



DUN FHINN

Ardtalla Estate, Kildalton, Islay



Survey and Excavation

Data Structure Report

April 2018

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ISLAYHERITAGE
DUALCHAS ÌLE 

Contents	page
1. The Project Circumstances	1
2. Location and Description	2
3. Topographic Survey	6
4. Duns on Islay	17
5. Excavation Results	19
5.1 Trench 1	19
5.2 Trench 2	32
5.3 The Artifacts	35
6. Discussion	36
7. References	37
Appendix 1: Context Descriptions	38
Appendix 2: Context List	39
Appendix 3: Finds Catalogue	40
Appendix 4: Sample List	41
Appendix 5: Graphics List	41
Appendix 6: Photo List	41
Appendix 7: Walkover Survey Results	45
Appendix 8: DES Entry	71

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Abstract

The excavation at the dun and roundhouse structures at Dun Fhinn uncovered occupation deposits associated with both the dun and roundhouse structures. It had previously been presumed that the roundhouse structure was a much later addition within the dun structure, but the excavation has shown these likely functioned at the same time, the roundhouse likely an integral building within the dun soon after the dun was constructed. Apart from the recovery of charcoal from all the occupation deposits, other finds were limited to a few utilised stones and a few fragments of what may be coarse pottery.



Approaching Dun Fhinn from the south east

Acknowledgements:

The project would like to thank The Mactaggart Trust for funding the excavation and survey work. A huge thank you to Tom Dun for providing us insights into the area's history and generously giving his time to help us transport our gear to the site. For working in what can definitely be described as challenging conditions my thanks go to; Darko Maricevic, Nick Pankhurst, Kerry Davene Baker, Guy Cockin and Lauren Hale. Again thanks to Sheila Clark for reading and checking the text.

1. The Project Circumstances

The Kintour Landscape Project is a partnership project between Kilmartin Museum and Reading University. This forms part of the wider framework of projects initiated by Islay Heritage which aims to discover and understand more about Islay's past by undertaking archaeological surveys and excavations on the island, and supporting those undertaken by other bodies such as universities, museums and archaeological units. Current excavations include the Neolithic Chambered Cairn on the slopes of Beinn Tart a'Mhill and the Late Glacial and Mesolithic site of Rubha Port an t-Seilich on the east coast of Islay.

The aim of the Kintour Landscape Project is to provide a landscape setting to a range of sites and monuments across the Ardtalla Estate situated on the SE coast of Islay. The initial work which took place in the spring of 2017 was centered in the area around the Kintour River and included the site at Dun Fhinn.

The landscape survey had several elements including a Desk Based element examining the area between Proiaig at the north to Ardilistry Bay at the south. Other elements included topographic surveys of Dun Fhinn and the settlement of Creagfinn and a walkover survey of the areas bounding the Kintour River from Staoin at the north west to Aros at the east. The results of this work appeared in the subsequent report which can be accessed at '[Kintour Landscape Survey Report](#)' (Regan 2017a). Following the survey work and discussions with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) a Project Design for the excavation of Dun Fhinn was prepared in November 2017 (Regan 2017b). Scheduled Monument Consent for the excavation was granted in March 2018 (HES ref: AMH/4016/1, Case ID: 300024930). The survey and excavation work are supported by a funding donation from the Ian Mactaggart Trust. The excavation took place between the 31st March and the 6th April 2018, the site code used being DNF 18. The report combines the survey and excavation results.

2. Location and Description

Dun Fhinn is located on the Ardtalla Estate within Kildalton parish in the south east of Islay around 2.2km inland from the coast at Aros Bay, and 1.6km NW of Kintour (Figures 1 and 2, NGR NR 4425 5191, Canmore ID 38091, Site Number NR45SW 2).

Dun Fhinn occupies the northern end of a prominent SW/NE oriented natural ridge of Leac Eidhe that runs W of the farms of Tallant and Kintour. The alignment of the ridge reflects the geology of the area with similarly aligned ridges or promontories descending to the sea at the SW. The dun has extensive views to the north, east and west with more limited views to the south suggesting its position references the lower extent of the Kintour River, rather than what now appears to be the more barren higher ground to the west and south. The underlying geology of the ridge is epidiorite schist overlain with glacial tills. The vegetation cover is of rough grass and heather along with some bracken cover.



Figure 1: Argyll



Figure 2: Survey Area and distribution of duns and forts

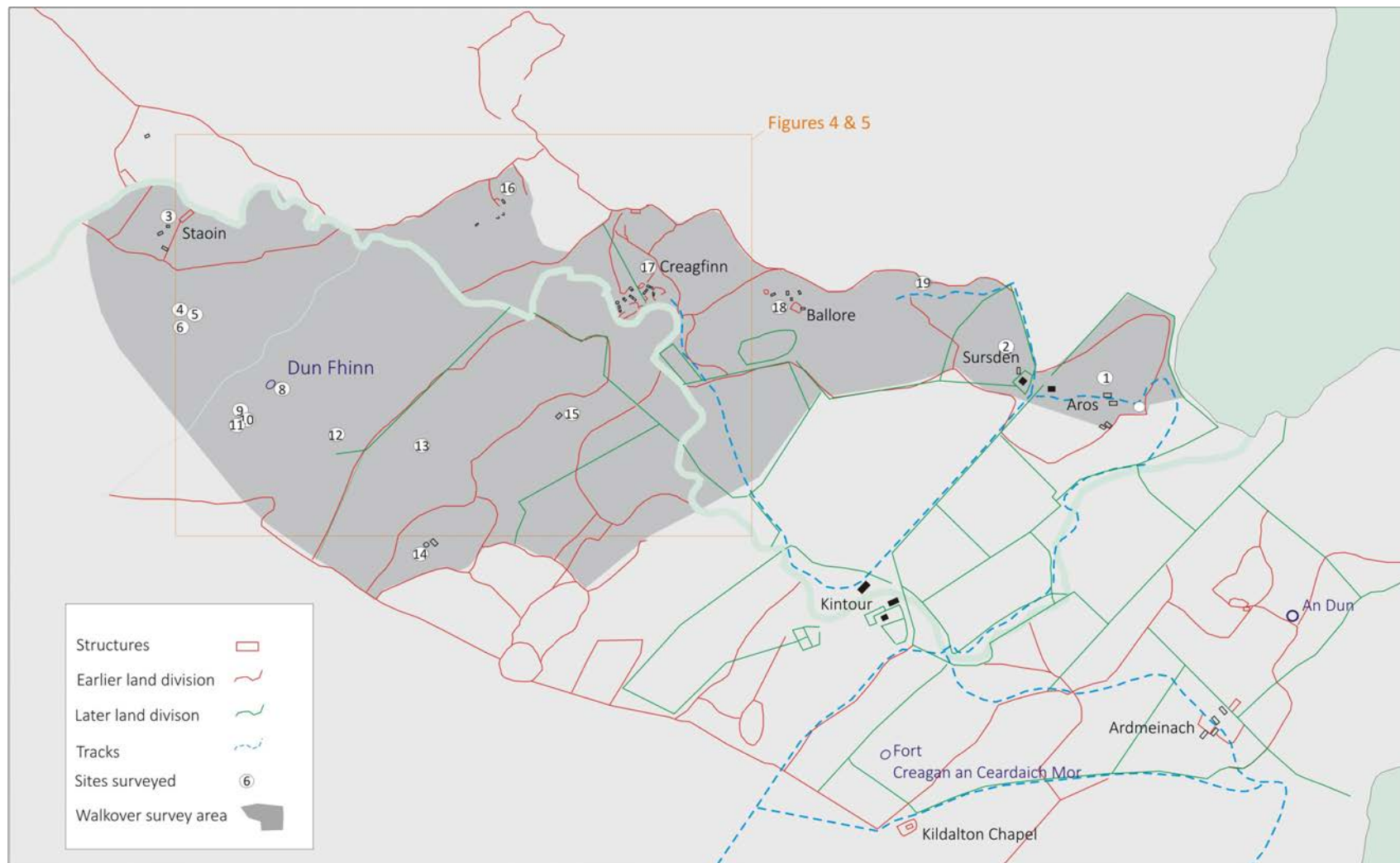


Figure 3: Walkover Survey Area

The dun was initially scheduled in 1978 (SAM Index No. 4016) and was later described by the RCAHMS in their Inventory for Argyll;

'This dun is situated on a rocky knoll in rough moorland 1.6 km WNW of Kintour. The knoll rises 15m above the surrounding ground but has little natural defensive strength. The dun measures 18m by 11m within what was a massive wall varying in thickness from 3.5m on the NE to 2.0m on the WSW. Large inner and outer facing-stones remain in position intermittently, and wall debris covers the SE flank of the knoll in a scree-like spread. At the SW end there is a particularly heavy spread of jumbled stones, and while without excavation it is not possible to be sure, it seems most likely that, as indicated on the plan, the wall split into two sections; the inner section followed the margin of the summit to complete the dun wall, while the outer section branched down towards the foot of the knoll, through a drop of about 3m, to form a curving outwork. The entrance through the outwork is 2.7m in average width, and a short length of each of the side-walls of the passage is exposed. The entrance through the inner wall is obscured by debris. Within the interior there is a later intrusive enclosure formed by a wall 1m thick with an entrance facing NE' (RCAHMS 1984, No. 211, pp 114-115).

Since then site has been re-examined and rescheduled along with some of its surrounding hinterland with the site given the following description:

'The monument is a prehistoric defended settlement, likely to date from the Iron Age (between 500 BC and AD 500). The dun comprises a drystone wall enclosing an oval area which measures 18m NE-SW by 11m transversely. The dun stands on a rocky knoll, which rises 15m above the surrounding rough moorland, at the N end of a prominent ridge running NE-SW. It is located in the SE of Islay, about 2.2km inland from the coast at Aros Bay, and 1.6km NW of Kintour. It overlooks lower ground to the N and S, and has extensive views out to sea to the E. The monument was first scheduled in 1978, but the documentation does not meet modern standards: the present rescheduling rectifies this.

The dun wall can be traced for its entire perimeter, although its form is obscured in places by tumbled stones. It varies in thickness from 3.5m on the NE side to 2m on the WSW, and large inner and outer facing-stones remain in position intermittently, indicating that this was originally a massive wall. Wall debris covers the SE flank of the knoll in a scree-like spread. At the SW end, it appears that the wall divided, with an inner section following the margin of the summit to complete the oval dun wall, and an outer section branching down towards the foot of the knoll to form a curving outwork. The entrance to the dun was on the SW side. The entrance through the outwork is 2.7m in average width; a short length of each side-wall of the passage is exposed. The entrance through the inner (main) wall is obscured by debris. Within the dun interior is a later sub-circular enclosure formed by a stone wall up to 1.2m wide enclosing an area 6m NE-SW by 5m transversely; the entrance faces NE. There are also the remains of a possible hut, visible as a sub-circular enclosure of drystone walling enclosing an area 6m by 5m. Most of the outer wall face of the dun is intact on the NW side, where it stands up to 1m high. Fragments of the inner facing are also visible here, giving a wall width of 2.7m at this point. Elsewhere only the rubble core remains. There are the remains of a cell at the dun entrance in the SW, visible as a sub-circular chamber. There are traces of further outworks at the foot of the hill to the SE and SW.'

The RCAHMS description still holds although there is possibly evidence of another wall or structure lying to the south of the enclosure and the inner dun wall. As postulated above the wall does indeed bifurcate forming an outwork at the entrance and some sections of facing can be traced of the upper dun wall although this has been much distorted by

subsidence/collapse. The outer wall facing is most exposed on the SW and N/NW sides of the dun where it stands up to between 1.10m and 1.80m in height.

The near circular structure within the dun measures between 6.0-6.40m in internal diameter with walls up to 1.20m thick and standing up to 0.60m above the present ground surface. The RCAHMS entry in the inventory states that this circular enclosure is a later addition to the original dun and while this may be so, elsewhere this structure would have been recorded as a hut circle or 'homestead' and there seems no reason why this is not also the case here. Remnants of a circular or sub circular structures can also be found within the forts of Creagan an Ceardaich Mor, Dun Beag and Loch Nan Clach. Without the surrounding dun walls this structure is decidedly exposed when compared to other potentially later buildings recorded during the survey such as sheilings which have been constructed in relatively sheltered positions and are smaller than the structure within the dun and several sites lie on the same ridge to the south. Hollows and uneven ground on the outside of the dun entrance on the SW side, may represent some cell structures as suggested above but at present these are too amorphous to reach any definite conclusion as to their form. Again, as mentioned above, a structure lies below the dun on the NE side and while this might represent a sheiling structure it appears larger and more substantially built and might possibly be related to evidence of nearby quarrying.

3. Topographic Survey

The topographic survey of Dun Fhinn was conducted using a Leica GS09/CS09 GNSS SmartNet system, which is able to record X, Y, and height (Z) location data to within 2cm accuracy (Figures 5-7). The system collects satellite data which is corrected in real-time, from a known base station on the mainland via an internet link. The survey took three days, over which 3000 data points were collected within the local landscape of the Dun. This included the survey of the Dun itself, and the surrounding landscape in which it sits. Over and close to the mound of the Dun itself, the spatial resolution of the survey is approximately 2m. The broader landscape survey was surveyed to approximately 10m resolution (Figure 6). A micro-topographical survey across the plateau of the Dun was also undertaken (Figures 7 and 8), with a survey resolution of approximately 0.5m, so that finer detail of the topography and upstanding archaeology within this area could be further understood. The data was downloaded into a GIS package where the data points were converted into surface layers (via a Natural Neighbour interpolation algorithm) and height contours. The data can also be imported and manipulated into a 3D workspace for further analysis and visualisation

One would perhaps assume that the name Dun Fhinn, reflected in the nearby settlement of Creagfinn, may have had some local traditions attached to it. However, the Ordnance Survey Name Book entry tells us that at Dun Fhinn are the *'Remains of an ancient fort situated about a quarter of a mile south east of Staoin. There is no traditional information connected with it.'* Although it then goes on to say that the name means *'Fingal's Castle'* (Ordnance Survey Name Books, Argyll Name books OS1/2/36/2). Despite what the Name Book tells us there seems to be a widely held local belief that the name derives from associations with Fhion mac Cumhaill (Finn MacCool) the legendary figure of Irish myth.

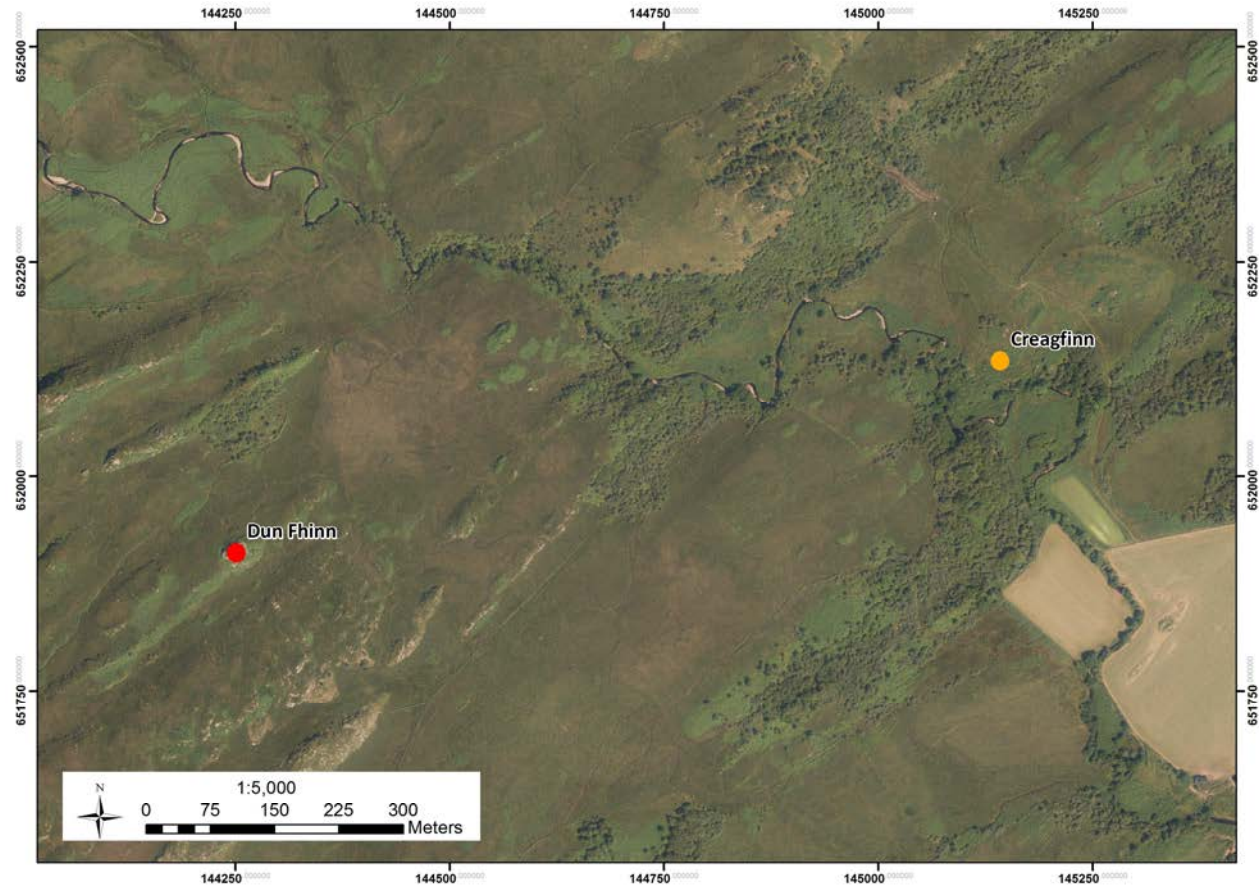


Figure 4: Dun Fhinn Aerial Location

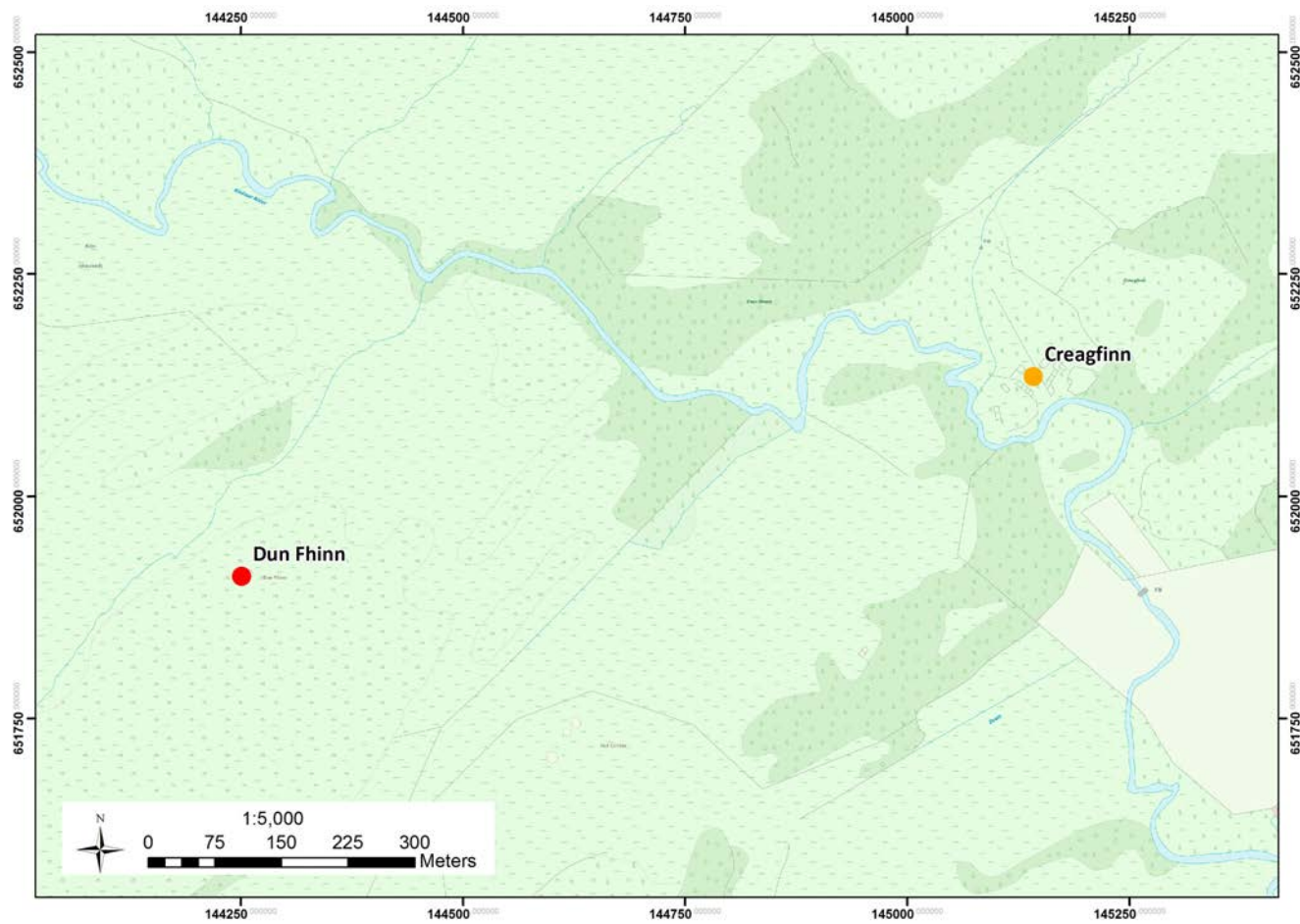


Figure 5: Dun Fhinn on Current Map

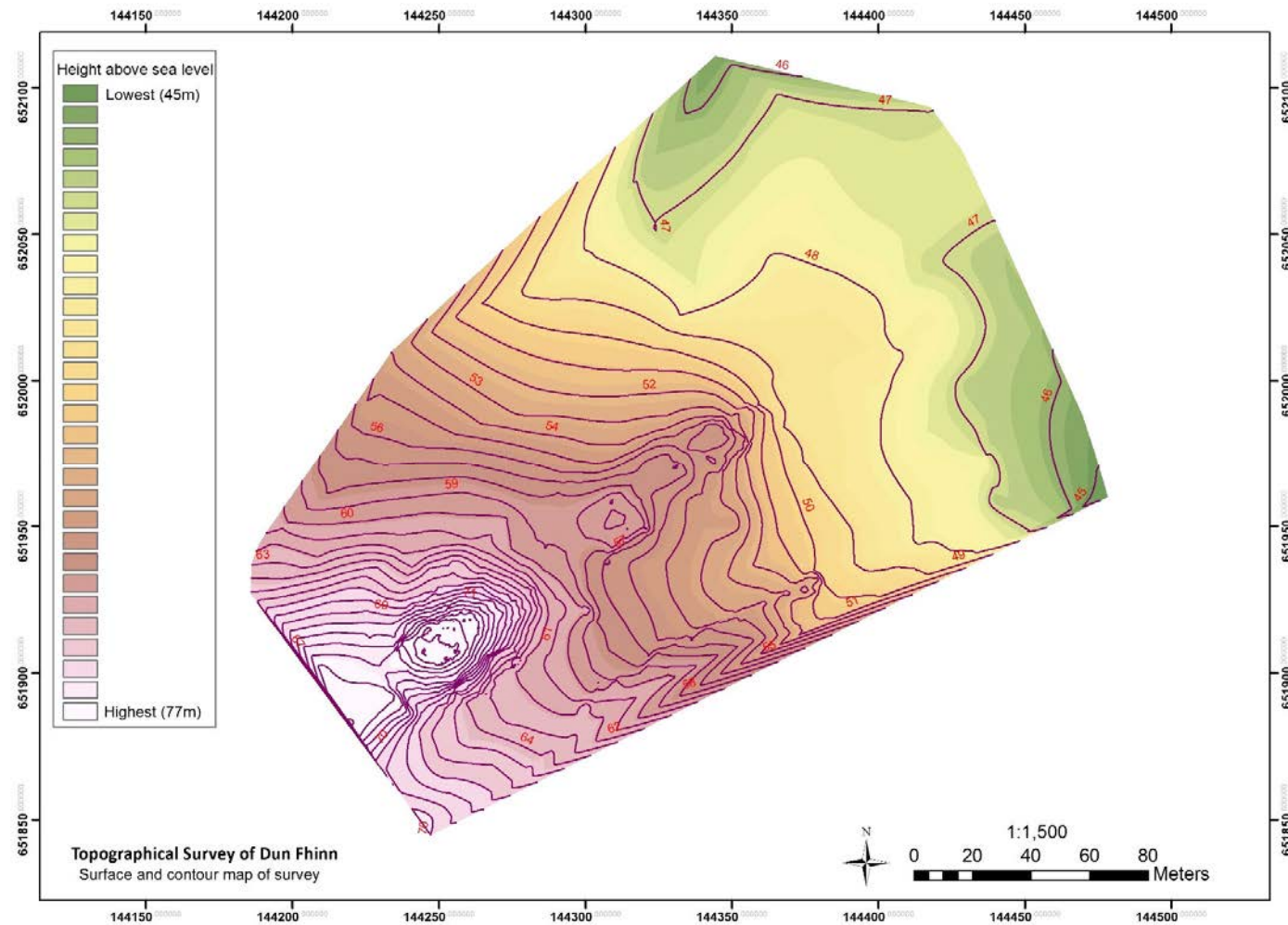


Figure 6: Topographical survey of Dun Fhinn and surrounding area

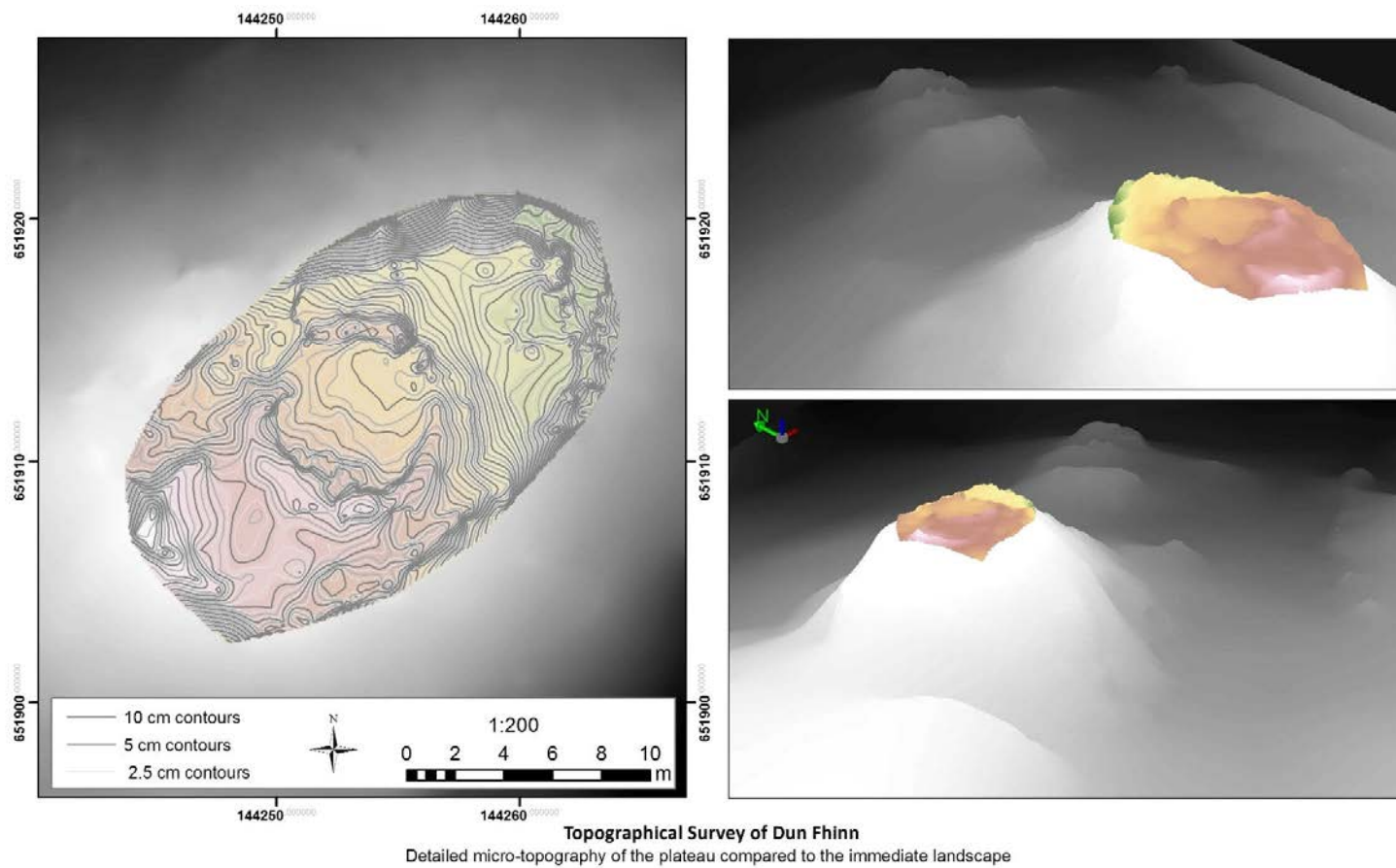


Figure 7: Topographical Survey of Dun Fhinn

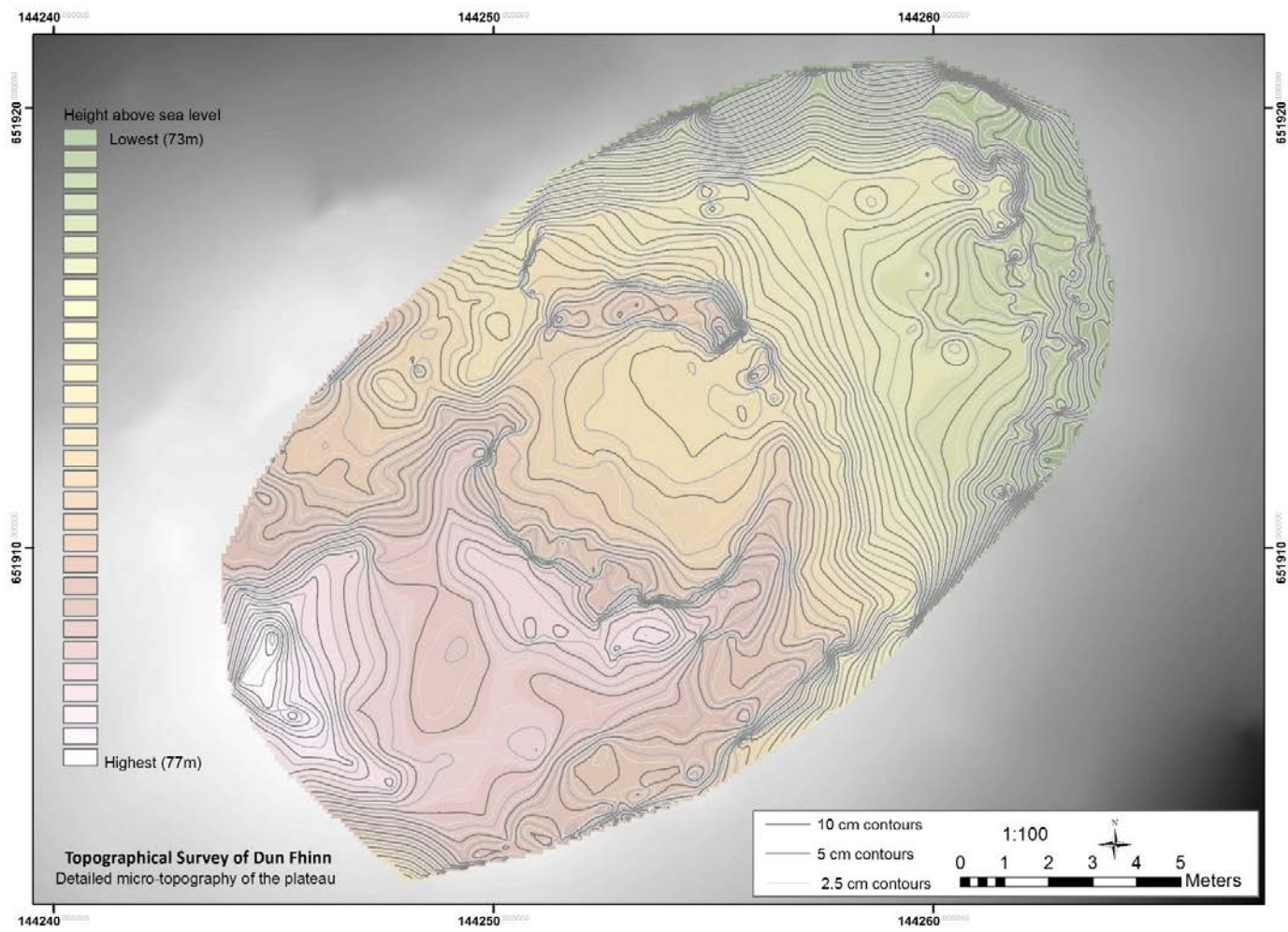


Figure 8: Micro-topography of the Dun plateau



Figure 9: Plan of Dun and Roundhouse Structure



The rubble filled lower entrance through the dun outwork



The eastern side of the entrance



Facing stones of the eastern side of the entrance



The lower out-work facing stones with the distorted facing stones of the dun wall above



The facing stones on the NW side of the dun



The facing stones on the SW side of the dun

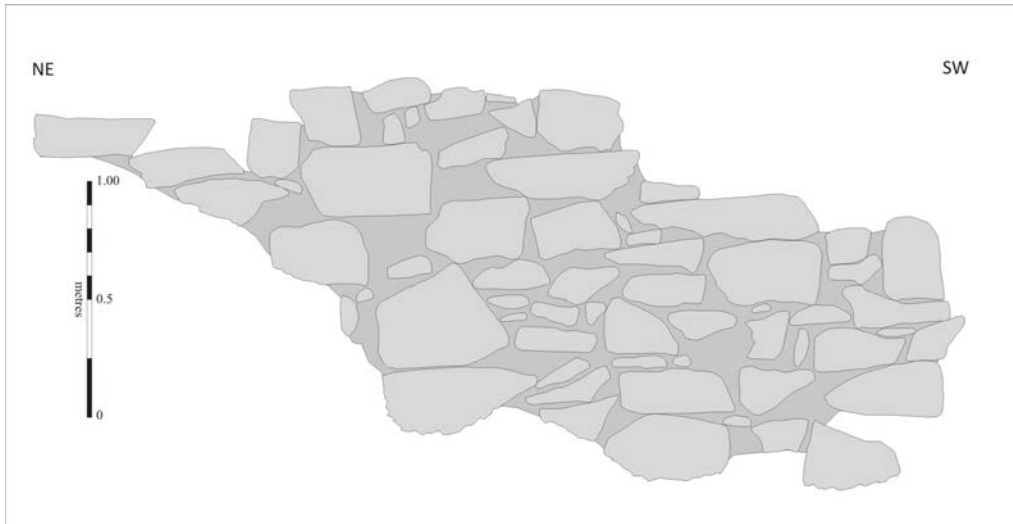


Figure 10: Elevation of the SW wall of dun structure



The roundhouse structure from the south west

4. Duns on Islay

The dun structure at Dun Fhinn is one of a type of relatively small, defended structures that characterise much of the coastal settlement of Argyll and Atlantic Scotland which most likely date to the later prehistoric or Iron Age period. They form part of a wider category of later prehistoric settlement structures, which includes brochs, forts, crannogs, duns and hut circles.

Islay contains 92 fortified structures classified as forts and duns, while only one has been identified as a broch. Of the 35 sites classified as forts, 17 are located within Kildalton and Oa, with 9 in Kilchoman and 9 in Kilmeny and Kilarrow. 57 such sites are categorized as duns on Islay with 23 in the parish of Kildalton and Oa, 22 in Kilchoman and 12 in Kilmeny and Kilarrow.

The area around Dun Fhinn that concerned the Desk Based Study contained 5 forts and 9 duns (Figure 3). The forts are located at Dun Nan Gall (Canmore ID 38034, Site Number NR45NE 1, NGR NR 4681 5582), Trudernish Point (Canmore ID 38050, Site Number NR45SE 10, NGR NR 4679 5264), Creagan Na Ceardaich Moire (Canmore ID 38066, Site Number NR45SE 25, NGR NR 4575 5100), Loch Nan Clach (Canmore ID 38094, Site Number NR45SW 5, NGR NR 4312 5107) and Dun Beag (Canmore ID 38095, Site Number NR45SW 6, NGR NR 4317 5074). The 9 dun structures, including Dun Fhinn are found at Dun An Rudha Bhuide (Canmore ID 38084, Site Number NR45SE 6, NGR NR 4661 5407), Cill A Chuibein (Canmore ID 38085, Site Number NR45SE 7, NGR NR 4557 5290), Mullach Ban (Canmore ID 38053, Site Number NR45SE 13, NGR NR 4674 5133), An Dun, Ardmore (Canmore ID 38055, Site Number NR45SE 15, NGR NR 4707 5029), Dunan Charmaic (Canmore ID 38097, Site Number NR45SW 8, NGR NR 4496 5037), Druim Arn-ir-ach Site (Canmore ID 38096, Site Number NR45SW 7, NGR NR 4403 5022) and Ardilistry (Canmore ID 38033, Site Number NR44NW 9, NGR NR 4468 4817).

These fortified sites form one of the highest densities of such structures in Argyll and their landscape locations reflect wider patterns seen in Atlantic Scotland with the sites being located on locally high or prominent ground, with relatively easy access to the coast. Often these sites are situated next to or overlooking cultivable land and, perhaps not surprisingly, the above sites correspond to areas of later cultivation with a string of 6 fortifications along the coast demarcating the eastern side of cultivable land while a line of 5 fortifications perhaps delineating the western extent with a further 3 lying between these (Figure 2).

Across Argyll few of these sites have been excavated or securely dated as to their construction and use. Those that have been excavated have indicated that such structures, namely forts, can date to the earlier Iron Age, while most excavated duns indicate these were built before the 1st century AD although of course many of these structures or the original sites on where they once stood were utilised in later periods. On Islay absence of dating for these structures is even more acute as no duns or forts have as yet been excavated although the excavation of the crannog on Eilean na Comhairle, Finlagan, suggest the later dun structure was built sometime after the 6th century AD, which if correct suggests this dun was a late exception rather than the rule. Within the survey area the walls of the forts at Trudernish, Dun an Rubha Bhuide and Dun nan Gall all enclose promontories and have traces of vitrification which has, as yet, not been recorded on any of the inland forts and duns within the survey grouping. This perhaps begs the question whether this coastal group represents a distinct chronological phase in the construction and possible abandonment/destruction of these fortified structures.

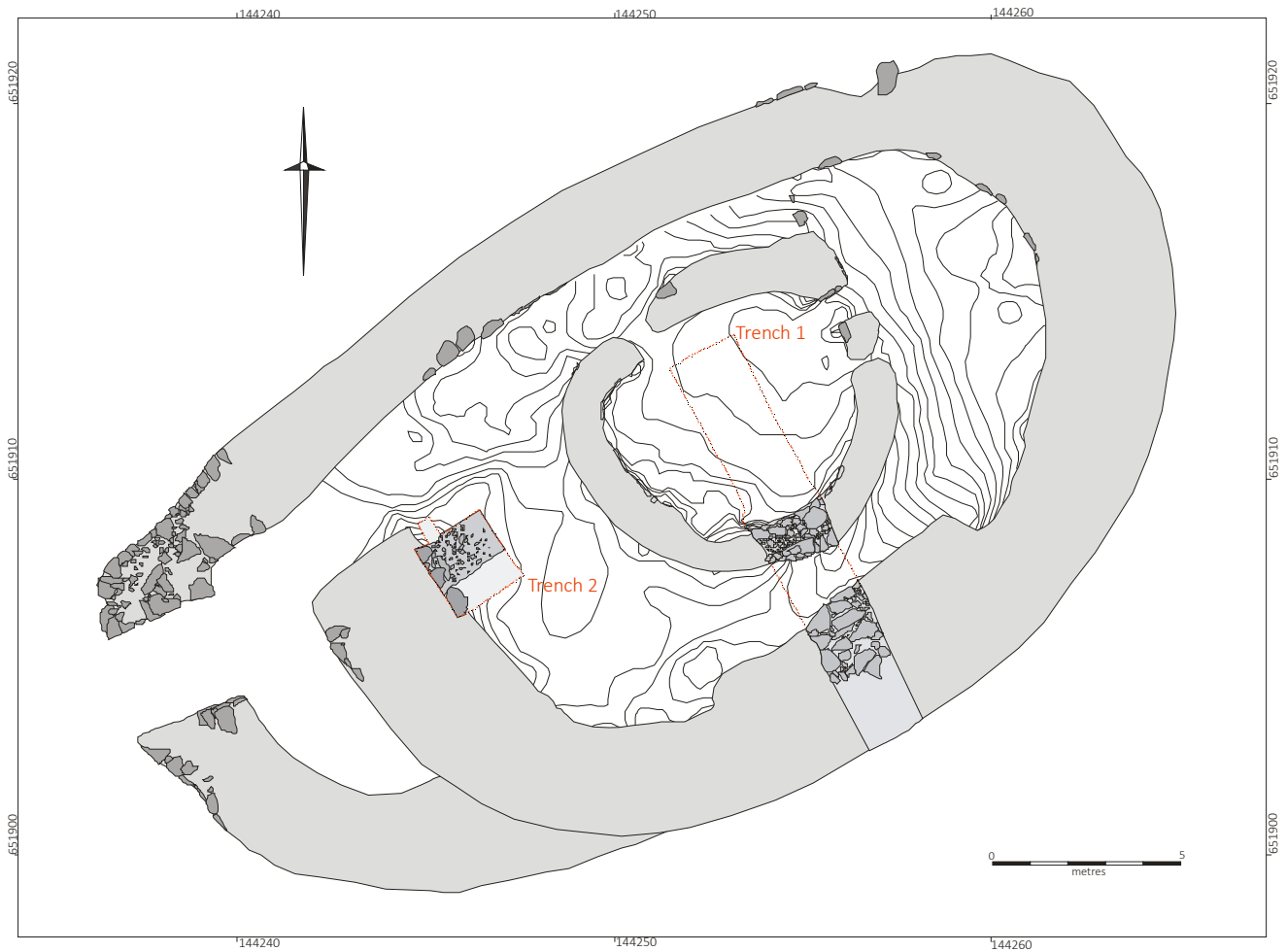


Figure 11: Trench Locations

5. Excavation Results

Two areas of excavation were opened within the dun structure Trenches 1 and 2 (Figure 11).

5.1 Trench 1

The aim of the trench was primarily to understand the relationship of the potential roundhouse to the dun wall and investigate any occupation sequence relating to either structure.

In order to do this a trench was extended north west from the south eastern side of the dun wall [006] across the south eastern side of the roundhouse wall [005] and into the internal space of the structure (Figure 12). Two discrete depositional sequences were encountered; one between the walls of the two structures and the second was the internal stratigraphy within the roundhouse structure.

Natural bedrock [020] was encountered between the walls of dun and roundhouse, some 1.09m below the present ground surface, although its exposure was limited. It seems likely the dun wall was constructed from this height although, given the space restrictions within the trench at this depth, the physical contact between the natural bedrock and the base of the wall was not observed. The internal wall face of the dun [006] was constructed from large boulders, possibly levered into position. Lying over natural bedrock and against the wall face of the dun was dark brown silt deposit [015], which contained occasional charcoal fragments and also produced some very degraded pot/fired clay fragments. The presence of the charcoal and the fired clay fragments suggests this represents an occupation build up or dump within this part of the dun, between the dun and roundhouse walls. This deposit was under rubble deposit [013] and as such may have continued to the outer face of the roundhouse wall. However, this relationship was unproven as large stones (part of [013]) could not be removed, partially due to the stones continuing into the section and partially because their removal may have destabilised the extant roundhouse wall. The unexcavated stones of [013] however, sloped down distinctly from the north west to the south east suggesting they lay against the roundhouse wall [005] (Figure 16). Deposit [013] was an extensive dump of stones and rubble which at its lower level lay within mid brown silt that contained some charcoal. Above this was a similar deposit of rubble [004], although this lay within a lighter brown soil although between the stones were also numerous voids the later suggesting the stones had been rapidly deposited, possibly being collapse from the dun wall.

The upper extent of this rubble had the appearance of a cobbled or trampled surface, over which had accumulated a mixed deposit of silty peat-like material [002]. This 'peat-like' material was different from the peaty overburden/topsoil that had accumulated over most of the site and it is possible it represents some form of collapsed roofing material or perhaps even stored peat.

As mentioned above the eastern side of the roundhouse wall [005] was constructed from irregular and roughly coursed stone blocks. Internally within the roundhouse a large linear block of natural bedrock [020] had been utilised in its construction, providing the basal course for the wall. The bedrock here was higher than that encountered in the trench to the east, suggesting a drop off in that direction. If this slope was uneven or irregular then this may account for the rather rough look of the roundhouse wall on its external face, which may be due to slippage.

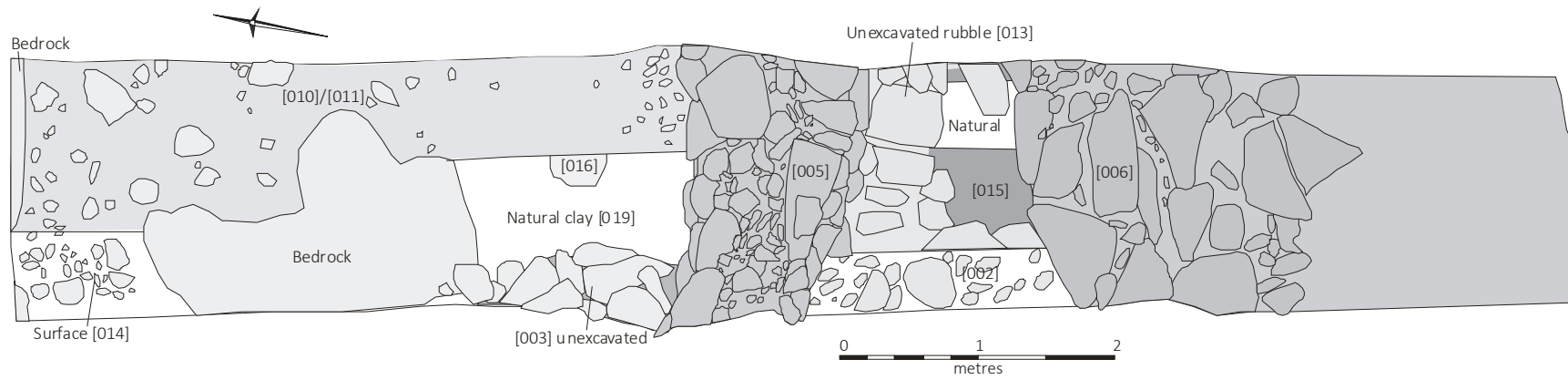


Figure 12: Trench 1 earlier deposits

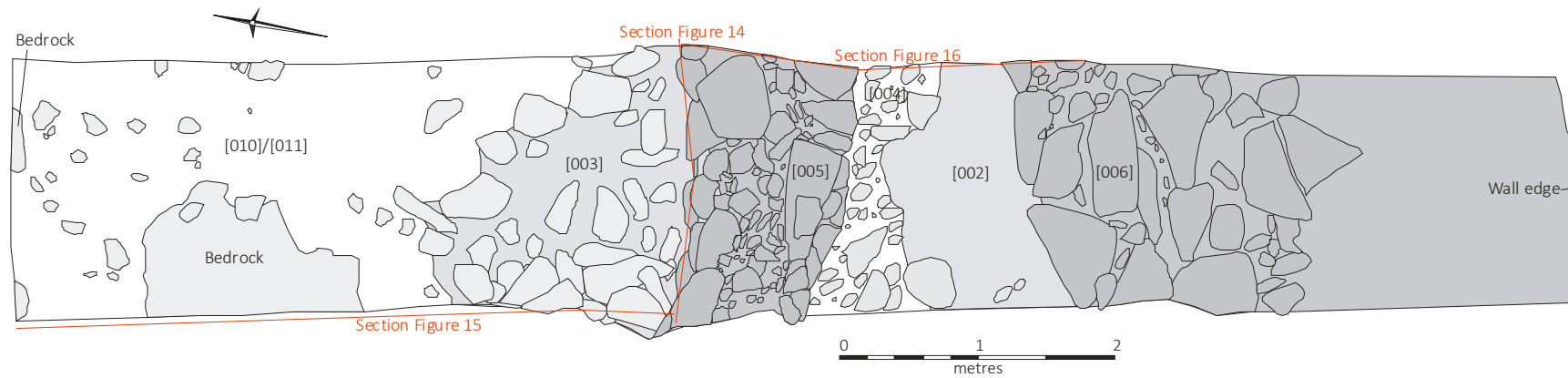


Figure 13: Trench 1 later deposits

Above this bedrock the internal wall of the roundhouse was constructed with larger blocks of stone providing the facing stones of the wall with smaller stones used in the internal packing. To the west of the wall face bedrock was also encountered just below the vegetation in the central area of the roundhouse and at the extreme western end of the Trench. Between bedrock forming the base of the wall and the bedrock in the centre of the trench was a natural deposit of light grey/white clay [019]. The clay at this eastern end of the trench had a sub-circular patch of harder material [016], this coloured red brown and that may represent a patch of burning. Sealing this was a dark grey silt deposit [012] that contained charcoal fragments, this and its dark colour suggesting it was an occupation derived accumulation.

Above this was another dark grey deposit [011], that contained fragments of charcoal (but in smaller quantities than [012] below) along with one fragment of pot/fired clay and two utilised pebbles with surfaces smoothed through use. At the south against wall [005] this deposit contained more stones which gave the appearance of having been utilised as a rough surface. Above this were the stones from the collapse to the roundhouse wall [003], these within a red brown peaty silt, although in some places there were voids between the stones especially amongst the collapsed stones on the western side of the trench. On this side of the trench it could be discerned that at least four courses of walling had collapsed or been pushed over into the roundhouse interior, indicating the wall of the roundhouse was originally considerably higher.

At the north west of the trench beyond the natural bedrock in the centre of the trench was what was likely another rough surface [014], this only partially exposed and not excavated. This probable surface material lay below another dark grey deposit [010] which was essentially the same deposit as [012] recorded in the south east of the trench. Covering the whole trench was deposit [001], a dark brown silty peat deposit and vegetation.

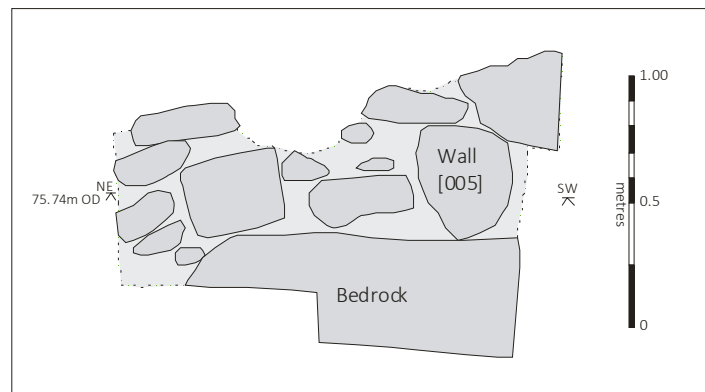


Figure 14: Elevation of roundhouse wall [005]

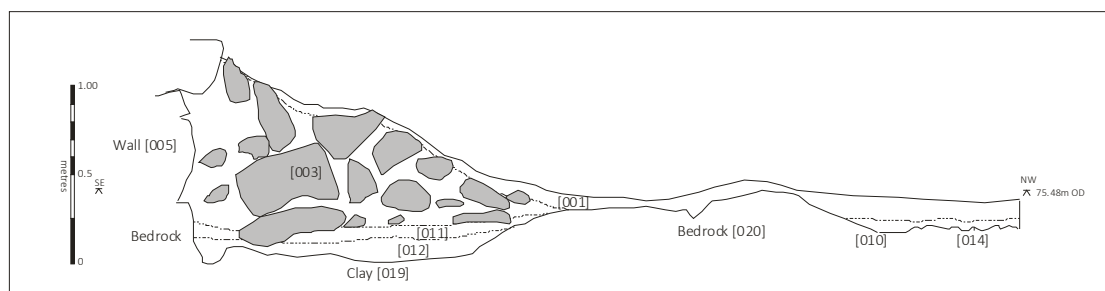


Figure 15: Section of roundhouse deposits

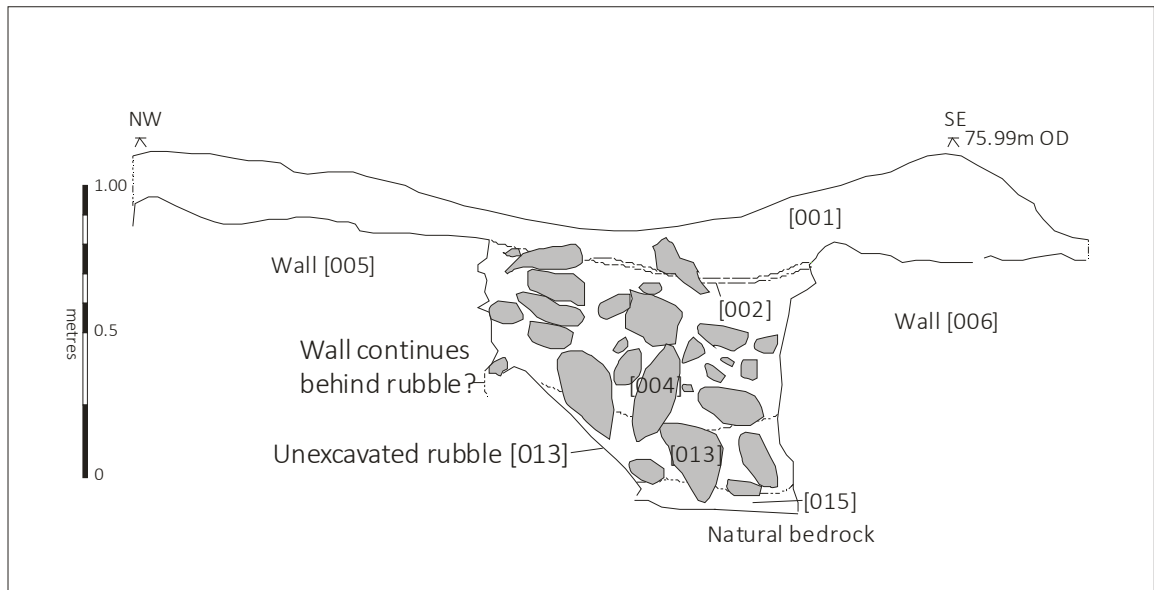


Figure 16: Section of deposits between roundhouse and dun walls



Roundhouse structure from the east



Internal face of dun wall [006] from the north east



External face of roundhouse wall [005] from the south west



Internal face of roundhouse wall [005] from the north east



Roundhouse wall [005] from the east



Section between dun and roundhouse walls from the west



Deposit [015] above natural from the east



Rubble [013] between dun (at top) and roundhouse walls from the north



Top of rubble [004] between dun and roundhouse walls from the east



Peat deposit [002] between dun and roundhouse walls from the west



Internal deposits at south of roundhouse structure from the west



'Burnt' deposit [016] on clay natural [019] from the east



Deposits [012] and [011] against roundhouse wall [005] from the north



Rubble [003] within roundhouse structure from the north



Section against internal face of roundhouse wall [005] from the east



Deposits at north end of trench from the west above



Surface [014] from the west



Deposit [010] (at north) and [011] (at south) from the north

5.2 Trench 2

This trench was designed to examine the nature of a linear 'hump' that appeared to represent a possible wall line, given that the ground dropped off sharply beyond it to the west.

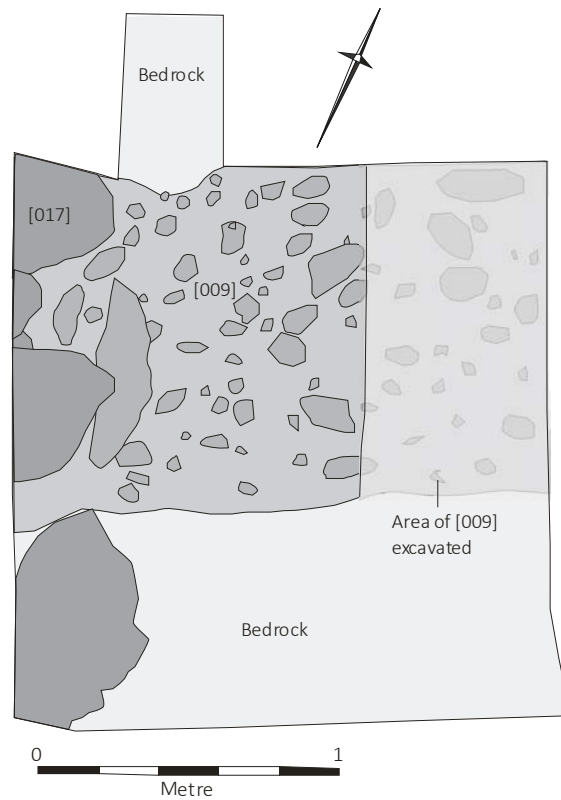


Figure 17: Trench 2 early deposits

Lifting of the topsoil quickly revealed this to be a natural accumulation of vegetation and peat topsoil [007] sitting directly over a natural bedrock ridge [021]. Bedrock was also encountered within the eastern part of the trench. Between the exposed bedrock was a shallow dip in which had accumulated a dark grey deposit [009] that had frequent stone inclusions and had the appearance of a trampled surface.

This deposit also contained large lumps of charcoal suggesting an occupation deposit. Above the probable surface and lying partially over natural bedrock at the south was a thin layer of very dark grey silt [008], containing charcoal. At the west of the trench were some large stones, no doubt the collapsed or disturbed remains of the dun wall [017], although no wall face was positively identified in the trench. As mentioned above the whole trench was sealed by a peat and vegetation deposit [007].

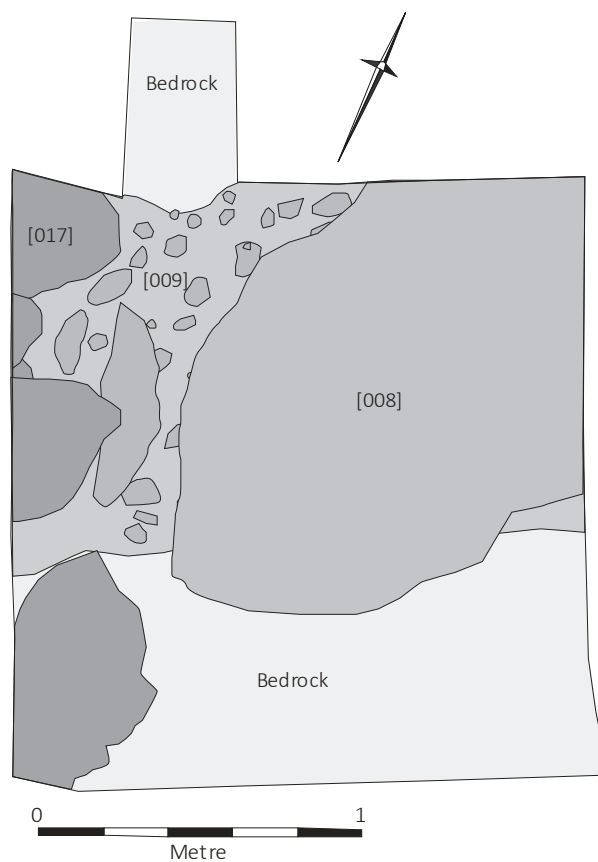


Figure 18: Trench 2 later deposits



Trench 2 with partially excavated surface [009] from the east above



Surface deposit [009] from the east



Deposit [008] from the east

5.3 The Artifacts

The array of recovered artifacts was limited, and a full list can be seen in Appendix 3.

A fragment of pottery or fired clay was recovered from deposit [011] SF 1. The fabric of this material is very coarse and only one fired surface is apparent. The fragment is yellow/buff in colour, the internal fabric reduced dark grey. A further five small fragments of a similar fabric were recovered from deposit [015], which all again had only one apparent surface and like SF 1 may be part of a coarse pottery vessel or perhaps, more likely, structural material that has been heat affected.

Two large pebbles or small water rounded cobbles SF 2 and SF 3 were recovered from deposit [011] and these appear to have smoothed or worn faces, these perhaps utilised as smooth or rub stones. This same deposit also contained what may be a split quartzite pebble and a quartz fragment, the latter with little evidence of having been worked.

A large fragment of carbonised wood was recovered from deposit [013], SF 4 that resembles the rim of a wooden vessel, although its shape may be due to natural causes. Relatively large fragments of wood charcoal were recovered from surface/deposit [009]. Charcoal was also recovered from the majority of the excavated deposits, the exception being topsoil cover.



Looking north over roundhouse wall

6. Discussion

The survey and excavation have revealed a dun structure that has massively built walls on its southern eastern side. The trench indicated that the bedrock dropped off to the east in a series of uneven steps and the thickness of the wall of the dun on the south east side is likely a response to this underlying geology, a wide base needed if the wall was to obtain any significant internal height on this side and it's quite possible the wall may have been battered on this side. Whether the roundhouse was constructed at the same time as the dun is still unclear. However, what is likely an occupation deposit seals the wall of the dun structure and, as suggested above, likely seals the roundhouse structure. If this is indeed the case then the roundhouse may have been constructed at an early phase in the occupation of the dun. At some point this occupation deposit is sealed by an extensive deposit of stones between the walls of the dun and the roundhouse and given the number of voids within the upper extent of this deposit likely happened rapidly. This can perhaps be seen as a demolition or collapsed deposit, the upper extent later utilised as a surface.

The roundhouse appears to have been built around a slightly mounded outcrop of bedrock that was likely utilised as the surface or floor within the central area of the structure. Where the ground slopes away from this central area there was the build-up of occupation deposits, these dark deposits containing charcoal, utilised stones and what may be pottery or perhaps more likely heat affected structural material. No hearth position was identified but the presence of charcoal and some burnt stones suggest that one probably lies in the immediate vicinity.

The excavation of Dun Fhinn is important as it is hoped it will provide some dating parameters for the development of dun or defensive structures within Islay, which at present is almost completely lacking given any that excavation on such sites has been extremely limited and no dun site on the island has been directly dated. Dun Fhinn also contains an internal structure which under other circumstances would be considered a roundhouse or hut circle. The presence of a roundhouse structure within any dun site in Argyll, while not unknown, is rare and if contemporary with the use of the dun then adds an important dimension to the debate on the use and development of these structures.

Once the internal chronology of the dun is understood and dated then it would be useful to compare it to another dun or fort site in the same landscape, perhaps with one of the three vitrified promontory defensive structures lying along the coast, the similarity of these suggesting perhaps some chronological relationship between them.

7. References

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Regan, R. 2017b Dun Fhinn, Ardtalla Estate, Kildalton, Islay, Excavation Project Design, Kilmartin Museum Report.

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Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

[001] Layer. Topsoil and vegetation cover. Dark brown red humic silt with frequent roots, with grass heather, ivy, birch scrub, bracken and moss.

[002] Layer. Peat deposit. Dark grey brown, red brown and lighter grey 'blocky' humic peat and silt, includes small amount of charcoal.

[003] Layer. Rubble collapse along eastern side of roundhouse. Mainly consists of small to large blocks of schist (epidiorite) within a mid-red brown clayey silt.

[004] Layer. Rubble dump/deposit between wall of dun and roundhouse. Mainly small to large blocks of schist (epidiorite) within a light to mid brown clayey silt. Abundant voids between the blocks.

[005] Wall. Wall of south eastern arc of roundhouse. Constructed on top of a natural bedrock ridge that provides the basal course of the wall on its inner face. Above this the wall is constructed in randomly coursed rubble, mainly schist blocks (epidiorite, largest block 0.82m x 0.45m x 0.22m) with larger stones along the outer face. The upper outer face of the external face is similarly constructed with the core of wall packed out with smaller stones. Lower down the outer face is more randomly coursed with little attempt made to construct a good 'face' this appearing to be little more than heaped stones built to the required height. The wall stands up to 1.18m on its internal face and 0.90m externally and is 1.00 to 1.20m wide within the excavated trench.

[006] Wall. Wall of south eastern arc of dun structure. The inner face of the dun wall appears to be constructed directly over natural bedrock and constructed from large blocks of schist (epidiorite, largest block 1.0m x 0.5m x 0.42) with little packing or pinning evident between the larger blocks. Beyond this to the south the wall has either been robbed or has fallen away down the slope, but the present remains suggest a wall wide constructed from schist rubble.

[007] Layer. Topsoil and vegetation cover. Dark brown red humic silt with frequent roots, with grass heather, bracken and moss.

[008] Layer. Occupation deposit. Dark grey humic silt, includes occasional stones and charcoal.

[009] Layer. Surface/occupation deposit. Dark grey silty clay with moderate stones, pebbles and occasional charcoal. Some of the stones/pebbles appear to be slightly pinkish in colour which is likely the result of heat with the largest stone measuring 0.25m x 0.16m x 90mm.

[010] Layer. Occupation? deposit. Dark grey brown silty clay, includes occasional charcoal and stones/pebbles some fire reddened.

[011] Layer. Occupation deposit. Dark grey silty clay, includes occasional charcoal, utilised stone, pot/fired clay and stones/pebbles, the stones more frequent at the south east where they may have formed a surface, or leveling deposit.

[012] Layer. Occupation deposit. Dark grey silty clay, includes occasional to moderate charcoal.

[013] Layer. Rubble dump/deposit between wall of dun and roundhouse. Mainly small to large blocks of schist (epidiorite) within a dark brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal.

[014] Layer. Surface? Dark grey silty clay with moderate stones/ pebbles some fire reddened.

[015] Layer. Occupation deposit. Dark brown silty loam with occasional small to large block of schist.

[016] Layer. Burnt? Area. Small sub circular patch of dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal.

[017] Layer. Collapsed wall. Large blocks of schist, likely the collapsed/disturbed remains of the west wall of the dun this up to 0.30m in height, largest stone measuring 0.4m x 0.40m x 0.16m

[018] Layer. Collapsed wall. A few stones likely from the roundhouse wall lay over peaty deposit [002].

[019] Natural light grey clay.

[020] Natural bedrock in Trench 1.

[021] Natural bedrock in Trench 2.

Appendix 2: Context List

Context	Type	Location	Description
001	layer	Trench 1	topsoil
002	layer	Trench 1	humic peat deposit
003	layer	Trench 1	rubble in roundhouse
004	layer	Trench 1	rubble dump between roundhouse and dun walls
005	wall	Trench 1	roundhouse wall
006	wall	Trench 1	dun wall
007	layer	Trench 2	topsoil
008	layer	Trench 2	dark grey silt above surface
009	surface	Trench 2	surface spread
010	layer	Trench 1	dark grey silt west end of trench
011	layer	Trench 1	dark grey silt east end of trench
012	layer	Trench 1	dark grey silt occupation
013	layer	Trench 1	lower rubble between walls
014	surface	Trench 1	surface west end of trench
015	layer	Trench 1	burnt? deposit
016	layer	Trench 1	dark brown silt above natural
017	wall?	Trench 2	disturbed wall face?
018	layer	Trench 1	wall collapse between dun and roundhouse
019	natural	Trench 1	natural clay
020	natural	Trench 1	natural bedrock
021	natural	Trench 2	natural bedrock

Appendix 3: Finds Catalogue

Catalogue No.	Context No.	Location	Type	SF No.	Number	Description
001	002	Trench 1	CH			charcoal flot
002	002	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 1mm
003	002	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 4mm
004	002	Trench 1	CH			soil sample 10
005	003	Trench 1	CH			charcoal flot
006	003	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 1mm
007	003	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 4mm
008	008	Trench 2	CH			charcoal flot
009	008	Trench 2	CH			charcoal 1mm
010	008	Trench 2	CH			charcoal 4mm
011	009	Trench 2	CH			charcoal flot
012	010	Trench 1	ST		1	Quartz
013	010	Trench 1	CH			charcoal flot
014	010	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 1mm
015	010	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 4mm
016	011	Trench 1	PT	1	1	Pot?
017	011	Trench 1	ST	2	1	rub stone
018	011	Trench 1	ST	3	1	rub stone
019	011	Trench 1	ST		1	chipped stone?
020	011	Trench 1	CH			charcoal flot
021	011	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 1mm
022	011	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 4mm
023	012	Trench 1	CH			charcoal flot
024	012	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 1mm
025	012	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 4mm
026	013	Trench 1	CH	4	1	burnt vessel rim?
027	013	Trench 1	CH			charcoal flot
028	013	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 1mm
029	013	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 4mm
030	015	Trench 1	PT		5	Pot?
031	015	Trench 1	ST		1	chipped stone?
032	015	Trench 1	CH			charcoal flot
033	015	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 1mm
034	015	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 4mm
035	016	Trench 1	CH			charcoal flot
036	016	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 1mm
037	016	Trench 1	CH			charcoal 4mm

Appendix 4: Sample List

Sample No.	Type	Context	Location	Description
1	bulk	002	Trench 1	peat deposit
2	bulk	008	Trench 2	surface spread
3	bulk	010	Trench 1	occupation? deposit
4	bulk	011	Trench 1	occupation? deposit
5	bulk	012	Trench 1	occupation deposit
6	bulk	013	Trench 1	lower rubble
7	bulk	015	Trench 1	occupation deposit
8	bulk	016	Trench 1	burnt? deposit
9	bulk	009	Trench 2	surface spread
10	sub	002	Trench 1	peat deposit

Appendix 5: Graphics List

Graphic No.	Type	Scale	Description
1	Plan	1:50	Plan of Dun
2	Section	1:20	Elevation of wall at NW
3	Plan	1:20	Wall detail at NE
4	Plan	1:20	Trench 1 upper deposits
5	Plan	1:20	Trench 2 upper deposits
6	Plan	1:20	Trench 1 lower deposits
7	Plan	1:20	Trench 2 lower deposits
8	Section	1:20	Trench 1 NE facing section
9	Section	1:20	Trench 1 SW facing section
10	Section	1:20	Trench 1 roundhouse wall

Appendix 6: Photo List

Photo No.	Context No.	Location	Direction From	Description
1		Trench 1	NW	trench 1 stripped
2		Trench 1	NW	trench 1 stripped
3		Trench 1	NW	trench 1 stripped
4	003	Trench 1	NW	trench 1 wall rubble stripped
5	005	Trench 1	E	roundhouse wall
6	005	Trench 1	E	roundhouse wall
7	005	Trench 1	W	roundhouse wall
8	005/006	Trench 1	E	roundhouse and dun wall
9	005/006	Trench 1	E	roundhouse and dun wall
10	005/006	Trench 1	E	roundhouse and dun wall
11	005/006	Trench 1	W	roundhouse and dun wall
12	010	Trench 1	NW	deposit [010]
13		Trench 1	NW	trench 1 stripped

14		Trench 1	NW	trench 1 stripped
15		Trench 1	NW	trench 1 stripped
16	005/006	Trench 1	NE	roundhouse and dun wall
17	005/006	Trench 1	NE	roundhouse and dun wall
18	005/006	Trench 1	W	roundhouse and dun wall
19	005	Trench 1	E	roundhouse wall
20	003/005	Trench 1	E	roundhouse wall and rubble
21	003/005	Trench 1	E	roundhouse wall and rubble
22	005/006	Trench 1	S	roundhouse and dun wall
23	005/006	Trench 1	S	roundhouse and dun wall
24	005/006	Trench 1	S	roundhouse and dun wall
25	002	Trench 1	W	peaty soil between dun and roundhouse
26	002	Trench 1	W	peaty soil between dun and roundhouse
27	002	Trench 1	W	peaty soil between dun and roundhouse
28	002	Trench 1	W	peaty soil between dun and roundhouse
29	002	Trench 1	W	peaty soil between dun and roundhouse
30	002	Trench 1	W	peaty soil between dun and roundhouse
31		Trench 1	NW	trench 1 stripped
32	002	Trench 1	NE	peaty soil between dun and roundhouse
33	004	Trench 1	SW	rubble
34	004	Trench 1	SW	rubble
35	010/011	Trench 1	NW	Trench 1
36	010/011	Trench 1	NW	Trench 1
37	010/011	Trench 1	NW	Trench 1
38	005/011	Trench 1	NW	occupation deposit and roundhouse wall
39	005/011	Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit and roundhouse wall
40	005/011	Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit and roundhouse wall
41	004	Trench 1	NE	rubble/surface
42	005	Trench 1	NE	roundhouse wall
43	005/011	Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit and roundhouse wall
44	005/011	Trench 1	NW	occupation deposit and roundhouse wall
45	008/017	Trench 2	S	Trench 2 stripped
46	008/017	Trench 2	NE	Trench 2 stripped
47	004	Trench 1	E	rubble/surface
48	004	Trench 1	E	rubble/surface
49	004	Trench 1	W	rubble/surface
50	004	Trench 1	W	rubble/surface
51	004	Trench 1	S	rubble/surface
52	004	Trench 1	S	rubble/surface
53	004	Trench 1	N	rubble/surface
54	009	Trench 2	NE	surface
55	009	Trench 2	W	surface
56	009	Trench 2	S	surface
57	009	Trench 2	S	surface
58	009	Trench 2	NE	surface
59	009	Trench 2	NE	surface
60	010	Trench 1	NW	occupation deposit
61	010/011	Trench 1	NW	occupation deposit
62	011	Trench 1	NW	occupation deposit
63	005/011	Trench 1	NW	occupation deposit
64	005/011	Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit
65	004	Trench 1	E	rubble

66	004	Trench 1	E	rubble
67	004	Trench 1	S	rubble
68	004	Trench 1	S	rubble
69	004	Trench 1	E	rubble
70	004	Trench 1	E	rubble
71	004	Trench 1	E	rubble
72	005/011	Trench 1	NW	occupation deposit
73	005/011	Trench 1	NW	occupation deposit
74	005/011	Trench 1	NW	occupation deposit
75	005/011	Trench 1	NW	occupation deposit
76	009	Trench 2	N	surface
77	009/017	Trench 2	NE	surface and wall
78	009/017	Trench 2	NE	surface and wall
79	009/017	Trench 2	NE	surface and wall
80	009/017	Trench 2	NE	surface and wall
81	009/017	Trench 2	NE	surface and wall
82	013	Trench 1		rubble
83	013	Trench 1		rubble
84	013	Trench 1		rubble
85	013	Trench 1		rubble
86	013	Trench 1		rubble
87	014	Trench 1	NE	surface
88	014	Trench 1	NW	surface
89	014	Trench 1	NW	surface
90	012/015	Trench 1	NE	occupation deposits
91	005/012	Trench 1	NW	occupation deposit against roundhouse wall
92	005/012	Trench 1	NW	occupation deposit against roundhouse wall
93	005/012	Trench 1	NW	occupation deposit against roundhouse wall
94	003/005	Trench 1	E	rubble collapse in roundhouse
95	015	Trench 1	E	burnt? deposit
96		Trench 1	SW	section between walls
97		Trench 1	SW	section between walls
98		Trench 1	E	lower rubble and natural between walls
99	006	Trench 1	NW	inner face dun wall
100	005	Trench 1	S	outer extent roundhouse wall
101	005	Trench 1	S	outer extent roundhouse wall
102	005	Trench 1	S	outer extent roundhouse wall
103	005	Trench 1	E	roundhouse wall
104	005	Trench 1	S	outer extent roundhouse wall
105	005	Trench 1	S	outer extent roundhouse wall
106	005	Trench 1	S	outer extent roundhouse wall
107		Trench 1	SW	section between walls
108	015	Trench 1	SW	burnt? deposit
109	015	Trench 1	SW	burnt? deposit
110		Trench 1	SW	section between walls
111		Trench 1	SW	section between walls
112		Trench 1	SW	section between walls
113	005	Trench 1	S	outer extent roundhouse wall
114	005	Trench 1	S	outer extent roundhouse wall
115	005	Trench 1	S	outer extent roundhouse wall

116	005/006	Trench 2	NW	roundhouse and dun wall
117	006	Trench 1	NW	inner face dun wall
118	006	Trench 1	NW	inner face dun wall
119	005	Trench 1	S	outer extent roundhouse wall
120	009/017	Trench 2	NE	surface and wall
121	009/017	Trench 2	NE	surface and wall
122	009/017	Trench 2	NE	surface and wall
123	009/017	Trench 2	NE	surface and wall
124	009/017	Trench 2	NE	surface and wall
125	012	Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit
126	012	Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit
127	012	Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit
128	012	Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit
129	012	Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit
130	012/014	Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit and surface
131	012/014	Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit and surface
132	012/014	Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit and surface
133	012/014	Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit and surface
134		Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit and surface
135		Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit and surface
136		Trench 1	NE	occupation deposit and surface
137-167				wide shots of roundhouse and dun
168			SW	dun from SW
169			S	dun from S
170			S	dun from S
171			SW	outer wall of dun
172			SW	outer wall of dun
173			SW	S side of entrance
174			SW	N side of entrance
175			SW	entrance
176			NW	dun wall on SW
177			W	S side of entrance
178			NW	collapsed wall on SW
179			NE	roundhouse entrance
180			NE	roundhouse entrance
181			SE	roundhouse
182			SE	roundhouse
183			SE	roundhouse
184			SE	roundhouse
185			SE	roundhouse
186			NE	dun wall on NW
187			NE	dun wall on NW
188			SW	outer walling?
189			SW	outer walling?
190			SE	dun from SE
191			SE	dun from SE
192-231				working shots

Appendix 7: Walkover Survey Results

The fortification at Dun Fhinn, which was the focus of the walkover survey, dominates the surrounding landscape to the west, north and east, which primarily overlooks the course and terraces of the lower Kintor River. If dating to the Iron Age, Dun Fhinn and the relatively high concentration of other defensive structures in the area suggest this area was extensively settled by that period and very likely before, as suggested by probable Bronze Age burials near Kintour. The continued attractiveness of the area is underlined by the development of a series of settlements situated on or near both banks of the river some of which we can trace back to the 15th century from extant historic documents. The survey also suggests that settlement may have been more dispersed at an earlier date given the number of smaller and unnamed settlement sites recorded during the work, with larger concentrations such as the township of Creagfinn perhaps being a later development. However, few settlement sites in Argyll have been systematically excavated, therefore the development and understanding of building typologies and chronology remains poorly understood. Even with this in mind one intriguing aspect of the survey was the difference in the nature of the structures recorded at Creagfinn (Site 17) and Ballore (Site 18). The former nearly all comprised of long rectangular ranges with substantial rubble built walls, which, when they stood to any height, such as Structure 1, indicated buildings with gable ends. At Ballore all the structures had curved or rounded ends (suggesting hipped roofs) and were smaller in size than the buildings at Creagfinn. As current building typologies stand in Argyll the buildings at Creagfinn would suggest a date of the late 18th or early 19th century, with those at Ballore dating before that period. If the buildings at Ballore are pre-18th century in origin then their good preservation makes them a rare surviving example of a settlement of that date relatively unaltered by later agricultural development.

Possibly representing the earliest upstanding structure revealed during the survey was the potential hut circle recorded at Site 14. Hut circles and recently excavated roundhouses on the Argyll mainland, have shown these date between the Bronze Age to Iron Age periods and may be more common than we think given that many may not have upstanding remains. If the structure at Site 14 is indeed a hut circle then it is a particularly well preserved example and has high potential to illuminate occupation patterns across these periods. The excavation of Dun Fhinn would prove important as it would provide some dating parameters for the development of dun or defensive structures within Islay, which at present is almost completely lacking given any excavation on such sites has been extremely limited and no site on the island has been directly dated. Dun Fhinn also contains an internal structure which under other circumstances would be considered a roundhouse or hut circle. If this structure is later than the surrounding dun wall, as suggested by RCAHMS, then we potentially have evidence of some degree of occupation longevity. Once the internal chronology of the dun was understood then it would be useful to compare it to another dun or fort site in the same landscape and perhaps with one of the vitrified promontory defensive structures lying along the coast, the similarity of these suggesting perhaps some chronological relationship between them. Locating medieval settlement can prove difficult, given that many settlements might be lost under later settlement development. The site and structures at Ballore, however, may be a late survival of a settlement type that reflects earlier patterns and appears to be relatively unaffected by later agrarian developments. Excavation here would illuminate whether this hypothesis is correct and whether evidence of earlier occupation exists within this small settlement.

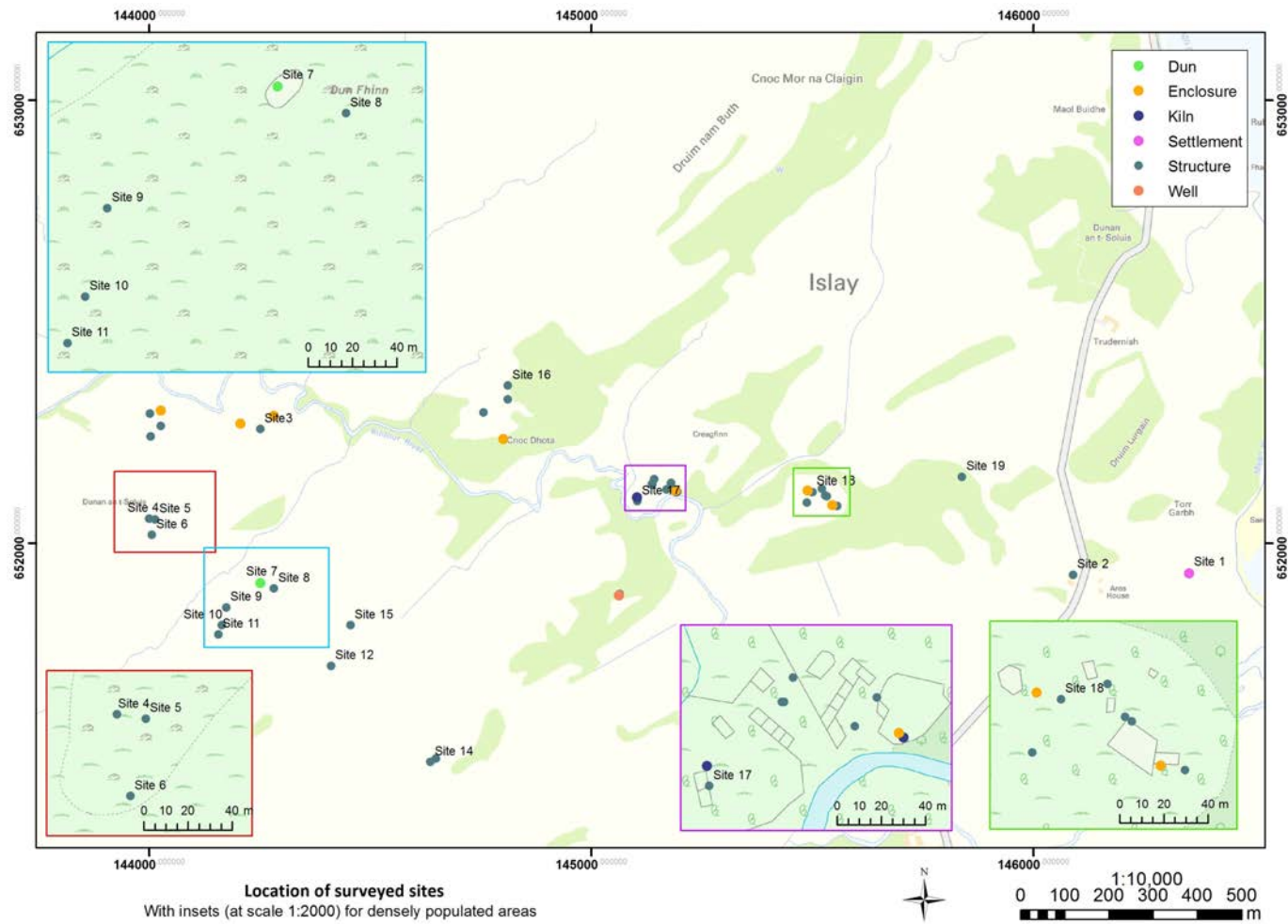


Figure 19: Location of Surveyed Sites

Site 1. Aros.

Structure. NR 46352 51932

Aros is described in CANMORE (Canmore ID 154081) and as consisting of 4 structures. All the structures depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey have since been denuded, no doubt by robbing and ploughing, to such an extent that only low scatters of stones now exist to suggest where they once lay. However, another structure not depicted on any map was recorded during the survey of the area. The building was a rectilinear rubble structure constructed against a natural rock scarp that forms its SW side. The structure measures 5.40 by 4.60m externally with an entrance on the NW side 0.80m wide. The walls are up to 0.80m wide and stand to a maximum height of 0.40m.

Site 2. Sursden.

Structure. NR 46089 51929

This was the remains of a structure shown roofed on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map and lying adjacent to the school. It is possible since the 1st Edition that the school or the ground were remodelled as the walls of the school grounds cut across the original eastern end of this building. The building was a rectangular rubble built structure oriented NW/SE and measured 16m long and 6.5m wide externally. Divided into three compartments or rooms, the southern end disturbed by the construction of later school compound wall. The walls are up to 1.0m wide and stand to a maximum height of 1.15m.



Site 3. Stain

This settlement had been previously described in CANMORE (Canmore ID 154085 & 154086). Only the area of south of the Kintour River was surveyed, although part of the settlement certainly lay north of the river, shown as what may be two unroofed structures, one with an attached enclosure.

The area south of the river was bounded by a turf and earth dyke with some internal divisions. Most of the ear enclosed within the surrounding dyke shows signs of extensive rig and furrow cultivation. The remains of 5 structures were recorded (Structures 1-5) along with three rectilinear enclosures.

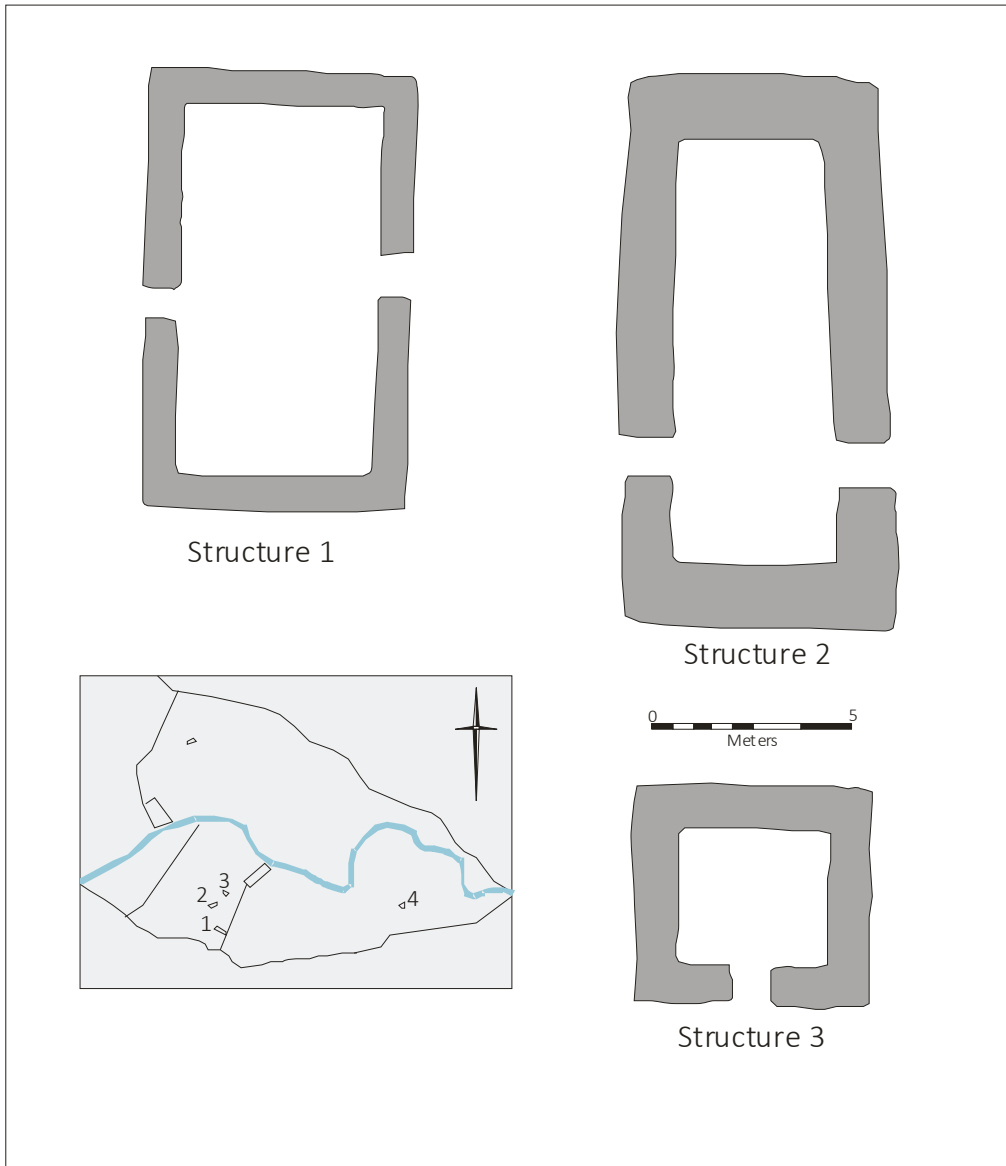


Figure 20: Staoin Structures

Structure 1. NR 44003 52240

Rectangular rubble built structure oriented NS and measuring 10.80m long and 6.6m wide externally. The walls in part stand to probable full height up to 2.1m. The building has two opposed entrances although the one on the side has been blocked. There is evidence of clay and sand mortar/packing within the walls.



Staoin, Structure 1

Structure 2. NR 44003 52240

Rectangular rubble built structure oriented EW and measuring 13.8m long and 7m wide externally. The denuded/robbed walls stand up to 0.60m in height. The building has two opposing entrances within the W end of the structure.



Staoin, Structure 2

Structure 3. NR 44001 52292

Rectangular rubble built structure oriented NW/SE measuring 6.0m long and 5.40m wide externally. The walls stand up to 1.50m in height. The building has an entrance on the SE side. The building appears to have been shortened as footings of what may be an earlier version of the building extend 2m to the NW.



Staoin, Structure 3

Structure 4. NR 44251 52257

Spread of rubble representing remains of oval? structure oriented NW/SE measuring c8.30m by 6.10m.



Staoin, Structure 4

Structure 5. Kiln. NR 44026 52264

Overall the structure measures 7m by 5m but the main oval kiln measures 5m by 4m standing up to 1.30m in height with a flue entrance on the E side. Footings of a sub-square structure or earlier kiln extend to the W and contain a smaller sub square arrangement of stones.



Staoin, Kiln

Enclosure 1. NR 44282 52287

Rectilinear turf walled enclosure measuring 18.10m by 8.40m internally.

Enclosure 2. NR 44206 52269

Rectilinear turf walled enclosure measuring 11.10m by 8.10m internally.

Enclosure 3. NR 44026 52299

Rectangular turf walled enclosure divided into two parts, the southern enclosed area measuring 19.10m by 8.0m internally the northern enclosure measuring 17.8m by 8m internally

On a rise to the south of Staoin were three structures or sheilings, Sites 4-6.

Site 4

Structure. NR 44000 52056

Rectilinear turf built structure with rounded ends measuring 11.4m by 3.3-4.30m with walls standing 0.40m in height. This may represent two superimposed structures or sheilings, or a longer building with an internal division.

Site 5

Structure? NR 44013 52054

Possible remnants of a small sub-circular turf built structure measuring 2m by 2m.

Site 6

Structure. NR 44006 52019

Sub-circular turf built structure measuring 4.30m by 3.20 externally with walls standing up to 0.40m in height.

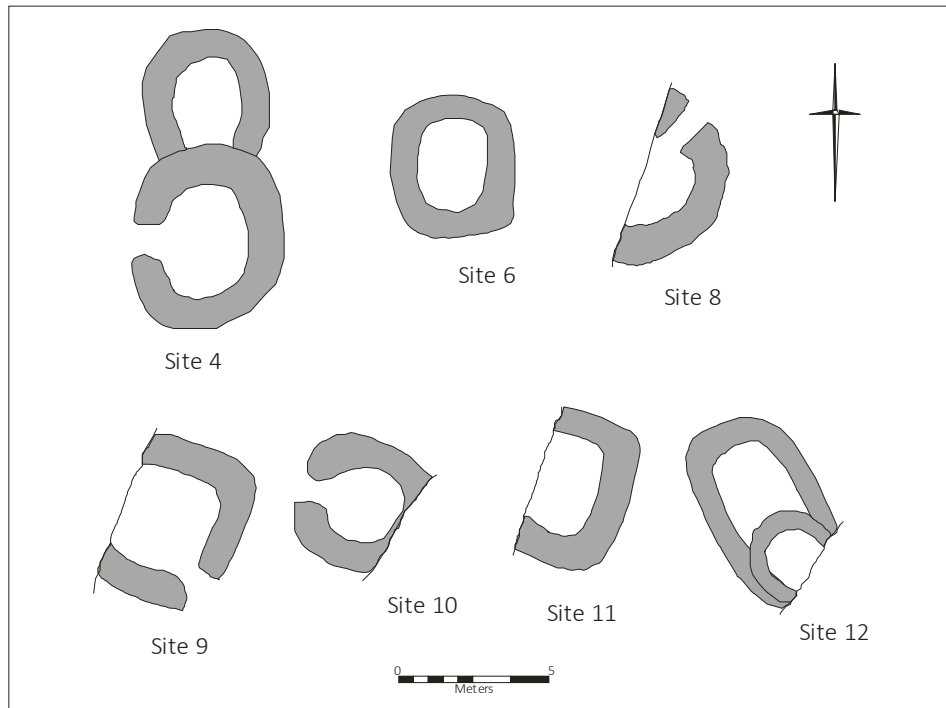


Figure 21: Sheiling Structures

Site 7 Dun Fhinn.

The site was extensively surveyed and the results appear in Section 3 above.

To the SW of Dun Fhinn were several small structures that most likely represent sheilings (Sites 8-12). Structure

Site 8

Structure. NR 44282 51898

Rubble built structure constructed against natural scarp forming its N side. It measures 6.5m long and 3.0m wide externally with an entrance on the W side.

Site 9

Structure. NR 44174 51855

Rubble built structure constructed against natural scarp forming its N side. It measures 5m long and 4.0m wide externally.

Site 10

Structure. NR 44164 51815

A sub circular turf built structure built against a natural rock face measuring 3.60m by 3.20m.

Site 11

Structure. NR 44156 51794

Rubble built structure constructed against natural scarp forming its N side. It measures 5m long and 2.5m wide externally.

Site 12

Structure. NR 44411 51723

Rubble built structure constructed into a natural slope on its SE side. It measures 6m long and 2.5m wide externally. A small twinning pen measuring 1.20m by 1.0m externally has been constructed over its S end.

Site 13

The remains of three, possibly four, hut circles have been noted in this area and are described in CANMORE (Canmore ID 38092). However, these are now difficult to locate and what may be the site appeared as no more than a vague outline of perhaps one building that was located during the survey.

Site 14

The remains of a circular enclosure and the adjacent enclosure had previously been noted in CANMORE, but these particularly the rectilinear enclosure, are likely part of a small enclosed settlement.

Structure 1. NR 44636 51506

Sub circular enclosure or structure measuring 12m by 11m externally with turf covered walls standing up to 0.6m high. The walls appear eroded and vary in width although 1.0m appears to be the most consistent. A gap on the SE east side suggests an entrance.



Site 14, Structure 1

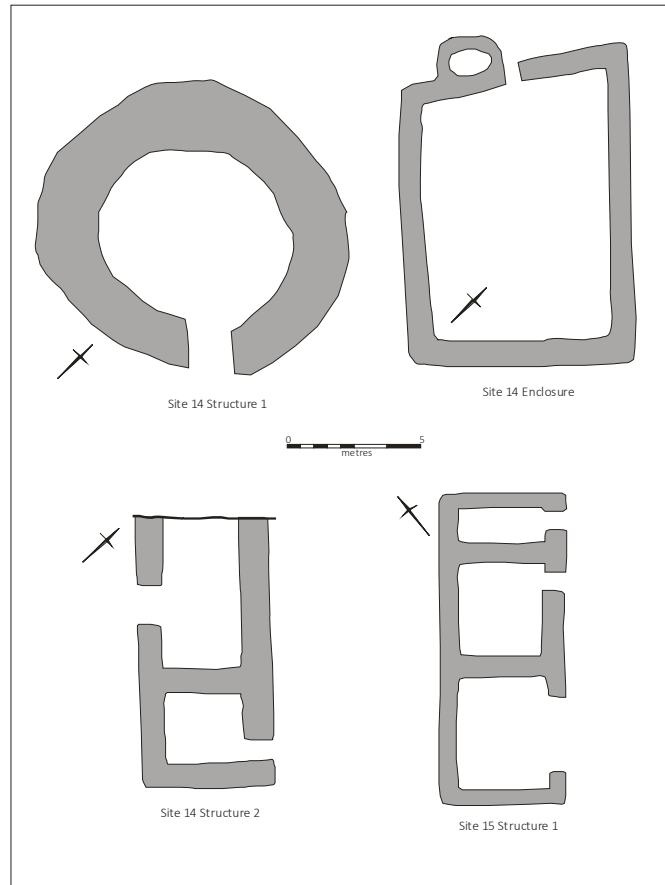


Figure 22: Sites 14 and 15 structures

Structure 2. NR 44648 51514

Sub rectangular enclosure measuring 13m by 8.4m externally with walls generally 0.8m wide and standing up to 0.9m high with an entrance gap on its W side, although this may be due to robbing to construct a small twinning pen at the SW.



Site 14, Structure 2

Structure 3. NR 44120 51538

Rectangular building constructed against a natural scarp which forms its NW side. The structure measures 9.8m by 4m externally with walls up to 1.2m wide and standing up to

1.8m. The building is divided into two parts by a cross wall with entrance gaps in the SW and SE sides.



Site 14, Structure 3

Site 15

Lying to the north east of Site 13 and on the same geological ridge was another small settlement, which has previously been described in CANMORE (Canmore ID 83018) and consisted of two structures and what is likely an associated well structure, these all lying within an enclosed area.



Site 15, Structure 1

Structure 1. NR 44455 51815

Rectangular structure measuring 11.40m by 4.60m wide externally with walls up to 1.10m wide and standing up to 0.50m high. The building is divided into three rooms.

Structure 2. NR 45064 51885

Small circular structure measuring 4.20m wide.

Well. NR 45062 51882.

Circular stone lined well structure measuring 2m by 2m externally with walls standing up to 1.60m.



Site 15, Well

Site 16

To the North west of Creagfinn were the remains of a small settlement located on the SW facing slopes of Cnoc Dhota, that consisted of 4 possible structures set within a surrounding enclosure that has evidence of rig and furrow cultivation and clearance cairns.

Structure 1. NR 44811 52355.

Turf and stone built structure with rounded ends and divided into two parts by cross wall. Measures 10m by 5m externally with walls standing up to 2m in height.

Structure 2. NR 44756 52294.

Badly disturbed turf and stone built structure with rounded ends. Measures 9m by 3m externally with walls standing up to 2m in height.

Structure? 3 NR 44811 52324.

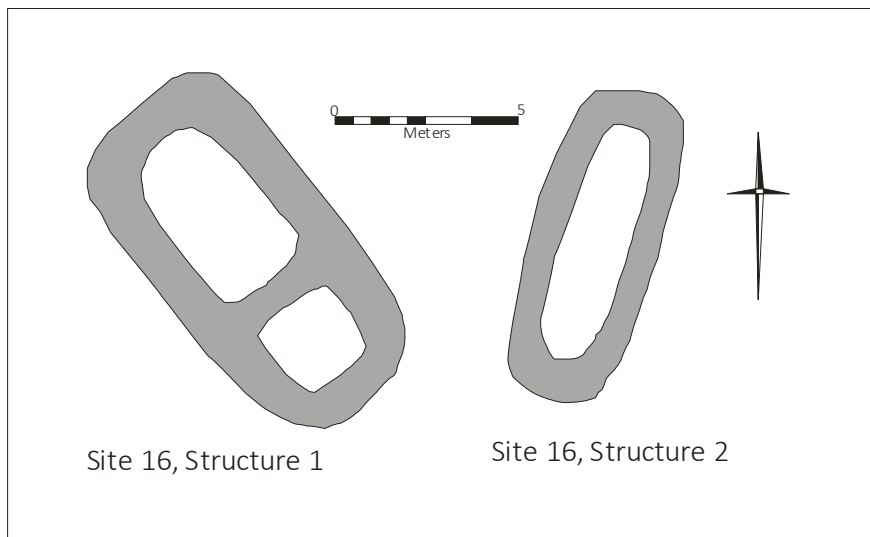
Possible sub circular structure or recessed platform with one side formed by natural rock with turf and stone walls forming other sides. Measures 4m by 4m internally with walls standing up to 0.7m in height.

Enclosure/structure. NR 44801 52234.

Possible recessed platform or small enclosure with turf and stone walls sides. Measures 7m by 6m internally with walls standing up to 0.4m in height.



Site 16, Structure 1



Site 16, Structure 1

Site 16, Structure 2

Figure 23: Cnoc Dhota Structure

Site 17 Creagfinn

A GNSS survey of the upstanding archaeology at Creagfinn was undertaken over a single day (Figure 15). This was conducted using a Leica GS09/CS09 GNSS SmartNet system, which is able to record X, Y, and height (Z) location data to within 2cm accuracy. Where archaeological remains were identified, they were logged within the GNSS system and subsequently plotted within a GIS system to compliment the hand-drawn archaeological record of this site.

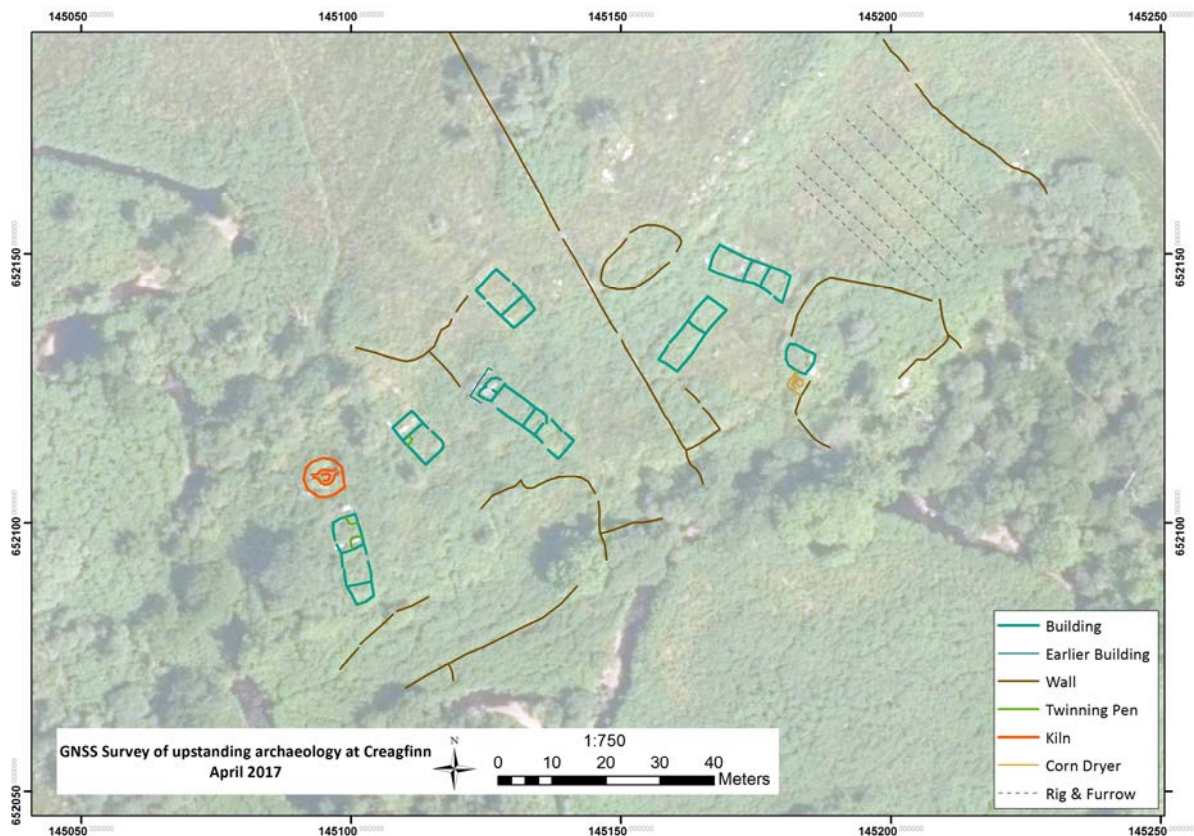


Figure 24: Survey of upstanding structures at Creagfinn

The First Edition Ordnance Survey Project described Creagfinn as comprising of 'four unroofed buildings, three of which are subdivided, one roofed building, one unroofed structure, three enclosures and a field-system is depicted on the OS 1st edition 6-inch map (Argyllshire 1882, sheet ccxx, Canmore ID 38075)'.

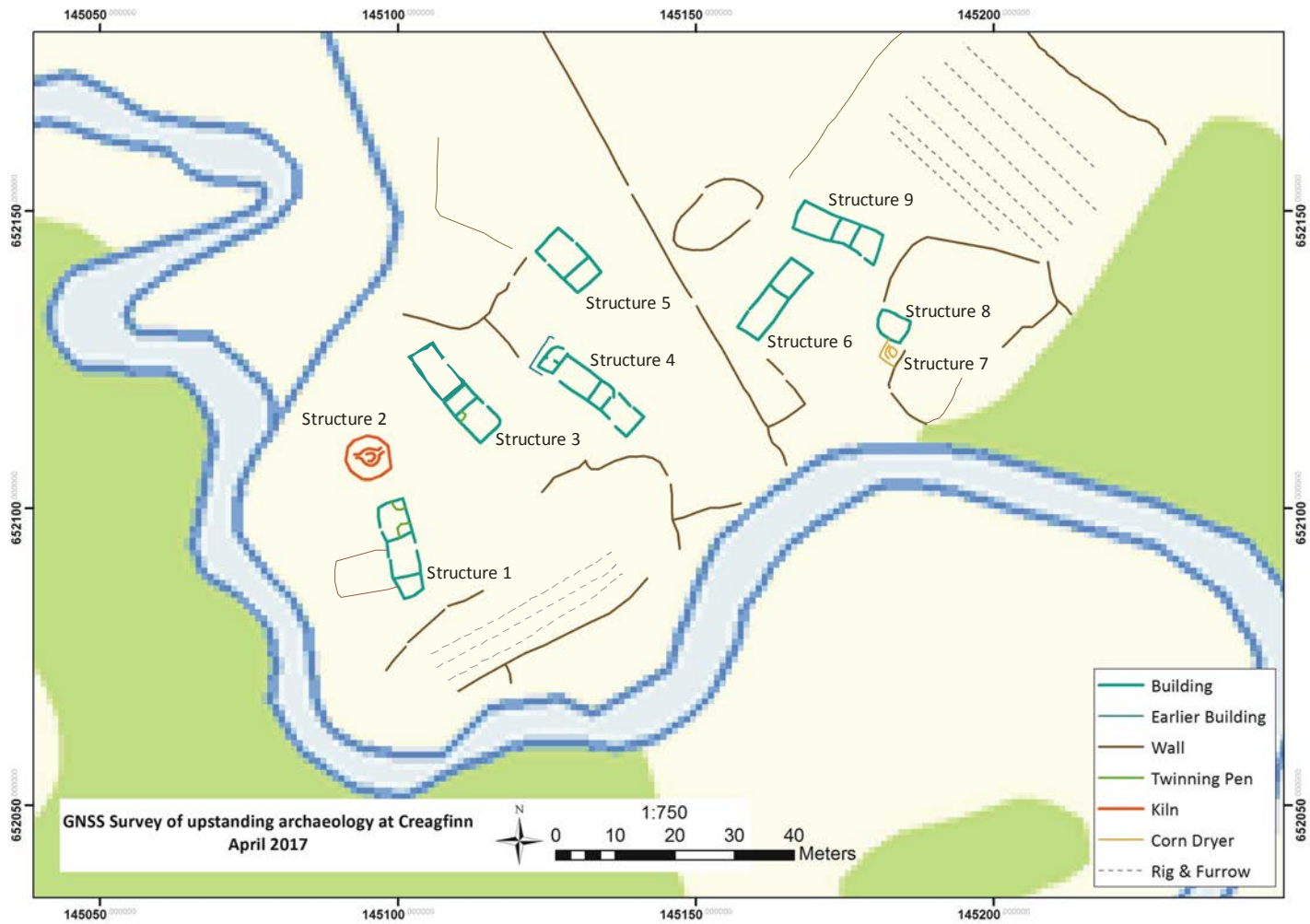


Figure 25: Creagfinn

The settlement consists of 6 rectangular buildings (Figures 16 and 17, Structures 1, 3, 4, 5 and 9) and a seventh irregular building (Structure 8) along with two kilns (Structures 2 and 7). These are situated on a bend in the Kintour River and surrounded by a series of enclosures, some of which contain evidence of rig and furrow cultivation. Structure 9 is depicted as roofed on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, suggesting this was the last occupied structure in the settlement.

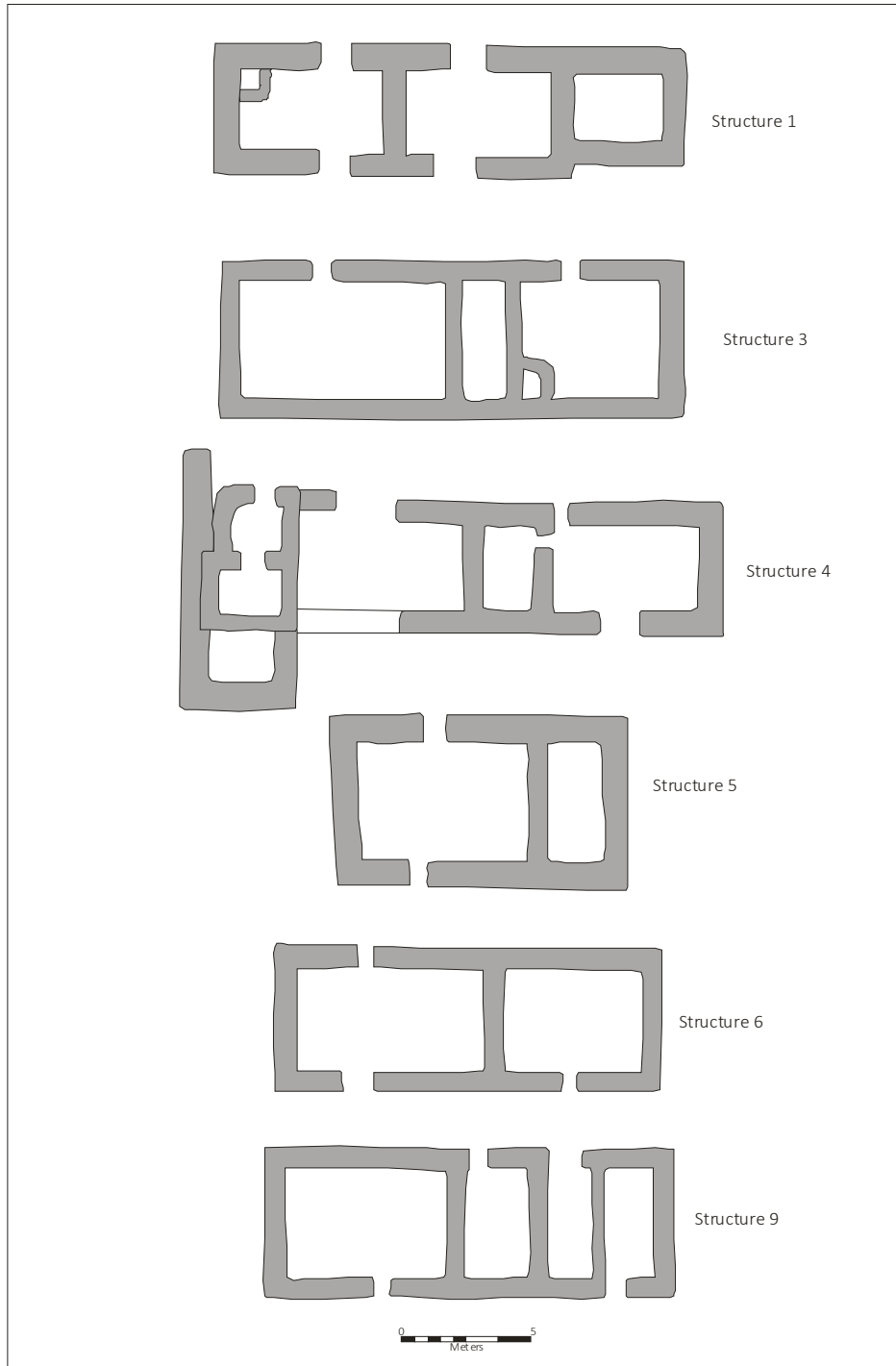


Figure 26: Creagfinn Structures

Structure 1. NR 45104 52095

Rectangular NW/SE oriented rubble built structure and measures 18m long and 6m wide externally with walls 0.60m wide and standing up to 1.7m in height. The building is divided into three parts with opposing entrances in the two northernmost divisions. Traces of an attached enclosed area 10m wide lies on the western side of the structure. Two twinning pens have been constructed within the northern room. The northern wall is best preserved and suggests a gable ended building.



Creagfinn, Structure 1

Structure 2. Kiln NR 45103 52104

This kiln structure is sub circular in shape measuring 5.5 by 5m and stands to a height up to 2.40m above present ground level. The walls measured up to 1.40m thick around a central chamber, which was likely accessed on the SW side.



Creagfinn, Structure 2, Kiln lying NE of Structure 1

Structure 3. NR 45137 52133

Rectangular NW/SE oriented rubble built structure measuring 17.7m in length by and 6m wide externally with walls 0.70m wide standing in 0.70m in height. The building is divided into three parts with two entrances on the NE side. A twinning pen has been constructed in the corner of the southern room.



Creagfinn, Structure 3

Structure 4. NR 45142 52144

This building in its original form may have been T shaped. At the W end are the footings of a SW/NE oriented rectangular building measuring 9.8m by 5.20m externally with walls standing 0.50m high. Over this has been built a smaller structure measuring 5.4m by 3.30m externally with walls up to 1.50m in height. This smaller structure is divided into two parts or rooms the northern most with a distinctly curving N wall. To the SE of these is what was likely an attached rectangular range which is oriented NW/SE, measuring 16m long by 6.1m wide externally and divided into three parts.



Creagfinn, Structure 4

Structure 5. NR 45138 52133

Rectangular NW/SE oriented rubble built structure measuring long 11.30 long by 6.50m wide with walls 0.70m wide and standing up to 0.80m in height. The building is divided into two parts with opposed entrances in the northern room.



Creagfinn, Structure 5

Structure 6. NR 45170 52122

Rectangular SW/NE oriented rubble built structure measuring 15m long and wide 5.50m wide with walls 0.70m wide and standing in up to 0.60m height. The building is divided into two parts with opposing entrances in the southern room and a single entrance in the SE wall of the northern room.



Creagfinn, Structure 6

Structure 7. NR 45192 52117

This kiln structure was constructed against a natural scarp at the north and an enclosure wall on the east. The structure measured 4.0m by 2.70m with walls measuring 0.80m wide and standing up to 1.00m high.



Creagfinn, Structure 7

Structure 8. NR 45190 52119

This could be the remains of an irregular structure or a small enclosure measuring 10m by 8m with walls 0.60m wide and standing up to 0.45m high.



Creagfinn, Structure 8

Structure 9. NR 45180 52135

Rectangular NW/SE oriented rubble built structure measuring 15.60m long and 5.80m wide externally with walls 0.80m wide and standing up to 1.15m in height. The building is divided into three parts (although what may be the remains of a later wall suggest a fourth division).

Two entrances on the south side of the building give access to the eastern and western rooms, while a now blocked entrance on the north side gives access to the central room or bay.



Creagfinn, Structure 9



Rig and furrow cultivation at Creagfinn

Site 18 Ballore

Located east of Creagfinn and located on the next prominent rise were the remains of Ballore, which had previously been described in CANMORE (Canmore ID 90294). The settlement consisted of five definite structures (and 1 possible) along with two enclosures.

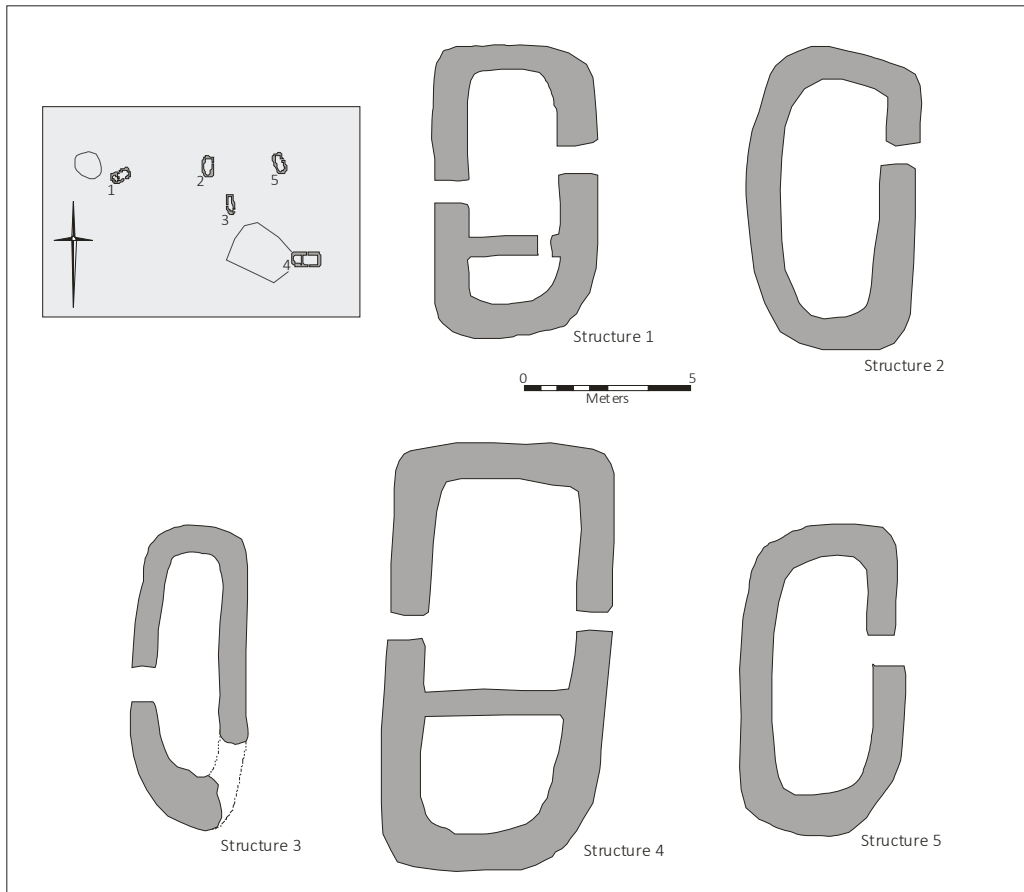


Figure 27: Ballore Structures

Structure 1. NR 45500 52116

Oval E/W oriented rubble built structure with rounded ends measuring 7.80m long by 4.9m wide externally with walls standing up to 1.70m in height. The building has two entrances on either long side and is divided into two parts.



Ballore, Structure 1

Structure 2. NR 45521 52123

Oval SW/NE oriented rubble built structure with rounded ends measuring 8.70m long by 5.0m wide externally with walls standing up to 1.60m in height. The building has an entrance on the SE side.



Ballore, Structure 2

Structure 3. NR 45529 52108

Badly disturbed remains of an oval SW/NE oriented rubble built structure with rounded ends measuring 9.5m long and 3.20m wide externally with walls standing 0.60m in height. The building is with an entrance on the SE side.



Ballore, Structure 3

Structure 4. NR 45556 52084

Oval E/W oriented rubble built structure with rounded ends measuring 12.4m long and 6.7m wide externally with walls standing up to 1.90m in height. The building is divided into two parts by a later? cross-wall and has opposed entrances on the long sides.



Ballore, Structure 4

Structure 5. NR 45532 52106

Oval SW/NE oriented rubble built structure with rounded ends measuring 9.0m long by 5.0m wide externally with walls standing up to 1.10m in height. The building has an entrance on the SE side.



Ballore, Structure 5

Structure? 6. NR 45487 52092

Possible badly denuded rubble built structure measuring 7.8m long and 0.60m wide externally.

Enclosure 1. NR 45489 52119

Oval turf and stone enclosure measuring 10.5m by 8.4m externally within walls up to 1.1m wide and standing to a height of 0.8m



Ballore, Enclosure 1

Enclosure 2. NR 45545 52086

Irregularly shaped stone and turf enclosure attached to the end of Structure 4 with evidence of internal rig and furrow cultivation.



Ballore, Enclosure 2

Site 19

The dilapidated remains of a structure, Site 19 was located north west of the old schoolhouse and may be the same remains as previously described in CANMORE.

Structure NR 45838 52149

Very dilapidated footings of an oval structure, measuring c7-8m by 6m externally. The possible structure sits within an area of improved ground.



Site 19, Structure

Appendix 8: DES Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll and Bute
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dun Fhinn, Ardtalla, Islay
PROJECT CODE:	DNF 18
PARISH:	Kildalton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Roddy Regan
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kilmartin Museum
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	Dun Fhinn, NR45SW 2
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Dun, roundhouse
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Dun occupation deposits
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NGR NR 4425 5191
START DATE (this season)	March 2018
END DATE (this season)	April 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Site survey in 2017
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	The excavation at the dun and roundhouse structures at Dun Fhinn uncovered occupation deposits associated with both the dun and roundhouse structures. It had previously been presumed that the roundhouse structure was a much later addition within the dun structure, but the excavation has shown these likely functioned at the same time, the roundhouse likely an integral building within the dun soon after the dun was constructed. Apart from the recovery of charcoal from all the occupation deposits, other finds were limited to a few utilised stones and a few fragments of what may be coarse pottery.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Publication
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mactaggart Trust
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Kilmartin Museum, Kilmartin, Argyll, PA31 8RQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	roddy@kilmartin.org
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Copies of the report will be lodged with, Historic Environment Scotland, WoSAS SMR, OASIS and the NMRS