



**Ronay Field Survey
2015-18**

**David Newman
June 2018**

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Front cover photo - taken from just north of Beinn a' Charnain looking east down one of the three valleys that cross Ronay west - east, towards Bàgh na Caiplich, with the Minch beyond and the Isle of Skye on the horizon. Three rock shelters were discovered in the scree slope visible centre left.

Back cover photo - heading ashore at Bàgh Sealg on the north coast of Ronay with the unusual tidal island settlement site RB 21 behind.

Maps

Three folded maps are inserted into a wallet inside the rear cover

Map 1	Ronay physical geography and recorded remains
Map 2	Possible location and boundaries of the 26 early 19 th C Ronay helping crofts and their related farmsteads
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PREFACE

The southern end of the island of Ronay is easily visible from our house on neighbouring Grimsay. In fact the two are so close that local residents say that with a pair of wellington boots on you can still walk dry-shod between the two islands on days of exceptionally low tides. During the autumn rut we can clearly hear the red deer stags on the island, and the golden and sea eagles which have their eyries there often fly over our house. Ronay also shelters Grimsay from the easterly winds which can make the Minch a challenging place in a small boat, but as a result, the channel between the two islands is a reliable place to take visitors on boat trips and its inner shores are obvious places to land and explore.

Despite that, our first encounters with the Ronay coastline were as passengers on the trip boat *Lady Anne* operated by Nick Ingledew out of Kallin Harbour on Grimsay. As well as introducing us to Ronay's exceptional wildlife, Nick also showed us some of its secluded bays with romantic names such as *Acarsaid Fhalaich* (Hidden Harbour) and *Bàgh na Caiplich* (Horse Bay). And all the time it was possible to catch glimpses of ruined buildings and settlements that seemed to represent the remains of a once thriving community, even though we were told that apart from occasional visitors in the summer to the single house on the island, it was to all intents and purposes now uninhabited.

Like many remote areas on the east side of Uist, the Canmore record for Ronay is very limited, and apart from the half dozen or so sites listed by Beveridge which were re-visited by the OS in 1965, the only other official work carried out by Historic Environment Scotland (formerly RCAHMS) was through the desktop based First Edition Survey Project in 1997, when a number of the un-roofed farmsteads shown on the 1st edition OS mapping from 1880 were listed. (The Canmore record has been expanded recently through the SCAPE SHORE project which is recording coastal archaeological sites across Scotland, and to which this field survey has contributed.)

The main piece of recent historic research on Ronay was carried out by Harris based genealogist Bill Lawson in 2000, when, as part of a heritage recording project on Grimsay, he listed Ronay families too. In the process he uncovered the fact from the North Uist Estate rental records that Ronay had been settled by 27 families in the early 1800s as part of the kelping industry boom of the period. This provided at least in part, an explanation for the large number of ruined buildings on the island, many of which are clearly visible from Grimsay.

During the summer of 2015 we were busy carrying out field survey work on the Eaval peninsula immediately north of Ronay, and as that work drew to a close, Ronay seemed an obvious place to continue. Work started in earnest in the autumn of 2015 and continued sporadically over the next two years alongside other field survey projects on the east side of North Uist between Loch Euphort and Lochmaddy and around Loch Uisgeabhagh on the east side of Benbecula. The Ronay survey was completed in the spring of 2018 concurrently with the compilation of this report.

The survey report is in two parts. The first outlines the history of Ronay and its place in the context of North Uist and the wider Outer Hebrides. The second is a gazetteer of all the sites surveyed on Ronay, and this is extended to include the four islands of Flodaigh Mòr, Flodaigh Beag, Haunaraigh, and Eilean Leathann, all located off Ronay's north coast, and Garbh Eilean Ronaigh off its south-west coast, all of which have also been visited over the past few years.

Whilst the survey seeks to be comprehensive, the dense heather cover across much of the island will have ensured the odd set of remains have been left for future surveyors to discover.

Finally, the decision has been taken to use the Anglicised spelling of Ronay throughout the text to ensure the correct pronunciation of the Gaelic '*Ronaigh*', which might not be obvious to non-Gaelic speaking readers. All other place-names use the Gaelic spellings as shown on the current edition of OS 1:25,000 mapping.

David Newman June 2018

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project could not have been completed without the support of a large number of people.

I should perhaps start by repeating thanks to Dr Becky Rennel whose course of evening classes on Uist Archaeology during the winter of 2014-15 inspired the idea of setting out to complete some organised field survey work in the more remote parts of Uist.

Then my principle survey colleagues Roger Auger and Simon Davies who accompanied me on most of the field survey visits and ensured that a balanced view of the remains was taken.

Many other friends and family also joined in during the survey work. These included Martin Margulies, Donald MacAulay, Austen Dancey, Trish Auger, Jean Newman and Joe Newman.

Pablo Modet, the current owner of Ronay, supported and encouraged the survey work from the start. If you would like to stay on Ronay, their family home on Ronay's west coast is available to let during the summer (see www.ronayisland.com).

Next I would like to thank those who have contributed directly to the report. These include:

- Roger Auger who moderated the gazetteer entries, provided the place names section, and advised on historic mapping.
- Donald MacAulay from Sollas whose encyclopaedic knowledge of North Uist's history has provided much of the detail about the people who owned, tenanted and lived on Ronay in the last 300 years. He is particularly qualified to offer this in the case of Ronay as two of his forbears lived on the island in the 19thC. Donald also provided a final edit on place-name translations.
- Iona MacDonald from Portree provided information about the MacDonalds of Sleat and Waternish who owned North Uist between the mid 1600s and 1855 and owned Ronay between 1886 and 1966.
- Jean Archer has kindly checked and corrected my amateur attempt at describing Ronay's geology.

Then there is a large number of people who have contributed indirectly through sharing their knowledge, ideas and own research. These include Ian Armit, John Raven, Mary Macleod, Kevin Grant and George Geddes on the interesting topic of the development of the Hebridean blackhouse. Donald MacAulay's research on the chapels of North Uist has contributed significantly to an understanding of the possible solutions to the Ronay Seaman's Chapel mystery, though it remains unsolved! Mary Norton has helped with an understanding of the last years of permanent occupation of Ronay in the period immediately after WWII and its final years as a sheep run. Christine Macleod of North Uist Estates has provided confirmation of some recent dates.

Many other Grimsay and North Uist residents have helped with snippets of Ronay history. These include Neil John Maclean, Angus Archie and Alasdair MacInnes, Ian MacDonald, Hector Stewart, Iain MacVicar, Donald MacVicar, John Alick MacAulay and Duncan Cameron.

The National Library of Scotland online mapping resource has proved extremely valuable and special thanks go to Jane Brown, Kirsteen Muhle and the archivists at National Records Scotland for enabling access to high quality images of Robert Reid's '*Plan of the Island of North Uist*' published in 1799. I should also acknowledge the extensive use of both Google and Bing online satellite imagery which helped a great deal with desk top research both prior to field visits and results reporting.

George Geddes, senior field surveyor at Historic Environment Scotland, has provided regular advice and encouragement throughout the project and my particular thanks are due to him.

Finally, special thanks to my wife Jean, for her constant support and patience during my involvement with this project, and especially for her work on the final edit.

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RONAY - THE 'ROUGH ISLAND' AN INTRODUCTION

The island of Ronay is located off the south-east coast of North Uist in the southern part of the Outer Hebrides (see fig 1 inset). At its extremities it measures around 3.9km N - S and 2.8km W - E and has a total area of around 560ha (1400 acres). Its south and east coasts are exposed to the Minch (the channel that separates the Outer Hebrides from the north-west of Scotland); its north and west coasts are separated from the shores of Grimsay island, the Eaval peninsula and Flodaigh Mhòr by a series of narrow channels (sometimes called the Kyle of Rona) dotted with islands, reefs and sandbanks, which, although sheltered, are challenging to navigate.

The name Ronay is Norse in origin (*hraun-ey*) meaning 'rough island', presumably because of its rugged appearance in relation to the comparatively low lying and smooth terrain of the surrounding areas. Ronay's ruggedness reflects the fact that the island straddles part of the north-south line of rocks rendered exceptionally resistant to erosion by movement on the Outer Hebrides Thrust Zone (see figs 2, 11).

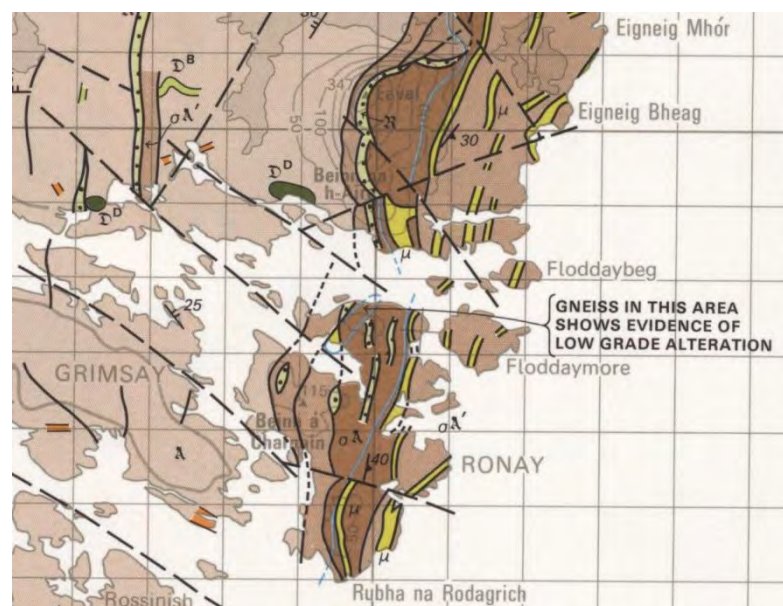


Fig 2: BGS geology map of the SE of North Uist



Fig 1: Bing satellite image of Ronay and its offshore islands and its location (inset)

This, together with periods of glaciations, has produced both Ronay's hilly, rugged appearance, and the higher hills of Eaval and North and South Li further north. Changes in sea level since have resulted in Ronay's heavily indented coastline with four main sea lochs - Bàgh nan Uamh in the north-west, Acarsaid Fhalaich in the north-east, Bàgh na Caiplich in the east and Sruth Beag in the south-east - and running west to east between these are a series of valleys which divide the island into four main upland areas:

- Ronay Beag (Little Ronay);
- Beinn an t-Sagairt (Priest's Hill) and Beinn a' Charnain (Little Cairn Hill);
- Beinn nan Druidhneach (Druids' Hill);
- Beinn Rodagraich (Bog Myrtle Hill);

the highest of which is Beinn a' Charnain at +115m AOD (375ft). Scattered between, are a dozen or so fresh water lochs of which Loch na Leig (or Làmhraig), lying immediately inshore from Bàgh na Caiplich, is the largest. The streams which flow into and out of these lochs are all small and none appears to have been significant enough to be named.

Ronay's coastline is 34km long and the shoreline profile varies between gently sloping sand/silt beaches on the W side to vertical cliffs facing the Minch. These include a number of geos and a rock arch, although the highest cliffs (60m) are at the south-east end of Bàgh nan Uamh at Creag Mhòr. The maximum 5m tides in the Minch mean that the indented rocky shores are perfect habitats for seaweed, although bring with them fast flowing tidal streams too. A number of small islands and skerries, which are accessible on foot at low tide, lie immediately offshore.

Inland from the coast the island is dominated by steeply sided rock outcrops which give the island its characteristic appearance – and name. Although these are relatively well draining, the soils are thin and highly acidic and as a consequence flora species are dominated by moss, lichens, rush and heather. Peat cover is extensive though a good deal near the west coast has been cut. The peninsula at the SW end of the island is called Rubha na Monach (Peat Moor Point) and was still used by crofters on Grimsay for peat cutting until relatively recently. In general, the best cultivatable soils lie on the west facing slopes of Beinn an t-Sagairt and Beinn a' Charnain together with the three peninsulas which project out from the adjoining shores, and it is hardly surprising that this area was the focus of human settlement in the modern period.



Fig 3: Ronay physical geography

The island's dominant faunal species is the red deer. Up to 100 live on the island during the autumn rut, although, as they are highly mobile, swimming to and from the island and the adjoining shores, the numbers at any one time vary considerably. Ronay was also renowned for its otter population and was a focus of otter hunting well into the 20th century. The coasts and moors provide habitat and nesting sites for all of the normal Uist bird species, although there are no seabird colonies of significance. Both golden and white-tailed eagles use eyries on the north and east sides of the island from time to time.

Ronay's ecology has been dominated by man's activities for at least the last 400 years, and probably longer. These will have included grazing herds of cattle and sheep, cultivation of crops, peat cutting, muirburn and harvesting of seaweed on the shores. Although the last significant human settlement was abandoned nearly 200 years ago, it is barely a decade since the last sheep were removed and it will be interesting to follow its natural regeneration as a wild place in the years to come.



Fig 6: White-tailed sea eagle off Ronay Beag



Fig 4: Ronay from Eaval summit to the north



Fig 5: Beinn a' Charnain from Grimsay with cultivation beds (feannagan) accentuated by snow



*Fig 7: Looking east over Bàgh na Caiplich with Skye on horizon
Fig 9 (below): View south down Ronay's south-west coast*



Fig 8: 60m high cliffs at the south-west end of Bàgh nan Uamh





Fig 10: The north-east coast of Ronay viewed from the offshore island of Flodaigh Mòr



Fig 11: The main features of the Outer Hebrides thrust zone viewed from the west

RONAY IN HEBRIDEAN HISTORY

The history of the ownership of North Uist (including Ronay) post 1266 is well documented and described by many authors. To summarise this in the broadest of terms, it was held by various branches of the Clan MacDonald from 1346, when John (MacDonald) of Islay (First Lord of the Isles) married Amie MacRuarie (great-great grand-daughter of Somerled), until its sale to Sir John Powlett Orde in 1855.

In the early part of that period North Uist, along with Benbecula and South Uist, was held in various combinations with other parts of both the Outer and Inner Hebrides, and the west coast of the Scottish mainland. After several decades of disputed ownership, often ending in bloody feuds, North Uist was finally separated from Benbecula and South Uist in the early 17th century, when it was settled with the MacDonalds of Sleat, with Benbecula and South Uist being held by the Clan Ranald family. North Uist then effectively remained in that family's control until 1855.

An early reference to Ronay in historic documents derives from around the time of the separation of North Uist, and is found in a document dated 1628 (see fig 12) in which a number of landowners in the Hebrides, including the then owner of North Uist, Sir Donald MacDonald of Sleat, agreed to protect their respective hunting rights in the area and prosecute any poachers. This protection included the prohibition of taking boats into the numerous sea lochs, although a number were excepted '*incais they be not dung and distrest be stress of weather*', and the list of lochs excepted included '*Lochmadie, Lochewot, Lochmcfail and Kilrona in Uist*'. Kilrona refers here to the sound that separates Ronay from Eaval to the north and Grimsay Island to the west.

The '*Kyle of Rona*' is referred to again by Martin Martin in his account of his tour of the Hebrides some 70 years later, and he also confirms the existence of '*the island of that name (which is little hill) within the bay*' (see fig 13).

At that time the then owner of North Uist (and Ronay) was Sir Donald MacDonald of Sleat (4th Bt). The family had sided with the Jacobite cause in the early part of the 18th century and were involved with their clansmen in the post-unification rising. After the defeat of the Jacobite forces at the battle of Sheriffmuir in 1715, Sir Donald surrendered, but as he was too ill to do so in person as required by law, his estates, including North Uist, were accordingly forfeited to the Crown. The Commissioners of

MINUTE OF CONTRACT BETWEEN COLIN EARL OF SEAFORTH, SIR DONALD MACDONALD OF SLEAT, JOHN MACLEOD OF DUNVEGAN, JOHN MACRANALD OF YLANDTIRUM, SIR LAUCHLAN MACKINNON OF STRATHARDELL, AND ALEXANDER MACLEOD OR MACGILLICHALLUM OF RASA, FOR THE PRESERVATION OF DEER AND ROE ON THEIR RESPECTIVE ESTATES, AND THE PUNISHMENT OF TRESPASSERS, 1628.*

AT DUNTULIME† and respective the nynetene day of September the yeir of God I* VI^o tuentie aucht yeiris It is condiscendit, contractit, finallie and mutuallie agreit and endit betuixt the honorabil pairteis underwrittin, Thay ar to say, COLINE EARLE OF SEAFORT, Sir Donald M^oDonald of Sleat knight, Johne M^ocleud of Dunveggane, Johne M^orannald of Ylandtirum, Sir Lauchlane M^ofinyane of Strathardell knight

ites: AND FINALLIE It is heirby speciallie condiscendit with consent of the saidis honorabil pairties abone writtin that nane or ather of thair cuntriemen or people sall tak thair cours be boattis ather to the loches or harboreis within the forrestis of Lewis and Hereiss exceptand the Loches of Herisole in Lewis perteing to the said noble erle; the loche of Tarbet in Hereis perteing to the said John M^ocleud; Lochmadie, Lochewot, Lochm^ocfail and Kilrona in Uist perteing to the said Sir Donald M^odonald incais they be not dung and distrest be stress of weather; And incais they be dung and distrest be storme of weather in ony uther loches within the Ilandis of Lewis and Heriss, It is heirby condiscendit that the kippage of everie bote that salhappin to cum in with thair boittes to ony of the loches abonewrittin (except befoir exceptit) with hagbuttis bowis nor [or?] dog, sall not pass nor travell fra thair boittis

Fig 12: Extracts from 1628 contract document referring to Sir Donald MacDonald of Sleat and Kilrona

ABOUT half a Mile further South is **Loch-Eport**, having a Rock without the Mouth of the Entry, which is narrow; the Lake penetrates some Miles towards the West, and is a good Harbour, having several small Isles within it. The Seals are very numerous here. In the Month of July the Spring-Tides carry in a great quantity of Macrel, and at the return of the Water, they are found many times lying on the Rocks. The Vulgar Natives make use of the Alhes of burnt *Sea-ware*, which preserves them for some time, instead of Salt.

ABOUT two Miles to the South of **Loch-Eport** lies the Bay, called the **Bay of Rona**; having the Island of that Name (which is a little Hill) within the Bay; there is a Harbour on each side of it, this Place hath been found of great convenience for the Fihing of Cod, and Ling, which abounds on this Coast; there is a little Chappel in the Island **Rona**, called the *Low-landers* Chappel, because Seamen who dye in time of Fihing, are buried in that place.

Fig 13: Extract from original Martin Martin text referring to the Kyle of Rona

Forfeited Estates undertook a survey of the island and found the tenants of North Uist in '*extreme poverty*', following the loss by '*plague*' of many of their livestock, and because the sea had flooded several parts of the island during a series of bad storms.

When Sir Donald died three years later, his son Donald (5th Bt) petitioned that his father's estates had been forfeited unfairly, but he also died before the case was eventually agreed in his favour in 1720. He was succeeded for just a few months by his uncle Sir James (6th Bt), and then Sir James's son Sir Alexander (7th Bt). However, the estate was so indebted that it required a series of loans from friends and family to secure it for the MacDonald family once again. Thereafter, and in common with many other highland estates in the hands of the old clan families, the MacDonalds became increasingly remote from their tenants, seeing them only as a source of revenue for their newly acquired lowland lifestyles and European travels. This view went as far as the kidnapping of men and women from the Hebrides in 1739 to be sold into slavery in North America. These unfortunate people were only saved after they survived a shipwreck on the north coast of Ireland. By the time Sir Alexander MacDonald (8th Bt) took over control in 1766 it is said '*he never made the least attempt to perform any of the duties of chiefship*'. He increased the rents of his tenants and tacksmen to such an extent that many were either evicted or chose to emigrate.

When Boswell and Johnson visited him on Skye in 1773, Boswell described Sir Alexander as '*anything but an ideal chief*', and making such pronouncements in public, found himself making '*ample public and private apology*' to avoid a duel!

Sir Alexander was made a Baron in 1776 and in 1778 raised a regiment in Sleat and North Uist for the Crown which served in the American War of Independence. He died in 1795 and his son, Alexander Wentworth (2nd Baron) inherited the title and estates, but he seems to have taken little active interest in his Highland estates, living most of his life in England or abroad. One of his first actions was to commission a survey of North Uist which was undertaken by Robert Reid and published in 1799. The purpose of this survey seems to have been to understand the extent and value of his property assets, either with a view to their sale or improvement. As the North Uist plan has significant amounts of over-drawing showing the lines of new roads, reorganisation of land boundaries and both the clearance of some of the old *baile* communities and setting up of new crofting townships, his choice seems to have been for improvement (see fig 15).



Fig 14: Extract from Hermann Moll's map of the 'Northern Part of Great Britain' dated 1708, the map upon which Ronay is identified for the first time.



Fig 15: Proposed reorganisation of Baleshare and Illeray townships as shown on Robert Reid's 'Plan of the Island of North Uist' dated 1799

Throughout this 18th century period, Ronay was held as part of the tack of Baleshare, an island located on the west side of North Uist. Although it seems unusual for separate parcels of land on the extreme west and east sides of North Uist to be held as one tack, the practice was not uncommon at the time. Ranald, nephew of Sir Donald MacDonald (4th Bt) of Sleat, became tacksman of Baleshare in around 1700. He was succeeded by his son Hugh (1742-69), then his son Donald (1769-c.1800), at which point it seems that the Baleshare tack came to an end. This coincides with the date of the Robert Reid survey and suggests that Ronay was part of the wider re-organisation of land holdings on North Uist carried out in the early 19th century. Reid shows three areas of cultivated land on the west side of Ronay, two of which have buildings on them (see fig 16). Local tradition suggests that Ronay was already being visited seasonally for harvesting and processing kelp at this time, and soon after, Ronay was re-settled as a kelping community.

The date the re-settlement started is not absolutely clear, but as the rental records for 1814 show a total of 27 families and 139 residents already established in 26 crofts, it seems likely that it was sometime between 1805 and 1810. The kelp industry was at its peak at the turn of the 19th century, and at first Ronay was leased to a head tenant with sub-tenants paying their rents through him. However, prices for kelp were already falling by 1814 and records show that the head tenant at that time, a Captain James Maclean of Peninmore on North Uist, lost his tenancy because of rent arrears. Despite that, the island's population continued to grow and is recorded as being 180 by 1823 with a school established the year after.

The rental of 1827/8 shows Dugald MacLachlan as Ronay's head tenant. In an 1830 Valuation of North Uist, the island is described as very barren and not fit 'for the accommodation of human beings, and yet there is a numerous colony of miserable settlers upon it paying a much larger rent for kelp manufacture than it is worth.' The rental of 1833/4 shows a list of 26 tenants paying rent directly to North Uist Estate rather than through a head tenant, and by the first official Census in 1841, all but one family had left. It is believed that at this point Ronay became part of the tack of Kallin Farm on the neighbouring island of Grimsay, with the island run as a sheep farm and a shepherd and his family probably staying initially at Bàgh Clann Nèill before moving to Rubh' an Aisig on the island's west side where a new sheepfold was erected. The island itself was reorganised into three main grazing areas with two new dykes erected to connect the island's east and west coasts between Bàgh nam Fiasgan and Bàgh nan Uamh in the north and Bàgh na Caiplich and Bàgh Clann Nèill in the south.



Fig 16: The 'Island of Rona' as shown on Robert Reid's 'Plan of the Island of North Uist' dated 1799

Meanwhile, on North Uist itself, Alexander Wentworth MacDonald's factors set about the task of clearing the old *baile* communities in North Uist and Skye with zeal, the history of which is well known. This work continued under his successors - firstly his brother Godfrey Bosville and then his son Godfrey William. Between 1838 and 1843 up to 1,300 people were forcibly removed from their homes in North Uist alone. The extent of the other improvements on North Uist is not entirely clear, and although John Thomson's map of 1832 (see fig 17) still shows North Uist without any roads (a contrast with Benbecula and South Uist where some were already built), the first Admiralty survey of North Uist's south coast dated 1861 shows some roads and new croft settlements in the Carinish, Clachan and Loch Euphort areas.

Those investments, along with the construction of their new grand family home at Armadale Castle may have led to the family's financial circumstances reaching some kind of crisis point in the 1850s when significant parts of the MacDonald estates were sold off. This included North Uist which was bought by Sir John Powlett Orde from Kilmory in Argyll. Sir John was born in London and his father owned estates in both Northumberland and Jamaica which he inherited. In 1826 he married Elizabeth Campbell of Kilmory (Lochgilphead), whose father, John Campbell (a relative of the Dukes of Argyll) owned Kilmory Castle. The estate passed to her in 1828 on John Campbell's death, and to Sir John Orde a year later when she too died.

Sir John re-married and redeveloped Kilmory Castle in the following decades and seems to have developed a liking for the west of Scotland as he went on to purchase North Uist as a sporting estate in 1855. Sir John Orde has been described as the '*worst kind of landlord*' who frustrated his tenants' attempts to gain more land for crofting, but his son Sir John William Orde, who inherited the estate in 1868, undertook significant new developments and improvements to the island's infrastructure, such as roads and piers as well as the construction of their own island house at Langass Lodge in 1870 and a Doctor's house and surgery in 1872/3 (now the Westford Inn). He also built new accommodation for the estate workers and continued the setting up of the new crofting townships started by the former owners. The family name was changed to Campbell-Orde by Royal warrant in 1880.

Following the 1855 sale, Ronay became part of the tack of Kallin Farm on Grimsay, and was rented by a series of tenants over the next three decades including Alexander MacDonald of Balranald and James Shaw of Sponish. The last was Captain Allan MacDonald of Waternish on Skye, who eventually bought Ronay from the Campbell-Orde family in 1886 for the purposes of developing it as a hunting estate.



Fig 17: North Uist and Ronay as shown in John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland 1832. Note that north is to the right and Ronay island located bottom left.

Allan MacDonald was the second of three sons of Major Allan MacDonald, the 8th of Belfinlay and his wife Flora Nicolson. The family originally lived on the Sleat peninsula on Skye at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, but when Flora inherited her father's estate at Ardmore on the Waternish peninsula upon his death in around 1820, they moved north, and in 1834 bought the adjoining estate of Fasach. In the ensuing years they carried out considerable improvements to their properties including the remodelling of Fasach House in the style of a Loire chateau (*see figs 18 & 19*). This connection with France may be a reflection of both the family's Stuart sympathies during the 18th century and a distant relationship with Flora MacDonald from South Uist who helped Charles Edward Stuart escape to France. Other work included a formal walled garden, fountains, and an extensive range of steadings and stables (*see fig 20*) the gate into which was topped by an unusual bell tower.

The family already had connections with Ronay as Patrick Nicolson, Captain Allan's maternal grandfather, held the tenancy of the Ronay farm tack in the early 1800s. Right through the 19th century a number of other Ronay farm tenants, crofters and shepherds also had Skye connections, so the ties between the two places seem to have been quite strong.



Fig 18: OS 25" 1st edition surveyed in 1877 showing Fasach House and grounds



Fig 20: Fasach House steadings today from the north-west with its unusual bell tower over the entrance gate and walled garden beyond.



Fig 19: Fasach (later Waternish) House; Ronay could be seen from these windows

Captain Allan MacDonald held an army commission between 1848 and 1857 and served in Australia and possibly the Crimea. When his father died in 1855 his elder brother Patrick inherited the Belfinlay title, but he had disgraced himself in his mother's eyes by carrying on an affair, and subsequently eloping with a servant at the neighbouring Ardmore House. After abandoning her, he then bigamously married a farmer's daughter from Ireland, Grace Bell, with whom he emigrated to North America where he spent the rest of his days. Their mother forced Patrick to renounce his entitlement to inherit the Waternish Estates and these were then passed to his younger brother Allan.

Having retired from the army, Captain Allan settled at Fasach House in Waternish. He never married, but was clearly a keen huntsman and is mentioned in books about Highland Terriers as a breeder of a particular type of Skye Terrier (see figs 21 & 22). Accounts of the time note that Fasach House had wonderful views over the Minch towards Uist and Ronay (see fig 23). Allan MacDonald also owned a 55' yacht, and it was perhaps the combination of all these connections and interests, and possibly Ronay's plentiful otter population, that led him to eventually purchase Ronay in 1886. The island's shepherd at the time was Malcolm Beaton, and from census information we can see that up until his death in 1926, he and two of his sons continued in that role for the next 40 years, indicating that Captain Allan maintained Ronay's sheep flock too.



Fig 21: Portrait of Captain Allan MacDonald



Fig 22: Photo of Allan MacDonald with his Skye Terriers - and a dead otter!



Fig 23: Bing satellite image of The Little Minch. The distance between Ronay and Waternish is around 50km - an easy day's sail in a 55' yacht

After Allan MacDonald purchased Ronay in 1886 he started work on a series of developments on the shores of Bàgh na Caiplich on the east side of Ronay which were to form the base of his hunting estate. These included a hunting lodge, a walled garden, a jetty, and a dam and boating wharf on the short outflow between Loch na Leig (or Làmhraig) and Bàgh na Caiplich over which the house would have looked (see fig 25). By the date of the 2nd edition OS map surveyed in 1901 (see fig 24), the outlines of the developments which were going to form the base of his hunting estate on the east side of the island are clearly shown. Rhododendrons, which still flourish today, were also planted near the jetty and on one of the loch's islands. Although the jetty and dam works were completed, work on the house did not progress beyond the foundations stage (see pp 157-8).

The reasons that the Ronay development was never finished are not clear. Allan MacDonald was already in his mid-50s when he purchased Ronay in 1886. Previously, at the request of his estranged brother Patrick, who died in Chicago in 1874, he took over responsibility for the upbringing of Patrick's son Allan Reginald (the 9th of Belfinlay), and as his nephew became a young adult, began passing responsibility for running Waternish Estate to him. Although Captain Allan lived until 1906, it may be that by the time his ambitious plans for the development of Ronay had been prepared and construction work was under way, his enthusiasm for hunting and yachting had waned, or perhaps he was affected by some infirmity. Alternatively, perhaps his nephew decided to prioritise work on the Skye estates.

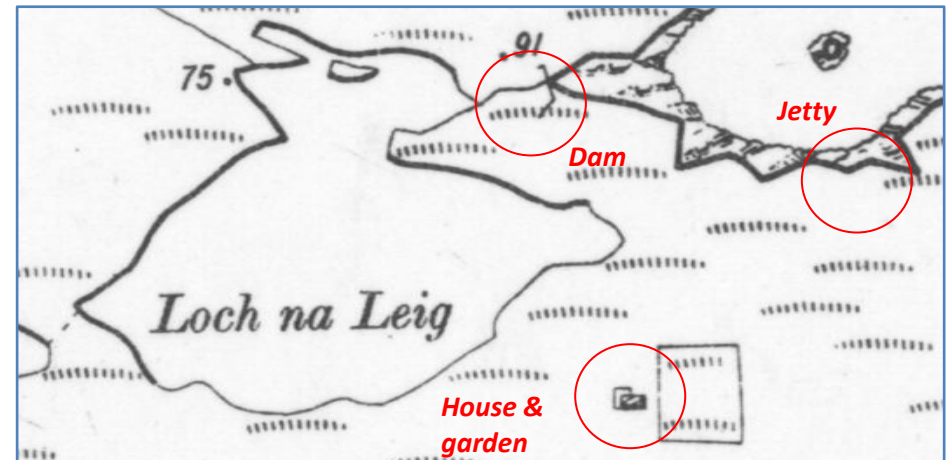


Fig 24: 1903 OS 6" map showing developments at Bàgh na Caiplich; note that the garden location appears to be completely erroneous.

Fig 25: View of house foundations from south with Loch na Leig (Làmhraig) to left and Bàgh na Caiplich to right



When Captain Allan MacDonald died in 1906, all of his properties, including Ronay, were inherited by Allan Reginald. At that time at the beginning of the 20th century, Kallin Farm and the rest of the neighbouring island of Grimsay were being broken up into crofts, but Ronay was never re-settled in the same way. The island continued as a sheep farm with Alexander and Norman Beaton taking over as shepherds from their father in around 1910, and after they moved to Skye in 1926, the role was taken over by Donald John Mackinnon, known locally as '*Cìobair Ronaigh*' (The Shepherd of Ronay). He lived with his wife and three stepchildren and two children in the house on the hill above the sheepfold at Rubh' an Aisig, and all of the children attended Kallin school in the 1920s and 30s. At some stage in this period the 19th century turf dykes, which divided the island into three areas of grazing were replaced with fences.

Donald John finally retired and moved to Grimsay in 1955, and from then on the Ronay grazings and sheep flock were tenanted and managed by a number of different crofters and shepherds from Grimsay and other parts of North Uist, right up until the last sheep were removed in 2005.

After WWII, the island was nearly sold by the Waternish MacDonalds to a family of Jewish refugees, although it is said that they decided it was too remote, and it was eventually sold to the Modet family from Catalonia in 1966. They built a house at *Bàgh an Tighe Fhraoich* which they use during the summer, and which is also available for holiday visitors to rent.

The Campbell-Orde family sold some other areas of North Uist in the late 19th/early 20th century including Balranald in 1894, Vallay Island and surrounding areas to Erskine Beveridge in 1901, and an area around Loch Portain in the far north-east of the island was requisitioned by the Department of Agriculture for the establishment of crofts after WWI.

North Uist Estate was sold to the Duke of Hamilton in 1944, and to the Granville family in 1960, who remain its owners to today.



TEA AT THE PEATS, 1950's
 Dòmhnall-Iain Dhòmhnail 'ic Thèarlaich, An Cìobair
 (Donald John MacKinnon)
 Uilleam Ruairidh (William MacInnes)

Fig 26: Donald John Mackinnon (left) the last resident shepherd on Ronay



Fig 27: Gathering for the shearing at Rubh' an Aisig on Ronay in 2003

RONAY SETTLEMENT HISTORY

Introduction

The distinctive and relatively well recorded history of settlement on Ronay between around 1750 and the present day presents an opportunity to study the development of the Hebridean dwelling house over that 250 year period. A number of factors support this possibility:

- the settlement record in 1799 provided by the Robert Reid 'Plan of the Island of North Uist';
- the establishment of 26 crofts on the island shortly afterwards as a single event;
- the historic records post-1800;
- the lack of any significant late 19th and 20th century re-development.

This combination of events also presents the possibility of studying different house form traditions from different periods, including:

- those existing at the end of the 18th century as recorded by Reid;
- the 25 or so blackhouses built within a few years of one another in the early 19th century;
- their post-abandonment adaptation in the 1830s and 40s for use in sheep flock management;
- the development of the improved white house or '*taigh geal*' in the later part of the 19th century;
- the post Crofting Act 'Department' type houses and pre-fabricated timber framed and corrugated iron clad buildings.

Background - Uist dwelling houses in the modern period

The development of the Hebridean black house or '*taigh dubh*' out of the Norse longhouse has been the subject of several studies. Authors include Kissling (1935), Sinclair (1953), Crawford (1962) (see fig 28), and Fenton (1995). Parallel studies on similar thatched cottage architecture of the early modern period have also been carried out in Shetland, Wales and Ireland. 20th century authors aimed at developing typologies such that particular features within ruins could lead to a determination of both date and location, but with so many slight variations in this truly vernacular architecture, this has proved to be an almost impossible objective.

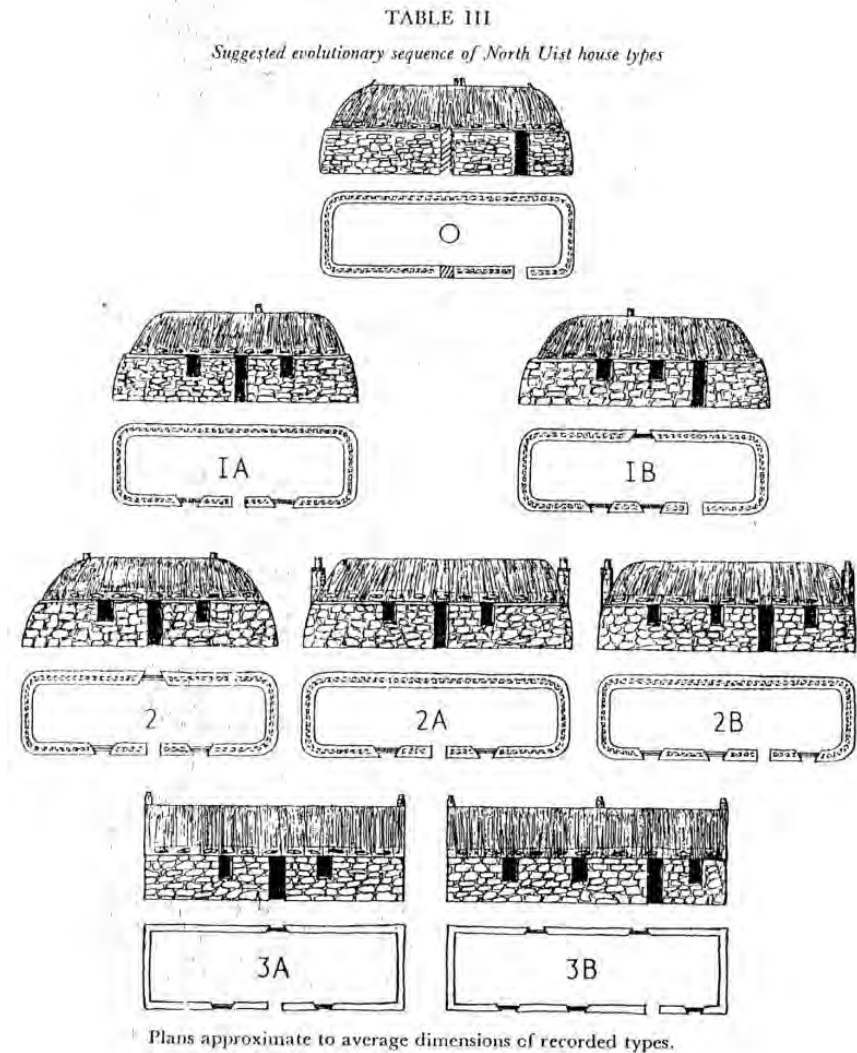


Fig 28: Proposed blackhouse typology as devised by Ian Crawford (1962)

These studies were based on the remains of blackhouses still standing (and up until the 1960s some still occupied), and although a Norse period house was excavated during the development of the South Uist Missile Range in the late 1950s, the complete lack of evidence of the houses of the 'common people' (Armit 2006) which pre-dated the then standing structures, was a perplexing missing link of that time.

The chance find by Ian Armit of the remains of two small rectangular late medieval buildings in the Loch Olabhat area of North Uist in the late 1980's (fig 29, Armit 1997) was followed in the 1990s by a more intense search for medieval and late medieval settlement on South Uist as part of the SEARCH project (Parker Pearson et al 2007). As well as a Norse period house, traces of late medieval buildings dating to the 16th C were found at Kildonan and Garryvaltos. In addition to being rectangular in plan and variable in size, all these late medieval buildings shared the feature of their wall remains being limited to a single course of stones laid directly onto the ground, the best explanation for which was the use of turf as a main walling material.

The SEARCH survey also included excavation work on a number of late 18th century blackhouses in South Uist and Barra (Parker Pearson et al 2007, Brannigan et al 2005). Before excavation, most were believed to be earlier in date (even possibly Norse), and perhaps one of the main findings was that the remains of the relatively substantial blackhouses with their thick twin leaf drystone walls, rounded gable ends and off-centre entrances (see figs 30 and 31) seem to date no earlier than the late 1700s. Analysis of floor debris and drain channels also confirmed the tradition of cattle being kept within the same confines as the human inhabitants - something that clearly was not possible in the diminutive medieval buildings. The house sites and orientations of those buildings studied were chosen to make best use of the underlying terrain, with their long axes running down slope to facilitate drainage of the byre within.

A number of, often rather esoteric, explanations are offered for this tradition, including the warmth from the animals during winter, but the simpler and more prosaic reason which originates in Ireland, is that cattle were moved into dwellings because of security during times of internecine and inter-clan feuding when cattle stealing was commonplace. This reason could also explain why the tradition of keeping cattle within houses was not by any means universal – for instance it does not seem to have existed in Barra at all - and this may be related to the different levels of threat in different island communities. It may also be one of the reasons why different types of blackhouse plan exist, those where cattle were kept within, and those where separate byres were used.

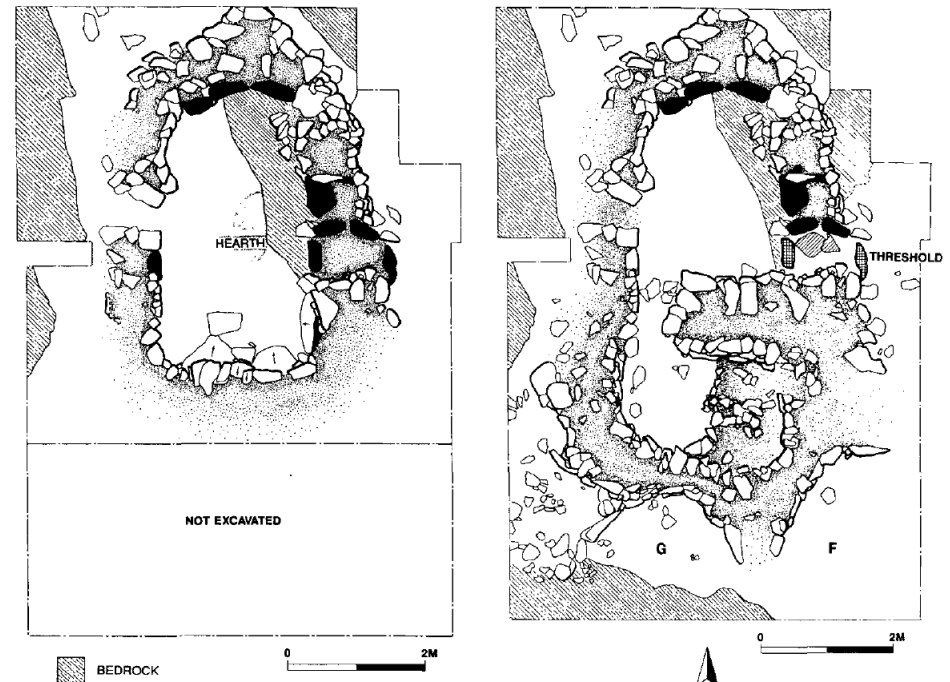


Fig 29: Two phases of a 16th-17th century house at Druim nan Dearcag, North Uist



Fig 30: A typical 19th century North Uist farmstead comprising a blackhouse, two byres and an enclosure. The outline of Ronay is visible in the distance.

Although the need to keep cattle secure would have necessitated the adoption of larger and better built buildings than the small turf houses, a number of other factors are also believed to have been involved in changing both settlement patterns and house design in the late medieval/early modern period (Dodghson 1993, Armit 1996, Raven 2005, Raven, Macleod and Grant pers. comm.).

Firstly, the ephemeral turf buildings of the late medieval/early modern period suited the pastoral agriculture of the time when cattle herds were moved around areas of grazing, and it is thought that herdsmen and their families had no real fixed abodes. A change to a more organised and secure form of holding tenure, represented by the nucleated baile townships, gave families both the time and opportunity to build more substantial, permanent houses.

Secondly, as the main clan families steadily expanded in the same period, those related to the clan chiefs wanted houses built in a similar way to the castles and larger houses of the relatives they considered to be their equals, rather than the ruder forms adopted by the labouring class. Thus the use of stone rather than turf became more prevalent.

Thirdly, the general desire in an age of change for improvement in living conditions such that some landlords made it a condition for their tenants that houses be built in stone.

And lastly there is the possibility that the stone walled 'longhouse' tradition already well established in the upland areas of England, Wales and Ireland was exported to the highland and island areas of Scotland.

The rectangular 'longhouse' remained the core of blackhouse and white house planning right up until the last ones were built on Uist in the 1930s. Beyond that common element, a wide variety of sub-types was adopted, usually on a geographic or community basis. These used different wall and roof detailing, door numbers and positions, the accommodation of animals within or in attached or separate byres, bed recesses etc.

New house forms for working people started to be introduced to Uist as early as the mid 19th century, as mainland based landlords purchased the Uist islands from the old clan families and had an obligation to house their employees as well as build



Fig 31: House BD 3 - an example of a typical early 19th century blackhouse on Ronay



Fig 32: Shepherd's house at Eaval township, North Uist built in around 1850

their own houses. These changes included the adoption of design characteristics and construction techniques then already well-established on the mainland estates, including the use of lime mortar bound stonework walls, pitched and slated roofs with stone walled gables, fireplaces and chimneys, double hung sash windows, and internal linings in yellow pine or lath and plaster (*see fig 32*).

The real push for change on a much wider scale came with the passing of the first Crofting Act in 1886. This saw responsibility for the design and construction of houses on the newly established crofts pass to the Department of Agriculture for Scotland and it was a condition of the financial and material support available to the new tenants that the Department's own house designs were used. These were based on a standard '2 up 2 down' format with a window and a fireplace in each room and a narrow winder stair leading up from a central hallway entered from the front door (*see fig 33*). A single storey three room version was also used. Around 400 of these houses were built on Uist between the late 1800s and the 1930s with several design variations making minor improvements as the years passed.

All of these houses used lime mortar (and eventually Portland cement) and locally quarried and part dressed stone in their wall construction. Other new materials adopted included fireclay chimney liners and pots, cast iron gutters and downpipes, slate (and latterly asbestos cement slate) roofs and pre-cast concrete quoins and lintols. Cement was provided free of charge and aggregate and sand collected from favoured locations in the fords and machair. As the years passed, the new concrete technology was used increasingly in these Department houses such that by the 1930s it was being used with formwork to produce window cills and mullions, chimney heads, and dormer window facings and cheeks. Crude concrete blocks were also produced on the island.

Contemporary with these substantial stone houses was a completely different house design based on the new technology of corrugated galvanised iron. As well as producing the raw sheeting material, a number of Scottish based companies developed pre-fabricated kits of parts for complete houses and other buildings such as schools, churches and community halls and many were erected in the Outer Hebrides. The form most frequently used on Uist was a single storey house with prefabricated corrugated iron clad wall panels fitted between two stone built gables, and although few survive intact today, remains of their gables and foundations are visible in most of the crofting townships established in the early 1900s (*see fig 34*).



Fig 33: A 'Department' type house built in around 1920 at Loch Aineort, South Uist



Fig 34: A pre-fabricated corrugated iron house at Blashabhal, North Uist

By the 1930s, increasing skills with the use of concrete, together with the extensive and freely available resources of sand and aggregate from the islands' shores, led to a completely new single storey Department house design with walls made with poured in-situ concrete. Several plan designs were produced allowing different sized houses to be built, all of which included inside toilets for the first time. The houses also used distinctive hipped roofs covered in asbestos slate and large, timber framed windows (*see fig 35*). Although the new houses were light, airy and spacious inside, oral tradition is that crofting families moving into them from their blackhouses found them cold! Around 250 were built on Uist and a particularly clever use of limited timber resources meant that once the walls were complete, the shuttering timbers were suitable for re-use as roof rafters and sarking.

This penultimate 'Department' house design was followed by a rather plain if eminently practical cavity blockwork house in the late 1960s (*see fig 36*). Its use was short-lived however, as by the mid 1970's the new timber frame 'kit' technology for houses was being developed. Its suitability for all-weather construction in the challenging Scottish climate led to a rapid expansion of both designs and manufacturers, and the standardisation of factory based construction methods, together with space planning compliant with Scottish Building Standards, meant that 'approved' house designs for crofts were no longer required.

Ronay houses pre 1799

No buildings that definitively pre-date the Robert Reid survey of 1799 have been recorded during the survey. In fact, no prehistoric remains of any kind have been identified, although with a significant number of probable Iron Age, (*see fig 37*), and possible Bronze Age structures on both Grimsay less than 2km to the west, and Eaval a similar distance to the north-west, there would certainly have been people on Ronay at these times, even as occasional visitors. In fact with sea levels somewhat lower than they are today, the two islands, and possibly Eaval to the north and Roisinis to the south too, were probably only separated by fordable rivers or narrow tidal channels.

There is little or no evidence for any Norse occupation in the area. Although the name Ronay has a Norse derivation, the island is noteworthy for its complete lack of Norse place-names which are quite common in other areas of Uist (*see place-names section pp 40-42*).



Fig 35: An in situ concrete croft house built in around 1950



Fig 36: A cavity blockwork croft house from the late 1960s

The only structure on Ronay with any resemblance to a prehistoric building is the possible hut circle north of Bàgh nam Fiasgan RBE 11, (*see fig 38*), and, positioned as it is on the summit of a rock outcrop overlooking the Minch, it may have had some defensive or look-out related purpose. The remains of a similar drystone structure with a good viewing position are also located on Haunaraigh island (H 1), but both of these could equally be medieval or early modern period in date.

The only other remains which, through their different forms and odd location on a tidal island could date from an earlier era to those recorded by the Reid survey, are the square and two lozenge shaped buildings near the south shore of Bàgh Sealg, RB 21 (*see fig 39*). Both structure types are without comparison in this part of North Uist, but unfortunately their walls are so reduced (probably to build the farmstead RB 19 nearby), it is impossible to even guess their function without excavation. Perhaps the name of the bay in which the island is located (which translates as 'Bay of the Hunt'), and the reference in a manuscript from 1628 restricting access to 'Kylerna in Uist' (*see fig 12*, p 9) in order to preserve the local lairds' hunting rights, link these buildings to that possible use and period.



Fig 37: Grimsay wheelhouse – aerial view



Fig 38: Possible hut circle at Bàgh nam Fiasgan RBE 11 – aerial view

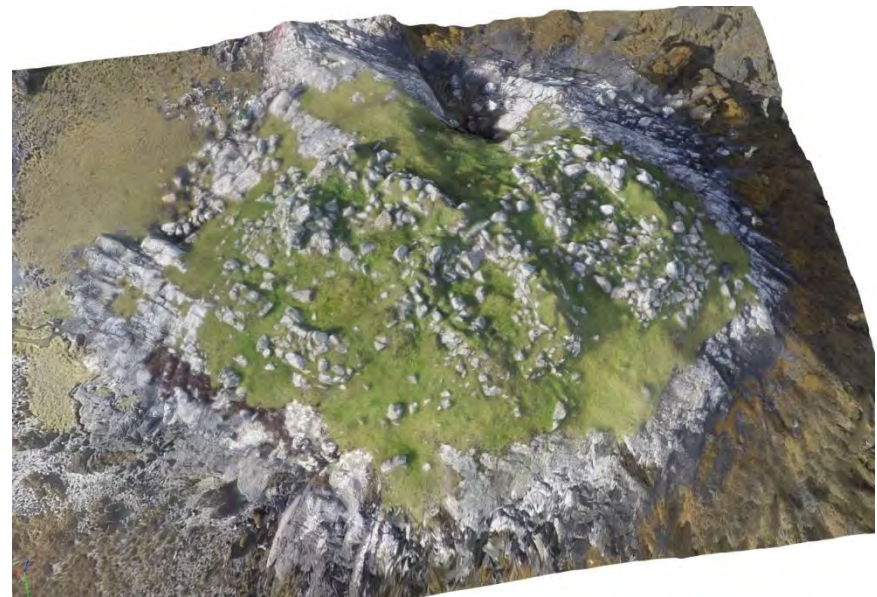


Figure 39: Buildings on the tidal island in Bàgh Sealg RB 21 – aerial view

In his survey of North Uist in 1799, Robert Reid showed three areas of cultivated ground on the west side of Ronay (see fig 40), within two of which he included buildings. When overlaid onto the survey mapping it would appear that on Rubha Clann Nèill (see fig 41), the unusual turf walled house BD 11 is located almost exactly where one of three Reid buildings is shown, with possible traces of other turf buildings just to the north-east, and some dyke fragments to the north may well relate to the boundary Reid drew of the cultivated area.

Further north-west at Rubha Chnaip (see fig 42), the line of the dyke RC 1 appears to follow that of the Reid cultivation area boundary for parts of its length. The farmstead RC 5 is probably based on an earlier building that was orientated similarly to the Reid buildings, and one of a number of other buildings in the area, such as RC 12 and RC 14 may represent the other marked by him.

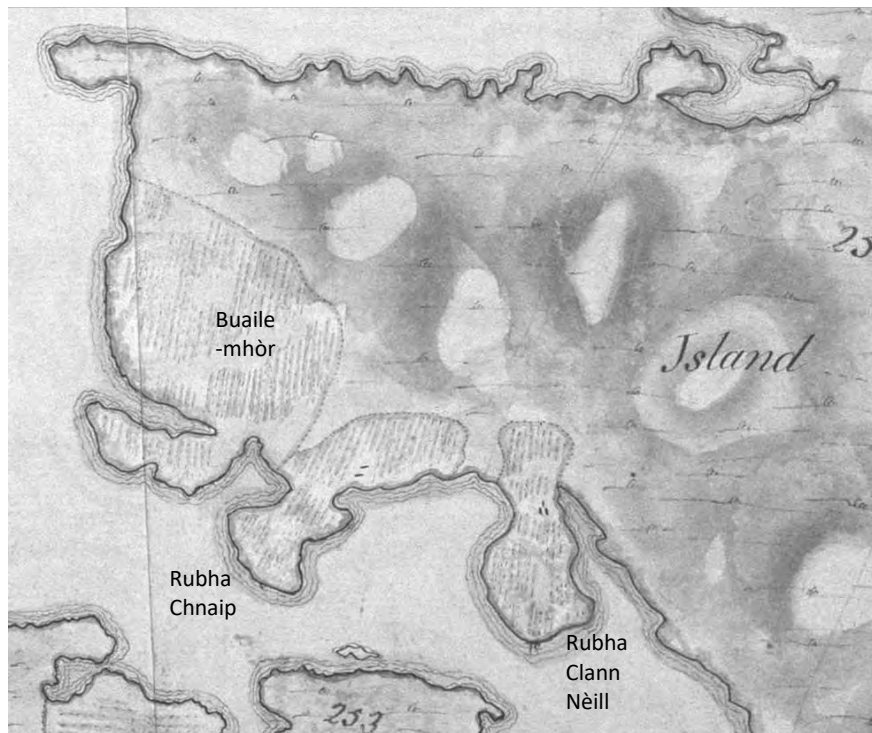


Fig 40: Extract from Robert Reid's 'Plan of the Island of North Uist' 1799

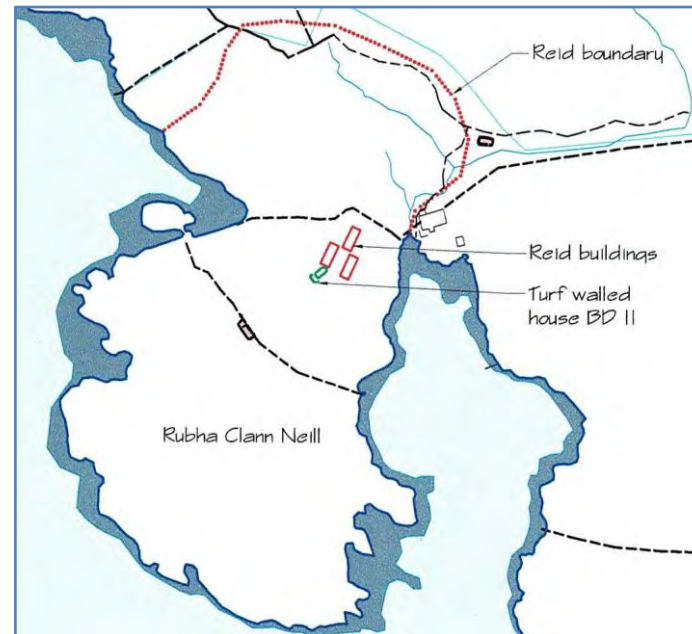


Fig 41: Reid survey features on Rubha Clann Nèill

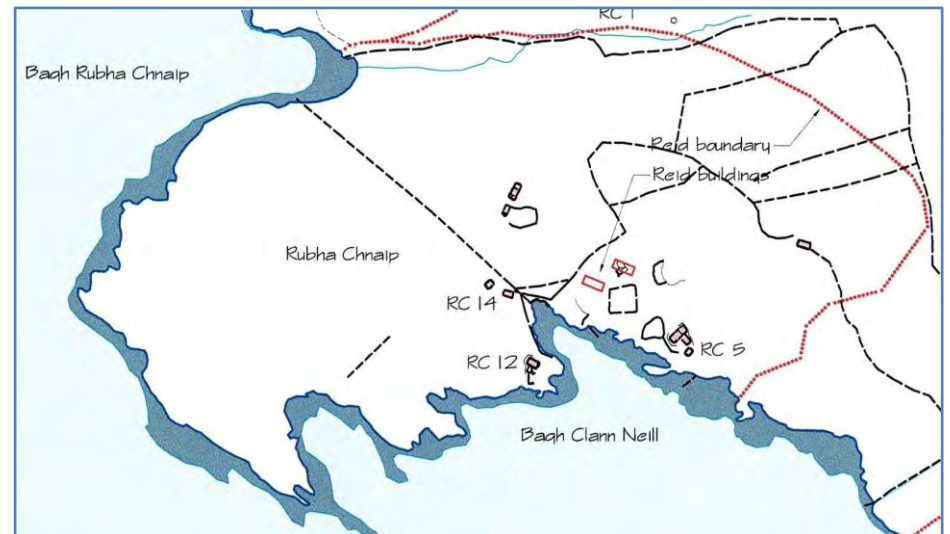


Fig 42: Reid survey features on Rubha Chnaip

Finally, although Reid shows no buildings in the Buaille-mhòr area, the number of building remains there exceeds the number of crofts, and it may well be that some of these represent the remains of houses already abandoned by 1799 (see fig 43).

As discussed previously, the prolonged tradition of blackhouse design and construction means that it is not possible to determine the age of any particular house by its form, so there can be no certainty that the houses identified as possibly being those surveyed by Robert Reid in 1799, actually originate from that period.

However it is interesting to compare these with other houses on North Uist where the dates are known. A few kilometres to the north of Ronay on the Eaval peninsula, the remains of two houses exist that are known from historic records to have been built in around 1765 for the then bard to the MacDonalds of Sleat, John MacCodrum, and then abandoned around 20 years later (see fig 44). Although they have in part been subsequently adapted for stock management purposes, their original drystone walled outlines are still clearly defined and both appear to have had attached byres and enclosures.

Immediately apparent is their relatively small plan size with the interior dimensions of their main buildings being barely 8m X 3m, compared to the Ronay settlement houses of some 40 years later being typically 10 - 12m X 4 - 4.5m.

If this smaller size and attached byre and enclosure is indicative of a mid 18th century form, then the nearest match on Ronay is the farmstead RC 12, which is located in one of the Robert Reid surveyed settlements at Rubha Chnaip. This measures 6.8m X 3.7m (see figs 42 & 45). The neighbouring farmstead RC 14 is also noteworthy for its relatively small internal dimensions of 6.3m X 3.2m.

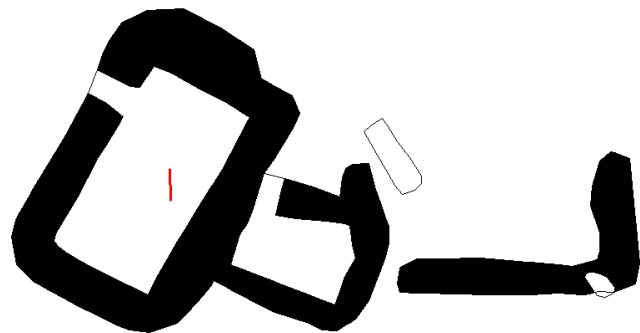


Fig 45: RC 12 floor plan (survey pole 1m long, N to left)



Fig 43: Reid survey features at Buaille-mhòr

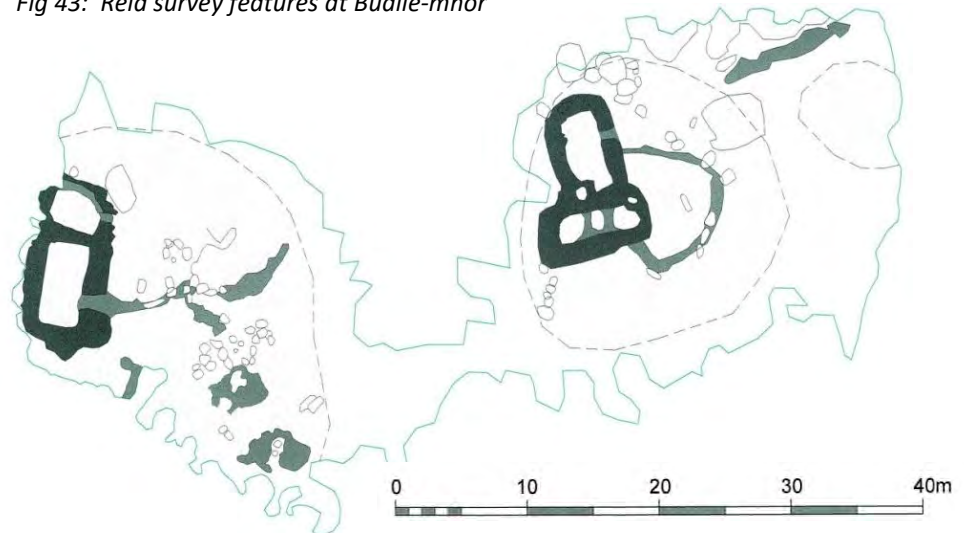


Fig 44: Plans of two houses east of Eaval hill dating to around 1760

Ronay houses for the 1805-10 kelping settlement

The Robert Reid survey record of 1799 and the croft tenancy record of 1814 make it clear that within the space of 15 years, and probably less, a significant number of farmsteads were built on Ronay. The introduction of lime mortar as a building material in the mid 19th century helps defines those that were built later, and through a process of elimination, plus the knowledge that 26 crofts were established for 27 families, the majority of these buildings can be correctly identified.

Within reasonably broad terms, three different types of farmstead layout were adopted for the resettlement. These were:

1. single buildings (around 9 out of 26) (*see fig 46*);
2. two buildings - presumably a house and a byre, but in two cases a house and a kiln barn (around 10 out of 26) (*see fig 47*);
3. two part buildings with a separate smaller building with its own access attached to one of the main building long elevations (around 7 out of 26) (*see fig 48*).

Comparative floor plan layouts of 26 of the most likely early 19th century croft houses is shown on page 26, and a map of their positions and the related probable croft land boundaries on Ronay in *fig 50*, (p 27) and as a loose insert inside the report back cover. These cannot be definitive as there is no record of which houses were actually occupied at the time.

As a kelping rather than crofting community we know from oral history that the focus of day to day activity on early 19th century Ronay, especially during the spring and summer, was collecting and processing seaweed rather than agriculture. This is supported by the 1814 rental list (*see figure 51 p 27*) which shows that tenants' livestock was restricted to a cow or two and a few sheep, with probably limited cultivation of potatoes and hay in the in-bye land around each farmstead, although the presence of two kiln barns (RC 16 and BM 20) indicates that at least some corn was also grown. Processed kelp was exchanged for money with which rent was paid and foodstuffs and other items for essential living were purchased. According to local tradition this was done at the appropriately named Poll an t-Suicair (Sugar Bay) on the south-west shore of the island.

The 1814 rental list gives the names of all 27 croft tenants at that time, but unfortunately, with the exception of John Macleod, who it is known lived at Sruth Beag in no 26, there is no way of knowing for sure which tenant held which croft.



Fig 46: (left) BR 5 plan - an example of a single building farmstead

Fig 47: (right) BM 1 plan - an example of a two building farmstead

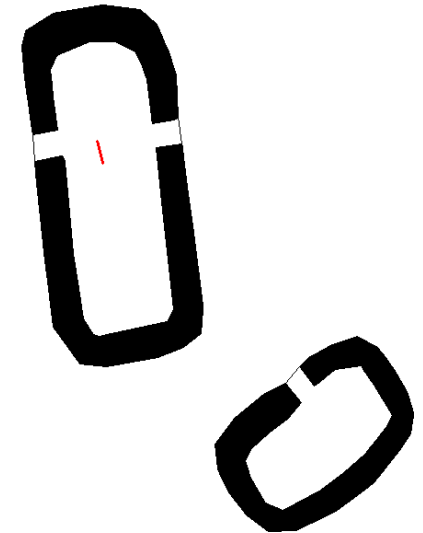


Fig 48: (left) BM 25 an example of a two part building farmstead

Ronay Field Survey 2015 - 18

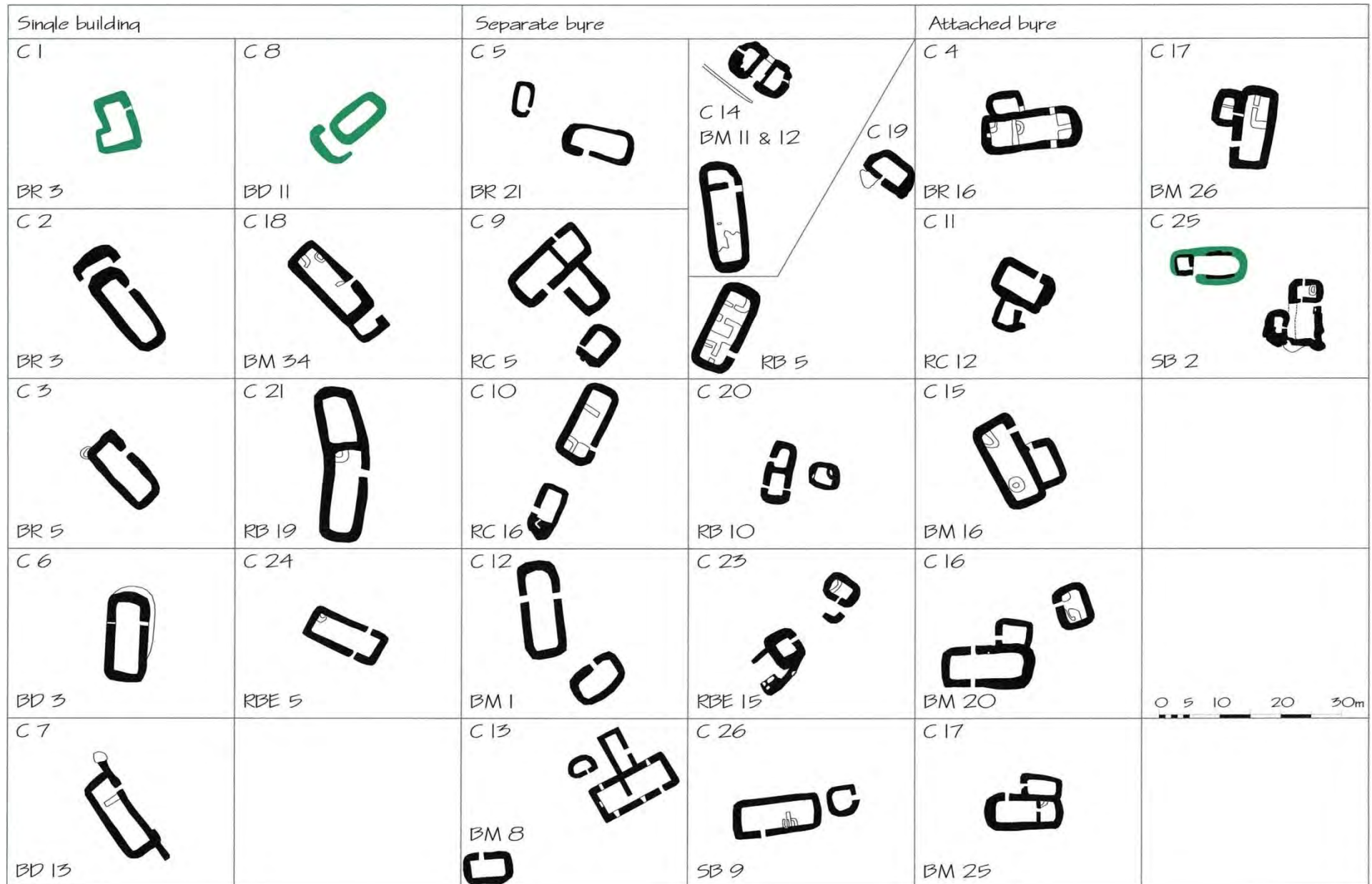


Fig 49: Ronay farmstead plans; (C numbers relate to craft numbers shown in fig 50)

(Note that craft 17 has two farmsteads)

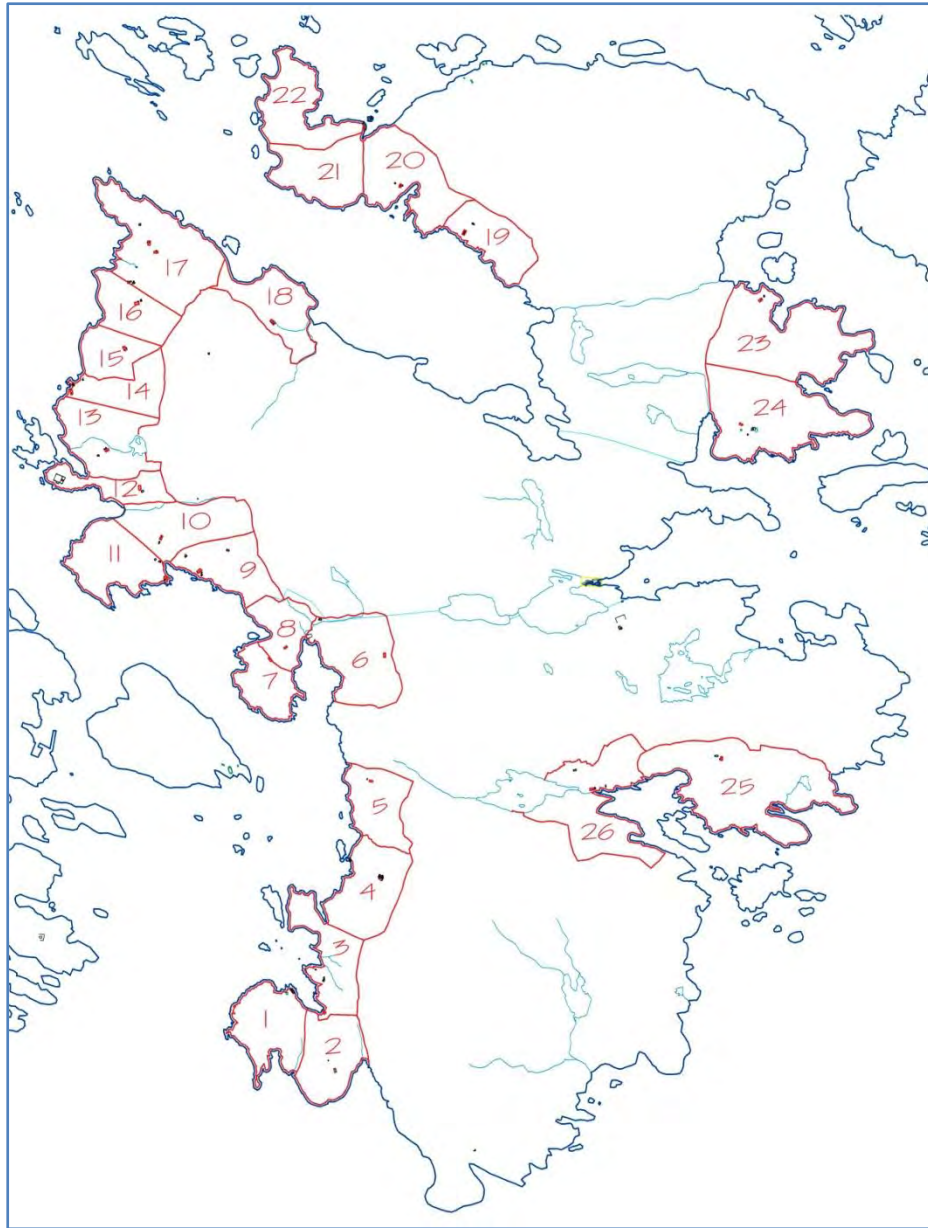


Fig 50: Ronay croft map (see also loose map inside back cover)

Names of Farms and Tenants	No. of family	No. of Horses	No. of Cows	No. of Sheep	Rent
Amount Forward	2613	976	1548	8862	
<u>Carinish</u>					
Malcolm McDonald	7	2	4	32	7
John McPherson	11	2	4	42	7
John Cameron	3	2	4	30	5
John McKinnon	6	2	4	15	5
Lachlan McQuien	4	2	4	4	5
Donald McDonald Carpenter	5	2	4	19	5
Finlay McInnes	5	2	4	25	4
Donald du McDonald	5	2	4	26	4
<u>Claddack</u>					
Mr. Rory McLean	8	2	10	60	
<u>Kona</u>					
Rory McDonald	4	-	2	2	2
Donald McDonald	3	-	2	4	2
Donald McDonald	6	-	2	20	2
Lachlan McRae	3	-	2	8	
Arch ^d Ferguson	5	-	2	20	
Lachlan McQuarrie	8	-	2	18	
Donald Nicolson	4	-	1	-	
Arch ^d McIsaig	5	-	2	10	
Angus Stewart	3	-	2	15	
Donald Stewart	3	-	2	15	
Angus McInnes	5	-	2	10	
John Ferguson	3	-	2	20	
Donald McLellan	4	-	2	10	
John McLellan	4	-	2	10	
John McDonald Jun.	2	-	2	12	
John McKigan Carp.	7	-	2	20	
John McDonald Sen.	10	-	2	5	
John Matheson & L. McDonald	7	-	2	10	
Malcolm McDonald	4	-	2	4	
Alex ^r McLean	8	-	2	30	
Donald McQuien	11	-	2	20	
John Stewart	8	-	2	10	
Angus McDonald	7	-	2	10	
John Matheson	8	-	2	5	
John McLeod	5	-	2	5	
Donald McIsaig	6	-	2	10	

Fig 51: Ronay rental list 1814

Ronay houses post 1840 - 1855

After its abandonment in the mid to late 1830s, Ronay became part of the Kallin Farm (Grimsay) tack and remained in this tenancy arrangement until the island was sold in 1886. By the time of the first census in 1841 only one family was living on Ronay - the MacLeans - and from the North Uist Estate rental records and the census return, it is possible to see that Malcolm Maclean was a shepherd - presumably employed by the Ronay tack tenant, or even possibly by the Estate directly.

Without mapping from this period it is impossible to say where the centre of farming operations was located, nor which building was occupied by the MacLean family in 1841.

Perhaps the most favoured location would have been the house on the shore of Bàgh Clann Nèill, RC 5 (see figs 52 & 53). Not only was this reasonably close to Kallin, but there are the remains of a sheepfold and other enclosures there which would have been essential for livestock management.

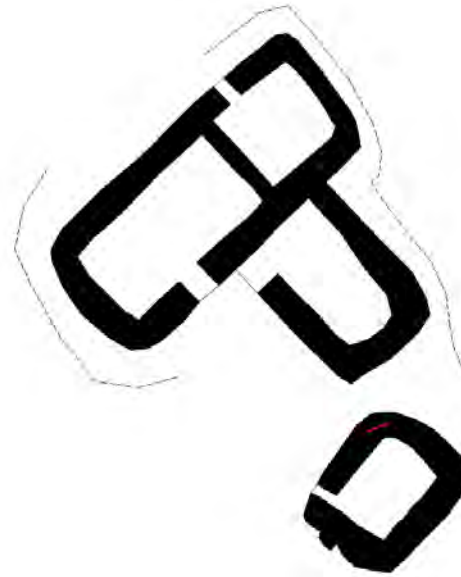


Fig 52: Farmstead RC 5 plan



Fig 53: Farmstead RC 5 from NE with Kallin Harbour in the distance

Ronay houses 1855 - 1886

When North Uist Estate was sold to the Orde family in 1855, first Sir John Powlett, and then after his father's death in 1878, his son, Sir John William, undertook a series of improvements across North Uist. These included road and pier building, new crofting townships, health services buildings, houses for their employees, and their own family home at Langass Lodge. In this work they used the latest building construction techniques from the mainland such as slated roofs, dressed stone walls bound with lime mortar, and double hung sash windows, as would have been used at their estate in Argyll, and these are evident in buildings on Ronay too. The Ordes may well have imported their own builders from the mainland, as many of the skills required in the use of these techniques were unlikely to have existed on North Uist at the time.

The closest mapping record of Ronay in time to 1855 is the Cdr. F. W. L. Thomas Admiralty survey chart from 1861 (see fig 54) and this shows roofed buildings at:

- Poll an t-Suicair in the south-west (BR 9), built in the 'taigh geal' style and described by Thomas as a 'Store House';
- a building north of Rubha Clann Nèill (BD 5), perhaps known as the *Tighe Fhraoich* (Heather House) as denoted by Thomas, although this seems to be too small to have been a family home and shows no signs of late 19th century improvement;
- the building attached to the sheepfold at Rubh' an Aisig (BM 4), which may post-date the 1855 sale;
- the larger of two buildings shown on the hill north-east of Rubh' an Aisig, though from its layout and location this appears to pre-date the 'taigh geal' type house BM 8, the remains of which can still be seen today.

Other earlier buildings in this area of Ronay showing improvements such as gable wall fireplaces, which probably post-date the Cdr. F. W. L. Thomas chart, are at BR 16 (shown in outline by Thomas, but un-roofed) and RC 2 (not shown), showing possible improvement and re-occupation a few years later.

However, by the time of the first OS survey in 1878 (see fig 55), the only roofed buildings shown on the whole of Ronay are those at BM 4 and BM 8 at Rubh' an Aisig, with every other building from the first half of the 19th century either unroofed or not recorded at all. BM 8 is still shown in its unimproved form at this time.

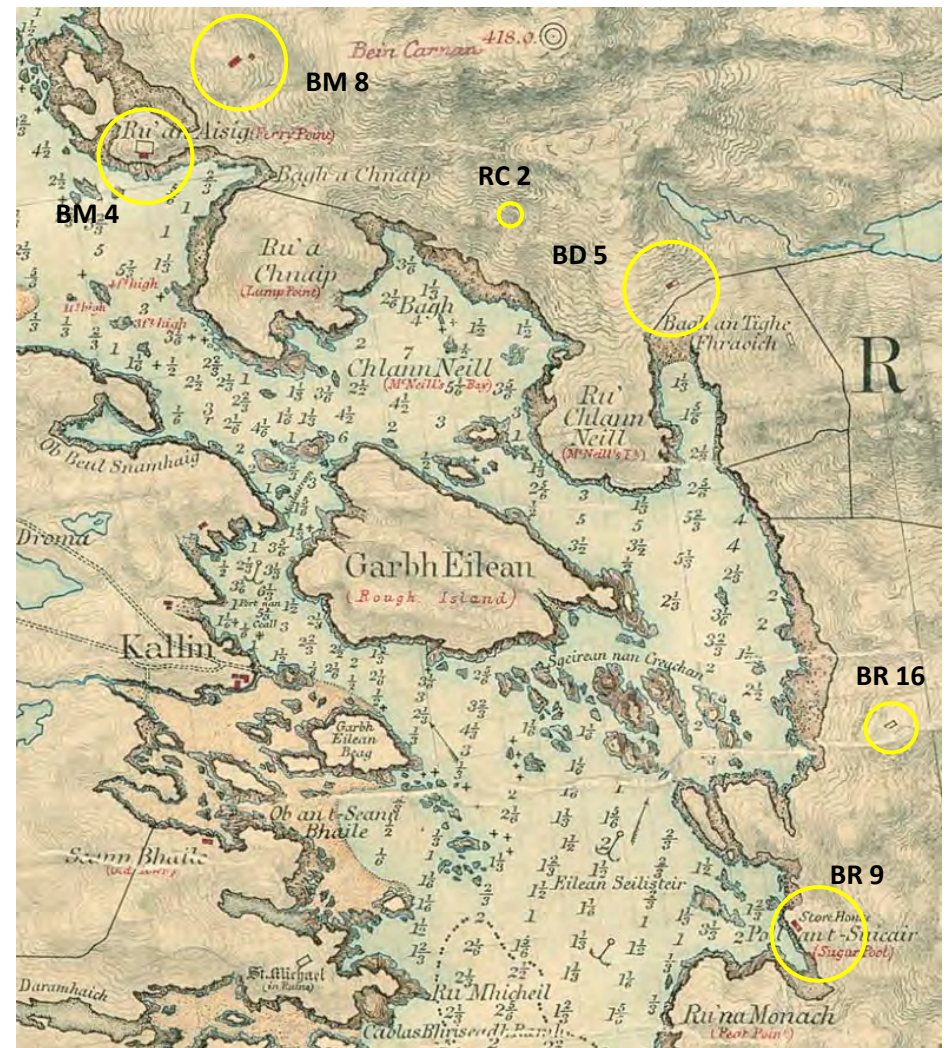


Fig 54: Admiralty survey chart of 1861 - extract

On the ground many of the other former helping community houses from the early 1800s, particularly those in the remoter north and east parts of the island, show signs of post-abandonment adaptation for use in relation to livestock management, including small pens and folds, and possible huts (*see fig 56*). Viewed together perhaps these arrangements suggest a full time shepherd and family based near the main sheep fank at Rubh' an Aisig, and seasonal help brought in as and when required for gathering, lambing and shearing - a practice which continued on Ronay (and Uist generally) right up until the end of the 20th century.

BM 4, the building attached to the sheepfold (*see fig 57*), is built in a 'mainland' style with mortar bound stonework walls and a pitched, gabled, and probably slated roof. Its condition today does not provide definitive evidence as to whether this was used as a dwelling or not, although the arrangement of its two entrance doors, one in the west gable and one directly into the fold, suggest probably not.

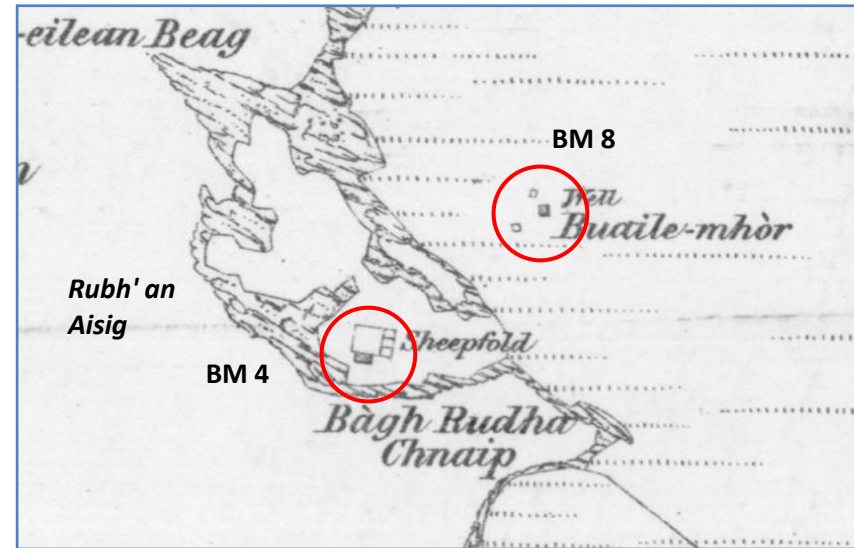


Fig 55: 1880 OS 6" map showing the two roofed buildings at Rubh' an Aisig



Fig 57: BM 4 interior looking west



Fig 56: RB 4 aerial view from south showing adaptation for livestock management

Ronay houses 1886 - 1950

When Captain Allan Macdonald bought Ronay from the Orde family in 1886 his main objective was to turn Ronay into a hunting estate. Although as the second edition OS mapping surveyed in 1901 shows the house by the sheepfold BM 4 still roofed, and a new house up the hill to the north-east BM 8 rebuilt with a larger plan and an outbuilding on its north-west side (*see fig 58*), it seems likely that a sheep flock was maintained on the island by the new owner.

In its final form, the farmstead BM 8 was built in the full 'taigh geal' style with mortar bound part dressed and coursed stone walls probably lime washed (if not rendered) externally, fully lintolled windows on both long elevations, a dividing partition and a fireplace and chimney (*see figs 59 & 60*). A similarly built extension on its north side may also have been used as living accommodation, as the census returns from the late 19th century show that by 1891 the house had 3 rooms with windows and the family had a 'house servant'. A small outbuilding also on the north side may have housed sheepdogs or chickens, and a byre a little way down the hill, the house cow. The remains of what was probably the original *Buaile-mhòr* lie to the south.

This house continued to be lived in right up until the mid 1950s when the island's last shepherd, Donald John Mackinnon, moved to Grimsay.



Fig 60: BM 8 view from south

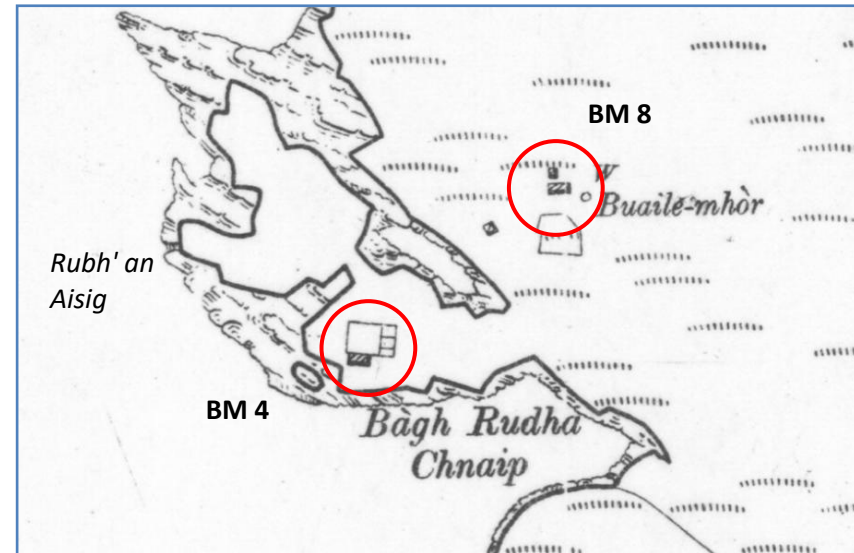


Fig 58: 1903 OS 6" map (surveyed in 1901) showing roofed buildings



Fig 59: BM 8 interior view looking north-west

North Uist Estate rental records show that Captain Allan MacDonald also took on the tenancy of Kallin Farm at some time in the late 1800s, and it may well have been that he initially used this as a base for his development of Ronay. The house and farm buildings were located at what is now Kallin Pier, and they are still in use today.

The site he chose for his house on Ronay was located at Bàgh na Caiplich on the island's east side. As well as a house (BNC 2), his development proposals included a walled garden, a jetty (BNC 1), and a dam across the short outflow from Loch na Leig (Làmhraig), which may have been to stop the inflow of seawater into the loch at high tides (BNC 3) (see fig 61). The remains of all these structures still exist today, and although the ambitious original plans for the house were never completed, there are tantalising clues as to what he might have planned.

On the ground the house foundations are somewhat confused, with a well built set of rectangular planned foundations measuring around 10.5 X 7.5m internally, interrupted in their south-east corner by a second rectangular building with internal dimensions of 5.7 X 5.1m (see fig 62). The smaller building foundations have similarities with those built on Uist for pre-fabricated corrugated iron buildings, and that possibility ties in with both the remains of cast iron ogee guttering scattered around the site, and the fact that on the 2nd edition OS 6" mapping of the area surveyed in 1901, the site is shown partly occupied by a roofed building (see fig 63).

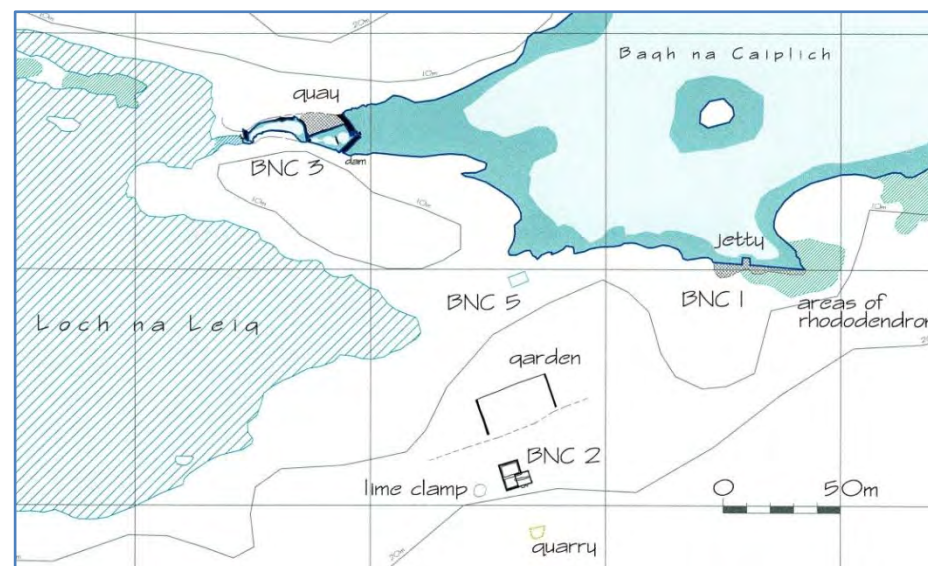


Fig 61: Bàgh na Caiplich survey map



Fig 63: 1903 OS 6" map showing a roofed building at Bàgh na Caiplich



Fig 62: Bàgh na Caiplich house foundations – aerial plan view

It seems likely, therefore, that a temporary corrugated iron building was erected first and the main house foundations built up to it. Perhaps this was used by the builders or Captain Allan himself as accommodation while the works were in progress.

As to the main house, fortunately a set of drawings entitled 'Sketch plan of Cottage for Capt Macdonald of Waternish' and dated 1887 exist in the MacDonald family archives (see fig 64) and it may well be that these show his original ideas. Designed in a Loire chateau style, the elevations reflect alterations carried out to the family house in the early part of the 19th century at Waternish Estate on Skye (see page 13). Although the floor layout of the sketch plans doesn't exactly match the foundations built at Bàgh na Caiplich, the overall size is very similar.

The reasons for the change in design and the abandonment of the project are not known. We do know that Allan MacDonald was already in his mid 50s in 1886, and although he lived for another 20 years, his nephew Patrick was already managing the family estate on Skye at the time, and perhaps brought his Uncle's ambitious plans to an end.

Ronay Houses post 1950

When Ronay was sold to the Modet family in 1966 they built themselves a new house at Bàgh an Tighe Fhraoich with the work being carried out by builders from Kallin on Grimsay, and this is still in use as a holiday house today.

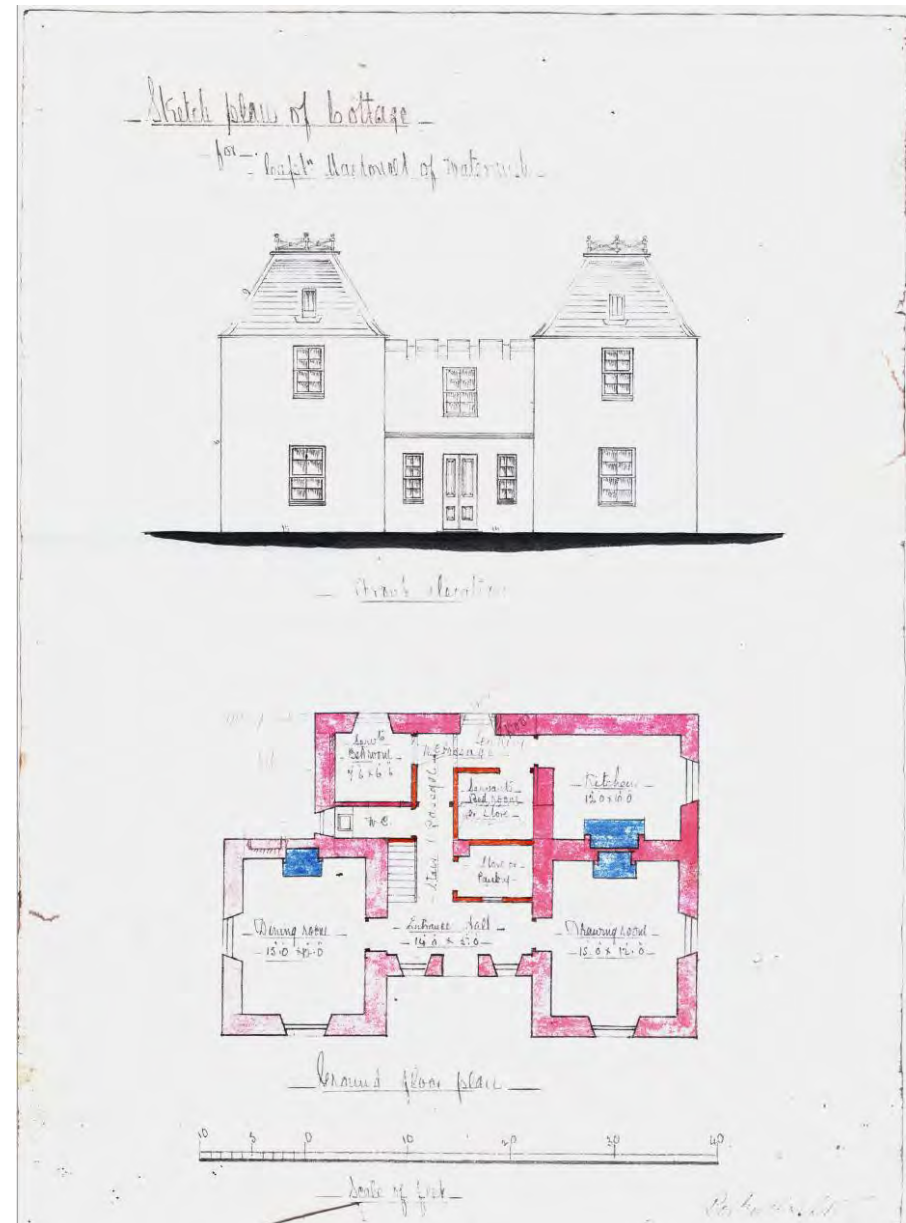


Fig 64: Sketch plans of a cottage for Capt. MacDonald of Waternish dated 1887

The Ronay Chapel and Seamen's Graveyard

Introduction

The idea of a chapel and seamen's graveyard on Ronay originates with Martin Martin's account written around 1695 as part of his 'Description of the Western Islands of Scotland', published in 1703. He starts his description of the area by mentioning*'the Bay, called the Kyle of Rona'* (see figure 65), together with the facts that there were two harbours, and that the cod and ling fishing was good.

He then goes on to say:

'there is a little Chappel in the Island Rona, called the Low-landers Chappel, because Seamen who dye in the time of Fishing, are buried in that place'.

This single sentence is the only historic reference, and subsequent attempts to locate the chapel and graveyard, including by the OS in 1965, have not been successful. Two theories as to its location have been proposed:

Capt. (formerly Cdr.) F. W. L. Thomas, the Admiralty surveyor who charted the area around Ronay in 1861, was also a keen antiquarian and he published an article in the 1890 edition of Archaeologica Scotica (originally written in 1871) about a number of Hebridean chapels. This included St Michael's located just opposite the SW tip of Ronay on the neighbouring island of Grimsay (see figs 66 & 68), and he says:

'There is a tradition that St Michael's chapel was built by the same lady that built Trinity Church, Carinish, and that it was for the use of strangers and fishermen coming to the port of Kallin. Martin refers to this chapel as the "Lowlanders Chappel, because seaman who die in the time of fishing are buried in that place;" but he locates it in the adjoining island of Rona, where it is not known that there ever was a chapel.

However a few decades later, his fellow antiquarian Erskine Beveridge says of Martin's notes:

'This would apparently infer the existence of a pre-Reformation chapel, and a rocky

56

A Description of the

ABOUT half a Mile further South is **Loch-Eport**, having a Rock without the Mouth of the Entry, which is narrow; the Lake penetrates some Miles towards the West, and is a good Harbour, having several small Isles within it. The Seals are very numerous here. In the Month of July the Spring-Tides carry in a great quantity of Macrel, and at the return of the Water, they are found many times lying on the Rocks. The Vulgar Natives make use of the Ashes of burnt *Sea-ware*, which preserves them for some time, instead of Salt.

ABOUT two Miles to the South of **Loch-Eport** lies the Bay, called the **Kyle of Rona**; having the Island of that Name (which is a little Hill) within the Bay; there is a Harbour on each side of it, this Place hath been found of great convenience for the Fishing of Cod and Ling, which abounds on this Coast; there is a little Chappel in the Island **Rona**, called the *Low-landers Chappel*, because Seamen who dye in time of Fishing, are buried in that place.

THERE is a Harbour on the South side the Island **Borera**, the Entry seems to be narrower then really it is; the Island and the opposite Point of Land appear like two little Promontories off at Sea. Some Vessels have been forced in there by Storm, as was Captain *Peters*,

Fig 65: Copy of original Martin Martin text with references to both Ronay (Rona) and Borera (Grimsay)

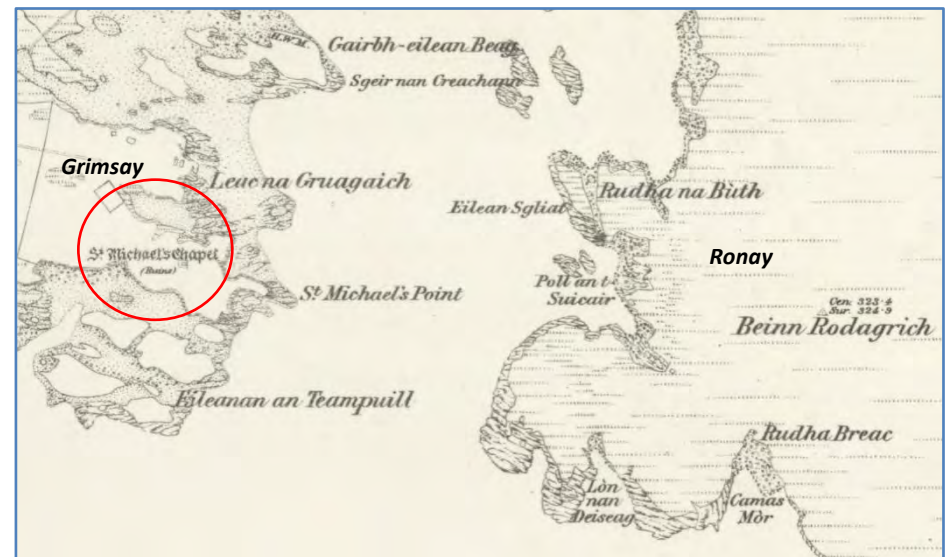


Fig 66: 1st edition 6" OS mapping surveyed in 1878 showing St Michael's Chapel

knoll near the west side of Ronay, north of the only dwelling which that island contains, is known as *Cnoc nan Gall* (Rock of the Strangers or Lowlanders), thus to a certain extent verifying the 'Lowlanders' of Martin. Upon Ronay are also found the place names *Rudh' an t-Sagairt* (Priest's Headland) and *Beinn an t-Sagairt* (Priest's Hill) (see fig 67), much in the same way as those recorded in the Portain district.' - where he says - 'all obviously referring to a priest and at least suggestive that a chapel formerly stood in that vicinity.'

And in a footnote to his own notes about St Michael's on Grimsay, Beveridge says of F. W. L. Thomas's deductions:

'Captain F. W. L. Thomas believed St Michael's to represent the 'Lowlanders Chapel' located by Martin on the Island of Ronay; but the latter authority was probably correct.'

Although the chapel and graveyard have not been definitively located during the survey, a number of possible solutions to Martin's record are now explored, starting with a review of Martin Martin's original statements.

Martin Martin

Martin Martin was the son of a Skye tacksman and, having been raised in a Gaelic speaking part of Scotland, is considered by some to be more likely to have given a more authentic account of the lives and traditions of the people living in the Hebrides at the time in his *'Description of the Western Islands of Scotland'* of 1703. Others, such as Samuel Johnson, who made a similar tour of the Hebrides with James Boswell eighty years later, whilst acknowledging that Martin's book encouraged him to make his visit, thought many of his accounts *'erroneous in many particulars'*.

Modern historians prefer to view his descriptions of the geography, wildlife and customs of the places he visited as of their time, and an important insight into an area of Britain that was, ironically, less well known to lowlanders than many parts of mainland Europe. They also precede the significant disruption to traditional life that followed the failed Jacobite rebellion in the first half of the 18th century, and the later Romantic period in art and literature which often colours subsequent writings about the Highlands and Islands.

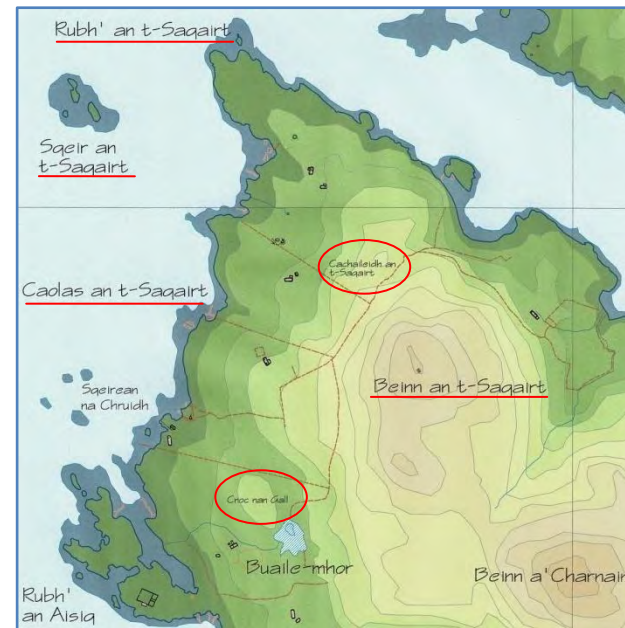


Fig 67: The location of Cnoc nan Gall and t-Sagairt place names on Ronay



Fig 68: The ruins of St Michael's Chapel on Grimsay with Ronay behind

Being a Gaelic speaker, Martin was able to understand what he was told by the local people he met without translation, and as his narrative flits quickly from one subject to the next - seemingly based on notes rather than re-written prose - Martin's accounts are now viewed as generally credible. As Martin said himself, the people he spoke to had no particular agenda they were trying to pursue, and thus there is no reason not to believe that his brief description of Rona and its chapel is an honest one.

Despite that, it does present some difficulties. The first is that not only is there no irrefutable evidence of chapel like structural remains on the ground on Ronay, but more importantly and most unusually for Uist, there is no local oral tradition relating to its location or even its existence.

Secondly, St Michael's Chapel is located on a prominent headland on the east end of Grimsay island overlooking the south end of the Kyle of Ronay, and this structure would have been one of the most important buildings and landmarks in the area at the time (see figs 68 & 69).

However, despite references to almost every other religious site on Uist, Martin does not mention St Michael's, nor does he name Grimsay island itself, though in the paragraph after that describing Ronay and its chapel, he probably refers to it as 'Borera' (see fig 65), as Grimsay was held by the MacLeans of Boreray in the Sound of Harris at that time.

So, the possibility that St Michael's is the Lowlanders' Chapel cannot be discounted and that site is now reviewed.

St Michael's Chapel Grimsay

Looking at Beveridge's photograph of St Michael's, taken in around 1900 (see fig 70), it is clear that even less of its walls remain today (see figs 68 & 71), and the enclosure wall around it is now reduced to a low bank.

It was recorded by the RCAMHS surveyors in 1915 as follows:

'The ruins of St Michael's Chapel on Grimsay are on a small plateau on the highest point of a promontory. They are oblong, 23ft 2ins by 13ft 8ins, within walls 28 to



Fig 69: St Michael's Chapel viewed from the Kyle of Ronay



Fig 70: Erskine Beveridge's view of St Michael's from the south in around 1900

30ins thick. In 1915 the west gable was about 8ft height. The chapel stands in an enclosure, 63ft by 54ft, 'evidently once serving as a graveyard but disused for many years'. (E Beveridge 1911) The foundations of the boundary wall are overgrown with grass.'

According to Alexander Carmichael, writing in 1870, St Michael's was reputedly one of four chapels established by Amie MacRuarie on Uist in the second half of the 14th century, and one of two at Kallin (*Na Ceallan* = The Cells) in this area of Grimsay. The second, together with a burial ground reportedly lying 'about 150yds north' of St Michael's 'but only a few feet above the level of the sea'. He goes on to say:

'There are now hardly any traces of this chapel and I have hitherto failed to ascertain its name.'

Beveridge himself reported: *'of this no traces remain'*.

At present this area is occupied by a fisherman's shed which lies on the north shore of a small bay which lies to the north of the chapel promontory (see fig 72). At the head and north sides of the bay lies an unusual area of machair which would have been ideal as a burial ground site. A human skeleton was unearthed in the area just to the north during cable laying work in the 1980s, and both the OS 1st edition 25" mapping from 1879 and Cdr. F. W. L. Thomas's chart from 1861 show structures in the same area. Thomas gives this the place-name *Seanna Bhaile* or 'Old Town' (see fig 72), suggesting some kind of earlier settlement.

All this evidence points to the fact that a second chapel and burial ground may well have existed in this area, and the possibility that these were the Lowlanders' chapel and graveyard is very real. Despite that, Martin Martin's original proposition may be correct and possible sites on Ronay itself are now reviewed.

Possible chapel sites on Ronay

Initially survey work focussed on the area around Eilean Sgliat on the south-west coast of Ronay as it was believed at the time that this was the area 'north of the only dwelling which that island contains' as referred to by Beveridge - the dwelling probably being the 'taigh geal' style building BR 9 on the shore of Poll an t-Suicair. The area is also where the Canmore entry for the possible chapel is located, but subsequent research revealed both of these assumptions to be erroneous.

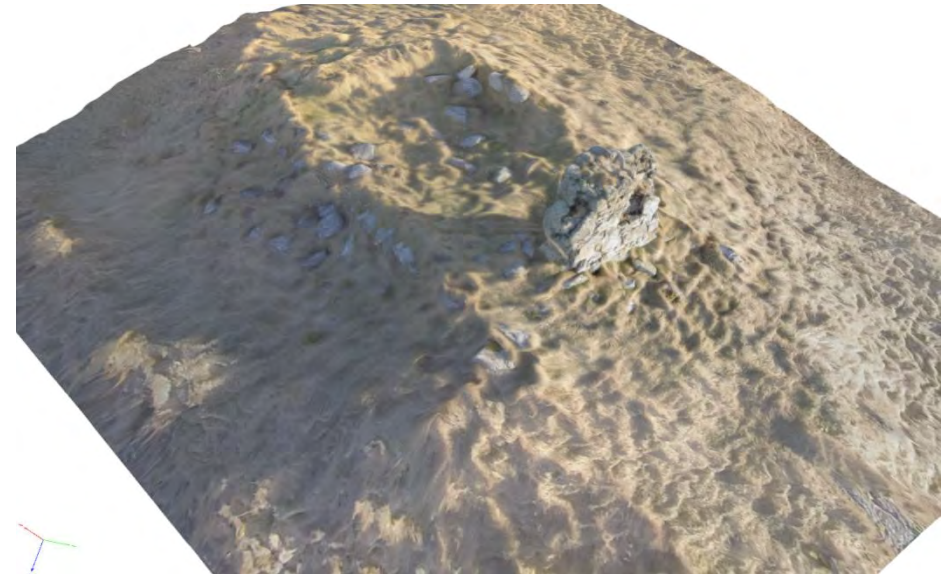


Fig 71: St Michael's Chapel aerial view from north-west today

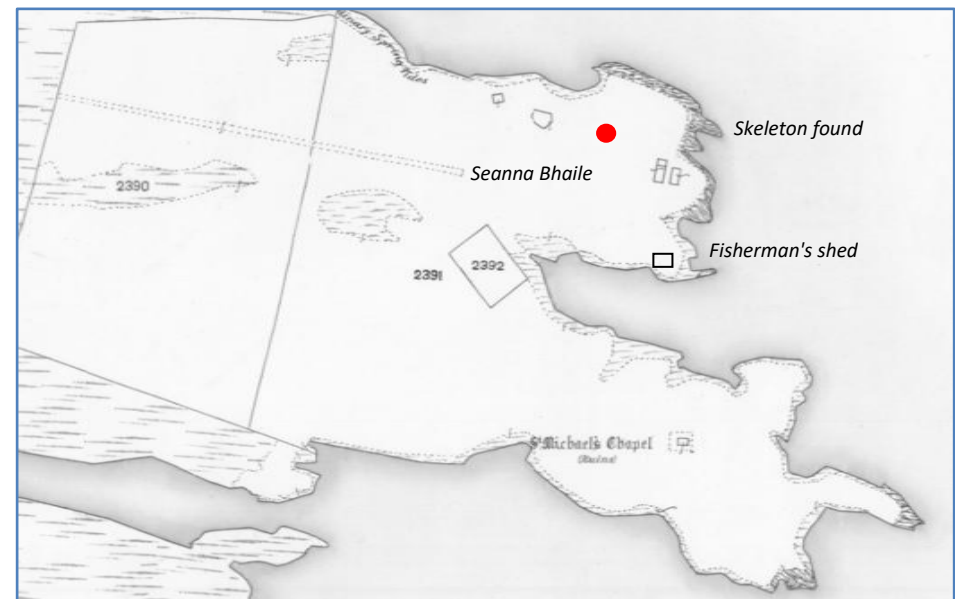


Fig 72: 1st edition OS 25" mapping of St Michael's and Seanna Bhaile, Grimsay

As the settlement history of the island gradually came to light, it was firstly revealed that the dwelling Beveridge refers to was the house BM 8 near Rubh' an Aisig which was the only house occupied when he undertook his survey work in the first few years of the 20th century. Secondly, the Admiralty survey of 1861 which was only located in 2018, shows the building BR 9 in Poll an t-Suicair as a 'Store House'.

Thus the area within which Beveridge believed the chapel was located lies north of farmstead BM 8. The place name 'Cnoc nan Gall' (Hillock of the Strangers or Lowlanders) he refers to was not recorded by the OS nor the Admiralty, but local oral tradition accords with Beveridge's view that the hillock 100m north-north-east of the house BM 8 goes by that place-name (see fig 73).

An extensive search has been made of the hillock and its surroundings, but apart from peat cuttings and possible areas of cultivation, no remains were found. However the summit does look down on the three sets of remains on the shore 200m to the north-west BM 11, 12 and 13 (see fig 74). These lie within a part of Ronay, including Cnoc nan Gall, which is shown by Robert Reid on his 'Plan of the Island of North Uist' in 1799 as an area of cultivation (see fig 43 P 24), so it was occupied in the 18th century and there is a good possibility that one or more of these structures date from that period.

These include BM 11, a notably long and narrow blackhouse, BM 12, another building, possibly a byre, and BM 13 a very small drystone walled building built into the wall of a sub-circular enclosure, now partly eroded away by the sea (see fig 74). There are also two landing places on the adjacent shore. (See pp 101-103 for detailed descriptions). All of these structures have been altered or adapted post abandonment - most likely during Ronay's conversion to a sheep farm in the mid 19th century so are difficult to fully interpret by survey alone. BM 13 includes what may be the remains of the foundations of an earlier structure lying partly underneath the existing building, and the irregular plan shaped enclosure and the small stone cairn towards its west side, together with the adjoining landing places, certainly give the place the feel of something earlier and different.

Whether it might represent the remains of a former graveyard could only be revealed by more detailed investigation.

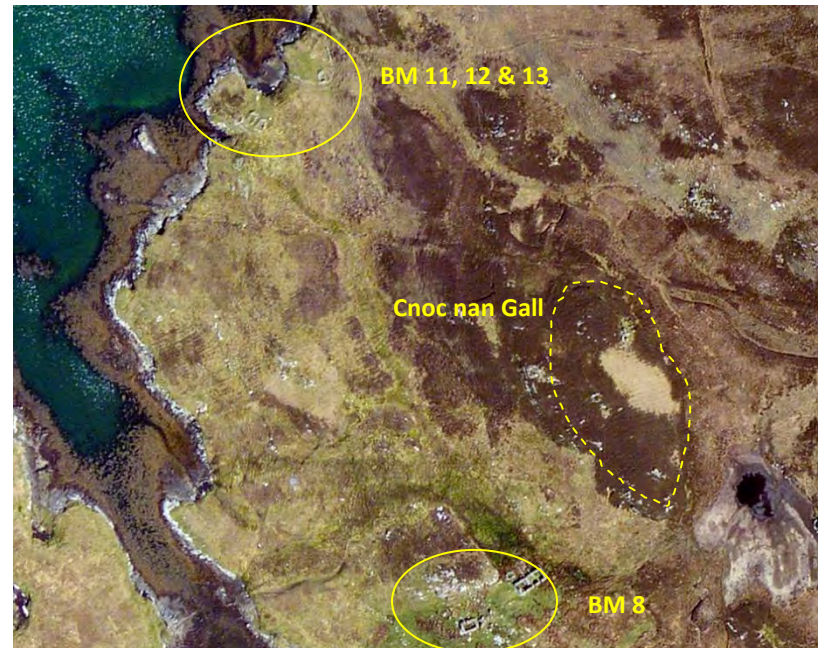


Fig 73: Bing satellite view of the area around Cnoc nan Gall

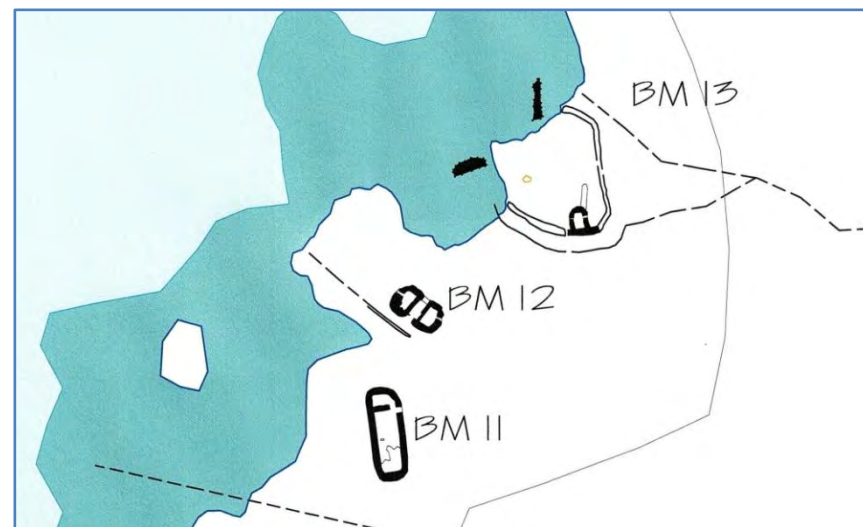


Fig 74: BM 11, 12 and 13 survey plan

A second possibility for a chapel or graveyard location is 500m north from Cnoc nan Gall where five 'an t-Sagairt' or Priest related place-names lie in close proximity (see fig 75). These include *Beinn, Rubh', Caolas, Sgeir* and *Cachaileidh* - the last one meaning 'gateway' which may refer to a split in a rock outcrop or a gap in the nearby boundary dyke, from which, according to local tradition, the priest addressed his congregation.

Some 100m down the hill from the *Cachaileidh* lies an unusual set of structures (BM 22, circled red in fig 75) right on the line of a kelping croft boundary dyke and not fitting comfortably with the general arrangement of early 19th century kelping crofts and farmsteads in the area. The structures include a small rectangular drystone walled building on a rocky knoll orientated exactly east - west (see fig 76) and a set of dilapidated walls and associated rubble at a slightly lower level on its east side which are difficult to interpret.

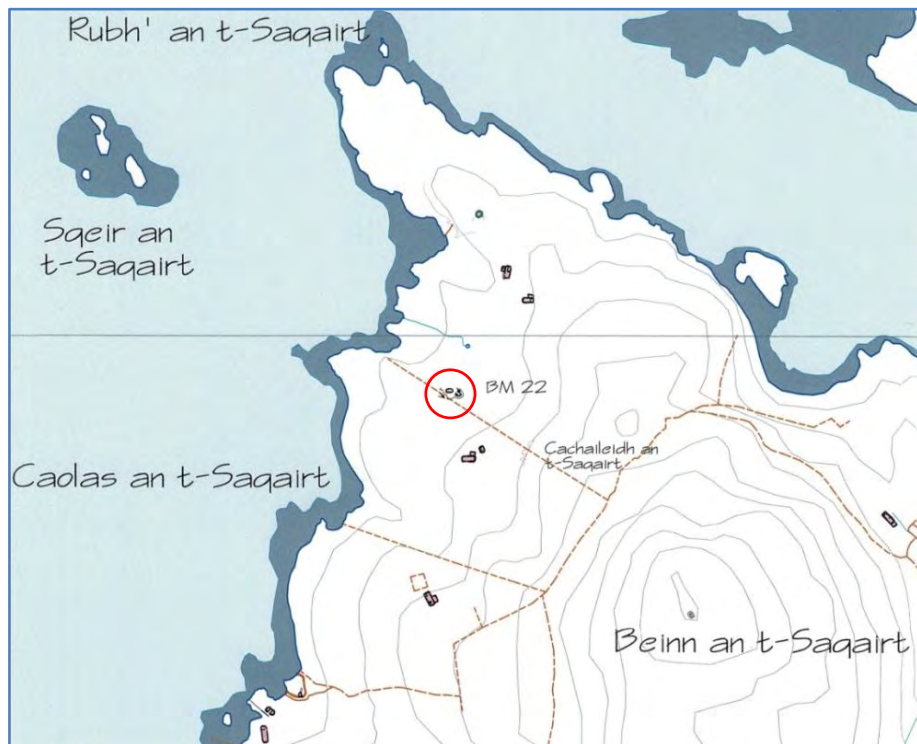


Fig 75: location of BM 22 & an t-Sagairt place-names in north Bhuaille-mhòr

Whether this site has any religious connections remains to be seen. However if it has, a date preceding the early 19th century crofting settlement fits with North Uist church records, which show that the kelping community did not have their own priest, but were ministered to occasionally by the priest from Vallay.

Conclusions

A definitive answer to Martin Martin's chapel and graveyard riddle has not been found during the survey, but a number of possibilities have been explored, including the proposal by Captain Thomas that it could be one of the two Kallin chapels on neighbouring Grimsay. The conclusion of this survey is that, on the balance of probabilities, the chapel and graveyard recorded by Martin in around 1700 is more likely to have been on Grimsay than Ronay, if only because all graveyards on Uist are on sandy soils and none exist on Ronay. However, that does not exclude the possibility of a priest living on Ronay at some stage in the early modern period with perhaps a small chapel of some kind for his and his parishioners' use.

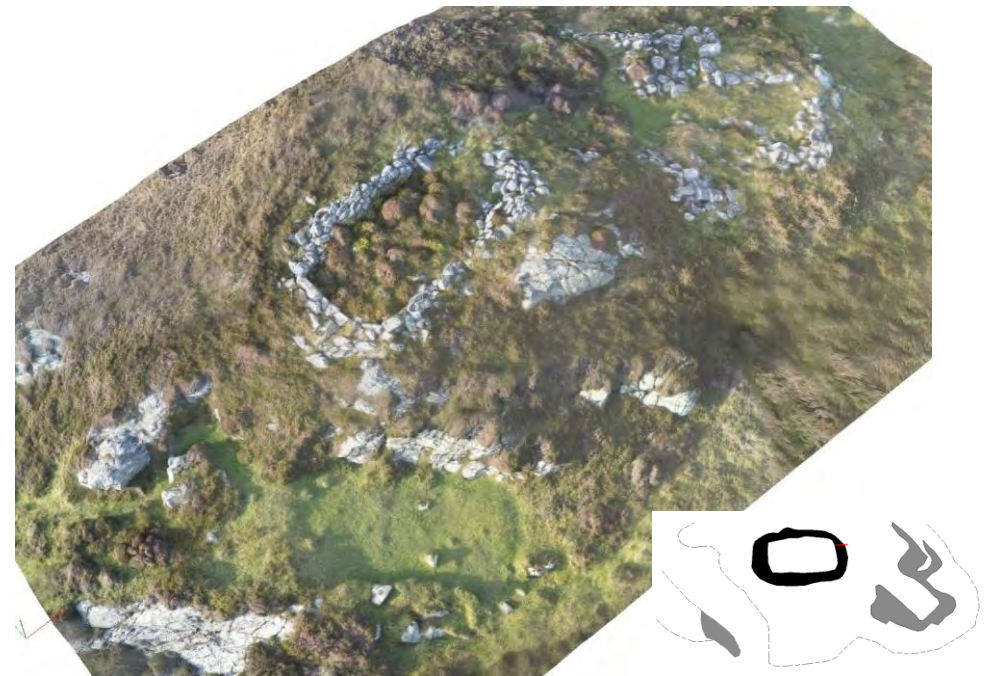


Fig 76: BM 22 aerial view from south-west & thumbnail plan

RONAY PLACE NAMES

The list of Ronay place names is arranged in two sections. The first includes those directly relating to the island itself, including islands connected at low tide; the second to those in the sea area around Ronay which appear on the survey mapping. Place-names are listed in a clockwise direction starting from Bàgh Clann Nèill. Place-names (and spellings) are taken from three sources - the Commander F. W. L. Thomas marine survey chart dated 1861, the 1st edition OS 6" mapping dated 1880, and modern OS digital mapping at 1:25,000 scale. The five current place-names in italics are not shown by Thomas or the OS, but are derived from local oral sources.

Name translations are devised from many sources including the *OS Guide to the Gaelic origins of place-names in Britain*, Erskine Beveridge's *'North Uist'*, *Place-names of Scotland* by Iain Taylor, various on-line resources and personal help from Ian MacDonald, Alasdair MacEachen and Neil John Maclean. Particular thanks to Donald MacAulay for his final edit. Although the OS name books from the 1880s were consulted, they are not considered to be a wholly reliable resource. On the field survey mapping, priority is given to the modern OS digital mapping spellings over those used in both the 1st edition OS mapping and the F. W. L. Thomas chart. In addition a number of place-names shown in the two earlier OS editions are no longer used by the OS, but these are included for the historic record.

Feature	Name on F. W. L. Thomas chart	Name on OS 6" 1 st edition	Name on current OS mapping	Language	Root	English Meaning
Ronay						
Island	Ronay	Ronay	Ronay/Ronaigh	Norse	Hraun-ey	Rough Island
Bay	Bàgh Chlann Nèill	Bàgh Clann Nèill	Bàgh Clann Nèill	Gaelic		Bay of the Descendants of Neil
Headland	Ru' a Chnaip	Rudha Chnaip	Rubha Chnaip	Gaelic		Hillock Headland
Bay	Bàgh a Chnaip	Bàgh Rudha Chnaip	Bàgh Rubha Chnaip	Gaelic		Bay of the Hillock Headland
Headland	Ru' an Aisig			Gaelic		Ferry Point
Mountain	Bein Carnan	Beinn a' Charnain	Beinn a' Charnain	Gaelic		Hill of the Cairn
Hill			<i>Cnoc nan Gall</i>	Gaelic		Lowlanders' or Strangers' Knoll
Mountain		Beinn an t-Sagairt	Beinn an t-Sagairt	Gaelic		Priest's Hill
Channel	Caolas an t-Sagairt			Gaelic		Priest's Channel
Rock			<i>Cachaileidh an t-Sagairt</i>	Gaelic		Priest's Gate
Headland	Ru' an t-Sagairt	Rudh' an t-Sagairt	Rubh' an t-Sagairt	Gaelic		Priest's Headland
Bay	Loch nan Uamha	Bàgh nan Uamh	Bàgh nan Uamh	Gaelic		(Sea) Loch/ Bay of the Caves
Hill		Cnoc Mor	Cnoc Mor	Gaelic		Big Hill
Cliff		Creag Mhòr	Creag Mhòr	Gaelic		Big Cliff
Peninsula	Ronay Bheag	Ronaybeg	Ronaigh Beag	Norse & Gaelic	Hraun-ey Beag	Small Rough Island
Place		Bad fo-leac	Bad fo-leac	Gaelic		Place under the Slab/Rock Ledge
Channel	Caolas na Feannaig			Gaelic		Crow Channel
Headland	Ru' nan Brisgein	Rudha nam Brisgein	Rubha nam Brisgein	Gaelic		Headland of Silverweed
Bay	Bàgh Sealg			Gaelic		Bay of the Hunt
Island	Eilean Rainich			Gaelic		Fern Island

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Island	Eilean MhicNèill			Gaelic		MacNèill's Island
Island	Seanna Chaisteal	Seanna Chaisteal		Gaelic		Old Castle
Headland	Ru' an Tarbh	Rudha an Tairbh	Rubh' an Tairbh	Gaelic		Bull Point
Bay	Acarsaid Fhalaich	Acarseid Fhalaich		Gaelic		Hidden Harbour
Bay	Bàgh an Eirionnaich	Bàgh an Eireannach	Bàgh an Eireannach	Gaelic		Irishman's Bay
Bay	Bàgh nam Fiasgan			Gaelic		Mussel Bay
Headland		Rudha Meadhoin	Rubha Meadhoin	Gaelic		Middle Headland
Bay	Bàgh na Caiplich	Bàgh na Caiplich	Bàgh na Caiplich	Gaelic		Horse or Foam or Froth Bay
Loch	Loch na Làmhraig	Loch na Leig	Loch na Leig	Gaelic		Thomas: Loch of the Axe OS: Loch of the Hollow/Flat Stone
Loch	Loch na Leuma	Loch nan Druidhneach	Loch nan Druidhneach	Gaelic		Thomas: Loch of the Leap (or Milk) OS: Loch of the Druids (possibly Thorns)
Loch		Loch na Caiplich	Loch na Caiplich	Gaelic		Foam Loch
Rock			<i>Stalla Bhàn</i>			White Rock
Headland	Gob na Caiplich			Gaelic		Foam Point
Cliff			<i>'Alicoonta'</i>	Gaelic		Not clear, but possibly an overhanging cliff
Inlet			<i>Geòdha Chaise</i>	Gaelic		Cheese Gully
Stream	Sruth Beag	Sruth Beag		Gaelic		Small Stream
Loch		Loch na Sruthan Beag	Loch na Sruthan Beag	Gaelic		Loch of the Small Streams
Island		Eilean na Cloiche	Eilean na Cloiche	Gaelic		Island of the Stone
Cliff	Creag an Tuill			Gaelic		Hole Cliff
Skerry	Sgeirean an t-Srutha Bhig			Gaelic		The Rocks of the Small Current
Loch		Loch na Cartach	Loch na Cartach	Gaelic		Water-lily Loch
Cliff	Creag MhicFionnlaidh	Creag MhicFionnlaidh	Creag MhicFionnlaidh	Gaelic		The Cliff of the Son of Finlay
Headland	Ru' MhicFionnlaidh	Rudha MhicFionnlaidh	Rubha Creag MhicFionnlaidh	Gaelic		The Headland of the Son of Finlay
Skerry	Sgeirean Loch na Cartach			Gaelic		Water-lily Loch Skerries
Gully	Geo' na Roideagich	Geo na Muice	Geòdha na Muice	Gaelic		Thomas: Bog myrtle Gully OS: Whale Gully
Headland	Ru' na Roideagich	Rudha na Rodagrìch	Rubha na Rodagraich	Gaelic		Bog myrtle Headland
Bay		Camas Mòr		Gaelic		Big Bay
Gully	Geo an t-Salchair			Gaelic		Dirt/Mud Gully
Headland		Rudha Breac	Rubha Breac	Gaelic		Speckled Headland
Inlet	Lon Co(a)it	Lòn na Deiseag		Gaelic		Thomas: Pool of the Cat (miss-spelled) OS: Velvet crab Pool

Ronay Field Survey 2015 - 18

Headland	Ru' na Monach			Gaelic		Peat Moor Point
Inlet	Poll an t-Suicair	Poll an t-Suicair	Poll an t-Suicair	Gaelic		Sugar Pool
Mountain		Beinn Rodagrìch	Beinn Rodagraich	Gaelic		Hill of the Bog Myrtle
Island		Eilean Sgliat	Eilean Sgliat	Gaelic		Slate Island
Headland		Rudha na Buth	Rubha na Bùth	Gaelic		Shop Headland
Mountain		Beinn nan Druidhneach	Beinn nan Druidhneach	Gaelic		Druids'/Thorn Mountain
Fold		Buaile nan Druidhneach	Buaile nan Druidhneach	Gaelic		Druids'/Thorn Fold
Bay	Bàgh an Tighe Fhraoich			Gaelic		Bay of the Heather House
Headland	Ru' Chlann Nèill	Rudha Clann Nèill		Gaelic		Headland of the Descendants of Neil
Offshore						
Skerry	Sgeirean na Chruidh			Gaelic		Cattle Skerry
Skerry	Sgeir an t-Sagairt			Gaelic		Priest's Skerry
Island	Eilean na Feannaig	Gairbh-eilean Ronay	Gairbh-Eilean Ronay	Gaelic		Thomas: Crow Island OS: Rough Island Ronay
Island		Eilean an Fheoir	Eilean an Fheoir	Gaelic		Grass Island
Island		Eilean Leathann		Gaelic		Broad Island
Island	Eilean nam Buinneag			Gaelic		Red Sorrel Island (possibly maiden)
Island	Eilean Dubh nan Uan	Eilean Dubh nan Uan	Eilean Dubh nan Uan	Gaelic		Black Island of the Lambs
Island	Hanaray	Haunaraigh	Haunaraigh	Norse and Gaelic	Hafnar-ey	Harbour Island
Island	Black Island	Dubh-eilean	Dubh-eilean	Gaelic		Black Island
Island	Flodday Bheag	Flodaigh Beag	Flodaigh Beag	Norse and Gaelic	Fljót-ey or flot-ey	Little Flat Island
Island	Flodday Mhor	Flodaigh Mòr	Flodaigh Mòr	Norse and Gaelic	Fljót-ey or flot-ey	Big Flat Island
Headland	Ru' nan Caorach	Rudha nan Caorach	Rubha nan Caorach	Gaelic		Sheep Headland
Skerry	Bo' an Fheidh	Bogh an Fheidh	Bodha an Fhèidh	Gaelic		Deer Reef
Island	Eilean an Fheidh	Eilean an Fhèidh	Eilean an Fhèidh	Gaelic		Deer Island
Skerry	Sgeirean na Caiplich			Gaelic		Horse or Foam or Froth Skerry
Island	Eilean Seilisteir			Gaelic		Iris island
Skerry	Sgeirean nan Creachann			Gaelic		Skerries of the Scallops
Island	Garbh Eilean	Garbh Eilean Mòr	Garbh Eilean Mòr	Gaelic		Big Rough Island
Channel	Mealatron	Vallastrome	Vallastrome	Dutch	Maalenstroom	Lit. Grinding stream = whirlpool

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Drawings and photographs

All plans and maps prepared by the author. Mapping is based on online Bing and Google satellite imagery, Canmore aerial photography and open source OS data.

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66. National Library of Scotland
70. Historic Environment Scotland Collections SC 747003
72. National Library of Scotland
73. Bing satellite imagery

GAZETTEER INTRODUCTION

General

The island has been divided into eight geographic areas roughly corresponding to the different settlement groupings (see fig 77). A ninth has been added to cover four of the five offshore islands surveyed to the north and west of Ronay (see figs 77 & 78). The areas and their respective area codes used for site identification are as follows:

BR	Beinn Rodagraich	SB	Sruth Beag
BD	Buaile nan Druidhneach	FB	Flodaigh Beag
RC	Rubha Chnaip	FM	Flodaigh Mòr
BM	Buaile-mhòr	H	Haunaraigh
RB	Ronay Beag	EL	Eilean Leathann
RBE	Ronay Beag East	GEM	Garbh Eilean Mòr
BNC	Bàgh na Caiplich		

Each gazetteer section is preceded by a map showing the area location within the whole field survey area, and a second, at a larger scale, showing individual site locations within the section area

Thereafter, each site is recorded using a standard format as the example overleaf:



Fig 78: Ronay offshore islands gazetteer area boundaries

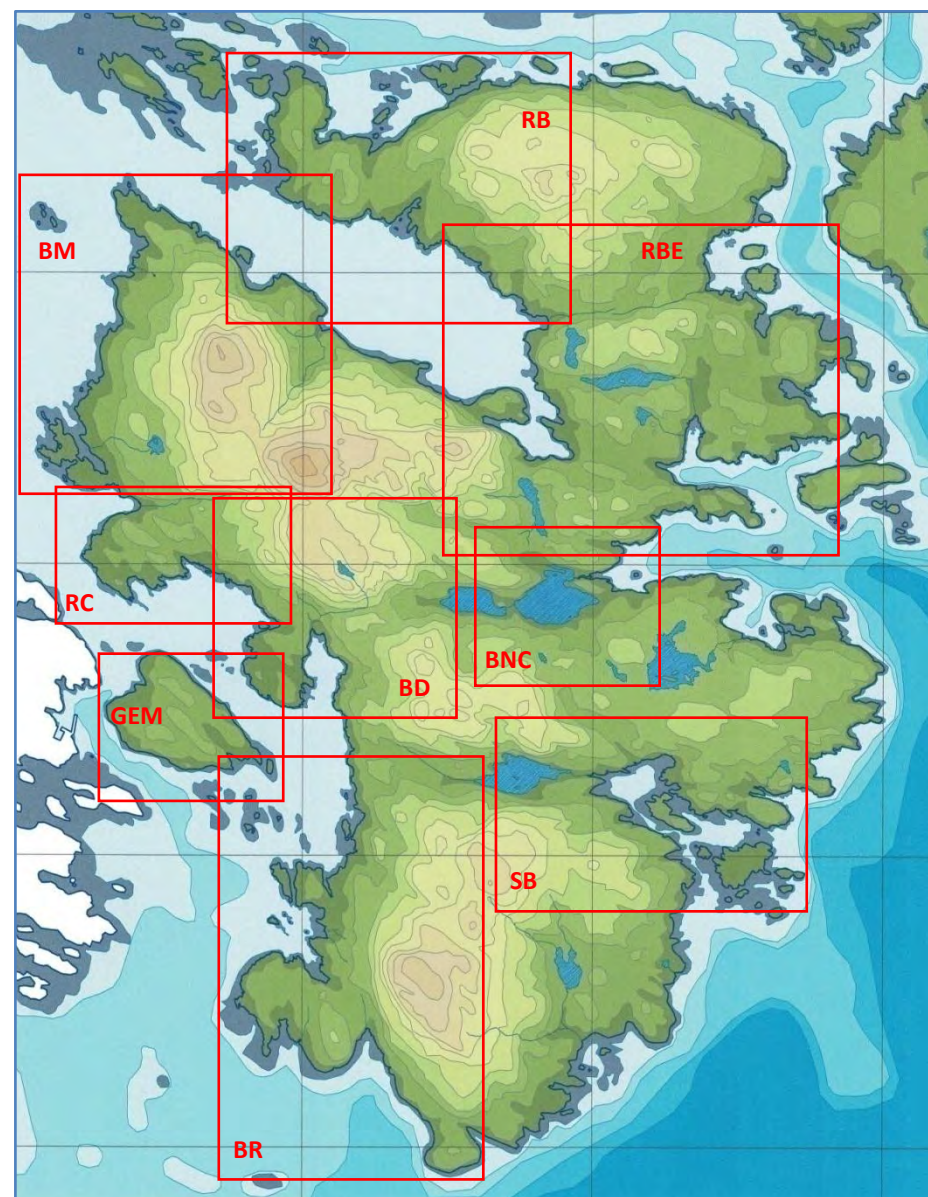


Fig 77: Ronay gazetteer area boundaries

Site name: Rubha Clann Nèill

RFS no: BD 13

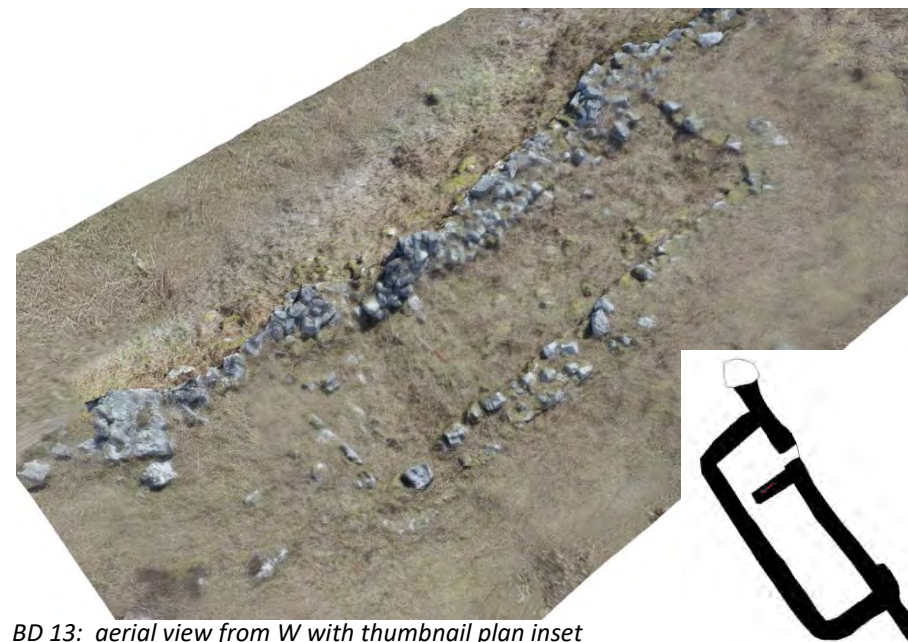
NGR: NF 88925 55715

Site type(s): Building

Condition: Fair

Description:

A rectangular building lies just N of the centre of Rubha Clann Nèill attached to the SW side of a head dyke (BD 12) which bisects the peninsula. It measures 12.3m NW - SE and 3.2m transversely within drystone walls up to 1.3m thick, and between 0.8 and 1.4m high. No clear entrance identifiable, but there is an opening in the dyke shared elevation around 0.7m wide just NW of centre. A partition located just SE of this subdivides the interior. The relatively square internal corners suggest this building may be mid rather than early 19thC in date, but its purpose is not clear.



BD 13: aerial view from W with thumbnail plan inset

Surveyed:	29/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	Yes
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Gazetteer Entry Headings

Site name: The nearest place-name marked on the survey map inserted into the report back cover. These include maritime place-names.

RFS No: Unique Ronay Field Survey number which begins with the area code.

NGR: National Grid Reference using the 5 + 5 figure convention, rounded up or down to the nearest 5m. NGRs have been obtained initially from GPS tracking data and then verified with the Canmore site location tool using aerial photograph imagery. NGRs of sites larger than 20m in extent are taken at their centre and rounded to the nearest 10m.

Site type: The Canmore site classification system is used. Where it has not been possible to even guess what a site may be the term 'unknown' is used. A new term devised for the Eaval Field Survey - '**seaweed storage platform**' - has been used again. These can be defined as '*A drystone structure located at or near the high water mark and usually comprising a low wall backfilled behind with beach material*

to form a low platform on which harvested seaweed was temporarily stored.' Such structures are found quite widely on the east side of Uist and were still being built and used within the last 100 years. Having been washed by rain the seaweed was then moved to a kelp processing site, or onto cultivated land as a fertiliser.

Condition: Only three terms are used:

Good: Structure purpose, form and construction clearly visible and/or >75% intact

Fair: Structure form clearly visible, though possibly altered. Purpose and construction not totally clear and possibly multiple; and/or > 25% intact

Poor: Structure purpose, form and construction not clear; and/or <25% intact

Description: The broad Canmore conventions for describing sites have been used. These include:

- a general description of location;
- plan shape, dimensions and orientation;

- wall thickness and height;
- openings described and located;
- other features of note;
- mapping record(s) if any.
-

Dimensions in general are given to the nearest 0.1m. Larger structures in the landscape such as dykes have been measured to the nearest 10m using Google satellite imagery and their accuracy is likely to be +/- 5% as a result.

Surveyed: Date of original survey. Many sites have been visited more than once.

NMRS No: Where recorded in Canmore, the site ID number - either 5 or 6 digits. Some Canmore entries for sites such as townships result in their multiple use.

W Isles SMR No: Western Isles Small Monument Record number. Note that recent Canmore additions do not appear in this database.

SCHARP ID: Scottish Coastal Heritage At Risk Project number. All sites within 10m of the HWM have been recorded on the SCHARP database, though some still await verification.

3D: Extensive use has been made of photogrammetry for recording sites and images from 3D models created using Agisoft Photoscan software, and these are reproduced where these help explain site disposition.

Gazetteer Entries Generally

Images: Included for nearly all sites. Labelled with the site reference and direction of view.

Maps and plans: North is always vertically upwards on maps and site and thumbnail plans unless specifically shown otherwise. Thumbnail plans within gazetteer entries are for descriptive purposes only and are not reproduced to a particular scale, but they may include a red line representing a 1m long survey pole for indicative dimensions. Detailed area plans are reproduced at the individual scales shown.

Gaelic: Place-name spellings are given as per current OS mapping. Unfortunately the limitations of text symbols in CAD mean that it has not been possible to include accents on Gaelic vowels in the drawings.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used:

AOD: Above Ordnance Datum

Bt.: Baronet

Cardinal points: N, S, E, W etc as per the normal convention

c.: around this date

C: century

Cdr.: Master and Commander

Cpn.: Captain

H/LWM: High/Low Water Mark

L: Left

m: metre(s)

ha: hectare(s)

pers. comm.: personal comment

R: Right

S-most: southern-most etc.

Access to Ronay

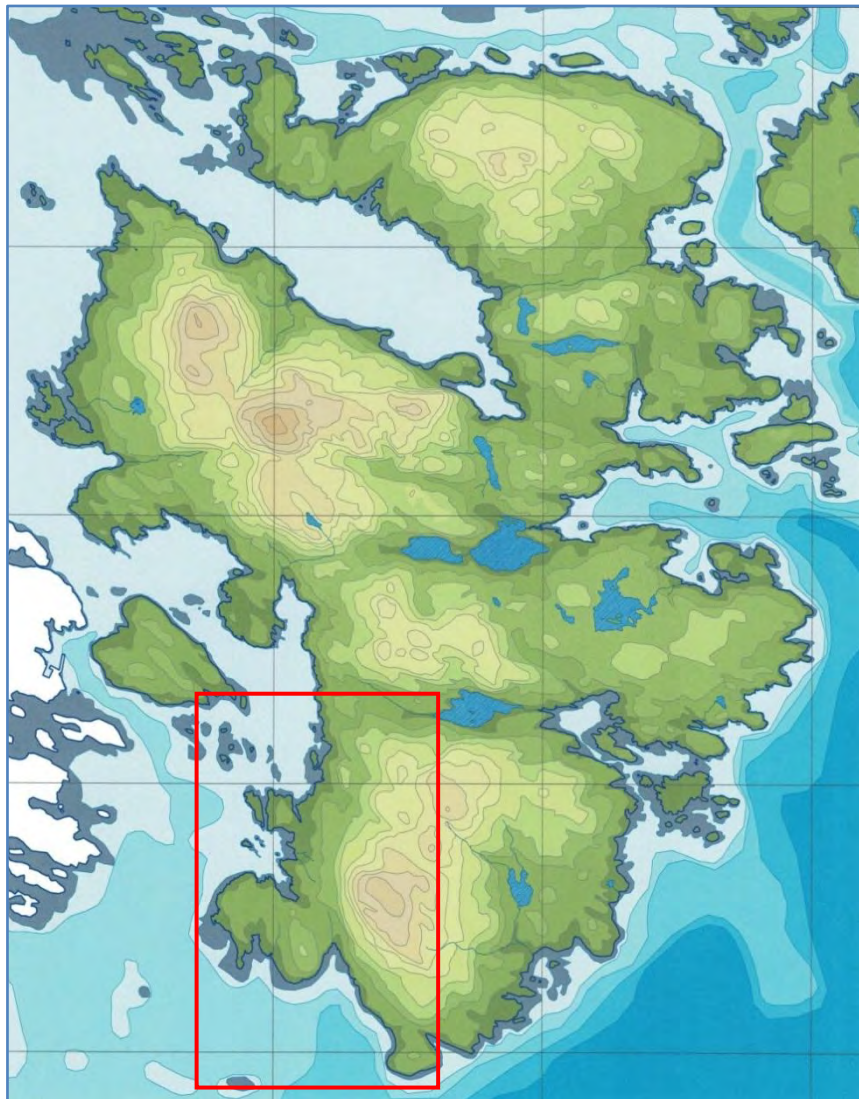
The best and easiest way to gain a general view of Ronay and its scenery, wildlife and settlements is from the sea, and regular boat trips leave Kallin Harbour on Grimsay during the summer months, and by arrangement during other times of the year. Details can be found at <http://www.uistboattrips.com/>. If you wish to land on the island, arrangements to do so can be made using the same company, but location and timing will be tide dependent.

If you plan to make a landing using your own transport please note that the pontoon in front of the house on Ronay is private and should not be used for landing. Please also respect the privacy of the island's owners and their guests.

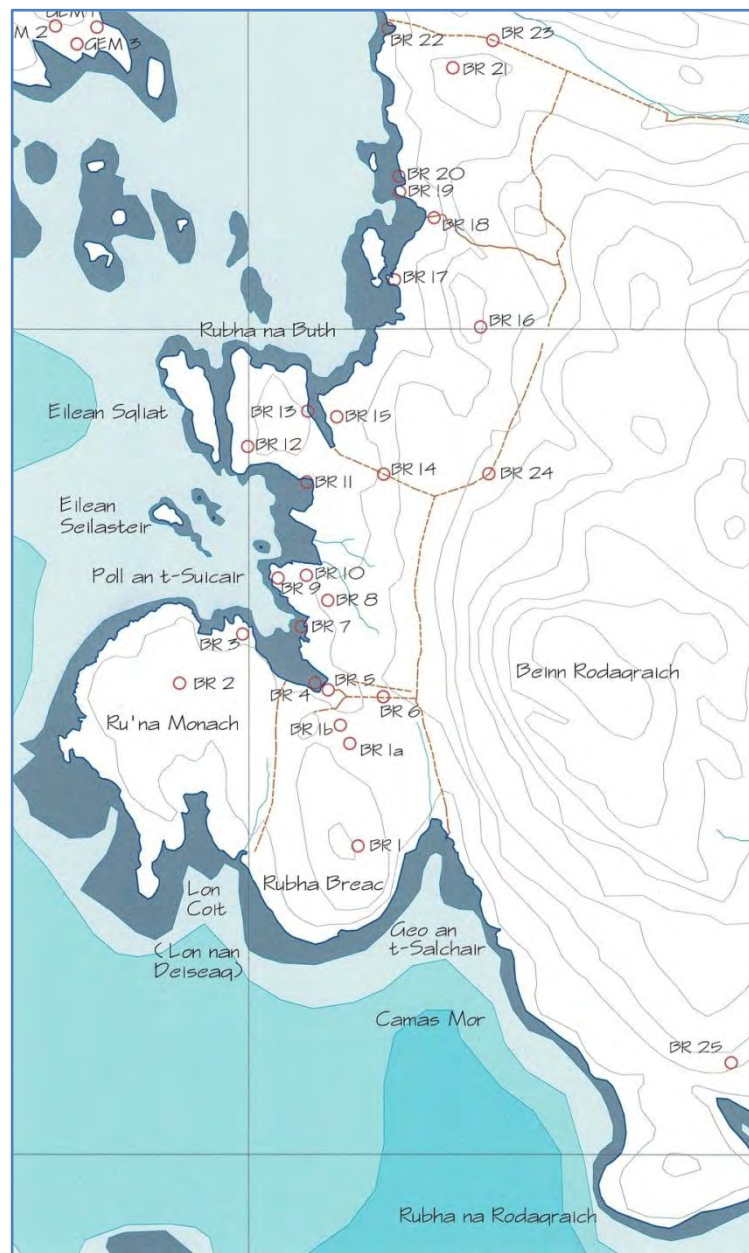
There are no footpaths on the island and walking is generally moderate in difficulty. There are numerous reefs and shoals around Ronay especially on its west and north sides and the 5m+ tidal range at spring tides produces strong currents at several locations. The mapping provided with this survey should not be used for navigation purposes.

BEINN RODAGRAICH

(Gaelic 'Hill of the Dutch/Bog Myrtle')



Location of Beinn Rodagraich survey area within Ronay



Sites within the Beinn Rodagraich survey area

Beinn Rodagraich Introduction

Lying in the far south-west corner of Ronay, the area west of Beinn Rodagraich comprises an area of west facing land sloping down to the sea and two peninsulas which extend out into the Kyle of Ronay, Rubha na Monach and Rubha na Bùth.

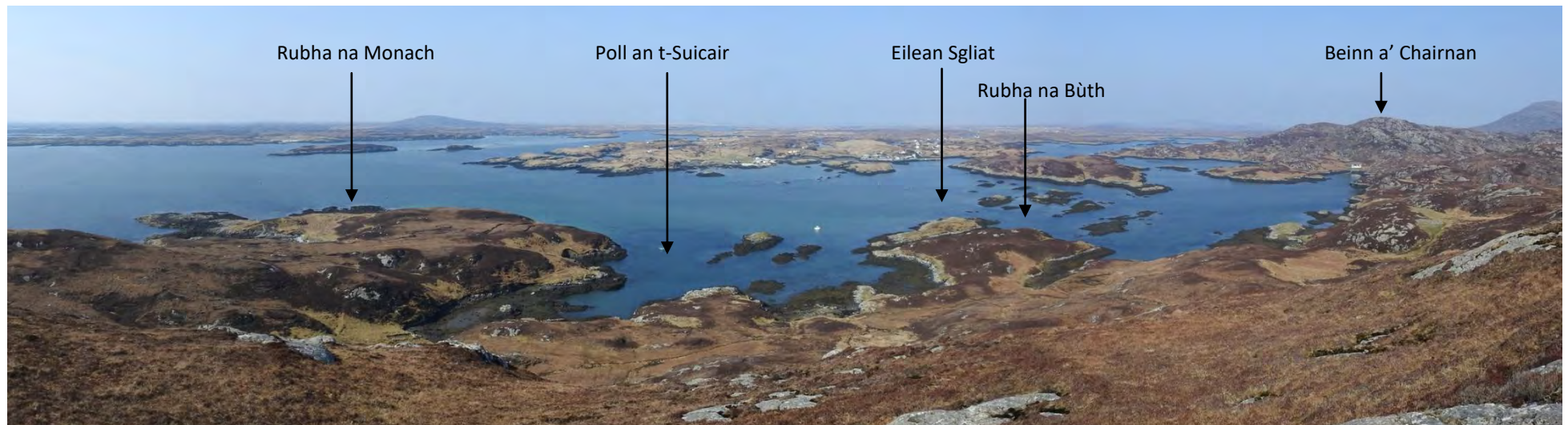
It was not an area identified by Robert Reid as being settled or cultivated in his '*Plan of the Island of North Uist*' dated 1799 and it is therefore assumed that most of the buildings and structures there post-date this map. However, tradition says that Ronay was visited seasonally by kelpers in the 18thC as the kelping trade got under way and moved towards its peak during the Napoleonic wars, so some of the kelping related structures (eg BR 12,13, 15, 17 and 19) and smaller, less well constructed buildings (eg BR 8 and 10) may relate to this period.

The area occupied at the time of the 1805-10 kelping settlement is defined on its landward side by a 1.2km head dyke (BR 23 and 24) and this encloses an area of in-bye land of some 28ha which is subdivided by 4 additional dykes to form 5 crofts (nos 1-5 on the Ronay croft map). Each has its own farmstead (BR 1, 3, 5, 16 and 21), which were served by several landing places (BR 4, 17, 20 and 22), and along the shore are the remains of kelp processing sites - the main occupation of the crofting families.

Tradition is that all the processed kelp from Ronay was brought to a trading post in Poll an t-Suicair (Sugar Bay) where it was exchanged for money or goods. However, the building on the shore there (BR 9), was built using part dressed stone and lime mortar so post-dates the kelping croft settlement and is shown on Cdr. F. W. L. Thomas's survey chart of the Kyle of Ronay dating to 1861 as a 'Store House'. Being accessible at all states of the tide this may have continued the area's earlier tradition as a trading place, evidenced also by the place-name Rubha na Bùth or Shop Point.

After the kelping community was cleared in the 1830s this area became part of the Ronay sheep farm, and some of the buildings have been adapted for livestock use, mostly in the form of small lamb pens (BR 5, 9 and 16), but also possibly temporary human occupation too, evidenced by a fireplace built into the gable of house BR 16.

Large quantities of peat were required for both domestic and kelp processing use and the landscape shows extensive evidence of its cutting and removal. This activity was continued on Rubha na Monach (Peat Moor Point) by Grimsay crofters right up until the late 20thC. On Rubha na Monach's south shore is an inlet called 'Lon Cait' meaning Pool of the Cat. This is associated with an old story in which a Grimsay woman repeatedly dreamed of a woman's body being washed up there after she accidentally drowned while collecting kelp. Disbelieved at first, when a party of men eventually rowed there her body was found and brought back for burial.



Panorama looking west and north from the summit of Beinn Rodagraich

Site name: **Rubha Breac**
 RFS no: **BR 1**
 NGR: NF 89140 5489
 Site type(s): Farmstead (poss), enclosure (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A possible farmstead and enclosure lie amongst areas of cultivation and peat cutting on the SE edge of the peninsula Rubha na Monach at the far SW end of Ronay island. Lying in the shelter of a rock outcrop and constructed entirely of turf, the L plan shaped main building measures 6.8m NNW - SSE and between 3.4 and 5.4m transversely. The remains of an entrance lie towards the N end of the E facing elevation. Around 25m N lie the faint remains of what might have been a rectangular enclosure, together with a second turf walled structure of unknown purpose. It is not clear whether this possible farmstead is part of the early 18th C kelping settlement or from another period before or afterwards, but it does sit within a bounded area of land of around 5ha in extent which probably does represent one of the 26 kelping crofts.



BR 1: view from W and thumbnail plan



BR 1A: view from NE

Surveyed:	12/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Rubha na Monach**
 RFS no: **BR 1A & B**
 NGR: NF 89130 54495 & NF 89120 54515
 Site type(s): Stack stand(s) (poss), kale yard (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

Around 125m N of farmstead BR 1 lie two turf structures amongst areas of peat cutting and possible former cultivation. The S-most is rectangular in plan, and measures around 5m NW - SE and 4m transversely across a platform whose perimeter is slightly raised and is surrounded by a 2.5m wide shallow ditch. The second lies around 15m to the NW and is similarly constructed and measures 12m NW - SE and 7m transversely.

Surveyed:	15/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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Site name: **Rubha na Monach**

RFS no: **BR 2**

NGR: NF 88925 54565

Site type(s): Enclosure

Condition: Fair

Description:

Located near the centre of Rubha na Monach, a rectangular enclosure measures 20m W - E by 14m transversely within turf walls typically 0.8m high and now slumped to 1.5m wide at their base. Now lies within an area used for peat cutting by residents of Grimsay during the 20thC, but its original purpose is not clear.

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Poll an t-Suicair**

RFS no: **BR 3**

NGR: NF 89000 54625

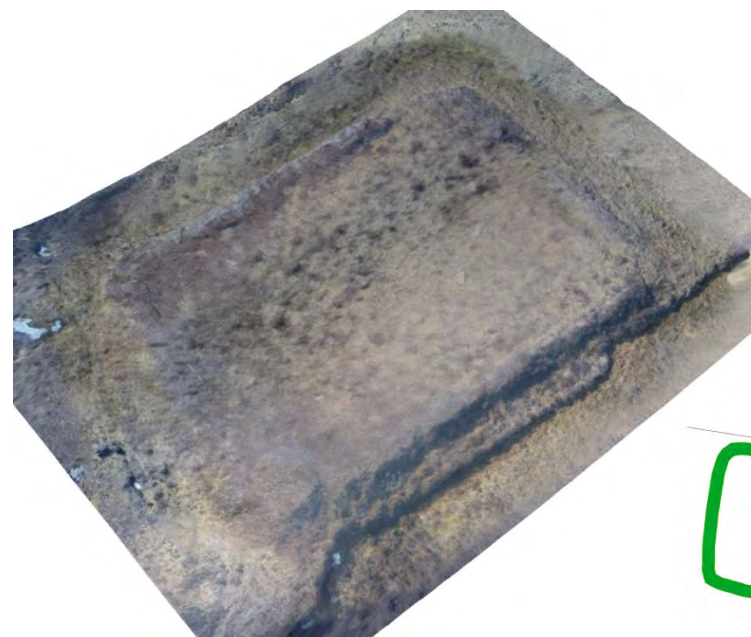
Site type(s): Farmstead, hut (poss)

Condition: Poor

Description:

This farmstead lies right on the edge of the S shore of Poll an t-Suicair within a bounded area of croft land to the S extending to around 6ha. It consists of a single rectangular building which measures 10.5m from NW to SE by 3.6m transversely, within now overgrown drystone walls up to 1.5m thick and 1.2m high, both internal and external corners of which are generally rounded. There is an entrance door just NW of centre of the NE facing elevation, and the remains of a drystone partition immediately inside this on the NW side. Attached to the building at its NW gable is what may either be the original house gable or a byre extension. This measures 5.5m SW - NE and 2.5m transversely within similarly constructed walls, though it extends beyond the main house walls on its NE side near a possible entrance. Around 15m SW and 5m higher than the house lies a sub-circular turf walled structure, possibly a hut. This has an internal diameter of around 4.5m within much reduced turf walls typically 0.5m high and slumped to 2m wide at their base.

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13015	3D: Yes
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BR 2: aerial view from NE and thumbnail plan; the line on the N side is a peat bank



BR 3: aerial view from E and thumbnail plans of house and hut

Site name: **Poll an t-Suicair**

RFS no: **BR 4**

NGR: NF 89090 54560

Site type(s): Landing point

Condition: Poor

Description:

A boat landing point lies at the head of an inlet on the S shore of Poll an t-Suicair a few m. from a farmstead. The landing point comprises an area of beach measuring around 10m NW - SE and 3m transversely which has been cleared of larger stones, and defined on its SW side by a low cliff and to its NE by an intermittent line of around a dozen small boulders up to 0.5m across.

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:	349729	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13016	3D:	No
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Site name: **Poll an t-Suicair**

RFS no: **BR 5**

NGR: NF 89105 54555

Site type(s): Farmstead

Condition: Fair

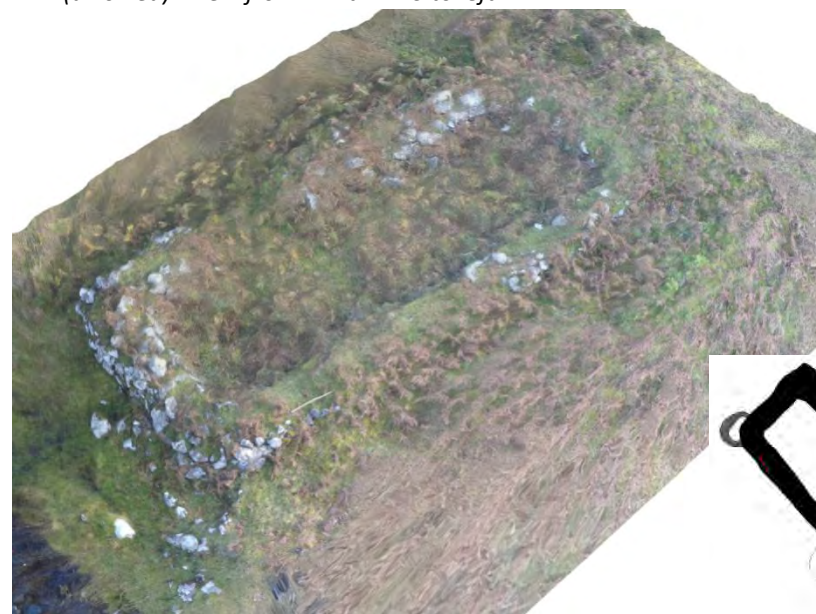
Description:

This farmstead lies a few metres from the shore of Poll an t-Suicair at the S extremity of a dyke bounded area of croft land extending to around 5.5ha. It consists of a single rectangular building which measures 10.5m from NW to SE by 3.5m transversely, within drystone walls up to 1.5m thick and 1.2m high, both internal and external corners of which are generally rounded. There is an entrance door towards the NW end of the NE facing elevation and the remains of a possible lamb pen within. Attached to the building at its W corner is the outline of a small cellular stone structure barely 1.5m across, and at the SE end of its SW facing elevation, the faint remains of a possible turf walled outbuilding.

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:	123301	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13017	3D:	Yes
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BR 4 (arrowed): view from E with BR 5 to left



BR 5: aerial view from W and thumbnail plan

Site name: **Poll an t-Suicair**
 RFS no: **BR 6**
 NGR: NF 89160 54560 (centre)
 Site type(s): Turf dyke(s)
 Condition: Fair

Description:

A turf dyke connects the head dyke BR 24 to the shore of Poll an t-Suicair and appears to define the boundary between the two crofts related to farmsteads BR 1 and BR 5. Around 150m long the dyke runs in a W – E direction between NF 89210 54550 and the top of a low cliff at NF 89080 54560. Just beyond the SE gable of the farmstead BR 5, the dyke may have acted as the S side of a small enclosure. A second 75m long section of dyke runs parallel with the first around 15m further N, but its purpose is unclear.



BR 6: view from N, BR 5 visible in lower RH corner

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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Site name: **Poll an t-Suicair**
 RFS no: **BR 7**
 NGR: NF 89075 54625 (centre)
 Site type(s): Landing place, jetty (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A boat landing point lies at the head of an inlet on the E shore of Poll an t-Suicair. In local tradition this area was where the Ronay kelpers brought their processed seaweed to trade for goods (hence the name) or money. The landing point comprises an area of beach measuring around 30m N - S and between 2 and 4m transversely which has been cleared of larger stones, and defined on its E side by the rocky coast edge and to its W by a combination of a natural rock outcrop, and, towards its end at the LWM, a partially ruined drystone jetty.



BR7: view from N

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:	349730	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13018	3D: No
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Site name: **Poll an t-Suicair**
 RFS no: **BR 8**
 NGR: NF 89105 54665
 Site type(s): Building(s), enclosure (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A two compartment building, possibly a store, lies around 30m E of the E shore of Poll an t-Suicair. Measuring around 9m N - S and 2m transversely within turf walls up to 1.2m thick and 0.6m high, lined internally with single leaf dry stone walling, the building is divided by a drystone wall near its centre point, and both compartments created have a centrally located entrance door facing W. The much reduced remains of a second rectangular building, or possibly an enclosure, lie immediately adjacent to the S though are set at a slightly different angle to the first. The single course of remaining stonework suggests these walls were possibly all drystone construction.



BR 8: aerial view from SW and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Poll an t-Suicair**
 RFS no: **BR 9**
 NGR: NF 89045 54690
 Site type(s): Building, pen.
 Condition: Fair

Description:

A part demolished rectangular building lies a few m. from the E shore of Poll an t-Suicair. It measures around 11.6m NNW - SSE by 4.5m transversely within twin leaf dressed stone walls bound with lime mortar around 1m thick and up to 1.5m high. The external corners are rounded and well built and external stonework joints finished to form a smooth external surface. Most of the long elevation walls have been removed so it is not possible to locate any openings, and although the gables are more extant, nor is it possible to discern any fireplaces or chimneys. A cellular drystone structure, probably a lambing pen, has been built into the NE corner.



BR 9: aerial view from SE and thumbnail plan

Along and outside the NE facing elevation and the SW corner the remains of other walls can be seen at ground level and these may represent the external outline of an earlier, slightly larger building on the same site.

Despite its condition, it is clear that this building design and construction fits with the 'taigh geal' or white house tradition associated with the second half of the 19th, and early 20th centuries on Uist. As such, and in common with the only other house of this type on the island at Buaile-mhòr (BM 8), it would be expected to appear on either the 1st or 2nd OS editions from 1880 and 1904, but it does not, although an un-roofed structure is shown at this location when the 1st edition was surveyed in 1878.

However a roofed building does appear on this site on the Cdr. F. W. L. Thomas Admiralty survey of the Kyle of Ronay dated 1861 where it is labelled as a 'Store House', and it seems likely that this location, used as a trading point by the early 19thC kelping crofters, continued in a similar role for a period after they left. Without any other buildings nearby however, it seems that when the building became disused, the dressed stone was good enough to be dismantled and shipped to another location, possibly Bàgh Mòr on Grimsay, where local fisherman Eardsaidh Nicholson is known to have used stone from old buildings on Ronay to build a pier and other structures in the 1930s.



BR 9: view from E



BR 10: aerial view from NE and thumbnail plan



Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:	123306	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13019	3D: Yes
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Site name: **Poll an t-Suicair**

RFS no: **BR 10**

NGR: NF 89075 54695

Site type(s): Building

Condition: Poor

Description:

A rectangular building, possibly a store, lies around 30m E of the E shore of Poll an t-Suicair. It measures around 3.7m E - W and 1.7m transversely within mainly turf walls up to 1.5m thick and 0.4m high, which are lined internally with single leaf dry stone walling. The building has an entrance door on the W end of the S facing elevation and possibly a second on the opposite wall.

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: Poll an t-Suicair
RFS no: BR 11
NGR: NF 89075 54810
Site type(s): Landing point, kelp processing site (poss)
Condition: Poor

Description:

A boat landing point lies at the head of an inlet on the NE shore of Poll an t-Suicair. The landing point comprises an area of beach measuring around 10m NE - SW and 3m transversely which has been cleared of larger stones, and defined on both sides by fragmented lines of small boulders. On the shore immediately to its NE lies an arrangement of around 15 small boulders at the base of a low cliff. Although their exact purpose is unclear they are most likely to be related to kelp storage or processing.

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:	349734	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13020	3D:	No
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Site name: Rubha na Bùth
RFS no: BR 12
NGR: NF 89010 54850
Site type(s): Kelp processing site (poss)
Condition: Poor

Description:

Along this coastline, often located a few metres inland from the shore and concealed in vegetation, are a number of small stone piles of which this is a typical example. Although their exact purpose is unclear, in this kind of location and away from areas of cultivation, they are most likely to be related to kelp processing.

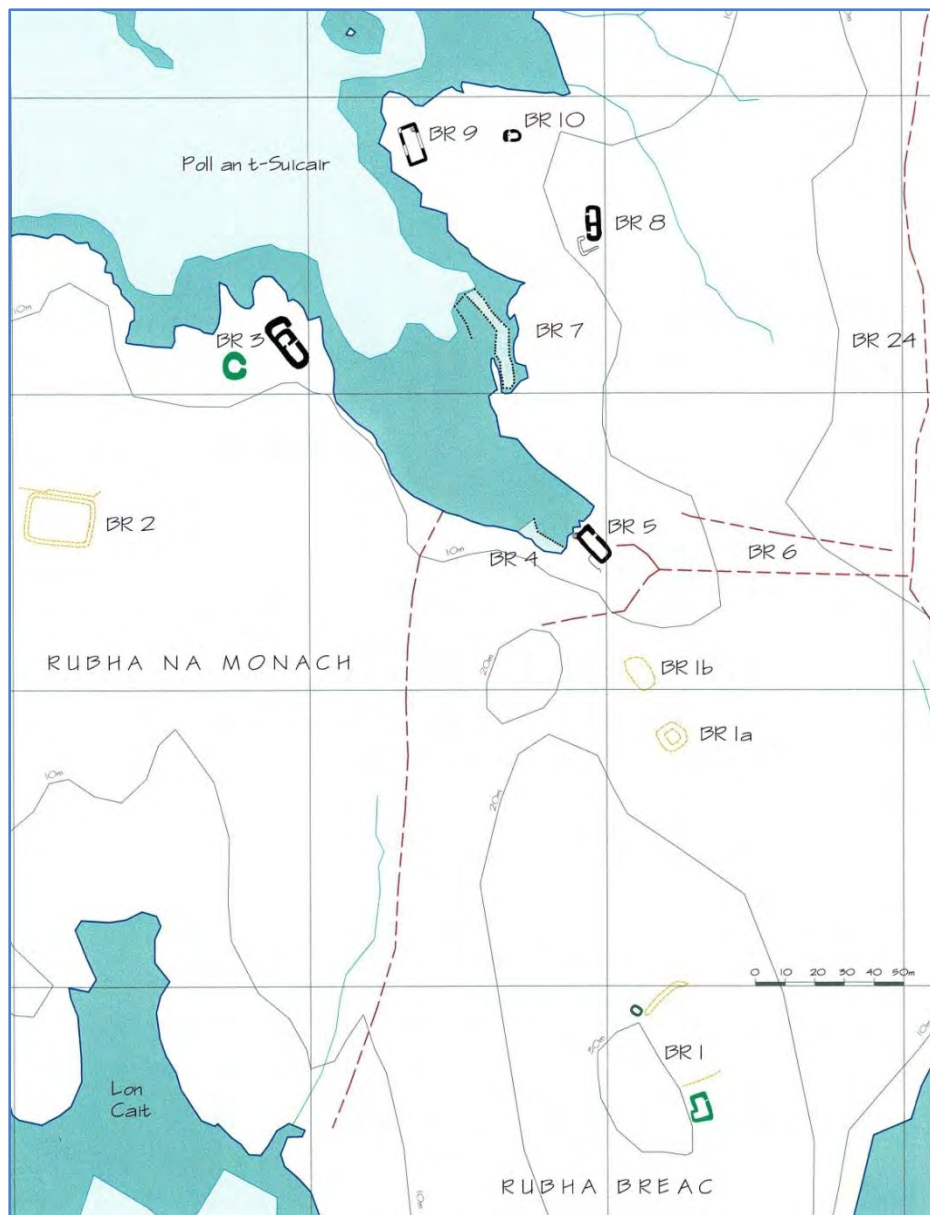
Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13772	3D:	No
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BR 11: view from NE



BR 12: view from S



Beinn Rodagraich south area map



Beinn Rodagraich north area map

Site name: Rubha na Bùth
RFS no: BR 13
NGR: NF 89075 54810
Site type(s): Landing point; jetty; kelp storage platform (poss)
Condition: Fair

Description:

A boat landing point lies on the west side of an inlet on the shore of Ronay E of Eilean Sgliat. The landing point comprises an area of beach measuring around 15m N - S and 5m transversely which has been cleared of larger stones. At the HWM immediately on its W side a small jetty has been created which comprises a low drystone wall around 10m long backfilled behind to form a level platform. Most likely to be related to kelp storage or processing.

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:	349739	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13021	3D:	No
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BR 13: view from W

Site name: Rubha na Bùth
RFS no: BR 14
NGR: NF 89170 54820 (centre)
Site type(s): Dyke
Condition: Fair

Description:

A turf dyke runs for a distance of around 135m in a ESE - WNW direction between the head dyke BR 1 at NF 89235 54790 and the shore of Ronay at NF 89115 54845. This probably defines the S extent of the croft land related to the farmstead BR 16.

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13773	3D:	No
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BR 14: view from W

Site name: **Rubha na Bùth**
 RFS no: **BR 15**
 NGR: NF
 Site type(s): Kelp processing site (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

Along this coastline, often located a few metres inland from the shore and concealed in vegetation, are a number of small stone piles of which this is a typical example. Although their exact purpose is unclear, in this kind of location and away from areas of cultivation, they are most likely to be related to kelp processing.

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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BR 15: view from W

Site name: **Beinn Rodagraich**
 RFS no: **BR 16**
 NGR: NF 89290 54955
 Site type(s): Farmstead, pens, kale yard (poss), stack stand (poss)
 Condition: Good

Description:

This somewhat altered farmstead lies around 100 metres inland from the W shore of Ronay at an altitude of +30m AOD, near the centre of a dyke/seashore bounded area of croft land extending to nearly 6Ha. The main building (A) was probably originally constructed as a rectangular longhouse, measuring 13.5m from E to W by 4.2m transversely, together with a similarly shaped and orientated outbuilding (B) directly attached to the W end of its N facing long elevation, which measures 4.2m X 2.4m, both within drystone walls up to 1.7m thick and 1.2m high, of which both internal and external corners are generally rounded. All four entrance doorways (C) have been subsequently built up, but appear to have been located in the E elevation of the outbuilding, one on the house N side long elevation, and two on the S side - all towards their E ends. Different styles of walling point to other alterations at various points. These include what appears to be a gable extension at its E end (D), and in the W gable where a fireplace recess has been built near its centre (E).



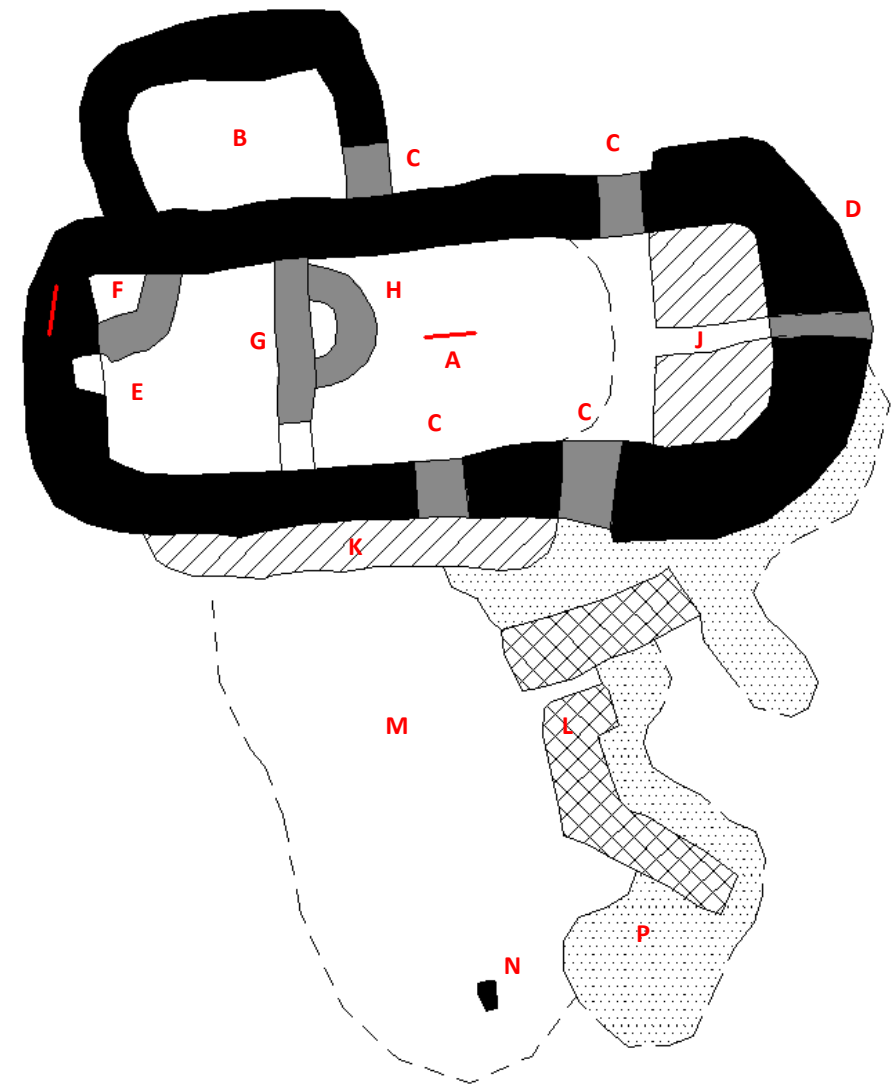
BR 16: aerial view from SW

A number of other structures are visible within the main house. These include a small cellular stone structure 1m across in the NW corner (F) which is probably a lamb pen, a 0.8m thick stone dividing wall (G) which bisects the main house around 3.6m from its W end, attached to the E side of which is a second D shaped pen around 0.8m across (H), and finally at the E end two raised floor areas (J) separated by what is probably a drain, which probably passed through the gable to connect to a field drain outside.

Outside the main house to the S are a number of other structures including a revetted path along the W half of the S facing elevation (K), the remains of the base of a C shaped wall fragment around 1m thick and 7m long (L) which may include a flue or vent, and the faint outline of a possible enclosure (M) within which stands a single embedded stone (N). In this area is a concentration of grass covered stone rubble (P) which may represent the remains of other structures.

Around 100m S of the farmstead is a sub-circular area of raised ground measuring around 10m in diameter in amongst an area of former cultivation which may represent the remains of a former kale yard or stack stand.

All the evidence points to this structure being one of the 26 early 19thC keeping crofts, probably extended within its lifetime, which after abandonment, has been adapted for use for sheep husbandry purposes, including perhaps a roofed bothy at its W end. However, the possibility of an earlier structure existing on the site cannot be discounted.



(Above) BR 16: plan; red survey poles 1m long

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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(Left) BR 16: view of stack stand or kale yard from N

Site name: Beinn Rodagraich
RFS no: BR 17
NGR: NF 89180 55065
Site type(s): Landing point; jetty; naust, kelp processing site (poss), building (poss), stepping stones
Condition: Fair

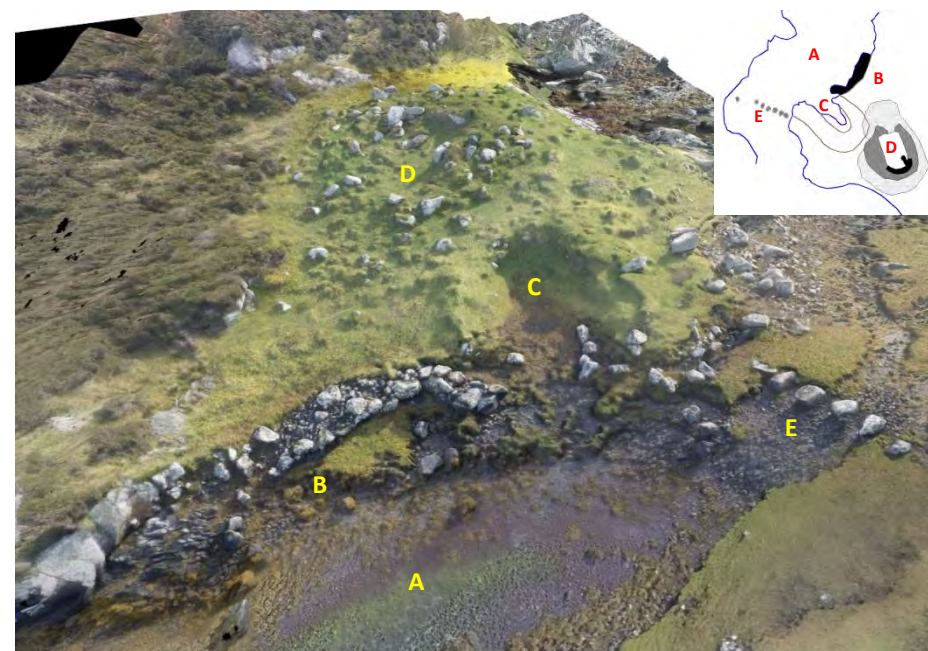
Description:

A boat landing point lies at the head of a narrow tidal channel between a small unnamed tidal island and the W shore of Ronay. The landing point (A) comprises an area of beach measuring around 15m N - S and between 2 and 5m transversely which has been cleared of larger stones. It is defined on its E side by a low drystone jetty (B) which measures around 8m long and around 0.4m high, and is formed with a single leaf of stone walling backfilled behind with beach material to form a narrow platform which is at or near the level of the HWM.

At its S end, a naust (C), has been excavated out of the shoreline with its base just at the HWM. With a U shaped cross section it measures around 6m X 3.5m within and is up to 1.3m deep where the excavated material has been piled around to form a surrounding bank.

Immediately to the E of the naust is a sub-rectangular mound of stones measuring around 9.5m N - S and 8m transversely and up to 1.5m high, within which lie the remains of a rectangular structure (D). This appears to have been delineated by a single leaf drystone wall of which parts remain on the S and E sides and may have been open to the N. Its purpose is not clear, although local tradition is there was once a small seasonal shop on the site. Alternatively, it may be the remains of a kelp kiln which would fit more easily with its position, other structures nearby, and the known history of Ronay.

Finally a line of 6 stepping stones (E) crosses the narrow tidal channel between shore where these structures are located and the adjacent island.



BR 17: aerial view from NW and thumbnail plan



BR 17: view from E with Kallin Harbour in distance

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:	289937	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13022	3D:	No
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Site name: **Beinn Rodagraich**
 RFS no: **BR 18**
 NGR: NF 89235 55130 (centre)
 Site type(s): Dyke
 Condition: Fair

Description:

A quite well preserved section of drystone dyke runs for a distance of around 20m in a W - E direction between the W shore of Ronay at NF 89225 55130 and the base of a cliff at NF 89245 55135. This probably represents the W end of a nearly 200m long W - E orientated boundary between the crofts relating to the two farmsteads BR 16 and BR 21. As well as this length of drystone dyke and an intermittent turf bank and ditch, the boundary also makes use of rock outcrops as natural barriers, before finally ending at its junction with the head dyke BR 24 at NF 89385 55075.



BR 18: view from SE

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:	349740	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13023	3D:	No
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Site name: **Beinn Rodagraich**
 RFS no: **BR 19**
 NGR: NF 89190 55160
 Site type(s): Kelp processing site (poss), clearance cairn (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

(See also BR 15) A small stone pile or cairn lies a few metres from the W shore of Ronay. Its exact purpose is unclear, but in this kind of location it could either be related to kelp processing or clearance from an area of cultivation nearby.



BR 19: view from E

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:	349741	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13024	3D:	No
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Site name: **Beinn Rodagraich**

RFS no: **BR 20**

NGR: NF 89195 55175

Site type(s): Landing point

Condition: Fair

Description:

A boat landing point lies on the W shore of Ronay immediately below the HWM. The landing point comprises an area of beach measuring around 13m W - E and 2m transversely which has been cleared of larger stones, and is defined on each side by intermittent lines of larger stones and small boulders up to 1m across.

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:	349742	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13025	3D:	No
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Site name: **Beinn Rodagraich**

RFS no: **BR 21**

NGR: NF 89250 55310

Site type(s): Farmstead, sheepfold (poss)

Condition: Poor

Description:

This farmstead lies around 85m inland from the W shore of Ronay at an altitude of around 25m AOD, towards the N end of a dyke bounded area of croft land extending to around 4.5Ha. It consists of a rectangular building measuring 9.2m from WNW to ESE by 3.7m transversely, within drystone walls no more than 0.8m high and of very varying thickness and condition, perhaps suggesting it was never completed. There is an entrance towards the W end of the S facing elevation. Around 6m to its NW lies a smaller, second building of similar construction and condition which measures 4.5m N - S and 1.8m transversely. This has an entrance towards the S end of its E facing elevation. Parts of the N facing elevation of the larger building may have been rebuilt which could suggest possible adaptation for stock rearing purposes.

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	Yes
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BR 20: view from E



BR 21: view from SE

Site name: **Beinn Rodagraich**

RFS no: **BR 22**

NGR: NF 89185 55360

Site type(s): Landing point

Condition: Poor

Description:

A boat landing point lies on the W shore of Ronay immediately below the HWM. The landing point comprises an area of beach measuring around 15m W - E and 2m transversely which has been cleared of larger stones, and is defined on each side by intermittent lines of larger stones and small boulders up to 1m across. The remains of buoys and ropes on the shore above suggest this location has been used in the relatively recent past as a temporary fishing station.

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:	349743	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13026	3D:	No
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Site name: **Beinn Rodagraich**

RFS no: **BR 23**

NGR: NF 89400 55300 (centre)

Site type(s): Head dyke

Condition: Poor

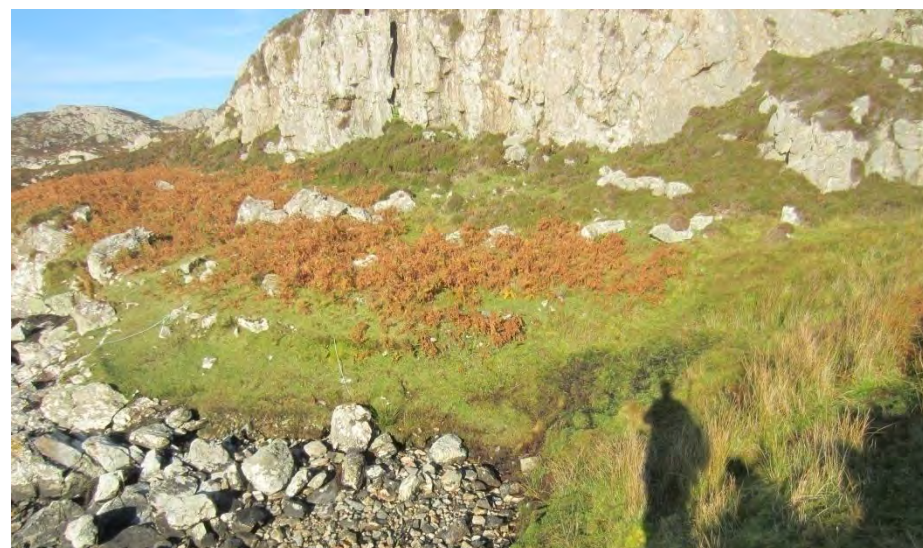
Description:

A dyke runs for a distance of around 450m in a WNW - ESE direction between the W shore of Ronay at NF 89180 55370 and Loch na Sruthan Beag at NF 89600 55250, intersecting the termination of the head dyke BR 24 near its mid point at NF 89395 55310. Constructed mostly as a turf bank and ditch it changes to drystone construction as it nears the sea and loch shores. As well as defining the N extent of the croft land related to the farmstead BR 21 it probably also represents the N boundary of the common grazing at the S end of Ronay related to the five farmsteads BR 1, 3, 4, 9, 16 and 21 and their related crofts.

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:	349740	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13023	3D:	No
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BR 22: view from SE



BR 23: view from S of drystone section near W termination.

Site name: **Beinn Rodagraich**
 RFS no: **BR 24**
 NGR: NF 8924 5489 (centre)
 Site type(s): Head dyke
 Condition: Fair

Description:

A head dyke runs in a generally S - N direction for a distance of around 1km between the SW shore of Ronay at Camas Mòr at NF 89250 54400 and its intersection with a second dyke running W - E between the W shore of Ronay and Loch na Sruthan Beag at NF 89395 55310. Construction alternates between drystone, stone and turf, and turf bank and ditch. The total area of land enclosed is around 28Ha and the remains of 4 further dykes which subdivide it, and a number of farmstead type buildings within, suggest that this area was formerly subdivided into 5 crofts.



BR 24: view of turf bank section towards S end looking S into Camas Mòr

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13775	3D: No
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Site name: **Geodha na Rodagraich/Muice**
 RFS no: **BR 25**
 NGR: NF 89595 54100
 Site type(s): Hut
 Condition: Fair

Description:

The remains of a rectangular hut lie near the top of a gully leading up from Geodha na Rodagraich/Muice near the S tip of Ronay. Formed in part by an excavation in a turf bank, it measures around 4m SW - NE and 2m transversely within mainly turf walls, partly lined inside with stones at its NE end. The entrance seems to have been on its NW facing elevation. At this location - away from the main settlement areas, by the coast, and in an area of slightly better grazing, its use was probably related to either kelping or sheep herding, though any relationship to traditional shieling activity seems unlikely.



BR 25: view from NW and thumbnail plan

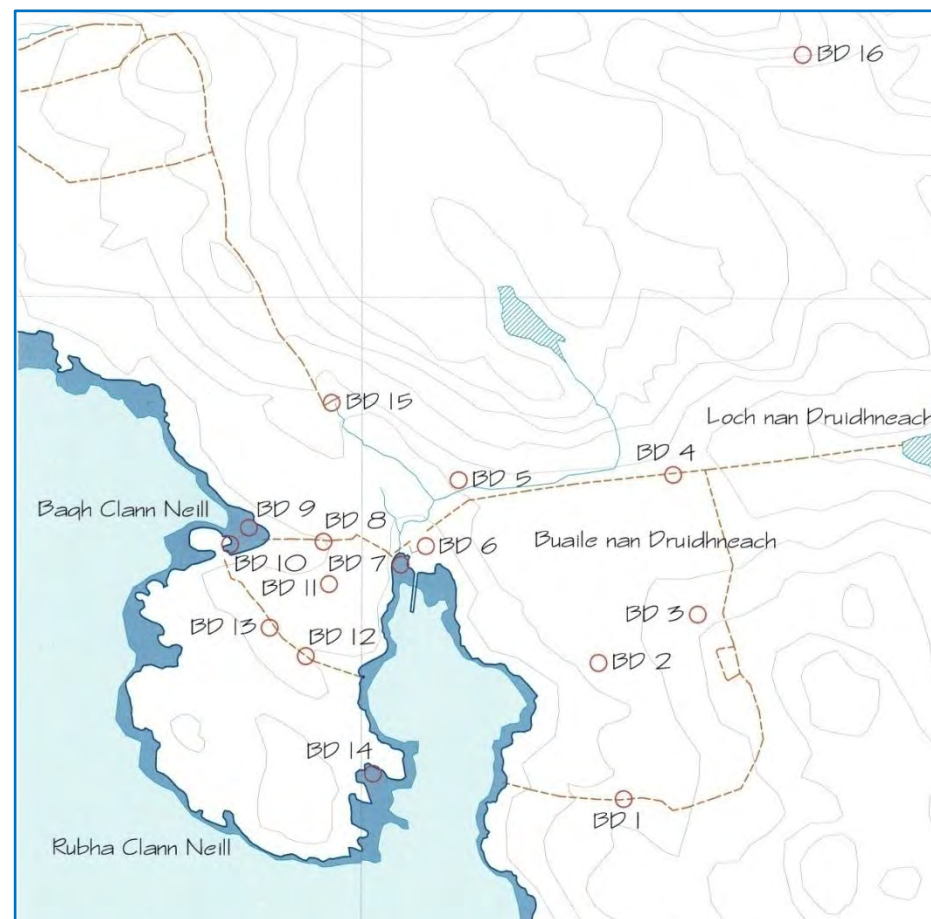
Surveyed:	15/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13771	3D: Yes
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BUAILE nan DRUIDHNEACH

(Gaelic 'Druids' Fold')



Location of Buaile nan Druidhneach survey area within Ronay



Sites within the Buaile nan Druidhneach survey area

Buaile nan Druidhneach Introduction

There is no local oral tradition on Uist as to why this area of Ronay has this unusual Druid related place-name, nor the time from which it originated. As it was not mentioned by Commander F. W. L. Thomas in his Admiralty survey of the Kyle of Ronay in 1861, it may even be a late 19thC invention - first appearing on the 1st edition OS 6" mapping published in 1880 along with a Beinn and a Loch of the same name. In fact *Loch nan Druidhneach* was recorded by Thomas as *Loch na Leuma* (Loch of the Leap or Milk) which supports the plausibility of this idea. There is no sign of a *buaile* or fold in the area either.

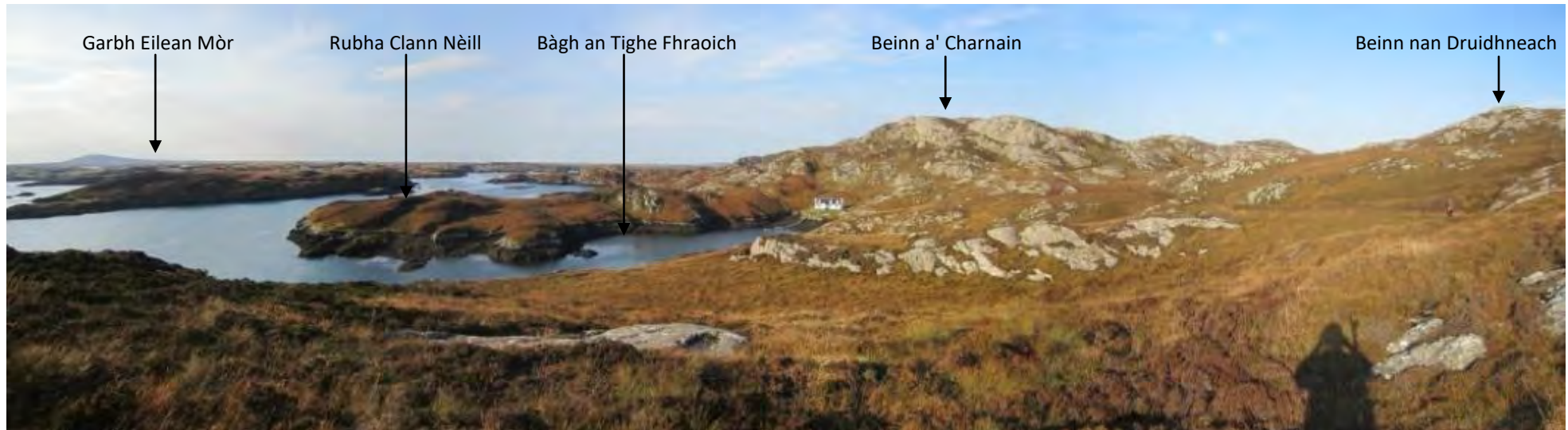
One suggestion is that the name might be a miss-recording of the Gaelic word for bramble or blackthorn, '*droighneach*', which although spelt differently, sounds similar when spoken.

The northern part of the township, including Rubha Clann Nèill, was shown by Robert Reid in his 1799 '*Plan of the Island of North Uist*', as an area of cultivation with three roofed houses within, making it the largest settlement on Ronay at that time. There is a good possibility that some of the dyke fragments in the area (BD 8 and 15), the turf walled house at BD 11, and one of the landing places in the area (BD 7, 9 and 10) are remains from this period.

Defining remains from the kelping croft settlement in the early 1800s has proved more difficult in this township and only three possible crofts have been identified leaving a gap to the south. These three are of the typical 19thC kelping croft size - around 5-6ha - and are probably centred around the farmsteads BD 3, BD 11 and BD 13. These buildings are unusual in themselves; BD 3 has particularly thick drystone walls, but has no outbuilding; BD 11 is a turf walled building at the location of the three houses marked by Robert Reid, and BD 13 is attached to a dyke (BD 12) which may have been constructed later in the 1800s to isolate Rubha Clann Nèill for sheep management purposes.

None of these buildings is shown as occupied in the Thomas survey of 1861, but the very small rectangular building tucked up at the base of a cliff above *Bàgh an Tighe Fhraoich* (Bay of the Heather House) (BD 5), is shown roofed, though its purpose at that time is unclear.

A site by the shore below that house was chosen by the current owners to build a house and install a boat pontoon in the 1970s.



Buaile nan Druidhneach from the south-east with the modern house centre picture

Site name: **Buaile nan Druidhneach**

RFS no: **BD 1**

NGR: NF 89200 55560 (centre)

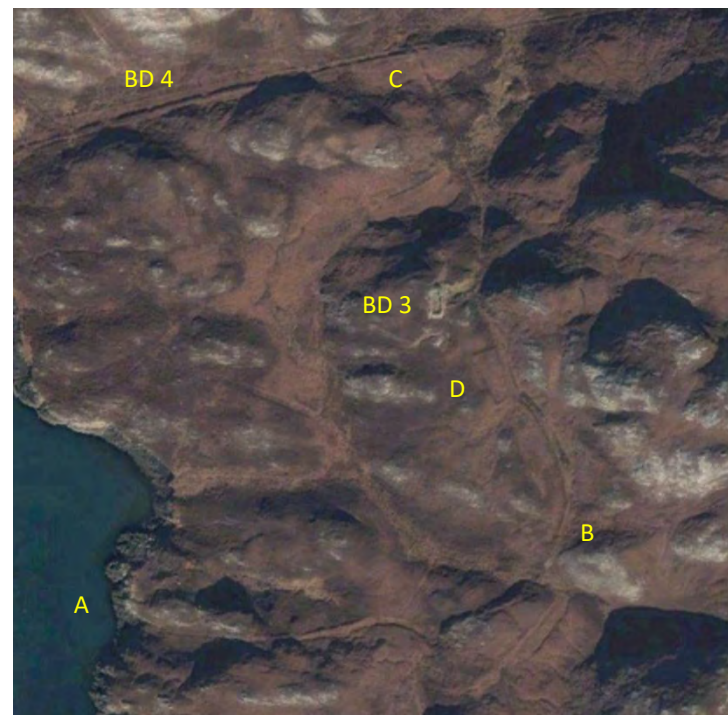
Site type(s): Head dyke, enclosure

Condition: Poor

Description:

A head dyke encloses the S, E and N sides of an area of partially cultivated land which extends to around 6Ha and which is probably related to the building BD 3.

Intermittent, and often difficult to see in the landscape, the dyke is formed mostly as a turf bank and ditch with some sections defined by natural features. The dyke starts at the W shore of Buaile nan Druidhneach at NF 89135 55575 (A) and runs in a generally W - E direction for a distance of around 200m before gradually curving round to follow a WNW direction near NF 89340 55585 (B) and running for a further 300m before intersecting with a later dyke (BD 4) at NF 89355 55855 (C), from where it probably continued W along the base of a low cliff. Along its length at NF 89320 55680 are the possible remains of a rectangular enclosure (D), similarly constructed, which measures around 25m WNW - SSE and 12m transversely.



BD 1: Google Earth view (2004)

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13776	3D:	No
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Site name: **Buaile nan Druidhneach**

RFS no: **BD 2**

NGR: NF 89215 55675

Site type(s): Stack stand

Condition: Fair

Description:

A sub-circular stack stand or clamp base, most likely used for peat or root crops lies amongst areas of peat cutting and small pockets of cultivation. The slightly raised central base measures around 3m NW - SE and 2m transversely and is surrounded by a ditch around 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep.



BD 2: view from SE

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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Site name: **Buaille nan Druidhneach**

RFS no: **BD 3**

NGR: NF 893005 55725

Site type(s): Building, pen(s)

Condition: Good

Description:

This well preserved rectangular building lies at an altitude of nearly +40m AOD around 190 metres inland from the E shore of the sea inlet at the centre of Buaille nan Druidhneach township, within an enclosed area of partly cultivated land extending to 6Ha. The building was probably originally constructed as a rectangular blackhouse, measuring 12m from N to S by 4m transversely, within drystone walls up to 2m thick and 1.5m high. An entrance doorway around 0.8m wide is located towards the N end of the E facing elevation and a drain or vent opening (?) penetrates the wall at ground level on the W facing wall immediately opposite. A stone revetment helps support the base of the walls on the N and E sides. Different styles of walling point to alteration or re-construction at various times. The contrast between the massively built N gable with its rounded corners both inside and out and the more finely constructed and rectangular planned S gable and S end of the E elevation being most noteworthy.

Within the building are a number of cellular drystone walled structures which point to its later use for animal husbandry purposes. These include four lamb pens typically no more than 1m across internally, with a single one in each of the SE and NW corners, and two in the NE. The entrance shows signs of having been temporarily walled up at one time too.

There are some unusual features about this building which set it apart in some respects from the many others on Ronay, particularly its isolated location at altitude away from the shore, the lack of any kind of byre or outbuilding, and the absence of any obvious keeping activity on the shore nearby. It is also noteworthy that the place-name 'Buaille nan Druidhneach' or 'Druid's Fold' is placed exactly by this structure on the 1st and 2nd edition OS 6" maps, and there is a good possibility therefore that this former building has been given that name relatively recently.



BD3: aerial view from NW and thumbnail plan



BD 3: view from E with Grimsay in background

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Buaile nan Druidhneach**

RFS no: **BD 4**

NGR: NF 89260 55850 (centre)

Site type(s): Head dyke

Condition: Fair to good

Description:

A dyke bisects Ronay from W to E between the head of Bàgh an Tighe Fhraoich, and the E shore of Bàgh na Caiplich where the outflow from Loch na Leig meets the sea (see BNC 4 and 5). This westernmost section up to the W shore of Loch nan Druidhneach is around 460m long, running from NF 89035 55780 in an NE direction for around 80m before heading ENE for a further 380m to NF 89480 35875. The dyke is constructed mainly as a turf bank with quarry ditch alongside in places and its straightness and relatively good condition suggest this is of mid 19thC date and is probably related to Ronay's re-organisation as a sheep farm around this date. Towards its W end it is interrupted by the construction of a modern house (BD 5), beyond which the final 10m to the shore were of drystone construction.



BD 4: View looking W taken near the intersection with BD 1

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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Site name: **Bàgh an Tighe Fhraoich**

RFS no: **BD 5**

NGR: NF 89095 55840

Site type(s): Building

Condition: Poor

Description:

A rectangular building lies at the foot of a cliff some 70m N of the head of shore of Bàgh an Tighe Fhraoich at an altitude of around +25m AOD. It measures 8m WNW - ESE and 3.2m transversely between turf walls up to 1.4m thick, but degraded to barely 0.5m in height, which in places are lined internally with a single leaf of drystone walling. There is an entrance in the S facing elevation a little to the E of centre. Shown roofed in Commander F. W. L. Thomas's Admiralty survey of the Kyle of Ronay in 1861 it may be connected with Ronay's use as a sheep farm at that time.



BD 5: aerial view from SW and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	29/04/2016	NMRS no:	123296	W. Isles SMR ID	2573	SCHARP ID:		3D:	Yes
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Ronay Field Survey 2015 - 18

Site name: **Bàgh an Tighe Fhraoich**

RFS no: **BD 6**

NGR: NF 89055 55780

Site type(s): House, outbuilding, pontoon,(modern)

Condition: Good

Description:

A modern house and associated outbuilding and pontoon lie a few metres from the shore of the head of Bàgh an Tighe Fhraoich. The two storey house was built in the 1970s for the island's owners, the Modet family from Catalonia, by builders from Grimsay, with rendered masonry walls and a pitched and slated roof.

Site name: **Bàgh an Tighe Fhraoich**

RFS no: **BD 7**

NGR: NF 89060 55790 (centre)

Site type(s): Landing point(s)

Condition: Poor to fair

Description:

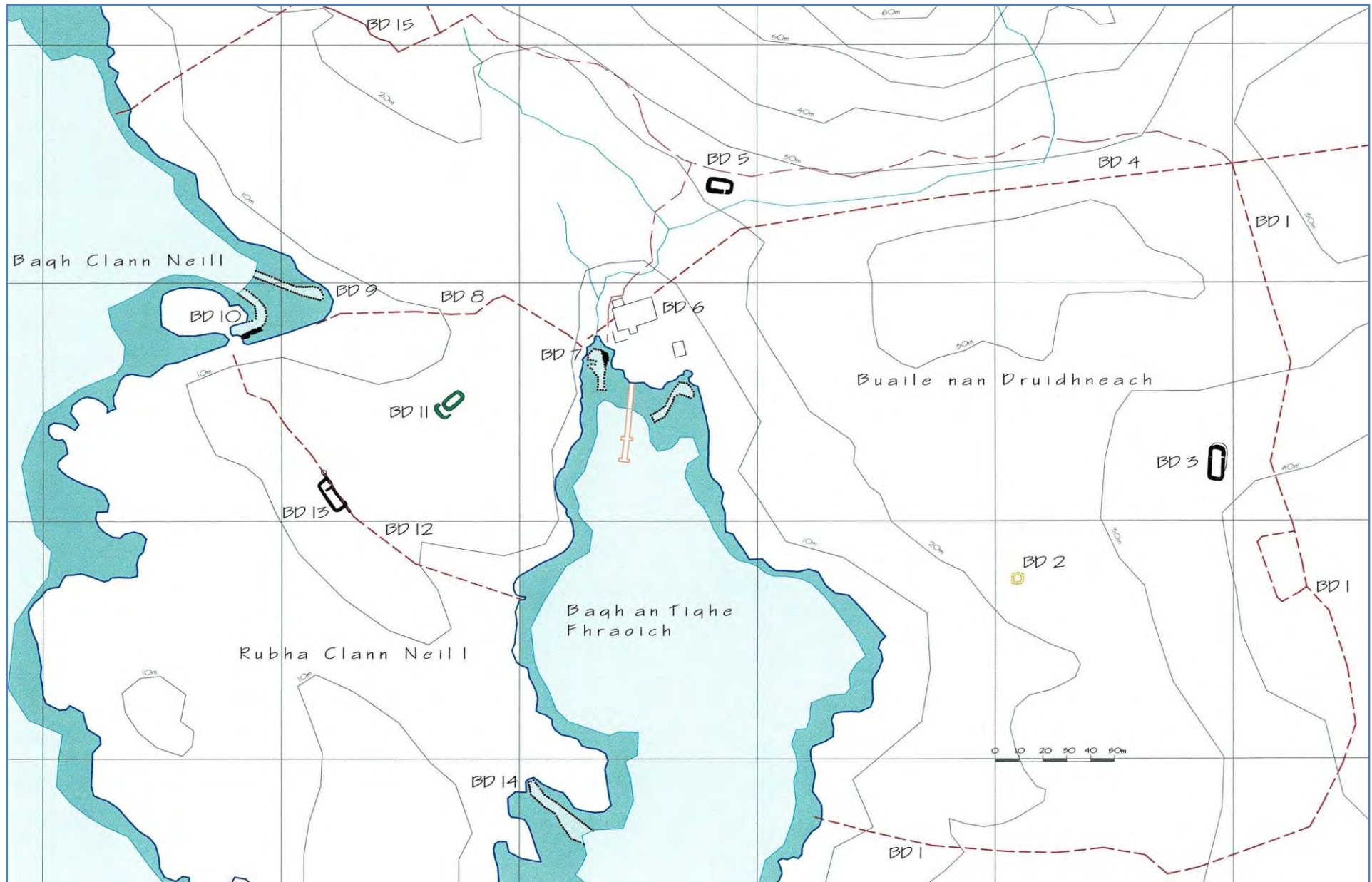
Two landing points lie at the head of Bàgh an Tighe Fhraoich. That to the W comprises an area of beach measuring around 20m N - S and between 2 and 5m transversely which has been cleared of larger stones, and defined on its E side by a low jetty built as a low drystone wall around 5m long backfilled behind to form a level platform. That to the east is represented by an area of cleared beach of similar dimensions running in a NE - SW direction.

Surveyed:	29/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13777	3D: No
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BD 6 & BD 7: view from W



Buaille nan Druidhneach area map

Ronay Field Survey 2015 - 18

Site name: **Buaile nan Druidhneach**

RFS no: **BD 8**

NGR: NF 88970 55780 (centre)

Site type(s): Head dyke

Condition: Fair

Description:

A dyke around 120m long crosses the narrow isthmus at the N end of the peninsula Rubha Clann Nèill between Bàgh an Tighe Fhraoich and Bàgh Rubha Clann Nèill. Separates the peninsula Rubha Clann Nèill from Buaile nan Druidhneach. Running between NF 88925 55785 and NF 89035 55775 in a generally W – E direction, the substantial turf bank originally built has now slumped to a width of up to 3m in places. Similar in form and construction to dyke BD 4 this probably represents its extension W through to Bàgh Clann Nèill, and which seems to have been built as part of Ronay's re-organisation as a sheep farm in the mid 19th C.

Surveyed:	29/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13780	3D: No
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Site name: **Bàgh Clann Nèill**

RFS no: **BD 9**

NGR: NF 88920 55790

Site type(s): Landing point

Condition: Poor

Description:

A landing point lies at the W end of a narrow isthmus that separates the peninsula Rubha Clann Nèill from Buaile nan Druidhneach. It comprises an area of beach measuring around 30m WNW - ESE and between 2 and 3m transversely which has been cleared of larger stones, and defined on either side by intermittent lines of larger stones and boulders.

Surveyed:	29/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13782	3D: No
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BD 8: Google Earth view (2004). BD 4, 6 and 9 - 13 also shown.



BD 9: view from S

Site name: **Bàgh Clann Nèill**

RFS no: **BD 10**

NGR: NF 88890 55780

Site type(s): Landing point

Condition: Fair

Description:

A second landing point lies at the W end of a narrow isthmus that separates the peninsula Rubha Clann Nèill from Buaille nan Druidhneach. It comprises an area of beach measuring around 12m WSW - ENE and 4m transversely which has been cleared of larger stones. It is defined on its N side by a low cliff and on its S by a roughly made drystone breakwater or jetty which is around 1m thick and up to 0.8m high.



BD 10: view from SE

Surveyed:	29/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13781	3D: No
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Site name: **Rubha Clann Nèill**

RFS no: **BD 11**

NGR: NF 88975 55750

Site type(s): Building

Condition: Poor

Description:

A rectangular turf walled building lies towards the N end of Rubha Clann Nèill at an altitude of around +15m AOD. It measures 7m SW - NE and 2.7m transversely between slumped turf walls up to 1.5m thick, but degraded to barely 0.5m in height. No entrance identifiable. Just outside the SW gable is the faint outline of another turf wall which may represent the remains of an earlier, underlying structure, or perhaps an attached secondary building. This building is located almost exactly where three buildings, at the same orientation, are shown on Robert Reid's *Plan of the Island of North Uist* published in 1799. Faint traces of other turf walls lie immediately to the E of this building and may represent remains of the other two.



BD11: aerial view from W and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	29/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Rubha Clann Nèill**
 RFS no: **BD 8**
 NGR: NF 88970 55780 (centre)
 Site type(s): Dyke
 Condition: Fair to good

Description:

A dyke around 165m long bisects Rubha Clann Nèill in a NW - SE direction just N of its centre and appears to enclose an area of former cultivation to the S. Constructed mainly in drystone, but also incorporating natural features in places, in the W it terminates at the edge of a cliff top above the shore at NF 88885 55765, and on the E side at NF 89005 55670 where it continues down to the LWM. As this boundary isn't shown on Robert Reid's *Plan of the Island of North Uist* published in 1799 it is likely to be 19th C in date and probably represents the boundary of one of the kelping crofts established on Ronay in the Early 19th C.

Surveyed:	29/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13778	3D:	No
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Site name: **Rubha Clann Nèill**
 RFS no: **BD 13**
 NGR: NF 88925 55715
 Site type(s): Farmstead (poss)
 Condition: Fair

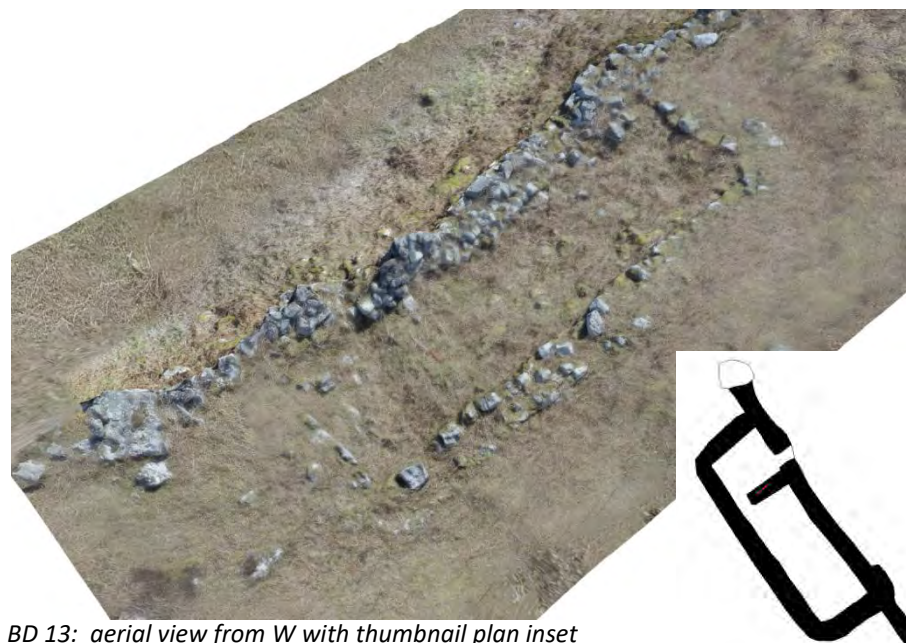
Description:

A rectangular building lies just N of the centre of Rubha Clann Nèill attached to the SW side of a head dyke (BD 12) which isolates the peninsula. It measures 12.3m NW - SE and 3.2m transversely within drystone walls up to 1.3m thick, and between 0.8 and 1.4m high. No clear entrance identifiable, but there is an 0.7m wide opening in the dyke shared elevation on its NE side just NW of centre. A partition located just SE of this opening subdivides the interior. Although rather unusual in form and position, the best interpretation for this structure is that it is the remains of one of the early 19th C kelping croft farmsteads.

Surveyed:	29/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	Yes
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BD 12: view from NW with BD 13 visible centre left



BD 13: aerial view from W with thumbnail plan inset

Site name: **Rubha Clann Nèill**
 RFS no: **BD 14**
 NGR: NF 89015 55585
 Site type(s): Landing point (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A possible landing point lies on the SE shore of Rubha Clann Nèill. An area of beach measuring around 30m NW - SE and between 3 and 4m transversely has the appearance of having been cleared of larger stones and boulders.



BD 14: view from W

Surveyed:	29/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13779	3D:	No
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Site name: **Buaile nan Druidhneach**
 RFS no: **BD 15**
 NGR: NF 88970 55900 (centre)
 Site type(s): Head dyke
 Condition: Fair to good

Description:

The remains of a drystone dyke cross the foot of a narrow gully and terminate at an area of rock fall at the base of a cliff at NF 88985 55910. This point appears to be the joint termination of three separate boundary dykes:

- a 750m long head dyke which enclosed the cultivated land around the township on the shore of Bàgh Clann Nèill which lies some 350m to the NW;
- an 850m long head dyke which enclosed the township of Buaile nan Druidhneach to the E and S, which at this point is formed by a rock outcrop;
- and a dyke which connected this point to the shore of Bàgh an Tighe Fhraoich and shown on Robert Reid's *Plan of the Island of North Uist* dated 1799, but is no longer visible.



BD 15: view from NW

Surveyed:	29/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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Site name: **Beinn a' Charnain**

RFS no: **BD 16**

NGR: NF 89035 56215

Site type(s): Pen(s)

Condition: Fair to good

Description:

A pen has been constructed against the foot of a cliff on the N side of a deep and narrow valley which runs W - E through the centre of Ronay on the S side of Beinn a' Charnain. Defined by a curved, single leaf drystone wall around 0.7m thick and of similar height, it measures 3m W - E and 2.5m transversely and is open at its E end. Within, a small corbelled drystone secondary structure has been built, also against the cliff which is no more than 1m across internally. This is probably a lamb pen.

Surveyed:	01/05/2017	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	Yes
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Site name: **Beinn a' Charnain**

RFS no: **BD 17**

NGR: NF 89400 56200 (centre)

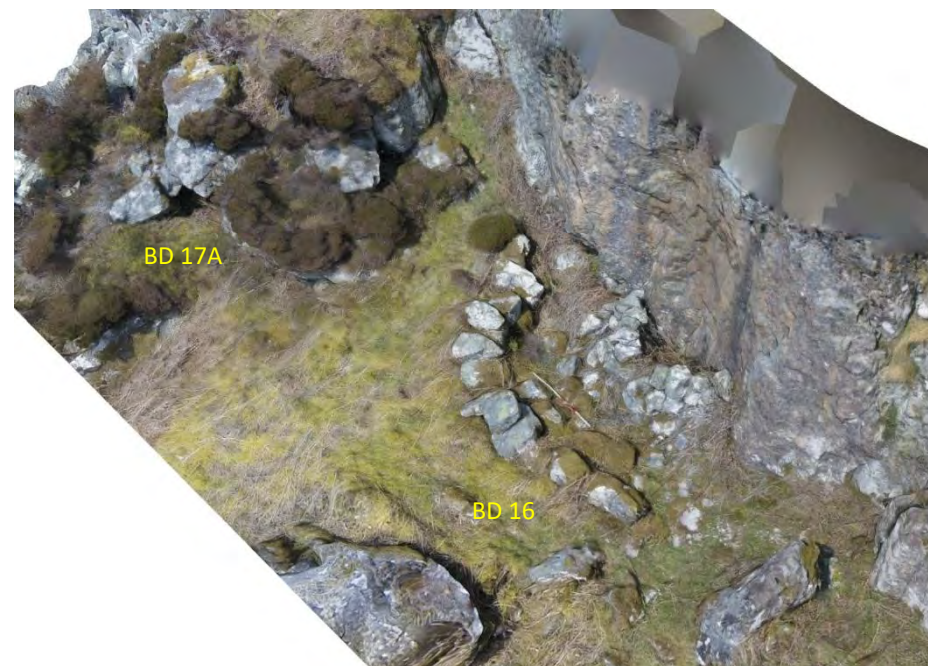
Site type(s): Rock shelter(s)

Condition: Fair

Description:

At least three rock shelters lie within an area of rock fall at the base of a cliff on the N side of a deep and narrow valley which runs W - E through the centre of Ronay on the S side of Beinn a' Charnain. That to the W, shelter 17A, measures around 1m³ internally and shows signs of man-made intervention where openings between boulders have been sealed up with smaller stones. That in the centre, 17B, is located within a natural space formed by 3 large boulders and also shows signs of packing. That to the E, 17C, is similarly formed, though a heather covering makes it more difficult to determine its extent. Significant areas of rock fall lie to both the W and E of this area and it is quite probable that more shelters exist nearby.

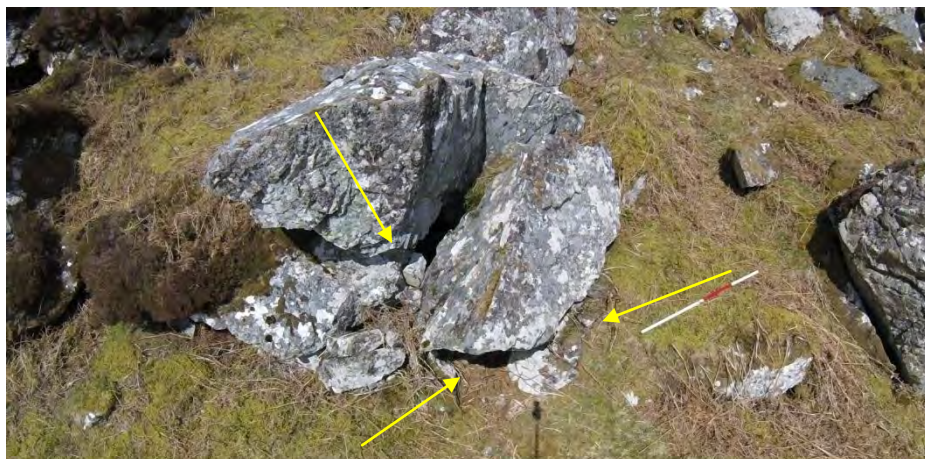
Surveyed:	01/05/2017	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	Yes
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BD 16 & 17: aerial view from SE, survey pole 1m long



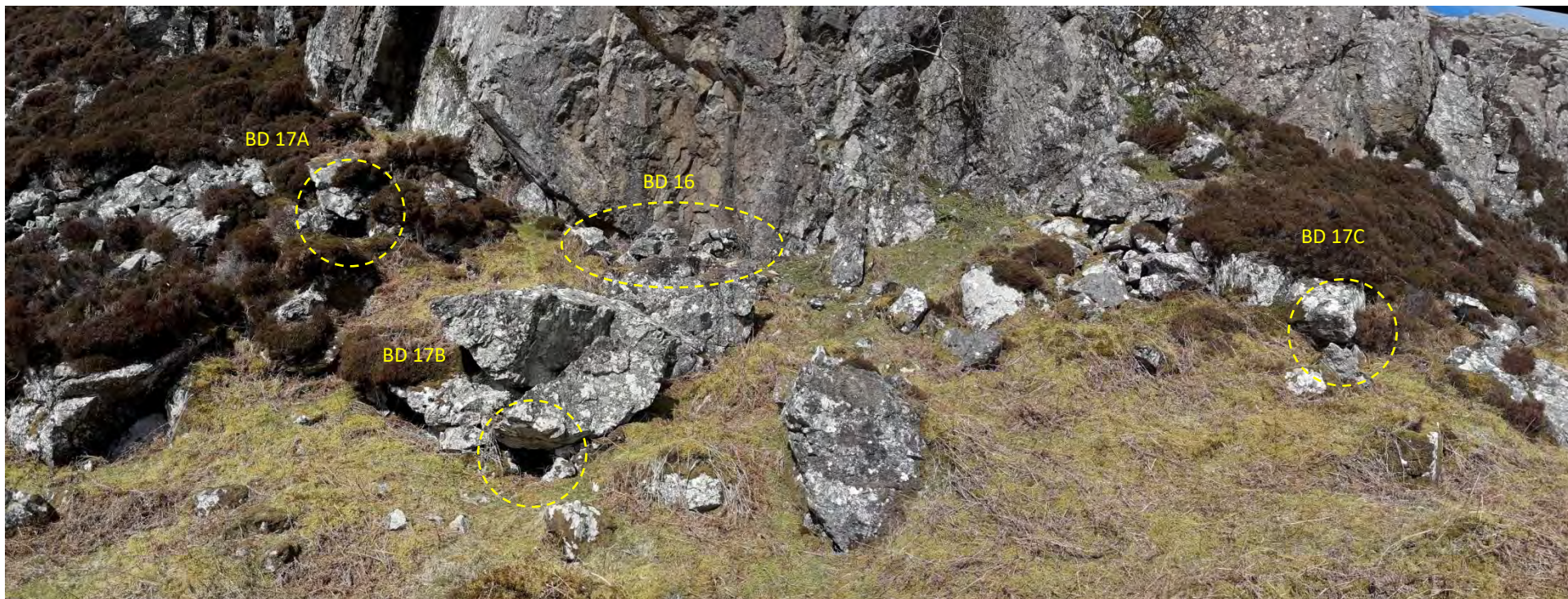
BD 17A: entrance to W shelter



BD 17B: entrance and stone packing on central rock shelter; survey pole 1m long



BD 17C: entrance and stone packing on E rock shelter



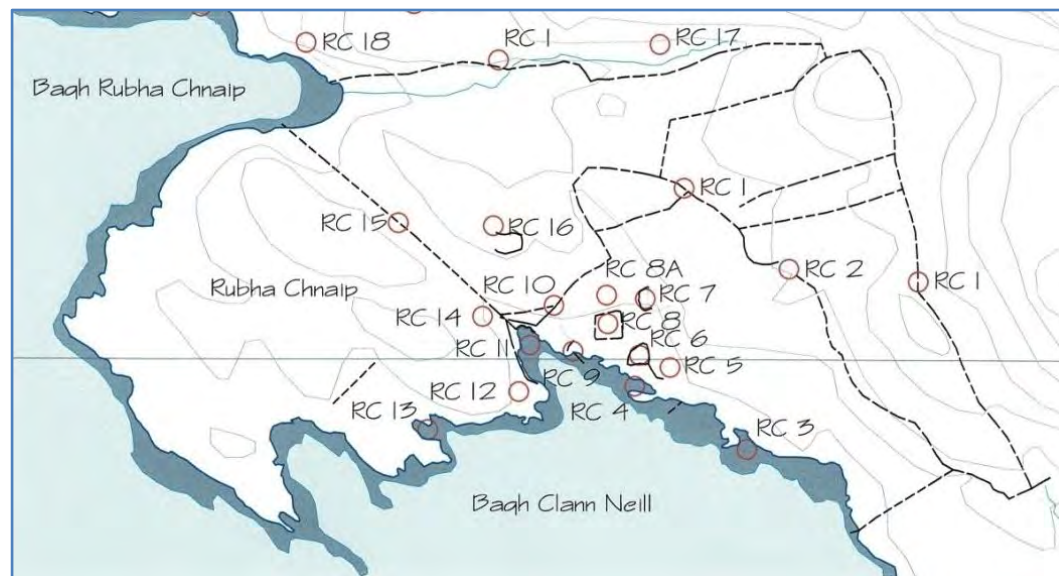
BD 16 & 17: panorama from S with three rock shelters 17A, B & C highlighted

RUBHA CHNAIP

(Gaelic 'Hillock Headland')



Location of Rubha Chnaip survey area within Ronay



Sites within the Rubha Chnaip survey area

Rubha Chnaip Introduction

The concentration of settlement on the shores of Bàgh Clann Nèill on the E side of Rubha Chnaip is the highest of all the Ronay townships and relates to its likely role as the main village or '*baile*' on the island in the 18th century. Robert Reid shows an area of bounded cultivated land in this area on his '*Plan of the Island of North Uist*' dated 1799, and although he only records two roofed buildings, it may well be that some others had already been abandoned by that time.

Likely buildings related to this period include the farmsteads RC 5, 12 and 14, and other structures such as head dyke RC 1, enclosures RC 6, 7 and 8, and landing points RC 3, 4 and 11 may well also originate from the 18th century.

Because of the density of existing structures that already existed at the time of the kelping croft settlement in around 1810, it is difficult to be precise about which of them continued to be used by the new kelping community. It certainly appears as though the farmstead RC 5 was altered at that time into a larger T plan form, and it is possible that as this house already existed, it may have been used by the island's head tenant as a base from which to organise the establishment of the new community. However the large number of dyke remains in the area makes it difficult to assess exactly how many crofts were created, and where their boundaries lay.

The best guess is three, with their related farmsteads being RC 5, RC 16, and either RC 12 or 14. The farmstead RC 16 includes a corn kiln within its separate kiln barn, and a small enclosure beyond which may have been a stack yard, and these are likely to relate to the extensive areas of former cultivation on the Rubha Chnaip peninsula.

If the farmstead RC 5 was the head tenant's house for the kelping settlement, it is possible that this was occupied initially by the first Ronay shepherd, Malcolm Maclean and his family, when the island became a sheep run as part of Kallin Farm in around 1840. The existing enclosures and other structures nearby could have been also used for livestock management up until the time the new sheepfold was built on Rubh' an Aisig some 500m to the NW a few years later.

Some of the feannagan remains on Rubha Chnaip are still quite pronounced and there is a good possibility that this area remained in cultivation right up to the time the last resident shepherd left in 1955, possibly even afterwards.



Rubha Chnaip survey area from near RC 2 looking south-west

Site name: Rubha Chnaip
RFS no: RC 1
NGR: NF 88850 56240 (centre)
Site type(s): Head dyke, enclosure (poss)
Condition: Poor
Description:

The remains of a head dyke enclose an area of partly cultivated land extending to around 16Ha, and which may, in part, represent the township boundary marked in this area of Ronay on Robert Reid's 'Plan of the Island of North Uist' published in 1799. Intermittent, and often difficult to see in the landscape, the dyke is formed mostly as a turf bank and ditch with some sections defined by drystone walls or natural features. The dyke starts at the shore of Bàgh Rubha Chnaip at NF 88450 56210 (A) and runs in a generally W - E direction for a distance of around 375m before gradually curving round to follow a SSE direction near NF 88850 56235 (B) and running for a further 360m before terminating at an intersection (C) with a second dyke (see BD 15) at NF 88970 55900. Three further lengths of dyke (D, E and F) can be seen on satellite imagery and traced on the ground just S of B and these may represent the remains of an uncompleted attempt at further sub-division.



RC 1: Google Earth view (2004)

Surveyed:	07/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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Site name: Rubha Chnaip
RFS no: RC 2
NGR: NF 88790 56070
Site type(s): Building
Condition: Fair
Description:

A rectangular building lies at an altitude of around +30m AOD some 120m from the Bàgh Clann Nèill shore. Measuring 8.2m W - E and 3.6m transversely within squarely built drystone walls, the fireplace recess in the centre of the E gable marks this out as probably being a small house dating from the later part of the 19th or early 20thC. A 0.6m wide doorway is positioned towards the W end of the N facing elevation.



RC 2: View from N and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	07/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	Yes
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Site name: **Rubha Chnaip**

RFS no: **RC 3**

NGR: NF 88755 55940

Site type(s): Landing point

Condition: Poor

Description:

Lying in a narrow inlet on the shore of Bàgh Clann Nèill this is one of two landing points in the vicinity of the farmstead RC 5. It comprises an area of beach measuring around 30m NW - SE and between 2 and 3m transversely which has been cleared of larger stones, and defined on its E side by a low breakwater of larger stones and boulders.

Surveyed:	23/05/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13783	3D: Yes
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Site name: **Rubha Chnaip**

RFS no: **RC 4**

NGR: NF 88670 55980

Site type(s): Landing point, naust

Condition: Fair

Description:

One of two landing points lying on the shore of Bàgh Clann Nèill immediately in front of the farmstead RC 5. It comprises a narrow inlet within which an area of beach measuring around 30m E - W and between 2 and 4m transversely has been cleared of larger stones, and defined on both sides by lines of larger stones and boulders. Above the HWM at its head, a naust has been formed. This measures around 10 X 4m and is defined on its N side by a low rock outcrop and its S and E by a low boulder wall.

Surveyed:	07/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13784	3D: Yes
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RC 3: View from W



RC 4: View from W

Site name: **Rubha Chnaip**
 RFS no: **RC 5**
 NGR: NF 88700 55995
 Site type(s): Farmstead
 Condition: Good

Description:

A farmstead comprising a dwelling and a separate byre lies a few m from the shore of Bàgh Clann Nèill. It lies close to the site of two buildings marked on Robert Reid's *Plan of the Island of North Uist* published in 1799. The main building (A) measures 12.9m NE - SW by 4m transversely within drystone walls averaging 1.3m wide and 0.8m high. The remains of a drystone cross partition within create two compartments; that to the NE being around 4m long and having its own entrance on the NW elevation; that to the SE around 8m long and with an entrance on the SE elevation. A discontinuity of wall form and construction around the NE gable suggests this may have been rebuilt. A drystone foundation revetment has been built to support the SW gable.

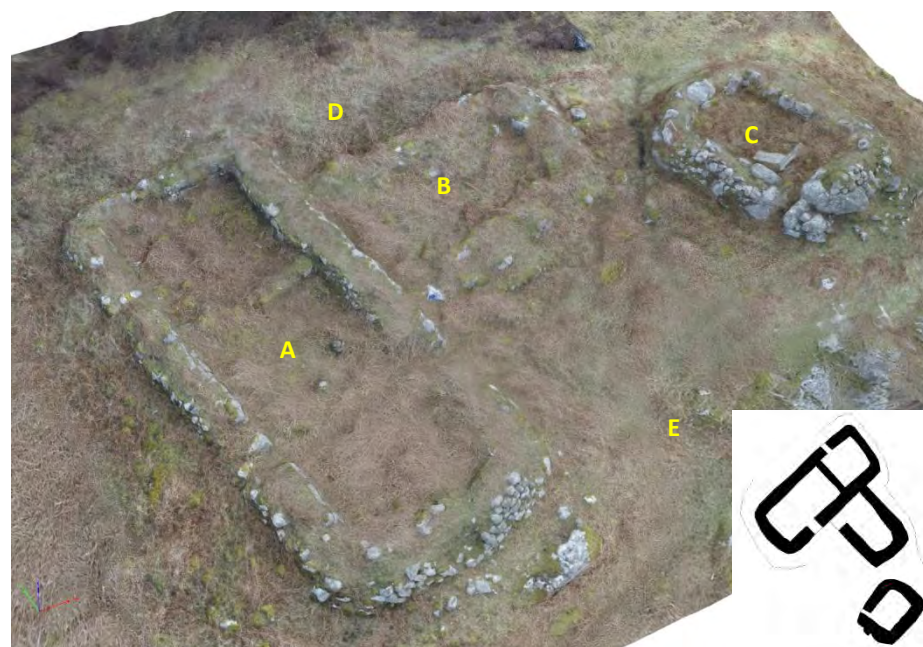
Attached to its NE elevation is what appears to be an extension (B), but what could well be the remains a partially demolished original building, whose orientation fits with those planned by Robert Reid. This measures 6.5m SE - NW and 3.3m transversely also within drystone walls less well preserved than those of building A. An entrance doorway lies where the SE elevation meets the SE wall of building A. In its original form, it would be very similar to farmstead RC 14.

1.5m to the S of B lies a separate byre (C), also of drystone wall construction. This measures 4.2m NNE - SSW and 2.9m transversely internally and has a narrow entrance barely 0.4m wide at the S end of its WNW facing elevation. A large boulder over 1.5m across has been incorporated into the SSW gable and a number of large (possibly dressed?) rectangular stone blocks used in the other walls.

A drainage ditch (D) has been dug around the NE side of the buildings to separate them from the higher ground beyond, and an intermittent line of larger stones connecting the SW facing gables of the two buildings (E) may represent the remains of an enclosure wall.



RC 5: General view from NE



RC 5: Aerial view from W and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	07/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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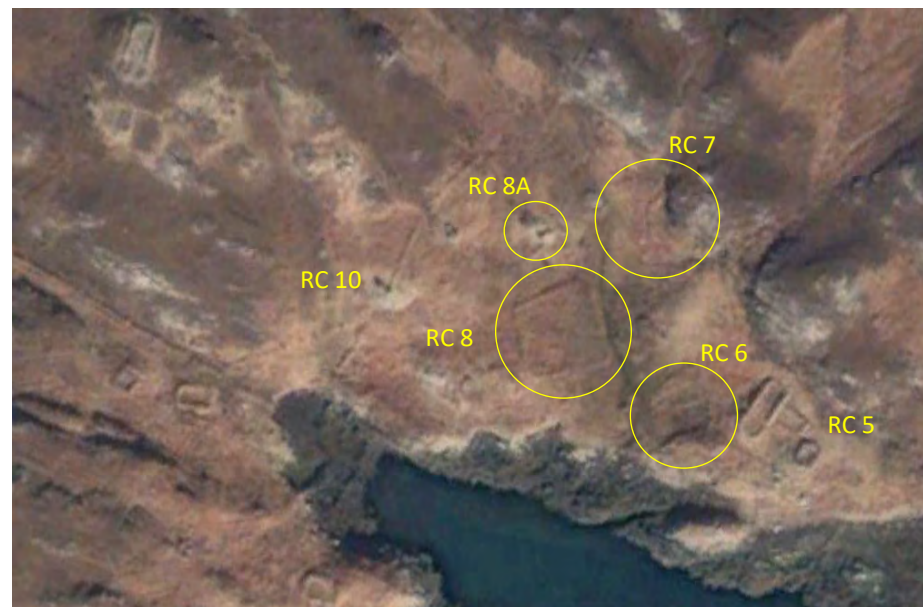


Rubha Chnaip area map

Site name: **Rubha Chnaip**
 RFS no: **RC 6, 7 & 8**
 NGR: NF 88680 56030 (centre)
 Site type(s): Enclosure(s)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The remains of three enclosures lie in the area immediately to the NW of the farmstead RC 5. RC 6 is visible on the ground as a U shaped length of much reduced drystone wall enclosing an area of land around 15m square although much of that is now waterlogged. RC 7 is a 30m long curved wall of embedded boulders whose ends are attached to a rock outcrop which together enclose an area of sloping land of around 135m². RC 8 is the best preserved and is outlined with a drystone and turf wall around 75m long which encloses a trapezoidal shaped area of land of around 380m². From their location and size, RC 6 and RC 8 are likely to be folds, stack yards or kaleyards. RC 7 is an oddity as the land it encloses is quite steeply sloping and its different construction and curvilinear plan give it a sense of having earlier origins.



RC 6, 7, 8 & 8A: Google Earth image

Surveyed:	07/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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RC 7: aerial view from W



RC 8: view from N

Site name: **Rubha Chnaip**

RFS no: **RC 8A**

NGR: NF 88655 56045

Site type(s): Structure

Condition: Poor

Description:

The remains of a U-shaped plan set of drystone walls abut a rock outcrop around 15m N of the sheepfold RC 8. Measuring around 5m square internally, the now overgrown and much reduced walls were originally constructed in a combination of stone rubble and larger stones and boulders. There is a possible entrance in the E corner. The best interpretation is that this was some kind of pen.

Surveyed:	27/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Rubha Chnaip**

RFS no: **RC 9**

NGR: NF 88625 56010 (centre)

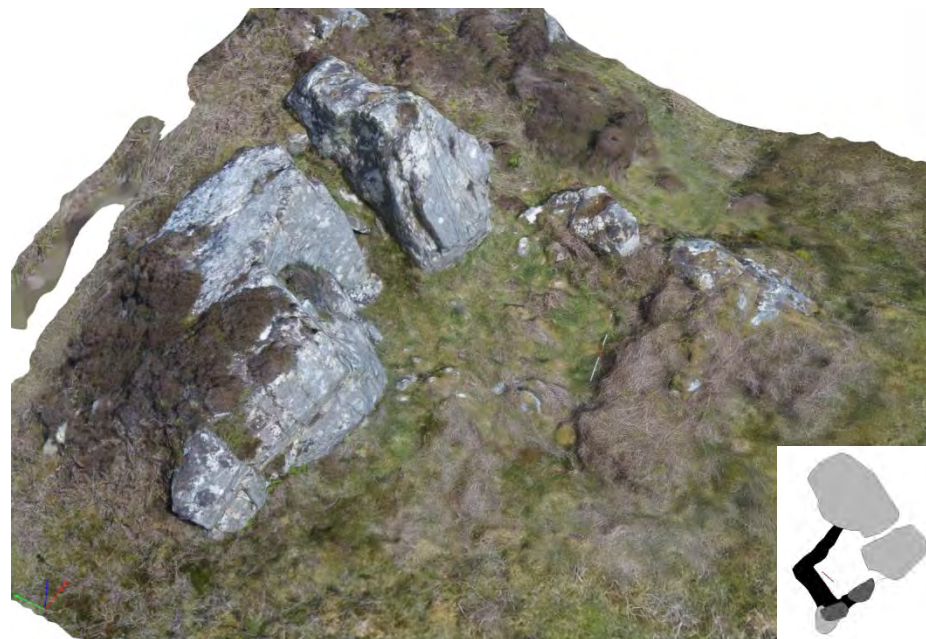
Site type(s): Dyke

Condition: Poor

Description:

A short length of dyke extends from a low rock outcrop to the edge of the coastal slope above the Bàgh Clann Nèill shore. Remaining only as an 8m long line of stone blocks, this is one of a number of dykes in this area which presumably either defined land boundaries or were for stock control purposes.

Surveyed:	07/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13785	3D: Yes
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RC 8 A: aerial view from W and thumbnail plan



RC 9: view from E

Site name: **Rubha Chnaip**
 RFS no: **RC 10**
 NGR: NF 88625 56010 (centre)
 Site type(s): Dyke(s)
 Condition: Poor - fair

Description:

A series of interconnected dykes lie around the inlet at the NW head of Bàgh Clann Nèill. Constructed mostly in drystone, the longest extends from the shore at NF 88600 56020 (marked A in photo) for around 75m in a NE direction before turning NW at NF 88655 56080 and joining with RC 1. This may have acted as part of the boundary between the two farmsteads RC 5 and RC 16. Extending WNW from point A, another section of drystone dyke around 30m long runs along the top of the shore towards farmstead RC 14 before petering out near NF 88575 56030 (C). Around 20m NE of point A at NF 88610 56040 (B) another 40m length of dyke runs WSW before also terminating at point C. Finally, two further lengths of dyke (E and F) extend from point C around the N and S inlet shores.



RC 10: view from SW

Surveyed:	07/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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Site name: **Rubha Chnaip**
 RFS no: **RC 11**
 NGR: NF 88595 56010 (centre)
 Site type(s): Landing point, breakwater(s), jetty(s)
 Condition: Poor - fair

Description:

A landing point lies in the inlet at the NW head of Bàgh Clann Nèill. An area of beach just below the HWM (marked A in photo) measuring around 10 X 8m has been cleared of larger stones and boulders, and is connected to the LWM by a similarly cleared channel 17m long and 2 - 3m wide (B). The landing area is protected on its NE side by a roughly constructed drystone breakwater (C) around 6m long, and on its SW side by a second (D), similarly constructed, around 8m long. This structure has another area of cleared beach on its NW side (E).



RC 11: view from N

Surveyed:	07/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13786	3D: No
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Site name: **Rubha Chnaip**
 RFS no: **RC 12**
 NGR: NF 88585 55975
 Site type(s): Farmstead
 Condition: Fair

Description:

A farmstead comprising a dwelling and an attached byre lies a few m from the shore of Bàgh Clann Nèill. The main building measures 6.8m WNW - ESE by 3.6m transversely within drystone walls varying in thickness between 1 and 2m, and typically 0.8m high. There is an entrance door at the E end of the NE elevation. Attached centrally to its SW elevation is a small byre of similar construction measuring around 3.7m NNE -SSW and 2.4m transversely. An entrance doorway lies where the SE elevation meets the SW wall of the main building, and adjacent to its SE corner is a large stone slab 2.5m long and 0.8 X 1.1m in cross section. A drainage ditch has been dug around the NE side of the buildings to separate them from the higher ground beyond, and a stone/turf dyke which extends to the shore is attached to the byre gable.



RC 12: view from N with Bàgh Clann Nèill in background and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	07/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13787	3D:	Yes
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Site name: **Rubha Chnaip**
 RFS no: **RC 13**
 NGR: NF 88515 55945
 Site type(s): Landing point, jetty
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A landing point and a jetty lie in a narrow inlet on the SE shore of Rubha Chnaip. The landing point comprises an area of beach measuring around 30m NW - SE and between 3 and 4m transversely which has been cleared of larger stones, and defined on its NE side by a low breakwater of larger stones and boulders. Around 10m N of the landing point a low drystone wall around 8m long has been backfilled behind with beach material to form a basic jetty.



RC 13: view from NE

Surveyed:	23/05/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13840	3D:	No
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Site name: **Rubha Chnaip**
 RFS no: **RC 14**
 NGR: NF 88585 55975
 Site type(s): Farmstead
 Condition: Fair

Description:

A farmstead comprising a dwelling and a separate byre lies a few m NW from the shore of the landing point at the NW head of Bàgh Clann Nèill. The main building measures 6.2m WNW - ESE by 3.2m transversely within drystone walls averaging 1.2m in thickness and 0.7m high. There is an entrance door at the E end of the NE elevation. 8m to its NW lies a second smaller building, probably a byre, of similar construction measuring around 3.9m NE -SW and 2.8m transversely. The entrance probably lay at the NE end of the SE facing elevation.

Surveyed:	07/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Rubha Chnaip**
 RFS no: **RC 15**
 NGR: NF 88510 55690 (centre)
 Site type(s): Head dyke
 Condition: Fair

Description:

A turf head dyke isolates the headland Rubha Chnaip from Ronay. Starting on the shore of Bàgh Rubha Chnaip at NF 88415 56175, it extends SE in a straight line for around 230m to the shore of Bàgh Clann Nèill at NF 88585 56025. The turf bank has now slumped to a width of 2-3m and around 1m high. The enclosed headland has a total area of around 6Ha and has been extensively cultivated and used for peat cutting in the past, and the isolated landing point on its SE shore (RC 13), suggests this may have included crofters from other communities. Likely to be 19thC in date, it was either built as part of the establishment of kelping crofts in around 1810 or the reorganisation of Ronay as a sheep farm after the island was cleared in the 1830s.

Surveyed:	07/04/2016	NMRS no:	289936	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13788	3D: No
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RC 14: view from NW with Bàgh Clann Nèill in background and thumbnail plan



RC 15: view of NW end from SE with Bàgh Rubha Chnaip in background

Site name: Rubha Chnaip
RFS no: RC 16
NGR: NF 88570 56100
Site type(s): Farmstead, pen, kiln barn, enclosure (poss)
Condition: Fair

Description:

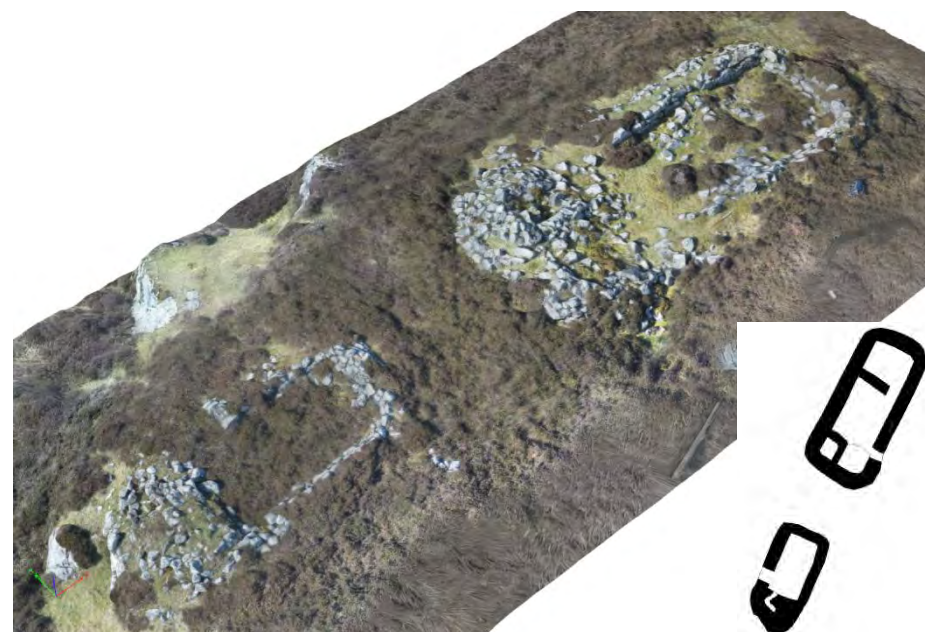
A farmstead comprising a dwelling and a separate kiln barn lies 80m NNW of the inlet at the NW head of Bàgh Clann Nèill. The dwelling measures 11.0m NNE - SSW by 3.8m transversely within drystone walls averaging 1m thick and 0.6m high. A single entrance doorway is located towards the SW end of the SE facing elevation, and the remains of a dividing partition subdivide the NE third of the building from the remainder. In the SE corner are what may be the remains of a stone platform, and in the SW a small drystone walled pen.

The similarities of size, construction, orientation, entrance location and internal subdivision between this building and the main dwelling at neighbouring farmstead RC 5 are noteworthy.

The byre lies 5m to the SSW of the house and is planned on the same alignment. It measures 5.2m X 2.7m within drystone walls which are typically 0.9m thick and 0.5m high. There is an entrance doorway at the SW end of the NW facing elevation, and possible signs of a second immediately opposite in the SE facing elevation, although this has been built up. In view of the orientation to the weather, and the position of the dwelling entrance, the latter is probably the original.

The SE gable of the buyer is significantly thickened to between 2.5 and 3m. This is due to the creation of a rubble platform within which the remains of a flue can be seen. This is most likely to be the remains of a corn drying kiln. Around 20m SE of the byre are the partial remains of a stone/turf dyke and this may have enclosed an area of land on the SE side of the farmstead - perhaps as a stack yard or fold.

If the dykes RC 1 and RC 15 represent the partial boundaries of the croft relating to this farmstead, then this would have had an area of around 6Ha. All the evidence points to this structure being one of the original early 19thC kelping crofts, which after abandonment, has been adapted for use for sheep husbandry purposes.



RC 16: aerial view from SE and thumbnail plan



RC 16: view of possible kiln remains from NW with flue position indicated

Surveyed:	07/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Rubha Chnaip**
 RFS no: **RC 17**
 NGR: NF 88655 56230
 Site type(s): Hut (poss), pen (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A sub-circular shaped hollow and associated drystone wall fragment lie in an area of scree on the NW side of a narrow glen extending E from Bàgh Rubha Chnaip some 250m from the shore. The hollow (marked A on photo) is around 2.5m dia and up to 0.5m deep in its centre and is partly surrounded on its circumference by a line of roughly arranged larger stone blocks. The wall fragment (B) lies immediately to the N of the hollow and is around 1m long and up to 3 courses high. It is not possible to be precise about the function of these structures, but the vestiges of a hut or pen are two possibilities.



RC 17: view from SE

Site name: **Rubha Chnaip**
 RFS no: **RC 18**
 NGR: NF 88430 56230 (centre)
 Site type(s): Path
 Condition: Fair

Description:

A short length of path has been constructed to bypass a low cliff which lies between the Rubha Chnaip and Buaille-mhòr communities at the head of Bàgh Rubha Chnaip. The path is around 70m long and between 1 and 2m wide and appears to have been levelled and paved in places. A number of sections of drystone revetment have been built on the steep shore side to provide support.



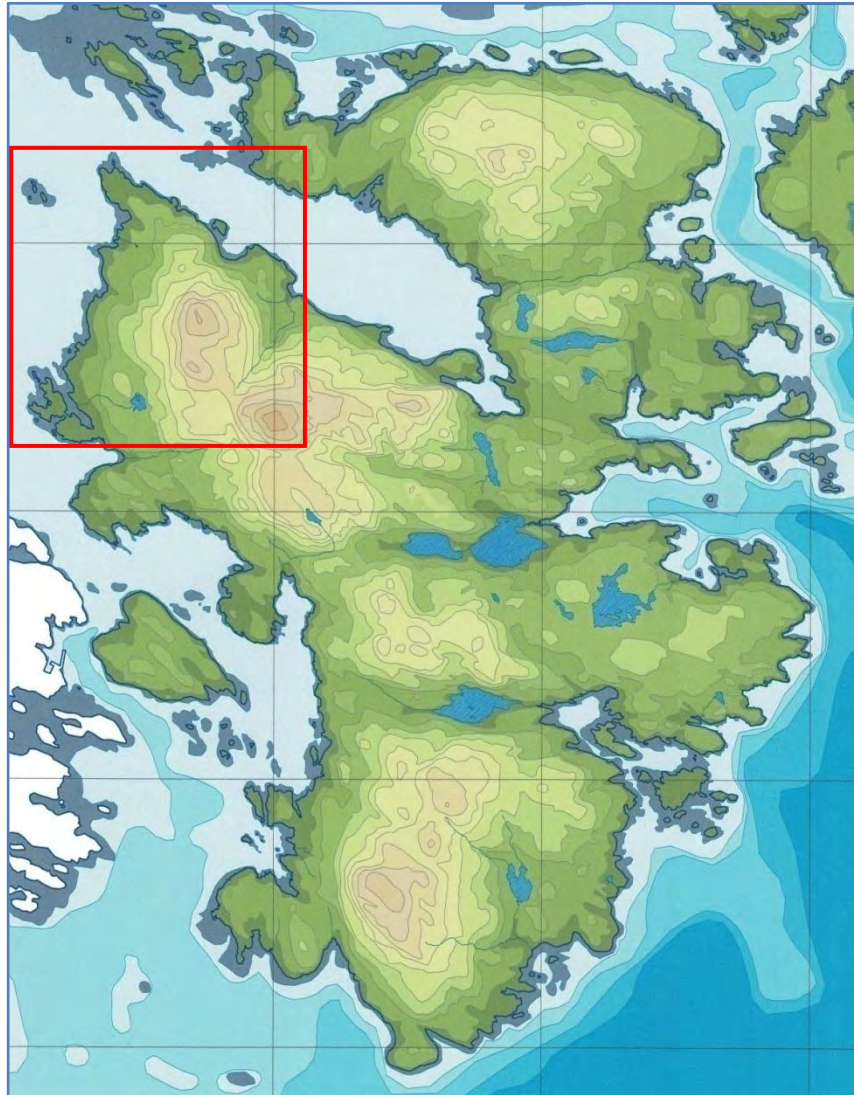
RC 18: view from S

Surveyed:	07/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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Surveyed:	07/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13789	3D: No
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BUAILE-MHÒR

(Gaelic 'Big fold')



Location of Buaille-mhòr survey area within Ronay



Sites within the Buaille-mhòr survey area

Bhuaile-mhòr Introduction

Lying at the north-west end of Ronay, the settlement extending north from Buaile-mhòr is the largest on the island. It also has the longest history of settlement in the modern period, extending from the time of Robert Reid's *Plan of the Island of North Uist* in 1799, right up until the last resident shepherd left the island in the mid 1950s.

Robert Reid's survey of 1799 shows almost the whole of the area as being an area of enclosed cultivation, and as well as the feannagan remains visible on the west facing slopes, traces of dykes which pre-date the main kelping croft settlement can also still be seen (BM 2, 9 and 14). Although Robert Reid didn't show any roofed buildings existing at the time, it seems very unlikely that none existed previously, and a number of buildings which do not really fit with the early 19thC kelping settlement pattern might date from this earlier period (BM 11, 12, 13, 22 and 30).

The area also includes several place-names incorporating the word *Sagairt* indicating some connection in the past with a priest, although this will have been before the kelping settlement as there was no priest on the island during that time. Local tradition is that services were held in the open air at a rock outcrop called *Cachaileidh an t-Sagairt* (Priest's Gateway) (BM 37), and if the Ronay Lowlanders' chapel and graveyard mentioned by Martin Martin in 1599 did exist, then this area of

Ronay has to be a likely contender for its location. This is supported by a second place name *Cnoc nan Gall* (Lowlanders' Hillock) located towards the south end of this area of settlement.

Despite an intensive search no definitive evidence for a chapel and/or graveyard has been found during the survey, although possibilities include a stone walled enclosure on the coast (BM 13), and the unusual set of building remains at BM 23 which include a small east-west orientated building.

The area includes 7 probable kelping crofts from the early 19thC with their respective main farmsteads at BM 1, 8, 11, 16, 20, 25 and 26, and 34. BM 25 and 26 are located within a few metres of each other and fit with the 1814 rental records which indicate that one of the crofts had two tenants. The farmstead BM 20 includes a kiln barn, although it is so small it may have had the alternative use as the base of a still!

Sometime after the island became a sheep farm in around 1840, a sheepfold (BM 4) was built on *Rubh' an Aisig* (Ferry Point) and this area then became the focus of activity on Ronay with the shepherd and his family living eventually in a new house (BM 8) built in around 1890 and situated on the slopes above. This was occupied continually up until 1955, and a sheep flock was kept on Ronay until 2005, managed by tenants and shepherds based on Grimsay and North Uist.



View looking W over Buaile-mhòr from the summit of Beinn ant-Sagairt

Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**

RFS no: **BM 1**

NGR: NF 88505 56265

Site type(s): Farmstead

Condition: Fair

Description:

A farmstead comprising a dwelling and a separate byre lies on a knoll 80m ENE of the inlet on the NW side of Rubha Chnaip. The dwelling measures 13.0m N - S by 4.4m transversely within low drystone walls averaging 1m thick and 0.5m high. Entrance doorways are located on both E and W facing elevations towards the N end. The byre lies 4m to the SE of the house and measures 7m NE - SW by 3.5m transversely within similarly constructed walls. It has an entrance doorway towards the NE end of the NW facing elevation. All the evidence points to this structure being one of the original early 19thC kelping crofts, but it is not possible to define its land boundaries with any certainty.



BM 1: view from S and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**

RFS no: **BM 2**

NGR: NF 88440 56340 (centre)

Site type(s): Dyke(s), revetment

Condition: Fair

Description:

A series of dyke remains lie in the area between the two farmsteads BM 1 and BM 6 and the 19thC sheepfold BM 4. Section A (see photo) is centred at NF 88340 56360, is around 100m long and constructed in drystone and acts in part as a revetment for what appears to be a former track on its NE side. Section B is centred at NF 88440 56300, is constructed as a turf bank and is around 250m long and may have acted as a boundary between the two farmsteads. Sections C are centred at NF 88550 56340, are also constructed as turf banks, and start at a low rock outcrop. Each is around 50m long and that to the S may have connected with section B.



BM 2: Google Earth view (2004)

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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Site name: Rubh' an Aisig
RFS no: BM 3
NGR: NF 88350 56270
Site type(s): Landing point(s), breakwater(s), jetty(s)
Condition: Fair

Description:

Three landing points lie in close proximity on a S facing shore some 100m ESE of the modern sheepfold BM 4 which dates from the mid 19thC. Each comprises an area of beach cleared of larger stones, and measures around 20m in a generally N - S direction between the H and LWMs and between 2 and 7m transversely. Near the shore the cleared areas have been widened to provide space for beaching boats, and on their W sides low breakwaters or jetties have been constructed with stone rubble.

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:	13790	3D:	No
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Site name: Rubh' an Aisig
RFS no: BM 4
NGR: NF 88240 56300
Site type(s): Sheepfold, building
Condition: Good

Description:

A four compartment sheepfold and a rectangular building lie on a narrow peninsula extending out into the sound between Ronay and Grimsay named Rubh' an Aisig (Ferry Point). Most likely constructed after the island was cleared as a sheep farm around the mid 19thC, the fold measures around 30m NW - SE and 22m transversely within drystone walls up to 1.5m high and 0.8m thick. Attached to its SW side is a rectangular building measuring around 9.4m NW - SE and 4.3m transversely within well built coursed and part dressed masonry walls bound with lime mortar. Doors are located centrally in the SW and NW elevations, and the remains of a single window jamb can be seen in the part demolished SE facing elevation. The contrast in construction method and quality between the building and fold are noteworthy, suggesting different builders were probably involved.

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:	13791	3D:	No
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BM 3: central landing place viewed from N



BM 4: building interior looking NW and thumbnail plan

Site name: **Rubh' an Aisig**

RFS no: **BM 5**

NGR: NF 88320 56300

Site type(s): Stack stand

Condition: Fair

Description:

A sub-rectangular stack stand or clamp base, most likely used for peat or root crops lies a few m from the shore within an area of former cultivation. The slightly raised central base measures around 4m N - S and 2m transversely and is surrounded by a ditch around 1m wide and up to 0.8m deep.

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:	13792	3D: No
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Site name: **Rubh' an Aisig**

RFS no: **BM 6**

NGR: NF 88185 56455

Site type(s): Landing point

Condition: Fair

Description:

A landing point lies on the W side of a sheltered bay protected by the peninsula Rubh' an Aisig (Ferry Point) upon which the sheepfold BM 4 is located. It comprises an area of beach cleared of larger stones, and measuring around 30m SW - NE and between 2 and 7m transversely. Near the shore the cleared area has been widened to provide space for beaching boats. It is likely that this landing point and others on the SW shore of Rubh' an Aisig (BM3) and further N (BM 7), were used to move livestock between Ronay and Grimsay on the opposite side of the Kyle of Ronay. Possible Grimsay landing points include Bàgh Mòr, or, the inlet slightly further N known as Bàgh nan Cisteachen (Chest Bay), whose N shore is defined by Aird an Aisig (Ferry Field) and where a landing place and jetty are located on its S side (see Canmore 336816).

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:	13793	3D: No
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BM 5: view from SW



BM 6: view from NE

Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**
 RFS no: **BM 7**
 NGR: NF 88245 56455
 Site type(s): Landing point
 Condition: Fair

Description:

A landing point lies on the E side of a sheltered bay protected by the peninsula Rubh' an Aisig upon which the sheepfold BM 4 is located. It comprises an area of beach cleared of larger stones, and measures around 45m SE - NW and between 2 and 7m transversely. Near the shore the cleared area has been widened to provide space for beaching boats and this is defined on its N side by a row of larger stones.



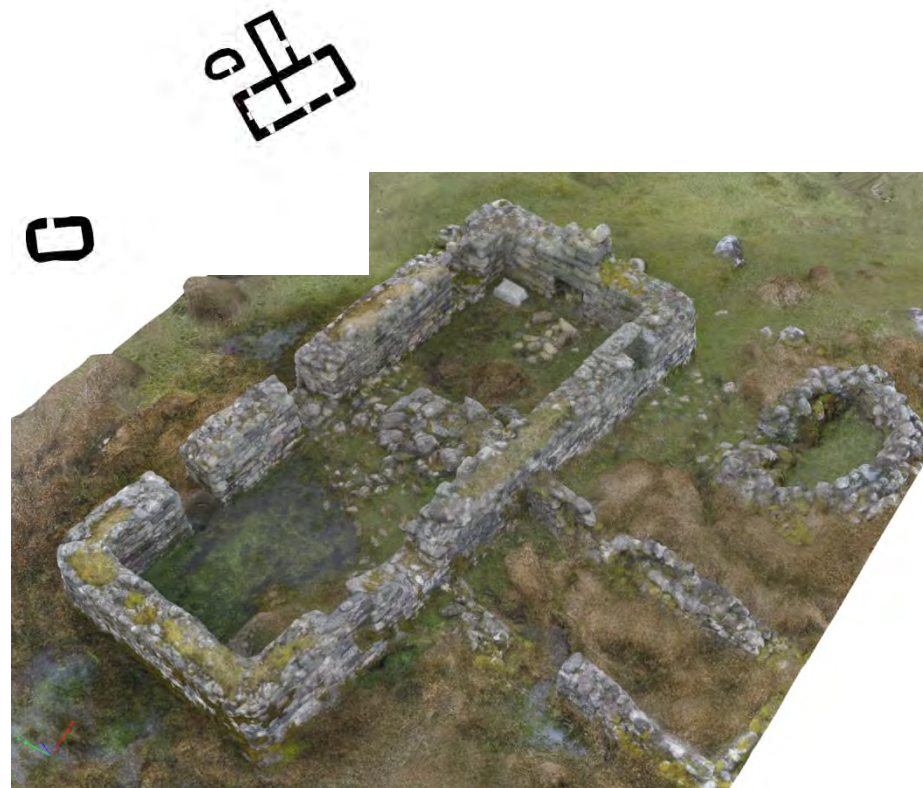
BM 7: view from N

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:	13794	3D:	No
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Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**
 RFS no: **BM 8**
 NGR: NF 88380 56390 (centre)
 Site type(s): Farmstead
 Condition: Good

Description:

A well preserved farmstead comprising a dwelling and two separate outbuildings lies on the edge of a plateau some 75m from the shore. The dwelling measures 11.8m NE - SW by 4m transversely within squarely built coursed stone walls bonded with lime mortar 1m thick and 1.8m high. The entrance doorway is located towards the NE end of the SE facing elevation, which also includes two windows, with two more on the elevation facing NW. Inside, the building is divided into two compartments by a substantial stone wall a little SW of centre, and the smaller room has a fireplace centrally located in the gable, with the remains of a flue and chimney above. Attached to the NW facing elevation is a rectangular extension measuring 6m NW - SE and 2.1m transversely within similarly constructed walls although these are less well preserved. There is an entrance doorway centred in the NE facing elevation.



BM 8: aerial view of main house and first outbuilding from the N and thumbnail plan

The census of 1881 shows the number of rooms in the house with windows as 2, with that being increased to 3 by 1891, and this may suggest this extension dates from this period.

The first outbuilding lies within the space on the W side created between the main house and its extension. Sub-circular in plan it measures 3.1m SW - NE and a maximum of 1.6m transversely within drystone walls 0.8m wide and up to 1.2m high. There is an entrance centrally located in the SE facing elevation.

The second lies 22m SW of the house at a lower level. Rectangular in plan, this measures 5.7m W - E by 2.9m transversely within substantial drystone walls up to 1.3m thick and 1.5m high. It has a wide entrance doorway towards the W end of the N facing elevation, and its form and construction suggest this dates to an earlier period than the farmhouse, and it has similarities with township bull pens in other parts of Uist.

Around 15m SE of the house lies a large sub-rectangular enclosure around 1100m² in area. Slightly raised above the surrounding ground, it is enclosed mostly by a now much reduced turf bank, but there are also sections of drystone walling on its N and W sides suggesting it may have been altered or extended over time. Possible functions include a sheepfold, stack yard or garden ground, and it is possible that this is the original *Buaile-mhòr* or 'Big fold' referred to in the local place-name. However, as the name doesn't appear on any mapping until 30 years after the new fold BM 4 was built, it may relate to that later structure instead.

Evidence from both OS 6" 1st and 2nd edition mapping, and the design and construction of the main house, indicate this was built sometime between 1878 and 1901 on the site of a smaller building, which may have been one of the original early 19thC kelping crofts. Local oral history indicates the house was built for the head shepherd on Ronay, and it was occupied up until the 1950s.

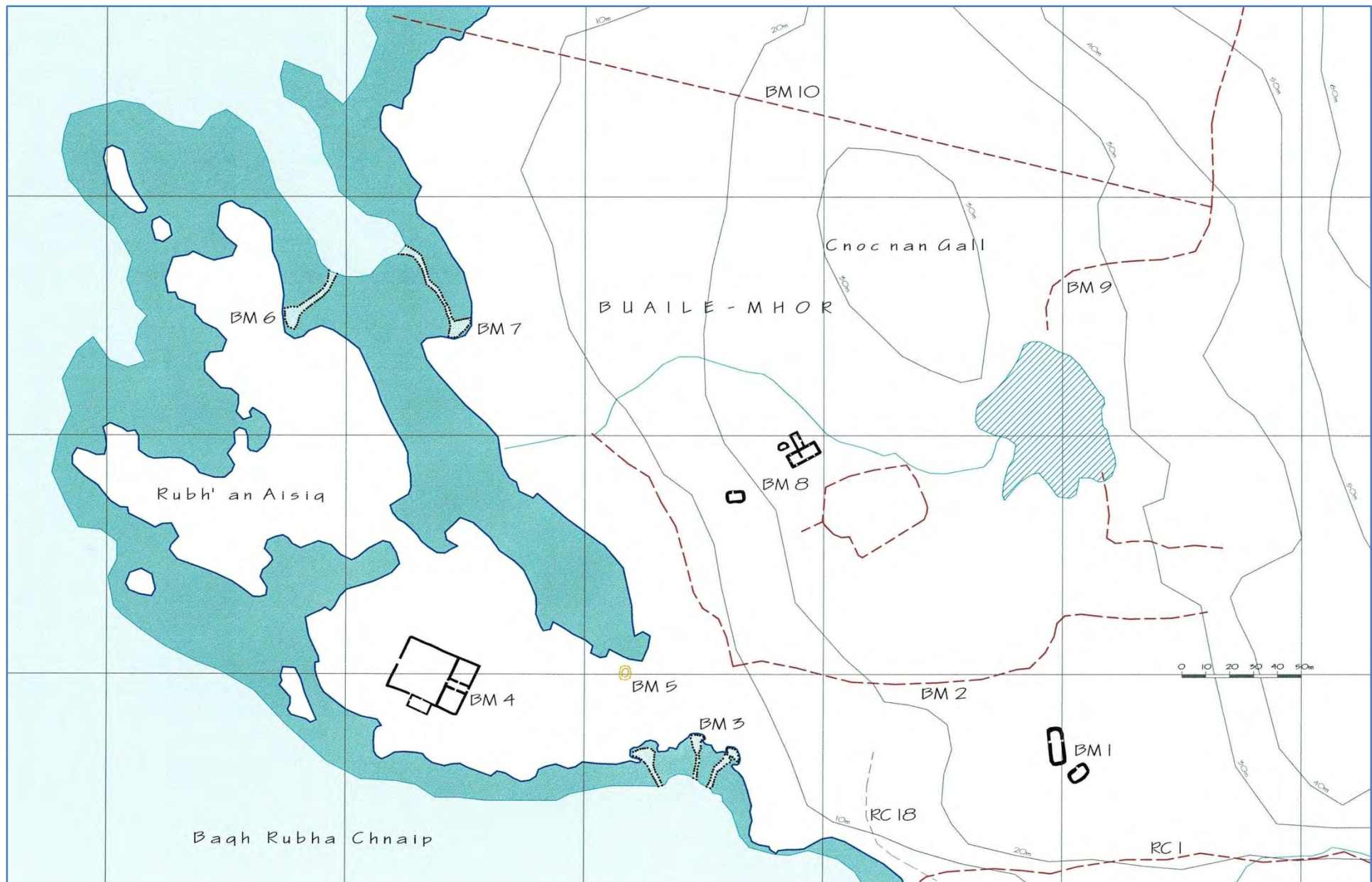


BM 8 lower outbuilding: view from SE



BM 8 enclosure: NW wall remains

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Buaile-mhòr southern area map

Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**
 RFS no: **BM 9**
 NGR: NF 88600 56750 (centre)
 Site type(s): Head dyke
 Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

The township of Buaile-mhòr is enclosed by a head dyke which runs for a distance of some 750m in a generally S - N direction, roughly parallel with, and typically 250m inland of, the W shore of Ronay. It starts on the N shore of a small lochan lying just to the NE of the farmstead BM 8 at NF 88495 56450 and can be traced continuously as far as a point near the S shore of Bàgh nan Uamh around NF 88700 56900. It part encloses an area of land extending to some 25ha which is subdivided into 6, possibly 7 crofts. Constructed in a variety of methods and materials - drystone, stone/turf and turf bank - as well as making use of natural features, the dyke is best preserved near its junction with dyke BM10, and also towards its N end near where it is connected to a second head dyke (BM 33) enclosing land related to farmstead BM 34.



BM 9: view looking S at the junction with the E end of BM 10



BM 10: view of shoreline section from E

Surveyed:	25/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**
 RFS no: **BM 10**
 NGR: NF 88400 56540 (centre)
 Site type(s): Dyke
 Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

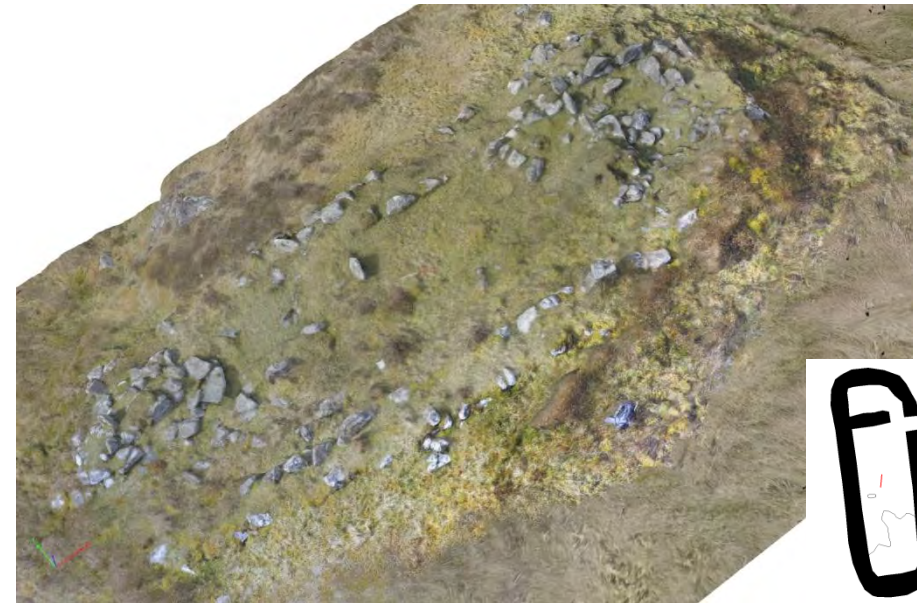
A turf dyke runs for a distance of around 350m in a ESE - WNW direction between the head dyke BM 9 at NF 88570 56495 and the HWM on the W shore of Ronay at NF 88250 56570. At the HWM the dyke continues further W towards the LWM as an intermittent alignment of small boulders. This dyke defines the S extent of an area of enclosed croft land to the N which extends to around 6.8ha.

Surveyed:	25/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:	13795	3D: No
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Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**
 RFS no: **BM 11**
 NGR: NF 88280 56580
 Site type(s): Building
 Condition: Poor

Description:

This is the S-most of a group of three buildings lying on the W shore of Ronay near the centre of an area of cultivation defined in Robert Reid's *Plan of the Island of North Uist* from 1799. Slightly trapezoidal in plan it measures 15.3m N - S by between 3.9 and 4.3m transversely within low drystone walls between 1m and 1.6m thick and averaging 0.4m high. An entrance position is not clearly identifiable, but it may be alongside a vertically embedded slab located towards the N end of the E facing elevation. A significant amount of loose stone lies within, but apart from a possible partition at the N end, the remainder appears formless. Possibly occupied as one of the early 19th C helping croft farmsteads.



BM 11: aerial view from the SE and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:	13796	3D: Yes
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Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**
 RFS no: **BM 12**
 NGR: NF 88285 56605
 Site type(s): Building, pen(s)
 Condition: Fair

Description:

This altered building is in the centre of a group of three buildings lying on the W shore of Ronay. Rectangular in plan with notably curved and thickened gables, the original building measured 7.6m NW - SE by 3.7m transversely within drystone walls varying between 1.2m and 1.7m thick and up to 1.2m high. The position of the original entrance is not identifiable, but is likely to have been on the SW facing elevation. The building appears to have been subsequently altered for stock husbandry purposes by the insertion of two drystone cross partitions which has created 2 pens separated by a passage, each with an entrance in the original gables.



BM 12: aerial view from W and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:	13797	3D: Yes
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Site name: Buaille-mhòr
RFS no: BM 13
NGR: NF 88310 56630 (centre)
Site type(s): Building, enclosure, landing point(s)
Condition: Fair

Description:

This distinctive set of remains is the N-most of a group of three buildings lying on the W shore of Ronay near the centre of an area of cultivation defined in Robert Reid's *Plan of the Island of North Uist* dated 1799. They comprise a small rectangular building (A), attached to the inside of a curvilinear wall (B), the ends of which extend to the shore (C and D), (and are clearly partly eroded), and on the shore nearby, the remains of two landing points (E and F).

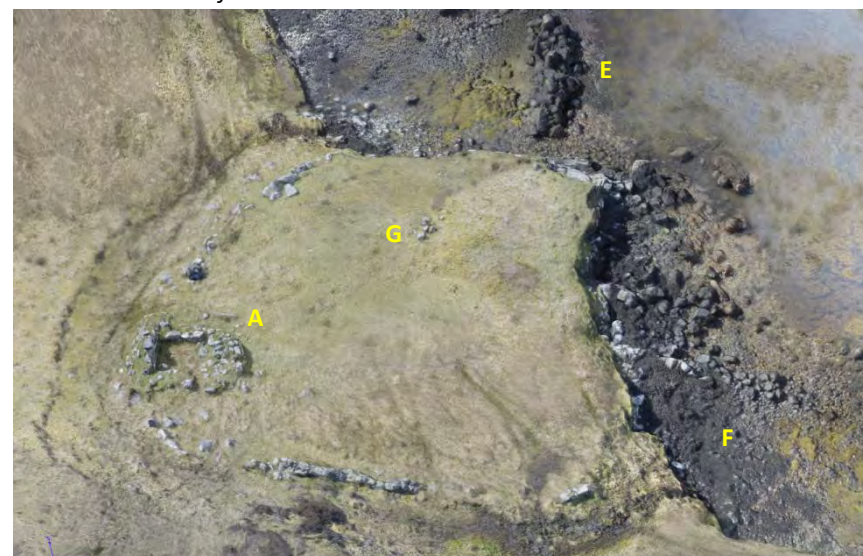
The building is rectangular in plan with a distinctly curved gable to the N, and measures 3.2m N - S by 1.9m transversely within drystone walls between 0.8m and 1.1m thick and up to 1.2m high. There is a narrow entrance 0.4m wide towards the N end of the E facing elevation, and a possible second opening (a drain or vent?) opposite. The S gable is built squarely and appears to extend beyond the E and W elevation walls, and this feature, together with the remains of another wall foundation extending N beyond the N gable, suggest this building may overlie another earlier structure.

The building lies within a 350m² enclosure bounded in part by a drystone and turf wall and in part by the coast edge, although it is not possible to determine the full extent of the original enclosure because of coastal erosion. The wall is between 0.7 and 1.5m thick and is a maximum of 1m high. A ditch has been dug outside the E section and the faint remains of two outer dykes run around 2.5m outside and parallel with both E and W sections which appear to connect with dyke BM 14. A small stone heap (G), possibly a clearance cairn, lies within.

On the shore are the remains of two landing points. That to the W is marked by a drystone jetty or breakwater 7m long, 2m thick and up to 1m high. That to the E by the less well preserved remains of a similar structure around 8m long.

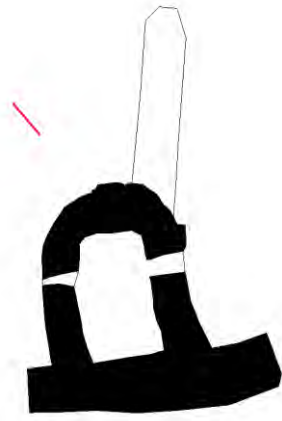


BM 13: aerial view from N



BM 13: aerial view from E

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:	13287	3D: Yes
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BM 13: Building aerial plan view and thumbnail plan

Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**
 RFS no: **BM 14**
 NGR: NF 88400 56630 (centre)
 Site type(s): Dyke
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The faint traces of a dyke run for a distance of around 175m in a W - E direction between the HWM on the W shore of Ronay at NF 88320 56650 and the junction with a second dyke (BM 15) at NF 88490 56620. Constructed in drystone and turf, its purpose is not entirely clear, but it probably represents an earlier subdivision of land that predates the early 19thC kelping croft settlement which seems to have been re-used with BM 15 to separate the croft land relating to farmsteads BM 11 and 16.



BM 13: view of W landing point from W



BM 13 & 14: View from W, with sections of BM 14 highlighted

Surveyed:	25/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**
 RFS no: **BM 15**
 NGR: NF 88500 56680 (centre)
 Site type(s): Dyke
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The traces of a turf dyke lie to the SE of farmstead BM 16 amongst an area of peat cutting and cultivation. They appear to connect with dyke BM 14 and probably represent the boundary between the crofts relating to farmsteads BM 11 and 16.

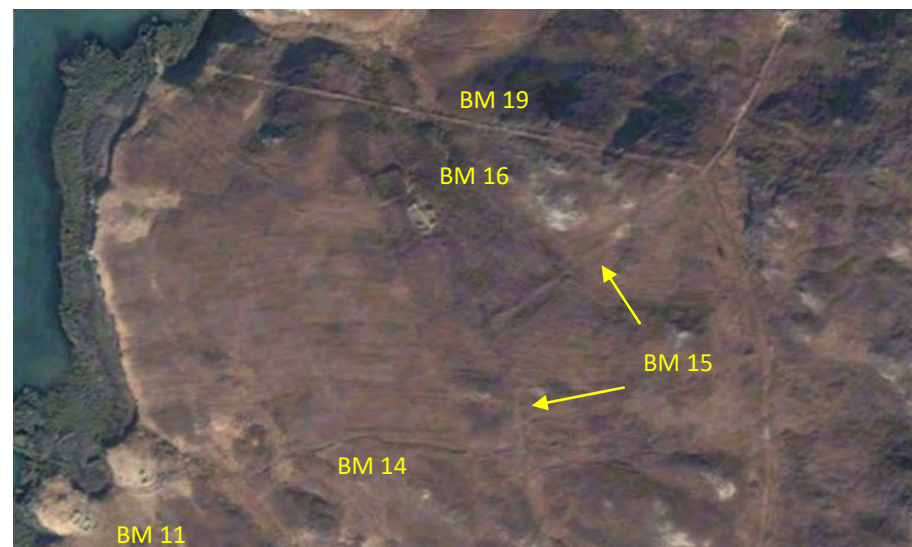
Surveyed:	25/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**
 RFS no: **BM 16**
 NGR: NF 88455 56725
 Site type(s): Farmstead, pen(s), enclosure
 Condition: Good

Description:

A farmstead comprising a dwelling house with an attached byre, and a rectangular enclosure is located some 150m E of the W shore of Ronay at an altitude of +30m AOD. The dwelling measures 12m NW - SE X 4.1m transversely within drystone walls typically 1.5m thick and up to 1.5m high. There is a partially blocked entrance located near the N end of the NE facing elevation. The byre is attached to the S end of the same wall and measures 5.4m NW - SE X 3m transversely within similarly constructed walls and has an entrance at the SW end of the NW facing elevation. Towards the SE end of the dwelling, a well preserved, circular, corbelled drystone walled lamb pen with an internal diameter of 0.8m has been built, and the remains of a second pen are incorporated into the NW corner. 5m NW of the NW gable is the outline of a square turf walled enclosure with internal dimensions of 12 X 12m. Lying within an enclosed area of land extending to just over 3ha this is likely to be one of the original 26 crofts established on Ronay in the early 19thC, but one that has been adapted for use for stock rearing purposes after its abandonment.

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D:	Yes
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BM 15: Google Earth view



BM 16: aerial view from SE and thumbnail plan

Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**
 RFS no: **BM 17**
 NGR: NF 88320 56790
 Site type(s): Landing point
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A landing point lies on the W shore of Ronay some 150m NE of the farmstead BM 16. It comprises an area of beach cleared of larger stones, and measures around 16m E - W and 4m transversely. Stone piles on either side of the cleared area may represent the cleared stones and boulders.

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:	13798	3D:	No
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Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**
 RFS no: **BM 18**
 NGR: NF 88350 56805
 Site type(s): Landing point, breakwater(s)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A landing point lies within a small N facing inlet on the W shore of Ronay some 130m NW of the farmstead BM 16. The head of the inlet measures around 13m E - W and 8m transversely and has been cleared of larger stones and boulders. On its seaward side two roughly assembled drystone breakwaters have been constructed separated by a narrow entrance around 2m wide. Between the entrance and the LWM, an area of beach of the same width has also been cleared of stones to give safe access. The E breakwater may also represent the W termination of dyke BM 19.

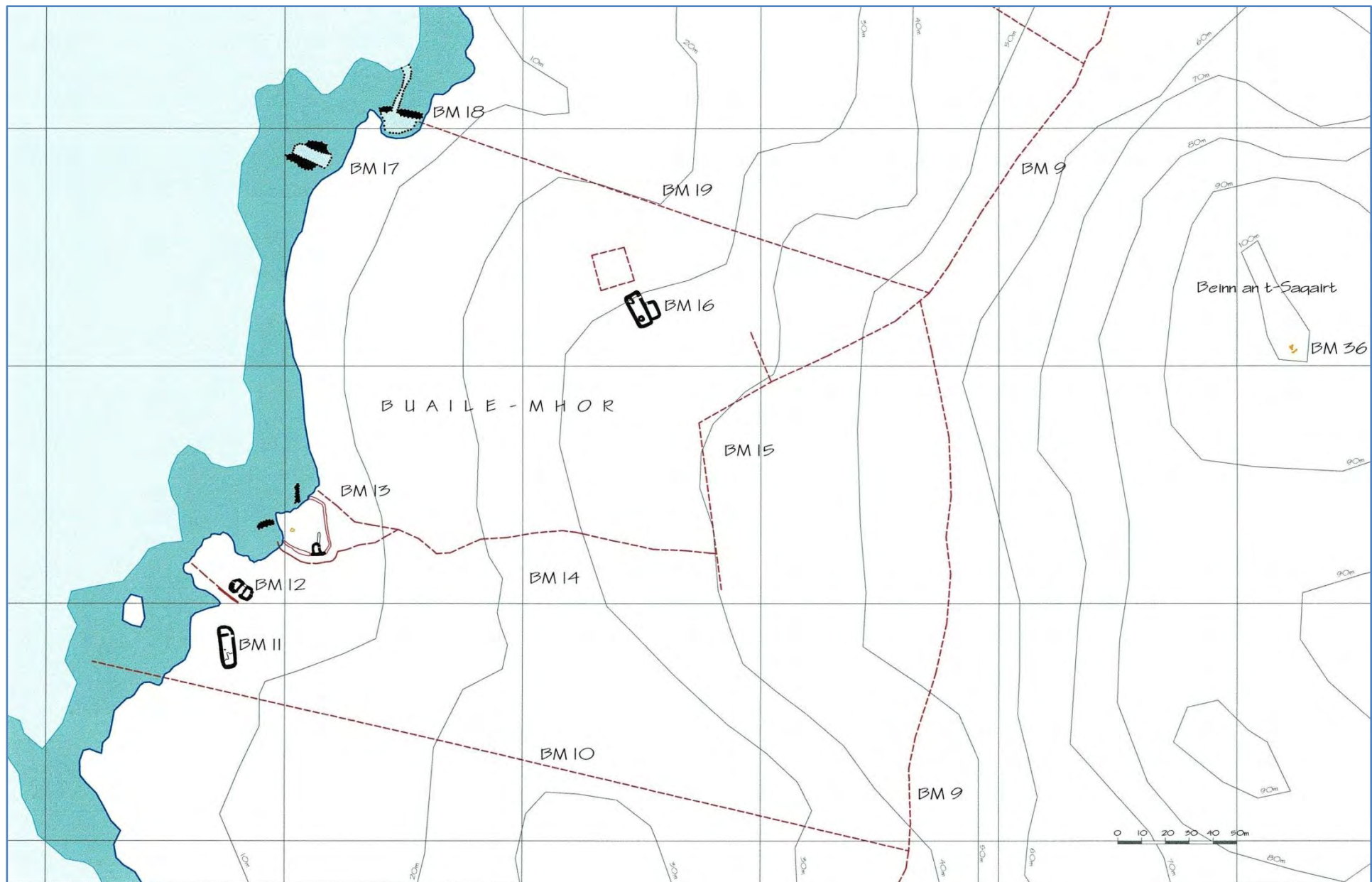
Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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BM 17: view from E



BM 18: view from S



Buaile-mhòr central area map

Site name: Buaille-mhòr
RFS no: BM 19
NGR: NF 88460 56770 (centre)
Site type(s): Dyke
Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

A drystone/turf dyke runs for a distance of around 225m in a ESE - WNW direction between the head dyke BM 9 at NF 88575 56730 and the HWM on the W shore of Ronay at NF 88365 56805. This dyke defines the boundary between the two crofts relating to farmsteads BM 16 and 20.

Surveyed:	25/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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Site name: Buaille-mhòr
RFS no: BM 20
NGR: NF 88500 56880
Site type(s): Farmstead, pen, kiln barn
Condition: Good

Description:

A farmstead comprising a dwelling house with an attached byre, and a kiln barn is located some 125m E of the W shore of Ronay at an altitude of +25m AOD. The dwelling measures 12.2m W - E X 4m transversely within drystone walls typically 1.4m thick and up to 1.5m high. There are two entrances slightly W of centre on each on the N and S facing elevations, and a small niche centrally located on the inside of the N wall. A byre is attached to the E end of the same wall and measures 4m W - E X 3m transversely within similarly constructed walls and has an entrance at the S end of the W facing elevation. The kiln barn is located 4.5m NE of the house and byre and measures 5m NW - SE by 3.3m transversely within similar walls and there is an entrance towards the NW end of the SW elevation. A corn drying kiln has been constructed in its SW corner and a pen in the NW. Lying within an enclosed area of land extending to around 4Ha this is likely to be one of the original 26 crofts established on Ronay in the early 19thC.

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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BM 20: view of corn drying kiln in kiln barn



BM 20: aerial view from S and thumbnail plan

Site name: Buaille-mhòr
RFS no: BM 21
NGR: NF 88520 56900 (centre)
Site type(s): Dyke
Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

A drystone/turf dyke runs for a distance of around 275m in a SE - NW direction between the head dyke BM 9 at NF 88640 56825 and the HWM on the W shore of Ronay at NF 88400 56980. This dyke defines the boundary between the two crofts relating to farmsteads BM 20 and 25/6.

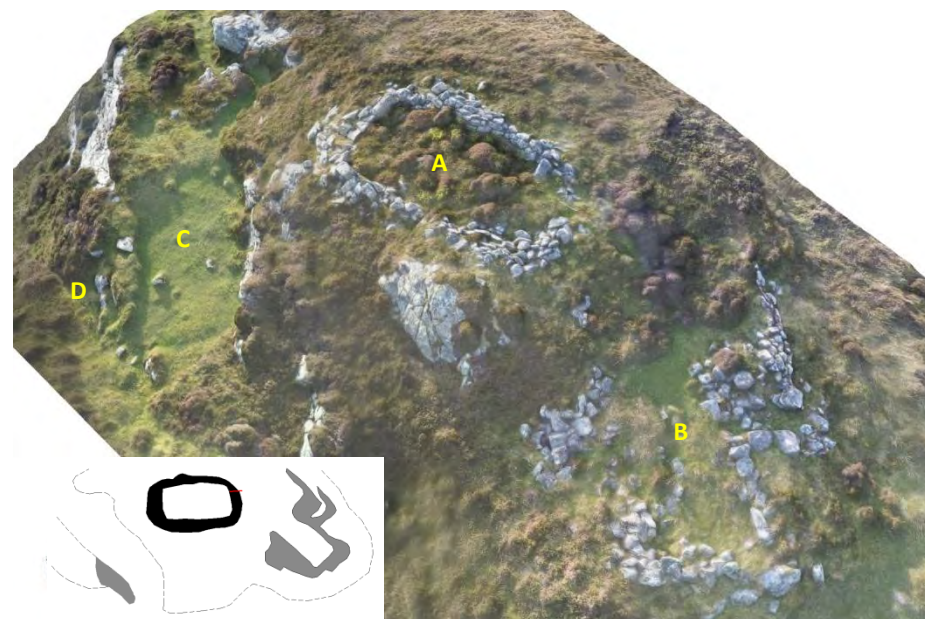
Surveyed:	25/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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Site name: Buaille-mhòr
RFS no: BM 22
NGR: NF 88480 56940
Site type(s): Building, structure(s)
Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

A series of drystone walled structures lie on and around a rocky mound on the line of the dyke BM 21, and 100m E of the W shore of Ronay. The best preserved is a rectangular building (A), located on its summit which measures 5.7m E - W and 3m transversely within roughly constructed stone rubble walls. No clear entrance. 3m to its E, and at a slightly lower level, a series of stone walls and revetments appear to define an irregularly shaped platform (B), although it is not possible to interpret this fully. 2m to its SW is an area of levelled and fertile ground (C) measuring 10m X 3m which is partly supported by a section of drystone walling (D) which may be a part of dyke BM 21. In the context of other structures and buildings in this area of Ronay the location and content of this site are wholly inconsistent, and it seems unlikely that it relates to the establishment of the early 19thC helping croft township.

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D:	Yes
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BM 22: aerial view from SE and thumbnail plan



BM 22: view of feature B from N

Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**
 RFS no: **BM 23**
 NGR: NF 88420 56990
 Site type(s): Landing point
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A landing point lies within a small W facing inlet on the W shore of Ronay some 150m WSW of the farmstead BM 25. The head of the inlet measures around 10m NE - SW and 5m transversely and has been cleared of larger stones and boulders. On its seaward side two roughly assembled drystone breakwaters have been constructed separated by a narrow entrance around 1.5m wide. Between the entrance and the LWM, an area of beach of a similar width has also been cleared of stones to give safe access.



BM 23: view from S

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:	13800	3D:	No
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Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**
 RFS no: **BM 24**
 NGR: NF 88420 56990
 Site type(s): Well (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The source of a small burn lies in a depression in a natural valley surrounded by an area of former cultivation and within 125m of three farmsteads. In the absence of any other fresh water supply in the vicinity, there is a good possibility this acted as a well for this community.



BM 24 view from NW

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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Site name: **Rubh' an t-Sagairt**

RFS no: **BM 25**

NGR: NF 88555 57040

Site type(s): Farmstead, pen

Condition: Good

Description:

A farmstead comprising a dwelling house with an attached byre is located some 130m E of the W shore of Ronay at an altitude of +20m AOD. The dwelling measures 10m W - E by 3.5m transversely within drystone walls between 1.3 and 1.8m thick and up to 1.3m high. There is a partially blocked entrance located near the W end of the N facing elevation and a drystone wall which partitions off the E third of the interior. The small pen built into its NW corner is a post-abandonment adaptation for stock rearing purposes. The byre is attached to the E end of the N facing elevation and measures 4.8m W - E by 2.5m transversely within similarly constructed walls and has an entrance centrally located in the W facing elevation. Lying within an enclosed area of land extending to around 10ha this is likely to be one of the original 26 crofts established on Ronay in the early 19thC.

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Rubh' an t-Sagairt**

RFS no: **BM 26**

NGR: NF 88535 57065

Site type(s): Farmstead, pen(s) (poss), hut(s) (poss)

Condition: Good

Description:

A farmstead comprising a dwelling house with an attached byre, located 25m NW of the almost identical building BM 25, has been significantly altered post-abandonment for stock rearing purposes. The dwelling measures 10.9m NNE - SSW by 3.8m transversely within much reduced drystone walls averaging 1.5m thick and up to 0.5m high. The original entrance is located near the S end of the W facing elevation. The S gable is less curved and less thick than the N and may have been rebuilt. Outside the building's SW corner the line of a supporting stone revetment can be seen. The byre is attached to the N end of the W facing elevation and



BM 25: aerial view from SW and thumbnail plan



BM 26: view from NW with BM 25 in distance (highlighted)

measures 3.7m N - S by 2m transversely within re-constructed drystone walls that stand to 1.3m high. The original entrance would probably have been located in the S facing wall, but has been replaced by one located in the original house wall to the E. A single line of stones running W -E just N of centre marks the line of a former dividing partition.

A similarly sized and constructed drystone structure has been built within the NE corner of the original dwelling, making use of the original walls on the E and N sides. There is an entrance located centrally in the W facing wall. It isn't clear if either of these later structures were roofed and acted as byres, or even possibly huts, or whether they were open sheepfolds or pens.

Unusually and uniquely on Ronay this farmstead appears to share a single area of 10Ha of croft land with the nearby farmstead BM 25. This fits rather neatly with the list of Ronay tenants from 1814, which in a single case, shows two tenants, John Matheson and L McDonald sharing one croft.



BM 26: aerial view from SE and thumbnail plan



BM 27: view from E

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Buaile-mhòr**

RFS no: **BM 27**

NGR: NF 88430 57060

Site type(s): Landing point

Condition: Poor

Description:

A landing point lies within a small NW facing inlet on the W shore of Ronay some 110m WNW of the farmstead BM 25. It comprises an area of cleared beach around 20m long and 2.5m wide running from the HWM towards the LWM which has been cleared of larger stones and boulders, a rough line of which define its SW side.

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:	13801	3D: No
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Site name: **Rubh' an t-Sagairt**
 RFS no: **BM 28**
 NGR: NF 88455 57105 (centre)
 Site type(s): Landing point(s)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

Three landing points lie within a W facing bay at the S end of Rubha an t-Sagairt some 75m NW of the farmstead BM 26. They are located at NF 88455 57090 (A), NF 88465 57105 (B) and NF 88455 57120 (C) respectively, and each comprises an area of beach typically around 40-50m² which has been cleared of larger stones and boulders, lines of which part define the sides of the cleared areas. Each also connects into a common channel running down to the LWM which gives clear passage to open water.



BM 28: view from N

Surveyed:	25/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:	13802	3D:	No
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Site name: **Rubh' an t-Sagairt**
 RFS no: **BM 29**
 NGR: NF 88485 57060
 Site type(s): Rock shelter, dyke
 Condition: Fair

Description:

A natural cavity in an area of rock fall on the SW side of Rubha an t-Sagairt may have been used as a rock shelter. Mollusc shells lie on the floor within and there is evidence of stone packing of inter-boulder spaces. From a point near its entrance a line of natural rock fall extends SW towards the HWM for a distance of around 5m and this has been extended by a further 10m with a line of planted larger stones which may represent the core of a former dyke. (See D in photo above right).



BM 29: view from SE

Surveyed:	25/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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BM 29: interior view

Site name: **Rubh' an t-Sagairt**
 RFS no: **BM 30**
 NGR: NF 88505 57130
 Site type(s): Hut (poss), stack stand (poss),
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The remains of a sub-circular turf walled structure lie on a ridge towards the S end of the Rubha an t-Sagairt peninsula amongst an area of former cultivation. The interior measures between 3.5 and 4.5m in diameter within slumped turf walls typically 2m thick and up to 0.4m high. Its origins are not clear, but possibilities include a small turf walled hut or shelter, or the remains of a peat stack base or root crop storage clamp.

Surveyed:	25/04/2016	NMRS no:	10168	W. Isles SMR ID	1002	SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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Site name: **Bàgh nan Uamh**
 RFS no: **BM 31**
 NGR: NF 88770 57060
 Site type(s): Breakwater (poss), dyke (poss)
 Condition: Good - fair

Description:

A well constructed drystone wall connects a small island to the S shore of Bàgh nan Uamh. 1m thick and up to 1.2m high the wall runs in a straight line NE - SW for a distance of 10m before curving in a SE direction for a further 10m along the shore at or near the HWM. Its purpose is not certain, but two possibilities are that either it is a breakwater to shelter the landing place to the SE (BM 32), or, it represents the end of an incomplete boundary dyke separating the crofts relating to farmsteads BM 25 and 26 and BM 34.

Surveyed:	09/05/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13803	3D:	No
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BM 30: view from NW with BM 25 and 26 behind (highlighted)



BM 31: view from NE

Site name: **Bàgh nan Uamh**

RFS no: **BM 32**

NGR: NF 88785 57060

Site type(s): Landing point

Condition: Poor

Description:

A landing point lies at the head of a small inlet on the inshore side of a small island on the S shore of Bàgh nan Uamh. It comprises an area of beach around 10m long and averaging 3m wide running from the HWM towards the LWM which has been cleared of larger stones and boulders.

Surveyed:	09/05/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13804	3D: No
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Site name: **Bàgh nan Uamh**

RFS no: **BM 33**

NGR: NF 88900 56800 (centre)

Site type(s): Head dyke

Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

The farmstead BM 34, the northernmost of the Buaille-mhòr survey area, is enclosed by a head dyke which runs for a distance of some 650m in a generally W - E direction, roughly parallel with, and typically 150m inland of, the S shore of Bàgh nan Uamh. It starts at its W end at a junction with the main Buaille-mhòr head dyke at NF 88700 56915 (see BM 9) and can be traced almost continuously as far as a point near the S shore of Bàgh nan Uamh near NF 89060 56815. Partly enclosing an area of land extending to some 5ha it is constructed in a variety of methods and materials including drystone, stone/turf and turf bank, as well as making use of natural features.

Surveyed:	09/05/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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BM 32: View from NW



BM 33: view of a section just S of the farmstead BM 34

Site name: **Bàgh nan Uamh**
 RFS no: **BM 34**
 NGR: NF 88935 568140
 Site type(s): Farmstead, pen(s), enclosure
 Condition: Good

Description:

A farmstead comprising a dwelling house with an attached byre is located some 150m SW of the S shore of Bàgh nan Uamh at an altitude of +27m AOD. The dwelling measures 12.3m NW - SE by 3.6m transversely within relatively squarely built drystone walls between 1 and 1.3m thick and up to 1.6m high. There is an entrance door located near the SE end of the NE facing elevation. Two small drystone walled pens at the NW end are likely to be post-abandonment adaptations for stock rearing purposes, and a large slab, possibly a former lintol, lies just inside the entrance. The byre is attached to the SE gable and measures 2.8m NW - SE by 3.5m transversely within similarly constructed walls and has an entrance located at the NW end of the NE facing elevation. The possible remains of a turf walled enclosure lie 15m to the SE. Although this is likely to be one of the original 26 crofts established on Ronay in the early 19thC, its isolation and different layout and construction compared to other farmsteads in this area of Ronay are noteworthy.



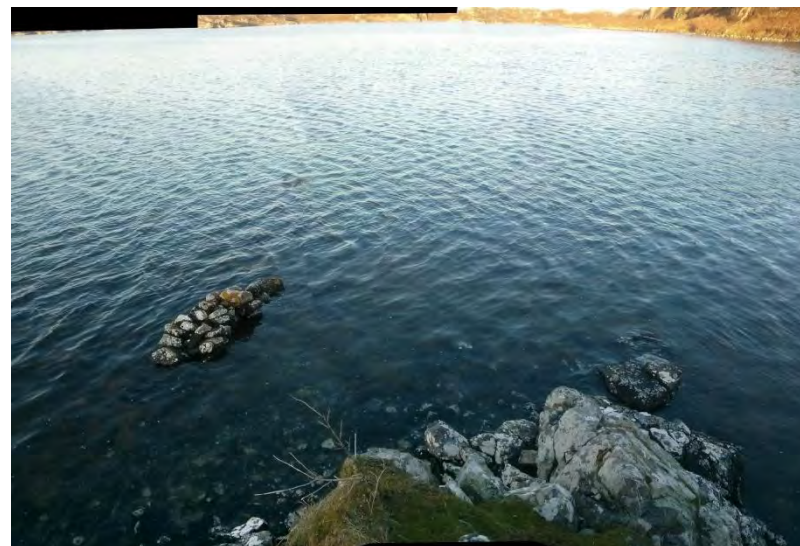
BM 34: view from NW with thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	09/05/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Bàgh nan Uamh**
 RFS no: **BM 35**
 NGR: NF 89080 56875
 Site type(s): Wall, boundary mark (poss)
 Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

A drystone wall fragment 3m long, 1m wide and 0.5m high lies off the tip of a headland on the S shore of Bàgh nan Uamh. In the absence of any connected shore feature such as a boundary or enclosure dyke, its most likely purpose is as a boundary mark, perhaps in this context, related to seaweed harvesting rights.



BM 35: view from NW

Surveyed:	09/05/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13805	3D: No
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Site name: **Beinn an t-Sagairt**

RFS no: **BM 36**

NGR: NF 88735 56690

Site type(s): Unknown

Condition: Poor

Description:

The outline of a rectangular structure lies on the summit of Beinn an t-Sagairt. Measuring around 3.5m NW - SE and 2.5m transversely, the interior is part delineated with single stones and is outlined by a slightly raised area of turf, but it is not possible to determine if this might be the remains of turf walls. Given its elevated position it is possible this is the site of a beacon, perhaps one commemorating VE Day in 1944 when it is known from local oral tradition that many beacons were lit on North Uist.



BM 36: view from N

Surveyed:	21/04/2017	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Cachaileidh an t-Sagairt**

RFS no: **BM 37**

NGR: NF 88555 56875

Site type(s): Natural feature,

Condition: N/A

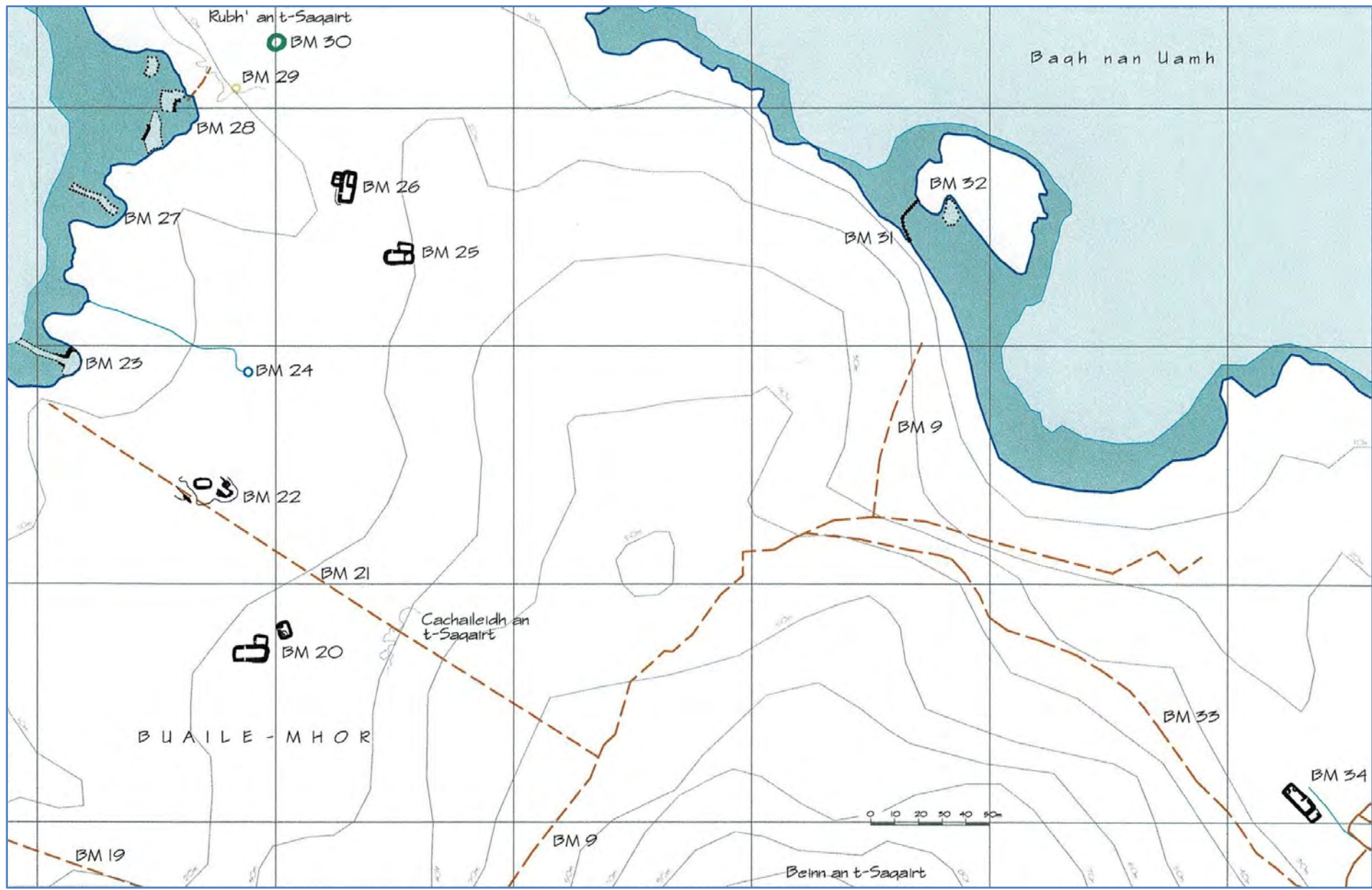
Description:

A distinctive rock outcrop lying on the hillside above the N end of the Buaille-mhòr township has the place-name *Cachaileidh an t-Sagairt* or 'Priest's Gateway'. It lies in the centre of four other *an t-Sagairt* place-names in this part of Ronay suggesting strong links with a priest in the past, although it is known there was no minister on the island during or after the kelping croft settlement, so these are likely to originate from the 18thC or earlier. Local tradition is that this was a place used for religious assembly, although the gateway reference is reputed to relate to a natural vertical fissure in the rock face or perhaps a gap in the dyke which the outcrop intersects.



BM 37: view from W

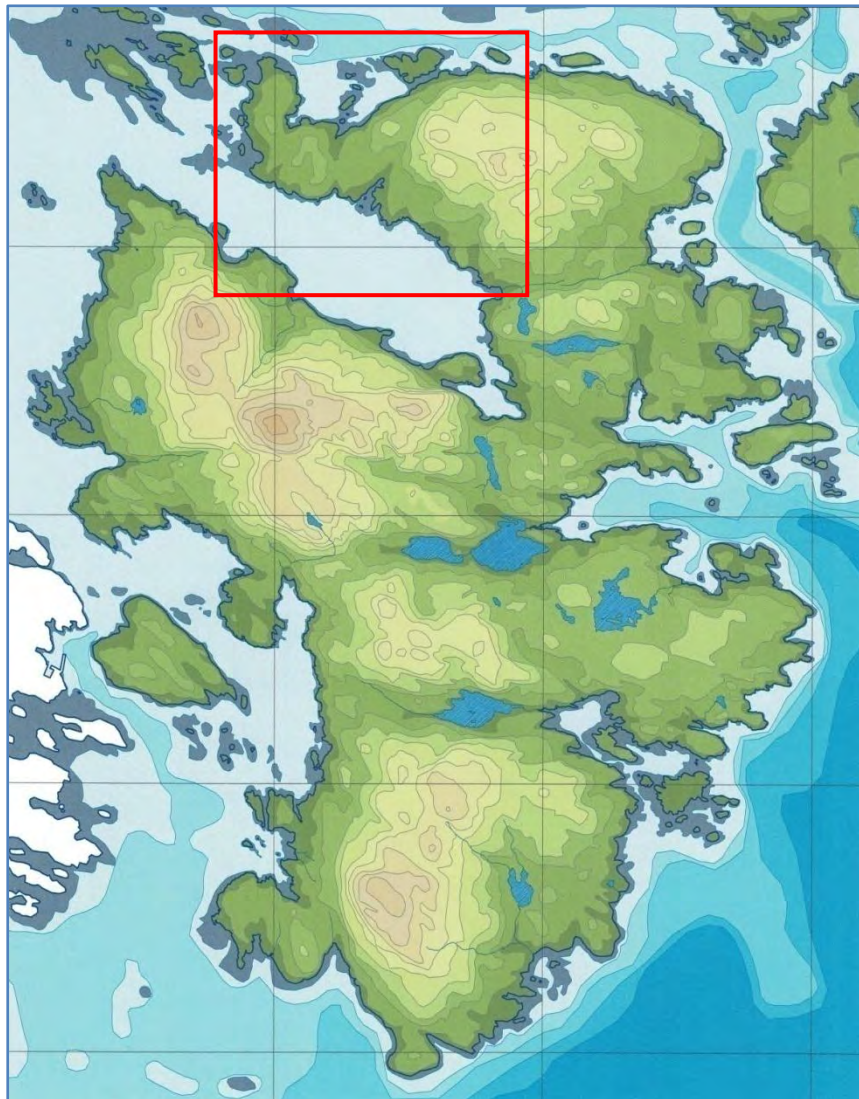
Surveyed:	11/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Buaile-mhòr north area map

RONAY BEAG

(Gaelic/Norse 'Little Ronay/Rough Island')



Location of Ronay Beag survey area within Ronay



Sites within the Ronay Beag survey area

Ronay Beag Introduction

Ronay Beag inherits its name from the fact it is connected to the main island of Ronay by a narrow isthmus barely 350m wide. A substantial turf dyke at this point (RBE 1) was installed to define its separation - at least in terms of livestock. This is shown as a proposal with a pencil line on Robert Reid's '*Plan of the Island of North Uist*' dated 1799, so presumably post dates this time.

Bàgh nan Uamh, which separates Ronay Beag from Ronay main island, means 'Bay of the Caves', but local knowledge of their whereabouts had been lost. On Uist the Gaelic word *Uamh* is also often related to underground spaces and tunnels such as souterrains, and the discovery during the survey of two rock shelters in amongst an area of rock fall near a place called *Bad fo-leac* (Place under the Slabs) hopefully solves that mystery (RB 7). Such structures are likely to have been in occasional use ever since humans first set foot on Uist and therefore these are likely to be some of the oldest inhabited 'buildings' on the island.

Nearby is one of three farmsteads at the west end of Ronay Beag - RB 5 - the other two located at RB 10 and 19, and all three are surrounded by dyke bounded crofts (RB 2, 3, 11, 13 and 18), together with the other structures associated with the helping croft settlement in the early 19thC including enclosures (RB 4), landing places (RB 3, 9, 14 and 20) and multiple kelp processing sites (RB 1, 12a-g and 17). There is evidence that kelp processing took place in this area both before and after this settlement period, with a larger, later period landing place on *Rubha nam Brisgein* (Silverweed Point) at RB 16 and small turf and drystone huts at RB 16, 24, 25 and 26.

A few metres north of farmstead RB 19 on a small tidal island in *Bàgh Sealg* ('Bay of the Hunt') lie the remains of a square drystone walled building around 6m across (RB 21). Alongside it are two very different, almost identical, oval plan structures with entrances in one of their long elevations. Both building types are unique in the Ronay survey (and further afield on North Uist), as is their location, and although it has not been possible to determine their function or age, the possibility exists that they may originate from the early modern period, or perhaps even before.



View of Ronay Beag from Beinn an t-Sagairt with the Kyle of Ronay and Eaval behind

Site name: Ronay Beag
RFS no: RB 1
NGR: NF 89870 56870
Site type(s): Kelp processing site (poss)
Condition: Poor

Description:

This area of better quality ground combined with collections of stones located on the NE shore of Bàgh nan Uamh (Bay of the Caves), may be the indication of a former kelp processing site.

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13807	3D: No
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Site name: Ronay Beag
RFS no: RB 2
NGR: NF 89550 57220 (centre)
Site type(s): Head dyke
Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

The township of Ronay Beag is enclosed by a head dyke which can be traced for a distance of some 700m in a generally SE - NW direction between a point 100m inland from the N shore of Bàgh nan Uamh at NF 89760 57050 to the N coastline of Ronay Beag at NF 89325 57460. It part encloses an area of land extending to some 23ha which is subdivided into 3, possibly 4 crofts. Constructed in a variety of methods and materials - drystone, stone/turf and turf bank - as well as making use of natural features, the dyke is best preserved towards its NW end near where it changes to drystone construction as it crosses the HWM and heads down to the LWM. It isn't possible to identify the route of the 100m or so section which connected it to the Bàgh nan Uamh shore, and this may never have been completed.

Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:	349769	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13036	3D: No
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RB 1: view from NE

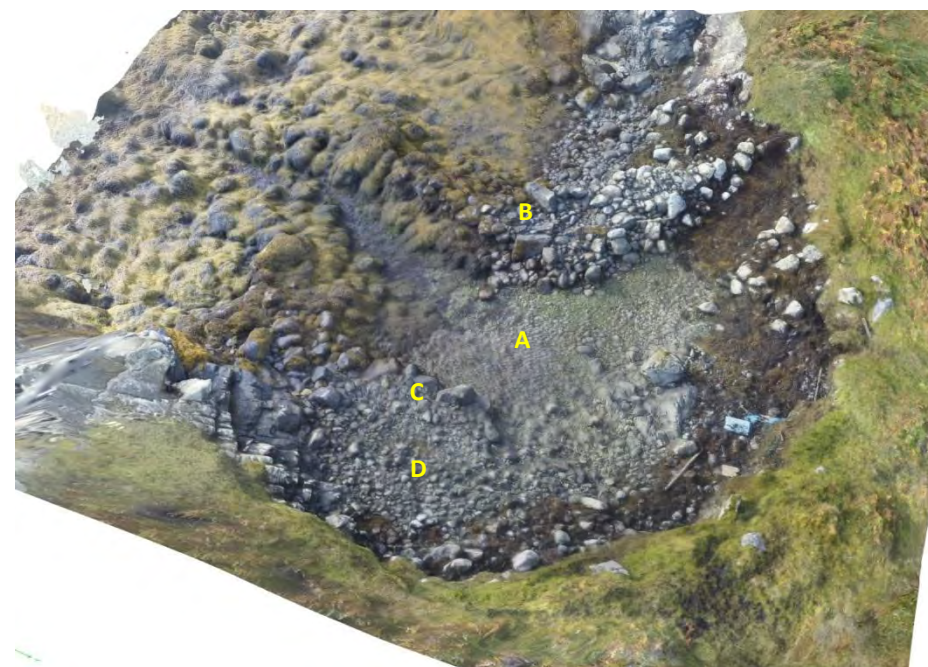


RB 2: NW termination view from E with RB 21 in background

Site name: **Bad fo-leac**
 RFS no: **RB 3**
 NGR: NF 89645 57000
 Site type(s): Landing point, jetty (poss), seaweed storage platform (poss)
 Condition: Fair

Description:

A landing point lies within a small S facing inlet on the S shore of Ronay Beag some 130m SE of the farmstead RB 5. An L shaped area of beach (A) which runs between the HWM and LWM and is around 15m long and between 1 and 4m wide, has been cleared of larger stones and boulders. On its W side a roughly assembled drystone breakwater (B) has been constructed. On its E side, a length of boulder revetment (C) around 5m long and 0.5m high is backfilled behind to a level near the HWM, and this may have either been used as a jetty or a seaweed storage platform (D).



RB 3: aerial view from E

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:	349764	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13027	3D: No
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Site name: **Bad fo-leac**
 RFS no: **RB 4**
 NGR: NF 89580 57100 (centre)
 Site type(s): Enclosure
 Condition: Fair - poor

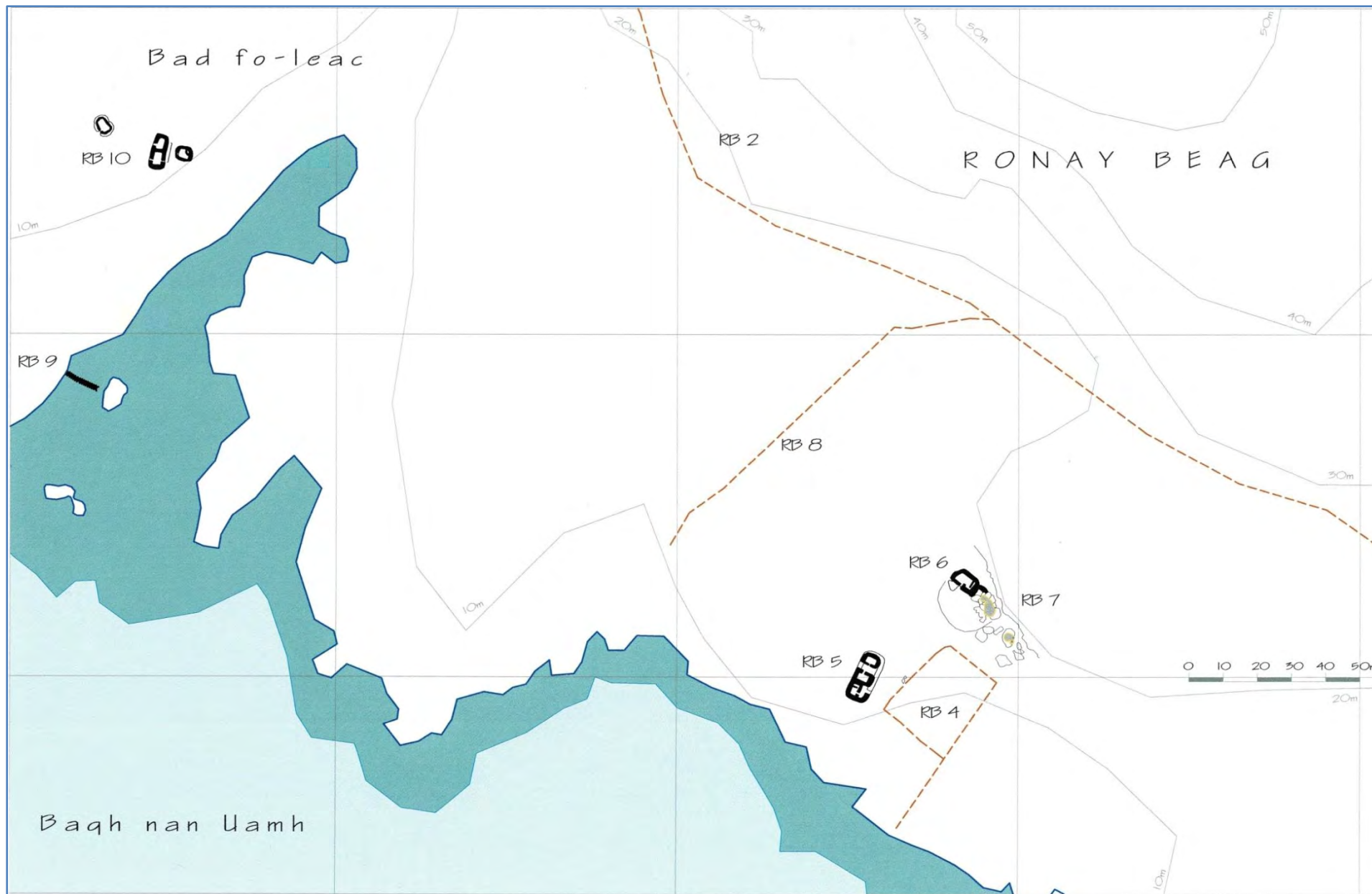
Description:

A rectangular enclosure lies a few m SE of the farmstead RB 5. Measuring 26m SW - NE by 22m transversely within walls constructed of a combination of drystone and turf there is no identifiable entrance, although this may have been adjacent to a single orthostat near the centre point of its NW side. The SE side continues in a SW direction as a turf bank to the line of the HWM and seems to have functioned as a further sub-division of in-bye land.



RB 4: view of NW side from N with orthostat in foreground

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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Ronay Beag S area map

Site name: **Bad fo-leac**
 RFS no: **RB 5**
 NGR: NF 89555 57105
 Site type(s): Farmstead, pen(s) (poss), hut(s) poss
 Condition: Good

Description:

A farmstead, comprising a dwelling house with a detached byre (see RB 6), and an enclosure (see RB 4), is located 20m NE of the N shore of Bàgh nan Uamh, and has been significantly altered post-abandonment, probably for stock rearing purposes. The original dwelling measures 12.2m NNE - SSW by 4.4m transversely within drystone walls averaging 1.4m thick and up to 1.5m high, although almost reduced to ground level along parts of the SE facing elevation. The original entrance was probably located near the SW end of the SE facing elevation. The original interior has been completely remodelled to form three separate rectangular drystone walled structures which were probably either huts or pens (A, B and C). Structure A is inserted into the SW corner of the original house and measures 3.3m NNE - SSW by 1.8m internally. A narrow entrance is located on its SE facing wall and the interior is divided by a drystone partition. B is located centrally within the original house, has internal dimensions of 3.4m by 2m, and has an entrance in its NE facing wall. C occupies the NE gable end and is of similar dimensions to B with an entrance in its SW facing wall. Lying within an enclosed area of land extending to around 5ha the original house is likely to be one of the original 26 crofts established on Ronay in the early 19thC. The re-modelling is most likely related to the change of Ronay's use to a sheep farm in the mid 19thC when this former farmstead may have been set up as a base for stock rearing operations at the N end of the island.



RB 5: aerial view from SE and thumbnail plan



RB 6: view from N

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:	10174	W. Isles SMR ID	1008	SCHARP ID:	13028	3D: Yes
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Site name: **Bad fo-leac**
 RFS no: **RB 6**
 NGR: NF 89585 57130
 Site type(s): Byre (poss), pen (poss)
 Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

A rectangular byre or pen lies at the base of a cliff 30m NE of the farmstead BM 5 at the NW end of an area of rock fall and scree (see plan on page 125). Measuring 5.5m NW - SE by 2.9m transversely within drystone walls up to 1m thick and 1.5m high the structure incorporates at least two large boulders into its walls. There is an entrance centrally located in the SW elevation the SE jamb of which is supported by a drystone buttress on the inside. A thin drystone partition has been built just inside the SE gable to form what is probably a lamb pen.

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID	1008	SCHARP ID:	13028	3D: Yes
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Site name: Bad fo-leac

RFS no: RB 7A and B

NGR: NF 89590 57125 (A); NF 89590 57125 (B)

Site type(s): Rock shelter(s), structure(s)

Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

Two rock shelters lie in an area of rock fall and scree at the base of a cliff 40m NE of the farmstead BM 5 (see plan on page 125). RB 7A is accessed through a vertical chimney (outlined in red) which leads down to a naturally formed, irregularly shaped cavity roofed over by several large boulders, one of which is supported by a drystone pier (highlighted). The cavity floor measures around 6m by 2m at its greatest extents and the space within up to 1.2m high. RB 7B lies under a single stone slab which is over 6m long and a small cavity under its E facing side acts as an entrance (also outlined in red). This cavity floor measures around 2.5m by 1.5m at its greatest extents and the space within up to 1.2m high. The floors of both structures contain a scattering of mollusc shells and a number of inter-boulder spaces have been blocked up with stones and small sections of drystone wall. The remains of a number of other structures lie within the rock fall and scree. Between RB 7A and the SE gable of RB 6 is a space around 1.5m across and this is backed by a curved section of drystone wall (C) which appears to extend under both RB 6 and RB 7A. This may be the remains of an earlier building which has been destroyed by a rock fall from the cliff above. Further SW is an extensive area of scree (D) amongst which are a number of features which could be the remains of man-made interventions, but it is not possible to identify their complete form or purpose. There is a good possibility



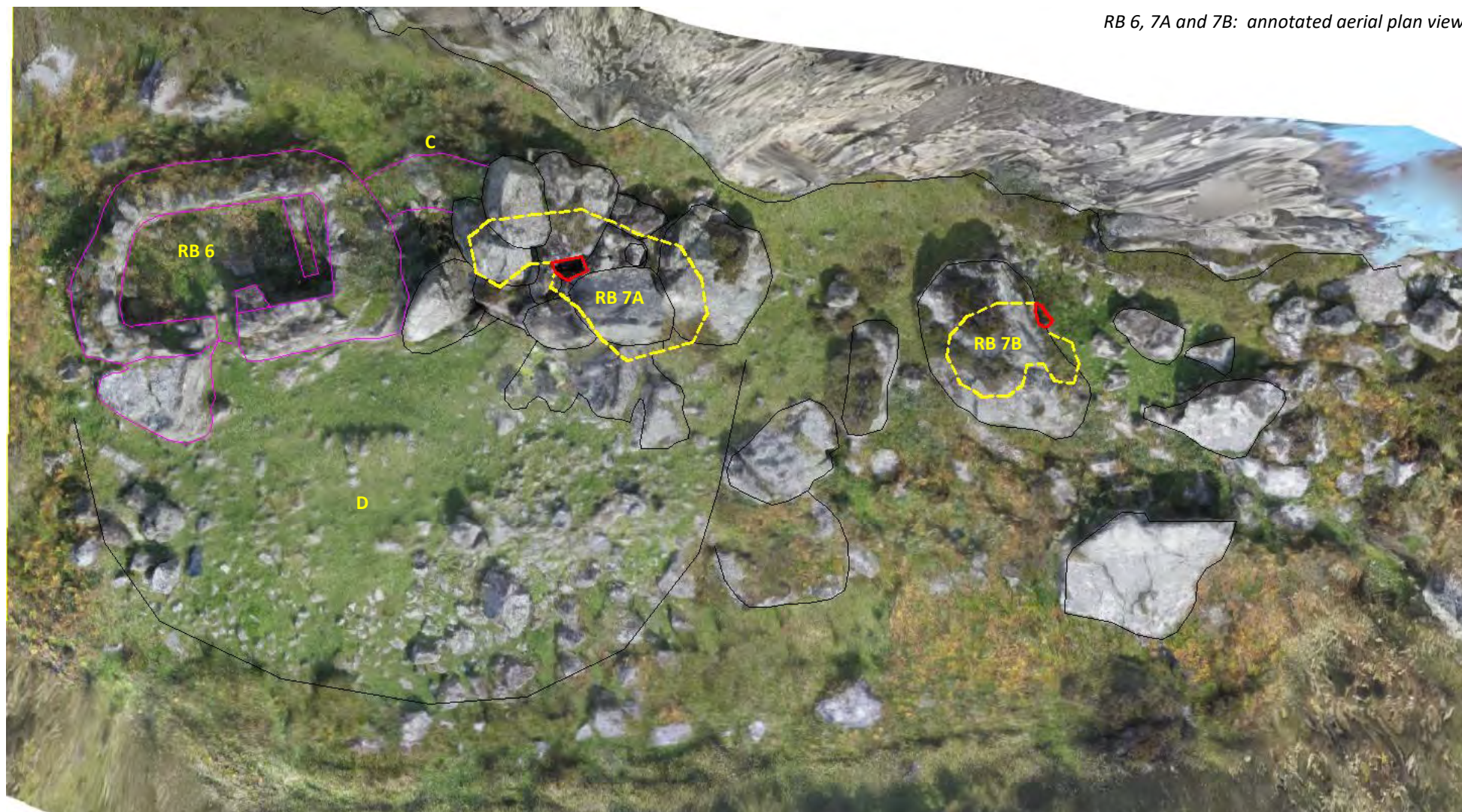
RB 7A: interior view looking SW with the drystone support pier highlighted



RB 7A: aerial view looking down into entrance chimney

that the traditional name of the sea inlet to the S, Bàgh nan Uamh (Bay of the Caves) derives from this place, as might the place-name Bad fo-leac (Place under the rock slabs) which is marked nearby on the OS 1st Edition 6" mapping from 1881.

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13028	3D: Yes
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RB 6, 7A and 7B: annotated aerial plan view

Site name: **Bad fo-leac**
 RFS no: **RB 8**
 NGR: NF 89540 57180 (centre)
 Site type(s): Dyke
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A turf dyke runs for a distance of around 120m in a NE - SW direction between the head dyke RB 2 at NF 89595 57205 and a rock outcrop above the N shore of Bàgh nan Uamh at NF 89515 56570. This dyke appears to define the NW extent of an area of enclosed croft land to the SE related to farmstead RB 5 which extends to around 5ha.

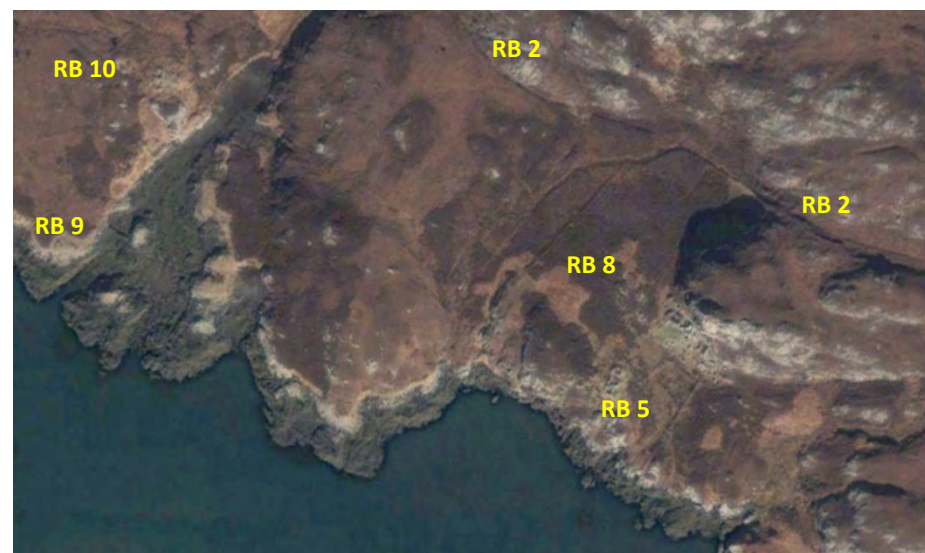
Surveyed:	27/10/2015	NMRS no:	349769	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13036	3D:	No
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Site name: **Bad fo-leac**
 RFS no: **RB 9**
 NGR: NF 89325 57185
 Site type(s): Landing point, breakwater
 Condition: Fair

Description:

A landing point lies within an inlet on the S shore of Ronay Beag some 75m S of the farmstead RB 10. An area of beach lying in a 12m wide channel between the shore and a small tidal island has been cleared of larger stones and boulders, and at its SW end a substantial drystone breakwater has been constructed. This measures 10m NW - SE and is around 1.2m thick and up to 1.4m high.

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:	349765	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13027	3D:	No
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RB 8: Google Earth view



RB 9: view from NW

Site name: Bad fo-leac
RFS no: RB 10
NGR: NF 89555 57105
Site type(s): Farmstead, enclosure (poss), pen(s)
Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

A farmstead, comprising a dwelling house with a detached byre, and an enclosure, is located 25m NW of an inlet on the N shore of Bàgh nan Uamh. The original dwelling measures 8m NNE - SSW by 2.4m transversely within roughly constructed drystone walls averaging 1.1m thick and up to 0.8m high. The original entrance was probably located near the S end of the E facing elevation, 1m outside which runs a low stone revetment supporting what is probably a narrow path. The original interior has been subsequently divided by a drystone partition near its midpoint to form two separate rectangular spaces, which were probably either byres or pens, each with an entrance on the W facing elevation. 3m E of the dwelling are the remains of a second small drystone walled structure measuring around 3m ENE by 2.7m transversely internally. This has no identifiable entrance and a small lamb pen has been built within its NE corner. The walls are so poorly constructed that it may never have been roofed and therefore functioned as a pen rather than a byre. 12m NW of the dwelling lies a third rectangular structure. This measures around 3.8m NW - SE by 2.3m transversely within turf walls lined within with a leaf of drystone rubble. These are up to 1.5m thick at their base and 0.6m high. There is no clear entrance although this may be represented by a gap in the stonework near the SE end of the SW facing elevation. As with the previous structure this may never have been roofed so it is not possible to be certain whether this functioned as a byre or small enclosure or pen. Lying within an enclosed area of land extending to around 7ha the original buildings may be the farmstead for one of the original 26 crofts established on Ronay in the early 19thC, but their relatively small size and rough construction hint at a slightly different history to the two others nearby. The interior re-modelling is most likely related to the change of Ronay's use to a sheep farm in the mid 19thC.



RB 10: view of dwelling from SE and thumbnail plan



RB 10: view from NW with possible enclosure in foreground

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:	10175	W. Isles SMR ID	1008	SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: Rubha nam Brisgein
RFS no: RB 11
NGR: NF 89230 57320 (centre)
Site type(s): Dyke, landing point (poss)
Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

A dyke runs for a distance of around 200m in a N - S direction between the N shore of Rubha nam Brisgein at NF 89230 54715 and the N shore of Bàgh nan Uamh at NF 89230 57220. Constructed mostly as a turf bank and ditch it changes to drystone construction as it nears the sea shores and appears to define the boundary between farmsteads RB 10 and RB 19. At the S termination areas of beach either side of the dyke have been cleared of larger stones and boulders - presumably to build the dyke - but it is just possible that that on the E side might also represent a landing point.

Surveyed:	30/06/2017	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13814	3D: No
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Site name: Rubha nam Brisgein
RFS no: RB 12 a-h
NGR: NF 89230 57320 (centre)
Site type(s): Stone pile(s), kelp processing site(s) (poss)
Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

Along this coastline, often located a few metres inland from the shore or on tidal islands, are a number of stone piles of which that illustrated is a typical example. Although their exact purpose is unclear, in this kind of location and away from areas of cultivation, they are most likely to be related to kelp processing. The eight individual site locations recorded in this area are at - a): NF 89005 57250 b) NF 88925 57280 c) NF 88935 57290 d): NF 88875 57365 e): NF 88900 57440 f): NF 88870 57475 g): NF 88905 57615 h): NF 88865 57670.

Surveyed:	30/06/2017	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13810	3D: No
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RB 11: view of S termination from NE



RB 12b: view from E

Site name: Rubha nam Brisgein
RFS no: RB 13
NGR: NF 89060 57380 (centre)
Site type(s): Dyke
Condition: Poor

Description:

A dyke runs for a distance of around 340m in a generally W - E direction between the W shore of Rubha nan Brisgein at NF 88930 57395 and a second dyke RB 18 at NF 89185 57435. Constructed mostly as a turf bank and ditch it also makes use of natural rock outcrops in sections. It seems to represent the boundary between two areas of croft land, each of around 5ha, to the N and S, but if so, there is only a single farmstead at RB 19 that relates to them.

Surveyed:	30/06/2017	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13808	3D:	No
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Site name: Rubha nam Brisgein
RFS no: RB 14
NGR: NF 88885 57455
Site type(s): Landing point, breakwater (poss)
Condition: Poor

Description:

A landing point lies within a small W facing inlet on the W shore of Rubha nan Brisgein. An area of beach which runs between the HWM and LWM and is around 25m long and between 2 and 5m wide, has been cleared of larger stones and boulders. On its S side are the faint remains of what was possibly a roughly assembled drystone breakwater. Some distance from any settlement it is most likely this is related to kelp collection and processing.

Surveyed:	30/06/2017	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13027	3D:	No
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RB 13: view looking E at NF 89000 57390



RB 14: view looking W

Site name: **Rubha nam Brisgein**

RFS no: **RB 15**

NGR: NF 89075 57520

Site type(s): Pen (poss), hut (poss)

Condition: Poor

Description:

A rectangular pen or hut has been constructed against a low cliff close to the HWM on the shore of Bàgh Sealg on the E coast of Rubha nam Brisgein. The structure measures around 5.5m E - W by 3.5m transversely within a single line of small boulders. It lies within an area of better quality land, possibly cultivated in the past and, with the jetty RB 16 and dykes RB 13 and 18, it may be related to this use.

Surveyed:	30/06/2017	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13811	3D:	No
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RB 15: view from NW

Site name: **Rubha nam Brisgein**

RFS no: **RB 16**

NGR: NF 89050 57490

Site type(s): Jetty

Condition: Good

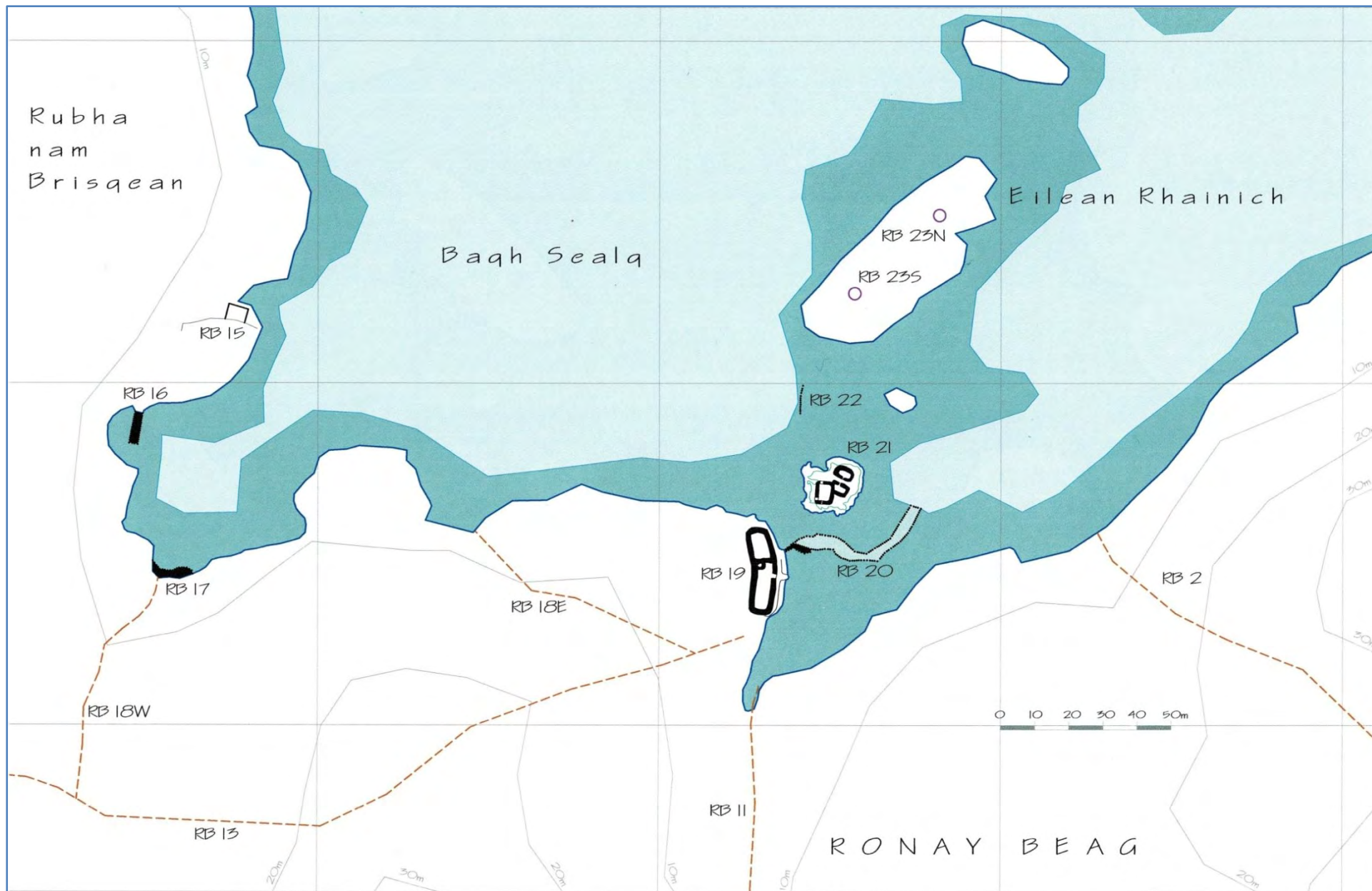
Description:

A jetty lies on the shore of Bàgh Sealg on the SE coast of Rubha nam Brisgein. Well constructed in drystone it measures around 10m N - S and 2m transversely and is between 0.7 and 1.5m high. Its good condition and form of construction suggest it may be of a later date than other structures in this area.

Surveyed:	30/06/2017	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13027	3D:	No
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RB 16: view from N



Ronay Beag N area map

Site name: **Rubha nam Brisgein**

RFS no: **RB 17**

NGR: NF 89055 57445

Site type(s): Structure

Condition: Poor

Description:

At the head of a small inlet on the S shore of Bàgh Sealg a low drystone wall follows the coast edge for a distance of around 12m. The area behind appears to have been backfilled with stones to form a platform around 2m wide. Its purpose is not clear, although it may be the possible termination of the turf dyke RB 18E.

Surveyed:	30/06/2017	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13027	3D: No
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Site name: **Bàgh Sealg**

RFS no: **RB 18 E and W**

NGR: NF 89100 57400 (centre)

Site type(s): Dyke(s)

Condition: Poor

Description:

One or possibly two sections of dyke, connect dyke RB 13 with the S shore of Bàgh Sealg. RB 18W is poorly preserved, but appears to run roughly S - N for a distance of some 75m between NF 89030 57380 and NF 89055 57445. Constructed as a turf bank and ditch it may continue as a stone structure on the shore below the HWM (see RB 16). RB 18E is better preserved and runs roughly SE - NW for a similar distance between NF 89215 57425 and NF 89150 57460 and is constructed as a turf bank. As with dyke RB 13 these probably relate to the subdivision of croft land.

Surveyed:	30/06/2017	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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RB 16: view from W



RB 17: Google Earth image (2004)

Site name: Bàgh Sealg
RFS no: RB 19
NGR: NF 89235 57450
Site type(s): Farmstead, enclosure (poss), pen
Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

A farmstead, comprising a dwelling house with an attached byre or enclosure, is located right on the shore of a small bay on the E side of Rubha nam Brisgein named Bàgh Sealg. The dwelling measures 13.6m N - S by 4.1m transversely within roughly constructed and now quite dilapidated drystone walls averaging 1.7m thick and up to 0.8m high. The entrance is located towards the N end of the E facing elevation, 1m outside of which runs a low stone revetment supporting what is probably a narrow path. A drainage ditch has been dug around the outside of the S and W elevations. The ruined remains of a small pen lie in the NW corner of the interior. Attached to the N gable is a second rectangular drystone walled structure, aligned slightly differently to run parallel with the adjoining HWM. It is not possible to determine whether this was a roofed byre or an open enclosure of some kind. This measures 7.6m NNE - SSE within similarly constructed walls, although a good part of the E facing wall appears to have collapsed following coastal erosion. Lying within an enclosed area of land extending to around 5.5ha the original house may be one of the original 26 crofts established on Ronay in the early 19thC, but its unusual layout and rough construction hints at the possibility of a slightly different history to others on the island.



RB 19: aerial view from the SE and thumbnail plan



RB 20: view from NW

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:	10175	W. Isles SMR ID	1008	SCHARP ID:	13033	3D: Yes
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Site name: Bàgh Sealg
RFS no: RB 20
NGR: NF 89250 57455
Site type(s): Landing point, jetty
Condition: Poor

Description:

A few m E of farmstead RB 19, an area of beach between the H and LWMs around 30m long and averaging 3m wide has been cleared of larger stones to form a boat

landing point. On its S side a natural rock outcrop near the level of the HWM has been fronted with a slightly curved single leaf drystone wall around 8m long and 0.4m high and the area between the outcrop and wall has been backfilled with small stones to form a low jetty.

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:	349768	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13034	3D: Yes
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Site name: **Bàgh Sealg**

RFS no: **RB 21**

NGR: NF 89250 57475

Site type(s): Building, hut(s)

Condition: Good - fair

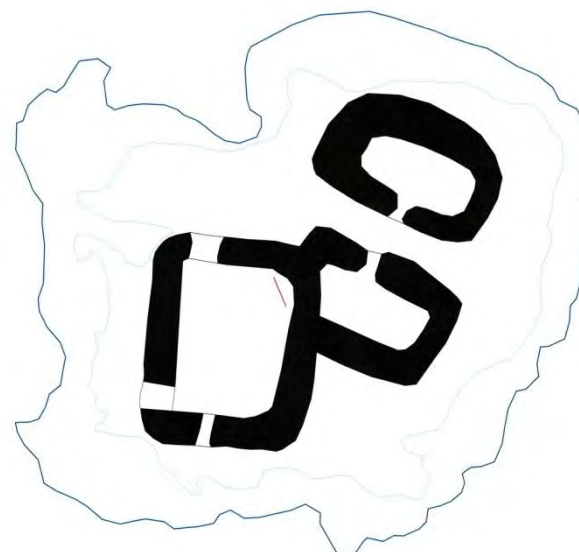
Description:

A rectangular building and two huts lie on a small tidal island barely 15m across at the SE side of Bàgh Sealg. The building measures 4.8m N - S by 3.4m transversely within much reduced drystone walls averaging 1m thick and between 0.4 and 0.8m high. Gaps in the walls suggest possible openings in each of the N, W and S walls, but none could be described as a definitive entrance point. The regularity of the curved external corners is noteworthy. The huts are located to the NE of the building. Both are rectangular in plan, orientated WNW - ESE, and are separated by a narrow passage no more than 1m wide onto which their centrally located entrances face. That to the S measures around 3.6 by 1.7m within stone rubble walls up to 1.2m thick at their base and 0.6m high with its SW corner partly embedded in the NE corner of the building. That to the N has almost identical internal dimensions within similarly constructed walls although these are thicker and more curved near the N corner which sits right on the island's edge. Clear interpretation of this group of structures is difficult. Unusually, it is not even possible to reliably state an order of construction where the rectangular building and one of the huts are joined. Both building types are unique in both the Ronay survey, and in the wider area of these parts of SE North Uist and NE Benbecula and it seems unlikely that they relate to either the 19thC crofting establishment or subsequent sheep farming period. This is perhaps reflected in the lack of tumble around the rectangular building, the stone from which may well have been used for the construction of the nearby farmstead RB 19.

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:	349767	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13035	3D: Yes
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RB 21: aerial view from NW



RB 21: thumbnail plan

Site name: **Bàgh Sealg**
 RFS no: **RB 22**
 NGR: NF 89240 57490
 Site type(s): Fish trap (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The remains of a length of rubble wall around 8m long in the intertidal zone on the SE side of Bàgh Sealg between Ronay Beag and Eilean Rainich may be a fish trap.

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:	349770	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13037	3D: No
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RB 22: view from SE

Site name: **Eilean Rainich**
 RFS no: **RB 23 S & N**
 NGR: NF 89270 57540 (centre)
 Site type(s): Stone pile (s), kelp processing site (poss), clearance cairn(s) (poss)
 Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

Two stone piles lie on the island Eilean Rainich at NF 89255 57530 and NF 89280 57550. Although there are no signs of cultivation on the island it might have been cleared of stones for grazing or haymaking. Alternatively they may represent the remains of kelp processing sites.

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13815	3D: No
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RB 23: S stone pile looking S with RB 21 behind (highlighted)

Site name: Eilean MhicNeill

RFS no: RB 24

NGR: NF 89580 57595

Site type(s): Structure

Condition: Poor

Description:

A three compartment turf walled structure lies on a low mound some 25m SE of the shore of the narrow tidal inlet which separates Ronay Beag from Eilean MhicNeill. Measuring around 11m SE - NW o/a, and between 3 and 2m transversely within slumped turf walls typically 1.3m thick at their base and 0.3m high, the structure is similar to others recorded on Flodaigh Beag (see site ROI 2), Garbh Eilean Mhòr (see site GEM 3), at Kallin on Grimsay, and on Eilean Flodaigh in Lochmaddy where a total of 8 with cell numbers varying from 2 to 6 exist. All five locations have common historic links with both fishing and kelping industries and it is presumed that these structures are related in some way to processing one of these products.



RB 24: view from S (with Eilean MhicNeill beyond) and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	13/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13817	3D: Yes
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Site name: Eilean MhicNeill

RFS no: RB 25

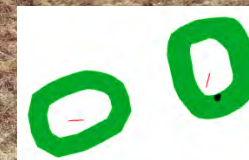
NGR: NF 89635 57655

Site type(s): Hut(s) (poss)

Condition: Poor

Description:

The faint remains of two sub-circular turf walled structures lie 8m S of the shore of the narrow tidal inlet which separates Ronay Beag from Eilean MhicNeill. That to the E measures around 4m NNW - SSE and 2.5m transversely within slumped turf walls around 1.5m thick and a maximum of 0.3m high. That to the W is similarly dimensioned and constructed but with its long axis orientated WSW - ENE. Most likely to be the remains of huts related to seasonal fishing or kelping activity.



RB 25: view from S and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	13/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13817	3D: Yes
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Site name: Eilean MhicNeill

RFS no: RB 26

NGR: NF 89535 57585

Site type(s): Hut

Condition: Poor

Description:

The faint remains of a sub-circular turf walled structure lies 10m S of the shore of the narrow tidal inlet which separates Ronay Beag from Eilean MhicNeill. It measures around 4m WNW - ESE and 2m transversely within slumped turf walls around 1.5m thick and a maximum of 0.5m high. Most like to be the remains of a hut related to seasonal fishing or helping activity.

Surveyed:	13/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13817	3D: Yes
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RB 26: view from SW and thumbnail plan

Site name: Eilean MhicNeill

RFS no: RB 27

NGR: NF 89485 57650

Site type(s): Seaweed storage platform

Condition: Poor

Description:

A curved line of small boulders and larger stones around 10m long runs across the entrance of a small coastal inlet on the W side of Eilean MhicNeill. Being located quite near the level of the HWM in an area where kelp processing took place, the most likely interpretation is that this was used to temporarily store seaweed after cutting and collection.

Surveyed:	13/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13816	3D: No
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RB 27: view from N



Ronay Beag NE area map

Site name: **Eilean MhicNeill**

RFS no: **RB 28**

NGR: NF 89585 57705

Site type(s): Enclosure (poss)

Condition: Poor

Description:

Recent muir-burning on Eilean MhicNeill has revealed the faint traces of a rectangular structure cut out of the peat towards its N end. It measures around 9m SW - NE and 6m transversely and it might represent the remains of an enclosure.

Surveyed:	13/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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Site name: **Seanna Chaisteall**

RFS no: **RB 29**

NGR: NF 90130 57700

Site type(s): Natural feature

Condition: N/A

Description:

Beveridge reported that this island, called 'Old Castle', was traditionally the site of a fort, but if such a structure ever existed no traces remain. A systematic survey before summer bracken growth confirmed this - not even a platform or stone tumble in the sea below. Research has revealed significant confusion with place names around Ronay, especially with islands, and the possibility exists that this is wrongly identified by map makers. Alternatively it could be a descriptive name, as the island appears quite daunting from sea level, with its mostly sheer rock coastline being quite difficult to access.

Surveyed:	13/04/2018	NMRS no:	75700	W. Isles SMR ID	1684	SCHARP ID:	13818	3D:	No
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RB 28: view from N



RB 29: view from SW

Site name: **Ronay Beag**
 RFS no: **RB 30**
 NGR: NF 89890 57235
 Site type(s): Pen
 Condition: Fair to good

Description:

A pen has been constructed underneath a rock overhang at the foot of a cliff S of the plateau at the centre of Ronay Beag. Defined by a corbelled, sub-circular, single leaf drystone wall around 0.7m thick and 1.2m high and a single rock slab, it measures around 1m by 0.5m within. This is probably a lamb pen.

Surveyed:	30/06/2017	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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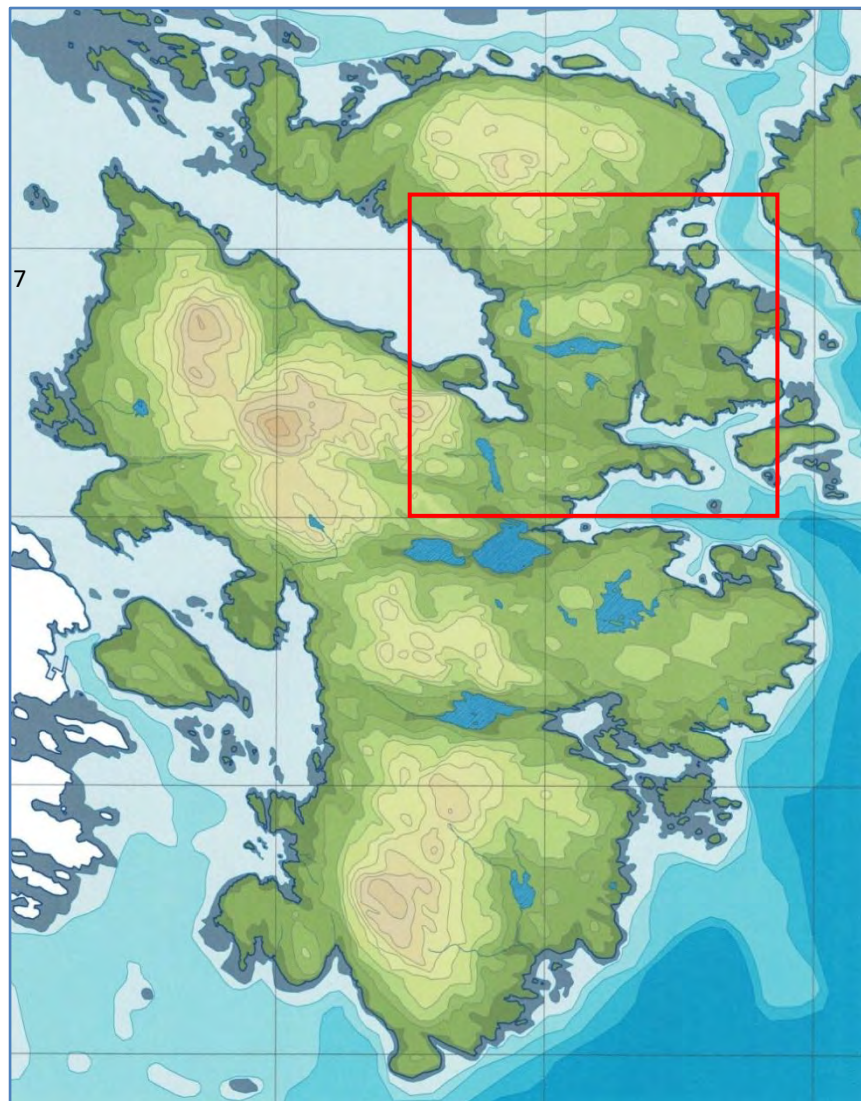
RB 26: view from SE, survey rod 1m long



RB 26: internal view from E side

RONAY BEAG (East)

(Gaelic 'Little Ronay')



Location of Ronay Beag (East) survey area within Ronay



Sites within the Ronay Beag (East) survey area

Ronay Beag East Introduction

Ronay Beag East is a geographic description rather than a place-name and covers a widely spread set of structures on the NE side of Ronay, centred mainly on a peninsula defined by *Acarseid Fhalaich* (Hidden Harbour) to the N, *Bàgh an Eireannach* (Irishman's Bay) to the E, and *Bàgh nam Fiasgan* (Mussel Bay) to the S.

The area includes what is probably the oldest building recorded during the Ronay field survey, the remains of a circular stone walled structure on the summit of a rock outcrop which would have had extensive views over the Minch. Its age can only be guessed at, but its exposed position suggests a defensive or look-out purpose rather than any kind of domestic use. It is just possible that the faint remains of a circular turf walled building at the foot of the outcrop on its W side might be associated with this structure.

All the other remains appear to date from the early 19th C kelping settlement on Ronay, and the dyke remains (RBE 3 and 13) suggest this was limited to two crofts in this area with their associated farmsteads at *Bàgh nam Fiasgan* (RBE 5) and *Acarseid Fhalaich* (RBE 15). That at *Bàgh nam Fiasgan* is well developed and includes all the usual features including a secondary building (RBE 9), landing places (RBE 2, 4 and 12) and an enclosure (RBE 6).

The farmstead at *Acarseid Fhalaich* is limited to two small, much reduced drystone buildings, and this suggests it was never fully developed and possibly only used on an occasional basis, presumably related to harvesting and processing seaweed.

Despite that, identifiable kelping related remains are rare on this coastline with only two sites identified at RBE 12 and 14.

Tradition is that this area of Ronay - the narrow isthmus between Ronay and Ronay Beag - is where the school established for the kelping settlement was located, but despite an extensive search this has not been found. This is recorded as having 65 children in 1824 and a teacher by the name of Hugh Barnett.

As with many of the abandoned kelping settlement buildings on Ronay, all the buildings in this area (RBE 3, 9 and 13) show adaptation for use for stock management, particularly lamb pens. The particularly well built enclosure dyke isolating the small peninsula below the cliffs at *Creag Mhòr* on the SE shore of *Bàgh nan Uamh* (RBE 16) is probably related to this period too, but whether it was built to keep livestock in or out is not clear.



View of Ronay Beag E from the summit of *Beinn an t-Sagairt*

Site name: **Ronay Beag (East)**
 RFS no: **RBE 1**
 NGR: NF 90050 56420 (centre)
 Site type(s): Dyke
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The peninsula of Ronay Beag was separated from the rest of Ronay by a ditch and turf bank dyke. This extended in a WNW - ESE direction for around 330m from a small inlet at the E end of Bàgh nam Uamh at NF 89900 56490 to the W end of Bàgh nam Fiasgan at NF 90210 56340. Since replaced by a modern post and wire fence on a slightly different alignment, the dyke was never recorded by the OS, but can be seen as a faint pencil line as a proposed boundary in Robert Reid's *Plan of the Island of North Uist* in 1799. Thus it was probably a subdivision of the island related to its use as a sheep farm in the mid 19thC.



BME 1: Google Earth view (2004)

Surveyed:	01/05/2017	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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Site name: **Bàgh nam Fiasgan**
 RFS no: **RBE 2**
 NGR: NF 90330 56490
 Site type(s): Landing point, breakwater
 Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

A landing point lies at the NW head of Bàgh nam Fiasgan. An area of beach around 10m long and 3m wide, has been cleared of larger stones and boulders. On its S side a roughly assembled drystone breakwater has been constructed.



RBE 2: view from E

Surveyed:	07/08/2014	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13819	3D: No
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Site name: **Bàgh nam Fiasgan**
 RFS no: **RBE 3**
 NGR: NF 90050 56420 (centre)
 Site type(s): Head dyke
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The peninsula at the E end of Ronay Beag was separated from the rest of N Ronay by a head dyke. This can be traced from the head of Bàgh nam Fiasgan at NF 90350 56510 to a point 310m N at NF 90385 56810, mostly as a much reduced ditch and bank, but reinforced in some sections with drystone rubble. The dyke presumably continued N to terminate on the shore of Acarsaid Fhalaich, but this section has either disappeared or was perhaps never finished. The dyke appears to define the W boundary of land relating to the farmsteads RBE 5 and 16 and is probably therefore related to the establishment of 26 kelping crofts on Ronay in the early 19thC.

Surveyed:	07/08/2014	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13820	3D: No
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Site name: **Bàgh nam Fiasgan**
 RFS no: **RBE 4**
 NGR: NF 90375 56455
 Site type(s): Landing point, breakwater
 Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

A landing point lies at the NE head of Bàgh nam Fiasgan some 75m W of the farmstead RB 5 to which it is presumably related. A small inlet measuring around 7m square is protected on its W side by a roughly built drystone breakwater 3.5m long, 1.5m thick and up to 1m high.

Surveyed:	07/08/2014	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	12850	3D: No
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RBE 3: S termination, view from S



RBE 4: view from E

Site name: **Bàgh nam Fiasgan**

RFS no: **RBE 5**

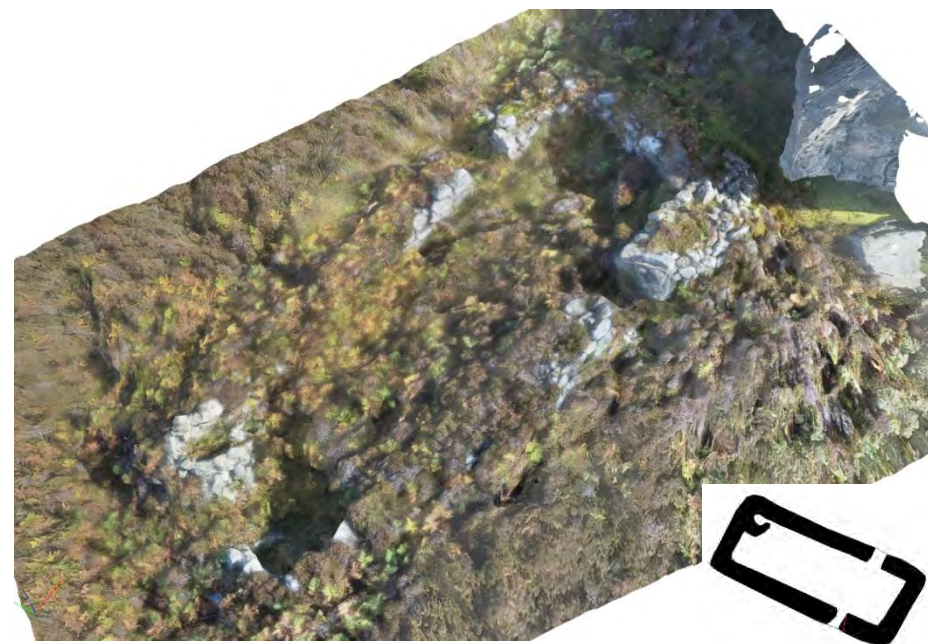
NGR: NF 90460 56450

Site type(s): Farmstead, pen

Condition: Fair

Description:

A farmstead, comprising a dwelling house, a detached byre (see RBE 9), an enclosure (see RBE 6), and other sundry remains (see RBE 7, 8 & 10) lies at the base of a *roche moutonnée* around 75m E of the head of Bàgh nam Fiasgan. This building, probably originally built as a dwelling, measures 10.8m WNW - SSE by 3.4m transversely within drystone walls averaging 1.1m thick and up to 1m high. The original entrance is located towards the SE end of the NE facing elevation, with a second narrower opening immediately opposite in the SW facing wall, although this may not be original. A circular drystone pen has been built into the N corner, an alteration most likely related to the change of Ronay's use to a sheep farm in the mid 19thC. Lying within an enclosed area of land extending to around 10ha the original house is likely to be one of the original 26 crofts established on Ronay in the early 19thC.



RBE 5: aerial view from W and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:	75698	W. Isles SMR ID	1682	SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Bàgh nam Fiasgan**

RFS no: **RBE 6**

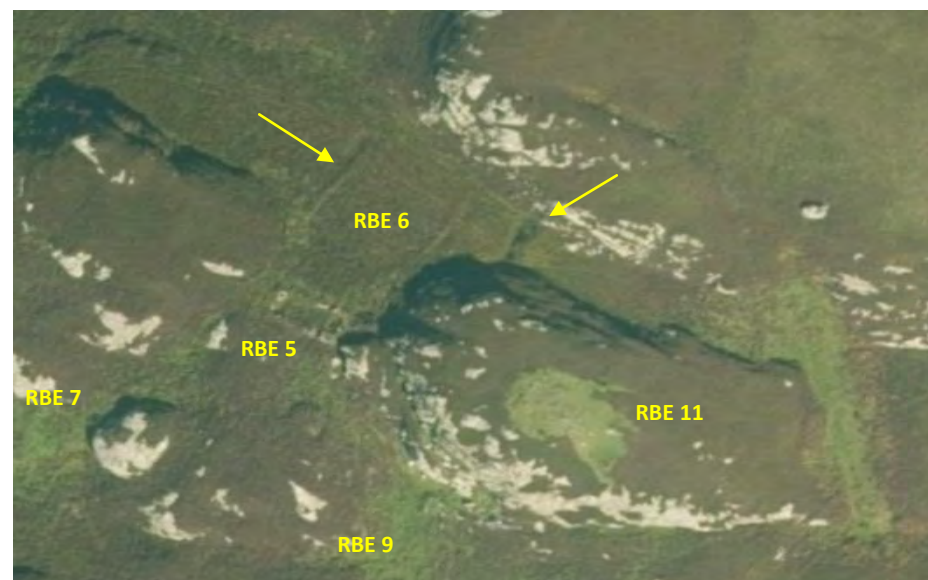
NGR: NF 90480 56500 (centre)

Site type(s): Enclosure(s)

Condition: Poor

Description:

A two compartment enclosure some 650m² in area lies immediately to the N of farmstead RBE 5. Measuring 30m NW - SE and between 10 and 25m transversely, the area is defined by a turf ditch and bank on its NW, NE and SE sides and by the foot of a vertical rock face to the S. The remaining walls are unclear. The enclosure is divided within by a second turf bank which runs NE - SW.



RBE 6: Canmore aerial image

Surveyed:	07/08/2014	NMRS no:	75698	W. Isles SMR ID	1682	SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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Site name: **Bàgh nam Fiasgan**

RFS no: **RBE 7**

NGR: NF 90425 56460

Site type(s): Rock shelter (poss)

Condition: Poor

Description:

An outcrop of bedrock with a naturally formed overhang shelters an area around 4m X 2m X 1.5m high and a scattering of stones within and nearby may be the remains of a shelter wall on its outer side.

Surveyed:	07/08/2014	NMRS no:	75698	W. Isles SMR ID	1682	SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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RBE 7: view from NW

Site name: **Bàgh nam Fiasgan**

RFS no: **RBE 8**

NGR: NF 90460 56460

Site type(s): Building (poss), stack stand (poss)

Condition: Poor

Description:

A roughly levelled sub-circular area of ground averaging 3m in dia is surrounded by a turf bank between 2.5 and 3.5m wide and up to 0.5m high. Its actual purpose is unknown, but it may be the remains of a turf walled building or perhaps a stack stand.

Surveyed:	07/08/2014	NMRS no:	75698	W. Isles SMR ID	1682	SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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RBE 8: view from E



Ronay Beag East area map

Site name: **Bàgh nam Fiasgan**
 RFS no: **RBE 9**
 NGR: NF 90480 56500 (centre)
 Site type(s): Building, well
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The much reduced remains of a rectangular building, possibly a byre, lie close to the base of a 12m high cliff which defines the S side of a *roche moutonnée*, and 30m SE of the farmstead RBE 5. It measures 5.3m N - S and 2.6m transversely within drystone walls averaging 0.6m thick and a maximum of 0.5m high. No clear entrance. A lintel slab near the centre of the E wall covers a small water filled niche at floor level. 2m E of the building's NE corner, a depression in the ground covered by a rock slab is filled with water and this may be a well.



RBE 9: left - view from N; right - view of niche from W and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	07/08/2014	NMRS no:	75698	W. Isles SMR ID	1682	SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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Site name: **Bàgh nam Fiasgan**
 RFS no: **RBE 10**
 NGR: NF 90490 56445
 Site type(s): Pen (poss)
 Condition: Fair

Description:

A triangular shaped rock slab around 2m across lies propped on a large boulder. The space thus formed has been partly enclosed at the open side with a line of stones which together, may represent the remains of a small pen.



RBE 10: view from S, survey pole 1m long

Surveyed:	07/08/2014	NMRS no:	75698	W. Isles SMR ID	1682	SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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Site name: **Bàgh nam Fiasgan**

RFS no: **RBE 11**

NGR: NF 90500 56465

Site type(s): Structure(s), steps

Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

The remains of a stone structure lie on the summit of a 12m high *roche moutonnée*, 75m N of the shore of Bàgh nan Fiasgan on the E side of Ronay. Beveridge described the remains as '.....a knoll showing upon its flat summit the foundations of a circular erection about 34' in diameter. The rocky and almost precipitous west side of this hillock presents some appearance of steps leading downwards to a plateau adjoining its base'. Today the outline of the circular structure can still be seen with an internal diameter of around 4m and almost levelled enclosing walls averaging 1.7m thick and 0.4m high. A significant amount of loose stone is scattered outside, covering an area perhaps twice that of the main structure. Embedded within its N wall is a second circular structure with an internal diameter of around 2.3m in part defined by a line of embedded stones which may have been an entry point. The age and purpose of the structures can only be guessed at, but their defensible location and extensive views over the Minch to the E may well be related. The two 'steps' are located some 25m NW of the centre of the main structure at NF 90475 56475, immediately above site RBE 5, but may represent a fortuitous outcome of quarrying activity.



RBE 11: aerial view from NE and thumbnail plan



RBE 11: possible rock cut steps

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:	75698	W. Isles SMR ID	1682	SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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RBE 11: view over site looking E across the Minch to Skye

Site name: **Bàgh nam Fiasgan**
 RFS no: **RBE 12**
 NGR: NF 90685 56430
 Site type(s): Landing point (possible)
 Condition: Poor
 Description:

An area of beach around 30m long and 2-3m wide lying within a narrow inlet on the NE shore of Bàgh nam Fiasgan has been cleared of larger stones and may be the remains of a former landing point.



RBE 12: view from SW

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:	349757	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13012	3D:	No
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Site name: **Bàgh an Eireannach**
 RFS no: **RBE 13**
 NGR: NF 90550 56630 (centre)
 Site type(s): Dyke
 Condition: Poor
 Description:

The faint remains of a ditch and turf bank dyke appear to represent the boundary between the croft lands relating to farmsteads RBE 5 and RBE 15. Starting on the shore of Bàgh an Eireannach (Bay of the Irishman) at NF 90640 56610, the line of the dyke extends in a WNW direction for a distance of around 200m to NF 90465 56650 where it stops short of what was probably a connection with the dyke RBE 3. Traces of peat cuttings and feannagan can be seen in the vicinity.



RBE 13, 14 & 15: Google Earth image

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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Site name: **Ronay Beag (East)**

RFS no: **RBE 14**

NGR: NF 90660 56620 (centre)

Site type(s): Landing point(s), jetty, seaweed storage platform (poss), kelp processing site (poss), rock shelter (poss)

Condition: Poor

Description:

On the NW shore of Bàgh an Eireannach (Bay of the Irishman) a series of remains indicate former human activity, possibly related to kelp collection and processing. At the HWM at NF 90670 56640 a crude jetty around 9m long has been roughly assembled with stones and boulders, and on the shoreline behind other areas of disturbed ground may represent areas where kelp was stored or processed. A few m to the NW a rock overhang at the base of a low cliff may have been used as a shelter. Further S round the bay at NF 90665 56580 a landing point is marked by an area of cleared beach and two crudely built drystone jetties, the larger of which measures around 6m long and between 1 and 2m across.



RBE 14: possible shelter underneath a rock overhang

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13821	3D:	No
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RB 14: aerial view of landing point from NE with jetties highlighted



RBE 14: jetty (highlighted) and possible kelp working area

Site name: **Ronay Beag (East)**

RFS no: **RBE 15**

NGR: NF 90460 56450

Site type(s): Farmstead

Condition: Fair

Description:

A farmstead overlooks the sheltered cove named Acarseid Fhalaich (Hidden Harbour) whose entrance is located on the SW side of the sound separating Ronay Beag from the island of Flodaigh Mòr. It comprises the remains of two rectangular buildings, A and B, which show indications of three phases of development. The original structures were both rectangular in plan and orientated SW - NE with building A measuring 8 X 4m and building B 6 X 4m, within drystone walls averaging 1m thick, although sections of these are entirely removed (or perhaps never completed?). The entrances were probably in their SE facing elevations. The second phase was the formation of two rectangular pens or huts within each of the NE gable ends of the original structures. Of similar construction and width to the original buildings these have entrances facing in the NE and SW elevations. Finally these structures have then be subdivided by drystone partitions to form pens, probably for lambs. The farmstead lies within a bounded area of land extending to some 11ha within which lie areas of formerly cultivated ground and peat cuttings. This farmstead could well be one of the original 26 crofts established on Ronay in the early 19thC.

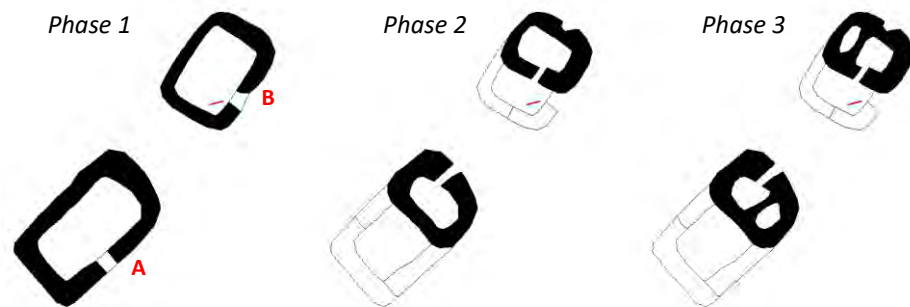


RB 15: aerial view from S



RB 15: view from SW with Acarseid Fhalaich to left and Flodaigh in distance

Surveyed:	12/10/2015	NMRS no:	123264	W. Isles SMR ID	2541	SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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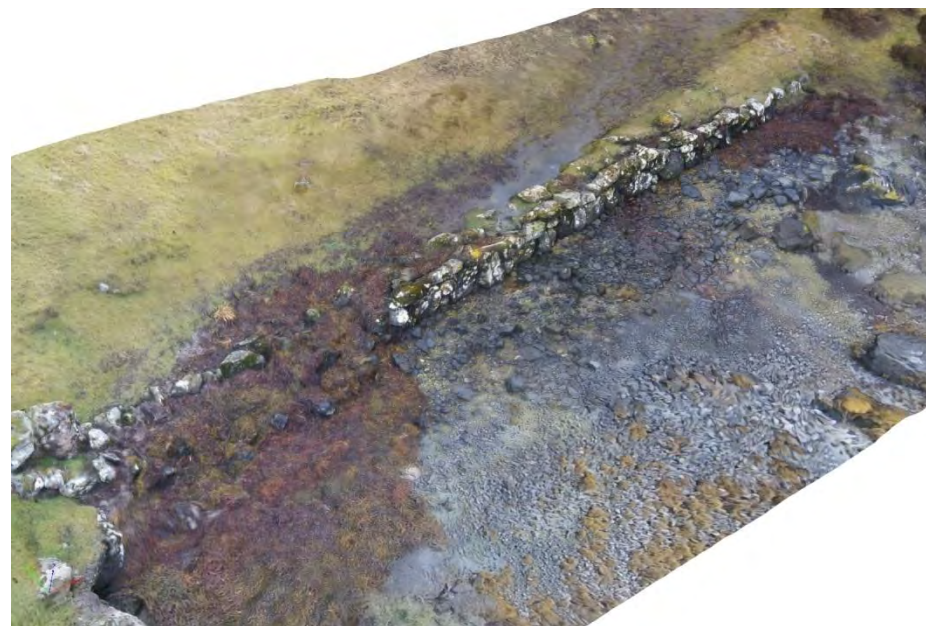


RB 15: possible phases of development, red survey pole 1m long

Site name: **Creag Mòr**
 RFS no: **RBE 16**
 NGR: NF 89600 56530 (centre)
 Site type(s): Dyke
 Condition: Fair - Good

Description:

A well preserved part drystone and part turf bank and ditch isolate a 1.6ha peninsula extending out from the SE shore of Bàgh nan Uamh. The S end starts at NF 89620 56490 in a rock overhang at the base of the cliff (with the place-name Creag Mòr) as a well built twin leaf drystone wall which extends in straight line in a NNW direction along the HWM for a distance of 25m to NF 89615 56510. At this point the dyke changes to a ditch and turf bank construction and heads NW over the isthmus for a distance of 55m to NF 89575 56545 where it meets a vertical coastal slope between 2 and 3m high. The turf bank continues along the top edge of the coastal slope in a NE direction for a further 35m before reverting back to a revetted drystone wall (now partially collapsed) at NF 89595 56565, which continues in the same direction before terminating at a rock outcrop on the shoreline at NF 89600 56570. It is not clear whether the dyke was to keep livestock out or in, but with possible traces of cultivation within, the former may be more likely.



RBE 16: Aerial view of drystone section at S end from SE



RBE 16: N termination on the shore of Bàgh nan Uamh

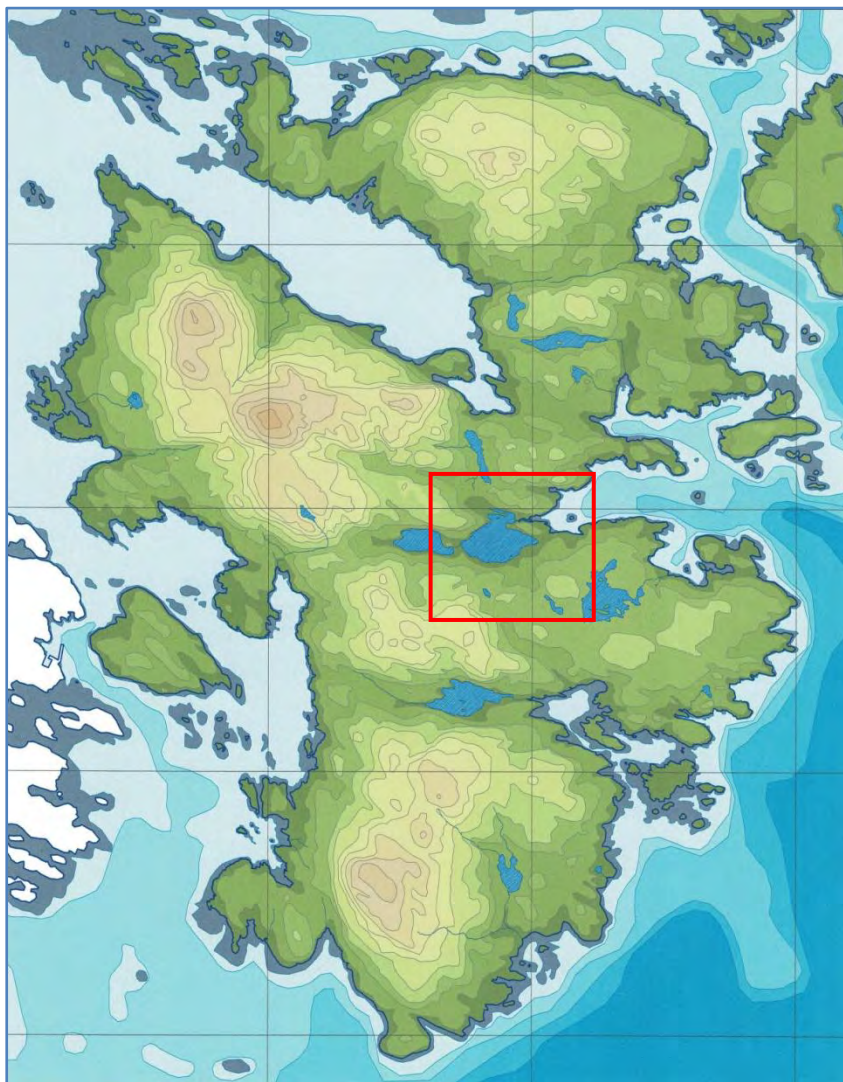
Surveyed:	22/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13806	3D: Yes
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RBE 16: S termination in a rock overhang, survey pole 1m long

BÀGH NA CAIPLICH

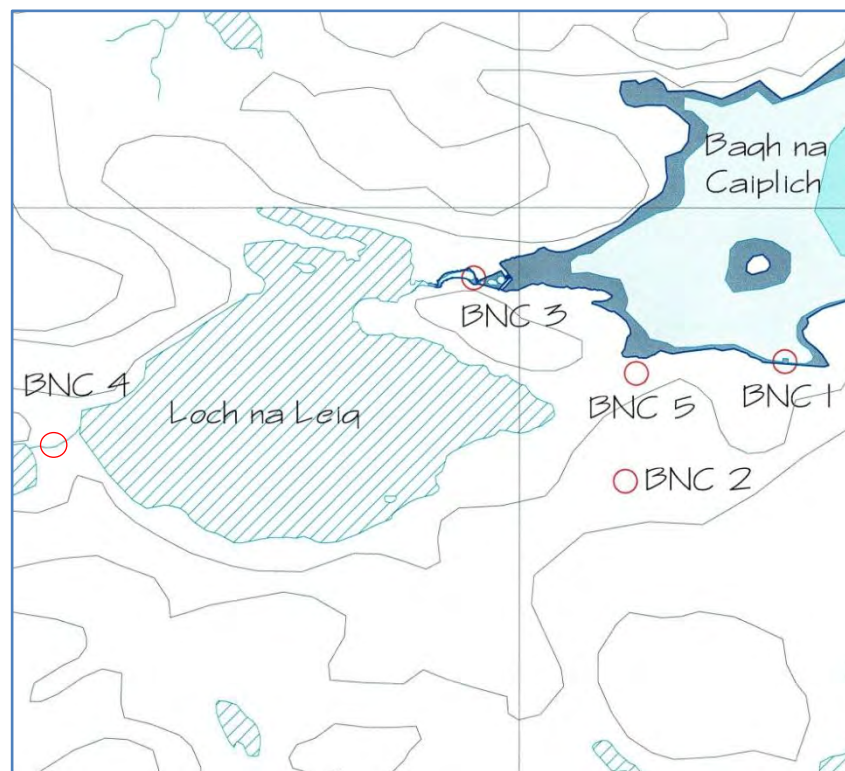
(Gaelic 'Foam or Horse Bay')



Location of Bàgh na Caiplich survey area within Ronay



View of Bàgh na Caiplich survey area from a point just S of BNC 2 (in foreground) with Bàgh na Caiplich to R and Loch na Leig to L.



Sites within the Bàgh na Caiplich survey area

Bàgh na Caiplich Introduction

Bàgh na Caiplich (Horse or possibly Foam Bay) has a very different history compared to the rest of Ronay. There is no evidence of it being settled at any time before or during the early 19thC kelping settlement, although that statement has to be qualified slightly as the east side of Ronay is on a part of the Robert Reid '*Plan of the Island of North Uist*' from 1799 that is missing. It may be that, as with the south-east coastline of Ronay, the relatively steeply sloping shoreline and its exposure to the Minch made it a less productive seaweed harvesting area.

However, it was perhaps these features which made it particularly suitable as a place for the establishment of a small hunting lodge when Ronay was purchased in 1886 by Captain Allan MacDonald of Waternish in Skye. He was a keen sportsman and had his own breed of Skye Terrier for hunting otters, for which Ronay was renowned. No doubt, as today, there would have been plenty of Red deer on the island too. Bàgh na Caiplich would have been a good anchorage for his 55' yacht and he built a substantial stone quay as a landing point on its south shore (BNC 1).

The site he chose for his house and garden (BNC 2) was on a plateau a short walk up

from the quay looking north over Bàgh na Caiplich and the adjoining tidal loch, *Loch na Leig* (or *Làmhaig*) (Loch of the Hollow (or Axe)). Substantial engineering works were undertaken on the short outflow between the two - presumably to control the inflow of sea water - including a dam, a quay and a canal (BNC 3). Landscaping works were also carried out in the form of rhododendron planting around the landing quay and islands in Loch na Leig.

Whilst the engineering works appear to have been largely completed, the house and garden never proceeded beyond the foundation stage, although a temporary building, probably a pre-fabricated corrugated iron structure, was erected on part of the foundations. Other features such as a stone quarry and lime clamps were also recorded.

The project appears to have been abandoned sometime around 1900. The MacDonalds of Waternish sold Ronay to the current owners in 1966.



View of Bàgh na Caiplich from south

Site name: **Bàgh na Caiplich**

RFS no: **BNC 1**

NGR: NF 90170 55900

Site type(s): Jetty

Condition: Good

Description:

A 40m long jetty lies on the S shore of a small cove at the SW end of Bàgh na Caiplich. Constructed in quarried and part dressed stone, the main wall has been founded on a series of large stone blocks to form a seaward face nearly 3m high. Backfilled and part paved on the inside, it varies considerably in width between 7m near its W end to as little as 1 at its E termination as it follows the line of a low cliff. A flight of steps built near its centre helps facilitate landing during low tides. Built by Captain Allan Macdonald of Waternish to service a hunting lodge located some 125m to the SW, the work was probably carried out during the 1890s.



BNC 1: view from W

Surveyed:	25/07/2014	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	12848	3D: No
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BNC 1: view from the NW.

Site name: Bàgh na Caiplich
RFS no: BNC 2
NGR: NF 90070 55810
Site type(s): Building (foundation), lime clamp(s), walled garden, stone quarry
Condition: Good

Description:

The foundations of an unfinished L shaped plan house and a rectangular walled garden lie on the N edge of a 15m high plateau overlooking Loch na Leig (or Làmhraig) and Bàgh na Caiplich. Intended as a hunting lodge for Captain Allan Macdonald of Waternish, the work was probably carried out during the 1890s.

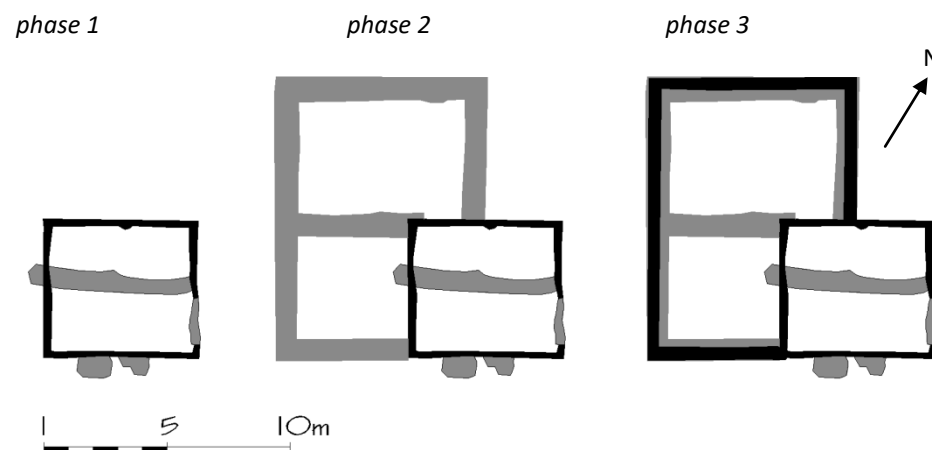
House

Three phases of work have been identified:

1. In the E corner of the main house are the foundations of a separate rectangular building which appears to pre-date the work on the foundations for the main house. These measure 5.7m SW - NE by 5.1m transversely within a single leaf of roughly course stone blocks bound with lime mortar typically 250mm thick and up to 0.5m high. Several sections of the wall head are levelled with lime mortar, possibly suggesting they were the base for a timber wall plate, an arrangement observed before in the foundations of known pre-fabricated timber frame and corrugated iron buildings which were increasingly used in the Hebrides during the late 19th and early 20th Cs. This idea is corroborated by a scattering of cast iron ogee gutter fragments in the area and the presence of a roofed building at this location on the 2nd edition of the OS 6" mapping surveyed in 1901. Running at a slightly different orientation through (and in part underneath) the approximate centre of these foundations, is another section of stone foundation upon which a number of small mortar bound stone piers have been built and these probably supported an intermediate timber beam supporting floor joists above.
2. A set of partially completed wall foundations for a rectangular building which measure between 0.87 and 1m wide and up to 0.3m deep constructed in cut stone blocks bonded with lime mortar and laid directly onto the bedrock. These stop at the perimeter of the 1st phase building.
3. The partially completed footings of a rectangular building measuring 10.45m SE - NW and 7.45m transversely within coursed dressed stone walls bonded with lime mortar 0.47m thick and up to 1m high. These are narrower than would normally be used for a stone walled building and it may well be that these were also the base for

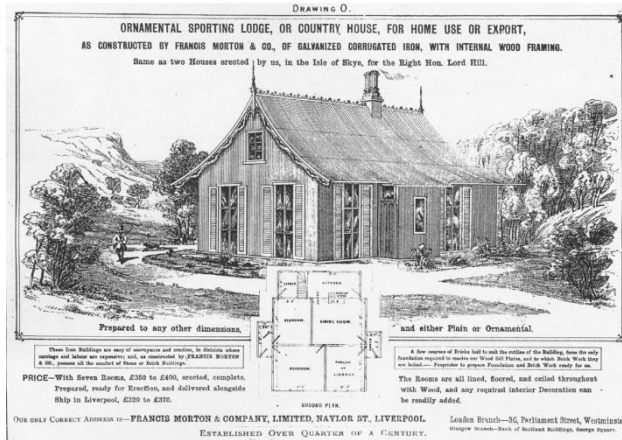


BNC 2: aerial view from E



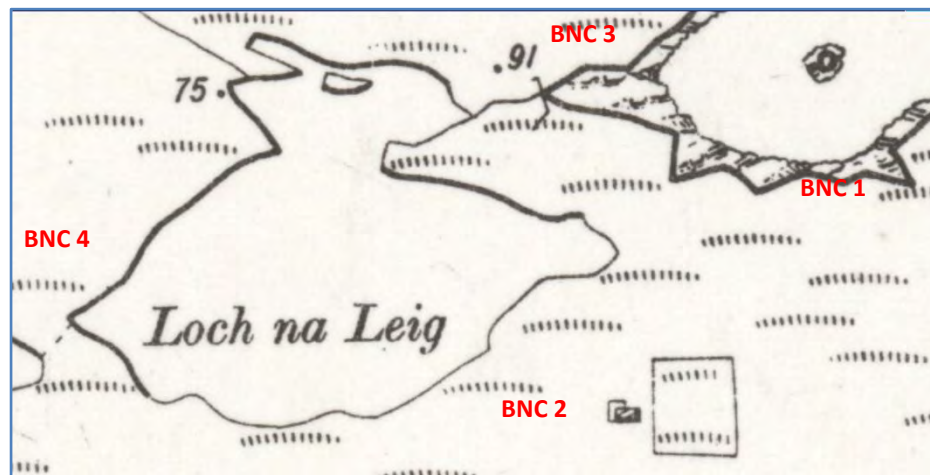
BNC 2: house phases - note N direction

a second pre-fabricated corrugated iron building which were quite in vogue for buildings in the Highlands and Islands at this time. (See image)



Lying around 8m SW of the house is a heap of partially reduced shell sand with some stones within and this is likely to have been a lime clamp. Around 25m SE of the house and lying against a rock outcrop is a pile of stone and this may well have been a stone quarry site for the foundation material.

Without oral or written history it isn't possible to accurately describe the sequence of events at the house site. Perhaps the original smaller building was used as temporary accommodation for the masons and labourers working on all the Bàgh na Caiplich sites, or perhaps as a hunting bothy whilst the house was being built.



BNC 1 - 4: extract from OS 6" 2nd edition surveyed in 1901 and published in 1904 with locations marked. The house orientation & garden position & outline are erroneous.



BNC 2: SW footings looking SW towards lime clamp (highlighted)



BNC 2: section of broken cast iron ogee gutter near E corner of building

Walled garden

Around 15m N of the house, aligned on the same orientation, and lying some 6m lower at the base of a steep bank are the remains of the foundations of what was planned to be a walled garden. This measures around 30m SW - NE and 15m transversely and lies within an area of ground stripped of its peat cover to form a level surface. At both ends of this area, a 15m long section of drystone walling has been built. Around 0.6m wide and between 0.3 and 1m high these are most likely to have been foundations for enclosing walls.

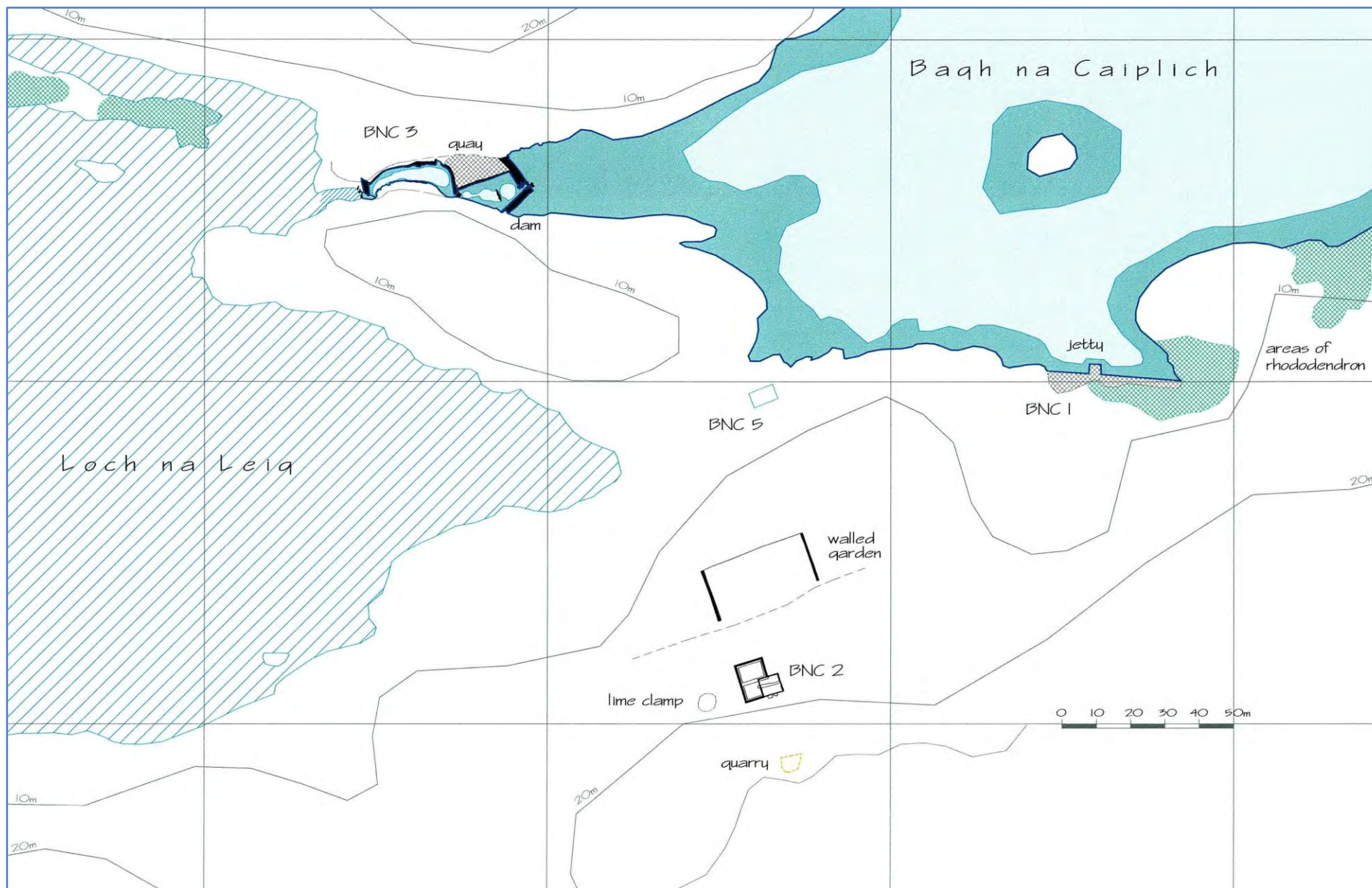


Right: BNC 2: NE garden wall looking SW, house highlighted

Surveyed:	19/09/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Below: BNC 2: garden area viewed from house site looking N





Bàgh na Caiplich area map

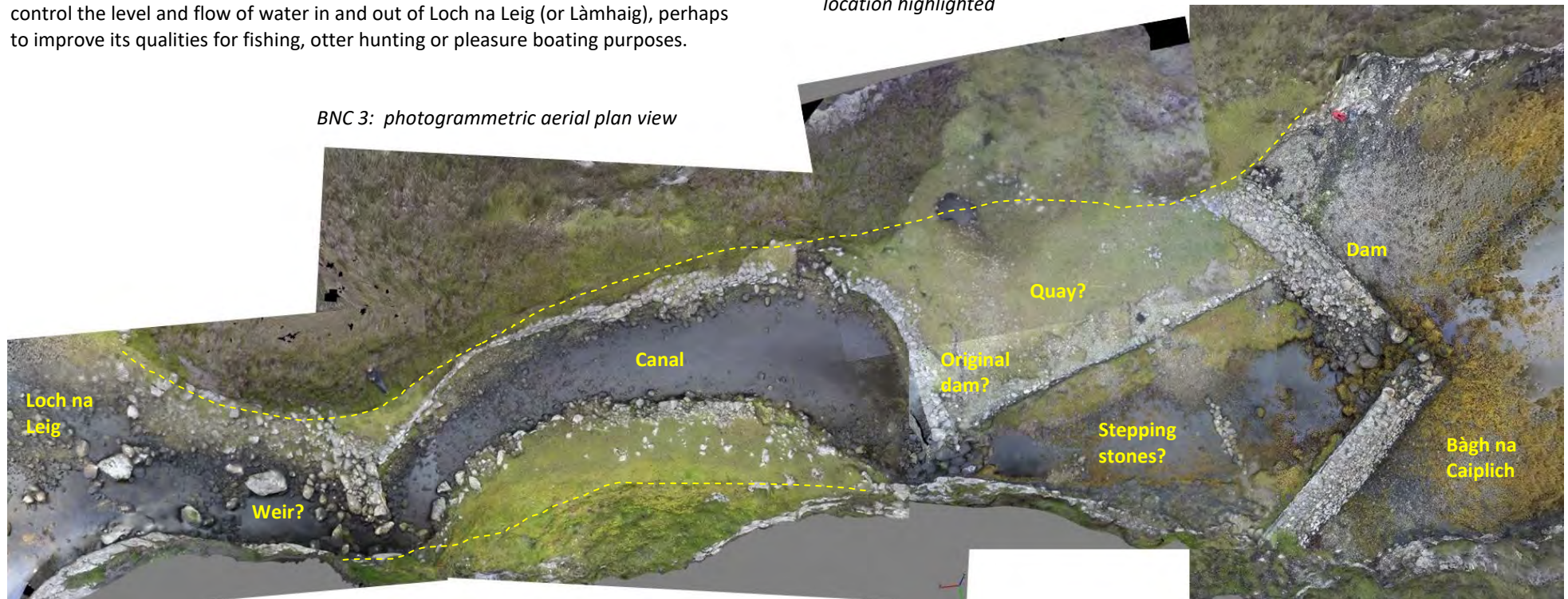
Site name: **Bàgh na Caiplich**
 RFS no: **BNC 3**
 NGR: NF 89970 55950
 Site type(s): Dam(s), quay (poss), canal, weir (poss), stepping stones (poss)
 Condition: Good
 Description:

A series of stone structures lie in a 50m long gully which connects Loch na Leig (or Làmhaig) with Bàgh na Caiplich. They include a V shaped plan dam, and a canalised burn which may include the remains of an earlier dam structure, a possible quay, a weir and a set of stepping stones. The first hydrographic survey of this area by Cdr. F. W. L. Thomas R. N. dated 1861 shows the area as being completely open to the sea, and the relative water levels mean that the sea flows into the loch at highest spring tides. The structures are related to the purchase of Ronay by Captain Allan Macdonald of Waternish in 1886 as a hunting estate, and appear to be designed to control the level and flow of water in and out of Loch na Leig (or Làmhaig), perhaps to improve its qualities for fishing, otter hunting or pleasure boating purposes.



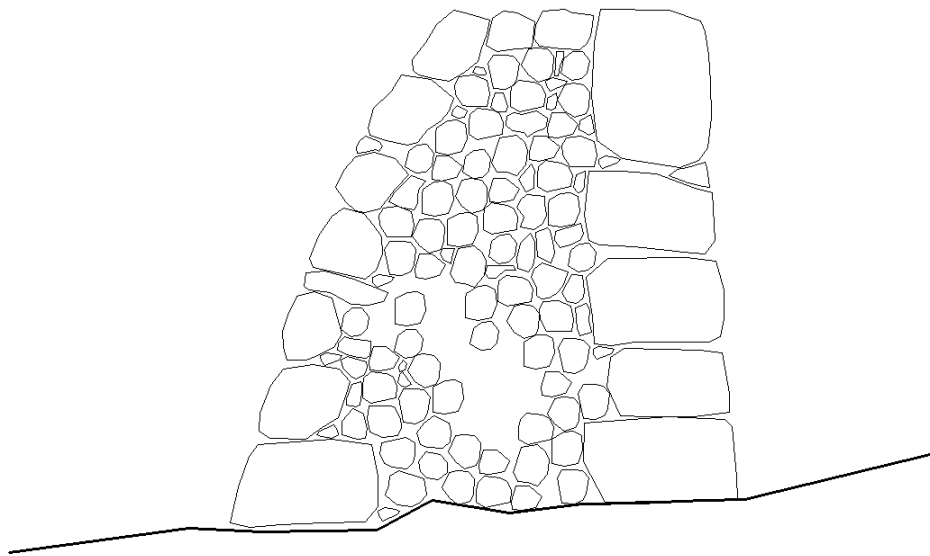
BNC 3: abstract from Cdr. F.W.L. Thomas hydrographic survey dated 1861 with dam location highlighted

BNC 3: photogrammetric aerial plan view



Dam

V shaped in plan, the dam comprises two wall sections, each around 10m long, and which extend as far as necessary to their adjoining shorelines to connect to a bedrock face. Although their 105° angled junction at the apex of the V has now completely collapsed, it is presumed there was a spillway or perhaps a sluice at or near this point. In section, the dam walls typically measure 1.8m thick at their base (although this decreases slightly with a reduction in height) and around 1m across on their top. The inner face is battered inwards at an angle of around 5°, and constructed in coursed, roughly dressed blocks of gneiss with a longest dimension rarely > 0.5m, presumably quarried locally. The outer face blocks are more randomly placed in a slightly curved profile, angled inwards at around 25°, and these two leaves of stonework contain a mass of stone rubble infill which is topped off horizontally with more stone blocks. There is a finely made quoin stone near the base of the outer face of the wall junction whose front corner has been carefully cut to match the batter angles either side.



BNC 3: notional section through dam wall



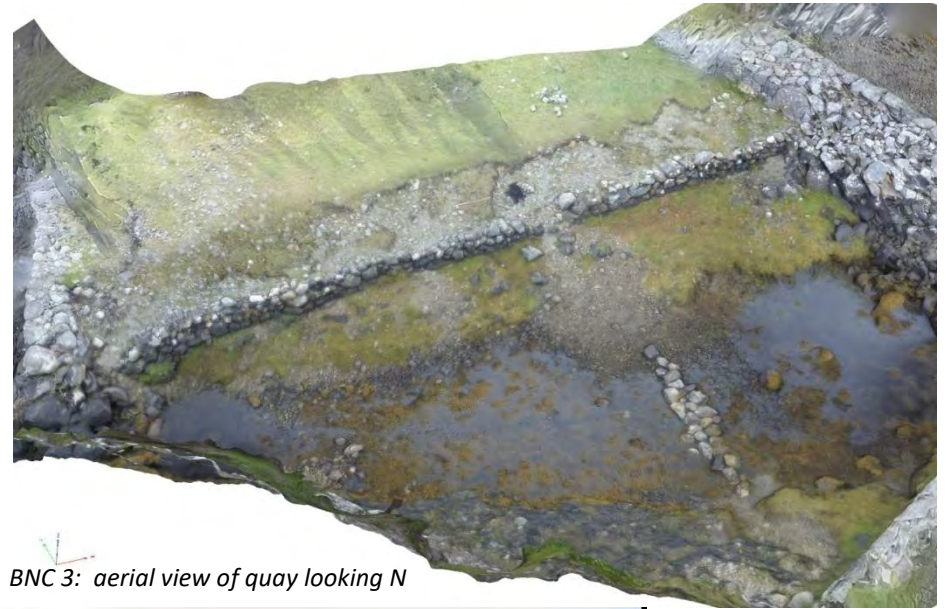
BNC 3: aerial view of dam from NE



BNC 3: dam looking SW from centre, quoin stone highlighted

Quay

A substantial area of former foreshore has been infilled behind part of the N dam wall and two other sections of drystone wall to form what appears to be a quay. The infilled area is trapezoidal in shape and measures around 15m SW - NE and between 5 and 10m transversely. The grass covered quay surface shows signs of erosion along its long SE edge next to the canal, particularly at its SW end, and this together with seaweed deposits in the same areas suggests that its level is at or near the level of the highest tides. The wall supporting this long edge appears to be a single leaf rubble wall maximum 0.8m high, and from its uneven head and the stones lying in the canal bed below, it appears this has also been reduced by erosion. The retaining wall on the SW side of the quay is more substantial, being built of coursed and dressed stone blocks similar to those used in the dam and reinforced behind with more larger stones. Slightly curved and around 9m long, it possibly extended across the line of the canal to the rock face opposite (see picture P 164) and as such may represent an initial attempt at damming the flow of seawater in at high tides.



BNC 3: aerial view of quay looking N



BNC 3: general panorama looking S with dam to L and Loch na Leig to R.

Canal

A 50m long artificial waterway has been created draining in a W - E direction between Loch na Leig (or Lámhaig) and the sea at Bàgh na Caiplich. It is divided into two pools W and E. The W pool is distinctly curved and measures around 25m W - E and 5m transversely. Its W end is defined by the remains of what appears to have been a roughly built rubble weir or temporary dam at a narrow point less than 6m wide between a low cliff on the S side and a heather covered bluff to the N. Rubble walls less than 1m high extend a few m NW from the weir along the loch shore, and also around the N side of the pool to the E for a distance of around 20m where a short section has collapsed at the point it meets the quay wall. The remains of a similar rubble wall also line the canal bank on the S side although some sections have been eroded away. This may be part of the remains of a dyke which once bisected Ronay W - E completely (see BD 4 and BNC 4).



BNC 3: quay SW end looking E at what may have been an earlier dam structure



BNC 3: W pool aerial view looking N; weir to L and quay to R.

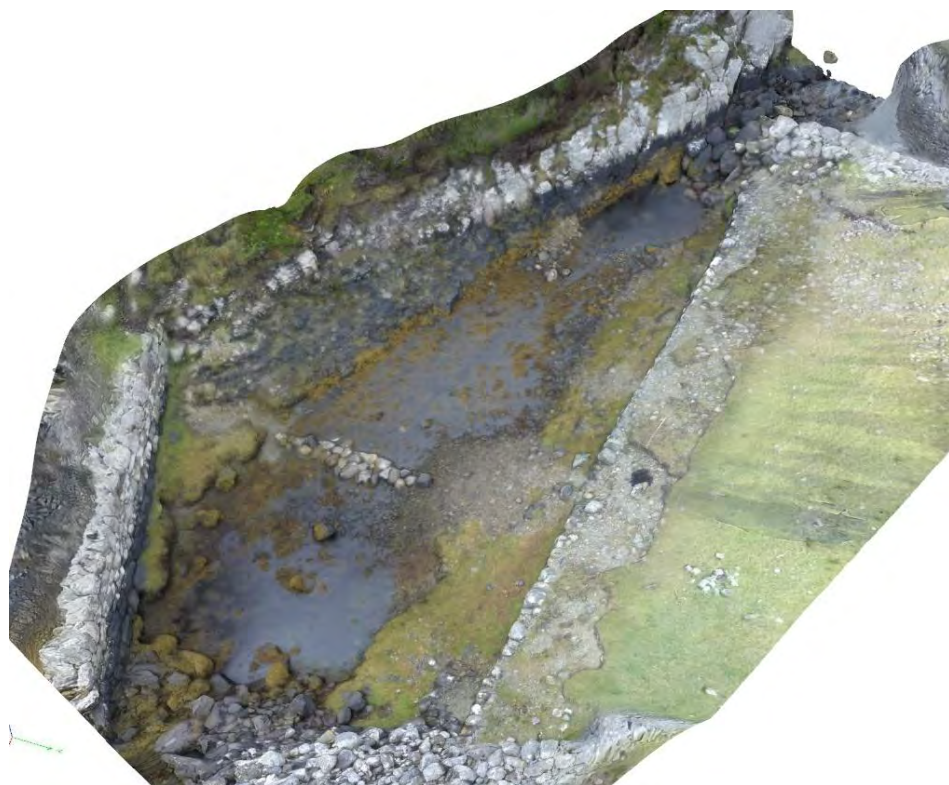


BNC 3: weir (poss) at the W end of canal looking W into Loch na Leig

Canal (contd.)

The E pool is polygonal and measures around 18m W - E and between 10 and 2m transversely. Its W end is defined by the remains of what appears to have been a 2m long extension of the SW quay wall to a rock outcrop which formed a weir or possibly an earlier attempt at a dam. The remainder of the pool is enclosed by bedrock to its S, the dam walls to the E and the quay to the N. In the centre of the pool and crossing the outflow in a NW - SE direction at low tides is what appears to be a line of stepping stones around 6m long.

Surveyed:	19/09/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID	SCHARP ID:	12849	3D: Yes
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BNC 3: E pool aerial view looking SW with quay to R and stepping stones centre.



BNC 3: W pool aerial view looking S; weir to R. and quay to L.



BNC 3: possible remains of original dam between E & W pools looking W. Quay to R.

Site name: **Bàgh na Caiplich**
 RFS no: **BNC 4**
 NGR: NF 89720 55850 (centre)
 Site type(s): Dyke
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The remains of a drystone dyke cross a narrow neck of land between the shores of Loch nan Druidhneach and Loch na Leig (or Làmhhaig). Around 40m long the dyke appears to be a continuation of the dyke BD 4 which effectively divided the main part of Ronay into two sections N and S, and probably dates to the first half of the 19thC. It has since been replaced with a modern post and wire fence a few m to the S.

Surveyed:	02/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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Site name: **Bàgh na Caiplich**
 RFS no: **BNC 5**
 NGR: NF 90075 55890
 Site type(s): Structure, dyke (poss), landing point (poss), modern fence
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The remains of a possible rectangular turf walled structure lie just above the shore of a small inlet in the SW extremity of Bàgh na Caiplich. It measures around 7m SW - NE by 5m transversely and is defined by vertical excavations into a peat bank on its SE and NE sides and by an intermittent low turf bank on the NW and SW. The structure is bisected NW and SE by a modern fence and the SE wall might represent the remains of a former turf dyke which may have had the same function as the modern fence on a parallel but slightly different line. Between the H and LWMs on the beach to the NW there is an area which might have been cleared of larger stones and used as a temporary landing point.

Surveyed:	27/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13822	3D: No
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BNC 4: view from NE



BNC 5: view from NW

SRUTH BEAG

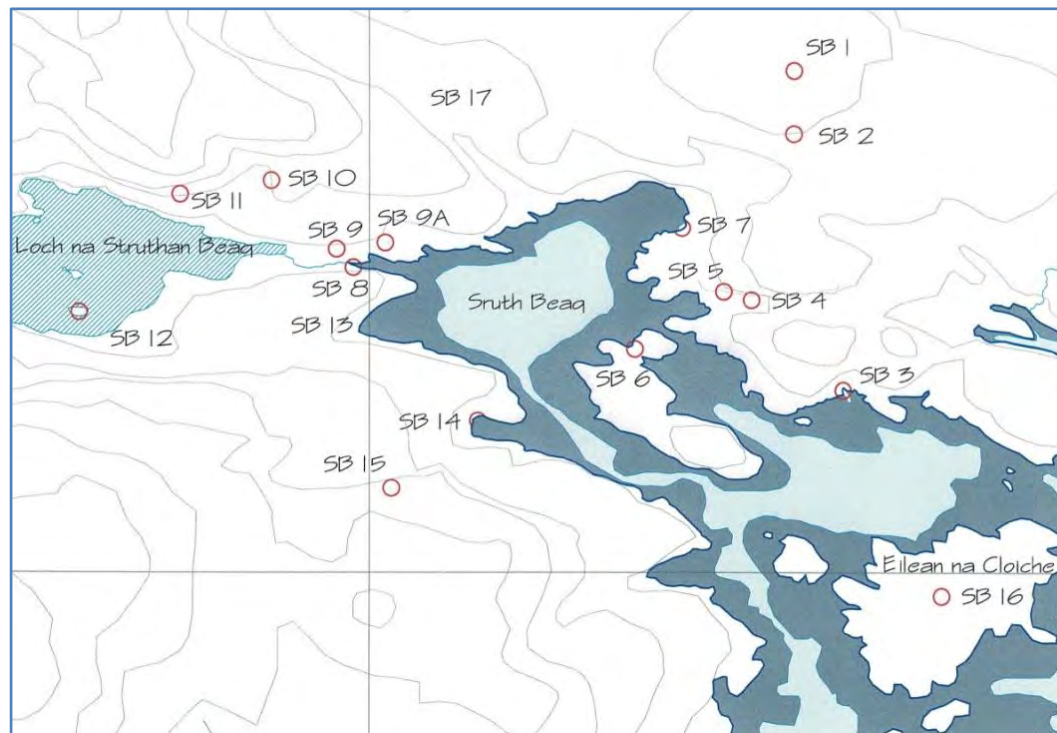
(Gaelic 'Little Stream')



Location of Sruth Beag survey area within Ronay



View of Sruth Beag from S looking E over Sruth Beag harbour



Sites within the Sruth Beag survey area

Sruth Beag Introduction

Although the natural harbour at *Sruth Beag* (Little Stream) on the south-east side of Ronay appears to be a safe haven, it has an exposed and narrow entrance so would only be accessible to small boats in reasonable sea state conditions.

Robert Reid's '*Plan of the Island of North Uist*' from 1799 shows no indications of any settlement in this area, but there are indications that the harbour shores' plentiful seaweed, areas of potentially cultivatable land, and good peat and fresh water resources may have attracted earlier settlement. The partly demolished building at SB 2 site A is noteworthy as are the four small enclosures or pens built up against low cliffs (SB 4, 5 and 10), and any of these might date back to an earlier period.

It appears that just two crofts were established here in the early 19thC kelping settlement. These are bounded by two head dykes (SB 1 and 14) and there are extensive areas of former cultivation and peat cutting within. The two main farmsteads (SB 2 site B and SB 8) fit the normal pattern for the period, but a third building (SB 9), does not appear to have had its own croft, and it may have been occupied by a cottar or perhaps a family member from farmstead SB 8.

Farmstead SB 8 is the only croft from the early 19thC settlement to which a specific tenant name can be definitively attributed from the 1814 rental list, and that was John Macleod, the penultimate name on the list.

A total of five landing points have been identified (SB 6, 7, 8, 12 and 13), two of which (SB 6 and 12) include roughly made jetties which may have been used as seaweed storage platforms. The small tidal island in the middle of the harbour includes two sites where kelp processing probably took place (SB 6).

Both sites at farmstead SB 2 have been altered significantly post abandonment to form pens, a small sheepfold and possibly a hut when Ronay became a sheep farm in the late 1830s, and this may have acted as a temporarily occupied outpost to the main base on the island's east side.

Farmstead SB 8 shows similar although less extensive adaptation, but traces of timber and a partitioned off area at the east end of the main house fit with local tradition that Sruth Beag was also used as an overnight stopping place for Grimsay fishermen well into the 20thC.



View of Sruth Beag from SW looking NE over Sruth Beag harbour

Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 1**
 NGR: NF 90290 55440 (centre)
 Site type(s): Head dyke
 Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

An 1150m long head dyke defines the N extent of the Sruth Beag township. Together with a second dyke on its S side (SB 14), and the natural boundaries afforded by loch and sea shores, they enclose an area of around 23ha, with a further 3ha contained within the two main islands adjacent. The W end starts on the N shore of Loch na Sruthan Beag at NF 89820 55315 where it heads N for a distance of around 25m to the base of a cliff as a turf bank. From there it heads in a generally E direction using natural rock outcrops where possible, then as a drystone wall for several sections, before crossing an extensive area of formerly cultivated peat moor as a ditch and turf bank, and ending on the Minch shore at NF 90750 55335.



SB 1: stone dyke remains at NF 89885 55375 with SB 9 in background



SB 1: stone dyke remains at NF 89960 55370



SB 1: ditch and turf bank dyke remains near NF 89990 55380

Surveyed:	02/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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Site name: Sruth Beag
EFS no: SB 2
NGR: NF 90380 55390 (centre)
Site type(s): Farmstead, hut(s) (poss), pen(s), sheepfold (poss)
Condition: Good - fair

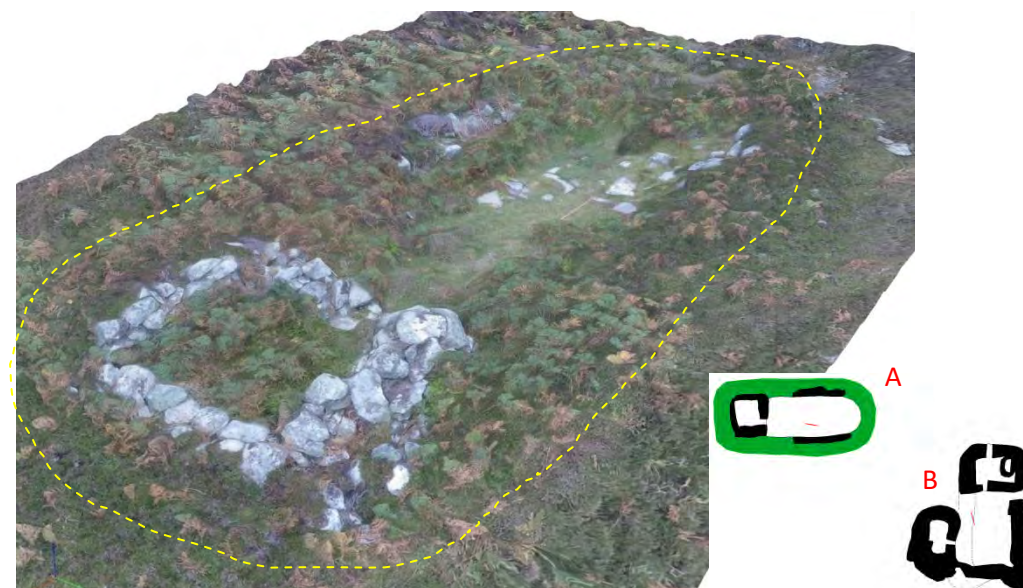
Description:

A former farmstead comprising the ruined remains of two adjoining sets of structures (sites A and B), lies on the S edge of a plateau some 30m above, and 125m NE, of the Sruth Beag shore.

Site A appears to have originally been a rectangular plan building measuring around 10m E - W and 3.3m transversely, formed in part by excavating out the peat to depth of around 0.7m, the internal faces of which have been lined within with a single leaf drystone wall. At its W end a rectangular pen or hut has been inserted. This measures roughly 2m square within drystone walls which on the N and W sides are the original single leaf drystone wall linings up to 1.2m high, and on the S and E by twin leaf drystone walling which includes an entrance at the SE corner.

Site B is located on a rock outcrop around 8m SE of site A. The original building was rectangular in plan and measured 8.5m N - S and 3.3m transversely within drystone walls typically 1.2m thick and up to 1.5m high. Most likely built as a dwelling house, possibly as a replacement for that at site A, the entrance appears to have been located slightly N of centre of the E facing elevation. Adjacent to the S end of its W facing elevation is a rectangular hut or pen, perhaps an adaptation of a former byre attached to the original house, or one related to site A. This measures 2.7m N - S and 1.4m transversely within drystone walls up to 1.5m thick and 1.4m high and has an entrance in the middle of its E facing elevation. A second hut or pen has been inserted within the walls of the N end of the original house. This measures 3.3m E - W and 1.9m transversely and appears to have the remains of two partially blocked entrances in its N and S elevations. A sub-circular lamb pen has been constructed against the interior of the E wall. The space formed between these two structures and the now partially collapsed E and S walls of the original house may have been used as a small sheepfold.

There is a good possibility that this farmstead is one of the original early 19thC keeping crofts, which after abandonment, has been adapted for use for sheep husbandry purposes. However its layout and construction are rather different to other buildings from the period nearby and that may point to an earlier use.



SB 2: Site A aerial view from SW and thumbnail plan of both sites



SB 2: Site B aerial view from SE

Surveyed:	02/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 3**
 NGR: NF 90430 55160
 Site type(s): Landing point (poss), dyke (poss), seaweed storage platform (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A set of structures on the shoreline 220m S of the farmstead SB 2 present a number of possible functions. An area of beach (A) measuring around 12m NW - SE and 3m transversely has been cleared of stones to form what might be a landing point. Alternatively it could have been a material source for a drystone and boulder wall on its SW side, which could in turn either be a revetment for a platform (B) to its W, (possibly for seaweed storage), or the seaward end of a possible dyke extending inland the faint line of which might be visible on aerial photography. The remains of a second drystone dyke (C) lie 4m further W, and that may have had a similar function.



SB 3: view from NW with Eilean nan Cloiche behind

Surveyed:	02/10/2015	NMRS no:	349756	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	12997	3D:	No
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Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 4**
 NGR: NF 90345 55245
 Site type(s): Enclosure (poss)
 Condition: Poor

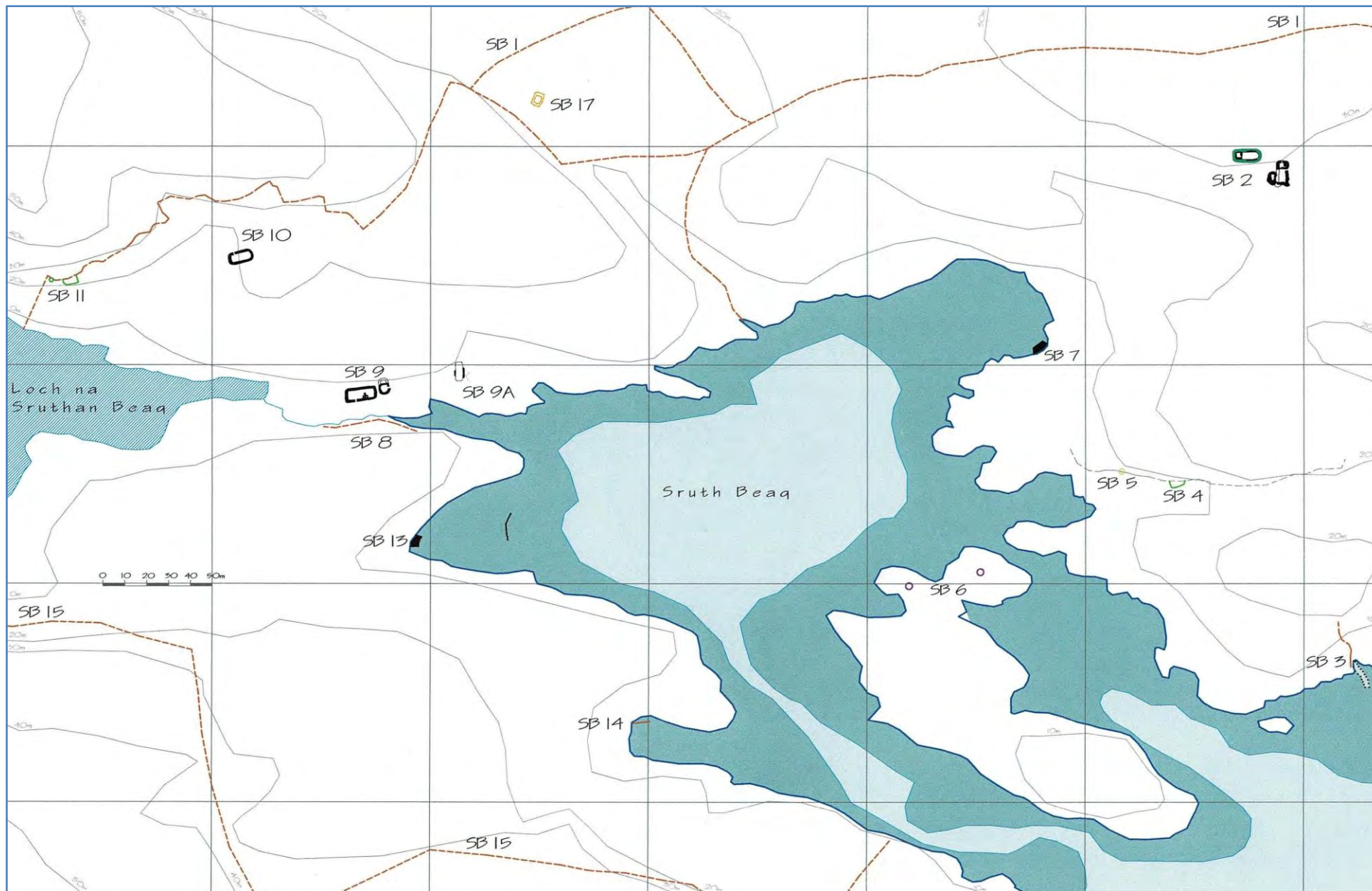
Description:

A curved line of embedded stones and boulders projects outwards from a vertical rock face. Measuring at its maximum extents around 7m E - W and 3m transversely this may represent the remains of a small enclosure.



SB 4: view from SE with SB 5 in distance

Surveyed:	02/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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Sruth Beag area map

Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 5**
 NGR: NF 90320 55250
 Site type(s): Rock shelter (poss), pen (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

An overhang at the base of an 8m high vertical rock face provides shelter to a space measuring around 1.5m³. At ground level the space is enclosed by a low turf bank within which are a number of embedded stones. Possible rock shelter or pen.

Surveyed:	02/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 6**
 NGR: NF 90240 55200 (centre)
 Site type(s): Kelp working site (poss), clearance cairn(s) (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

Two stone piles lie on tidal islands within Sruth Beag bay at NF 90260 55205 and NF 90225 55200. In this situation these are most likely to be related to kelp processing, but they could also possibly be clearance cairns.

Surveyed:	02/10/2015	NMRS no:	349754	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	12998	3D: No
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SB 5: view from SW



SB 6: view from NW

Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 7**
 NGR: NF 90240 55200
 Site type(s): Seaweed storage platform (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A rough wall of stones and boulders near the HWM has been infilled behind to form a low platform. Measuring round 6m SW - NE and 3m transversely the structure is most likely to have been used as a seaweed storage platform.

Surveyed:	02/10/2015	NMRS no:	349755	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13000	3D: No
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Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 8**
 NGR: NF 89995 55270
 Site type(s): Dyke
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The intermittent remains of a drystone dyke lie on the shore of an inlet on the W side of Sruth Beag bay. This may have been a former head dyke for crofts on the N side which ran between Loch na Sruthan Beag and Sruth Beag bay, perhaps quarried for its stone for the farmstead SB 9 nearby.

Surveyed:	02/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: No
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SB 7: view from N



SB 8: view from W

Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 9**
 NGR: NF 89980 55285
 Site type(s): Farmstead, pen(s)
 Condition: Fair

Description:

A farmstead comprising three buildings, lies on the S bank of a 60m long burn which connects Loch na Sruthan Beag with the sea. The larger structure, probably a former dwelling, measures 12m WSW - ENE by 3.3m transversely within drystone walls averaging 1.1m thick and up to 1.4m high. An entrance is located towards the SW end of the SE facing elevation. A drystone cross partition has been constructed just NE of the building's centre and stone cellular structures built either side - possibly lambing pens. A number of rotted lengths of timber lie on the floor near the ENE gable and this suggests the building may have been re-used more recently.

Just over a metre ENE of the dwelling lies a second drystone structure. Sub-rectangular in plan, this appears to overlie a slightly larger building, probably a byre, whose foundation remains are still visible to the NNE. The original building measured 5.4m SSE - WNW and 3.3m transversely within drystone walls averaging 1.1m thick. At some stage the NNE third of the building has been demolished and a new drystone gable built, reducing the SSE - WNW internal dimension to around 3.3m. This wall is around 0.8m thick and up to 1.6m high in the centre of its NNW gable which shows signs of having supported a pitched roof. The current entrance is located centrally in its NE facing elevation.

Around 30m ENE of the byre at NF 90020 55290 lie the remains of a third building now reduced to two short sections of drystone walling and a low mounded outline buried in heather. Rectangular in plan this appears to have had internal dimensions of around 8m N - S and 3.3m transversely. With most of its stone walling removed it seems likely that this predated at least one of the standing structures to the W.



SB 9: aerial view from NW and thumbnail plan



SB 9: view of third building from NW and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	02/10/2015	NMRS no:	123299	W. Isles SMR ID	2576	SCHARP ID:	12999	3D: No
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Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 10**
 NGR: NF 89920 55350
 Site type(s): Building
 Condition: Good

Description:

A second building, probably a dwelling house, lies within the same croft as SB 9, some 75m to its NW. This measures 9.3m WSW - ENE and 3.6m transversely within drystone walls around 1m thick and up to 1.7m high.

Surveyed:	02/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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SB 10: aerial view from NW and thumbnail plan

Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 11**
 NGR: NF 89840 55335
 Site type(s): Enclosure, pen(s)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A curved line of sections of drystone walling, and embedded stones and boulders projects outwards from a vertical rock face. Measuring at its maximum extents around 7m E - W and 3m transversely this may represent the remains of a small enclosure. At its W end a drystone walled cellular structure less than 1m across internally has been built against the same rock face and this is probably the remains of a lamb pen. A second similar pen lies a few m further W.

Surveyed:	02/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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SB 11: enclosure viewed from W with pen in foreground

Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 12**
 NGR: NF 89745 55230
 Site type(s): Dun (poss), head dyke
 Condition: Poor

Description:

Described by Beveridge (1911) as follows: "*Upon the island of Ronay,.....is Loch na Sruthan Beag containing two islets. The southern and smaller of these is 5 or 6 feet in height, consisting of solid rock thickly covered with vegetation, and has been accessible over a curved causeway from the neighbouring shore, a distance of nearly 20 yards. This clearly represents the site of a former dun, of which some remains would no doubt be revealed by excavation.*" The island measures around 15m E - W and 8m transversely, but has not been visited. There is no evidence of a causeway, although on the shore to the S, a section of former drystone head dyke (SB 15) has collapsed into the loch perhaps giving the impression of a causeway starting point.



SB 12: view from W with 'dun' island highlighted to L and drystone head dyke termination (SB 15) to R.

Surveyed:	07/10/2015	NMRS no:	10184	W. Isles SMR ID	1018	SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 13**
 NGR: NF 90020 55220
 Site type(s): Seaweed storage platform (poss), fish trap (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

At the head of an inlet on the W shore of Sruth Beag, a rough wall of stones and small boulders near the HWM has been infilled behind to form a low platform. Measuring round 5m SW - NE and 2m transversely the structure is most likely to have been used as a seaweed storage platform. Around 40m further E near the LWM a 12m long line of stones running N - S across the inlet is visible on satellite imagery and this may be the remains of a fish trap.



SB 13: view from S

Surveyed:	07/10/2015	NMRS no:	349749	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13003	3D:	No
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Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 14**
 NGR: NF 90105 55130
 Site type(s): Landing point (poss), dyke (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A line of 8 large stones extends E for a distance of around 6m from the HWM of an inlet on the SW shore of Sruth Beag. Its exact purpose is unclear, but it may represent either some form of boundary termination related to areas of formerly cultivated land inshore, or a landing point.

Surveyed:	07/10/2015	NMRS no:	349750	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13002	3D: No
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SB 14: view from S

Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 15**
 NGR: NF 89940 55050 (centre)
 Site type(s): Head dyke
 Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

An 650m long head dyke defines the S extent of the Sruth Beag township. Together with a second dyke on its N side (SB 1), and the natural boundaries afforded by loch and sea shores, they enclose an area of around 23Ha, with a further 3Ha contained within the two main islands adjacent. The W end starts on the S shore of Loch na Struthan Beag at NF 89710 55315 where it follows the shoreline E for a distance of around 40m as a drystone wall, before turning S for a further 10m where it terminates at the base of a low rock outcrop. From there it heads in a generally E direction using a combination of natural rock outcrops, drystone walling and ditch and turf bank before terminating on the edge of a 20m high cliff on the Sruth Beag shore at NF 90215 55080.

Surveyed:	07/10/2015	NMRS no:	349753	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13001	3D: No
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SB 15: L = drystone dyke following Loch na Sruthan Beag shore near its W termination looking E; R = view of ditch and turf bank from E termination looking SW.

Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 16**
 NGR: NF 90105 55130
 Site type(s): Natural feature(s)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The sites of possible rectangular and circular buildings were recorded on Eilean na Cloiche during the 2007 GUARD survey of aerial photographs, but a survey visit revealed these to be erosion lines in peat.

Surveyed:	26/07/2015	NMRS no:	289938	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13823	3D:	No
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Site name: **Sruth Beag**
 EFS no: **SB 17**
 NGR: NF 90105 55130
 Site type(s): Stack stand
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A sub-rectangular stack stand or clamp base, most likely used for peat or root crops lies on the edge of an area of former cultivation within which lines of drainage ditches or feannagan can still be seen. The slightly raised central base measures around 4m NE - SW and 2.5m transversely and is surrounded by a ditch around 1m wide and up to 0.8m deep.

Surveyed:	27/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D:	No
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SB 16: view looking W across Eilean na Cloiche into Sruth Beag showing peat erosion lines



SB 17: view from SW

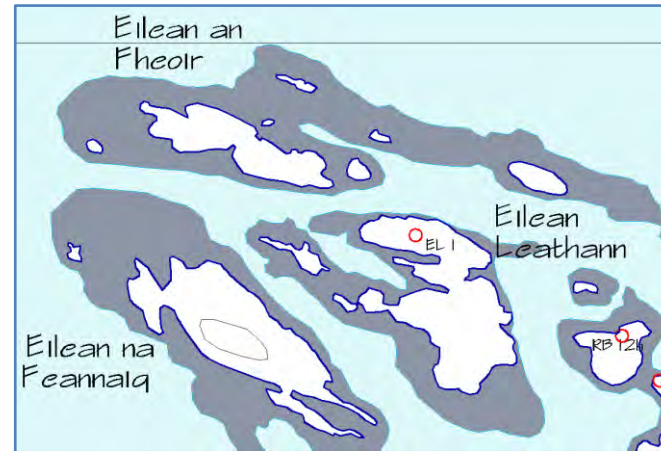
RONAY OFFSHORE ISLANDS

EILEAN LEATHANN

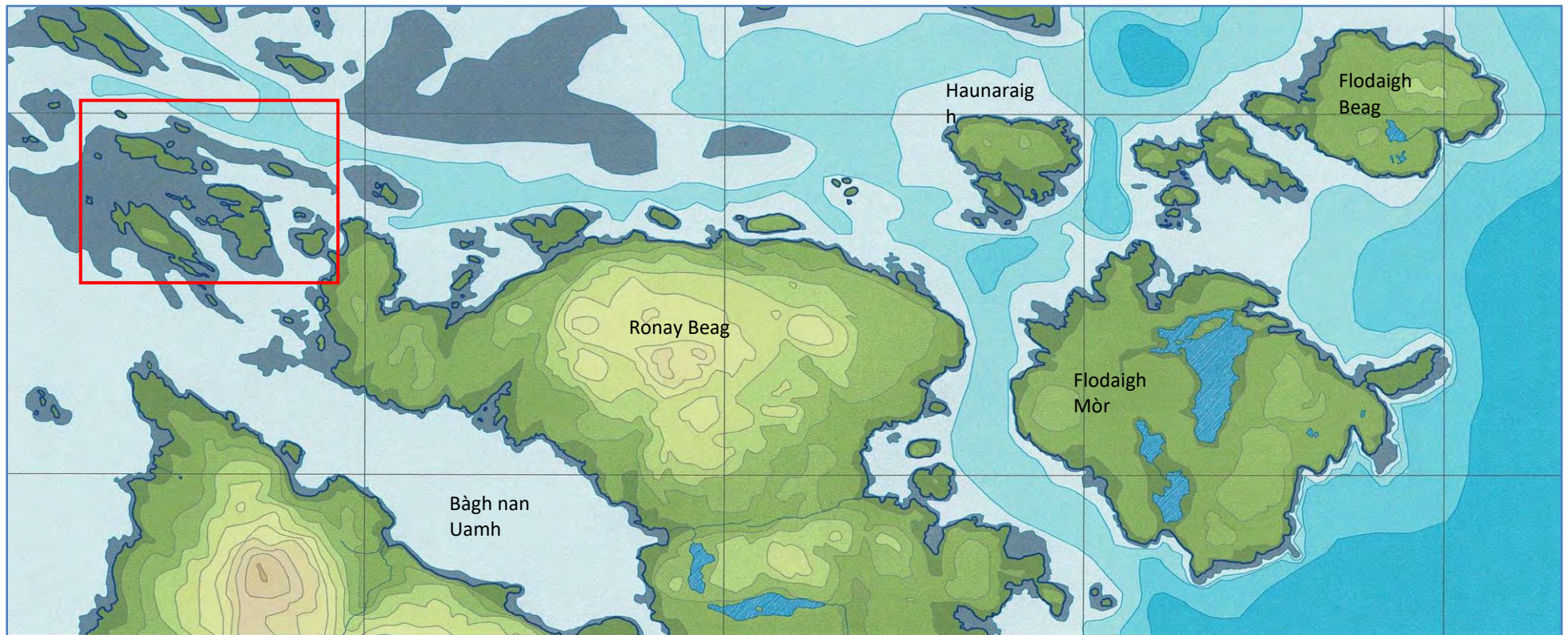
(Gaelic 'Broad Island')

Eilean Leathann and its neighbouring islands are held as part of Grimsay croft tenancies

(Below) Location of Eilean Leathann survey area within Ronay



(Left) Sites within the Eilean Leathann survey area



Site name: **Eilean Leathann**
 RFS no: **EL 1**
 NGR: NF 88645 57780
 Site type(s): Hut (poss), stack stand (poss)
 Condition: Fair - poor

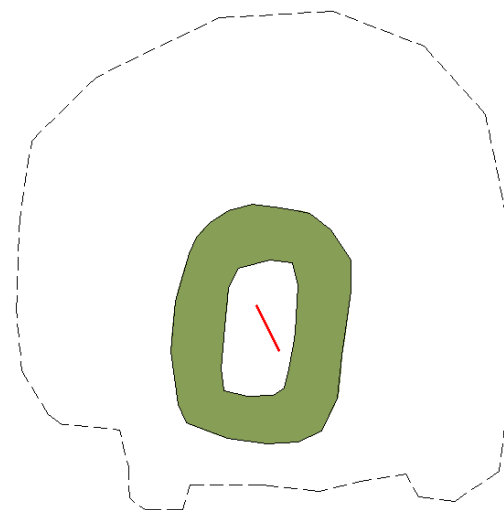
Description:

A turf structure lies near the N shore of Eilean Leathann. Rectangular in plan it measures 2.7m N - S and 1.4m transversely within a low turf wall around 1m thick and up to 0.4m high. A shallow ditch immediately outside the wall and further lower ground beyond may represent the area where the turf was cut from. Although there are no signs of cultivation on the island, many of the small islands in the Kyle of Ronay were used by surrounding communities for peat cutting, grazing and growing crops and this structure most likely represents the remains of a stack stand or perhaps a temporary hut.



EL 1: view from NW with Rubha nan Brisgein behind

Surveyed:	29/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13824	3D:	Yes
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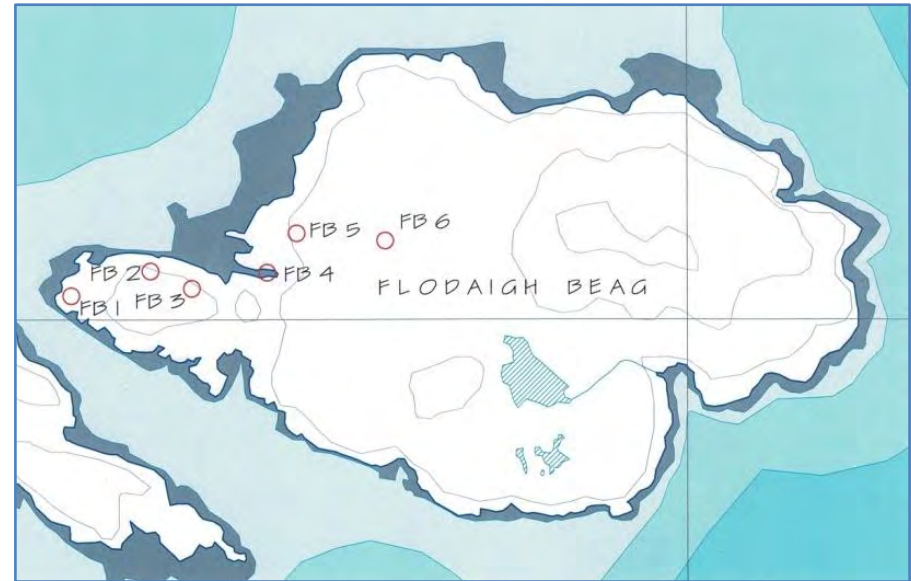
EL 1 plan, survey pole 1m long

RONAY OFFSHORE ISLANDS

FLODAIGH BEAG

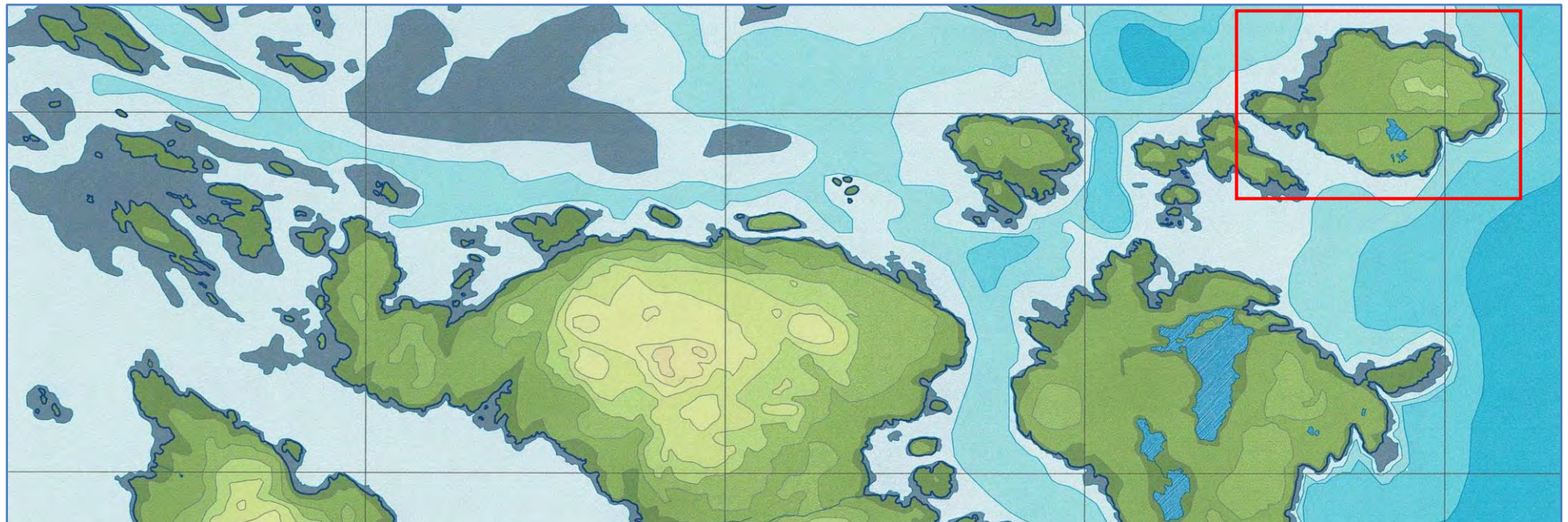
(Norse/Gaelic 'Little Float Island')

According to local tradition Flodaigh Beag was used as an overnight stopping place by both by fisherman fishing in the Minch and kelpers. It is currently held as part of the Eabhall grazings by Crois Moraig at Carnach, North Uist.



(Above) Sites within the Flodaigh Beag survey area

(Below) Location of Flodaigh Beag survey area within Ronay



Site name: **Flodaigh Beag**
 RFS no: **FB 1**
 NGR: NF 91465 58025
 Site type(s): Kelp processing site (poss)
 Condition: Poor
 Description:

A scattering of stones lies on a small promontory at the W tip of Flodaigh Beag. A possible U shaped arrangement of stones (A) on its NE side may represent the remains of a kelp kiln flue, and its use as a kelp processing site would fit with the known history of the area.

Surveyed:	22/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13825	3D: Yes
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Site name: **Flodaigh Beag**
 RFS no: **FB 2**
 NGR: NF 91535 58045 (centre)
 Site type(s): Structure(s)
 Condition: Poor
 Description:

Two rectangular turf walled structures lie on the edge of the N facing coastal slope on a peninsula at the W end of Flodaigh Beag. That to the NW is rectangular in plan and measures 9m ESE - WNW by 3m transversely within slumped turf walls up to 1.5m thick at their base and 0.5m high. Possible entrance slightly SE of centre on the SW facing elevation. That to the SE has two compartments and is similarly orientated and constructed. The NW compartment measures around 3 X 3m, the SE 6 X 3m, and both have entrances in both SW and NE elevations. This structure is similar in form and dimensions to others recorded on Ronay Beag (see site RB 24), Garbh Eilean Mòr (see site GEM 3), and at Kallin on Grimsay, and on Eilean Flodaigh in Loch Maddy, where a total of 8 with cell numbers varying from 2 to 6 exist. All five locations have common historic links with both fishing and kelping industries and it is presumed they these structures are related in some way to processing one of these products.

Surveyed:	22/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13826	3D: Yes
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FB 1 aerial view from S and thumbnail plan



FB 2: aerial view of SE structure from NW and thumbnail plan

Site name: **Flodaigh Beag**
 RFS no: **FB 3**
 NGR: NF 91570 58030
 Site type(s): Hut(s)
 Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

Two turf walled huts lie on the edge of the N facing coastal slope on a peninsula at the W end of Flodaigh Beag. That to the W is sub-rectangular in plan and measures 3.5m S - N by 2.5m transversely within slumped turf walls up to 1.3m thick at their base and 0.5m high. No entrance identifiable. That to the E is sub-circular in plan and measures 4.5m SSW - NNE by 2.5m transversely within slumped turf walls up to 1.2m thick at their base and 0.3m high. Possible entrance centred on the W facing elevation. It is known that Flodaigh Beag was used as a temporary base by both fishermen and kelpers in the past and it is likely that these huts are related to these uses and the turf structures lying a few m to the W (FB 2).



FB 3: view from SE and thumbnail plan



FB 4: view from E

Surveyed:	22/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13828	3D: Yes
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Site name: **Flodaigh Beag**
 RFS no: **FB 4**
 NGR: NF 91620 58045
 Site type(s): Landing point
 Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

A landing point lies in a narrow inlet on the W coast of Ronay Beag. It comprises an area of beach measuring around 30m W - E and between 2 and 3m transversely which has been cleared of larger stones.

Surveyed:	22/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13827	3D: Yes
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Site name: **Flodaigh Beag**
 RFS no: **FB 5**
 NGR: NF 91665 58085
 Site type(s): Kelp processing site, kelp kiln(s)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

An area of disturbed ground extending to around 0.1ha lies 20m E of the W shore of Ronay Beag. Near its centre are the remains of one, possibly two kelp kilns. The best preserved comprises a mound of peat measuring around 7m N - S and 5 m transversely surrounded by a ditch which may have acted as a material quarry. Within the mound is a sub-rectangular depression measuring around 3.5 X 1.5m which is connected to the exterior by a narrow opening on both sides which may have been vents. A single stone lies within.



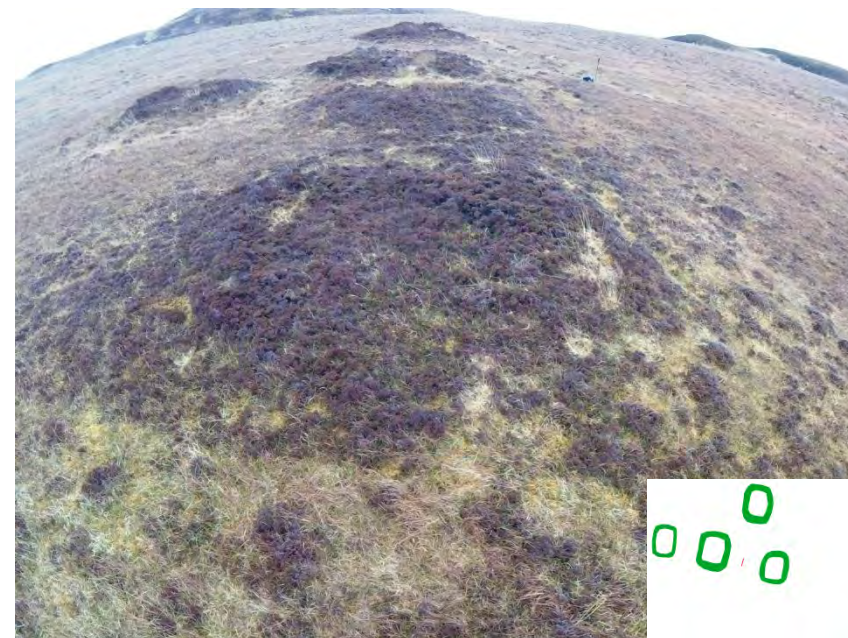
FB 5: aerial view from SE and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	22/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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Site name: **Flodaigh Beag**
 RFS no: **FB 6**
 NGR: NF 91740 58070 (centre)
 Site type(s): Hut(s)
 Condition: Fair - poor

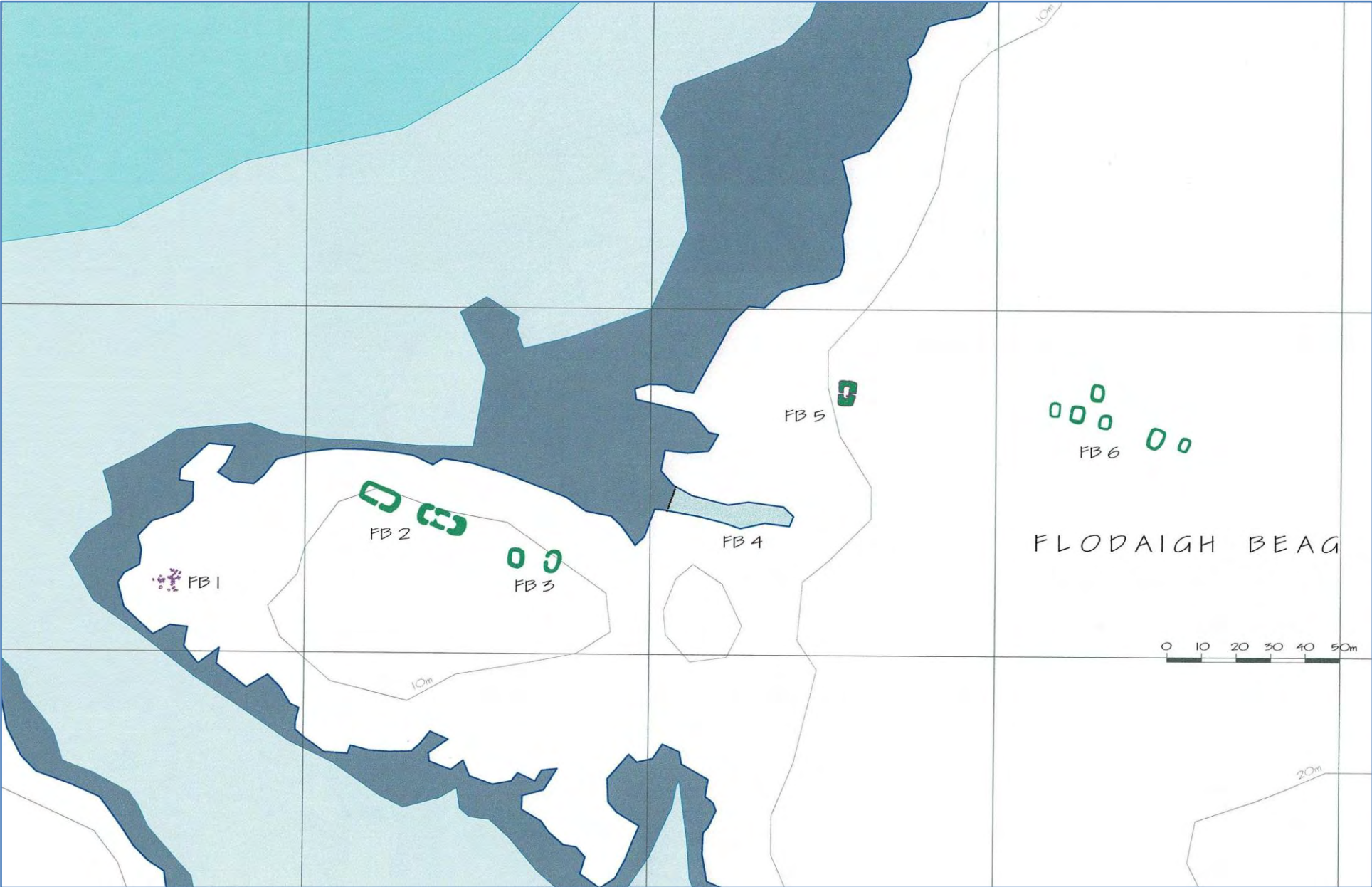
Description:

A group of 6 turf walled buildings lies some 100m E of the W shore of Flodaigh Beag. Typically they are all sub-rectangular in plan and measure between 3 and 4m SSW - NNE and 2 and 2.5m transversely within much reduced turf walls averaging 1m wide at their base and the best preserved up to 0.6m high. Entrance positions are difficult to discern clearly. It is known that Flodaigh Beag was used as a temporary base by both fishermen and kelpers in the past and it is likely that these huts are related to these uses.



FB 6: aerial view from NW and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	22/04/2018	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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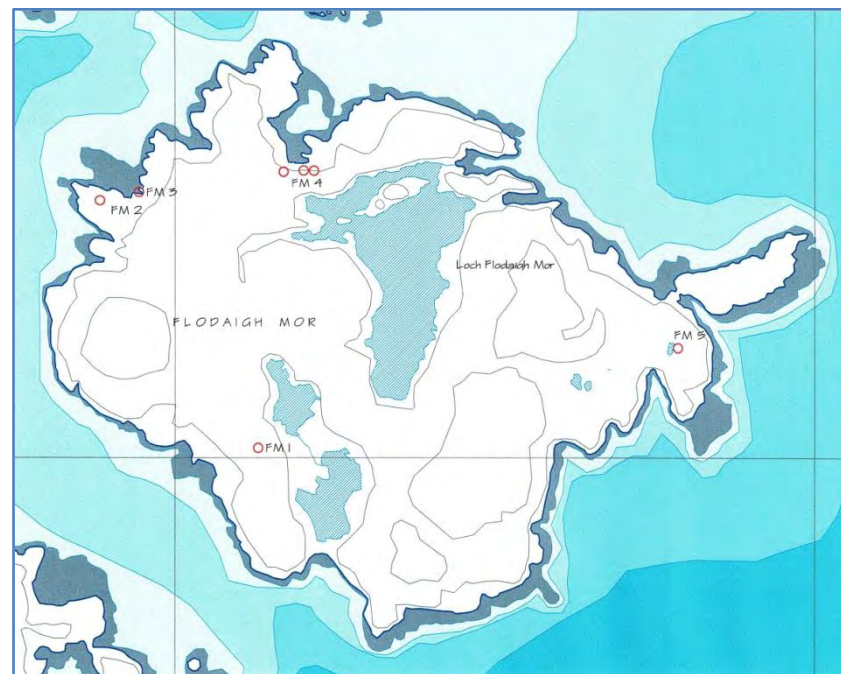
Flodaigh Beag area map

RONAY OFFSHORE ISLANDS

FLODAIGH MÒR

(Norse/Gaelic 'Big Float Island')

According to local tradition, Flodaigh Mòr was used by fishermen fishing in the Minch and kelpers as an overnight stopping place. It is currently held as part of the Eabhal grazings by Crois Moraig at Carnach, North Uist and sheep were kept on the island up until the early years of the 21stC.



(Below) Location of Flodaigh Mòr survey area within Ronay

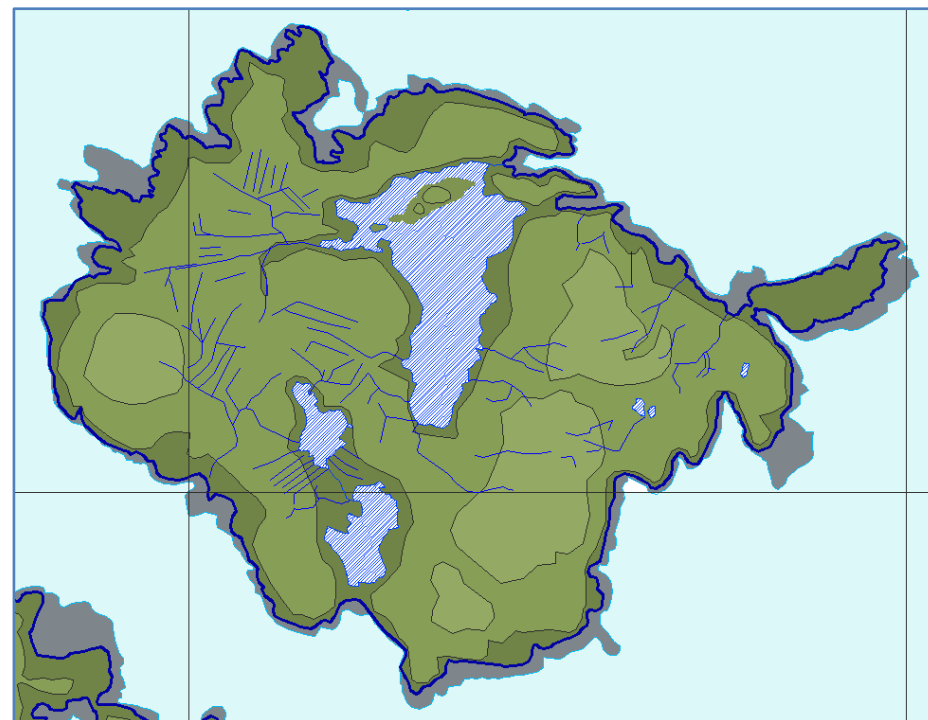


Location of sites within Flodaigh Mòr survey area

Site name: **Flodaigh Mòr**
 RFS no: **FM 1**
 NGR: NF 91300 57200 (centre)
 Site type(s): Ditch(es)
 Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

Several hundreds of metres of drainage ditches have been dug on Flodaigh Mòr presumably to help drain both the marshy hinterland, and some of the better grazing areas on the E side. Although most are now overgrown or silted up, their condition suggests the work was probably carried out less than 100 years ago. There are no signs of any attempt at cultivation on the island.



Surveyed:	07/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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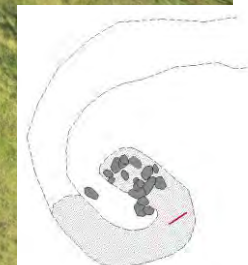
(Above) Plan of Flodaigh Mòr drainage ditches visible on aerial photography

(Left) View of drainage ditches on the NE coast

Site name: **Flodaigh Mòr**
 RFS no: **FM 2**
 NGR: NF 90880 57400
 Site type(s): Kelp processing site (poss), unknown
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A platform lies on the summit of a small promontory on the NW coast of Flodaigh Mòr. Measuring around 20m W - E and 10m N - S the platform edge is defined on its W N and E sides by a shallow, grass covered, stone bank and this may represent the remains of an unknown structure or building. In its SW corner is a U shaped formation of stone rubble and this may be the remains of a kelp kiln.



FM 2: aerial view from SE and thumbnail plan of possible kelp kiln

Site name: **Flodaigh Mòr**
 RFS no: **FM 3**
 NGR: NF 90930 57415
 Site type(s): Kelp storage platform
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The entrance to a small inlet 60m ENE of the kelp processing site FM 2 has been closed up to form a kelp storage platform. The inlet measures 6m NW - SE by 4m transversely and a rough drystone wall of small boulders and larger stones has been built across the open end on its NW side.



FM 3: view from SE

Surveyed:	07/10/2015	NMRS no:	349763	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13007	3D: Yes
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Surveyed:	07/10/2015	NMRS no:	349774	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13009	3D: No
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Site name: **Flodaigh Mòr**
 RFS no: **FM 4**
 NGR: NF 90930 57415
 Site type(s): Hut(s), landing point
 Condition: Fair - poor

Description:

Three turf walled huts, A, B and C, are arranged in an 50m long line along the S shore of an inlet on the N coast of Flodaigh Mor. Each is positioned on a low mound and the interior space has been formed partly by excavating into the mound and partly by building a turf wall around. Typical internal dimensions are 4m X 1.7m and all are orientated so their long axes are aligned approximately NW - SE. All three have an entrance located on their SW long elevations. Two also have openings in their NE facing elevations, although these may be due to subsequent livestock damage. At the bottom of the coastal slope below hut C an area of relatively clear beach may have been used as a landing place.



FM 4A: view from W and thumbnail plan with B and C behind

Surveyed:	07/10/2015	NMRS no:	349762	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13006	3D: Yes
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FM 4C: view from SE and thumbnail plan



FM 4B: view from E and thumbnail plan

Site name: **Flodaigh Mòr**
 RFS no: **FM 5**
 NGR: NF 91785 57170
 Site type(s): Unknown, natural feature (poss)+
 Condition: Poor

Description:

A turf feature of unknown origin lies on the top of the cliffs on the E side of Flodaigh Mor. Sub-circular in plan it measures between 9 and 10m in diameter and is surrounded by a slumped turf bank between 1 and 2m thick at its base and up to 1m high at its highest point on the S side. Possibly a natural feature.

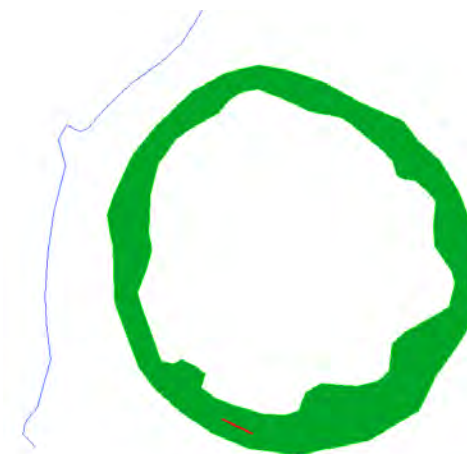
Surveyed:	07/10/2015	NMRS no:	349771	W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13008	3D: Yes
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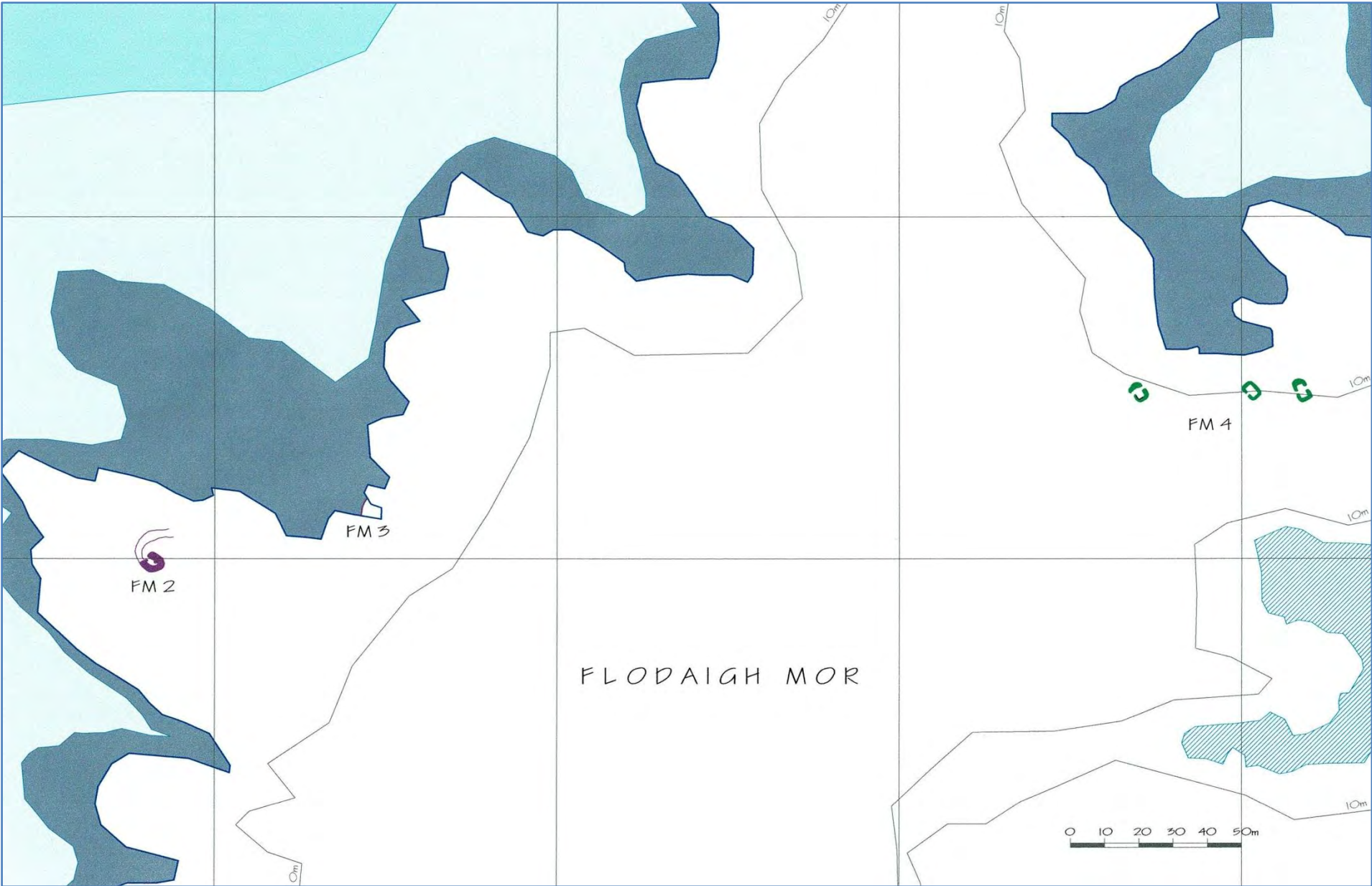
FM 5: view from SW



FM 5: aerial view from SE



FM 5: plan



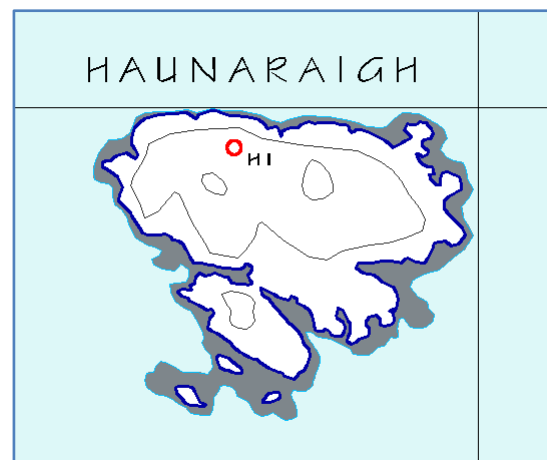
Flodaigh Mòr area map

RONAY OFFSHORE ISLANDS

HAUNARAIGH

(Norse/Gaelic 'Harbour Island')

Haunaraigh is currently held as part of the Eabhal grazings by Crois Moraig at Carnach, North Uist.



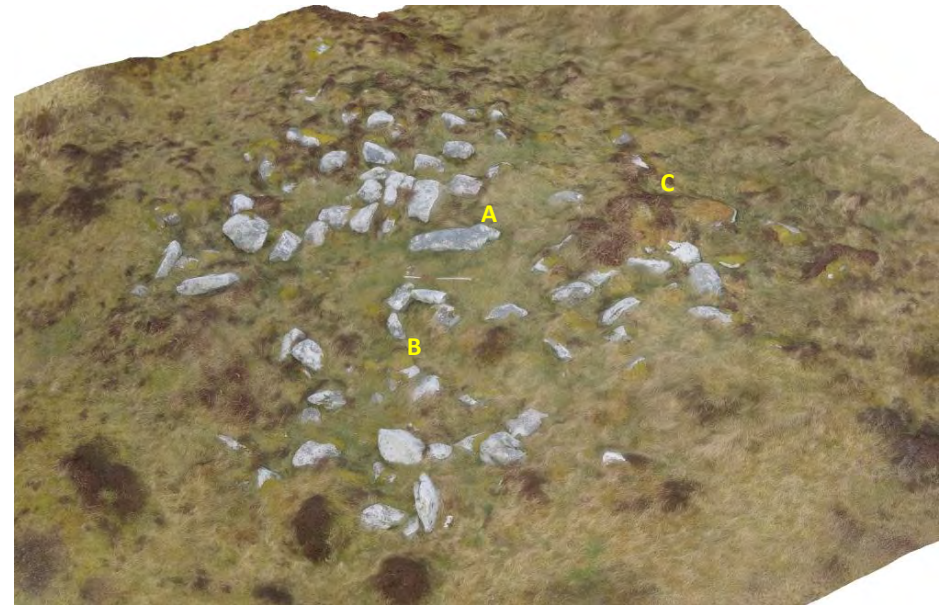
(Above) Sites within the Haunaraigh survey area

(Below) Location of the Haunaraigh survey area within Ronay



Site name: **Haunaraigh**
 EFS no: **H 1**
 NGR: NF 90750 57955
 Site type(s): Structure
 Condition: Poor
 Description:

The remains of a stone structure of unclear form or purpose lie on a plateau around 15m above sea level on the NW side of Haunaraigh overlooking the Kyle of Ronay. The spread of stones covers a roughly circular area around 9m in diameter and one or two embedded stones, possibly in their original locations, lie on the inside of a low bank around 1.5m wide which possibly lay within. Only three further features can be identified: a larger rectangular stone (A) which might be a lintol slab, a set of four stones arranged in a circle near the site centre (B) which might be a hearth, and a rectangular plan area of more tightly packed stones (C) which may be the base of a wall fragment.

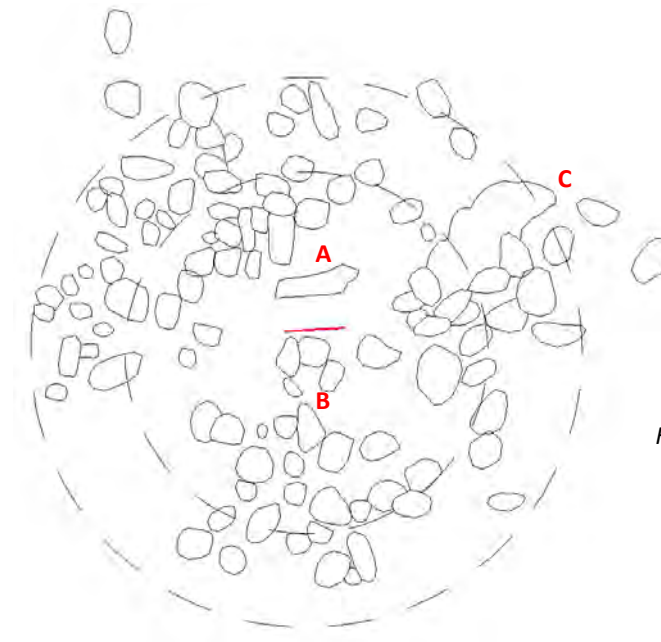


H 1: aerial view from S

Surveyed:	07/10/2015	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:		3D: Yes
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H 1: view from SW with Kyle of Ronay beyond

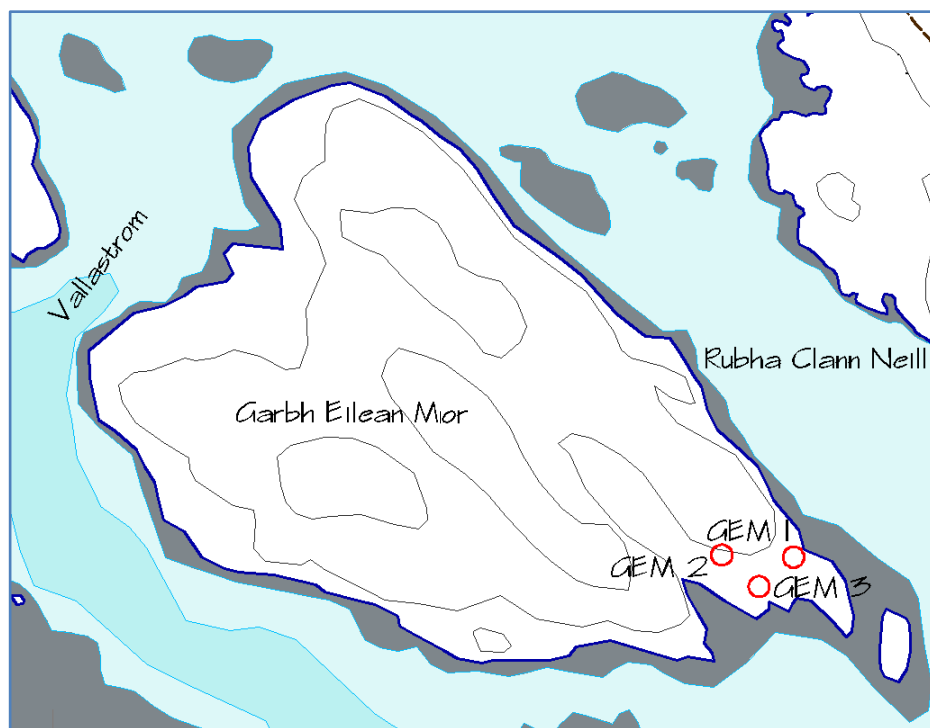


H 1: plan

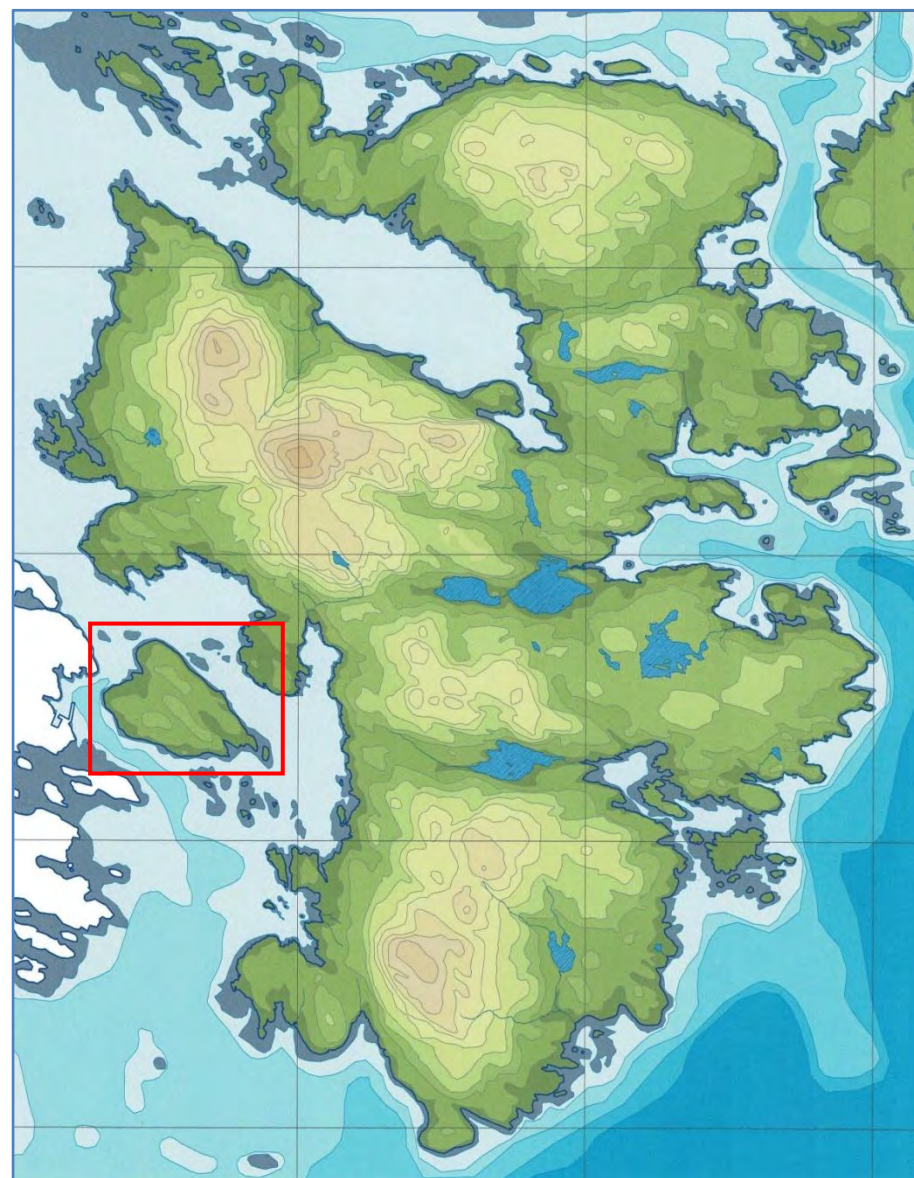
RONAY OFFSHORE ISLANDS

GARBH EILEAN MÒR

(Gaelic 'Big Rough Island')



Sites within the Garbh Eilean Mòr survey area



Location of Garbh Eilean Mòr survey area within Ronay

Site name: **Garbh Eilean Mòr**
 RFS no: **GEM 1**
 NGR: NF 88775 55365
 Site type(s): Structure, hut (poss)
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The remains of a probable rectangular turf walled structure lie on the N edge of the promontory at the far SE end of Garbh Eilean Mòr. It measures around 4m SSE - NNE by 2.8m transversely within partly eroded and slumped turf walls up to 1.5m thick at their base and 0.6m high. With these dimensions and position the best interpretation is that this is a hut or other structure related to the kelp industry.

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13289	3D: Yes
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Site name: **Garbh Eilean Mòr**
 RFS no: **GEM 2**
 NGR: NF 88800 55345
 Site type(s): Structure
 Condition: Poor

Description:

The remains of a large rectangular turf structure lie on the S edge of the promontory at the far SE end of Garbh Eilean Mòr. With external measurements of 25m SSE - NNW and 12m transversely, and its top surface up to 1.5m higher than the surrounding ground, the structure has a number of depressions within. Its original form and origins are not clear, but in this location it is most likely to be related to kelp processing.

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13830	3D: Yes
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GEM 1: view from N and thumbnail plan



GEM 2: view from N and thumbnail plan

Site name: **Garbh Eilean Mòr**

RFS no: **GEM 3**

NGR: NF 88825 55360

Site type(s): Structure

Condition: Poor

Description:

The remains of a two compartment rectangular turf structure lie in the centre of the promontory at the far SE end of Garbh Eilean Mhòr. The NW compartment measures around 3.2m NW - SE by 2.4m transversely; the SE 4m X 2.2m respectively and both have an entrances in both SW and NE elevations. This structure is similar in form and dimensions to others recorded on Ronay Beag (see site RB 24), Flodaigh Beag (see site FB 2), at Kallin on Grimsay, and on Eilean Flodaigh in Lochmaddy where a total of 8 with cell numbers varying from 2 to 6 exist. All five locations have common historic links with both fishing and kelping industries and it is presumed they these structures are related in some way to processing one of these products.



GEM 3: view from W and thumbnail plan

Surveyed:	14/04/2016	NMRS no:		W. Isles SMR ID		SCHARP ID:	13286	3D:	Yes
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GEM 1-3 panorama looking S and E with Ronay in background

