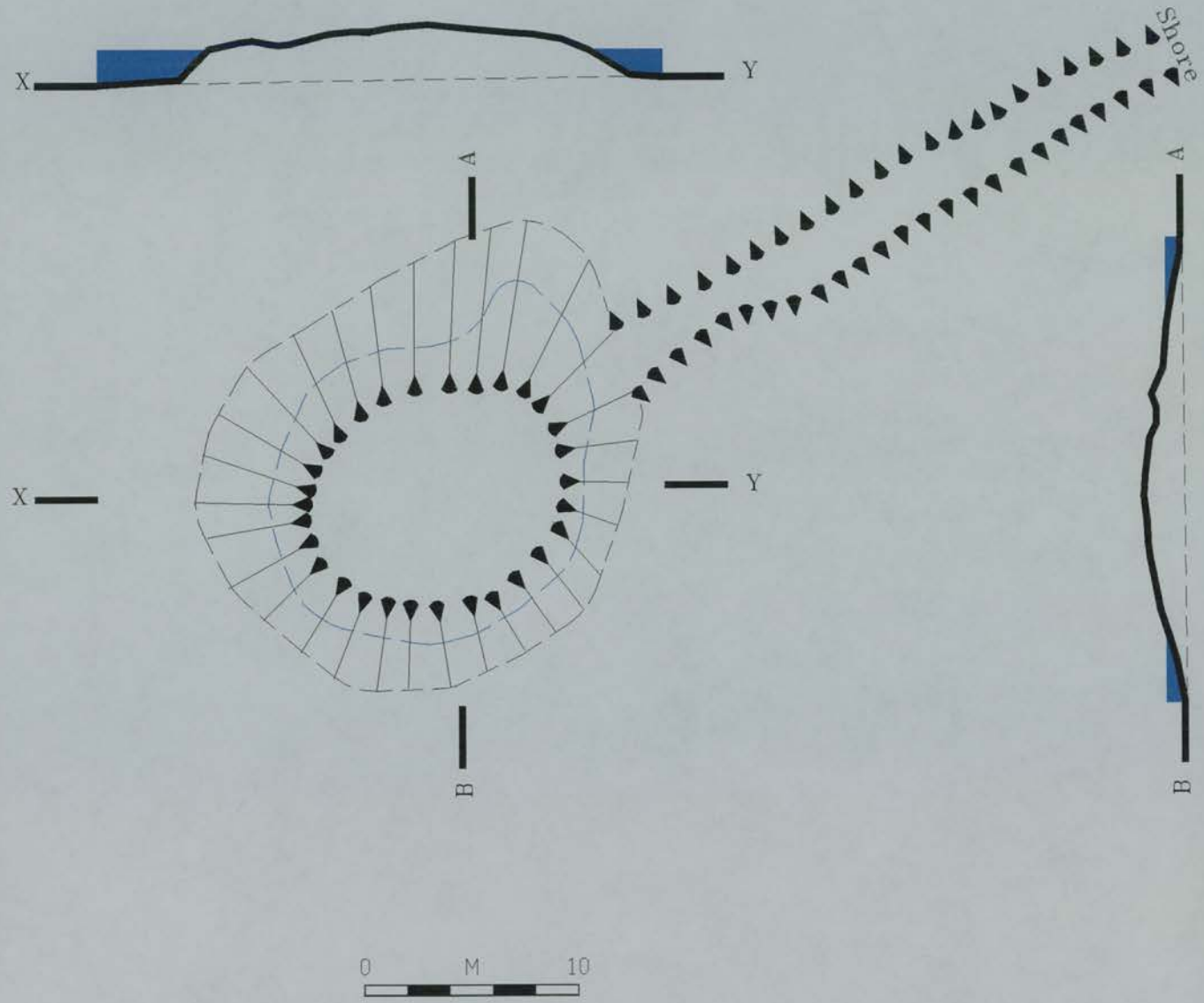
Discussion - The chronology of Eilean Anlaimh is unclear. Oral tradition, recorded by Beveridge, ascribes it to the twelfth century AD but beside the Norse placename there is no physical proof to back this claim. It is tempting to date the site by the saddle quern which is most likely either later prehistoric or earlier in date. However, the quern was not found in context and may only have been used by the sites builders as building material. Without more intrusive investigation, the chronology of this site must be left open to question.

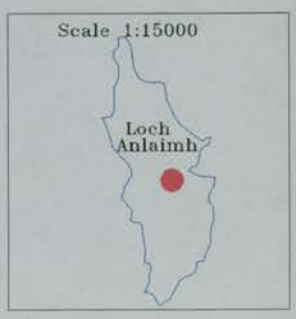
It is not immediately apparent why an artificial islet was constructed in Loch Anlaimh. The loch is located in one of the least desirable areas of Coll for human settlement because it is surrounded by barren peat moorland. Although the nearest arable land is 1.5km from the site, the W shore of the loch shows signs of past agricultural exploitation. These field-systems were heavily covered with peat indicating that they may be quite old. It is tempting to suggest that at least one phase of Eilean Anlaimh predates the development of the peatmoorland and that it was in use when the surrounding environment was more hospitable to human settlement.

Site Surveyed: May 9, 1995

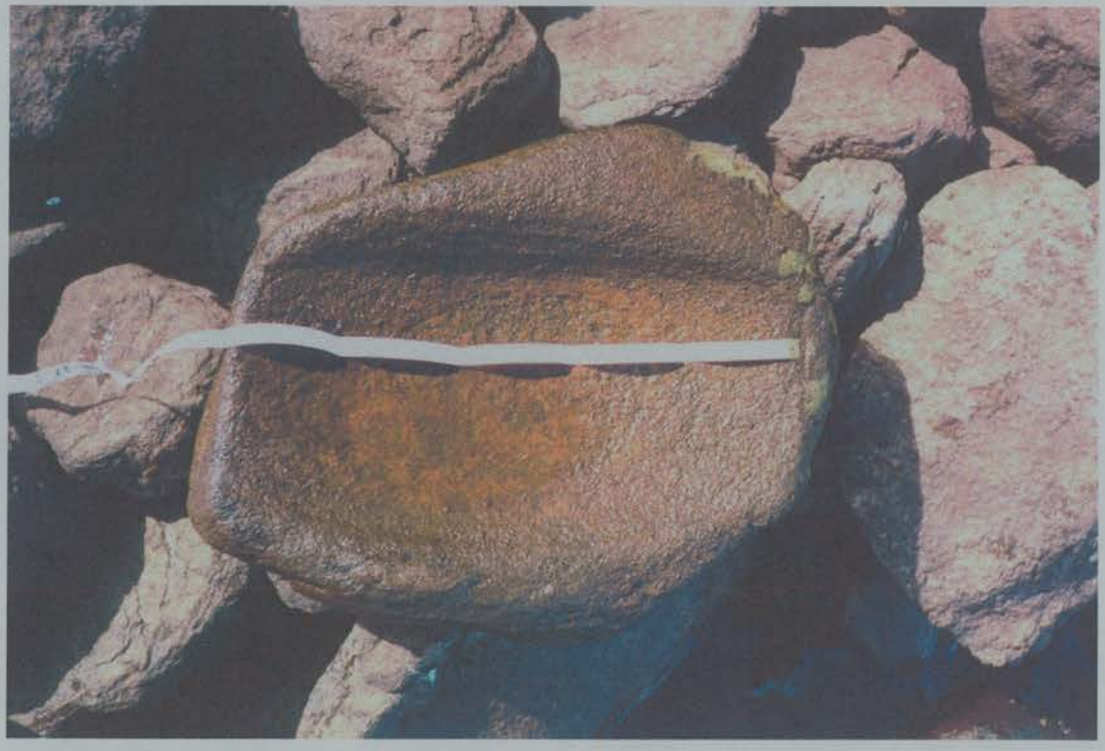
See: Holley DES 1995: 61

Eilean Anlaimh





Eilean Anlaimh, Loch Anlaimh
Looking East



Eilean Anlaimh, Loch Anlaimh: Quern

Loch Cliad #1 NM 2072 5877

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first examined by Beveridge who described it simply as "a small artificial islet of stones" (1903, 23). A causeway was noted to connect the site to another crannog (Cliad #2), 10 to 15 yards to the NE. The RCAHMS inspected the site in August of 1975, confirmed that it was artificial, and included it as a "crannog" in the Inventory. (RCAHMS 1980, No. 247). The islet was noted to measure 14.6m by 17.7m and contained no visible structural remains. A short spur of boulders on the NE side of the site was thought to be the remains of a causeway.

Local Geography - Loch Cliad is located 2km NW of Arinagour, in the mid-section of the island, at the northern end of a valley which runs across Coll from Cliad Bay to Arinagour. The sides of this valley are dominated by steep bluffs of Lewisian gneiss 50m to 60m in height, while the floor of the valley is covered by blanket peat-bog. The northern 0.5km of this valley is plugged with machair sand dunes. Loch Cliad is oval in shape measuring 0.3km E-W by 0.5km N-S. Water depths vary throughout the loch between 1m and 1.5m. The water visibility was good in the loch and extended to the full 1m to 1.5m depth at the time of survey. The composition of the lochbed varied from area to area and ranged from sand and fine silt, which was not easily stirred up, to spreads of gravel. Beveridge notes (1903, 23) that Loch Cliad was partially drained sometime in the nineteenth century but does not indicate the former size or depth of the loch. Loch Cliad is fed from its S end by a small peat-choked stream which drains Loch an Duin; the loch is drained from its N end by the Cliad Burn, which winds its way through the sand dunes to empty into Cliad Bay 1.5km to the N.

Loch Cliad is surrounded by a mixture of upland heather moor, peated-valley bottom and good agricultural land. Between the N end of the loch and the sand dunes behind Cliad Bay there is a level, well drained, 0.5km² area of slightly sloping land that is covered by some of the most agriculturally productive soils on the island. This

area has been intensively farmed throughout the historic period and 100 years ago, before the development of the sand dunes, it extended to the shore of Cliad Bay 1.5km to the N (N. Galbraith *pers. comm. 1996*). This area was still being actively till farmed at the time of survey. Additional field-systems were also discovered in the valley separating the S end of Loch Cliad from Loch an Duin. Although this area is now covered by blanket peat-bog, rig and furrow field-systems are clearly visible beneath the peat. The land to the E and W of Loch Cliad is dominated by the steep bluffs of Lewisian gneiss and heather moorland mentioned above.

Site Description - This site is located 125m from the N end of Loch Cliad and 40m SW of site Loch Cliad #2. The site was surrounded by 0.3m of water at the time of survey and rests on a very firm lochbed of gravel covered with 20cm of machair sand. The causeway previously noted by Beveridge to connect the two sites, consists of an approximately 17m long line of medium-sized stones which were almost entirely buried by sand at the time of survey. It was not possible to determine the width of the causeway as probing the lochbed was hindered by the sand.

This artificial islet is a circular-shaped mound of stone which measures 17m E-W by 21m N-S at its base. A roughly level 11m E-W by 13m N-S platform crowns the site and stands 2m above the surrounding lochbed. The mound is composed of 60% medium-sized, and 40% small-sized stones of Lewisian gneiss which are primarily angular in shape. No walling or timbers were found on the surface or in the shallow water surrounding the mound.

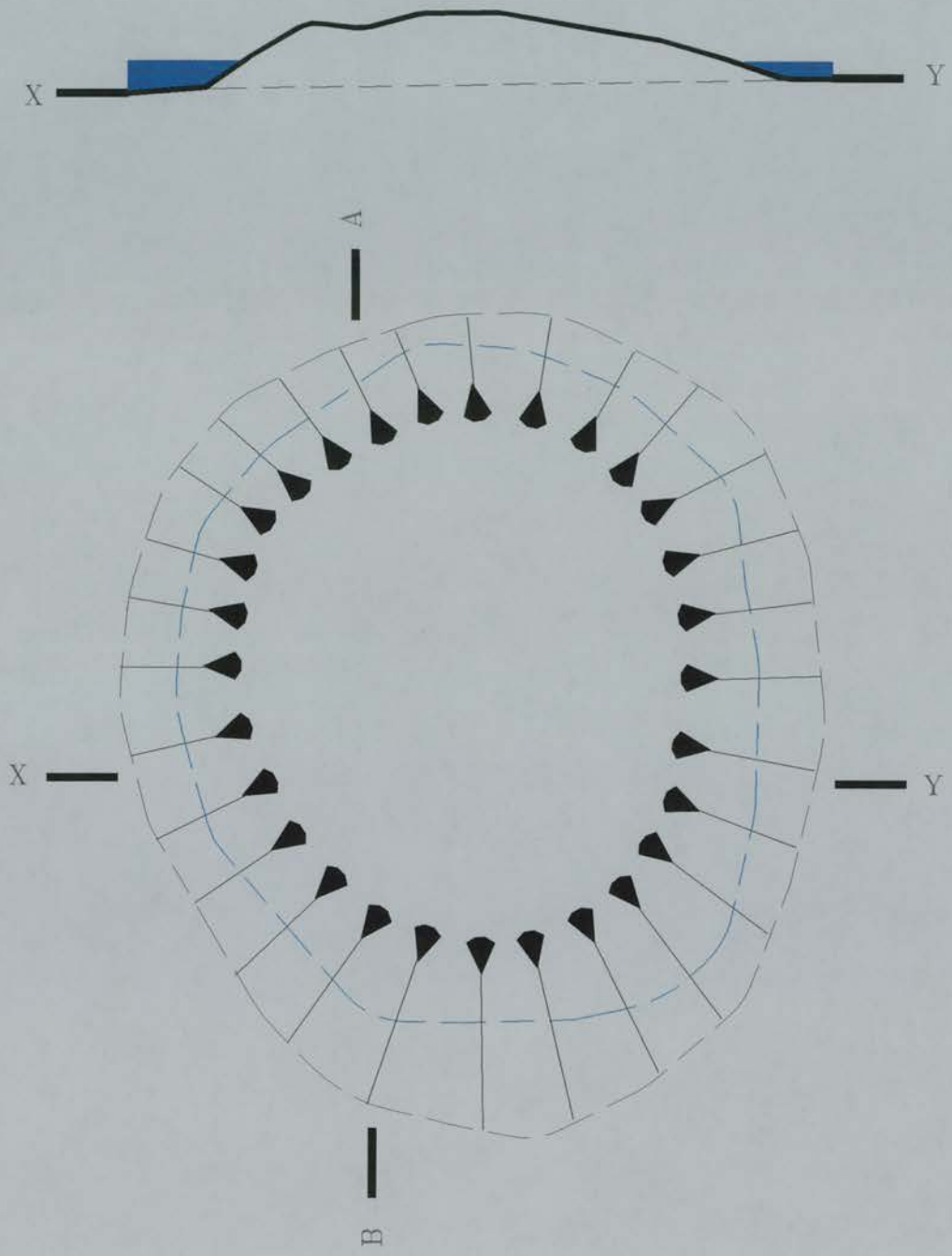
Discussion - Little can be stated about either the nature, or the chronology of this site, other than that it is certainly artificial. If Loch Cliad was larger in the 19th C as Beveridge indicates, the site may have been entirely submerged throughout the historic period. It is not known if this site holds any connection to Loch Cliad #2, which is set 1.5m above the top platform of #1 and has been tentatively dated to the medieval period. One is tempted to speculate that this site was inundated while Loch Cliad #2 was in use and therefore predates it. However, this approach may be overly speculative.

What is certain about this site is that it is located in a landscape which is highly conducive to human settlement. This is certainly one of Coll's most agriculturally productive areas and well-drained soils which could support arable agriculture are located immediately to the N of the site. The site is an easy walk from the sea but protected from northern winds by the sloping topography.

Site Surveyed: May 3, 1995

See: Holley DES 1995: 61

Cliad #1



Loch Cliad #1
Looking South West

Loch Cliad #2 NM 2075 5884

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first inspected by Beveridge (1903, 23) who described it as a "low, natural island" on which are the foundations of several buildings. A twenty-five yard long curved causeway was noted to access the site from the N; the centre of which was obstructed by a large slab of stone. Beveridge's description of the foundations merely notes that they were, 'two courses high and oval in shape' (Beveridge 1903, 23; Blundell 1913, 292).

The RCAHMS inspected the site in August 1975 and included it in the Inventory (RCAHMS 1980, No. 247-1) as a "crannog". The site was described as "an island of partially artificial construction, measuring 14m by 28m" (*ibid.*). The site surveyor notes that "this mound merges with a low spine of natural rock at the NW end" (Card NM 25 NW 7). The "dry-stone foundations of two round-angled buildings of oblong plan together with traces of a roughly circular building" (*ibid.*) were found to crown the islet. It was speculated that an enclosure wall surrounded the two buildings. Traces of the causeway noted by Beveridge were found 100m N of the site. Based on the typology of the buildings' foundations the RCAHMS ascribed the site to the medieval period.

Local Geography - Loch Cliad is located 2km NW of Arinagour, in the mid-section of the island, at the northern end of a valley which runs across Coll from Cliad Bay to Arinagour. The sides of this valley are dominated by steep bluffs of Lewisian gneiss 50m to 60m in height, while the floor of the valley is covered by blanket peat-bog. The northern 0.5km of this valley is plugged with machair sand dunes. Loch Cliad is oval in shape measuring 0.3km E-W by 0.5km N-S. Water depths vary throughout the loch between 1m and 1.5m. The water visibility was good in the loch and extended to the full 1m to 1.5m depth at the time of survey. The composition of the lochbed varied from area to area and ranged from sand and fine silt, which was not easily stirred up, to spreads of gravel. Beveridge notes (1903, 23) that Loch Cliad

was partially drained sometime in the nineteenth century but does not indicate the former size or depth of the loch. Loch Cliad is fed from its S end by a small peat-choked stream which drains Loch an Duin; the loch is drained from its N end by the Cliad Burn, which winds its way through the sand dunes to empty into Cliad Bay 1.5km to the N.

Loch Cliad is surrounded by a mixture of upland heather moor, peated-valley bottom and good agricultural land. Between the N end of the loch and the sand dunes behind Cliad Bay there is a level, well drained, 0.5km² area of slightly sloping land that is covered by some of the most agriculturally productive soils on the island. This area has been intensively farmed throughout the historic period and 100 years ago, before the development of the sand dunes, it is said to have extended to the shore of Cliad Bay 1.5km to the N (N. Galbraith *pers. Comm.* 1996). This area was still being actively till-farmed at the time of survey. Additional field-systems were also discovered in the valley separating the S end of Loch Cliad from Loch an Duin. Although this area is now covered by blanket peat-bog, rig and furrow field-systems are clearly visible beneath the peat. The land to the E and W of Loch Cliad is dominated by the steep bluffs of Lewisian gneiss and heather moorland mentioned above.

Site Description - This site is located 80m from the N end of Loch Cliad and 40m NE of site Loch Cliad #1. It occupies the S end of an oblong, turf-covered, natural, bedrock island measuring 58m E-W by 140m N-S, with its longest axis running perpendicular to the near shore. The N end of this island is accessed from the N shore of Loch Cliad by an 18m long causeway of large boulders. The causeway bridges a section of mud, over 3m in depth, which has the consistency of quick-sand and is totally impassable. The island end of the causeway is blocked by a large stone slab, measuring 1m in high and width and 2m in length.

The artificial portion of the site is an oval-shaped mound of stone which measures 11.7m by 28m at its base, and rises 1.5m above the surrounding natural islet. Three sub-rectangular structures crown the top of the mound and are aligned with the long axis of the loch and island. The first structure is roughly rectangular,

measuring 2.9m by 6m internally and 5.6m by 7.8m externally. The visible sections of the walls stand four courses high and are composed of medium sized, dry-stacked stone which have been shaped. The walls of the structure are well defined and range in thickness between 0.5m and 1.4m. A secondary layer of small stone lines the interior of the structure, suggesting that the site has at least two constructional phases.

The other structures on the islet are less well preserved. The second structure is located 2.9m N of the first and is square in shape, measuring 2.7m by 2.9m internally. Its entrance is 0.5m wide, well defined and faces structure number one. The external wall-face of structure number two is obscured by stone tumble. The stone which comprises the walls of structure two is slightly larger and more misshapen than that of the first structure, perhaps indicating a separate purpose or chronology. A third, slighter structure is located 2.0m N of the second. This structure is roughly square, 4.0m by 4.8m, with a single row of well-rounded medium-to-large sized boulders.

Discussion - The complexity and varying nature of the structures which top this site make it difficult to date. Buildings one and two may represent some form of black-house, or other dwelling, no older than the later Middle Ages. The third structure is most likely a shed or other out-building which has been placed between the main structures and the shore.

Although this site has many structural similarities to the site in Loch Cinneachan (Page 66), its nature is altogether different. The site occupies the end of a natural islet, is only half as tall and is composed of much smaller and more angular stone than Dun Anlaimh. The slight perimeter walling noted by the RCAHMS to be similar to that at Dun Anlaimh, was not observed. These structural differences may indicate that the two sites are not contemporary, as previously speculated by the RCAHMS.

In order for the causeway to be functional, i.e. access the dry land of the natural islet, the water-level surrounding the site could not have been substantially higher than that at the time of survey. Noting that the water-level was considerably

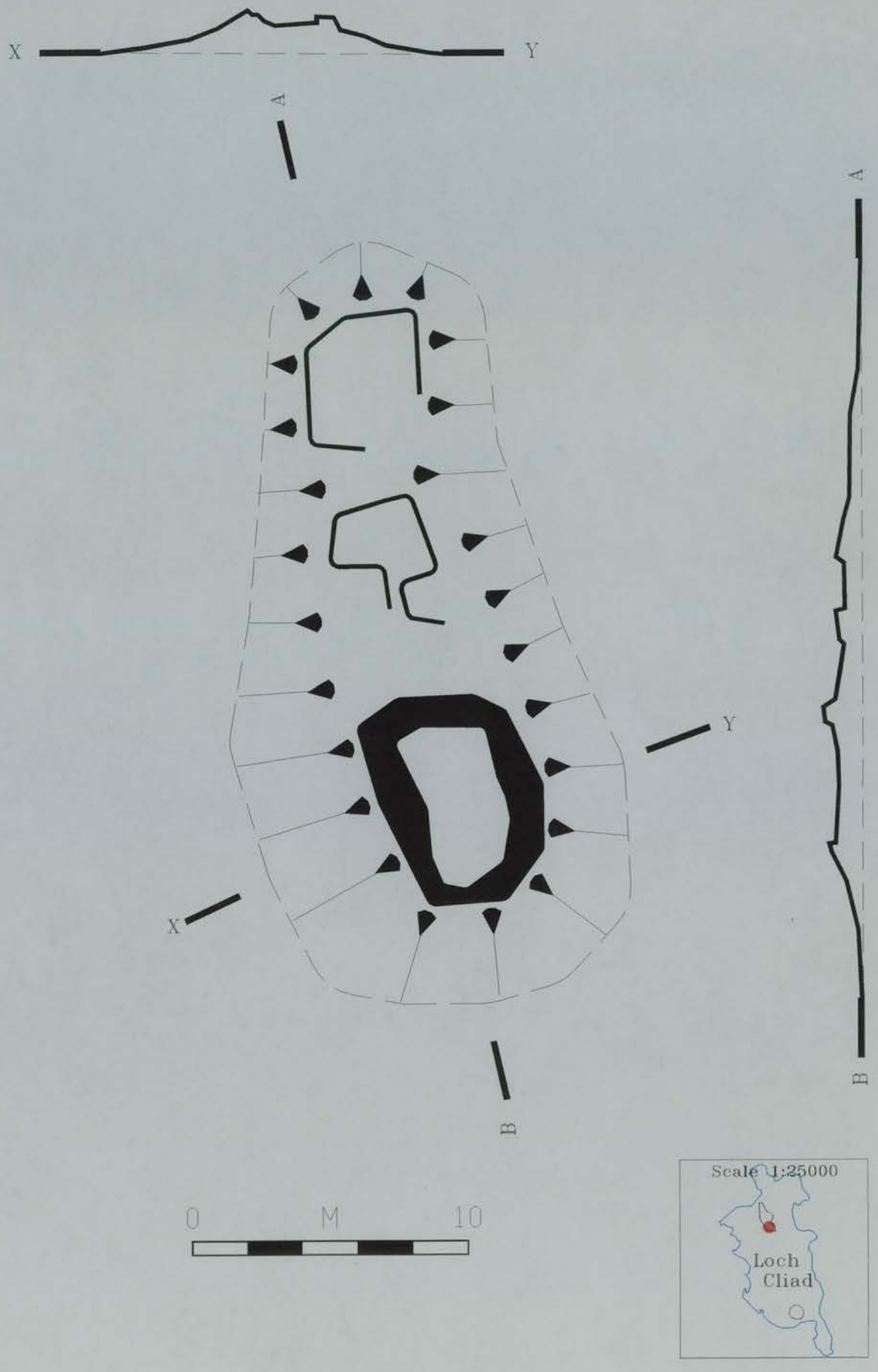
lowered in the last century, it seems that site must pre-date the higher water-level by a considerable period. Assuming that water-levels rise gradually over time as outlets silt up, it would be reasonable to suppose that the site is no newer than the medieval period.

The site is positioned in a landscape which is highly conducive to human settlement. This is certainly one Coll's most agriculturally productive areas and well-drained soils which will support arable agriculture are located immediately to the N of the site. The site is an easy walk from the sea but protected from northern winds by the sloping topography.

Site Surveyed: May 3, 1995

See: Holley DES 1995: 61

Cliad #2



Loch Cliad #2
Looking North East

Loch Cliad #2: Causeway
Looking South East

Loch na Cloiche NM 2401 6107

"Possible" artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site is the only one on Coll which does not appear in Beveridge's 1903 survey. The RCAHMS visited the site in May of 1975, but only made observations from the shore. The was site included in the Inventory as a "possible crannog" and was described as "roughly circular on plan, measuring about 9m in diameter" (RCAHMS 1980 No. 249, Card NM 26 SW 29).

Local Geography - Loch na Cloiche is located near the centre of the N end of Coll, 2km S of Cornaigbeg and is irregular in shape. The loch measures 0.4km E-W by 0.15km N-S and is sheltered from the wind on all sides by 50m high bluffs of Lewisian gneiss. Visibility within the loch was good at the time of survey and the full 1m to 1.5m depth was able to be inspected by snorkelling on the surface. The major inhibitor to an inspection of this site was an abundance of aquatic plants which obscured the entire lochbed. However, it was found by probing that the lochbed is covered by a mixture of silt and gravel of at least 0.5m in depth. Loch na Cloiche is drained from its N end by a small, peat-choked stream which empties into the sea 2km to the NW. This stream follows the only easy route of access to the N coast of Coll.

Loch na Cloiche is surrounded by upland heather-moor and blanket peat-bog which is occasionally broken by swampy areas and small lochs. Long ridges of Lewisian gneiss are the only features which break up the extensive tracts of peat-bog. The nearest arable soils are located 2km to the N of the site on the coast near Cornaigbeg. The entire drainage basin of Loch na Cloiche was field-walked and the only traces of past agricultural exploitation were found in a small, peat-covered, strip of lazy-beds located between the W side of the loch and Loch Ronard.

Site Description - This site is located 60m off a narrow peninsula which juts out from the W shore of Loch na Cloiche. The site is surrounded by water 1m in depth and can easily be waded to from shore. No evidence was found of a causeway.

The site is a circular-shaped mound of small stone which measures 15.5m by 16m at its base. An oval-shaped platform, measuring 6.5m by 8m crowns the top of the mound. This platform stands 1.5m above the surrounding lochbed and was 30cm above water-level at the time of the survey. No walling was found on the islet and most of the area above water was covered by short grass. The stone which comprises the mound is unshaped, small, and easily liftable pieces of Lewisian gneiss.

The submerged portion of the site tapers off at a sharp 18° angle and has been heavily covered by silt. The bottom edge of the site was found by probing the silts to a depth of 1.5m. It is thus likely that the base of the site is somewhat larger than reported here. No evidence of timbers, walling or other man-made features were found in the silty environment.

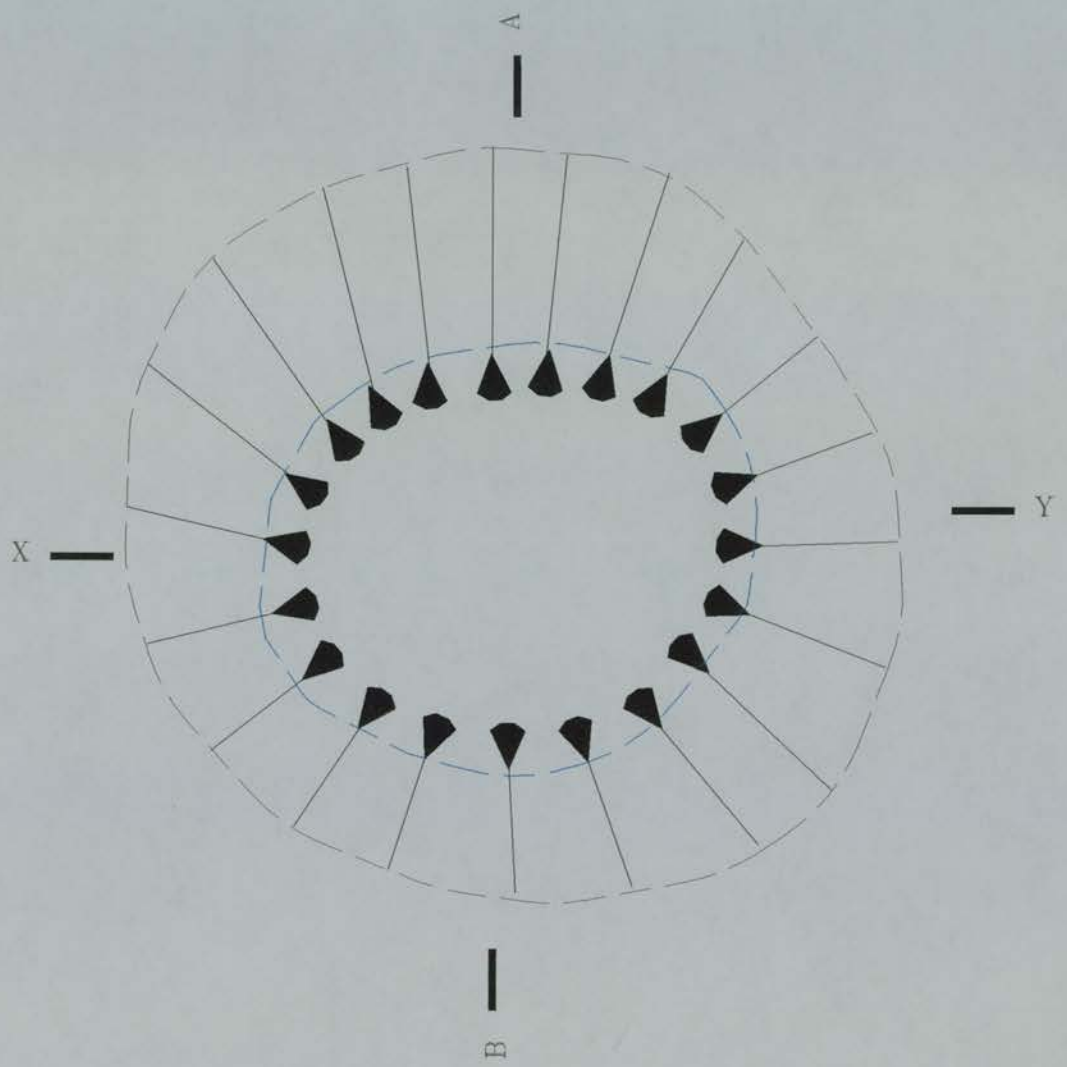
Discussion - It is not immediately apparent why an artificial islet was constructed in Loch na Cloiche. The loch is located in the least desirable area of Coll for human settlement because it is surrounded by barren, peat-moorland. It is hard to envision that this section of the island was ever used for anything other than rough grazing. Although the nearest arable land is 2km from the site, the W shore of the loch shows signs of past agricultural exploitation. These field-systems were heavily covered with peat indicating that they may be quite old. It is tempting to suggest that at least one phase of the site predates the development of the peat-moorland and was in use when the surrounding environment was more hospitable.

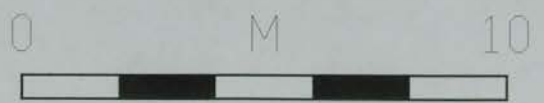
The site in Loch na Cloiche is one of the smallest in the study area, its upper platform covering only 46m^2. This, combined with its inhospitable position in the landscape, may indicate that the site was not utilised as a habitation but served some other specialised purpose. Morrison (1985, 22) has speculated that artificial islets were occasionally constructed and utilised by illicit whisky distillers or brigands. Without a more intrusive investigation it is impossible to determine either the chronology, or the exact nature of this site.

Site Surveyed: May 1, 1995

See: Holley DES 1995: 61

na Cloiche





Loch na Cloiche
Looking South West

Loch Fada NM 2561 6204

"Possible" artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - The site in Loch Fada was first labelled as an "islet dun" by Beveridge (1903, 21) who made his observations from shore. He described the site as being '20 yards from shore, 15 to 20 feet high and covered with undergrowth'. Slight traces of a suspected causeway were found near the shore of the loch, suggesting that the site could be accessed from the N. Upon Beveridge's recommendation, Blundell classified the site as a "causewayed islet", in his catalogue of artificial islands in highland areas (Blundell 1913, 292).

The RCAHMS inspected the site in June of 1972 and found it to be an "overgrown natural island with no trace of a causeway". The island was noted as "devoid of stonework or any other trace of artificial construction" and thus was not included in the Inventory as an archaeological site (RCAHMS Card File NM 26 SE 11).

Local Geography - Loch Fada is located on the N end of Coll, 1.5km S of the small settlement of Bousd. The loch is oblong in shape and measures 0.9km NW-SE by 0.2km NE-SW at its widest point. The water conditions in the loch are fair, allowing visibility of up to 2m. Over 80% of the loch is 1m to 2m in depth, with a deeper 4m to 6m area near the loch's centre narrows, 0.3km SE of the site. The E and W sides of the loch are overlooked by bluffs of Lewisian gneiss, which leaves the loch exposed to only a NW or SE wind. The lochbed is covered by a mixture of light textured silts and eroded peat, which are at least 1m in depth. Loch Fada has no apparent inlets but is drained from its N end by a small peat-choked stream, named the Allt Loch Fada, which winds its way through the peat-bog to empty into the sea at Cornaigmor, 1.5km to the NW.

Loch Fada is surrounded by upland heather-moor and blanket-peat bog which is occasionally broken by swampy areas and small lochs. Long ridges of Lewisian gneiss, 30m to 40m in height, are the only features which break up the extensive

tracts of peat-bog which criss-cross the entire N end of the island. Loch Fada is positioned in the upper part of a twisting valley of blanket-peat and heather-moor. This valley provides easy access to the sea 0.7km to the SE where there is a small port. No evidence of past agricultural exploitation was found in the landscape surrounding the loch and the nearest arable soils are located 1.5km away on the N coast of Coll.

Site Description - This artificial islet is located 24m off the E shore of Loch Fada, near it's northern end. The site is surrounded by water 1m to 2m in depth and reaches a maximum depth of 1.5m between the site and shore. The lochbed immediately surrounding the site is heavily silted except for a ridge of sand, 3m in width, which has formed between the E side of the site and the loch shore. No evidence was found of the causeway previously noted by Beveridge, although a small peninsula does approach to within 20m of the S side of the site. A few large boulders were noted to extend out into the water on the shore to the N of the site and these are most probably the origin of the causeway legend.

This site is situated on a roughly circular mound of bedrock which measures 30m by 32m at it's base. The surface of the site is crowned by a 8.8m by 10m, oval-shaped platform which has steep 40° sides and is almost entirely engulfed by heavy brush and peat (at least 2m in thickness). This feature was 2.8m above the water-level and 5.5m above the surrounding lochbed at the time of survey. Due to the nearly vertical sides of the mound and recent storm damage, large areas of peat had fallen away from the sides of the site, exposing roughly stacked walling. This feature seems to run around the perimeter of the base of the upper platform, just above the water-line, but only three sectors can be viewed with certainty. The walling consists of medium-sized, unshaped stones, which have been stacked at least four courses (1m) high.

The underwater portion of the site is covered with heavy silt, except where bedrock has been exposed near the water-line. Stone tumble, obscured by at least 1m of silt appears to radiate out from the site until a depth of 2.3m is reached and it is no longer possible to probe the lochbed. This tumble may be the remains of the

perimeter wall which has collapsed outwards, however this is speculative. No submerged timbers or walling were observed around the site at the time of survey.

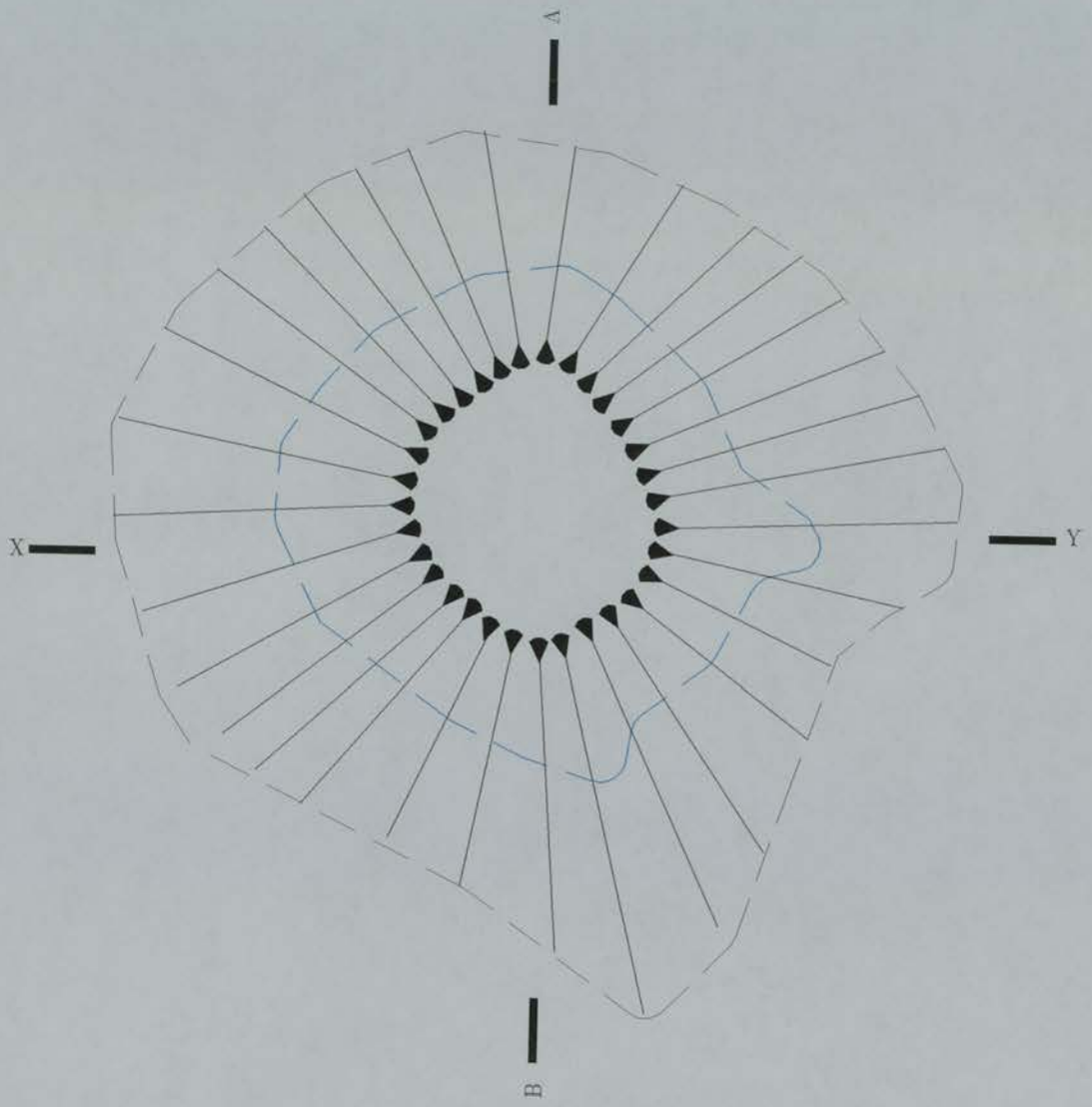
Discussion - It is not immediately apparent why an artificial islet was constructed in Loch Fada. The loch is located in the least desirable area of Coll for human settlement because it is surrounded by barren, peat-moorland. It is hard to envision that this remote section of the island was ever used for anything other than rough grazing. The valley system to the N and S of the loch could have possibly been exploited but the current soils will not support arable agriculture and any evidence of former field-systems has now been covered by several meters of peat. At present the nearest arable land is 2km from the loch, and to reach it peat-bog and swamp must be crossed. It is tempting to suggest that at least one phase of the site predates the development of the peat-moorland and was in use when the surrounding environment was more hospitable.

Without a more intrusive investigation of this site it is difficult to determine exactly what type of structure crowns it. The character of the observed walling combined with the shape and height of the site would suggest that the islet was occupied by a dun, or possibly even an Atlantic roundhouse. If this is the case the site most likely dates to the later prehistoric. Alternatively, the structure may be a natural bedrock outcrop, the base of which has been fortified and could date to any period.

Site Surveyed: April 30, 1995

See: Holley DES 1995: 61

Loch Fada



Loch Fada
Looking North West

Loch Urbhaig NM 2312 5783

"Possible" artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first investigated by Beveridge, who called it "an Island Fort" with 'walls which could be traced through the bracken and royal-fern'. Beveridge apparently gained access to this site in order to make these observations and noted that a causeway was rumoured to connect the site to the N shore of Loch Urbhaig (Beveridge 1903, 22). The site was briefly mentioned by Blundell (1913, 292) who only noted that Beveridge believed it was linked to the shore by a causeway.

The RCAHMS visited the artificial islet in June of 1972 but did not include it in the Inventory as an archaeological site. The field surveyor described it as "a mainly natural rocky island, overgrown with peat and vegetation, which appears to have been artificially enlarged". The remains of a "collapsed wall" were found on the SE side of the island but the remains were determined not to be definitive. No evidence was found indicating that the site was accessed by a causeway' (RCAHMS card file NM 25 NW 17).

Local Geography - Loch Urbhaig is located 1km NE of the village of Arinagour at the edge of the upland heather-moor which dominates the N half of Coll. The loch is only 0.2km from the shore of the tidal harbour and main port of Coll, Loch Eatharna. Loch Urbhaig measures 0.5km NW-SE by 0.2km NE-SW and is roughly oval in shape with many small alcoves and inlets. The water-visibility in the loch is poor, due to suspended peat, and only extends to 0.5m in depth. The water in Loch Urbhaig was found not to surpass 2m in depth at the time of survey. The entirety of the lochbed is covered with fine silt, which is a minimum of 3m deep and is easily stirred up. Loch Urbhaig has no major inlets but is drained from its SW side by a small stream which empties into Loch Eatharna 0.4km to the SW. The loch is also drained from its SE end by a modern dug drainage ditch which empties into the sea 1km to the SE.

Most of the land immediately surrounding Loch Urbhaig is covered by peat-bog and heather-moorland except for a large bluff of Lewisian gneiss which overlooks the NE section of the loch. Field systems can be found to the SE of the loch but these are heavily covered with peat and it is not possible to distinguish their typology. The nearest arable soils to the site are located 0.5km to the NE in the valley which cuts across the centre of Coll. All of the land N and E of Loch Urbhaig is covered by peat-bog and heather-moor, broken by ridges of Lewisian gneiss. No evidence was found in this area to indicate that it had been agriculturally exploited.

Site Description - This artificial islet is located near the centre of the N end of Loch Urbhaig, 35m from either the E or W shores. The site is surrounded by water 1m to 2m in depth and fine silts which extend down at least another 3m. The bottom half of the site was covered in this silt making underwater observations all but impossible. Extensive probing revealed that no other solid features were found near the site and no evidence for a causeway was found.

The artificial islet consists of a large bedrock outcrop, measuring 22m by 36m at its base, which has been partly enlarged by large stones. Two separate sections of the bedrock extend 2m above the water-line to form two natural islets which have nearly vertical sides. These islets are crowned by level, oval-shaped platforms which measure 3.5m E-W by 6.0m N-S and 6.0m E-W by 12.5m N-S. These platforms are located 3.5m above the surrounding lochbed and neither one is easily accessible from the water. At the time of survey both islets were peated over and foliated with bracken to such an extent that their upper platforms were completely obscured. It is not clear how much the peat growth has added in appearance to the height of the site and consequently the original surfaces may be substantially buried.

Around the E, W, and SE sides of the larger islet, sections of perimeter walling 4 courses high (1m) can be seen where the peat covering has been washed away by storm action. As previously noted by Beveridge and the RCAHMS some of the walling has fallen out of the peat to form a field of rubble at the water-line. The

stone used in the walling is unshaped, medium-sized and appears to be the local Lewisian gneiss.

At the time of survey the underwater portion of the site was almost entirely obscured by fine silt, of such a depth that the outside edge of the bedrock outcrop could not easily be established. No timbers or stone walling were observed.

Discussion - Although the site may be largely natural in origin, the submerged stone tumble surrounding it qualifies it as an artificial islet. The walling which encloses the upper platform and indicates that it is a viable archaeological site, may also give insight into the artificial islet's nature and chronology. The existence of walling on three separate sides of the largest islet indicates that, in the past, substantial human activity has taken place on the islet's surface. The fact that the walling is located underneath the peat, and was not noted by Beveridge in 1903, seems to indicate that it is not modern in origin. This walling is characteristic of the slight, perimeter walling which surrounds many of the artificial islets on Coll, and is assumed to be later-prehistoric or earlier in date. The position of the walling above the nearly vertical sides of the islet and at the edge of the upper platform, suggests that it is defensive in nature. Assuming that substantial portions of the walling have collapsed outwards, as evidenced by the line of stone tumble at the water-line, it is reasonable to suggest that the remains of a dun occupy the upper platform of the site, which has been engulfed by the peat. The upper platforms of both sites were noted to be level and would have provided ideal platforms for such a structure. Alternatively, the walling may be the remains of footings of a slighter perimeter wall, characteristic of the artificial islets of the Western Isles. This could potentially date to the Neolithic period (see Armit 1995, figure 4.3).

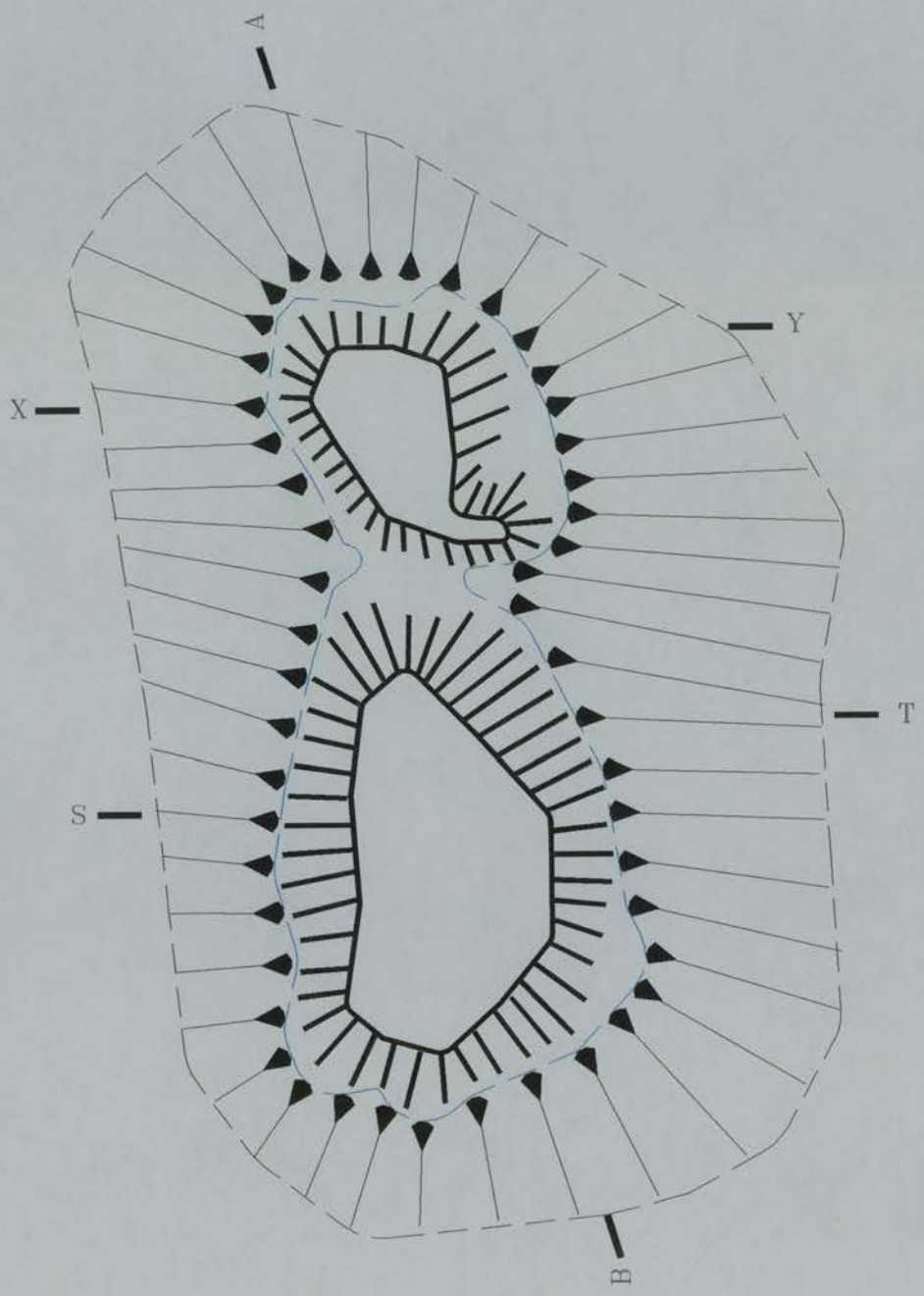
Regardless of the chronology of the site, it was located in a landscape which had many opportunities for settlers of any period. Although only scant evidence of past agricultural exploitation was found in the landscape immediately surrounding Loch Urbhaig, the encroaching peat-bog has undoubtedly covered past land surfaces and soils. Even if the artificial islet was constructed in such an apparently inhospitable landscape, the loch is only 0.3km from the great glen of Coll which is

sheltered, well drained and covered by soils which are conducive to arable agriculture. Loch Urbhaig is also located 0.3km from Loch Eatharna (the sea) which means that the islet's inhabitants would be in close proximity to a sheltered bay and tidal sands, where maritime resources could easily be harvested.

Site Surveyed: May 4, 1995

See: Holley DES 1995: 61

Urbhaig



Loch Urbhaig
Looking East

Loch Urbhaig: Walling
Looking North

Bally Haugh NM 1744 5845

Artificial islet - possible

Introduction - This most singular outcrop has not previously been labelled as an artificial islet nor even an archaeological site. Local sources (J. Fraser *pers. comm.* 1995) believe that the site has been labelled as a "possible island dun" by Beveridge (1903); however if this is the case, Beveridge did not publish this opinion.

Local Geography - This site is located 0.8km due N of Ballyhough near the edge of a marshy area which was once a loch. Local sources (J. Fraser *pers. comm.* 1995) indicate that the loch (which appears on Langland's map of Coll 1794 (SRO RHP 3368)) was drained in the 1840's to provide arable land for the settlement at Ballyhaugh. This may be the Loch Ulaig which John MacFadyen mentions was "drained and the land under cultivation" (Young 1997, 8) in his journal, written near the beginning of this century. The site occupies the E side of a low valley, now drained by a modern ditch, which runs N-S 1km from the W side of Rubha Hogh to the sandy beach of Traigh Hogh. The E and W sides of this valley are defined by 30m tall bluffs of Lewisian gneiss which shelter the area from prevailing NW winds. The valley is covered with soils which will support arable agriculture and evidence, in the form of lazybeds, rig and furrow trenches, and a criss-crossing pattern of fieldwalls, that the soils have been exploited for this purpose. Although some of the lazybeds are modern (J. Fraser *pers. comm.* 1995) in origin, others must be of earlier age as the turf encrusted dry-stone walls now run across them. The valley was being used for grazing cattle at the time of survey.

Site Description - This potential artificial islet is located 30m from the previous shoreline of the drained loch. The site is accessed from the E by a substantial stone causeway of large boulders of Lewisian gneiss. The causeway is 29m in length, 2.6m wide and 1.2m high. Two defensive features have been incorporated into the causeway in the form of a slight 10° curve and the presence of three oddly-spaced

gaps measuring 2.4m, 1.6m, and 2.3m. These gaps make it unlikely that this feature is a field-wall, however several field-walls do cross this area. Profiles of the area around the site have revealed that the site would have been surrounded by water 1m to 1.5m in depth with deeper water (over 2m) immediately to the W.

The mound is composed almost entirely of large bedrock outcrops of Lewisian gneiss which range between 1m and 2.3m in height. These outcrops enclose a roughly oval area which measures 10m by 15m at its base. The SE section of the site is enclosed by an arc of large boulders which appears to have been deliberately placed. This feature creates a level platform of 38m² which would have been 1m above the surrounding lochbed and is bounded on the N and W by bedrock outcrops.

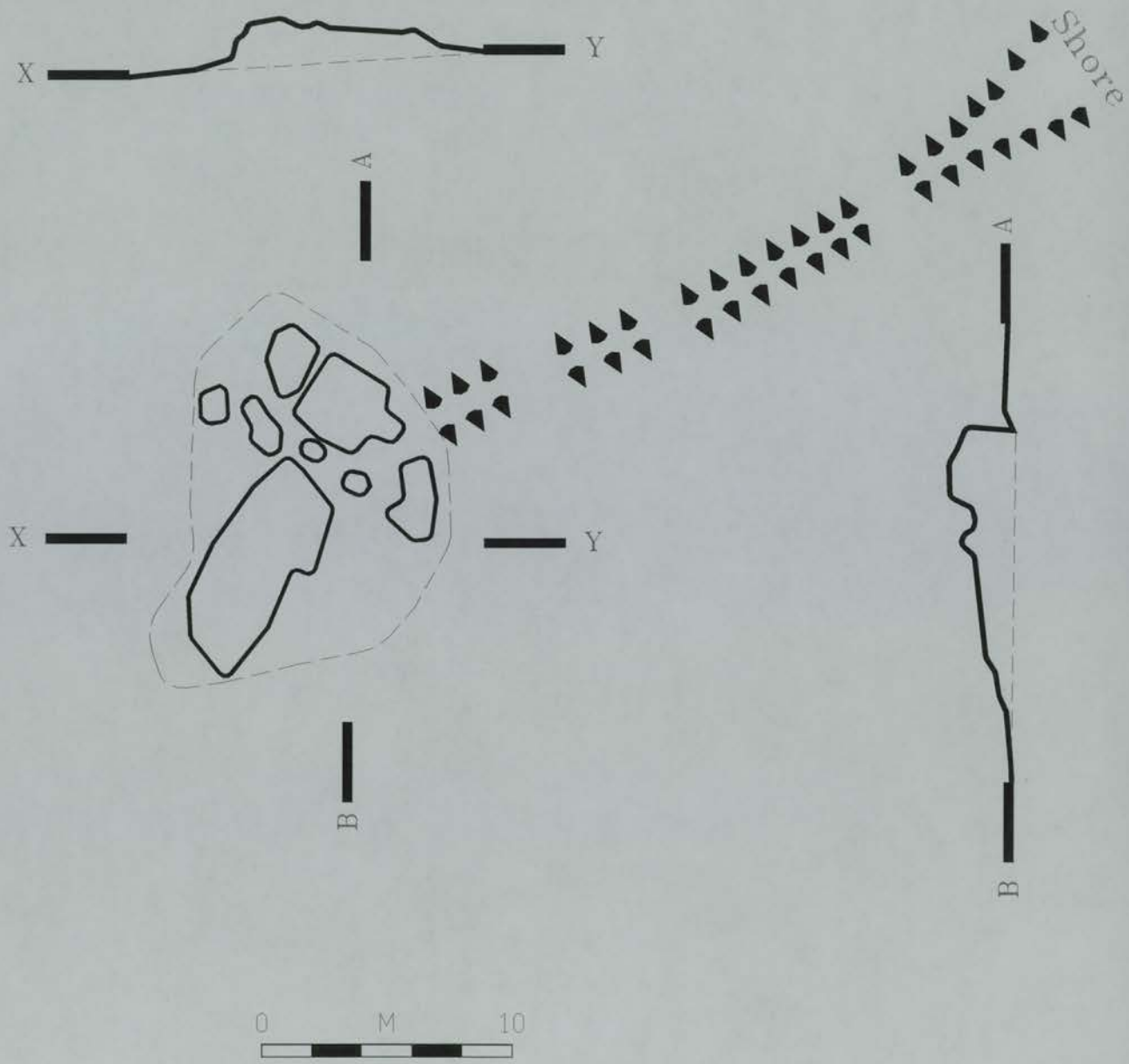
Discussion - This site has been listed as a possible artificial islet for four reasons: (1) The site was potentially accessed by a substantial stone causeway. (2) There is some evidence that the site has been artificially enlarged by stone walling at some point in time. (3) The site was certainly surrounded by water during antiquity. (4) The site conforms to the average size, shape and distance from shore as other artificial islets on Coll. The four reasons mentioned above lead the author to put forth the site as an artificial islet with about 40% certainty. Due to the uncertain archaeological content and/or highly disturbed nature of the site it was not considered in the discussion sections of this thesis.

The land which immediately surrounds the site indicates that this area has been extensively exploited throughout the historic period. Whether any of this exploitation is chronologically consistent with the possible artificial islet has yet to be determined.

Site Surveyed: May 12, 1995

See: Holley DES 1995: 61

Bally Hough



Bally Hough
Looking North

Bally Hough: Possible walling
Looking North

Loch Cliad #3 NM 2085 5847

Artificial islet - possible

Introduction - This site was noted by Beveridge (1903, 24) to be a "causewayed natural islet" which was protected by a flanking earthwork. The surface of the islet was reported to be covered by the foundations of several circular buildings. Beveridge also observed rings of stone that extended S into the loch, which he believed were a series of forts. The RCAHMS visited the site in July 1972 and found it to be a natural islet with no trace of a causeway. The building foundations noted by Beveridge were described as, "boulder-wall constructions of recent date" (RCAHMS Card NM 25 NW 8) and the stones extending onto the water were not formed into consistent rings.

Local Geography - Loch Cliad is located 2km NW of Arinagour, in the mid-section of the island, at the northern end of a valley which runs across Coll from Cliad Bay to Arinagour. The sides of this valley are dominated by steep bluffs of Lewisian gneiss 50m to 60m in height, while the floor of the valley is covered by blanket peat-bog. The northern 0.5km of this valley is plugged with machair sand dunes. Loch Cliad is oval in shape measuring 0.3km E-W by 0.5km N-S. Water depths vary throughout the loch between 1m and 1.5m. The water visibility was good in the loch and extended to the full 1m to 1.5m depth at the time of survey. The composition of the lochbed varied from area to area and ranged from sand and fine silt, which was not easily stirred up, to spreads of gravel. Beveridge notes (1903, 23) that Loch Cliad was partially drained sometime in the nineteenth century but does not indicate the former size or depth of the loch. Loch Cliad is fed from its S end by a small peat-choked stream which drains Loch an Duin; the loch is drained from its N end by the Cliad Burn, which winds its way through the sand dunes to empty into Cliad Bay 1.5km to the N.

Loch Cliad is surrounded by a mixture of upland heather moor, peated valley bottom and good agricultural land. Between the N end of the loch and the sand dunes

behind Cliad Bay there is a level, well drained, 0.5km² area of slightly sloping land that is covered by some of the most agriculturally productive soils on the island. This area has been intensively farmed throughout the historic period and 100 years ago, before the development of the sand dunes, it is said to have extended to the shore of Cliad Bay 1.5km to the N (N. Galbraith *pers. comm.* 1996). This area was still being actively till-farmed at the time of survey. Additional field-systems were also discovered in the valley separating the S end of Loch Cliad from Loch an Duin. Although this area is now covered by blanket peat-bog, rig and furrow field-systems are clearly visible beneath the peat. The land to the E and W of Loch Cliad is dominated by the steep bluffs of Lewisian gneiss and heather moorland mentioned above.

Site Description - This site is located 8m from the S shore of Loch Cliad near the stream which drains Loch an Duin. The depth of water surrounding the site was between 0.25m and 0.5m at the time of survey. The site is accessed by a 7m long, slight stone causeway of single, medium-sized stones. This causeway bridges an area of mire, consisting of soft peaty sediments more than 2m in depth, which was found by the author to be impassable.

The islet in question is a circular turf-covered rise which measures 60m E-W by 63m N-S at its base. The centre of this islet is crowned by a circular, level area 30m in diameter that was 1.4m above the water-level at the time of survey. The foundation remains of three ovoid buildings were found on this platform. The largest had internal measurements of 3.8m by 5.5m and consisted of a single row of medium-sized boulders of unshaped Lewisian gneiss. Portions of two other separate and less well defined structures of similar construction were also found.

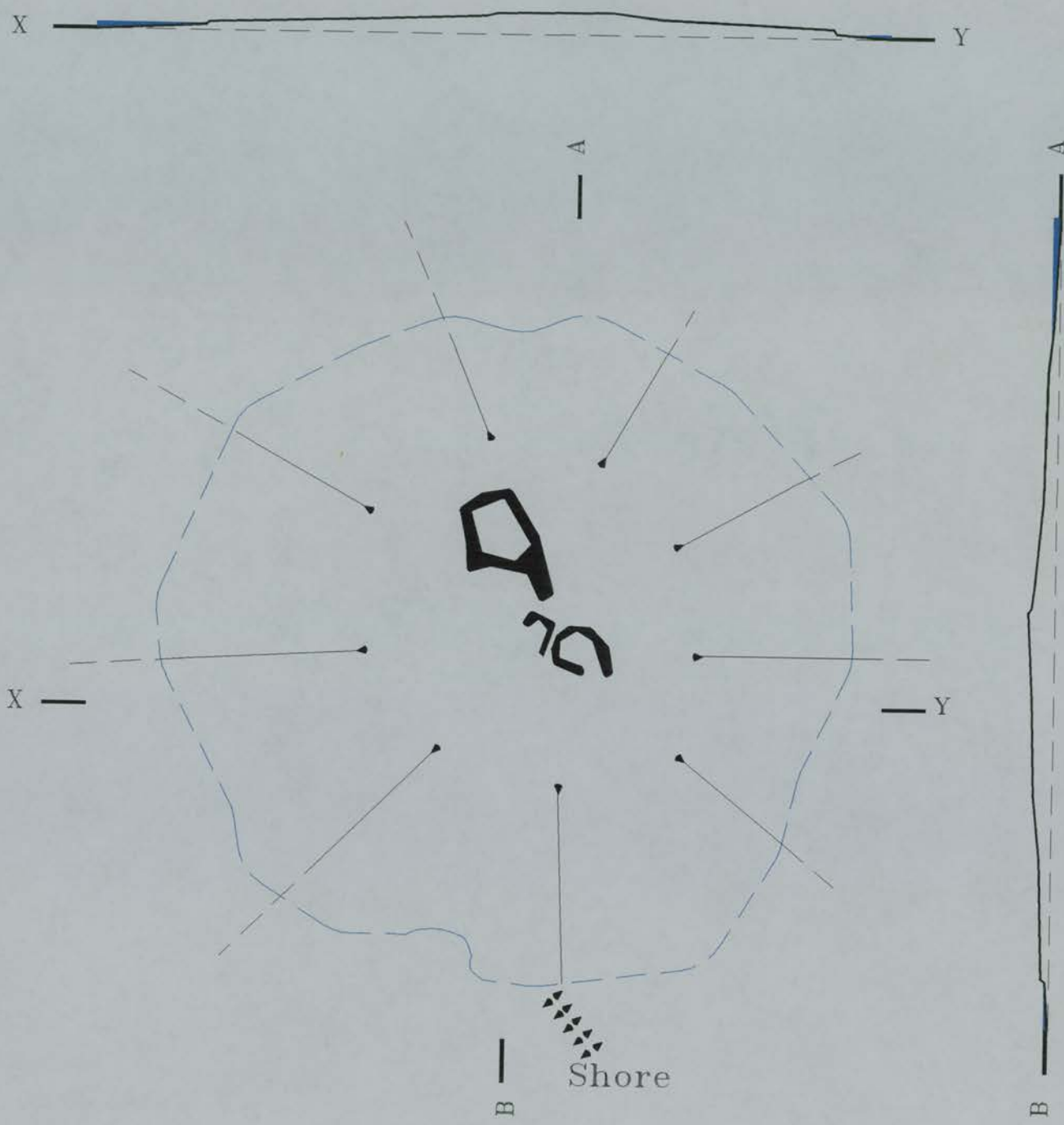
Underwater investigation revealed little about the nature of the site and it was not possible to determine whether, or not, the site was artificial. The circular spreads of stone noted by Beveridge were confirmed to be a natural feature of the lochbed and no other walling or timbers were found.

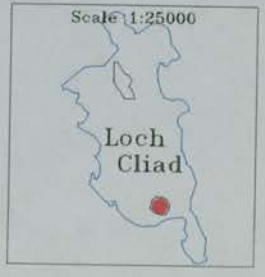
Discussion - This site is most likely natural in origin although it has a causeway and foundations which suggest that it is at least partly artificial. Without further intrusive investigation of the site, little can be known about its degree of artificiality or chronology. The walling which tops the site is slight in nature and may have been merely part of a fisherman's camp. The site has been included here simply to show the diverse nature of islet sites in the central Inner Hebrides.

Site Surveyed: May 17, 1995

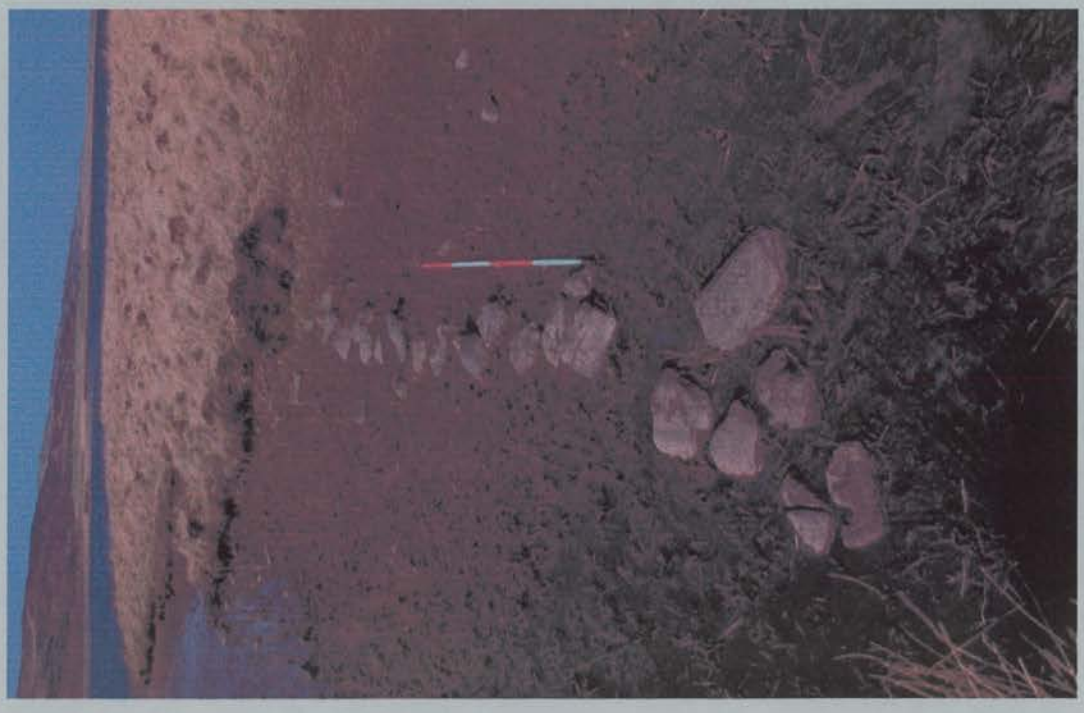
See: Holley DES 1995: 61

Cliad #3





Cliad #3
Looking North



Loch Cliad #3
Looking North

Loch an t-Sagairt NM 251 609

Possible artificial islet - discounted

Introduction - Beveridge notes that "Loch Ronard, Loch an t-Sagairt, and two other unnamed (three-quarters of a mile south of Loch an t-Sagairt), contain several islands, some of which may not improbably have been Duns" (1903, 21).

Field Search - Loch an t-Sagairt was inspected by divers and found to range between 1m and 1.5m in depth at the time of survey. Visibility in the loch was generally good and extended to 1.5m (the full depth of the loch). The lochbed is a fairly uniform plain and consists of heavy silt and peat. Three small bedrock islets were found in the loch but none displayed any evidence of human modification.

Site Inspected - May 1, 1995

Loch Arnaboist NM 207 601

Possible "lake-dwelling" - discounted

Introduction - Macdougall states that there was an "old-time loch" somewhere near Arnaboist and that it contained a "lake-dwelling" (Macdougall and Cameron 1937, 48). Beveridge's book was cited as the source for this speculation, however the only archaeological monument noted near this location by Beveridge is a souterrain which, by it's very nature, could not be situated in a lake. It is questionable if a loch existed in this location anytime in the recent past as Langland's map of Coll (SRO RHP 3368), published in 1794, shows no water bodies in this position.

Field Search - It is not possible to ascertain exactly where the ancient loch was located, if it existed at all, as this section of the island has been intensively till-farmed throughout the last century and all local knowledge of the loch is now lost. All of the area within 0.5km of Arnaboist was field-walked but no evidence was found of the suspected "lake-dwelling". Considering that no structures were actually identified in the "ancient loch", the existence of the "lake-dwelling" seems overly speculative.

Site Inspected - May 13, 1995; April 11, 1996

Crossapol Dunes NM 147 539

Possible "lake-village" - discounted

Introduction - During the winter of 1880 violent storms exposed several circular structures and associated shell middens which had been previously buried by machair dunes, 0.5 miles W of Coll Castle. These remains were interpreted as "lake-dwellings" by Ross, based entirely upon the fact that there are a "large number of small lakes in Coll, with the remains of lake-dwellings on them" (1882, 175). Beveridge also noted that this was the site of "an extensive lake-village (although not of the crannog type)" (1903, 42) and found a rectangular stone wall which he believed to be the remains of a causeway. The RCAHMS inspected the area in June of 1972 but only found the remains of a few hut circles. No trace was found of the alleged causeway (Card File NM 15 SW 7).

Field Search - The entirety of this end of Coll is covered with machair dunes. All of the area within 1km of the suspected "lake-village" was field-walked but the only archaeological remains which were discovered were the hut-circles previously noted by the RCAHMS. The subsurface geology of the area suggests that it is unlikely that a lake or marsh existed in this location subsequent to the last glaciation (see Drury 1970).

Site Inspected - April 12, 1996; July 17, 1996

Loch Ghille-Caluim NM 2580 6082

Possible "Island Dun"/artificial islet - discounted

Introduction - Beveridge notes that there is an "Island Dun" in the S end of Loch Ghille-Caluim and that it can be accessed by wading. The site is described as "measuring 20 feet in diameter" and having it's S end enclosed by a wall 3 feet in height (1903, 21). Based upon Beveridge's recommendation the site was included in Blundell's inventory of artificial islands (1913, 292). The RCAHMS inspected the site in June of 1972 but found "no trace of the wall seen by Beveridge, and no other trace of artificial structure" (Card File NM 26 SE 5).

Field Search - Loch Ghille-Caluim was inspected by divers and found to range between 0.5m and 1m in depth at the time of survey. Visibility in the loch was generally good and extended to 1m (the full depth of the loch). The lochbed is a fairly uniform plain and consists of heavy silt and peat which is covered with thick aquatic vegetation. The islet noted by Beveridge was found to be covered with peat and overgrown with scrub brush and briars. No walling or stone tumble was found on the islet's surface. The sediments on and near the islet were probed to a depth of 1.5m but no solid features were encountered. No evidence was recovered to indicate that this small islet was anything other than a natural feature.

Site Inspected - May 1, 1995; April 13, 1996

Loch Rathilt NM 2412 6160

Possible "Island Dun"/artificial islet - discounted

Introduction - Beveridge notes that there "is a long rocky island, upon which are the unmistakable remains of a Dun" (1903, 22) in the north end of Loch Rathilt. The "Dun" is described as measuring 25 feet in diameter and having walls 42 inches thick. The site was noted to be accessed from the W by a causeway (1903, 21) and was included in Blundell's inventory (1913, 292) of artificial islands, upon Beveridge's recommendation. The RCAHMS inspected the site in June of 1972 but found "the vague traces of a possibly circular structure about 6.0m in diameter" which were "so overgrown that it is impossible to classify". No trace was found of the alleged causeway (Card File NM 26 SW 20).

Field Search - Loch Rathilt was inspected by divers and found to be under 0.5m in depth at the time of survey. The lochbed is a fairly uniform plain and consists of heavy silt and peat which is covered with thick aquatic vegetation. The islet noted by Beveridge was found to be a natural bedrock feature measuring approximately 20m E-W by 80m N-S and was covered with peat and overgrown with scrub brush and briars at the time of survey. No walling or stone tumble was found on the islet's surface. The sediments around the islet were probed to a depth of 1.5m but no solid features or other indications of a causeway were encountered. No evidence was recovered to indicate that this islet was anything other than a natural bedrock feature.

Site Inspected - May 1, 1995

Loch Ronard NM 238 608

Possible artificial islet - discounted

Introduction - Beveridge notes that "Loch Ronard, Loch an t-Sagairt, and two other unnamed (three-quarters of a mile south of Loch an t-Sagairt), contain several islands, some of which may not improbably have been Duns" (1903, 21).

Field Search - Loch Ronard was inspected by divers and found to range between 1m and 1.5m in depth at the time of survey. Visibility in the loch was generally poor and only extended to 0.5m due to peat run-off. The lochbed is a fairly uniform plain and consists of heavy silt and peat which is covered with intermittent aquatic vegetation. Several small bedrock islets were found in the loch but none displayed any evidence of human modification.

Site Inspected - May 1, 1995

The Artificial Islets of Tiree

Eilean Aird nam Brathan, Loch Bhasapol NL 9743 4701

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first labelled a "likely artificial dun" by Beveridge (1903, 117) who viewed it from the E shore. Beveridge only notes that a wild-fowl shooting shelter occupied the surface of the site. Blundell reported that Peter Anderson, a gamekeeper from Scarnish described the islet as "partly artificial, measuring 10 by 15 yards, and composed of large stones" (1913, 292).

The RCAHMS visited the site in May 1975 and included it as a "crannog" in its Inventory (RCAHMS 1980, No. 246(1)). The site was described as being obscured by dense reeds but measuring 15m by 20m at the water-line. Arcs of walling were located extending into the water on both the N and S sides of the islet. This walling was determined to be the wild-fowl shooting blinds mentioned by Beveridge. No trace of a causeway or timbers were found (RCAHMS 1980, No. 246(1)).

Local Geography - Loch Bhasapol is located 0.5km S of the beach at Traigh Chornaig on the W side of Tiree. The loch is presently the second largest on Tiree, measuring 0.7km E-W by 1km N-S, and is irregular in shape. Water conditions in the loch were fair with visibility extending between 1m and 1.5m. Most of the loch is between 1m and 1.5m in depth, however a deeper 3m+ area is located near its centre. The lochbed is composed of sand which is quite firm but covered with a fine silt, 0.2m in depth, which is easily stirred up. The loch is drained to the E by a stream which feeds the lade of an old mill at Cornaigmore that is now closed. Water-levels have risen since Beveridge's time probably due to the closure of the mill lade.

The land surrounding Loch Bhasapol contains a mixture of varying environments. The land immediately surrounding the loch is well-drained, level and has been intensively farmed up to the present. To the S, W and NW of the loch are extensive field-systems which cover roughly 250 hctre. A machair sand-dune system occupies the area between Traigh Chornaig and 300m N of the loch. This system is presently grassed over and stable but an inspection of the stratigraphy in a burn

revealed several episodes of dramatic change. The area E of the loch is a grassy plain which is broken by frequent bedrock outcrops.

Site Description - Eilean Aird nam Brathan is located 41m off the middle of the E side of Loch Bhasapol. The section of lochbed surrounding the site is composed of firm sand that is covered with a slight growth of aquatic vegetation. The site is surrounded by water 1m to 1.3m in depth with the shallower water located between the site and the shore. This allows the site to be easily waded to. Immediately to the SW of the site the water deepens to 2.5+m. No trace of a causeway was found even though the area between the site and shore was probed.

Eilean Aird nam Brathan is an oval shaped mound of small and medium sized stones which measures 29.2m N-S by 41.5m E-W at its base. The mound is capped by a fairly level, oval platform which measures 14.0m N-S by 23.0m E-W with the long axis running perpendicular to the shore. This platform is located 1.1m above the surrounding lochbed and was 10cm below water-level at the time of survey. The surface of the islet is heavily overgrown with reeds, and peat is just beginning to encroach. Large boulders were found to encircle the base of the site but were not placed in any coherent fashion suggestive of walling. The sides of the mound taper out gradually at an angle of 6° over an average of 8m. No timbers were found on or near the site.

Five separate sections of walling were found on the islet just below the water-line. The first is located 2.7m from the upper platform in the SE quadrant of the islet. This wall is composed of a single row of large unshaped boulders which followed the islet's contour for 8.1m. The second wall is also composed of large boulders but runs for 6.0m perpendicular from the upper platform to the bottom edge near the centre of the S side of the site. The third wall follows the contour of the SW section of the upper platform and is composed of angular blocks of medium-sized stone set in parallel arcs 25cm apart. The visible portion of this wall is 1 course high, 1.3m thick and 10.0m long. The fourth section of walling connects with the third to enclose the entire W side of the upper platform. This wall is also composed of a double row of angular, medium sized stone and is 50cm wide and 9.5m long. A fifth section of

walling is located at the edge of the upper platform near the centre of the N side of the site. This wall consists of a single row of medium-sized angular stone and has a curve and ninety degree corner in its centre. The wall was 30cm wide and 4.2m long.

Several artefacts were found on the upper platform of the site during the survey. Three sherds of pottery were found lying on the surface of the site near the E edge of the fifth section of walling. The largest sherd measures 1.5cm by 2.5cm and appears to be part of a rim. The exterior of the sherd is a bright orange colour and the interior is dull grey. The other two sherds are less than 1 cm^2 in size and are dark brown in colour. Two possible hammerstones were also found on the outside edge of the third section of walling.

Discussion - Both the nature and chronology of this site are open to question. The base of the site is certainly artificial, but the type of structure occupying the upper platform is debatable. The walling on the upper platform varies in both materials and nature. Some of the walling appears to be well-built footings of angular, medium sized stone while other sections are little more than a line of large boulders. The RCAHMS has suggested that the walling is the remains of wild-fowl shooting blinds. This theory seems unlikely. Firstly, four of the walls are over 6m in length; far longer than those needed by sportsmen. Two of the walls were built from double rows of angular stone. A shooting blind does not need to be either this thick or this carefully built. The complexity of the layout of the walling would also seem to indicate that it was not a simple shooting blind.

Beveridge's hypothesis that the islet was the site of an "old dun" is also unsupported and not based on the close examination of the features of the artificial islet. The sides of the site taper out gradually and are not defensive in nature. The site is surrounded by shallow water and can easily be approached from shore. If the mill's sluice was opened the water-level would be even lower yet. The walling on the site is not similar to the massive type found on other duns on the islet but rather gives the impression of building foundations. The complexity of the layout of the walling would also seem to indicate this. This argument, of course assumes that that site has not been robbed of stone and subject to heavy sedimentation.

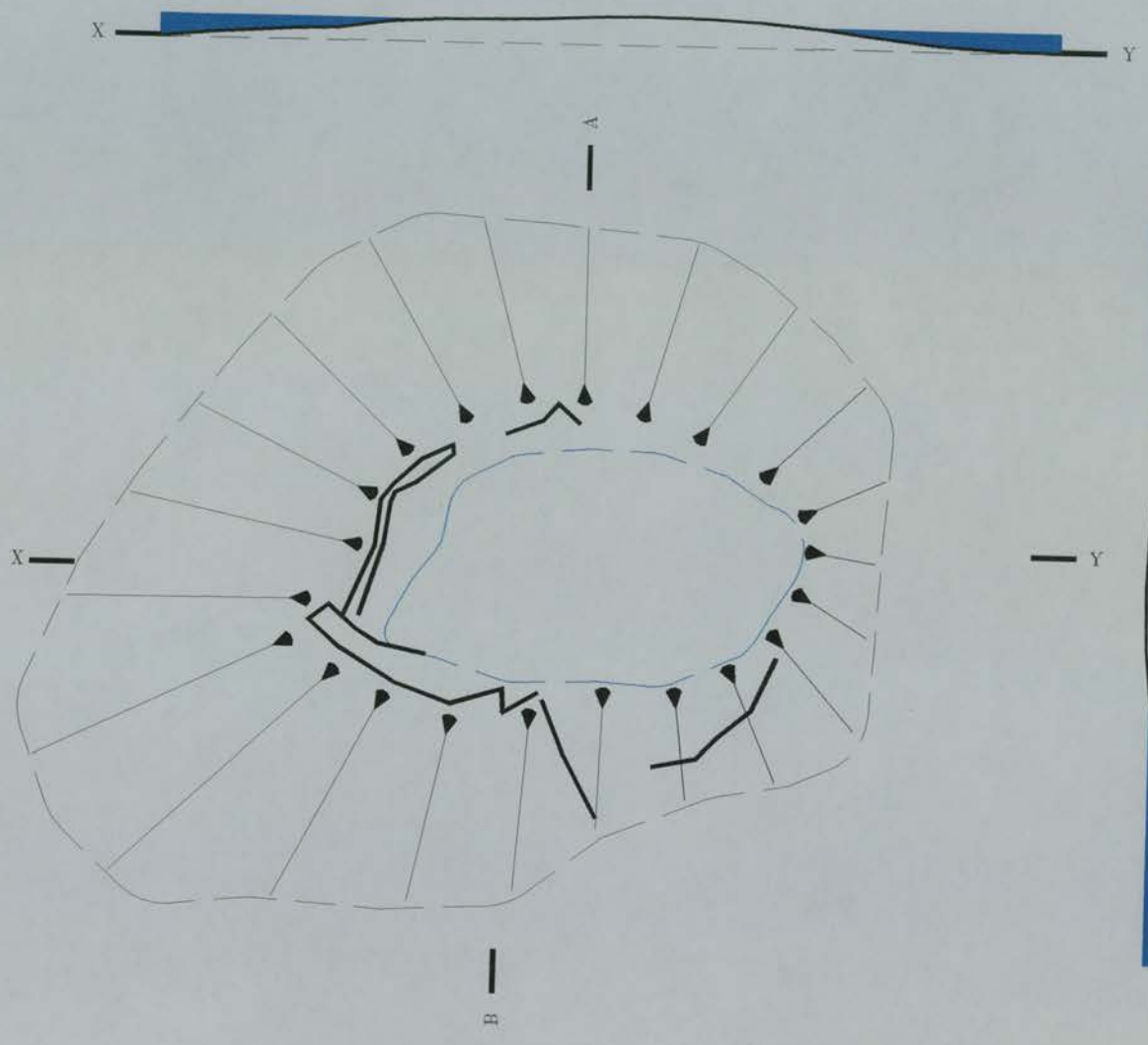
The chronology of this site remains undetermined. The layout of the walling which covers the islet suggests that it was occupied by a complex structure, or series of structures, which have no precedence in the study area. The surface finds of pottery and hammerstones are not chronologically distinctive but would seem to indicate that the site was used as a habitation. However, this is not definitive as each of the finds could have been brought to the islet through various means and were not found in context.

The islet's name Eilean Aird na Brathan translates to "the island of the millstone promontory" (I. Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997) suggesting that it may have once been connected to the shore. An early map of the Duke of Argyll's property on Tiree dated 1769 (SRO RHP 8826/1) shows the water-level of Loch Bhasapol substantially reduced and Eilean Aird na Brathan as a narrow promontory projecting from the east shore of the loch. This evidence raises the possibility that the site may not have been an artificial islet but rather some type of loch-side promontory structure. It is not clear how, or even if, a distinction can be made between such structures, but for the purposes of this study the site remains classified as an artificial islet.

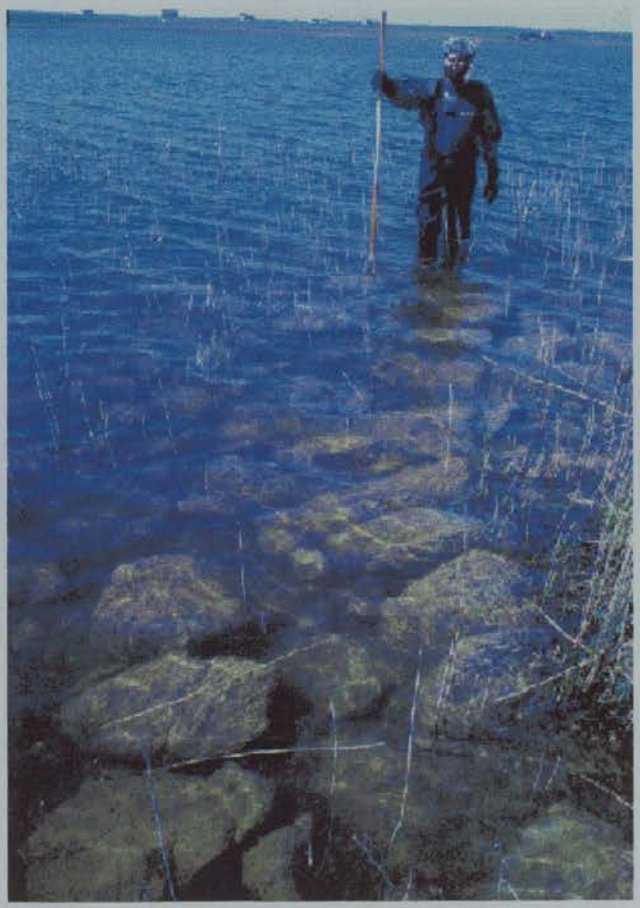
Site Surveyed: May 19, 1995

See: Holley DES 1995: 68-69

Eilean Aird Nam Brathan



Eilean Aird Nam Brathan
Looking West



Eilean Aird Nam Brathan: Walling
Looking North West

Eilean Mhic Conuill, Loch Bhasapol NL 9698 4677

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first labelled a "dun" by Beveridge (1903, 116) who viewed it from the shore. The top of the site was described as a pile of loose stones on which a shooting blind had been built. Large stones were viewed in the water around the site and a causeway was suspected to run towards the NW shore of the loch. Other descriptions of the islet were published by Blundell (1913,291-2). A Miss Elspeth Campbell described the site as being built of large stones but states that there was no trace of a causeway. Peter Anderson, a gamekeeper from Scarnish described the islet as "entirely artificial, 18 yards in diameter and composed of stones" (Blundell 1913, 291-2). Both people agreed that concentrations of stone were not found in other areas of the loch.

The RCAHMS inspected the site in May 1975 and included it as a "crannog" in its Inventory (RCAHMS 1980, No. 246(2)). At the time of the visit the site was between 0.3m and 0.5m underwater and only roughly described as: 'circular on plan, 15 m in diameter and composed of loose stone'. No trace of a causeway or timbers were found.

Local Geography - Loch Bhasapol is located 0.5km S of the beach at Traigh Chornaig on the W side of Tiree. The loch is presently the second largest on Tiree, measuring 0.7km E-W by 1km N-S, and is irregular in shape. Water conditions in the loch were fair during the survey with visibility extending between 1m and 1.5m. Most of the loch is between 1m and 1.5m in depth, however a deeper 3m+ area is located near it's centre. The lochbed is composed of sand which is quite firm but covered with a fine silt, 0.2 m in depth, which is easily stirred up. The loch is drained to the E by a stream which feeds the lade of an old mill at Cornaigmore, which is now closed. Water-levels have risen since Beveridge's time probably due to the closure of the mill lade.

The land surrounding Loch Bhasapol contains a mixture of varying environments. The land immediately surrounding the loch is well-drained, level and has been intensively farmed up to the present. To the S, W and NW of the loch are

extensive field-systems which cover roughly 250 hctre. A machair sand-dune system occupies the area between Traigh Chornaig and 300m N of the loch. This system is presently grassed over and stable but an inspection of the stratigraphy in a burn revealed several episodes of dramatic change. The area E of the loch is a grassy plain which is broken by frequent bedrock outcrops.

Site Description - Eilean Mhic Conuill is located 82m S of the large peninsula in the W end of Loch Bhasapol. The section of lochbed surrounding the site is composed of firm sand with a slight growth of vegetation and revealed no trace of the suspected causeway. At the time of survey, the top of the site was covered by 0.3m of water and showed no signs of vegetational growth. The site is surrounded by water 1.2m to 1.5m in depth, but deepens to 2.3m between the site and shore.

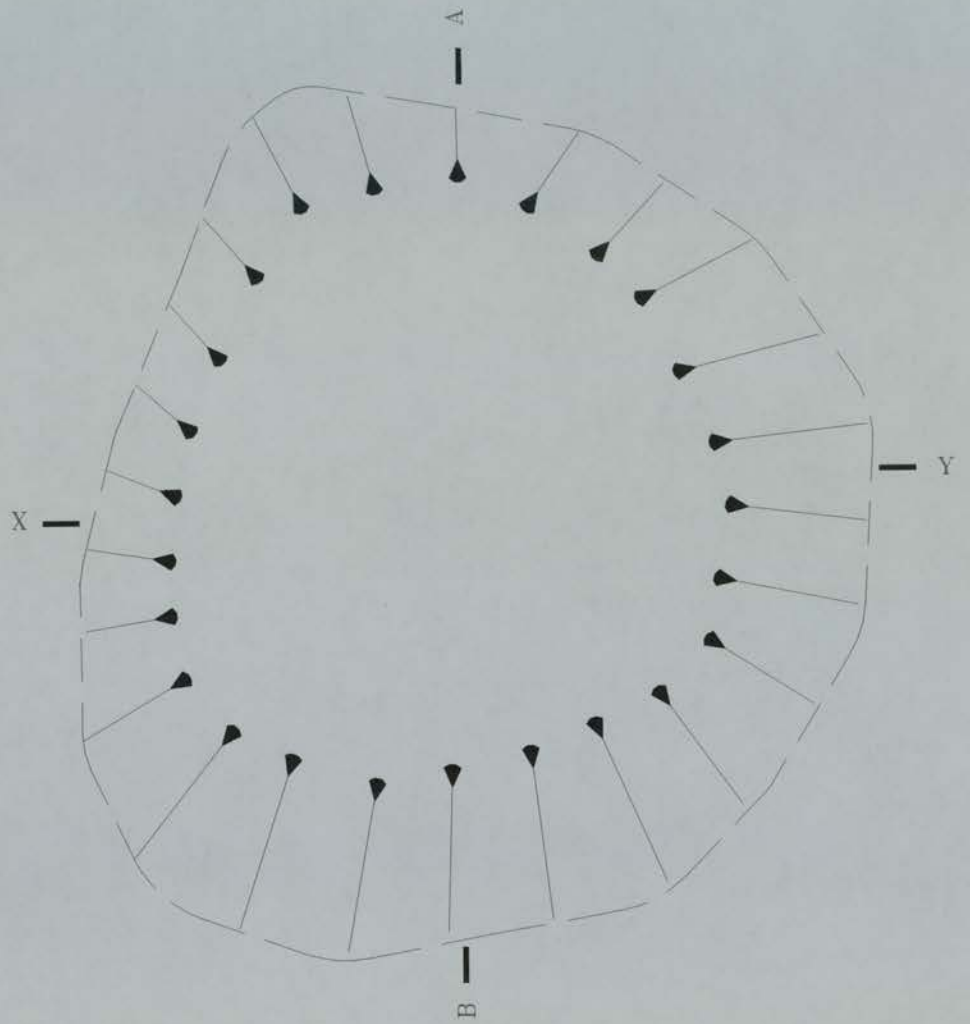
The artificial islet is a circular mound of small, well-rounded stone which measures 31.6m E-W by 34.5m N-S at its base. The mound is crowned by a fairly level, circular platform which measures 24m in diameter and stands 1m above the surrounding lochbed. The sides of the mound taper out gradually at an angle of 6° over an average of 5m. No walling, shaped stone or timbers were found.

Discussion - The nature and chronology of this artificial are unknown. Beveridge's hypothesis that it was a dun is unsupported and not based on a close examination of the site's features. This is not surprising as Beveridge only viewed the site from shore. Island duns being characterised by massive perimeter walling, however, no trace of walling, was found on the surface of the islet and the stone of which the mound is composed is too small to be used for walling. It is unlikely that the site has been robbed of stone, as it is located far out into the loch and not easily accessible from shore. In light of the limitations of the material found on the site the theory that it was an island dun seems overly speculative. However, the structural remains are certainly artificial in origin and indicate that the site should be classified as an artificial islet.

Site Surveyed: May 22, 1995

See: Holley DES 1995: 69

Eilean Mhic Chonnill



Loch na Buaile NM 0338 4490

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first labelled an "island-fort" by Beveridge (1903, 116) who noted that it measured 7 yards in diameter and was connected to the shore by a 12 yard long causeway. Beveridge also indicated that Loch na Buaile had been partially drained. This site was also noted by Blundell (1913, 292) to be artificial.

The Royal Commission visited the site in August 1975 and included it in its Inventory (1980, No. 248) as a "crannog". The site was described as an "artificial island" which consisted of "a grassy platform of sub-circular plan, measuring 13.5m in diameter." The centre of the site was occupied by the remains of an ovoid shaped building, 6.5m in length and was accessed by a stone causeway 5m in length.

Local Geography - Loch na Buaile is located 1km NW of Scarnish, near the mid-section of Tiree. The loch is now little more than an oval-shaped puddle, measuring 26m E-W by 200m NW-SE. Water conditions in the loch were poor with almost nil visibility, but water depth was only 0.5m. The loch bed was composed of a thick mud-clay which was a minimum of 1m in depth. A stream which runs toward Scarnish was the only visible outlet to the loch. Beveridge notes (1903, 116) that Loch na Buaile was partially drained sometime in the nineteenth century but does not indicate the former size of the loch.

Loch na Buaile is situated on a sloping plain blanket peat-bog which is extremely wet, swampy and difficult to traverse. Several other small, shallow lochs and their feeder streams break the landscape surrounding Loch na Buaile in addition to bedrock outcrops up to 10m in height. An extensive area around the loch was field-walked but no trace of agricultural exploitation was found. The nearest arable ground is located 0.6km to the E near the village of Scarnish.

Site Description - This site is located on the E shore of Loch na Buaile, 65m from the N end, and is edged by 0.2m of muddy water. The artificial islet is accessed by a causeway 10m in length, of large well-rounded boulders. The causeway is 3.4m wide at its base and provides a 1.5m wide walkway which is 0.5m above the surrounding lochbed.

The artificial islet is a circular, turf-covered mound which measures 15.1m by 15.9m at its base. Underwater investigation revealed that the islet is definitely artificial and is comprised of small, fist sized, well-rounded stones. The base of the islet is surrounded and covered by heavy peat-based silts which have the consistency of quicksand. The centre of the mound is crowned by the remains of an oval-shaped structure which measures 6.2m NW-SE by 8.6m NE-SW. This structure is 0.8m above the surrounding lochbed and appears to be a single ring of medium-sized boulders which have now been turfed over. No submerged walling or timbers were found.

Discussion - The inspection of this site revealed little with which to establish a speculative chronology. The structural remains which top the site are very slight and covered with turf which prevents close inspection. The oval shape of the remains may however suggest that they are prehistoric rather than medieval in date. The exterior shell of the islet is certainly artificial in origin but displays no chronologically distinctive traits.

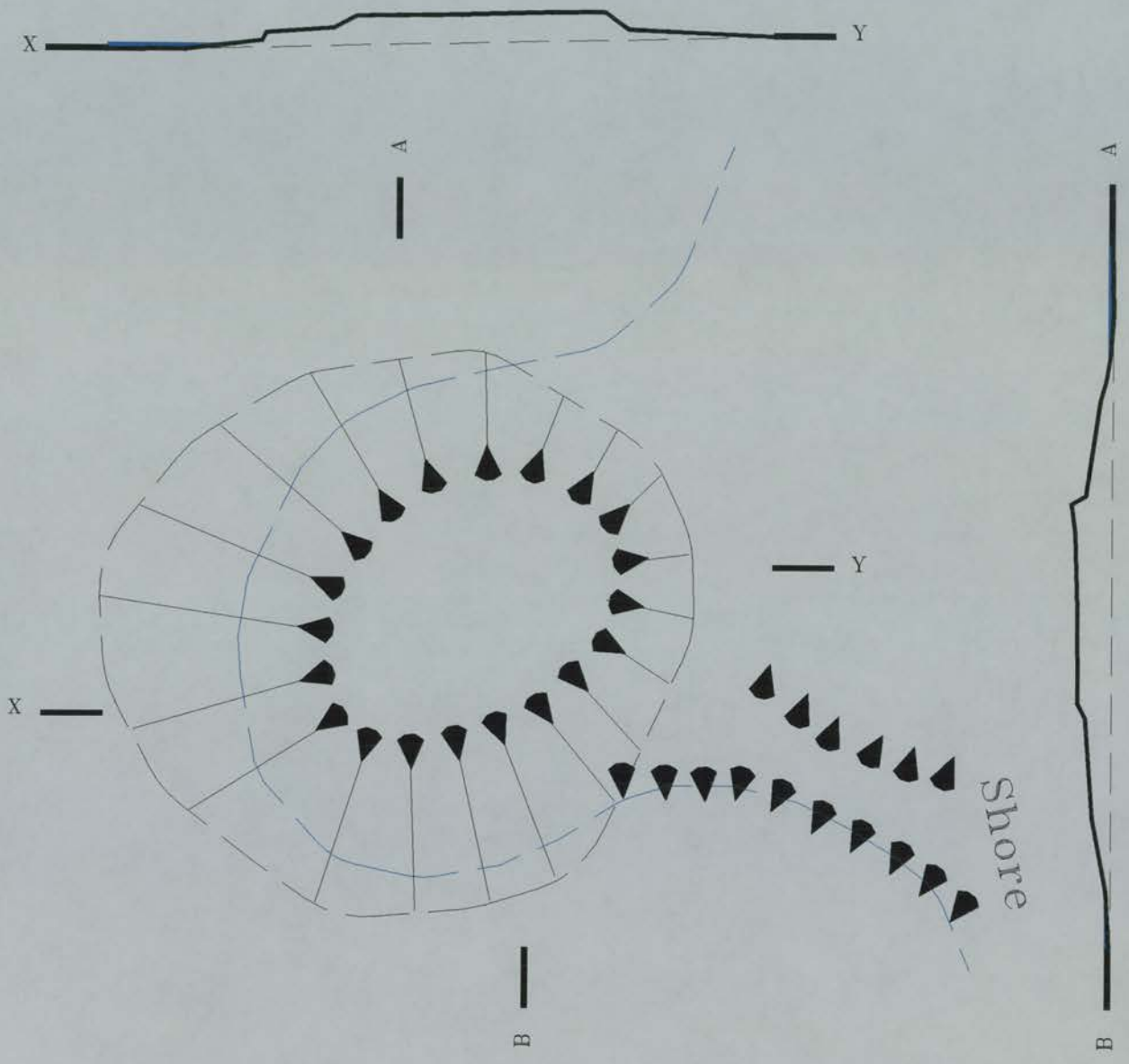
It is not immediately apparent why an artificial islet was constructed in Loch na Buaile. The loch is located in one of the least hospitable areas of Tiree, in the middle of a barren peat-moorland, which shows no signs of past agricultural exploitation. This is surprising, as there are very few places on the island of this nature. The site is 0.6km from the nearest arable land, thus relatively far on an island the size of Tiree which is covered with good soils. In light of such environmental constraints, it is tempting to explain the site in two ways. (1) The site was placed in the moorland deliberately to avoid other sites, habitation, or human activity; or (2) at least one phase of the site predates the development of the peat-moorland and was in use when the surrounding environment was more hospitable.

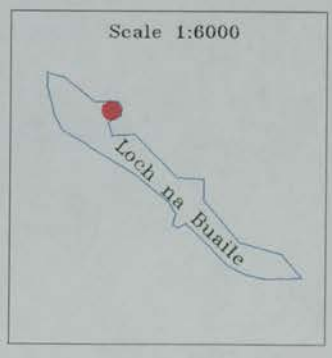
It is reasonable to assume that the landscape surrounding the loch has changed considerably since the artificial islet was constructed. Since the loch has been drained, blanket peat-bog has spread across the landscape, obscuring the old shoreline and making it impossible to estimate how far the site was from shore, or what depth of water surrounded it.

Site Surveyed: May 21, 1995

See: Holley DES 1995: 69

na Buaile





Loch na Buaile
Looking North

Loch na Gile NM 0260 4816

"Possible" artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first discovered by Beveridge (1903, 115) who labelled it an "Island Dun" and stated that there were traces of several buildings on it. The site was noted to be 20 yards from the shore and accessed by "the merest traces of a former causeway" (*ibid.*). On the NE edge of the islet was found "the remains of a strong outer wall enclosing a slight inner erection some 7 yards in length" (*ibid.*). Beveridge notes that although stones could be seen underwater around the margins of the site, that the "island was partly natural, containing a flat rock" (*ibid.*). The islet's artificial nature was also noted by Mr. Peter Anderson, a gamekeeper from Scarnish (Blundell 1913, 292).

The RCAHMS visited the site in May of 1975 and classified it as a "possible crannog" in its Inventory (1980, NO. 250). The site was described as being surrounded by shallow water, 18m from shore and measured 9m by 16m. The remains of a sub-rectangular building of unknown date were found but no trace was found of a causeway. The "strong wall" noted by Beveridge was, "no more than a mass of tumbled debris, whose original character cannot be determined" (*ibid.*). No comments were noted as to whether the islet was natural or artificial.

Local Geography - Loch na Gile is located 2km NW of Gott, and 0.5km from the N coast of Tiree. The loch measures 0.2km E-W by 0.3km N-S and is roughly horse-shoe in shape. The water depth ranges between 0.5m and 1.2m throughout the loch with deeper water found near the centre. The water conditions in the loch were good with visibility extending from the surface to the lochbed. The lochbed is a firm mixture of sand and gravel which was covered with light vegetation at the time of survey. The loch has no visible inlets or outlets.

The land immediately surrounding Loch na Gile is covered with blanket peat-bog which is occasionally broken by bedrock outcrops up to10m in height. The peat-bog is surrounded by a level grassy plain which is covered with soils which will

support arable agriculture. Lazy-beds and rig-and-furrow plowed fields were found 200m W of the site in soils which will support arable agriculture.

Site Description - This site is located near the centre of the N end of Loch na Gile, 24m from the W shore. The site is surrounded by water less than 0.5m in depth and is easily accessed from shore. No trace was found of the causeway noted by Beveridge even though the lochbed was probed.

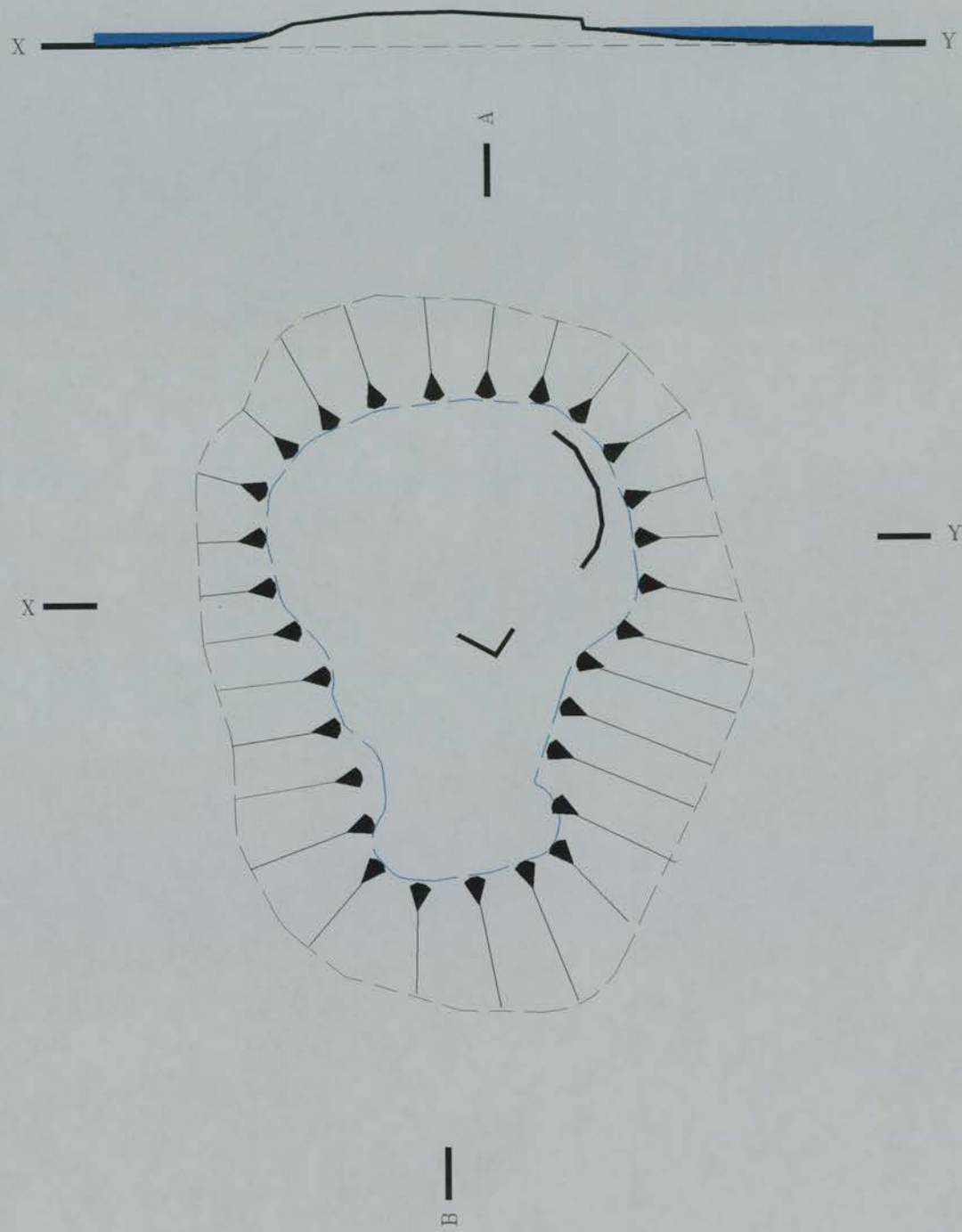
The site is an oval-shaped bedrock islet which measures 18m by 25m at its base, that has been slightly enlarged by small stones. The islet is crowned by a level, grassy platform which resembles a light bulb in shape. This platform was 0.5m above water-level and 1.1m above the surrounding lochbed at the time of survey. Only one corner of the sub-rectangular building previously identified by Beveridge and the RCAHMS is clearly visible, the remainder of the structure has been broken up and is indistinct tumble. A 5.5m long section of the "strong wall" noted by Beveridge was identified on the NE edge of the platform. This walling consisted of a single course of well rounded, medium sized stones. Underwater investigation revealed that the islet was natural and only slightly enlarged with small stones. No timbers were found.

Discussion - In the absence of any tangible structure or dating evidence the chronology and function of this site remains unknown. The site, though very slightly, has been artificially enlarged and is therefore, by definition, is an artificial islet. The remains on the islet's surface confirm that a certain amount of human activity has taken place here in the past. The site is highly disturbed and certainly has been robbed of stone since Beveridge's time. The shallow water which surrounds the site would seem to indicate that it was not chosen for a defensive purpose, however it is located immediately next to potentially arable farmland which shows signs of past exploitation.

Site Surveyed: May 19, 1995

See: Holley DES 1995: 69

na Gile



Loch na Gile
Looking East

Dun Beag, Caolas NM 0779 4934

Marsh Dun - Possible artificial island

Introduction - Beveridge notes that a "large mound (about 35 yards in diameter on the summit, with slopes of 8 yards in addition, and of a present height of at least 15 to 20 feet)" (1903, 109) is the remains of a dun which was once surrounded by a loch. Prior to Beveridge's inspection the site had been used as a quarry for "building purposes" and Beveridge notes that "the stones and debris have evidently been turned over and shifted from their original position" (*ibid.*). A large quantity of pottery, hammer-stones, shells and bone were recovered from the site and were assumed to be the contents of a midden. Beveridge thought that the whole mound was artificial because no natural rock was observed on its surface and suggested that the site was accessed from the E by a ridge "perhaps originally a causeway" (*ibid.*).

The RCAHMS visited the site in July of 1973 and included it as a "(possible) Dun" in its Inventory (1980, No. 195). The RCAHMS described the site as a grassy knoll about 5m high and 26m in diameter and seemed to classify the site as a dun based on Beveridge's description. The RCAHMS field-surveyor notes that, "the site is now surrounded by meadows and it seems unlikely that a loch ever existed here" (RCAHMS Card File NM 04 NE 3). However, an early map of the Duke of Argyll's property on Tiree, dated 1769 (SRO RHP 8826/1) shows Dun Beag as a small islet located in a fairly substantial loch at this position.

Field Search - Dun Beag is a circular grass-covered mound measuring 55m N-S by 51m E-W at its base. The mound is crowned by a circular platform which measures 33m N-S by 30m E-W and stands on average 4m above the surrounding depression. Very little stone was noted protruding through the grass at the time of survey and it was not possible to determine if the mound was natural or artificial in nature. As previously mentioned the E side of the site is accessed by a grass-covered ridge 70m in length, which may be the remains of a causeway. It should be cautioned however that it was not possible to determine if this was a natural or artificial feature.

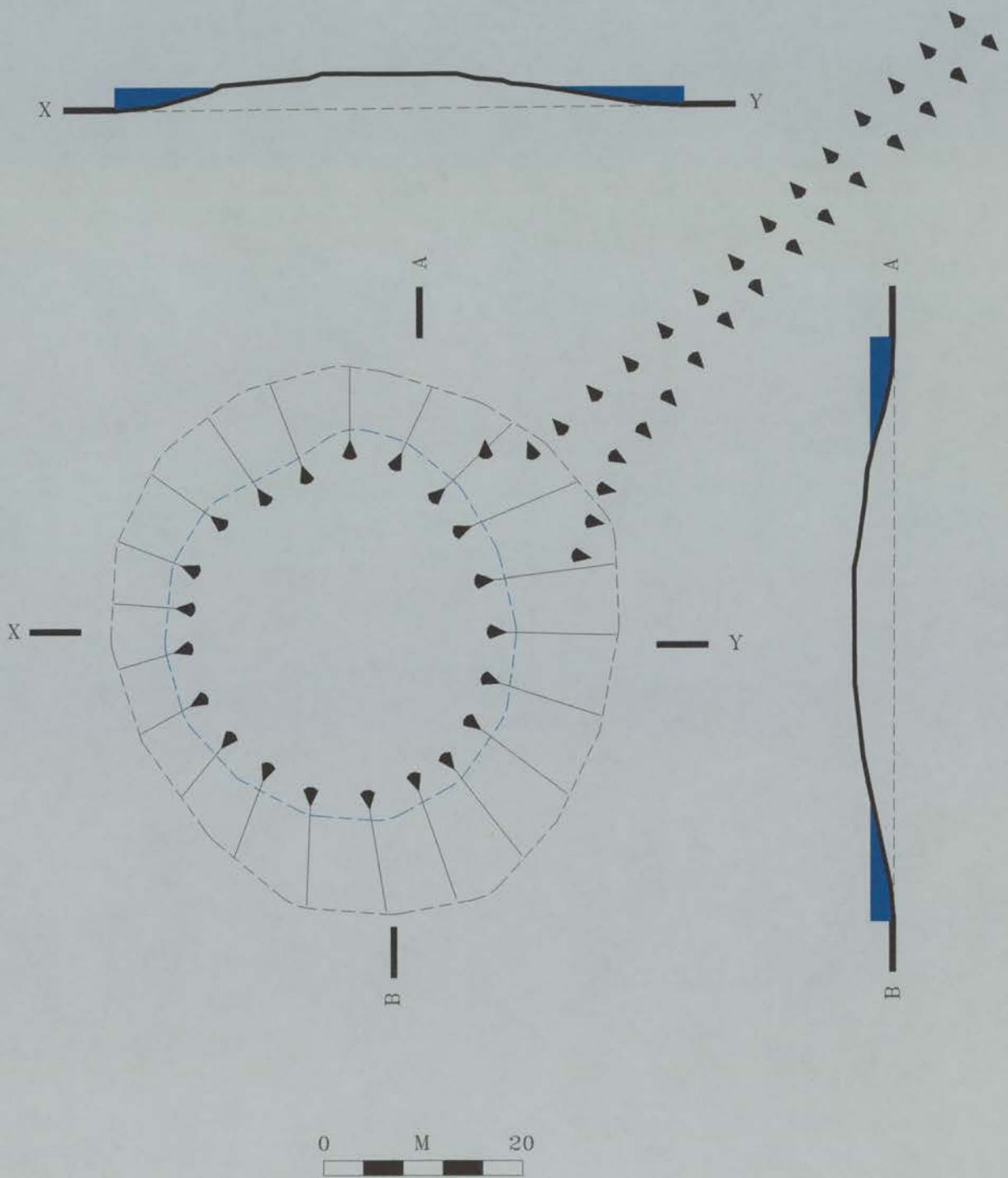
There are many indications that this is an archaeological site and if the Duke of Argyll's map is correct it was certainly once surrounded by water. Prior to survey a drainage ditch 1.5m in depth had been excavated around the base of the site. Almost 50 sherds of pottery (some decorated and characteristic of later prehistoric type), bones and hamerstones were recovered from the spoil of this ditch (see Holley 1995) and revealed that intensive human activity had taken place on the mound in later prehistory. An inspection of the soil revealed that that the area around the mound was covered with a clay which could have conceivably trapped water and formed a small loch around the mound. The topography surrounding the site would allow such a feature. The lake was probably drained at some point from its north end, where the hillside has been cut-through to allow an outlet to the sea.

Although it is almost certain that this site was surrounded by water, its function and classification remains undetermined. The dun is certainly one of the largest in the study area with its upper platform covering 750m^2, almost twice the area allowed by the RCAHMS definition of a dun. If indeed the site is artificial and it was surrounded by water it would qualify as an artificial island, rather than an islet, due to its large size. Thus based on its size, uncertain nature and setting it has been excluded from this study.

Site Inspected - May 20, 1995

See: Holley DES 1995: 68

Dun Beag



Loch an Eilean NL 9860 4355

Possible artificial island - destroyed

Introduction - The first statistical account records that, "near the centre of Tiree is a lake with an island in it, whereupon was built a familiar castle; the access by a made road and draw bridge." (McColl 1794, 402). Beverage considers the structure upon the islet to be the remains of either a dun or a medieval castle and notes that the statistical account indicates that it was similar to Breachacha Castle on Coll. He also notes that Beeverell's *Les Delices de la Grand' Bretagne* of 1727 lists the island as being inhabited, as does Blaeu's Atlas of 1662 (1903, 117). The castle was demolished in 1748 and a mansion house constructed on the spot for the Duke of Argylle's factor. Subsequent to the construction of the house, but before 1794, the space between the island and shore was filled in, turning the island into a peninsula.

Field Search - This potential artificial island is now the site of a private house and gardens and thus access to it was not obtained. It can be verified, however, that the entire area has been extensively modified in the last three hundred years and any trace of the previous castle is now gone. If the castle was indeed similar to Breachacha, on Coll, a medieval date would be appropriate. Unfortunately no descriptions of the size of the former island remains but it seems reasonable to suppose that it was very large as it would have had to accommodate the castle.

This site was not included in the present study because nothing could be determined of its original characteristics or chronology. It is possible that the site may be prehistoric in date but this is purely speculative. The site is listed here as a potential artificial island which has been destroyed.

Site Inspected (from road)- May 22, 1995

The Artificial Islets of Islay

Loch Allallaidh NR 41915 57983

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first noted in 1968 and described as, "a ring fort, estimated at 40' diameter, occupying the centre of a round island, surrounded at the water's edge by a wall about 5' wide" (Gillies 1968). A stone causeway was observed to connect the ring fort to a smaller island which had a pier "from which a short stretch of causeway is aligned with a surviving stretch on the S shore of the loch" (*ibid.*).

The RCAHMS visited the site in June of 1980 and included it in their Inventory as a "Fortified Island". The site was described as, "ovoid on plan, measuring 32 m on its longest axis from NW to SE by 25 m transversely" (RCAHMS 1984, No. 306). The upper platform of the islet was 3m above the water-level and was "occupied by the remains of a roughly circular structure some 7m in internal diameter" (*ibid.*). The walling of this structure was covered with turf but survived to a height of 0.8m, and was entered through a 1m wide doorway in it's E sector. A second smaller structure was found on the SE tip of the islet. The shoreline of the islet was found to be enclosed by a drystone wall, 1.8m in width, and surviving to a height of 1m in the S and W sectors. The W and NE sectors of this wall were breached by "small inlets". A stone causeway was noted to link the site to a smaller islet to the NW, but no causeways were found connecting this islet to Loch Allallaidh's shore.

Local Geography - Loch Allallaidh is located at the head of the Kiennan River Valley, 4km from the E coast of Islay in a remote upland region. The loch is roughly triangular in shape , measuring 0.4km by 0.3km transversely, with the longest axis oriented roughly E-W. Most of Loch Allallaidh's bed is heavily silted with soft, spongy, peat run-off which limits visibility to 0.3m. Water depth in most areas is in excess of 2.5m, with deeper water found near the centre of the loch. Loch Allallaidh is drained by a small stream, located at its most western point, which has nearly been

choked off by the encroachment of peat. This stream eventually becomes the River Kiennan which empties into the Laggan River 7km to the W.

The land immediately surrounding Loch Allallaidh is covered with soils which will support moderate to low grazing values. The high altitude (+220m OD) and increased rainfall of the area restricts grazing to those hillside slopes with better drainage. Peat bog has encroached on the wetter areas and the valley bottoms. The loch's position at the head of a valley with fairly steep sides, means that most of the land surrounding it is well drained. Small tracts of arable land may be found farther down the valley, at a lower altitude (+120m OD), 0.5km to the W of the loch. It is unlikely that any of the land near Loch Allallaidh has been intensely exploited during the historic period due to it's isolated, exposed, mountainous nature. The closest modern settlement to the loch is 4km to the W. This entire section of the island is now used as a deer park

Site Description - This artificial islet is located 53m from the S shore of Loch Allallaidh near the centre of the loch. Another smaller islet is located 12m NW of the site, and is accessed from the NW shore of the loch by a causeway of large boulders (54m in length), the surface of which was submerged to a depth of 0.4m at the time of survey. The first 26m of this causeway is on average 5m in width, but 28m before it reaches the small islet it widens to 15m. The small islet is connected to the artificial islet by a ridge of gravel and small stone 12m in length. At the time of survey, the depth of the water immediately surrounding the site was between 1.5m and 2m, with water 3+ m in depth immediately to the N, S and E of the artificial islet.

The small islet, located to the NW of the main site is oval in shape, measuring 9m SW-NE by 16m NW-SE at the water line. The islet is composed of small stones, earth and turfs and appears to be natural. The base of the islet is circular in shape, measuring 30m in diameter, and submerged portions are covered by a tumble of medium-sized, angular stones. A tumbled wall of large boulders 34m in length transects the islet where it joins the causeway to the shore. The walling extends into the water 10m to the N and 16m to the S of the islet, where water 2m deep is reached.

The main artificial islet is an oval-shaped mound of stone measuring 47m NW-SE by 32m NE-SW at it's base, and 34m NW-SE by 22m NE-SW at the water-line. The submerged portions of the islet break at an angle of approximately 7° with the surrounding silty loch-bed and consist of a tumbled spread of 70% medium-sized stone and 30% large boulders. The surface of the islet is crowned by a steep-sided, turf-covered, oval-shaped platform, measuring 16m NW-SE by 7.5m NE-SW, which was 2.3m above water-level at the time of survey. The NW end of this platform is occupied by the turf-covered remains of a roughly circular-shaped structure, measuring 7.4m NW-SE by 6.4m NE-SW internally, which had walls, on average, 1.8m thick and 0.8m high. There is no obvious entrance to the structure.

The base of the upper platform corresponded roughly with the water-level at the time of survey. It is enclosed by a dry-stone perimeter wall which is approximately 1.5m in thick and consists of an outer vertical face of angular-shaped, medium-sized stones sitting upon footings of large boulders, that is backed by turfs and stone tumble. On the SW and SE sides of the islet this wall still stands to a maximum height of 1.5m, and though less well preserved, other portions of the walling can be traced around the entire perimeter of the islet. The W sector of the walling is breached by a 1.7m gap, which is interpreted as a boat noost. This feature is a 0.5m deep depression in the islet's surface which runs through the perimeter wall, past the water-line to the base of the islet.

Discussion - The degree of artificiality of this site is unknown. However the quantity of stone which covers the site and the lack of subsidence would suggest that it rests on a solid base of either bedrock or gravel, which could support such weight. It is likely that the islet has a natural core, similar to the small islet 12m to the NW, and has been enlarged with stone to accommodate the perimeter walling. The causeway is also likely to rest on a natural ridge as the other areas of loch-bed surrounding the site are substantially deeper. Most of the stone on the site probably came from the large areas of natural scree which cover the slopes 200m to the N and E of Loch Allallaidh. Most of this scree is medium in size and could have easily been transported down the slopes to the site.

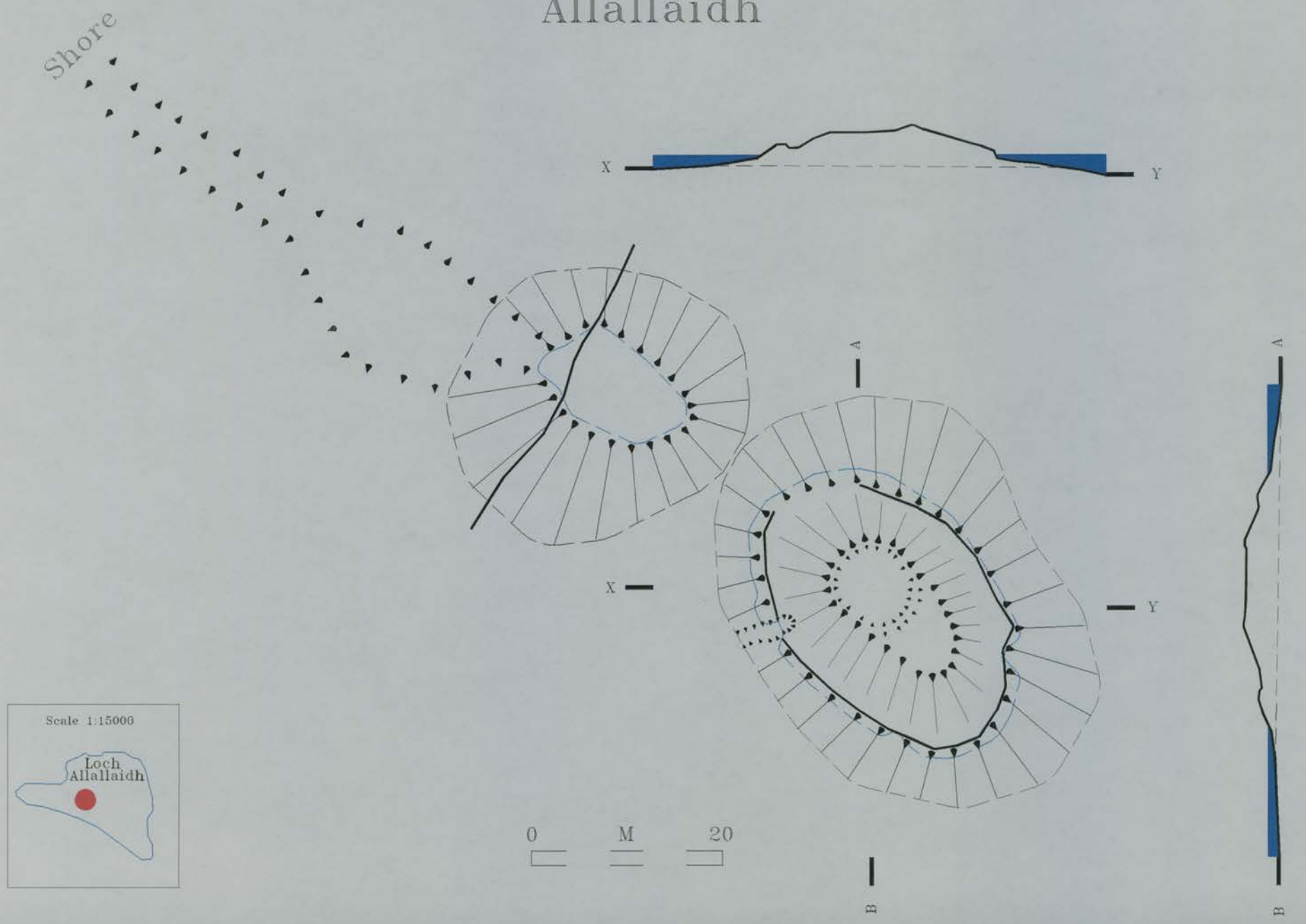
The chronology of this site is not known but it displays several features which indicate that it is of a latter pre-historic date or earlier. The structure which tops the site is circular in shape, rather than rectangular, which is more characteristic of later pre-historic sites than historic sites. The perimeter walling which surrounds the site is characteristic of the walling used to enclose duns in the region. This site is singular in that it is the only one in the study area found to have its causeway protected by stone flanking walls. Similar flanking walls have been found in the Western Isles on the artificial islets of Eilean Domhnuill (North Uist) and Dun Loch an Duna, Bragar (Lewis). After extensive excavations Armit found Eilean Domhnuill to be Neolithic in date and discovered that the stone walls flanking the causeway were the footings for a timber palisade (Armit 1996, 46-47; 1988, 13). The causeway to the island dun at Loch an Duna, Bragar, is also flanked by stone walls (see Armit 1996, 124) but this site is generally assumed to be later pre-historic in date.

This site's position in the landscape would also seem to indicate a pre-historic date rather than a medieval one. The site is located at the top of a remote river-valley, in an area which is now largely covered with peat. Although the soils will support moderate grazing, the high altitude, rainfall and exposure diminishes the attractiveness of the area for settlement. Upland areas such as this would have been far more attractive in the warmer, drier climates of the Neolithic period.

Site Surveyed: May 14, 1996

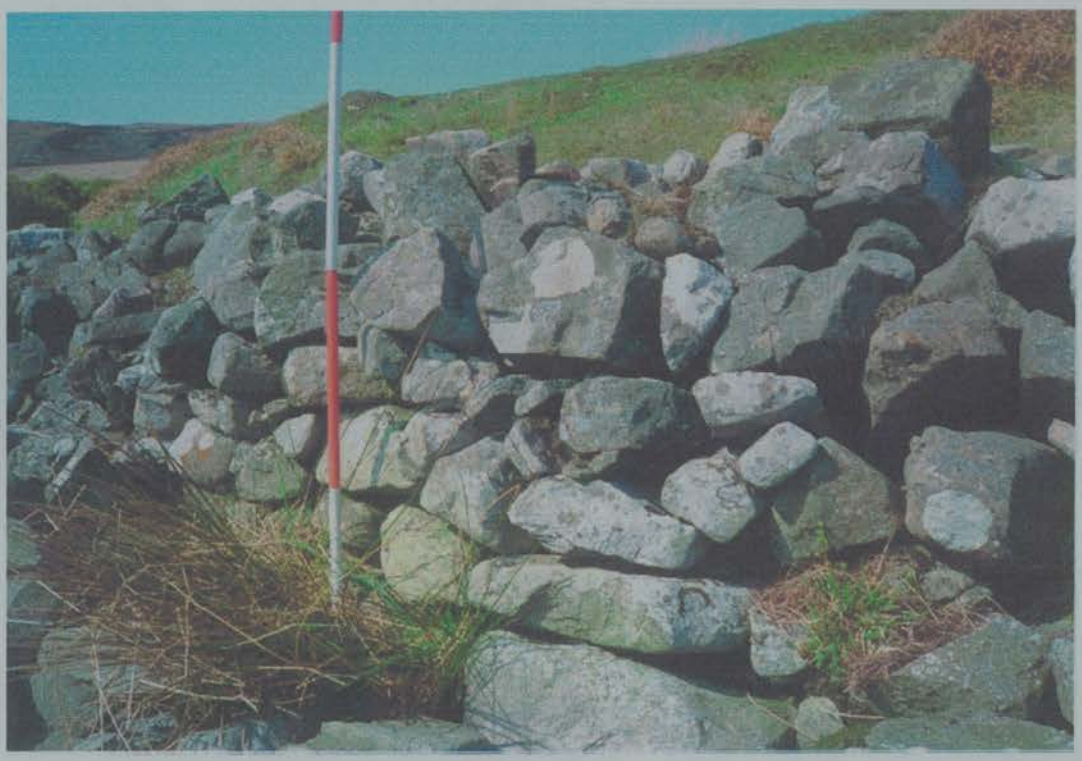
See: Holley DES 1996: 20-21

Allallaidh



Loch Allallaidh
Looking North

Loch Allallaidh: Walling and boat noost
Looking North



Loch Allallaidh: Walling
Looking West

Loch Ardnave NR 28327 72630

"Possible" artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first identified in 1959, as 'a circular island, 100ft in diameter, joined to the shore by an earthen causeway in which were embedded several rounded stones and a line of stepping stones' (Davies 1959, 16). A group of seven cist-like structures were exposed near the centre of the island when turf was removed (Cloria 1960, 1/4). Newton subsequently listed the site as a "crannog" (1988, 97).

The RCAHMS inspected the site in April 1977 and described it as a circular, grass covered mound, 36m in diameter, 2m in height, linked to the shore by a causeway. The site was included in the Inventory for Islay as a "possible crannog" (RCAHMS 1984, No.303), with the site surveyor noting, "it was difficult to determine whether the island is entirely or only partially artificial" (Card NR 27 SE 18). Five small, slab-built structures resembling cists and measuring 0.6m by 0.5m by 0.5m, were noted near the islet's centre. The inspecting officer stated that it was unlikely that they were remains of a prehistoric burial-site but did not speculate on their function. To the W of the slab-built structures, a small depression 3m across was observed. This was suspected to be the result of light quarrying.

Local Geography - Loch Ardnave is located near the N end of the Ardnave peninsula, 0.5km from Loch Gruinart on the far W coast of Islay. The loch is roughly circular in shape, measuring 0.35km N-S by 0.4km E-W. Most of Loch Ardnave's bed is covered with a fine soft silt, at least 0.5m in depth, which reduces visibility in the loch to under 0.5m. Water depth varies from 0.5m to 1.5m throughout the loch with deeper water being found near the centre. Loch Ardnave is drained by a small stream, located at its southern-most edge, which runs through the machiar dune system to the E of the loch to empty into Loch Gruinart, 1km to the E.

The land which surrounds Loch Ardnave is covered by a mixture of fairly good arable soils and open peat moorland. The loch is positioned at the back of a machar dune system, which extends to the N, S, and E, at the juncture of the sandy and peaty soil types. Fairly good arable soils, of humus-iron podzols, have developed at the back

of the machair dunes where the machair has mixed with the peat. These soil types have been heavily worked in the historic period and are still under cultivation. An extensive area of peat extends from the W edge of the loch inland for 2km. Rig and furrow field systems were found running down to the shore of Loch Ardnave in this area, showing that it to has been previously cultivated.

Site Description - This site is located 12m from the SW edge of Loch Ardnave and is accessed by an earthen causeway, 6.5m in width, which was just above water-level at the time of survey. The line of stepping stones mentioned by Davies were not visible and the entire causeway was covered with short grass. It is not possible to determine whether the causeway is a natural feature but probing revealed that it is not composed of stone. Heavy silting has occurred in this end of the loch, probably due to an intensive farming operation on the opposite shore, reducing the water depth around the bottom edge of the site to within 0.3m.

The artificial islet is an oval-shaped, grass-covered mound which measures 44m N-S by 50m E-W at its base, with the long axis running perpendicular to the near shore. The sides of the mound slope up gently at a 6° angle from the lochbed, and the submerged portions of the site are covered with a spread of small fist-sized stones. The summit of the mound is crowned with a circular platform, 15.5m in diameter, which stands 2m above the water-level at the time of survey. Four circular depressions 0.5m in depth, with diameters of roughly 3m, are positioned around the W, S, E, and NE, edges of the upper platform. These depressions are also covered with short grass.

The centre of the upper platform is occupied by the remains of five slab built cist-like structures which are heavily overgrown with turf. The turf prevented accurate measurements from being taken in the survey, but those previously quoted by the RCAHMS were roughly equated. The capstones noted by the RCAHMS were not found to be present.

Discussion - Although this site is currently located within the margins of a loch, there are several features which indicate that it may not be an artificial islet. The site is located close to shore and has the largest base in the study area. The exterior of the site is completely composed of stone which is much smaller than that found on any of the other

artificial islets in the central Inner Hebrides; however, it is very similar to that used to cover chambered tombs in the Atlantic West of Scotland, notably those on the mainland at Kilmartin.

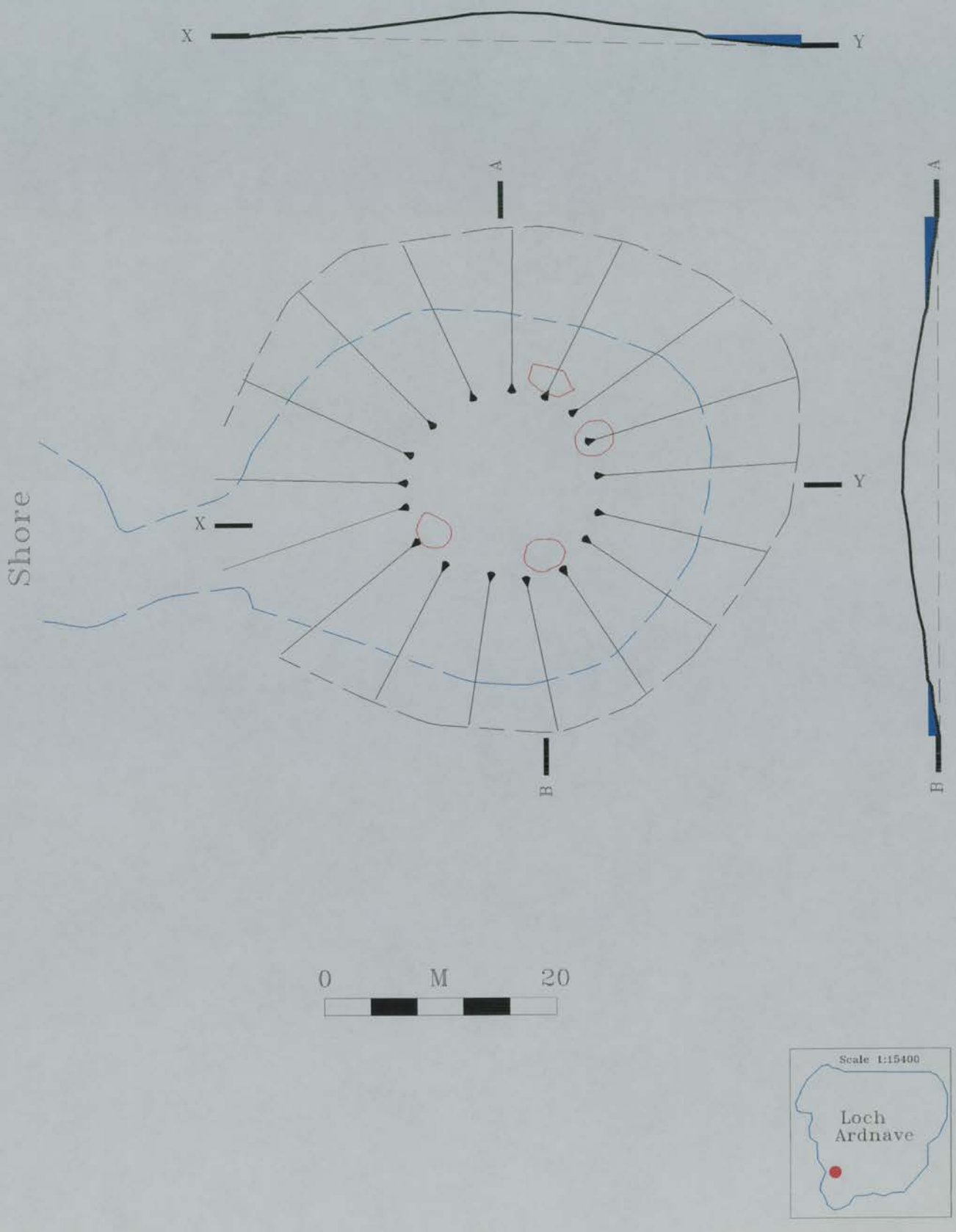
The cist-like structures on the top of the site are too small to be features of a habitation and are more likely to be burials. Although these have been dismissed as "unlikely" burials by the RCAHMS, such statements may have been influenced by the site's presence in a loch, rather than on the character of the cists. There is, however, a possibility that the loch was formed subsequent to the construction of the site. As noted above, the loch is located at the juncture of machair dunes and peat moorland just where a machair loch is likely to form (Ritchie 1985, 165). In a drier period (such as the Neolithic) the loch may have been dry. As the climate became increasingly damp throughout the later prehistoric and historic periods, the sand dunes could have shifted to block the water outlet from the peated moorland thereby forming the loch. If the site was originally located in this type of landscape it should be considered a hill-top burial. Such sites are commonly found at the back of machair dunes throughout the central Inner Hebrides. Booth notes that the islet is referred to as a burial place on Islay (1983, 14) and that the water level in the loch has been artificially raised.

There is also the possibility that the site may be a false antiquity. Loch Ardnave is located directly in front of the large, Victorian house of Ardnave. It is feasible that the islet could have been constructed to decorate the view from the house. The islet does not appear in Loch Ardnave on the 19th century Estate Plans for Ardnave (SRO RHP 11033) which may suggest that the islet is of recent construction (although such features are not always noted on older maps). The construction of such ornamental islands was common on big estates throughout Britain in the Victorian era. A good example of this type of ornamental island can be found in Loch Usig, located directly N of Ardnave on the island of Mull.

Site Surveyed: May 5, 1995

See: Holley DES 1996: 16-17

Ardnave



Loch Ardnave
Looking East

Loch Bharradail NR 39286 63642

"Possible" artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This artificial islet was first discovered in 1959 when it was described as an "oval collection of stones 15yds by 10yds, with an artificial line of stones in the middle" (Celoria 1960, 4/49). The site was suspected to be an artificial islet but thought to be largely natural in origin (Lamont 1959). Shanks inspected the site in 1972 but placed it in the W end of Loch Bharradail rather than the N as previously noted. This duplicity of location and publication led subsequent researchers, notably Oakley 1973, to incorrectly assume that there were two artificial islets in Loch Bharradail.

The artificial islet was visited by the RCAHMS in May of 1976 and included in it's Inventory as a "(possible) Island-dwelling" (RCAHMS 1984, No.310). The site was described as a small low island, occupied by masonry debris, measuring 37m E-W by 20m N-S. A 8m long section of walling, 0.6m in height, and 2.5m thick edged the N side of the rubble.

Local Geography - Loch Bharradail is located 2.5km S of the village of Ballygrant, in the central interior of Islay. The loch is roughly triangular in shape, measuring 0.2km N-S by 0.3km E-W transversely, with the long axis running along the S edge. Most of Loch Bharradail's bed is covered with at least 2m of a fine, light silt which has the consistency of quicksand. Water depth varies between 0.5m and 1.5m throughout the loch but water visibility was good in all areas during the survey and the lochbed was clearly visible at all times. Loch Bharradail is drained by a small stream, located at it's N edge, 15m E of the artificial islet, which empties into the River Sorn, 2km to the NW.

Though currently blanketed by heather and bracken, the land immediately surrounding Loch Bharradail is covered with soils which will support good grazing. The loch is located in the bottom of a valley that has gently rolling sides which assist the drainage of the soils. Arable land may be found near the top edges of the valley, 0.5km to the E and 0.7km to the SE. Part way up the W side of the valley, 100m W of Loch Bharradail, were found the remains of eight sub-rectangular buildings, which are likely to be medieval in date. The land around these buildings was once improved and still

provides good grazing. Rig and furrow field-systems, of undetermined date, were found 0.4km east of the site and covering the W side of the loch's valley.

Site Description - This artificial islet is located 10.5m from the N shore of Loch Bharradail, from which it is separated by a stretch of quicksand-like mud, 3m minimum in depth. The site can only be accessed by means of a causeway of medium-sized stone, 2m in width and 9.5m long, which connects it to the N shore. This causeway was 0.2m below the surface of mud at the time of survey and was found by probing the mud. The causeway has the added defensive feature of a 20° bend at it's midpoint. The depth of water surrounding the site is between 0.5m and 1m, with the deeper water found to the S of the islet, towards the centre of the loch. The bottom of the site is obscured from inspection by silts which range in depth from 1.5m S from the site to 3m+ at the N and W sides.

The artificial islet is oval in shape, measuring 29m NW-SE by 45m NE-SW at its base with the long axis running parallel to the near shore. The base of the site consists of a mound of gravel and small stone which slopes up gently at an 8° angle from the surrounding silty lochbed. Near the water-level the site is ringed by a 3m wide scatter of 70% medium and 30% large stones. The upper platform, which crowns the top of the site 1.7m above the surrounding lochbed, is also oval in shape, measuring 36m NE-SW by 20m NW-SE, and roughly corresponded to water-level at the time of survey. The surface of the site was overgrown with turf and long grass through which large boulders occasionally protruded.

The W end of the upper platform is occupied by a roughly oval shaped, dense scatter of large boulders, which measures 15m NE-SW by 11m NW-SE. Many of the boulders are roughly rectangular in shape and have angular surfaces. As previously mentioned by the RCAHMS, the N side of this scatter is contained by a 12m long section of drystone walling, composed of large boulders standing roughly 0.5m in height. The walling runs down the centre of the upper platform, with its surviving face oriented to the N, its other face presumably obscured by the boulder scatter.

Discussion - The structure of this site is different to that of the other artificial islets found on Islay. It is the only site, besides Ardnave, which is covered with and rests

upon a base of gravel and small stone. The site is certainly artificial in origin, but the degree of this artificiality is probably slight. The boulder scatter which tops the site is unlike anything found on the other artificial islets in the study area. The stone of which it is composed has angular edges and is uniformly large in size; and is similar to the stone used for the building foundations on the other artificial islets on Islay. However, the area covered by the tumble is twice as large as any building found on the other artificial islets, and almost as large of some of the smaller artificial islets' upper platforms. If the scatter is the remains of a building, the section of surviving walling indicates one of the sides was over 12m in length and was probably something more than an ordinary habitation.

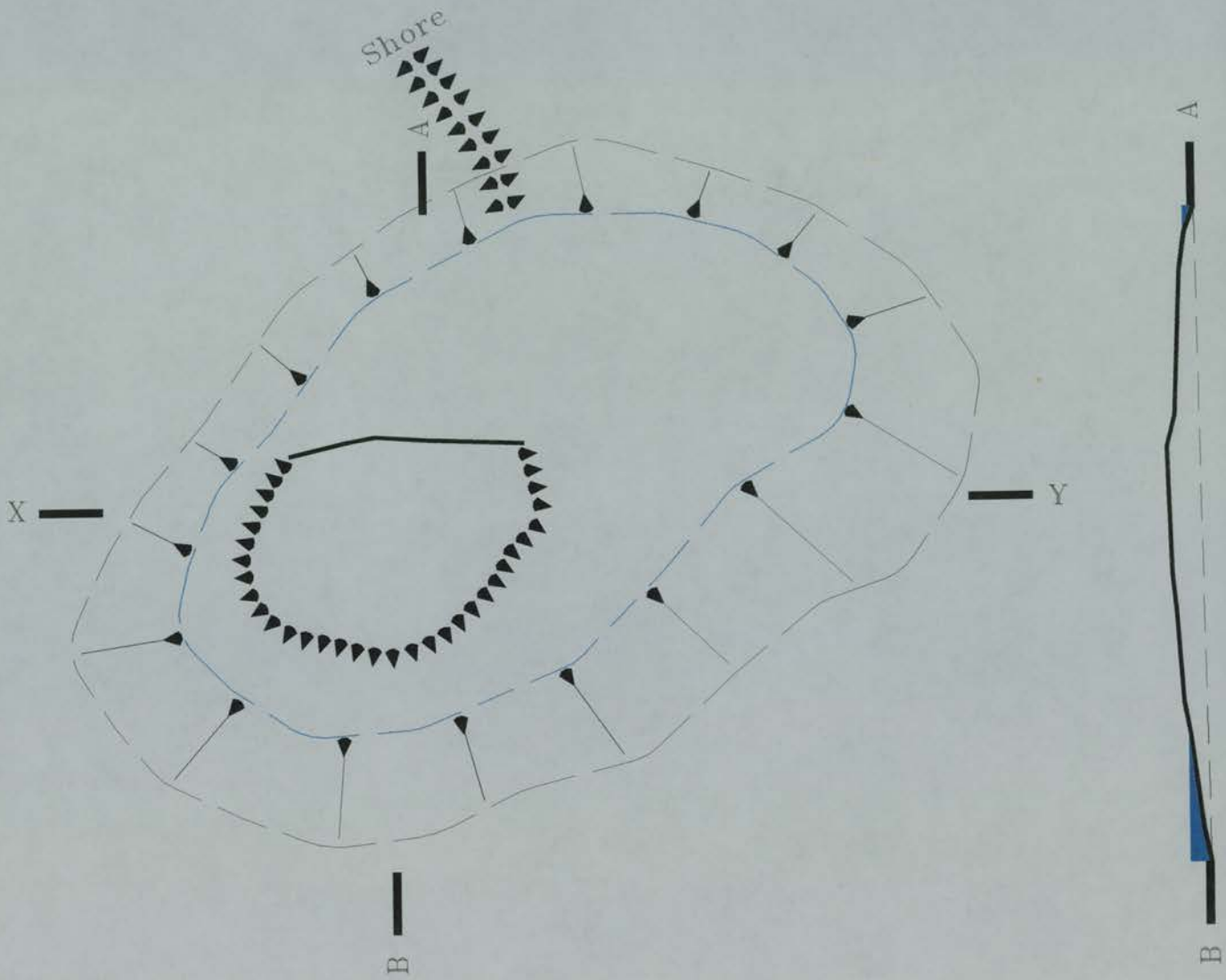
The positioning of the artificial islet in Loch Bharradail also suggests that it is different in nature to the other artificial islets on Islay. The artificial islet in Loch Bharradail is located closer to the loch's outlet than any of the other artificial islet sites on Islay, indicating that control of the water-level in the loch may have been important to the islet's inhabitants. Although the site is surrounded by shallow water, much of the islet was only 0.7m above water-level at the time of survey. In a small, shallow loch like Loch Bharradail, which has only one outlet, it would have been relatively easy for an aggressor to plug the loch's outlet and flood the inhabitants out of their islet. The islet is also located closer to shore (10m) than any of the other artificial islets on Islay. This may suggest that defence was less of a concern to the builders, as, the mud which separates the site from shore would have been nearly impossible to cross without using the causeway.

The nature and chronology of this site are unclear. The remains on the islet's surface do not help to date it but the materials used to construct the islet suggest that it is different in nature to the other artificial islets on Islay.

Site Surveyed: May 13, 1996

See: Holley DES 1996: 21

Bharradail



Loch Bharradail
Looking West

Loch Corr NR 22636 69584

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first identified in 1959 as, 'an island on which there were the remains of buildings and also the traces of a stone causeway' (Celoria 1959, 1/25). The site was noted as a crannog by Booth (1983, 15). The site was visited by the Royal Commission in July of 1974 and subsequently included in its Inventory of Islay, as an "Island-dwelling". The site was described as 'a roughly circular islet, probably artificial in origin, measuring 25m in diameter, and linked with the E shore of the loch by a causeway 25m in length, and 2m wide'. The islet was enclosed by a drystone perimeter wall, varying in thickness from 2m to 3m, which still stood to a height of 2.2m. A boat-noost was noted to penetrate the perimeter wall in the NE sector, while other entrances were observed at the head of the causeway and in the SW sector. The remains of two, separate, round-angled buildings, measuring 6.5m by 3.5m and 3.6m by 2m transversely, were noted to occupy the interior of the islet. Although no solid evidence for dating the islet was obtained, the RCAHMS ascribed the site to the later medieval period, based upon the character of the defensive wall (RCAHMS 1984, No. 311; Card NR 26 NW 11).

Local Geography - Loch Corr is located 1.5km from the far W coast of Islay, just to the N of the Rinns. The loch is approximately triangular in shape, measuring 0.6km by 0.3km transversely, with the longest axis oriented roughly E-W. Most of Loch Corr's bed is heavily silted with soft, spongy, peat run off which limits visibility to 1m. Water depth varies throughout the loch from 1.5m to 2.5m, with deeper water being found near the centre. Loch Corr is drained by a small stream, located at its most eastern edge, which has nearly been choked off by the encroachment of peat. This stream eventually becomes the River Leoig, which empties into Loch Gorm 3km to the S.

The land immediately surrounding Loch Corr is covered by peat moorland, but arable soils can be found 1km to the SW and 0.4km to the E. The remains of at least eight farmsteads of medieval date or later occupy a ridge 0.4km N of, and

overlooking, Loch Corr. The soils surrounding these settlements are fair, suitable to support grazing, and have probably been reclaimed from the peat. Extremely good arable land can be found on the W side of this ridge in Gleann Tuath, 0.7 km to the NW of Loch Corr. Three Bronze Age cists located near the head of this small valley were recently excavated by Ritchie (1982), who proposed that the presence of such burial grounds are often associated with farming communities and this, therefore suggests that the area was under cultivation during this period.

Site Description - This artificial islet is located 28m W of a spur which juts out from the E side of Loch Corr, near the centre of the loch. The site is accessed by a substantial stone causeway of large boulders, 25m in length and 4.5m wide, which at the time of the survey was 0.2m below the water-line. The W side of the causeway has been subject to heavy silting, reducing the water depth between the site and shore to just under 1m. The water depth surrounding most of the site is between 1.5m and 2m, with water 2m+ in depth immediately to the north of the islet.

The islet is a nearly circular, stone-covered mound which measures 32m E-W by 34m N-S at it's base. Below the water-line, the islet is composed of well-rounded, medium-sized stones. The upper surface of the islet sharply contrasts this, and is composed of large, angular blocks of stone. The upper platform of the site, located 2.1m above the surrounding lochbed, is also roughly circular in shape, measuring 19m N-S by 23.5m E-W, and was covered with a dense growth of briars at the time of survey. A perimeter wall, up to 2m in thickness, encircles the upper platform just above the waterline. This wall is composed of medium-sized pieces of angular-shaped stone which have been drystacked. Although heavily overgrown, this walling still survives to a height of 2m in the SE and NE quadrants of the site. The RCAHMS noted breaches in the walling in front of the causeway and in the SW sector of the site and described both as possible entrances. A close inspection of the breaches revealed that the walling in each area had collapsed outwards, with most of it now lying below the water-level. The breaches are therefore likely to be superficial and should not be considered entrances to the site.

The interior of the site is accessed by a boat-noost which is located in the NE sector of the islet and faces deeper open water. The boat-noost is a triangular-shaped depression in the islet's surface, which measures 5m across at its entrance and extends 8m into the site from the waterline. This depression continues below the waterline to the bottom edge of the site.

The interior of the site is occupied by the foundations of two subrectangular buildings which measure 3.8m by 4.7m and 6.4m by 9.7m externally. Both of the foundations were heavily overgrown with brambles and turfs which obscured any indications of entrances, at the time of survey. Most of the foundations still stand to 1m in height and appear to be 0.7m and 1.1m in thickness, for the smaller and larger buildings respectively. The stone, of which the buildings are constructed, is larger in size than that found elsewhere on the site. The smaller of the two buildings is free-standing near the centre of the islet and oriented with its long axis NE-SW. The larger of the buildings incorporates the perimeter wall into one side and is oriented with its long axis NW-SE. No timbers or artefacts were found on, or near, the site.

Discussion - The chronology of this site is unclear, but the structural remains suggest that there were at least two phases of construction. The lower portion of the site, located 0.5m below water-level at the time of survey, is composed of well-rounded medium-sized boulders, whereas the surface of the islet is composed of much larger angular-shaped stone. The junction of the two materials is quite sharp and suggests that an earlier structure may underlie the present surface.

The building remains which top the site also suggest multi-phase activity. The shape and size of the two round-angled buildings suggest that they are most likely some form of blackhouse or other dwellings, no older than the latter Middle Ages. The perimeter wall, in contrast, is composed of smaller, medium sized stone and is two, to three, times as thick. This walling is more typical of the later prehistoric monuments on the islands, such as brochs and duns, rather than late medieval structures, as suggested by the RCAHMS. The entrance to the interior of the site also suggests that at least one phase is later prehistoric in date, as positioning of the

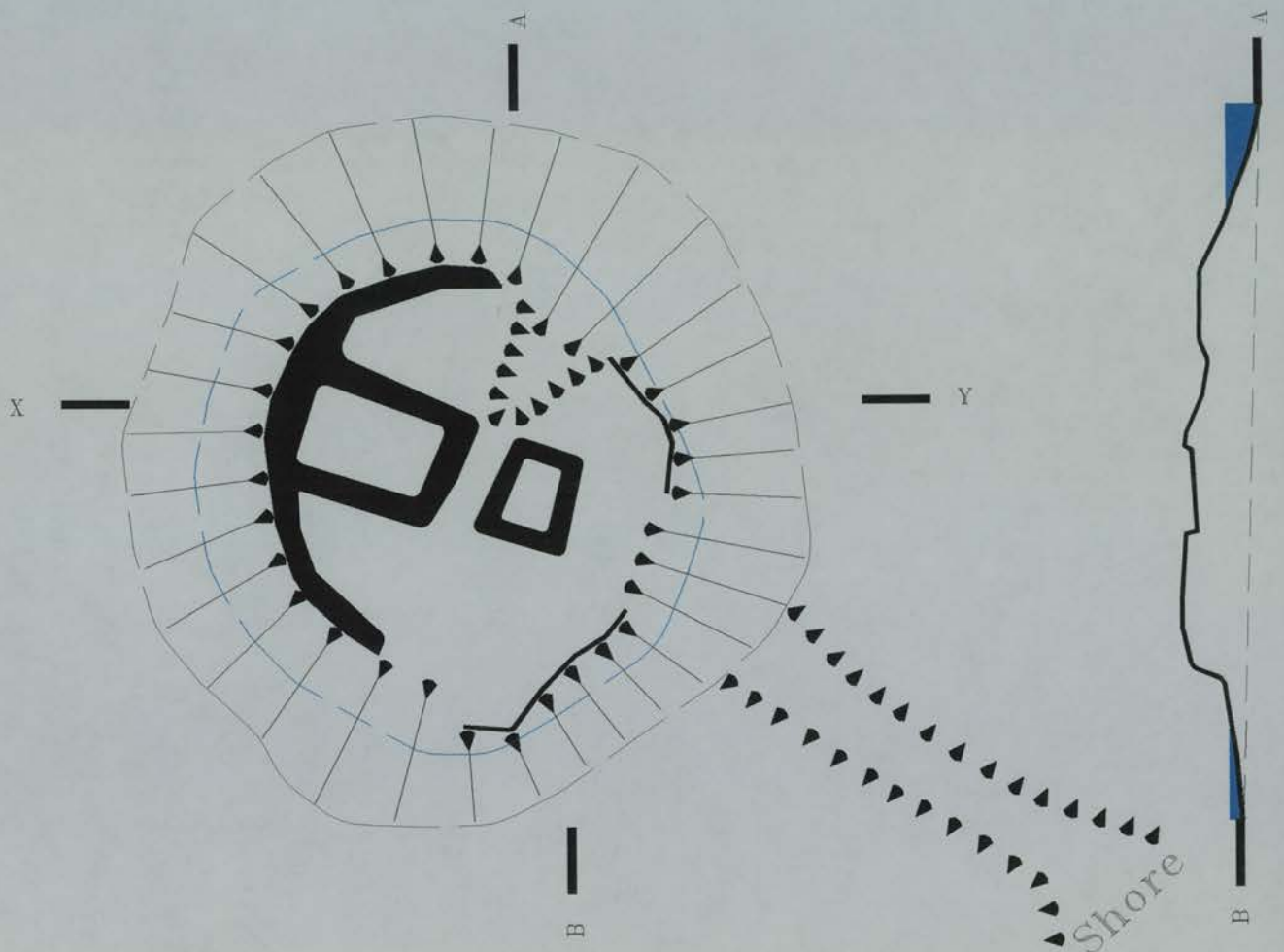
entrance to the rear of the structure and away from the near shore is distinctive of latter prehistoric architecture in the Western Isles.

At first glance the Loch Corr site would not appear to be situated in a particularly favourable position in the landscape, as it is surrounded by peat moorland. However, this impression should be somewhat tempered by the fact that three areas of arable soil are within 1km of the site. The presence of medieval farmsteads just N of the loch demonstrates that the moorland can be reclaimed for grazing, if desired, and that this area can support a sizeable population.

Site Surveyed: May 3, 1996

See: Holley DES 1996: 17

Corr



Loch Corr
Looking North West

Loch Corr: Walling
Looking North

Loch nan Deala NR 42542 68833

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first discovered in 1959 by the Islay Archaeological Survey Group (Celoria 1960, 4/63) who noted that it was located at the margins of a partially drained loch. The Royal Commission visited the site in May 1978 and included it in its Inventory as an "Island-dwelling" (RCAHMS 1984, No. 313), describing it as, 'a low grass-covered island, roughly circular in shape, varying between 23m and 26m in diameter'. A rubble causeway, 2m in width, was found to link the site with the former shore of Loch nan Deala 25m to the SE. The remains of three round-angled, drystone buildings, measuring 3m by 7m, 3m by 5m, and 2m by 2.5m, with 1m thick walls, were found on the upper platform and ascribed to the later medieval or sub-medieval period based on their general typology. A suspected piece of perimeter walling, 4m in length, was found along the south edge of the islet. The surveyor's notes indicate that a water-logged timber 0.4m wide, was visible protruding from the causeway for 1m of its length (Card NR 46 NW 5)

Local Geography - Loch nan Deala is located 0.8km SW of Port Askaig on the E coast of Islay. The loch has been partially drained and at the date of survey was a shallow, reedy, circular pool 100m maximally in diameter. The former shoreline can easily be traced around the edge of the loch and was approximately 6m to 7m higher than the present water-level. Little can be noted about the former lochbed conditions surrounding the artificial islet, as the area has been dredged and intensively worked since the loch was drained. Loch nan Deala was formerly drained by a small stream, located at it's S edge, which emptied into Loch Allen 0.5km to the S.

Loch nan Deala is located in a sheltered hollow among rolling hills and is surrounded by good agricultural soils. Though presently wooded, the soils E of the loch will support rich grazing. Arable land, which is presently under cultivation, is found immediately to the W of the loch. No ancient field-systems were found near the loch but this is not surprising, considering that this area of Islay has been intensively farmed throughout the historic period.

Site Description - This artificial islet is located 30m SW of the present shoreline of Loch nan Deala and 26m NE of the loch's former shoreline. The site was accessed from the SW shore by a 3m wide causeway of large boulders whose tops are, on average, 0.5m below the upper platform of the artificial islet. The water surrounding the site would have been roughly 1m in depth, with deeper 1.5m to 2m water located behind the site to the NE.

The 0.8m long and 40cm wide timber previously noted by the RCAHMS surveyor was re-discovered protruding from the top of the causeway, 3m from the edge of the islet. The timber is firmly embed in the stone rubble and appears to be part of the islet's structure. The timber was sampled and discovered to be oak and submitted for radiocarbon dating. The laboratory reported that there was nothing unusual about the timber and it produced a determination of 6060±70 BP (Beta-099284), calibrated at 2σ to 5205-4800 BC.

The artificial islet is a roughly circular-shaped mound of stone, measuring 24.5m in diameter at its base, which has been largely covered by turf and peat. The visible stone appears to be well rounded and of this 80% is too large to be manoeuvred by a single man. The summit of the site is crowned by a fairly level, oval-shaped platform, measuring 20m N-S by 16.5m E-W, which stands 1m above the surrounding lochbed. The S edge of this platform is enclosed by a 10.2m long wall of large stones, 0.5m thick and 0.5m high. This walling degrades to tumble at either end and may be the remains of a perimeter wall.

The E half of the upper platform is occupied by the foundation remains of three round-angled buildings. The first (A) is located in the SE sector of the platform and its exterior measures 6.2m E-W by 4.9m N-S transversely, and the interior 2m by 2m. The structure has 1.5m thick walls, which are preserved to a height of 0.5m and it is entered through a 1m wide breach in its E side. Structures (B) and (C) are conjoined and are located just N of structure A. These structures measure (B) 2.7m NW-SE by 5m NE-SW and (C) 2.6m N-S by 4.2m E-W internally and have, between 1.5m and 2m thick, rubble walls. Structure (B) is entered via a 0.8m wide doorway in its S side while (C) is entered through a similar doorway in its SW end. The remains of the two structures are 0.5m in height and these were heavily overgrown with turf at

the time of survey. The stone used in all of the structures' walling was medium sized and locally available.

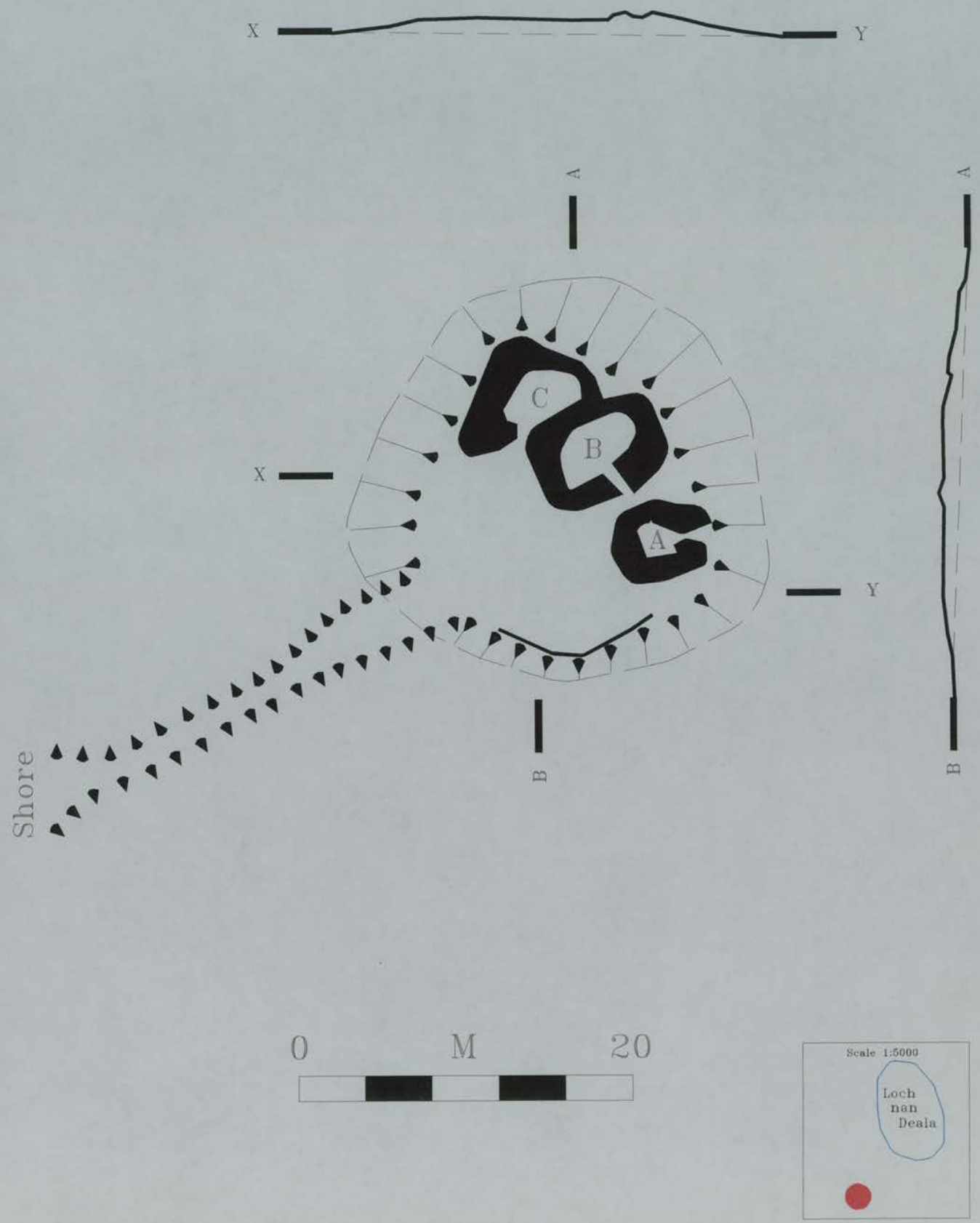
Discussion - The chronology of this site is uncertain, but the later medieval date suggested by the RCAHMS seems unlikely. The large size and well-rounded shape of the stone used in the foundations is more characteristic of prehistoric architecture, rather than that of the medieval period. The building remains which top the site are similar in size, construction and orientation to those recently excavated on an artificial islet in Loch Olabhat, North Uist (Armit 1988), which was dated to the Neolithic period. The radio-carbon date obtained from the sampled timber returned a surprisingly early date which is unprecedented for an artificial islet in Scotland. Although such an early date is not outside the realm of possibility for the site, a more likely explanation of its origin is that the timber is a piece of bog oak which was used by the islets builders. If this is the case, the timber cannot be used to date the construction of the islet but may provide a *terminus post quem* for activity on the site. If however, the timber is contemporary with the islets construction, it would challenge the chronology traditionally ascribed to artificial islets and would require the typology of Hebridean early prehistoric habitation sites to be rethought. Only excavation will determine the exact context of this timber and the chronology of the rest of the site.

Loch nan Deala is located in a landscape which is one of the most conducive to human settlement on Islay. The soils in this section of the island are some of the most agriculturally productive on Islay and have been extensively exploited throughout the historic period. There are also soils nearby which will support woodlands and indeed do at this time. This combined with a slightly dryer, warmer, and more sheltered micro-climate, indicates that this area could have retained its tree cover longer than any other area on the island. Loch nan Deala also has the added attraction of being located less than 1km from the Sound of Islay.

Site Surveyed: May 13, 1996

See: Holley DES 1996: 21

nan Deala



Loch nan Deala
Looking North

Dun Fhir Mhoir NR 26522 69401

Artificial islet/ Broch - confirmed

Introduction - This site was first discovered in 1900 (although it appears on an estate map dated 1866 as an unnamed islet (SRO RHP 10999)), by Mr. Dugald Grant who described it as, "circular, built round with boulders, which form a rampart rim, leaving the island hollow in the middle" (Newall 1960, 17-8). Mr. Grant believed that a causeway led to the islet. However, when the RCAHMS visited the site in May 1978, describing it as, 'a circular island, 12.5m in diameter, with a 2m thick drystone wall running around its perimeter, 2/3 of which was below the water-line, no trace of a causeway was found'. The site was included in the RCAHMS Inventory as a possible fortified island (1984, No. 308), however this classification is dubious, as the surveyor's notes in the RCAHMS card file indicate that the site was not closely inspected and was described from the shore, 75m away (Card NR 26 NE 4).

Local Geography - Loch Fhir Mhoir is located 1.5km W of the S end of Loch Gruinart, in the centre of an upland peat-bog. The loch is roughly oval in shape, measuring 0.4km NW-SE by 0.2km SW-NE. Most of Loch Fhir Mhoir's bed is heavily silted with a thick peat run-off which limits visibility to only 0.2m. In most areas of the loch the water is over 3m+ in depth, however, an old shoreline of gravel and small stone, approximately 25m in width, and submerged by 1m, runs around the outside margin of the loch. Loch Fhir Mhoir was formerly drained by a small stream, located at it's SE end, which has now been entirely choked off by the encroachment of peat, raising the water-level in the loch by at least 1m. This stream eventually widens to become the Abhainn a' Mhuilinn which empties into Loch Gruinart 2km to the SE.

The land immediately surrounding Loch Fhir Mhoir is covered by peat moorland to a considerable depth. The edges of the loch consist of a peat-bank which rises sheer from the waterline for 2.5m, indicating an average depth of at least 3m of peat in the area immediately surrounding the loch. The soils map for the area indicates

that the land to the S of the loch could be used for rough grazing but the entire area surrounding the loch belongs to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and has been left to go wild. Subsequently, peat has spread over all areas within 1km of the loch, covering any former field-systems or agriculturally productive soils.

Site Description - Dun Fhir Mhoir is located near the centre of Loch Fhir Mhoir, 106m from the E shore and 77m from the W. The site is accessed by a 3m wide causeway of large boulders which links it to an old shoreline 49m to the W. The causeway is composed of unevenly spaced boulders and has the defensive feature of a slight curve near its centre. The site may only be easily approached by means of the causeway, as the water surrounding it is 3m+ in depth.

The portion of the site which still remains visible from the shore, consists of a roughly circular ring of dry-stacked stone walling which rises 0.7m above the water surface. This walling has an average thickness of 2m and external diameters measuring 11.4m N-S by 13.4m E-W transversely. The interior of the site was flooded at the time of survey but lay very near the water's surface and was heavily overgrown with grass and reeds. The walling which encloses the islet is well preserved and descends vertically below the water's surface for 0.6m, giving it an average height of 1.3m. The walling still retains its vertical face, except for short 1m-1.5m lengths in the NW and SE quadrants which have tumbled outwards into the water. Probing through the vegetation has revealed that the walling has an inner face, small 1m sections of which are visible at several points. The stone from which the walling is constructed is angular in shape, medium in size, and is stacked so that the length of the stone lies perpendicular to the centre of the site.

The base of the walling rests in the centre of a circular shaped mound of stone, measuring 17.8m N-S by 22m E-W transversely, the surface of which was roughly 1m below the water-level, at the time of survey. This mound of medium sized well-rounded stone rises above the surrounding lochbed by 0.8m and provides a walk-way around the central structure, roughly 2m in width. The bottom of the mound is covered with heavy silts and no timbers or artefacts were found during the survey.

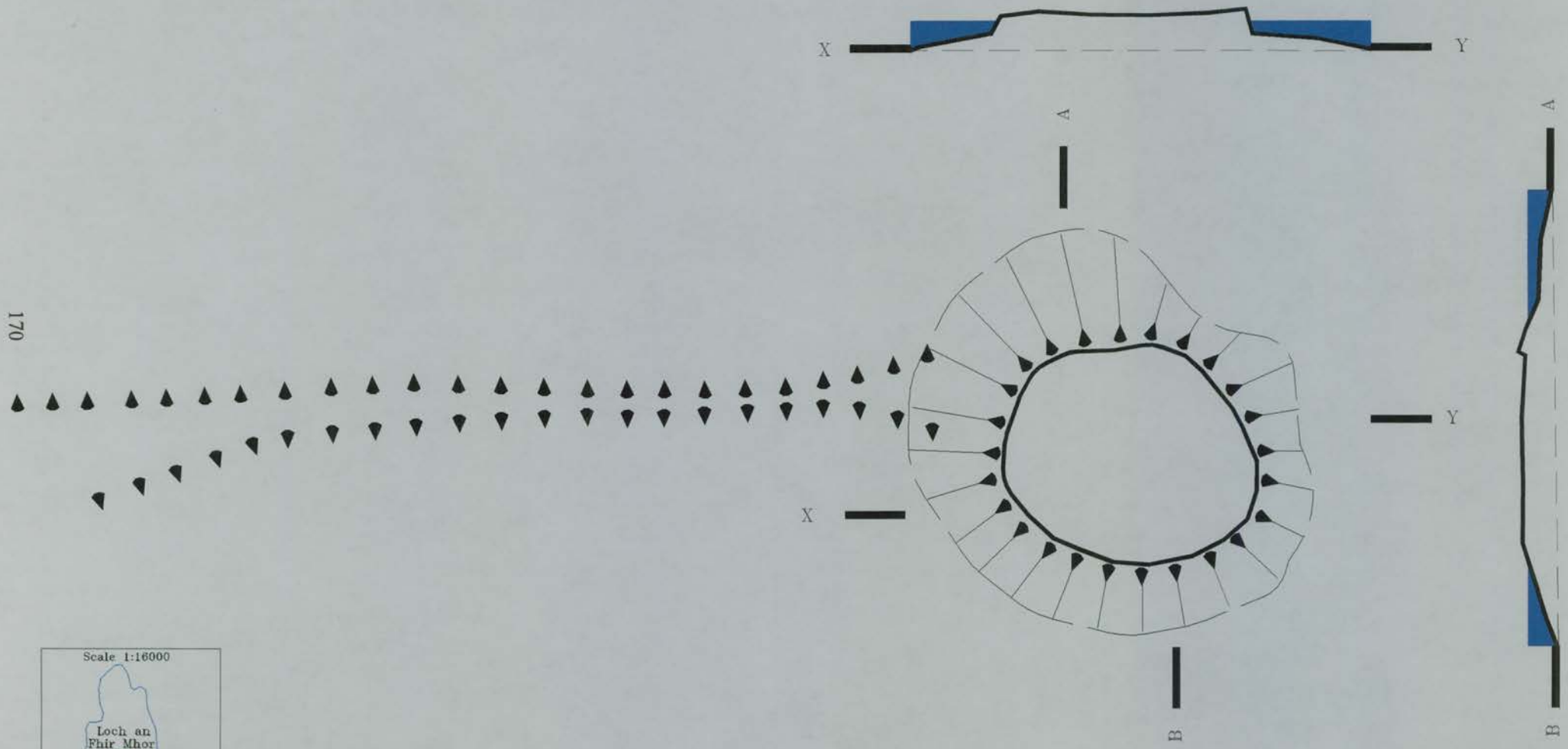
Discussion - Dun Fhir Mhoir is, most likely, a broch or Atlantic roundhouse type of structure and dates to the later prehistoric period. The walling which encloses the centre of the site is circular in shape and possesses both an inner and outer face. Although the walling is rather too thin (2m) to contain galleries, it is identical in character to walling found on other brochs and duns in the Inner Hebrides. The exact height of the walling is unknown, but allowing for sinkage and the raising of the loch level by at least 1m, it may well extend downwards for an additional 2m-3m. The entrance to the structure is most likely in the SE quadrant where the walling has collapsed outwards. The orientation of the entrance away from the causeway and towards open water finds parallels with the island brochs and duns of the Western Isles, notably Loch na Berie and Loch Bharabhat, both on Lewis.

It is obvious that the landscape surrounding Dun Fhir Mhoir has undergone considerable change since the site was occupied. Peat moorland has developed over the entire area surrounding the loch, completely obscuring earlier soils and field systems and blocking the loch's outflow. The water-level in the loch has risen by at least 1m since the site was constructed; the loch's high vertical edges of peat, the connection of the causeway to the old shoreline, and the flooding of the interior of the site, are all evidence for this. The fact that the causeway terminates at the old shoreline, which is not peat, instead of at the present shoreline, suggests that the site may predate the formation of the peat. This could provide a terminus pre-quam of the Later Prehistoric for the formation of peat-bog in this part of the island.

Site Surveyed: May 6, 1996

See: Holley DES 1996: 17

Dun Fhir Mhor



Dun Fhir Mhoir
Looking North

Loch Langeadail NR 26619 71256

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This artificial islet was first noted by the Royal Commission who described it as, 'a small natural island, whose shape and construction has been improved, roughly circular in plan with a diameter of 19m'. The site was included in the RCAHMS Inventory as an "Island-dwelling" (1984, No. 312), due to the presence of the foundation remains of two round-angled rectangular buildings near its centre. The buildings were both of drystone construction, the first measuring 6m by 3.5m, the second 4.5m by 3m, with walls 1m in thickness, and surviving to 0.7m in height. Based on an analogy to other buildings of this type, the foundations were dated to the medieval or early post-medieval period. Traces of an enclosing perimeter wall of large boulders were found around the outside edge of the islet and fragments of a rubble causeway were observed extending to the south shore of the loch. The site surveyor noted that the site was accessible by wading, in June 1978 (Card NR 27 SE 27).

Local Geography - Loch Langeadail is located near the middle of the Ardnave peninsula, on the W coast of Islay, 2km W of Loch Gruinart in the centre of an upland peat-bog. The loch is roughly oval in shape measuring 0.9km NE-SW by 0.4km SE-NW. Most of Loch Langeadail's bed is heavily silted with a thick peat run-off which limits visibility to only 0.2m. Water depth is over 2m+ in most areas. Loch Langeadail is drained by a small stream, located at it's NE end, which winds through the peat-bog and empties into Loch Ardnave 2km to the NE.

The land surrounding Loch Langeadail is covered by peat moorland for a radius of 2km. The nearest potentially arable land is located 2km to the E near the shore of Loch Gruinart. No signs of field systems or agricultural improvements were found near Loch Langeadail.

Site Description - This artificial islet is located 28m from the S shore of Loch Langeadail. The suspected causeway, previously noted by the RCAHMS, was not

found, although the entire area between the site and the shore was searched and the lochbed was probed. The water depth surrounding most of the site was between 1.5m and 2m, with water 2m+ in depth immediately to the N of the islet. At the time of survey, the water reached a maximum depth of 1.5m between the site and the shore.

The islet is a circular, stone-covered mound which measures 26.5m in diameter at its base. The site is composed of 80% medium-sized stone and 20% large boulders, and appears to be entirely artificial. The upper surface of the islet is also circular in shape, measuring 18.5m in diameter, and was heavily overgrown with willow and briars at the time of survey. The outside edge of the upper platform was found to be 0.2m below the water-level, with the remainder of the upper platform protruding into the air by only 0.25m. The foundations of the two subrectangular buildings, noted by the RCAHMS, could be seen in the undergrowth but could not be inspected closely or measured due to the density of the vegetation. The perimeter wall noted by the RCAHMS was not located. No timbers or artefacts were found on or near the site.

Discussion - It is not immediately apparent why an artificial islet was constructed in Loch Langeadail. The loch is located in one of the least hospitable areas of Islay, 2km form the nearest agricultural land. It is in the middle of a barren peat moorland, which shows no signs of past agricultural exploitation. In light of such environmental constraints, it is tempting to explain the site in two ways. (1) The site was placed in the moorland deliberately, to avoid other sites, habitation, or human activity; or (2) at least one phase of the site predates the development of the peatmoorland and it was in use when the surrounding environment was more hospitable.

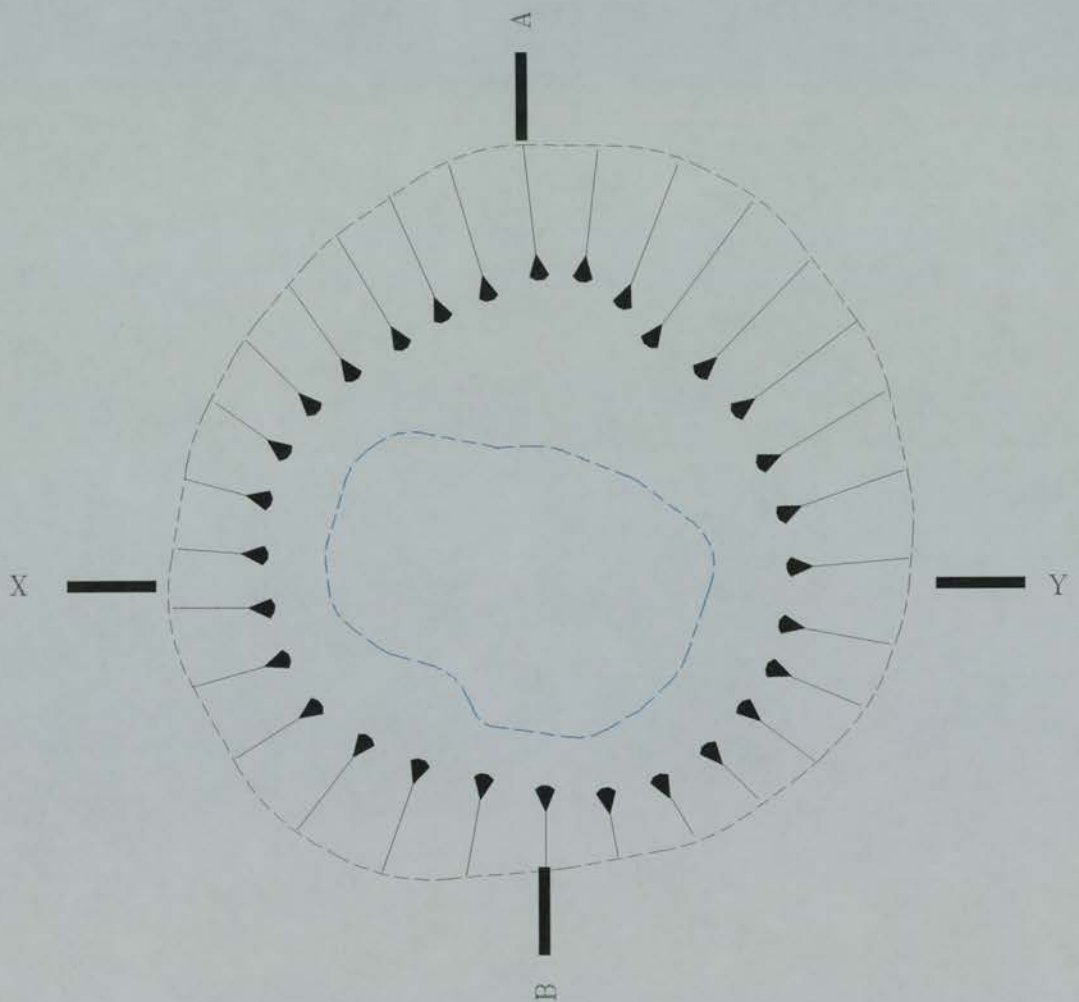
The chronology of the site remains uncertain. The RCAHMS has suggested a medieval or early post-medieval date, based on an analogy of the walling. However if analogy is to be used, it is equally possible that the walling could be as early as Neolithic in date, as it appears to be very similar in shape, size, and form to that recently excavated on Eilean Domhnuill, in Loch Olabhat, North Uist (Armit 1988). Such an early date, would certainly indicate that the site was constructed before the spread of peat, in a milder, more hospitable landscape. The evidence from Loch Fhir

Mhoir (P. 167)(2km S of Loch Langeadail) indicates that the blanket-peatbog may have developed subsequent to the latter prehistoric in this part of the island.

Site Surveyed: May 7, 1996

See: Holley DES 1996: 17

Laingeadail



Loch Langeadail
Looking North

Eilean Mhuirell, Loch Finlaggan NR 38675 67377

Artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This artificial islet was first described in 1959 as being, 'constructed of large boulders and containing the remains of two rectangular buildings' (Celoria 1960, 4/20). Booth notes that the small islet was "supposed to have been a prison" (1983, 14). The RCAHMS visited the site in May 1976 and included it in its Inventory as an "Island Dwelling" (RCAHMS 1984, No. 305). The field-surveyor, however, labelled it as a 'crannog' and described it as, 'a small artificial island, sub-circular on plan, measuring 23m by 19m transversely at the water-level' (Card NR 36 NE 23). A boat noost was noted on the NW shore of the islet and the footings of a perimeter-wall in the SW sector.

The islet's upper platform was noted to stand 1m above the water-level and was occupied by the remains of two rectangular buildings. The first building (a) measured 7m by 3m internally, and had round-angled rubble walls which were slightly more than 1m in thickness and height. The structure was entered through a 0.7m wide doorway located in the middle of it's NW wall and appeared to be subdivided by a low stone kerb which ran across the width of the structure near the doorway. The second building (b) measured 7.8m by 3.5m internally and was located 0.5m from the NE end of building (a). The walls of this building were similar in construction and thickness to those of (a), except in the SE end where they narrowed to 0.5m in width. Among the debris on the islet a roughly-dressed quern-stone of unspecified size was found. The RCAHMS dated the construction and occupation of both buildings to a period between the 14th and 17th centuries based upon their typology (RCAHMS 1984, No. 305).

Local Geography - Loch Finlaggan is located 4km from the E coast of Islay, 1.5km NW of the village of Ballygrant. The loch is roughly oval in shape measuring 1.8km NE-SW, by 0.4km NW-SE and is located near the centre of a valley which runs across Islay from Bunnahabhain to Bridgend. Most of Loch Finlaggan is about 3m in

depth, except for a shallow ledge which runs around the loch's margin, and a 15m deep hole which is located near the centre of the loch's NE end. Visibility in the loch extends up to 1.5m in most places. The consistency of the lochbed varies from area to area throughout the loch and ranges from gravel to heavy peat-based silts. Loch Finlaggan is drained from its SW end by the River Sorn, which empties into Loch Indaal near Bridgend, 7km to the SW.

The land immediately surrounding Loch Finlaggan is covered with a mixture of soils which will support both arable agriculture and prime grazing. The loch's position in the bottom of a valley with gently rolling sides, means that almost all of the land surrounding the loch is well drained. Extensive tracts of arable land may be found along the W edge and extending up the valley N of Loch Finlaggan. Another area of arable ground, 1km^2 in size, is located just above the SE shore of the loch, 200m from Eilean Mhuirell. The remainder of the area to the S and E of Loch Finlaggan is covered by soils which provide prime grazing. All of the land near Loch Finlaggan has been intensely exploited throughout the historic period due to their close proximity to Eilean Mor, in the N end of the loch, which was the capital of the Lordship of the Isles. At the time of survey, most of the land surrounding the loch was being used as grazing, except for the field immediately N of the loch which was still being till farmed.

Site Description - Eilean Mhuirell is located 51m from the SE shore of Loch Finlaggan. At the time of survey, the depth of the water immediately surrounding the site was between 1.5m and 2m, with water 3m+ in depth immediately to the N and E of the islet. Between the site and the shore the water reached a maximum depth of 3m. No traces of a causeway were found connecting the site to shore.

Eilean Mhuirell is an oval-shaped mound of stone which measures 30m NW-SE by 51m NE-SW at its base, with its long axis running parallel with the S shore of Loch Finlaggan. The surface of the islet is covered with a mixture of 80% medium-sized stone and 20% large boulders. The upper platform which stands 2.5m above the surrounding loch bed is also oval in shape measuring 17.5m NE-SW by 12.5m NW-SE. The turf-covered remains of a substantial perimeter wall can be traced around the

margin of the upper platform. It was not possible to make an accurate measurement of the width of the wall due to the density of the undergrowth. At the time of survey, the surface of the islet was covered with a dense growth of briars and thorns and a small tree had taken root on the S side of the site.

The remains of one of the sub-rectangular buildings (building a) previously noted by the RCAHMS were still visible through the undergrowth, however the other structure (building b)was completely obscured by briars and turf. Building a measured 3m by 6.8m internally and had well defined walls 1m in average thickness which still stood roughly 1m in height. As previously noted by the RCAHMS the building is accessed by a straight-sided doorway, measuring 0.7m in width, located near the centre of its NW wall. The walling is composed of drystacked stone which is medium in size and angular in shape.

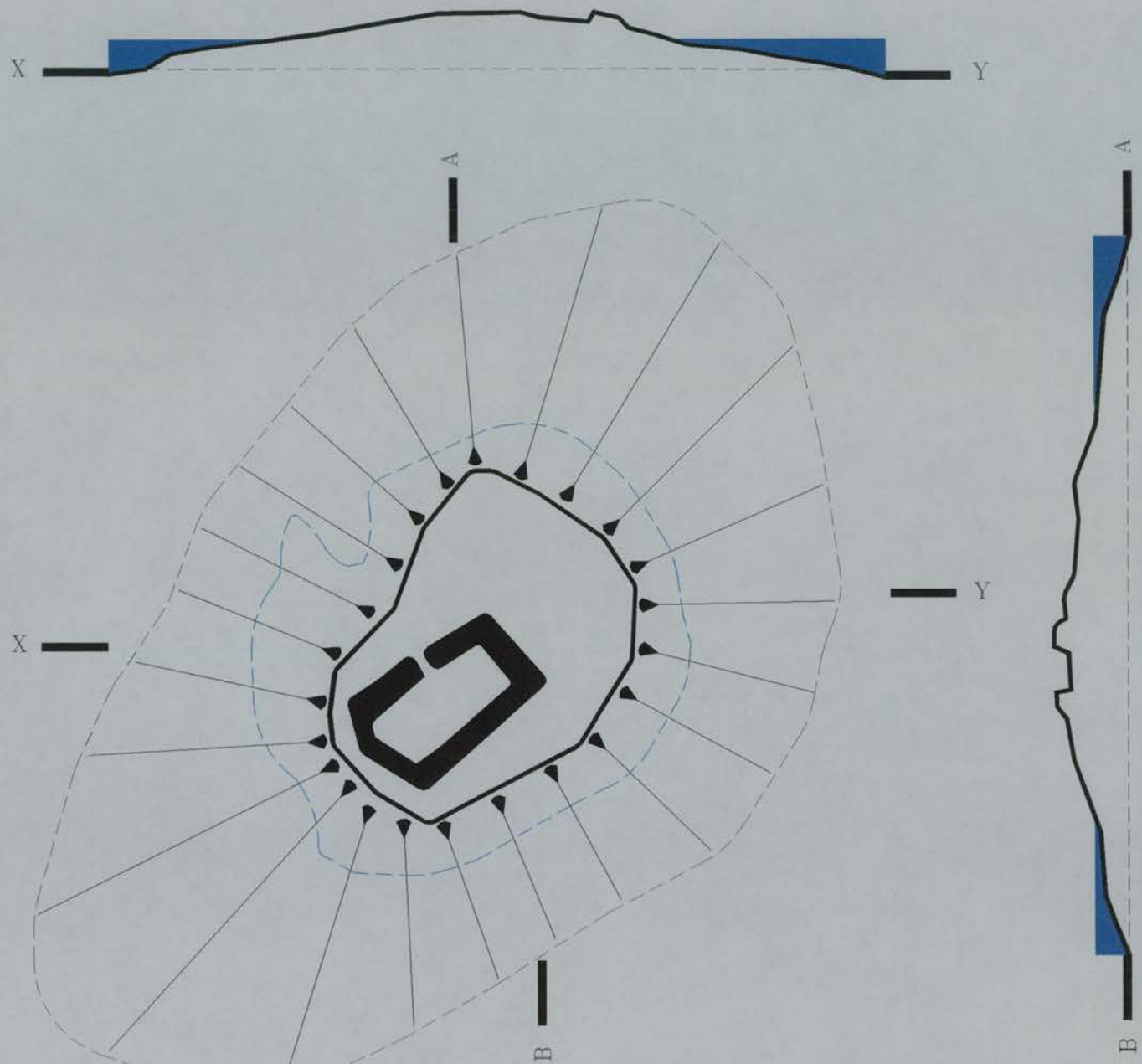
The remains of what the RCAHMS described as a boat-noost are observable in the NW sector of the site. This feature is a slight depression in the islet's surface which is most pronounced at the water-line but which continues down to the bottom of the islet's stone covering. The depression is 2.7m in average width but only 0.4m in average depth.

Discussion - There is considerable evidence which indicates that Eilean Mhuirell is medieval in date. Records held in the RCAHMS card file indicate that the site may have been used as a prison by the Lords of the Isles. The islet's heavy fortifications and inaccessibility by anything other than a boat, would seem to make an ideal prison. The walling which the RCAHMS believes to date from the 14th to 17th centuries indicates that the islet was being used when the Lords of the Isles were holding court on Eilean Mor, 0.8km further N up the loch.

Site Surveyed: May 15, 1996

See: Holley DES 1996: 20

Eilean Mhuireill



Eilean Mhuirell, Loch Finlaggan
Looking North

Loch Staoisha NR 40655 71236

"Possible" artificial islet - confirmed

Introduction - This site was visited by the RCAHMS in August of 1974 and listed as a (possible) crannog in the Inventory (RCAHMS 1984, No. 314). The site was described as wholly, or partly, artificial in origin, composed mainly of boulders and measuring 12m in diameter. The remains of a subrectangular, drystone building, measuring 7m by 4.5m, was noted to occupy the surface of the islet. The surveyor's notes indicate that the RCAHMS did not visit the site but inspected it from shore (Card NR 47 SW 4).

Local Geography - Loch Staoisha is located 2km W of the E coast of Islay, 2km SW of Bunnahabhain. The loch is roughly oval in shape, measuring 0.8km NE-SW by 0.2km NW-SE and is located at the N end of a valley, which runs across Islay from Bunnahabhain to Bridgend. Most of Loch Staoisha is over 3m in depth and visibility is limited to under 0.3m The lochbed is covered with a heavy peat-based silt which is stirred up with the slightest movement. Loch Staoisha is drained from its NE end by the river Abhainn Araig, which empties into the sound of Islay, 3km to the NE.

The land surrounding the loch is a mixture of fairly good, sloping, arable land and peat moorland. Immediately to the W of the loch and extending up the W side of the valley, is an extensive area of potentially arable land which is currently planted with pine trees. This land is well-drained and has a soil type favourable to arable agriculture. No signs of ancient field-systems were found in this area as it is heavily disturbed and currently planted with small trees. To the N, E, and S of the loch the land is covered by peat.

Site Description - This artificial islet is located 45m off the W side of Loch Staoisha near the mid-point of the loch. The site must have been accessed by boat as no traces of a causeway were found, even though the lochbed between the site and shore was probed. The water surrounding the islet was between 1m and 1.5m in depth at the time of survey, with deeper 3m+ water found to the E of the site. The water reached a

maximum depth of 2m between the site and the near shore. The lochbed surrounding the site is covered, with a thick peat run-off, at least 2m in depth, which obscures the bottom of the site.

The artificial islet is a nearly circular, stone-covered mound with a diameter of 24m at its base. The site is composed of 30% medium-sized stone and 70% large boulders, all of which are well-rounded and appear to be unworked. The sides of the islet are a mass of stone rubble which breaks sharply, at an 18° angle, with the surrounding lochbed. The upper platform which crowns the top of the islet is roughly circular in shape and has a diameter of 14.3m. At the time of survey, the upper platform stood 2.6m above the surrounding lochbed, 1.1m above the water-level, and was heavily overgrown with bushy vegetation and several large willow trees. The foundations of a pentagonal shaped structure, measuring 5.8m NW-SE by 4m NE-SW, were found near the centre of the islet. The foundations measured a maximum of 0.3m in height and consisted of a single course of medium sized stone. No submerged features or timbers were found on the site.

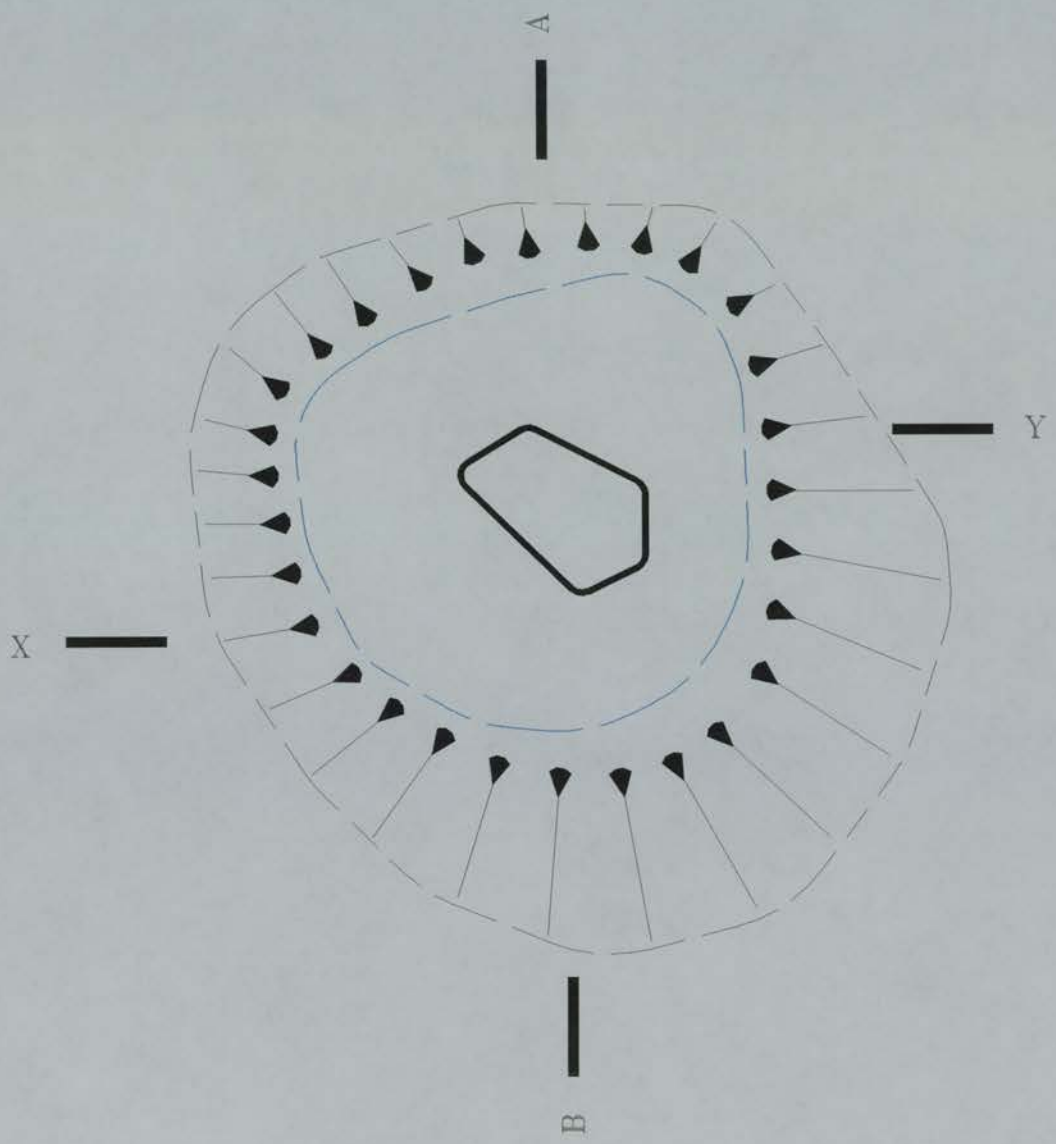
Discussion - The underwater inspection revealed little with which to establish a speculative chronology for this site The structural remains which top the site are likely to be unassociated with the islet's primary phase of usage, as they are very slight, little more than a ring of stones, and do not continue down into the islet's structure. It is probable that the foundations are the remains of a fisherman's camp or other modern disturbance. The exterior shell of the islet is certainly artificial in origin but displays no chronologically distinctive traits.

The positioning of the site in Loch Staoisha is suggestive, in that it is situated next to the only potentially arable land near the loch and is surrounded by deep water. Both of these traits have been noted by Morrison to be distinctive features of the crannogs in Loch Awe.

Site Surveyed: May 9, 1996

See: Holley DES 1996: 21

Staoisha



Loch Staoisha
Looking East

Loch Gorm NR 24056 65856

"Possible" artificial island - possible

Introduction- This substantial site was first recognised as an island dwelling in 1959 when the remains of a building were discovered on its surface (Celoria 1959, 1/25). A drought in August 1968 exposed the remains of a stone causeway, which presumably led to the site and which, "passed over an earlier dry ridge" (Newall 1968). Somewhere on this ridge (the position was not indicated) was discovered a, "round island, about 30' in diameter, ringed with stones. In the bed of the loch around this are three large branches cut from trees, still retaining bark, and one long beam stripped of bark" (Newall 1968). This feature, which was listed as a possible crannog, is not the site previously noted by Celoria and subsequently inspected by the RCAHMS. The grid reference places it somewhere between the site discussed here and the E shore of Loch Gorm.

The RCAHMS inspected this site in May 1978 but did not include it in its Inventory of Islay, describing it as, "not apparently artificial" (RCAHMS Card File NR 26 NW 16). The RCAHMS field surveyor noted that the remains of a rectangular building, measuring 5m by 6m, were located near the centre of the island but that they were covered with turf and were therefore undiagnostic. A boulder causeway, 130m in length and 3.5m in width, was observed to approach the site from shore, but terminated at a sandbank 50m from the island.

In 1970 a stone ard, said to be Iron Age in date, was found on the island. The ard was displayed in the Islay Museum, in Port Charlotte at the time of survey. The context in which the ard was found is unknown.

Local Geography - Loch Gorm is located 1.5km from the far W coast of Islay, just to the N of the Rhinns. The loch has an irregular jagged shoreline and is the largest fresh-water loch on the island, measuring 2.5m E-W by 2m N-S. The consistency and topography of the lochbed vary throughout the loch but the eastern part of the lochbed, surrounding the artificial island, is covered with firm sand. Very little silt is

found in the eastern part of Loch Gorm, so visibility during the survey extended from the water's surface to the lochbed in all areas. The water depth varies throughout the loch, from 0.3m in the E end, to 2m near it's centre. Several local farmers who have fished extensively in the loch have indicated that most of the loch is about 1.5m in depth and that it does not extend much beyond 2m in depth. Loch Gorm is fed by several small rivers and streams, including the River Leoig, which are spaced randomly around it's shore. The loch is drained into the Atlantic from it's W end by two rivers: the Saligo which empties into Saligo Bay 1.5km to the NW and the Allt na Criche which empties into Machir Bay, 2km to the SW.

Apart from two isolated patches of soils which will support of grazing on the NW and NE shores, most of the land immediately surrounding Loch Gorm is covered by peat. However, extensive areas of some of the best arable soils on the island are located 1km NW and 0.6km SW of the loch. Other areas of fairly good arable land may be found 0.4km to the SE and 0.6km to the NE of the shores of the loch. This section of the island has a gently rolling topography which allows these arable soils to be worked with modern farm machinery. One of the largest working farms on Islay is located 1km SE of the Loch.

Site Description - This suspected artificial island is located 136m N of a small spur of land, which juts out into the E end of Loch Gorm. The site is accessed from the E by a causeway of large boulders and medium-sized stone which have been placed in a double row to form a platform, measuring 3.4m in average width. The causeway measures 97m in length but terminates 30m short of the E shore of Loch Gorm and 61m short of the artificial island, at the time of survey. A large sand-bar has formed between the E side of the site and the E shore of Loch Gorm. This feature has reduced the water depth in this end of the loch to just 0.2m and has almost entirely engulfed the W end of the causeway. A portion of this sand-bar is presumably the "earlier dry ridge" referred to by Newall, which contained the circle of stones and timbers he referred to as a "possible crannog". No trace of this feature was found at the time of survey.

Although the suspected artificial island is located 181m from the E shore of Loch Gorm, it can be easily waded to without the water ever reaching above the knees. To the S of the site the water reaches a maximum depth of 1.2m, while to the N and W the lochbed gradually tapers out to reach a maximum depth of 2m, approximately 100m from the site.

The suspected artificial island is an oval-shaped island which measures 107m N-S by 77m E-W at its base. The outer margin of the island is ringed by a 20m wide spread of large and medium sized stone which sharply contrasts with the surrounding sandy lochbed. The sides of the island are composed of a scatter of small stone, which rises up gradually at a 4° angle from the lochbed to form an oval-shaped platform, measuring 63m N-S by 38m E-W, which was roughly at water-level at the time of survey. The edges of the upper platform are covered by a spread of small stone, except on the W side of the site where a 20m long, 10m wide spread of large boulders can be observed. The surface of the island was heavily vegetated and covered with dense clumps of willow, briars and turfs of long grass at the time of survey.

The centre of the island is crowned by an oval-shaped, mound of turf, which it was not possible to measure, due to the density of the willow bushes, that reached a maximum height of 1.5m above water-level. The turf-covered remains of a square structure, measuring 4m E-W by 4.3m N-S, were observed at the centre of this mound. As previously noted by the RCAHMS, the remains were heavily vegetated and nothing could be determined of their construction.

Discussion - It is uncertain whether this island is an artificial or natural feature. The density of small stone which covers the site suggests that it was placed there by human activity, but the presence of an occasional large boulder may indicate that it is a glacial drumlin. The size of the island may indicate that it is a natural feature, as the island is the largest in this study by a factor of 350%. There has certainly been human activity on the island in the past, as evidenced by the causeway and building remains, but neither of the features are dateable, or indicate that the island is necessarily artificial. If the island is indeed artificial, the scale of work which would have been

required to build it would have been immense compared to the other artificial islands on Islay.

The causeway which was built, presumably to accesses the site, is unique in several of its features. It is by far the longest causeway in this study area, the next largest (at Loch Fhir Mhoir, Islay) is only half this length. It is curious that the causeway apparently ends 60m short of the island. Perhaps that portion of the causeway is now covered with sand, or alternatively the causeway may have no connection with the island whatsoever. It may have been built to access the site mentioned by Newall and which is now presumably covered by the sandbar. It is also curious that the causeway terminates 30m short of the E shore of Loch Gorm. This may indicate that water-levels were lower in the loch when it was constructed. Booth has hypothesised that the causeway is in fact a wall which the rising loch level has denuded (1983, 14).

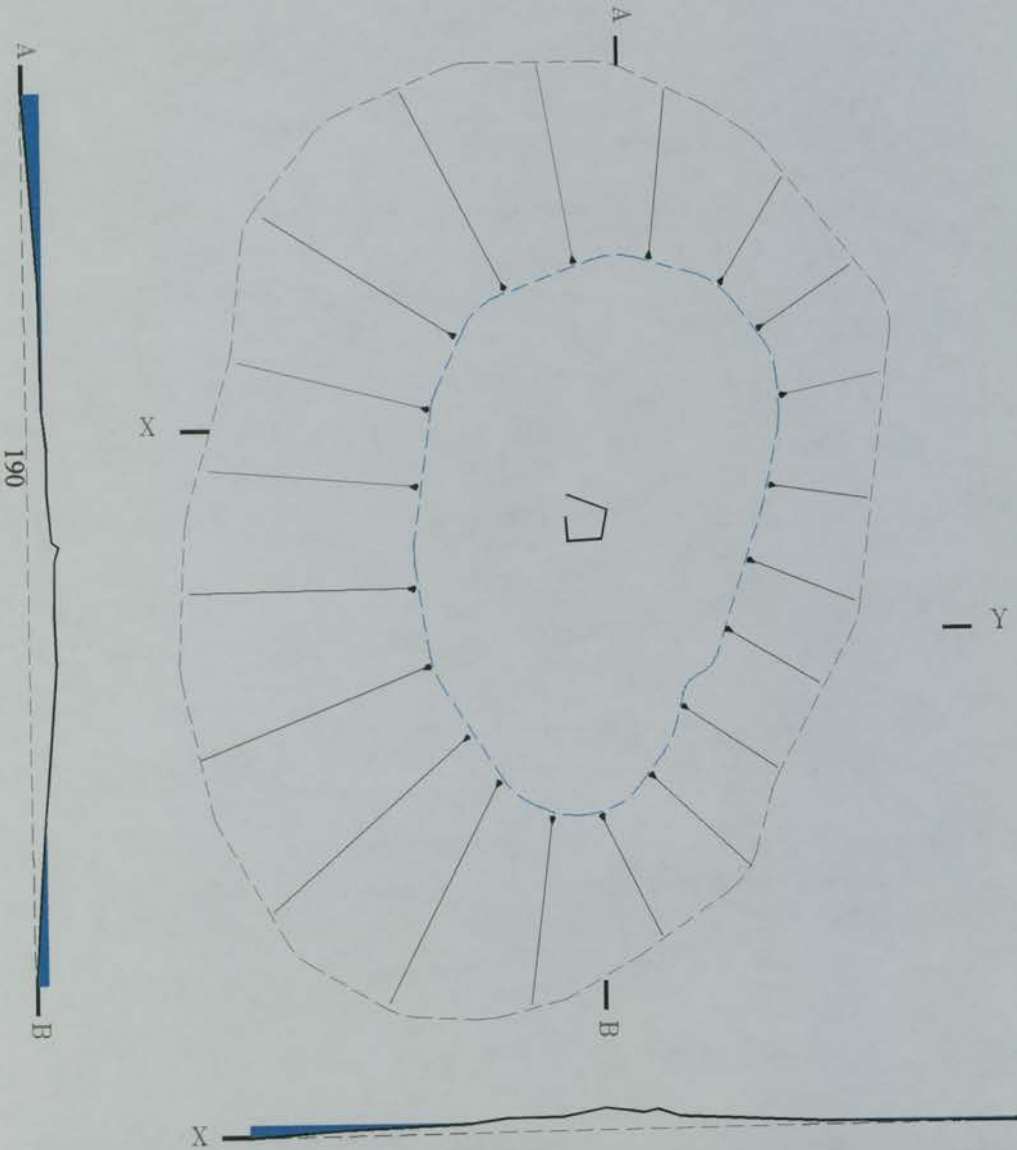
The chronology of this site is also in question, with the only firm dating evidence being the "Iron Age" ard found on its surface.

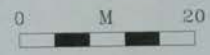
Due to the uncertainty of the "artificiality" of this site, and its singularity of scale and construction, it has not been included in the analysis sections of this thesis. It is listed here as a "possible" artificial island to be noted in the archaeological record.

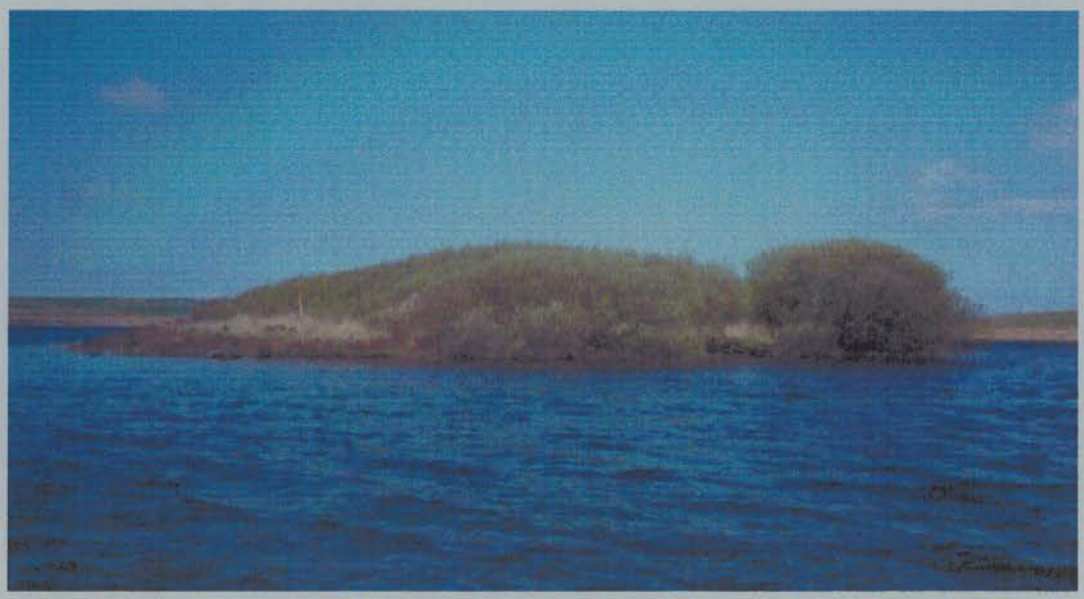
Site Surveyed: May 8, 1996

See: Holley DES 1996: 17

Gorm







Loch Gorm
Looking North

Allt Garadh Ealabais NR 2780 7055

Possible crannog - discounted

Introduction - Peat-cutting operations in 1963 uncovered a pot of Later Bronze Age - Early Iron Age type and 7 wooden vessels in this location. Newall (1963) excavated a small trench, "a spade-width square in size", near to where the items were recovered and found "one long branch crossed by two smaller, roughly at right angles" (*ibid.*). This led him to conclude that this was the site of a crannog. The RCAHMS visited the site in June 1977 but found no trace of a crannog, noting only that the location was "quite conceivably the bed of an extinct shallow loch" (RCAHMS Card File NR 27 SE 11).

Field Search - All the land within 0.5km of this position was fieldwalked and no evidence was found to suggest the presence of an artificial islet. Considering that only a few branches were found and not an organised structure, it may have been over-zealous of Newall to label it the site of a crannog.

Site Inspected - May 5, 1996

Carn na h-Airde Daibhidh, Loch Kinnabus	NR 2995 4223
Carn Mhic Gilliondrais, Loch Kinnabus	NR 3011 4205

Possible artificial islets - discounted

Introduction - Lamont notes that "two tiny islets, joined by stepping-stones" were discovered in Loch Kinnabus during low water-levels in June of 1960. Both of the islets were described as cairns and were subsequently included in Oakley's (1973) catalogue as artificial islets. The RCAHMS visited Loch Kinnabus in June 1977 but was unable to locate the islets, noting that, "there was nothing visible" at Lamont's map reference (RCAHMS Card File NR 24 SE 12).

Field Search - Loch Kinnabus was inspected by divers and found to range between 1m and 2m in depth at the time of survey. Visibility in the loch was generally poor and only extended to 1m due to peat run-off. The lochbed is covered by gravel and small stones and was found to be quite firm. The feature noted by Lamont was discovered 20m S of a small peninsula which juts out into the W end of the loch. From the shore the feature appeared to be a large cairn of boulders but on closer inspection was found to be the remains of an old shoreline. The stones were oriented in a line 70m to 80m in length but were not organised into any coherent shape. No evidence was found which suggested the presence of an artificial islet.

On the opposite side of the loch Carn Mhic Gilliondrais is an oval-shaped mound of large boulders, measuring approximately 20m by 30m, which is located 10m from the shore. This feature is also natural in origin and displays no signs of artificial modification.

Site Inspected - May 10, 1996

A' Chrannag, Craigens NR 2940 6740

Possible artificial islet - discounted

Introduction – This site was first reported as a possible crannog by the Islay Survey Group (Celoria 1960, 3/5) although it was shown and named as a' chrannag on the 1900 edition of the 6 in. Ordnance Survey map. Valder (1961, 15) reported that the site consisted of a rectangular grass-covered mound and that sheep had been buried in it around 1960. Resistivity tests were carried out on the mound and indicated that an anomaly exists near the centre.

The Royal Commission visited the site in May 1978 and included it in its Inventory of Islay, under the heading of 'Castles and Fortifications'. The site was described as, "a low scarped platform which stands about 1.25m above the base of a broad encircling ditch and covers an area of about 16m². The angles are extruded to form roughly circular projections some 4m in diameter; the S pair of bastions are solid, while those at the NW and NE angles have hollowed and open-ended interiors. The ditch varies between 8m and 10m in maximum width" (RCAHMS 1984, No. 398). The site is described as an "artillery platform" and is associated with the battle of Traigh Ghruineard, fought between the MacLeans and MacDonalds in 1598.

Morrison identified this site as a "reasonable candidate for classification as a crannog" (1985, 26) based upon its artificial nature, but concedes that the site's name could be interpreted as "The Pulpit".

Field Search – The feature in question was found on a level, grassy plain at the SE head of Loch Gruinart approximately 400m NW of Craigens farmhouse. The site appeared to be a square, grass-covered mound and little can be added to the RCAHMS's description.

The site was excluded from this study for several reasons. Firstly, although the site is named as "a' Chrannag", the site is not surrounded by either water or marshy ground and is presently at least 1m above the high watermark. Even if sea levels were high enough to surround the site it would be considered an estuarine site rather than a fresh-water site like the others examined here.

Site Inspected - June 16, 1997

Loch na Crannaig NR 2856 5584

Possible artificial islet - discounted

Introduction – The Islay survey group recorded that, "a place, not marked on the maps, called Lochan na Crannaig, which was drained in the 19th century has been reputed to be a burial ground" (1959, 5/12). Booth (1983, 15) notes that The New Guide to Islay, (1900) states that, "On a plateau near Laggan farmhouse there was, until recent times, a sheet of fresh water of considerable size called Lochan na Crannaig which was drained", and infers that the loch was formerly the site of a crannog. The RCAHMS visited the site in 1979 and noted, "Ground perambulation revealed nothing of archaeological significance. There are some remains of abandoned 18/19th century buildings" (RCAHMS Card File NR 15 NE 13).

Field Search – The suspected crannog was identified by the local farmer and can be found adjacent to a field-wall near the edge of a pasture 200m NE of Laggan House. The feature in question is a grass covered, mound of earth through which medium sized stones protrude. The mound is approximately 1.5m in height and measures 18m E-W by 22m N-S at it's base. The centre of the mound is occupied by a depression 0.5m in depth which measures 7m E-W by 11.5m N-S. The structure appears to be the remains of a building and is most likely that noted by the RCAHMS.

It is highly questionable whether this site is an artificial islet. Although the feature in question is near the edge of a shallow depression, the topography surrounding the site is such that if water covered the area the feature would still be on the shore. The 19th century plan of Laggan Farm (SRO RHP 11085) shows that the nearby Lochan na Nigheadaireachd was indeed larger at that time but did not extend as far to the east as the site in question. It is more probable that the feature is the remains of a building.

Site Inspected - June 18, 1997

Loch nan Diol NR 4320 4810

Suspected Crannog - Possible artificial islet

Introduction - Wooden stakes were seen in the E part of this loch by Capt. I. Ramsay sometime prior to 1959 and interpreted to be the remains of a crannog. Since that time the water-level has been raised, presumably submerging any remains (Celoria 1959, 7/51). The name "Caisteal Mhic Ruaridh" appears in the middle of the loch on the OS 6" (1900 edition) but was conspicuously absent from the 1878 edition. The RCAHMS visited Loch nan Diol in May of 1978 but did not discover any remains protruding above the water-level at that time (RCAHMS Card File NR 44 NW 38).

Field Search - Loch nan Diol is a designated Site of Scientific Interest because it contains Britain's only population of fresh-water medicinal leeches. These leeches are on the endangered species list and are very sensitive to intrusions into their environment. For this reason, (and because the other fieldworkers were squeamish) the author inspected the Loch by himself under the supervision of the SSI's warden.

Loch nan Diol was found to range between 0.5m and 1m in depth at the time of survey. Visibility in the loch was generally good but only extended to 1m due to the shallowness of the water and the growth of aquatic vegetation. The lochbed is entirely covered by peat on which thick aquatic vegetation has grown. Near the centre of the loch several large holes at least 2m in depth were noted in the peat lochbed. These holes seem to form the perimeter of a roughly shaped circle, 15m in diameter. The lochbed in the centre of this circle was probed in several places and stone was found at a depth of 0.5m. A more intrusive investigation was not possible due to the sensitive nature of the loch's environment. Based on Capt. Ramsay's description, the place-name on the OS map and the presence of a large quantity of stone near the centre of the loch it seems highly probable that an artificial islet may exist in this loch. However, without a more intrusive investigation this must remain a "possible" artificial islet rather than a confirmed one.

Site Inspected - May 16, 1996

Loch nan Gail NR ????????

Possible artificial islet – not located

Introduction - Maceacharna (1976, 34) notes that a "probable" artificial islet exists in Loch nan Gail but does not indicate the location of the loch. The RCAHMS has no note of such a structure.

Field Search – Loch nan Gail does not appear on any modern map of Islay nor on the Islay estate maps of the 19th century. Extensive questioning of local sources failed to identify the location of the loch but several people criticised the reliability of MacEacharna's account. Repeated correspondence by the author to MacEacharna was left unanswered.

Site Inspected – Not found

Loch Skerrols NR 3442 6402

Possible artificial islet - discounted

Introduction - Maceacharna (1976, 34) notes that a "probable" artificial islet exists in Loch Skerrols but does not indicate where. The RCAHMS has no note of such a structure.

Field Search - Loch Skerrols was inspected by divers and found to range between 1m and 2m in depth at the time of survey. Visibility in the loch was generally good and extended to 5m. The SW end of Loch Skerrols is dammed, raising the natural water level by 1.5-2m, and the loch was formerly used as a reservoir for a hydro-electric power station in Bridgend. If the loch was allowed to revert to its natural state it would be very shallow and ¼ of its present size. The lochbed is covered by gravel and small stones and was found to be quite firm. A natural rise in the lochbed was found 60m off the NW shore of the loch and was assumed to be the "probable" artificial islet noted by Maceacharna. The feature consists of a roughly circular platform of clay which measures approximately 15m in diameter at its base. The upper surface of the feature was covered by 0.5m of water at the time of survey and displayed no evidence of either timbers or stone covering. No other evidence was found in the loch which suggested the presence of an artificial islet.

Site Inspected - May 13, 1996

Appendix B:
Lochs in the central Inner Hebrides inspected for artificial islets

Each loch is listed below by name, national grid reference, and date in was inspected.
Lochs which have no entry under date searched were not inspected.
Lochs which access was denied to are noted and source of restriction cited.
n/a appears next to three lochs on Islay which had been previously inspected by Cressey (1995).
The total number of lochs, total number of lochs searched and percentage of lochs searched is given at the end of each section.

Coll

Name	NGR	Date Searched
Fada	NM 197 586	6/28/97
Boidheach	NM 202 568	6/28/97
Ronard	NM 204 553	5/05/95
na Cloiche	NM 207 559	5/05/95
a' Gharbh-airde	NM 215 558	5/05/95
Airigh Meall Bhreide	NM 216 567	5/05/95
a' Mhill Aird	NM 231 608	6/29/97
a' Mhill Aird Bhhig	NM 233 604	5/05/95
a Chrotha	NM 236 593	5/14/95
Ronard	NM 238 608	7/14/96
nan Geadh	NM 239 582	5/14/95
Airigh Choilleig	NM 240 579	5/14/95
an t-Suithe	NM 241 589	5/14/95
Ronard	NM 241 616	5/01/95
Feisdlum	NM 246 585	5/18/95
(unnamed)	NM 246 598	5/18/95
(unnamed)	NM 247 592	5/18/95
(unnamed)	NM 248 599	5/18/95
(unnamed)	NM 249 595	5/18/95
an t-Sagairt	NM 251 609	5/01/95
(unnamed)	NM 253 598	5/01/95
a' Mhill	NM 257 603	5/01/95
Ghille caluim	NM 257 611	5/01/95
a' Ghruibe	NM 257 625	4/30/95
Fada	NM 259 617	4/30/95
Airigh Raonuill	NM 264 615	4/30/95
an Duin	NM 212 578	5/03/95
Breachacha	NM 156 530	5/10/95
Cliad	NM 207 588	5/03/95
nan Cinneachan	NM 188 558	5/07/95
Anlaimh	NM 188 568	5/09/95
na Cloiche	NM 240 610	5/01/95
Urbhaig	NM 231 578	5/04/95

(Coll) Total	33	33	100%

Tiree

Name	NGR	Date Searched	
an Eilein	NL 985 436	5/22/95	
Stanail	NL 971 452		
a' Phuill	NL 955 415	5/20/95	
Poll Oriagal	NM 016 459	5/21/95	
An Fhaodhail	NM 017 451	5/21/95	
(unnamed)	NM 018 444	5/21/95	
Leana na Moine	NM 028 446	5/21/95	
Cnoc Ibrig	NM 028 451	5/21/95	
Caol	NM 030 454	5/20/95	
Riaghain	NM 035 472	5/19/95	
Dubh	NM 036 485	5/19/95	
na Mointeich	NM 040 454		
Bhasapol	NL 973 468	5/19/95	
na Buaile	NM 034 449	5/20/95	
na Gile	NM 026 482	5/19/95	

(Tiree) Total	15	13	87%

Mull

Name	NGR	Date Searched
Mor Ardalanish	NM 364 191	6/27/94
Assapol	NM 408 203	6/28/94
Arm	NM 419 218	
Carnain an Amais	NM 470 523	7/20/94
Beinn	NM 472 537	
Meadhoin	NM 479 525	7/20/94
Peallach	NM 486 534	7/20/94
Dearg	NM 488 509	7/18/94
Caol Lochan	NM 515 506	7/18/94
na Crithe	NM 515 510	7/18/94
a' Ghurrabain	NM 520 539	3/15/94
na Geige	NM 523 233	
na Guailne Duibhe	NM 529 521	3/15/94
Fraing	NM 544 225	
na Dairidh	NM 574 404	
Fuaran	NM 585 269	
Airdeglais	NM 623 285	3/07/94
an Ellen	NM 624 295	3/07/94
Uisk	NM 651 255	7/20/94
Bearnach	NM 690 320	
an Doire Dharaich	NM 718 337	
a' Ghleannain	NM 727 315	
Assapol	NM 398 210	5/25/94
Frisa	NM 485 490	7/18/94-7/28/94
Ba	NM 565 385	10/15/94-10/20/94
na meal	NM 518 527	3/10/94
Poit na H-I	NM 313 231	6/27/94
Sgubain	NM 631 307	3/07/94

(Mull) Total	28	19	68%

Islay

Name	NGR	Date Searched
(unnamed)	NR 166 538	6/16/97
Gearach	NR 226 597	6/17/97
Ruime	NR 240 701	5/03/96
Gorm	NR 241 658	5/08/96
Allt Garadh Ealabais	NR 278 705	5/06/96
an Raoin	NR 280 646	6/17/97
Nigheadaireachd	NR 281 559	6/18/97
Glenastle Lower	NR 295 451	6/16/97
Kinnabus	NR 299 422	5/10/96
Glenastle	NR 300 448	6/16/97
nan Gillean	NR 309 431	6/16/97
Ard Achadh	NR 313 428	6/16/97
Sibhinn	NR 326 654	6/18/97
Muchairt	NR 327 472	6/14/97
Dhomhnuill	NR 330 537	6/18/97
Drolsay	NR 332 670	6/17/97
nan Gabhar	NR 337 484	6/18/97
Skerrols	NR 340 640	5/13/96
a' Chlaidheimh	NR 343 692	Access denied by Islay Estates
Cam	NR 347 667	6/17/97
(unnamed)	NR 352 680	6/17/97
Leorin	NR 369 485	
Leorin	NR 372 486	
Smigeadail	NR 385 755	Access denied by Islay Estates
(unnamed)	NR 392 562	
Sholum	NR 393 489	6/15/97
Mhurchaidh	NR 397 759	Access denied by Islay Estates
Lochan Sholum	NR 400 491	6/15/97
Leathan an Sgorra	NR 400 521	6/15/97
Beinn Uraraidh	NR 402 533	6/15/97
Uigeadail	NR 405 505	6/15/97
Ballygrant	NR 406 664	n/a
nam Breac	NR 408 556	
Fada	NR 408 637	5/13/96
Dearg an Sgorra	NR 409 520	6/15/97
Leathann	NR 410 632	n/a
Lossit	NR 410 653	n/a
Larnan	NR 420 480	Access denied by Ardbeg Distillery
Ardnahoe	NR 420 715	6/16/97
nan Clach	NR 427 507	
nan Doil	NR 430 483	5/16/96
Carn a' Mhaoil	NR 435 507	5/16/96
Tallant	NR 448 505	5/16/96
Allallaidh	NR 419 579	5/14/96
Ardnave	NR 283 726	5/05/96

Bharradail	NR 393 636	5/13/96	
Corr	NR 226 696	5/03/96	
Finlaggan	NR 387 674	5/15/96	
Fhir Mhoir	NR 265 694	5/06/96	
Laingeadail	NR 266 712	5/07/96	
nan Deala	NR 425 688	5/13/96	
Staoisha	NR 406 712	5/09/96	
(Islay) Total	52	43	83%
Total	128	108	84.4%

Appendix C:
Place names of the central Inner Hebridean lochs with artificial islets

Name	Meaning	Source
Mull		
Loch Assapol	Loch of Assa's farm	Macquarrie 1982, 79
Loch Ba	Loch of the cows of the cow	Findlay and Turner 1994, 60 Gilles 1906, 119
Loch Frisa	Cold loch freezing water	Macquarrie 1982, 19 MacCormick 1923, 60
Loch na Mial nam Mial	Loch of the waterfly Loch of the lice	Macquarrie 1982, 24 Findlay and Turner 1994, 65
Loch Poit na H-I	Loch of the pot of Iona	Macquarrie 1982, 82
Loch Sgubain	Lochs of the sheaves of water Loch of the windy gap	Macquarrie 1982, 82 Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997
Caisteal Eoghainn a' Chinn Bhig	The Castle of Ewen of the little head	McLean 1923, 202
Eilean Ban	Fair/White Island	Macquarrie 1982, 17
Islay		
Loch Allallaidh	Great cliff place	Maceacharna 1976, 113
Loch Ardnave	Loch of the promontory	Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997
Loch Barradail	Loch of the border dale	Ferguson and Perrons 1988, 12 Maceacharna 1976, 120
(borgv-dalv)	Loch of fortress in the valley	Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997
Loch Corr	Frothy loch or Loch of the herons	Ferguson and Perrons 1988, 12 Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997
(Cobhair)	loch of the excess	Maceacharna 1976, 120
Loch Gorm	Blue loch	Ferguson and Perrons 1988, 12
Loch Finlaggan	St. Finlaggan's loch	
Loch an Fhir Mhoir	Loch of the big man	Maceacharna 1976, 120
Loch Laingeadail	Loch of the long valley	Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997
Loch nan Deala	Leech loch	Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997

Loch Staoisha	Loch of the stone seat Loch of the stone river	Ferguson and Perrons 1988, 13 Maceacharna 1976, 120
Eilean Mhuireill	Island of (personal name)	Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997
Coll		
Loch Anlaimh	Loch of Olaf Anlaif's Loch Aulay's Loch	Beveridge 1903, 25 Gillies 1903, 123 Young 1997, 3
Loch Poll nam Broig	Pool of the shoes	Beveridge 1903, 20 Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997
(Alainn)	Beautiful loch	McKinnon 1994, 5 Young 1997, 5
(Poll na Brog) separate	Pool of the shoe	McKinnon 1994, 5 Young 1997, 5
(Brochachadh)	Field of the broch Loch of the spotted field	MacDougal 1986, 29 Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997
Loch Cliad	Loch of the meadow Loch of Cliad farm	MacEchern 1906, 324 Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997
Loch nan Cinneachan	Loch of the heathen Loch of the Gentiles	Beveridge 1903, 25 Young 1997, 3
Loch an Duin	Loch of the dun	McKinnon 1994, 3
Loch Fada	Long loch	McKinnon 1994, 13
Loch na Cloiche	Loch of the stone	Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997
Loch Urbhaig	Loch near the sea beach Loch of the stony bay	MacEchern 1906, 324 Jonston 1990, 131
Tiree		
Loch na Buaile	Loch of the cattle fold	Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997
Loch na Gile	Loch of the ravine	Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997
Loch Bhasapol	Fresh water farm	Jonston 1990, 103
Eilean Mhic Conuill	MacConnell's island	Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997
Eilean Aird na Brathan	Island of the millstone promontory	Fraser *pers. comm.* 1997

Appendix D:
Calculations for the amount of stone needed to construct the average artificial islet in the central Inner Hebrides.

Volume

Volume of the average artificial islet = 924m³ See Appendix E

Artificial islets are not solid so 15% of the volume was estimated to be occupied by air, water or soil. Another 20% was allowed for the volume of the natural features around which the sites are constructed. These numbers are arbitrary due to lack of excavation data and are only meant to provide an approximation of average volume. The adjusted volume of the average site was 600m³.

Weights

The weights of the materials of which artificial islets are potentially constructed were obtained from various sources. The weight of each material and its source are listed below:

Stone:

Weight of gneiss = 2625 kg per m³ Weast 1970, table F-1

Weight of Stone (general) = 2500 kg per m³ Millet and McGrail 1987

Weight of gritstone (general) = 2700 kg per m³ O'Neill 1965, 171

Timber:

It is difficult to establish the relative weight of timber used in the construction of artificial islets. Factors such as the type and age of timber used, time of year it was cut and whether it was seasoned or not all influence any estimation of weight. Recent studies in the Atlantic province have shown that the published weight of green oak may be under-estimated by up to 80% (Gregory 1997, 214). The calculations made here then can only be considered approximate.

Weight of seasoned Oak = 736 kg/m³ (Skene 1948, 24; Smith 1965, 33)
Weight of Green Oak = 1033 kg/m³

Weight of seasoned Oak = 1280 kg/m³ (Gregory 1997, 214)
Weight of green Oak = 1841 kg/m³

Weight of seasoned Alder = 530 kg/m³ (Patterson 1988, 52)
Weight of green Alder = 865 kg/m³

Calculations:

Gneiss:
600 x 2625 = 1,575,000kg

Gritstone:
600 x 2700 = 1,620,000kg

Stone (average):
600 x 2500 = 1,500,000kg

Oak:
seasoned = 600 x 736 = 441,600kg
Green = 600 x 1033 = 619,800kg

Oak (using Gregory):
seasoned = 600 x 1280 = 768,000kg
Green = 600 x 1841 = 1,104,600kg

Alder:
seasoned = 600 x 561 = 336,600kg
Green = 600 x 865 = 519,000kg

Conclusions:

Accepting the premise that in order to construct the average artificial islet in the central Inner Hebrides 600m³ of material would be needed.

If this material was stone it would weight around 1,500 tonnes.
If this material was oak timbers it would weigh between 441 tonnes and 1,104 tonnes.

Appendix E:
Structural characteristics of the artificial islets of the central Inner Hebrides

The following pages display the structural characteristics of the artificial islets of the central Inner Hebrides in tabulated form. The information is presented in this way so that the full data set for each of site's characteristics can be accessed quickly. All of the data tabulated here comes from the individual site reports included in Appendix A.

The Artificial Islets of the central Inner Hebrides

Site Name	NGR #	External Diameter	External Area	Internal Diameter	Internal Area	EA to IA Ratio	Walling	Shape	Axis	Height
Mhic Conuill	NL 9698 4677	31.5x34.5	928.4	24x24	431	2.15		circular		1
nam Brathan	NL 9734 4701	29x41	972	14x23	234	4.15	slight	elipse	perp	1.1
na Gile	NM 0260 4816	18x25	375	11x16	146	2.57	slight	elipse	parl	1.1
na Buaile	NM 0338 4490	15x16	190.7	6x9	40	4.78	slight	circular		0.8
Breachacha	NM 156 530	21x25.5	434	13.5x18	199	2.18		elipse	parl	1.5
Dun Anlaimh	NM 1883 5683	28x35	772	15x19.5	244	3.16	slight, buildings	elipse	parl	2.2
Eilean Anlaimh	NM 1889 5579	20x20	334	10x12	92	3.63		circular		3
Cliad #1	NM 2072 5877	17x21	293	11x13	115	2.55		circular		2
Cliad #2	NM 2075 5884	12x28	292		118	2.47	buildings	elipse	perp	1.5
an Duin	NM 2128 5785	16.5x24	307	14.5x16	215	1.42	massive	elipse	parl	3.8
Urbhaig	NM 2312 5783	22x36	708	6x16	83	8.53	slight	elipse	parl	3.5
na Cloiche	NM 2401 6107	16x16	202	7x8	46	4.39		circular		1.5
Fada	NM 2561 6204	30x32	739	9x10	65	11.3	slight	circular		5.5
Poit na H-I	NM 313 231	19x19	372	12x12	118	3.15		circular		2
Assapol	NM 398 210	15x18	233	9x9	69	3.38		circular		1.2
Eilean Ban	NM 477 493	29x35	838	25	493	1.7	massive	circular		1.2
Ledmore	NM 515 469	22x24	383	4x6	100	3.83		circular		2
na Meal	NM 518 527	14x19	193	6x12	52	3.71	slight, buildings	elipse	parl	1.3
Knock	NM 554 389	26x30	622	21.5x23.5	397	1.57		circular		2
Eoghainn	NM 631 307	15x30	356	11x24	200	1.78	massive,buildings	elipse	parl	2
Corr	NR 2264 6958	32x34	862.6	19x23.5	304	2.84	massive,buildings	circular		2.1
Fhir Mhoir	NR 2652 6940	17.8x22	341.7	11.4x13.4	121	2.82	massive	circular		2
Laingeadail	NR 2662 7126	26.5x26.5	569.1	18.5x18.5	262.5	2.17	slight,buildings	circular		1.8
Ardnave	NR 2833 7263	44x50	1773.6	15.5x15.5	202.7	8.75		circular		2.7
Eilean Mhuireill	NR 3868 6738	30x51	1167.6	12.5x17.5	168.7	6.92	massive	elipse	parl	2.5
Bharradail	NR 3929 6364	29x45	1082.9	20x36	583.5	1.86	slight	elipse	parl	1.5
Staoisha	NR 4066 7124	24x24	452.8	14.3x14.3	213.5	2.12	building	circular		2.6
Allallaidh	NR 4192 5798	32x47	1284.9	22x34	497.5	2.58	massive	elipse	perp	3.5
nan Deala	NR 4254 6883	24.5x24.5	472.5	16.5x20	240.4	1.97	slight, buildings	circular		1

The Artificial Islets of the central Inner Hebrides

Site Name	NGR #	Distance from Shore	Depth of Water	Accessibility	Boat noost	Lochbed	Volume of Islet
Mhic Conuill	NL 9698 4677	82	2.3	no		sand	679.7
nam Brathan	NL 9734 4701	41	1.2	walk?		sand	663.3
na Gile	NM 0260 4816	24	0.5	walk?		bedrock	286.5
na Buaile	NM 0338 4490	?	?	causeway		silts	92.3
Breachacha	NM 156 530	30	?	causeway		bedrock	474.8
Dun Anlaimh	NM 1883 5683	26	1.25	causeway		silts	1117.6
Eilean Anlaimh	NM 1889 5579	31	1.25	causeway		bedrock	639
Cliad #1	NM 2072 5877	?	0.75	causeway		gravel	408
Cliad #2	NM 2075 5884	?	?	causeway		bedrock	307.5
an Duin	NM 2128 5785	25	1.75	causeway		bedrock	991.8
Urbhaig	NM 2312 5783	35	1.5	no		bedrock	1384.3
na Cloiche	NM 2401 6107	60	1	walk?		gravel	220.5
Fada	NM 2561 6204	24	1.5	no		bedrock	2211
Poit na H-I	NM 313 231	65	1.25	walk?		silts	490
Assapol	NM 398 210	70	2.3	no		sand	181.2
Eilean Ban	NM 477 493	42	5	no		bedrock	798.6
Ledmore	NM 515 469	80	2.5	no		sand	483
na Meal	NM 518 527	70	?	causeway		bedrock	159.3
Knock	NM 554 389	60	3.5	no		bedrock	1416
Eoghainn	NM 631 307	68	1.75	no	yes	silts	756
Corr	NR 2264 6958	25	1.5	causeway	yes	silts	1225
Fhir Mhoir	NR 2652 6940	49	4	causeway		silts	583.7
Laingeadail	NR 2662 7126	28	1.5	no		silts	748.4
Ardnave	NR 2833 7263	12	0.3	walk?		sand	2668
Eilean Mhuireill	NR 3868 6738	51	3	no	yes	gravel	2218
Bharradail	NR 3929 6364	10.5	2	causeway		sand	1249.8
Staoisha	NR 4066 7124	45	2	no		silts	866.2
Allallaidh	NR 4192 5798	53	4	causeway	yes	bedrock	3119.2
nan Deala	NR 4254 6883	26	1	causeway		silts	356.5

Appendix F:
The soils of the central Inner Hebrides

Classifications after Bown, Shipley and Bibby (1982; 1982b).

Arable

Class	Component Soils	Vegetation
1A	Mineral alluvial soils	Arable and permanent pastures. Rush pastures, sedge mires and swamp communities.
97	Humus-iron podzols: some gleys	Arable and permanent pastures. Bent-fescue grassland. Dry Atlantic heather moor.
97T	Humus-iron podzols: some gleys	Arable and permanent pastures. Bent-fescue grassland. Dry Atlantic heather moor.
99	Humus-iron podzols: some humic gleys and alluvial soils	Arable and permanent pastures. Rush pastures and sedge mires. Bent-fescue grassland.
99T	Humus-iron podzols: some humic gleys and alluvial soils	Arable and permanent pastures. Rush pastures and sedge mires. Bent-fescue grassland.
100	Humus-iron podzols: some peaty gleys and humic gleys	Bent-fescue grassland. Arable and permanent pastures. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
103	Humus-iron podzols, peaty gleys: some humic gleys, alluvial soils and peat	Arable and permanent pastures. Rush pastures and sedge mires. Atlantic heather moor. Rush pastures. Blanket bog.
105	Humus-iron podzols, peaty podzols: some peaty gleys and peat	Arable and permanent pastures. Atlantic bog and heather moor.
158	Brown forest soils: some brown rankers	Arable and permanent pastures. Bent-fescue grassland. Herb-rich Atlantic heather moor.
165	Brown forest soils: some brown rankers and noncalcareous gleys	Arable and permanent pastures. Rock-rose-fescue grassland. Rich bent-fescue grassland.
241	Noncalcareous gleys, humic gleys: some peaty gleys and peat	Arable and permanent pastures. Sharp-flowered rush pasture. Moist Atlantic heather moor.
259	Brown calcareous soils, calcareous regosols	Arable and permanent pastures. Northern dunes and dune pastures.
260	Brown calcareous soils, calcareous regosols	Arable and permanent pastures. Northern dunes and dune pastures.
278	Humus-iron podzols, brown forest soils, some alluvium	Arable and permanent pastures. Acid bent fecue grassland. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
279	Brown forest soils, peaty podzols, peaty gleys, peat	Arable and permanent pastures. Rush pastures and sedge mires.Blanket and flying bent bog.
307	Brown forest soils, humus-iron podzols, humic gleys, rankers and alluvium	Arable and permanent pastures. Acid bent fecue grassland. Rush pastures and sedge mires.

308	Humic gleys, noncalcareous gleys	Arable and permanent pastures. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
308W	Humic gleys, noncalcareous gleys: some brown forest soils with gleying	Arable and permanent pastures. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
309	Humic gleys, noncalcareous gleys	Permanent pastures. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
333	Noncalcareous gleys, humic gleys: some brown forest soils and peaty gleys	Arable and permanent pastures. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
333W	Noncalcareous gleys, humic gleys: some brown forest soils and peaty gleys	Arable and permanent pastures. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
335	Noncalcareous gleys, humic gleys: some brown forest soils and peaty gleys	Arable and permanent pastures. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
381	Humus-iron podzols, humic gleys: some peat and alluvial soils	Arable and permanent pastures. Acid bent fecue grassland. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
483	Noncalcareous gleys, humic gleys	Arable and permanent pastures. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
484	Noncalcareous gleys, humic gleys	Arable and permanent pastures. Swamp, rush pastures and sedge mires.
552	Noncalcareous gleys, humic gleys: some peaty gleys	Arable and permanent pastures. Rush pastures and sedge mires.

Grazing

Class	Component Soils	Vegetation
1AP	Mineral alluvial soils with poor drainage	Permanent and rush pastures, sedge mires and swamp communities.
2	Saline gleys	Sea poa saly marsh. Mud-rush salt marsh. Reed swamp.
103A	Humus-iron podzols: some humic gleys and mineral alluvial soils	Permanent pastures. Acid bent fecue grassland. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
161	Brown forest soils	Rich bent-fescue grassland. Herb-rich Atlantic heather moor.
162	Subalpine soils, peat	Stiff sedge - fescue grassland. Upland bent-fescue grassland. Upland and mountain blanket bog.
166	Peaty podzols, brown forest soils: some peaty gleys, peat	Herb-rich Atlantic heather moor. Rock-rose-fescue grassland. Sedge mires
167	Lithosols, brown forest soils: some humic gleys	Herb-rich Atlantic heather moor. Rich bent-fescue grassland. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
181	Noncalcareous gleys, peaty gleys: some humic gleys and peat	Permanent pastures. Bog heather moor and blanket bog. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
190	Peaty gleys, peaty rankers: some peat and peaty podzols	Flying bent grassland. Moist Atlantic and bog heather moor. Blanket and flying bent bog.
242	Noncalcareous gleys, humic gleys: some gleyed rankers and brown forest soils	Arable and permanent pastures. Sharp-flowered rush pasture. Acid bent-fescue grassland.
242V	Noncalcareous gleys, humic gleys: some gleyed rankers and brown forest soils	Arable and permanent pastures. Sharp-flowered rush pasture. Acid bent-fescue grassland.

242Y	Noncalcareous gleys, humic gleys: some gleyed rankers and brown forest soils	Arable and permanent pastures. Sharp-flowered rush pasture. Acid bent-fescue grassland.
250	Humus-iron podzols, brown forest soils: some humic gleys and peaty podzols	Acid bent-fescue grassland. Rush pastures and sedge mires. Hazel, Oak and birchwood.
253	Peaty gleys, peaty podzols: some peat and rankers	Atlantic and bog heather moor. Heather-rush-fescue grassland. Blanket and flying bent bog.
254M	Peaty gleys, peaty podzols: some peat and rankers	Heath-rush-fescue grassland. Rush pastures and sedge mires. Atlantic and Boreal heather moor.
261	Calcareous regosols, brown calcareous soils, calcareous gleys	Northern dunes and dune pasture. Silverweed pasture and sedge mires. Permanent pastures.
261E	Calcareous regosols	Northern dunes and dune pasture.
261F	Calcareous regosols, brown calcareous soils	Northern dunes and dune pasture. Silverweed pasture. Permanent pastures
261Y	Calcareous regosols, brown calcareous soils, calcareous gleys	Northern dunes and dune pasture. Silverweed pasture and sedge mires. Permanent pastures.
280	Peaty gleys, peaty podzols, peat, some peaty alluvium	Rush pastures and sedge mires. Yellow flag swamp. Blanket and flying bent bog.
309	Humic gleys, noncalcareous gleys	Permanent pastures. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
310	Peaty gleys: some shallow peat	Heath-rush-fescue grassland. Rush pastures and sedge mires. Bog heather moor.
311	Peaty gleys, humic gleys: some peat	Heath-rush-fescue grassland. Rush pastures and sedge mires. Bog heather moor and blanket bog.
334	Peaty gleys: some peat	Flying bent grassland and bog. Heath-grass-white bent grassland. Rush pastures.
389	Brown forest soils, humus-iron podzols: some rankers and gleys	Bent-fescue grassland. Herb-rich Atlantic heather moor. Hazel and birchwood.
546	Brown forest soils, brown rankers: some humic gleys and peaty podzols	Acid bent-fescue grassland. Arable and permanent pastures. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
549	Peaty Podzols, humus-iron podzols, some peaty gleys and rankers	Heath-rush-fescue grassland. Acid bent-fescue grassland. Atlantic heather moor.
555	Brown forest soils, brown rankers: some humic gleys and peaty podzols	Bent-fescue grassland. Oak, birch and hazelwood. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
556	Peaty gleys, peat: some peaty podzols	Moist Atlantic heather moor. Bog heather moor. Blanket and flying bent bog.

Peat

Class	Component Soils	Vegetation
1B	Peaty alluvial soils: some peat	Rush pastures, sedge mires and swamp communities. Blanket and flying bent bog.
3	Basin and valley peats	Blanket and flying bent bog. Swamp, rush pastures and sedge mires.
3U	Basin and valley peats and peaty gleys	Blanket and flying bent bog. Swamp, sedge mires and rush pastures. Bog heather moor.
4	Blanket Peat	Blanket and flying bent bog. Northern and upland blanket bog.
29	Peaty gleys, peat: some peaty podzols and peaty rankers	Atlantic and Boreal heather moor. Blanket and flying bent bog. Bog and northern bog heather moor.
101	Peaty podzols: some humus-iron podzols and peat	Atlantic and Boreal heather moor. Blanket and flying bent bog. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
104	Peaty gleys, peaty podzols: some peat	Atlantic and bog heather moor. Rush pastures and sedge mires. Blanket and flying bent bog.
106	Peaty gleys, peaty podzols: some peat and peat-alluvium	Atlantic and bog heather moor. Rush pastures and sedge mires. Blanket and flying bent bog.
106T	Peaty gleys, peaty podzols: some peat and peat-alluvium	Moist Atlantic heather moor. Bog heather moor and blanket bog. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
132	Peaty gleys, peat, some peaty rankers	Atlantic and Boreal heather moor. Blanket and flying bent bog. Bog and northern bog heather moor.
159	Peaty podzols, humus-iron podzols: some brown forest soils and peaty gleys	Dry and moist Atlantic heather moor. Bog heather moor. Bent-fescue grassland.
160	Peaty gleys, peat: some peaty podzols	Atlantic and bog heather moor. Blanket and upland blanket bog. Flying bent bog and grassland.
184	Peaty gleys, peat	Flying bent grassland. Dry and moist Atlantic heather moor. Bog heather moor.
185	Peaty podzols, peat, peaty gleys	Atlantic and bog heather moor. Flying bent grassland. Blanket and flying bent bog.
187	Peaty podzols, rankers: some peat	Dry and moist Boreal heather moor. Blaeberry heath. Blanket and upland blanket bog.
188	Peaty gleys, peat: some peaty rankers and peaty podzols	Flying bent grassland. Atlantic and bog heather moor. Blanket and flying bent bog.
189	Peaty rankers: some peaty podzols and peat	Dry Boreal heather moor. Blaeberry heath. Blanket and upland blanket bog.
191M	Peaty gleys, peaty podzols, peaty rankers	Dry, moist and northern Atlantic heather moor. Blaeberry heath.
191V	Peaty rankers, peaty gleys, peaty podzols	Dry, moist and northern Atlantic heather moor. Blaeberry heath.

193	Peat, subalpine soils: some alpine soils	Lichen-rich Boreal heather moor. Blaeberry heath. Fescue-fringe-moss heath.
247	Peaty gleys, peat: some peaty podzols	Moist Atlantic heather moor. Bog heather moor. Flying bent bog. Sedge mires.
312	Peaty podzols, peaty gleys, some peat	Atlantic heather moor. Bog heather moor. Blanket and flying bent bog.
336	Peaty gleys, some peat	Flying bent grassland and bog. Heath-grass-white bent grassland. Rush pastures.
394	Peaty gleys, peat, peaty rankers: some peaty podzols	Bog and northern bog heather moor. Blanket and northern blanket bog. Flying bent bog.
395	Peaty gleys, peat, peaty rankers: some peaty podzols	Bog and northern bog heather moor. Blanket and northern blanket bog. Flying bent bog.
485	Peaty gleys, peat	Bog and northern bog heather moor. Blanket and flying bent bog. Moist Atlantic heather moor.
486	Peaty gleys, peat	Bog and northern bog heather moor. Blanket and flying bent bog. Moist Atlantic heather moor.
547	Peaty gleys, peat, some peaty podzols and peat alluvium	Bog heather moor. Flying bent grassland bog. Moist Atlantic heather moor.
548	Peaty gleys, peat, some peaty rankers and peat podzols	Bog heather moor. Flying bent grassland bog. Moist Atlantic heather moor.
550	Peaty gleys, peaty rankers, peat, some peat podzols	Bog heather moor. Blanket and flying bent bog. Moist Atlantic heather moor.
551	Subalpine soils, peat	Fescue-fringe-moss heath. Stiff sedge-fescue grassland. Mountain blanket bog.
554	Peaty podzols, peat, peaty gleys	Bog and northern bog heather moor. Blanket and flying bent bog. Moist Atlantic heather moor.
557	Peaty gleys, peat: some peaty podzols and peaty rankers	Bog and northern bog heather moor. Blanket and flying bent bog. Moist Atlantic heather moor.
558	Peaty gleys, peat, peaty rankers: some peaty podzols	Bog and northern bog heather moor. Blanket and flying bent bog. Moist Atlantic heather moor.

Appendix G:
Table 1: Characteristics of lochs catchments (Coll)

Loch NGR Ref	%Arable	%Grazing	%Peat&Moor	%Water	Altitude	Bioclimate	Distance to coast	Drift Geology
197 586	9.6		87.9	2.5	35	H2T2	1.4	0.70
202 568			100		75	H2T2	2.4	0.91
204 553			100		25	H3T1	1.3	1.95
207 559			100		25	H3T1	1.7	1.30
215 558			92.2	7.8	15	H3T1	0.6	1.00
216 567	24.4		75.6		20	H3T1	1.0	0.15
231 608		8.4	88.6	3	15	H2B3	1.8	1.32
233 604		3.3	93.7	3	15	H2B3	2.1	1.39
236.5 593			98	2	35	H2T2	1.6	1.38
238 608			97	3	15	H2T2	2.2	2.02
239 582			98.5	3.5	25	H3T1	0.8	0.63
240 579			86.1	15.9	15	H3T1	0.5	0.62
241 589			98	2	25	H3T1	1.0	1.20
241 616			97	3	15	H2T2	1.8	2.39
246 585			72.5	27.5	15	H3T1	0.4	1.41
246 598			98	2	25	H3T1	1.1	2.42
247 592			86.3	13.7	15	H3T1	0.6	1.68
248 599			97	3	35	H3T1	0.9	2.41
249.5 595			83.6	16.4	25	H3T1	0.6	2.22
251 609			97	3	15	H3T1	1.2	2.37
253 598			77.3	22.7	25	H3T1	0.5	2.72
257 603			76.2	23.8	25	H3T1	0.5	2.41
257 611			91.6	8.4	25	H3T1	0.8	1.82
257 625			97	3	20	H3T1	1.4	1.00
259 617			93.7	6.3	25	H3T1	0.8	1.24
264 615			67.5	32.5	35	H3T1	0.3	1.14
an Duin	27		68.4	4.6	15	H2T2	1.4	Raised
Breachach	2.3	50.1	5	42.6	5	H3T1	0.2	0.36
Cliad #1	21.8		72.6	5.6	15	H2T2	1.7	Raised
Cliad #2	23.3		71.2	5.5	15	H2T2	1.6	Raised
Dun	3.2		92.6	4.2	35	H2T2	2.1	2.23
Eilean			95.5	4.5	35	H2T2	2.2	2.59
Fada			97	3	25	H3T1	1.3	1.28
na Cloiche			97	3	15	H2T2	2.2	2.38
Urbhaig	3.8		86.3	9.9	15	H3T1	0.4	Raised

Appendix G:
Table 3: Characteristics of lochs catchments (Mull)

Loch-NGR Ref	% Arable	%Grazing	%PeatMoor	%Water	Altitude	Bioclimate	Distance to Coast	Drift Geology
364 191	36.8		61.2	2	45	H2T1	1.0	0.77
408 203	46.7		37.5	15.8	10	H1T1	1.5	0.80
419 218	25.4		72.6	2	175	H1B3	1.9	0.70
464 514	31.5		55.8	12.7	75	H1B3	5.2	4.01
470 523	18		78	4	135	H1B3	4.5	4.68
471 503	33		28.5	38.5	75	H1B3	6.3	4.79
472 537			98	2	265	H1B1	3.5	5.32
479 525			94	4	135	PB3	3.7	5.32
486 534	6		92	2	135	H1B3	2.5	5.61
488 509	13.4		84.6	2	275	PB1&2	4.2	5.53
489 480	33.6		23.3	43.1	75	H1B3	6.3	2.92
502 469	50.8		16.7	32.5	75	H1B3	5.8	1.31
515 506			98	2	185	PB3	2.5	5.00
515 510	6.2		91.8	2	185	PB3	2.5	5.39
520 539	55.6		2	42.4	35	H1T1	0.3	7.82
523 233			98	2	270	PB1&2	2.1	4.83
529 521	36.5		46.7	16.8	105	H1B3	0.5	6.00
544 225	1.3		96.7	2	305	PB1&2	1.1	1.30
562 382	3	8	31.1	57.9	13	PT1	2.6	0.56
574 404		1.3	96.7	2	195	PB1&2	3.0	1.82
575 374			60.7	39.3	13	PT1	4.1	0.36
585 269		22.2	75.8	2	240	PB1&2	2.7	0.41
588 362		23.3	58.2	18.5	13	PT1	5.9	Boulder Clay
623 285			98	2	140	PB3	4.8	Boulder Clay
624 295			98	2	130	PB3	3.8	Boulder Clay
627 252	1	55	29.8	14.2	15	H1T1	0.9	1.00
651 255		53.4	32.1	14.5	15	PT1	0.8	Raised
690 320		6.6	91.4	2	85	PB3	1.4	Boulder Clay
718 337	1		97	2	45	PT1	1.2	Boulder Clay
727 315	18		78.3	3.7	30	H1T1	0.8	0.48
Assapol	24.9		62.9	12.2	15	H2T1	1.5	1.00
Eilean Ban	26.6		33	40.7	75	H1B3	6.0	4.70
Gruline	32.4	14.5	35.1	18	13	H1T1	1.2	0.60
Knock	22	11.5	35.1	31.4	13	PT1	1.6	1.02
Ledmore	60.4		17	12.6	75	H1B3	4.5	1.33
na meal	53.5		44.5	2	80	H1B3	1.3	6.70
Poit na H-I	21.6		67.7	10.7	15	H3T1	1.4	Raised
Sgubain			98	2	110	PB3	6.3	Boulder Clay

Appendix G:
Table 4: Characteristics of lochs catchments (Islay)

Loch-NGR Ref	%Arable	%Grazing	%PeatMoor	%Water	Altitude	Bioclimate	D to Coast	Drift Geology
166 538	33.5		38.9	71.4	20	H3T1	0.5	Raised
222 655			66	44	15	H3T1	1.7	1.00
226 597		37.1	60.5	2.4	55	H2T1	2.6	Boulder Clay
232 667	12.8	11.7	46.5	29	15	H3T1	2.4	0.73
240 701	34.9	33.1	30	2	25	H3T1	0.9	0.18
241 658	5.9	10.8	52.8	30.5	15	H3T1	3.3	0.93
278 706	24.5	20.2	43.8	11.5	35	H3T1	0.7	Boulder Clay
280 646	16.6	1	80.4	2	5	H3T1	1.4	0.23
281 559	19.2		45.5	35.3	15	H3T1	0.6	Raised
295 451		54.4	42.2	3.4	65	H2B3	1.8	0.44
299 422	8.9	8	68.7	14.4	85	H2T1	1.9	Boulder Clay
300 448		65.5	31.1	3.4	65	H2B3	2.3	Boulder Clay
307 424	1	12.4	70.3	16.3	65	H2B3	1.7	1.00
309 431		19.7	73.4	6.9	105	H2T1	2.2	Boulder Clay
313 428		16	78.9	5.1	95	H2B3	1.8	0.13
326 654	1		97	2	75	H2T1	2.6	Boulder Clay
327 472	10	5.5	82.5	2	25	H2T1	1.5	Boulder Clay
330 537		17	81	2	35	H3T1	2.2	Raised
332.5 670			98	2	75	H2B3	4.0	Boulder Clay
337 484	2.3	18.7		2.9	15	H3T1	1.8	Boulder Clay
340 640	61		31.5	7.5	25	H3T1	1.5	Boulder Clay
343 692			98	2	105	H2B3	4.4	Boulder Clay
347 667	10		88	2	95	H2B3	4.2	Boulder Clay
352.5 680	6.6		91.4	2	95	H2B3	5.7	Boulder Clay
369 485		11	87	2	105	H2B3	3.8	Boulder Clay
372.5 486		21.9	76.1	2	105	H2B3	4.1	Boulder Clay
385 755			98	2	205	H1B2	2.3	0.36
392 562		7.9	90.1	2	405	H1B1	7.2	Boulder Clay
393 489		13.4	84.6	2	205	H2B3	3.7	0.67
397 759		11	87	2	180	H1B3	2.4	Boulder Clay
400 491		18.6	79.4	2	215	H2B3	3.9	0.35
400 521		11.3	86.7	2	235	H1B1	6.0	Boulder Clay
400 680	29.3	28.9	25.9	15.9	65	H2T1	4.5	0.44
402 533			98	2	295	H1B1	6.1	0.37
405 505		17	81	2	245	H1B1	4.7	0.56
406 664	33.5	53.5		13	75	H2T1	2.5	1.50
408 556		7.8	90.2	2	365	PA3	5.6	Boulder Clay
408 637	31.5	62.9	1.6	4	125	H2B3	2.6	Boulder Clay
409 520		30	68	2	235	H1B1	4.6	Boulder Clay
410 632	14.1	55.4	26.5	4	125	H2B3	2.6	Boulder Clay
410 653	36	53.6		10.4	95	H2B3	2.0	1.23
420 480		56.2	41.8	2	65	H3T1	2.7	0.85

420 715	17.5	16.3	64.2	2	55	H2T1	0.9	Boulder Clay
427 507		29.3	68.7	2	115	H2B3	2.4	Boulder Clay
430 483	6.4	57.7	29.4	6.5	25	H3T1	1.2	1.13
435 507		26	72	2	55	H2T1	2.2	0.30
448 505		39.4	58.6	2	35	H2T1	2.1	1.00
Allallaidh	3.2	67.1	27.4	2.3	225	H1B2	3.8	Boulder Clay
Ardnave	37.9		43.6	18.5	15	H3T1	0.4	Boulder Clay
Bharradail	21.1	76.9		2	95	H2B3	4.2	0.35
Corr	8.1	21.5	65.5	4.9	35	H3T1	1.4	0.55
Eilean	25.2	50	5.4	19.4	65	H2T1	4.5	Boulder Clay
Fhir Mhoir		50	48	2	65	H3T1	1.6	0.57
Laingeadail		1.2	91.4	7.4	35	H3T1	1.4	0.16
nan Deala	25	58.5	5.1	11.4	45	H2T1	0.7	0.90
Staoisha	14	6.4	74.7	4.9	55	H2T1	2.5	Boulder Clay

Appendix G:
Table 2: Characteristics of lochs catchments (Tiree)

Loch-NGR Ref	%Arable	%Grazing	%Peat Moor	%Water	Bioclimate	Distance to Coast	Drift Geology
016 459	23.6	38.2	38.2		H3T1	1.66	1.27
017 451	60.5	13.8	25.7		H3T1	1.29	1.57
018 444	71.7	3.1	19	6.4	H3T1	0.62	2.10
028 446	31.7		68.3		H3T1	1.12	1.61
028 451	16.4		83.6		H3T1	1.62	1.09
030 454	9.2		90.8		H3T1	1.49	0.73
035 472	23.9		76.1		H3T1	1.14	Raised Beach
036 485	1.0		90.8	8.2	H3T1	0.79	Raised Beach
040 454	48.4		44.8	6.8	H3T1	0.67	Raised Beach
957 413	55.7	21.7	12	22	H2T2	1.00	Raised Beach
957 423	34.4	2.8	38.4	24.4	H3T1	1.95	0.3
981 452	11.2		88.8		H3T1	3.06	Raised Beach
995 436	19.9	13.8	66.3		H3T1	1.33	Raised Beach
Brathan	64.5	18.5	3.5	13.5	H3T1	1.54	Raised Beach
Chonnill	61.5	8.8	16.2	13.5	H3T1	1.14	Raised Beach
na Buaile	19.8		80.2		H3T1	1.04	0.91
na Gile	18.9		65.2	15.9	H3T1	0.56	Raised Beach

Appendix G:

Table 5: Characteristics of artificial islets positions in the lochs of the central Inner Hebrides

Site Name	NGR	Distance to Outlet	Location	Wind Exposure	Direction of Shore
Chonnill	NL 9698 4677	n/a	W side	NE & E	N
Brathan	NL 9734 4701	n/a	E side	N-W-S	E
na Gile	NM 0260 4816	n/a	N end	SE	W
na Buaile	NM 0338 4490	n/a	E side	N & S	E
Breachacha	NM 1560 5300	n/a	N end	S	E
Dun Anlaimh	NM 1883 5683	700	N end	n/a	E
Eilean	NM 1889 5579	250	Middle	N & S	E
Cliad #1	NM 2072 5877	280	N end	S	N
Cliad #2	NM 2075 5884	200	N end	S	N
an Duin	NM 2128 5785	220	N end	S	N
Urbhaig	NM 2312 5783	100	N end	n/a	W
Cloiche	NM 2401 6107	260	Middle	n/a	N
Fada	NM 2561 6204	210	N end	n/a	E
Poit na H-I	NM 3130 2310	1120	N end	S	N
Assapol	NM 3980 2100	100	N end	SE	N
Eilean Ban	NM 4770 4930	4500	W side	SE & NW	W
Gruline	NM 5130 3920	150	N end	SE	N
Ledmore	NM 5150 4690	200	S end	NW	N
Na Meal	NM 5180 5270	n/a	N end	n/a	E
Knock	NM 5540 3890	300	N end	SE	W
Eoghan	NM 6310 3070	140	N end	SW	N
Corr	NR 2264 6958	350	Middle	n/a	S
Fhir Mhoir	NR 2652 6940	200	Middle	n/a	W
Laingeadail	NR 2662 7126	700	S side	NW-NE	S
Ardnave	NR 2833 7263	50	S end	N	W
Eilean	NR 3868 6738	800	S side	SW & NE	S
Bharradail	NR 3929 6364	20	N end	n/a	N
Staoisha	NR 4066 7124	400	W side	S & NE	W
Allallaidh	NR 4192 5798	200	Middle	n/a	W
nan Deala	NR 4254 6883	n/a	W end	n/a	S

Appendix H:

Characteristics of the artificial islets of Loch Awe and Loch Tay

Artificial Islets of Loch Awe

Site Name	NGR #	External Diameter	Height	Distance from Shore
Ardanaiseig	NN 0913 2487	17x22(M73)(D84)16x18(M85)15x15(Card NN02SE6)	2(M73)2(M85)	30(Card NN02SE6)20(R75,94)
Inishail Church	NN 0959 2448	21x23(M73)22x25(M85)(M73*)23x24(D84)	3(M73)1.5(M85)	
Eilean Seileachan	NN 0906 2417	17x18(M73)(M85)(D84)	2(M73)2(M85)	40(Card NN02SE19)20(R75,94)
Larach Ban	NN 0730 2278	28x35(M73)28x36(M85)35x?(Card NN02SE18)26x35(D84)	6.1(M73)3(M85)	60(Card NN02SE18)75(R75,94)
Carn an Roin	NN 0648 2237	30x35(M73*)(D84)32x34(M73)28x34(M85)	6(M73)4(M85)	70(Card NN02SE15)74(R75,94)
Carn Dubh	NN 0013 1775	28x32(M73)26x31(M85)25.5x32(D84)	3.4(M73)4(M85)	10(R75,94)
Brar Phort	NM 9637 1047	29x37(M73)33x38(M85)34x36(D84)	5.8(M73)3.5(M85)	115(R75,94)
Carn Mhic Chealair	NM 9579 0980	40x49(M73*)(D84)40x51(M73)41x48(M85)	5.5(M73)5(M85)	
Opp. Lochawe	NN 1215 2647	26x32(Card NN12NW16)(M73)(D84)27x33(M85)	2.7(M73)(M85)	55(R75,94)
Inverliever	NM 8894 0484	19x19(M73)19x20(M85)18x20(R88,205)18x19.5(D84)	1.7(M73)2.2(M85)	60(R88,205)
Achlain	NN 1150 2475	25x30(M73)27x35(D84)28x36(M85)	1.1(M73)1.5(M85)	<100(R75,94)
Inistrynich	NN 1084 2350	13.5x14(M73)13x13(Card NN12SW6)14x14(D84)(M85)	0.50(M73)(D84,176)(M85)	
Keppochan	NN 0779 2231	13x18(M73)17x21(D84)18x22(M85)	0.3(M73)1(M85)	45(Card NN02SE16)(R75,94)
Rockhill Farm 2	NN 0717 2209	24x25(M73)(D84)24x26(M85)	5.8(M73)2.5(M85)	50 (Card NN02SE17)10(R75,94)
Sonachan	NN 0426 2069	23x25(M73*)(D84)(M85)23x26(M73)	4.6(M73)2.5(M85)	20 (Card NN02SW17)15 (R75,94)
Ardchonnell	NM 9784 1220	35x35(Card NM91SE9)32x37(M73)(M85)34x37(M73*)(D84	8.2(M73)4.5(M73*)4(M85)	180 (Card NM91SE9)170(R75,94)
Eredine	NM 9688 0978	9x10(M73)10x11(D84)(M85)	0.6(M73)(M85)	
Fincharn	NM 9027 0448	13x21(M73)(R88,205)14x22(M85)	1.2(M85)	
Kilneuair	NM 8892 0394	16.5x25(R88,205)(D84)(M85)16.5x22.5(M73)	2(M73)(M85)	80(R88,205)
Ederline Boathouse	NM 8821 0394	28x38(M73)(M73*)(D84) 27x37(R88,205)(M85)	3(R88)(M85)2.7(M73)(M73*)	100(Card NM80SE18)(R88,205)

M73= From Hardy, McArdle and Miles 1973, Scatter Graph
M73*=From Hardy, McArdle and Miles 1973, Site Plan
D84= From Plans Dixon 1984, appendix A
R88= From RCAHMS 1988, 205
Card= From Card File at RCAHMS
M85= From Plans Morrison 1985

Artificial Islets of Loch Awe

Site Name	NGR #	Accessibility	Lochbed
Ardanaiseig	NN 0913 2487		
Inishail Church	NN 0959 2448	harbour(Card NN02SE20)(M&M73,11)(M&M73b, 7)	
Eilean Seileachan	NN 0906 2417	jetty(Card NN02SE19)(M&M73,11)(M&M73b, 7)	
Larach Ban	NN 0730 2278		
Carn an Roin	NN 0648 2237		bedrock(Dixon 1984,179)
Carn Dubh	NN 0013 1775	causeway?(M&M73b, 7)	
Brar Phort	NM 9637 1047	harbour(Card NM91SE10)(M&M73,11)	bedrock (Dixon 1984,179)
Carn Mhic Chealair	NM 9579 0980	causeway(Card NM90NE1)(M&M73b, 7)	bedrock (Dixon 1984,179)
Opp. Lochawe	NN 1215 2647		
Inverliever	NM 8894 0484	causeway(Card NM80SE17)(M&M73b, 7)	
Achlain	NN 1150 2475	jetty(Card NN12SW5)(M&M73,11)(M&M73b, 7)	
Inistrynich	NN 1084 2350	causeway(M&M73b, 7)	
Keppochan	NN 0779 2231	jetty(Card NN02SE16)(M&M73,11)(M&M73b, 7)	
Rockhill Farm 2	NN 0717 2209	causeway?(M&M73b, 7)harbour(Card NN02SE17)(M&M73,11)	
Sonachan	NN 0426 2069	jetty(Card NN02SW17)(M&M73,11)(M&M73b, 7)	
Ardchonnell	NM 9784 1220		bedrock (Card NM91SE9)(Dixon 1984,179)
Eredine	NM 9688 0978	causeway(M&M73b, 7)	
Fincharn	NM 9027 0448		
Kilneuair	NM 8892 0394	harbour(Card NM80SE48)(M&M73,11)(M&M73b, 7)	
Ederline Boathouse	NM 8821 0394	harbour(Card NM80SE18)(M&M1973,11)(M&M73b, 7)	bedrock(Card NM80SE18)(R88)(D 1984,179)

M73= From Hardy, McArdle and Miles 1973, Scatter Graph
M73*=From Hardy, McArdle and Miles 1973, Site Plan
D84= From Plans Dixon 1984, appendix A
R88= From RCAHMS 1988, 205
Card= From Card File at RCAHMS
M85= From Plans Morrison 1985

Artificial Islets of Loch Awe

Site Name	NGR #	Wood
Ardanaiseig	NN 0913 2487	
Inishail Church	NN 0959 2448	
Eilean Seileachan	NN 0906 2417	
Larach Ban	NN 0730 2278	criss-cross timbers (Card NN02SE18)(M&M73b, 6)
Carn an Roin	NN 0648 2237	embeded plank (M&M73,12)(M&M73b, 6)(Card NN02SE15)
Carn Dubh	NN 0013 1775	timbers(NN01NW4)(M&M73b, 6)
Brar Phort	NM 9637 1047	
Carn Mhic Chealair	NM 9579 0980	
Opp. Lochawe	NN 1215 2647	
Inverliever	NM 8894 0484	
Achlain	NN 1150 2475	
Inistrynich	NN 1084 2350	timber(M&M73b, 6)
Keppochan	NN 0779 2231	radial pattern of timbers (Card NN02SE16)(M&M73b, 6)
Rockhill Farm 2	NN 0717 2209	timber(M&M73b, 6)
Sonachan	NN 0426 2069	piles(Card NN02SW17)(M&M73,12)(M&M73b, 6)
Ardchonnell	NM 9784 1220	radiating timbers (Card NM91SE9)(M&M73b, 6)
Eredine	NM 9688 0978	timbers
Fincharn	NM 9027 0448	
Kilneuair	NM 8892 0394	
Ederline Boathouse	NM 8821 0394	many timbers(Card NM80SE18)(R88,205)(M&M73b, 6)

M73= From Hardy, McArdle and Miles 1973, Scatter Graph
M73*=From Hardy, McArdle and Miles 1973, Site Plan
D84= From Plans Dixon 1984, appendix A
R88= From RCAHMS 1988, 205
Card= From Card File at RCAHMS
M85= From Plans Morrison 1985

Artificial Islets of Loch Tay

Site Name	NGR #	External Diameter	Height	Distance from Shore	Depth of Water	Accessibility	Lochbed	Wood
Eilean Nam Ban	NN 766 454	50x70			1.5-2.0			
Mary's Distaff	NN 757 450	24x30	2.5*	50	1.8-3.3			
Oakbank	NN 726 442	14x19*	2*	30	2.0-3.6	causeway		oak,alder
Fearnan	NN 721 443	28x33	2*	50	2.0-4.5			oak
Tombreck	NN 659 371	16x22	1.5*	30	1.68-3.81			timbers
E nam Breadban	NN 641 362	50x50	4*		1.01-3.0		bedrock	
Milton Morenish	NN 613 353	24x30	2.2*	50	2.42-4.55			oak beam
Milton Boathouse	NN 600 347	10x10	0.6, 0.5(D84,176)	25	1.06-1.64		silt	
Morenish	NN 595 346	13x17	1.5*		1.7-5.5		silt	
Eilean Puttychan	NN 582 343	45x45	4*					
Firbush	NN 602 339	15x15	1.5*	100	2.8-3.23			layers of timbers
Craggan	NN 664 360	16x30	0.5*	15	2.0-3.75			oak
Dall Farm (North)	NN 672 363	24x30	2.5*	50	3.2-5.4			
Dall Farm (South)	NN 674 362	24x30	2*		1.6-3.8			timbers
Old Manse	NN 682 371	14x22	2*	70	2.8-4.2			small wood
Croftmartaig	NN 751 437	26x42	2.2*		1.5-5.0			
Spar Island	NN 773 452	32x46*	3*		1.0-3.0		silt	

* From Plan Dixon 1982

Appendix I:
Soils of Loch Tay basin

Classifications simplified from the *Soil Survey of Scotland* soil maps:
(Sheets 47 and 51) at 1:50,000 scale.

Arable

Class	Component Soils	Vegetation
1A	Mineral alluvial soils	Arable and permanent pastures. Rush pastures, sedge mires and swamp communities.
97	Humus-iron podzols: some gleys	Arable and permanent pastures. Oak and birchwwod. Rush pastures and sedge mires.
98	Humus-iron podzols, alluvial soils	Arable and permanent pastures. Oak and birchwwod. Rush pastures and sedge mires.

Grazing

Class	Component Soils	Vegetation
498	Humus-iron podzols: some brown forest soils and gleys	Arable and permanent pastures. Boreal and Atlantic heather moor. Acid bent-fescue grassland.
503	Humus-iron podzols and brown forest soils: some gleys and peat	Acid bent-fescue grassland. Arable and permanent pastures. Oak and birchwwod.
505	Brown forest soils, humus-iron podzols, humic gleys	Bent-fescue grassland. Broadleaved woodland. Rush pastures and sedge mires.

Appendix J:

Characteristics of islet sites in the Western Isles

Key to Sources
A=Armit 1992, Page
B=Beveridge 1911, Page, Site#
BL=Blundell 1913, Page
R=RCAHMS 1928, Page, Site#

Site Name	Grid Reference	Source	Artificial Isle	Walling
Eilean Dun Scor #2		B 180,-	No	
Bay Hirivagh, North Bay	NF 7113 0297	R 134,455	No	Massive
Eilean an Staoir, Milton	NF 7328 2597	R 110,379	No	Massive
Loch an Duin	NF 7414 2907	R 109,377	No	Massive
Loch an Eilein, Askernish	NF 7451 2372	R 121,419	No	Slight
Eilean Maleit	NF 7748 7388	B 207,71	No	Massive
Dun Mor, Loch an Duin Mhoir	NF 7755 4149	R 112,383	No	Massive
Loch More #1, Baleshire	NF 7921 6229	B 182,45	No	Massive
Dun Buidhe, Loch Dun Mhurchaid	NF 7942 5458	R 102,349	No	Massive
Dun Ruadh, Loch Olavat	NF 7986 5105	R 100,344	No	Massive
Dun na Dise	NF 8072 6172	B 182,44	No	Broch
Loch An Iasgaich	NF 8200 6200	B 181,42	No	
Dun Toloman	NF 8207 7492	B 219,77	No	Slight
Eilean Holsta	NF 8348 7518	B 220,78	No	Massive
Eileann an Tighe	NF 8424 7310	B 221,80	No	Slight
Eilean Dun Scor	NF 8430 6202	B 180,-	No	Slight
Dun Scor	NF 8439 6209	B 180,39	No	Slight
Geireann Mill Loch	NF 8465 7278	B 222,-	No	Slight
Loch Hacklett #2	NF 8600 6010	B 177,-	No	
Loch Hacklett #3	NF 8600 6010	B 177,-	No	
Loch Hacklett #4	NF 8600 6010	B 177,-	No	
Loch Hacklett #5	NF 8600 6010	B 177,-	No	
Dun Na Mairbhe	NF 8628 7472	B 224,82	No	Massive
Loch Scadavay	NF 8650 6840	B 158,16	No	Massive
Loch Mhic Colla	NF 8664 6057	B 178,37	No	Slight
Dun Ban, Loch Hornary	NF 8697 5693	B 172,31	No	Massive
Loch Fada #1	NF 8796 7121	B 154,11	No	Slight
Dun Bru	NF 8956 7390	B 152,9	No	Slight
Eilean Buidhe	NF 8963 6861	B 156,15	No	Slight
Dun An Sticir	NF 8972 7768	B 139,1	No	Broch
Dun Ban, Loch Hunder	NF 9024 6534	B 160,18	No	Massive
Loch Hunder #2	NF 9045 6224	B 161,-	No	slight
Loch Na Buaile	NF 9073 7004	B 155,13	No	Slight
Ob Nan Stearmain	NF 9117 6873	B 156,14	No	Slight
Loch A' Gheadais	NF 9136 5938	B 170,27	No	Massive
Dun Innisgall, Carminish Islan	NG 0194 8521	R 044,144	No	Slight
Loch an Dun, Taransay	NB 0216 0127	R 038,117	Yes	Massive
Loch Baravat #2, Croulista	NB 0386 3487	R 022,-	Yes	
Loch Baravat, Croulista	NB 0401 3487	R 022,75	Yes	Massive
Dun Borranish, Uig Bay	NB 0502 3322	R 021,74	Yes	Massive
Dun Bharabhat, Kneep	NB 0987 3530	A 25	Yes	Broch
Loch na Berie, Lewis	NB 1034 3516	A 26	Yes	Broch
Loch Baravat, Great Bernera	NB 1558 3555	R 020,71	Yes	Broch
Loch an Dun, Dun Carloway	NB 1975 3990	R 022,76	Yes	Massive
Loch an Duin, Shader	NB 3929 5435	R 010,28	Yes	Massive
Loch Airidh na Lic	NB 3992 3410	R 015,51	Yes	

Site Name	Grid Reference	Source	Artificial Isle	Walling
Dun Cromore	NB 4011 2068	R 011,38	Yes	Broch
Loch Baravat, Galson	NB 4617 5965	R 011,36	Yes	Massive
Loch Shiavat, Lewis	NB 4759 5925	R 006,14	Yes	Massive
Loch an Dun, Lower Bayble	NB 5167 3043	R 015,49	Yes	Massive
North Tolsta, Loch Osavat	NB 5380 4780	BI 300	Yes	
Loch an Dun, Aird	NB 5563 3591	R 015,50	Yes	Massive
Eilean Domhnuill a	NB 7470 7530	B 197,66	Yes	Slight
Loch an Duin, Barra	NF 6932 0316	R 131,445	Yes	Broch
Loch nic Ruaidhe, Balnabodach	NF 7025 0188	R 134,454	Yes	Slight
Dun Grogary	NF 7125 7141	B 191,59	Yes	
Loch Cnoc Nan Uan	NF 7184 7146	B 192,60	Yes	
Dun Mhic Raouill	NF 7263 7128	B 192,61	Yes	Massive
Causeway, Orosay	NF 7302 1734	R 123,435	Yes	Slight
Loch Greanabreck	NF 7445 2724	R 122,425	Yes	Slight
Eilean Buidhe, Loch Dunakillie	NF 7461 1905	R 112,384	Yes	Massive
Dun a' Ghallain	NF 7479 7598	B 196,64	Yes	Massive
Eilean a Ghallain	NF 7483 7589	B 197,65	Yes	Massive
Loch Vausary	NF 7487 7019	B 189,55	Yes	
Dun Altabrug,Stoneybridge	NF 7490 3439	R 109,378	Yes	Massive
Sgeir Ghlas, Loch nam Faoilean	NF 7515 2091	R 121,422	Yes	Slight
Dun Thomaidh	NF 7590 7581	B 212,73	Yes	Massive
Loch Gearrachan #1	NF 7659 7440	B 198,67	Yes	Slight
Loch Gearrachan #2	NF 7674 7419	B 199,68	Yes	Slight
Loch Nan Clachan	NF 7678 7382	B 199,69	Yes	Slight
Dun Buidhe, Loch Druidibed	NF 7744 3883	R 122,430	Yes	Massive
Dun Uiselan, Ollag	NF 7776 4536	R 109,376	Yes	Slight
Loch an Dunain, Knocknamonie	NF 7786 5129	R 105,362	Yes	Slight
Dun Lochan Nan Carranan	NF 7838 4584	R 122,429	Yes	
Loch More #4	NF 7903 6208	B 183,48	Yes	
Loch More #3	NF 7908 6202	B 183,47	Yes	
Loch More #2	NF 7928 6222	B 183,46	Yes	Slight
Dun Aonais, Loch Olavat	NF 7968 5125	R 101,345	Yes	Massive
Loch an Daill, Carnan	NF 7969 4592	R 121,417	Yes	
Loch an Dun, Uachdar	NF 8003 5538	R 105,359	Yes	Massive
Dun Eashader	NF 8075 7266	B 218,75	Yes	
Dun Ban, Loch Huna	NF 8127 6692	B 185,53	Yes	Massive
Loch Hermidale	NF 8262 5236	R 105,363	Yes	Slight
Dun Ban	NF 8429 6088	B 178,38	Yes	Massive
Loch an Fhaing	NF 8450 5757	R 95,308	Yes	
Dun Aonghuis	NF 8560 7381	B 223,81	Yes	Massive
Dun Ban Hacklett	NF 8605 6012	B 176,36	Yes	Massive
Dun Breinish, Dun Nighean Righ	NF 8636 6398	B 165,21	Yes	Broch
Loch Nan Gealag	NF 8650 5939	B 176,35	Yes	Slight
Loch Hornary	NF 8653 5720	B 175,-	Yes	Slight
Oban Trumisgarry	NF 8726 7470	B 225,83	Yes	Massive
Loch A' Mhuilinn	NF 8737 5553	B 175,32	Yes	Massive
Loch Obisary	NF 8843 6001	B 167,23	Yes	Slight
Loch Obisary #3	NF 8846 5997	B 167,25	Yes	Massive
Dun An T Siamain, Loch Obisary	NF 8857 5947	B 169,26	Yes	Massive
Dun Torcuill	NF 8887 7373	B 149,7	Yes	Broch
Loch an Duin #2, N. Uist	NF 8927 7416	B 152,8	Yes	Slight
Loch Na Sruthan Beag	NF 8972 5520	B 171,30	Yes	Massive

Site Name	Grid Reference	Source	Artificial Isle	Walling
Loch Obisary #2	NF 9008 6263	B 167,24	Yes	Slight
Loch nan Geireann #1	NF 9042 6864	B 157,-	Yes	Slight
Loch Hunder	NF 9046 6525	B 161,19	Yes	Broch
Loch Iosal An Duin	NF 9171 7699	B 144,2	Yes	Slight
Dun Nighean Righ Loc	NF 9528 7239	B 146,4	Yes	Massive
Loch Langavat	NG 0432 9161	R 040,124	Yes	Massive
Loch an Duin, Scalpay	NG 2247 9659	R 045,145	Yes	Slight
Loch an Duin #2, Scalpay	NG 2250 9663	R 045,145	Yes	
Loch Crogavat		B 167,-	???	
Loch Deoravat		B 159,-	???	None
Loch Obisary #4		B 169,-	???	Slight
Loch Scadavay #2		B 159,-	???	None
Loch Scadavay #3		B 159,-	???	None
Loch Scadavay #4		B 159,-	???	None
Loch Orasay	NB 3900 2800	BI 300	???	
Loch an Duna, Leurbo	NB 3903 2614	R 012,39	???	Massive
Loch Arnish	NB 4230 3023	BI 300	???	
Bay Hirivagh #2, North Bay	NF 7153 0263	R 135,456	???	Massive
Dun Scarie	NF 7178 7055	B 190,57	???	
Eilean Chreamh, Loch Dunakilli	NF 7427 1919	R 121,421	???	Slight
Dun an Duichal, North Boisdale	NF 7431 1885	R 122,431	???	
Loch an Duin, Garryheillie	NF 7448 2232	R 121,423	???	Slight
Loch Cnoc a Buidhe	NF 7483 2587	R 112,382	???	Massive
Loch Ceam a' Bhaigh	NF 7600 3000	BI 295	???	
Dun Mor, Baleshare	NF 7808 6218	B 184,50	???	Massive
Dun Borosdale	NF 7814 5285	R 105,364	???	
Eilean Iain	NF 7889 5351	R 101,348	???	Slight
Dun, Gunisary Bay	NF 7985 4916	R 101,346	???	Slight
Dun Mhic Risdein, S Uist	NF 8001 5064	R 100,343	???	Slight
Dun Loch Druim an Iasgair	NF 8036 4348	R 111,381	???	Massive
Loch Nan Struban	NF 8075 6450	B 185,52	???	
Dun Beire Hacklett	NF 8323 5421	R 105,365	???	
Loch Scadavay #5	NF 8380 6844	B 159,-	???	None
Causeway to Trefick Island	NF 8487 6383	B 166,-	???	Massive
Loch Scadavay	NF 8490 6994	B 159,17	???	Slight
Dun Ban, Loch Caravat, Grimsay	NF 8597 5665	B 175,33	???	Slight
Loch na Ceithir-Eile	NF 8638 6260	B 166,22	???	Massive
Loch Fada #2	NF 8723 7154	B 154,12	???	Slight
Loch Deoravat #2	NF 8889 6609	B 159,-	???	None
Dunan Dubh	NF 8904 7454	B 149,6	???	Slight
Eilean an Duain, Berneray	NF 8956 7997	R 039,120	???	Slight
Loch a' Chonnachair	NF 9003 6703	B 160,-	???	None
Loch nan Geireann #2	NF 9047 6850	B 157,-	???	Slight
Loch Na Caiginn	NF 9510 7199	B 148,5	???	None

Appendix K:
Vertical aerial photographs consulted in the RCAHMS

Coll

9th June 1988 C 240 617 88	Nos. 195-199
	193-188
Scale 1:24,000	158-161
	145-138
12th May 1970 OS/70/102	Nos. 006-034
	046-070
Scale 1:27,000	
27th April 1946 B11	Nos. 5083-5054
	5052-5024
Scale 1:10,000	7030-7049
Sortie No. 1066/Scot/UK35	
30th April 1948 B234	Nos. 4392-4404
Scale 1:10,000	
Sortie No. CPE/Scot/UK376	

Tiree

30th April 1948 B234	Nos. 4221-4228
	4207-4215
	3206-3231
	3239-3268
	4239-4268
Scale 1:10,000	3313-3325
Sortie No. CPE/Scot/UK376	3329-3333
	4313-4322
	4346-4350
	3346-3349
12th May 1970 OS/70/103	Nos. 102, 106, 110
Scale 1:27,000	
5th June 1970 OS/70/205	Nos. 260-272
	276-294
Scale 1:27,000	308-324

Mull

30th of April 1948 B234	Nos. 3106-3095
Scale	4106-4095
Sortie No. CPE/Scot/UK 376	
21st August 1948 B197	Nos. 3181-3194
Scale	
Sortie No. CPE/Scot/UK 272	

10th October 1988 C255 636 88	Nos. 057-074
	080-092
Scale 1:24,000	175-186
	189-197
10th June 1988 C272 512 88	Nos. 009-027
Scale 1:24,000	
9th June 1988 C269 509 88	Nos. 118-136
Scale 1:24,000	143-159
8th June 1988 C270 510 88	Nos. 027-041
	044-048
Scale 1:24,000	056-075
	215-227

Islay

14th August 1947 B166	Nos. 3001-3285
Scale 1:10,000	4004-4284
Sortie No. CPE/Scot/268	
14th August 1947 B167	Nos. 4001-4485
Scale 1:10,000	3001-3485
Sortie No. CPE/Scot/263	
6th June 1946 B28	Nos. 3290-3294
	4285-4294
	3353-3363
Scale 1:10,000	4350-4361
	4428-4429
Sortie No. 1066/Scot/UK49	3442-3431
	4363-4379
	3320-3330
16th May 1988 C237 612 88	Nos. 061-065
	072-080
	156-167
Scale 1:24,000	172-185
	259-272
16th May 1988 C238 614 88	Nos. 005-022
	026-043
	048-050
	056-065
Scale 1:24,000	070-080
	085-090

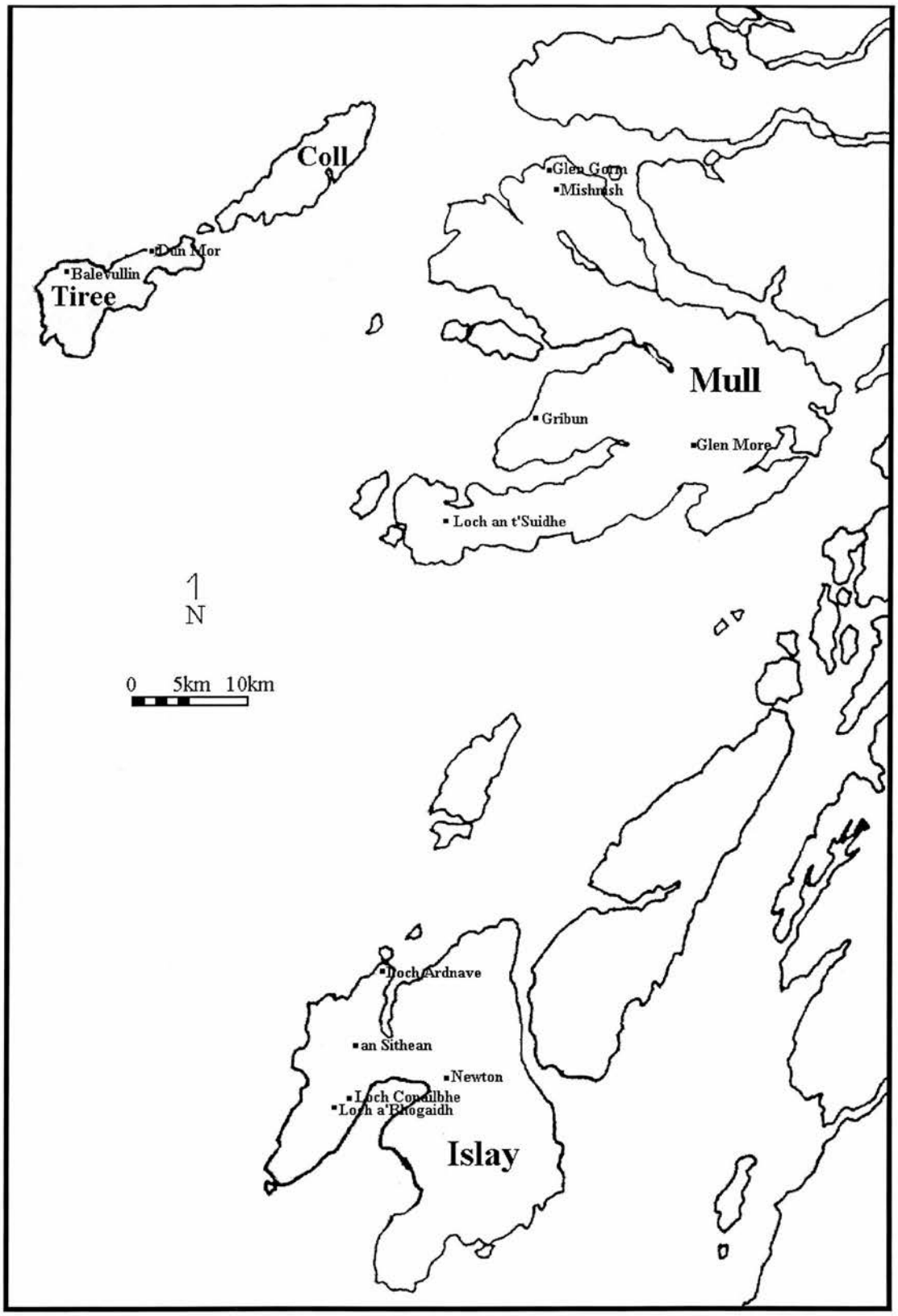


Illustration 2.1 Locations of sites mentioned in text

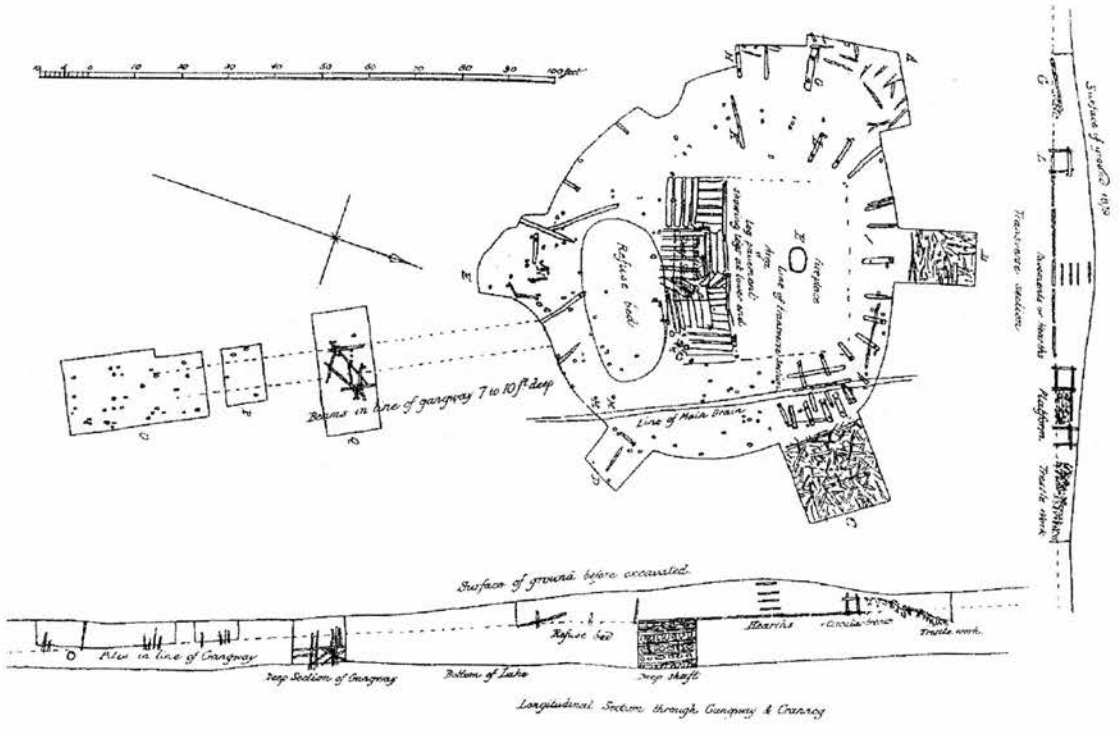


Illustration 3.1 Plan of Loch Lee Crannog (After Munro 1882, Plate II)

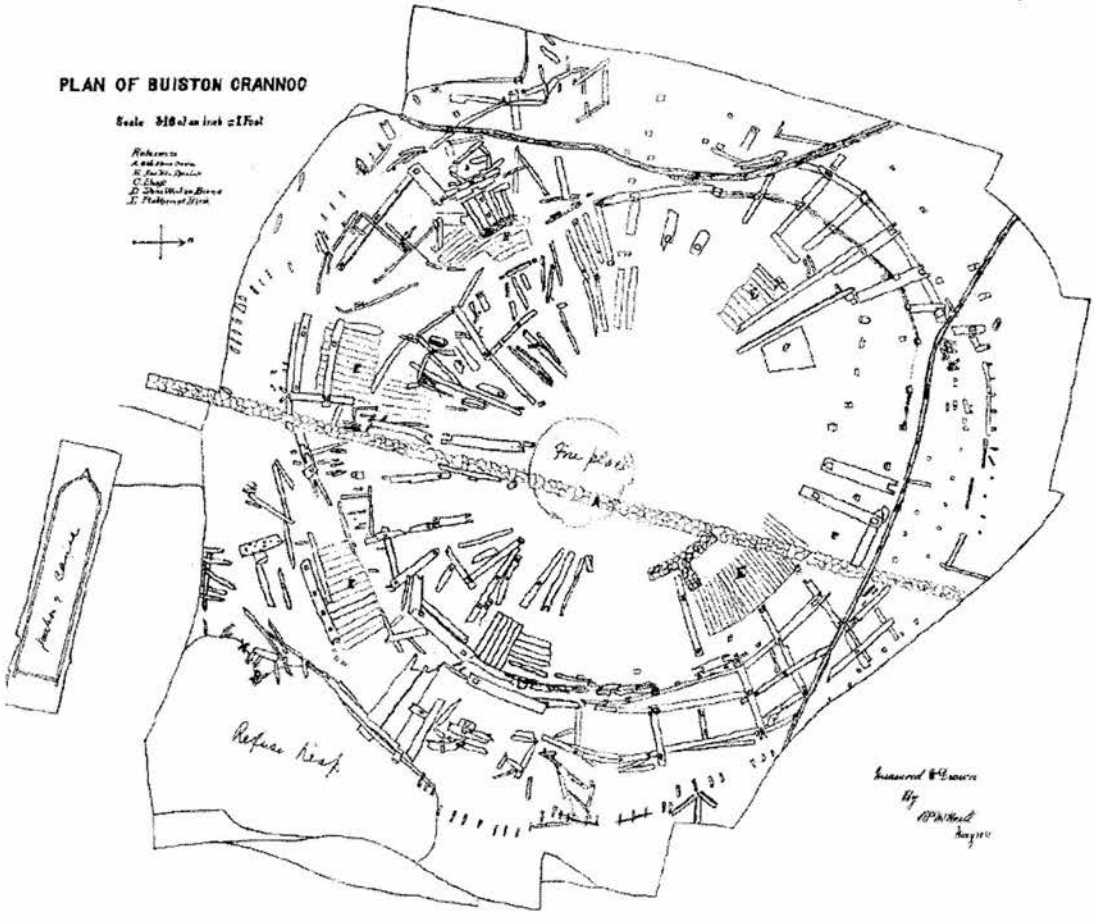


Illustration 3.2 Plan of Buiston Crannog (After Munro 1882, Plate IV)

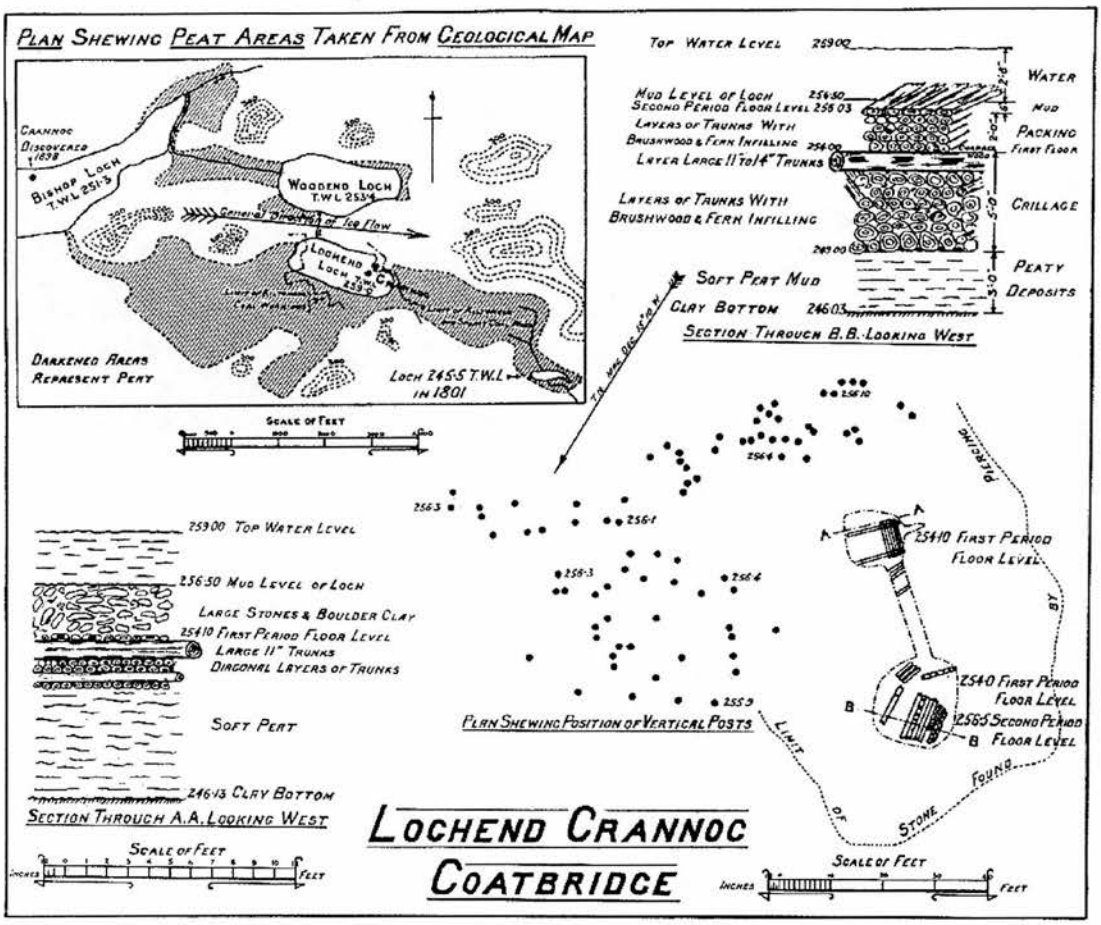


Illustration 3.3 Plan of Lochend Crannog (After Monteith 1937, 39)

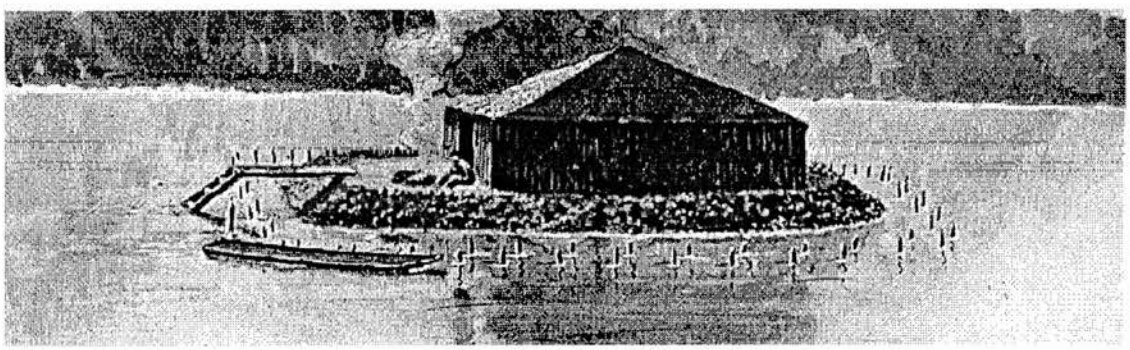


Illustration 3.4 Reconstruction of Loch Treig Crannog (After Ritchie 1942, plate 19)

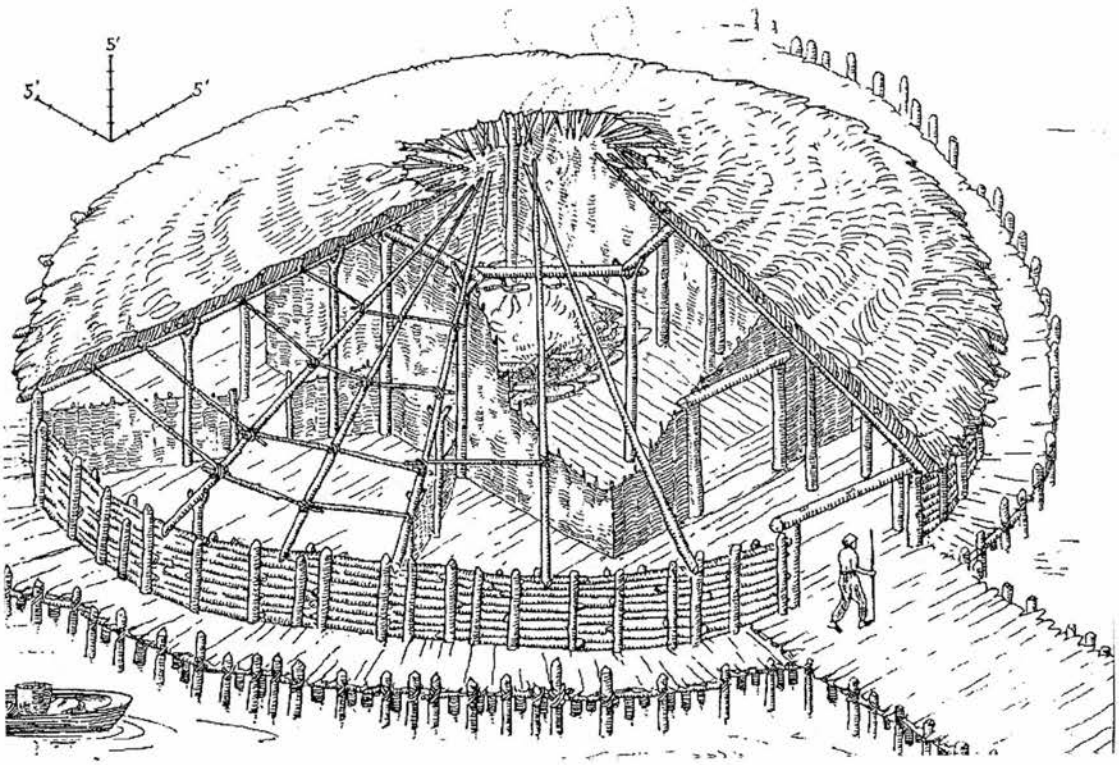


Illustration 3.5 Reconstruction of Milton Loch Crannog
(after Piggott 1953, figure 5)

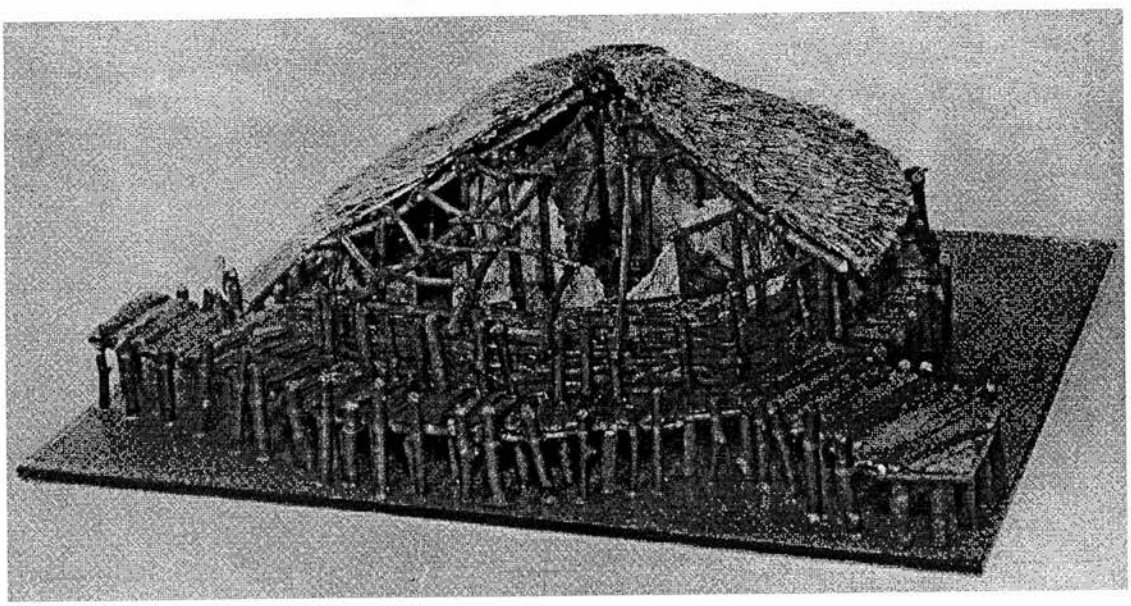


Illustration 3.6 Model of Milton Loch Crannog
(after Piggott 1953, plate 15)

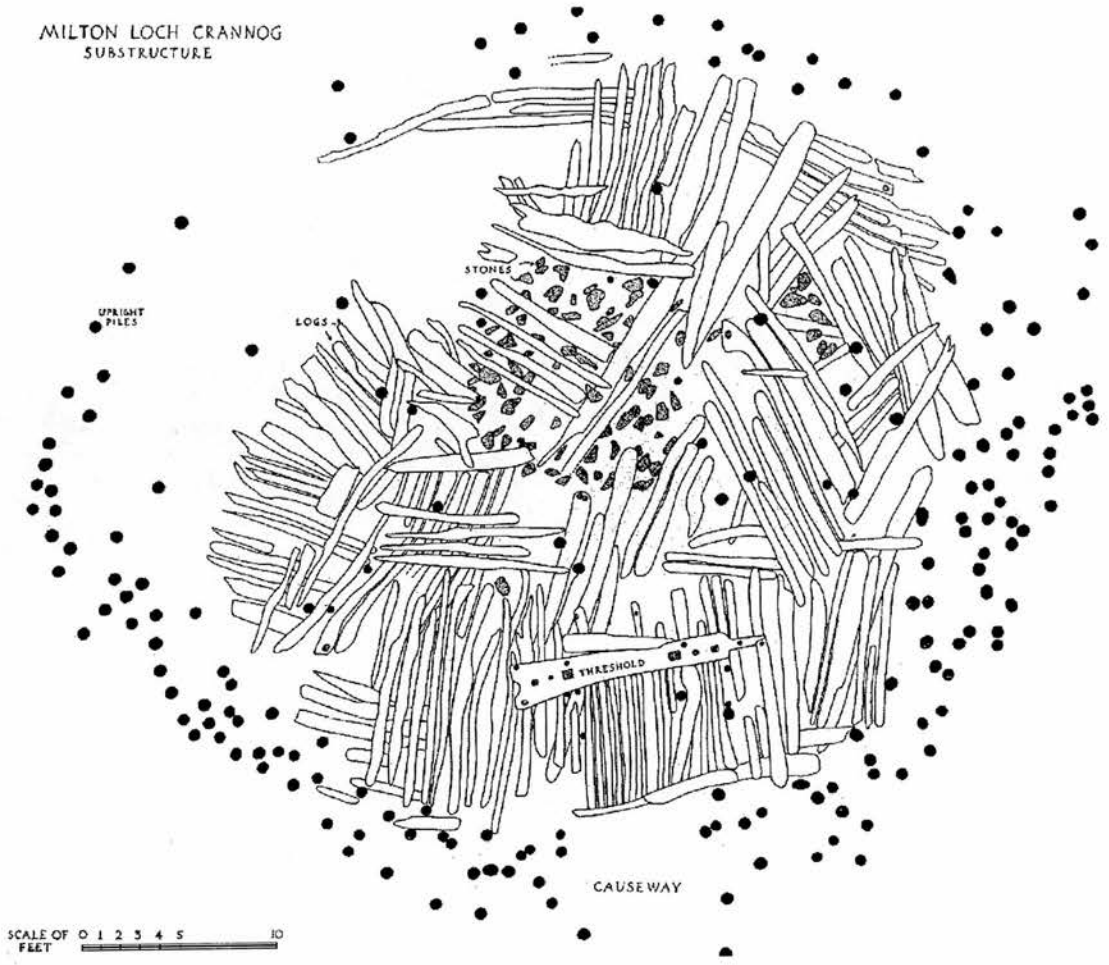


Illustration 3.7 Plan of Milton Loch Crannog (after Piggott 1953, figure 6)

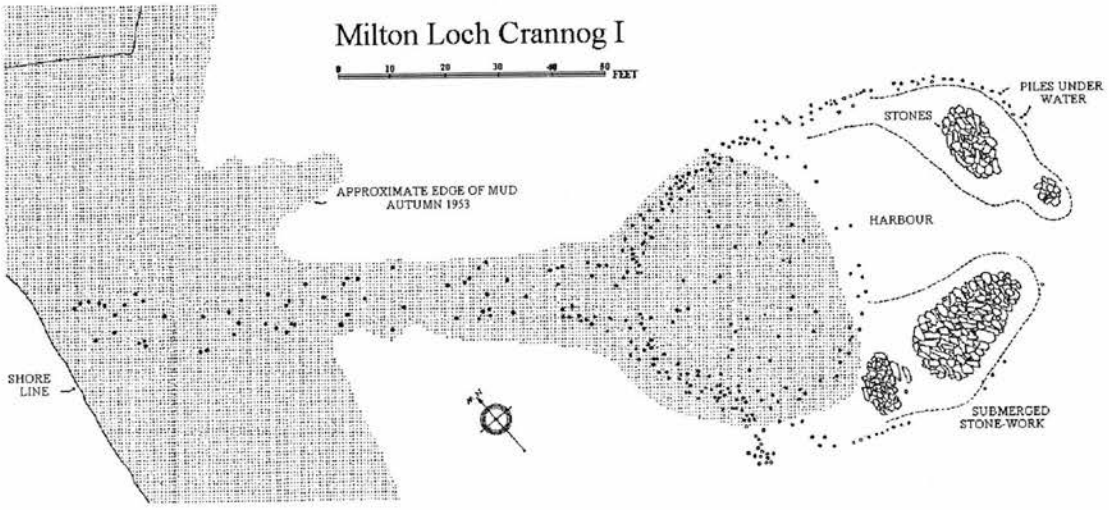


Illustration 3.8 Plan of Milton Loch Crannog (after Piggott 1953, figure 7)

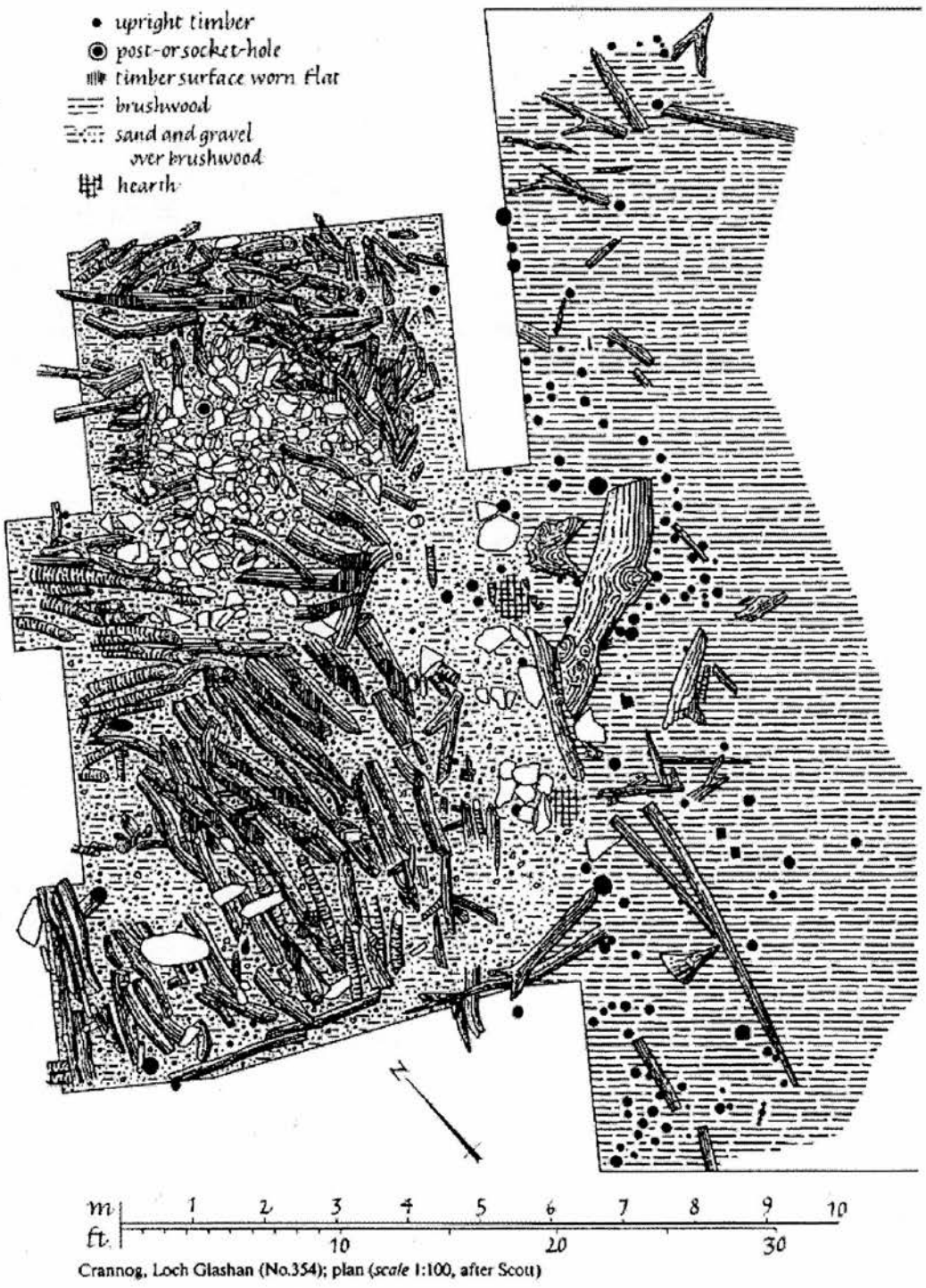


Illustration 3.9 Plan of Loch Glashan Crannog (after RCAHMS 1988, 206)

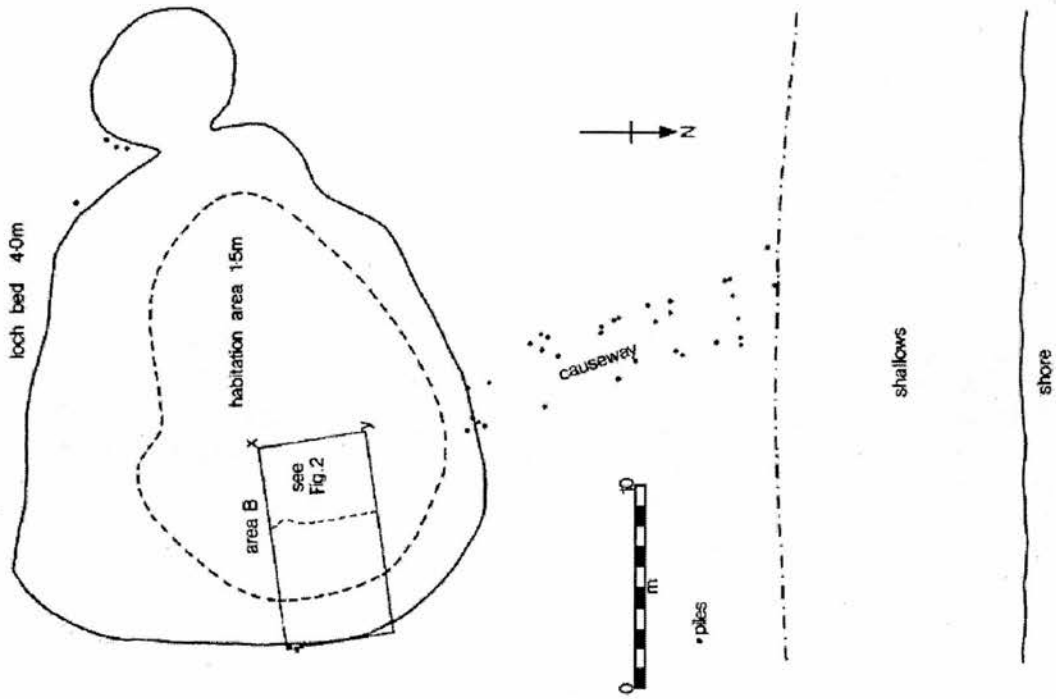


Illustration 3.10 Plan of Oakbank Crannog (after Dixon 1981, figure 1)

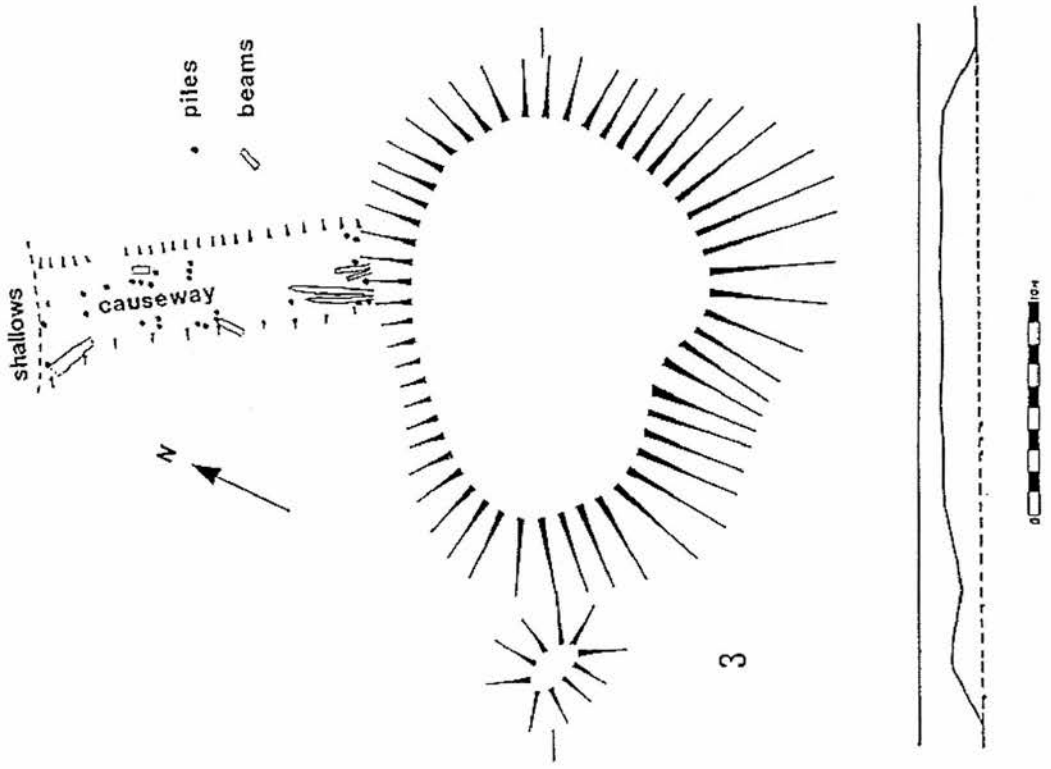


Illustration 3.11 Plan of Oakbank Crannog (after Dixon 1982, figure 4)

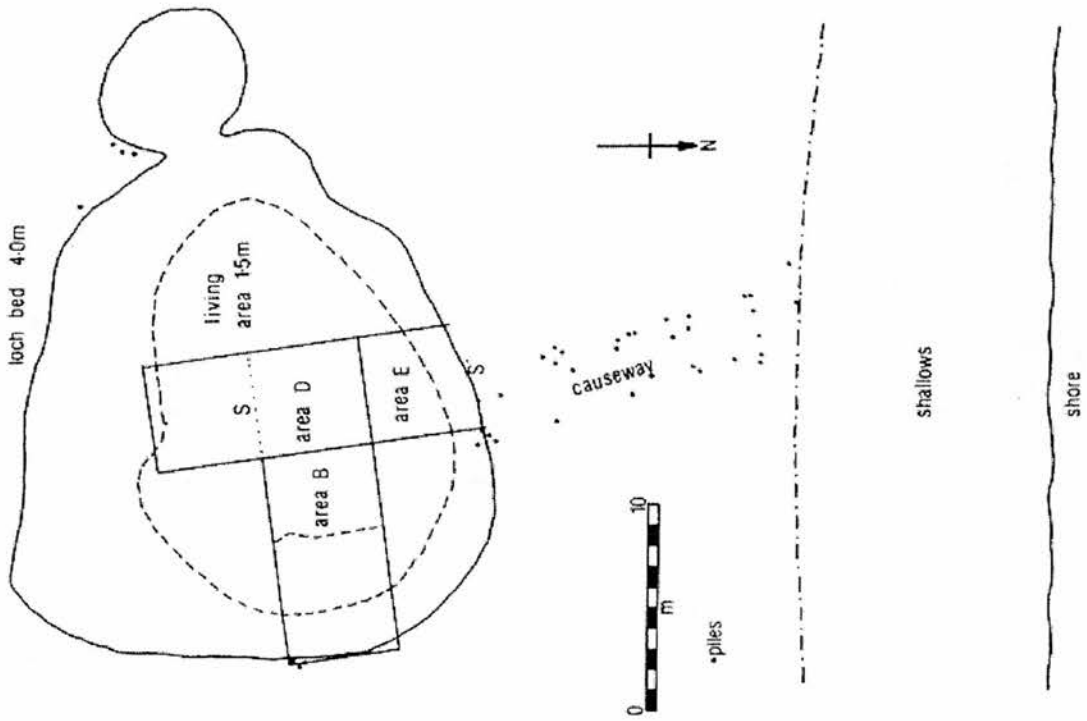


Illustration 3.12 Plan of Oakbank Crannog (after Dixon 1982b, figure 2)

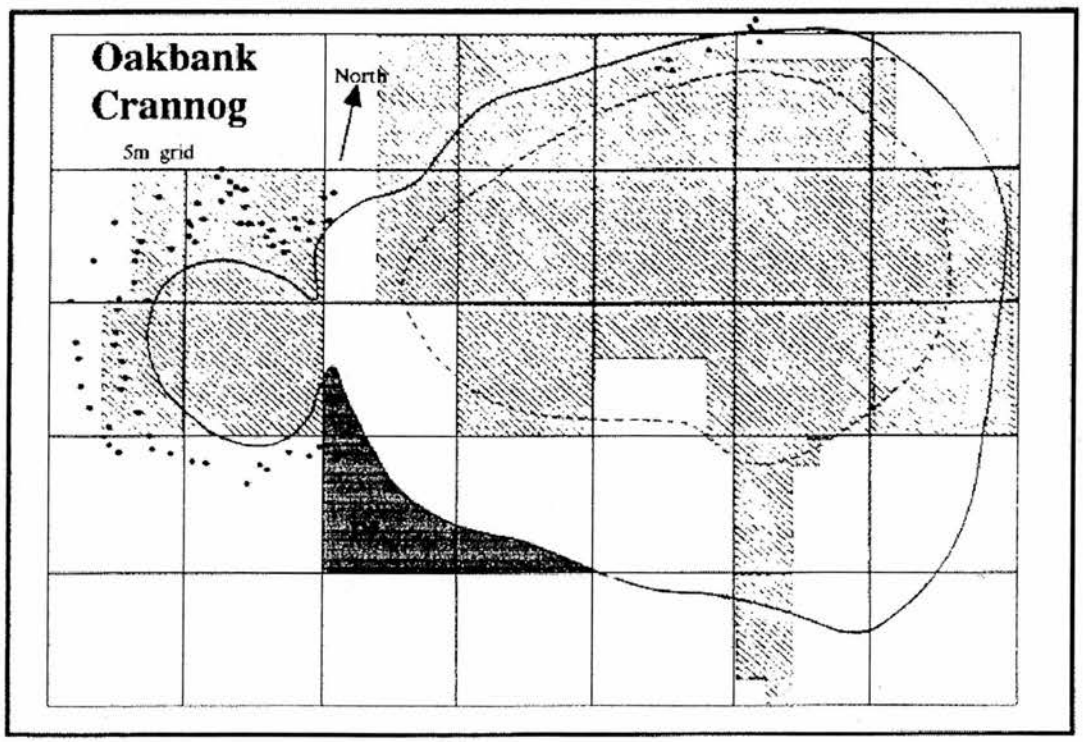


Illustration 3.13 Plan of Oakbank Crannog (after Dixon and Andrian 1992, figure 1)

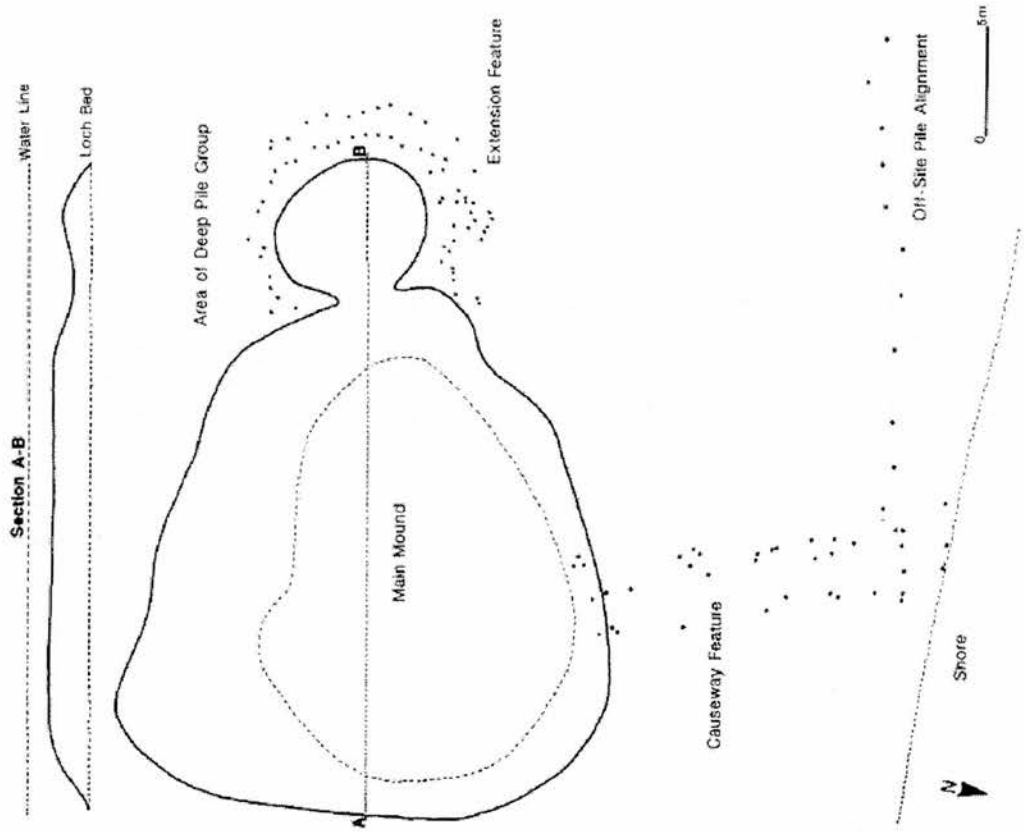


Illustration 3.14 Plan of Oakbank Crannog (after Sands 1997, figure 11)

Illustration 3.15 Plan of Oakbank Crannog (after Dixon 1981, figure 2)

Figure 3. Plan of timbers and organic deposit in areas D and E.

Illustration 3.16 Plan of Oakbank Crannog (after Dixon 1982, figure 3)

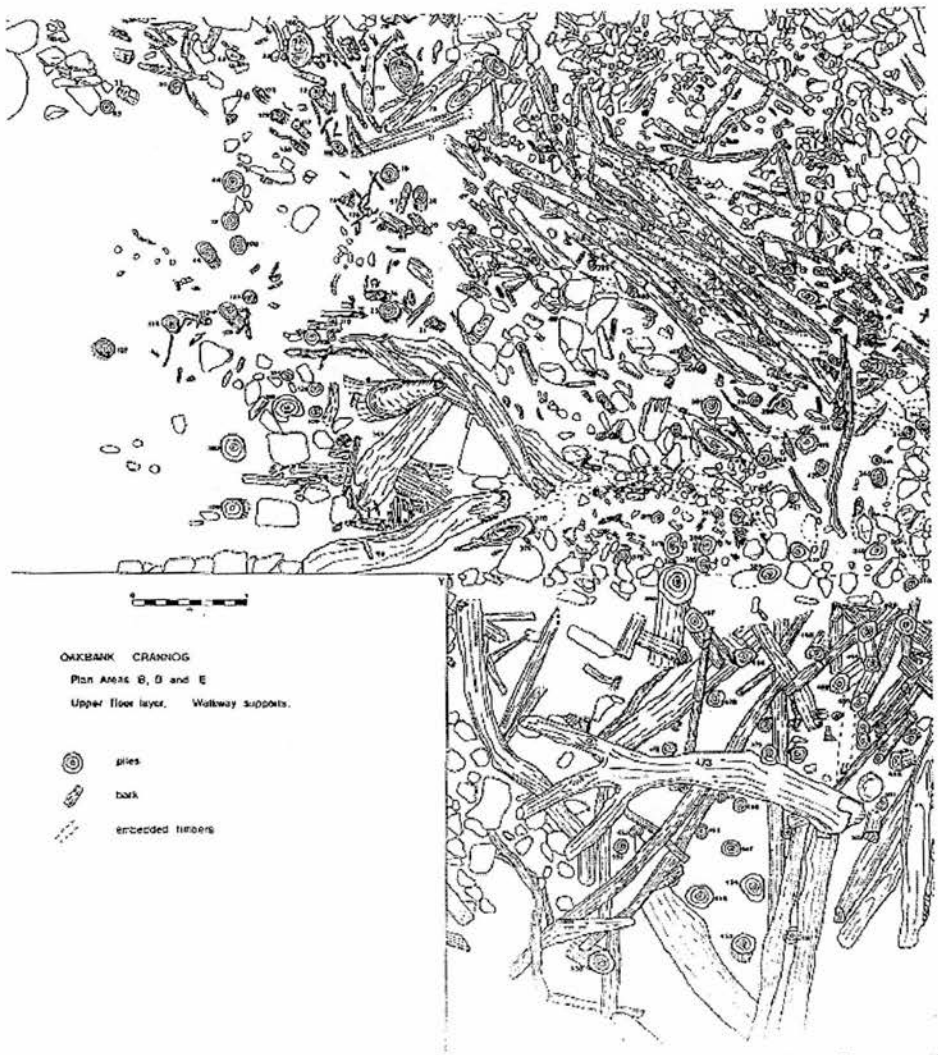
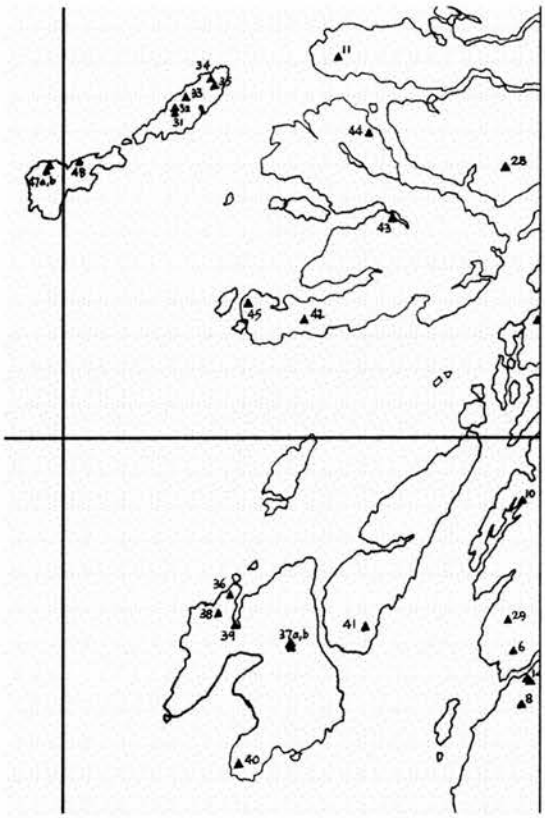


Illustration 3.17 Plan of Oakbank Crannog (after Dixon 1995, figure 4)



After Oakley 1973

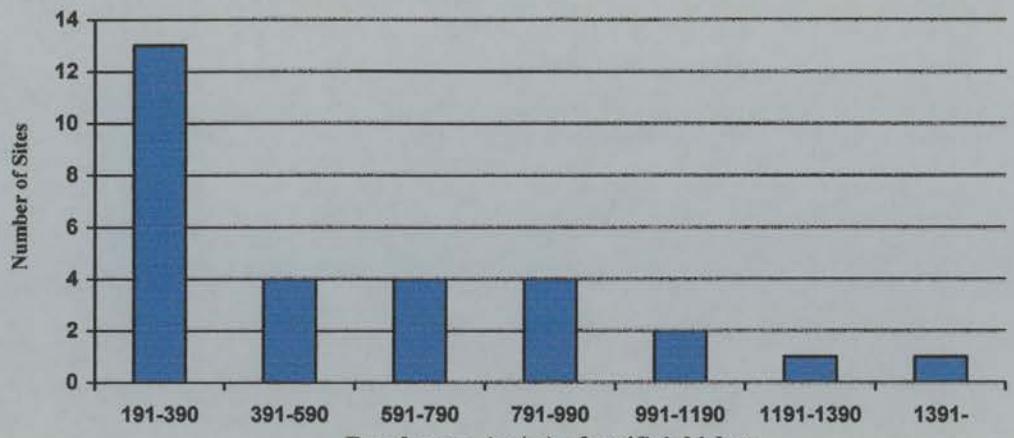
After Dixon 1984b

After Morrison 1985, figure3.1

After Henderson 1994, figure 5.1

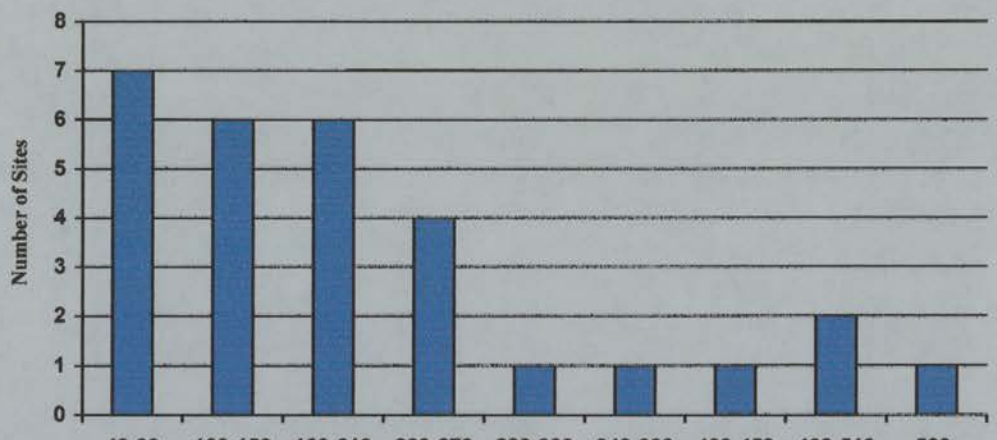
Illustration 4.1 Distributions of artificial islets in the central Inner Hebrides

Illustration 5.1 Artificial islets in the central Inner Hebrides



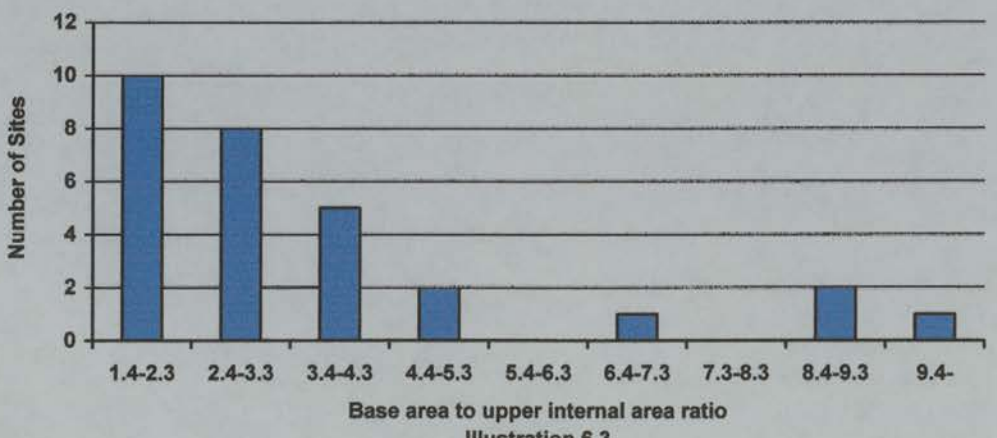
Basal areas (sq/m) of artificial islets

Illustration 6.1



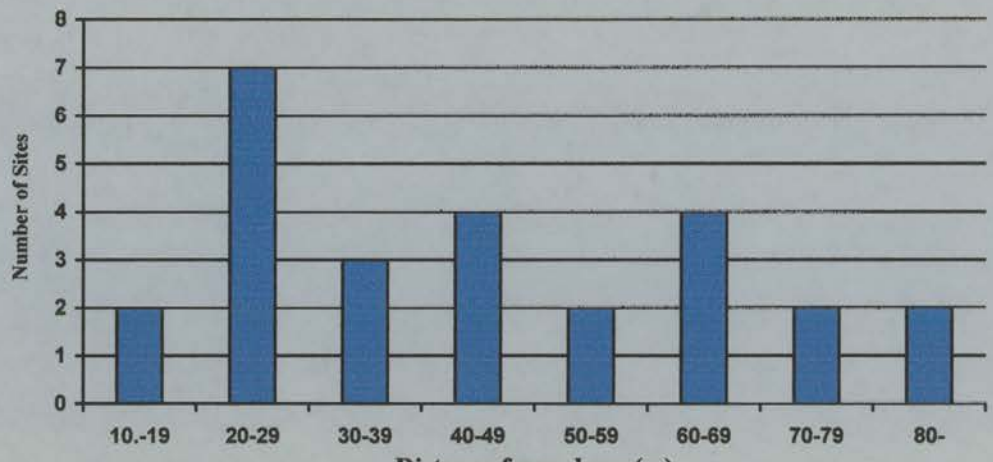
Upper internal areas (sq/m) of artificial islets

Illustration 6.2



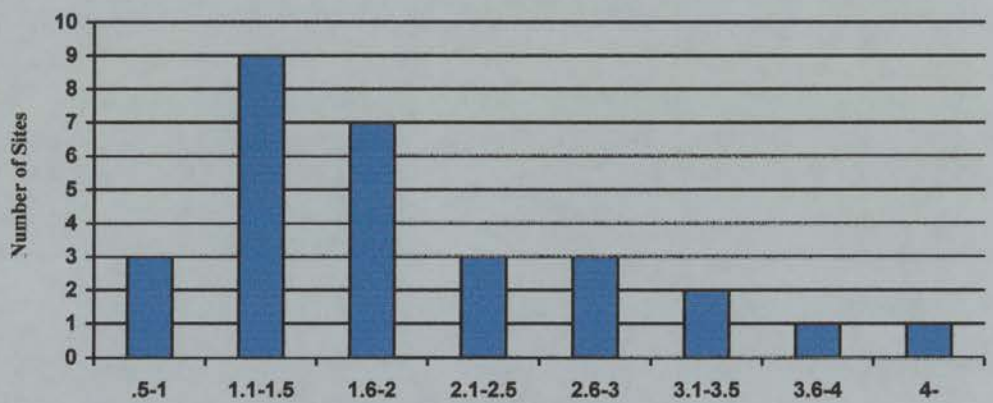
Base area to upper internal area ratio

Illustration 6.3



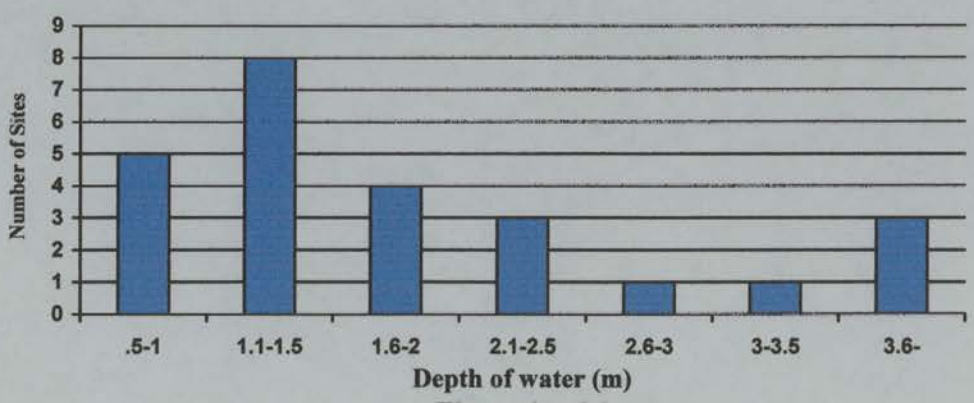
Distance from shore (m)

Illustration 6.4



Height (m)

Illustration 6.5



Depth of water (m)

Illustration 6.6

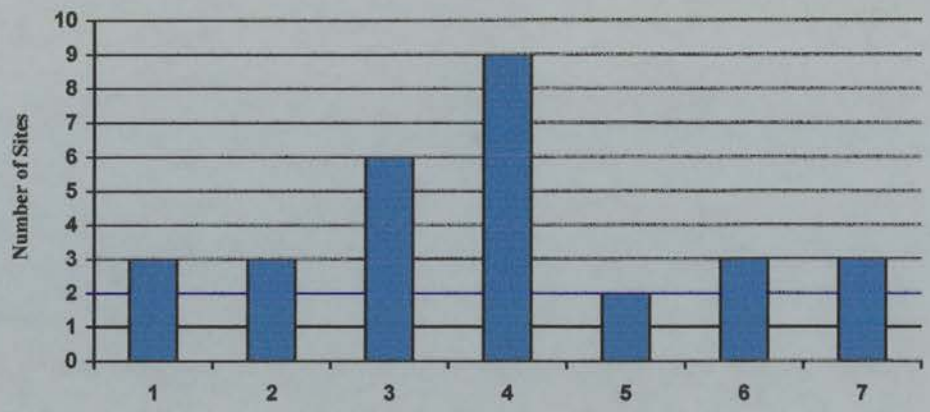


Illustration 6.7

Site name	Walling	Height	Distance from shore	Accessibility	Total
Assapol			2	2	4
Breachacha			1	1	2
Chonnill			2	2	4
Cliad #1			1	1	2
Na Cloiche			2	1	3
Eilean Anlaimh			1	1	2
Knock			2	2	4
Ledmore			2	2	4
Poit na H-I			2	1	3
Cliad #2			2	1	3
Eilean Ban	2	1	2	2	7
an Duin	2	1	1	1	6
Brathan	1		2	1	4
Dun Anlaimh	1		1	1	3
Eoghan	2	1	2	2	7
Fada	1	1	1	2	5
na Meal	1		2	1	4
Urbhaig	1	1	1	2	4
na Buaile	1				1
na Gile	1		1	1	3
Ardnave				1	1
Allallaidh	2	1	2	1	6
Bharradail				1	1
Corr	2	1	1	1	5
Fhir Mhoir	2	1	2	1	6
Laingeadail	1		1	2	4
Eilean Mhuirell	2	1	2	2	7
nan Deala	1		1	1	3
Staoisha			2	2	4

Defensive rating of artificial islets
Illustration 6.8

Illustration 7.1 Soils on the Island of Coll

Illustration 7.2 Soils on the Island of Tiree

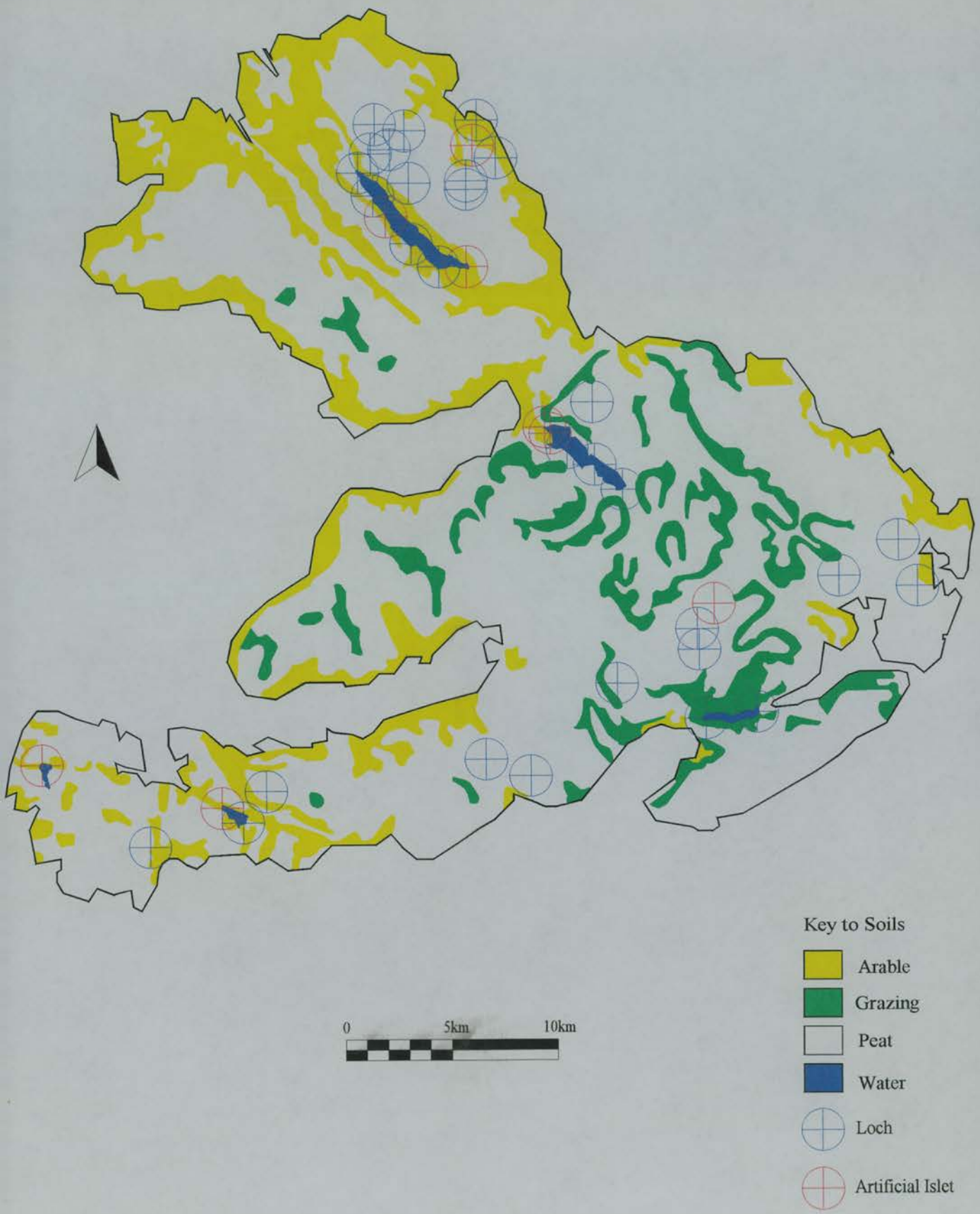


Illustration 7.3 Soils on the Island of Mull

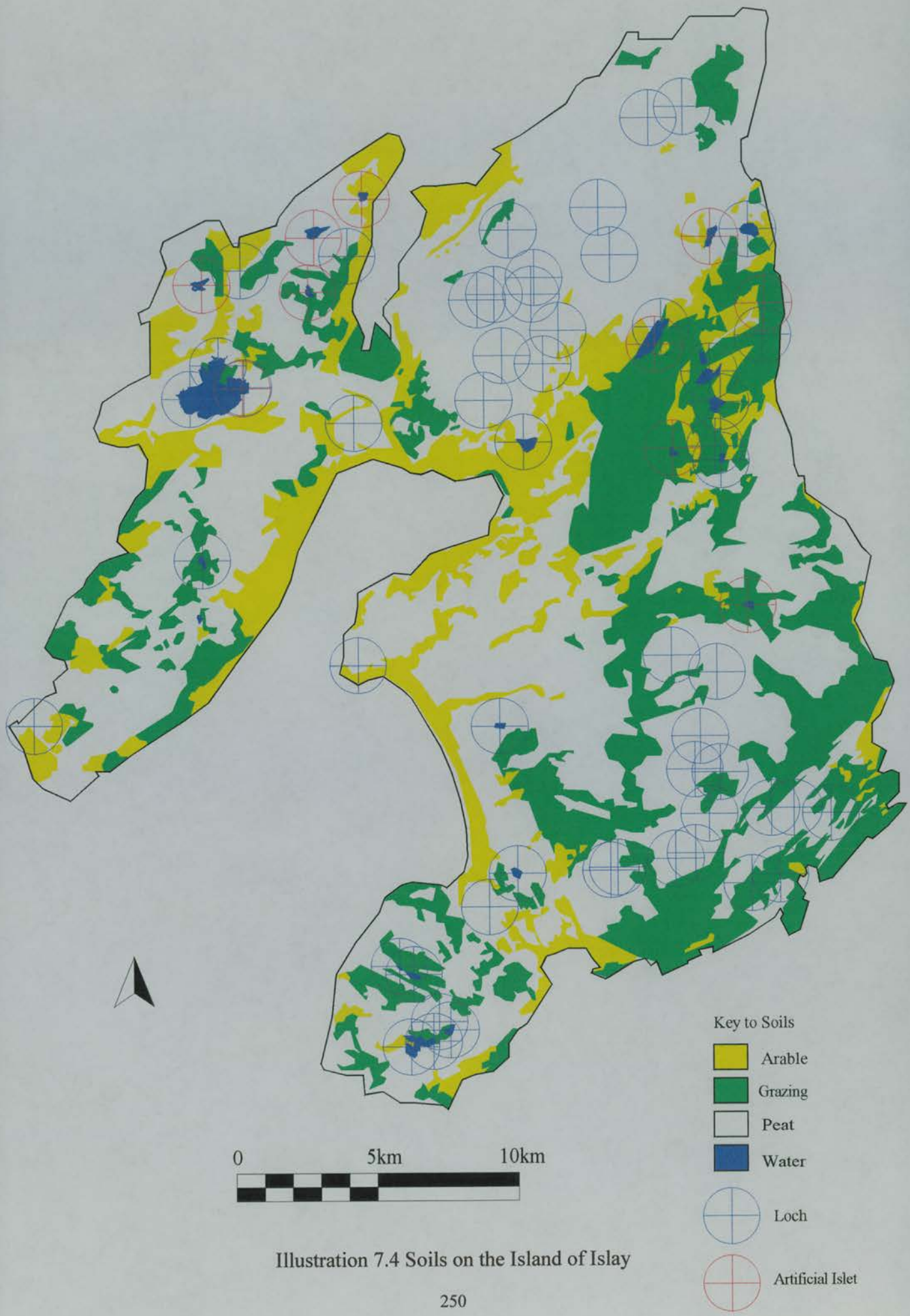
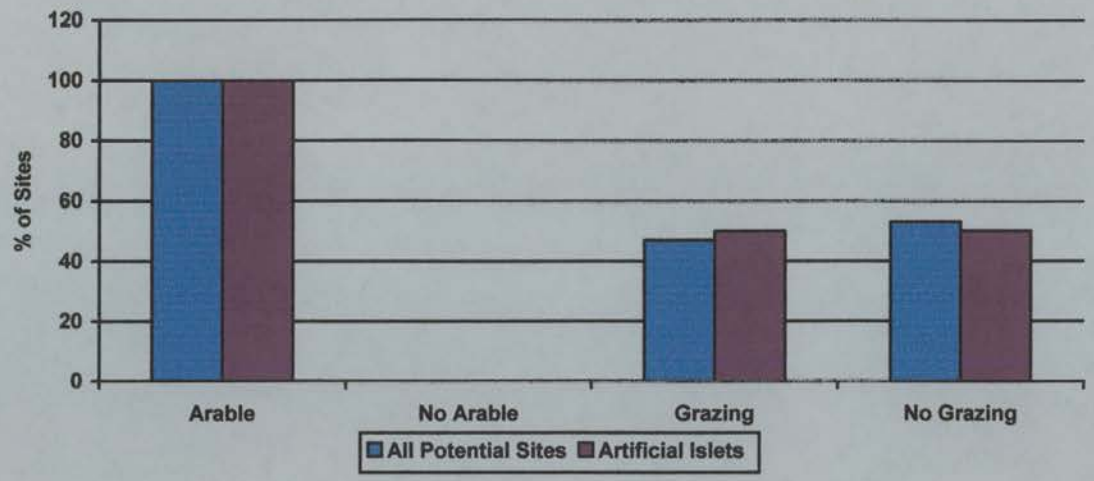
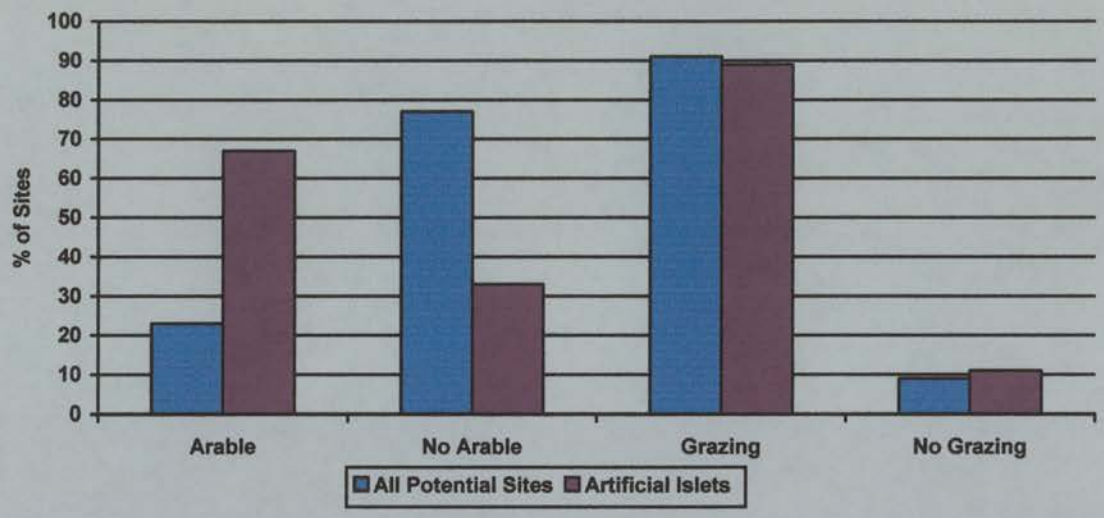


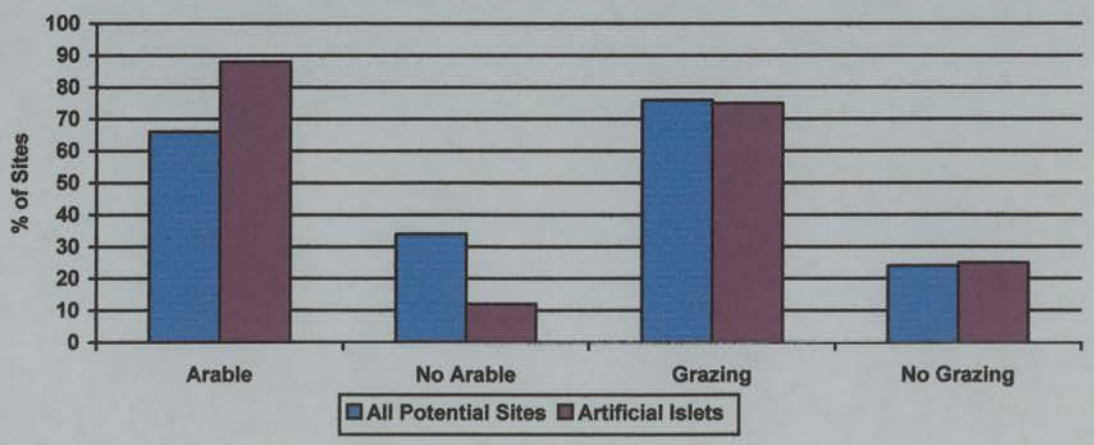
Illustration 7.4 Soils on the Island of Islay



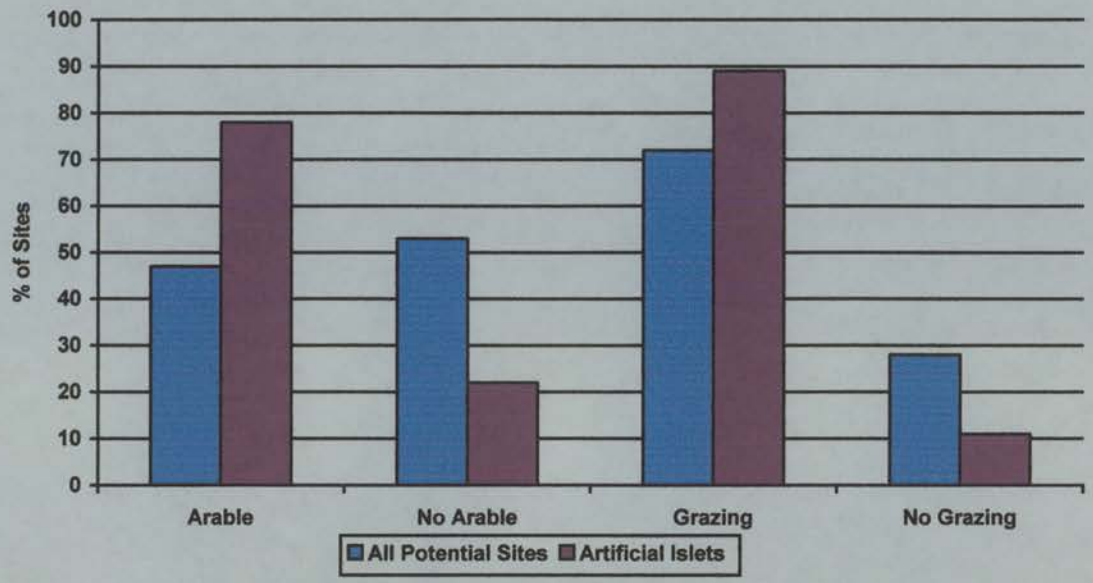
Distribution of Soils on Tiree
Illustration 7.5



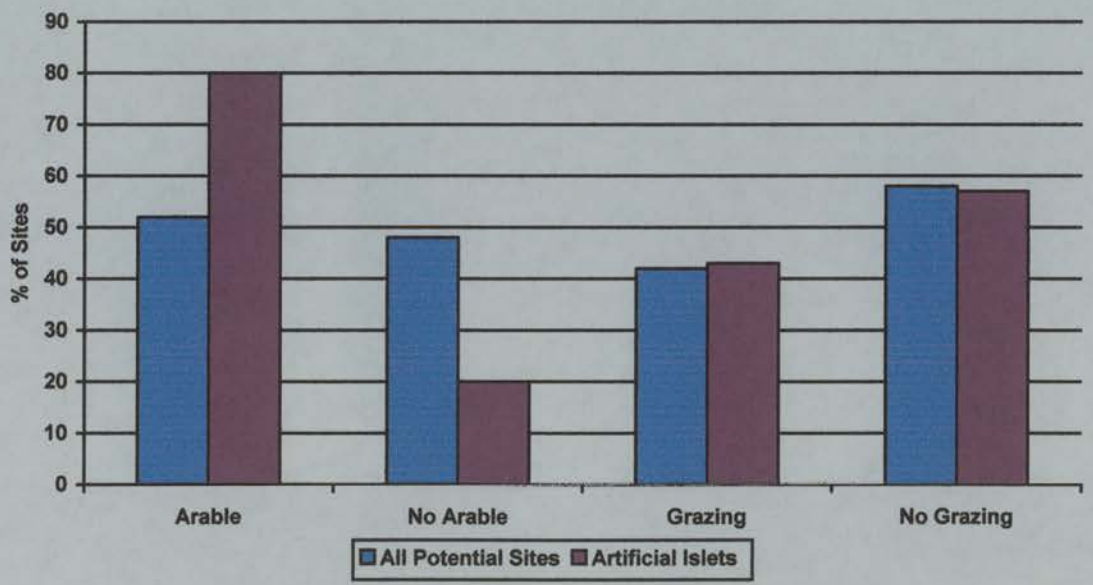
Distribution of Soils on Coll
Illustration 7.6



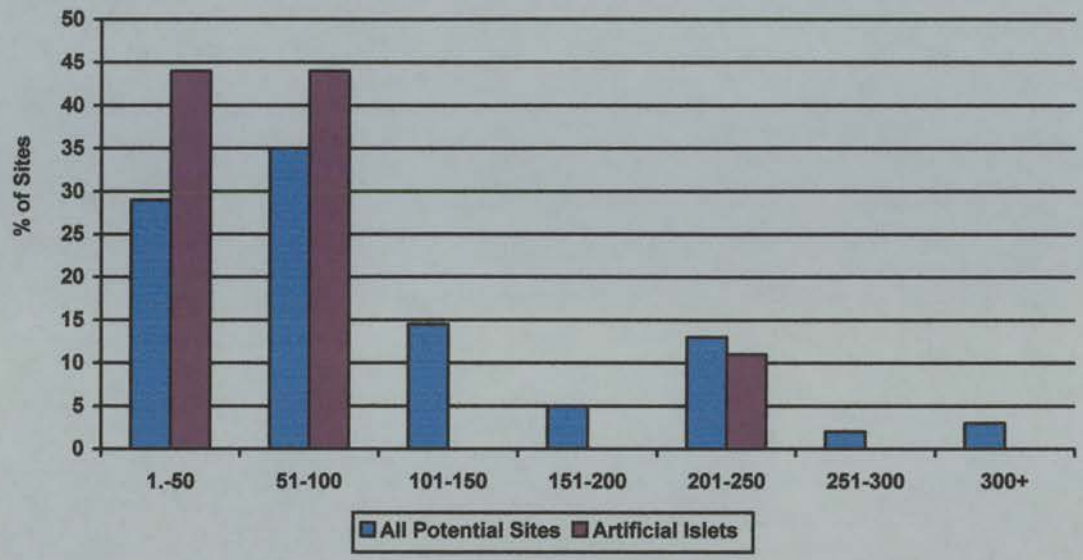
Distribution of Soils on Mull
Illustration 7.7



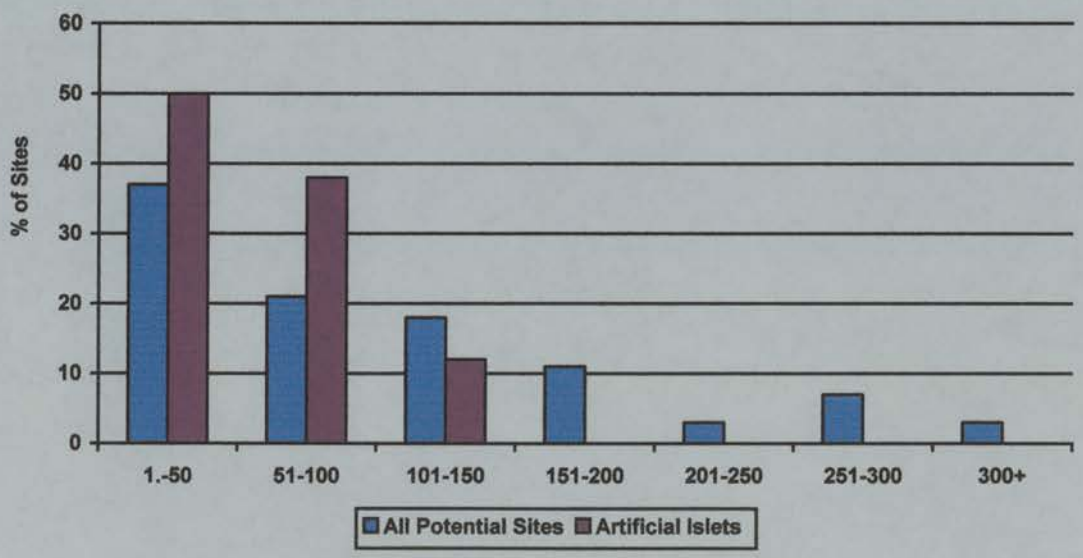
Distribution of Soils on Islay
Illustration 7.8



Distribution of Soils on Coll, Islay, Mull & Tiree
Illustration 7.9



Altitude in M above OD of Lochs on Islay
Illustration 7.10



Altitude in M above OD of Lochs on Mull
Illustration 7.11

Index for Bioclimate Maps

H3T1	Humid Northern Temperate (Damp, warm temperature)
H3B3	Humid Hemiboreal and Orohemiboreal (Damp, fairly warm temperature)
H2T1	Very humid Northern Temperate (Very damp, warm temperature)
H2B3	Very humid Hemiboreal and Orohemiboreal (Very damp, fairly warm temperature)
H1T1	Extremely humid Northern Temperate (Wet, warm temperature)
H1B3	Extremely humid Hemiboreal and Orohemiboreal (Wet, fairly warm temperature)
H1B2	Extremely humid Southern Boreal and Lower Oroboreal (Wet, moderate temperature)
H1B1	Extremely humid Upper Oroboreal (Wet, cool temperature)
PB3	Perhumid Hemiboreal and Orohemiboreal (Very Wet, fairly warm temperature)
PB2	Perhumid Southern Boreal and Lower Oroboreal (Very Wet, moderate temperature)
PB1	Perhumid Upper Oroboreal (Very Wet, cool temperature)
PA3	Perhumid Orohemiarctic (Very Wet, cold temperature)
PT1	Perhumid Northern Temperate (Very Wet, warm temperature)

Illustration 7.12 Bioclimate zones on Coll and Tiree

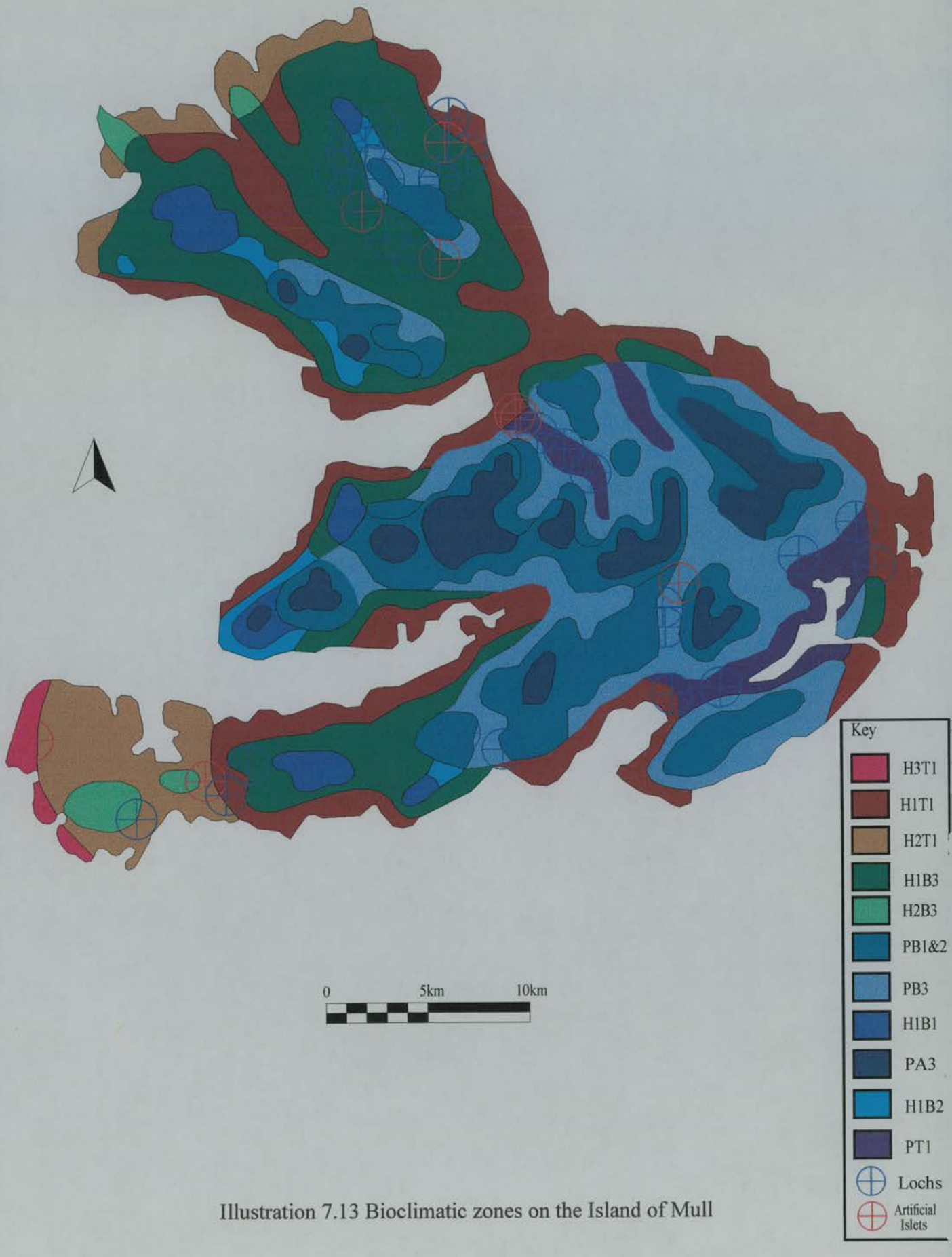


Illustration 7.13 Bioclimatic zones on the Island of Mull

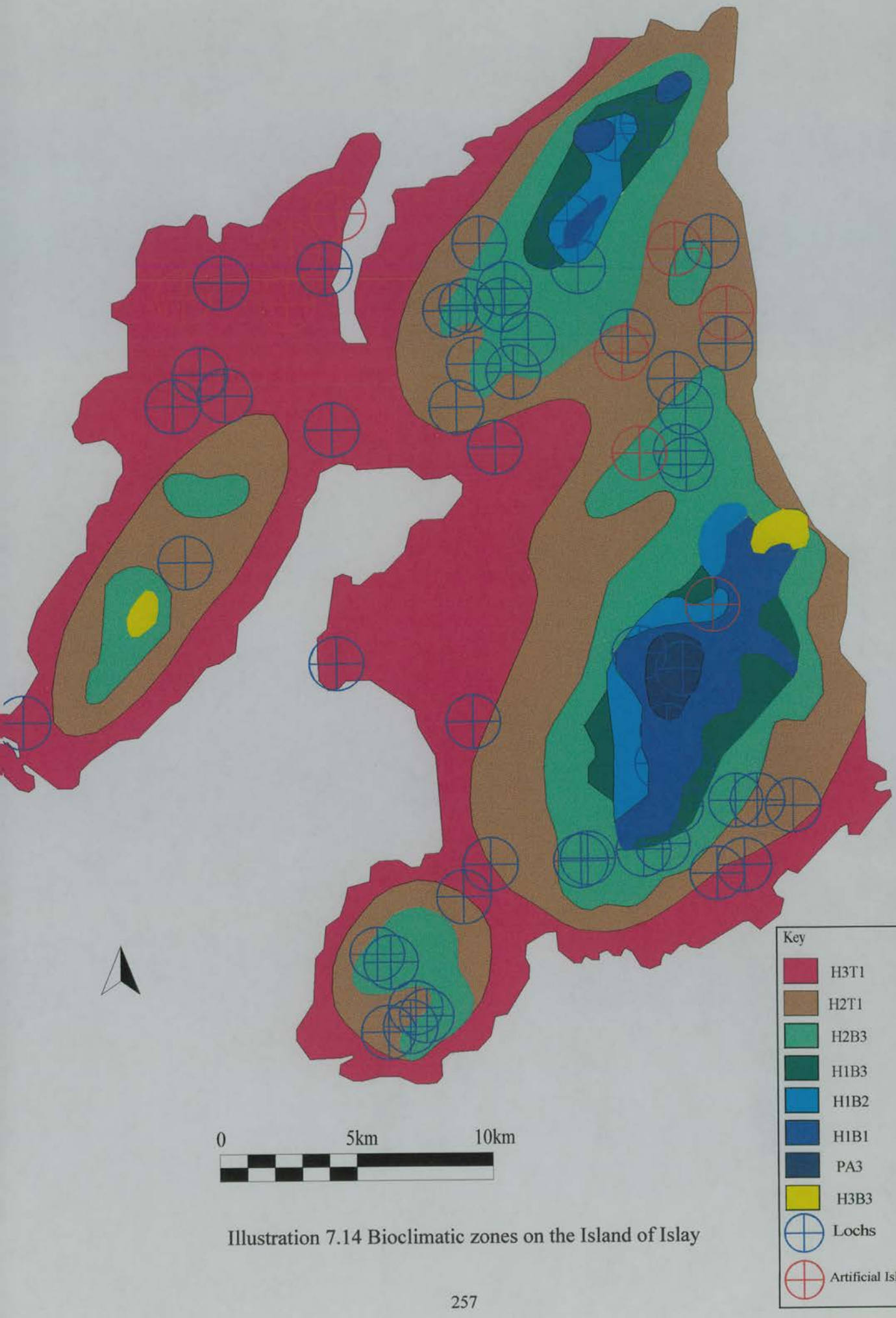


Illustration 7.14 Bioclimatic zones on the Island of Islay

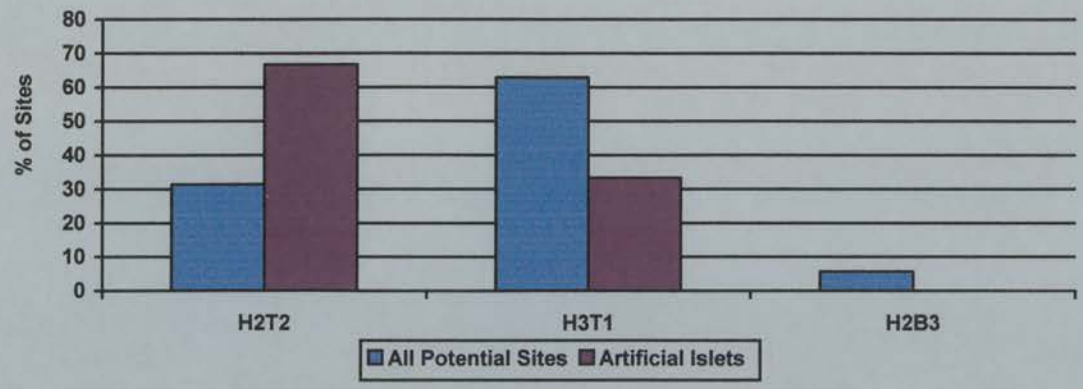


Illustration 7.15 Distribution of Bioclimate Zones on Coll

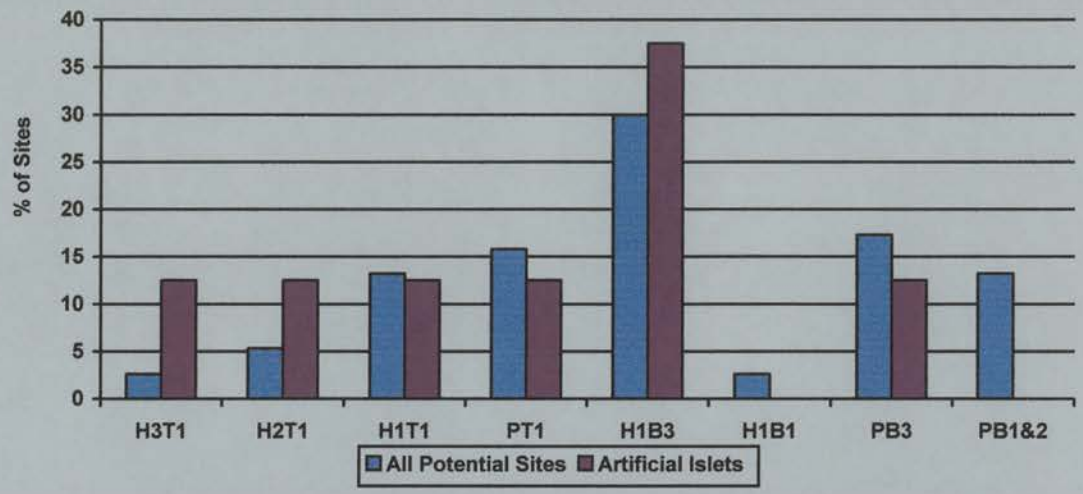


Illustration 7.16 Distribution of Bioclimate Zones on Mull

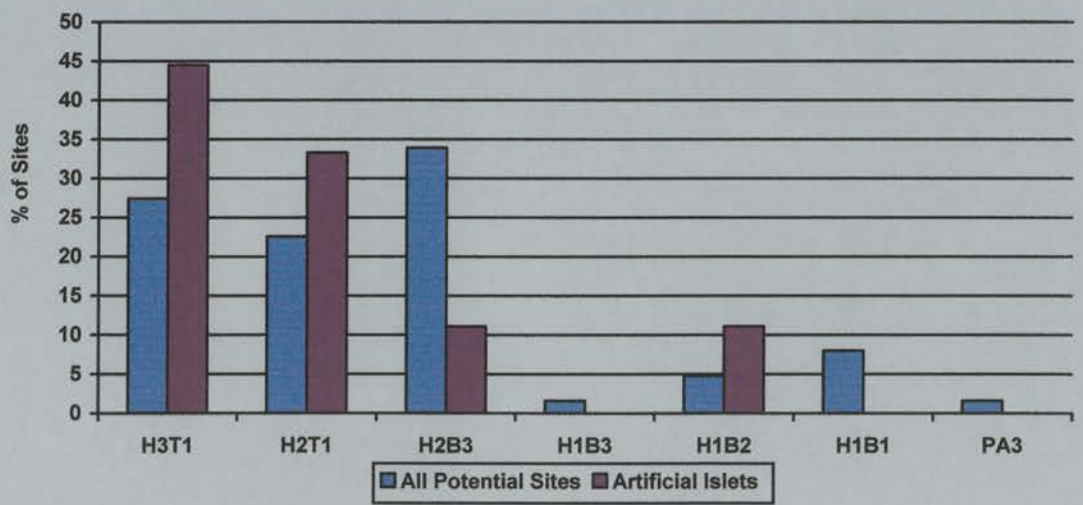


Illustration 7.17 Distribution of Bioclimate Zones on Islay

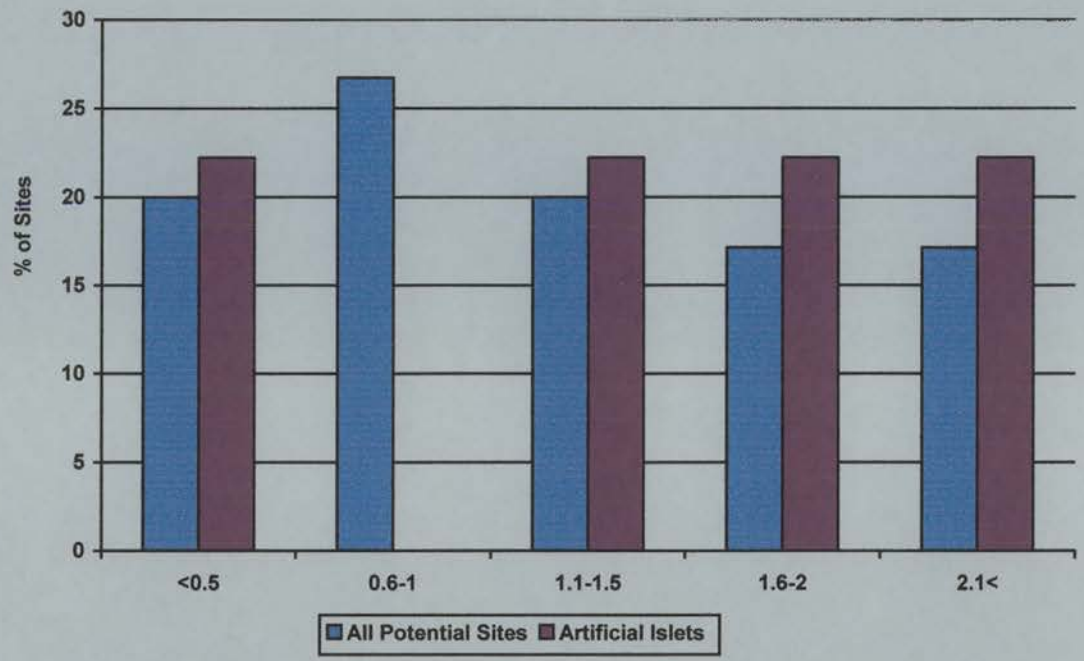


Illustration 7.18 Distance to to Coast on Coll (km)

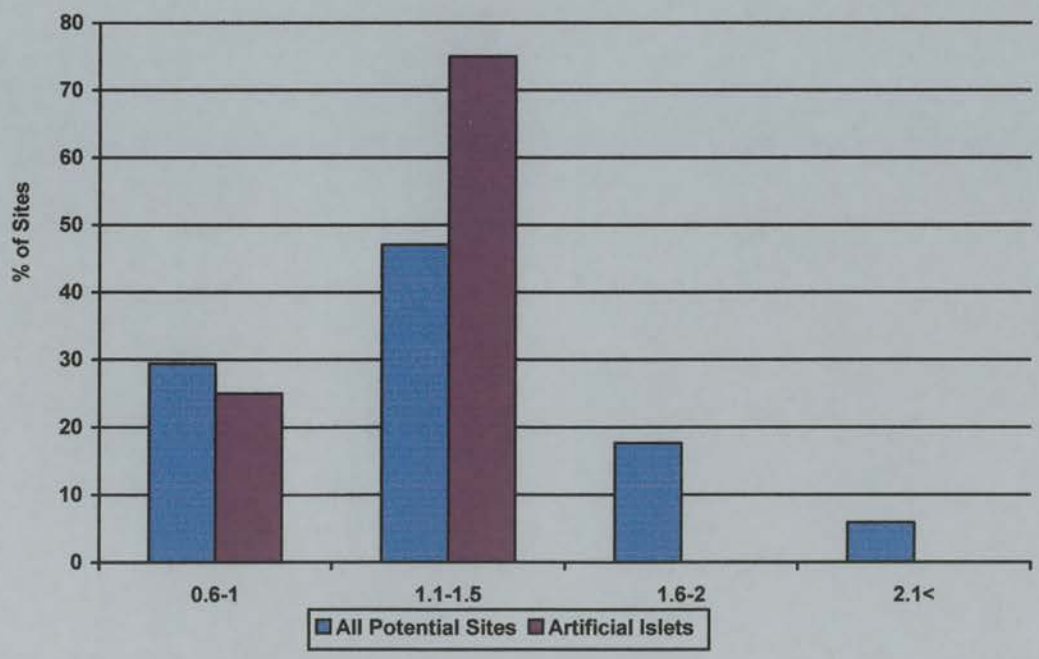


Illustration 7.19 Distance to to Coast on Tiree (km)

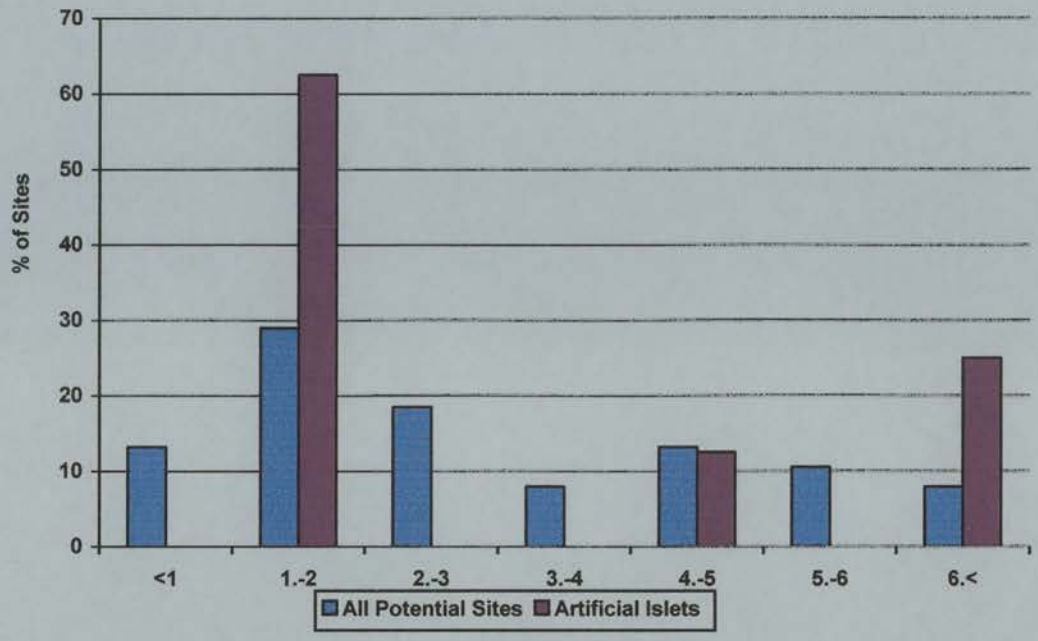


Illustration 7.20 Distance to Coast on Mull (km)

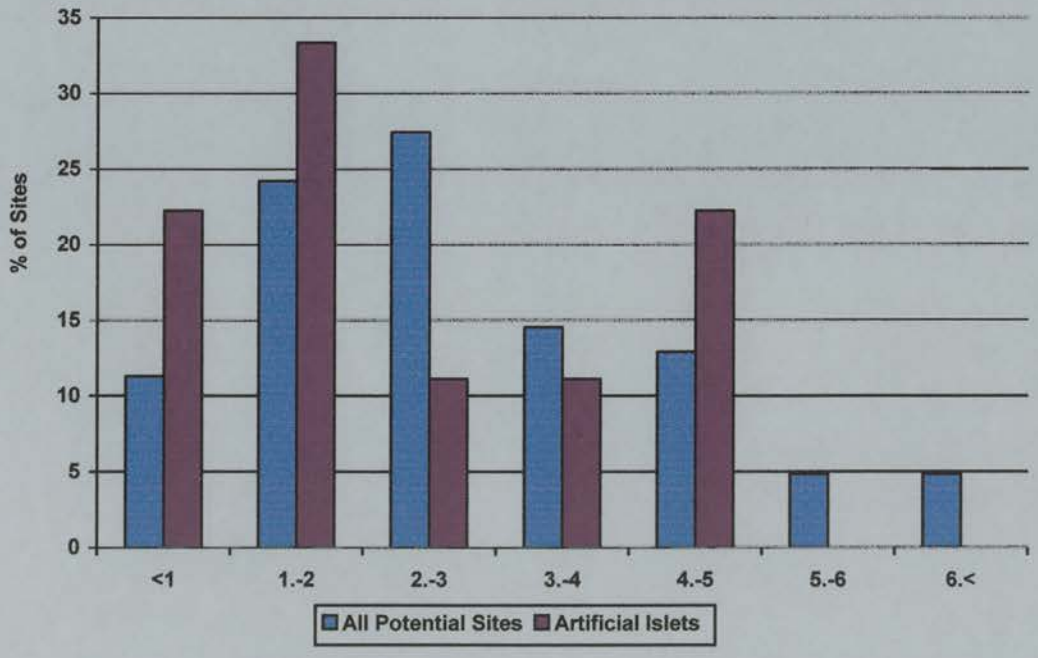


Illustration 7.21 Distance to to Coast on Islay (km)

Illustration 7.22 Quaternary deposits on the islands of Coll and Tiree

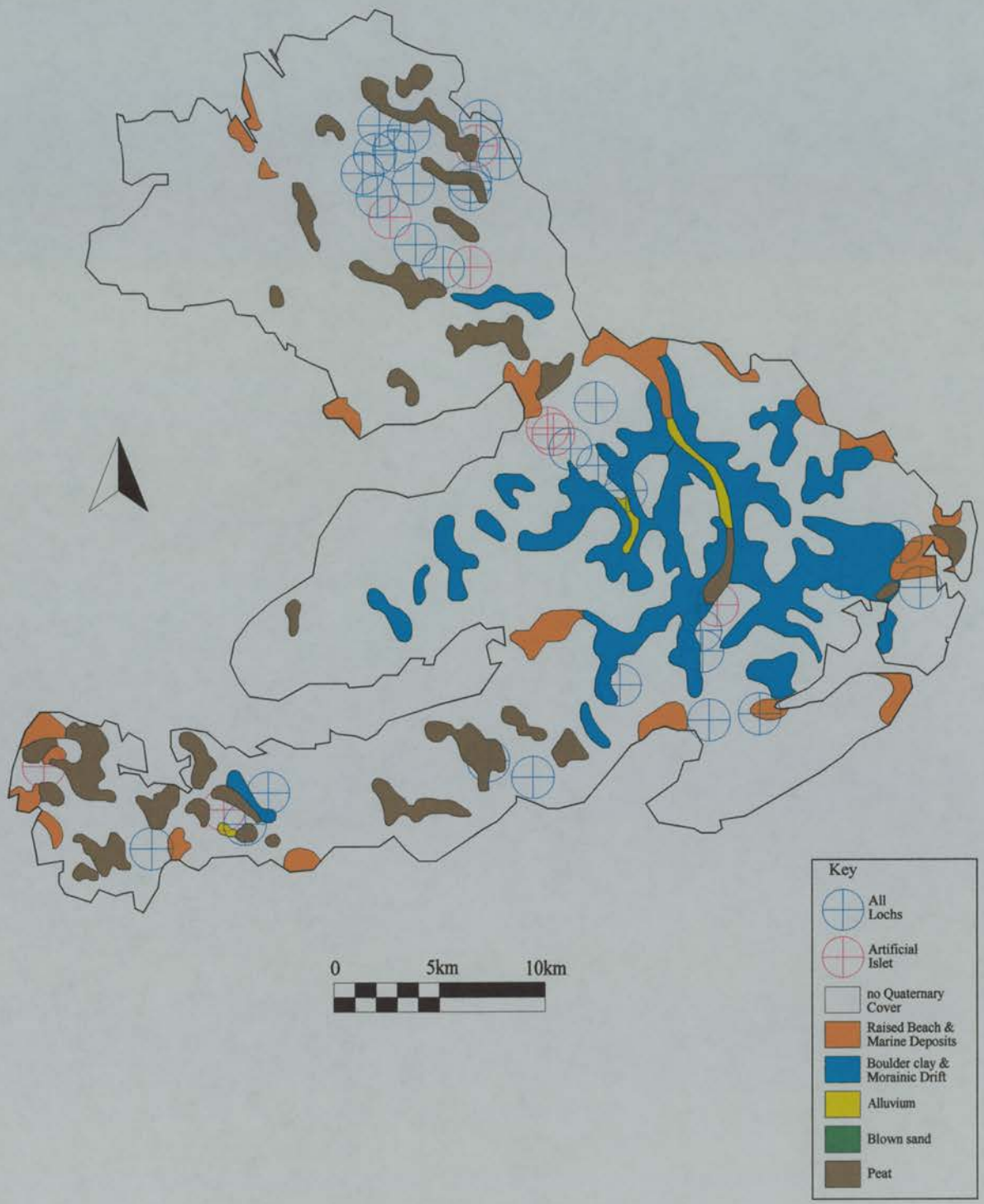


Illustration 7.23 Quaternary deposits on the island of Mull

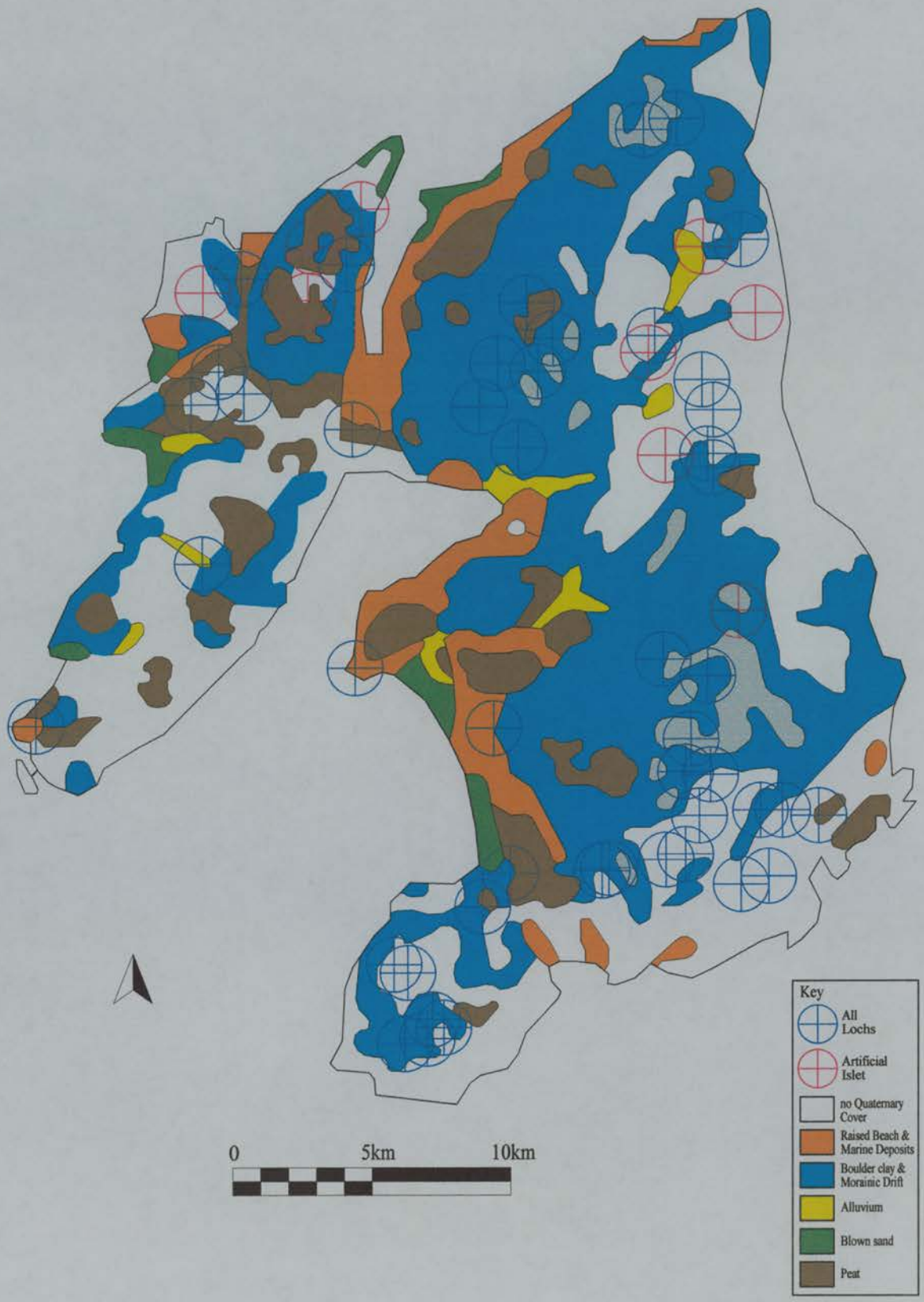


Illustration 7.24 Quaternary deposits on the island of Islay

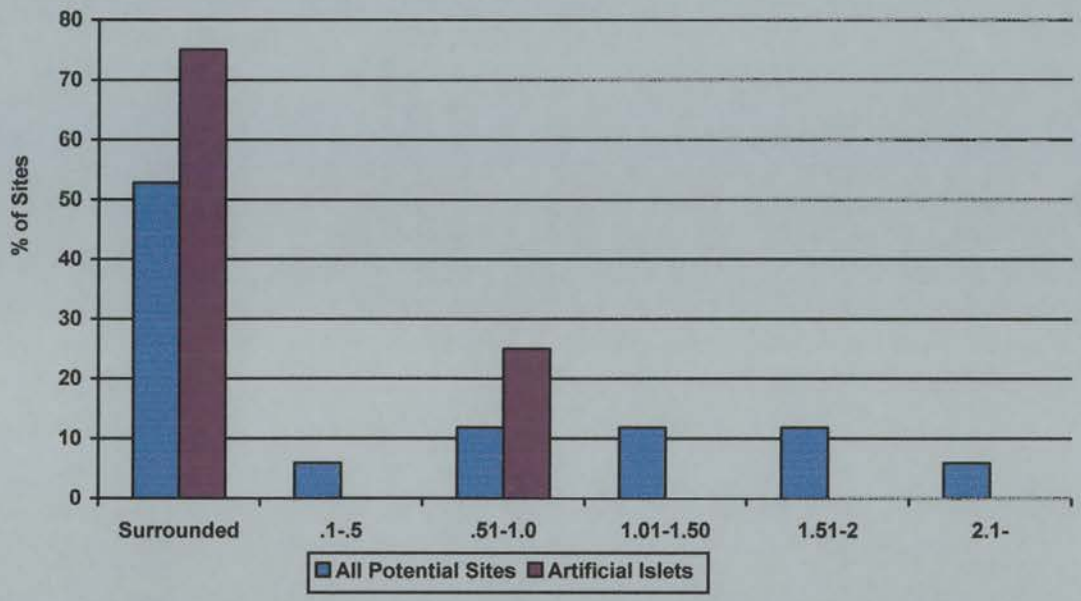


Illustration 7.25 Distance to areas of raised beach deposits on Tiree (km)

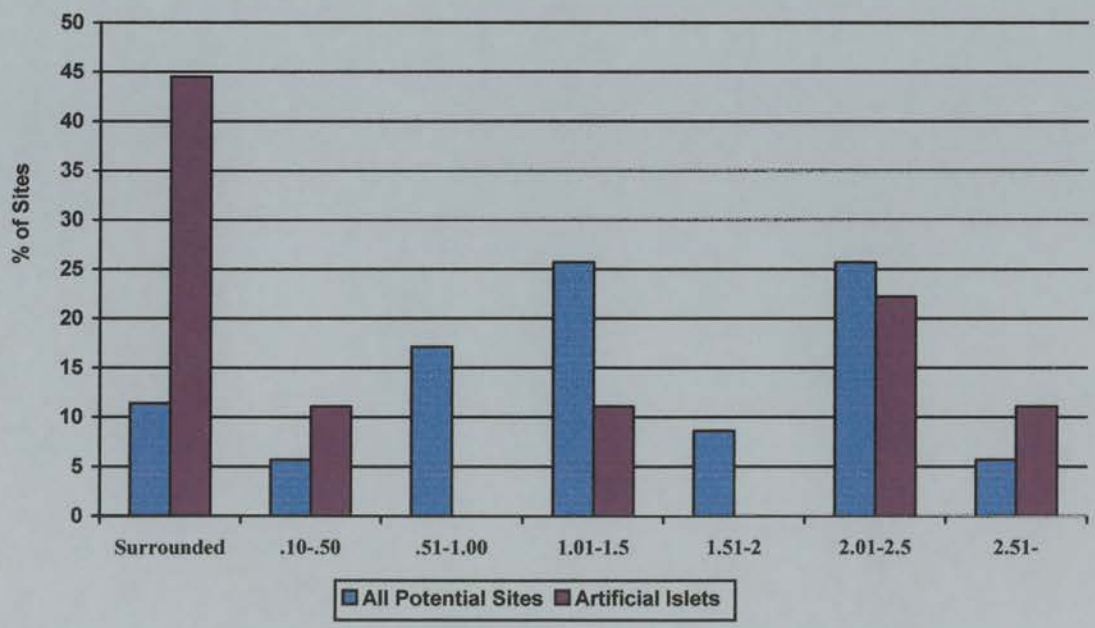


Illustration 7.26 Distance to areas of raised beach deposits on Coll (km)

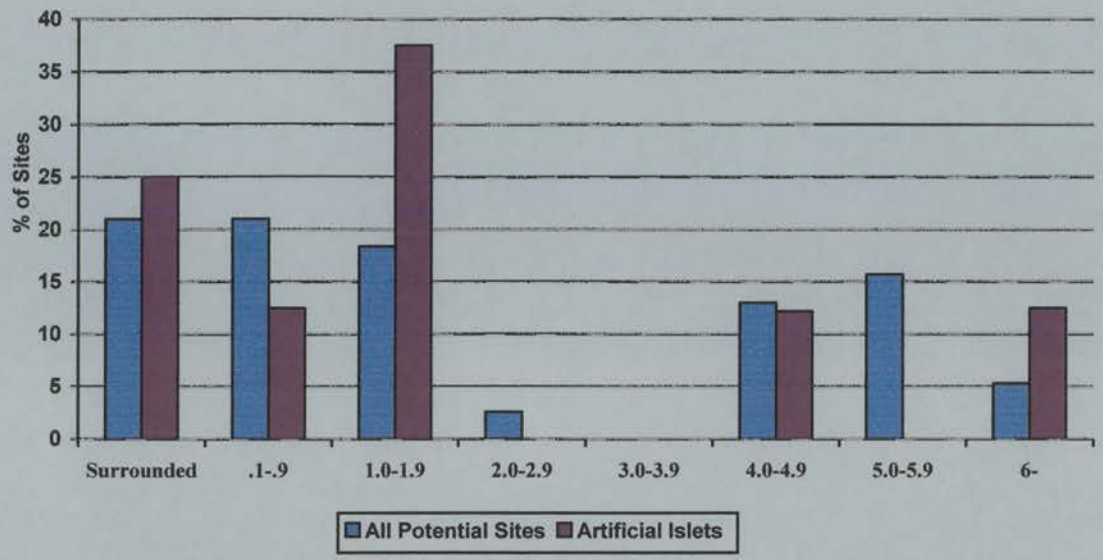


Illustration 7.27 Distance to areas of boulder clay or raised beach deposits on Mull (km)

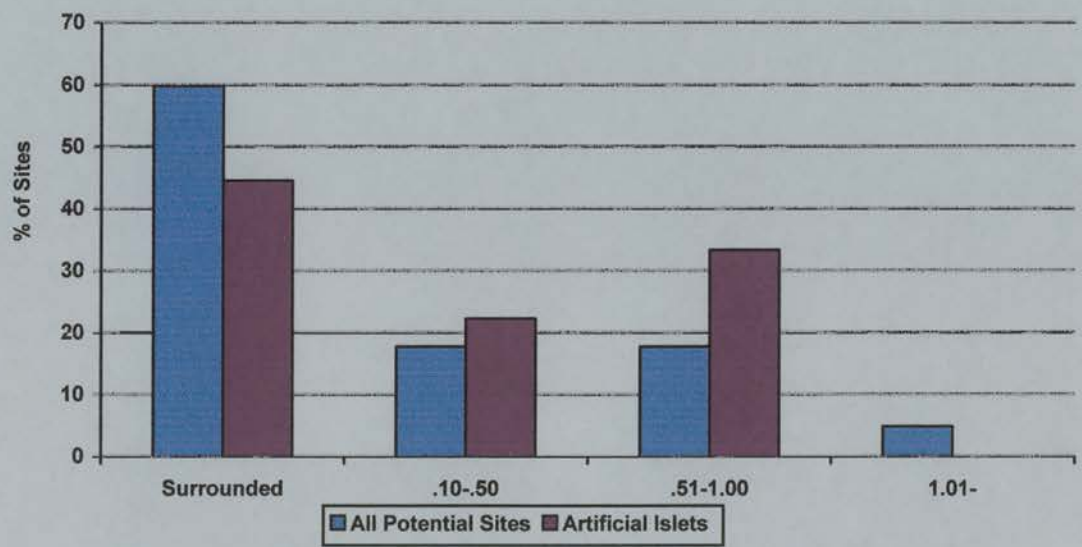


Illustration 7.28 Distance to areas of boulder clay or raised beach deposits on Islay (km)

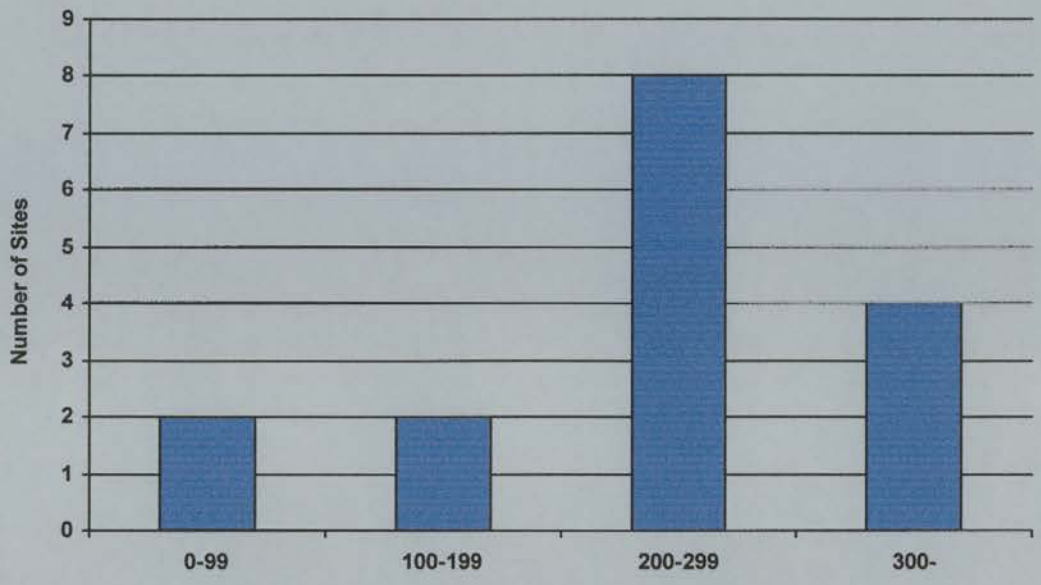


Illustration 7.29 Distance to outlet (m) for artificial islets of the central Inner Hebrides

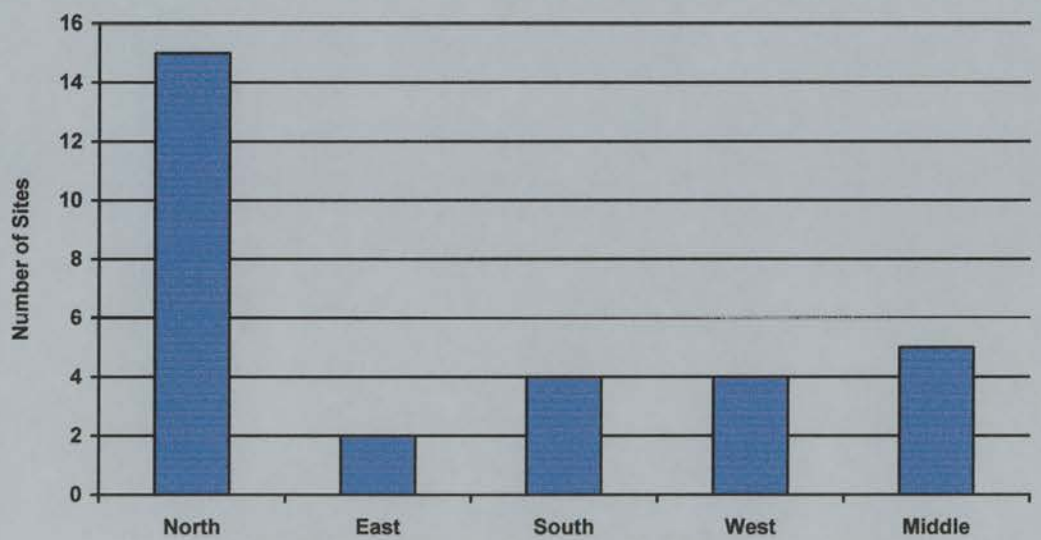


Illustration 7.30 Cardinal position of artificial islets within lochs of the central Inner Hebrides

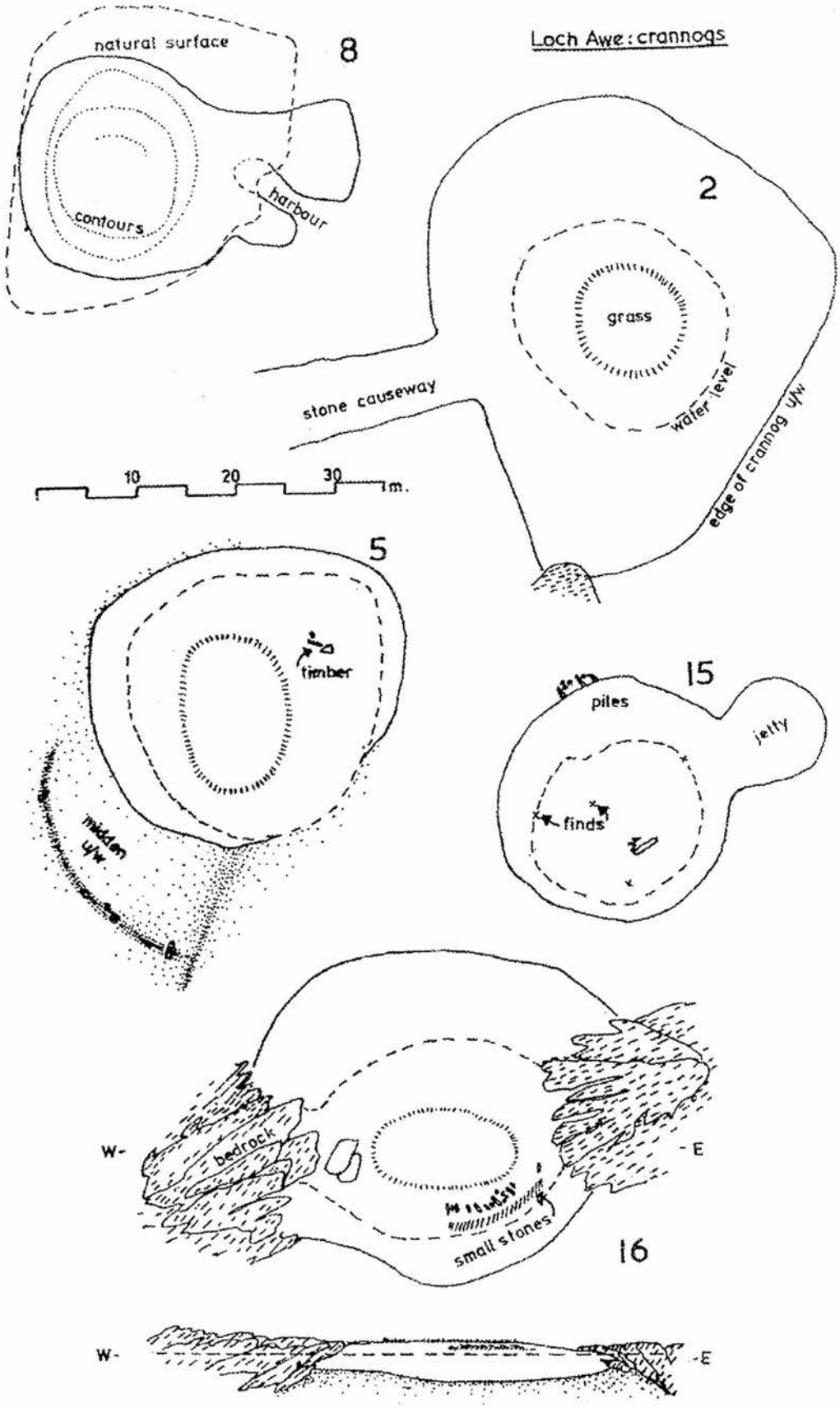


Illustration 8.1 Plans of Loch Awe crannogs (after Hardy, McArdle and Miles 1973)

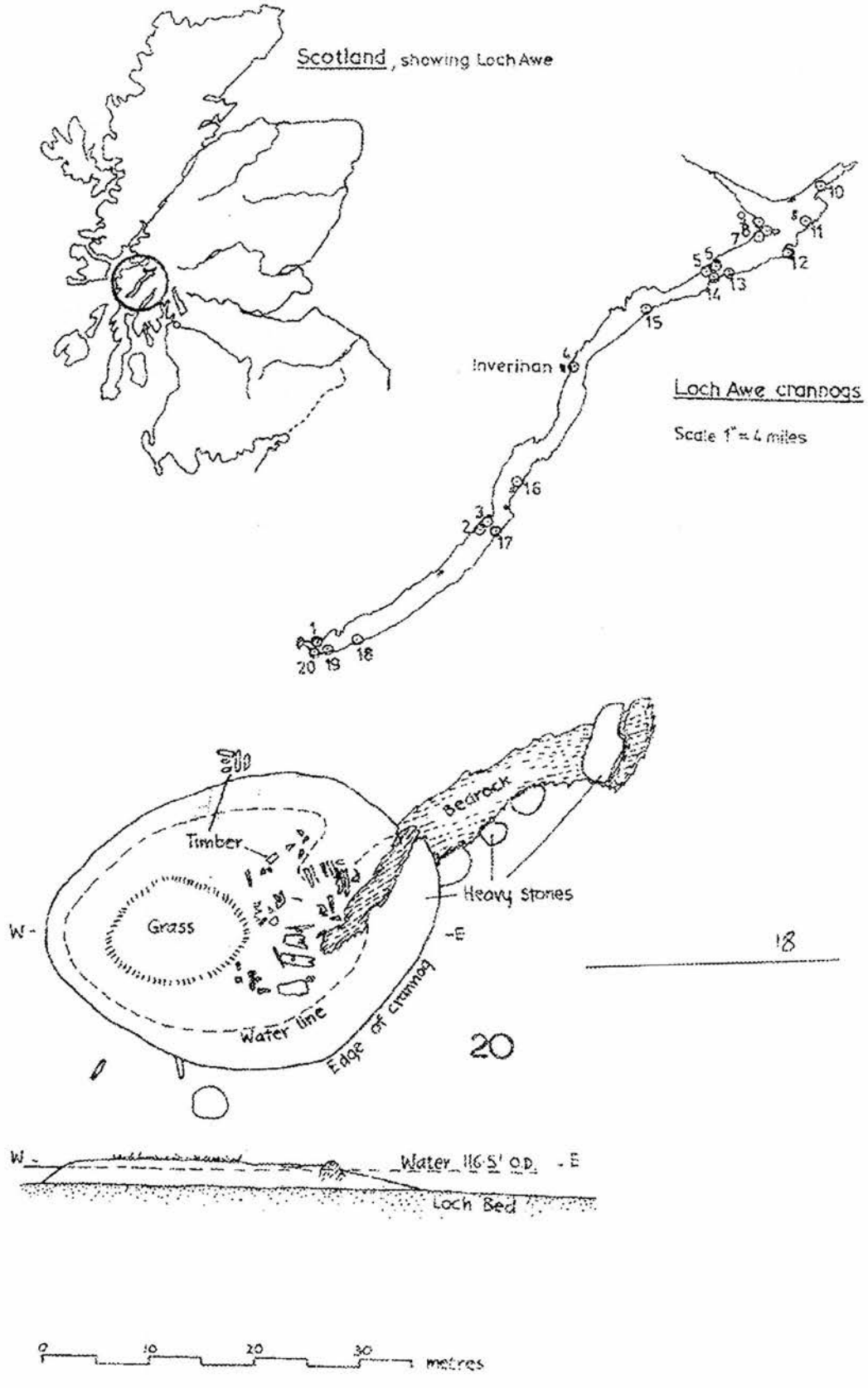


Illustration 8.2 Plans of Loch Awe crannogs (after Hardy, McArdle and Miles 1973)

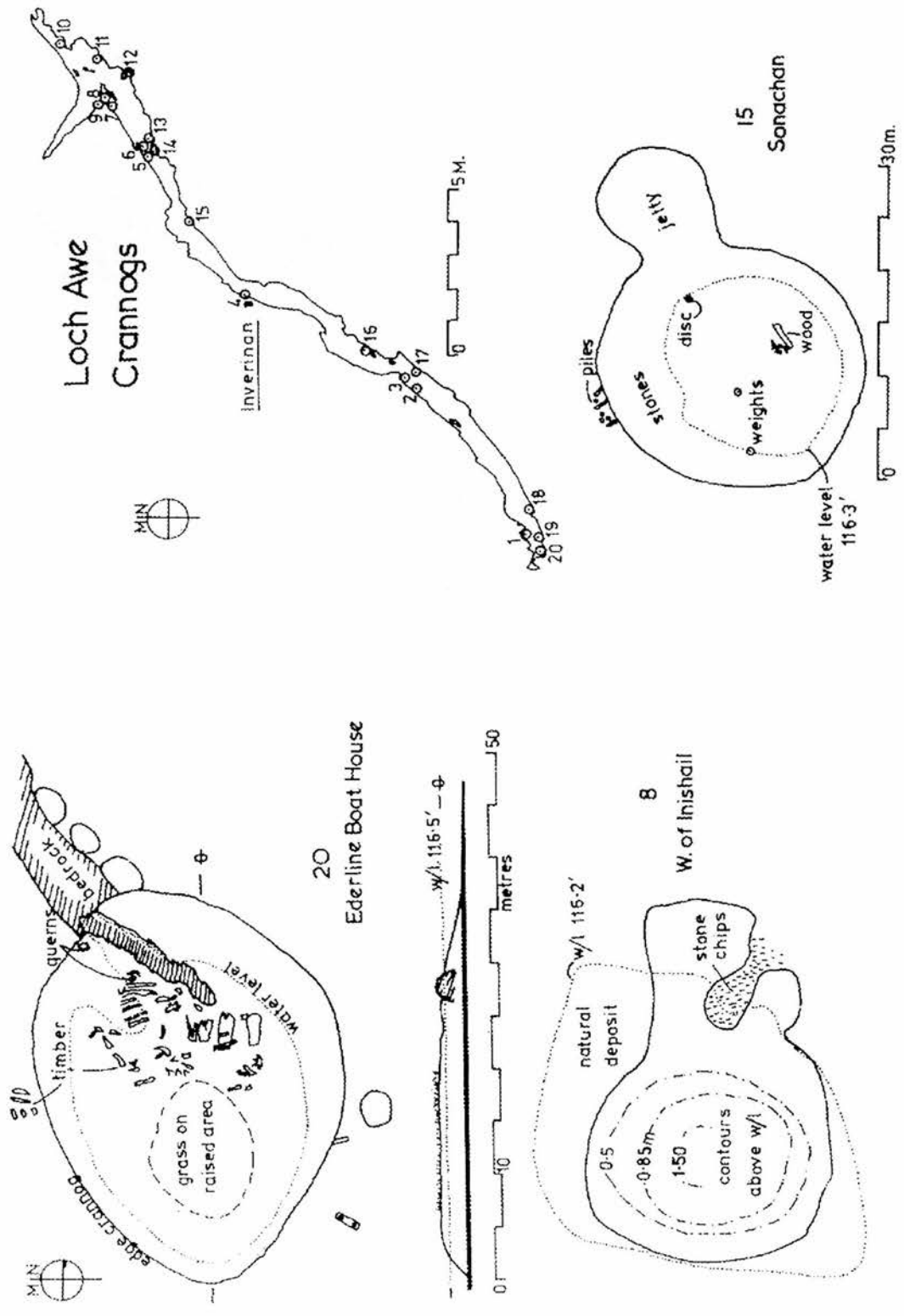


Illustration 8.3 Plans of Loch Awe crannogs (after McArdle and McArdle 1973b)

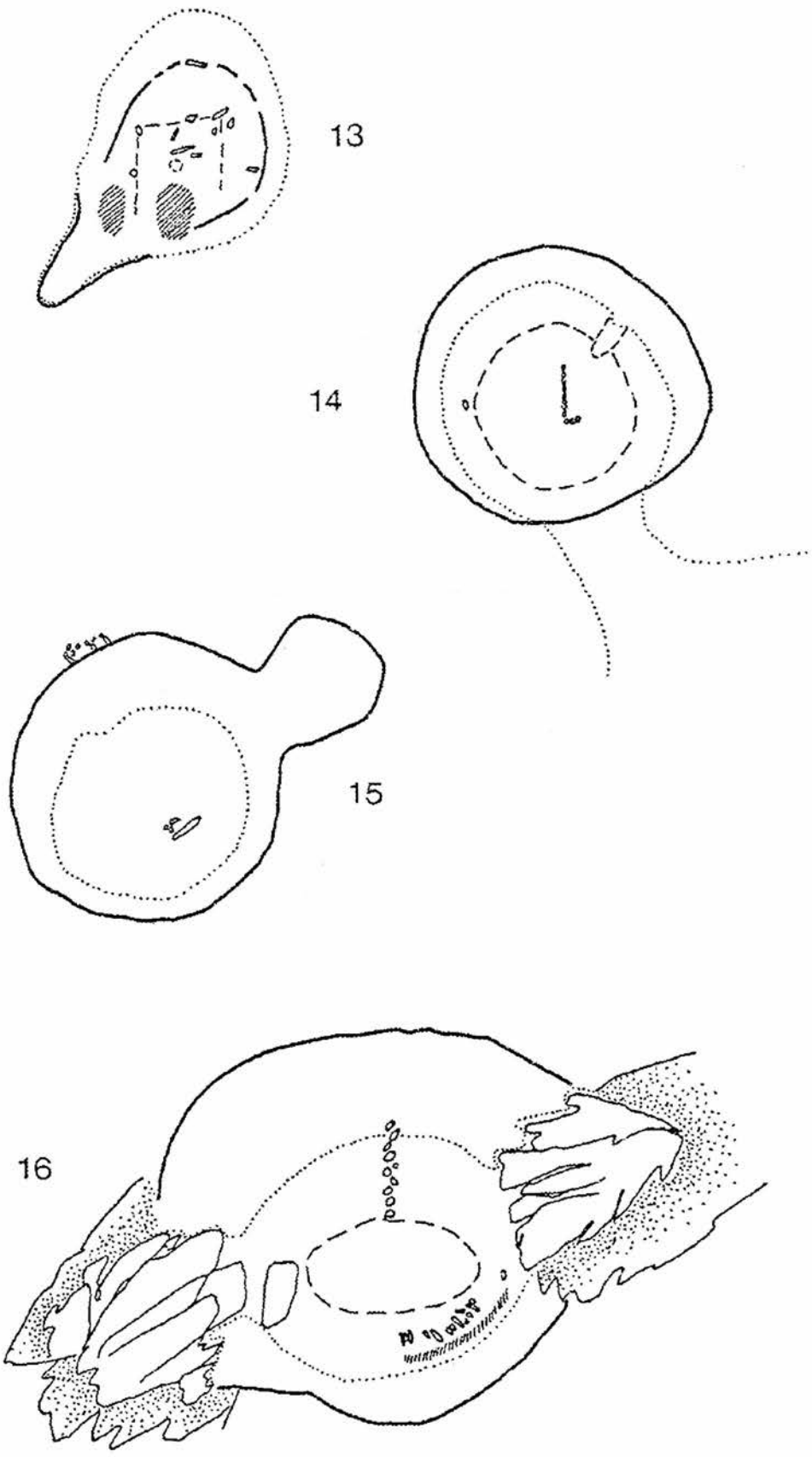


Illustration 8.4 Plans of Loch Awe crannogs (after Dixon 1984, appendix A)

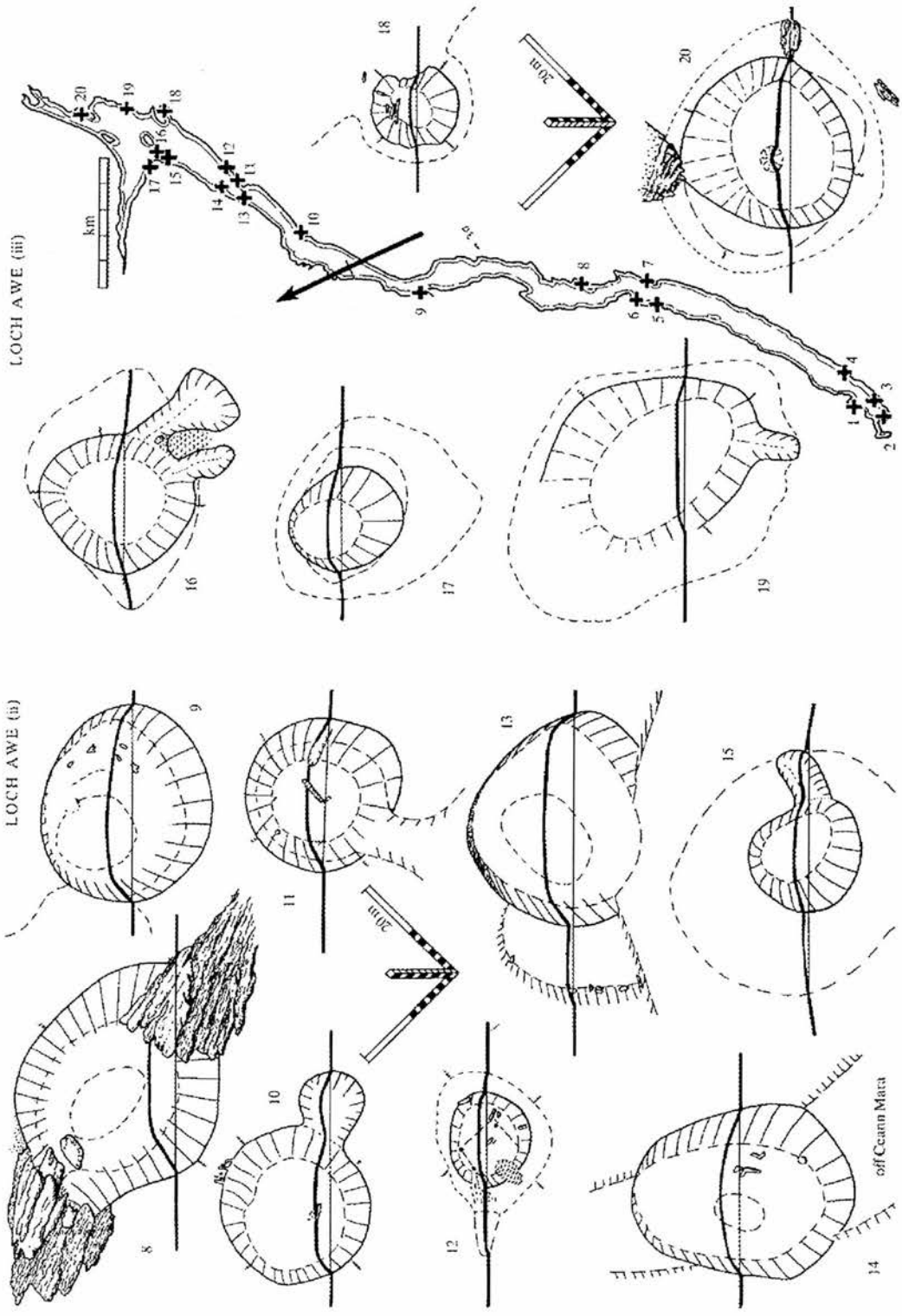


Illustration 8.5 Plan of Loch Awe crannogs (after Morrison 1985, figures 3.3-3.4)

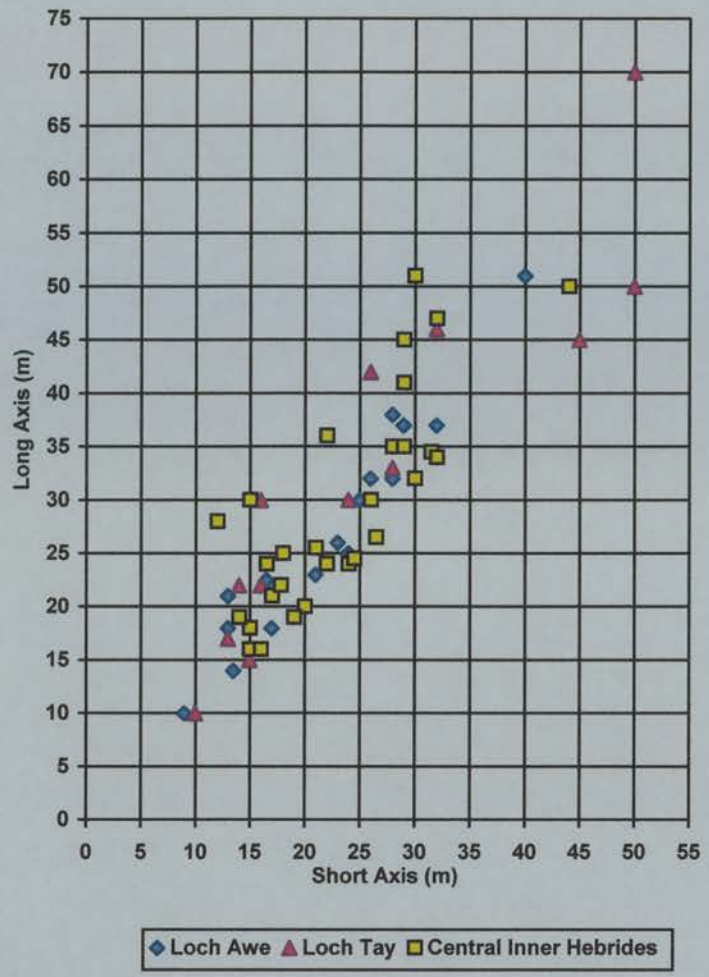


Illustration 8.6 Basal measurments of artificial islets

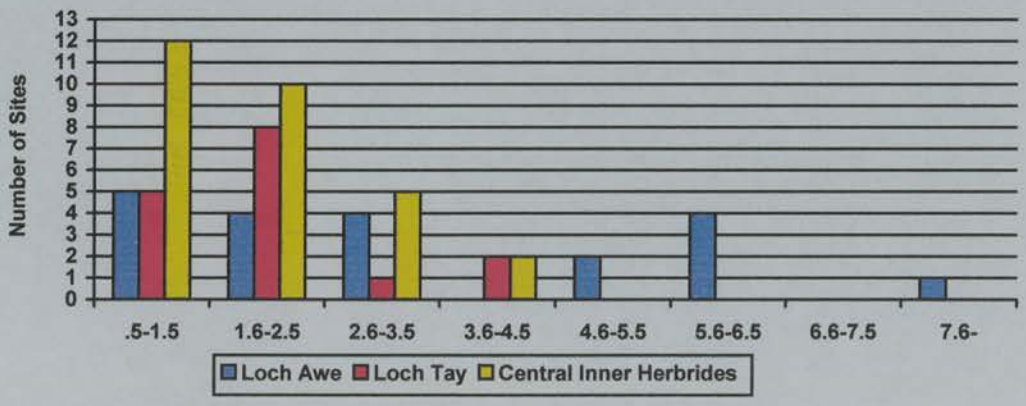


Illustration 8.7 Height (m) of artificial islets

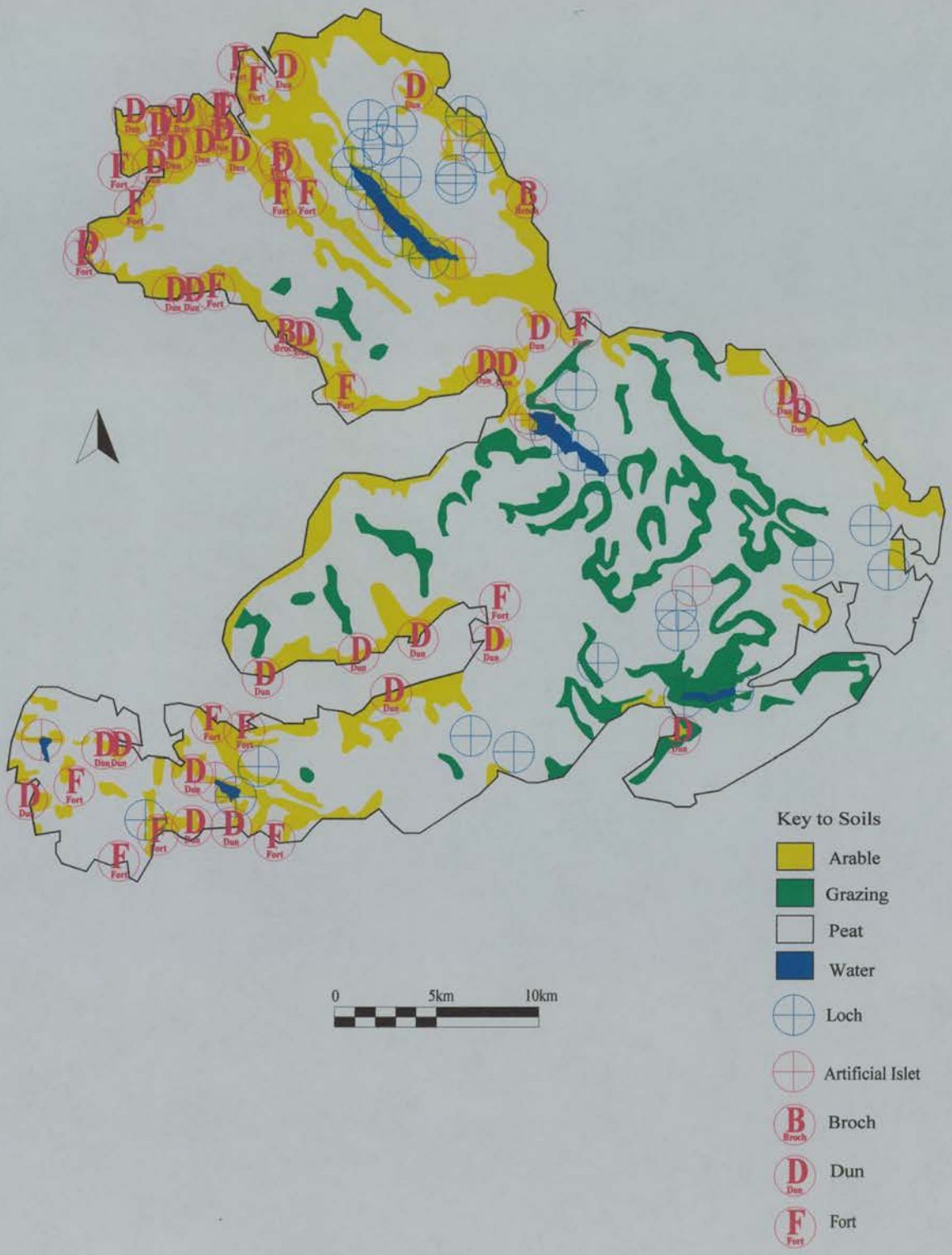


Illustration 8.8
Distribution of lochs, soils, artificial islets, and later prehistoric enclosed settlements on Mull

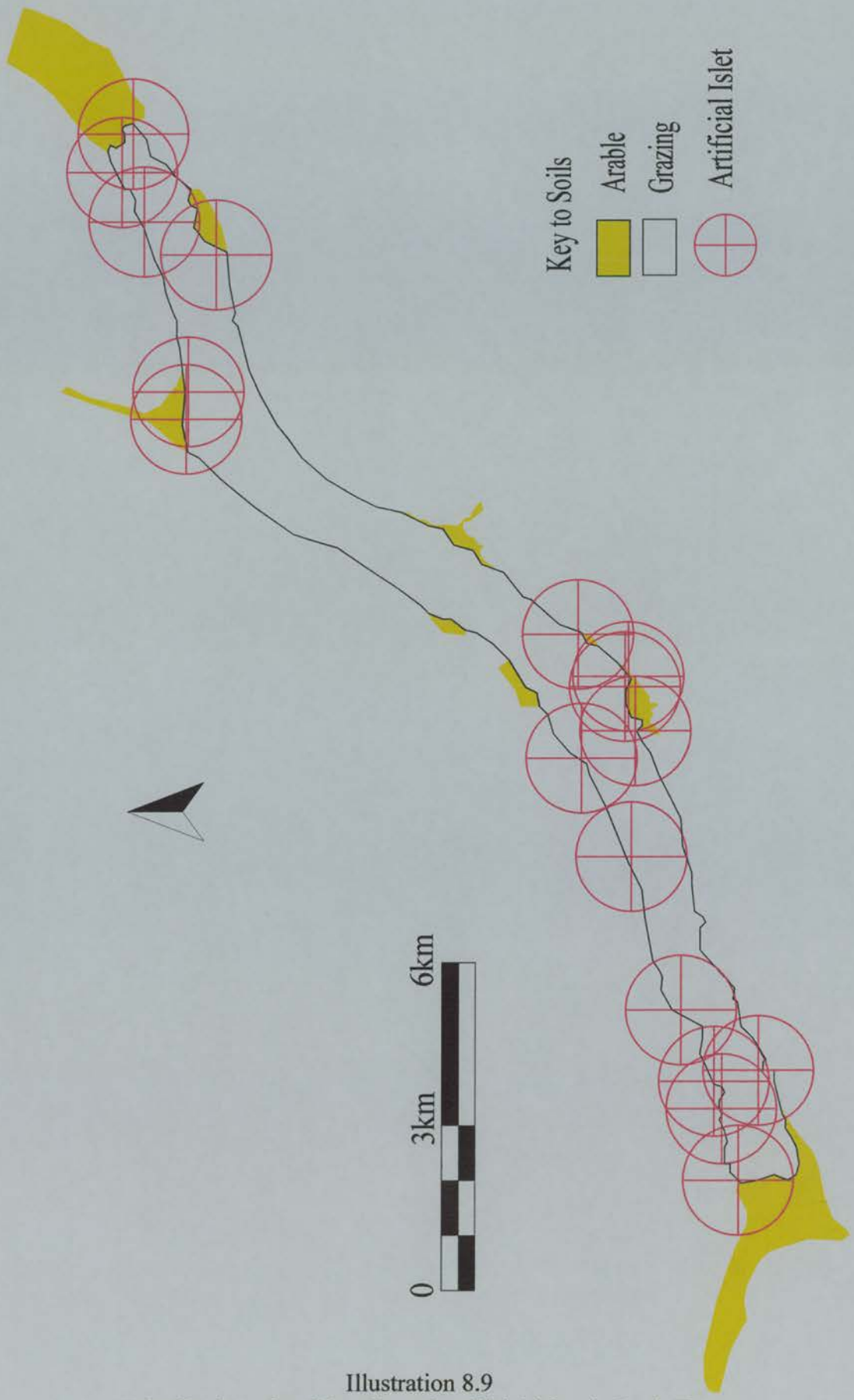


Illustration 8.9
Distribution of arable soils and artificial islets in Loch Tay

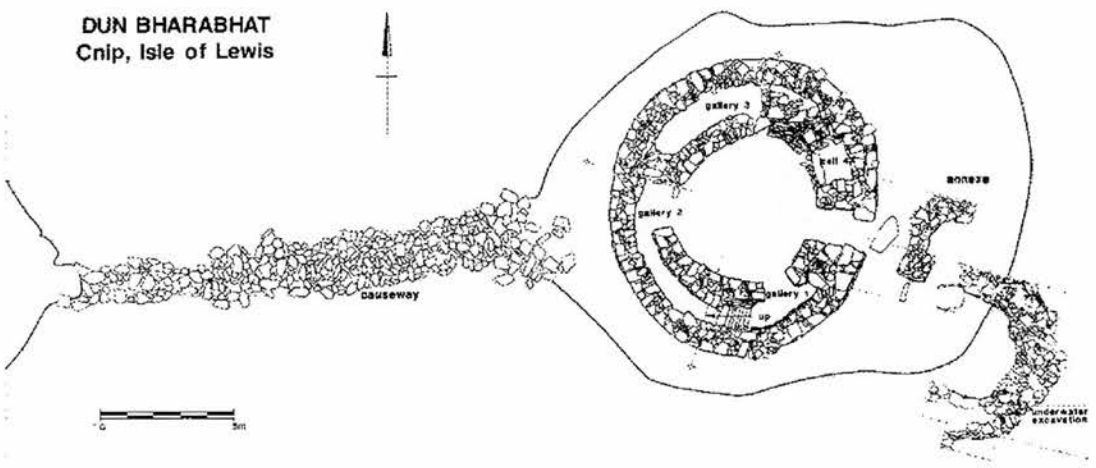


Illustration 9.1 Plan of Dun Bharabhat (after Armit 1996, 118)

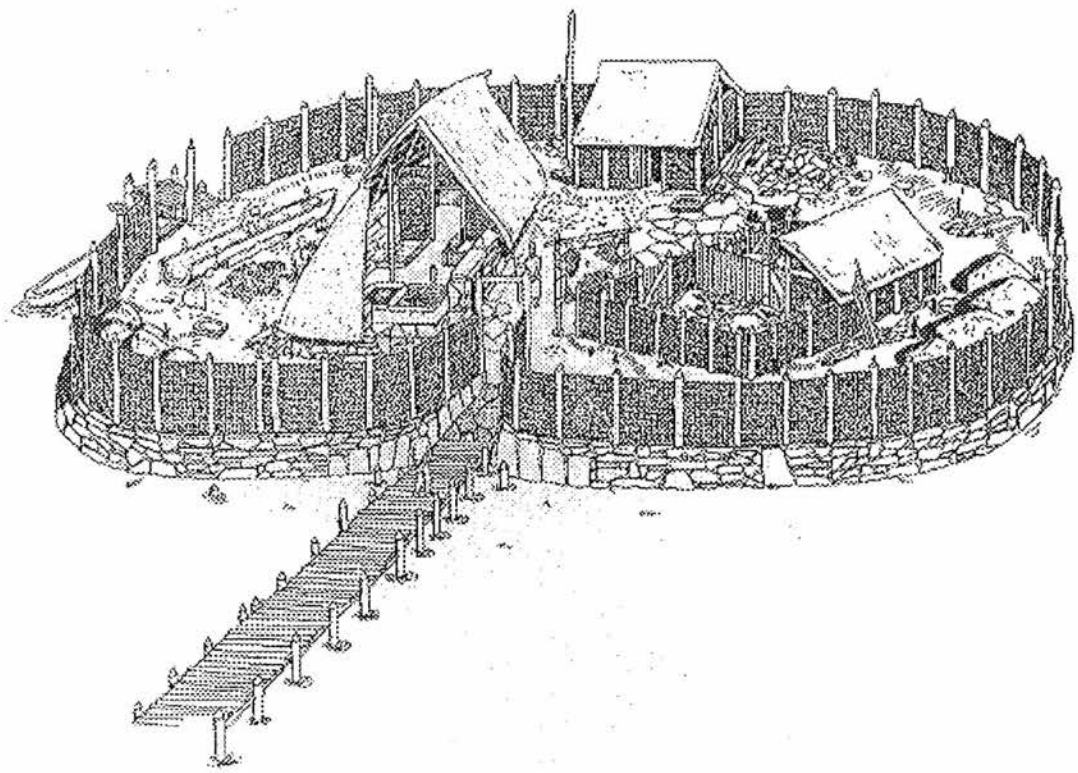


Illustration 9.2 Artist's impression of Eilean Domhnuill (after Armit 1996, 47)

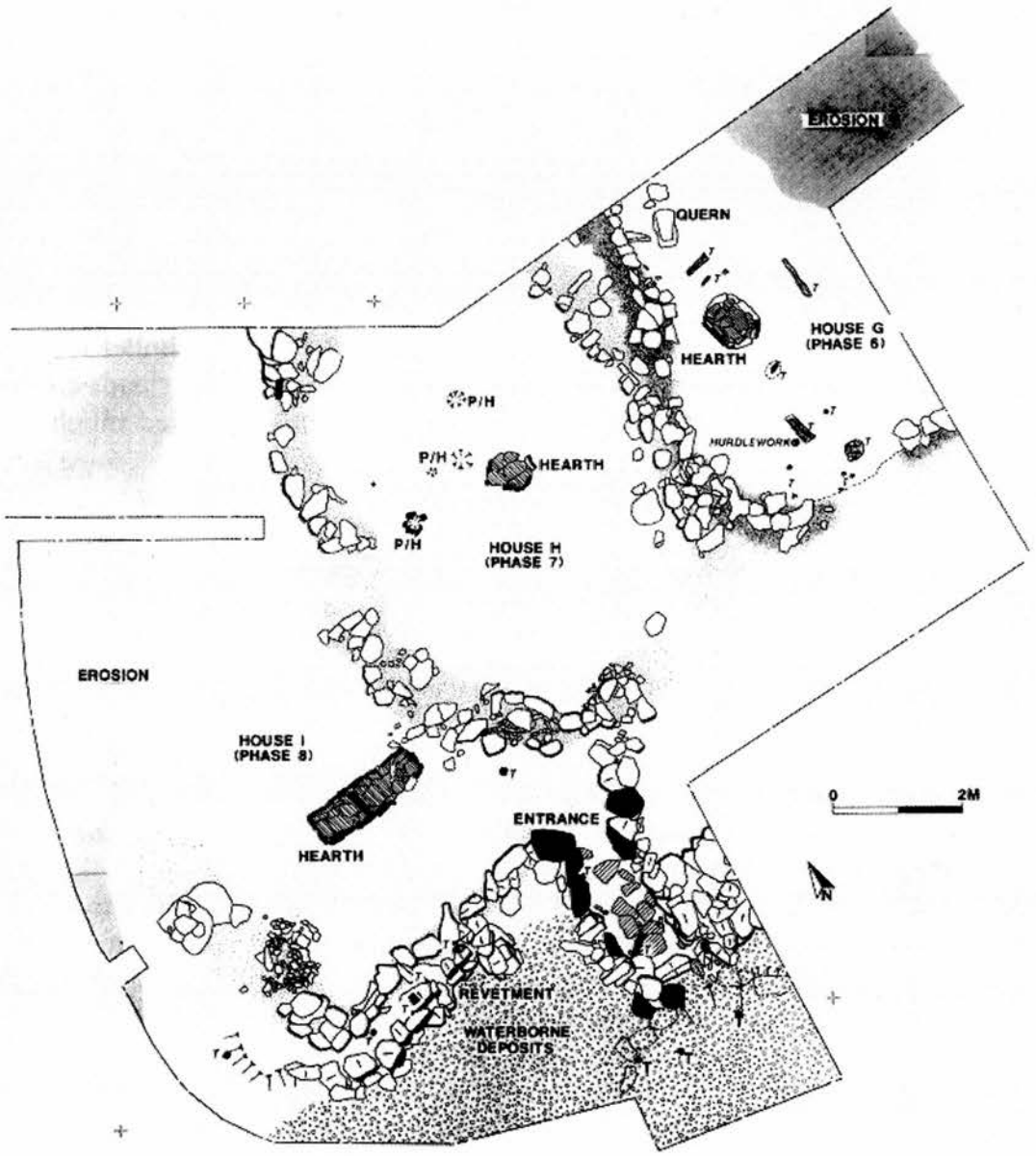


Illustration 9.3 Plan of Eilean Domhnuill (after Armit 1996, 49)

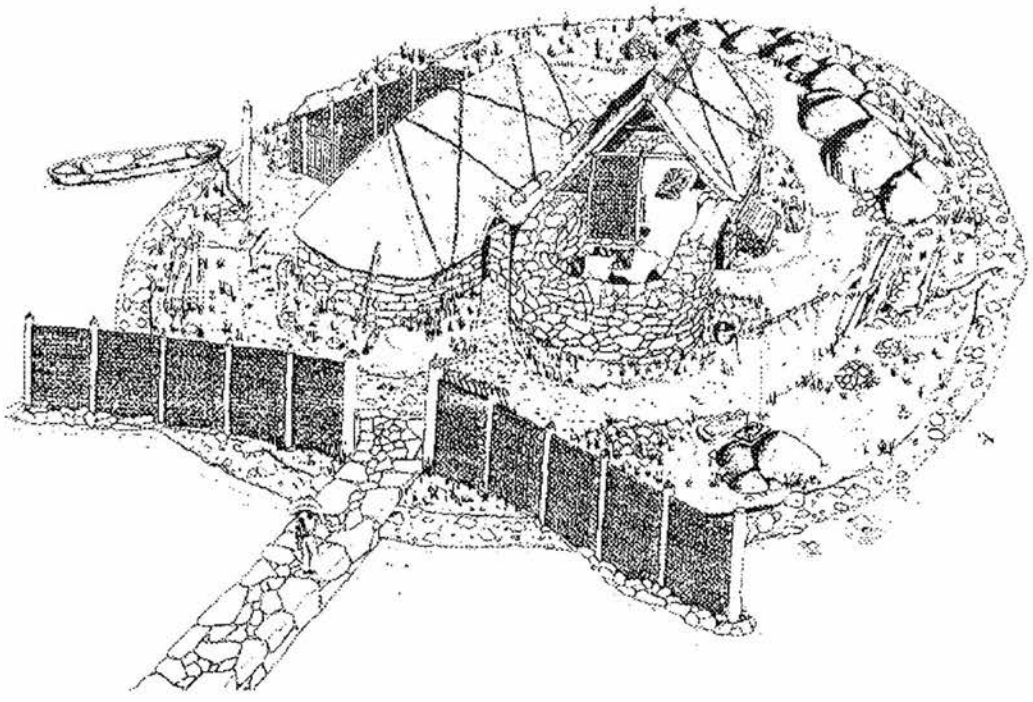


Illustration 9.4 Artist's impression of Eilean Domhnuill (after Armit 1988)

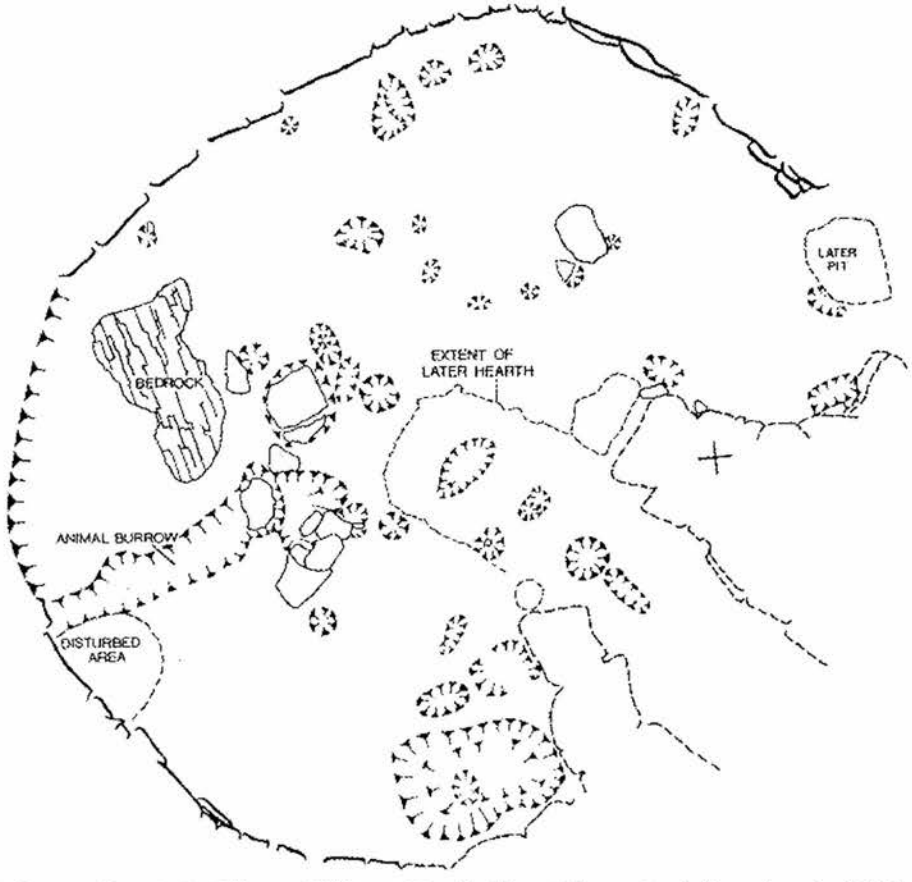


Illustration 9.5 Eilean Olbhat, North Uist, Phase 1a (after Armit 1996,174)

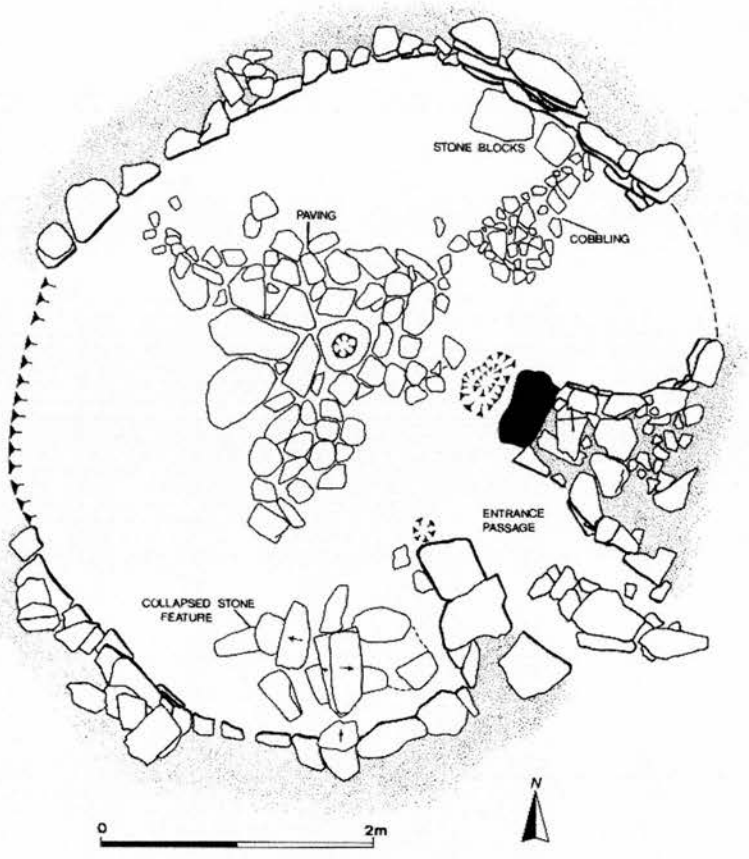


Illustration 9.6 Eilean Olabhat, North Uist, Phase 2 (after Armit 1996, 175)

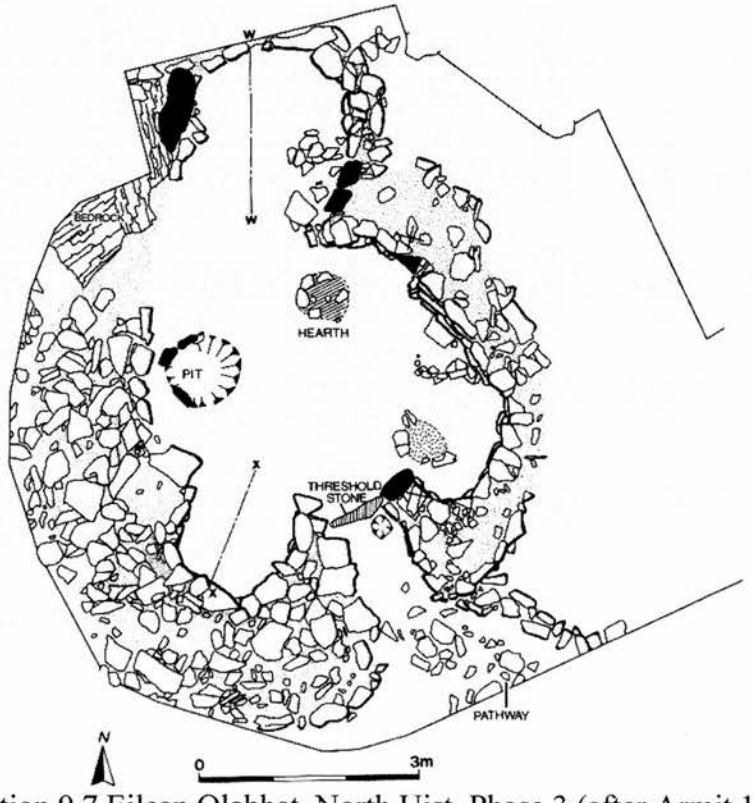


Illustration 9.7 Eilean Olabhat, North Uist, Phase 3 (after Armit 1996, 176)