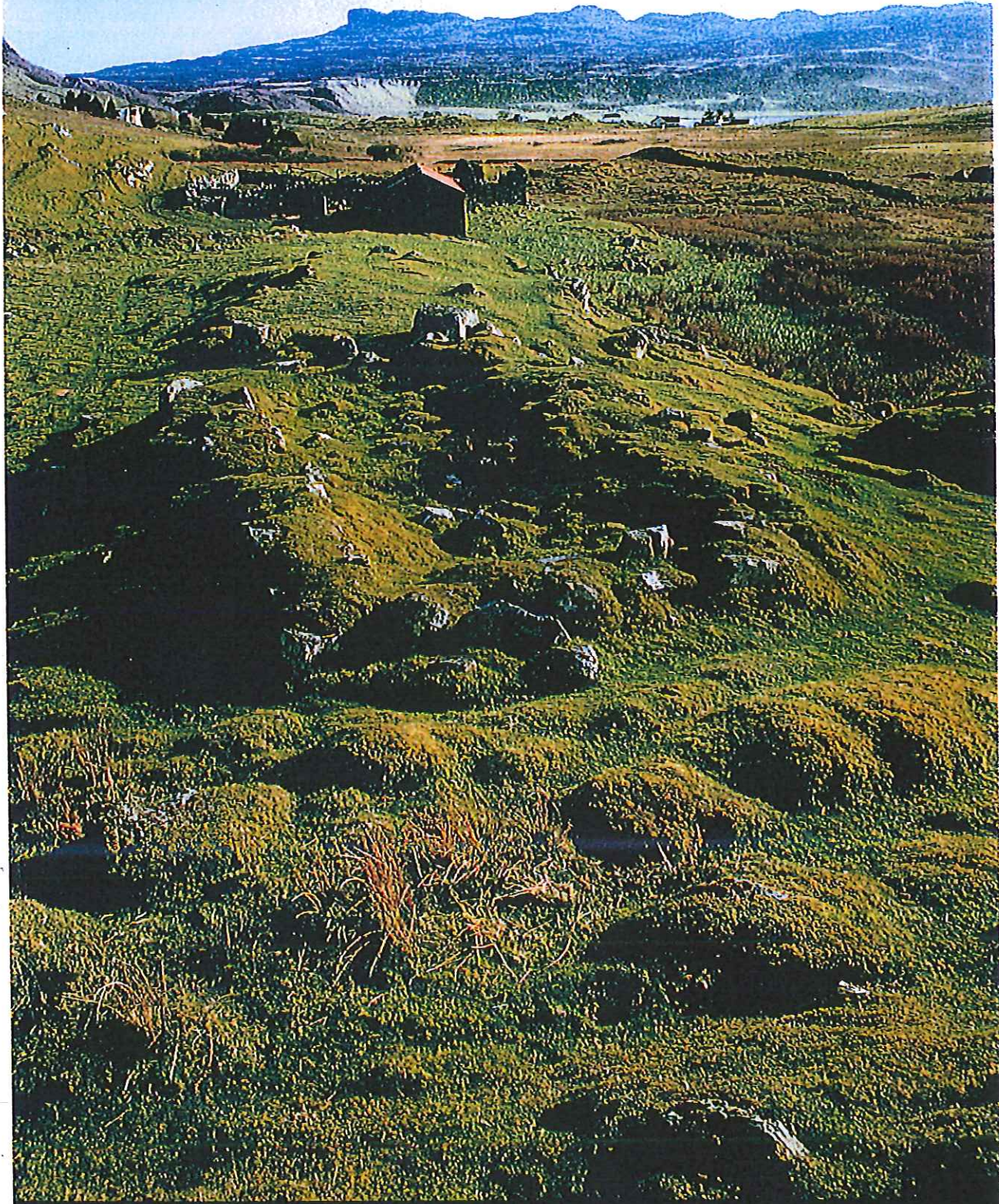


ECB



Royal
Commission on the
Ancient and
Historical
Monuments of
Scotland

EXCURSION GUIDE



Commissioners' Field Excursion, The Small Isles, 23-26 September, 2002

Commissioners' Field Excursion, The Small Isles, 23-26 September 2002

Timetable

MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

- 10.00 Commissioners' Meeting, John Sinclair House
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 Depart for Mallaig, arriving West Highland Hotel c.19.30
- 20.30 Dinner

TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

- 09.15 Coach departs for Arisaig. There may be a little over an hour in Arisaig before the boat leaves. This will offer an opportunity to visit Kilmory church, which has a collection of late-Medieval sculpture.
- 11.00 Sheerwater departs for Rum, calling for 30 minutes at Eigg, 1200-1230. Packed lunch on board
- 13.30 Kinloch Castle, Rum
- 15.30 Depart Rum
- 16.30 Arrive Eigg & transfer to Glebe Barn
- 19.00 Short introductory talks on archaeology and architecture of the Small Isles
- 19.45 Dinner

WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

- 08.00 Breakfast, departing 0915
 - 1. Laig, square cairn cemetery
 - 2. Laig farmhouse
 - 3. St Donnan's Roman Catholic Church and presbytery
 - 4. Howlin
 - 5. Five Pennies township and field-system
 - 6. Hut-circles, Howlin
- 13.00 Lunch at Eigg Tearoom, Galmisdale
 - 7. Eigg Lodge and grounds, including early medieval cross-slabs, 'Crow's Nest', Ceilidh Hall and Gardener's Cottage
 - 8. 'Shetland-type' house, Galmisdale
 - 9. Uamh Fhraing (The Massacre Cave)
- 20.00 Dinner

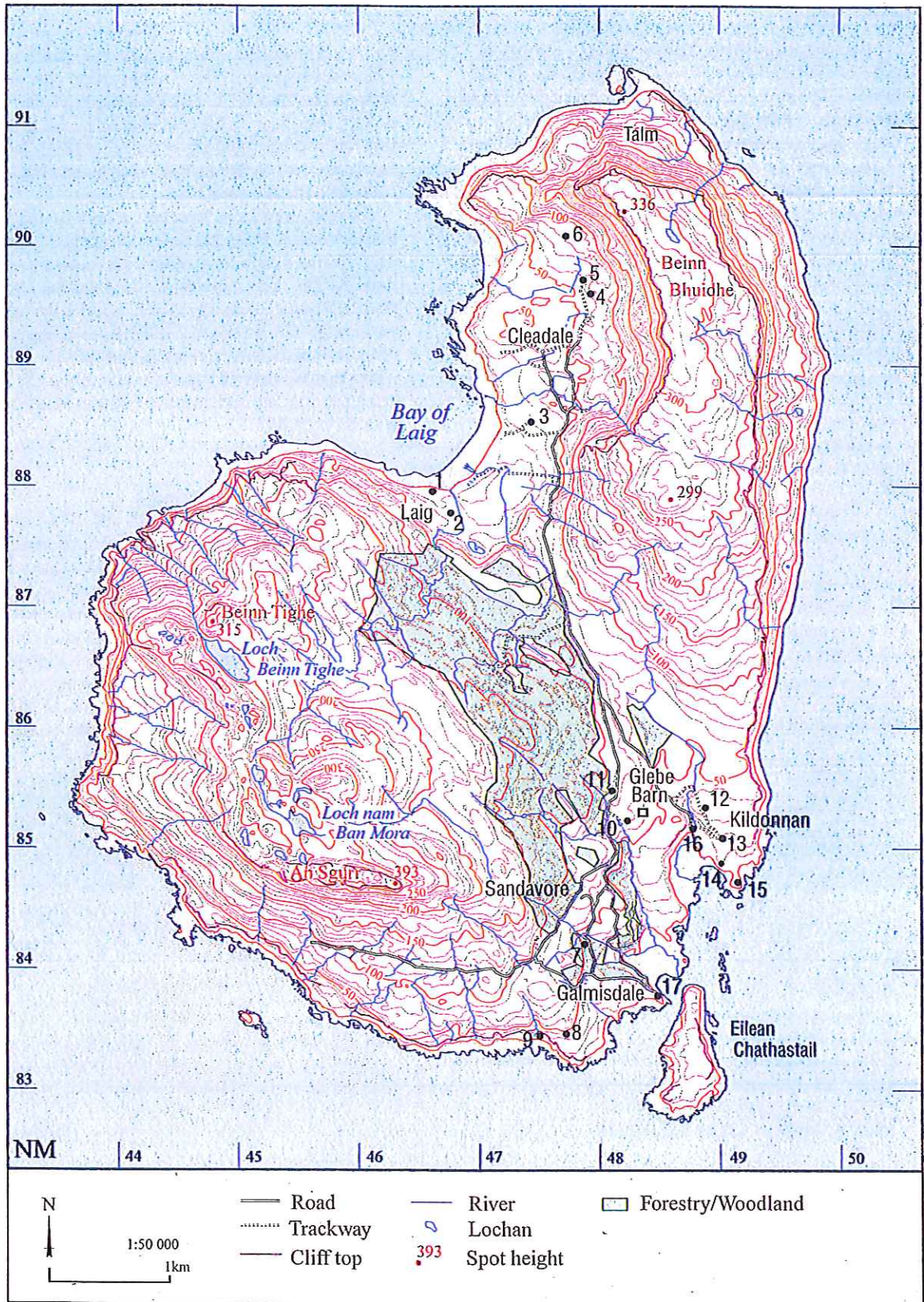
THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

- 08.00 Breakfast, departing 0915
 - 10. The Manse
 - 11. Church of Scotland
 - 12. St Donnan's Church, cross slabs and site of monastery
 - 13. Kildonnan farmsteading
 - 14. Kildonnan cairns & Viking burials
 - 15. Fort, Rubha na Crannaig, Kildonnan
 - 16. Kildonnan Mill
 - 17. Dun, Galmisdale
- 12.30 Lunch at Eigg Tearoom.
- 13.50 (approx.) Transfer boat to MV Loch Nevis (departs 1410)
- 15.25 Arrive Mallaig

(Numbered sites are marked on the map of Eigg, page 2)

The material for this guide has been prepared by Robert Adam, Stephen Boyle, Julie Candy, Ian Fisher, Simon Green and Stephen Thomson. John Stevenson has designed the layout.

Front cover -- building at Five Pennies township, Eigg, looking south towards the Sgurr.
Back cover -- map of the Small Isles.



Sites to be visited on Eigg; a key to the numbers is given in the timetable, page 1.

600m
600m

Introduction

Royal Commission staff have been involved in a variety of projects on the Small Isles over the last eight years, and this excursion offers an opportunity to review this work. It would be impossible to take in the entire archipelago in a short visit, so the itinerary has been confined to a visit to Kinloch Castle on Rum followed by two nights on Eigg, always the most densely populated island of the group. This guide contains descriptions of the sites to be visited but, in order to provide some background and context, it begins with an introductory sketch of the archaeology, architecture and landscape history of the whole group.

Geological background

The Small Isles comprise four inhabited islands – Canna, Rum, Eigg and Muck – and a small outlier Oigh Sgeir, which boasts a lighthouse and the remains of a two-hole golf course formerly used by the lighthouse keepers. The islands lie to the south of Skye, astride the sea routes running up the west coast of the mainland and to and from the Western Isles. From both the sea and the mainland their distinctive outlines make them instantly recognisable landmarks, especially the forbidding peaks of the Rum Cullin and the dramatic Sgurr of Eigg.

The Small Isles are largely composed of igneous rocks formed during a period of intense volcanic activity beginning about 60 million years BC and lasting around three million years. In the northern half of Rum, however, Torridonian sandstones predominate, and small areas of Jurassic sandstones, mudstones and limestones are visible around parts of the coasts of Rum, Eigg and Muck. The three smaller islands are largely formed by a series of lava flows, chiefly of

basalt and mugearite. These have weathered into a series of gently sloping terraces bounded by vertical cliffs and break down to provide a fertile soil. Towering above the southern end of Eigg, the Sgurr is a block of pitchstone, resulting from a lava flow that has filled a river valley cut deeply into the basalt, but has now been left standing proud as the softer valley sides have eroded away.

The igneous rocks on Rum have a different origin; these are mostly intrusive rocks that did not break the surface but cooled deep within an enormous volcano, now eroded down to its roots. Neither these rocks nor the hard-wearing sandstones of the northern half of the island have supplied the nutrients essential for the development of fertile soils; this factor, combined with Rum's high rainfall (about 300cm a year at Kinloch), has produced a landscape dominated by wet heathland, limiting settlement and cultivation to a few more favoured locations.

RCAHMS surveys & other work

Apart from the brief notices of 17th- and 18th-century travellers, the authors of the *Statistical Accounts* and the notes in the Ordnance Survey Name Books, the earliest account of the archaeology of any of the Small Isles is that by Norman MacPherson, proprietor of Eigg, whose paper of 1878 on the antiquities of the island included a report of an excavation he initiated of the Viking graves at Kildonnan, as well as details of a number of earlier discoveries, mostly made during land improvement operations. The islands also came to the attention of several other late-Victorian scholars, particularly those



The Sgurr of Eigg and Galmisdale House; view from the south-east.

attracted by the early medieval crosses on Eigg and Canna. The first attempt at a systematic survey of the islands, however, was the Royal Commission's visit in 1925. Fieldwork for the *Inventary of The Outer Hebrides, Skye and The Small Isles* (1928) began in 1914, but it was only at the tail end of the project, which had been disrupted by the war and financial stringencies, that the Small Isles were visited, all recording apparently being completed during a single week in early July 1925. Fifteen monuments or groups of monuments were recorded, most of them on Canna. On Rum only one site, Kilmory church and burial-ground, is described, while on Eigg only the fort on the Sgurr and Kildonnan churchyard appear to have been visited, both on the same day. Kinloch Castle on Rum, which we will be visiting on Tuesday, had only been standing for twenty-four years by then, and escapes all notice or comment!

For the next half century the islands attracted little archaeological attention. The Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey spent a month in the summer of 1972, principally to visit previously known sites, though several new monuments, including several hut-circles, were mapped. A study of shielings on Rum by Ronald Miller in the 1960s, followed by John Love's more detailed work on the same topic, drew attention to the archaeological potential of the island and in 1983 the Royal Commission returned to Rum and published a handlist of archaeological sites under the auspices of the Society of Antiquaries listing programme. The discovery of Mesolithic flints near Kinloch Castle in the course of that survey prompted a programme of high-profile excavations by Caroline Wickham-Jones in the following year. On Eigg, Peter and Susanna Wade-Martins, together with colleagues from Norfolk, completed surveys of a number of sites during the 1980s and 1990s, while in 1986 the Scottish Buildings Study Group at Dundee University surveyed farm buildings on both Eigg and Canna. However, it was not until the Royal Commission's survey of Canna began in 1994 that the systematic mapping of the archaeology of the Small Isles began. A broadsheet on the Canna survey was published in 1999, and a longer account has been incorporated into the fourth edition of John Lorne Campbell's *Canna: The Story of a Hebridean Island*. The Eigg survey was begun in 2001 and Muck was surveyed in 2002. Meanwhile, the Threatened Buildings Survey of the Architecture Division of the Royal Commission completed an in depth photographic record of Kinloch Castle in 1996 and, in 1998-9, the principal buildings on Eigg were photographed and surveyed. Finally, all the early crosses on the islands were drawn for *Early Medieval Sculpture in the West Highlands and Islands*.

Other archaeological organisations have also been involved in the islands in recent years. In 2001 Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division conducted an assessment of the archaeology of Rum for Scottish Natural Heritage. In the same year, stimulated by our survey, the National Museum began excavating a late-Bronze Age metalworking site on Eigg, while an assessment has been made of a wooden boat, possibly 18th century in date, buried in the sand in Galmisdale Bay. Finally, excavations in advance of new pier developments on Eigg and Rum have produced quantities of worked flint.

Settlement History

Prehistory

In the 1980s Rum achieved fame as the home of 'Scotland's First Settlers' following the excavation of a Mesolithic settlement in a field at the head of Loch Scresort, to the north of Kinloch Castle. Radiocarbon dates from the site indicate

occupation at about 7500 BC, and until recently these were the earliest dates for settlement anywhere in Scotland. Current work on Applecross and the east coast of Skye suggests widespread Mesolithic activity there, but apart from the chance discovery of stone tools by forestry workers on Eigg no other material of this period has so far been recorded on the Small Isles. Eigg, however, offers some potential here amongst the many rock shelters concealed in the boulder screes beneath the cliffs on the east coast of the island, some of which have substantial shell middens spreading out from their entrances.

Evidence for the Neolithic period is rather more plentiful. During the Canna survey large quantities of pottery of this period, including Unstan Ware and Grooved Ware, as well as Early Bronze Age Beaker sherds, were discovered in the upcast from rabbit burrows dug into a series of large earthen mounds, probably the remains of settlements. Earthen mounds have also been recorded on Eigg and Muck, but burrow spoil on Eigg (there are no rabbits on Muck) has produced only post-medieval pottery. While it is possible that some of these mounds also have prehistoric origins, it is perhaps safer to see them as the remains of turf shieling-huts of medieval or later date. On Rum, the excavations at Kinloch demonstrated that occupation continued through the Neolithic period, while stray finds on Eigg include two stone axes, a flint spearhead and two leaf-shaped arrowheads (the latter discovered during survey in 2001). Thumbnail scrapers, probably of this period, were also picked up on ploughed fields during the Eigg and Muck surveys. What is lacking, however, are any certain examples of burial or ritual monuments of this period, the only two possible examples being a heavily robbed cairn on Canna and the site of a 'long cairn' at Laig on Eigg, removed in the early 1850s to provide packing for field drains. Two stone cists within the latter cairn were said to contain 'articles of stone and bone' including, perhaps, one of the two stone axes mentioned above. One final site that may belong to this period is an unusual oval structure near Galmisdale on Eigg, which we will be visiting, whose closest parallels are to be found amongst prehistoric houses on Shetland. This is discussed in more detail below.

About three dozen round cairns, presumably of Bronze Age date, are distributed across the four islands. Most of these survive as simple circular stony mounds, though some have visible traces of a kerb. A cairn at Kildonnan on Eigg is the only one to have been formally excavated, in 1875 (a 'cairn' excavated by T C Lethbridge on Canna in 1924 is now thought more likely to be a shieling-mound). The finds from the Kildonnan excavation belong to a Viking burial, but this had been placed in a ruined cist that is probably prehistoric. Three other cists, each within a cairn, were discovered on Eigg during land improvements in the early 1860s, but there are no records of any finds being recovered from them.

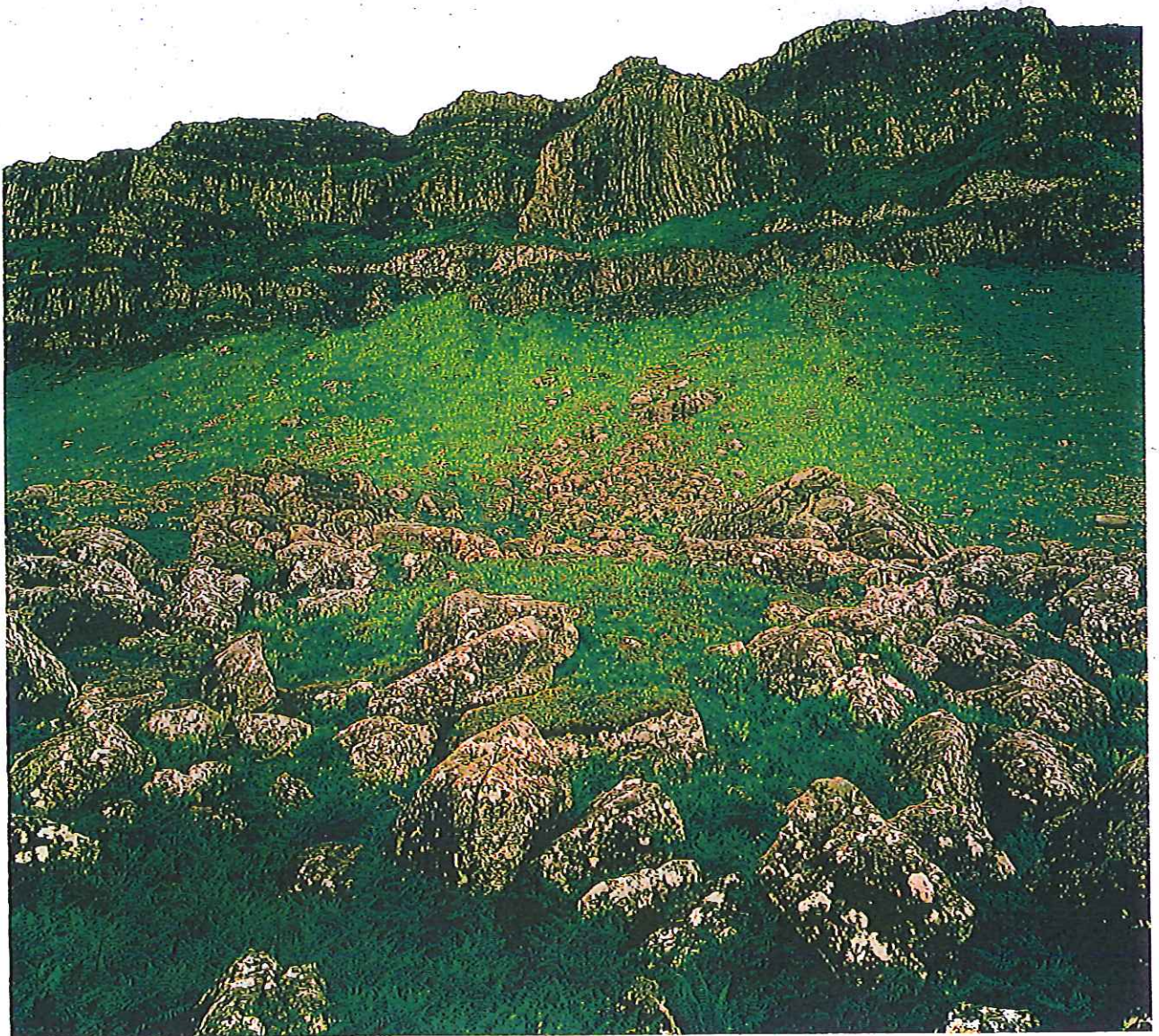
The vast majority of hut-circles in the Small Isles are on Eigg, where twenty-eight have been mapped, and on Canna, where there are twelve. By contrast, only one has been identified on Muck and none of the few suggested examples on Rum are convincing. Nearly all of the Eigg and Canna huts are situated in heather moorland or other rough pasture, well above the limits of post-medieval cultivation; very few survive within the areas of improved ground. This distribution explains their absence from the other two islands, for there is very little unimproved or uncultivated ground on Muck, while on Rum locations suitable for settlement have presumably always been restricted to the same few niches around the coast, densely settled and heavily cultivated into the early 19th century. Exploratory excavations of a hut-circle at Galmisdale by the National Museums of Scotland in the spring of 2002



Fort, Poll Duchail, Eigg, looking north-west towards Rum.



Fort, Caisteal an Duin Bhain, Muck, looking south towards Ardnamurchan.



Late-prehistoric roundhouse, Sron na h-Iolair, Eigg; view from east.

have produced Bronze Age pottery, though the tradition of building roundhouses probably spans most or all of the last two millennia BC.

Apart from fragmentary traces of field-bank on moorland in north-west Eigg, it is only on Canna that remains of prehistoric field systems can be identified. At the west end of the island hut-circles are spaced out amongst a network of fields and enclosures defined by edge-set stones. It may be that a mixed agricultural economy can be detected here, with smaller fields defining plots of arable, while longer boundaries, disappearing into the moorland peat may have divided up areas of pasture.

One of the more remarkable discoveries to emerge during the survey of Eigg also dates from the Bronze Age. In May 2001 Royal Commission staff were shown a collection of metal-working debris discovered by an islander while digging a hole to bury his cat. The collection included moulds for Late Bronze Age socketed axes, a knife and a pointed tool, along with fragments of crucible. Finds of Bronze Age metalwork are relatively common in Scotland, but there are no more than a handful of sites with evidence for metalworking. Alerted to the discovery, the National Museum immediately began excavating the site, and work has continued into 2002. It is now thought to be the temporary workshop of a Late Bronze

Age smith, possibly an itinerant craftsman.

There are at least fourteen forts and duns scattered across the islands - four on Canna, three on Rum, one on Muck and six on Eigg. Nearly all of them are sited on small coastal stacks and promontories, where they have needed no more fortification than a stone wall barring the line of easiest access. The interiors of most of them are either featureless, or contain footings of buildings that are demonstrably later than the defences; only one fort, on the S side of Laig Bay, has visible remains of circular house-platforms that may be contemporary with its primary use. One fort, however, on the Sgurr, is quite different. A stone wall, up to 1.8m high, cuts off the only approach to the summit and encloses about 4 hectares, most of it bare rock with hardly any level ground at all. It is inconceivable that this has ever been permanently occupied, and it should perhaps be seen either as a temporary refuge or as a focal point for the local community perhaps used for gatherings or festivals at particular times of the year - it is not difficult to imagine that the dramatic outline of the Sgurr, instantly recognisable for miles around may have lent it some symbolic importance.

One final prehistoric site remains to be described. It stands amongst a jumble of boulders beneath the cliffs on the north-east coast of Eigg, the most remote corner of the island (sadly,



Boulder cave entered from within the roundhouse, Sron na h-Iolaire, Eigg.

time will not permit us to include a visit in the course of this field excursion). Here, a substantial platform has been constructed, on top of which there are the remains of a circular enclosure, probably a roundhouse, measuring about 6m in internal diameter. The wall is about 2m thick around most of the circuit, but at the entrance it thickens to 4m on either side of a narrow entrance passage. Opening from the interior there is the entrance to a large boulder cave that runs westward beneath the enclosure wall. The main chamber of the cave measures about 7m in length and there are other smaller chambers opening off to either side and at the end. The cave entrance and the sides of the chamber have been modified by the insertion of rough walling and a thick deposit of midden material covers the floor, including animal bones, shells and broken hammerstones, some of which have a concretion of crushed shell on their points. Other hammerstones were discovered during a brief search of the many small caves and voids between and beneath boulders in the immediate area.

Thus far, the site is unusual, but not unique; at Usinish on the east coast of South Uist there is another roundhouse constructed around the entrance to a boulder cave. What makes the Eigg site stand out is its position within the landscape. The cliffs on this side of the island are characterised by horizontal banding of different lavas, but immediately above the site these bands are broken by a dramatic eruption of vertical basalt columns, soaring to the top of the cliff. Standing in front of the roundhouse, the eye is immediately drawn upwards, and the view is framed by two enormous boulders, one to each side of the site. The sense that this has been a 'special place' is inescapable. Moreover, it is difficult to argue the case for a defensive or domestic function for the site. It is hidden away in the scree, over 400m of difficult terrain separating it from the shore and while there are shieling-huts and fragments of enclosure walls on grassy terraces close by, access to the enclosure involves a tricky scramble over the boulder scree. The resources involved in constructing the platform and the roundhouse suggest something of more importance than a farmhouse or herdsman's hut. We know next to nothing about Iron Age religious practices in western Scotland, but it is tempting to speculate that this may be a prehistoric 'eremitic' site.

Early medieval and Viking archaeology

Eigg certainly, and Canna probably, were the sites of important monasteries in the early medieval period. No visible remains of these survive, though both islands, Canna in particular, are rich in early medieval sculpture. Canna also has the remains of an unusual monastic enclosure on its remote south-west coast, known as Sgorr nam Ban-Naomha, which may have been a hermitage subordinate to the monastery at A' Chill. The

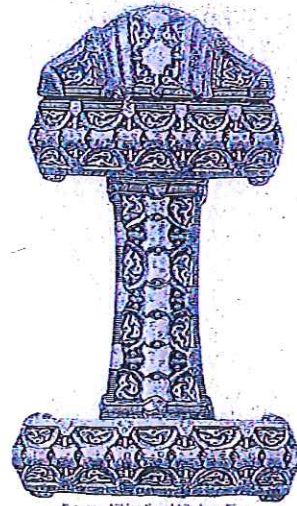


FIG. 12.—Viking Sword-hilt from Eigg.

Viking sword-hilt from Kildonnan, Eigg.

presence of the early church on the other two islands is attested by two cross-slabs from each, and also by the placename Papadil ('priests' valley') at the southern tip of Rum. Beccan of Rum, who died in 677, may be the same person as a prominent scholar of that name recorded in the 630s. In contrast to these overtly Christian sites and monuments, all products of the Dalriadic church, the square cairn cemetery at Laig on Eigg, which we will visit, may be regarded as pagan, quite possibly Pictish, and serves as a reminder that this part of Scotland was very much a frontier between the two peoples in the mid first millennium AD.

Norse placenames are common on the Small Isles, as of course they are throughout the Hebrides, but the archaeological evidence for the period is limited to a small, albeit important, group of artefacts, chiefly from Eigg, and a possible house discovered during the Muck survey. The Laig boat stems and the Kildonnan sword are amongst the best known Viking artefacts from the Hebrides. The stems, which were discovered in the 19th century during the draining of a bog, measure about 1.9m in length and one of them has been stepped and hollowed to accept the timber strakes of the hull. The sword was discovered, together with a whetstone and fragments of other artefacts, about 1830, while levelling a 'hillock' to the north-east of Kildonnan farmstead; only the hilt, of silvered bronze, has survived. Two other Viking burials, this time to the south-west of Kildonnan, each containing a sword and other artefacts, are recorded. Otherwise, the only Norse artefacts from the Small Isles are an ivory gaming piece discovered in a cave on the east coast of Rum and a ring-headed bronze pin found on Canna.

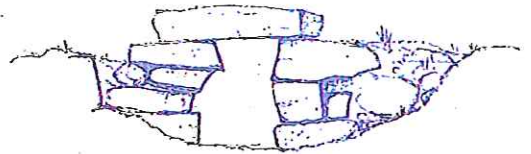
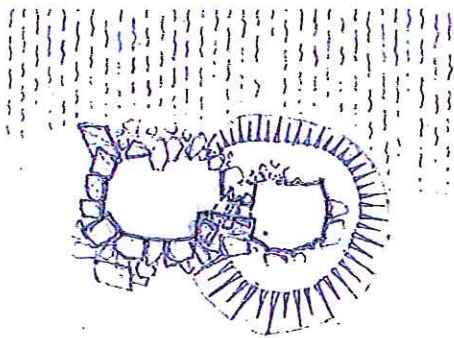
The possible house identified on Muck is situated on the N coast of the island. Bow-sided on plan, it measures 13.4m by 5.4m, within thick stone footings and has an outshot 6.8m long at its north-west end. This is clearly a very different building to those of the 18th- and 19th-century settlements on the island, and from the surface evidence it seems reasonable to suggest a Norse date although, given our patchy understanding of rural vernacular building styles in the Highlands before 1700, a late-medieval date is also possible.

Settlement from the medieval period to the late 18th century

In the medieval and early modern periods the islands changed hands several times. In the 13th century Eigg and Rum were held by the MacRuairis of Garmoran, from whom they descended to the MacDonalds of Clanranald. This family



Lazy-beds, Harris, Rum; view from north-west.



*FIRST ELEVATION 1:20
CONNECTING PASSAGE*

Figure-of-eight shieling-hut, Allt Bidein an Tighearna, Eigg; pencil plan and elevation of connecting passage.

retained Eigg until 1827, but in the 15th century Rum passed to the Macleans of Coll, whose ownership lasted until 1845 (though in the 1590s it was recorded as being again in the hands of Clanranald). Canna belonged to the Benedictine Abbey of Iona in 1203, and may have been in Church hands since the Columban period. By the 1590s, it too appears to have been Clanranald hands and although the earl of Argyll was granted the island in 1628, Clanranald may have retained possession, leasing the island in 1672 and acquiring the superiority in 1805, before selling it in 1826. Finally, Muck first appears on record in 1549, when it was the property of the Bishop of the Isles, but it had passed to the Macleans of Coll by 1626. In 1799 Muck too passed to the MacDonalds of Clanranald, though fourteen years later it returned to the Macleans.

There are few visible remains on the islands that can confidently be ascribed to the medieval period. Eigg has the remains of a church, and there is a possible chapel on Muck. There are no visible remains either of the medieval parish church on Canna, or the chapel that probably stood at Kilmory on Rum, though the wall footings of the former were identified by excavation in 1994. The only castle on the islands, Coròghon on Canna, is probably of 17th-century date. Many of the numerous shieling-huts on the islands are likely to be medieval, but the most interesting monuments that have

been tentatively assigned to this period are the deer traps on Rum. The best-preserved of these comprises a high-walled oval enclosure into which deer were funneled through a gap cleared in the scree on the hillside above.

Many of the townships on the islands are probably medieval in origin, though none of the standing remains need be any earlier than the 18th century. Documentary sources will no doubt help in analysing the pattern of medieval settlement, but there will always be difficulties in identifying a recorded settlement with a particular group of archaeological remains. The best-preserved townships are Kiell on Muck, Harris on Rum and Five Pennies on Eigg (which is included in the excursion); there are also substantial remains at several other sites on Eigg. The buildings within them are typically constructed with a turf core faced inside and out with stone, a method of construction noted on Eigg in 1700 by the Catholic Bishop Nicolson. In most cases the surrounding fields have been obliterated by later improvement and cultivation, though a substantial field-system survives at Five Pennies, while Harris is set within a remarkable landscape of lazy beds enclosed by a head-dyke.

Shielings

The use of high pastures during the summer months was an important and integral part of the farming calendar throughout

Highland Scotland. The Small Isles are no exception, and small groups of huts are to be found in the more remote areas of all four islands – over 400 have been recorded on Rum and there are at least 450 on Eigg. John Love identified three types of hut on Rum – small circular or oval stone-walled huts with corbelled roofs, huts with two or more chambers, and rectangular huts, usually built largely of turf. These types also occur on the other islands, particularly the chambered and rectangular forms. While the rectangular huts are the most common, and are similar to shieling-huts found throughout the Highlands, the chambered forms are perhaps the most interesting. Most of the Eigg examples have a figure-of-eight plan; the entrance led into the larger compartment, from which a narrow passage, often roofed with stone lintels, gave access to the smaller chamber. The latter was invariably constructed of stone with a turf embankment against its outer face, probably intended to keep the interior cool for the storage of butter and cheese, the traditional products of the shieling months. This type of hut is also well-known in Skye, where several examples have been excavated. Dating, however, remains a problem, though at least some of these huts may be medieval.

Kelp, crofting and clearances

The late 18th and early 19th centuries saw rapid change throughout the Highlands and Islands, as chiefs and landowners sought to maximise income from their possessions. In the 1780s and 1790s, rising rents and a rising population prompted a wave of emigrations, despite the opposition of landowners. By then the price of kelp, a soda ash produced by burning seaweed, which was important as a bleaching agent and in the manufacture of soap, glass and gunpowder, had begun to soar. To accommodate the growing population, which was needed to harvest the seaweed, the Clanranald estate, which included Canna, Eigg and (from 1799 to 1813) Muck, reorganised the holdings of its tenants, converting the existing multiple-tenant farms into crofting townships comprising a large number of single-tenant lots. Thus, in 1809 plans were made to divide Muck into 47 holdings, and on Eigg in the same year the neighbouring farms of Cleadale and Knockeiltach were converted into twenty-eight crofts. Cleadale remains a crofting township today, and the straight stone-walled boundaries of its narrow plots stand in marked contrast to the irregular enclosures of the earlier farms. The construction of the buildings themselves may also have changed at this time. The walls of most of the houses in the crofting settlements have a core of stone rather than turf and a striking number have an internal length of roughly thirty feet (9.15m). This uniformity of length is most noticeable on Eigg, and suggests a degree of control by the estate over the size of crofters' houses.

The kelp boom collapsed when the end of the Napoleonic Wars allowed the import of cheaper sources of alkali from Spain. Faced with a rising population increasingly unable to pay rents, proprietors' attitude towards emigration soon began to change. In 1826, about 300 people were cleared from Rum, which was now converted into a farm for 8000 sheep, and 50 more followed in 1828, leaving only one indigenous family. In the same year 150 people emigrated from Muck. The population of Canna was greatly reduced after its sale by Clanranald in 1827 and in 1849 it was halved again. On Eigg, 140 people elected to emigrate in 1843 and, ten years later, Laig and Grulin (roughly the western half of the island) were let for sheep and the Grulin crofters were evicted.

Victorian sporting estates

Since the middle of the 19th century Eigg, Canna and Muck have each passed through the hands of a series of proprietors. Apart from the crofting areas (now confined to Cleadale on Eigg, Sanday on Canna and one croft on Muck), they have been run as sheep and cattle farms, of which there are now three on Eigg and one on each of the other two. The existing farm buildings are mostly of late 18th-century or 19th-century date, the earliest surviving farmhouse being at Howlin, built in the 1770s. The Victorian proprietors of Eigg, however, were content to leave the running of the farms largely to their factors, and were more concerned with the sporting opportunities offered by the estate. Norman MacPherson, who inherited the island from his father in 1854, surrounded his house with woodland to encourage pheasants, while Robert Thomson, who bought the island in 1896, considered moving all the tenants to Muck in order to make room for deer. The present Lodge, built in 1926-7, is the fourth proprietors' house built on or near that site, intended like its predecessors, as a holiday house and base for shooting.

It is Rum, though, which has become most closely identified with the Victorian and Edwardian passion for sporting estates. The sheep farm failed in 1839, and in 1845 the island was bought by the Marquis of Salisbury who reintroduced deer and made various improvements. The most dramatic changes, however, were introduced by the Bullough family, who held the island from 1888 until Monica, Lady Bullough, sold it to the Nature Conservancy Council in 1957. Under John Bullough the deer herd was improved and new lodges were built in remote corners of the island but it is his son, Sir George, who instigated the construction of the two most striking monuments of this period, the extravagant Kinloch Castle at the head of Loch Scresort and the Bullough Mausoleum, the latter a Doric tetrastyle temple containing the table tombs of Sir George, his wife and his father.



The Bullough Mausoleum, Harris, Rum; view from west.

Background bibliography

- Campbell, J L *Canna: The Story of a Hebridean Island* (Fourth edition, Edinburgh, 2002)
 Dressler, C *Eigg: The Story of an Island* (Edinburgh, 1998)
 Love, J A *Rum: A Landscape Without Figures* (Edinburgh, 2001)
 Rixson, D *The Small Isles: Canna, Rum, Eigg and Muck* (Edinburgh, 2001)

FIELD NOTES

Tuesday 24th September

Kinloch Castle

NM 4030 9955 NM 49NW 12

The *New Statistical Account*, (xiv, 1845, 152) records that

'In the Island of Rum, a good dwelling house, with splendid offices, was erected by Dr Maclean, the present tacksman, in 1826, who spared neither pains nor expense in draining, fencing, and planting around his residence, at the end of the harbour in that island. They exhibit taste and judgement, and to reward his diligence, his plantation of trees is now in a forward and thriving state.'

This house, which served as the principal island residence until 1901, stood on a site to the north-east of the present castle, later occupied by Lady Monica's formal garden. The island post office may have formed part of its service buildings, and the 'splendid offices' survive, though they have been altered and extended.

In 1888 John Bullough, an extremely wealthy Lancastrian textile machinery manufacturer, bought the island, which he had rented for a number of years. He also acquired the extensive Perthshire estate of Meggernie. John was content to use the existing house

'With simple wants not ill supplied,

From moor and mountain and the tide....'

He died three years later, bequeathing Rum to his eldest son, George, and Meggernie to his second son, John. George and his friends embarked soon afterwards on an extended world cruise on his Clyde built steam yacht the *Rhouma*.

It was George Bullough who built the present Kinloch Castle. It is not known why he chose Leeming and Leeming, a practice of commercial architects based originally in Halifax but later in London. It is probably their work on the extension to the Admiralty on Horse Guards Parade that prompted the

commission, rather than their winning entry for the Glasgow Municipal Buildings Competition in 1881. The building was completed in 1897, but little information survives about the building process or when the earlier house was demolished. Kinloch seems to attract romantic rumours, one being that the Lancastrian builders were paid extra to wear the kilt (though surely only when George visited the building site)!

On completion the castle was on a par with Mar Lodge, the Earl of Fife's shooting lodge in Aberdeenshire. This was no romantic Scottish idyll like Lethaby's Melsetter House on Hoy, or majestic baronial pile like Lorimer's Ardkinglas on Loch Fyne; it was closer to an overgrown regency villa in a butch, baronial, rubble overcoat. Its situation, amongst earlier plantations was convenient and sheltered rather than romantic. It commands the bay rather than the island. Bullough needed a shooting lodge to accommodate his guests between bouts of carnage rather than to tickle their artistic fancies.

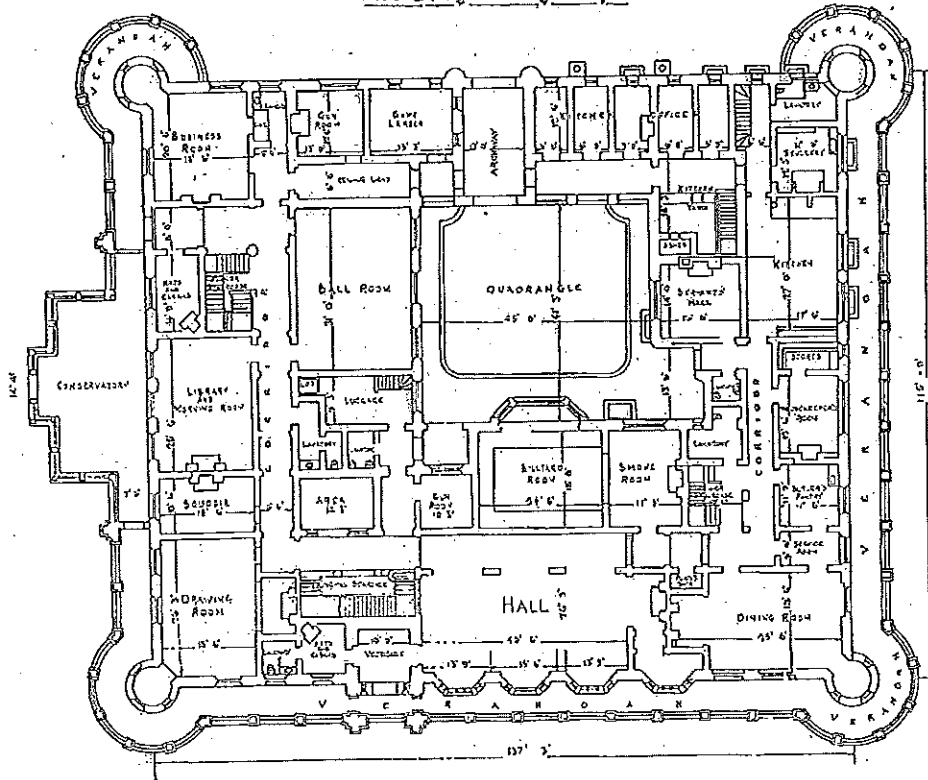
Kinloch Castle was designed as one of the ultimate shooting lodges in Scotland. The plan was of paramount importance, providing a large living hall from which the separate male and female domains radiated. It was built for a wealthy bachelor in his late 20s with prominence given to the male domains of living hall, dining room, smoking room and, of course, billiard room. There are also two gunrooms and a business room. The ladies were confined to a drawing room, boudoir and morning room leading into a conservatory. The building is very efficiently planned around a central service courtyard, with the service accommodation at the northwest corner. Shoolbred & Co of Tottenham Court Road, London supplied much of the furniture. Predictably they were one of the smartest decorative firms. Walter Shoolbred was in the Royal Thames Yacht Club with George and also had a shooting estate in Scotland, Wyvis Lodge in Ross-shire.

In 1901 George was knighted for having had his yacht fitted out as a hospital ship during the Boer War, and two years later he married Monica de la Pasteur, whose first husband had been Lord Charrington. It is interesting to note that one of the



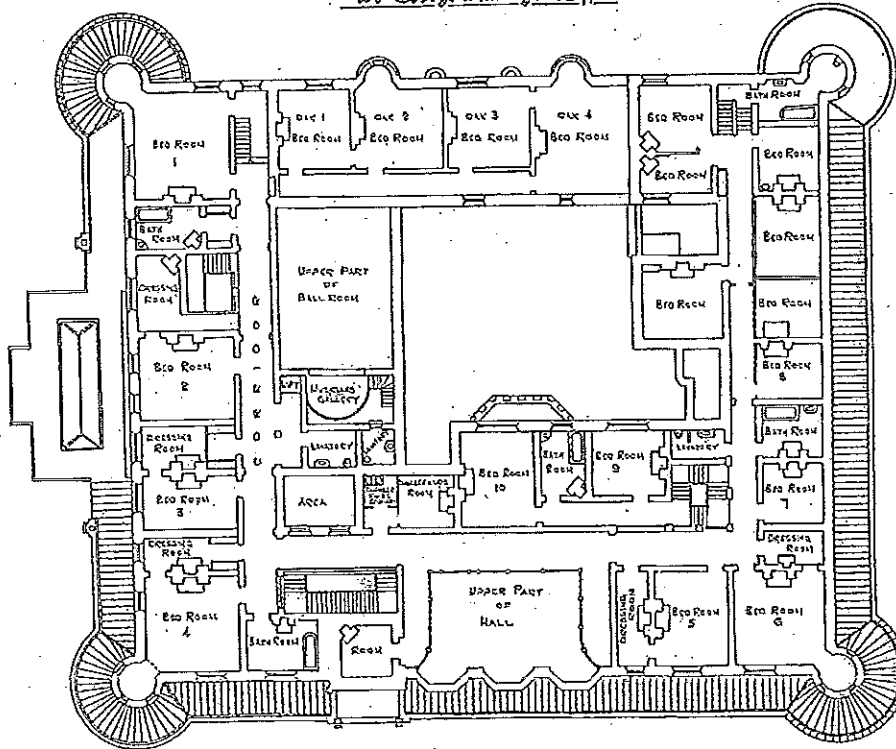
Kinloch Castle; view from the south-east.

Residence Isle of Rum. N.B.
for George Bullough Esq.



— GROUND FLOOR PLAN —

Residence Isle of Rum N.B.
for George Bullough Esq.



— FIRST FLOOR PLAN —

Kinloch Castle: ground and first floor plans.



The Hall, Kinloch Castle.

few named bedrooms is for a scion of another brewing family, Sir William Bass.

In July 1906 Leeming and Leeming prepared plans for an extension to the castle providing two new suites of bedroom and dressing room, with servants' rooms above, on the west side above the courtyard entrance. This relatively modest addition was combined with an extensive programme of redecoration. Ian Gow believes that a top team of interior decorators was called in. The drawing room and boudoir were thrown together, the dark jacobethan panelling painted white and new 'Adams' fireplaces installed. Embroidered silk panels were installed and beautiful loose covers disguised the furniture. The morning room became Lady Monica's Sitting Room or the Napoleon Room – she claimed descent from Napoleon's sister. This connection remains unconfirmed, though her father's ancestor fled to England during the French Revolution. This room was furnished with French Neo-classical furniture. The ballroom appears to also have been feminised at this time.

When first built the principal bedroom suite appears to have been above the dining room in this bachelor house, and this is the only suite with direct access to the service wing. Lady Monica, however, chose the south-east corner for her suite. The new principal bedroom suite was created by combining two bedrooms and an adjoining bathroom. New "Adams" fireplaces were installed. The two new bedroom suites, now known as the oak rooms, were decorated with 'antique'



The billiard room, Kinloch Castle.

salvaged panelling, some of which is said to have come from Wandsworth Palace.

Though architecturally perhaps not of the first flight, the great glory and unique feature of Kinloch is the survival of its original contents. Understandably a lot of things have been moved around but it's nearly all there. Lady Bullough, when she passed Rum to the Nature Conservancy Council, gave some items to the National Museums of Scotland: an ivory eagle, a Japanese bronze of a cockerel and chickens, an Imari dish, a set of 17th-century Brussels Tapestries and a pair of satinwood tables. Only the two bird pieces can be seen in the Museum. The tapestries were originally in the dining room. The contents of Lady Monica's sitting room were also removed at this time. Their whereabouts are not known, but they are believed to be still in Scotland. The tour of the castle will hopefully emphasize the importance of this unique house and its contents, which still remains at risk.

The lavishness of the interior was matched in the gardens. A formal garden was created for Lady Monica on the site of the old house. A Japanese garden was created around the burn to the south. It is reported that half a million tons of Ayrshire soil was imported to encourage the gardens. Extensive glasshouses were erected and the castle's central heating system was employed to heat ponds for alligators and turtles, the latter to provide real turtle soup beloved of the Edwardians. There was also a squash court. A network of metalled roads provided vehicular access to the other parts of the island including the castle laundry at Kilmory An extremely discreet distance from the castle! Small shooting lodges were also erected at Harris, Kilmory and Papadil, the last most easily accessible by sea.

Wednesday 25th September

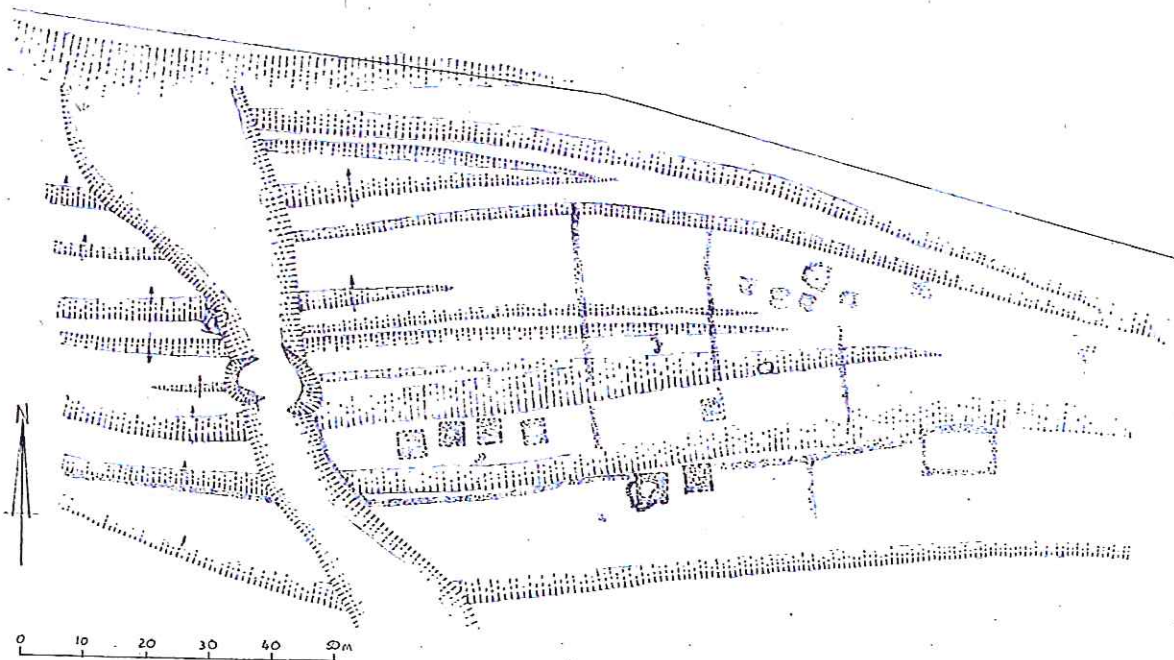
1. Square cairn cemetery, Laig NM 4666 8793 NM 48NE 52

There are at least fifteen square cairns on the grass-grown storm beaches that rise in a series of terraces from the shore at the south end of the Bay of Laig. Many of the cairns have suffered extensive disturbance, and a hollow in the centre of almost every one suggests a thorough robbing of their contents. Apart from two outliers, the cairns are grouped into two main clusters. The better preserved cairns are to be found in the south-west cluster. Here there are at least seven cairns laid out in regular alignments on two terraces. The mounds are square or nearly square, measuring up to 5m by 5m and standing up to 0.4m high; most of them have traces of a low kerb of edge-set stones and at least two have an upright stone at one corner. The six cairns of the north-eastern group are less well preserved, while to the east and to the west there are two isolated cairns, the latter cut by an old burn gully.

In eastern Scotland there can be little doubt of the association of groups of square cairns such as this with the Picts. A number of excavations have produced a clutch of radiocarbon dates clustering around the middle of the first millennium AD, while at least two cairns, at Garbeg in



Square cairn cemetery, Laig; view from south-west.



Square cairn cemetery, Laig; draft pencil plan.



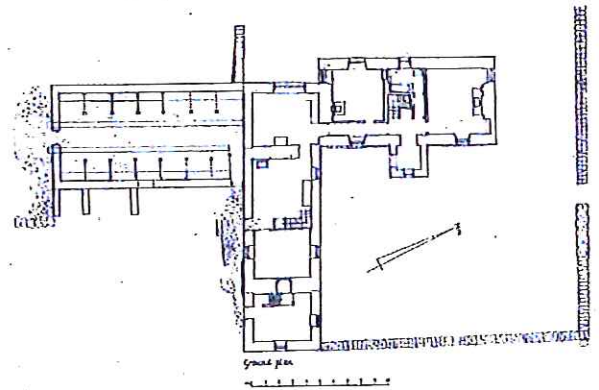
Laig farmhouse and steading, looking north-east towards Cleadale.

Glenurquhart and Watenan in Caithness, have produced fragments of Pictish symbol stones. Their distribution has filled out in recent years, partly through aerial reconnaissance, but it remains concentrated in eastern Scotland, between the Moray Firth and the River Tay, though there are examples as far afield as Shetland and Galloway. They are, however, rarely encountered on the west coast, the only other example being a single square cairn excavated in 1998 at Kilphedir, South Uist. The presence of a cemetery on Eigg brings into focus questions about the extent of Pictish influence on the Inner Hebrides, and their relationship with the Dalriadic monastery at Kildonnan, which itself has produced a Pictish-style cross-slab.

2. Laig farmhouse

NM 4670 8768 NM 48NE 33

This large farmhouse, of late 18th- or early 19th-century date, is attached to an earlier building that now forms its southern wing. In the early 20th century the house was used as a temperance hotel and various ramshackle additions date from that period. M E M Donaldson was a guest here during the preparation of *Wanderings in the Western Highlands and Islands* (1923). Sir William Petersen's sisters took up residence here, adding the glazed porch as a parlour



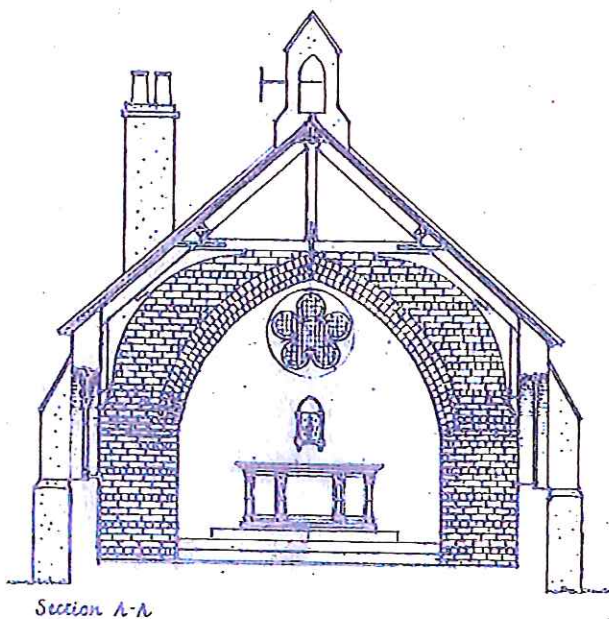
Laig farmhouse; pencil plan.

3. St Donnan's Roman Catholic Church and presbytery
 NM 4741 8853 NM48NE 32

Cleadale House was constructed in the late 18th century by Angus MacDonald of Laig. Originally intended for his sister, its first inhabitant was Neil Mackay, a famous fiddler, who exchanged houses with the parish priest and moved across the island to Sandavore. The house then served as both presbytery and church. A new church was begun in 1910 on a new site a little way to east, though it was still under construction in 1913. The old house was then demolished and a new presbytery was built adjacent to the church. The new house is built of harled rubble, most probably using stones robbed from its predecessor. No architect has been discovered yet for either of the buildings: the involvement of the Marquis of Bute has been suggested, though there appears to be no real evidence of this. In 1913, Robert Thomson, proprietor of the island, bequeathed a pair of silver candlesticks and a Spanish oil painting depicting the descent of Christ to the church.



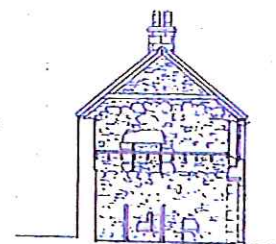
St Donnan's Church and presbytery, view from west.



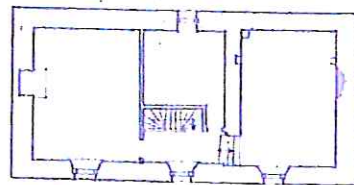
St Donnan's Church; section (pencil), showing altar

4. Howlin
 NM 4791 8955 NM 48NE 49

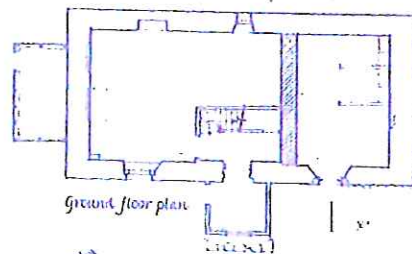
The house at Howlin was built by Lachlan Mackinnon and his son Hector after they acquired the tack in 1770, and this is said to have been the first house with lime mortar and glass windows on the island. It was probably thatched until the late 19th century when the gables were raised and the roof slated. The byre seems to have originally been a domestic room as the doorway is splayed like a window not like a door.



Section X-X



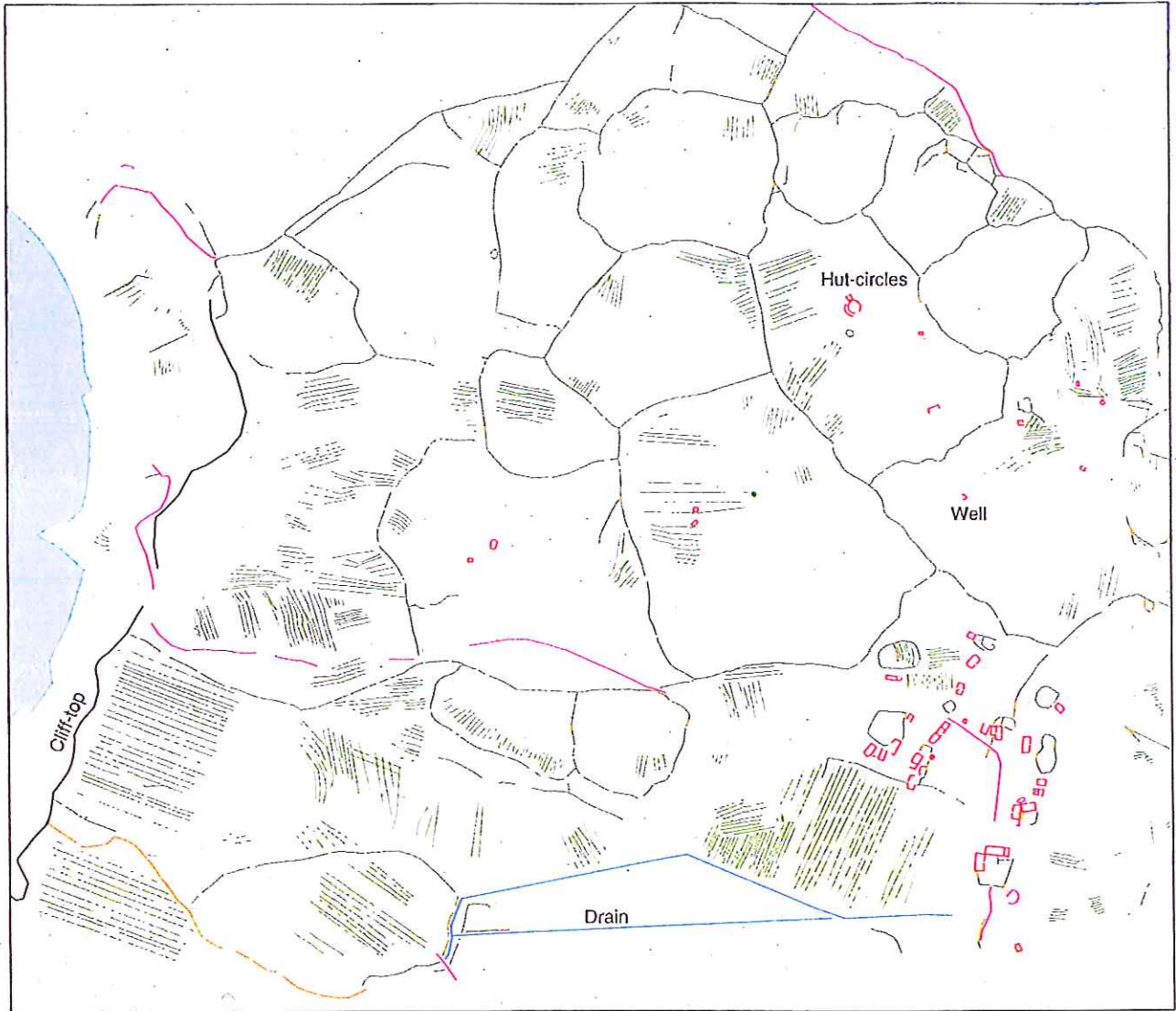
First floor plan



Ground floor plan



Howlin; view from south and pencil plans and section.



Five Pennies township and field-system; draft plot from GPS survey (scale 1:5000).

5. Five Pennies township and field-system NM 4785 8975 NM 48NE 39

The remains of this township stand to the north of Howlin farmhouse. The name presumably originates from the medieval assessment of Howlin, the earliest record of which is found in a charter of 1498, by which James IV granted '5 den. Terrarum de Houland' to Ranald Macallan, Captain of Clanranald.

The visible remains comprise the footings of about two dozen buildings, a corn-drying kiln and several small yards and enclosures at the edge of an extensive system of irregular fields. The buildings are all roughly rectangular, most of them having rounded external corners, and are constructed of turf faced inside and out with large stones and boulders, many of them set on edge. This building style, which was described by the Catholic Bishop Nicolson in 1700, is found throughout the surviving remains of pre-crofting townships on the island, and contrasts with the rubble-cored walls of the later period buildings. In one instance, close to the centre of the township, two buildings are joined along one side, an arrangement commonly found amongst blackhouses in the Western Isles, where byres and other ancillary buildings would often be added to one side of the main house, rather than at its end.

Around the township there are well-preserved fields of irregular plan, enclosed by substantial turf and stone dykes, within which fragments of rig cultivation can be traced. Their

wide variation in size and their irregular form strongly suggest a gradual, piecemeal process of expansion and enclosure of arable land. Field-systems such as this are common on the west coast of Scotland – examples have been recorded by RCAHMS at Achiltibuie and on Waternish, Skye. The Five Pennies field-system has probably survived because it lay outwith the Cleadale crofting settlement established immediately to the south in 1809, where only fragments of a comparable system can be seen today. Robert Dodgshon has argued that such field-systems are a relict of a pre-feudal regime of landholding, superseded, perhaps during the late-medieval period, by a runrig system of open fields held by joint tenants who regularly re-allocated land amongst themselves. However, it could also be argued that a runrig system is not incompatible with the enclosure of areas of land, which might have been necessary to control stock movements, particularly under what Dodgshon has called a 'grass-arable' cropping regime. By this he means that part of the arable was cropped for two to four years before being abandoned to grass. Under such a regime, manuring by stock during the fallow years would probably have required a system of dykes to control the folding and manuring process.

6. Hut-circles, Howlin

NM 4774 9004 NM49SE 2

These two hut-circles, one superimposed on the other, stand on a slight rise within enclosed fields to the north of Five Pennies township. The later hut-circle, which has made use of the north-east arc of the wall of the earlier one, measures 8m in diameter within a rubble wall 1.2m thick and 0.5m high. The entrance was probably on the south-south-east, where there is now a wide gap in the wall. The earlier hut-circle was slightly larger, measuring 13.3m from east to west over a wall now spread to 2m in thickness. A small subrectangular hut has been built against the outer face of the earlier hut-circle on the north-west.



Hut-circles, Howlin; pencil plan.

7. Eigg Lodge & grounds

NM 4789 8421 NM 48SE 25

NB. Five of the early medieval cross-slabs from St Donnan's Church have been mounted in the porch of the Lodge. These are described under No.12 (pp 22-24).

The present Eigg Lodge, constructed in 1927 is the fourth principal or owner's residence on the island. In 1827 Hugh MacPherson bought Eigg from George MacDonald of Clanranald, and he adapted and extended a pair of cottages known as Nead-na-Feannaige (the Crows Nest). This house lay to the south of the present lodge. His son Norman planted a large area of trees around the lodge from 1854, to promote pheasant breeding. These in turn provided shelter for the unique gardens that now surround the present lodge.

Robert Lawrence Thomson MacEwen bought Eigg as well as Muck and the Strathaird Estate in Skye in 1896. Robert Thomson, as he preferred to be known, built a new larger lodge soon after he acquired the island. It probably incorporated part of the earlier building and retained its name. As yet, the only record of this building is on the Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey map (published 1903). Thomson's son decided to sell Eigg in 1916 to the wealthy tenant who had leased the island since his father's death in 1913, the shipping magnate Sir William Petersen. Nead-na-Feannaige had mysteriously burnt down, which may have prompted the sale.

Sir William employed James B Dunn, 14 Frederick Street, Edinburgh, to design a spacious new lodge on a more prominent site to the north of the previous house, though still within the Victorian plantation. The drawings, dated December



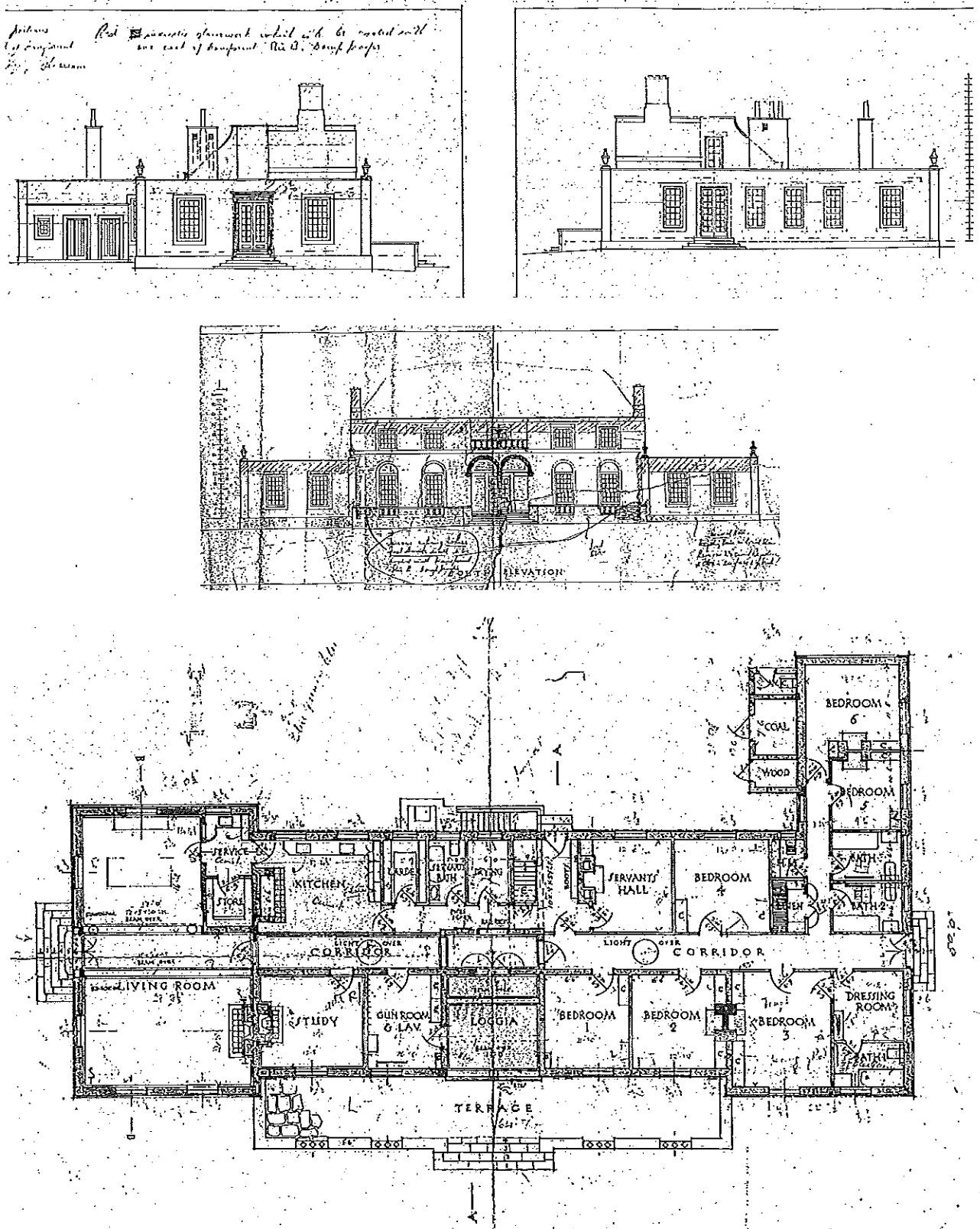
Eigg Lodge; view from south-east.



Sketch of Eigg Lodge by Robert Mauchlen.

1920, survive in the Mauchlen and Weightman Archive. Spiers Ltd. of Blythwood Square, Glasgow suppliers of pre-fabricated buildings, were the contractors. The new house, known as the White Lodge, was timber framed with a prominent tower, and was by far the biggest residence ever constructed on Eigg. A factor's house was also built, now known as Gardener's Cottage. The Lodge, however, did not last long; in 1925 the tower began to buckle and bend and in the same year it was destroyed in a catastrophic fire. Sir William died a few months later.

The island was sold to the Rt. Hon. Walter Runciman MP in 1925. He was another shipping magnate and an acquaintance of Sir William's who had received lavish hospitality at the White Lodge. The Runcimans, who came from the north-east of England, employed the Newcastle firm of Mauchlen and Weightman to design their new Lodge. The architects had worked extensively for the Runcimans on their English properties, adopting a late arts and crafts style in the Lutyens tradition. Their adoption of a more striking moderne style



Eigg Lodge; elevations and ground floor plan (Mauchlen and Weightman).

combining flat roofs and white walls for this new building is probably the influence of Walter's son Steven. The design appears to have been finalised by February 1926 eleven years before its closest Scottish parallel, Gribloch, Kippen, Stirlingshire, by Basil Spence. The site chosen was the levelled site of the previous lodge making use of the existing platform and mature landscape. The cellar of the earlier building was adapted. The sheltered site allowed the creation of the spectacular gardens. Sir Steven Runciman recalled that he had

been greatly influenced by Osgood MacKenzie's gardens at Inverewe. Within the grounds, on the east side of the drive and a little way south of the Lodge, there is a prehistoric burial cairn, modified as a garden feature.

The original design proposed a very modern open-plan living room and dining room, but was later altered to provide the more traditional separation between these rooms. The house is built of cavity walled brick and the roof was covered in bitumastic felt.

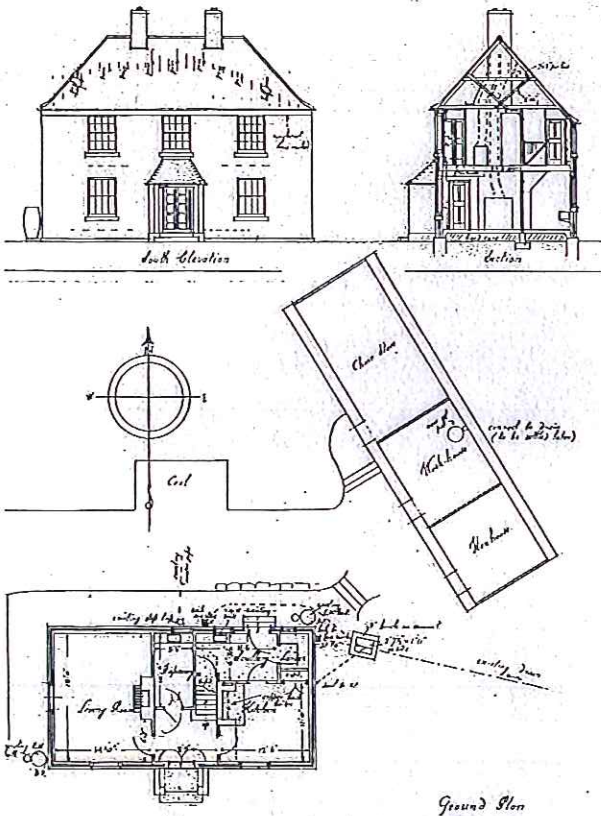
The central loggia leads both to the front door and the gunroom. A central north-south corridor provides access to most of the rooms. The six principal bedrooms, including the master suite with its dressing room and bathroom, lie to the north and extend into the west wing. To the south, beyond the gunroom, is the study and then the large living room, which opens into the dining room. These latter rooms enjoy a southerly aspect and direct access to the rose garden. To the west of the corridor lies the service accommodation with the four servants' bedrooms on the first floor.

The flat roof presented problems from the start, with major applications of bitumastic felt in 1929 and 1932. One of the principal problems seems to have been waterproofing the junction between the chimneystacks and the flat roof of the central block. In 1935 Mauchlen and Weightman were called back to design a new pitched roof over the central raised block. The new hipped roof was covered in Norwegian Blue/Green slates. This roof gives the building a completely different aspect, drawing parallels with other 1930's villas such as Leslie Graham MacDougall's Sron Garbh in West Linton, Peeblesshire.

The lodge has been little altered and the drawings for all the original fixtures and fittings, including wardrobes, dressers, gunroom cabinets etc., survive in the Mauchlen and Weightman Archive.

The Crow's Nest, NM 4804 8394

This house, designed by Mauchlen and Weightman and named after the first two lodges, was built in 1929 for the use of the island doctor Dr Martha Devon. The large porch provided a waiting room and the narrow central room was fitted out as a dispensary.



The Crow's Nest; elevation, section and plan (Mauchlen and Weightman).

The Ceilidh Hall, NM 4790 8399

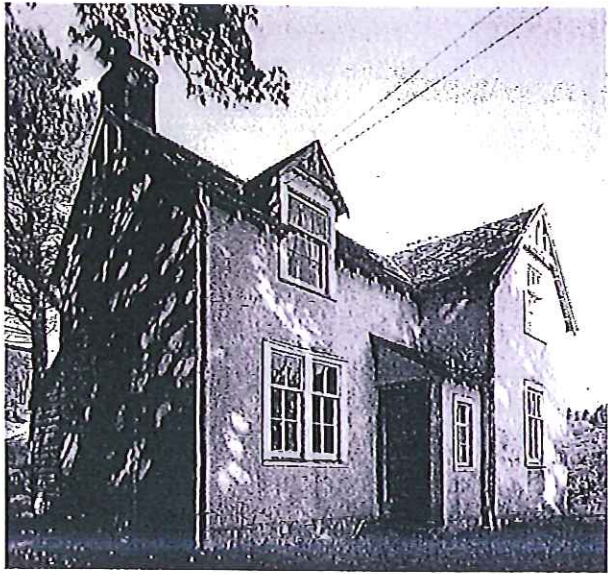
The Runcimans built this pre-fabricated hall for dances and social gatherings. It also provided a useful space for the drying of laundry.



The Ceilidh Hall; view from north-east.

Gardener's Cottage, NM 4785 8431

Gardener's Cottage is the only surviving building from the Petersen period. It is contemporary with the 1920 lodge and shows the relatively flimsy timber frame construction. It was originally built for the factor presumably to Dunn's design and built by Spiers.



Gardener's Cottage; view from south-east.

8. 'Shetland-type' house, Galmisdale

NM 4777 8345 NM 48SE 33

This oval building is situated on a terrace at the edge of later rig cultivation. It measures 8m in length by 4.3m in breadth within a wall 2m thick, faced both inside and out with large stones. The entrance, 2.1m wide, is at the east end, flanked by the remains of a flat façade. An upright stone stands on each side of the entrance at its outer edge, immediately in front of the façade, but it is not clear whether these are original features. A subrectangular cell built onto the outer face of the S wall, and measuring internally 6m by 2.5m is probably a much later structure.

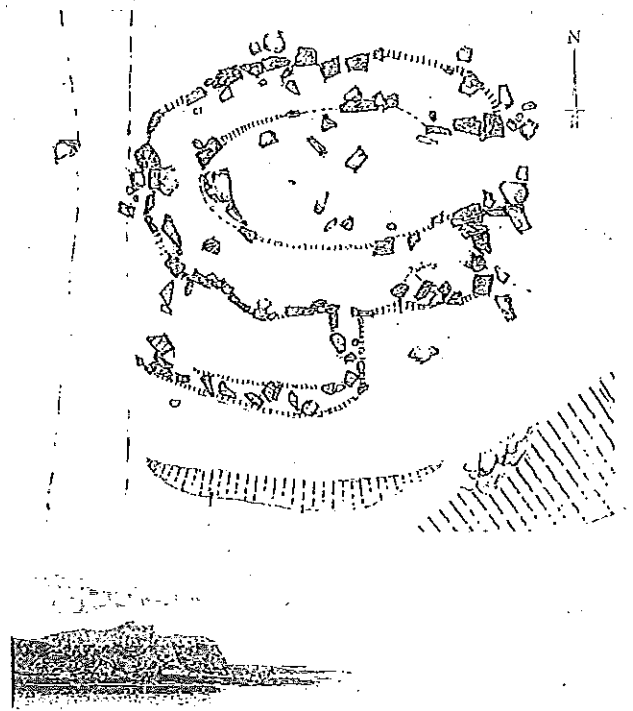
The closest parallels for this building are to be found amongst the oval prehistoric houses on Shetland, with which it shares many characteristics. The thick, stone-faced walls with an entrance at one end are defining features of the Shetland

houses. Many of them (e.g. Stanydale Temple, Benie Hoose, and Sumburgh) have stone facades and one site (Loch of Collaster) features a pair of boulders outside the entrance (admittedly set at a distance of 1m from the outer wall face, but nevertheless reminiscent of the stones at Galmisdale). Most of the Shetland houses have small cells or alcoves set into their walls; no such features can be identified at Galmisdale, though most of the inner facing stones are missing and it may be that small cells would be revealed by excavation. One problem with identifying the Galmisdale building as a house, though, is the width of its entrance. A possible answer is that there was a substantial timber component. At Scord of Brouster the entrance measured 1.3m in width, but the excavator identified two possible post-holes which may have narrowed the doorway; a similar arrangement may be postulated at Galmisdale. The earliest dates from the oval houses of Shetland come from House 1 at Scord of Brouster, constructed in the late Neolithic, around 3000 BC, but the form continues in use into the Bronze Age, and with variations, into late prehistory.

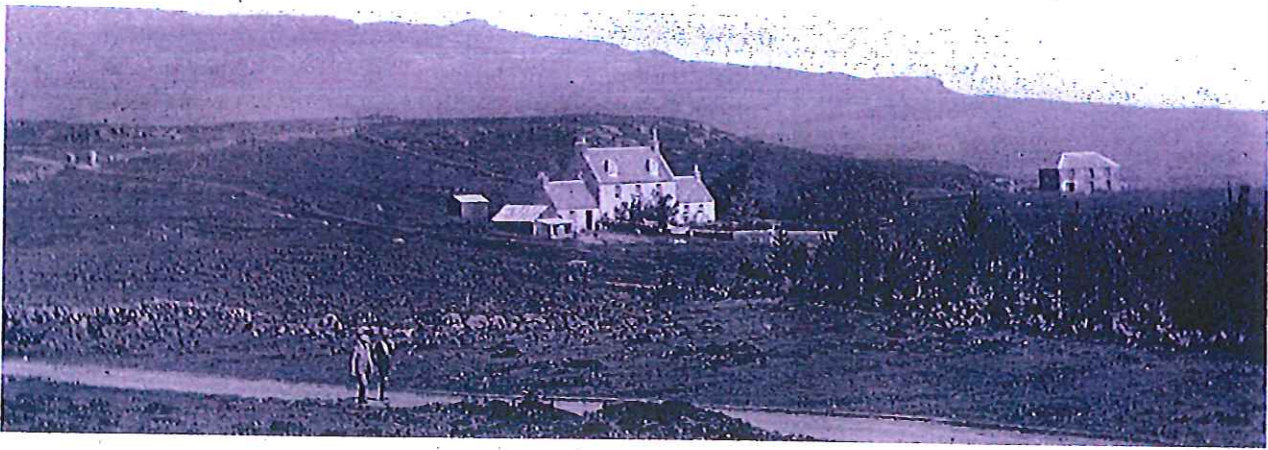
While houses of this type are largely a Shetland phenomenon, one prehistoric building with a generally similar ground plan has been recorded in the Outer Hebrides. This was an oval structure, discovered in sand dunes at Northton on Harris, which measured internally 8.5m by 4.2m. Occupation of the house was associated with Beaker pottery, and a single C-14 date of 3080 +/- 150BC was obtained.

9. Uamh Fhraing (The Massacre Cave) NM 4749 8352 NM48SE 20

This sea cave has achieved notoriety as the site of one of the more gruesome massacres of the two centuries of disorder that followed the collapse of the Lordship of the Isles in the 1490s. The cave is entered by a low narrow passage (whose entrance was apparently formerly concealed behind a waterfall) before broadening out into a cavern about 70m long. The traditional date for the massacre is 1577, during a violent feud between the Clanranald MacDonalids and the MacLeods of Harris. Tradition relates that a force of MacLeods was sighted sailing from Skye, prompting almost the entire population of Eigg to retreat to the cave. After three days of fruitless searching the MacLeods retired, but returned after spotting a scout, sent out from the cave. Following his footsteps they reached the cave entrance, where they lit a huge fire, suffocating all those inside. The earliest reference to the event is to be found in a late 16th-century *Description of the Isles of Scotland*, which claims that 395 people were killed. It seems the bodies were never retrieved, as 200 years later the writer of the *Statistical Account* records that about forty skulls remained. In the early 19th century the cave became a popular tourist attraction, many visitors, including Sir Walter Scott, carrying off skulls as souvenirs. Eventually the parish priest removed the remaining bones for burial, though a fragment of skull was found as recently as 1979.



'Shetland-type' house, Galmisdale; pencil plan and view from north-west.



The Manse and the Glebe Barn; view from south-west in 1913.

Thursday 26 September

10. The Manse and the Glebe Barn

NM 4822 8518 NM48NE 29

In 1720, the parish of the Small Isles was detached from Strathswordale on Skye, to which the medieval parishes of Eigg and Canna had been joined in the 16th century. The minister resided on Rum before moving to Braes, to the north of Kildonnan, in the 1750s, moving again thirty years later when the farm of Sandaveg was granted to the church, forming what was reputed to be the most extensive glebe in Scotland.

The fine, prominent house was completed in 1790, and must have been a striking landmark at the time, a symbol of the authority of the established religion over what was very much a Catholic island. It was enlarged in 1889 when the flanking wings and dormers were added. The ground floor floors have been removed during an abortive programme of restoration begun in the late 1980s. The house however remains furnished on the upper floors and still in the ownership of Mr. Schellenberg.

The barn was constructed in 1830, and was renovated and converted to a field study centre and hostel in 1999.

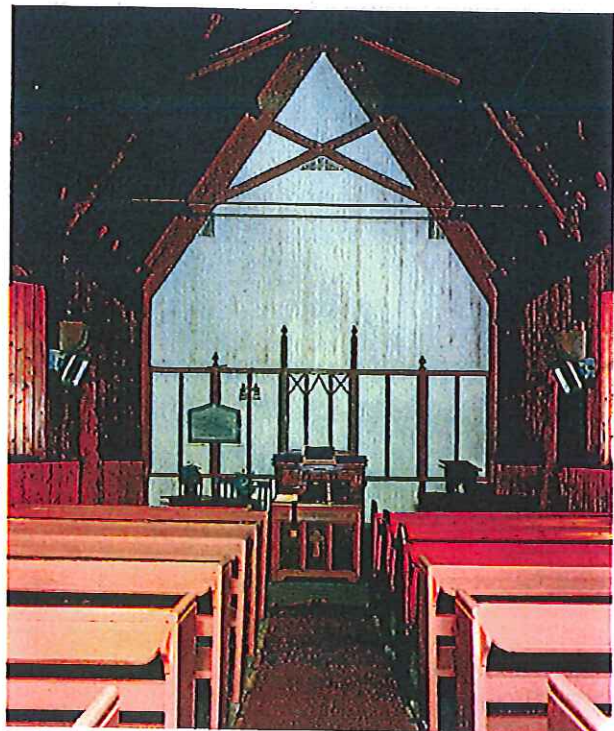
11. Church of Scotland

NM4808 8550 NM 48NE 37

This simple rectangular church was built in 1862, replacing the schoolhouse as the place of worship. It is built of local



Church of Scotland; view from east.



Church of Scotland; interior.

freestone under a Ballachulish slate roof, buttressed at the corners and lit with unadorned lancet windows. The interior is lined with pine and adorned with quotations from the scriptures in Gaelic and English. Norman MacPherson, the island's proprietor and principal heritor, provided a new set of communion plate. On completion it was described as 'exceedingly nice in every way simple and neat'.



St Donnan's Church and cross-shaft; view from south-east.

12. St Donnan's Church, cross-slabs and site of monastery
 NM 4885 8536 NM 48NE 19 & 24

The monastery of Eigg was founded by Donnan, who, with his companions, was martyred in 617. The death of a later abbot, Eogan, is recorded in 725 and that of Cummine, a *religiosus* or anchorite, in 752. There are no visible traces of this early monastery, but it was probably in the same area as the medieval church. The present ruined church is probably of late 15th- or 16th-century date, and MacDonald tradition credits John of Moidart, Captain of Clanranald from c.1529 until his death in 1584, with its construction. Certainly there was a parish church on the island in 1549, recorded by Dean Munro. By the 1620s, however, it was roofless.

The building is a simple rectangle, measuring 15.5m by 5.5m within walls that, apart from the E gable, are largely complete. There is a window towards the east end of each side wall, and there has probably been another window in the east gable. The doorway, which has been robbed of its quoins and of any decorated stonework, is towards the west end of the south wall. The principal feature within the church is an arched tomb-recess in the north wall, at the back of which there are two panels, the upper bearing the date 1641, the lower featuring a version of the Clanranald coat of arms. Affixed to the W wall of the church is a relief figure featuring the head and torso of a figure with hands joined at the navel. This is sometimes referred to as a Sheela-na-Gig, though it may simply be a post-medieval grave-slab. The floor of the church, which is 0.6m above the surrounding ground level, is covered with grave slabs. Close to the centre there is a re-erected cross-slab, described below (no.5). At its foot there is a broken schist slab, repaired with concrete and measuring 2.17m in length. It is badly eroded but bears traces of scroll decoration and animal figures. A fragment of schist set into the ground as a grave marker 4m to the E has similar decoration and may have been part of this slab.

Outside the church, the burial-ground is still in use. The most prominent feature here is a schist cross-shaft, decorated with plant scrolls and animals and re-erected on a modern base. Steer and Bannerman ascribe this to the Iona school, grouping it with the late 14th century Campbeltown Cross and other 14th- and 15th-century carvings on Islay, Oronsay and at Inveraray. At its foot there is a modern reproduction of a cross head, based on the Oronsay cross.

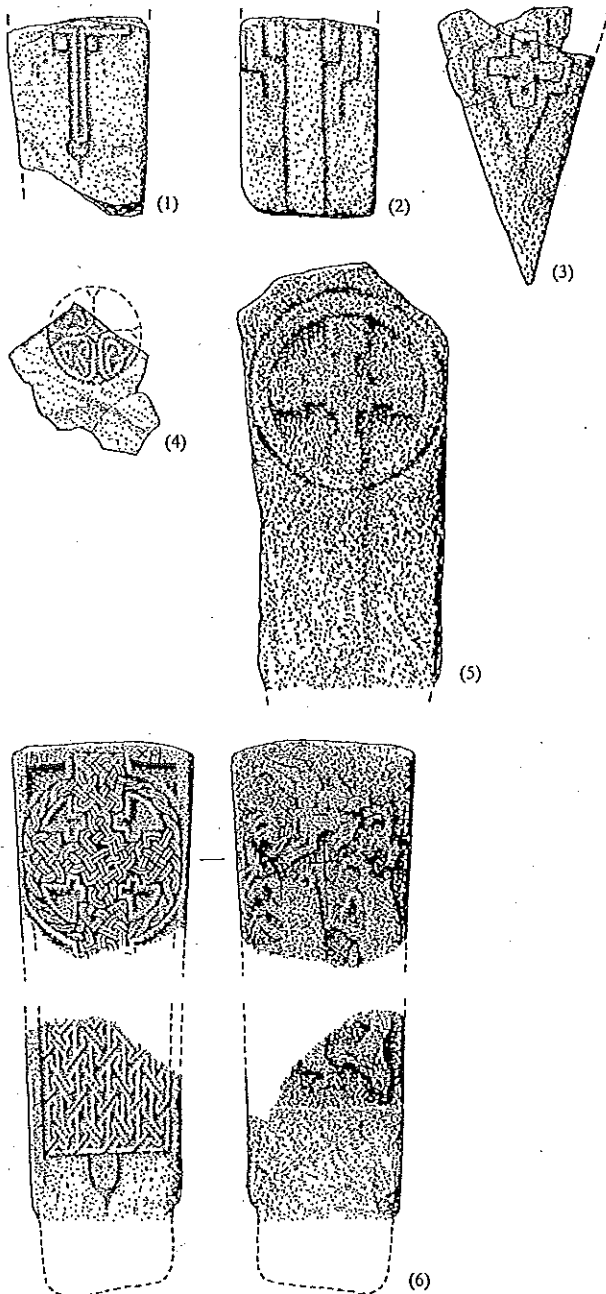
Early crosses

There are six early medieval stones on Eigg. Only one of them – (no.5 below, now re-erected within the church) is recorded in the *Inventory* of 1928; four others (nos. 1, 2, 4 and 6) are first recorded in 1933, when casts of them were donated to the National Museum by Walter Runciman. No record has been found of the circumstances of their discovery, but it is assumed that they were found in the area of the church. The final stone (no.3) was found in the churchyard about 1987. Apart from no.5, the stones have been mounted in the porch of the Lodge. The following descriptions are taken from *Early Medieval Sculpture in the West Highlands and Islands*.

(1) Tapered slab of dark grey mica-granulite, broken at the head and foot and measuring 0.39m by 0.29m and 50mm in thickness. It bears the shaft and part of the transom of what was presumably an outline Latin cross, having a grooved cross superimposed on it. The outline and the inner cross are defined by U-section grooves. The transom is incomplete, but it may have been thicker than the shaft since the groove of the upper arm is not visible. The outline cross has square pellets in the lower angles, and below the foot of the shaft there is a chapel-like expansion with an incised spike. There are triangular groups of small hollows flanking the shaft, but other similar hollows appear to be of natural origin.

(2) Rectangular slab of mica-granulite, broken at the head and foot and measuring 0.39m by 0.28m and 50mm in thickness. It bears the firmly grooved outline of a cross-shaft 80mm wide, flanked at the top by rectangles which may represent pellets in the angles of the cross-head. These in turn are enclosed by stepped bands which return to flank the shaft for 80mm and are open at the lower ends. The shaft is set left of the central axis and the left edge of the slab may have been trimmed for re-use.

(3) Triangular slab of buff flagstone, found in Kildonnan churchyard about 1987. It is broken into five pieces and lacks parts of the top, measuring 0.55m by about 0.33m in original width at the top and 25mm to 35mm in thickness. It bears an equal-armed outline cross, 0.15m across the arms, with small circular armpits and central hollows in the top and bottom arms. This is set in a cruciform outline, 0.19m across the arms, with a pointed foot reflecting that of the slab. The outlines have been defined by pecking and roughly polished.



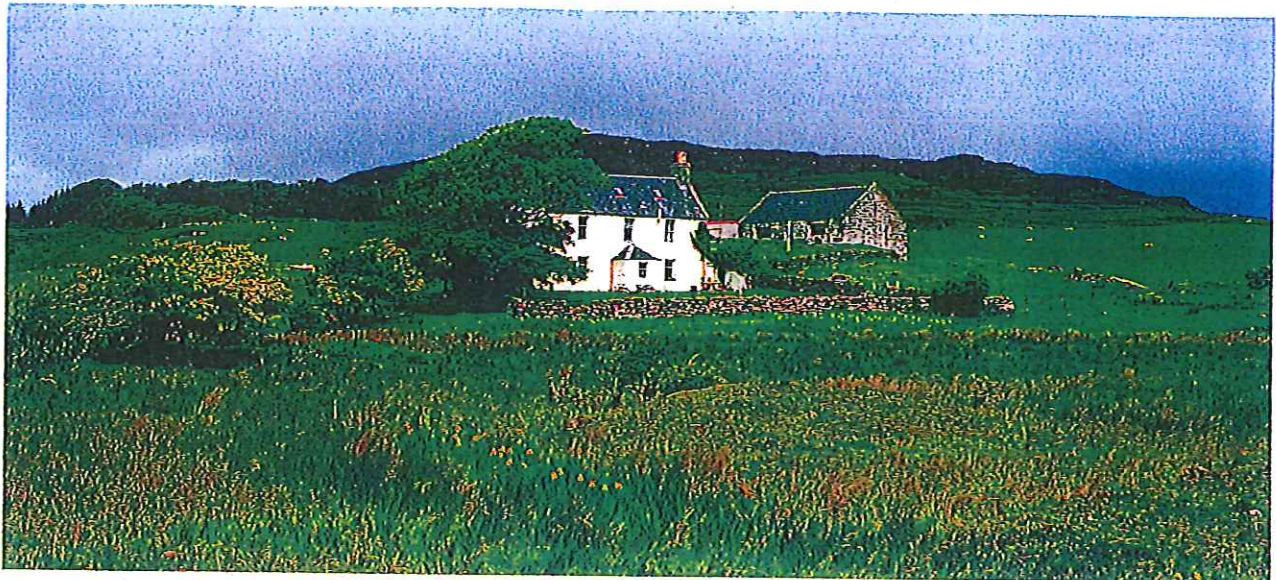
Early medieval cross-slabs from Kildonnán (scale 1:15).

(4) Fragment of a slab of pink Torridonian sandstone which was found near the W end of the church in 1931. It is broken across and preserves no original edges, measuring 0.31m by 0.29m. It has been carved by shallow pecking to expose a darker layer, and bears an equal-armed cross with rounded armpits within a circle which was 0.2m in original diameter. The arms have expanded terminals and axial grooves which bifurcate at the terminals and link at the centre of the cross-head to enclose a lozenge. The angles of the cross contain triquetra knots but one of these, which is enclosed by a moulding continuous with the adjacent cross-arms, is not correctly interlaced.

(5) Cross-slab of grey Torridonian flagstone, set in a modern concrete base in the church. It tapers slightly from an irregular top, measuring 0.86m in visible height by 0.42m in maximum width and 60mm in thickness. The E face bears in false relief an equal-armed cross-potent 0.31m across the arms, within a broad circular margin 0.39m in overall diameter. The cross has

square and slightly raised terminals and a square central expansion, and its edges are neatly bevelled down to a flat field.

(6) Two fragments of a cross-slab of reddish Torridonian flagstone, lacking the central portion, which has been made good with concrete, and slightly damaged at the edges. The sides are tapered and the original height can be estimated as about 0.95m above a narrower butt which is set into a modern sandstone base. The slab tapers in width from 0.36m at the slightly rounded top to 0.31m and is 75mm in thickness. On one face there is carved in false relief a ringed cross-potent whose short narrow shaft, now entirely lost, rose from a wide base-panel. At the top and sides there is a plain margin, 25mm to 30mm in width, into which the top arm of the cross and the sides of the ring are inset. The top margin is 40mm deep and flanking the cross-arm in incised half-uncial letters with pronounced serifs there are the Latin abbreviations: IHU XPI ('O Jesu. Of Christ'). The spandrels of the cross-head are plain, showing pocked tooling, and this technique of carving can be identified in other areas. The cross is defined by bead-mouldings with bevelled edges, which at the top and sides of the head merge with the margin. It has a ring 50mm wide and 0.35m in height but only 0.32m across the side-arms, which do not project. The top and bottom arms project 30mm beyond the ring, the return of the latter being visible at the left just above the break in the slab. The cross is of cross-potent type with a square central expansion, and is filled with double-beaded interlace which merges with the twist-pattern of the ring. The interspaces are sunk to the same 50mm depth as the spandrels, and are outlined with bead-mouldings. The interlace of the bottom arm ran into the lost shaft, which was about 75mm wide. The panel of diagonal key-pattern forming the base (variant of RA 974) measures 0.25m in width by 0.27m in incomplete height and appears to have lost only a few millimetres at the top left edge of the fragment. It is separated from the margin by a 10mm pocked groove which merges at the foot with the outline of a 'tenon' 70mm high and 50mm wide, terminating in a spike (cf. no.1). On the tenon itself and in the spaces flanking it there are three triangular groups of small pock-marks. The back of the slab is carved in low relief with a hunting-scene running down its vertical axis. The carving fills the width of the slab without any margin and has been about 0.72m long, a straight edge defining a plain area of 0.22m above the butt. The figures are formed by the smooth surface of the flagstone, with lightly pecked detail, and the background has been pecked with bevelled edges to a depth of no more than 3mm. At the left of the panel there is a bearded rider on a rearing horse. His right arm is outstretched behind him but there is no evidence of any weapon, and no horse-harness is shown. Above and below the horse's head there are dogs, the upper one pursuing a large ?bull whose head is lost at the break in the slab. The lower dog stands looking at a bird, probably an eagle, which turns its head to the left, and an animal with a curled tail, probably a boar but lacking its head, occupies the space below the ?bull. On the lower fragment there are parts of two animals, the upper one, a lion with mane and open jaws, being almost complete. Below it there is the head of a ?deer with two short antlers. On the vertical axis, filling the space between the horse and the two large animals, there is an incised cross with expanded terminals and an open central lozenge. It is 70mm high with the side-arms, 60mm in span, at mid-height, and the forked lower terminal is set on a shaft or pedestal 75mm high which rises from the angle of the ?bull's hoof. The cross is of an early form and resembles that at Bagh na h-Uamha, Rum, but it has presumably been added



Kildonnan farmhouse; view from south.

to the hunting-scene, which has strong Pictish connections. The form of the cross-head on face also has unusual features which are paralleled on symbol-less cross-slabs in eastern Scotland. The side-arms contained within the ring are found on a late cross-slab at Invergowrie, and interlace running into the ring without break on a cross-slab at Meigle. A late 9th-century date is likely for the cross, and probably for the hunting-scene which appears to be carved in a similar technique and conforms to the taper of the slab.

13. Kildonnan farmsteading

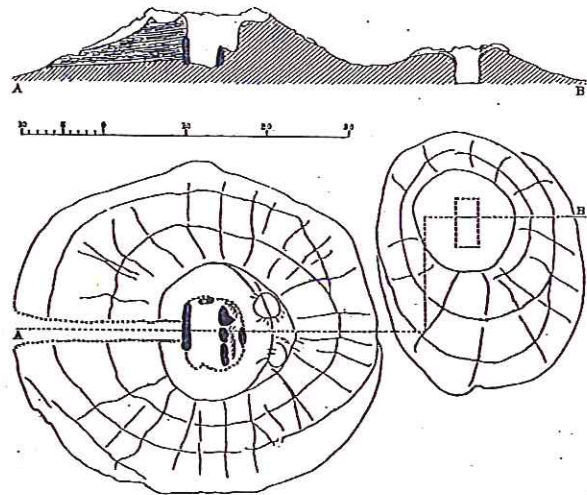
NM 4900 8502 NM 48NE 34

The farmhouse was built in the early 19th century and has altered little since it was drawn in 1858 in the MacPherson family sketchbook. An earlier long-house has been incorporated into the steading along with a Lochaber bank barn and a horse gin. The barn was converted into a pottery with hostel accommodation above, under the patronage of Mr. Schellenberg.

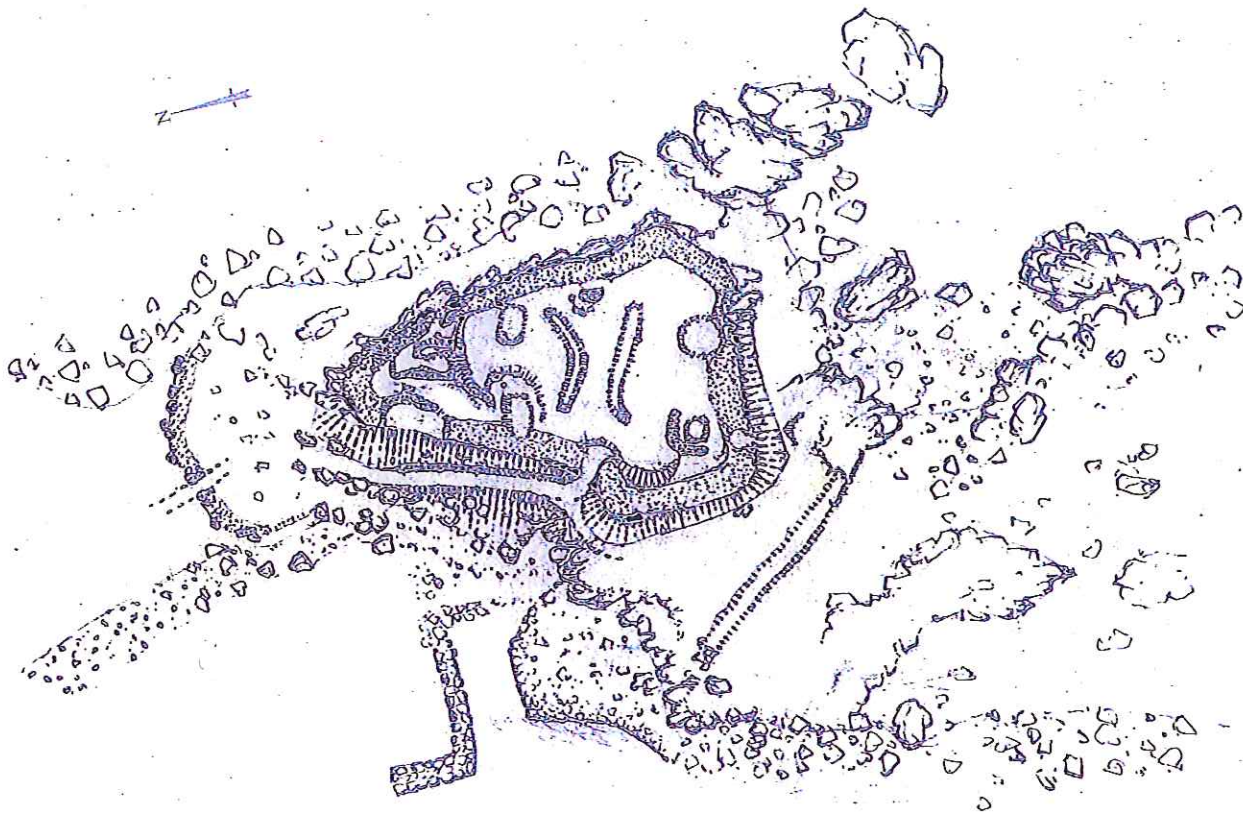
14. Kildonnan cairns & Viking burials

NM 4899 8488 NM 48 SE 2

These two cairns stand above the shore 130m south of Kildonnan farmhouse. Both cairns bear the scars of excavations conducted in 1875, which were clearly not backfilled. The remains of a stone cist are visible in the centre of the larger cairn. This cairn contained fragments of a sword, a silvered bronze penannular brooch, a whetstone, part of a leather belt with buckle and clasp, an iron axehead, fragments of woollen and linen cloth, an amber whorl, beads and fragments of bone. The cist appears to be in the condition in which it was found during the excavations, suggesting that it was an earlier burial mound despoiled during the insertion of the Viking burial. The smaller cairn produced another sword, a bronze brooch, a whetstone and amber and jet beads.



Cairns, Kildonnan; section and plan from 1875 excavations.



Fort, Rubha na Crannaig, Kildonnan; view from north-west and pencil plan.

15. Fort, Rubha na Crannaig, Kildonnan
 NM 4910 8476 NM 48SE 15

This small fort occupies a slight rise on a rocky promontory to the south of Kildonnan farmhouse. Roughly triangular on plan, it measures about 36m from north to south by up to 24m transversely within a wall now largely reduced to a grass-grown stony bank up to 5m thick. The outer face can be traced intermittently around the circuit of the wall, especially on the east and south, and two earthfast stones (one on the west, the other on the east) may be remnants of the inner face, suggesting an original wall thickness of about 3m. The entrance is now represented by a simple gap on the west, approached from the north by a narrow track.

Within the fort there are the confused remains of several structures and stretches of stony bank, including subrectangular depressions that may mark the sites of buildings. Where a relationship with the fort wall can be

shown, these features are all clearly later. Also within the fort, on the east side, there are the remains of a concrete plinth, presumably the foundations for modern signalling equipment.

About 20m north of the fort there are traces of a possible outwork, comprising the remnants of a wall drawn across the neck of the promontory, now reduced to little more than an arc of boulders about 20m in length, with a possible entrance halfway along its length. A length of turf bank to the south-west of the fort, crossing the promontory from north-west to south-east, is probably modern. Finally, at the south end of a shell beach below the fort on the west, there is a small drystone pier, constructed in the late 19th century by the tenant of Kildonnan, who maintained a profitable business exporting potatoes to the mainland.

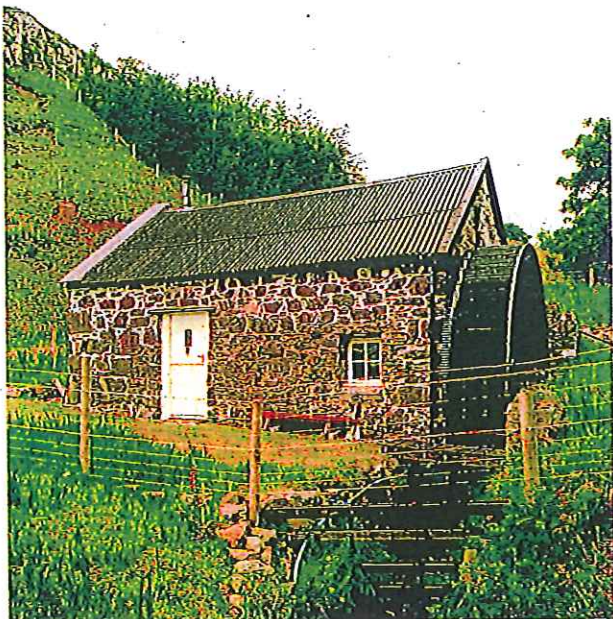
In recent years this fort has been suggested as the site of St Donnan's monastery. The idea appears to originate in the speculations of an Ordnance Survey Archaeology Officer,

seeking a context for the later structures within the fort during a visit in 1972. In the absence of any hard evidence, however, it seems more prudent to assume that the monastery was located on the site now occupied by the ruins of the medieval church and its surrounding burial ground.

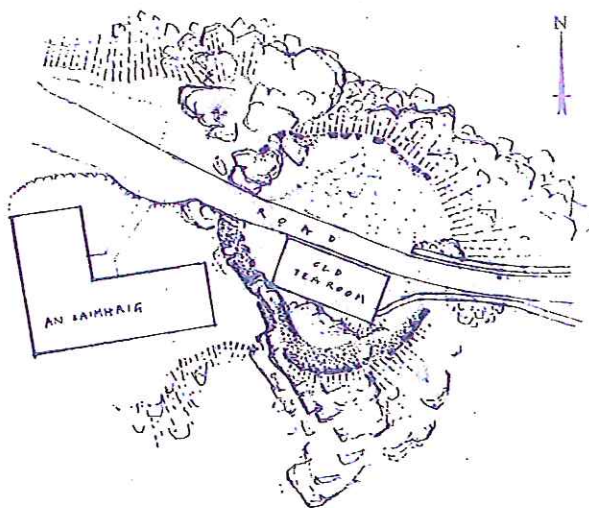
16. Kildonnán Mill

NM 4878 8519 NM 48NE 30

The principal feature of this rubble-built mill of early to mid 19th-century date is the large suspended breast-shot wheel at the east gable, which has rim drive. To power the wheel, water was diverted from the Allt Eas to the west of the Manse, from where a lade can be traced for about 600m across the hillside. Although converted into a holiday bothy in 1980, it still retains some of its internal machinery



Kildonnán Mill; view from south-east.



Dun, Galmisdale; pencil plan.

17. Dun, Galmisdale

NM 4844 8380 NM 48SE 1

This extensively robbed dun stands on Galmisdale Point, immediately above the modern pier. Kidney-shaped on plan, it has measured internally about 23m from north-west to south-east by about 20m transverse. The wall is best preserved on the south and south-west, where stretches of both inner and outer face, never more than one course high, can be seen; the wall here measures up to 2.8m in thickness. On the north, occasional grounders allow the line of the outer face to be traced, but on the east it has either been destroyed or masked by later disturbance. The road from the pier runs from east to west through the centre of the dun; on the south side of the road most of the interior is occupied by a former tearoom, a crenellated building constructed for Walter Runciman in the 1920s, while to the north of the road the whole interior has been levelled and is in use as a car park.

