



**BHEINN BHEAG
COLONSAY**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PIT EXCAVATIONS



Data Structure Report

October 2012

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**Arts & Humanities
Research Council**



Acknowledgements

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Summary

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1. Introduction

The excavation was undertaken by Kilmartin Museum as part of Integrating Archaeology & Sustainable Communities (IAASC) which is a network of universities, museums and government institutions working with communities to help them research their heritage and environmental resources with the aim of promoting more sustainable communities for the future. Partners include Queens University Belfast, the University of Ulster, Historic Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland. The work was funded by a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council and undertaken over 7 days of September in 1213. The site code used was BBG 13.



Figure 1: Argyll

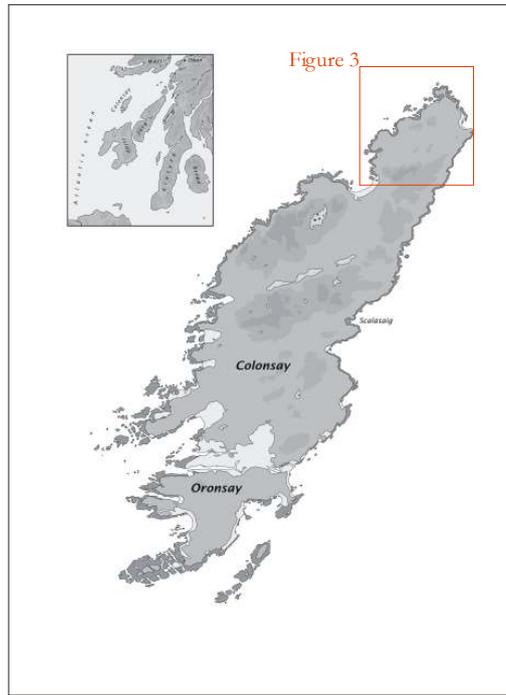


Figure 2: Location on Colonsay



Figure 3: Site Location

2. Archaeological Background

Balnahard, as with the rest of Colonsay, has been the subject of a series of antiquarian and archaeological studies, one of the earliest published by Anderson in the early 1880s (Anderson 1881), this followed by the work of Symington Grieve (Grieve 1923) and Loder (De Vere Loder 1935). The first comprehensive archaeological survey of Colonsay and Oronsay was conducted in the 1940s by Piggott who also conducted several excavations (Piggott 1945). The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) undertook a more detailed survey during the 1970s and published in their Inventories of Argyll (RCAHMS 1984). Since then more specific surveys have been undertaken such as a pre-afforestation survey conducted in 1999 in which some of Balnahard farm was included (Carter 1999). In 2010 a Coastal Assessment Survey was undertaken by SCAPE in which numerous sites along the coast of Balnahard farm were recorded (Dawson et al 2010). In the winter of 2011-2012 Kilmartin Museum conducted an archaeological survey of Balnahard farm which recorded over 200 sites (Regan 2012).

3. Site Location and Description

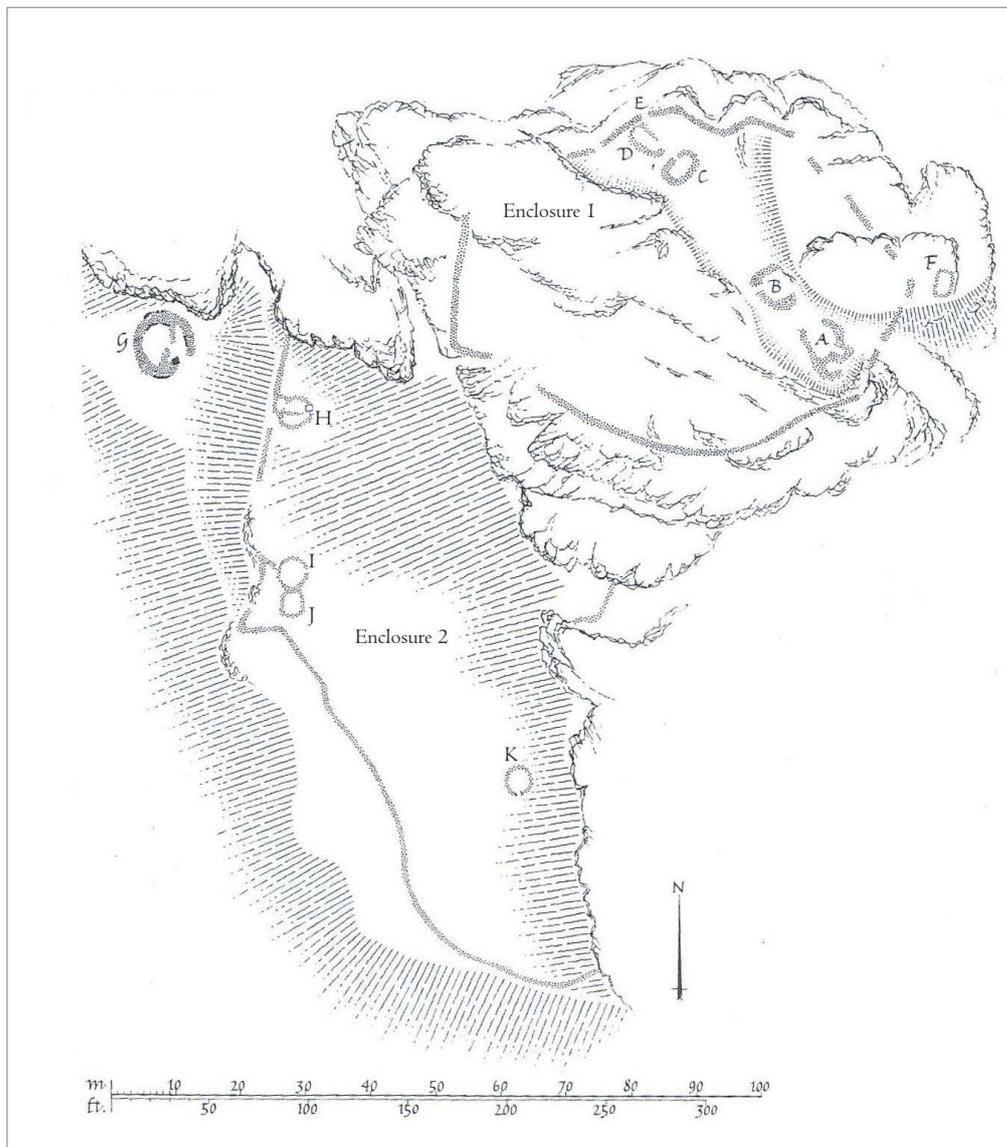


Figure 4: Beinn Bheag (after RCAHMS)

Beinn Bheag is situated within Balnahard farm, which occupies the northern end of Colonsay. The site lies on the upper and south west facing slopes of Beinn Bheag situated c.500m east of the track leading from Kiloran Bay to Balnahard Farmhouse and comprises two enclosures (Enclosures 1 and 2) each containing several structures with a possible hut circle lying to the north of the lower enclosure. Both of the enclosures and the hut circle afford extensive views to the south over Kiloran Bay.

The upper enclosed area, Enclosure 1 (centred NM 40706 98630) contains four buildings (Structures A-D) with a fifth building (Structure F) lying on a terrace immediately outside the enclosure to the east. The lower enclosure, Enclosure 2 (NM 40601 98618) also contains four buildings (Structures H-K) and lies east of what is likely a larger modified roundhouse structure or hut circle (Structure G, NM 40603 98602). There is also evidence of extensive agricultural remains on the slopes below the enclosures to the south and west, where there also appears to be few associated structures. The site has previously been described by the Royal Commission on the Historic and Ancient Buildings of Scotland inventory of Colonsay (RCHAMS 1984).

4. Test Pit Results

4.1 Enclosure 2

(NMRS Site Number NR49NW 24, Canmore ID 38184, RCAHMS 1984 Page(s): 305, no.419)

The lower enclosure springs from a steep escarpment forming the eastern side of the enclosure and contains the remains of four structures with test pits excavated in three of these.



Lower enclosure wall

Trench 1, Structure I

The test pit was cut within the NE quarter of the building. Below the vegetation lay deposit [001] which appeared as a silt accumulation forming over the collapsed walls of the structure [002]. [002] is comprised of rubble blocks (mainly schist) these sealing a mid brown deposit of clay silt [003] that contained a few fragments of pot and charcoal. Below this was a darker deposit [005] with more frequent pottery, one discrete group recorded as [004] and charcoal. This deposit darkened towards the SE where charcoal became more common, suggesting that perhaps a hearth lay nearby but outwith the trench. This dark deposit overlay a trampled deposit of stones and clay [006] which overlay natural clays and this likely represented the primary surface of the structure. The walls of the structure [007] stood 0.95m high and 1.10m in width.



Figure 5: Structures I & J



Structure I



Structure I floor

Trench 2, Structure J

The test pit was cut in the SE quarter of the structure. This revealed a deposit of rubble [008] sealing uneven natural bedrock. Only the footings of building survived the walls of the structure, [009] standing up to 0.47m in height and 0.70m wide.



Trench 2, Structure J

Trench 3, Structure H

The test pit was cut against the N wall of this structure, which includes a large boulder forming its NE corner. Below the vegetation was a rubble deposit [010] which sealed a thin layer of dark brown silt and schist [011]. The walls of the structure [012] within the trench stood 0.56m high and were 0.70m wide.

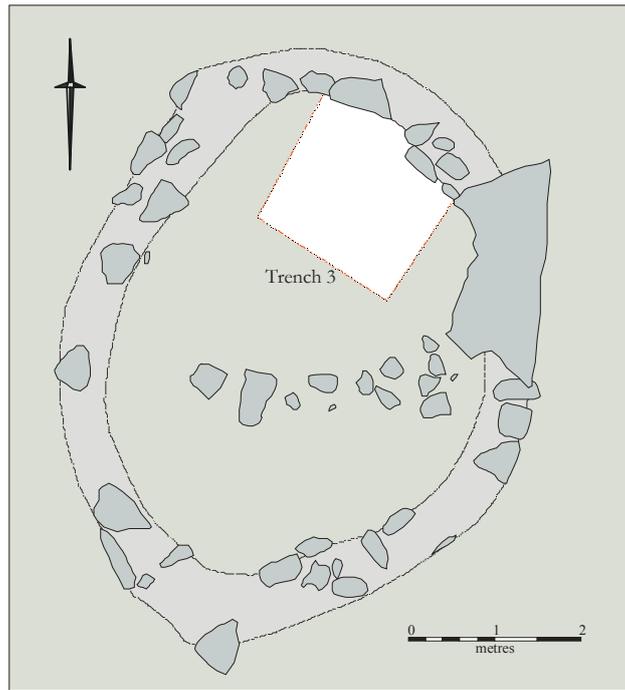


Figure 6: Structure H



Trench 3, Structure H

The test pits within Structures H and J showed that these buildings were slight in nature, these no more than rough alignments of stones that possibly formed the base of what may have originally been mainly turf/earth walled buildings. Neither of these buildings had any evidence of formal floors or associated occupation deposits.

Structure I was rather different in nature and more substantially built, although this was not apparent from the surface remains. The walls of this sub circular building were comprised of large blocks of stone (no doubt derived from the escarpment above), that may have been levered or dragged into position and underpinned by smaller stone blocks. The use of such large blocks made it difficult to extrapolate the true width of the walls which appeared to be between 1.0m and 1.20m wide. The large blocks, along with subsequent collapse of some of the walls, made for the very uneven appearance of the internal wall face. The structure however did produce evidence of occupation, this deriving from a dark internal deposit containing charcoal and

pottery. The pottery is hand made with a coarse dark red brown fabric with frequent quartz inclusions. The pottery was mainly derived from two clusters that appeared to have been trampled into the surrounding floor deposit. The increasing amount of charcoal at the south east of the test pit suggested the possible presence of a hearth lying beyond the edge of the test pit.



Structure K remained unexcavated

4.2 The Hut Circle, Structure G

(NMRS Site Number NR49NW 23, Canmore ID 38183, RCAHMS 1984 Page(s): 131, no.245)



Structure G from the south



Figure 7: Structure G

Trenches 4-6, Structure G

The hut circle occupied a relatively flat terrace lying north and just below Enclosure 2. Internally the building measured 4.5m across with walls up to 1.20m thick.

Trench 4

A test pit was excavated against the north wall of the building and within what appeared to be a possible internal modification at this end of the structure. This internal structure proved to be no more than a single alignment of large stones that possibly suggest these were used as the footings of a temporary structure or pen. Below the topsoil within this area was a deposit of peaty silt [013]. Beneath this lay a deposit of wall collapse or demolition material [014]. This collapse and surrounding silt sealed a deposit of stones and schist fragments [015] that may represent a levelling deposit within the building. At the S of the test pit this deposit sealed dark brown occupation deposit [016] which partially sealed a surface of stone and cobbles [021]. A similar occupation deposit also filled what are likely two post settings [018] and [020] the former with stones forming a 'pad' at the base of the cut. The occupation deposit contained small fragments of pottery but also several beach pebbles, some of which had been utilised. The wall of the building was relatively well built and stood 1.05 above the surface, being 1.29m wide.



Structure G, surface [021]



Structure G, Post setting [018]



Structure G, internal wall face



Structure G, surface [037]

Trench 5

Another test pit was cut around the presumed entrance of the structure, this revealing a trampled deposit of small stones that appeared to be a surface [037] lying just below the topsoil [036]. This lay some 0.20m above the height of the internal surface and thus may be associated with the building's later use.

Trench 6

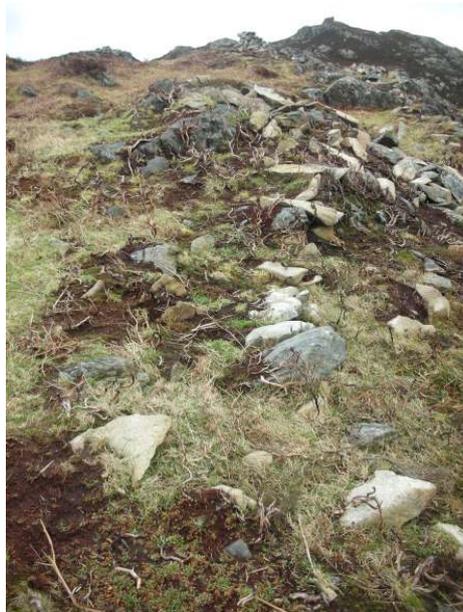
A third test pit was excavated outside the building to the west, this revealing the edge of wall collapse and topsoil [035] lying over natural.



Trench 6

4.3 Enclosure 1

The buildings, apart from Structure F, occupy a relatively sheltered north west/south east aligned gully close to the summit of Beinn Bheag (which is marked by a recent cairn). These are enclosed by a turf and stone wall that blocks both ends of the gully but also encloses the rocky and uneven escarpments to the east and west, forming a sub-circular enclosure c 60m in diameter.



Upper enclosure wall

Test pits were cut within the four structures that lie within the enclosure (Structures A-B).

Trench 7, Structure A

The test pit was cut against the upstanding N wall of the structure. Below the vegetation was a mixed rubble and clay silt deposit [023] which appeared to directly seal natural subsoil. Some charcoal flecking was in evidence but no formal floor was identified. The wall [024] was built of randomly coursed rubble and stood up to 0.45m high within the trench.



Structure A from the SE

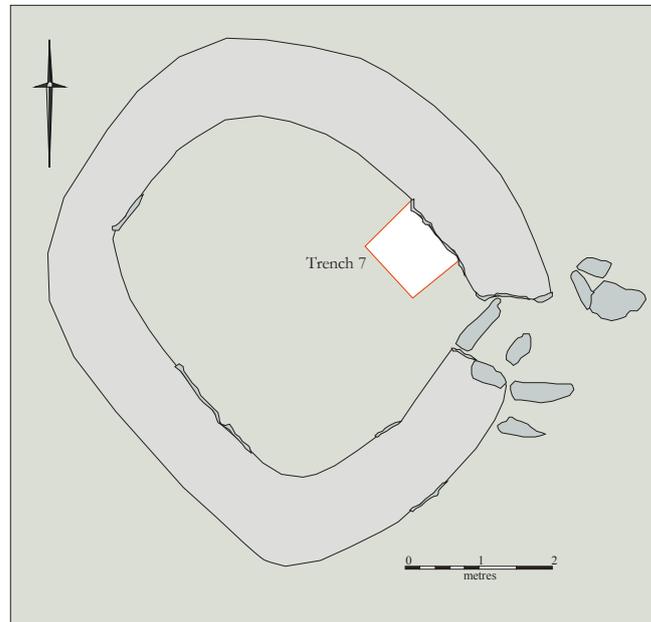


Figure 8: Structure A, Trench 7



Structure A, Trench 7

Trench 8 & 9, Structure B

Trench 8 was cut against the E face of the building where the wall appeared to be best preserved. A steep natural scarp also forms part of the E wall of the structure. The vegetation cover sealed a layer of rubble and silt [025], this overlying a relatively thin deposit of yellow silt [026] which sealed the natural subsoil. It is possible that this was a floor make up as it did contain charcoal flecking, although there was little evidence of a more a convincing occupation deposit. Both the rubble and lower deposit were contained within the wall of the structure [027], which was relatively well built and stood to a height of 1.0m, being 1.10m wide.



Structure B from the NW

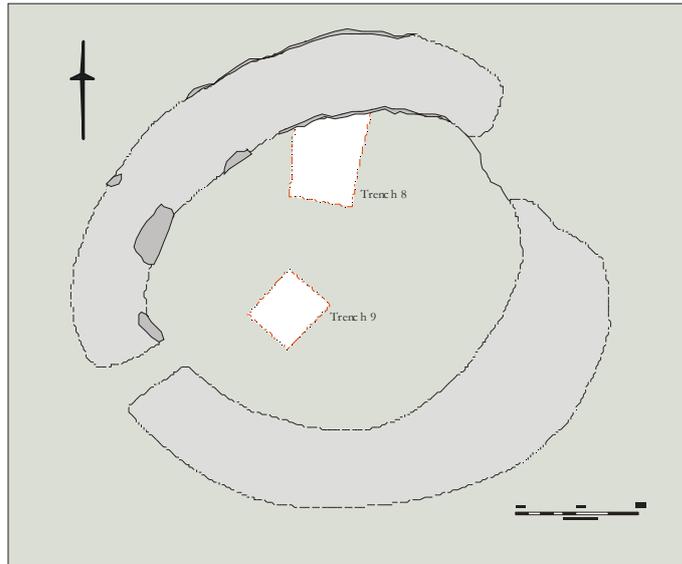


Figure 9: Structure B



Structure B, internal wall

Trench 9

This was placed near the centre of the structure to investigate whether any occupation or hearth deposits existed in this part of the structure. Below a rubble spread [028] lay a mixed deposit of sand and silt [029] which overlay natural. This again may represent a disturbed floor deposit but appeared sterile, with no inclusions beyond the occasional stone or schist fragment.

Trench 10, Structure C

Structure C was of a slighter build than Structures A and B, comprising a raised oval ring of turf and stones, measuring 4.10m by 2.15m with a possible entrance in the centre of the NW side-wall. The test pit was placed against the slight remains of the S wall of the structure and also included a small internal area within the building. Both the wall and the internal area of the structure were sealed by a mid brown silt [030]. The wall [032] stood no more than 0.35m high and consisted of a mid brown silt (possibly turf) retained by a single stone on its inner face.

Internally lay a deposit of grey silt [031] which included charcoal flecking, this deposit possibly representing an earthen floor.



Structure C from SW

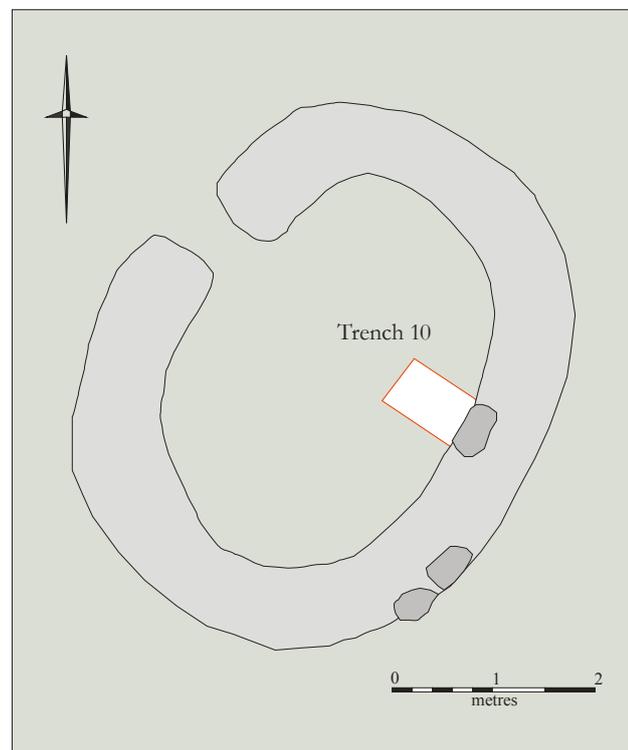


Figure 10: Structure C



Structure C, Trench 10

Trench 11, Structure D

Structure D was a narrow drystone structure built against a northern stretch of the surrounding enclosure wall, adjacent to a possible entrance to the enclosure. The building was rectangular in shape, measuring 5.20m by 3.70m externally with an entrance on the SE.

The test pit was cut against the SW side of the structure. Beneath the vegetation cover was a relatively deep deposit of rubble collapse in a grey silt [033], which appeared to directly overlie natural silts and bedrock. The wall of the structure [034] stood 0.94m high and was 0.70m wide.

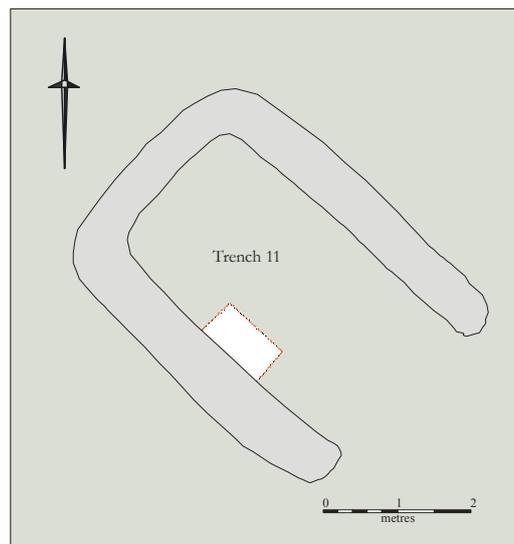


Figure 12: Structure D



Structure D, Trench 11

Buildings A and B were of similar size and build, Structure A measuring 4.70m by 4.0m internally with Structure B measuring 6.0m by 5.20m, both with walls between 1.10 and 1.20m in width. The walls of both structures are built from drystone rubble, the walls of Structure B being better built than those of A, at least within the small exposures uncovered during the excavation work. The test pits cut against the walls of both structures failed to produce evidence of occupation or use deposits, although what may be a prepared earthen floor deposit was encountered in Structure B.

The small test pit cut against the wall of Structure C showed that this was an insubstantial structure, probably built mainly of turf with the inner basal edge formed by a stone revetment (this only one course high in the trench). The charcoal flecking throughout the internal deposit may indicate this was a floor; no occupation deposits were recognised within the limited test pit.

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5. The Artefacts

The finds all came from the occupation deposits associated with structure G and I. Within Structure I pottery was recovered from floor deposits [003] and [005], respectively 25 and 20 sherds, with [004] a discrete cluster of 49 sherds within deposit [003]. A rounded beach pebble was also recovered from [003] although this showed no signs of use or wear. Three similar beach pebbles were recovered from occupation deposit [016] in Structure G but again these showed no obvious signs of use. Another elongated smooth pebble from the same deposit had peck marks on either end suggesting it had been utilised as a hammerstone. Three other pebbles appeared to have been deliberately fractured or split to produce sharp edges. Three small fragments of coarse pottery, similar to those recovered from Structure I, were also recovered from [016].

6. Discussion

The discovery that Structure I is perhaps a small roundhouse dating to the Iron Age and possibly contemporary with the larger hut circle nearby (Structure G) was an exciting result, as few smaller structures of that period have yet been identified in Argyll.

Whether this early structure had any intended relation to the lower enclosure or the slight remains of Structure J remains open to question and would require further work to shed light on their relationships. The other excavated building in the lower enclosure (Structure H) also appeared to be insubstantial in nature and may, along with Structure J, have been a temporary building. Again, however, given that they produced no occupation evidence, it remains open to question what they were actually used for and when they were used.

The lack of evidence of occupation from the buildings within the upper enclosure also proved very frustrating as they too produced no real clue to their age or function. Structures A and B however are relatively substantial, which might suggest they are more than just temporary buildings and very likely not sheilings as previously described. If found within other Highland or Island landscapes the buildings would almost certainly have been interpreted as small settlement of perhaps a house, barn and outbuildings, however without any evidence of actual occupation, beyond the structures themselves these remain hard to place in current typologies. Their location on a not readily accessible hill top and being relatively hidden might hint that this was a place of safety, if not permanent settlement. The nature of the surrounding enclosure is also peculiar in that much of the ground it contains is not suitable for crops, with very thin soils, exposed and rocky. Nor is it very convincing as being primarily defensive given that can be easily approached (and crossed) from many directions. Is it possible that the function of the enclosure was to keep something in? perhaps to retain livestock during troubled times? The upper enclosure and its concealed group of buildings may then be the result of a local reaction to a particular and turbulent time. If so, then the question remains as to which of the many turbulent periods in the history of Colonsay do they belong?

7. References

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- Stevenson, W. 1881, 'Notes on the antiquities of the islands of Colonsay and Oronsay', *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, 15, 1880-1, 113-47

Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

- [001] Layer. Topsoil and bracken, moss and grass scrub over a mid red brown sandy silt, up to 0.22m deep.
- [002] Layer. Rubble collapse mainly epidiorite slabs (maximum 0.56m x 0.32m x 0.20m), within a grey brown silt.
- [003] Layer. Mid brown grey clayey silt, includes occasional charcoal stone and pot.
- [004] Cluster. Discrete group of pottery.
- [005] Layer. Dark brown clayey silt, contains charcoal and ash, up to 60mm deep.
- [006] Layer. Mixed dark brown silty clay and stones (maximum 0.50m x 0.33m x 0.13m) packed around natural.
- [007] Wall. Randomly coursed with very large stone blocks over smaller stone bedding, (maximum size 1.10m x 0.80m x 0.28m). The wall stands up to 0.95m high in 3 courses and is 1.10m in width.
- [008] Layer. Rubble spread (maximum size 0.53m x 0.22m x 0.14m) in friable orange brown sandy silt.
- [009] Wall. Single course of irregular blocks (maximum 0.72m x 0.34m x 0.20m) standing 0.47m high and 0.70m wide.
- [010] Layer. Rubble (maximum 0.66m x 0.34m x 0.14m) in a dark brown peaty silt with frequent schist fragments, up to 0.25m deep.
- [011] Layer. Dark brown sandy silt and schist, up to 20mm thick.
- [012] Wall. Randomly coursed wall consisting of angular schist blocks (maximum 0.70m x 0.27m x 0.12m) standing 0.56m high in 3 courses and 0.70m wide.
- [013] Layer. Dark brown silty peat.
- [014] Layer. Rubble (maximum size 0.64m x 0.37m x 0.13m) collapse in a mid grey silt.
- [015] Layer. Mixed loose layer of schist and small rubble fragments.
- [016] Layer. Dark brown silt includes occasional charcoal flecks and pot.
- [017] Fill. Dark brown silt includes occasional charcoal flecks and pot.
- [018] Cut. Post hole measuring 0.30m in diameter with concave sides and base 0.12m deep.
- [019] Fill. Dark brown silt includes occasional charcoal flecks and pot.
- [020] Cut. Post hole? Sub circular in shape measuring 0.18m in diameter and 0.10m deep.
- [021] Surface. Rough cobbled floor consisting of flat schist slabs with more rounded cobbles (maximum size 0.46m x 0.21m x 50mm).

[022] Wall. Constructed from large and medium sized schist blocks (maximum 0.80m x 0.43m) measuring 1.05m high in 5 courses and 1.20-1.60m wide.

[023] Layer. Rubble (maximum size 0.44m by 0.36m by 0.14m) in a dark grey brown silty sand, with occasional charcoal flecks, up to 0.35m deep.

[024] Wall. Randomly coursed schist blocks (maximum size 0.62m by 0.45m) standing 0.45m high in 5 rough courses and 1.20m wide.

[025] Layer. Rubble (maximum size 0.72m by 0.44m by 0.13m) in a dark grey brown sterile silt up to 0.26m deep.

[026] Layer. Mid yellow brown clayey silt with moderate small schist fragments and occasional charcoal flecks, 70mm thick.

[027] Wall. Randomly coursed schist blocks (maximum size 0.77m by 0.22m) standing 1.00m high in 5 rough courses and 1.10m wide.

[028] Layer. Rubble (maximum size 0.54m by 0.40m by 50mm) in a light yellow brown sterile silt up to 0.20m deep.

[029] Layer. Mixed yellow brown sand and mid brown silt, up to 0.17m deep.

[030] Layer. Mid brown silt with occasional small stones.

[031] Layer. Mid brown clayey silt, includes occasional charcoal fleck, up to 0.16m deep.

[032] Wall. Basal stone revetment measuring 0.63m x 0.20m x 0.12m retaining a mid brown humic silt. Stands up to 0.32m high and is 0.56m wide.

[033] Layer. Rubble (maximum size 0.48m x 0.38m x 0.14m) in a mid grey silt, up to 0.54m deep.

[034] Wall. Randomly coursed schist blocks (maximum size 0.63m by 0.45m) standing 0.94m high in 5 rough courses and 0.70m wide.

[035] Layer. The edge of a rubble spread in a mid brown silty loam, up to 0.11m deep.

[036] Layer. Occasional moderate sized rubble (maximum size 0.20m x 0.13m x 50mm) in a mid brown silty loam.

[037] Surface. Rough surface formed by rounded pebbles/cobbles (maximum size 0.20m x 70mm) set in a yellow brown sandy silt with frequent peagrit.

Appendix 2: Context List

Context	Trench	Structure	Description
1	1	I	Topsoil
2	1	I	Rubble
3	1	I	Floor
4	1	I	Pot Cluster
5	1	I	Occupation
6	1	I	Floor
7	1	I	Wall
8	2	J	Rubble
9	2	J	Wall
10	3	H	Rubble
11	3	H	Layer
12	3	H	Wall
13	4	G	Peat
14	4	G	Rubble
15	4	G	Levelling
16	4	G	Occupation
17	4	G	Post hole fill
18	4	G	Post hole cut
19	4	G	Post hole fill
20	4	G	Post hole cut
21	4	G	Surface
22	4	G	Wall
23	7	A	Rubble
24	7	A	Wall
25	8	B	Rubble
26	8	B	Floor?
27	8	B	Wall
28	9	B	Rubble
29	9	B	Floor?
30	10	C	Topsoil
31	10	C	Floor?
32	10	C	Wall
33	11	D	Rubble
34	11	D	Wall
35	6	G	Topsoil
36	5	G	Surface?
37	5	G	Topsoil

Appendix 3: Graphics List

Graphic No.		Scale	Description
1	Plan	1:50	Structures I & J
2	Plan	1:50	Structure H
3	Plan	1:50	Structure G
4	Plan	1:50	Structure A
5	Plan	1:50	Structure B
6	Section	1:20	Wall Structure I
7	Section	1:20	Wall Structure B
8	Section	1:20	Wall Structure G

Appendix 4: Sample List

Sample No.	Context	Description
1	005	occupation deposit
2	016	occupation deposit

Appendix 5: Photo List

Photo No.	Context	Trench	Structure	Description
1			I	Structure I from NE
2			I	Structure I from NE
3	002	1	I	Rubble
4	002	1	I	Rubble
5	002	1	I	Rubble
6	002	1	I	Rubble
7	002	1	I	Rubble
8	003	1	I	Floor
9	003	1	I	Floor
10	003	1	I	Floor
11	004	1	I	Pot cluster
12	004	1	I	Pot cluster
13	005	1	I	Floor
14	005	1	I	Floor
15	005	1	I	Floor
16	005	1	I	Floor
17	007	1	I	Wall
18		1	I	Section
19		1	I	Section
20		1	I	Section
21	007	1	I	Wall
22	006	1	I	Floor
23	006	1	I	Floor
24	006	1	I	Floor
25	006	1	I	Floor

26	006	1	I	Floor
27		1	I	
28		1	I	
29		1	I	
30	008	2	J	Rubble
31	008	2	J	Rubble
32	010	2	J	Rubble
33	010	2	J	Rubble
34	012	2	J	Wall
35	012	2	J	Wall
36	012	2	J	Wall
37	012	2	J	Wall
38	012	2	J	Wall
39	012	2	J	Wall
40	012	2	J	Wall
41	012	2	J	Wall
42	025	8	B	Rubble
43	025	8	B	Rubble
44	025	8	B	Rubble
45	025	8	B	Rubble
46	025	8	B	Rubble
47	025	8	B	Rubble
48	025	8	B	Rubble
49	026	8	B	Surface?
50	026	8	B	Surface?
51	026	8	B	Surface?
52	026	8	B	Surface?
53	024	7	A	Wall
54	024	7	A	Wall
55	024	7	A	Wall
56	024	7	A	Wall
57	028	9	B	Surface?
58	028	9	B	Surface?
59	027	8	B	Wall
60	027	8	B	Wall
61	034	11	D	Wall
62	034	11	D	Wall
63	034	11	D	Wall
64	034	11	D	Wall
65	014	4	G	Rubble
66	014	4	G	Rubble
67	009	3	J	Wall
68		6	G	Trench
69	009	3	J	Wall
70	009	3	J	Wall
71	009	3	J	Wall
72	021	4	G	Floor
73	021	4	G	Floor
74	021	4	G	Floor
75	018	4	G	Post
76	018	4	G	Post
77	018	4	G	Post

78	021, 022	4	G	Floor
79	021, 022	4	G	Floor
80	034	11	D	Wall
81	034	11	D	Wall
82	032	10	C	Wall
83		1	I	Trench
84	037	5	G	Surface?
85	037	5	G	Surface?
86		6	G	Trench

Appendix 6: DES Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll and Bute
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Colonsay Community Archaeology Project
PROJECT CODE:	BBG 13
PARISH:	Colonsay and Oronsay
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Roddy Regan
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kilmartin Museum
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	Sites; NR49NW 23 and NR49NW 24
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Settlement and Hut circle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Prehistoric structures
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NM 40706 98630, NM 40601 98618, NM 40603 98602
START DATE (this season)	September 2013
END DATE (this season)	September 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	Survey. Royal Commission on the Historic and Ancient Buildings of Scotland, Argyll Volume 5, Islay, Jura, Colonsay & Oronsay, No 245 & No. 419
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>The site lies on the upper and south west facing slopes of Beinn Bheag situated c.500m east of the track leading from Kiloran Bay to Balnahard Farmhouse and comprises of two enclosures (Enclosures 1 and 2) each containing several structures with a possible hut circle lying to the north of the lower enclosure. Both of the enclosures and the hut circle afford extensive views to the south over Kiloran Bay.</p> <p>The upper enclosed area, Enclosure 1 (centred NM 40706 98630) contains four buildings (Structures A-D) with a fifth building (Structure F) lying on a terrace immediately outside the enclosure to the east. The lower</p>

enclosure, Enclosure 2 (NM 40601 98618) also contains four buildings (Structures H-K) and lies east of what is likely a larger modified roundhouse structure or hut circle (Structure G, NM 40603 98602). There is also evidence of extensive agricultural remains on the slopes below the enclosures to the south and west, where there also appears to be a few associated structures.

Test Pit Results

In total 11 test pits were excavated

Enclosure 1

The buildings, apart from Structure F, occupy a relatively sheltered north west/south east aligned gully close to the summit of Beinn Bheag (which is marked by a recent cairn). These are enclosed by a turf and stone wall that blocks both ends of the gully but also encloses the rocky and uneven escarpments to the east and west forming a sub-circular enclosure c 60m in diameter.

Buildings A and B were of similar size and build, Structure A measuring 4.70m by 4.0m internally with Structure B measuring 6.0m by 5.20m, both with walls between 1.10 and 1.20m in width. The walls of both structures are built from drystone rubble, the walls of Structure B being better built than those of A, at least within the small exposures uncovered during the excavation work. The test pits cut against the walls of both structures failed to produce evidence of occupation or use deposits beyond what may be sterile floor or levelling deposits, while a third test pit cut into the central area of Structure B also found no evidence of occupation deposits or the suggestion of a central hearth.

Structure C was of a slighter build than Structures A and B comprising of a raised oval ring of turf and stones. The small test pit cut across the south east wall showed that this was an insubstantial structure, probably mainly built of turf with the inner basal edge formed by a stone revetment (this only one course high in the trench). Apart from some charcoal flecking within what may be a levelling deposit no formal floor or occupation deposits were revealed

Structure D was a narrow drystone structure built against a northern stretch of the surrounding enclosure wall, adjacent to a possible entrance to the enclosure. The building was rectangular in shape, measuring 5.20m by 3.70m externally with an entrance on the south. Again the test pit which was opened against its west wall failed to produce evidence of occupation.

Enclosure 2

The lower enclosure springs from a steep escarpment forming the eastern side of the enclosure and contains the remains of four structures and test pits were excavated in three of these. The test pits within Structures H and J showed that these buildings were slight in nature, being no more than rough alignments of stones that possibly formed the base of what may have originally been mainly turf/earth walled buildings. Neither of these buildings had any evidence of formal floors or associated occupation deposits.

Structure I was rather different in nature and more substantially built, although this was not apparent from the surface remains. The walls of this

	<p>sub circular building were comprised of large blocks of stone (no doubt derived from the escarpment above), that may have been levered or dragged into position and underpinned by smaller stone blocks. The use of such large blocks made it difficult to extrapolate the true width of the walls, which appeared to be between wide.1.0m and 1.20m wide. The large blocks, along with subsequent collapse of some of the walls, made for the very uneven appearance of the internal wall face. The structure however did produced evidence of occupation, this deriving from dark internal deposits containing charcoal and pottery. The pottery is hand made with a coarse dark red brown fabric with frequent quartz inclusions. The pottery was mainly derived from two clusters that appeared to have been trampled into the surrounding floor deposit. The increasing amount of charcoal at the south east of the test pit suggested the possible presence of a hearth lying beyond the edge of the test pit.</p> <p>Structure G, The Hut Circle</p> <p>The hut circle occupied a relatively flat terrace lying north and just below Enclosure 2. The building measured 4.5m across internally within walls up to 1.20m thick. A test pit was excavated against the north wall of the building and within what appeared to be a possible internal modification at this end of the structure. This internal structure proved to be no more than a single alignment of large stones that possibly suggest these were used as the footings of a temporary structure or pen. Beneath this lay a deposit of wall collapse or demolition material. This collapse and surrounding silt sealed a surface of stone and cobbles and to the south of the surface two post positions, one with stones forming a ‘pad’ at the base of the cut. Within and around the posts lay a dark silty deposit which contained very fragmentary remains of pottery and utilised beach pebbles. Another test pit was cut around the presumed entrance of the structure, this revealing a trampled deposit of small stones that appeared to be a surface lying just below the vegetation. This lay some 0.20m above the height of the internal surface and thus may be associated with the building’s later use. A third test pit was excavated outside the building to the west, this revealing the edge of wall collapse lying over natural.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Publication
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Arts and Humanities Research Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Kilmartin Museum, Kilmartin, Argyll, PA31 8RQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	museum@kilmartin.org
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	The archive will be deposited with Kilmartin Museum and copies of the report lodged with WoSAS SMR, the NMRS and OASIS database