

The Archaeological Sites
and Monuments of Scotland

29

Hoy and Waas
Orkney Islands Area

**The Archaeological Sites and Monuments of Scotland, 29
HOY AND WAAS
Orkney Islands Area**

An Archaeological Survey

by R G Lamb

This list of sites and monuments on Hoy and Waas, the sixth list for Orkney in this series, has been prepared by Dr R G Lamb, the Archaeological Officer of the Orkney Heritage Society. The archaeological survey of Orkney has been made possible by a generous annual grant to the Orkney Heritage Society by Occidental of Britain Inc., and the project is also supported by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and the Orkney Islands Council.

The introduction and the entries describing the monuments have been edited by Mr G S Maxwell and Dr J N G Ritchie of the staff of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland in order to bring them broadly into line with the format adopted for the Archaeological Sites and Monuments Series produced by the Commission. The introductory section dealing with military history has been contributed by Mr R Mowat, the industrial section by Mr G J Douglas and Mr G P Stell. The assistance of the following colleagues in the preparation of this List is gratefully acknowledged: Mrs Christine Allan, Mr J L Davidson, Mr G J Douglas, Mr I F C Fleming, Mrs L M Ferguson, Miss M McDonald, Mr R Mowat, Mrs D M Murray, Mr G P Stell and Mr J B Stevenson. Mrs L Linge, Scottish Development Department, Ancient Monuments Division, advised on the scheduled sites. In addition to his work on the typescript, Dr Ritchie also visited several sites in the field, and gave encouragement to the survey of the Whaness Burn complex. It was carried out with the help of Patience Atkinson, Kathleen Hogarth and Andi Ross, and special thanks are due to Keith Fairclough, Hoy Warden for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, who discovered and reported two new sites, No. 14 at Whaness Burn, and also No. 29, a site which would never have been found in the course of normal archaeological exploration. Mr Jamie Ashmore discovered and identified site No. 39 at Cantick Head. The special help of Mr J Cload, Hackness Battery, is gratefully acknowledged.

Field-work on Flotta was not possible in late 1988 nor could work on the island of Graemsay be undertaken; the results of future work will be available through the Orkney Sites and Monuments Record, 48 Junction Road, Kirkwall.

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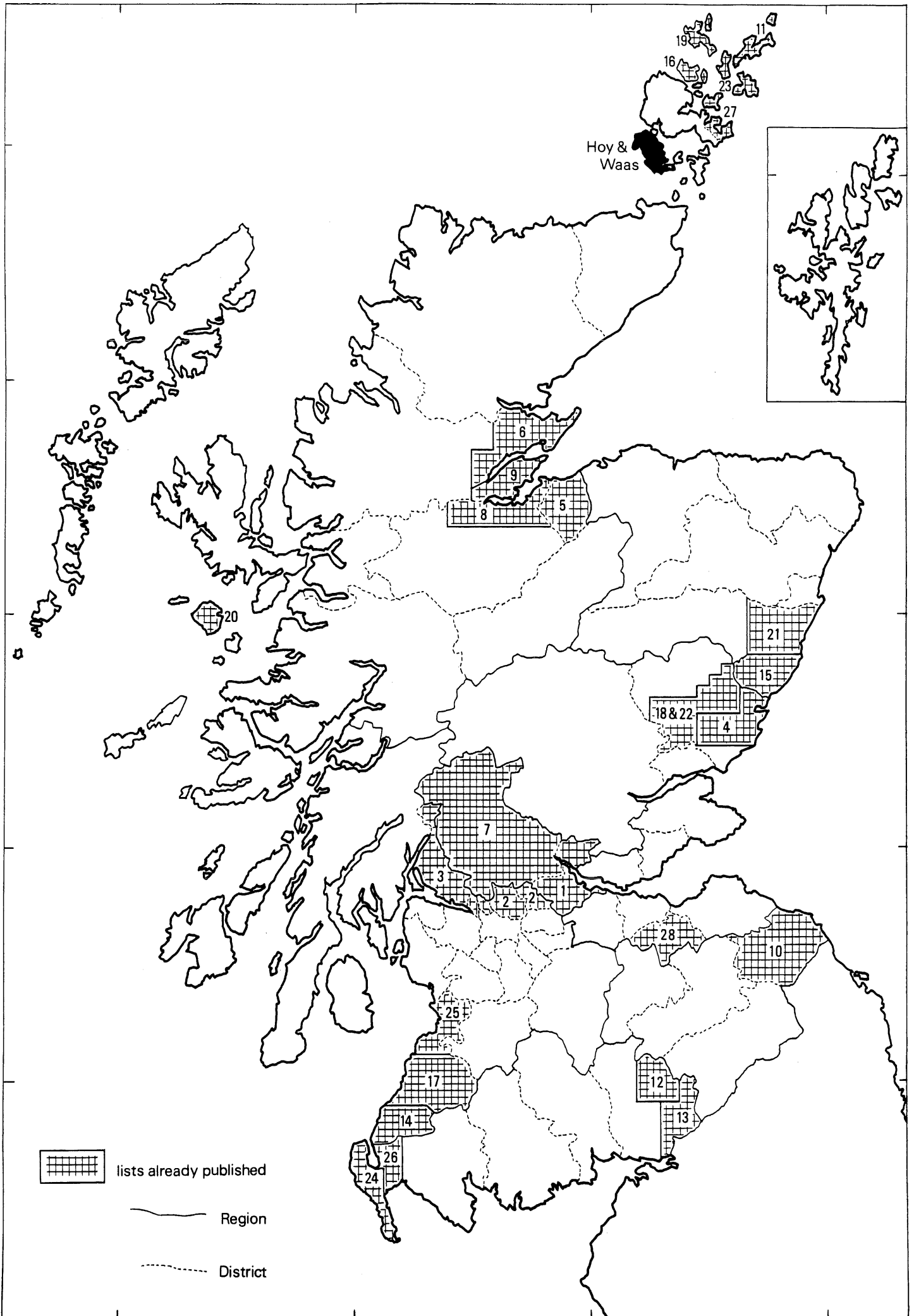
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NOTES An asterisk (*) indicates that the site has statutory protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979. Each entry is prefaced by a serial number (which facilitates use of the end maps), name, National Grid Reference, 1:10,000 map number followed by the serial number of the NMRS Record Card; where appropriate, the date of visit and a select bibliography follows, and the final entry for each site gives the number of the site record of the Orkney Sites and Monuments Record, 48 Junction Road, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1AG. This information, held both on card-index and on computer, provides greater detail about each site; in many cases there are complementary photographs. The computer system permits flexible use to suit a researcher's own needs. The record and photographs are duplicated and are available for consultation at —

The National Monuments Record of Scotland
6—7 Coates Place
Edinburgh EH3 7AA
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INTRODUCTION

High-Isle, Hoy, and Flat-Isle, Flotta, along with Graemsay, South Waas, and a number of uninhabited islands, form the western barrier between Scapa Flow and the Atlantic. The visitor who travels to Orkney in the *St O/a* west-about on a fair day will be treated to the drama of great cliffs rising vertically to heights of over a thousand feet, but if the winds are westerly and fierce, the ship will take the longer route through Scapa Flow, and the dominant impression on this eastern side of these islands is the inescapably pervasive memory of two twentieth-century World Wars. In these islands, conventional prehistoric and medieval archaeology — and there is a good deal which is of special interest — inevitably takes second place to the extensive remains of naval and military occupation.

There is frequent confusion over the use of the name Hoy, which is worth making plain at the start. This island-group is divided between two parishes, Hoy and Graemsay in the north and Waas and Flotta to the south; but the 'Hoy' in Hoy and Graemsay is not coterminous with the island of Hoy, referring in fact only to the northern portion of it. The parish boundary runs approximately west to east a little way north of Lyness — which is why the visitor newly arrived at Lyness pier and assuming himself now to be in Hoy, is surprised to be confronted by a signpost indicating 'Hoy' as a place still to be reached along the road. The island's inhabitants consistently use 'Hoy' in this restricted sense, and will confirm that Lyness is not in Hoy but in North Waas, which is that part of the parish of Waas and Flotta which occupies the southern half of Hoy Island; South Waas is a separate island, joined to North Waas by a sand tombolo. In the present publication, for simplicity's sake, the parish division is ignored and 'Hoy' and 'South Waas' refer to the islands.

For special reasons, this List departs on two matters of policy from the Orkney Lists which have preceded it. Firstly, it does not include the uninhabited islands of Switha, Fara, and Rysa Little; these have been exhaustively surveyed and published by the Bradford University team (Hunter *et al* 1982; 1984) and there would be little point in merely reproducing their excellent and highly detailed material in an attenuated form. Fara and Rysa Little have landscapes similar to adjacent parts of Hoy and are similarly deficient in prehistoric material, whereas Switha is remarkably rich, and echoes the concentrations of prehistoric monuments found along the Pentland Firth seaboard, exemplified by those in the vicinity of Cantick Head and on the southern side of the Brims peninsula.

The second departure is the omission of twentieth-century military archaeology from the main inventory of the List itself. This material could be argued to be the most important in the area, but its quantity is so overwhelming that, if given proper treatment, it would fill a publication ten times the length of the present one. A glance at the Bradford surveys of Fara and Rysa Little will show both how ubiquitous it is, and also how surprisingly difficult it is now to identify the functions of many structures. Preserved official documentation, even of such major installations as coastal defence batteries, turns out to be less than one might have expected, and there is many a concrete hut-foundation or emplacement of which the only information as to its use resides in the memories of those who yet survive from the war era. The complete inventory of all wartime monuments would require several years' full-time work — in the field, in archives in London, and among war veterans dispersed all over Britain — by someone with specialist military knowledge, which the present writer does not have. No systematic attempt at this is made in the present publication, which offers instead an extended Introduction, aiming rather to provide the global historical perspective necessary to explain why Scapa Flow suddenly assumed world importance than to give detailed descriptions of more than a few outstanding monuments.

Prehistoric landscape problems in Hoy

Although most of Hoy is higher than the 60m level which is approximately the upper limit of prehistoric settlement under optimum conditions in Orkney, there are considerable moorland areas below 60m, and it remains a question whether these areas contain sub-peat dykes and other traces of Bronze Age agricultural activity which are recognizable under superficially similar conditions in Eday. It is possible for such traces to exist and to be so deeply peat-covered as to be undetectable; this is the case in the central part of Eday (RCAMS 1984, 14, No. 43) where the existence of a very extensive complex is revealed only by occasional glimpses of heather-hidden stones. At Whaness

Burn, sub-peat dykes were detected only after the discovery of prehistoric enclosures gave encouragement to look really hard and long for them. Other apparently suitable areas of Hoy, such as the extreme south-west corner around Tor Ness, have been cursorily inspected, but only one prehistoric structure (No. 15) was discovered, and this on the coastal margin where the peat is thin; a few metres inland, the remains are not present. The impression stands, however, that prehistoric settlement on subsequently degraded land is less general in Hoy than in Eday, the island which most obviously invites comparison.

Whaness Burn (Nos. 10-14 and 22) more than makes up in interest for what is currently lacking elsewhere. For at least 2 km upstream from the bridge which carries the B9047 road, enough structures have been detected to suggest that all this part of the valley, on either side of the stream and possibly going up to the 60m contour, was once in agricultural use — a potential area of some 150 hectares. Not one of the sub-peat dykes is readily visible, and all those so far discovered would have escaped detection by anyone not walking directly over them; moreover, discovery is possible only in the springtime in drought conditions, when heather and bracken remain dormant and the dryness makes the peat shrink. Indeed, neither the sub-peat dykes nor the great mass of interesting detail, would ever have been found had it not been for the mischance of 1984, when members of a Boys' Brigade camp started a notorious fire which devastated much of northern Hoy. It did great damage to wildlife, both directly and by destruction of habitat, but could not have been more effective in its thorough clearance of the old woody heather around the Whaness Burn.

The features in the valley include two sites, Nos. 10 and 11, which can be called enclosed settlements; although structurally comparable with brochs and forts, they appear to represent a new category in Orkney's archaeology. The enclosures Nos. 12, 13 and 14 probably represent folds or pens for livestock; parallels for these exist (eg in North Ronaldsay, RCAMS 1980, p. 31, No. 231; in Rousay, RCAMS 1982, p. 27, No. 118; in Wyre, *ibid.*, p. 34, No. 163).

Enclosure No. 10 is by far the larger. Fold of Setter, Eday (RCAMS 1984, p. 16, No. 57) is comparable in overall size and in the massiveness of its wall, but it is too deeply buried in peat and overgrown with heather to reveal any further features. Whilsa Pund, Fetlar, Shetland (RCAMS 1946, iii, p. 61, No. 1228) is more obviously comparable in that its massive enclosure wall has internal perimeter features resembling those of No. 10; moreover, there are groups of prehistoric houses within the enclosed area. Unfortunately there is no plan of Whilsa Pund and no published account that does it justice. Photographs, taken by the writer (RGL) on a visit in 1970, which amply illustrate the character of the site, have been lodged in the NMRS.

If it occurred on a summit or on level ground in the West of Scotland, No. 10 might well be called a fort. A class of comparably massive enclosures not, however, evidently containing internal structures has emerged from RCAMS work in Argyll (eg RCAMS 1971, pp. 97-100, especially Nos. 248 and 253-4). However, No. 10 has a uniquely distinctive feature in its carefully inturned entrance which admits not a path, but the burn; and on the burn within the enclosure are possible fish weirs. If these could be definitely confirmed as such and shown to be contemporary with the enclosure (it is difficult to see how this could be achieved), this would imply that an aspect of the function of the enclosure was to control the use of the burn as a food resource.

Sub-peat dykes imply an agricultural system of the Bronze Age or possibly earlier, and, at No. 10, a Bronze Age date would fit the possible heel-shaped house adjoining the enclosure. Whilsa Pund is associated with a treb dyke, the Funzie Girt (Lamb 1983). The condition of so massive an enclosure wall, although the position can hardly be called defensive, would agree with a trend towards enclosed and nucleated settlements in the late Bronze to early Iron Age.

Enclosures like these may once have been commoner but would have been vulnerable to removal by later agriculture and would survive only in areas of degraded landscape. Shetland is more likely than Orkney to produce further examples. At the moment, the Whaness Burn complex is uniquely interesting and should be carefully safeguarded. The presence of settlement here, with the reservation that dating is uncertain, may be relevant to the location of the Dwarfie Stane (No. 2) which up to now has appeared to be a singularly and quite uncharacteristically isolated monument.

Naval, Maritime and Military Archaeology

The location of these islands on the windward side of Scapa Flow makes them the best possible support-base for ships anchored in their lee. Although now most remarkable for the hydrocarbon terminal on Flotta (Hewison 1985, 386-90), the Flow is best-known for its traditional role as a fleet anchorage controlling the shortest crossing to Scandinavia to the NE, and the exit from the Baltic and the North Sea to the S and SE.

Throughout the long drawn-out naval wars of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the timber and forest products of Scandinavia and N Russia were of extreme economic significance, while imported mast-timbers and Stockholm tar were important for ship-building and husbandry. Faced by the threat of a French *Guerre de course* against merchant trade and by the depredations of American privateers the Admiralty invoked the Compulsory Convoys Act of 1803 and introduced a system of escorted convoys (Marcus 1971, 370, 374, 388, 392-3), which assembled off Longhope (ND 31 91) under the protection of the two Martello towers (Nos. 28 and 59) and the battery No. 58. Although disused after 1815, these defences were refurbished during the American Civil War (1861-5) and the subsequent scare-threat of an American-funded 'Fenian navy'. In the Victorian period, however, British naval interests were almost exclusively in tropical waters, and Scapa Flow was a backwater.

This position changed dramatically in the early Edwardian years when the Flow grew rapidly in importance, in conjunction with Rosyth dockyard on the Forth, as the principal anchorage for the Grand Fleet, which was thus suitably placed to contain the rapidly-growing German High Seas Fleet. The Flow fulfilled this role throughout the First World War with short-lived breaks, mainly for forward deployment in response to raids on English East coast towns, and also supported the patrol vessels and the mine barrages across the S Norwegian Sea that isolated Germany from her colonies and external trade (Marder 1961-70, i, 420-6; ii, 64-70; Hewison 1985, 38-172). Although there were occasional incidents, the threat of direct attack was low, and coast-defence batteries covering booms, nets and minefields provided adequate defence. Most of the construction in this period was directed towards the logistic and technical support of the sophisticated and oil-fuelled ships of the period, and the onshore housing of their support personnel, who were initially accommodated in a variety of hulks. The pace of construction was so slow that the Lyness breakwater was completed only in 1919, shortly before retrenchment began (Burrows 1921, 10); the naval cemetery at Lyness (ND 302 945) is an evocative memorial to this period.

At the Armistice, the Flow was the only feasible place of internment for the High Seas Fleet and remained so until its scuttling in June 1919; the ships lay around Cava (ND c 32 99). After this event, there followed such clearance operations as the sale or removal of ordnance, weapons and buildings, the sweeping of the Norwegian Sea mine barrier and the salvage of German warships (Hewison 1985, 159-228).

In the Second World War, the pattern of the First largely repeated itself (Hewison 1985, 228-384), although the Flow became even more important as a base for warships supporting Russian convoys; it was in this period that most of the surviving remains were built. The threat of submarine and air attack was by now much greater, as was indicated by the sinking of HMS *Royal Oak* and repeated overflights by reconnaissance aircraft and occasional attacks. Although topography ruled out the construction of airfields in the hilly western islands, anti-aircraft artillery, searchlight and radar positions were built in strength and the remains of a fine example of this type of battery survive on Lyness Hill (ND 283 997). Concentrated coastal defences were established on Flotta to guard the main entrance through the Sound of Hoxa, but the best-preserved coastal batteries are those in isolated positions on Scad Head (HY 289 006), where a light railway provided access (Bowen 1966, 224) and at Skerry Battery (HY 2376 0520) on Bu Farm (Hamilton-Baillie 1979). The frequent sight of converted or ruinous accommodation block huts and of such buildings as the garrison theatres at Lyness (ND 3075 9227) and on Flotta indicates the dramatic increase in the numbers of military personnel and civilian labourers.

The support facilities of Lyness are currently under development as an Orkney County Council museum project which is centred around the only survivor of the 16 furnace fuel oil tanks (ND 3091 9463) together with the underground fuel tanks of 1944 (which are entered through tunnels at ND 2854 9385 and ND 2912 9463) and their various

control and support buildings. Three German battleships, four cruisers and some smaller ships provide sport diving opportunities off Cava (Ferguson 1985, 37-54). Although there has been no permanent naval presence since 1957, NATO warships visit the Flow regularly during exercises.

Industrial Archaeology

In May 1987 several sites of industrial and military interest were recorded on Hoy by Mr G J Douglas, RCAMS; more detailed notes and illustrations are available in NMRS.

Hall of Setter, near North Ness Steading, house, horse-powered threshing machine and grain-drying kiln.	ND 299 920
Royal Navy oil terminal, Lyness Details of boiler, pump house, oil storage tank and pipe line fittings.	ND 31 94
Mill of Hoy, North Hoy Water-powered grain mill.	HY 236 039
Orgil, North Hoy Water-powered threshing-machine and steading.	HY 231 038
Doonatown, Lyness Roller feed threshing-machine.	ND 306 921
Gunners' Training Room, Lyness Second World War installation.	ND 317 934
Lyness Large barge and crane.	ND 317 938
Lyness Hand crane and pier	ND 310 942
Lyness Oil terminal mobile steam crane.	ND 31 94
Risa Mill, Lyness Water-powered grain mill.	ND 299 954
Lyness Threshing machine, portable full dresser mobile machine.	ND 304 933
Crockness Drying-kiln and steading.	ND 322 930
Lyness Second World War Cinema and Hall.	ND 307 922
Quarry, Hurliness Portable stone crusher and details of plant at quarry.	ND 280 892
Ferryhouse Threshing-machine.	ND 289 883
Old Customs House, Longhope	ND 307 906
Wateringhouse Water-powered threshing-machine and barn.	ND 308 907
Quoys Water-powered threshing machine and barn.	HY 241 032
North Hoy Grain-drying kiln and steading details.	HY 237 040
Rackwick Hand-powered threshing-machine.	ND 202 991

ISLAND OF HOY

CHAMBERED TOMBS

- 1 Duncan's Geo ND 2879 8781 ND 28 NE 5
On a cliff-promontory some 5m in height on the S side of the Brims peninsula is a small, probably tripartite, chambered tomb, marked by four visible orthostats of which one, 1.0m long and 0.4m high, is identifiable as the back-slab. The mound itself is indistinct at the landward E end, where the entrance must have been, but poised over the cliff-faces at the W end, and on the S side, masonry outer faces are clearly visible. The structure measures at least 9.2m from E to W by 4.9m from N to S. *August 1987*
OR 1929

- 2 Dwarfie Stane (ORK 13) * HY 2433 0041 HY 20 SW 8
This was the monument most frequently mentioned by early travellers in Orkney, beginning with Jo Ben in the sixteenth century; it was most successfully popularised by Sir Walter Scott in 'The Pirate'. Johnston's paper is a good source for early references. The Stone, a natural sandstone block at the foot of the hamars S of the Rackwick road, is Britain's sole example of a rock-cut Neolithic tomb. An entrance in the S face opens into a short passage giving access to two small chambers. A stone lying immediately outside the doorway is the right size and shape to have originally closed the passage; a hole made at some time in the passage roof has recently been made good by SDD.

Most writers retail versions of folklore relating to the Stone; a particularly detailed account, of uncertain provenance, appears in *Chambers Journal* for 1864. Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century graffiti are a notable feature, prominent being those by Major William Mounsey, a former British spy in Afghanistan and Persia; his name with the date 1850 appears on the south face, above a line of beautiful Persian calligraphy which reads 'I have sat two nights and so learnt patience' – in reference to Mounsey's experience of the Hoy midges when he camped at the Stone. The translation has kindly been provided by Dr G R Sabri-Tabrizi, Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Edinburgh.

30m ESE of the Stone is another big boulder which seems to have been intended as a closing stone; it measures 1.55m by 1.05m by 0.8m and is shaped at one end into a 'stopper' form more neatly than the shaping of the closing stone now in front of the doorway. In a line downslope N by W from the tomb, at 11m, 17m and 19m from it, are massive edge-set boulders. The positioning of these may be fortuitous, but they could conceivably be remnants of an alignment running up to the Stone. *July 1985*
'Jo Ben' in Barry 1805, 445-6; Wallace 1700, 51-2; Martin 1716, 364; Scott 1822, ii, 133-6; anon. 1864; Johnston 1896; Calder and Macdonald 1936; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 110-12, No.385; Henshall 1963, 87, 196-7; OR 1923.

CAIRN

- 3 Tuack of the Witter HY 2234 0464 HY 20 SW 5
The circular mound, 8m in diameter and 0.7m high, on the summit of the Witter (121m OD), shows no diagnostic features, but it is certainly artificial and its position suggests a burial mound. *August 1987*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 112, No. 388; OR 1921.

CIST

- 4 Leekhouse HY 2432 0379 HY 20 SW 2
Only an indefinable rise in cultivated ground marks a spot still locally known as an ancient burial ground and recorded in 1876 as find-spot of a cist and human remains. *August 1987*
Name Book, Orkney, No. 10, p. 55; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 112, No. 389; OR 1916.

STANDING STONE

- 5 Whiteglen HY 2435 0221 HY 20 SW 3
 'A small unrecorded standing stone', noted in 1880 immediately below the road, had been removed, leaving no trace, before the 1903 map revision. Name Book, Orkney, No. 10, p. 74; OS six-inch sheet cxii, 1903; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 112, No. 390; OR 1917.

BURNT MOUND

- 6 Hillock of Salwick ND 2876 8869 ND 28 NE 1
 On the hillside above Brims is a conical grass-covered burnt mound 11m in diameter and 2m high. *June 1967*
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 341, No. 1013; OR 1928.

FORT

- 7 Brough of Braebister HY 2130 0522 HY 20 NW 20
 The narrow headland formed between deep geos at the mouth of Braebister Burn has its approach blocked by a steep, elongated bank 3.5m high and 3.5m broad, running across the isthmus. Occasional disconnected lengths of wall-face and some erect slabs are visible; the underlying structure may be of 'blockhouse' type. Immediately behind it, at the clifftop on the S side, is a limpet-shell midden, and the remaining area of the promontory summit is occupied by rectilinear slab-structures barely protruding above the turf. *July 1970*
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 109, No. 380; Lamb 1980, 34, 76; OR 1912.

BROCHS

- 8 Green Hill of Quoyness HY 2500 0284 HY 20 SW 7
 Half of the broch mound at Greenhill farm has now been removed by coastal erosion; it now measures 18m in width and 25m in length along the shore section, standing some 4m high. Finds of cists and burials, apparently representing post-broch use of the mound, were reported last century, and human bones were recorded in 1979 at the NW fringe of the mound, where a storm had exposed them in dense-packed rubble representing tumble from the broch. *June 1979*
 Name Book, Orkney, No. 10, p. 78; Cursiter 1923, 52; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 108-9, No. 379; OR 105.
- 9 The Skeo ND 2857 8796 ND 28 NE 3
 The broch crowns a rocky summit overlooking the sea. A short exposed stretch of outer wall-face is all that can be seen of the tower itself, but to N and W there is a substantial outer wall or bank, set 6m out from the broch and standing 1.2m high and 2m broad. To E and S this feature is absent, but remains of outbuildings are obvious and extensive, spilling down the slope and occupying an area of 0.4 ha. *August 1987*
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 340, No. 1009; OR 1933.

ENCLOSED SETTLEMENTS AND ENCLOSURES

- 10 Whaness Burn 'A' HY 2456 0178 HY 20 SW 15
Immediately outside the NE corner of the conifer plantation, the burn flows S to N through an enclosure, which measures internally 90m N-S by 70m transversely, about two-thirds of the area lying E of the burn. The enclosure is defined by a bank, which very probably conceals a massive stone wall, up to 4m wide and 0.8m high, with a flat-bottomed wet ditch 4m wide outside it, and in places an external bank up to 3m wide and 0.6m high. In three places on the E side there are internal features built up against the main bank, resembling the arrangement at Whilsa Pund, Fetlar (RCAMS 1946, iii, p. 61, No. 1228). The inner bank is inturned and thickened on both sides of the burn's inflow at the S end, and possible fish weirs are built across the burn within the enclosure. In the NE sector is a group of mounds probably representing prehistoric houses, and immediately outside the ditch on this side is a prominent mound with visible wall-faces suggesting a house of 'heel-plan' type fronted by a forecourt.
- There is a network of sub-peat dykes immediately N of enclosure 'A', and two isolated lengths are exposed 100m to the NNE, approximately half-way towards enclosure 'C' (No. 12). *May 1988*
Plans, 1:1,000 and 1:100, 1988, in NMRS; OR 1920.
- 11 Whaness Burn 'B' HY 2458 0188 HY 20 SW 4
The 'tumulus' marked on the 1903 map within a meander of the burn 250m downstream from No. 10 is a broad mound 1.3m high occupied by an enclosure 11.4m N-S by 11.9m, within a low bank. On the S, where the mound has been disturbed by an unrecorded excavation, there are several earth-fast slabs, indicating the presence of structures of prehistoric date. About 16m S of the mound there is a single upright stone, 0.9m high, its base is firmly wedged with packing-stones; this is on the line of a sub-peat dyke which seems to complete, on the S and E, the enclosure formed by the burn on the N and W. *May 1988*
OS six-inch sheet cxii, 1903; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 110, No. 384; plans, 1:1,000 and 1:100, 1988, in NMRS; OR 1919.
- 12 Whaness Burn 'C' HY 2476 0203 HY 20 SW 14
On gently rising ground E of the burn, there is a broad oval platform of peaty material, part of which is occupied by an enclosure 17.7m E-W by 14.8m measured between the centres of the 2m-wide banks that define it. These banks contain many large stones, and there is a small cairn of stones in the centre of the enclosure. On the E side is an annexe, 15m E-W by 12m, formed by a slighter bank from which earth-fast stones protrude as in Bronze Age sub-peat dykes where edge-set slabs are commonly used in parallel rows, 0.6m apart. *May 1988*
Plans, 1:1,000 and 1:100, 1988, in NMRS; OR 1918.
- 13 Whaness Burn 'D' HY 2461 0163 HY 20 SW 16
This lies on level ground 20m E of the burn, 120m upstream from No. 10. It is defined by a fragment of stony bank 0.6m high on the NW side, and otherwise by an irregular semicircle of mostly buried sub-peat dyke, indicating an internal measurement of about 20m N-S by 15m E-W. *May 1988*
Plans, 1:1,000 and 1:100, 1988, in NMRS; OR 2311.
- 14 Whaness Burn 'F' HY 2447 0260 HY 20 SW 18
An erect stone 0.6m high immediately E of the burn, some 500m downstream from No. 11, and 40m upstream of the bridge carrying the Hoy-Lyness road, indicates the position of an enclosure some 9m in diameter, otherwise marked only by occasional earthfast slabs. *May 1988*
OR 2313

UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENTS

- 15 Ha Wick ND 2504 8919 ND 28 NE 9
At Ha Wick, a bay on the remote W coast of Hoy, amid a waste of heather, there is an area of disturbed ground lying 14m inland from the shoreline. It measures about 6m NW-SE by 4m, and is littered with many loose slabs and set with several erect stones, probably indicating a prehistoric settlement.
July 1985
OR 1970.
- 16 Kirk Geo ND 2846 8820 ND 28 NE 10
In a right angle of the deeply-cut stream draining to Kirk Geo is a mound, prominent only on its W and N sides, with a suggestion of revetting stones on the W; otherwise its extent is indefinable. On the S margin are several earth-fast erect slabs one of which is aligned WNW-ESE, measures 1.1m long and 0.15m thick, and stands 0.4m high. The whole is suggestive of a prehistoric settlement. *August 1987*
OR 1931.
- 17 Rotten Loch ND 2898 8788 ND 28 NE 11
An extensive settlement lies partly buried under storm-beach in the flat back-shore area between Rotten Loch and the geo into which its outflow stream drains. On the S side of the sharply-defined little valley is a group of prominent erect slabs forming the entrance of a house of Bronze Age type; the entrance faced E towards the sea and from it led a passage 1m long opening into a house of considerable internal area. Opposite, below the bluff on the N side of the valley, was another, probably similar structure, and there may have been a third half-way between them, where there is a heap of large stones. *August 1987*
OR 1935.

EARTH-HOUSES

- 18 Lower Cairn, Braebister HY 2181 0541 HY 20 NW 15
Few surface traces now survive of the earth-house discovered on the slope lying immediately E of the mouth of Burn of Dale. Numerous animal bones and stone implements were found in it but it was already infilled or nearly obliterated by 1924. *September 1985*
Cursiter 1930; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 109, No. 381; OR 1908.
- 19 Upper Cairn, Braebister * HY 2207 0546 HY 20 NW 13
Lying on a N-facing slope in pasture beside an estate road, this earth-house with its irregularly-shaped chamber was recorded and planned by Corrie in 1929, some years after its discovery by the accidental breaking of the entrance-passage roof. To the SE there is a settlement mound measuring 25m E-W and 20m N-S; surface indications, including two edge-set slabs, were discovered by Corrie. An estate-road impinges upon the mound on the N while soil creep advances upon it from the S. *September 1985*
RCAMS Notebook, No. 5, 12 July 1929; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 109-10, No. 382; OR 1906.

INDETERMINATE MOUNDS

- 20 near Bu of Hoy HY 2375 0523 HY 20 NW 21
A 'raised or artificial mound' noted in 1880 at the clifftop overlooking Burra Sound has been so mutilated by wartime buildings and a silage pit as to be beyond classification; but it seems too insubstantial to represent the remains of a broch. *September 1964*
Name Book, Orkney, No. 10, p. 51; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 112, No. 386;
OR 1913.

- 21 Selwick HY 2267 0536 HY 20 NW 16
Amid rough grass on a steep NE-facing hillside is an unclassifiable mound measuring 10m N-S by 7m and 1.3m high. *September 1964*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 100, No. 383; OR 1909.
- 22 Whaness Burn 'E' HY 2447 0179 HY 20 SW 17
On the steep hillside N of the conifer plantation and 100m W of No. 10 is a mound, 8m in diameter and 0.3m high, its flat summit set with four earth-fast stones. Some 25m to the ESE is a short exposure of sub-peat dyke running approximately N-S. *May 1988*
Plan, 1:1,000, 1988, in NMRS; OR 2312.

ECCLESIASTICAL MONUMENTS

- 23 Chapel of Brims ND 2840 8821 ND 28 NE 2
The chapel occupies a rocky summit on the opposite side of the hill from the present-day township. The building survives as a rectangular foundation, with all four internal but no external wall-faces visible; it measures 8.8m internally from ESE-WNW and 2.9m in width. The doorway seems to have been near the W end of the S wall. The chapel is set at the centre of an enclosure 22m by 16.5m over a wall, which, where visible, is 1.1m thick. From the NW corner of the enclosure a broad bank runs towards the cliff-edge; some other exposed stones and hummocks, especially a group lying 30m to the SW, may represent earlier settlement or agricultural traces. *August 1987*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 339, No. 1005; OR 1930.
- 24 Hoy Old Kirk HY 2356 0463 HY 20 SW 1
The old parish church, rebuilt in the last quarter of the eighteenth century, is a roofless shell, and there is no trace of the likely medieval precursor on the same site. *July 1985*
Stat. Acct., 16 (1795), 547; Name Book, Orkney, No. 10, p. 59; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 112, No. 387; OR 1915.

STACK SITES AND RELATED CURIOSITIES

- 25 Brae Brough HY 1854 0311 HY 10 SE 1
This eyrie in the clouds is a mass of rock almost detached from the W side of Sui Fea, its own W face forming the vertical 325m precipice of St Johns Head. It is approached by crossing a narrow saddle and climbing a series of ledges. Some 3m below the top, a short length of drystone wall has been built across one of the ledges, and at the summit a bank 4m to 5m wide and 0.5m to 0.7m high runs along the land-facing edge and curves around the N side. This place enjoys an Arctic micro-climate and it is hard to imagine permanent habitation; it may have served as an occasional retreat, either defensive or spiritual.
July 1970
OR 1926.
- 26 Broughs of the Berry ND 2460 8948 ND 28 NW 1
Off the remote W coast of Hoy, 3km W of Melsetter, there are two narrow rock-stacks isolated from the cliffs; at that point the cliffs are 15m high, but immediately to the N they rise sharply to become the 180m precipices of the Berry. On the SE (land-facing) side of the S stack is walling which appears to form the exterior corner of a rectangular building. The gulf separating this stack from the main is narrow. *July 1985*
OR 1971.
- 27 Grassy Clett ND 2837 8810 ND 28 NE 12
Grassy Clett is a rock isolated at high tide. Its summit is hummocky, with many protruding stones, and in a hollow a length of drystone wall is exposed. Dense shell midden can be seen in two places in rabbit-scrapes. *August 1987*
OR 1934.

BATTERY

- 28 Crockness Martello Tower* ND 3242 9344 ND 39 SW 10
The Crockness Tower, 1813-15, is the twin of the one at Hackness (No. 59), guarding the approach to the Longhope anchorage from a position on the north side of the sound. Although the tower is generally dilapidated, the masonry is still good, but the timberwork decayed.
Fereday 1971; Sutcliffe 1972, 133; OR 2045.

INDUSTRIAL MONUMENT

- 29 Trowie Glen HY 237 003 HY 20 SW 19
Along the foot of the precipitous slopes on the S side of the U-shaped valley S of Ward Hill is a line of rounded morainic mounds. One of these, indistinguishable from the rest, some 600m W by S of the Dwarfie Stane (No. 2) and E of the burn which emerges from the ravine known as Trowie Glen, has had its centre dug out and a drystone lining inserted into the cavity. The masonry is exposed on the N side over a length of 1.5m and for a height of 0.6m, and there is a corner with the beginning of a wall on the W side, otherwise the sides of the square cavity are thickly covered by old heather. The present road to Rackwick is a new route constructed within the present century, before which this spot would have been remote and secluded; the cavity has been contrived so as to be undetectable without climbing up on to the mound. Its likeliest purpose is the concealment of an illicit still. *May 1988*
OR 2314.

NAUSTS

- 30 Greenhill HY 2495 0287 HY 20 SW 10
In the dunes near Greenhill are the truncated inner ends of two nausts, lined with drystone and sharing a party wall. In size and shape they appear appropriate for fishing-boats of later nineteenth-century type. *June 1979*
OR 104.
- 31 Skippi Geo ND 2839 8828 ND 28 NE 6
On the N side of Skippi Geo and set at right angles to the shore is a naust 2.5m wide and 4m long, formed against the cliff-face. *August 1987*
OR 1932.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 32 Brouchs of Hawick unlocated ND 28 NE 13
From both the Name Book and the *Inventory* entries, it seems that this name has been applied to the rock-stacks NW from Hawick, as an alternative to the modern map designation 'Brouchs of the Berry' (No. 26). However, Corrie's field notebook entry which corresponds to the *Inventory* visit-date, reads quite differently; he seems to have been looking for something at a specific site on the mainland. He reports finding some circular mounds which he did not consider ancient; these cannot now be identified. *July 1985*
Name Book, Orkney, No. 25, p. 23; RCAMS Notebook, No. 5, 20 July 1929; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 342, No. 1021; OR 1968.
- 33 Falconer's Houses ND 2383 9145 ND 29 SW 1
This name refers to a naturally-denuded hillside terrace on the remote W coast, where there are many erratic boulders. *August 1987*
Name Book, Orkney, No. 11, p. 77; OR 1927.

- 34 Pict's Well HY 2090 0106 HY 20 SW 9
At the location on a steep and thickly heather-covered hillside overlooking Berriedale, the Name Book records only a heap of stones and a patch of green grass, but the 1967 OS report describes a shallow, drystone-lined circular well adjacent to an enclosure. In 1987, a long search failed to find it. *August 1987* Name Book, Orkney, No. 11, p. 34; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 112, No. 391; OR 1924.

UNPROVENANCED FIND

- 35 Quoys HY 2408 0323 HY 20 SW 6
A stone bearing five cupmarks is built into a byre at Quoys. Its provenance is unknown. *September 1964* OR 1922.

SOUTH WAAS

BARROWS AND CAIRNS

36. Cantick Head ND 3405 8906 ND 38 NW 5
Near the cliff-edge on the S side of Cantick Head is a grass-grown mound 13m in diameter and 1.1m high, in the hollowed top of which are exposed three side-slabs of a cist 1.7m long and 1.1m wide. *July 1985* RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 340, No. 1012; OR 1940.
- 37 Cantick Head ND 3431 8915 ND 38 NW 11
At the clifftop, where it is highest on the S side of Cantick Head, stands a grass-covered earthen mound 8m in diameter and 0.8m high. *August 1987* OR 1948.
- 38 Cantick Head ND 3469 8965 ND 38 NW 17
Near the shore at the NE end of Cantick Head are three likely burial mounds in a line running E-W. The westernmost, at the grid reference position, is oval (9.7m N-S by 8.2m) with a flattened top from which protrudes an erect slab (0.6m long and 0.3m high). Some 4m to the E lies the second; it is circular, 4.5m in diameter and slightly hollowed on top. Some 2.5m to the E again is the third, likewise circular, 3m across. The height of all three is some 0.2m. *August 1987* OR 2047
- 39 Cantick Head ND 3466 8958 ND 38 NW 18
On a shoulder of the hillside facing NE, 180m N by W from the lighthouse, is a circular mound 9.5m across and 0.4m high, from the flattened top of which protrudes an upright slab; aligned N-S and measuring 0.6m long and 0.3m high, it probably represents one side of a cist. *August 1987* OR 2049.

STANDING STONES

- 40 Gallow Tuag ND 3036 8938 ND 38 NW 2
The standing stone on the SW shoulder of Gallow Tuag leans heavily towards the N; if vertical it would stand 1.6m high. It rises from a pronounced and circular mound 15m in diameter, now badly mutilated by quarrying, from which several smaller stones also protrude. *August 1987* RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 340, No. 1010; OR 1937.
- 41 Helliack ND 3256 8867 ND 38 NW 12
A standing stone, 3 feet high, not certainly ancient, was reported in 1880 on the edge of the cliff. It is not indicated on the 1900 map and must at some point have succumbed to cliff erosion. *June 1967* Name Book, Orkney, No. 25, p. 93; OS six-inch sheet cxxiii, 1900; OR 1949.

BURNT MOUNDS

- 42 Cantick ND 3394 8929 ND 38 NW 4
The prominent mound 200m SW of Cantick farm is entirely grassed over and no sign of its internal content can now be seen, but a detailed description by Corrie explicitly mentions exposures of burnt earth and angular small stones.
August 1987
RCAMS Notebook, No. 6, 22 July 1929; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 341, No. 1016; OR 1939.
- 43 ENE of Chuccaby ND 3222 9070 ND 39 SW 2
A mound of burnt earth and stones was removed a number of years before 1929 from a location identifiable with this spot, 220m ENE from Chuccaby, where a grass-grown area of former disturbance remains. *June 1967*
RCAMS Notebook, No. 6, 22 July 1929; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 341, No. 1014; OR 1953.
- 44 Green Hill ND 3098 8910 ND 38 NW 7
Beside the outflow stream immediately SW of the small Loch of Greenhill stands a 3m-high crescentic burnt mound. *June 1967*
RCAMS Notebook, No. 6, 18 July 1929; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 341, No. 1017; OR 1943.
- 45 Laurie's Knowe ND 3226 9081 ND 39 SW 4
Laurie's Knowe is a mutilated mound of small burnt stones about 1m high, which stands at the edge of a marshy area some 300m SW of Myre. *June 1967*
Name Book, Orkney, No. 25, p. 50; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 340, No. 1011; OR 1955.
- 46 Newbigging unlocated ND 39 SW 3
There is no trace or precise record of a mound of burnt stones removed some years before 1929 from an unknown location on the farm of Newbigging.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 341, No. 1015; OR 1954.

BROCHS

- 47 Green Hill ND 3149 9094 ND 39 SW 1
This broch mound, which adjoins the road 300m ENE of Longhope community hall, rises to a height of 9m above the shore, at a point where midden deposits are being destroyed by erosion. The long rough grass that covers the site during the summer precludes observation of the traces of outbuildings reported by RCAMS. *August 1987*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 339, No. 1007; OR 1952.
- 48 Green Hill of Hesti Geo* ND 3375 8903 ND 38 NW 8
The prominent 4m-high mound close to the shore at Hesti Geo covers the remains of a substantial broch, up to a quarter of which has been lost to the sea. The outer wall-face is traceable on the W side. Between 25m and 30m from the main mound is the trace of an outer bank; the area between the bank and the broch has been occupied by outbuildings. *August 1987*
RCAMS Notebook, No. 6, 22 July 1929; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 340, No. 1008; OR 1944.
- 49 Green Hill of Scarton ND 3378 9005 ND 39 SW 5
At the edge of the banks 600m NE from Osmondwall cemetery is a large mound some 2.5m high, surrounded by an extensive area of heavily disturbed ground. Although in summer the site is too deep in long grass for close examination, it is suggestive of a broch with associated outbuildings. *July 1985*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 341, No. 1018; OR 1956.
- 50 Outer Green Hill ND 3425 8958 ND 38 NW 9
There is a green mound, some 20m in diameter and 2.5m high, beside the lighthouse road on Cantick Head. It is substantial enough to contain a modest broch; some protruding slabs on the outermost fringes of the mound suggest outbuildings, and there is an erosion-exposure of tumbled rubble in the shoreline. *August 1987*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 339, No. 1006; OR 1945.

UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENTS

- 51 Burrowstown ND 3331 8983 ND 38 NW 10
Although Petrie's list includes a broch site on cultivated land NE of Burrowstown, the traces at this, the likely location, consisting of a corner of a field reserved from ploughing in deference to its stony content, are more consistent with a modest settlement site. *June 1967*
Petrie 1890, 93; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 342, No. 1023; OR 1947.
- 52 Cantick Head ND 3472 8964 ND 38 NW 19
Close to the cliff-edge, E of the lighthouse road, a group of earthfast slabs, most of them barely showing above the sheep-cropped turf, suggests the ground-plan of a Bronze Age house, which most likely extended in the direction of the sea, with part being lost over the cliff. *August 1987*
OR 2046.
- 53 Hesti Geo ND 3383 8906 ND 38 NW 20
Lying E-W immediately behind the shoreline at Hesti Geo is a mound 19m long and 8m wide set with many erect slabs, which suggest a pair of conjoined houses of Bronze Age type. Some 17m to the W is a disturbed area with erect slabs, possibly representing the inner end of an oval house, most of which has been destroyed by the sea. *August 1987*
OR 1942.

SUB-PEAT DYKES

- 54 Cantick Head ND 3401 8905 ND 38 NW 6
Three low banks were reported by RCAMS running N to S across the slope which rises sharply from W to E at the isthmus of Cantick Head. These are part of a larger complex, some of which lies on the low isthmus to the W, where similar banks appear to be associated with the settlement No. 53. One such bank, running N to S and ending at Hesti Geo, has indications of the distinctive Bronze Age sub-peat dyke construction utilising parallel erect slabs, and, where it ends at the cliff, the section shows a foundation of flat-laid slabs. *August 1987*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 340, additional to No. 1012; OR 1941.

ECCLESIASTICAL MONUMENTS

- 55 Red Kirk ND 3089 9051 ND 39 SW 6
The Red Kirk site is a fenced-off corner of a pasture field on the hillside above Longhope. It takes the form of a low shapeless knoll about 25m across, its hollowed centre occupied by the remains of a wooden hen-house, and too thickly covered by dockens and nettles for any foundation to be visible. *July 1985*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 342, No. 1022; OR 1957.
- 56 St Colm's Chapel ND 3340 8951 ND 38 NW 1
There is no trace of the church which formerly stood in the burial ground (which contains the Longhope Lifeboat Memorial) at the head of Kirk Hope. A cross-slab, found in the foundations when these were removed in 1887, is in RMS (IB 169). *August 1987*
Cursiter 1898; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 338-9, No. 1004; OR 1936

STACK SITE

- 57 Candle of Snelsetter ND 3237 8866 ND 38 NW 3
The inaccessible stack situated immediately offshore from the cliffs S of Snelsetter has a substantial drystone wall, at least 2.6m high, around its summit, with a possible entrance gap at the NE corner. Towards the end of the spur extending from the mainland towards the stack, there is a transverse bank as well as possible traces of other turf structures. *July 1971*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 341, No. 1019; OR 1938.

BATTERIES

- 58 Hackness Battery* ND 3373 9149 ND 39 SW 9
 This, along with Nos. 28 and 59, was built in 1813-15 to guard the convoy anchorage at Longhope against American privateers, and was remodelled in response to the 'Fenian Navy' scare of 1866. Originally mounting eight 24-pounder guns en barbette, in its modified form it had four 68-pounders firing through embrasures; after 1866 the walled precinct also contained a cookhouse, officers' quarters and a guardroom, in addition to the original magazine and barrack-block. Apart from the removal of the guns and the dismantling of the magazine roof, these buildings remain unaltered; the present owner, who lives in the officers' quarters, has managed to preserve this outstanding mid-Victorian battery in remarkably fine condition. *August 1987*
 Fereday 1971; Ritchie 1985, 22-3; OR 2050.
- 59 Hackness Martello Tower* ND 3384 9128 ND 39 SW 8
 The tower was built contemporaneously with the Battery (No. 58) to complement its fire and to provide some protection for the Battery's rear. It, too, was put back into a defensive state in 1866, when a new gun-mounting was installed on the roof. SDD has just completed a programme of restoration which has left this Tower in superb condition. *August 1987*
 Fereday 1971; Sutcliffe 1972, 133; Ritchie 1985, 22-3; OR 1969.

NAUST

- 60 Cantick Head ND 3464 8965 ND 38 NW 16
 Cut through by the lighthouse road there is an irregularly shaped mound at least partly composed of natural outcrop. On the S side, this is surrounded at a distance of 3m to 4m by a low bank, which is now semicircular on plan; the diameter across the semicircle, when measured along the road, is 26.5m. At the W end the bank turns N and assumes a straight line to the shore; where it meets the shore there is the remnant of a naust-toft 2.5m long and 1.7m wide, its eroded mouth hanging over the rocky shore, facing a gap in the wave-cut platform. *August 1987*
 OR 2048.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 61 Cantick Head ND 3474 8960 ND 38 NW 15
 On a blunt promontory 4m back from the cliff-edge, there are two parallel slabs (some 1.6m apart) set on edge in a N-S alignment; these barely protrude above the turf and probably belong to some ancient structure. *August 1987*
 OR 1946.

ISOLATED FIND

- 62 Longhope ND 30 91 ND 39 SW 7
 An 'axe-hammer' of schist, provenanced to Longhope, is in the Wilson Collection, Marischal College, University of Aberdeen, Acc. No. 119/1.
 Roe 1966, 242; OR 1958.

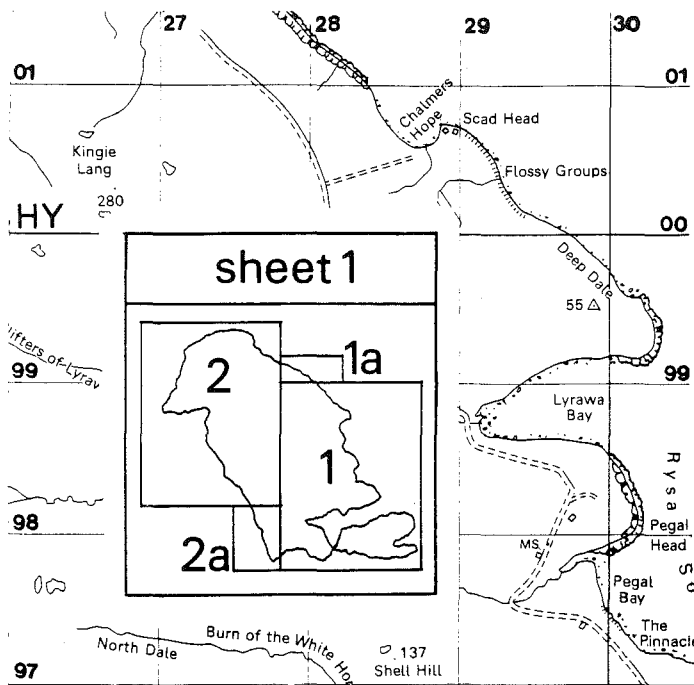
Concordance between the article number and title in RCAMS 1946 and the article number of the present List.

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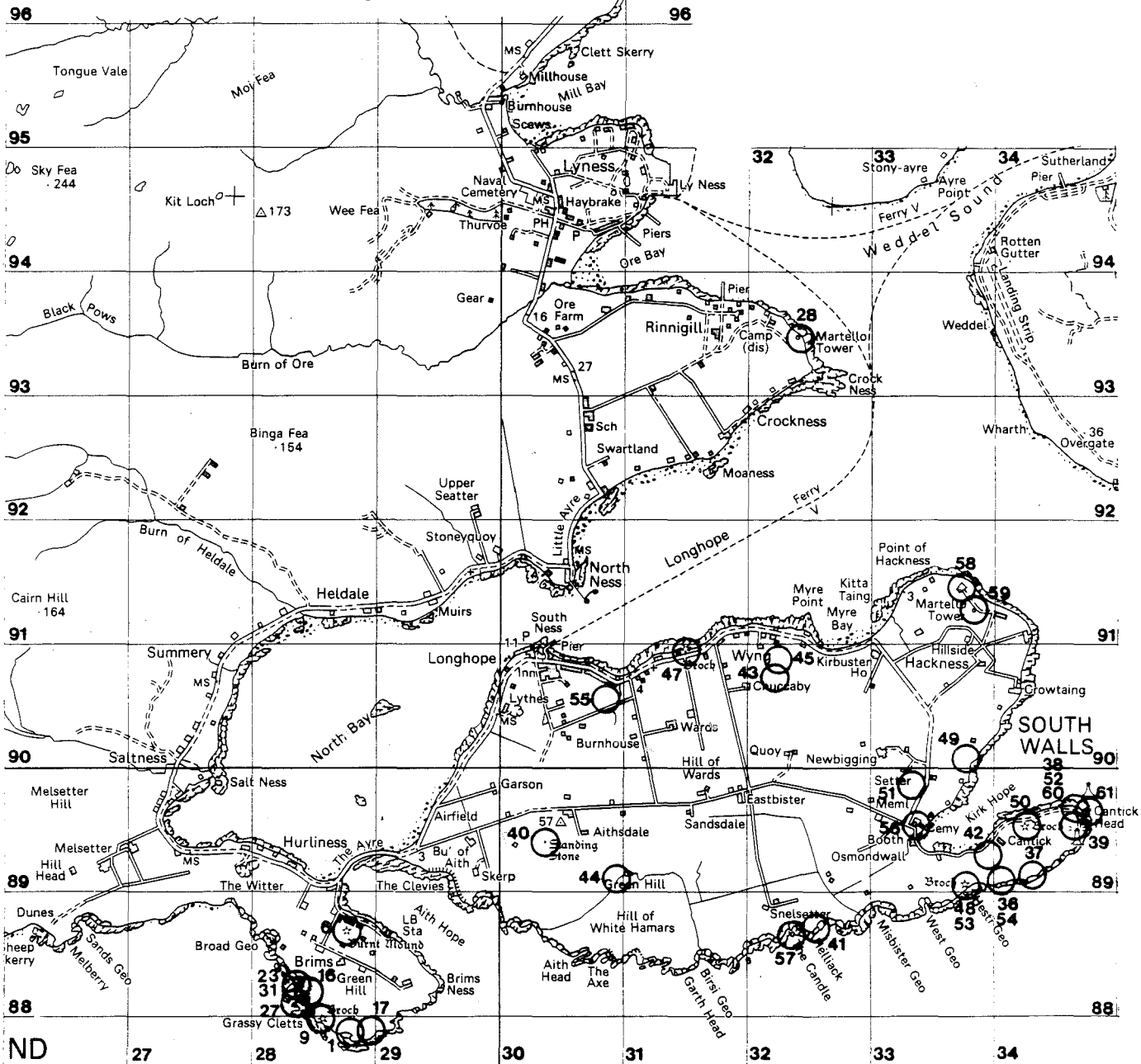
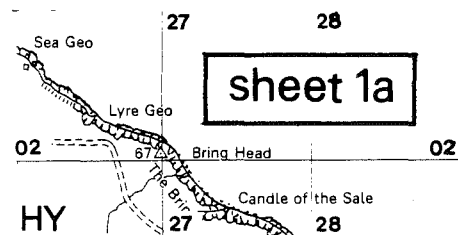


Archaeological Sites & Monuments in HOY & WAAS

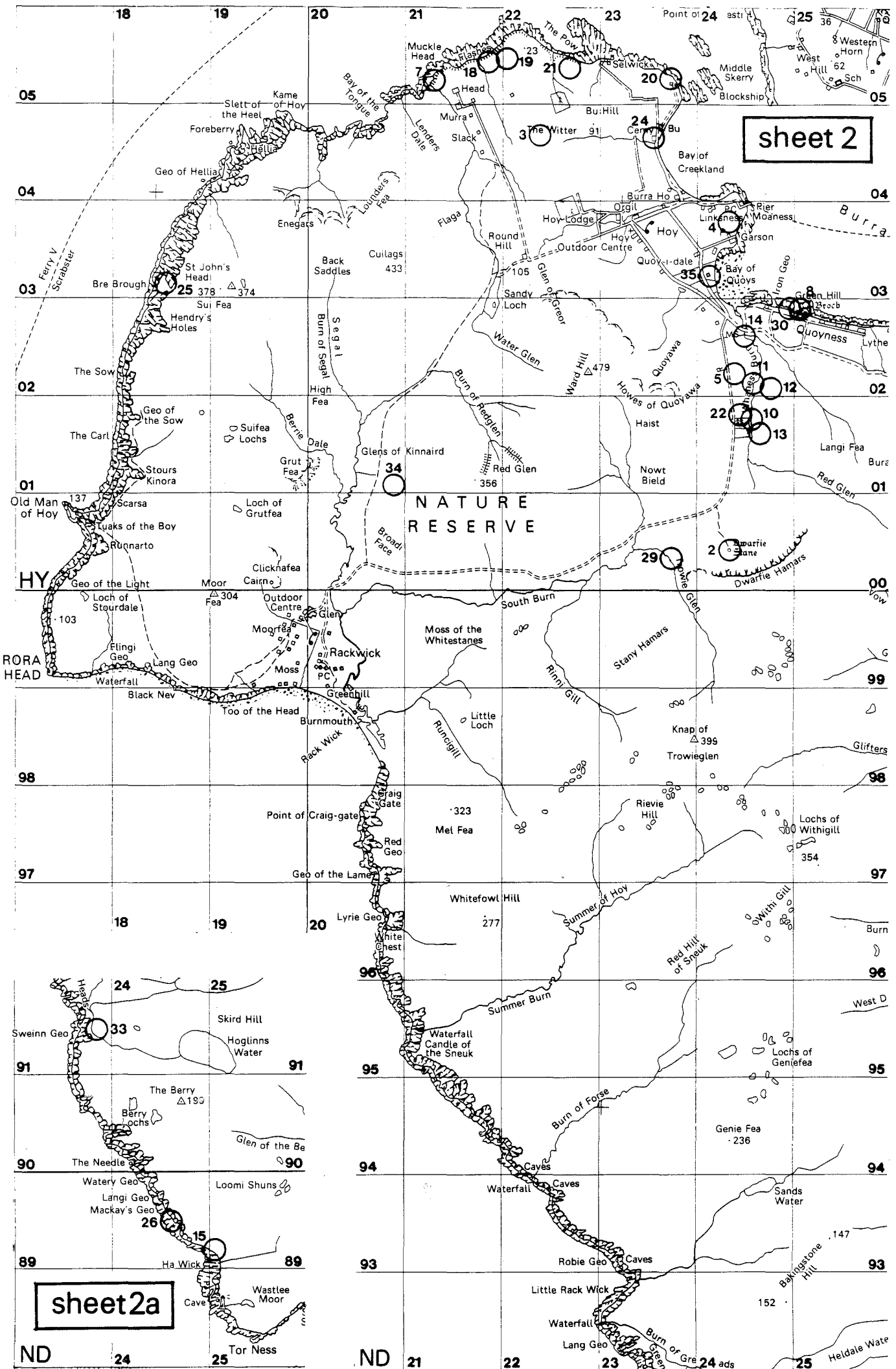
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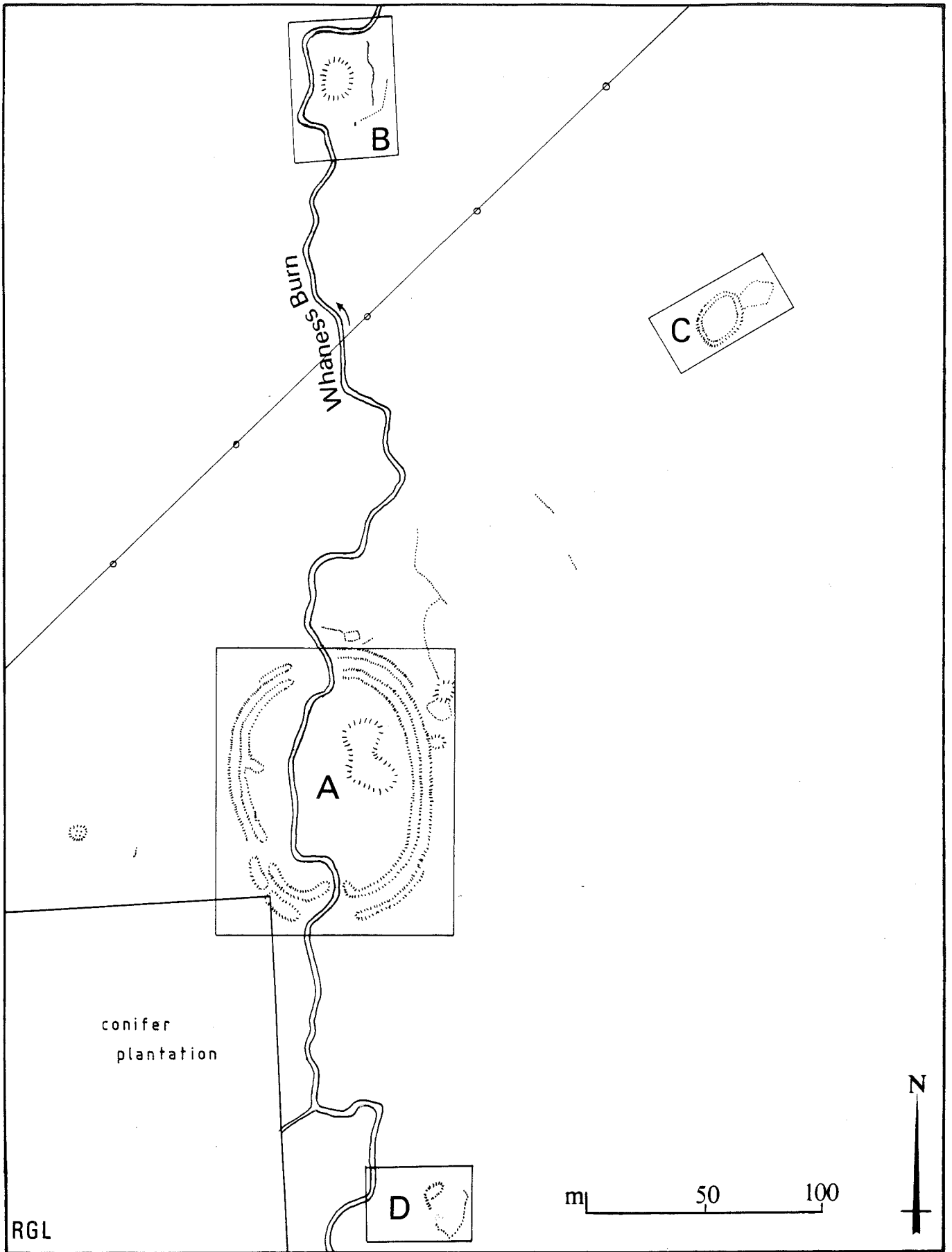


sheet 2

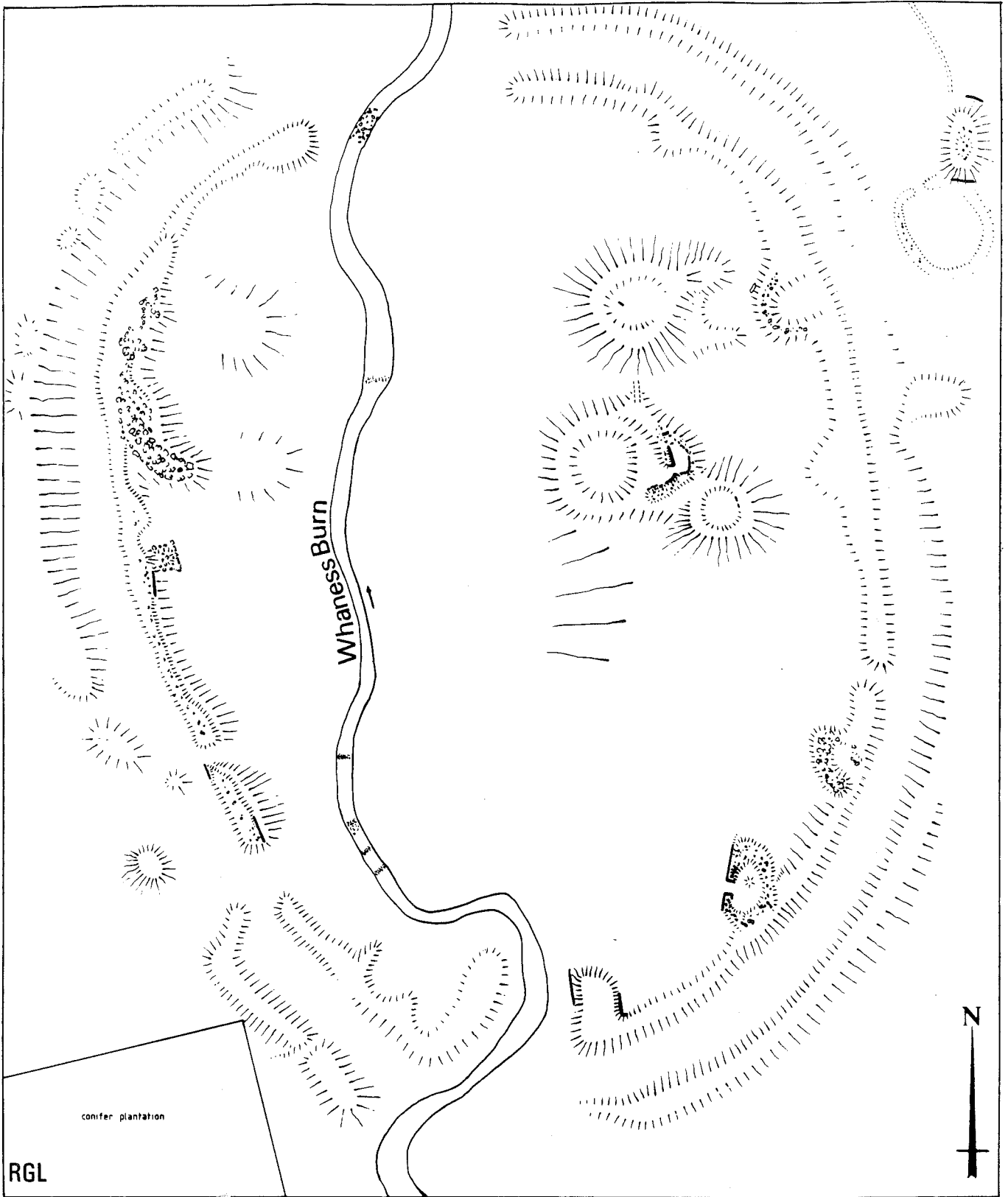


sheet 2a

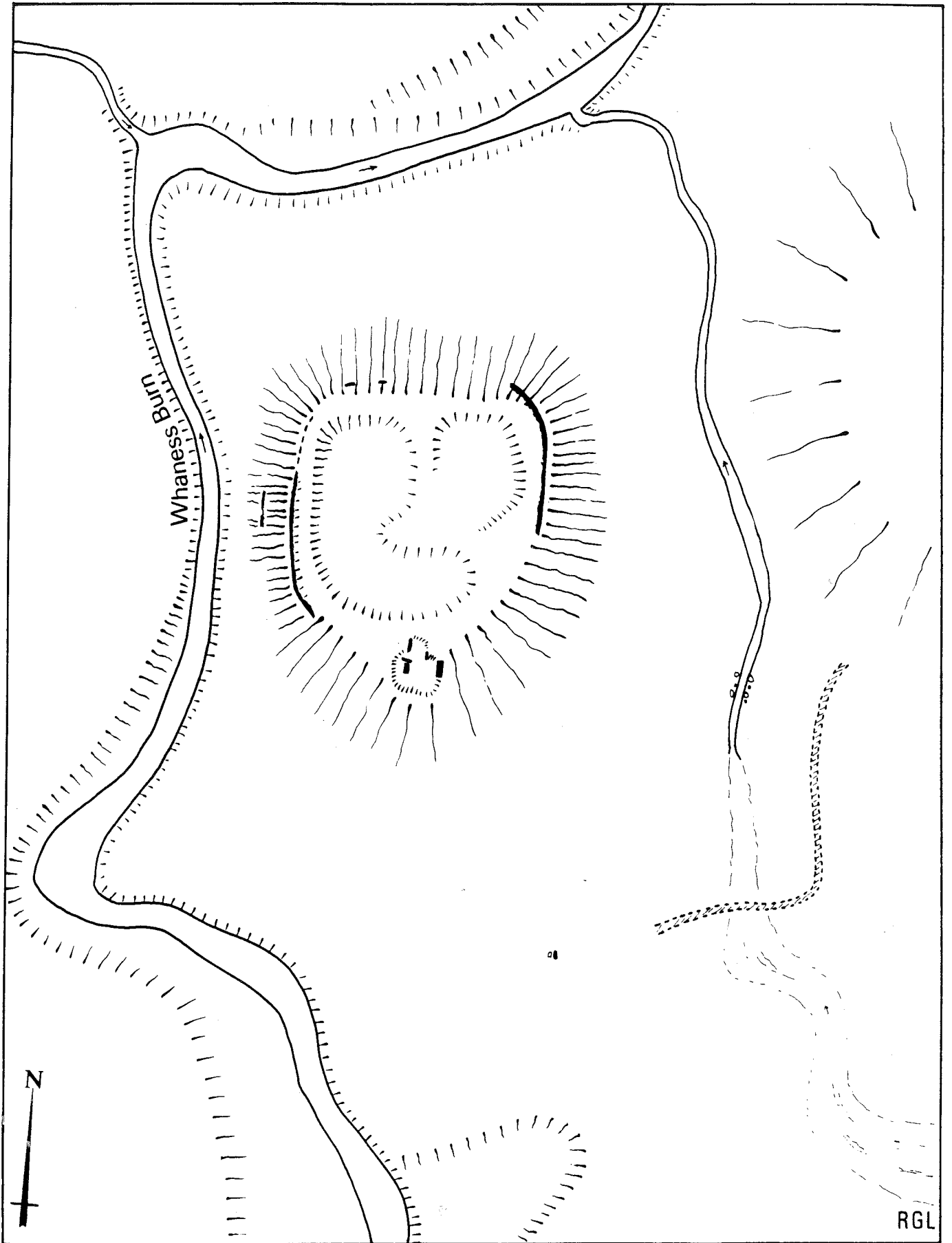
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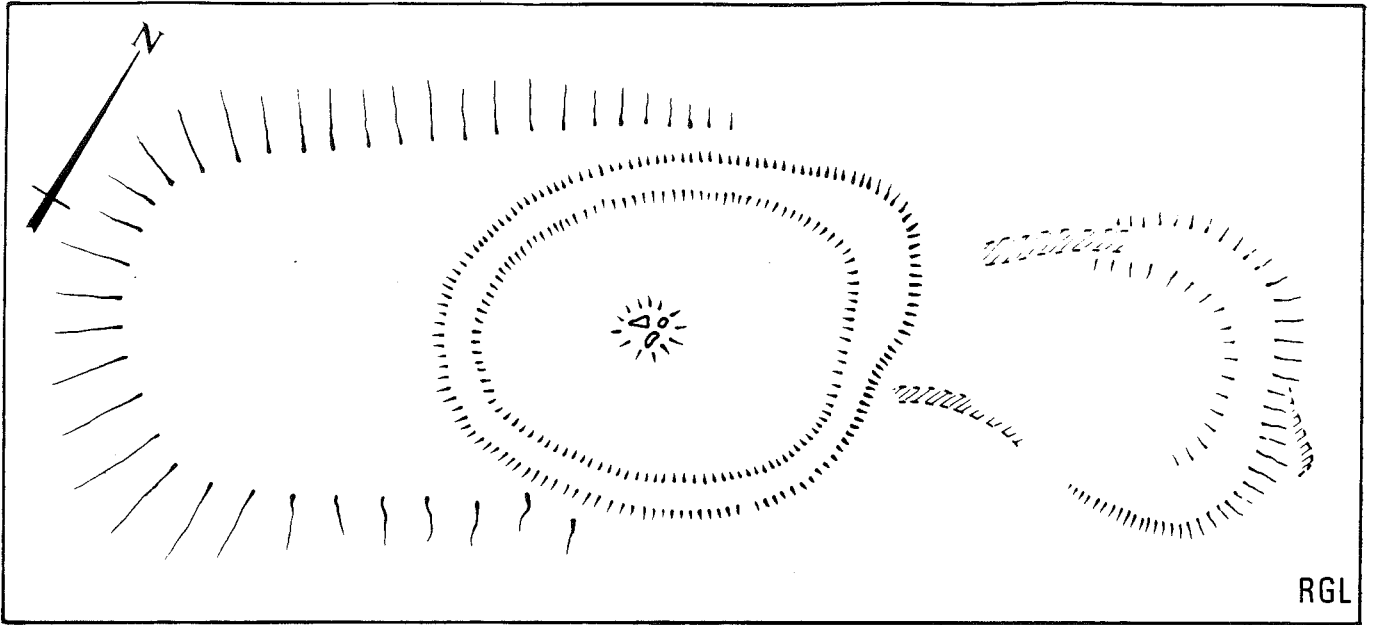
Whaness Burn, Hoy



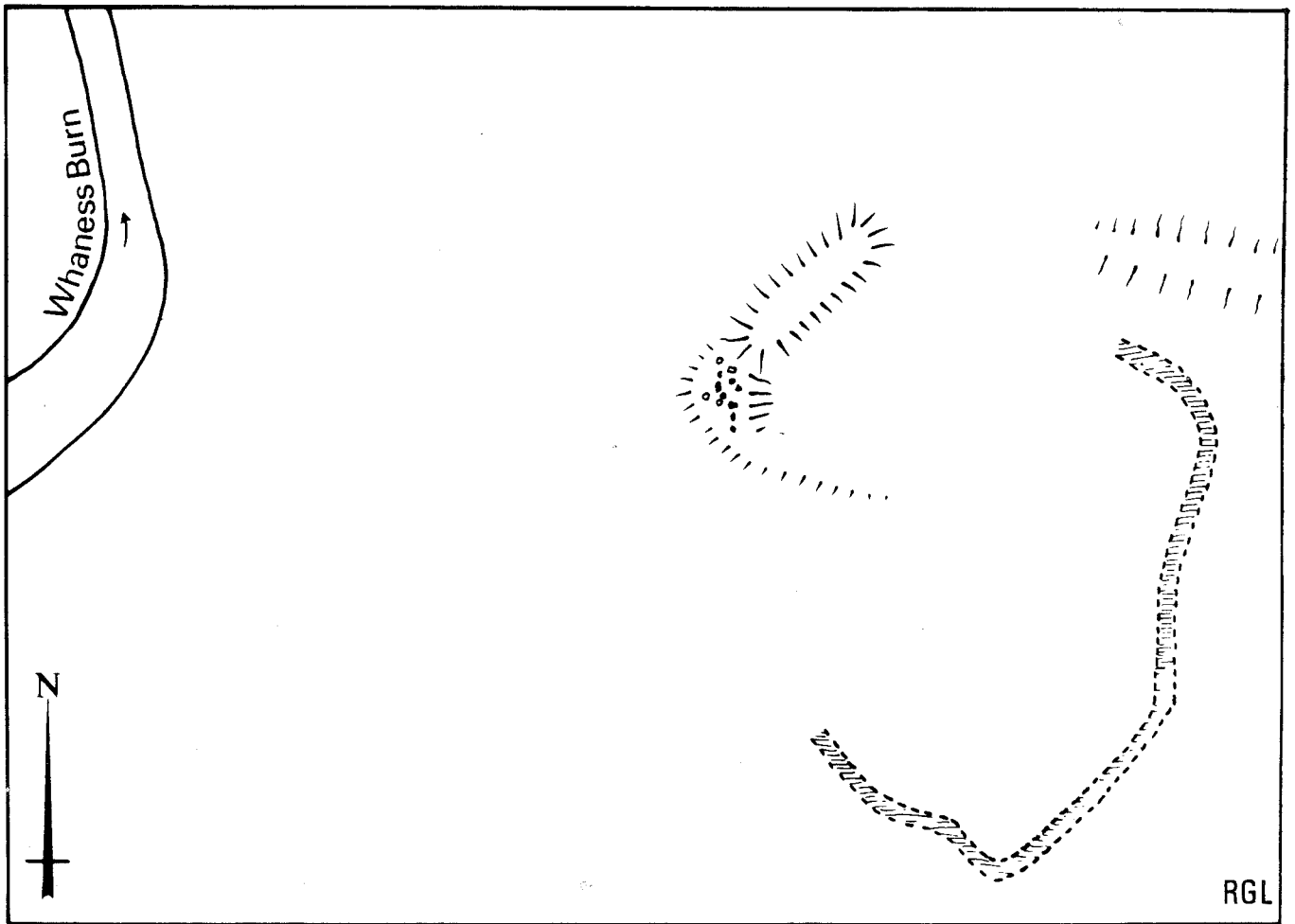
Whaness Burn, A (No. 10)



Whaness Burn, B (No. 11)



Whaness Burn, C (No. 12)



Whaness Burn, D (No. 13)

