

# A NOSAS SURVEY OF THE LANDS OF URCHANY

A MULTI-PERIOD SETTLEMENT ON THE BRAES WEST OF BEAULY

6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> April 2015



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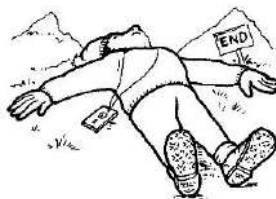
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*"I took with me a guide, Dan Ross, Muir of Lettoch, when I explored the more westerly district of Farley, as Dan knows this area better than most folk. It is the land of his forefathers, but their croft is no longer in existence. Such is the sad story of Farley and Urchany, both once thickly populated, and now more or less a scene of ruins and memories. In Farley still live three families, but Urchany, once famous for its butter, is completely void of habitation, the last native having left about eighty years ago"*<sup>1</sup>.

Kenneth Macrae 1950

*"Breakachy is bounded on the North by a stream which has been known from time immemorial as Urchany Burn. Rising among the hills, at the back of Urchany Farm, and flowing down through the beautiful flats below, it deepens, widens and gathers volume, until it reaches the river below Teanassie Bridge, thus forming a natural boundary on the north and also on the east. It is one of the best small fishing streams for miles around; although the trout are not large, they are usually plentiful and constitute a rare delicacy. A gaff is not needed; while the stream is deep in parts, it is narrow, and the trout are easily landed with the rod."*<sup>2</sup>

Rev William MacDonald, 1928

Almost all the land surveyed for this report is part of the Farley Estate, bought at the break-up of most of the Lovat Estate in 1996 by Hatfield Farms Ltd, owned by the Walduck family, London hoteliers. The author is grateful to the estate, and in particular the local gamekeeper Charlie Thomson, for their cooperation and permission to walk over the ground.

This report represents the passion of an individual who fell for the charms of Urchany in 2002 ..... and who has been going back regularly since.

It also reflects the industry of a small group of members of the North of Scotland Archaeological Society who undertook a formal survey of the "lands of Urchany" over five days in April 2015.

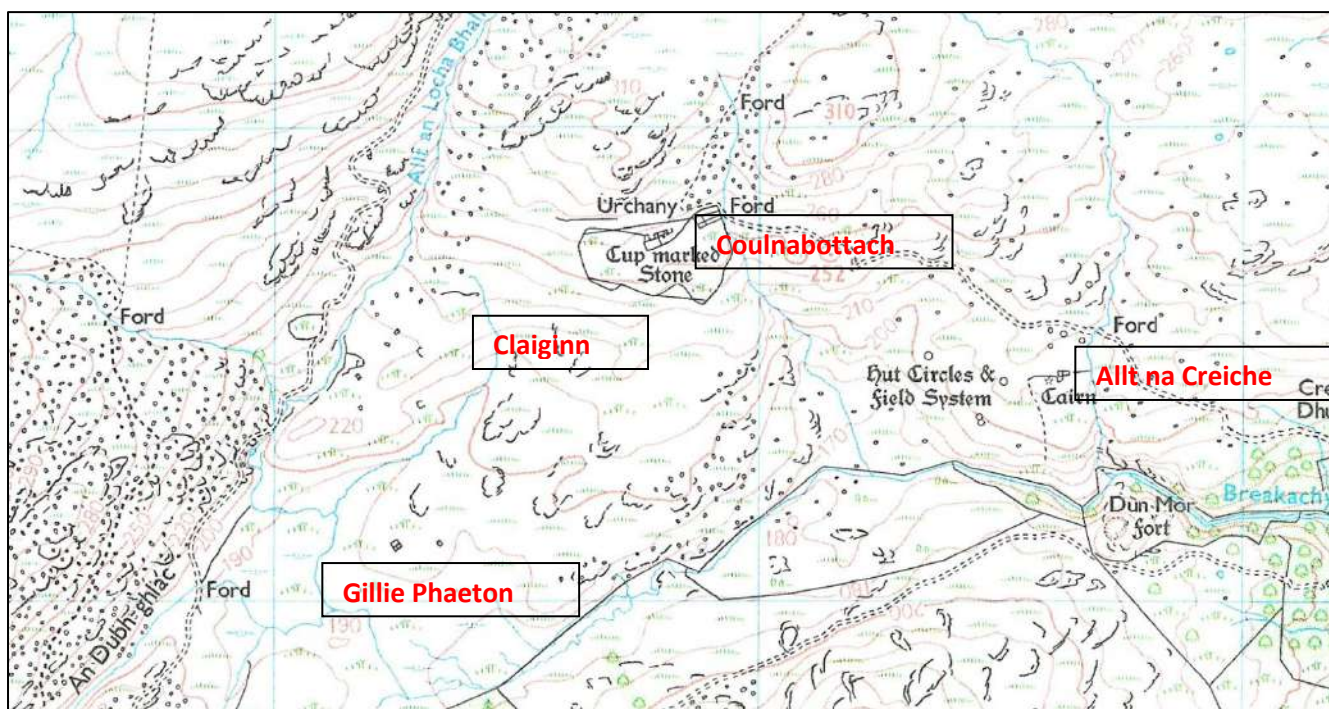
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<sup>1</sup> Harry Harrison, *Urchany and Farley, Leanassie and Breakachy, Parish of Kilmorack* (Kilmorack: Kilmorack Heritage Association, 1998), 5

<sup>2</sup> William MacDonald, *The Breakachian* (Wordpress, 2011 revised edition of 1928 original) <https://issuu.com/dougal-quixote/docs/breakachian> [Accessed 4th February 2019]



# The History of Urchany



There is evidence of settlement in Urchany from the late Neolithic to the 1860's, and evidence of farming until today. Settlement remains are found in the four main areas identified in red on the map above – Gillie Phaeton (Belloan), Claiginn, Coul nabottach (Coul na Bodach) and Allt na Creiche (the boundary burn). These names for the parts of Urchany are often referred to in estate maps and records.

Prior to this survey by the author and other NOSAS members, the previously available historical evidence for Urchany described on the Highland Council Historic Environment Record included five records. These are listed in approximate chronological sequence:

**Neolithic:** A large cup-marked stone has been known at Coul nabottach in Urchany from antiquarian days<sup>3,4</sup>. It contained "upwards of 40 cups".

**Bronze Age** (approx 2000-700BC) A survey by the Ordnance Survey in March 1970<sup>5</sup> identified ten hut circles on the ground to the west of the Allt na Creiche (Boundary Burn), both north and south of the main Urchany access track. This was associated with a pre-historic field system, which has been modified by a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead<sup>6</sup> to the west of the burn.

The western enclosure wall of this settlement abuts a "kerbed cairn", also described by the OS in 1970<sup>7</sup>.

None of the Urchany hut circles have been excavated, so it is difficult to ascribe a time period to them. Many of them could date to the Iron Age.

**Iron Age** (approx 700BC-400AD) A crescent of five, possibly iron-age, duns are located on the braes north west of Beauly. The most westerly of these, Dun Mor<sup>8</sup>, about 500m away, is just across the gorge of the Breackachy Burn from Allt na Creiche. It stands steeply above what is almost a gorge separating it from the Allt na Creiche hut circles to the north.

<sup>3</sup> William Jolly "On Cup-Marked Stones in the Neighbourhood of Inverness," *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* 15. (1880-81): 239-301

<sup>4</sup> <https://her.highland.gov.uk/monument/MHG2650>

<sup>5</sup> <https://her.highland.gov.uk/monument/MHG2666>

<sup>6</sup> <https://her.highland.gov.uk/monument/MHG23303>

<sup>7</sup> <https://her.highland.gov.uk/monument/MHG2665>

<sup>8</sup> <https://her.highland.gov.uk/monument/MHG2651>



**Pictish:** There are no known Pictish remains from this period, although it is hard to imagine that people were not living here in the early medieval period.

**Historic Period:** A township comprising one roofed and nine unroofed buildings is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1876-81, sheet ix)<sup>9</sup>. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map (1902), these have been reduced to three.

The next historic source of evidence is from maps:

**1654** Johannes Blaeu's map of Scotland was published in 1654 although based on maps produced by Timothy Pont during 1583-1596 and Robert Gordon in the 1620's.

Note that Urchany is placed just west of Kilmorack along the Beauly river.



Figure 1: Blaeu's Map of the Kilmorack area © National Library of Scotland

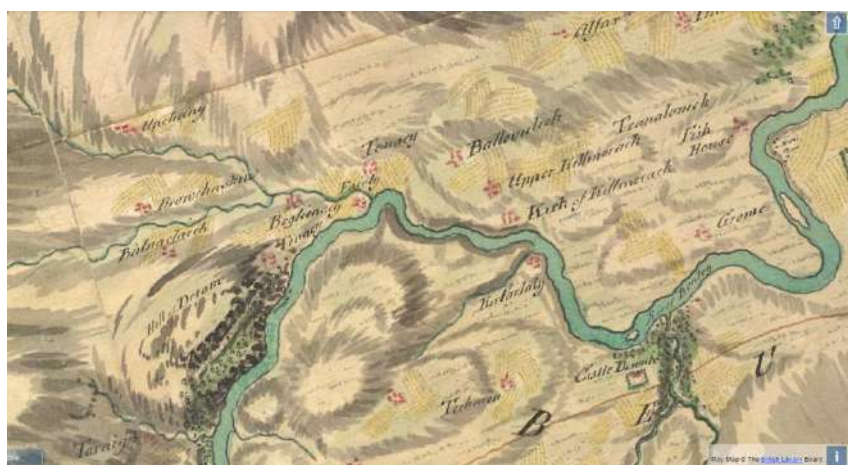
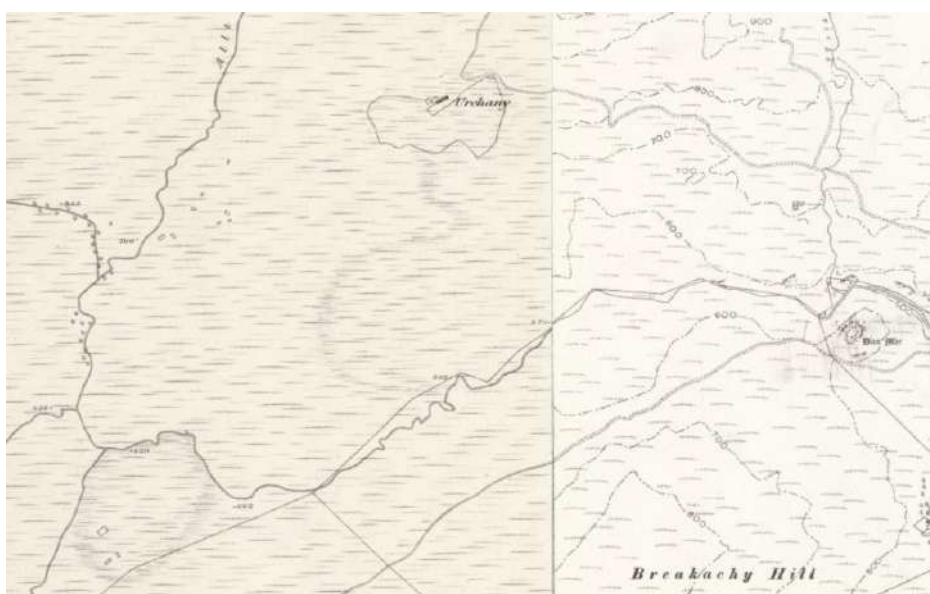


Figure 2: William Roy's Map, 1747-55 © British Library Board

**1747-52** Roy's military map shows Urchany, spelt Upchany, in the correct position. It is associated with some fields and lies along an un-named river.

Figure 3 :  
1st edition OS map of the Lands  
of Urchany. Surveyed 1873. © OS



The first edition of the Ordnance Survey maps of this area was published in 1876 after an 1873 survey.

<sup>9</sup><https://her.highland.gov.uk/monument/MHG23302>

## The Historical Period

Urchany was Fraser land, part of the extensive estate belonging to Lord Lovat, chief of the Frasers, who occupied a castle just south of Beauly. The present castle, called Beaufort, dates to the 1870's, although it is said to be the thirteenth castle built on this site. The earliest castle was called Castle Dounie, belonging to the Bisset family who were originally Norman. The Frasers have been in possession since 1333.

A significant battle of the Covenanting Wars (The War of the Three Kingdoms, 1639-51) took place at Auldearn in May 1645, with the victorious Royalists, under Montrose, retreating westwards. They set fire to the outskirts of Inverness and pillaged and burnt the Fraser lands to the west of that. It was said "*that twixt Inverness and Guisachan (near Cannich) there was not left in my countrie a sheep to bleet, a cock to crow day, nor a house unruffled*"<sup>10</sup>. The Royalist army came to camp at Farley, just east of Urchany, for a while and then continued to move westwards, almost certainly along the line of the Breakachy Burn and Urchany.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Lovat<sup>11</sup>, Simon Fraser, "came out" in the '45 and, despite being 84 at the time, was executed on Tower Hill for his treason in 1747. The Fraser lands were pillaged by the victorious Royalist army after Culloden, with Beaufort Castle burnt. The estate was then annexed by the government and only returned to the Frasers in 1774. The 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Lovat, Major General Simon Fraser, distinguished himself militarily in Canada and was subsequently pardoned in 1750 (although had to wait another 24 years to get his lands back!).

Much of the historical and social information that follows is taken with permission from: ***Urchany and Farley, Leanassie and Breakachy : Parish of Kilmorack : a monograph of the topology, history and demography of three former crofting townships on the Lovat Estates and one on the Chisholm Estates, 1700-1998***. This is one of the books in the Kilmorack Heritage Society's series of books on the history of the area around Beauly and The Aird. The books, including the Urchany one, are for sale commercially, and can be viewed in the Highland Archive, Inverness.

### 1728 – 1800

Kilmorack parish, which includes Urchany, was said at one time to be the largest parish in Scotland, stretching from west coast to east. The Kilmorack parish records were searched by Harry Harrison and Susan Thomson in their compilation of the Kilmorack Heritage books during the 1990's and early 2000's. The first mention of Urchany (in the Parish records) was in 1728 with the marriage of John McWilliam of Urchanie to Margaret Mitchell of Cannich.

It is uncertain how far the Lovats "cleared" their land. There are reports of Fraser land (Strathfarrar and Farley) being used to house those evicted from Chisholm land at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Chisholm clearances were just to the south of the Breakachy burn, and in Glen Affric and Strathglass. However, despite evidence of many families living in Urchany in the C18th, by the early years of the C19th it was mainly a sheep farm. It's not clear what happened to the residents, whether they were in fact cleared, or whether their numbers declined by other means. An unsubstantiated local story is that the men were killed during the Napoleonic wars.

The social records of the occupants are recorded in the following Social History section. Scrutinising the parish records, there is a decline in births and marriages during the mid to late seventeenth century. From then on there is evidence of families and individuals living in the various parts of Urchany until the 1871 census when no-one is recorded living there. The cumulative evidence comes from

- Parish registers
- The papers of the forfeited estate taken to Edinburgh following the 1745-6 rebellion
- Rental rolls and Commissioner reports, as the Government managed the estate from 1749 until 1774, when it was returned to the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Lovat, Simon Fraser.
- Estate maps (courtesy of the Lovat Estate office)
- Census returns

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<sup>10</sup> James Fraser, *Chronicles of the Frasers 916-1674* (Edinburgh: University Press for the Scottish History Society 1905), 315, <https://deriv.nls.uk/dcn23/9512/95123977.23.pdf> [Accessed 3rd February 2019]

<sup>11</sup> "Simon Fraser, 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Lovat", Wikipedia, accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simon\\_Fraser,\\_11th\\_Lord\\_Lovat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simon_Fraser,_11th_Lord_Lovat)



## 1757 Map

This is the first of several maps in the Lovat Estate office, and now online: [maps.nls.uk/estates/rec/6287](https://maps.nls.uk/estates/rec/6287). It was surveyed and drawn by Peter May<sup>12</sup> land surveyor, for the Commissioners of the Forfeited Annexed Estates in order to identify the nature of the land being farmed, the rent that would be due, and the improvements that could be made. It is a beautifully drawn, detailed map of the whole estate, paper backed with linen, approx 1metre square. It shows houses at Coul nabottach, Urchany (ie Claiginn) and Belloan (ie Gillie Phaeton). It shows for each field the acreage as ARF: acres, roods, falls.



Figure 4: Peter May map of Kilmorack Parish, 1757



Figure 5: George Brown map of Urchany, 1798-1800

## 1797 Map

This book of maps of the Lovat Estate land around the inner end of the Beauly Firth followed a survey in 1798-99 & 1800 by George Brown. Frustratingly, on each page north points in a different direction, often to the bottom of the page, so interpretation of these pages takes time! Again, there are houses and fields drawn, some with people's names attached, and including acreage.

A snip from one of the pages shows Gillie Phaeton, to the left.

## 1800 – present day

Those who lived in Urchany include shepherds by the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Coul nabottach seems to be farmed – *ploughed or just grazed?* – by the McKinnon family, who are identified as living there on the 1797 map and continue until the 1841 census (but not the 1851 one).

The settlement at Allt na Criche does not exist on the 1757 & 1797 maps, and yet has a household living there in 1841, but not in 1851. Was this farm built for shepherds in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and then deserted by mid-century?

The Inverness Advertiser has an advertisement (right) for a sale of sheep from Urchany in 1821 and an invitation to take up the letting of a sheep farm in 1822.



Printed by Inverness Reference Library 201

An 1831 advert (left) again offers the land for grazing, either sheep or black cattle.

And an 1861 advert (right) again offers the land for grazing "of cattle". Not sheep, the sheep have moved on!



Printed by Inverness Reference Library 2013



Printed by Inverness Reference Lib

<sup>12</sup> Ian Adams (ed.), *Papers on Peter May, Land Surveyor, 1749-1793*, (Edinburgh: T&J Constable for Scottish History Society, 1979)  
NOSAS Urchany Survey



This sketch of the Urchany lands looks as though it might have been made in preparation for development of the site, development that never happened. At the Coulnabottach site there are the words: *“The offices and house should be here”!*

**1852 Map** (below, and online: <https://maps.nls.uk/estates/6555.html>)

Wash. Charles Land  
at  
Hankenny  
322

No.	Description	Acres
1	Charles	7.5
2	Hankenny	11.5
3	Hankenny	11.5
4	Hankenny	11.5
5	Hankenny	11.5
6	Hankenny	11.5
7	Hankenny	11.5
8	Hankenny	11.5
9	Hankenny	11.5
10	Hankenny	11.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>117.5</b>

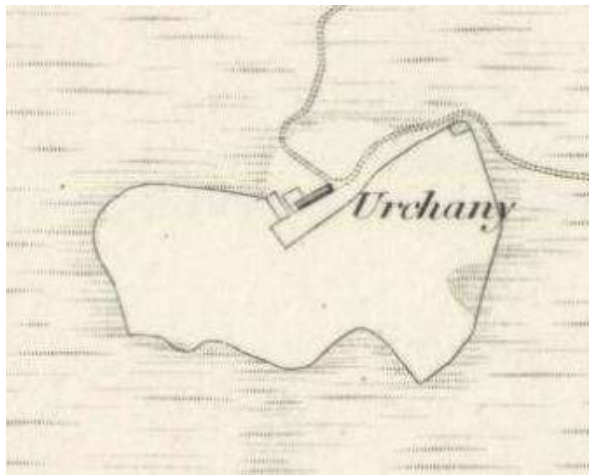
A historical map titled "LANDS OF UNCHART" (Lands of Uncharted) showing a large, irregularly shaped landmass. The landmass is divided into several colored regions: a large central area in shades of brown and tan, a yellowish region on the right, and two large blue-green regions on the left and bottom right. The map features numerous small, dark, irregular shapes representing mountains or islands. A compass rose is located in the upper right corner, and a scale bar is at the bottom. The map is surrounded by a dotted line, and there is a small table or legend in the top left corner. The title "LANDS OF UNCHART" is written in a stylized font at the top right.

## The 1870 Map

page 8

## OS Maps

- The first edition 25" map 1855-1882 misses Urchany but does include three enclosures and no obvious buildings at Allt na Criche, see right.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25" map 1890-1960 shows much the same at Allt na Criche.



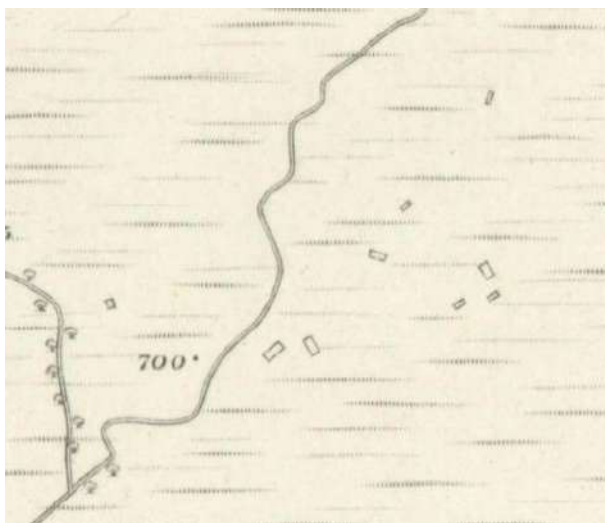
**Figure 10: 1st Edition 6" OS map, showing Coul na Bottach**



**Figure 9: 1st Edition 25" OS map, showing the settlement at Allt na Criche**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" map 1843-1887 shows a roofed building at Coul nabottach and nine unroofed structures at Claiginn. From the size of those structures not all of them seem to be houses.

Lastly, at Gillie Phaeton there are five unroofed structures on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" map, in two groups. These are completely unrecorded on the Historic Environment Record.



**Figure 12: 1st Edition 6" OS map showing nine unroofed structures at Claiginn**



**Figure 11: 1st Edition 6" OS map showing five unroofed structures at Gillie Phaeton**

By the time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 6" maps, surveyed 1901, there is still one roofed building in Counabottach, and the same number of unroofed structures at Claiginn and Gillie Phaeton.

Remarkably, on the 1:25k OS map, from 1937, the building at Coul nabottach is still shown roofed. Two of the structures at Gillie Phaeton have disappeared.

# THE SOCIAL HISTORY of URCHANY

## Occupants of Urchany (between 1728 & 1861)

*Much of what follows has been gleaned from the work of Harry Harrison and Sue Thomson, authors of the Kilmorack Heritage Guide, see earlier.*

## PARISH REGISTER mentioning URCHANY RESIDENTS

- **Between 1728 & 1740**, 2 marriages, 6 baptisms, involving 7 families
  - Surnames included ffraser, fforbes, MacDonald
  - **Baptisms**
    - 22 April 1729 – John McWm in Urchany. John
    - 15 October 1730 – John McAndrew in Urchanie. Anna
    - 3 March 1733 – John Mcoldonich in Urchanie. Janet
    - (Children born on Sundays were often called Donich (the servant of the Almighty))
    - 27 December 1735 – Alexr fforbes in Urchanie had a daughter called Anna
    - 8 October 1738 – John Mchustain in Urchanie a child Alexr
    - 27 June 1740 – Alexr McRory Koie in Urchanie. John
  - **Marriages**
    - 4 March 1728 booked John McWilliam of Urchanie & Margaret Mitchell of ? Cannich
    - 25 June 1737 – Kenneth ffraser of Erchless & Katherine McDonald of Urchanie
- **Between 1741 & 1750** – 3 marriages, 5 baptisms
  - **Baptisms**
    - 23 Jan 1744 – Alexr Bain in Urchanie. Robert
    - 22 May 1745 – John More Mcoldonich in Urchanie. Mary
    - 22 April 1749 Alex Mc en Mc Conihu (?) in Urchanie. Thomas
    - 10 December 1749 – William Miller in Urchanie. Anna
  - **Marriages**
    - 5 May 1747 – John McOldonich in Urchanie & Margaret McTosh in Breakack
    - 22 May 1747 – William Mc Wm Miller in Urchanie & Katherine min Lomas Mc ol ve Lomais
- **Between 1751 & 1760** – 1 marriage, 7 baptisms involving 6 families
  - **Marriages** - 24 June 1759 – Angus McBean of Daviot & Gredach fforbes of Urchanie
- **Between 1761 & 1770** – 1 marriage, 6 baptisms, involving 5 families
  - **Marriages** – 13 June 1762 Collin ffraser of Breakach & Anna Cameron of Urchany
- **Between 1771 & 1780** – no marriages, 3 baptisms, involving 2 families
- **After this**, Church baptism records peter out
- **Names of men** having children to be baptised **between 1751 & 1780**:
  - Wm McKomais (?) Erreck (?)
  - Andrew Kile
  - John McOldonich
  - Andrew McLean
  - Angus McBean
  - Colin Fraser
  - Donald McKenzie
  - Alexander Cameron



- **Names of Occupants on the 1797 estate map:**
  - Mr Nicol – Gillie Phaeton
  - Widow Fraser – Gillie Phaeton & Craggain
  - Mr McKinnon – Coulnabottach
- **Between 1801 & 1810** – no marriages, 3 baptisms
  - John Mackenzie & Isabel McKinnon – a daughter, Margaret, 22 November 1806
  - John Mackenzie & Janet Fraser – a daughter, Annable, 28 May 1809
    - Note same name of father, different mothers. Two different men? Or, same man, two different wives?
  - Angus McKinnon & Katharine Douglas – a son, Angus, 29 March 1809
- **Between 1811 & 1820** – 1 marriage, 9 baptisms, involving 4 families. Names mentioned:
  - Angus Cameron, shepherd
  - William McKenzie, shepherd
  - Donald McKinnon, farmer Coulnabottach (*was he the father of John McKinnon in the 1841 census?*)
  - Angus McKinnon, married Katharine Douglas, four children - ? date.
  - Angus McKinnon, married Jean McGregor (Second wife?) 12 February 1818, son John baptised 14 September 1818.
  - Angus McKinnon, Urchany, & Anne McKenzie produced bastard son, Angus, baptised 28 September 1818
  - Three separate men all of the same name? Or one man with two wives, sequentially, and a child out of wedlock with Anne McKenzie?
- **Between 1821 & 1830** – 1 marriage
  - **Marriage:** James Cameron of Urchany & Mary McKay of Broallan, 2 December 1825
  - **Baptism:** Hugh Calder, shepherd Urchany & Isabel McKenzie – a son, William, 22 July 1830

### Births, Marriages and Families by Decade

Decade	Baptisms	Marriages	No. Families Involved
1728-1740	6	2	7
1741-1750	5	3	
1751-1760	7	1	6
1761-1770	6	1	5
1771-1780	3	0	2
1797 Map	?	?	3
1801-1810	3	0	
1811-1820	9	1	4
1821-1830	1	1	
1841 Census			2
1851 Census			1
1861 Census			1
1871 Census			0

## CENSUS and OTHER RECORDS

### 1841 Census

- Two households, nine individuals
- **Urchany**, single households in
  - Urchany (presumably Coul nabottach) –
    - John McKinnon farmer, 30
    - Margaret McKinnon, 15
    - Hugh Chisholm agricultural labourer, 15
    - Alexaner MacDonald male servant, 15
    - Helen Leitch female servant, 15
    - Janet Chisholm a visitor, 20 (*one wonders what role she played.....??*)
- **Allt na Criche**, spelt Aultnacrich, 1 Inhabited house
  - Donald MacKay, 55, Agricultural Labourer, Not born in County
  - Mary MacKay, 50, Not born in county
  - Finlay Macckay, 14, Not born in County

### 1851 Census

- One household, presumably Coul na Bottach, two residents
- **Urchany**,
  - Alexander McLennon shepherd, 35
  - Hannah McMillan, servant, 27 (*one wonders what role she played.....??*)

### 1861 Census

- One household, three residents
- **Urchany**:
  - Donald McKinnon, farmer of 8 acres, 35
  - Ann McKinnon, 22 (Gravestone in Kilmorack Burial Ground: *Ann McLennan wife of Donald McKinnon of Urchany, died 27 September 1924, age 84 years*)
  - John McKinnon, 6 months (Gravestone in Kilmorack Burial Ground: *Died 15 December 1924, aged 64 years*)

Further Annexed Estate Rental Records				
	1755 (SRO E 769.69)		1768 (SRO E 769.70 & 769.71)	
	Living at.....	Rent Paid	Living at.....	Rent Paid
Hugh Fraser	?			
<b>Lilias Calder</b>	Cleggain	£7 s13 d10	?	
<b>Alexander fforbes</b>	Claigh	£0 s18 d6	"Farms, Urchany"	£1 s5 d5
<b>Thomas MacJames</b>	Claigh	£2 s15 d8	"Farms, Urchany"	£1 s5 d5
William Miller + Anne	?			
min hutcheon og				
John McVildonich	?			
Alex MacCoilvarn	?			
Hugh fforbes	?			
<b>James Fraser of Altyre</b>	Claigh	£0 s18 d6	?	
<b>Thomas Chisholm minr</b>	Belloan	£2 s15 d8	"Farms, Urchany"	£1 s5 d5
<b>William Fraser</b>	Coul nabottch	£1 s17 10	? passed on to Alexr	
<b>Alexr Fraser</b>			"Farms, Urchany"	£3 s11 d3
<b>Mary Chisolm</b>	Coul nabottch	£1 s17 10	"Farms, Urchany"	£3 s11 d3
<b>Alexr Cameron</b>			"Farms, Urchany"	£3 s11 d3

# Judicial Review carried out by Hugh Munro of Tenainich 1749

## Court of Baron Baillie, 3 September 1750

	1749 Judicial Review	1749 Annual Rent	Arrears	Notes	Rent
<b>Hugh Fraser</b>	Pedicle of the land of Urchanie, called Balloan.	45 Merks <sup>13</sup> , 1 wedder <sup>14</sup> , 1 lamb, 6 hens, proportion of fishing cruives	1748 receipt for payment of £5 for 1745 & 1746. Rents for 1747 & 1748 still outstanding	Listed as resident	£30 Scots <sup>15</sup> , 1 wedder, 6 hens
<b>Lilias Calder</b>	Urchany	45 Merks, 1 wedder, 1 lamb, 6 hens, proportion of fishing cruives	20.1.1747 receipt for 30 pund scots for 1745 rent. 11.2.1749 for 30 pund Scots for 1746. Rent for 1747 & 1748 outstanding	Listed as resident	£30 Scots, 1 wedder, 1 lamb, 6 hens
<b>Alexander Forbes</b>	Urchany (Balloan) for a considerable number of years	15 pounds Scots, ½ wedder, ½ lamb, 3 hens, proportion of fishing cruives	March 1747 for rent 1745 & 1746. 13 May 1748 for 1747. Rent for 1748 outstanding.	Too sick to appear before Court. Neighbour John Chisholm represents him. <b>Rent Arrears</b> - Has paid rent 1745 & 1746, but nothing for 1747, 1748, 1749, 1750.	£15 Scots, ½ wedder, ½ lamb, 3 hens
<b>Thomas MacJames</b>	Urchany, for several years	15 pounds Scots, ½ wedder, ½ lamb, 3 hens, proportion of fishing cruives	March 1747 for rent 1745 & 1746, except the hens. Rent for 1747 & 1748 outstanding.	Listed as resident	£15 Scots, ½ wedder, ½ lamb, 3 hens
<b>William Miller + Anne min hutcheon og</b> (the daughter of young Hugh Fraser)	Urchany, for 3 or 4 years	<b>William</b> 15 merks <b>Anne</b> 2 pounds Scots ½ wedder, ½ lamb, 3 hens,	<b>William</b> - March 1747 for rent 1745 & 1746, except the hens. Rent for 1747 & 1748 outstanding. <b>Anne</b> – due rent for 1745-48	Listed separately. Are they married.....?? William took over Anne's land from Whitsunday 1749	<b>William</b> £10 Scots, 1 fourth wedder, 1 fourth lamb, 1½ hens <b>Anne</b> £5 Scots, 1 fourth wedder, 1 fourth lamb, 1½ hens
<b>John McVildonich</b>	Urchany, for several years past	15 pounds Scots, ½ wedder, ½ lamb, 3 hens	March 1747 for rent 1745 & 1746, except the hens. Rent for 1747 & 1748 outstanding.	Listed as resident (as John MacIldonick)	£15 Scots, ½ wedder, ½ lamb, 3 hens
<b>Alex MacCoilvarn</b>	Cylenaikie, a pedicle of said lands of Urchany (?Coile na Cleithe)	Pund Scots 17 6s 4p, 1 wedder, 1 lamb, 6 hens,	Has paid rent 1745 & 1746, except the hens. Rent for 1747 & 1748 outstanding.	No longer listed	
<b>Hugh fforbes</b>	Very little detail			No longer listed	

<sup>13</sup> 1 Merk = 2/3 Pound Scots

<sup>14</sup> Wedder/Wether - Sheep

<sup>15</sup> In 1707, the Pound Scots was replaced by the pound sterling at a rate of 12 to 1, although the pound Scots continued to be used in Scotland as a unit of account for most of the 18th century.



# The NOSAS Survey of Urchany

6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> April 2015

After numerous single and group visits to Urchany since 2009, it was decided to undertake a formal systematic survey of the archaeological remains of this area of approximately four square kilometres. On older maps this area is called the “Lands of Urchany” which includes the settlement names of:

- Gillie Phaeton (variously Belloan)
- Claiginn (at times, Urchany)
- Coulnabottach (Coulnabodach)
- Allt na Creiche

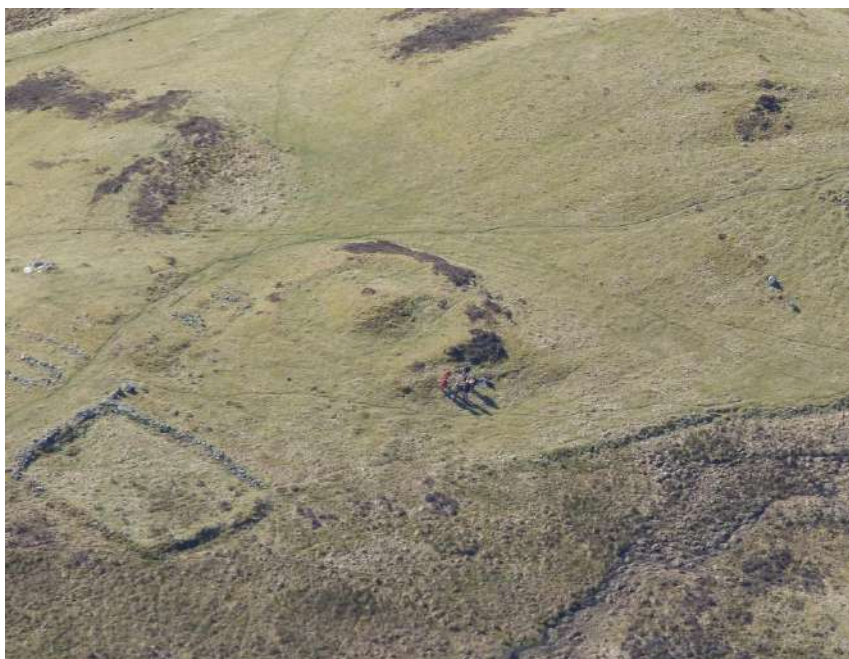
The participants during the five days of the survey were:

- Tim Blackie (Green Area)
- Beth Blackburn (Blue Area)
- Anne Cockroft (Red Area)
- Bob Jones (Red Area)
- Rosemary Jones (Purple Area)
- Linda Lamb (Purple Area)
- Anne Macinnes (Green Area)
- James McComas (Yellow Area)
- Marion Ruscoe (Purple Area)
- Roland Spencer-Jones
- Alan Thompson (Blue Area)
- Sue Walker (Purple Area)
- John Wombell (Yellow Area)
- Trina Wombell (Yellow Area)

They together contributed 49 person days of survey activity.

Two remarkable facts about the survey:

1. The sun shone much of the time
2. Without knowing that NOSAS was surveying, local pilot and archaeologist Jim Bone flew over the site taking photographs on the third day.

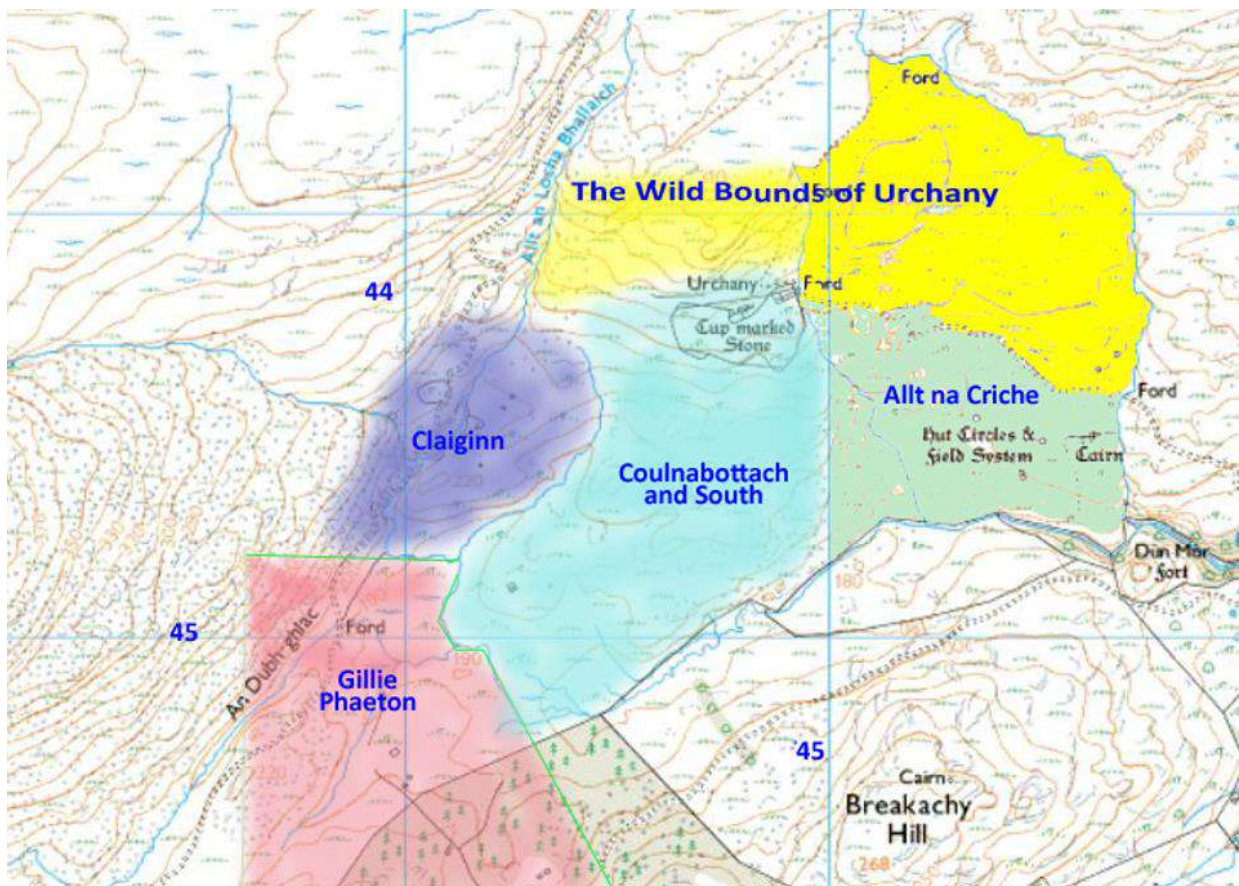


*Figure 13: Aerial Photograph of NOSAS Surveyors at Claiginn, 8th April 2015*

The components of the survey were:

- An initial walk-over survey to identify all the artificial structures and disturbances on the land
- On standardised data sheets, recording a specified set of data for each:
  - Type of structure
  - Grid reference, to 10 figures
  - Approximate dimensions
  - Photograph(s)
- For some of the more complex structures, a dimensioned drawing.
- Compiling a unique set of data and photos for each structure.

In view of the extent of the survey area, the ground to be covered was divided into five areas, roughly demarcated by the burns and valleys of the undulating, south-sloping land, and named according to colours. From the west the coloured areas are: Red, Purple, Blue, Yellow, Green. The results of the survey are described area by area, as indicated above.



A guide to the allocation of numbers to the archaeological features:

- Each number had a prefix letter:
  - B = building
  - C = cairn
  - E = enclosure
  - H = hut circle
  - K = kiln
  - V = various, applied to features that were none of the above.
- Each coloured area was pre-allocated up to 50 numbers each of which had a prefix letter:
  - Yellow Area: 0-50
  - Green Area: 51-100
  - Blue Area: 101-150
  - Purple Area: 151-200
  - Red Area: 201-250



## URCHANY GREEN AREA

This area was found to contain hut circles, clearance cairns, a kerbed cairn, a cist burial and pre-historic field structures. These are characteristically indicative of activity within the Bronze Age.

The area also contains a settlement that the 1841 census suggests was occupied by Donald MacLeay, agricultural labourer age 55, his wife Mary age 55, and son Findlay age 15. There is no record of a modern historic settlement at this site before 1841, and there was no record of anyone living there in subsequent censuses. So, a short-lived settlement.

The maps in Fig 14 show that there were no structures identified in this area at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

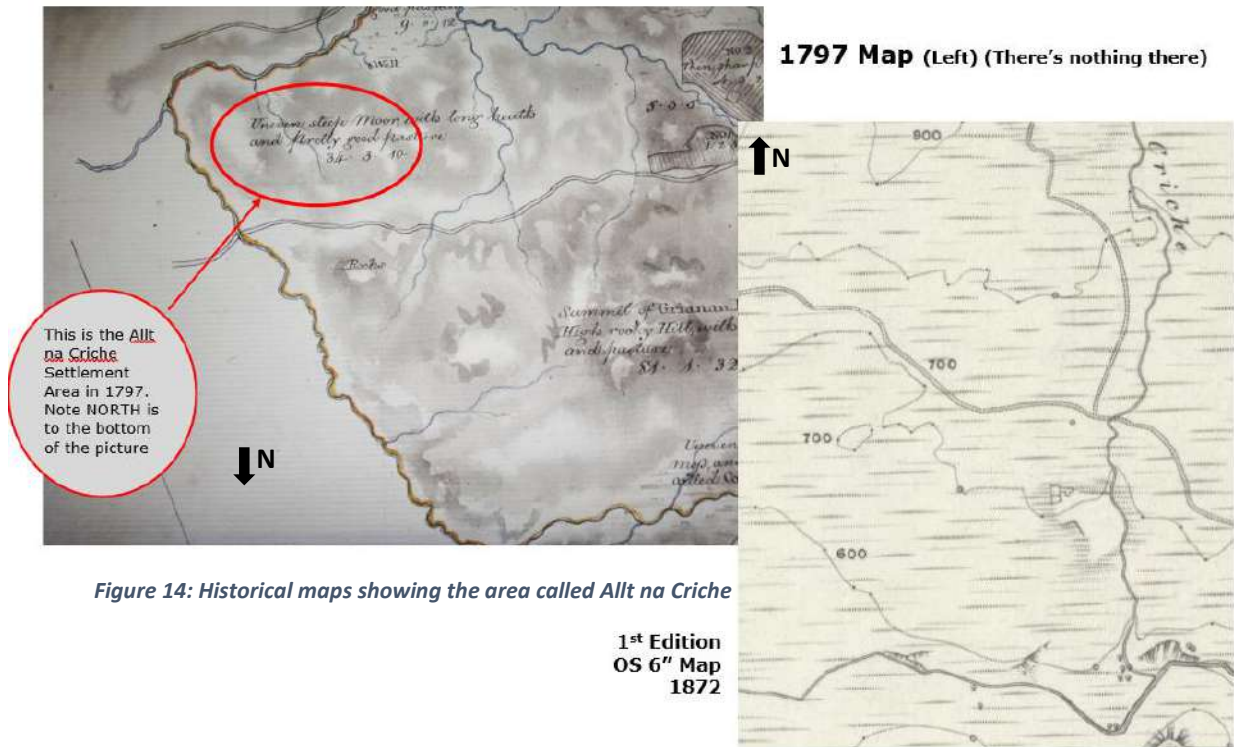


Figure 14: Historical maps showing the area called Allt na Criche





## BUILDINGS:

### B51 NH 45648 45550

This roughly constructed building, 4m x 3m, is situated circa 12m south of the main Urchany track, and 45m west of the Allt na Criche. It lies on gently sloping ground to the south. The double skinned walls are 0.5m wide with a maximum height of 1.0m, and constructed of boulders. A doorway is evident in S.

The appearances are those of a relatively modern building, perhaps 19<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps related to sheep.



*Figure 16: B51 from SW*



*Figure 17: Looking down into B51 from NE*

### V60 NH 45644 45467 Allt na Criche settlement

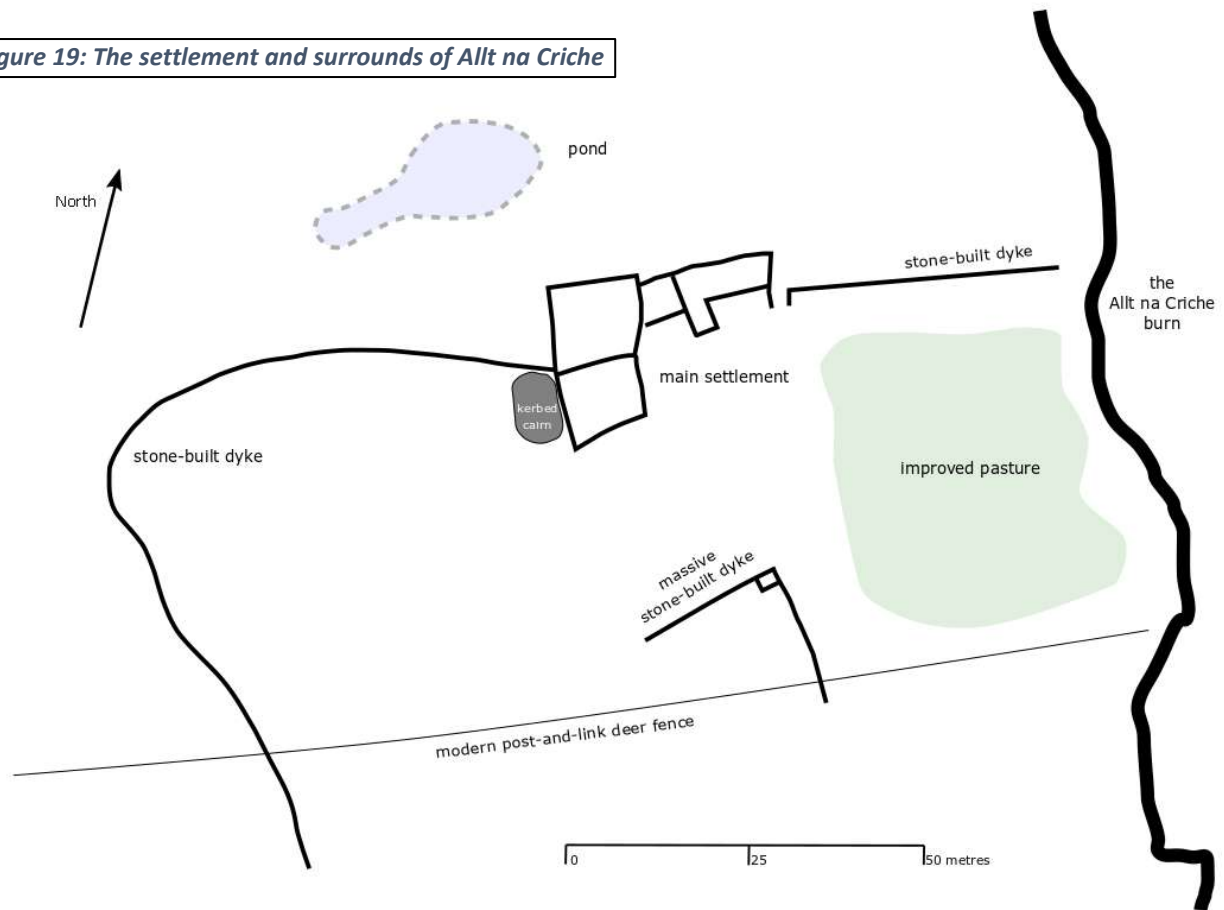
The C19<sup>th</sup> settlement west of the Allt na Criche consists of extensive enclosure walls, a building, and a sunken area, perhaps a pond. On the estate maps covering this area there is no settlement shown until 1838, see Fig 19 below. In the 1841 census there are three people living at “Aultnacrich”: Donald Mackay, agricultural labourer, Mary Mackay, and a 14 year old boy Finlay, presumably their son. We know from newspaper adverts that Urchany was used for sheep farming at this time.



*Figure 18: The ruined settlement of Allt na Criche from the E*



**Figure 19: The settlement and surrounds of Allt na Criche**



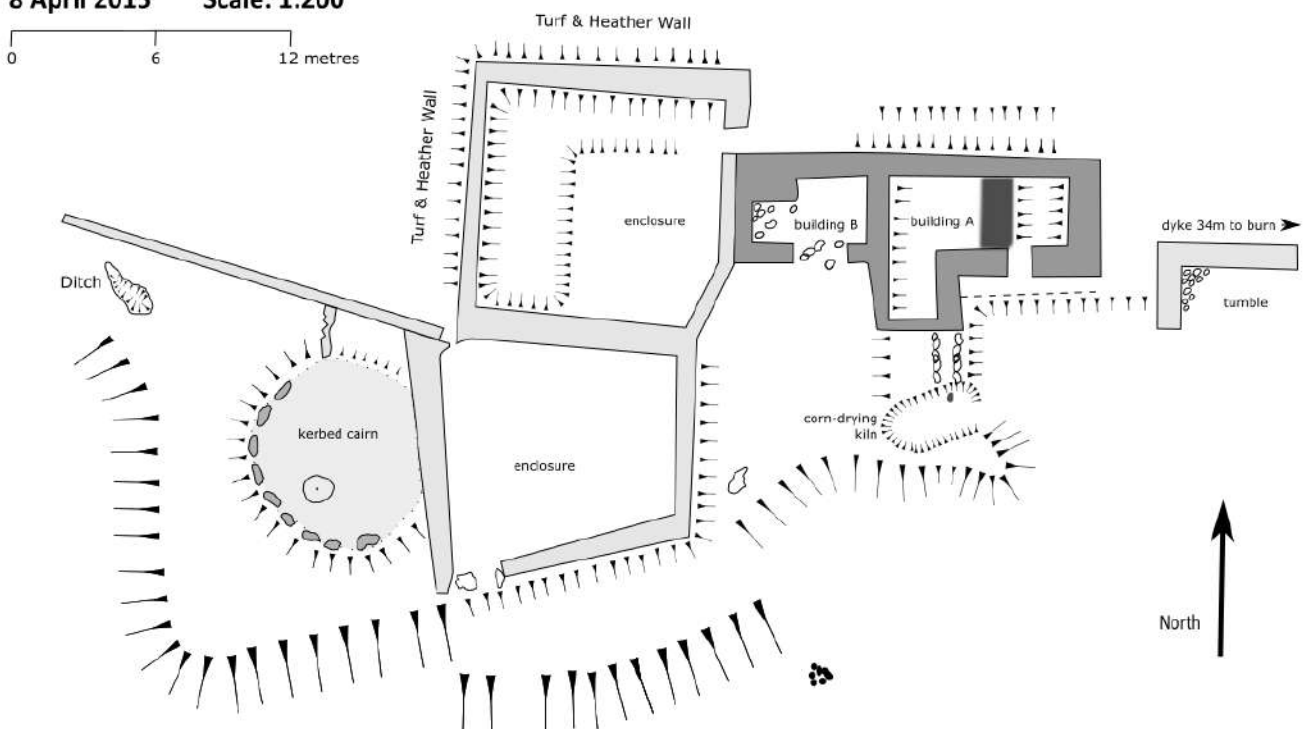
**Allt na Criche  
Settlement, Buildings and Enclosures (V60)**

centred on NH 45644 45467

Anne MacInnes & Tim Blackie

8 April 2015 Scale: 1:200

**Figure 20: The settlement of Allt na Criche**





As can be seen on both the survey plan and the 1838 map to the left, the settlement of two, possibly three, buildings lies at the northern upper end of a large enclosure bordered to the west by a stone dyke, to the south by the Breakachy Burn, to the east by the Allt na Criche and to the north by a massive stone dyke. There are smaller enclosures close to the house, and definite evidence of improved grazing represented by the linear shading on the 1838 map. Although much of this is now covered by heather, components of the improved land are evident on the west bank of the Allt na Criche.

A kiln, presumably corn-drying, lies just to the south of building A, with evidence of raised ground and walls between the two, suggesting that the kiln may have been part of a barn contiguous with the other buildings.

Building A itself has an entrance in the eastern part of the structure, the remains of an internal stone division, and ditched floors suggesting that this building housed animals.

Building B is smaller, with much tumble now within its interior space.

*Figure 21: The Allt na Criche settlement on an 1838 estate map*



*Figure 22: Allt na Criche Building A, from NE*



*Figure 23: The Allt na Criche Building A, from E*



*Figure 24: Allt na Criche Building B, from W*



*Figure 25: Allt na Criche Building A, detail of S*





*Figure 26: Allt na Criche kiln, from E*



*Figure 27: Allt na Criche kiln, looking from above & W*



*Figure 28: Allt na Criche pond from the S*

Of note is that the western wall of the more southerly enclosure overlays the eastern part of a kerbed burial cairn, presumably Bronze Age.

**C84 NH 45609 45464 Kerbed Burial Cairn (on the HER: <https://her.highland.gov.uk/monument/MHG2665>)**

On the western edge of the Allt na Criche settlement, and partially overlain by one of its enclosure walls, is an oval bowl-shaped mound, 8m x 6m x max 1.5m high, aligned NS. On the W and SW aspects of this mound are 9 large stones acting as a kerbed revetment of the mound. At the top, just to S of mid-point, is a pit approximately 1m diameter, and approx. 0.6m deep representing an intrusive excavation at some time in the past. It is of interest that, despite the need for building stone for the adjacent buildings, the kerb stones were left untouched. This has the appearance of a kerbed burial cairn, possibly Bronze Age. It is marked as "cairn" on modern ordnance survey maps (but not identified on the 1st or 2nd edition OS maps).



*Figure 29: V62 Cairn from W, showing kerb of stones*



*Figure 30: V62 Cairn from the S*



## Hut Circles

The Ordnance Survey identified ten hut circles from a survey in 1970, labelled A-K, commenting: “Centred at NH 455 455 is a settlement of ten stone-walled huts and a field system”, with that one grid reference covering all 10 features. Unfortunately, any accompanying map is not shown on both national and Highland databases, although the hut circles are shown on the current OS 1:25000 map. However, from the information provided it has been possible to reconcile the circles on the map with the letters in the report, as shown in Fig 29.

The OS Hut Circles J & K lie outwith the Green Area, in the Yellow Area, and will be dealt with later, in that part of the report. A further five hut circles were identified in the Green Area as part of this survey.

All ten hut circles identified by the OS were identified in the survey. However, hut circles J & K had the appearance of recessed platforms, and will be described later as such. An additional six hut circles were identified, making 14 hut circles (plus two platforms).

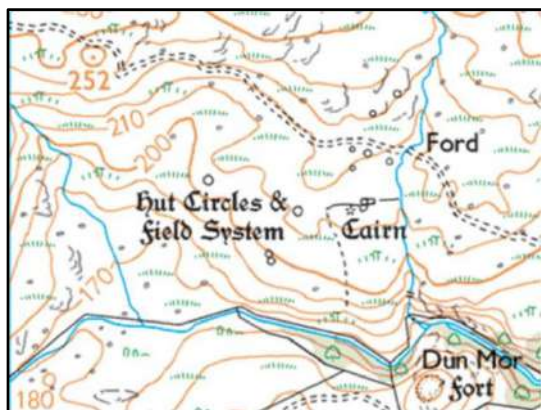


Figure 31: Snip of OS Map, showing position of hut circles identified by the 1970 Ordnance Survey field recording

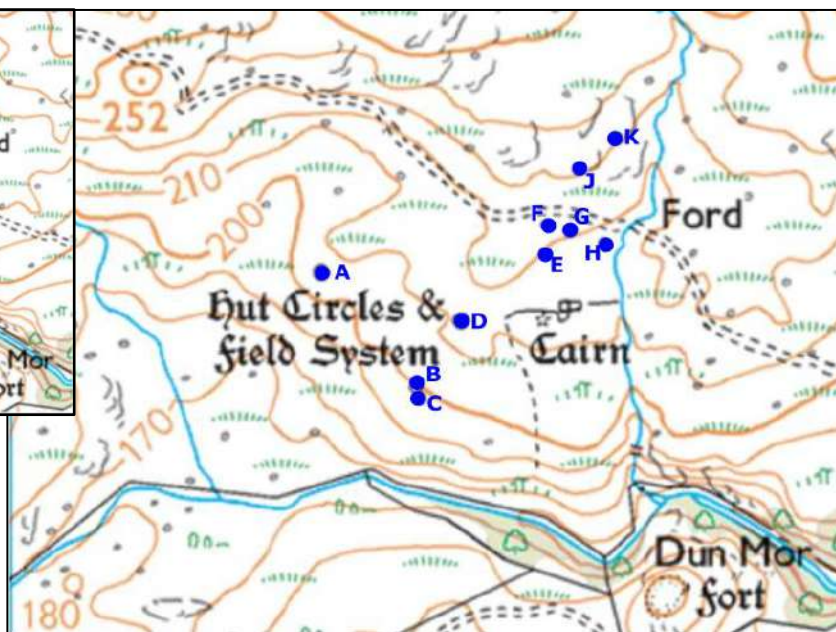


Figure 32: Snip of OS Map, with hut circles now labelled

### H57 NH 45374 45507 (OS Hut Circle A)

This is the most westerly of the hut circles identified by the OS in 1970. It had just had its' heather cover burnt off revealing a quite degenerate double-skinned structure comprising medium-sized stones, 10.7m diameter. This occupies a large platform, built into and out from the W-facing slope. There is no obvious entrance.



Figure 34: Hut Circle H57 from N, showing the line of the Breakachy Valley

Figure 33: Hut Circle H57 from N





### H63 NH 45453 45379 (OS Hut Circle B)

This is one of a pair of hut circles on a west facing slope high above, and looking down on, the Breakachy Burn. It is in an area of deep heather recently planted with new forestry, and therefore separated from the rest of the Urchany site by a new deer fence. Because of the heather, it is difficult to see clearly.

The oval structure, aligned NNW-SSSE, 12.7m x 10.9m, consists of a raised bank of heather. The walls are now only partially identifiable, best preserved in the SW quadrant, where they are spread to 2.3m, standing 0.2 m high. There is a possible entrance in the SE quadrant. It abuts H64 on its southern edge.



Figure 35: Hut Circle H63 from E. The flags describe its circumference

### H64 NH 45459 45367 (OS Hut Circle C)

This is the second of a pair of adjoining hut circles on a west facing slope high above, and looking westwards down on, the Breakachy Burn. It is in an area of deep heather recently planted with new forestry, and therefore separated from the rest of the Urchany site by a new deer fence. Because of the heather, it is difficult to see clearly.

The oval structure, aligned N-S, 14.2m x 12.5m, consists of a raised bank of heather. The walls are now only partially identifiable, best preserved in the SW quadrant, where they are spread to 2.3m, standing 0.2 m high. There is a probable entrance in the S. It abuts H63 on its northern edge.



Figure 36: Hut Circle H64 from E

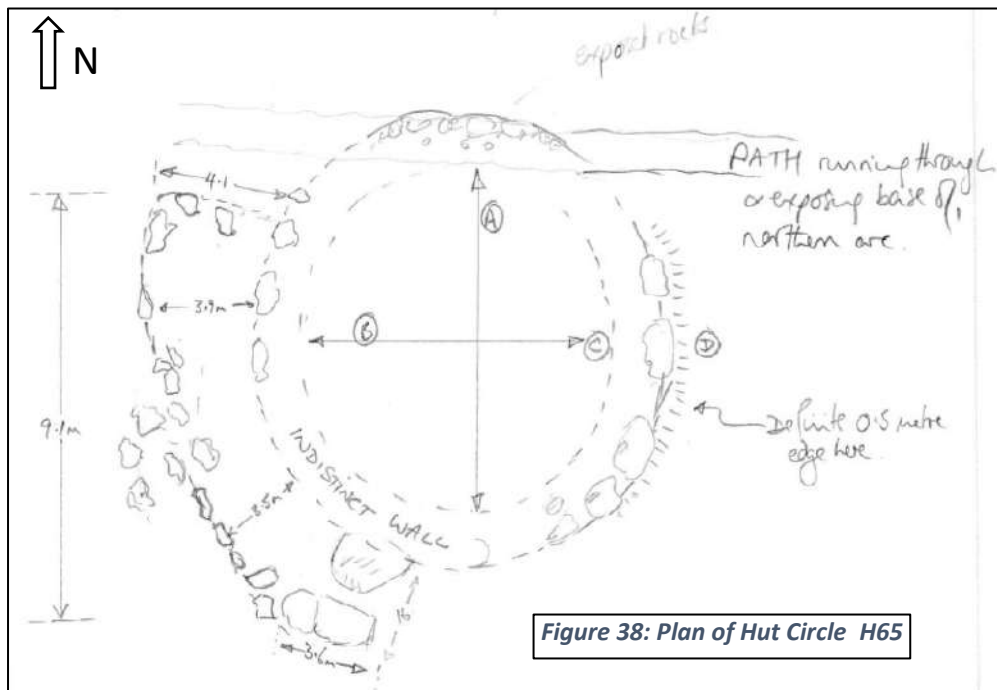
### H65 NH 45494 45469 (OS Hut Circle D)

On a gentle west facing slope, at the base of a hillock to the north, lies this hut circle, with an additional stone wall to the west, ie down-slope. In the original 1970 OS survey this is described as a souterrain, confirmed by a further OS visit in 1981. What remains of this "souterrain" is an ellipse of stones, approx. 3.5-4m in length, 1m outwith the western side of the original hut circle. The southern end of this possible souterrain is represented by two large orthostats, see Fig 32. This structure doesn't now look like a souterrain, although its function is unclear.

The hut circle is circular, 10.6m x 10.2m, with walls best seen in the E, where they are 0.5m high, spread to 1.5m. There is a possible entrance in SSE. All the walls are densely covered in deep heather. There is an animal track that runs through the northern part of the circle, exposing a base of stones.



Figure 37: Hut Circle H65 from N.  
Note blue flags mark external dimensions, yellow the internal.



#### H59 NH 45598 45527 (OS Hut Circle E)

On a gentle east facing slope, this small hut circle occupies a slight knoll, with a built extension to S. Recent heather-burning (for grouse) has exposed a degenerate circle of stones that would otherwise easily have been missed. The structure is circular, 7.5m diameter, with walls best seen to W, where they are 1.4m thick, standing up to 0.3m high. There is a possible entrance in the S.

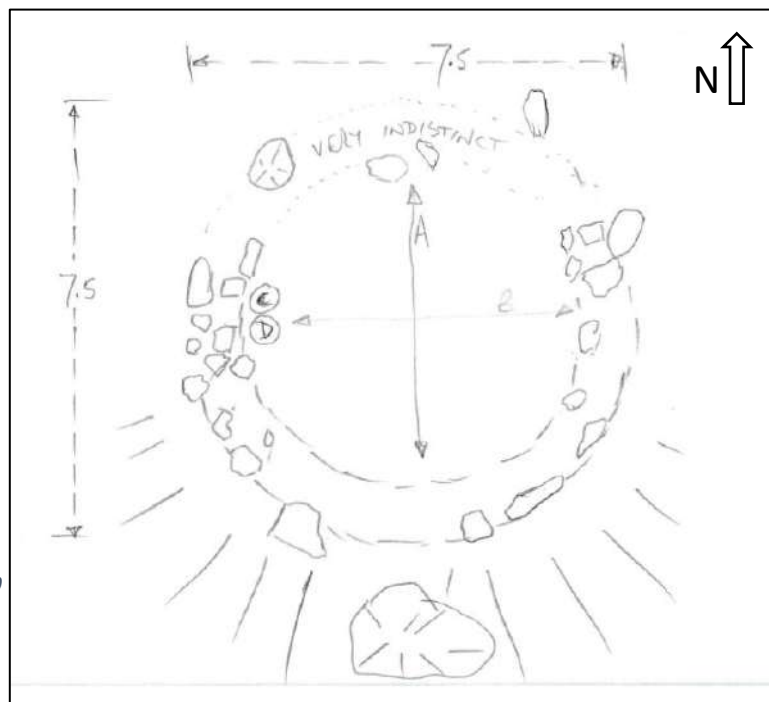


Figure 40: Hut Circle H59. From W



Figure 41: Hut Circle H59, from SW

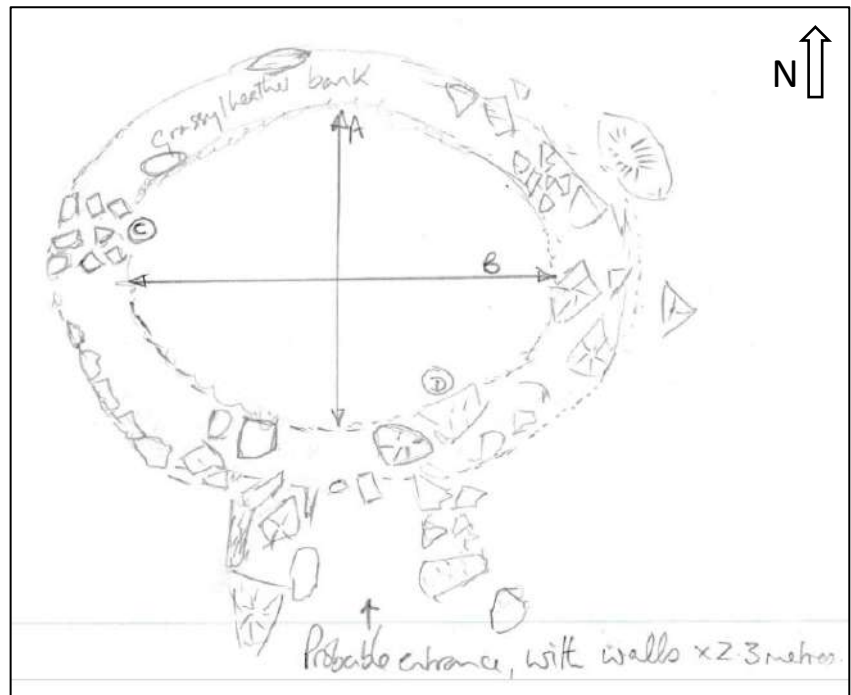


## H58 NH 45596 45559 (OS Hut Circle F)

Recent heather-burning (for grouse) has exposed a degenerate circle of stones that could otherwise have been missed. On a gentle south facing slope, 5m south of the main track to Urchany, this oval hut circle has a definite entrance in the S, associated with an entrance passageway. Two lines of rough large stones define this walled entrance passageway, 1.3m long, 1.5m wide, with stones standing to 0.8m high, as shown on Fig 42.

The hut circle is 9.98m x 11.05m with indistinct walls of stone and heather. The stones are best shown in the W and SE quadrants.

*Figure 42: Plan of Hut Circle H58.*



*Figure 43: Hut Circle H58, from S, showing entrance*



*Figure 44: Hut Circle H58, above and from E*



*Figure 45: Hut Circle H58, showing detail of southern entrance, from SE*

## H60 NH 45626 45554 (OS Hut Circle G)

On a gentle south facing slope, 30m to the E of H58, with the stones of its northern edge abutting the main Urchany track, this circular hut circle, 13.2m x 12.8m, stands on a slight platform built out from the slope to the S.

There is an elliptical extension, or "annexe", on the NW arc. Recent heather-burning (for grouse) has exposed a degenerate circle of stones that would otherwise have been missed.

The hut circle walls are delineated by periodic large stones, with indistinct raised turf and stone walls in between, best seen in W, spread 1.8m, up to 0.5m high. There is a possible entrance in SSE.



Figure 46: Hut Circle H60, above and from N

## H61 NH 45663 45542 (OS Hut Circle H)

30m to the E of H60 are the indistinct walls of this hut circle, that could easily have been missed in the heather prior to the recent muir burn. There are few stones left, apart from one large boulder in SSW, with an indeterminate wall spread up to 2m thickness. The circular structure 9m external diameter, with a possible entrance in the S.



Figure 48: H61, View from S, above

Figure 47: Plan of Hut Circle H61.

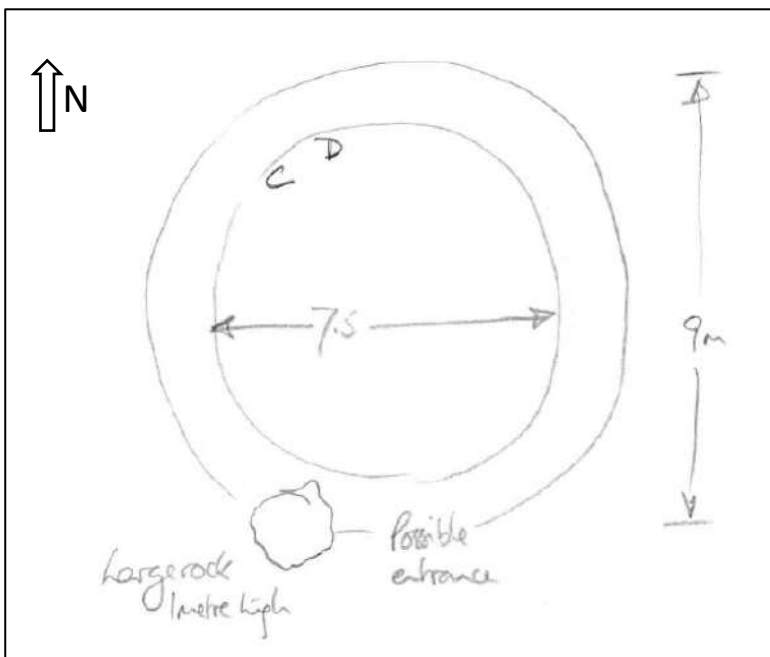


Figure 49: Prominent large rock at SSE aspect, from NE, below

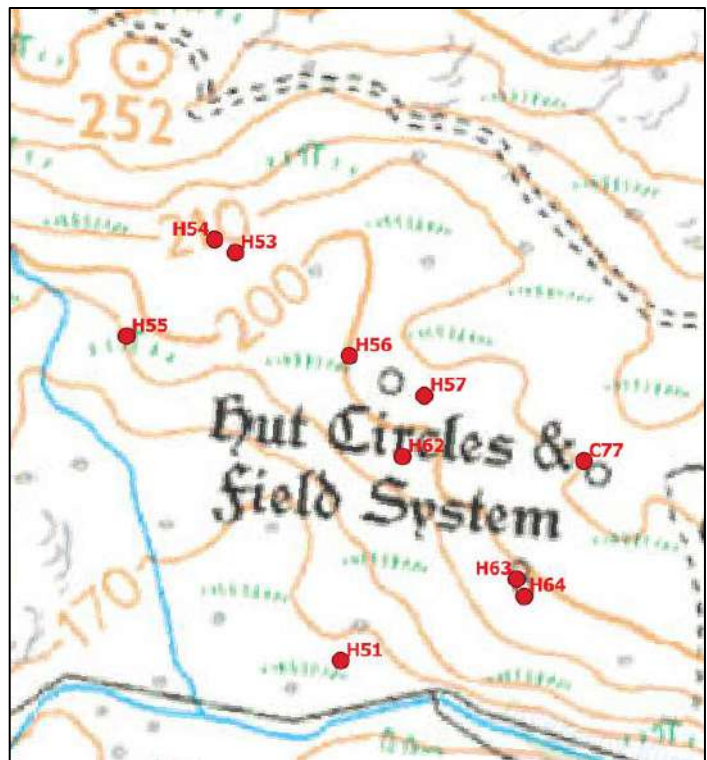




## Other Hut Circles

The survey conducted by the Ordnance Survey in 1970 identified 10 hut circles. An additional six hut circles were identified in the NOSAS survey. These are described below and shown in the Figure 44.

*Figure 50: Snip from 1:25000 OS map overlaid by the western group of hut circles.*



### H51 Hut Circle NH 45330 45308

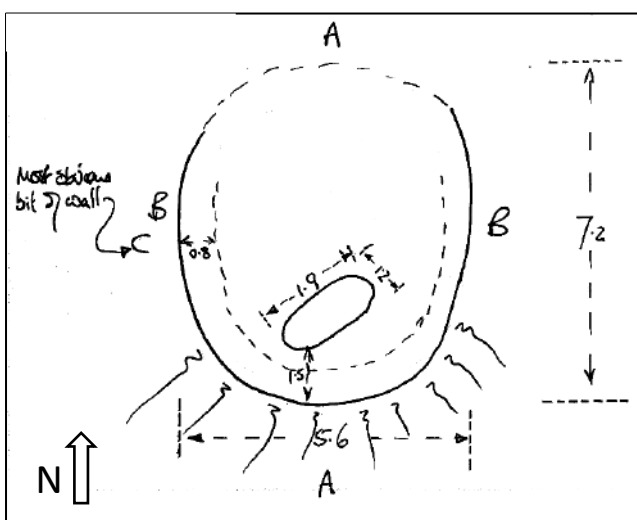
45m to the N of the Breakachy Burn, and at the SW aspect of the Green Area, lies a 6m diameter circular structure consisting of earth walls covered in heather. These contain at its centre a stone-lined pit whose function is uncertain. It is likely to be for storage, although not large enough to be called a souterrain.



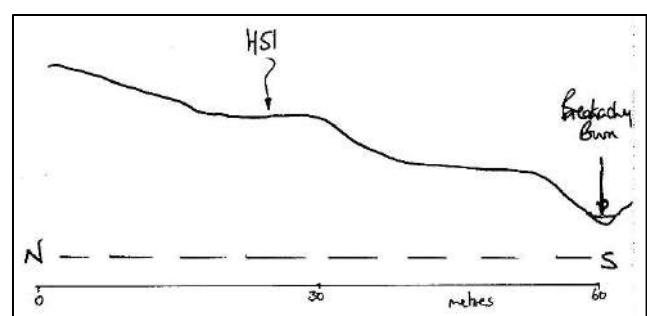
*Figure 51: Hut Circle H51.  
Yellow flags delimit the heather topped turf walls*



*Figure 52: Hut Circle H51.  
Interior of stone-lined central pit, with pole*



*Figure 54: Hut Circle H51.  
Plan of structure showing possible souterrain.*



*Figure 53:  
Showing position of H51 on  
approximated section of slope*



### H53 Hut Circle NH 45227 45599

Towards the western end of the Green Area, there are two hut circles at the northern end of a south-facing platform, close to a steep cliff to their north. The Breakachy Burn is 300m to the S, and 40m altitude, below. The immediate area shows evidence of field boundaries and clearance cairns.

H53 is the more easterly of the two circles, 3m to the E of H54. It consists of a partial wall, 9.5m diameter with rubble spread to 1.5m wide and up to 0.5m high. There is a small circular depression on the southern edge with diameter of 1.5m.

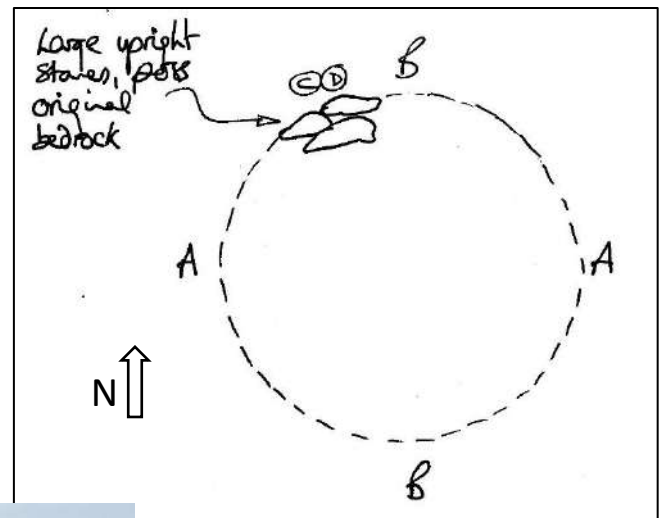


Figure 55: Hut Circle H53 Sketch plan.



Figure 56: Hut Circle H53. Looking down from the NE

Figure 57: Hut Circle H53  
from the W



Figure 58: Hut Circle H53 with yellow flags  
delimiting the depression in the southern part.





## H54 Hut Circle NH 45211 45607

This is the western of the two hut circles in this location lying on a platform south of a cliff wall, prominent above the Breakachy valley to the S. A circular structure, 9.7m external diameter, it contains some massive stones, particularly in the SW aspect, where they stand up to 0.8m high. The walls are about 1.5m wide, clearly seen in all parts of the circle. There is a definite 1.8m wide entrance in the SE.

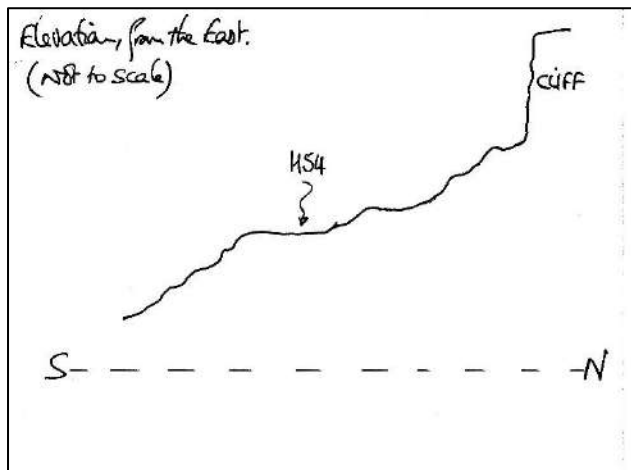


Figure 59: Diagram of position of H54 on a platform below the cliff face to the N, as seen from the E.

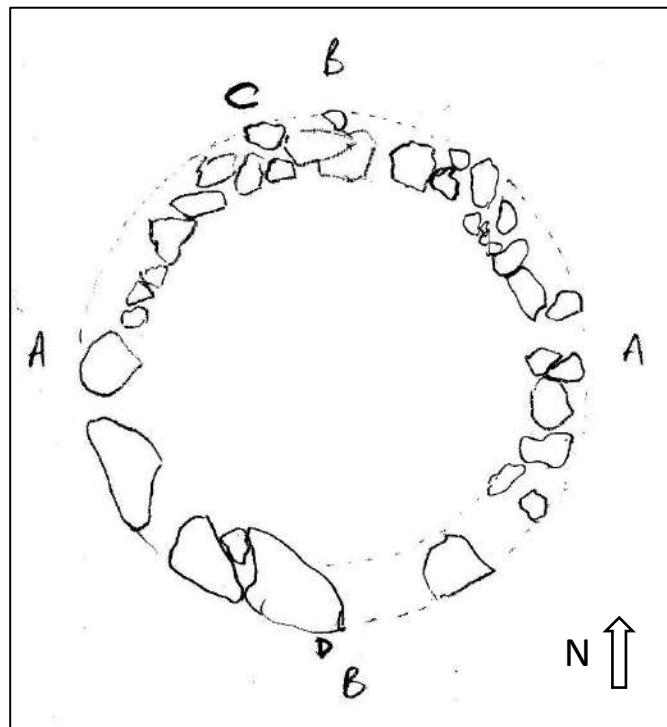


Figure 60: Hut Circle H54 Sketch plan.



Figure 61: Hut Circle H54, from N



Figure 63: Hut Circle H54, Looking NW through the SE entrance



Figure 62: Hut Circle H54, from NW



## H55 Hut Circle NH 45153 45531

On a SW facing slope this 7.5m diameter hut circle has poor definition of walls, which are spread to up to 0.9m, with a maximum height of 0.2m. In the NW corner the walls are completely deficient.

Without the recent burning of the heather, this ephemeral hut circle would not have been identified.

Figure 64: Hut Circle H55 from E



Figure 66: Hut Circle H55 from NE

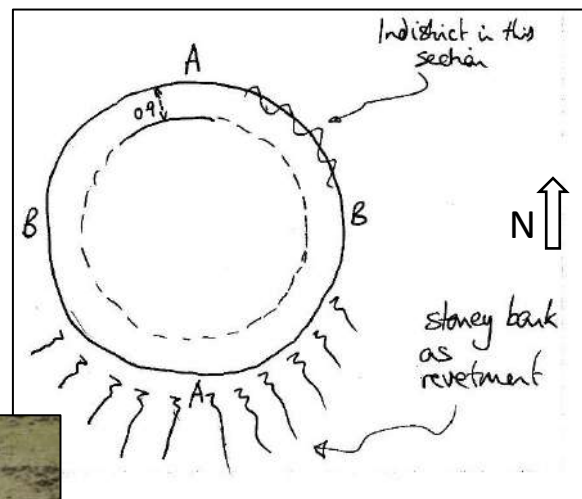


Figure 65: Hut Circle H55 Sketch plan.



## H56 Hut Circle NH 45317 45531

On a west-facing slope is another ephemeral hut circle, built into the slope, that again would not have been visible but for the recent muir burn. The 8m diameter structure has walls constructed with large boulders and appears single-skinned.



Figure 67: Hut Circle H56 from S  
Note the yellow flags describe the walls



Figure 68: Hut Circle H55 from NE  
Note the yellow flags describe the walls



## H62 Hut Circle NH 45362 45461

This 7m diameter circular structure lies on a flat platform above the W facing slope of the Breakachy Burn. It is built into that slope on its N side.

The constituent stones of the low walls are generally ephemeral and are missing on the W aspect. A 1.5m entrance is apparent in the E, adjacent to burial cairn C64.

*Figure 69: Hut Circle 62 from W  
Note the yellow flags describe the walls*



## Cairns

In the “Green” and “Yellow” areas particularly, there are numerous cairns scattered across the ground. These were allocated to one of four approximate groups:

- **Probable Clearance Cairns**

Many of these are amorphous unstructured mounds of stones on the edge of what was previously ploughed south-facing land. These were classified as clearance cairns. We counted 44 of these in the two areas.

- **Probable Burial Cairns**

Three of the larger ones (C10, C15 and C84) had more structure, with ordered or graded stones, with central robbed-out cavities, and with a distinct “kerb” of stones at the periphery. They were usually oval structures, varying in size from 4m x 2 m to 8m x 6m, aligned NS. These were classified as “kerbed” burial cairns.

- **Possible Burial Cairns**

Some of these were amorphous mounds of stones but in an oval or elliptical form and usually orientated NS. They varied in size from 3m x 2m to 10m x 4m. These were classified as possible burial cairns, with the recognition that without excavation it is difficult to classify these clearly as distinct from clearance cairns. There were 14 of these.

- **Cist Burial:** Lastly, in an area of numerous “possible” burial cairns were the robbed out remains of a cist burial, V64.



*Figure 70: Typical clearance cairn as seen at Urchany*

All the “Green Area” and some of the “Yellow Area” cairns are described below, as they form a continuum across the landscape. A few of the Yellow Area cairns (C22-25) were further north, above the settlements of Urchany, away from the main concentration of cairns, and will be dealt with in the Yellow Area section of this report.



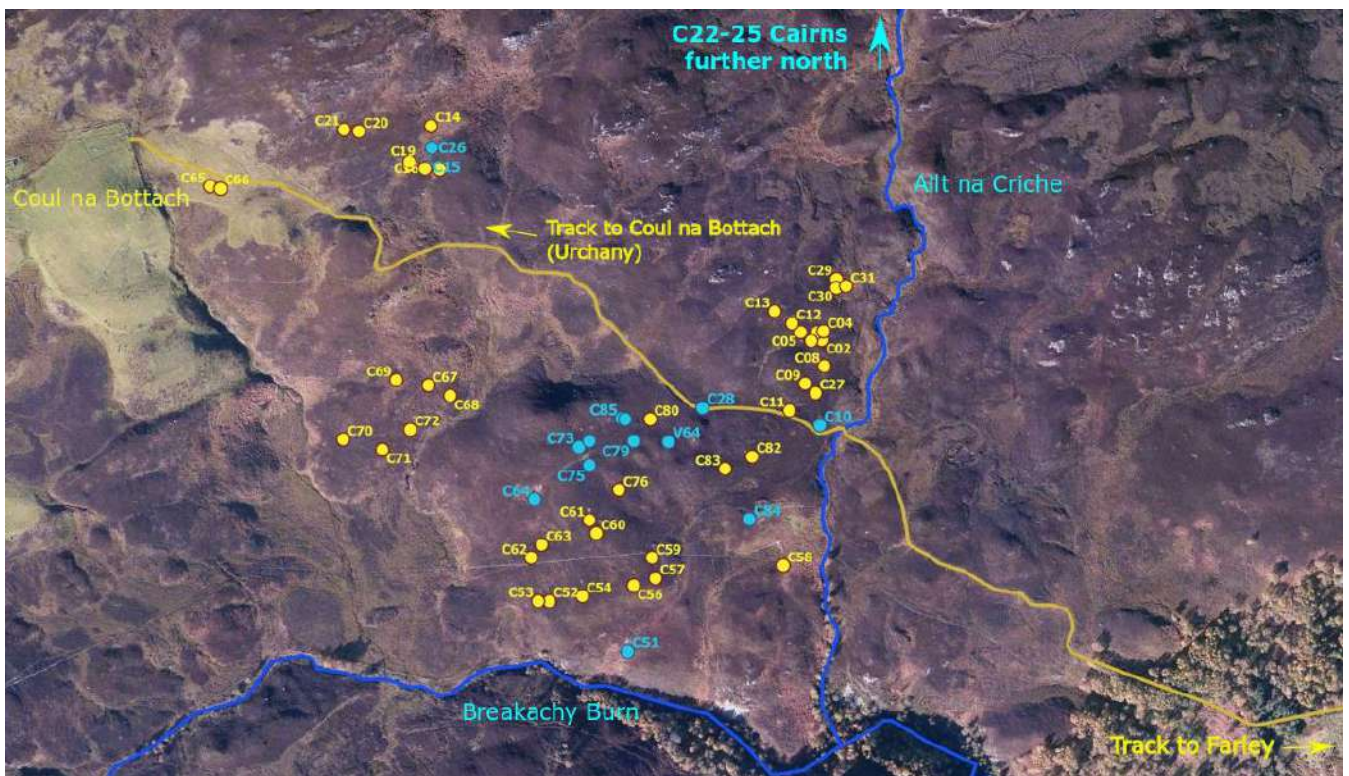


Figure 71: The clearance and burial cairns in the Green & Yellow Areas. Base map is Bing aerial photo

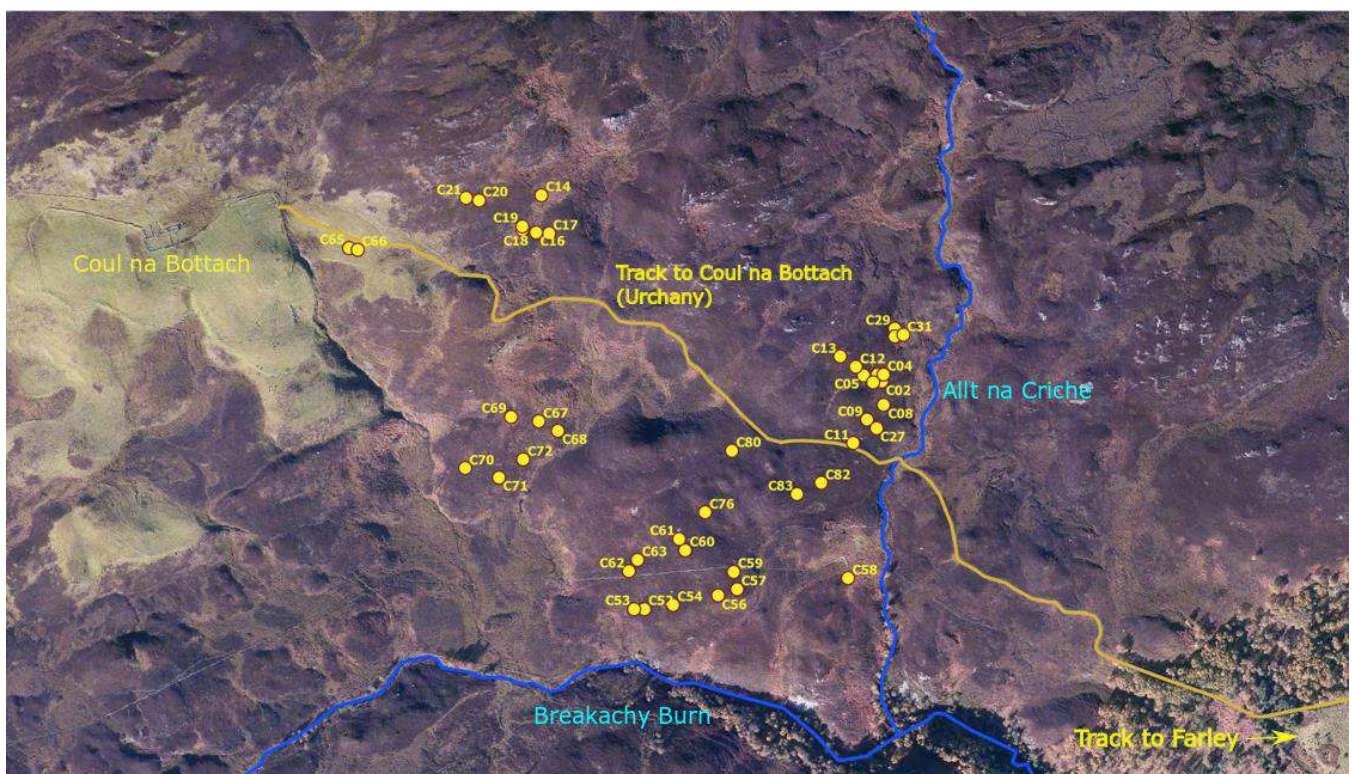


Figure 72: The clearance cairns only in the Green & Yellow Areas. Base map is Bing aerial photo

As seen in Figure 72, there are clusters of clearance cairns reflecting separate areas of previous cultivation. The horseshoe of cairns, C67-C72, at middle left, lies at the top of a steep gully, now covered in heather, that must have been previously ploughed. The cluster of cairns at middle bottom, C52-C83, is associated with both burial cairns and hut circles, ie a lived-in environment. The cairns above the track, C02-C11 plus C27-31, are on an east-facing slope above the Allt na Criche. Interestingly, there is only one clearance cairn on equivalent ground to the E of the allt.



The images on this page are a random sample from the 44 clearance cairns identified at Urchany



Figure 73: C51



Figure 74: C52



Figure 75: C54



Figure 76: C58



Figure 77: C29



Figure 78: C27



Figure 79: C60



Figure 80: C70



A list of the Clearance Cairns in the Green & Yellow Areas		
Survey No.	BNG	Notes
<b>C02</b>	NH 45669 45661	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Oval c 3.5m x 2.5m Ext, <0.5m high
<b>C03</b>	NH 45663 45669	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Oval c3.0m x 2.5m Ext, <0.5m high
<b>C04</b>	NH 45670 45670	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Oval c4m x 3m Ext, <0.5m high
<b>C05</b>	NH 45646 45667	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Oval c3m x 2m Ext, <0.5m high
<b>C06</b>	NH 45658 45659	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Circular c4m external diameter
<b>C08</b>	NH 45674 45633	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Oval c8m x 6m external diameter, <0.5m high
<b>C09</b>	NH 45655 45613	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Oval c 6m x 4m external diameter, <0.5m high
<b>C11</b>	NH 45675 45570	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Circular c3.5m external diameter, <0.5m high
<b>C12</b>	NH 45636 45676	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Oval c 4m x 2m external diameter, >0.5m high
<b>C13</b>	NH 45616 45687	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Oval c4m x 3m external diameter, <0.5m high
<b>C14</b>	NH 45235 45852	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Circular c4m external diameter 0.6m high
<b>C16</b>	NH 45232 45806	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Oval c3m x 2.5m diameter, <0.5m high. Heavily vegetated
<b>C17</b>	NH 45248 45806	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Oval c3.5m x 3m diameter, <0.5m high
<b>C18</b>	NH 45215 45807	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Oval c8m x 4m diameter, <0.5m high
<b>C19</b>	NH 45215 45812	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Oval c5m x 3m diameter, <0.5m high
<b>C20</b>	NH 45159 45839	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Circular c4m diameter, 0.5m high
<b>C21</b>	NH 45143 45840	Pile of stones. Clearance cairn. Circular c3m external <0.5m high
<b>C27</b>	NH 45667 45604	An amorphous mound of stones, possibly a PH clearance cairn later interfered with by treasure hunters. Circular c 2.5m diameter
<b>C29</b>	NH 45679 45727	In rank heather a circle of stones with sunken centre. Robbed PH clearance cairn or shieling hut with later dumping of stone within. Circular c1.75 m diameter, internal <0.5m high
<b>C30</b>	NH 45680 45718	In rank heather a circle of stones with sunken centre. Robbed PH clearance cairn or shieling hut with later dumping of stone within. Oval, c2.75m E-W x 1.25m internal, <0.5m high
<b>C31</b>	NH 45690 45720	In rank heather an oval of stones with 2 sunken centres. Robbed out PH clearance cairn or two compartment shieling hut. Oval c3.5m N-S x 1.75m internal, <0.5m high
<b>C52</b>	NH 45404 45359	Stones in a pile! Circular. In association with C51 and D52. 3x3 m
<b>C53</b>	NH 45392 45358	Stones in a pile! 3x2 m. Very overgrown.
<b>C54</b>	NH 45439 45367	Stones in a pile! 3x2 m. In association with C53
<b>C56</b>	NH 45492 45383	Very overgrown possible cairn. In area of other cairns. In area of other cairns. 4x3 m.
<b>C57</b>	NH 45515 45393	Very overgrown possible cairn 5x3 m
<b>C58</b>	NH 45649 45418	Very overgrown possible cairn. 3x2 m
<b>C59</b>	NH 45509 45414	Very overgrown possible cairn. 3x2 m
<b>C60</b>	NH 45448 45435	Very overgrown possible cairn. Adjacent wall. 3x2 m
<b>C61</b>	NH 45439 45448	Very overgrown possible cairn, 3x2m
<b>C62</b>	NH 45381 45403	Very overgrown possible cairn. 2x2m
<b>C63</b>	NH 45391 45418	Possible cairn built into hillside. In association with the other cairns in are. 4x5m
<b>C65</b>	NH 45006 45767	Pile of stones next to cleared area. 2 piles. 3x2m
<b>C66</b>	NH 45017 45766	Pile of stones next to cleared area. 2x2m
<b>C67</b>	NH 45256 45576	Clearance cairn, 5x5m
<b>C68</b>	NH 45280 45567	Clearance cairn. 3x2m
<b>C69</b>	NH 45221 45579	Clearance cairn. 6x3m
<b>C70</b>	NH 45171 45511	Pile of stones. Small cairn down slope, 10x5m
<b>C71</b>	NH 45213 45504	Pile of stones thrown downslope. Several in area. 10x6m
<b>C72</b>	NH 45241 45528	Pile of stones thrown downslope. Several in area
<b>C76</b>	NH 45468 45483	Cairn of stones with kerb. There are cairns everywhere in this area at least 5 more. 3x2m
<b>C80</b>	NH 45494 45561	Cairn of stones. 2.5m diameter
<b>C82</b>	NH 45606 45531	Cairn of stones built into bank. 7x4m
<b>C83</b>	NH 45578 45515	3 clearance cairns by H59

## The Definite and Possible Burial Cairns of Urchany

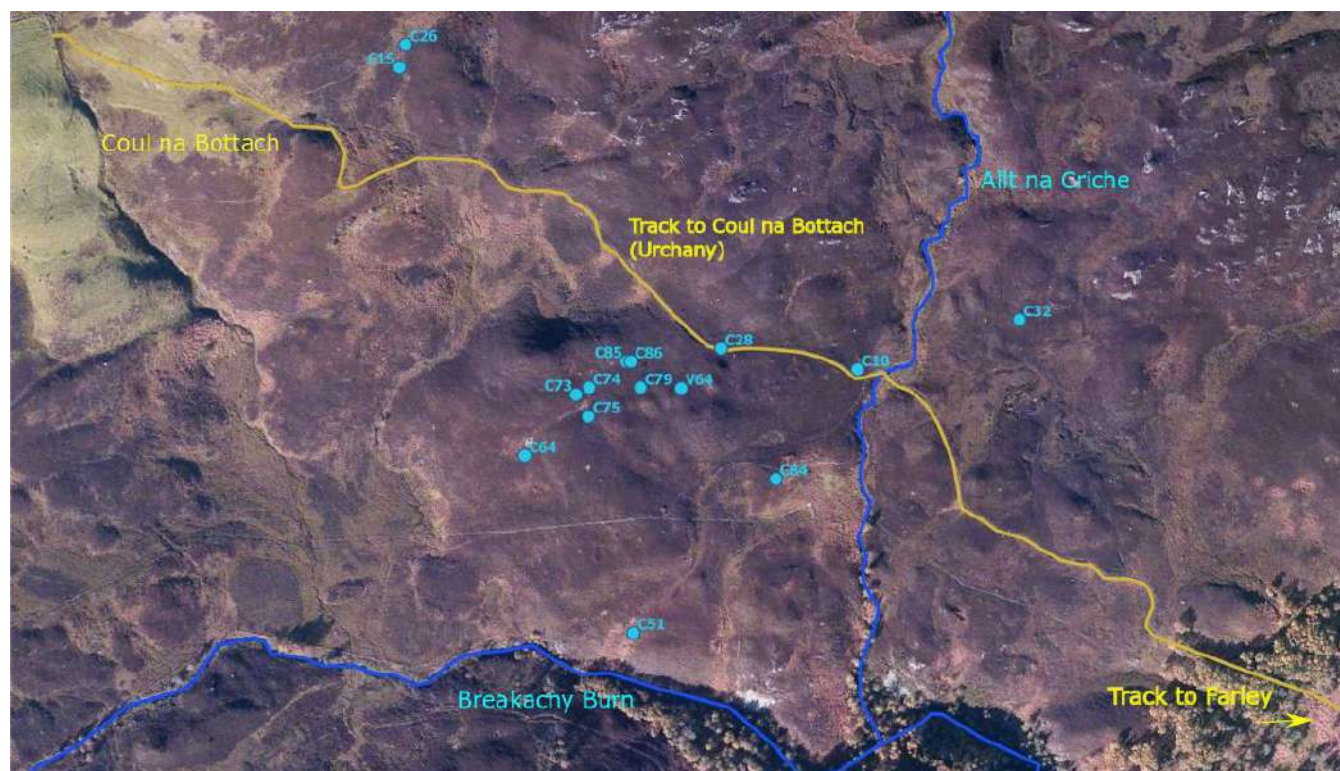


Figure 81: The probable burial cairns in the Green & Yellow Areas. Base map is Bing aerial photo

There has been reference above, on page 30 of the difficulties of identifying cairns as *burial* cairns in the absence of human remains, which would require excavation. However, considering the probable burial cairns in this area, three show definite evidence of a setting of stones around the base of the mound (C84) or pile of stones (C10, C15). Another cairn (C64) is an extensive spread of stones with two contiguous pits in the centre, representing a probable robbed burial cairn. Another “cairn” (V64) is a cist burial, with the capstone evident to one side. Two “cairns” (C85, C86) are smaller and consist of a ring of stones, with the interior possibly robbed out.

The remaining 11 cairns in the “possible” cairn category are included here because:

- they appear to have shape, often an ellipse or oval
- have an appearance of stones around their base, at least in part
- are found away from obvious cultivation
- are aligned with other similar burial cairns
- However, there can be no certainty about this classification!

### V64 NH 45516 45539 Cist Burial

On a gentle south-sloping area, about 40m SW of a bend in the Urchany track, are the remains of a cist burial mounted on a raised platform. Recent muir burning has allowed the constituent stones to be seen easily.

The steep sided cavity of the cist is 4m EW by 3m NS, with settings of small slab stones lining the side still remaining on the E side.

The cist was empty, the base filled with accretions which were carefully cleaned out. Fig. 80 shows the base of the cist after cleaning.

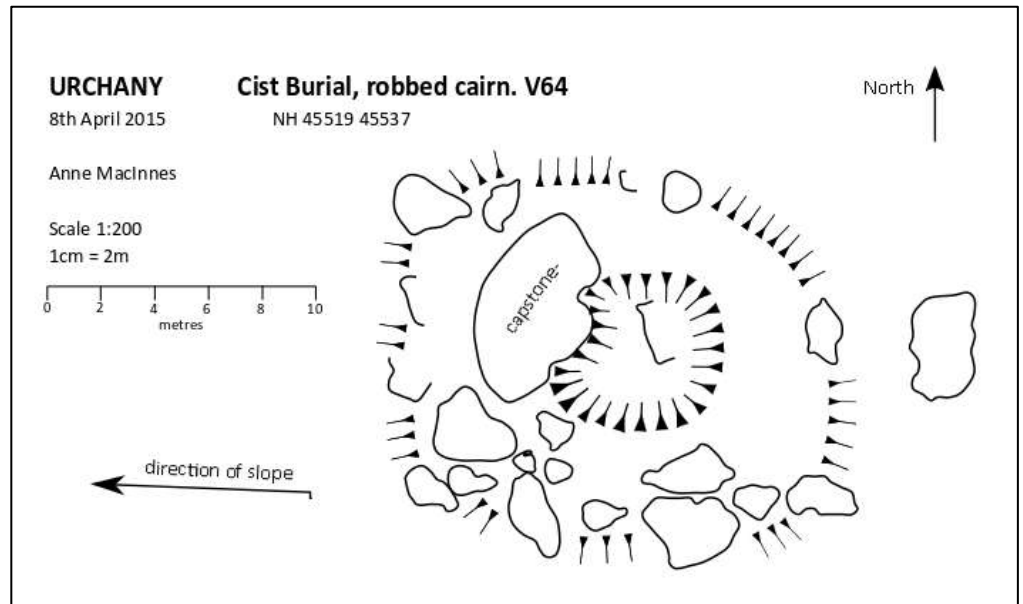


Figure 82: V64 Cist Burial, from W



A large flat stone, 1.5m x 1.0m, lies on the NW edge of the cist cavity. It is irregular in shape and is presumably the capstone which has been moved aside to allow robbing of the cist.

There is a raised platform, 12m EW x 10m NS, as shown in Fig. 77, 2-4m outside the cist cavity, which may represent the margins of a cairn erected over the cist. This platform edge still has a ring of stones describing its limits, this margin or kerb best seen in the south, and in Fig. 78.



**Figure 83: Plan of V64 Cist Burial**

One can only speculate as to how many of the other cairns identified here as "burial cairns" have similar cists un-discovered at the base of them!

**Figure 84: V64 Cist Burial from ESE, showing kerb on southern margin**



**Figure 85: V64 Cist Burial from SE, showing the cist, its capstone, and the platform.**



**Figure 86: V64 Cist Burial from N, showing the cleaned base of the cist**





**C84 NH 45609 45464**  
**Kerbed Burial Cairn**

This has been described earlier as part of the settlement of Allt na Criche on page 20.

*Figure 87: C84 Kerbed Burial Cairn  
from W*



**C10 NH 45675 45570**  
**Kerbed Burial Cairn**

On a flat area of ground 30m west of the Allt na Criche, and 3m north of the track to Urchany, a domed heathery mound of stones was identified in the April 2015 survey as a clearance cairn.

However, a subsequent muir burn revealed at the base of this mound a set of large stones forming a kerb, with other stones set in the sides. The inference is that it is a kerbed burial cairn. It is oval in form, 6m NS x 4.5m EW, and approx. 0.5m high.

*Figure 88: C10 Kerbed Burial Cairn*



**C73 NH 45421 45525**  
**Kerbed Burial Cairn**

On a level fold in the ground between steeper ground to E & W, lies a series of elliptical cairns. C73 is one of these.

It consists of a pile of stones up to 0.6m high, 3m NS x 2m EW, the stones being rich in mica and feldspar. The central area is concave, suggesting an episode of previous robbing.

Around the base is a setting of stones forming the kerb.

*Figure 89: C73 Kerbed Burial Cairn, from SW*





#### **C74 NH 45432 45532 Kerbed Burial Cairn**

10m NE of C73 is this round cairn, 7m x 7m, consisting of an amorphous mass of stones but with a definite kerbed edge, best seen on the upper N edge.



*Figure 90: C74 Kerbed Burial Cairn, from NW*



*Figure 91: C74 Kerbed Burial Cairn, from E*

#### **C75 NH 45434 45506 Kerbed Burial Cairn**

This stone mound, covered with heather, is close to C73 & 30m due S of C74. It is elliptical, 10m NS x 5m EW, standing up to 2m high. There are no other distinguishing features. It has not been robbed.

*Figure 92: C75 Kerbed Burial Cairn, from N*



#### **C15 NH 45234 45808 Possible Burial Cairn**

Leading NE from the main Urchany track, just before it bends tightly to ascend to Coul nabottach, is a shallow valley leading between hilly bluffs to the high peaty plateau above Urchany. There are a number of cairns grouped together as the valley levels off. Some of these look like clearance cairns, some are more shaped and aligned and could be burial cairns. This is one of the latter.

This circular cairn stands <0.5m high, with c3m external diameter. There is a setting of stones around the periphery, and a central depression, probably representing robbing.

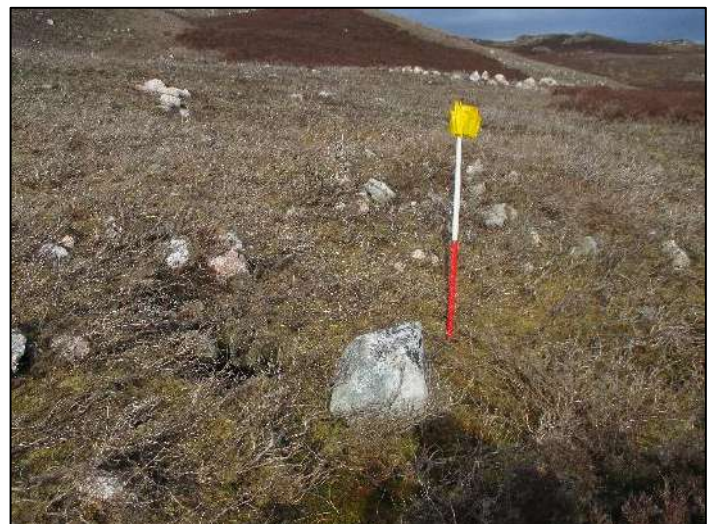
#### **C26 NH 45238 45829 Possible Burial Cairn**

This cairn is 20m N of presumed burial cairn, C15. It consists of an overgrown mound of stones, with surrounding kerb. It is 4m NS x 3m EW, standing up to 0.6m high.

#### **C81 NH 45506 45531 Probable Burial Cairn**

This cairn consists of a pile of stones with set stones on the NW aspect probably representing the remains of a kerb.

To the W is a small constructed well, now fringed with heather, described further as V58, page 43. The proximity of the adjacent well might be important in the placing of this cairn.



*Figure 93: C81 Possible Burial Cairn, from SE*



### **C28 NH 45549 45578 Possible Burial Cairn**

Revealed by a further muir burning, subsequent to the 2015 survey, this mound of stones, 4m NS x 2m EW, became more prominent, just N of the main Urchany track. There is a rough, stony, 0.3m deep depression in the centre. This probably represents removal of stones, ie robbing, at some stage in the past, suggesting this is a robbed burial cairn.

*Figure 94: C28 Possible Burial Cairn, from N*



### **C32 NH 45818 45628 Probable Burial Cairn**

To date, this is the only known archaeology near the main Allt na Criche collection of hut circles, cairns and burial mounds.

On a south-facing slope is an amorphous mound of stones up to 0.4m high scattered over a 3m diameter area. In the W there is a perception of laid stones forming a kerb. This, together with the absence of cultivation evidence in the area, suggests that this may be a burial cairn.

*Figure 95: C32 Possible Burial Cairn, from E*



### **C51 NH 45492 45313 Probable Burial Cairn**

This mound of placed stones is sited on a steep south-facing slope, 200m SW of the Allt na Criche settlement and 40m north of the Breakachy Burn, just before it enters a small gorge. As such it is some distance from the next nearest cairn. It is oval in shape, 7m SW/NE x 3m NW/SE.



*Figure 96: C51 Probable Burial Cairn, looking up the downslope, from S*

*Figure 97: C51 Probable Burial Cairn, from S, showing details of the kerb at the E edge*

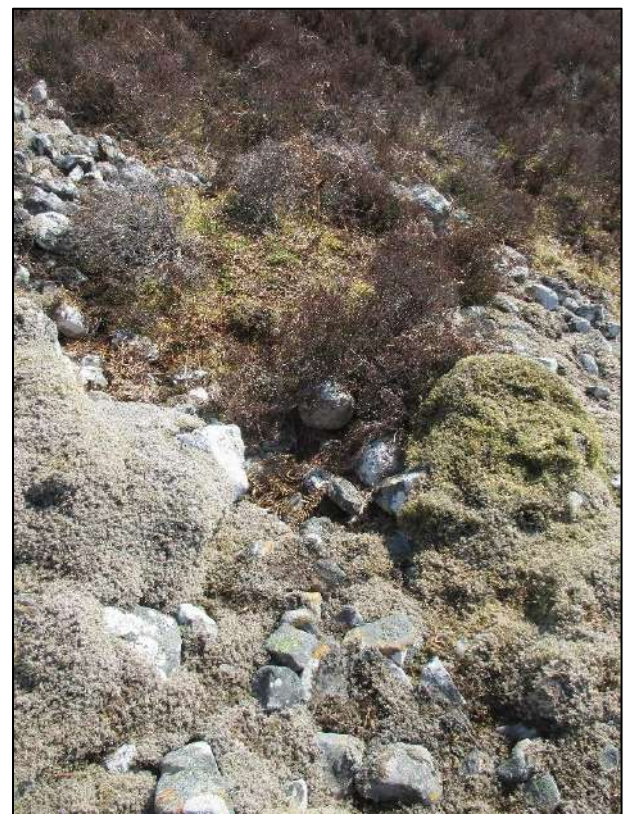
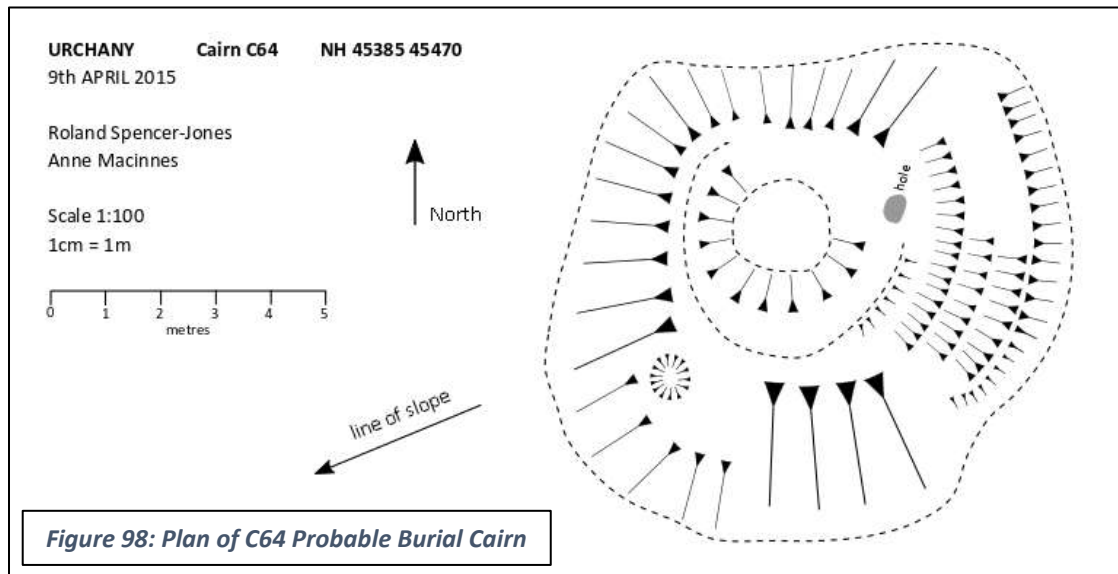


## C64 NH 45379 45465 Probable Burial Cairn

On a gentle west-facing slope, on the eastern side of a broad shallow valley leading down to the Breakachy Burn, is a large scattered area of bleached and lichenified stones, that is clearly visible when viewed from afar or on aerial photographs.

On closer inspection, the scattered and moss-covered tumble of stones, roughly 9m in diameter, has at its centre a circular depression or chamber, 2m diameter, up to 1m deep. The steep sides of the chamber are lined with rough boulders, the bottom is stony, there are no set stones or orthostats. The scattered stones around this chamber are raised in a slight bank, best seen on the S & E. On the E edge of the cairn the stones form a 6m circumferential ridge, up to 0.3m high. There are two smaller peripheral holes – one to the NE of centre is steeply sided, 0.5m EW x 0.7m NS, and 0.6m deep. The other to the SW is shallower.

This structure appears to be a robbed-out burial cairn. From the spread of stones, it would appear to have stood quite prominently in the landscape.







*Figure 101: C64 Burial Cairn, from ES, photo taken from adjacent hillside*



*Figure 102: C64 Burial Cairn, from SW, looking uphill*



*Figure 103: C64, from W, looking into central chamber*



*Figure 104: C64, from W, looking up at cairn*

## **C79 NH 45479 45536 Possible Burial Cairn**

Robbed out cairn. In line with C75. 10m diameter



*Figure 105: C79, from SW*

*Figure 106: C79, from E, detail of central "robbed out" section*



### **C85 NH 45464 45559 Possible Burial Cairn**

On relatively level ground, before a broad valley leads southwards to the Breakachy Burn, lie two similar structures, C85 & C86, four metres apart.

C85 is a circle of laid stones, 2m diameter, 0.2m high. The centre of the circle is flat, heather-covered ground. It is unclear what this structure represents, although a robbed burial cairn is the most likely explanation.

*Figure 107: C85, from W*



### **C86 NH 45468 45559 Possible Burial Cairn**

On relatively level ground, before a broad valley leads southwards to the Breakachy Burn, lie two similar structures, C85 & C86, four metres apart.

C86 is an oval structure of laid stones, 2m diameter, 0.2m high. In the centre is flat, heather-covered ground. It is unclear what this structure represents, although a robbed burial cairn is the most likely explanation.

*Figure 108: C86, from S*



## **Other Green Area Structures**

### **V52 NH 45143 45704 A Pit**

Towards the higher part of the "Green Area", on a gentle S-facing slope, is a circular pit, 6m diameter. There is a definite "lip" on the downward side. Several scattered rocks lie just below this lip down the slope. This could be a quarry or borrow-pit.



*Figure 109: V52, looking down into pit from SW*



*Figure 110: V52, looking W across the "lip" of the pit*



## NH 45346 45505 Recessed Platform

On the gentle SW slope of a small hillock, a recessed platform has been created into the slope. The lower SW edge of this 15m diameter platform is retained by a massive revetment wall, 1.5m high, and 1.5m thick.

There is an entrance in the SE, although no other obvious distinguishing features within the platform area.

The function of this platform is uncertain. It could have been an enclosure or, as there are many other hut circles nearby, it could have supported a now vanished hut circle.



Figure 111: V54, recessed platform delineated by yellow flags, from NE



Figure 112: V54, looking up at the SW revetment, from SW



Figure 113: V54, looking up at the NW revetment, from W

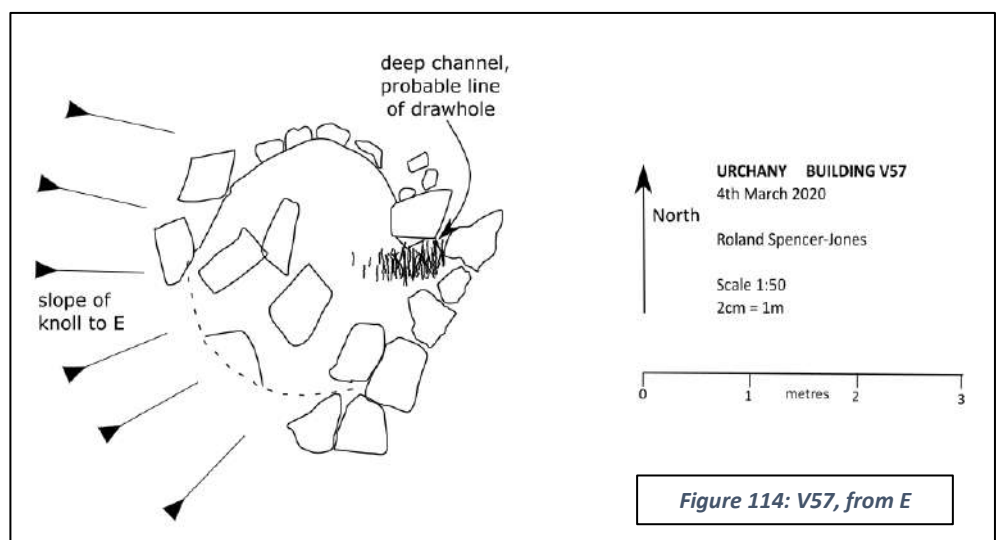
**V59 NH 45590 45507 Recessed Platform** This 7m x 3m recessed platform is adjacent to hut circle H59.

## V57 NH 45554 45543 Kiln, probable lime kiln

On the east side of a prominent knoll or cnoc, 35m south of the main Urchany track, is a tumble of stones inside a prominent dark hole. The structure seems to be a kiln, with infilled tumble of large angular stones. With some heather clearing, the sides of the kiln bowl become apparent, particularly on the N.

The bowl's dimensions are N-S: external 3.1m, internal 2.6m and E-W: external 2.5m, internal 2.0m. The bowl appears slightly oval. It's depth cannot be ascertained because of the tumble. At the front of the bowl, and 0.5m external, ie E, to it is a line of laid stones forming the base of the front of the kiln. At the eastern part of the bowl is a deeper gully that might represent the line of the original draw hole.

In view of it's position on the side of a knoll this is likely to be a lime kiln.







*Figure 115: V57, from E*



*Figure 116: V57, showing the prominent kerb of laid stones in front, ie to the E, of the structure. From E*



*Figure 117: looking down into V57, looking E*



*Figure 118: V57, details of inner N part of bowl, looking NW*

## **V58 NH 45591 45544 A Well**

In an area of many hut circles and burial cairns is a hole in the ground, a well, now partially hidden by heather: 0.5m E-W, 0.4m N-S and 0.18m deep. It drains clear water to the S. The walls of the well are constructed of medium-sized stones, up to 0.35m high. The well is immediately adjacent to a mound of stones (C81 page 37) with a probable kerb on the NW part, which could represent a robbed burial cairn.



*Figure 119: V58, looking down into well, looking NW*



*Figure 120: V58, detail of stones in N wall of well, looking W*



### V63 NH 45472 45389 Limekiln

A deer fence runs from E to W, south of the V60 Allt na Criche settlement, before it turns S to meet the Breakachy Burn. New trees have been planted within this fenced area.

5m south of the fence-line, at the crest of a slope to the SW, is a large pit in the ground. The outline is sub-rectangular, 3.5m NW-SE x 2.5m NE-SW. The near-vertical pit is lined with stones, some of which, particularly on the NW side, are up to 0.3m in diameter. However, much of the walls is covered in deep heather, and in the E aspect the wall is tumbled.

The base of the pit is relatively flat, 0.7–1.0m deep, and covered in accretions and vegetation. With careful clearing of the heather, detail of culverts emerged in the base of the structure at the SW and E aspects.

This structure has all the appearances of a limekiln. It is built on the side of a slope of the hills, thus ensuring access from the NE for carts to fill it. There is at least one opening from the base to allow emptying.



*Figure 121: V63, showing the deep pit in the ground, from NE*



*Figure 122: V63, looking into the pit, from S*



*Figure 123: V63, looking into the pit, from NW*



*Figure 124: V63, detail of the stonework in W wall, from E*



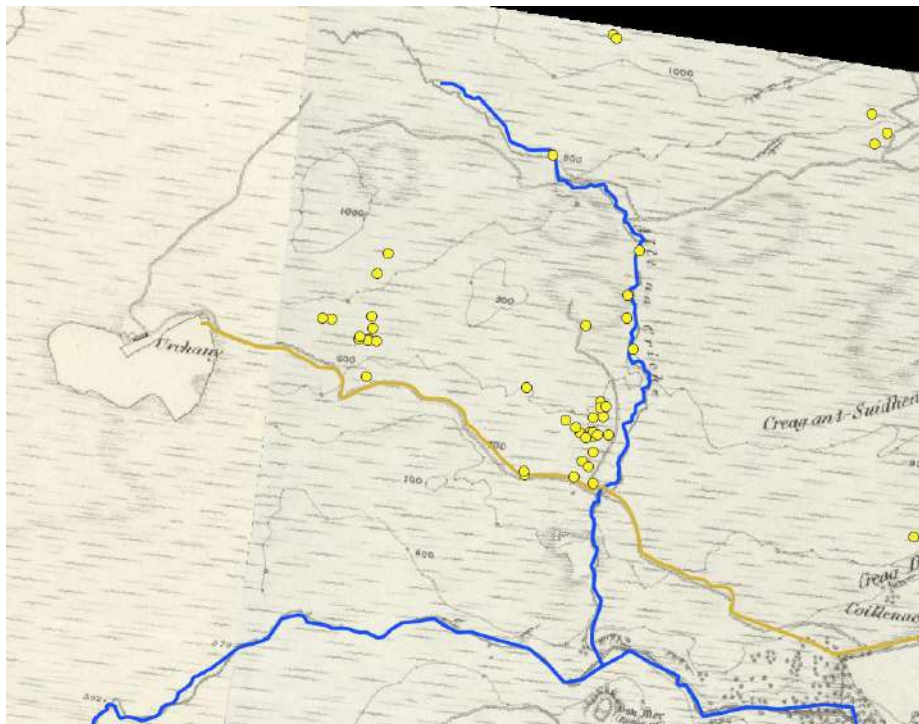
*Figure 125: V63, internal opening of culvert in S wall, from NW*



## URCHANY YELLOW AREA

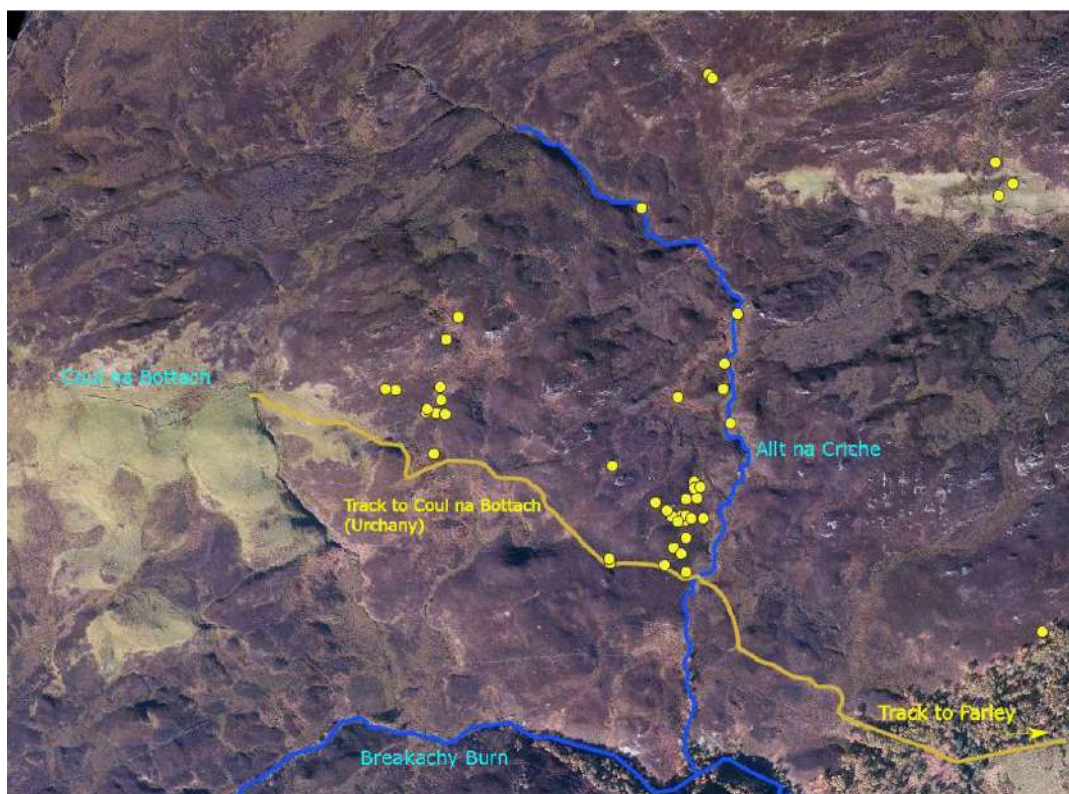
The “Yellow Area” is bounded in the W by a small burn (to the east of the Coul na Bottach settelement), in the S by the main track to Urchany, in the E by the Allt na Criche in the south, and then a natural gully that continues due north, and to the N by the increasing slope of the hill as it rises to high ground. This high ground flattens off to become a soggy peat moor, containing the peat workings that must have supplied the communities of “The Lands of Urchany”.

This area contains a number of features as can be seen from the two maps below. The SE corner, to the W of the Allt na Criche, contains a variety of “Bronze Age” structures – burial cairns, hut circles, recessed platforms – that are seen just to the south of the track. There is a separate group of these structures further west, in a natural declivity in the high ground north of the track. Two recognised burial cairns and some shelters are seen further north, above the curve of the Allt na Criche. Finally, that burn hosts four illicit still bothies dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.



*Figure 126: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map, showing the archaeological features identified in the “Yellow Area”.*

*Figure 127: Aerial photo showing the archaeological features identified in the “Yellow Area”*





## Structures on the High Ground, north of the Allt na Criche

Ascending the Allt na Criche steeply north from the main Urchany track, the ground levels out to a large flat moor, approx 1km EW by 300m NS, high above the Urchany settlements. To the west this becomes wet and is worked for peat. To the east this becomes improved pasture, shown as a green strip at top R on Fig 118. Associated with this platform are at least four cairns, a circle of stones and a small but definite area of rig. The cairns are probably clearance cairns although it's possible they may be burial cairns. The circle of stones is probably an animal enclosure or a temporary human shelter.

### Cairns

The field surveyors identified four cairns in this higher ground. They suggested they might all be prehistoric burial cairns, due to their position above the improved grazing ground. However, this can only be conjectural. The improved pasture may well have been ploughed at some stage, producing clearance cairns not burial cairns

#### **C22 NH 45643 46421**

This oval pile of large stones and boulders, 4m x 3m, stands up to 0.5m high.

#### **C23 NH 45650 46414**

This oval pile of large stones and boulders, 6m x 2m, stands up to 0.5m high.

#### **C24 NH 46152 46257**

This circular pile of large stones and boulders, 4m diameter, stands up to 0.5m high.

#### **C25 NH 46175 46280**

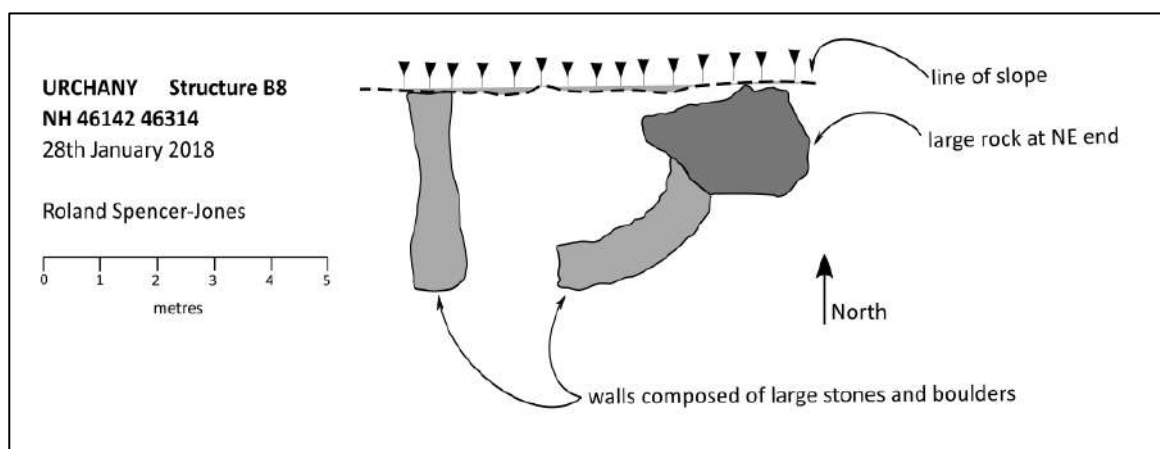
This oval pile of large stones and boulders, 8m x 3.5m, stands up to 1.0m high.



*Figure 128: Cairn, possible burial cairn, looking S*

#### **B08 NH 46142 46314 An Enclosure or simple Shelter**

The tumbled remains of an approximately square building are set at the foot of a steep slope with cliffs immediately above, to the N. Below and to the S is a strip of south-facing improved grazing. The walls are roughly built with large stones & boulders, remaining to 1m high. A large boulder at NE forms part of the structure. The 1m wide entrance is in the S. The stones of the walls are covered with moss whereas the sunken interior is covered with fine grass and bracken. This could be an animal enclosure, or a simple shelter.



*Figure 129: Sketch Plan of Structure B08*





Figure 130: The interior of structure B08, looking NW



Figure 131: Looking SW through the entrance of structure B08

## THE SE PART OF THE “YELLOW AREA”:

### CAIRNS, BURIAL MOUNDS, HUT CIRCLES & RECESSED PLATFORMS

The angle between the Allt na Criche and the main track to Urchany has many features suggesting settlement, houses, agriculture, and respect for the dead. The contiguous “Green” area just south of the track contains exactly the same sort of structures. In that sense the track seems like a later intrusion into a putative Bronze Age homogeny.

Many of the cairns and burial mounds in this area have been described in pages 30-33, in consideration of these same structures in the Green Area. There are three additional probable hut circles on the E-facing slope to the W of the Allt na Criche, and a number of probable still bothies along the Allt itself.

#### H01 NH 45699 45668 Probable hut circle on recessed platform

On the E-facing hill slope facing the Allt na Criche is a platform which is revetted on the upslope and buttressed on the downslope. On the platform are the low stone walls of a circular structure, about 3.5m internal diameter. A possible entrance is in the SW.

There is considerable post-abandonment stone-dumping within. It is closely associated with hut circle H02 (hut 'K'). This is presumably a prehistoric hut circle on a recessed platform.

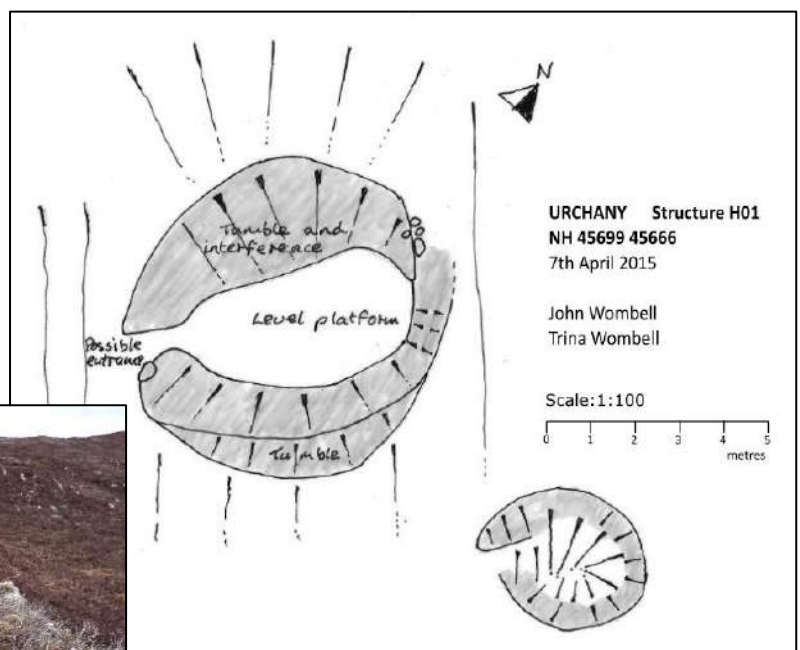


Figure 132: A plan of hut circle H01



Figure 133: Hut circle H01 from the SSE



## H02 NH 45679 45666 Probable hut circle on recessed platform (OS Hut Circle K)

Close to platform H01, this oval platform is recessed into the gentle sloping hillside to the W, above the Allt na Criche to the E. 11m NE/SW x 6.5m. The E front of the platform is buttressed with stone, part of which has spread downslope. The recessed W side of the platform is partially obscured with post-abandonment boulders and colluvium. This back part of the platform had not been burnt by the 2013 muir burn, thus being further obscured by rank heather.

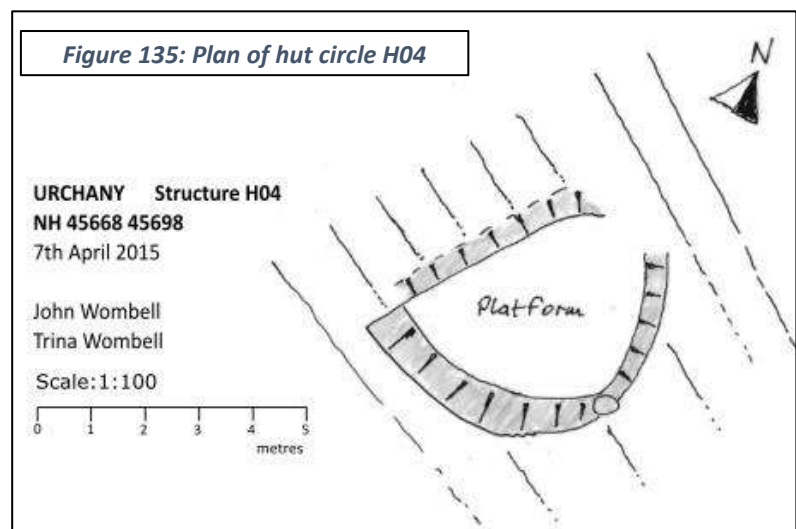
Too little evidence remains to call this site a hut circle and more likely it is a recessed platform that may or may not have had a timber structure on it originally.



Figure 134: Hut circle H02 from the SW

## H04 NH 45668 45698 A Recessed Platform

This 'D'-shaped platform, c9.3m N-S x 6.7m E-W, is recessed into the E-facing slope on its W side, with stone buttressing at the E front. It lies in an area of muir burn dating to 2013. A considerable amount of colluvium appears to have spread down onto the back of the platform. There is now no evidence of a structure on the surface.



## V07 NH 45547 45585 A possible burial cairn

Just north of the main Urchany track, 20m N of a cist burial, is a definite placing of stone. This 1m diameter circular setting of large stones is deficient in the E, with a western stone dislodged outwith the circle. The interior is flat.

The previous function of these placed stones is unclear, but they could represent the kerbed remains of a burial cairn.

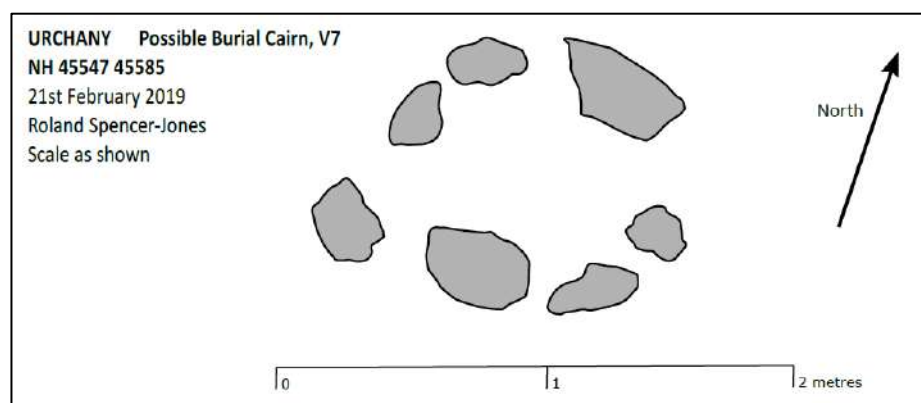


Figure 136: Plan of the remains of a possible burial cairn, V07





**Figure 137: Possible burial cairn, V07, looking W**



**Figure 138: Possible burial cairn, V07, looking E**

### **B01 NH 45537 45743**

#### **A small building, possible sheiling hut.**

North of the main Urchany track the ground rises to the N, sometimes steeply, and is furrowed by small valleys or declivities. One of these valleys, about 100m from the track, contains the remains of a small square building, c3m x 3m, whose internal south facing wall is set against and under a natural crag. The double skinned walls, c0.75m wide, are built of large stones up to c 1m high. A small entrance is in the SW corner.

This seems too small for a permanent dwelling, so it may represent a day shieling hut.



**Figure 139: B01, a building, perhaps a sheiling hut, looking NW**

### **B02 NH 45238 45933**

#### **A small building, possible sheiling hut.**

In another N-S valley, north of the main track, and 300m W of B01, are the mounded south-facing remains of a circular building. Set slightly into the slope it is situated in a grassy area of ground improved by grazing.

Its stone and turf walls are covered with grass and the hollow centre, c2.5m internal diameter, is vegetated with *Juncus* rushes. There is no obvious entrance. The walls are spread to approx. 3m wide at the front, standing up to 0.5m high.

This could represent a sheiling hut.



**Figure 140: B02, a building, perhaps a sheiling hut, looking SSE**



## The Structures along the Allt na Criche

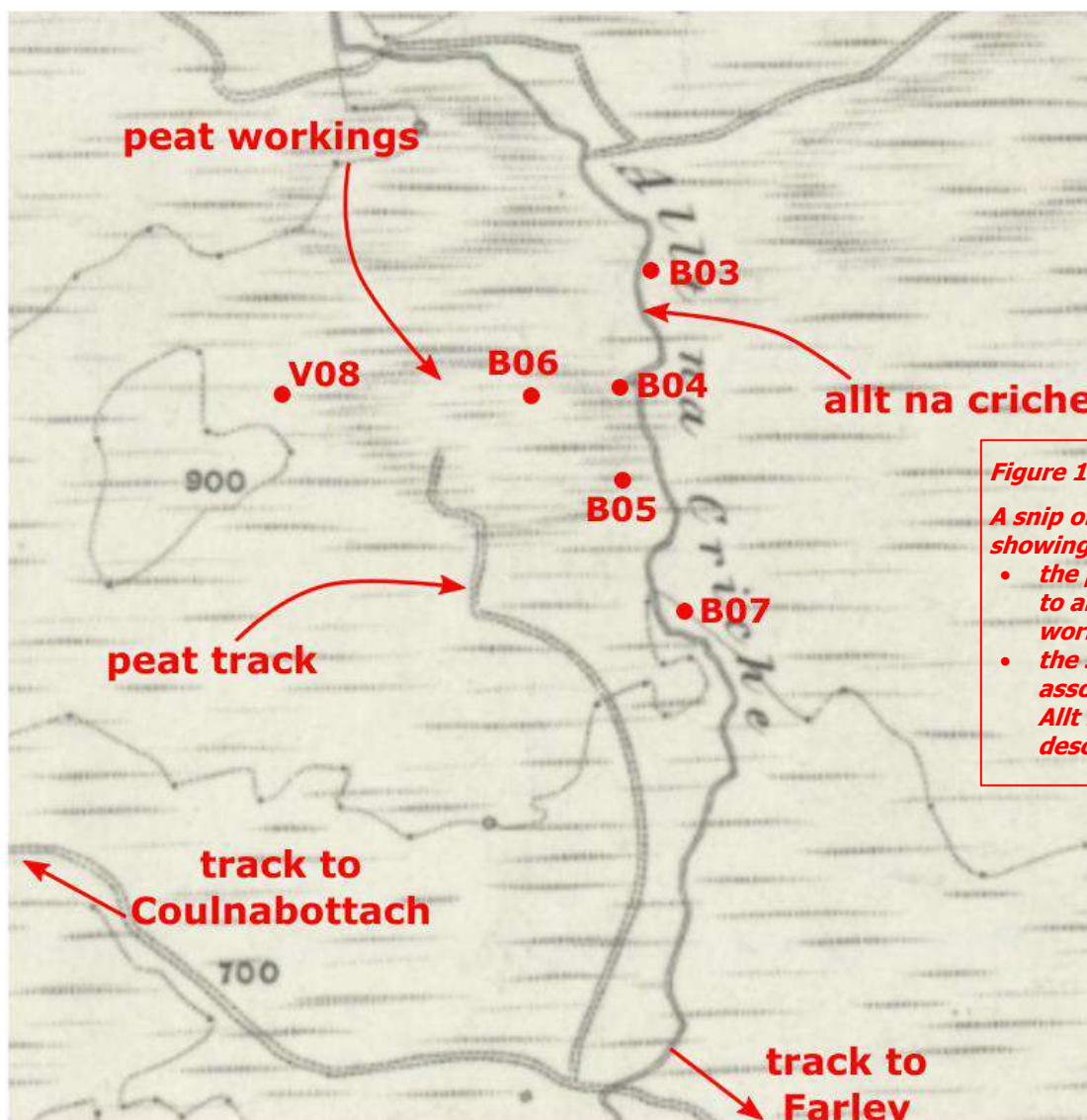
Northwards, upstream, from the point that the main track crosses the Allt na Criche, several structures were identified in the bank or just above the bank of the burn which appear to be still bothies. The paragraphs that follow provide some background to the origins and use of these bothies.

*Whisky had become more popular across Highland society by the second half of the 18th century – industrialisation had led to wage increases and spirits were relatively cheap. To try and regulate the growing market, the government introduced Acts in the 1780s to encourage licensing of distilleries. Unlicensed private distillation in small stills, which had existed in Scotland for centuries, was effectively declared illegal.*

*The income Highland tenants generated from their unlicensed stills was essential to paying their rent. Many landlords and local judges were in receipt of their whisky and the illicit trade flourished in secluded parts of Highland glens. The north-east counties were particularly prominent in the trade due to the proximity of fertile grain-producing farmland. In these remote areas, crofters were more likely to evade the excisemen tasked to enforce the law.*

*To tackle the problem of illicit distillation, the 1823 Excise Act reduced duty by over 50%, effectively ending the advantage of illicit distillers over their licensed rivals. The 1845 Statistical Account of Scotland for Glenisla explains: 'The reduction of the duty of ardent spirits, whatever bad consequences may have resulted from it elsewhere, has been productive of the best effects here, both in respect of the morals and industry of the population. By putting an end to illicit distillation, it has been the means of directing the efforts of the people towards extensive agricultural improvements.'*

National Trust for Scotland website: <https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/the-illicit-still-game>



**Figure 141:**

**A snip of OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map showing the position of**

- the peat track leading to an area of peat working**
- the structures associated with the Allt na Criche, described below**



### B06 NH 45639 45870 A building, possibly associated with peat cutting

Ascending from the main Urchany track, up the W side of the Allt na Criche, is a track shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map, see Fig 141. It is still possible to follow this track on the ground, although it is overgrown in places. It ends in a large area, c 0.5Ha, of peat workings.

On the E side of this peat working are the low grass and bracken covered remains of a stone and turf building. The sub-rectangular building lies to one side on an area of grass and bracken-covered ground, improved by grazing and surrounded by rank heather. The walls are spread to c1.5m, standing up to 0.5m high, and enclosing a space 4m N-S x 2m E-W. An entrance is in the SE corner of the S gable end.

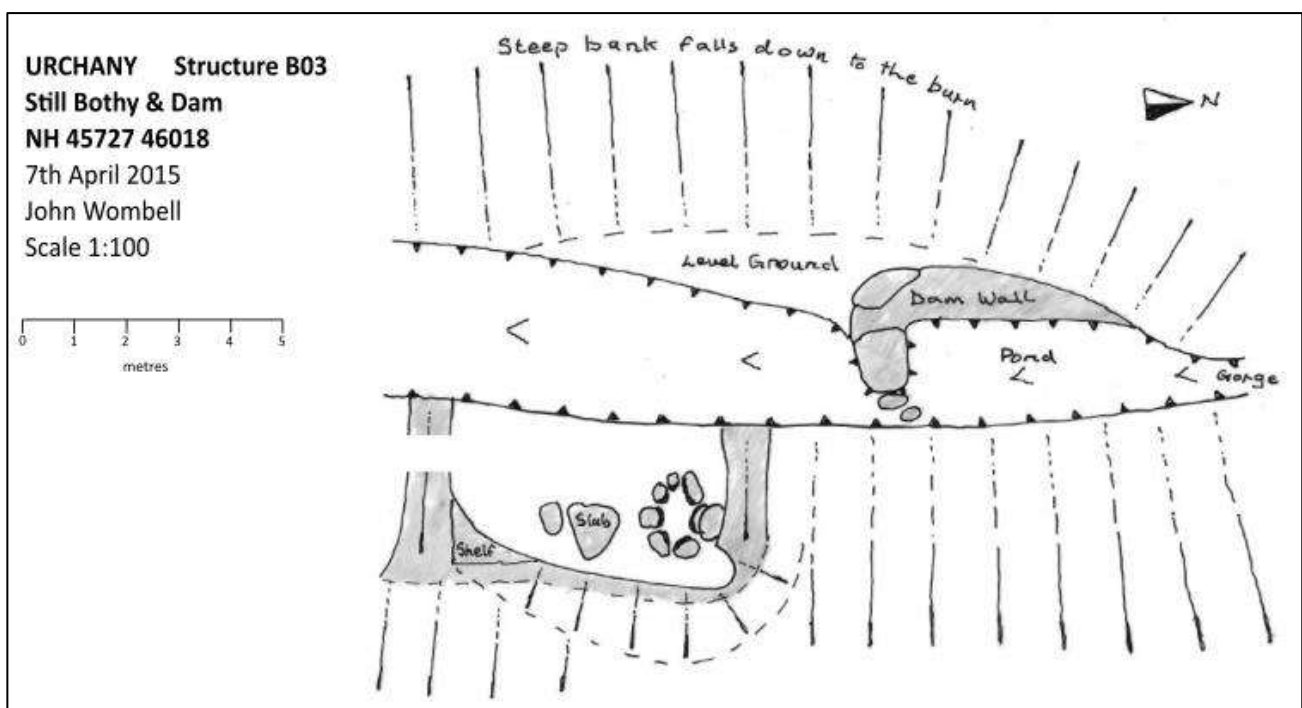
This building is probably related to the adjoining peat workings, such as a day shelter or store. It could possibly be related to the nearby illicit stills, however, eg a worts-house.



**Figure 142: B08 adjacent to peat working.**  
**Note muir burn in the background**

### B03 NH 45727 46018 A Still Bothy with associated Dam

Just south of a turn in the Allt na Criche, the truncated remains of a rectangular stone and turf building, 5.5m N-S x 2m E-W, were identified, cut into the steep east bank of the burn. The front wall has been washed away by the burn, but the two gable walls remain almost intact, being double-faced with stone, about 0.75m wide and standing about 0.6m high. The back wall against the cut is single faced and part tumbled onto the floor. There is a small circular stone setting at the N end of the building. The building is covered in rank heather, fine grass and moss in an area of rank heather, part burnt on the very day of the survey. Two metres upstream of the bothy is a dam and pond in a good state of preservation. The dam wall uses a large in situ boulder wedged into the bottom of a small gorge, then is constructed of large boulders and stones.



**Figure 143: Plan of the remains of a still bothy & dam, B03**





**Figure 144: Dam associated with still bothy B03, looking W**



**Figure 145: Still bothy B03, on E bank of the allt, looking N**



**Figure 146: Looking E across the allt to still bothy B03**

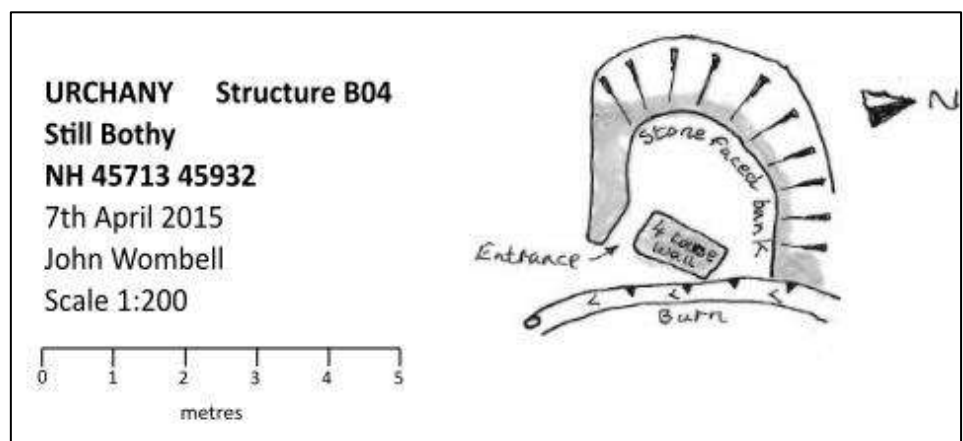


**Figure 147: Looking down on still bothy B03, from the higher ground to the N, ie looking S**

#### **B04 NH 45713 45932 A still bothy**

The truncated remains of this "D"-shaped stone-and-turf building are cut into the moraine west bank of the Allt na Criche, badly truncated at the NE corner by the burn. Substantial walls of stone and turf remain, with coursework visible on the internal face of the E wall. These enclose a structure, c4m SW-NE x 2m NW-SE maximum internal dimensions. The walls are 2m wide standing to 1m high. Just two walls form the building with the cut bank making the curved back wall presently covered in rank heather. This may have been faced with boulders. The E and S walls are covered with fine grasses and bracken as is the interior. A deep ditch lies adjacent and parallel to the S wall. An unknown length of the E wall has been carried away by the burn. The entrance is in the SE corner.

**Figure 148: Plan of the remains of a probable still bothy, B04**







**Figure 149: Still bothy B04, looking S**



**Figure 150: Still bothy B04, looking N**

### **B05 NH 45715 45890**

#### **A Small Building related to whisky production.**

The scant remains of a small building, set to the S side of a small grass-and-bracken covered haugh beside the Allt na Criche, is in association with B04, 40m to the N.

The roughly circular structure, with single-boulder width walls and c1.5m internal diameter, lies beside a turf and stone bank behind a ridge to the west. The entrance is in the N.

This seems too small and crude to have been a dwelling, so it is interpreted as a building for one of the whisky making processes such as worts production, in which case 'a worts house'.



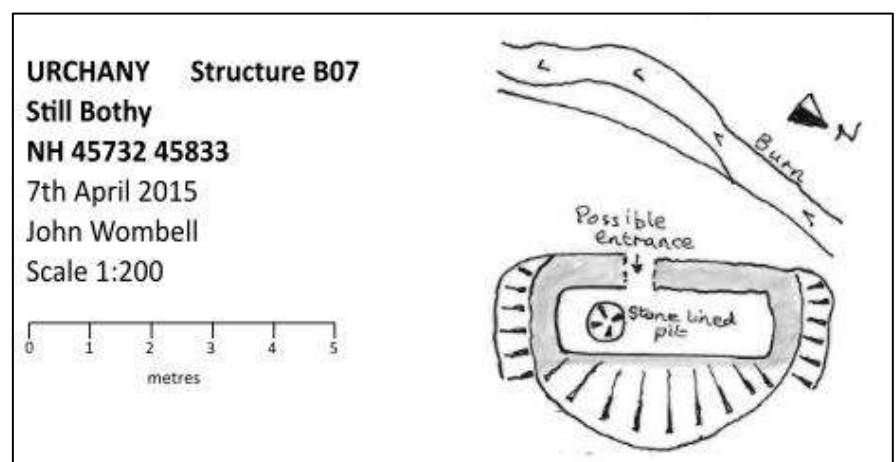
**Figure 151: Building B05, looking S**

### **B07 NH 45732 45833 A Still Bothy**

At the northern end of a small heather-and-bracken covered area of open flat ground are the well-preserved low remains of a turf covered stone and turf building. It lies 3m from the Allt na Criche on its east bank, cut slightly into the bank. All four walls survive. The back retaining wall is single faced, whereas the two gables and west wall are double faced, now well covered with rank heather, fine grasses, moss and bracken.

This low rectangular building, 7m NW-SE x 2.5m NE-SW internal dimensions, has an entrance in the SW corner of the west front wall. The walls are c.0.75m wide and up to 0.5m high. The front wall is a little lower than the two gable walls.

It is likely to be a still bothy, although the open aspect might also suggest a sheiling hut.



**Figure 152: Plan of the remains of a low grassy building, B07**





**Figure 153: Building B07, looking E**



**Figure 154: Building B07, looking S**

#### **V08 NH 45564 45862 A possible hideout or bothy.**

North of the peat working, at the end of the small track heading N to the W of the Allt na Criche, see Fig 141, p50, is a prominent EW ridge. Tucked into the N face of the western end of this is a hollowed-out space delimited by walls on three sides. The 5m (ext dimensions) E & W walls are heather covered banks. There is a clear entrance in the E part of the 4m N wall. The S wall is a near-vertical bank, scooped out of the ridge.

This looks secretive, perhaps related to the illicit stills by the burn, 50m away. The steep tall S “wall”, ie the face of the bank, could have supported a sloping roof.

**Figure 155: Building B07, looking S, through the entrance into the interior of the building**



**Figure 156: Building B07, looking N from the top of the S wall of the building, down into the interior.**

**Note: the entrance is just behind the ranging pole.**

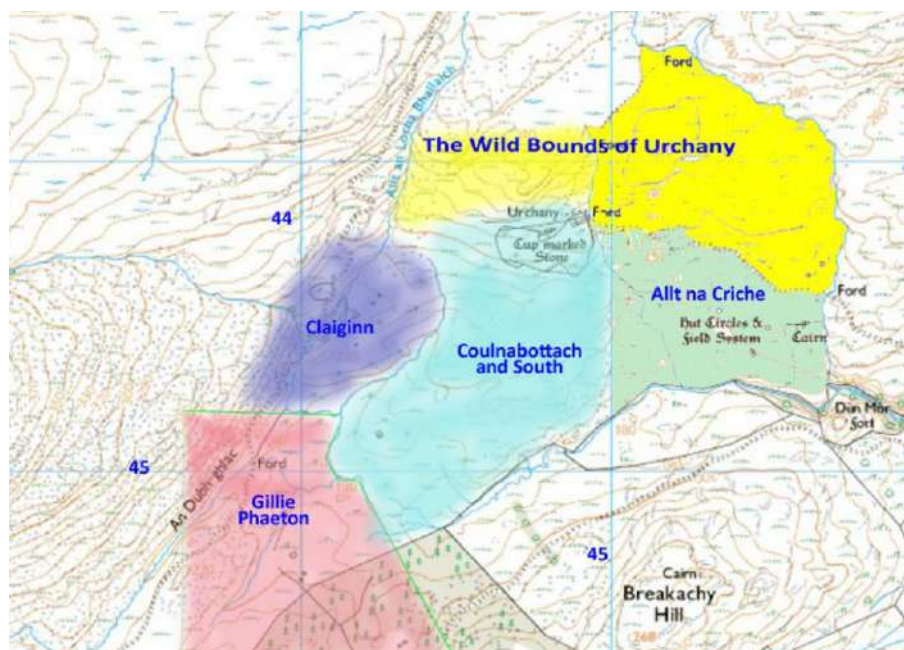




## URCHANY BLUE AREA

A settlement called Coulnabottach on an estate map in 1757 and Coul na Bodach on an estate map in 1798 is a consistent feature on all the estate maps and subsequent OS maps of Urchany. 100m to the east of this settlement is a burn starting in the flat peat land to the N which then runs southwards towards the Breakachy Burn at the bottom of the valley, 1km to the S. It was called Allt na Grianan on a 1757 estate map but is un-named on modern OS maps. The burn forms a natural division between the improved agricultural and pasture-land associated with Coulnabottach and the rougher heather-bound land to the E.

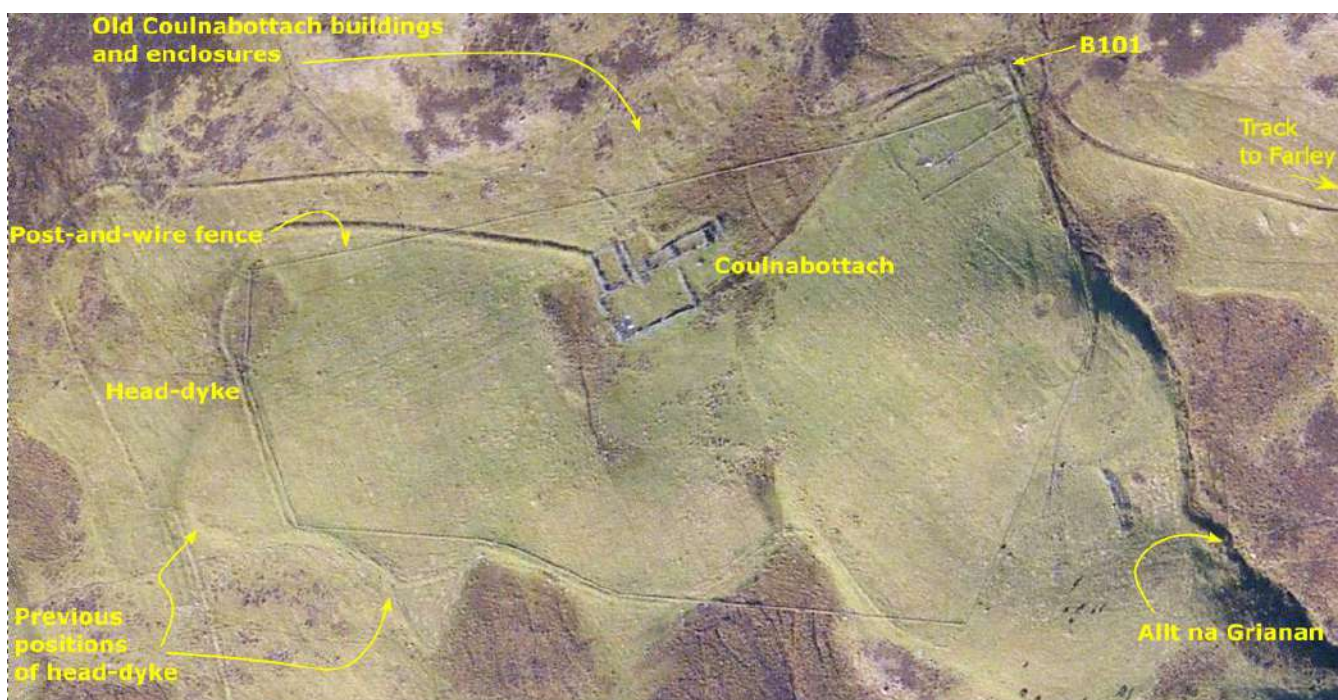
The area called “Blue” for the purposes of this survey are bound: by this allt to the E, the Breakachy Burn to both S and W, and the break in slope to the higher ground in the N. The main archaeological feature is the settlement of Coulnabottach and an enclosing series of dykes, representing a previous head-dyke, and associated enclosures. Careful comparison of the present ruined buildings suggests that they stand in front of, ie S of, buildings that were present on previous estate maps. The extensive and upstanding remains found at this site suggest that this was the last inhabited house at Urchany, home to the only family in the 1851 and 1861 censuses.



**Figure 157: A diagrammatic representation of the five areas surveyed at Urchany**

## The Buildings at Coulnabottach

At this site now are the upstanding remains of three adjoined buildings, associated with enclosures and numerous dykes. A modern post-and-wire fence to the N separates these ruins from more ephemeral stone and turf low-lying ruins which lie a little higher up the slope. Below, ie S, of the buildings are the still-green, south-facing fields within the confines of an enclosing dyke. Aerial photographs show that this enclosing dyke has changed over time.



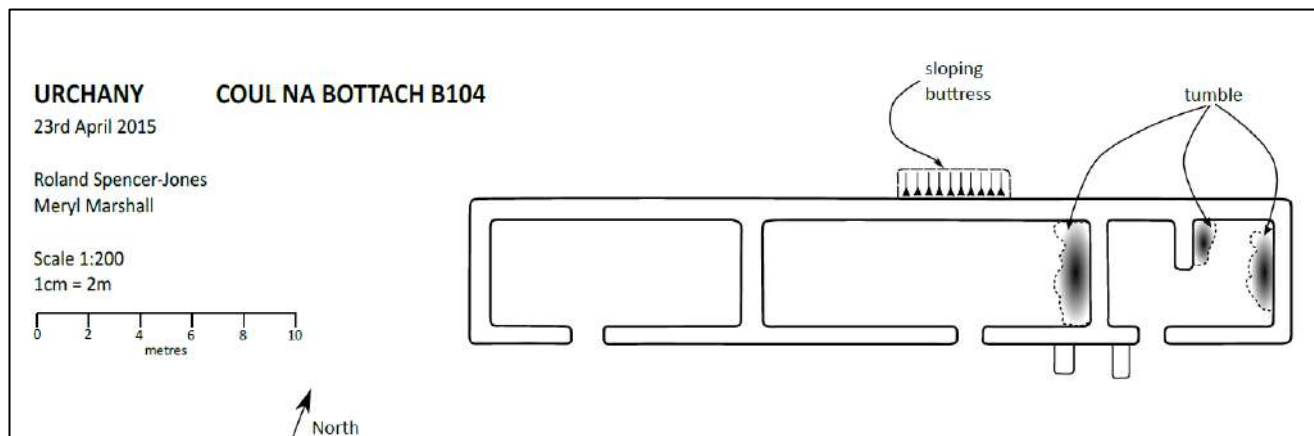
**Figure 158: An aerial photograph image of the buildings and dykes at Coulnabottach**



**B104 NH 44796 45772 A row of two adjoining dwellings with probable byre.**

A row of south-facing buildings sits towards the top of the green fields enclosed by the head-dyke. The walls are 0.8m thick, standing up to 0.7m high. There are three openings in the S-facing wall, leading to three enclosed rooms. The western room is 9.5m EW x 4m NS, the middle room is 12m x 4m, the eastern room is 6m x 4m. The eastern room has an internal division on the N wall, which does not seem to have come more than halfway across the width of the room. There is considerable tumble inside the buildings, particularly at the eastern end. There is no evidence of chimneys or crucks.

It seems reasonable to assume that the eastern building could have been a byre or store. Of the other two buildings, each could have been a house and/or a byre. There is nothing now to indicate their function.



**Figure 159: A measured diagram of the building, B104, at Coul nabottach**

Newspaper advertisements in 1821 & 1822 (see p7) indicate that Urchany, or at least part of it, was a sheep farm by this time. The buildings described here appear to be the most recently lived-in at Urchany, and so could well have housed shepherds. In the 1841 census the residents of Urchany were farm labourers and an agricultural labourer. In the 1851 census, the sole family consisted of a shepherd and his servant.



**Figure 160: Photo taken from the eastern part of building, B104, along the line of the building. Looking W.**



**Figure 161: Photo of the eastern part of building, B104, looking NE**



**Figure 162:** Photo taken from the eastern part of building, B104, along the line of the building. Looking SW



**V108 NH 44801 45760 A cup-marked stone ([Urchany 1](#) in Scotland's Rock Art Project database)**

Four metres in front of the wall between the middle and eastern compartments of the building stands a prominent boulder into which a number of artificial cups have been created.

William Jolly, a well-known local antiquarian, recorded and drew a cup-marked stone at Urchany in an article in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* in 1882. The stone is well known locally, a good place to walk to. The stone was recognised during the NOSAS 2015 survey, but recorded in more detail in 2018 as part of Scotland's Rock Art Project (ScRAP: <https://tinyurl.com/smbnmzz>).



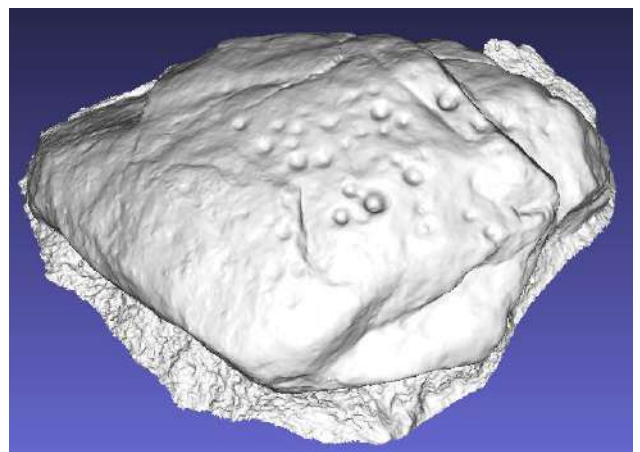
**Figure 163:** V108 looking S



**Figure 164:** V108 looking E



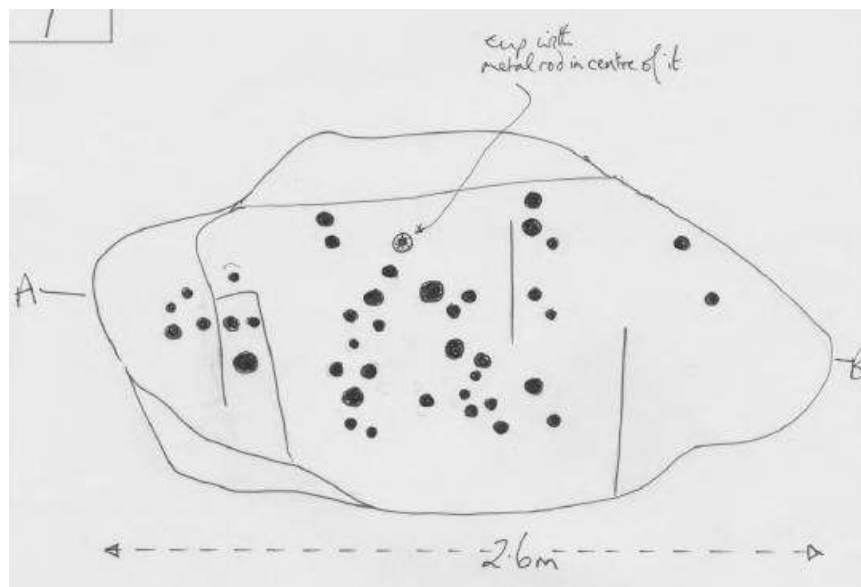
**Figure 165:** V108 looking N, with building B104 at back



**Figure 166:** Clip of a 3-D model of V108



*"A large prominent boulder lying about 4m in front of a ruined building. It lies E-W, ie along the contours of the slope, and is 2.6m long by 1.57m wide. The boulder has several fissures separating the carved upper surface into several linked panels. A total of 41 cup shaped depressions were identified, one of which to the north side had the metal spike described by Jolly in 1881. The deepest and widest cups are found on the western side of the upper surface. No obvious pattern to the cups. This site was visited at a later date by a member of the Scotland's Rock Art project to verify the man-made nature of the cups. Although some of the cups seem natural, at least 15-20 appear created".*  
(ScRAP description)



**Figure 167: Sketch of cups on the Urchany cup-marked stone, V108**

## **"Old Coul nabottach"**

As can be seen from Fig 158 on p55, behind, ie to the N of, the current ruined buildings at Coul nabottach (B104) there is the old head dyke, then a modern post-and-wire fence, then an area of disturbed ground, 90m E-W x 50m N-S, on which can be traced a variety of archaeological features. These include a probable dwelling (B102), another building (B106), several enclosures (E101-E102), a track and two probable kilns (V101, V109). As described earlier, the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century estate maps seem to locate the settlement of Coul nabottach in this area, rather than where the current ruined buildings are.

A survey was undertaken of this area of low banks, ditches and walls by tape-and-offset, using a 100m tape. Although it is hard to come to any definite conclusion about much of what is portrayed in Fig 169 below, some features can be identified. Essentially, there are two large recessed areas limited by banks and dykes, that are called enclosures in the description that follows. Within the boundaries of these "enclosures" are a variety of internal mounds, dykes and hollows, only some of which can be easily described. The whole area is much disturbed.

### **E101 centred approximately at NH 44852 45834**

This enclosure is in the form of a horseshoe shape to the S, 16m NW-SE x 30m NE-SW. It may represent the remains of a sub-rectangular structure, aligned NE-SW. The edges of the northern part are edged into the slope to the N, whereas the southern component consists of low turf walls

Just outwith the SE side there is a 1.5m wide trackway running in an NNE-SSW direction. This leads up to the peat workings N of the settlement. The track seems to have truncated the enclosure, ie post-dated it.

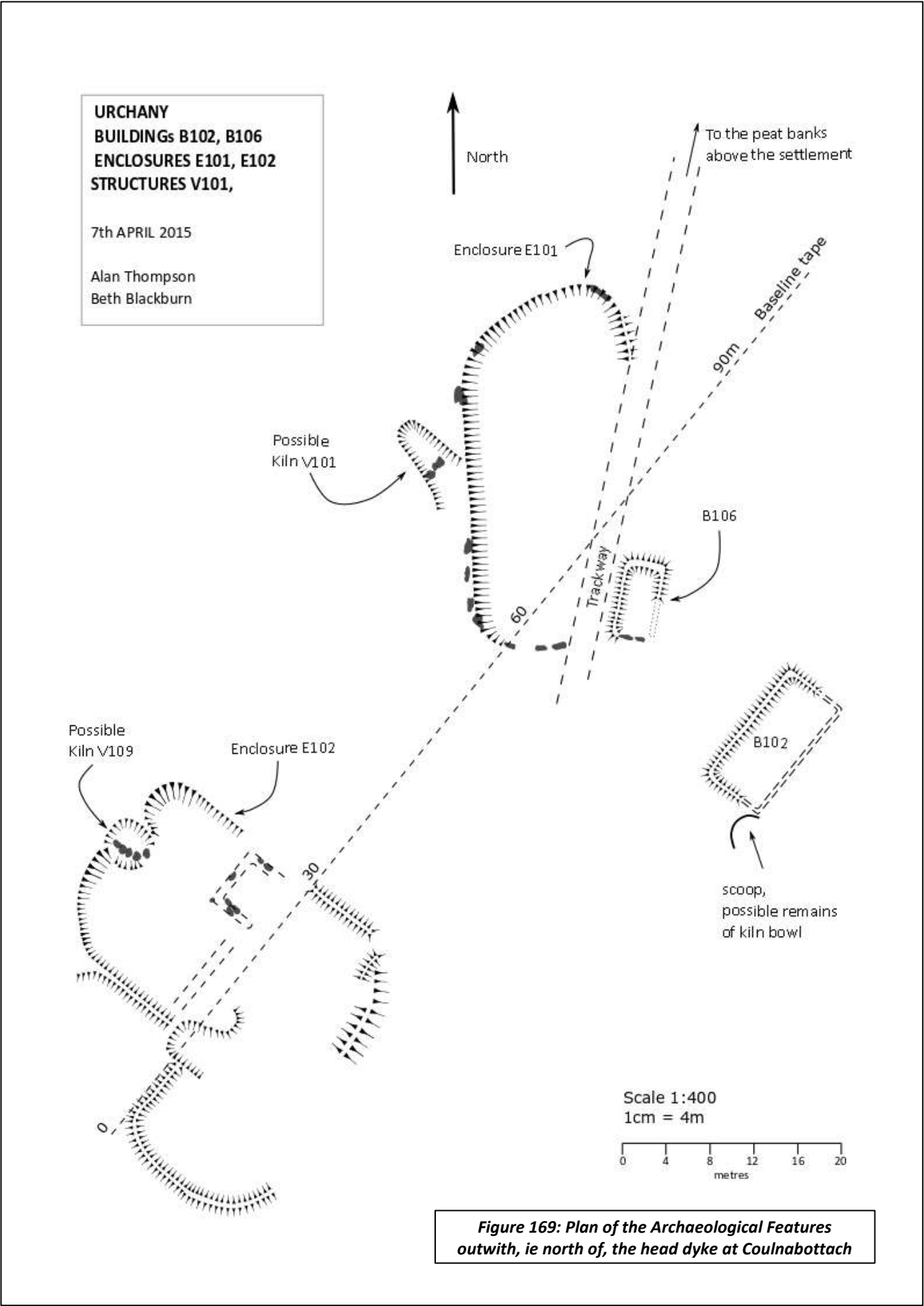
Just outwith the NW part of the enclosure is a possible kiln, V101, see Fig 169.



**Figure 168: The bank of enclosure, E101, looking N**



The Archaeological Features outwith the Coul nabottach Head Dyke





## **E102 centred approximately at NH 44797 45824**

This poorly defined enclosure seems to have a variety of different components, suggesting that it is not one feature but the remains of several features. These may, in turn, have been modified at the time of the conversion to sheep farming in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and the construction of the newer B104 shepherd's house .

The clearest part of the feature is the loop at the N, consisting of a low turf and stone walls, up to 0.3m high. At the top of this northern loop is a circular pit, V109 p61, which may be the remains of a corn-drying kiln.

At the middle of the eastern side is a half-rectangle, that may represent the remains of a building. There are other internal 'walls' or features of no distinguishing pattern.

## **B102 NH 44853 45818 A Dwelling**

This rectangular building constructed of turf and stone lies on a prominent platform.

Orientated NE-SW, the low rounded walls, 1.5m wide and up to 0.4m high, are externally 12m E-W x 4m N-S. The SE wall of the building is deficient. Presumably the entrance was in this part.

At the W end, identified in Fig 157 as a "scoop", is a curved bank open to the S, 1.5m diameter. The interior space is a shallow depression, hollowed out. This structure could have been a kiln.



**Figure 170: Building B102, looking NW**



**Figure 171: Building B102, looking SW**



**Figure 172: Building B102, looking SE**



### **B106 NH 44845 45851 A building, unknown function**

Just SE of the track that leads from the old area of Coul nabottach to the peat workings in the N are three conjoined banks that could constitute the remaining walls of a building. The 3m N wall is a 1.5m broad grass bank, 0.6m high. The lower E & W walls, 4m long, are 0.6m wide, up to 0.3m high, with the southern part of the E wall being deficient. At the S, the end wall is constructed of two upright stones. At the northern end of the building, the interior is sunken, maybe a shallow bowl. If this is a building, it is small. Its function is conjectural.



**Figure 173: Building B106, looking S**



**Figure 174: Building B106, looking S**

### **V101 NH 44822 45854 Probable Kiln**

Just outwith the W side of the E101 enclosure is a 3m (internal) diameter bowl, with several large stones at the entrance. It is cut into the hillside with a flat platform in front, to the S. This is likely to be a kiln, probably a corn-drying kiln.



**Figure 175: V101 Probable kiln, looking N**



**Figure 176: Looking down into V101, looking E**

### **V109 NH 44405 45571 Probable Kiln**

At the NW part of enclosure E102 is a sub-circular lined pit in the enclosure bank, 1.4m NE-SW & 1.2m NW-SE. The pit contains numerous large stones as tumble, which makes clarifying the walls difficult.

This is likely to be a corn-drying kiln.



**Figure 177: V109, possible kiln, looking SE**





**Figure 178: V109, possible kiln, looking NW**



**Figure 179: V109, possible kiln, looking SW**

### **B101 NH 44910 45830 A Building**

100m east of the previously described structures, and just 10m west of the Allt na Grianan, lies a rectangular stone building. The four corners lie on the compass points. The 0.6m wide walls consist of large angular stones, intermittent on the SW & SE sides, still remaining in courses on the NE where the wall stands up to 0.6m high. The SE wall is a rounded grass-covered mound. The external dimensions are 10m N-S x 8m E-W, with an entrance in the southern part of the SW wall.

It's massive construction, with large rectangular stones, 8m minimum diameter, and an opening in the W wall, all mitigate against this being a dwelling. It may have been an enclosure, store, or byre.



**Figure 180: B101, looking from W corner, to N**



**Figure 181: B101, looking from E corner, along NE wall**



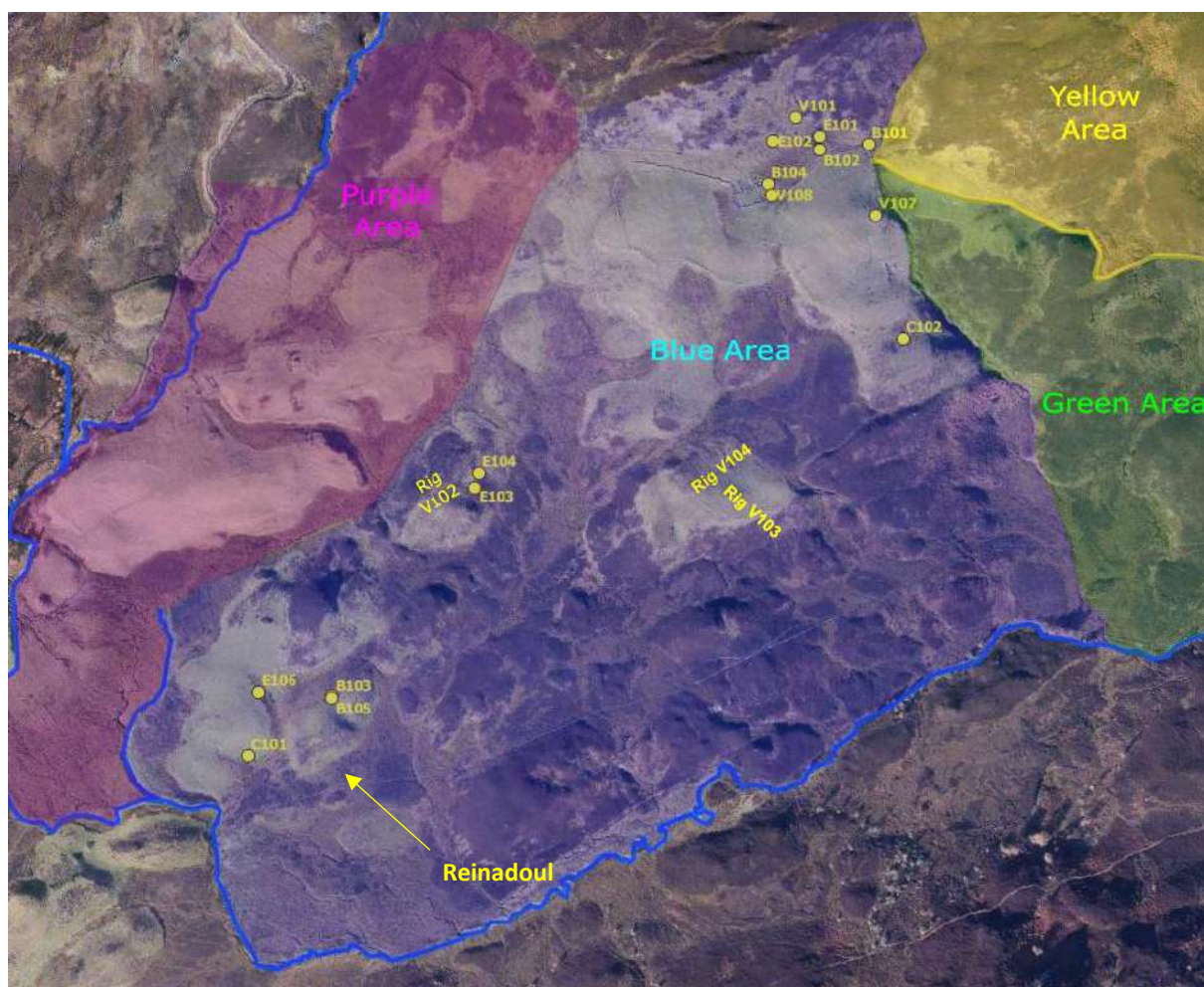
**Figure 182: B101, looking from S corner, along SE wall**



**Figure 183: B101, looking from W corner, along NW wall. Note the entrance just before the ranging pole**



## Other Structures in the Blue Area

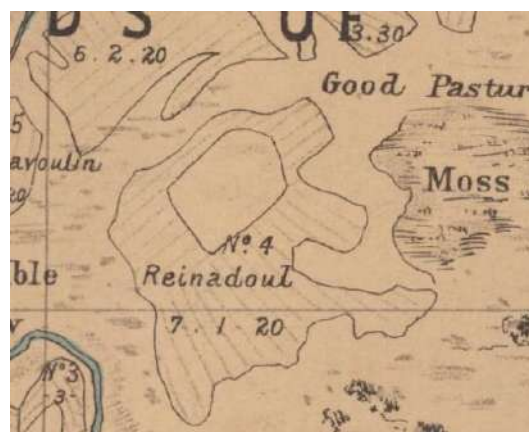


**Figure 184: The archaeological features of the "Blue Area" set on the background of an aerial photograph. Note the other coloured areas contiguous with it.**

As can be seen from Fig 184 above, the "Blue Area" is an extensive area of rough heather-clad country with dips and small hillocks. Some of the hillocks stand prominently above the surrounding land. There are some areas of rig, suggesting that some areas at least had been cultivated in the past.

The 1757 estate map, see Fig 185, shows a 7-acre field called Reinadoul that contains rig and furrow. This is approximately where E106 and B103 are, see Fig 184. Notice the clearance cairn, C101, confirming previous cultivation.

Three areas of rig were noticed during the survey, indicated on Fig 172. One of these, V102, is depicted in Fig 189.



**Figure 185: A section of the Peter May map of Urchany, 1757**

### V107 NH44926 45747 Pit of uncertain function

On the slight crest of the slope, within the head dyke enclosure, approximately 150m SE of the Coul na Bottach building, B104, is a shallow, crescentic, flat-bottomed pit in the ground. Aligned N-S, 9x5m. The E bank is steeper than the W. Small-medium stones are scattered round S & W parts of the pit which, at its deepest, is 0.6m. It's function is unknown.



## Animal Enclosures

### E103 NH 44484 45383

This approximately rectangular enclosure, 17m x 10m, has a rounded end to the E. The bounding walls, 1m high and 2m wide, are constructed of rough stone and turf.

### E104 NH 44487 45400

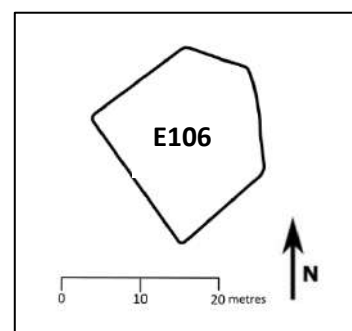
On the N side of E103 is a small enclosure, 2m x 3m internal dimensions. Its construction consists of more turf and less stone than E103. It could represent a lambing pen.



*Figure 186: Enclosure E103, looking N.*

### E106 NH 44252 45118

This enclosure is further west than the previous two, in the “Reinadoul” field. It is approximately, 22m x 20m, with walls 1m wide and up to 0.5m high. It is irregularly rectangular with walls less defined on the SW side where they are rounded. On the eastern side there is a small structure, 2m square. This could be a lambing pen.



*Figure 187: Enclosure E106, looking SW*



*Figure 188: Possible lambing pen, outwith eastern wall of Enclosure E106, looking NW*





### **B103 NH 44338 45121 Building, probably a dwelling**

On a prominent platform, with views in all directions, this stone structure consists of tumbled walls up to 0.5m high and 0.6m wide. It is aligned NNE-SSW, with external dimensions 9m x 5m and internal dimensions 7m x 3m. The doorway lies in the middle of the SE wall. There are no obvious internal features.

Three metres to the NE of the NE end of building B103 is a 1.5m diameter circle of stones. This can just be seen on the left in Fig 171, and in Fig 194.



**Figure 189: Building B103, looking SW. Note rig behind**



**Figure 190: Building B103, looking SW**



**Figure 191: Building B103, looking SSW**



**Figure 192: Building B103, looking NNE**



**Figure 193: Building B103, looking N through entrance**



**Figure 194: Setting of stones to NE of B103, looking NW**



## Clearance Cairns

### **C102 NH 44970 45603**

Just south, ie below, the lower edge of the head dyke, this oval clearance cairn, 8m EW X 3m, consists of a mass of rough boulders.

### **C101 NH 44246 45041**

This 3m diameter round clearance cairn is sited within the field called Reinadoul on a 1757 estate map.

### **C103 NH 44161 45035**

## Areas of Rig

Several areas of rig and furrow were noticed in this "Blue Area":

- **V102** centred on NH 44452 45339, narrow rig, probably lazy beds of 3-4m periodicity, facing SW. This is approx. 100m from building B103, so shown on **Fig 170**.
- **V103** centred on NH 44805 45412, faint traces of rig, running E-W
- **V104** centred on NH 44758 45429, faint traces of rig running NE-SW, of variable periodicity



**Figure 195: Rig V102 on the R of the photo, with B103 on the left. This area of rig has a dyke around it.**



## URCHANY PURPLE AREA

The division of the Lands of Urchany into five separate (colour-named) areas does not relate just to convenience. There are real differences in the terrain and archaeology in these areas. For example:

- The Green Area, from the Allt na Criche westwards, contains numerous small rounded hillocks associated with hut circles and burial cairns.
- The Yellow Area, north of the main Urchany track, spreads up to the high ground north of the other features at Urchany. Apart from the SE corner, which is analogous to the Green Area, it is relatively devoid of pre-historic archaeology.
- The Blue Area contains the fertile south-facing fields of Coul nabottach and adjoining dykes, enclosures and sheep-related structures. This is at a higher altitude than the other areas.
- The Red Area contains houses and adjoining enclosures on the lower ground by the Breakachy Burn.
- The relatively compact Purple Area, west of the higher fields of Coul nabottach, consists of gently rolling hillocks, with evidence of previous agriculture (rig), now improved pasture. It contains a cluster of pre-modern settlements – houses, adjoining byres, kilns and enclosures – a Bronze Age bowl barrow and some pre-historic cup-marked stones.

**Figure 196:**  
Part of  
1757 Estate Map  
of Urchany,  
showing the  
"Purple Area"



**Figure 197: Bing aerial  
photograph of Urchany,  
showing the "Purple Area"**



## The Prehistory of the Purple Area

A comparison of Figs 196 & 197 on the previous page shows that the field structure seen in 1757 is reflected in the aerial photography of today. The fields of Gletach, Bnar, Glykian, Leinavoulin and Gortangowrie on the 1757 map are still traceable on the ground, consisting now of green, improved, pasture. Detailed study of aerial photographs from several sources shows the presence of rig in these meadows, confirming the 1757 suggestion that they had been ploughed.

The 1757 map is the earliest historical record for Urchany. If there were maps or estate records before that date they no longer seem to exist. It is known that many records were destroyed in the burning of Dounie Castle, the seat of the Lovat Frasers, after Culloden.

It's therefore instructive to consider what in the Purple Area precedes 1757. The structure of the fields may be mediaeval, or older. Interestingly, there were no hut circles found, as in the Green Area, which either means they were never built here, or that they were subsequently ploughed out. However, there are several features, usually ascribed to the Bronze Age, that were found in this area that suggests the latter explanation is the more likely. These are described below.

### V157 NH 44285 45496 A Bronze Age Bowl Barrow

This 30m diameter structure was identified as an archaeological feature for the first time in November 2012 by the author. Although it is close to dwellings, and although it must have been acknowledged as an ancient feature by many people over centuries, it had not previously been identified in the archaeological record. It does however seem to be represented on a 1797 estate map, where a domed structure with drawn boundary is labelled "Burying Ground". After its "discovery" by the author it was subsequently scheduled (SM13523) in December 2014.



**Figure 198: V157 Bowl Barrow looking SW.  
Note the "hydro" road leading SW to Struy in the distance**

A good description of the monument is contained within the scheduling document:

*The monument is situated on a large glacial drumlin at the head of a glen, at around 220m above sea level, with extensive views to the SW, SE and NE. The barrow survives as a prominent, circular, grass-covered mound, built mainly of earth but with some stone visible in its sides. The central mound, which probably contains one or more burials, is approximately 9m in diameter and stands 1.5m high. It is surrounded by a ditch, approximately 3m wide, and an external bank approximately 3.5m wide and standing up to 0.9m high. The ditch and bank are well-defined around the NW, SW and SE sides, but the bank has been disturbed by later activity around its NE arc. A causeway which crosses the ditch on the W side of the barrow, linking the central mound and the outer bank, is probably a later addition, perhaps associated with a nearby Improvement period farmstead.*



**Figure 199: Burying Ground identified on 1797 Gordon Brown estate map. Note N is to bottom of picture**

*It is a prehistoric burial monument dating probably to the 2nd millennium BC (Bronze Age). It appears to be a bowl barrow with an external ditch and bank, which is a rare form of burial monument in Scotland. The Urchany barrow is particularly important as it appears to be a well-preserved, rare type of burial monument - a bowl barrow with its distinctive field characteristics - a type of barrow more commonly associated with ritual and funerary landscapes in Wessex. It has high potential to add to our understanding of differing forms of burial monument and practices during the Bronze Age.*

<https://her.highland.gov.uk/Designation/DHG5861>





**Figure 200: V157 Bowl Barrow looking SW from the slope to the NE. Note the valley in distance leads to Struy**



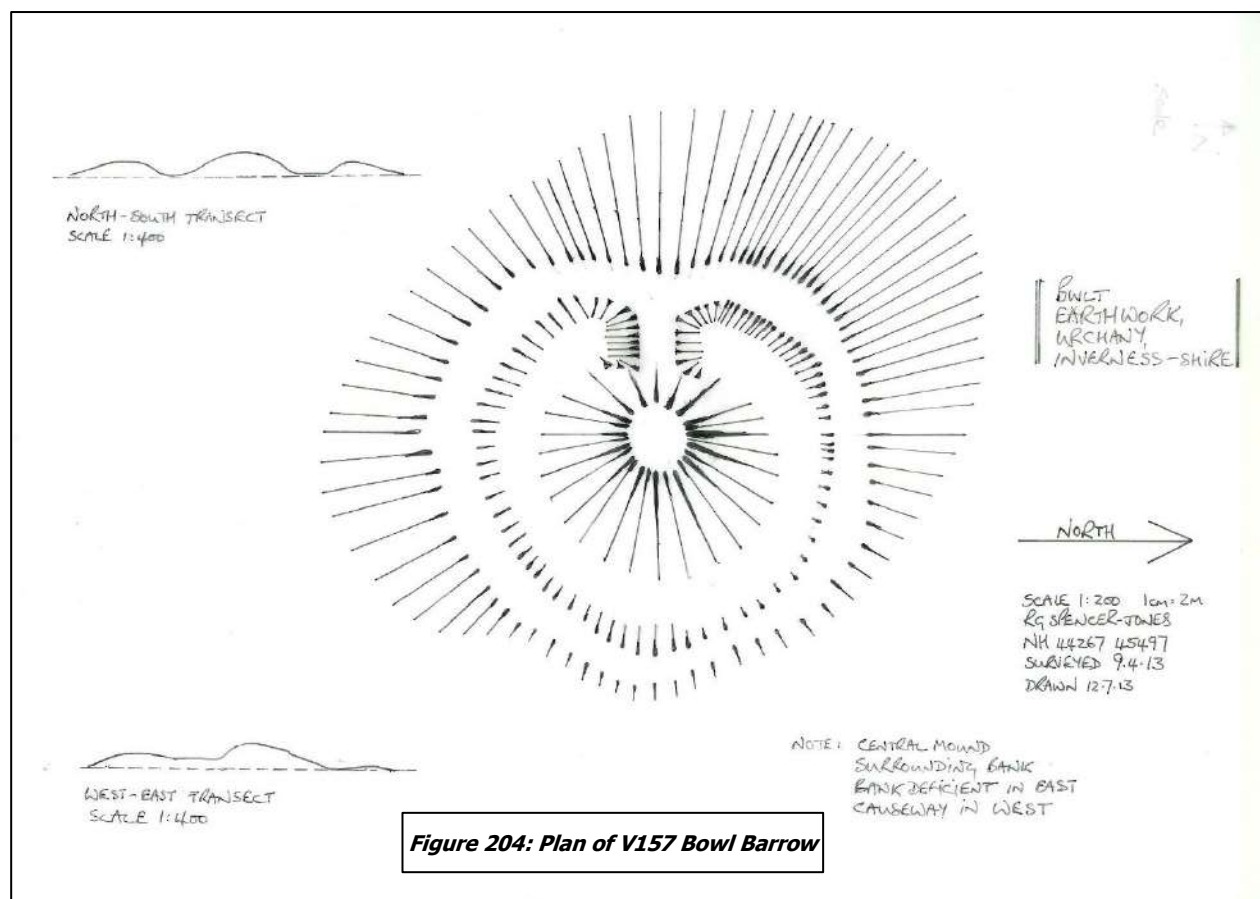
**Figure 201: V157 Bowl Barrow looking SW**



**Figure 202: V157 Bowl Barrow looking NNE**



**Figure 203: V157 Bowl Barrow looking SW**



**Figure 204: Plan of V157 Bowl Barrow**



## Four Newly Identified Cup-Marked Stones

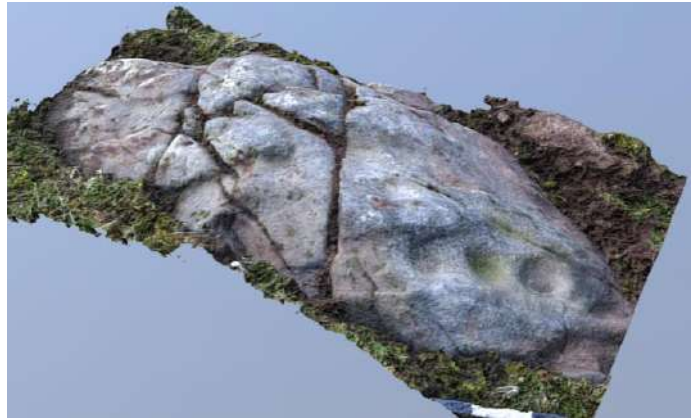
### V161 NH 44279 45613 Cup-marked Stone

[Urchany 2](#) in Scotland's Rock Art Project database

This cup-marked rock is situated on gently sloping ground with an extensive open aspect to the E. It is in rough grazing about 125m NE of V157 Bowl Barrow (Canmore 345775). The area is scattered with small boulders. There are two other rock art panels 1m to the S and the E. The Bowl Barrow is clearly visible to the S and two rectangular stone and turf footings of buildings are visible 75m to S.

This is a small oval-shaped rock measuring 1.4m by 0.8m with the long axis oriented SW. It is low lying with a maximum height of 0.2m above the ground, overlaid with turf on the N side. It has an undulating smooth surface. There is a distinct crack across the centre which roughly halves the rock, with cup marks on both sides. There are four distinct cup marks and three less distinct ones. The three larger cups are in a row along the NE edge. Two of the larger cups have garnets inside.

It is recorded on Scotland's Rock Art Project website as ScRAP ID 3004



**Figure 205: V161 photo of 3-D image, N to front of photo**

**Figure 206: V161 at front, looking SW**



**Figure 208: V161 – close-up of the three in-line cups at NE**

**Figure 207: V161 looking vertically down**





## V162 NH 44275 45612 Cup-marked Stone

[Urchany 3](#) in Scotland's Rock Art Project database

This cup-marked rock lies 4m W of V161 (Urchany 2) CMS and recorded on Scotland's Rock Art Project website as ScRAP ID 3119. It is about 200m N of the low stone and turf footings of a roughly rectangular enclosure and bronze age barrow (Canmore ID345775). The low stone footings of 2 rectangular ruined buildings lie about 150m to the SW.

This is a small roughly rectangular stone measuring about 1.8 x 0.8m with its long axis lying E-W. Its maximum width is at the E end narrowing slightly to the W end. It is low lying with a maximum height of 0.5m at the W end and 0.3m at the E end. It slopes gently to the SW.

The upper surface is smooth and fairly flat with some shallow natural fissures orientated mainly on the E-W axis and also a natural fissure running N-S roughly across the middle of the panel. 2 cups are located on this fissure and one of these is a large cup 8cm diameter and 3cm deep. There are in total 7 cups on the W part of the upper rock surface.



*Figure 209: V162 at the front (V161 behind it)*



*Figure 210: V162 cup marked stone, looking N*

*Figure 211 below, Figure 212 right:  
V162 cup marked stone, 3-D photogrammetric images*





## V164 NH 44235 45368

### Cup-marked Stone

[Urchany 4](#) in Scotland's Rock Art Project database

The cup-marked stone is situated in rough grazing on the top of a ridge that is orientated NW to SE, high above the Breakachy burn 600m away. There are panoramic views to the W, E, and S, with a ridge of hills to the N. The stone is part of a small cluster of cup-marked stones, with V161 & V162 120m to the NNE. The famous Urchany cup-marked stone, [V108 \(p57\)](#), is situated 700m to the NE. This stone lies in sight of, and 250 SW of, V157 Bowl Barrow and a deserted eighteenth century settlement. There is an old trackway running west to east 50m to the N.

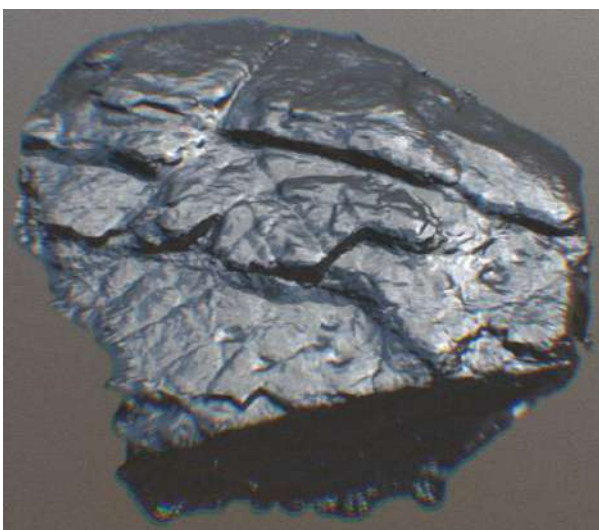
This is a roughly pentangular boulder measuring 1.85 x 1.75m, with its longer axis running W to E. It rises from 0.13 to 0.46m above the surrounding ground level. Its mainly smooth surface is divided into three levels by a series of ledges. There is a W to E fissure on the lower part of the W facing aspect. The panel has 6 cupmarks on the upper E edge, arranged into two groups comprised of two and four cups. One of the cupmarks is larger than the others.



**Figure 213: V164 cup marked stone, looking N**



**Figure 214:  
V164 cup marked stone,  
looking S**



**Figure 215: V164 cup marked stone, 3-D image**



**Figure 216: V164 cup marked stone, detail of the NE part of the boulder, showing the two groups of cup**



[Urchany 6](#) in Scotland's Rock Art Project database

This cup-marked stone sits low on a gently sloping and undulating S-facing slope looking over the Breakachy Burn. From this grassy field, there are extensive views south towards the low hills of Breakachy about 3kms away, and beyond them to the undulating high ground above Loch Ness. The panel lies at the SE corner of an extensive area of enclosed improved grassland. The enclosure was originally with a turf bank, later superseded by a post-and-wire fence. Towards the top (northern) part of this enclosure lies the derelict remains of a long low building of two conjoined houses associated with stone-built enclosure dykes. This represents the historical settlement of Coulnabottach, part of the Lands of Urchany. The main settlement of Urchany and another four cup-marked stones, lie 1km to the W.

The low-lying oblong stone, partially covered by grass turf, has a deep fissure at the NW section. The 1.35 x 0.92m stone is otherwise smoothly rounded, has a rough surface and with its longest axis NS. Its highest part above the roughly level ground is 0.27m towards the southern edge. There are (at least) 6 simple cups in the centre and eastern parts of the panel. They measure approximately 3-5cm across, and 2-3cm deep. The lowest cup is almost at the edge of the rock surface.



**Figure 217: V165 cup marked stone, looking N**

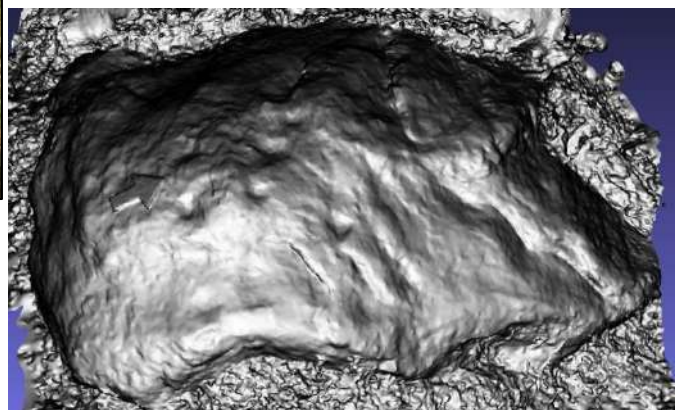


**Figure 218: V165 cup marked stone, looking S**



**Figure 219: V165 cup marked stone, with markers in cups**

**Figure 220: V165 cup marked stone, 3-D image**





## The Buildings of the Purple Area

A total of 23 buildings were identified in this area. The houses tended to be clustered in the lea of higher ground which would have provided shelter from the prevailing south-westerly wind. Their position is shown in Fig 221. On 19<sup>th</sup> century estate maps this cluster of houses was called Urchany (in distinction to Coulnabottach in the “Blue Area”) or Claiginn.



**Figure 221: The Buildings in the “Purple Area”**

The buildings are clustered:

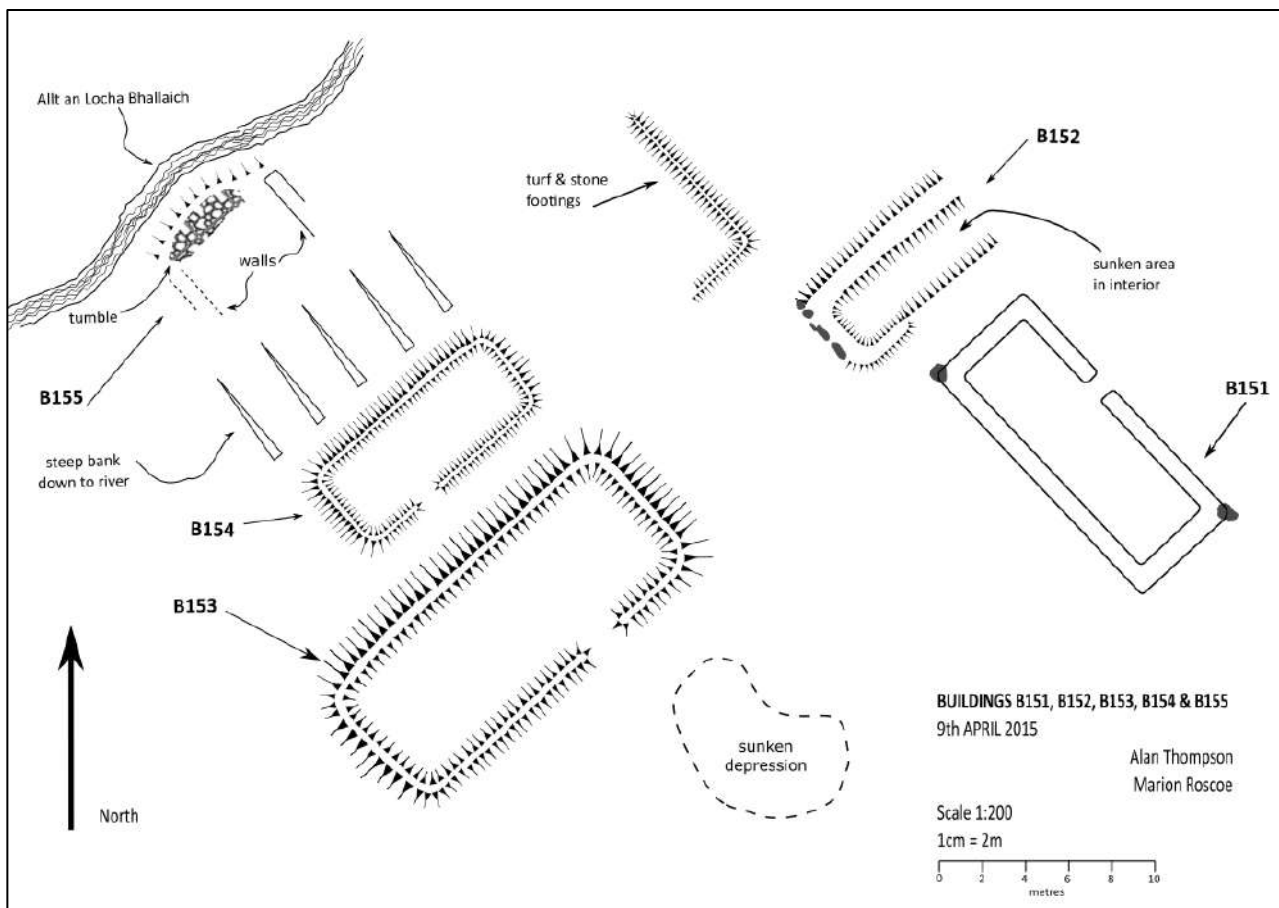
- Buildings B151 to B155 appear to be a time sequence of houses in the lower ground just south of the Allt an Locha Bhallaich (on modern OS maps) in the centre of this area.
- B158 is an outlier of this cluster, B160 is a kiln plus probable threshing barn
- Buildings B161 to B163 are adjacent to an enclosure (probably a burial ground) and a newly recognised Bronze Age burial barrow. They are prominently positioned on the southern lip of a mounded hillock.
- Buildings B165 to B168 are to the north of the mounded hillock
- Buildings B170 to B172 are scattered across the ground to the west that rises up to Coulnabottach
- Buildings B156 & B157 are across the Allt in a prominent south facing position overlooking the other settlements.

These clusters will be considered below in the above order. Interestingly, the houses drawn on the 1757 map (Fig 174) at “Urchany” are represented by the clusters of building remains seen on the ground now.



**Figure 222: Buildings B151 – B158 in the “Purple Area”, looking S**





**Figure 223: Buildings B151 – B155 adjacent to the Allt an Locha Bheallaich**



**Figure 224: Building B151 looking WNW**



**Figure 225: Building B151 looking NW**



**Figure 226: Building B151 looking W**



**B151** centred on **NH 44171 45473**

**A stone-built building**

This building is constructed of dressed stone and rough boulders. It is the most intact of the structures in the purple area.

The rectangular house is orientated NW-SE, 16m x 6m exterior dimensions, with walls that are mostly tumbled and spread, except at the SE end where the gable end is still standing to over 1.5 metres high. The more tumbled NW gable stands up to 1.2m high. Where they are still standing, the double faced walls have a rubble core 1.0m diameter. The entrance is on the NE wall, 5m from the N corner and 1m wide. There is considerable tumble in the interior. A large boulder is built into the SE gable.



**Figure 227: An orthostatic photogrammetric model of B151**



**Figure 229: Building B151 – interior NW gable, looking NW**

**Figure 228: Building B151:  
interior of SE gable, looking SE**



**B152** centred on **NH 44161 45482**

**A Stone and Turf Building**

3m from the NW gable of B151, and orientated 90° differently from it, ie SW-NE, are the low-lying stone and turf remains of a building. 5m x 3m. The low walls are composed of intermittent stones covered by grass and moss. These walls peter out at the NW end.

This could have been a simple dwelling, or more likely an outbuilding or byre.



**Figure 230: Building B152 looking ENE.  
Note the NW gable of B151 on the right.**



**B153** centred on **NH 44146 45459** **A Stone and Turf Building**

12m to the SW of B152, lying across a slight gully from it, are the low-lying remains of a large rectangular building. Orientated SW-NE, with moss and grass-covered stone walls up to 0.4m high, its external dimensions are 9m x 4m, with a 1m entrance on the SE facing wall. The constituent stones are best seen on the SW wall.



*Figure 231: Building B153 looking NE*



*Figure 232 Building B153 looking NW*

**B154** centred on **NH 44141 45461** **A Stone and Turf Building**

On a prominent platform, 4m to the NW of B153, are the mounded remains of a rectangular building, 9m x 4m external dimensions. The broad walls up to 1.5m wide are now covered in turf, with the possible remains of stone footings in places. The building is aligned NE-SW. The W end wall is indistinct, the S wall seems enhanced and on the northern side there is a steep slope down to a low platform by the un-named burn that flows to the W, about to join the Allt an Locha Bhallaich. On this low platform stands B155.



*Figure 233: Building B154, looking NE*



*Figure 234: Building B154, looking NW*



**B155** centred on **NH 44137 45474**      **A Stone and Turf Building**

On a low-lying platform above the burn, with a stone dyke just to the north, lie the scant remains of a structure, possibly a building or an enclosure. Aligned NE-SW, 11m x 5.5m external dimensions, it lies at the bottom of the steep slope down from B154. The south wall is now deficient. The E & W walls consist of massive stones. The N wall is now tumbled and could have abutted, or been formed by, the dyke.



**Figure 235: Building B155, looking NW.**  
**Note slope from B154 at bottom R of photo**



**Figure 236 Building B155, looking E**  
**Note burn on L of photo, flowing W**

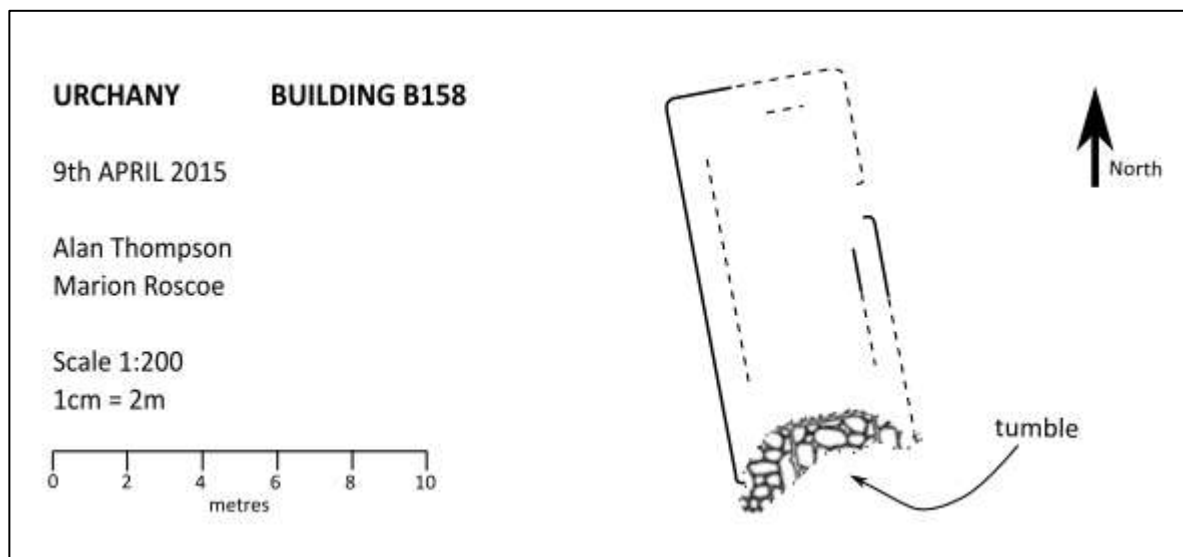
**B158 NH 44177 45396**  
**A Stone and Turf Building**

On a prominent platform, just at the break of an E-facing slope and 75m S of the associated cluster of buildings (B151-B155) described above, are the ruins of a rectangular building, 12m x 6m external dimensions. Orientated NNW-SSE its walls consist of stone tumble with traces of wall footings, up to 0.3m max height. The W external wall is the best preserved, with the entrance on the E wall.



**Figure 237: Building B158, looking N**  
**Note B151 at the N, to the R of B158**

**Figure 216: Plan of Building B158**





**Figure 238: Building B158, looking SE**



**Figure 239: Building B158, looking S**

## A Cluster of Buildings by the V157 Bowl Barrow

Just to the SE of the bowl barrow lies a cluster of buildings. One of them, B161, appears to have disrupted the SE arc of the outer rim of the barrow. An old track passes between B161 to the N, and B162-3 to the S. A roughly square walled enclosure lies approx. 20m to the NE of B164.

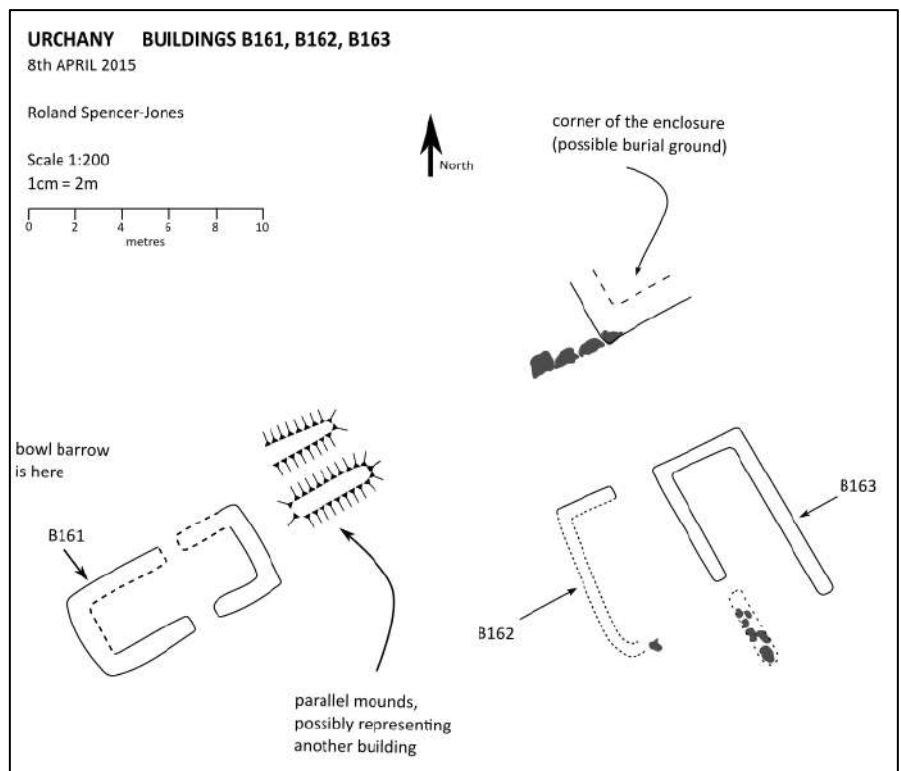
From appearances and grouping, B161 may have been a dwelling, whereas B162 & B163 might represent outbuildings or byres.

### **B161 NH 44285 45491 A Stone and Turf Building**

This building, orientated NE-SW, 10m x 4m, lies on the SE part of the bowl barrow which is disrupted at this point. The entrance is just to R of middle of the S wall. The moss-covered walls are of stone base construction, up to 0.2m high, indistinct in the middle of the building.

### **B162 NH 44303 45494 A Stone and Turf Building**

This building, with walls up to 0.2m high, shares a wall with B163. Aligned NW-SE, 10m x 4m, it is deficient on the SE side. It may represent a byre.



**Figure 240: Plan of buildings B161-3**



### **B163 NH 44306 45494 A Stone and Turf Building**

This building, with walls up to 0.2m high, shares a wall with B162. Aligned NW-SE, 10m x 4m, it is deficient on the SW side, where there is an opening to B162. It may represent a byre.



**Figure 241: Building B161 looking NE**  
*Note corner of burial ground enclosure on L of photo*



**Figure 242: Building B161 looking SE**



**Figure 243: Buildings B162 & B163 looking S**



**Figure 244: Building B162 looking S**

### **V166 Enclosure near Bowl Barrow Centred at NH 44305 45417**

An estate map of 1797-1800 shows a burying ground and an enclosure near the houses in this area, on the flat surface of a small hillock, see Fig 245. The enclosure is 60 m E of the bowl barrow, and 10m N of buildings B162-3, which now do not lie in the directions as shown on the estate map.

The enclosure is roughly square, constructed of stone to 1.2m high. There is no constructed entrance. However, in the W corner the stone walls have tumbled to provide a de facto entrance. It is not clear if there was a constructed entrance here originally.



**Figure 245: Enclosure V166 and Bowl Barrow, looking SE**

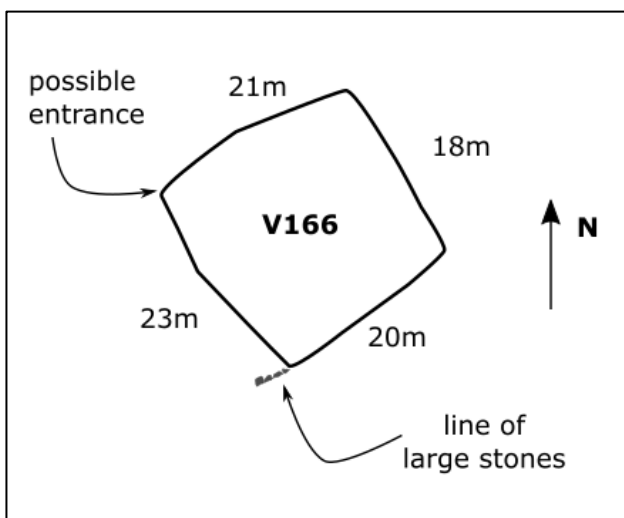




**Figure 246: Burying Ground identified on 1797 Gordon Brown map. Note N is to bottom of picture**



**Figure 247: Aerial photo of enclosure V166 and Bowl Barrow, looking SE**



**Figure 248: Schematic diagram of V166 Enclosure, showing length of walls and associated structures.**

## Buildings north of the Allt an Locha Bhallaich

On modern OS maps, the two burns that join just to the W of the B151-5 buildings group are called Allt Liath, from the west, and Allt an Locha Bhallaich, from the north. A hydro-scheme track has been driven parallel and N of the latter. West of this, high above both burns are two buildings, B156 & B157, see Fig 250.

A dyked enclosure lies N of these buildings, now cut through at its SE corner by the modern hydro track.



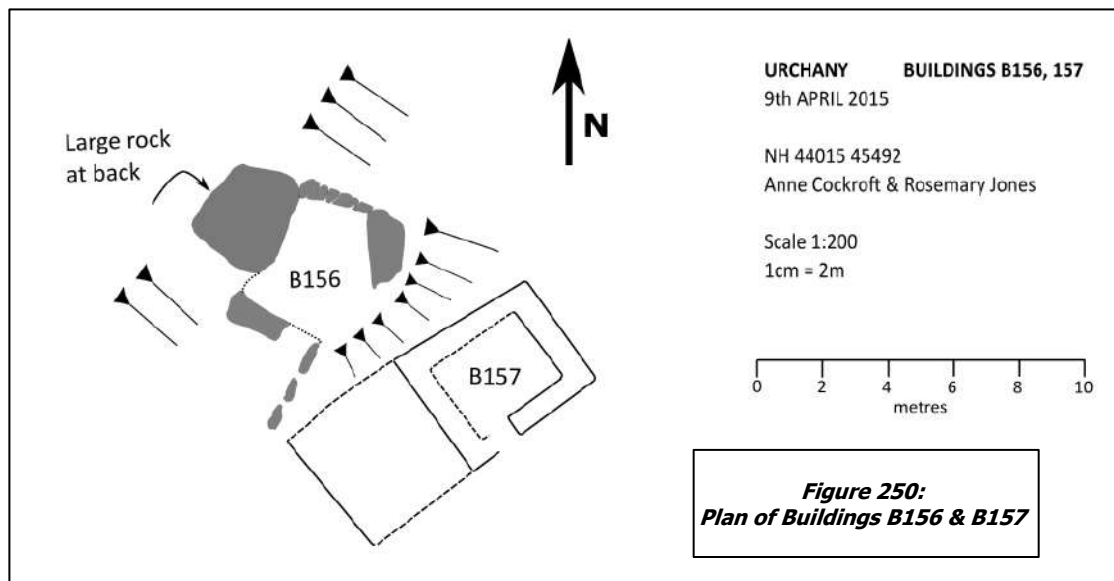
**Figure 249: Aerial image of B156, B157, the hydro track & the enclosure**



## B156 NH 44018 45492 Rock & Stone Building

High on the SE-facing slope above the Allt an Locha Bhallaich is a large rock, 1.8m high, which has been used as the back wall of a 4m x 4m building. The side walls are constructed of other smaller natural rocks with additional laid stones, standing up to 0.6m high. A large rock forms the SE corner, with a natural entrance in the SW.

The ground in front of it slopes down to a flat platform, probably natural, on which B157 has been constructed. The open nature of this structure with extensive views to E, S and W suggests a look-out or observation post.



**Figure 251: Building B156, looking NE**



**Figure 252: Building B156, looking SE, Looking down the NW corner**

## B157 NH 44016 45492 Stone & Turf Building

This building lies NE-SW, occupying a flat platform below a rocky outcrop to the N, that forms the back wall of B156. The NE part of the building, 4m x 4m, is easily identified. It consists of well-constructed walls with laid stones, now moss-covered, up to 0.6m high. The SW part of the building is identifiable at the SW end but less distinct in the middle section.

The building could have been a dwelling.

**Figure 253: Looking down on B157 from B156, looking SE**







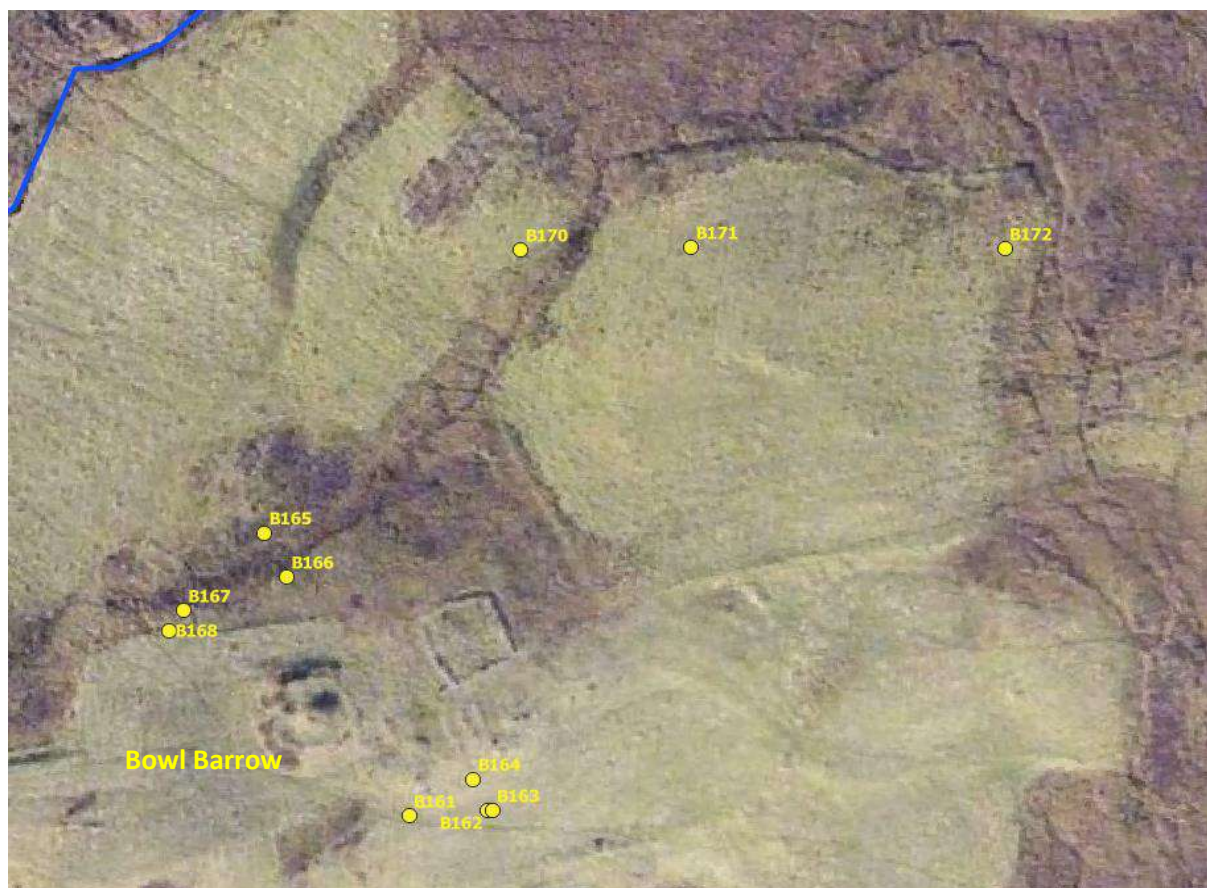
**Figure 254: Building B157, in front of B156, looking NE**



**Figure 255: The NW part of building B157, looking SE**

### **Other Buildings at Claiginn in the Purple Area**

There is a cluster of four buildings (B165-168) NW of the ridge on which the bowl barrow sits, a cluster of three buildings (B161-163) close by the barrow on top of the ridge, and three more scattered buildings to the NE.

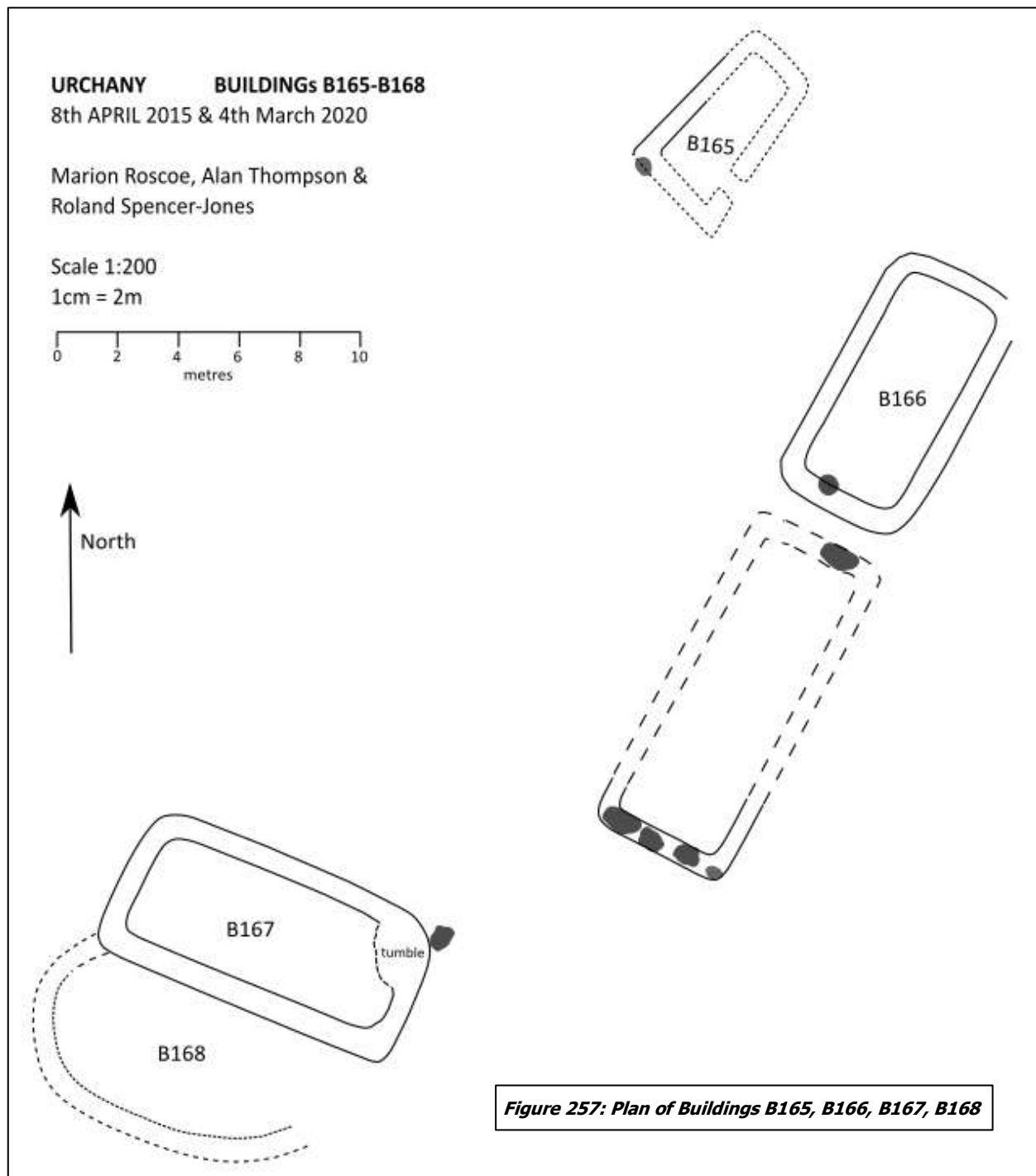


**Figure 256: Satellite image of the area of Urchany known as Claiginn, showing the clusters of buildings**



## B165 – B168:

The four buildings clustered at the northern base of the ridge, below the bowl barrow, are in an area that is now wet, with predominant reeds and rank heather. Just north of these buildings the ground becomes wetter, marshy. Beyond this marsh there is a field of rough grazing before the Allt an Locha Bhallain.





### **B165 NH 44246 45555 Stone & turf building**

This building lies SSW-NNE, 7m x 3m, at the northern end of the cluster. Its northern end is rounded and narrower than the southern end. The stone walls, up to 0.4m high, are covered in heather and moss.

Some of the rocks from which the walls are formed are massive, particularly at the SW corner, see Fig 237.



*Figure 258: B165 looking SW*



*Figure 259: B165 looking NE*

### **B166 NH 44252 45545 Stone & turf building**

This building, aligned SSW-NNE, seems to be composed of two parts. At the northern end there is an identifiable 9m x 4m building, with 1.5m thick grass & rush-covered domed walls, up to 0.25m high. The north wall is slightly deficient.

There is a less distinct 12m x 4m structure to the SW, on the same alignment. This probably represents a second



*Figure 261: B166, looking NE*

building, although the walls, particularly at the NE end, are not clear. There is a prominent stone that may have been part of the N wall of this SW building. At the SW end, there is an obvious moss-covered stone 3-sided end to the building, see Fig240. The middle section of what should have been the E & W walls are deficient.





***Figure 262: B166, looking SE***



***Figure 263: B166, the SW end of the SW building, looking SW***



***Figure 264: B166, the end of the SW building, looking NE***



**B167 NH 44229 45535**

**B168 NH 44226 45530**

These are two adjoined buildings (see Fig 258, p84) aligned WNW-ESE at the northern base of the small hillock on which the bowl barrow sits. The most southerly of this cluster of buildings, they are aligned at 90degrees to the others.

The northern structure, B167, is constructed of two to three courses of rough stones, with the wall tops covered in moss. The walls are 11m x 5m, with an entrance in the middle of the NE wall. There is considerable tumble within the E corner of the building.

The adjoining building, again 11m x 5m, is orientated similarly and shares its NE wall with B167. The NW and SW walls are curved and constructed of a single skin of large stones. This structure is open at the E, ie there is no wall there.

In view of the alignment, the entrance to B167 from the N, and the open structure of B168, these buildings probably represent byres or outbuildings.



**Figure 265: The NE corner of B167, looking S**



**Figure 266: B168 (on L) and B167 (on R), looking W**



**Figure 267: B167, looking W**

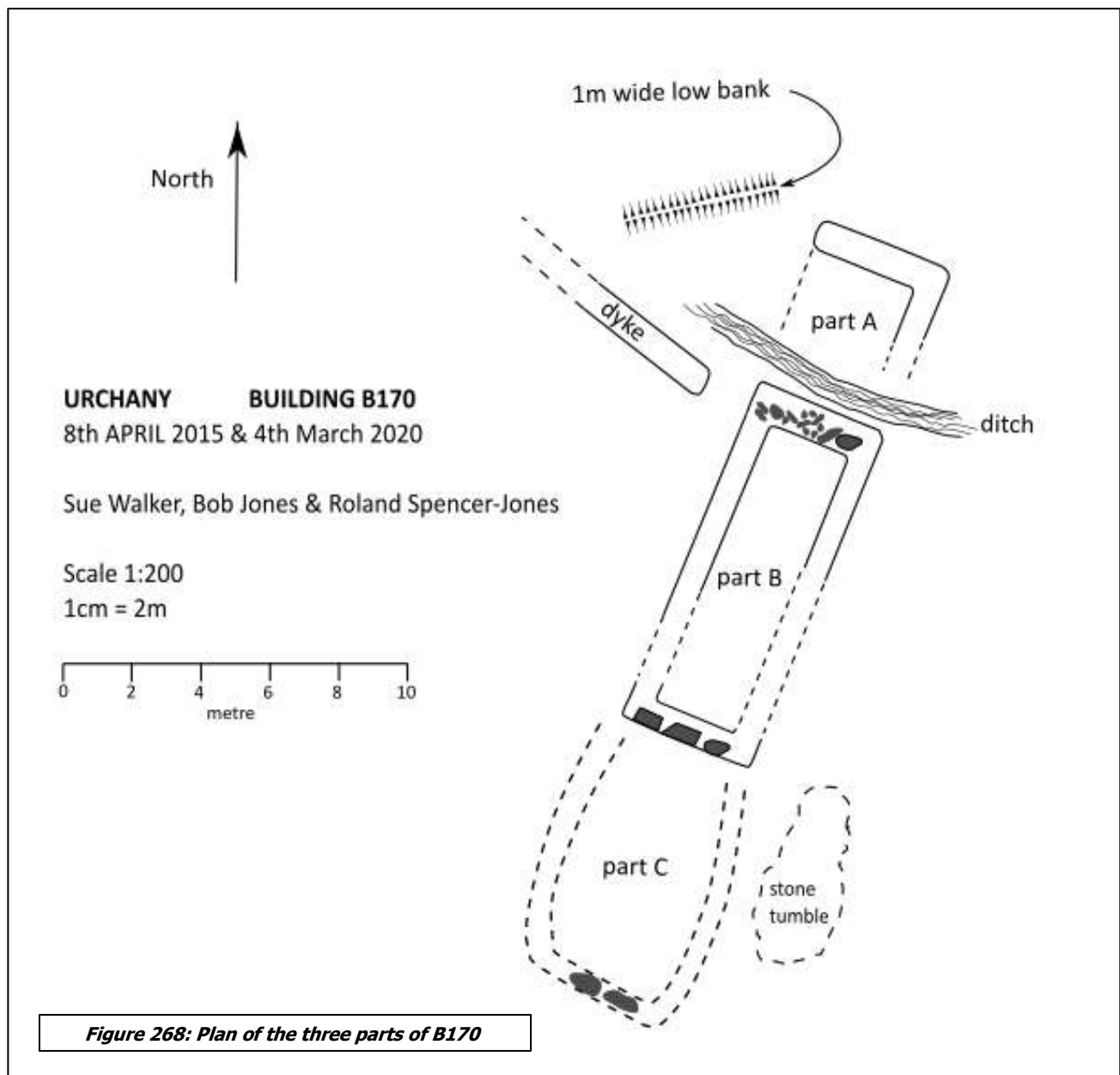


**Figure 242: B167, looking E**



## B170 NH 44299 45627 A complex stone and turf building

Approximately 150m NE of the Bowl Barrow, on a prominent grassy platform surrounded by reed and wet ground, lies a linear series of walls, probably representing one building in a line with two other outbuildings or byres. The structures are aligned NNE-SSW. For convenience, from the N, these structures are labelled as Parts A, B & C. A dyke runs NW away from the NW corner of Part B



### B170A

This consists of two raised grass and heather-covered walls at right angles, 5m EW x 4m NS. If this had been a building, the W and S walls are now deficient. There is a low gully, possibly a ditch, between the end of this structure and the N wall of Part B to the SSW. A low bank is to the NW of this structure.

### B170B

This 10.7 x 4.7m structure is most clearly seen at the NE end, where a substantial wall up to 0.5m high, consists of large stones in several courses. The NW & SE walls are distinct for 3m from the NE end, and then less clear. The SW gable wall is distinct with large set stones visible, particularly externally, up to 0.4m high. The interior of Part B is heather and reed.

### B170C

The SW part of the linear structure consists of slightly bowed NW & SE grassy walls, up to 0.3m high, 8.3 x 6.0m ext. dimensions. The SW end of the structure contains several large stones on end.





***Figure 269: B170, looking SW through Part B***



***Figure 270: B170, looking NE through Part C***



***Figure 271: B170, looking N across the external face of the SW wall of Part B***



***Figure 272: B170, looking NE through Part B***



***Figure 273: B170, looking NW at interior of NE gable end wall of Part B***



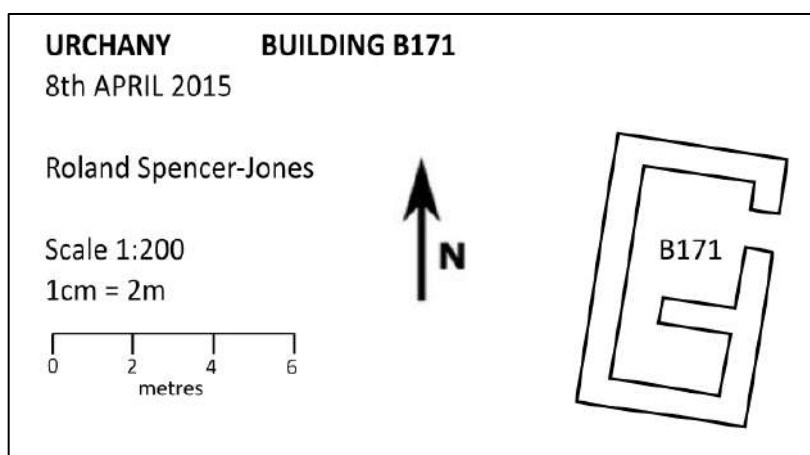
***Figure 274: B170, looking NE through Part C***



## B171 NH 44338 45631 Stone Building

This stone building sits on a platform, raised above the surrounding reeds and heather. It is orientated NNE-SSW. The double-faced, rubble-filled walls, up to 0.5m high and 0.8m thick, are best seen on the southern wall. External dimensions 7m x 4m.

An internal wall partially divides the southern part of the building. In view of its relatively small size this building could have been an outbuilding or a cottar's house.



**Figure 275: Plan of B171**



**Figure 276: B171, looking S.**  
The yellow flag is on the internal division



**Figure 277: B171, looking N**

**Figure 278: B171, looking W**

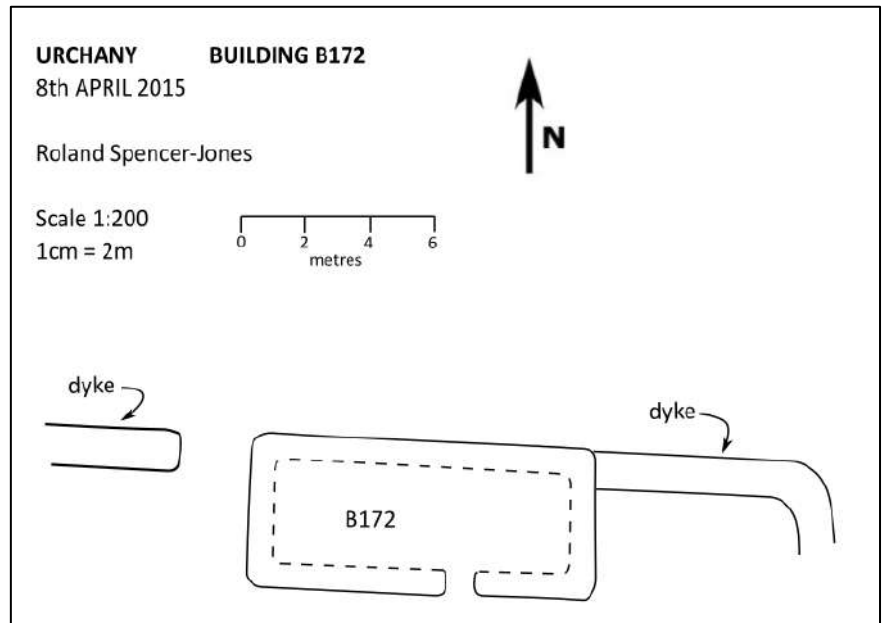




## B172 NH 44410 45637 Stone & turf building

On the rough marshy grazing between the buildings and bowl barrow associated with Claiginn and the higher ground of Coulnabottach, lies a rectangular heather-covered building whose N wall is continuous with a dyke.

The 12m x 6m building, orientated E-W, is constructed of turf on stone walls up to 0.4m high, best remaining at the W end. The N wall remains higher than the S wall, which contains a now indistinct entrance. The 0.9m wide walls are rounded at the corners.



**Figure 279: Plan of B172 & associated dyke**



**Figure 280: Building B172 looking E**



**Figure 281: Building B172 looking E**



**Figure 282: Building B172 looking E**



**Figure 283: Building B172 looking E**

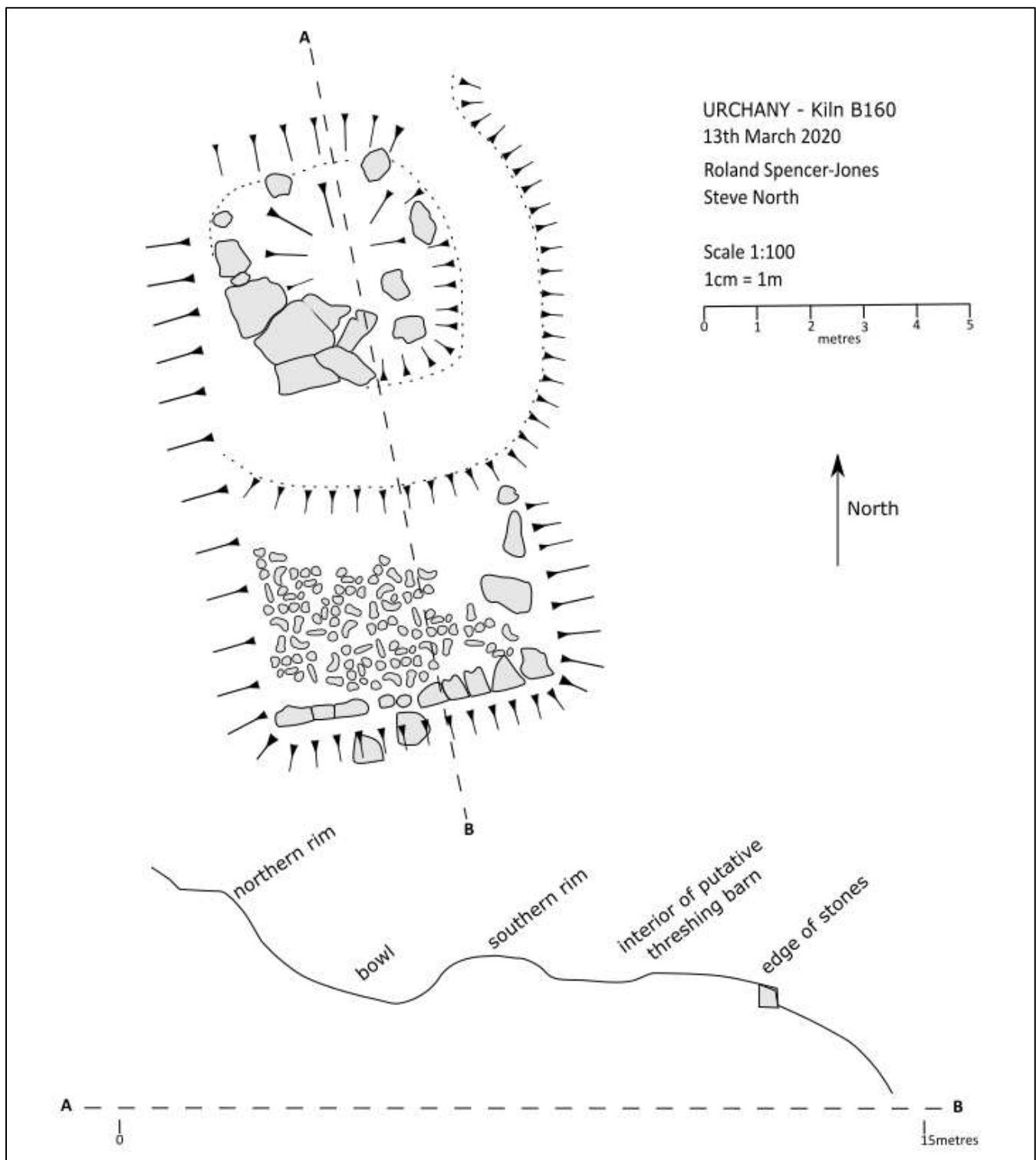


## B160 NH 44217 45422 Kiln Barn, with Corn-Drying Kiln

At the base of the south facing slope of the small hillock on whose summit the bowl barrow lies, are the remains of a kiln. The bowl of the 5m diameter kiln, partially cut into the slope of the hill, is delimited with several courses of massive stones in the W and SW aspects. The E & SE margins are now constituted by a smooth grassy curved bank. The base of the bowl is grass-covered, steeper in the S than the N.

South of the bowl is a platform with a distinct edge of stones at its southern edge, 5.9m wide. Several of the larger constituent stones, together with much tumble, now lie downhill from this edge. Covering most of the southern part of the platform is a rough jumble of smaller stones.

The kiln is likely to be a corn-drying kiln, with the platform representing the remains of an associated threshing barn.



**Figure 284: Plan of Building B160, kiln plus probably threshing barn**





**Figure 285: Building B160 looking SE down the length of the bowl & platform**



**Figure 286: Building B160 looking W across the end of the platform**



**Figure 287: Building B160 looking W into the bowl**



**Figure 288: Building B160, detail of SW part of the bowl, looking W**



**Figure 289: Building B160 looking E, across the end of the platform**



**Figure 290: Building B160 looking E along the end of the platform**

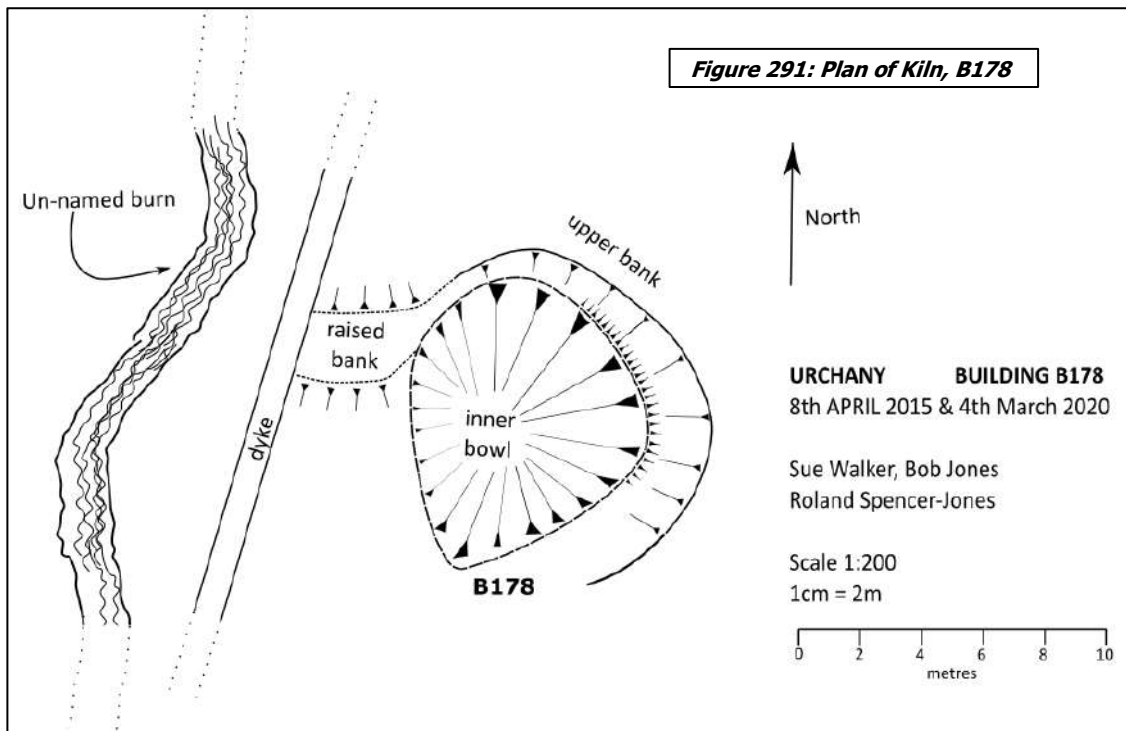


## B178 NH 44277 45719 Kiln, possibly part of Stone Building

North of the settlement at Claiginn is an un-named burn that descends steeply from the higher ground to the north. A dyke runs to the E of the burn for much of its length. As the burn levels off in the lower ground, a bowl-shaped structure, 10m N-S by 8m E-W, has been scooped out of the bank to the E of the dyke. Although the remains are now scanty, the shape of the bowl persists, now filled with tumble. Its eastern face shows courses of irregular stone in the bank. From the northern part of the bowl, a smooth, raised, grass-covered bank curves round to end at the dyke.

This is most likely the remains of a kiln, probably a lime-kiln.

Downstream of this structure is a regular rectangular pool in the burn, which may have connections with the function of this building.



**Figure 292: B178, looking SW past the bowl-shaped structure, along the un-named burn**



**Figure 293: the rectangular pool in the bed of the un-named burn downstream of B178**





**Figure 294: Looking N past the bowl of B178, along the steep sided valley of the un-named burn**



**Figure 295: Looking NW down into the bowl of B178**



**Figure 296: B178, looking NE into the interior of the bowl**

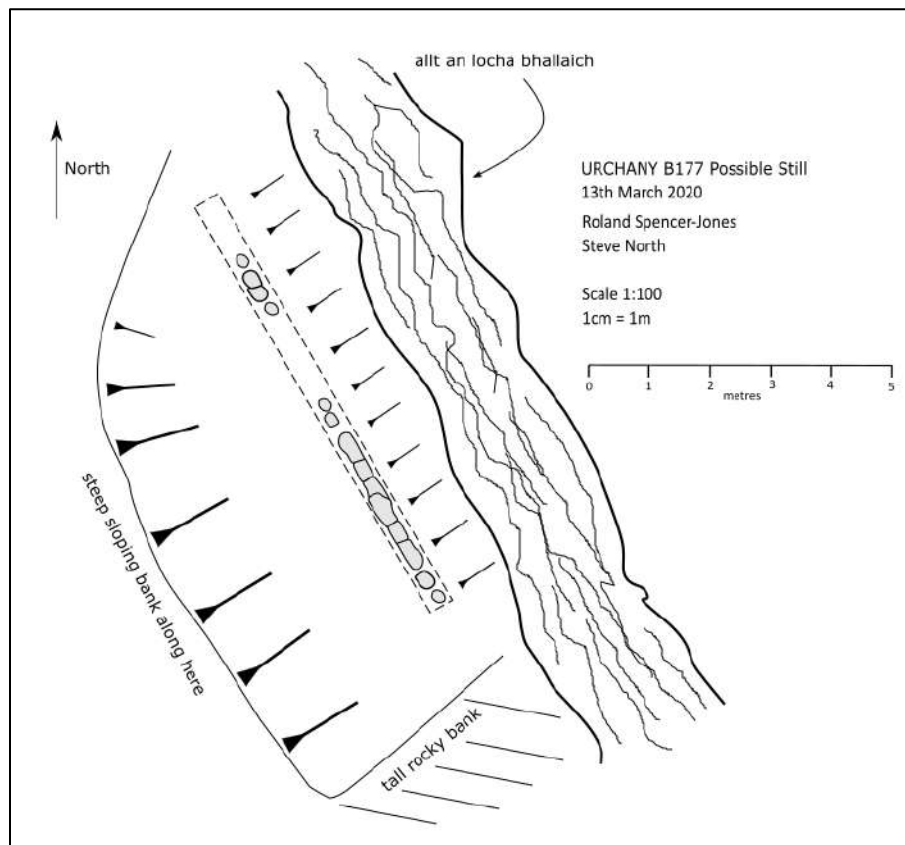


## B177 NH 43993 45410 Still Building

North of the settlement of Claiginn, the Allt an Locha Bhallaich descends steeply southwards down a small gorge before it levels out to turn to the E after passing behind a small hill. As it begins to level out, just before the junction with the Allt Liath flowing from the W, there is a low platform on the W bank of the burn limited by a steep bank to the W and a rock face to the S.

Along the burn-side edge of this platform are the remains of a low wall made of rough boulders in courses. The rough wall is about 0.8m wide, standing at its maximum to 0.6m. In places the wall is deficient, as shown in Fig XXX, although the line of the wall is clear. A gap in the S part of the wall may represent an entrance.

Its position, in a gully, surrounded by steep sides, strongly suggests that this rough wall is the remains of an illicit still.



**Figure 297: Plan of B177, possible still**



**Figure 298: Building B177, probable still, looking NW**

**Figure 299: B177, probable still building, looking down, to SW**







**Figure 300: B177, probable still building, looking N, up the Allt an Locha Bhallaich**

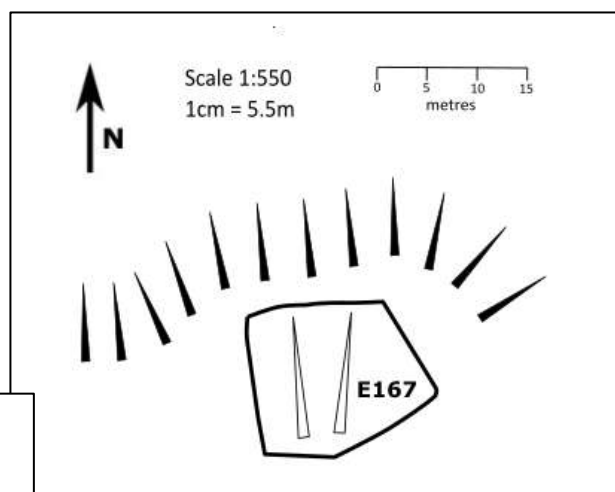


**Figure 301: Building B177, probable still, looking SW**

### **E167 centred on NH 44485 45385 Enclosure**

This N-facing enclosure is on the NE slope of a shallow ridge south of, and overlooking, the hillock on which stands the bowl barrow and associated structures.

Pentagonal in structure, it has stone walls up to 0.9m high. The western and eastern walls run steeply down the slope of the hill.



**Figure 302: Plan of Enclosure E167**



**Figure 303: Enclosure E167, looking S**



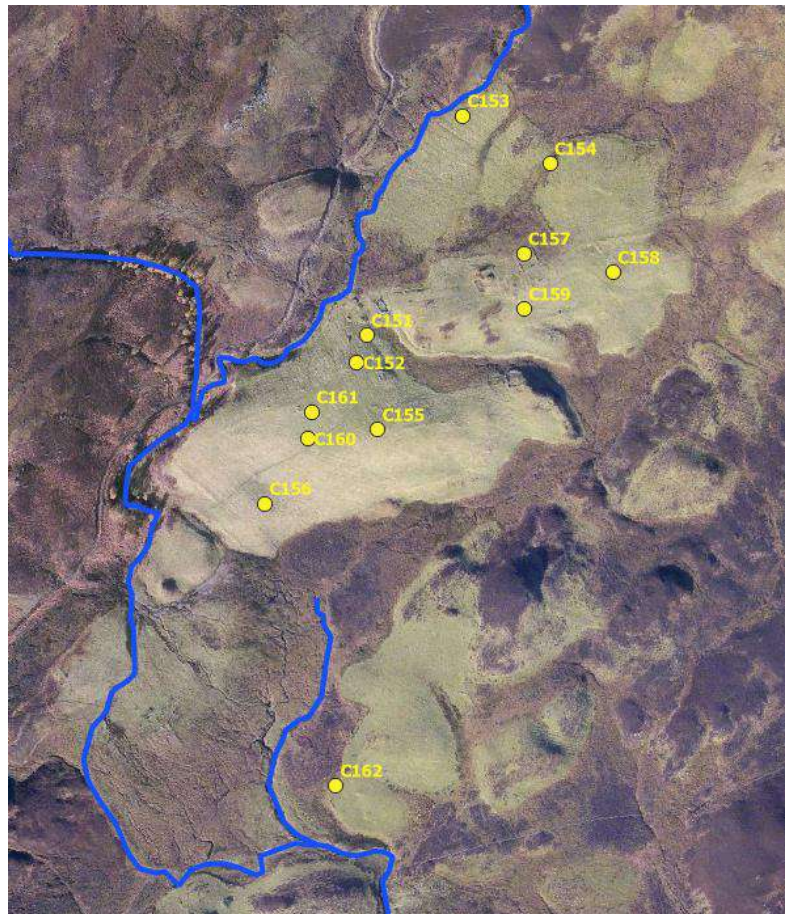
**Figure 304: Aerial Photo of Claginn. E167 is at top L**



## The Clearance Cairns and Rig of the Purple Area

The “Purple Area” contains abundant evidence of cultivation – rig, enclosures and clearance cairns. Twelve cairns were identified in the survey, none of which had the appearance of burial cairns, which distinguishes them from the cairns in the “Green Area”.

Furhter details are given in the appendix.



*Figure 305: The Clearance Cairns of the "Purple Area"*

*Figure 306: Plan of Enclosure E168*

The Clearance Cairns of the “Purple Area”		
Survey No.	BNG	Notes
C151	NH 44153 45452	Oval. Clearance cairn. 6m x 9m
C152	NH 44146 45426	Oval. Clearance cairn. 6m x 2m
C153	NH 44224 45662	On dyke. Clearance cairn. 1m x 2m
C154	NH 44308 45625	Tumble ?Clearance cairn. 2m x 4m
C155	NH 44171 45366	Possible clearance cairn. 4m x 3m
C156	NH 44073 45289	Possible clearance cairn. 4m x 4m
C157	NH 44291 45540	Ovaloid, on slope. Possible clearance cairn. 4m x 3m
C158	NH 44375 45530	Linear. ?Clearance cairn. 9m x 2m
C159	NH 44296 45489	Oval. ?Clearance cairn. 2m x 5m
C160	NH 44107 45352	Scattered tumble down hillside.
C161	NH 44109 45377	Possible clearance cairn. 3m x 5m
C162	NH 44161 45035	



*Figure 307: Clearance Cairn C151*



## URCHANY RED AREA

The “Red Area” at Urchany is lower lying than the other areas. The Breakachy Burn is formed from the combined Allt Liath and Allt na Locha Bhallaich as they flow south in the western part of Urchany. From this southward direction the burn then makes a dramatic turn east (to flow eventually into the Beaully River). West of the burn there are two or three buildings in a settlement called Gillie Phaeton on both the 1757 and 1797 estate maps. It was farmed by “Mr Nicol” on the 1798 estate map, consisting of pasture, ploughed fields, clearance cairns, a large rectangular enclosure and two buildings (B201, B202).

The Fraser land of Urchany is then bounded to the S by a large stone dyke that runs E-W for miles along the strath of the Breakachy Burn and westwards to Struy in Strath Glass. South of this dyke lies land owned originally by The Chisholm, residing at Erchless Castle, and now part of the Erchless Estate. Just over this boundary dyke, to the S, are the remains of another settlement on Chisholm land, consisting of a long low dwelling with outbuildings (B205) and a collection of farm buildings and enclosures (B206, B207) nearby.

The archaeological features described in this “Red Area” therefore include both traditional Fraser (Lovat) land and Chisholm land.



**Figure 308: The archaeological features in the “Red Area” overlaid on a snip of a Bing aerial photograph**



**B201 NH 44007 44673 Building, possibly house**

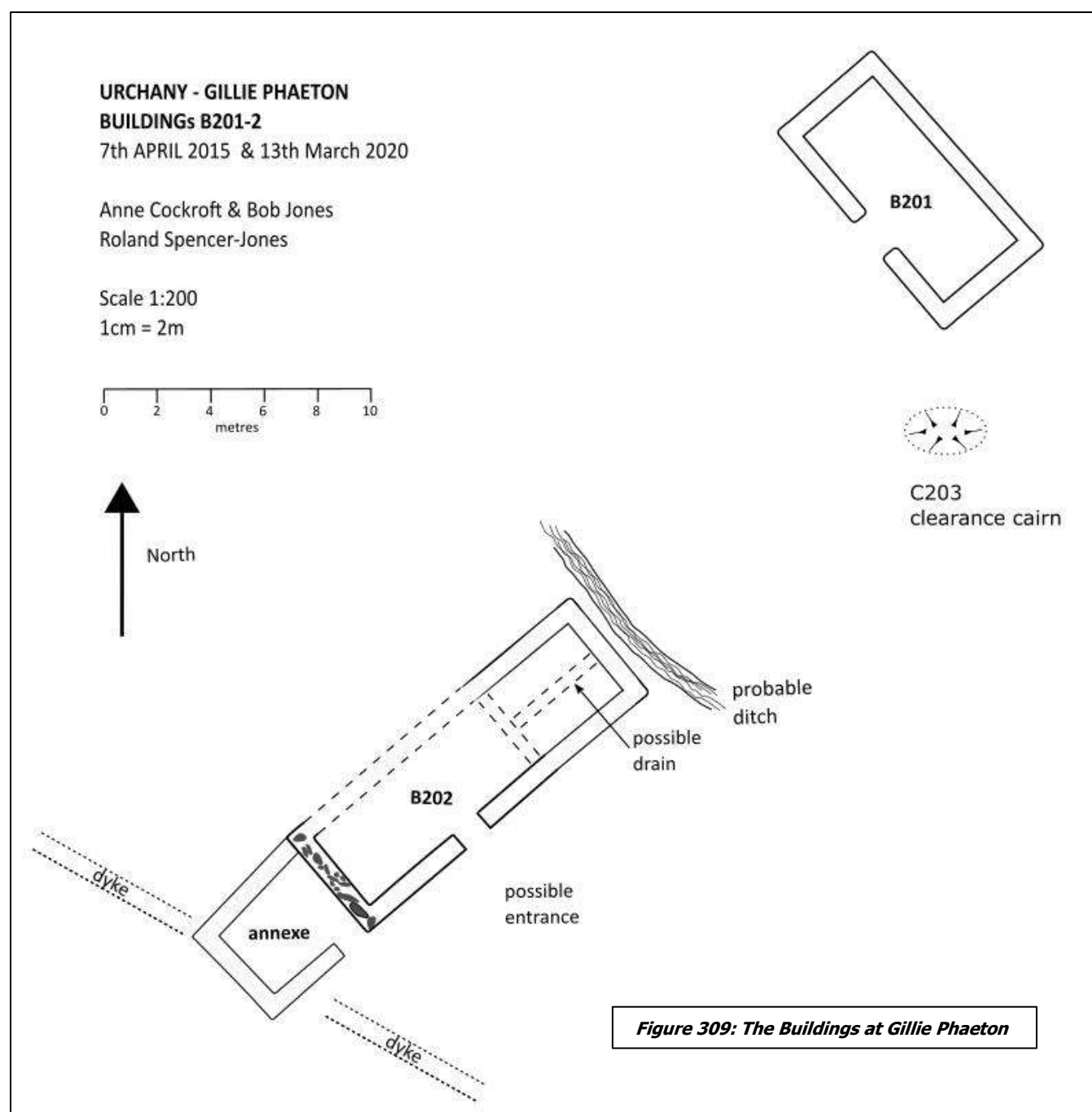
**B202 NH 43989 44659 House with outbuildings**

These houses form a pair of buildings at right angles to each other, in the lee of a small hillock to the NW

**B201 NH 44007 44673 Building, possibly house**

This 10m x 5m building is orientated NW-SE on the E side of a low hill to the W. The walls are composed of layers of boulders and rubble 0.6m wide, standing 1m high at the SE gable and 0.8m high at the NW gable end. The external corners are rounded, and there is no evidence of fireplace, hearth, crucks or internal divisions. The 1.6m wide entrance is in the middle of the SW facing wall.

Although it has the potential to be a dwelling, the lack of internal features and its SW aspect makes it more likely that this is an outbuilding of some sort.







**Figure 310: Building B201, looking N.  
Note enclosure E202 on L in the background**



**Figure 311: Building B201, looking SE.**



**Figure 312: Building B201, looking NW.  
Note enclosure E202 in the background**





**Figure 313: Building B201, looking E**



**Figure 314: Building B201, looking W**

### **B202 NH 43989 44659 House with outbuildings**

The B202 building is a long composite structure, 20m in total length, orientated SW-NE, consisting of (at least) three components and sloping gently down to the NE. Its northern corner is 17m from the southern corner of B201. Between the two is a large clearance cairn, C203.

The main structure consists of a 14m x 5m building with a probable entrance in the SE wall. The SW & NE gable walls are stone, covered with some heather, standing to 0.8m high. The remaining NW and SE walls are represented by heather-covered banks only at the northern end. Much of the southern part of these two walls is now missing and therefore partly conjectural.

Along the middle of the NE end of the building is a recessed gully, probably representing a drain. 5m from the NE wall a partition running across the building is still identifiable as a hard, stony ridge in the ground. This has almost no height. As this part of the building is lower than the SW part, it seems likely that animals were stored here.

At the SW end of this building, a 6m x 4.5m annex has been added to the SW gable end, set at a slight angle from the line of the main building. This annex has a 1.2m entrance in the northern part of the SE wall. The stone walls still stand up to 0.6m in height.

An old dyke, running NW-SE, has been interrupted by this annex, suggesting that the latter was built at a later stage.



**Figure 315: Building B202, from NE end, looking SW along the line of the building**



**Figure 316: Building B202, from SW end, looking NE along the line of the building**





**Figure 317: Building B202,  
looking NE from the middle of the building.  
Note absence of NW wall on the photo left.**



**Figure 318: Building B202,  
with pole at S corner of main building &  
junction with annex  
Looking W**



**Figure 319: S corner of annex of Building B202  
Looking N along line of building**



**Figure 320: Looking NW through entrance  
into interior of annex of B202,  
with pole at S end of SW wall of main B202**

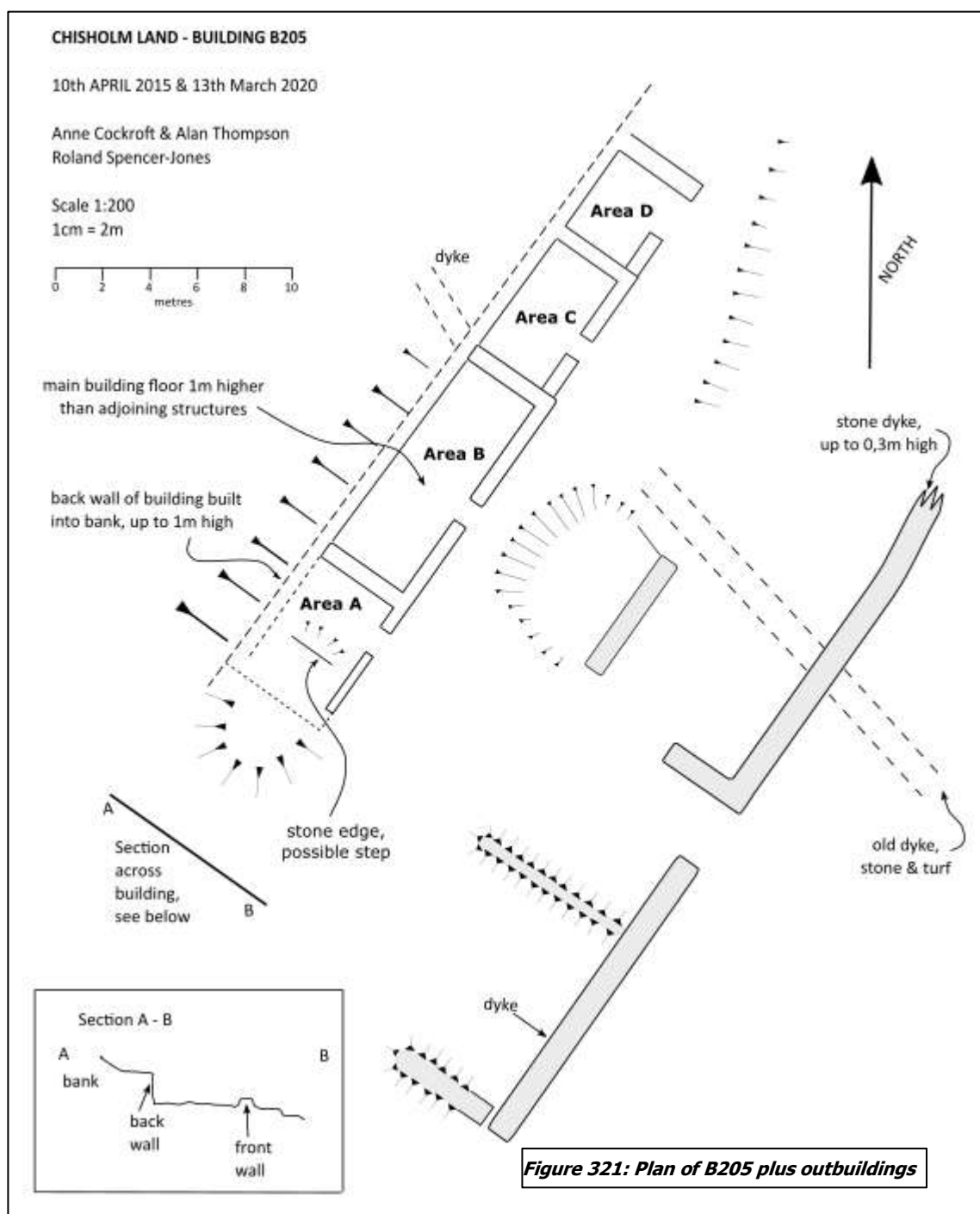


## B205 NH 44112 44510 A dwelling with outbuildings

This long series of adjoining buildings, aligned SW-NE, is nestled into and partly cut out of a low hill to the NW. The four, possibly five, components which are labelled A to D, stretch for 30m against the hillside. The remains are now densely covered with bracken and appear to have no communicating entrances between them, ie movement from one to the other would have been outside and through the SE facing entrances. At the SW end, the bank into which the building is cut is higher than it is at the NE end, ie the ground at the back slopes down going NE. As a result, the rear wall of Area D stands clear of the bank.

The interior dimensions of Area A are 5m x 4m, with an entrance in the NE part of the SE wall. Running across this area is a stone ridge, maybe a step. To the SW of this area there is a high mound. Although this now appears to be solid, its circularity suggests that it might have been a kiln, now full of rubble and tumble.

Area B, the largest area with internal dimensions 10m x 3.5m, appears to be the main dwelling or house. The entrance is in the middle of the SE facing wall. The back wall stands 1.0m high.







**Figure 322: B205, S corner of Area B, showing the outlook of the building, looking E**



**Figure 323: Building B205 looking N, showing the full 30m length of the structure**



**Figure 324: Building B205, looking down and E into the interior of Area A**



**Figure 325: looking SW along the front of Building B205**





**Figure 326: looking W through the entrance of Area B, B205, at the back wall**



**Figure 327: looking NW along the length of Area B of B205**



**Figure 328: looking W at E corner of Area B, B205**



**Figure 329: looking down and east into Area C of B205, with the entrance on the R**





**Figure 330: B205, looking down and S into Area C with the entrance on the L**



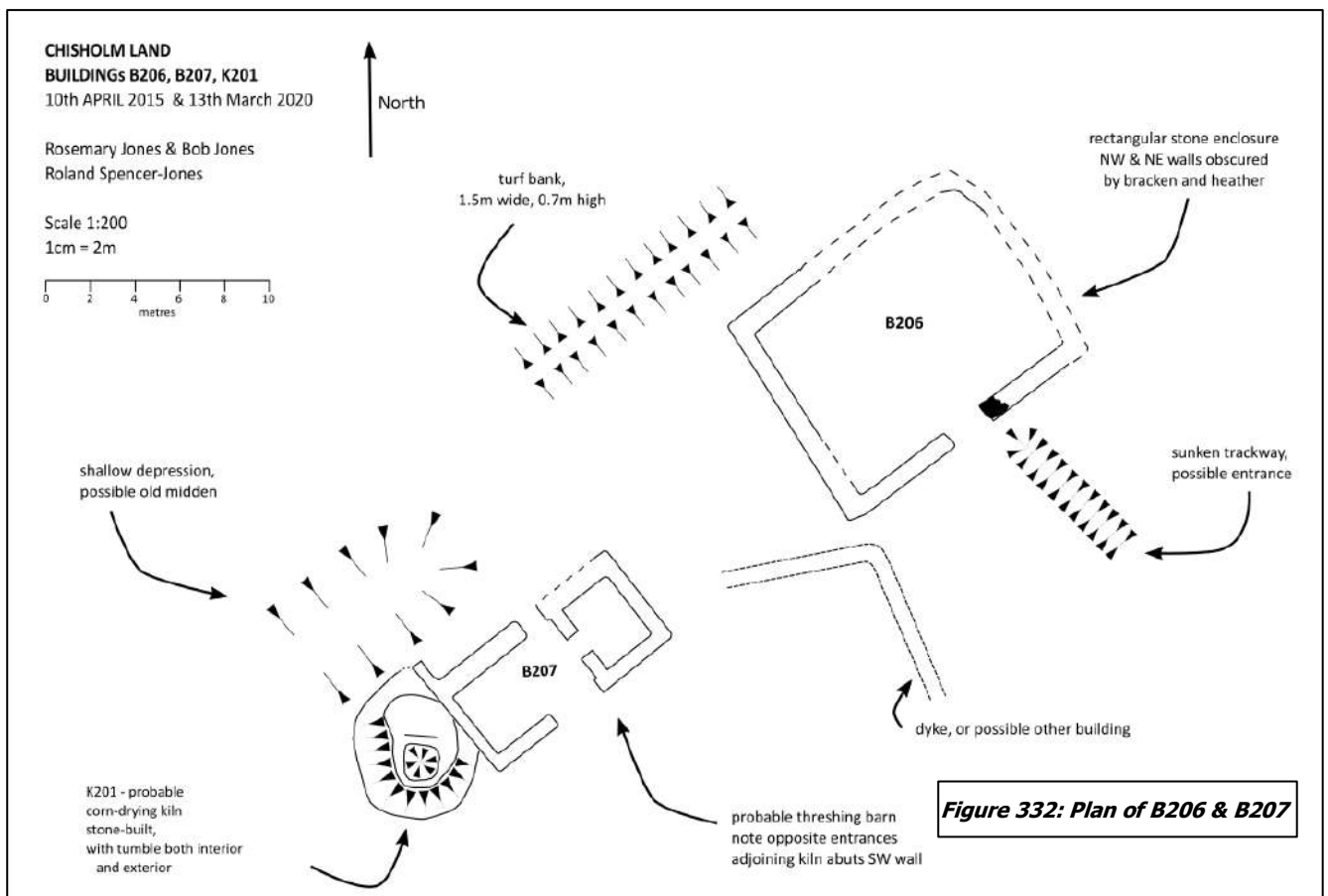
**Figure 331: B205, looking W into the interior of Area D. Note the pole is at E corner of this area**

**B206 NH 44329 44455 Enclosure**

**B207 NH 44307 44439 Building with kiln**

250m ESE of the long building of B205, on a prominent platform, with reeds and marshy ground to the S and improved grazing to the N, lies these structures. There is an animal enclosure to the NE and a building, maybe a threshing barn with associated kiln, to the SW. Around these structures are a variety of dykes and ditches. All the structures are covered with rampant bracken in the summer, and even in winter it is hard to identify all the building walls and dykes.

The sub-rectangular enclosure, B206, is orientated SW-NE, with a 1.5m entrance in the middle of the SE wall. The walls, with external dimensions 13m x 11m, stand between 0.5 to 1.0m high, maximal in the NE. Leading steeply up to the entrance, and just offset from it, is a sunken trackway with stone margins. The interior of the enclosure is covered with vegetation and rubble, so it is hard to determine if there is any internal division or structure.





The rectangular building, B207, is similarly orientated SW-NE, 10m x 5m ext dimensions, with a 2.5m entrance in the middle of the SE wall. On the opposite NW wall there is a break in the wall, through which an animal track passes. This second possible entrance is surrounded by tumble. Across the opening into the NE part of the building is an internal division with a gap in the middle.

Against the SW wall of this building, and level with the top of the remaining wall, is a circular bowl-shaped structure, K201, constructed of courses of stone and filled with tumble, bracken and heather. The current depth of the bowl is 0.7m. This is likely to be a corn-drying kiln, with a probable opening into it from the SW end of the building B207.

NW of both the building plus kiln is a shallow depression in the ground, leading to the SW, 10m long, 6m wide. This could represent the remains of a cleared-out midden. North of all these structures the ground slopes up to a heather-covered bank, beyond which is a large area of improved grazing surrounded by dykes.



***Figure 333: Enclosure B206,  
looking E from W corner***



***Figure 334: Enclosure B206,  
looking NW through entrance in SE wall***



***Figure 335: Enclosure B206,  
looking S from N corner***





**Figure 336: Building B207,  
looking W from E corner, along SE aspect**



**Figure 337: Building B207,  
NE wall, showing the space between B206 & B207  
looking NW**



**Figure 338: Building B207,  
looking SW from NE wall, showing bracken-  
filled interior**



**Figure 339: Kiln K201,  
Showing outer NE wall of the bowl,  
looking SW**





**Figure 340: Interior of Kiln K201, looking NE**

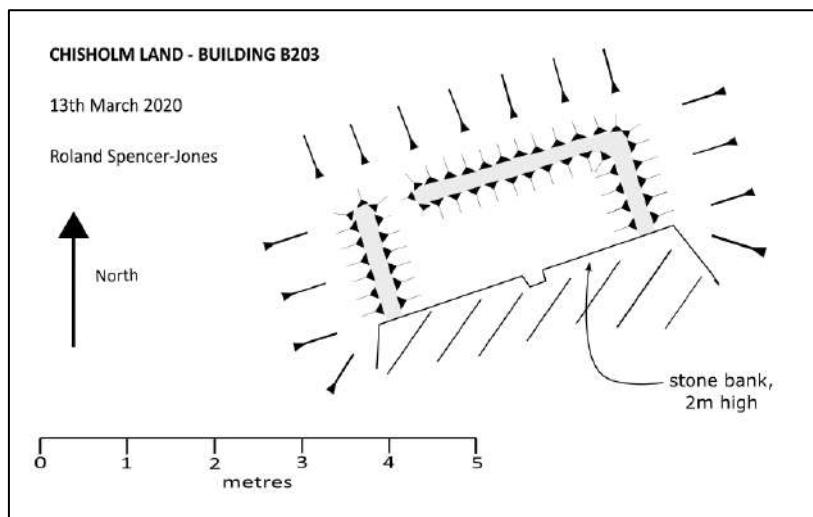


**Figure 341: Interior of Kiln K201, looking NW**

### **B203 NH 44302 44653 A shelter or lookout**

Improved pasture stretches northwards to the north of structures B206 & B207 for 200m over the slopes of a low hill. At the far side, on the northern slope, some rocky crags face N to the Breakachy Burn. At the base of one of these small vertical crags a structure has been created using the steep rocky crag as the back wall.

The constructed part of the structure consists of three sides of low walls 0.4m wide and up to 0.4m high, now covered thickly with heather. The interior space is 3m x 1.5m. There is a gap in the walls, a possible entrance, in the NW corner. The steep rocky back wall is up to 2m high.



**Figure 342: B203 Shelter or Lookout**

In view of the small size, and it's N-facing aspect, this has the appearance either of a lookout or a shelter. Branches could have been laid across the rocky bank down to the walls to form a roof. A lambing pen is another possibility.



**Figure 343: B203, a possible shelter, looking SW**



**Figure 344: B203, a possible shelter, looking N**



## Other Archaeological Features in the Red Area

The survey identified a substantial enclosure associated with Gillie Phaeton, together with three probable lime kilns and a number of clearance cairns. The latter suggest the ground was ploughed and that it needed substantial liming.

### E202 NH 44001 44754

#### Animal Enclosure

The structures at Gillie Phaeton, B201 & B202, lie on the S side of a low hill. On the N side of that hill is flat land to the W of the Breakachy Burn, on which a large stone-built enclosure has been constructed.

Orientated SW-NE, its dimensions are: 19m x 11.5m. The stone walls are now spread to 0.7m and stand up to 0.6m high. The best-preserved wall is at the NE, whereas the S corner is deficient.



*Figure 355: Enclosure E202, looking S*



*Figure 356: Enclosure E202, looking NE*

## Kilns

### K201 NH 44307 44439 Corn-drying Kiln

This kiln is part of the B207 building on Chisholm land, described earlier, [see p108](#).

### K202 NH 43991 44670 Probable Lime Kiln

The buildings at Gillie Phaeton are partially protected from the prevailing SW weather by a low rising ridge to the NW. On the eastern part of the end of this ridge a pit was identified facing E. The pit is 2.5m diameter, with several stones tumbled into the interior, which at its deepest is 0.7m.

In view of its position away from houses and on the side of a hill, this is likely to be a lime burning kiln.



*Figure 357: Kiln K202 looking SE*





**Figure 358: Kiln K202, looking W into the bowl**



**Figure 359: Kiln K202, looking down & S into the bowl**

### **K203 NH 44175 44615 Lime kiln**

On Chisholm Land, about 100m NE of building B205 and its surrounding dykes, is a large spread of lichen-covered stones on the side of a slope to the E. This is above the small burn that separates the bracken-covered slopes around B205 from the improved pasture on the low hill to the E.

In the centre of the spread of stones is a pit, whose walls consist of courses of laid stones. These are particularly prominent on the E aspect, ie facing down the hill. A setting of large stones forms the top of the southern rim of the bowl, which at its maximum is 1m deep.



**Figure 360: Kiln K203  
Looking across the slope to the S**



**Figure 361: Kiln K203  
looking up and NW**





**Figure 362: Kiln K202**  
looking NW, across the bowl of the kiln,  
and the slope of the hill



**Figure 363: Kiln K202**  
looking down and to the S



**Figure 364: Kiln K202**  
Looking vertically down into the bowl



**Figure 365: Kiln K203**  
looking S down into the bowl



## K205 NH 44067 44875 A Pit, possibly a Kiln

The land north of the Gillie Phaeton buildings, B201 & B202, is lumpy and hilly, consisting now of improved pasture, although it is littered with clearance cairns suggesting earlier cultivation. Near the top of one of the several ridges in this area is a depression in the ground, an elongated pit, measuring 3m x 2m. The long axis is E-W, and it reaches 1m depth. On the downhill, ie E, side is a line of three stones. The lining of the pit is grasses and reeds.

The function of this depression in the ground is not entirely clear. It could be the much-degraded remains of a lime kiln. However, its position on the summit of the ridge makes this less likely.



**Figure 366: Pit, possible kiln, K205**  
**Looking E down the line of the pit**



**Figure 367: Pit, possible kiln, K205**  
**Looking NE across the pit**  
**Note the stones at its base**



**Figure 368: Pit, possible kiln, K205**  
**Looking NW**



## Clearance Cairns

As discussed earlier, clearance cairns, by definition, imply cultivation of the land associated with them. In the “Blue Area” it seemed difficult to clearly distinguish burial cairns from clearance for some of the cairns. Some were definitely clearance, some definitely burial, and there were many whose function was uncertain. None of the cairns identified in the “Red Area” were thought to be burial.

As can be seen from Fig 369 the cairns are clustered towards the fringes of what is now improved pasture, but which at some stage must have been cultivated fields.



**Figure 369: Red Area Clearance Cairns**

<b>C201</b>	NH 44003 44878	5m x 5m diameter cairn, at edge of field
<b>C202</b>	NH 43997 44659	1m x 1m cairn
<b>C203</b>	NH 44005 44668	2m x 3m cairn, associated with, and SW of, building B201, Gillie Phaeton
<b>C204</b>	NH 44084 44908	Dimensions not recorded
<b>C205</b>	NH 44127 44883	Dimensions not recorded
<b>C206</b>	NH 44128 44894	Dimensions not recorded
<b>C209</b>	NH 43953 44702	Dimensions not recorded. North of the Gillie Phaeton houses



**Figure 370: C201 looking S**



**Figure 371: C209 looking N**



**Figure 372: C203, with B201 behind, looking N**



## Conclusions and Summary

With such a widespread and varied archaeological landscape, It is hard to synthesise a coherent narrative of the relationships of all the archaeological features both with each other and with time. However, some themes are worth exploring:

### Clustering

It is notable that certain types of features are found only in certain areas.

- The hut circles were found in the area to the west of the Allt na Criche, where it is crossed by the main track to Urchany. Why were none found in the other parts of the lived-in landscape? Is this a “true” difference, ie that the pre-historic peoples who lived in these structures did not build further west in the areas that now contain the more recent dwellings? Or, is it that there were indeed hut circles there too, now just ploughed out or built over? The fact that the best agricultural and pasture land is further west, suggests the latter rather than the former explanation.
- The remaining pre-historic features are in two separate areas: burial cairns and hut circles, as described above, in the area west of the Allt na Criche, and a bowl barrow and cup-marked stones in the area further west subsequently called Claiginn. At that time, was there a continuity of lived experience and structures across the whole area? Or, is there a true polarity of dwellings in one place and “ceremonial” structures elsewhere?
- The fields in the western areas show evidence of rig, which corresponds with the ploughed fields seen on the earliest estate map of 1757. Although this area is now improved pasture, it was obviously cultivated in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The area further east, by the Allt na Criche, by contrast, shows no dwellings or cultivation on the 18<sup>th</sup> century maps. This area abounds in clearance cairns, suggesting it was cultivated at some stage in pre-history. Why was it now ploughed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century?

### Changes over time

- From the previous discussion about clustering, it appears that the area cultivated and lived in moved westwards over time. In pre-history it was close to the Allt na Criche, in the early modern period, as portrayed in the 1757 estate map, it was in the area then called Claiginn.
- Comparison of the estate maps of 1757 and 1799-1801 suggest a significant change in the management of the land in what is now the “Purple Area”. In 1757 the fields are described by their names. In the later map they are described by their owners, perhaps indicating that the land had been consolidated into three farms – Coulnabottach, Claiginn, Gillie Phaeton with farmers associated with each. This consolidation is known from elsewhere to be part of “The Improvements”, which can therefore be dated in Urchany between these two map dates.
- Similarly, there are several lime kilns identified in all but the “Yellow Area”. Although it is hard to date these, they are also known to be associated with those late 18<sup>th</sup> century improvements.
- At the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition ordnance survey map, surveyed in 1873, there was only one roofed building in the Lands of Urchany, the large house at Coulnabottach. This corresponds with what is seen on site, as it is the best remaining building with all of its walls intact. Other evidence from maps and newspaper reports indicate that by the 1820’s Urchany was a sheep farm, at least for part of it. This roofed house in 1873 would have been the shepherd’s house.

### The Variety and Richness of the Archaeological Remains

Urchany has archaeological remains that span the late Neolithic (cup-mark stones) to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. That these still remain is likely to be due to:

- That Urchany was deserted of settlement from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, apart from sheep and cattle.
- That it was therefore never subsequently built upon
- That the main route from west (Kintail) to east (Beauly) was re-routed from the Breakachy glen to follow the Beauly river. This was in turn a product of the construction of a road that clung to the side of the steep hills above the Kilmorack gorge and the Kilmorack falls, major obstacles to road and river passage close to the river.
- That it was not subsequently forested.



## Appendix

Survey No.	Type	Report Page No.	Coloured Area	BNG	Eastings	Northings	Notes
<b>B001</b>	Building	<b>49</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45980	245537	845743	Shieling hut
<b>B002</b>	Building	<b>49</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45981	245238	845933	Shieling hut
<b>B003</b>	Building	<b>51</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45982	245727	846018	Still Bothy
<b>B004</b>	Building	<b>52</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45983	245713	845932	Still Bothy
<b>B005</b>	Building	<b>53</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45984	245715	845890	Still Bothy
<b>B006</b>	Building	<b>51</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45985	245639	845870	Shieling hut
<b>B007</b>	Building	<b>53</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45986	245732	845833	Still Bothy
<b>B008</b>	Enclosure	<b>46</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45987	246142	846314	Animal Pen
<b>B051</b>	Building	<b>17</b>	Green	NH 44845 45864	245648	845550	Building
<b>B101</b>	Enclosure	<b>62</b>	Blue	NH 44910 45830	244910	845830	Possibly a building
<b>B102</b>	Building	<b>60</b>	Blue	NH 44853 45818	244853	845818	Probably a dwelling
<b>B103</b>	Building	<b>65</b>	Blue	NH 44338 45121	244338	845121	Probably a dwelling
<b>B104</b>	Building	<b>56</b>	Blue	NH 44796 45772	244796	845772	A dwelling, probably a shepherd's house
<b>B106</b>	Building	<b>61</b>	Blue	NH 44845 45851	244845	845851	A small dwelling or an enclosure
<b>B151</b>	House	<b>76</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45922	244171	845473	Probably a dwelling
<b>B152</b>	Building	<b>76</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45923	244161	845482	Possibly a byre or outshot
<b>B153</b>	House	<b>77</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45924	244146	845459	Probably a dwelling
<b>B154</b>	House	<b>77</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45925	244141	845461	Probably a dwelling
<b>B155</b>	Building	<b>78</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45926	244137	845474	Possibly a byre or small enclosure
<b>B156</b>	Building	<b>82</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45927	244018	845492	Possibly a rough dwelling or a lookout
<b>B157</b>	House	<b>82</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45928	244016	845492	Probably a dwelling
<b>B158</b>	House	<b>78</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45929	244177	845396	Probably a dwelling
<b>B160</b>	Kiln	<b>92</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45930	244217	845422	Probably corn-drying kiln with threshing barn
<b>B161</b>	House	<b>79</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45931	244285	845491	Probably a dwelling
<b>B162</b>	Building	<b>79</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45932	244303	845494	Probably a byre or outbuilding
<b>B163</b>	Building	<b>79</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45933	244304	845494	Probably a byre or outbuilding
<b>B165</b>	House	<b>85</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45934	244246	845555	Probably a dwelling
<b>B166</b>	House	<b>85</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45935	244252	845545	Probably a dwelling
<b>B167</b>	House	<b>87</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45936	244229	845535	Probably a dwelling
<b>B168</b>	Building	<b>87</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45937	244226	845530	Probably a byre or outbuilding
<b>B170</b>	House	<b>88</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45938	244299	845627	Probably a dwelling
<b>B171</b>	House	<b>90</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45939	244338	845631	Probably a dwelling
<b>B172</b>	House	<b>91</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45940	244410	845637	Probably a dwelling
<b>B177</b>	Building	<b>96</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45941	243993	845410	Probably an illicit still
<b>B178</b>	Kiln	<b>94</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45942	244277	845719	Possibly a lime-kiln
<b>B201</b>	House	<b>100</b>	Red	NH 44845 45962	244007	844673	Probably a dwelling
<b>B202</b>	House	<b>102</b>	Red	NH 44845 45963	243989	844659	A dwelling with integral byre
<b>B203</b>	Small enclosure	<b>110</b>	Red	NH 44845 45964	244302	844653	Perhaps a shelter or lookout
<b>B205</b>	House	<b>104</b>	Red	NH 44845 45965	244112	844510	Probably a dwelling
<b>B206</b>	Enclosure	<b>107</b>	Red	NH 44845 45966	244329	844455	Associated with a proximal barn
<b>B207</b>	Building	<b>107</b>	Red	NH 44845 45967	244307	844439	Probably a threshing barn, together with K201
<b>C002</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45988	245669	845661	
<b>C003</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45989	245663	845669	
<b>C004</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45990	245670	845670	



<b>C005</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45991	245646	845667	
<b>C006</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45992	245658	845659	
<b>C008</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45993	245674	845633	
<b>C009</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45994	245655	845613	
<b>C010</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>36</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45995	245675	845570	Possibly a kerbed Burial Cairn?
<b>C011</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45996	245641	845583	
<b>C012</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45997	245636	845676	
<b>C013</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45998	245616	845687	
<b>C014</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 45999	245235	845852	
<b>C015</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>37</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46000	245234	845808	Possibly a burial cairn
<b>C016</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46001	245225	845822	
<b>C017</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46002	245248	845806	
<b>C018</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46003	245215	845807	
<b>C019</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46004	245215	845812	
<b>C020</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46005	245159	845839	
<b>C021</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46006	245143	845840	
<b>C022</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>46</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46007	245643	846421	Possibly a burial cairn
<b>C023</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>46</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46008	245650	846414	
<b>C024</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>46</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46009	246152	846257	Possibly a burial cairn
<b>C025</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>46</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46010	246175	846280	Possibly a burial cairn
<b>C026</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>37</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46011	245238	845829	Possibly a burial cairn
<b>C027</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46012	245667	845604	
<b>C028</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>38</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46013	245549	845578	Possibly a burial cairn
<b>C029</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46014	245679	845727	
<b>C030</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46015	245680	845718	
<b>C031</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46016	245690	845720	
<b>C032</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>38</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46017	245818	845628	Possibly a burial cairn
<b>C051</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>38</b>	Green	NH 44845 45865	245492	845313	Possibly a burial cairn
<b>C052</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45866	245404	845359	Cl Cairn
<b>C053</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45867	245392	845358	Cl Cairn
<b>C054</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45868	245439	845367	Cl Cairn
<b>C056</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45869	245492	845383	Cl Cairn
<b>C057</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45870	245515	845393	Cl Cairn
<b>C058</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45871	245649	845418	Cl Cairn
<b>C059</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45872	245509	845414	Cl Cairn
<b>C060</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45873	245448	845435	Cl Cairn
<b>C061</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45874	245439	845448	Cl Cairn
<b>C062</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45875	245381	845403	Cl Cairn
<b>C063</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45876	245391	845418	Cl Cairn
<b>C064</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>39</b>	Green	NH 44845 45877	245379	845465	Possibly a burial cairn
<b>C065</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45878	245006	845767	Cl Cairn
<b>C066</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45879	245017	845766	Cl Cairn
<b>C067</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45880	245256	845576	Cl Cairn
<b>C068</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45881	245280	845567	Cl Cairn
<b>C069</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45882	245221	845579	Cl Cairn
<b>C070</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45883	245171	845511	Cl Cairn
<b>C071</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45884	245213	845504	Cl Cairn
<b>C072</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45885	245241	845528	Cl Cairn



<b>C073</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>36</b>	Green	NH 44845 45886	245421	845525	Possibly a kerbed Burial Cairn?
<b>C074</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>37</b>	Green	NH 44845 45887	245432	845532	Possibly a kerbed Burial Cairn?
<b>C075</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>37</b>	Green	NH 44845 45888	245434	845506	
<b>C076</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45889	245468	845483	
<b>C079</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>40</b>	Green	NH 44845 45890	245479	845536	Possibly a burial cairn
<b>C080</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45891	245494	845561	
<b>C081</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>37</b>	Green	NH 44845 45892	245606	845531	Possibly a burial cairn
<b>C082</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45893	245606	845531	
<b>C083</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>33</b>	Green	NH 44845 45894	245578	845515	
<b>C084</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>20,36</b>	Green	NH 44845 45895	245609	845464	Possibly a Burial Cairn
<b>C085</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>41</b>	Green	NH 44845 45896	245464	845559	Possibly a Burial Cairn
<b>C086</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>41</b>	Green	NH 44845 45897	245468	845559	Possibly a Burial Cairn
<b>C101</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>66</b>	Blue	NH 44845 45852	244246	845041	
<b>C102</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>66</b>	Blue	NH 44845 45853	244970	845603	
<b>C103</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>66</b>	Blue	NH 44845 45854	244161	845035	
<b>C151</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>98</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45944	244153	845452	
<b>C152</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>98</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45945	244146	845426	
<b>C153</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>98</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45946	244224	845662	
<b>C153a</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>98</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45947	244109	845377	
<b>C154</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>98</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45948	244308	845625	
<b>C154a</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>98</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45949	244107	845352	
<b>C155</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>98</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45950	244171	845366	
<b>C156</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>98</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45951	244073	845289	
<b>C157</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>98</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45952	244291	845540	
<b>C158</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>98</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45953	244375	845530	
<b>C159</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>98</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45954	244296	845489	
<b>C160</b>	Tumble	<b>98</b>	Purple	NH 44107 45352	244107	845352	
<b>C161</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>98</b>	Purple	NH 44109 45377	244109	845377	
<b>C162</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>98</b>	Purple	NH 44161 45035	244161	845035	
<b>C201</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>115</b>	Red	NH 44845 45968	244003	844878	
<b>C202</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>115</b>	Red	NH 44845 45969	243997	844659	
<b>C203</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>115</b>	Red	NH 44845 45970	244005	844668	
<b>C204</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>115</b>	Red	NH 44845 45971	244084	844908	
<b>C205</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>115</b>	Red	NH 44845 45972	244127	844883	
<b>C206</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>115</b>	Red	NH 44845 45973	244128	844894	
<b>C209</b>	Clearance Cairn	<b>115</b>	Red	NH 44845 45974	243953	844702	
<b>E101</b>	Enclosure	<b>58</b>	Blue	NH 44845 45855	244845	845855	Part of old Coulnabottach
<b>E102</b>	Enclosure	<b>60</b>	Blue	NH 44845 45856	244797	845824	Part of old Coulnabottach
<b>E103</b>	Enclosure	<b>64</b>	Blue	NH 44845 45857	244484	845383	Animal enclosure
<b>E104</b>	Enclosure	<b>64</b>	Blue	NH 44845 45858	244487	845400	Small enclosure, possibly a lambing pen
<b>E106</b>	Enclosure	<b>64</b>	Blue	NH 44845 45859	244252	845118	Animal enclosure
<b>E167</b>	Enclosure	<b>97</b>	Purple	NH 44485 45385	244485	845385	An animal enclosure
<b>E202</b>	Enclosure	<b>111</b>	Red	NH 44845 45975	244001	844754	A large rectangular animal enclosure
<b>H001</b>	Hut Circle	<b>47</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46018	245699	845668	Probably a hut circle on a recessed platform
<b>H002</b>	Hut Circle	<b>48</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46019	245679	845666	Hut circle labelled "K" by OS
<b>H004</b>	Recessed Platform	<b>48</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46020	245668	845698	Recessed Platform
<b>H051</b>	Hut Circle	<b>26</b>	Green	NH 44845 45898	245330	845308	
<b>H053</b>	Hut Circle	<b>27</b>	Green	NH 44845 45899	245227	845599	



<b>H054</b>	Hut Circle	<b>28</b>	Green	NH 44845 45900	245211	845607	HC
<b>H055</b>	Hut Circle	<b>29</b>	Green	NH 44845 45901	245153	845531	HC
<b>H056</b>	Hut Circle	<b>29</b>	Green	NH 44845 45902	245317	845531	HC
<b>H057</b>	Hut Circle	<b>21</b>	Green	NH 44845 45903	245374	845507	Hut circle labelled "A" by OS
<b>H058</b>	Hut Circle	<b>24</b>	Green	NH 44845 45904	245596	845559	Hut circle labelled "F" by OS
<b>H059</b>	Hut Circle	<b>23</b>	Green	NH 44845 45905	245598	845527	Hut circle labelled "E" by OS
<b>H060</b>	Hut Circle	<b>25</b>	Green	NH 44845 45906	245626	845554	Hut circle labelled "G" by OS
<b>H061</b>	Hut Circle	<b>25</b>	Green	NH 44845 45907	245663	845542	Hut circle labelled "H" by OS
<b>H062</b>	Hut Circle	<b>30</b>	Green	NH 44845 45908	245362	845461	
<b>H063</b>	Hut Circle	<b>22</b>	Green	NH 44845 45909	245453	845379	Hut circle labelled "B" by OS
<b>H064</b>	Hut Circle	<b>22</b>	Green	NH 44845 45910	245459	845367	Hut circle labelled "C" by OS
<b>H065</b>	Hut Circle	<b>22</b>	Green	NH 44845 45911	245494	845469	Hut circle labelled "D" by OS
<b>K201</b>	Kiln	<b>111</b>	Red	NH 44845 45976	244307	844439	Probably a corn-drying kiln
<b>K202</b>	Kiln	<b>111</b>	Red	NH 44845 45977	243991	844670	Probably a lime kiln
<b>K203</b>	Kiln	<b>112</b>	Red	NH 44845 45978	244175	844615	Probably a lime kiln
<b>K205</b>	Pit	<b>114</b>	Red	NH 44845 45979	244067	844875	Unknown function, possibly a lime-kiln
<b>V007</b>	Burial Cairn?	<b>48</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46021	245547	845585	Possibly a burial cairn
<b>V008</b>	Bothy	<b>54</b>	Yellow	NH 44845 46022	245564	845862	A possible bothy against a slope
<b>V052</b>	Pit	<b>41</b>	Green	NH 44845 45913	245143	845704	A large pit of unknown function
<b>V054</b>	Recessed Platform	<b>42</b>	Green	NH 44845 45915	245346	845505	
<b>V057</b>	Kiln	<b>42</b>	Green	NH 44845 45916	245554	845543	Probably a lime kiln
<b>V058</b>	Well	<b>43</b>	Green	NH 44845 45917	245591	845544	A small stone-lined well
<b>V059</b>	Recessed Platform	<b>42</b>	Green	NH 44845 45918	245590	845507	
<b>V060</b>	Building	<b>17</b>	Green	NH 44845 45919	245644	845467	Allt na Criche
<b>V063</b>	Kiln	<b>44</b>	Green	NH 44845 45920	245472	845389	Probably a lime kiln
<b>V064</b>	Cist Burial	<b>34</b>	Green	NH 44845 45921	245516	845539	Cist Burial
<b>V101</b>	Pit	<b>61</b>	Blue	NH 44845 45860	244822	845854	Unkown funtion, possibly a corn-drying kiln
<b>V102</b>	Rig	<b>66</b>	Blue	NH 44452 45339	244452	845339	
<b>V103</b>	Rig	<b>66</b>	Blue	NH 44805 45412	244805	845412	
<b>V104</b>	Rig	<b>66</b>	Blue	NH 44758 45429	244758	845429	
<b>V107</b>	Pit	<b>63</b>	Blue	NH 44845 45861	244926	845747	Large shallow pit of unknown function
<b>V108</b>	CMS	<b>57</b>	Blue	NH 44845 45862	244845	845862	Cup-marked stone, ScRAP record: Urchany 1
<b>V109</b>	Pit	<b>61</b>	Blue	NH 44845 45863	244405	845571	Unkown funtion, possibly a corn-drying kiln
<b>V157</b>	Barrow	<b>68</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45956	244268	845506	Scheduled as a Bowl Barrow
<b>V161</b>	CMS	<b>69</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45957	244279	845613	Cup-marked stone, ScRAP record: Urchany 2
<b>V162</b>	CMS	<b>71</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45958	244275	845612	Cup-marked stone, ScRAP record: Urchany 3
<b>V164</b>	CMS	<b>72</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45959	244235	845368	Cup-marked stone, ScRAP record: Urchany 4
<b>V165</b>	CMS	<b>73</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45960	244695	845689	Cup-marked stone, ScRAP record: Urchany 6
<b>V166</b>	Enclosure	<b>80</b>	Purple	NH 44845 45961	244305	845517	Possibly a burial ground