



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba



Dun Boredale

Archaeological measured survey

Scheduled Monument 12900
Inverness, Ross & Skye Forest District
NG 5545 3641

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FCS Archaeologist

Dun Boredale

Dun Boredale is a well-preserved example of an Iron Age galleried dun in an impressive and evocative location on the Isle of Raasay (Illus 1). The dun was surveyed by AOC Archaeology using a Faro Focus 3D laser scanner; interpreted detail and topographic features were recorded using a Trimble S6 total station. The resulting survey will help inform conservation management and enhance the historic environment record (Illus 2 and 3). The area surrounding the dun has recently been cleared of trees.

The dun measures 12.5m in diameter within a massive drystone wall c. 3.8m in thickness and in parts at least 2m in height. It is situated on a distinct knoll on the SE facing slopes of Boredale Wood, above the fertile slopes to either side of the Inverarish Burn. The dun is well preserved, with several stretches of wall courses visible both externally and internally. There is a scarcement ledge visible around the interior on the S side; and an entrance on the E. The entrance was deliberately placed at the lowest point on the knoll (just as at the nearby broch of Caisteal Grugaig), acting to accentuate the impression of height (the wall elevation may have been 9m above the entrance passage). The site has much archaeological potential, both in terms of buried occupation deposits and of structural evidence.



Illus 1: view facing SE

In character with many similar sites of the Inner Hebrides and southern mainland of the Atlantic region, the site is not perfectly circular, rather forming a sub-oval plan - and the site has tended to be considered a 'dun' rather than a true 'broch'. However, MacKie considered the site in his corpus of the brochs, wheelhouses and roundhouses of Atlantic Scotland (2007), paying particular attention to analysis of the structure and the reconstruction of the wall features. Mackie considered that Dun Borrodale should be classed as a broch, 'though an oval one, ...the conjunction of a scarcement ledge, a doorway of appropriate design and signs of an intramural gallery on the wallhead above the scarcement would normally be quite sufficient to confirm its nature' (2007:845).



Illus 2



Dun Boredale, Raasay

1:200 @ A3





Illus 3

