

An Archaeological Survey
of the townships of Suisnish and South Fearn
plus the surrounding area.

on

Raasay

Portree Parish
Skye and Lochalsh District, Highland Region



Edited by
John Macdonald and J. Scott Wood

Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists
Occasional Paper No 80

2005

The Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists, Glasgow University (ACFA) was formed in 1987.

The membership comprises holders of the University of Glasgow Certificate in Field Archaeology, awarded by the Department of Adult and Continuing Education.

The original course's aims were to teach adult students the basic principles of archaeological field survey and the importance of recording our cultural heritage of all periods.

The present Certificate in Field Archaeology is a two year modular course which aims to introduce students to the fundamentals of Archaeological Field Survey and British, especially Scottish, Archaeology

ACFA seeks to continue this work by undertaking field surveys within Scotland.

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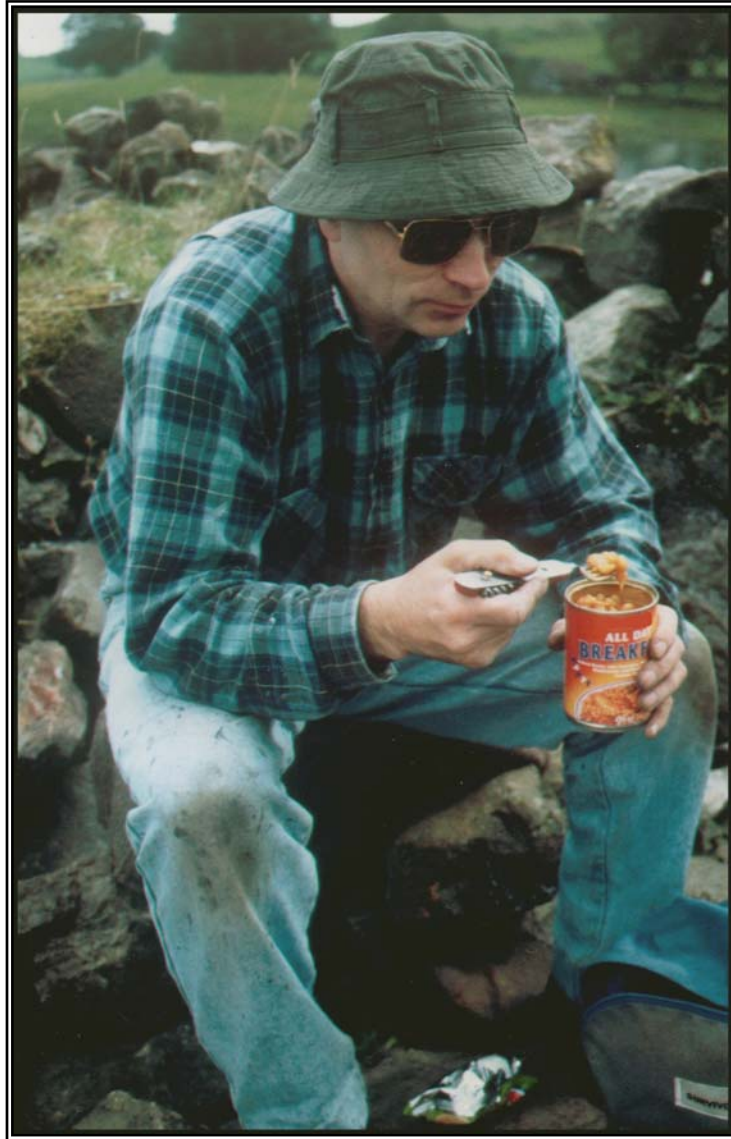
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**This report on the townships of Suisnish and South Fearnis
is dedicated to the memory of**

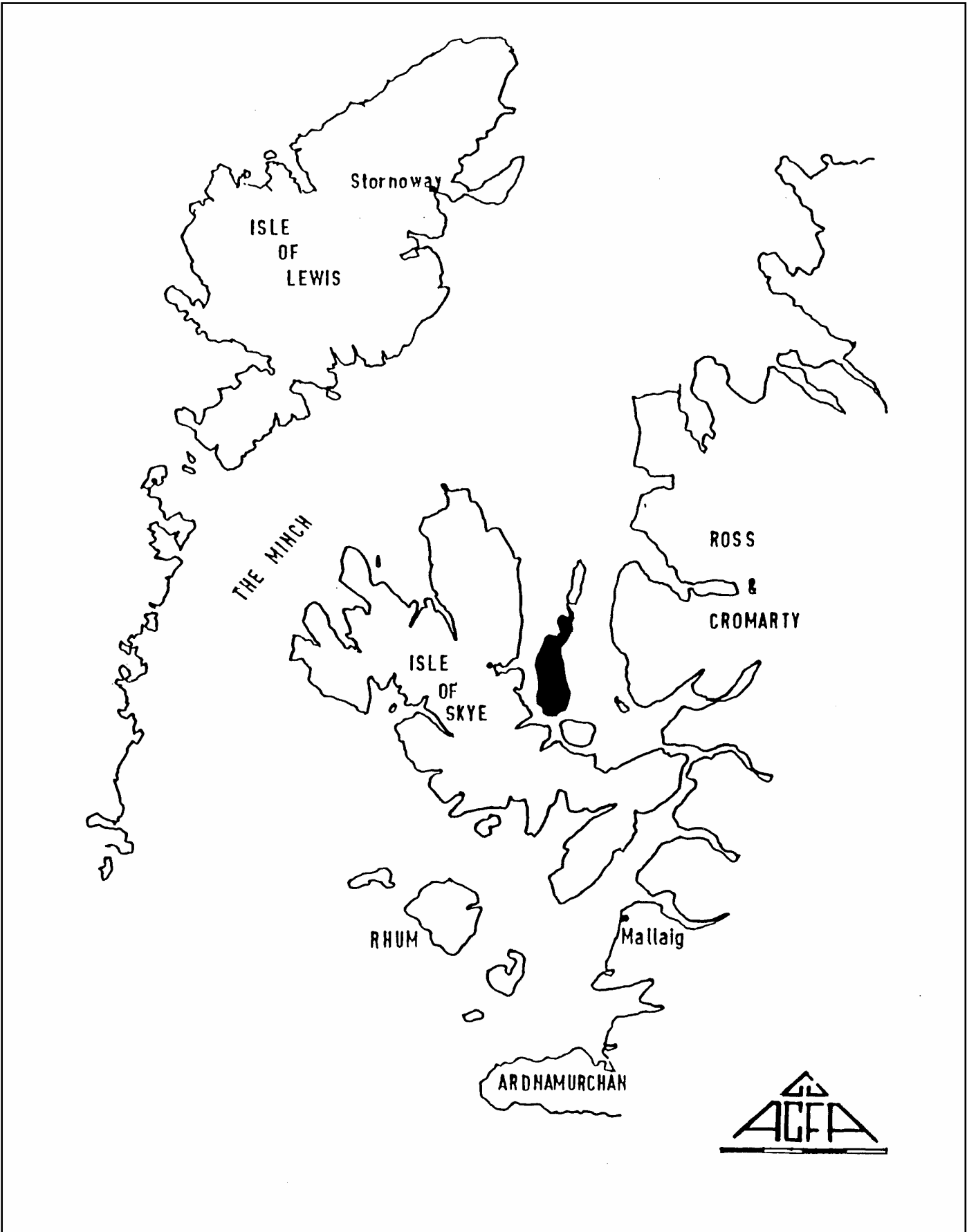
Dennis Topen

1948-2004

A loyal Raasay Volunteer and a good friend.

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Last, but not least, the Raasay Volunteers, many of whom return year after year, for all their help in the survey. This year they were.

Alison Blackwood, Frances Hood, Anne Macdonald, Helen Maxwell, Wendy Raine, Eleanor Smart, Anne Wood, Jim Anderson, John Bray, Colin Campbell-Brown, Stephen Clancy, Willie Dougan, Donald McKay, Ian Marshall, John Russell, and Jim Waterton.

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**John Macdonald
J. Scott Wood**

RAASAY 2005

Abstract: *The survey of the townships of Suisnish and South Fearnis and the surrounding area forms part of ACFA's continuing interest in the physical remains of human activity on the Island of Raasay.*

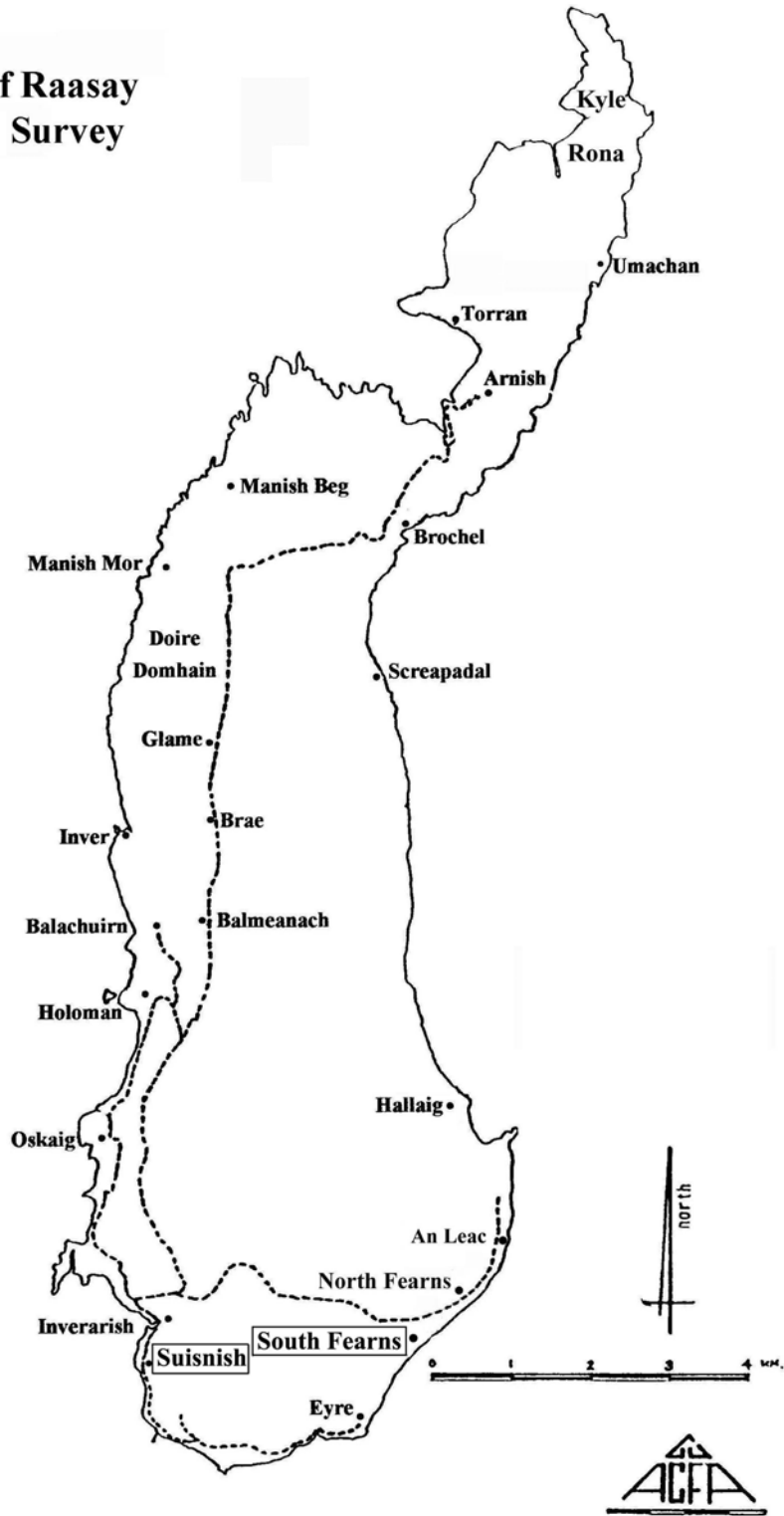
INTRODUCTION

The 2005 survey is a continuation of our 1995, 96, 97, 98, 99, 2000, 2002 2003 & 2004 surveys of the physical remains of human activity on the Island of Raasay.

In 1995 the townships of **Oskaig** and **Holoman** were surveyed plus the surrounding area. In 96 the townships of **Balachuirn**, **Balmeanach**, **Inver** and **Brae** and their surrounding areas were surveyed. In 97 the survey covered the townships of **Glame**, **Manish More**, **Brochel** and **Doire Domhain** and the surrounding areas. In 98 the twin townships of **North and South Screapadal** plus the surrounding area, including the forest between Brochel and Screapadal, were surveyed. In 99 we surveyed the township of **Manish Beg** and the surrounding area. In 2000 we surveyed the townships of **Arnish** and **Torran** and their surrounding area. In 02 we surveyed part of **North Fearnis** plus an area to the north of the Fladda to Umachan path. In 03 we completed the survey of **North Fearnis** plus **Umachan**. In 04 we surveyed the townships of **Hallaig** and **An Leac** plus the surrounding area. This year, 2005, we surveyed the townships of **Suisnish** and **South Fearnis** plus the surrounding area.

The report of this survey now follows.

**Island of Raasay
2005 Survey**



Suisnish

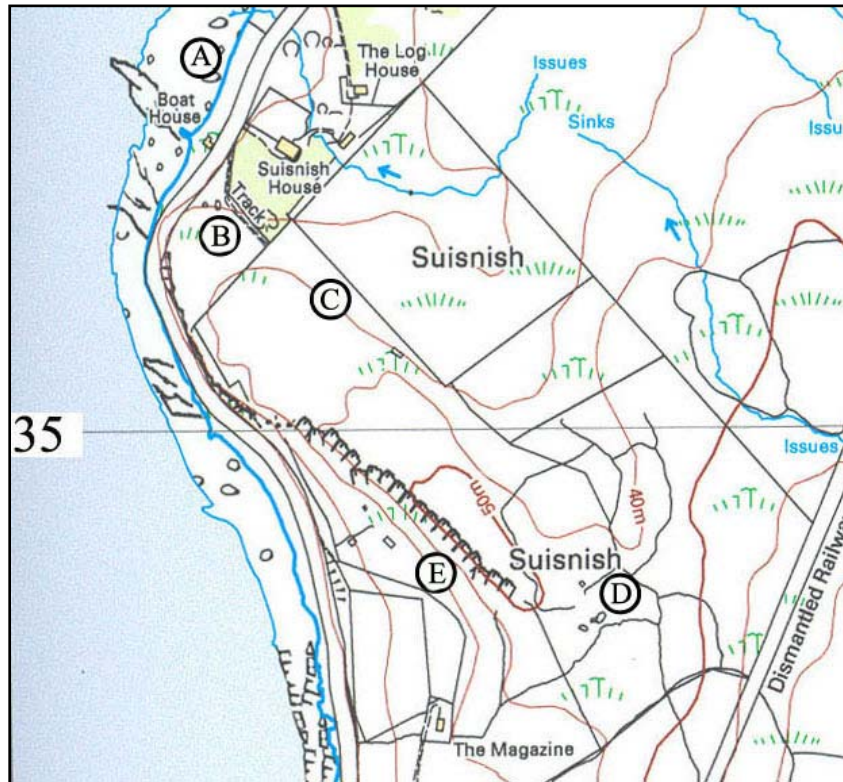
In modern times Suisnish is the area at the south end of Inverarish beside the main road and the houses to the east of the old iron works and above the ferry terminal are known as East Suisnish. According to the OS map, however, the area known as Suisnish is not only the area south of the village but stretches south and east to the houses beyond the dismantled railway. An examination of the remains in the area suggests that the township originally lay along the shore south of the Inverarish Burn and across the area named as Suisnish on the modern OS maps.

The townships of Raasay were recorded in a charter of James VI of 1596 and Suisnis is included in this list, between Ire (Eyre) and Inverarois (Inverarish). Again the township is recorded in a document of 1631, this time as Swysnes. In 1688 a listing of the Raasay townships gives Shuashnesmore (Great Suisnish) and Shuashnesbeg (Little Suishnish). It is not made clear which area was Shuashnesmore and which was Shuashnesbeg. By the time that the South Raasay townships were being cleared, between 1852 and 1854, we are back to simply Suisnish

The lands of Suisnish were farmed from early times, indicated by the presence of a hut circle in the northeast sector and a souterrain. The archaeology shows extensive areas of field systems stretching from within the great sheep enclosure east and south beyond the old railway line to the modern township of East Suisnish. Between the southeast corner of the modern enclosure and the railway are substantial banks delineating large enclosures. Within survey areas B, C, and D many field banks of varying ages and conditions can be seen, some thought to be very old.

About 1836 the township was included in a large holding held by the last MacLeod of Raasay to live on the island. In the 1840's Raasay, in common with most of the Highlands, suffered a series of poor harvests and a devastating potato blight which caused great hardship and, as part of the relief work by the Destitution Committee, the road from Clachan to Fearn was built, passing through Suisnish. After Rainey became the owner of the island, the lands and buildings of Suisnish were included in the part of the south end of Raasay which was fenced off to form a great sheep farm and later a deer park and the people were moved either abroad or to other parts of Raasay, Fladda and Rona. The Census shows 10 families – 36 people – in Suisnish in 1841 but in the Census of 1851 the return was NIL. Between 1861 and 1881 the Census shows 1 family living in Suisnish and it is probable that this was the occupier of the upstanding building (Feature 29) beside the great sheep enclosure. From 1891 onwards the population of Suisnish is included in that of Inverarish by the Census.

After the First World War was over there was considerable discontent among the people living difficult lives on very harsh and unproductive land in the north end of Raasay and in Rona and Fladda, culminating in the actions of the Raasay Raiders. The voice of the crofter was finally heard and in the early 1920's the Raasay Estate was purchased from Baird and Co. (Iron Works) by the then Board of Agriculture with money advanced by the Scottish Rural Workers Friendly Society. Crofts were formed at Suisnish, 7 at East Suisnish and 3 at West Suisnish. It is thought that the remains of old fence posts, both wooden and Victorian iron, are connected with the sheep farm and later the marking off of the crofts. The houses of the crofters at West Suisnish, built by them in the 1920's, are beside the road between the War Memorial and the Inverarish Burn, separate from the lands of the crofts which are in the area surveyed.



For the clarity of the report we have divided the area into five sections - A, B, C, D and E.

Area A, which lies on either side of the modern road, contains the very faint remains of houses and other smaller structures (Features 1 to 14) and probably has been occupied from mediaeval times until the mid-19th century.

Area B lies on either side of the track which runs up from the road and contains the faint remains of a number of small structures (Features 15 to 22). These are probably contemporary with those in Area A and it is thought that any stone contained in the structures will have been stripped out for the building of the large sheep enclosure (Feature 23).

Area C is situated further along the track which runs beside the south-west boundary wall of the large stone built enclosure (Feature 23). The remains (Features 23 to 32) are of a number of large houses and some smaller structures. Most of the structures are probably contemporary with those in Areas A & B. The exceptions are Feature 23, the large enclosure, and Feature 29 and its associated buildings; these are much later and are contemporary with each other.

Area D is situated beyond the large enclosure and contains a variety of structures (Features 33 to 46). Features 33, 34 and 37 are possibly prehistoric while the remainder are of the 18th/19th centuries.

Area E lies to the south between the crags and the main road. The features (47 to 51) are of a later date to other structures in Suisnish and were built in the early 1920's by the new crofter as barns and byres. (Mr. Farquhar MacLennan, pers.comm). One of the buildings on this croft (not surveyed) is now a house but was the Magazine House for the Iron Works in the early 20th Century. At present the buildings which were surveyed are in use, one as a stable and others as stores for horses' fodder and equipment.

Suisnish

Area A

Centred on NG 5523 3536 [2mOD]

Some 50m from the War Memorial, along the grass and bracken covered ground between the edge of the pebble beach and the road, are the vestigial remains of 11 structures which are barely visible as low foundations in the grass. All the structures between Feature 1 and Feature 6 lie parallel to, and between 3m and 10m from, the shoreline. These are thought to be the remains of houses and byres and appear to be very old although this cannot be determined by field survey alone.

Feature 1

Foundation

To the northeast the site is delimited by a fence and a large clump of almost impenetrable rhododendron and gorse bushes. Close against the fence are the grass-covered sub-rectangular foundations of a structure lying northeast-southwest on its long axis, 16m x 5m. The walling is approximately 1m thick and is very low. Faint signs of what may have been an 'annexe' can be seen lying at right angles to the structure and disappearing under the modern road. No entrances or internal features could be discerned. At the northeast end, a faint 'hook' some 4m x 6m externally passes under the fence and into the bushes. The nature of this feature could not be determined but it is possible that it is the remains of an earlier structure.

Feature 2

Foundations

3m from the southwest end of Feature 1 are the faint remains of a long sub-rectangular structure, possibly a house and byre, measuring 13m x 5m internally, with low walls 1m thick. The structure has been divided into two, the larger section being 9m x 5m internally and the smaller 3.50m x 5m. No entrances or internal features could be seen.

Feature 3

Foundations

Less than 1m from the southwest wall of Feature 2 are the remains of a rectangular structure with rounded corners. The structure, 13m x 5m internally, has low walls 1m thick which are grass covered except at the southwest corner where some stonework is exposed. No entrances or internal features could be seen.

A3 Drawing
Suisnish Sheet 1

A3 Drawing
Suisnish Sheet 2

A3 Drawing
Suisnish Sheet 3

Feature 4**Foundations**

17m to the southwest of Feature 3 lies a low L-shaped bank 8m x 7m and 1m thick. The southwest section of the structure has disappeared into a reed-covered boggy area which has been caused by the flooding of a culvert which runs under the road.

Feature 5**Foundations**

Some 25m to the southwest of Feature 4 and adjacent to the Boathouse are the L-shaped remains of what may have been a rectangular structure. The low banks, 1m thick, are 8m x 8m approximately externally with a large stone lying in the north corner. It was thought that these are the remains of a rectangular structure which has been destroyed at the southwest end by the re-modelling of the Boathouse in modern times.

Feature 6**Boathouse****NG 5521 3526**

An L-shaped stone built boathouse, which is thought to have been built from the remains of an older structure, has been dug into the ground and abuts the road. The structure measures 8m x 9m externally with drystone walling standing to a height of 2m. The structure is roofed with corrugated iron and has a door, 2.40m wide, in the west wall. The ground has been built up on either side of the structure and a slipway running down to the shore has been dug out. The structure is in good condition and is still in use.

**Feature 6**

Features 7-11**Foundations****Centred on NG 5519 3525**

Some 22m along the shore from the boathouse are the faint remains of a group of small structures, on average 4m x 3m, lying very close to the shore. The vestigial remains are barely visible under grass and bracken. They also lie very close to the edge of the road and a stone embankment has been built at the back of the structures to revet the road. These structures have probably been at right angles to the shore with the larger part of their long axes now destroyed by the road.

Feature 11a**Foundations****NG 5525 3528 [5m OD]**

Within the enclosing fence around the gardens of Suisnish House are the faint remains of a sub-rectangular structure with rounded corners lying roughly east-west on its long axis. The remains show now as a faint rise in the ground covered with grass and gorse. The structure (not drawn) has been approximately 10m x 4m. It was not possible to discern where the entrance may have been nor any internal features.

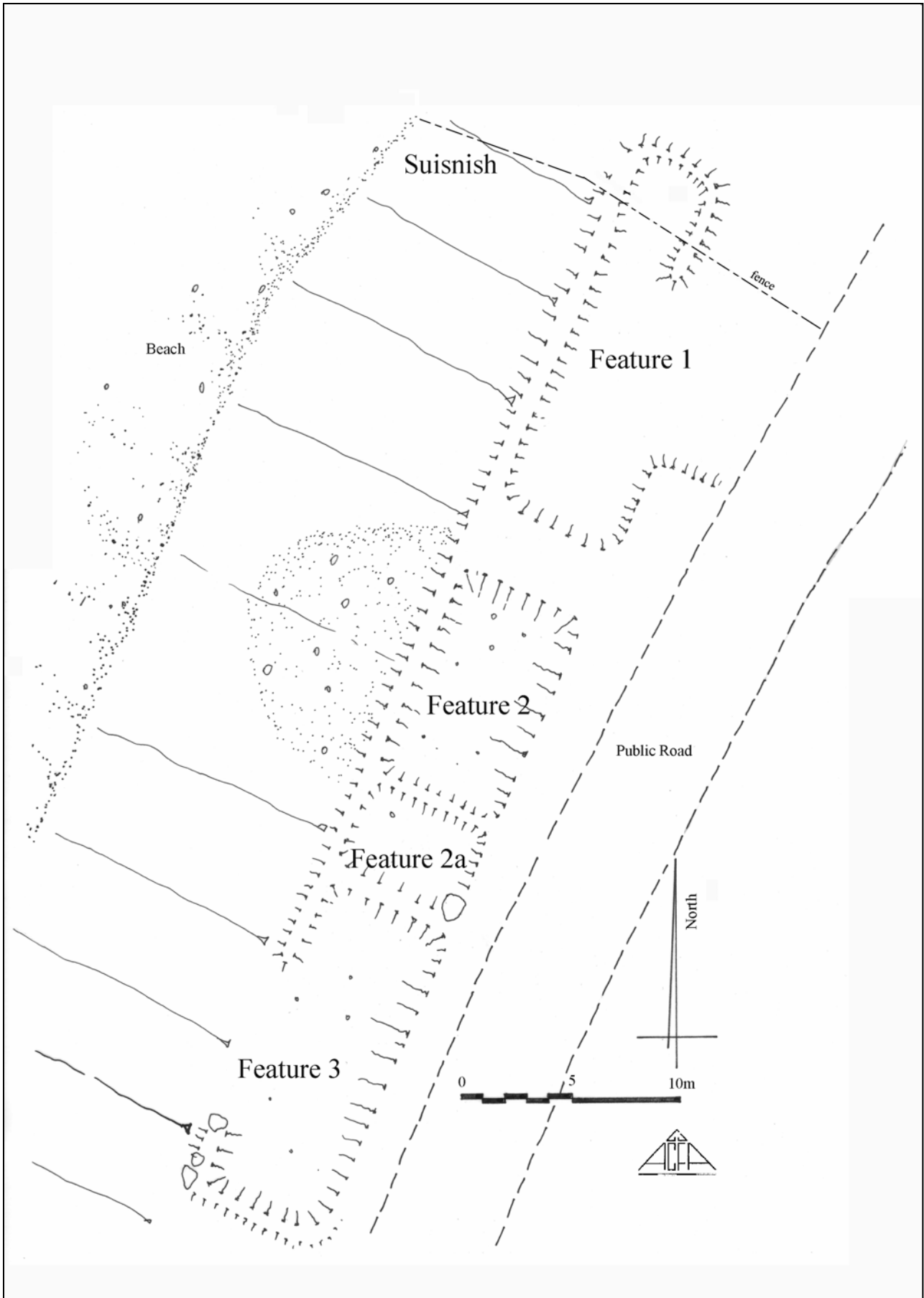
On the opposite side of the modern road from the Boathouse a track runs through a gateway southwards beside the grounds of Suisnish House. Along this track lie a scatter of low grass-covered foundations which are thought to have been a small settlement consisting of perhaps two houses and associated byres and stores, with the features at the north end of the settlement group having been damaged by the construction of the modern road. The ruins appear to be of the same age and state of destruction as the buildings along the shore, although the almost total absence of stone in these remains may be explained by the presence of a large sheepfold, 220m x 170m, built in the third quarter of the 19th century (feature 23). As with the remains along the shore the age and function of these structures cannot be determined by field survey alone.

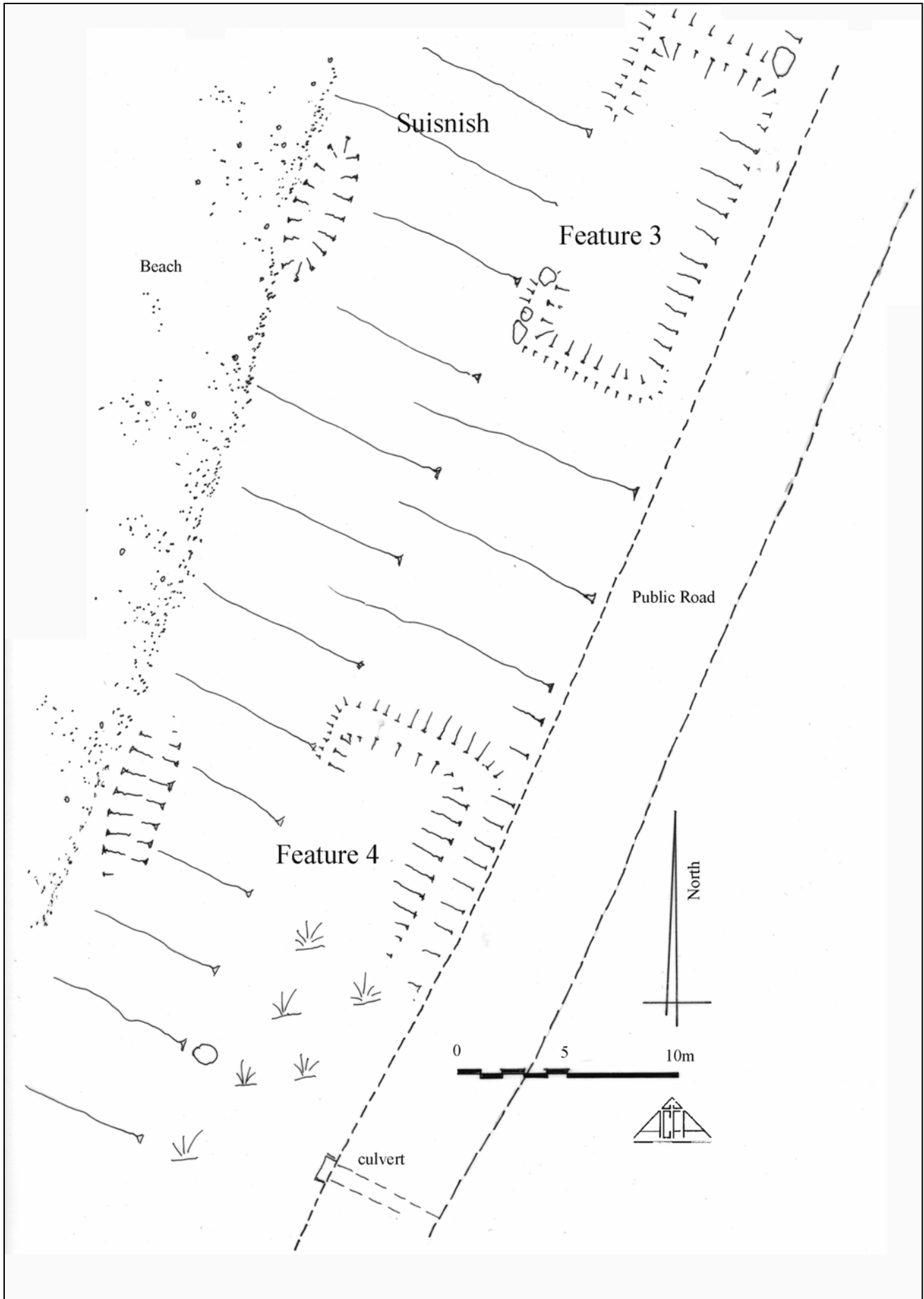
Feature 12**Depression****NG5522 3524 [5m OD]**

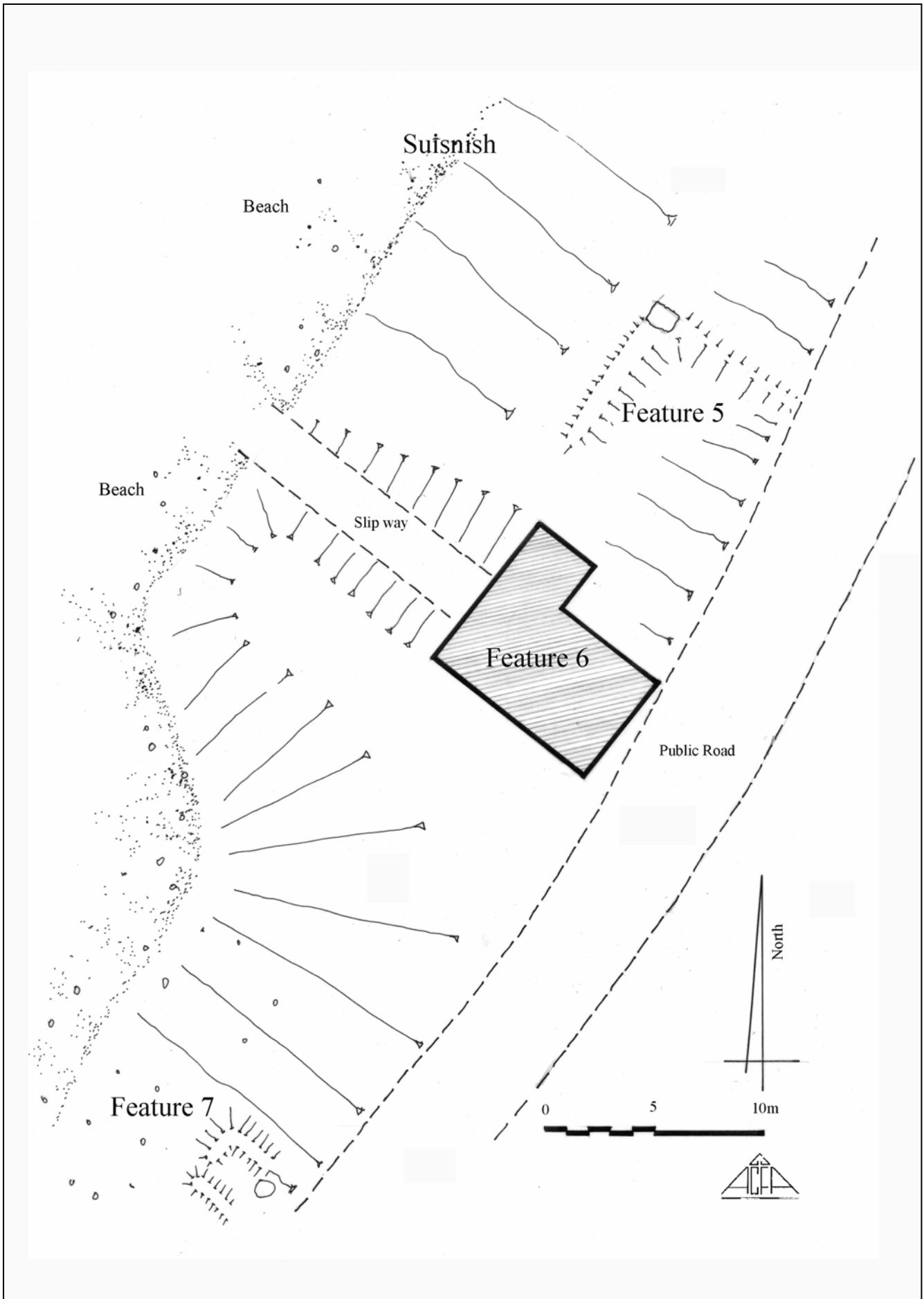
Lying to the west of the track and just above the modern road is a scooped area which has been damaged by the building of the road. The remains as they are seen now are 5m x 2m with grass and moss covering. Any stone which may have been in the walls originally will have been removed for the construction of the road.

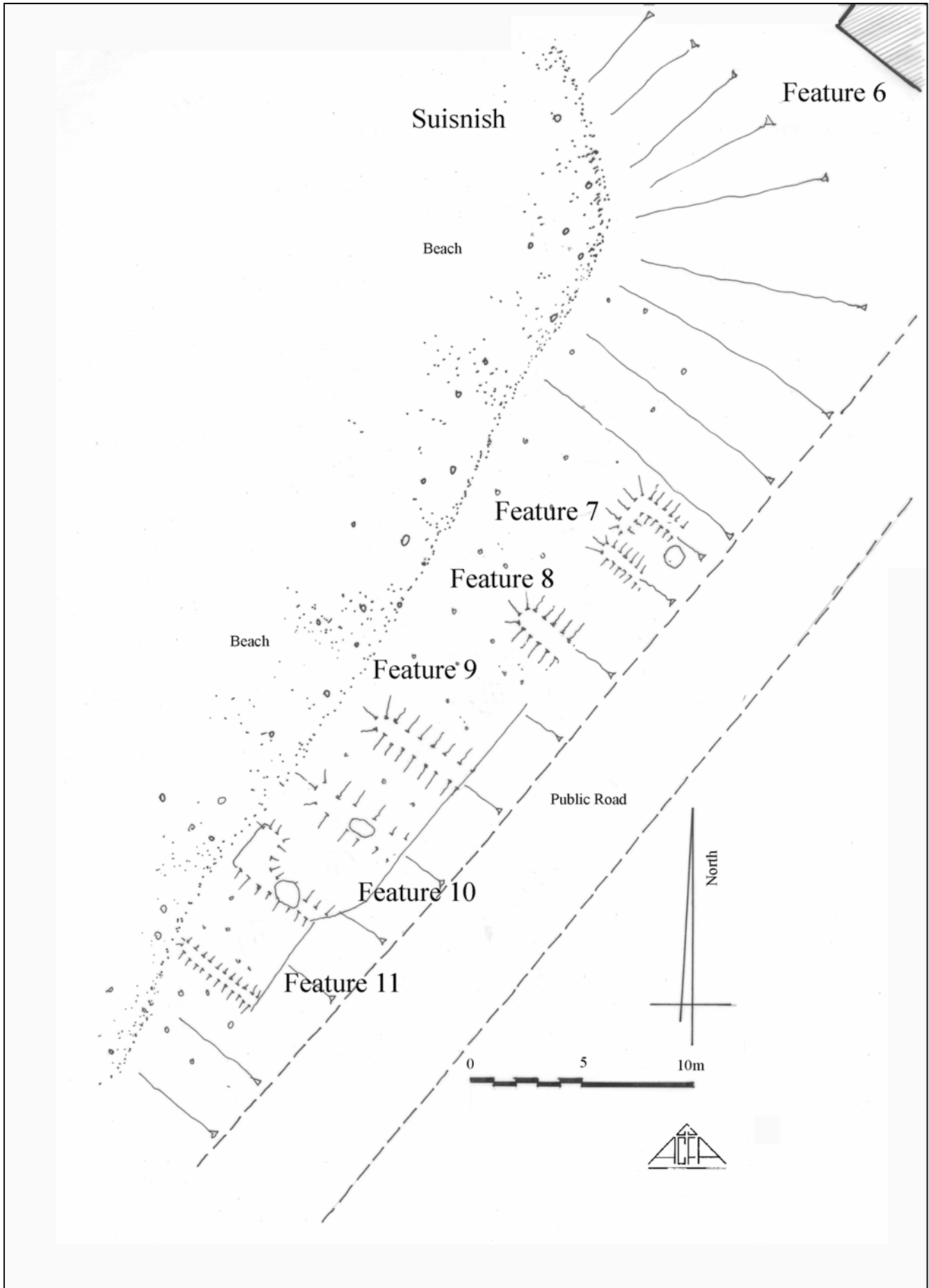
Feature 13**Remains**

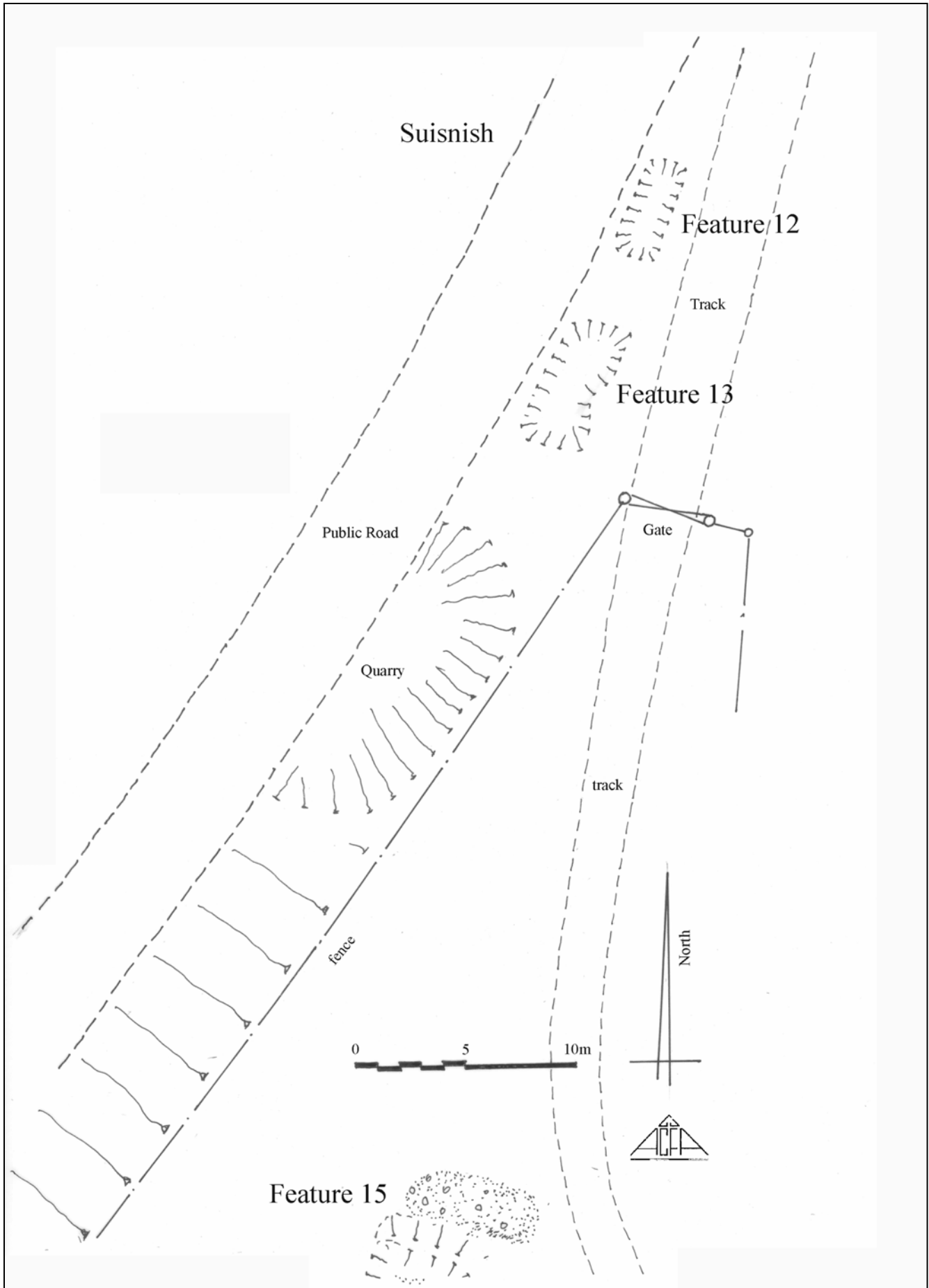
Approximately 3.50m to the southwest of Feature 12 is a scooped depression, irregularly shaped and measuring about 6m x 3m externally. This structure is thought to have been of similar construction and age as the rest of the settlement but to have been damaged by the building of the road. As with Feature 12, any stone in this building will have been removed to be used in the construction of the road.











Area B

Centred on NG 5521 3521 [20m OD]

Between the two gates on the track lie the remains of 8 structures which straggle along the grassy area to the west of the track and one which lies to the east of the track.

Feature 14 Outline

Lying some 30m south of the lower gate and about 20m west of the track are the poorly defined remains of a small structure, 5m x 3m externally, which has been dug into the ground, particularly at the south end. There may have been an entrance 0.80m wide in the west side. Some large stones lie in the interior.

Feature 15 House

Lying not more than 2m to the east of Feature 14 are the low remains of a house lying almost north-south on its long axis and measuring 6.40m x 4m externally. The walling is grass and moss covered of little height and the structure has been scooped into the ground to a depth of 1.50m. Some large stones lie in the interior. There has been an entrance 0.80m wide in the east side. Beside the north end is a levelled, sub-rectangular area with stones as bottoming which may have been a stand for storing peats or a stack stand for crops.



Feature15

Feature 16 **Possible Store**

2m west of Feature 14 is a small sub-rectangular structure, 3m x 4m, scooped into the ground. There is a possible entrance 0.50m wide in the west side.

Feature 17 **Store**

3m to the south of Feature 16 are the insubstantial remains of a small sub-rectangular structure, 2m x 2m, scooped into the ground. There may have been an entrance 0.50m wide in the north side.

Feature 18 **Byre/Store**

Lying 4m south of Feature 15 are the low remains of a small structure, perhaps 3m x 2.50m, which has been built into the hill slope at its south end, giving a height internally of 1.50m. There may have been an entrance 0.80m wide in the east wall. The remains are grass, moss and bracken covered.

Feature 19 **Outline**

About 3m east of Feature 18 is the faint shape of a rectangular scoop 4m x 1.5m.

Feature 20 **Outline**

The exiguous outline of what may have been a small structure, 5m x 3m, lies 4m to the southeast of Feature 19 completely covered by moss and rough grass and bracken.

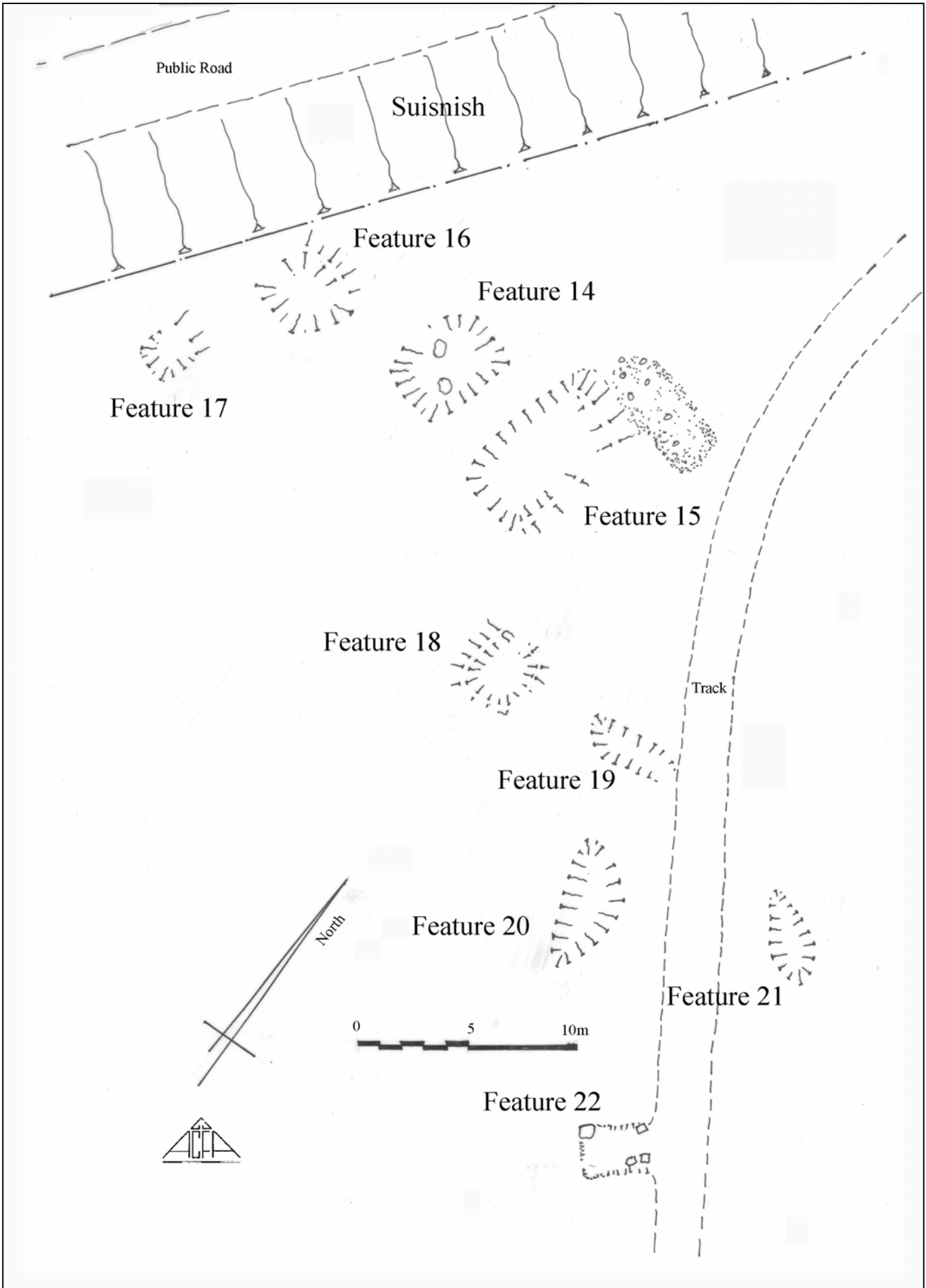
Feature 21 **Scoop**

Situated on the opposite side of the track from Feature 20 a 'teardrop' shaped scoop, 4m x 2m at maximum and 2m deep at the broad, south end.

Feature 22 **Depression**

Lying 7m southeast of Feature 20 and abutting the west side of the track is a small depression, 2m x 2.50m, cut into the hillside with some stone visible in the northeast, northwest and southeast corners. There may have been an entrance in the east side.

The track continues towards and then passes through a gate in a modern fence line some 40m from the northwest corner of the large Suisnish enclosure. It then runs southeast beside the enclosure and Features 24-27, now very faint, are thought to have been totally destroyed to provide stone for the substantial enclosure walls. Features 28-31 all lie between the track and the rising ground and rocky escarpment which runs northwest-southeast for over 200m.



Area C
Centred on NG 5533 3513 [30m OD]

Feature 23

Enclosure

Centred on NG 5545 3515

To the east of the track is a large drystone built enclosure. It measures 220m northwest-southeast and 170m northeast-southwest. The wall is of drystone construction, double-skinned with a rubble core. The courses are laid horizontally with the large coping stones placed vertically. The average overall height is 1.60m (1.35m to the top of the horizontal courses) and on average 0.60m wide. Along its length are stones which project out from the wall face half way up and spaced at approximately 1.80m. There is an entrance 2.70m wide in the east wall 4.30m from the south-east corner. It is now partially closed off with a mixture of stones and scrap metal. The interior of the enclosure is covered in rough grass and scrub with evidence of old field banks and rig.

Feature 24

Possible House

Lying approximately 15m from the modern fence line and on the west side of the track are the faint remains of what may have been a house with a yard attached or two houses. The feature shows now as part of a rectangular structure with low banks outlining it and possibly an attached rectangular feature on its southwest side. This second feature has been dug into the hillslope on its southwest side and in its south corner is a modern lambing pen of dry-stone construction measuring 2.50m square with walls 0.50m thick. In the more north-easterly section of the feature there may have been an entrance 1.25m wide in the northeast wall.

Feature 25

Possible House



Not more than 2m to the southeast of Feature 24 are the ruinous foundations of what may have been a rectangular house. The structure, which has rounded corners, is lying northwest-southeast on its long axis and measures 11m x 5.50m internally with walls which are seen now as low raised banks with some stone showing through turf and grass. The southwest side of the structure has been dug into the hillslope and stands 1m high internally. There may have been an entrance 0.80m wide in the northeast wall. No internal features could be discerned.

Feature 26

House & Enclosures

15m southeast of Feature 25 along the contour of the hillslope are the ruinous remains of what may have been a house with enclosure and kail yard attached. Lying northwest-southeast on its long axis are the foundations of a sub-rectangular structure 13m x 3.50m internally with rounded corners. The foundations consist of stone and turf banks standing to a maximum height of 0.50m and approximately 0.80m wide on average. The northeast wall of the house is destroyed for a length of 8m and it is not possible to say with certainty that this was where the entrance was although this seems likely. Attached to the north corner of the house a low stony bank runs west for 8m and then curves round southwards for 4m. At the west corner of the house another low bank runs for almost 4m to the foot of the steep hillslope at the southwest side of the house. These banks, the base of the hillslope and the northwest and southwest walls of the house define two enclosures, the more northerly being 7m x 8m at maximum and the southerly 12m x 4m. There may have been entrance between the enclosures in the bank at the west corner of the building.



Feature 26

Feature 27

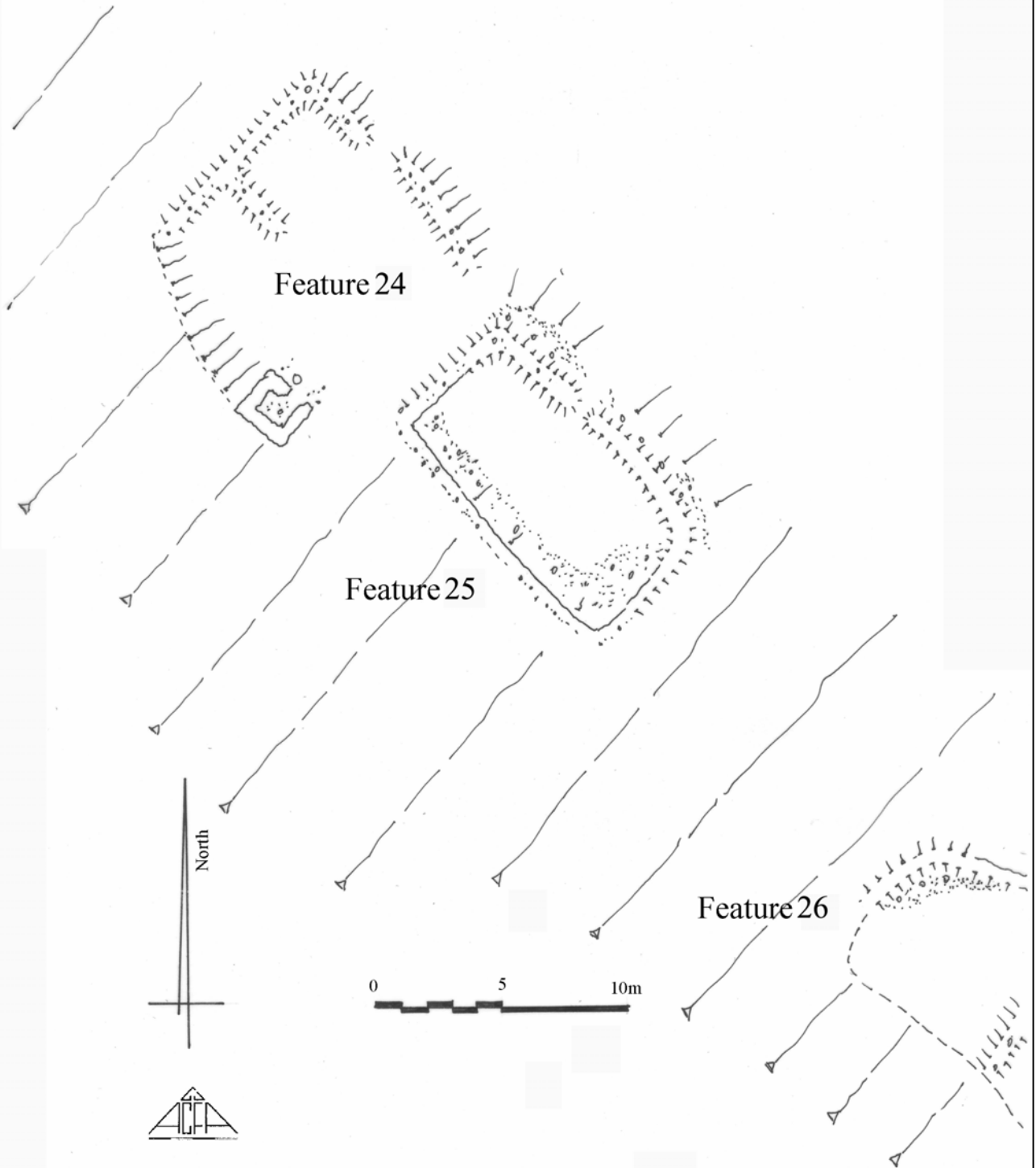
Setting of Scattered Stone

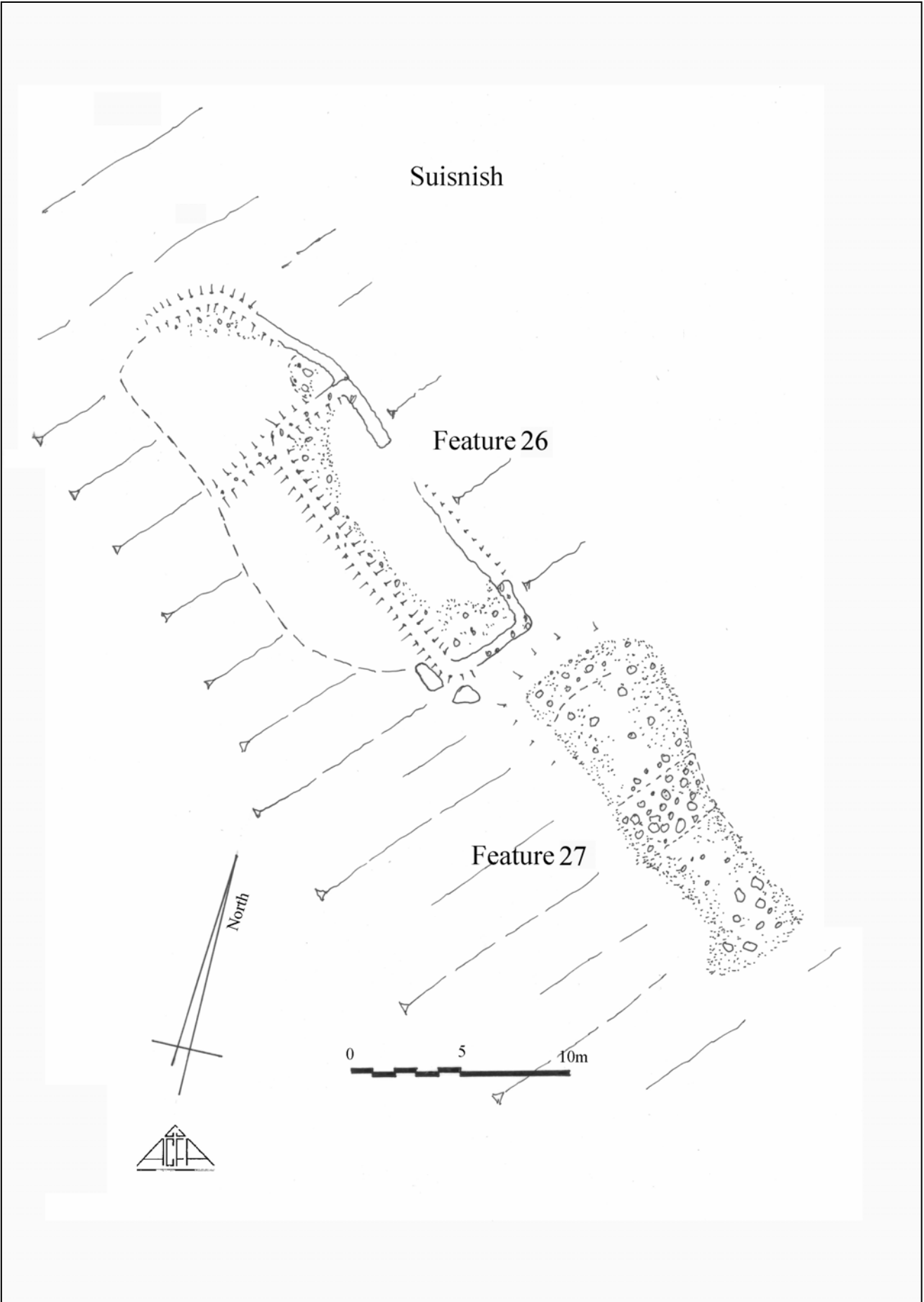
About 2m southeast of Feature 26 and lying northwest-southeast on its long axis is a sub-rectangular spread of stones 16m x 5m at maximum. The feature is completely covered with small stones. It was speculated that the feature has been a house which has been completely destroyed or alternatively has been a pile of stones gathered for the construction of the large enclosure close by to the east. It is possible that, given its shape and dimensions, this has been a house the base of which has been used to pile stones on for the building of the wall.



Feature 27

Suisnish





Feature 28

Rectangular Scoop

A shallow rectangular scoop, 2m x 2.20m overall, is visible in grass, moss and bracken. It was not clear what the age or function of this feature has been but it may be associated with Feature 29.

Feature 29

House

Some 2m southeast of Feature 28 are the upstanding remains of a rectangular house lying northwest-southeast and measuring 11m x 3.70m internally. The walls, which are 0.75m thick, are of dry-stone construction, double-faced with rubble infill, and stand to a maximum height of 2m. There may have been an internal partition seen now as a central pile of rubble. There are two entrances, 1m wide, in the northeast wall and there has been an earlier entrance, which has now been filled in, mid-way along this wall. In the southeast corner of the house is a modern wooden lambing pen approximately 3m x 2m

The structure indicates more than one phase of construction. The base of the building is built with large substantial stones while the stonework higher up the walls indicates poorer building techniques. It is thought that the later phase of the house's construction and use has either post-dated or is contemporaneous with the construction of the large enclosure and Feature 29 was probably built as a shepherd's house in the late 19th century when Suisnish was part of the great sheep farm which covered most of the south of the island.



Feature 29

Feature 30**Structure Base**

Lying 5m to the southeast of Feature 29 is a rectangular platform 10.50m x 4m which appears to have been the base of a house, now completely demolished. There is a suggestion of walling at the north, west and east corners. The platform is covered with modern building debris.

Feature 31**Barn/Store**

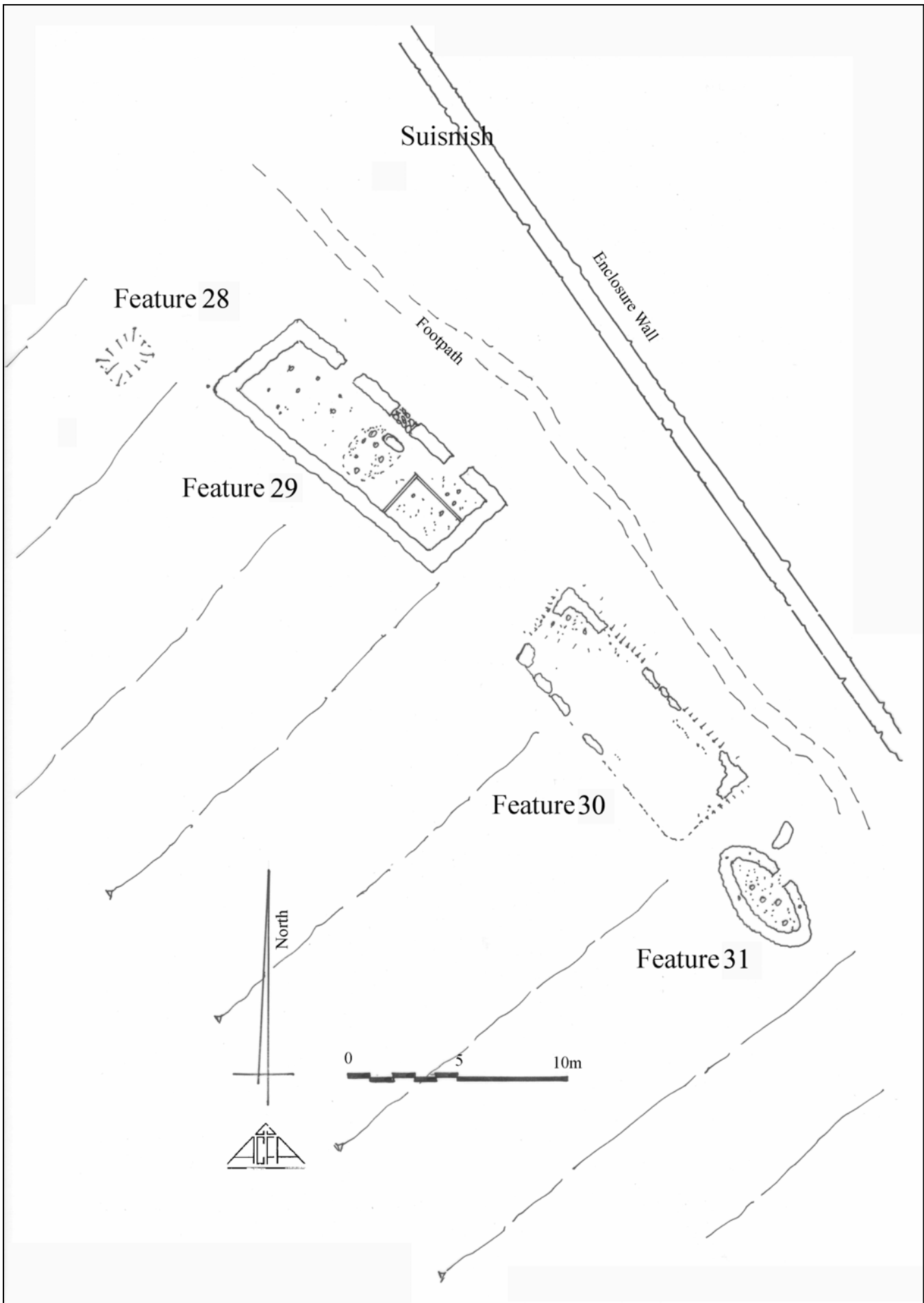
Lying some 2m southeast of Feature 30 are the upstanding ruins of a boat-shaped structure 4.40m x 2m internally at maximum. The drystone walls are 0.50m thick and stand to a height of 1m. A well-defined entrance 0.80m across lies in the east wall. The structure is sited beneath a crumbling rock face to the west and in the interior rubble is piled at both ends to a height of 1m.

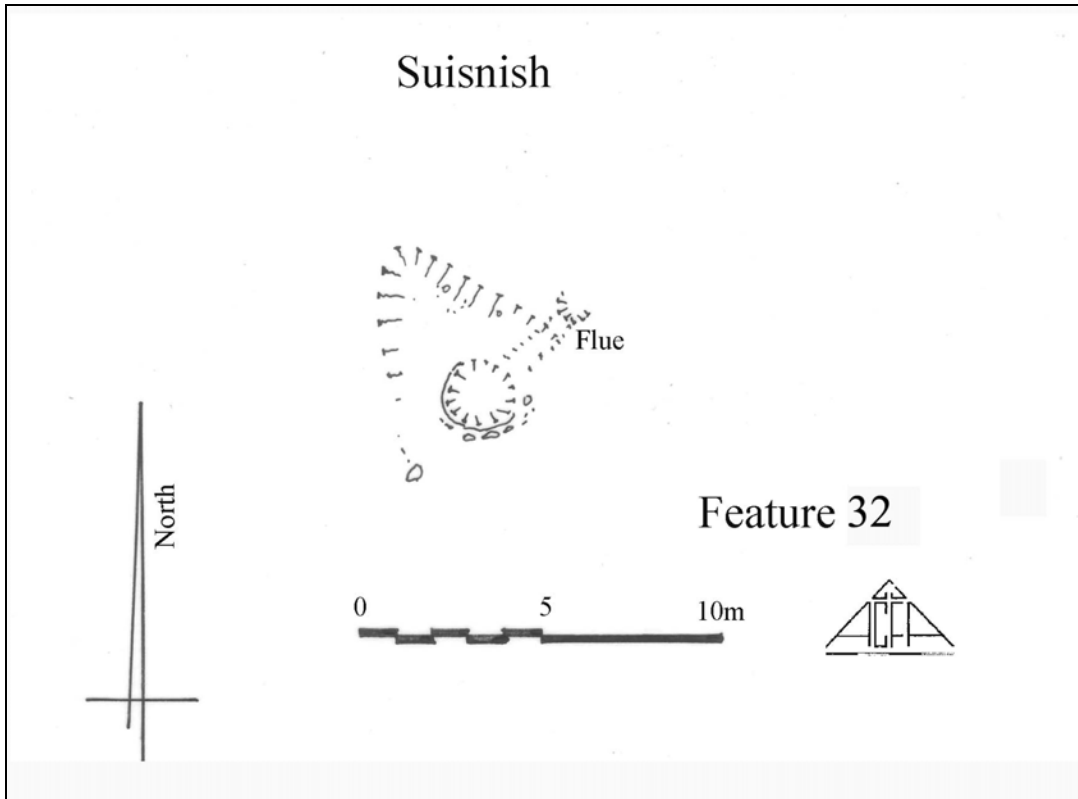
Outside the south wall of Feature 23 is an area of rig and furrow over a gently sloping area of ground which is boggy and reed-covered. The rig runs east-west and is on average 2m wide. The rig is also visible inside the enclosure and a low turf and stone bank almost encloses it, partly outside and partly inside the enclosure.

Within the area of rig and abutting the outside of the south enclosure wall is a semi-circular stone setting of unknown purpose. (Not drawn)

Feature 32**Corn Kiln****NG 5547 3495**

Close to the west side of the track and at the edge of a large area of improved ground are the grassed over remains of a corn-drying kiln. A sub-circular stone-lined bowl, 2m in diameter, lies in grass and a hole in the ground 2m from the east side may have been the flue. On the north side of the bowl is a scooped out area which may be all that remains of a small structure which has once enclosed the kiln. Some 15m northwest of the kiln a shallow pit has been dug out close to an old turf and stone field boundary. The area around the kiln is good, improved land with evidence of field systems of varying ages.





Feature 32

Area D

Centred on NG5557 3483 [45m OD]

A glen runs southwards from Suisnish House for about 1/2km bounded to the west by a rocky scarp ridge and to the east by sloping land. Beyond areas A, B and C, the glen rises gently to approximately 45m OD where a flat terrace, 150m x 60m at the maximum, contains the remains of old settlement, centred on NG 5557 3483. The terrace is bounded by old dykes at the northwest and southeast sides and by steep changes of slope at the northeast and southwest sides. The northwest bank is thought to be the older of the banks being roughly made of turf and stone with a 2m wide entrance towards its east end. The southeast wall, of drystone construction, is thought to have been constructed after some of the houses had gone out of use as it uses some of the walls of the houses in its construction and at Feature 45 the wall has been built across the entrance to the house. As noted previously, the area to the southeast, northwest and southwest of the settlement has been improved and cleared but the northeast is low-lying and marshy, covered with reeds and coarse grass. A small sluggish burn runs down the glen to the northeast of the settlement and this is apparently the only nearby source of water. The settlement has contained 9 structures although it is not possible by field survey alone to determine if they were contemporaneous. The feature at the north end (Feature 35) is considerably more modern. At the northeast edge of the terrace is a curious feature recorded in the NMRS as a souterrain.

Feature 33

Hut Circle

NG 5599 3517

On a level, heather-covered area overlooking Suisnish to the west and south is a raised circular



Feature 33

turf bank between 0.70m and 0.90m wide and approximately 0.40m high with occasional stones visible. The bank encloses an area 10m in diameter, grass-covered in the interior and clear of stone. There are two breaks in the circle, one in the northeast sector and one in the southwest sector, either of which could have been the entrance.

Feature 34

Mound

Some 15m to the northeast of Feature 33, close to the modern post and wire fence, is a raised oval mound 7m x 4.50m and on average 0.25m high. The mound is covered with bracken and heather and is flattened (or even slightly dished) on the top. Gentle probing revealed that the mound is not composed of stone but is of gravelly earth. It was not felt that the mound is clearance but the purpose and date of it could not be established from survey alone.

Feature 35

Enclosure and Structure

Lying some 225m southeast of the large stone built sheepfold, Feature 23, and at the south end of the area of green, improved land is a sub-rectangular enclosure, 13m x 11m enclosed to the north, west and south by a low stone and turf bank and to the east by the natural drop in slope. Within this enclosure at a much later date – possibly early 20th century – a rectangular stone building has been erected. The building lies roughly north-south on its long axis and measures externally 4.90m x 3.90m over walls 0.60m thick. The walls, of double faced dry-stone with rubble core, stand to a maximum height of 1.70m at the east end. The north and west walls are badly tumbled and the building generally is in a quite dangerous condition. A doorway 0.90m wide is roughly midway in the east wall with no indication of a lintel although the wall here appears to be about its original height. A small window, 0.30m square, lies towards the east end of the south wall. Strips of wood with corrugated iron nailed to them lie on the ground at the southeast corner and this has almost certainly been the roofing although there is not enough of it to have covered the entire roof. The wall head slopes slightly from east to west to allow water to run off. The interior has some tumbled stone but there are no internal features to be seen except for the remains of a small lambing pen which has been built in the northeast corner. Some stone lies in the ground outside the east side and it is not clear if this has been some sort of rough cobbling or is evidence of an earlier structure on this site. The function of this structure is not clear. It has almost certainly not been a dwelling and is probably a byre or a store for farming implements.



Feature 35

Feature 36

House and Enclosure

Approximately 11m southeast of Feature 35 lies a long, bow-ended house, 10.40m northeast-southwest by 3.50m northwest-southeast. The walls, which are stone with turf cover, are 1.20m thick and 0.60m high at the maximum at the northeast end. There may have been an entrance in the east wall but this wall is very ruinous and it is difficult to say with certainty. No internal features were visible. From the northeast corner a slight banking runs northwest to the change of slope and continues as a rough stone and turf bank to form the northeast side of the platform on which Feature 35 has been built. At the west corner of the house a low stone and turf bank runs northwest to meet the change of slope and along this slope edge the later northerly enclosing dyke of the settlement has been built. The dyke joins on to the west end of the house and continues westwards for 9m to its entrance. It is thought that Feature 36 has been a house with an attached enclosure which measured 19m x 12m. At a later date the stone dyke has divided the enclosure at the change of slope and in the lower end of the enclosure Feature 35 has been built.

Feature 37**Souterrain****NG 5558 3486**

This feature is recorded in the NMRS as a souterrain. Approximately 15m northeast of Feature 36 a hollow area 2.50m x 1.80m faces on to a sharp change of slope. At the west end of this hollow are two holes with large stones and some slumped earth between them. This may have been the entrance to the souterrain or, alternatively, the entrance may have been at the face of the slope at the east end and the stones and earth may be evidence of collapse of the tunnel. To the west of this hollow is a scoop 3.10m east-west by 2m north-south and 0.50m deep which is thought to be a continuation of the collapsing tunnel. At the west end of this a slightly raised length of turf, 7m x 1.30m runs away north-westwards. It is not clear if this is part of the souterrain or not.

Feature 38**Structure**

Some 15m downslope to the east of Feature 37 and close to the burn is a very ruinous oval structure built against an old boundary dyke. The structure, which measures 7m x 4.50m, is seen now as very low grass and bracken covered banks with some stone visible. There may have been an entrance in the southeast wall. A low turf bank arcs round from the southwest end.

Feature 39**House**

Lying northeast-southwest on its long axis are the remains of a house 9m x 4.40m internally with walling 1.10m thick and 0.60m high at maximum. An entrance 1.10m wide lies in the east wall. The structure shows as grassy turf banks with stone visible in places and a clear wall face can be seen at the northeast end. Both ends of the structure are rounded. There are no internal features visible.

**Feature 39**

Feature 40**Byre**

A small oval structure lies northeast-southwest on its long axis adjacent to the southwest corner of Feature 39. The structure has been rebuilt with rough boulders on top of earlier foundations. It measures 4.70m x 3.50m externally over walls 0.80m thick and 0.7m high at the maximum. An entrance approximately 1m wide lies at the southwest end.



Feature 40

Feature 41**Barn/Store**

About 12m to the southeast of Feature 39, the enclosing dyke has been built to accommodate a pre-existing structure which lies northeast-southwest on its long axis and measures 5.60m x 2.40m. The low turf-covered stone walls are no more than 0.40m high but the later dyke has been built on top of the east and southwest walls raising them to 0.70m – 1m in height. An entrance, 0.90m wide, lies in the west wall. The interior is grass covered and is at a lower level than the surrounding grassy ground. No internal features are visible.

Feature 42

House

Lying northeast-southwest on its long axis 3m southwest of Feature 39 a round-ended house has had its east wall incorporated into the enclosing dyke. The house measures 9.70m x 4.80m externally over walls 1.20m thick on average. The walls show now as 1m high turf banks with stone showing through in places and the enclosing dyke is built on top of the southeast wall. There may have been an entrance 1m wide in the northeast end. The feature is grass covered with no visible internal features.



Feature 42

Feature 43**Foundations**

In the flat grassy area 4m southwest of Feature 42 can be seen the exiguous remains of an oval structure possibly 5.40m x 3.70m lying northeast-southwest on its long axis. The walls are just visible as a faint rise in the grass and no features can be discerned. The feature lies immediately opposite the entrance through the enclosing wall and may have been demolished because of this or, on the other hand, it may simply be evidence of older structures on the site.

Feature 44**Possible House**

Lying northwest-southeast on its long axis 3m north of Feature 43 are the foundations of an oval structure 8.10m x 5m externally over turf and stone walls 0.70m thick. The grass and turf covered stone walls stand now to no more than 0.40m high. There may have been an entrance 0.90m wide in the south wall. The interior is very boggy and wet.



Feature 44

Feature 45

House

Lying northeast-southwest on its long axis 8m southwest of Feature 42 is a long, round-ended ruinous building, 13.60m x 6.40m with walls 0.80m high at maximum and 1.50m wide at the doorway. The walls are of drystone construction, double-faced with rubble core and now turf covered. There is an entrance, 1m wide, in the east wall with stone frames clearly visible although the later construction of the enclosing dyke has blocked it up. The interior is very wet. A small oval structure, 5.90m x 2.10m, shares the northeast wall of the main building. This small structure is divided into two round sections by a divider 2.60m from the southwest end. The entrance was probably in the east corner. The smaller structure lies beside the entrance in the enclosing dyke.

Feature 46

Probable Byre with Clearance

At a lower level than the rest of the settlement and 11m to the southeast of Feature 45 beyond the boundary dyke lies a small ruinous oval structure covered in clearance material. Lying roughly northwest-southeast on its long axis the original structure has probably been 8.60m x 4.90m externally. There may have been an entrance midway in the north wall. Some very large stones are piled in the west end and clearance material lies over the east wall. The suggestion was made

that this feature is a robbed round cairn but the survey team, considering the fact that the large stones are piled on top of small stones and considering that there were signs of wall facings at the north wall, came to the conclusion that the feature was an old byre later used as the basis of a clearance cairn when the area around was cleared and improved.



Feature46

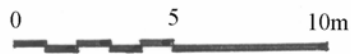
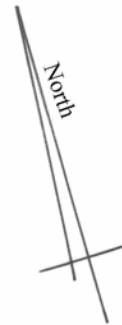
Suisnish



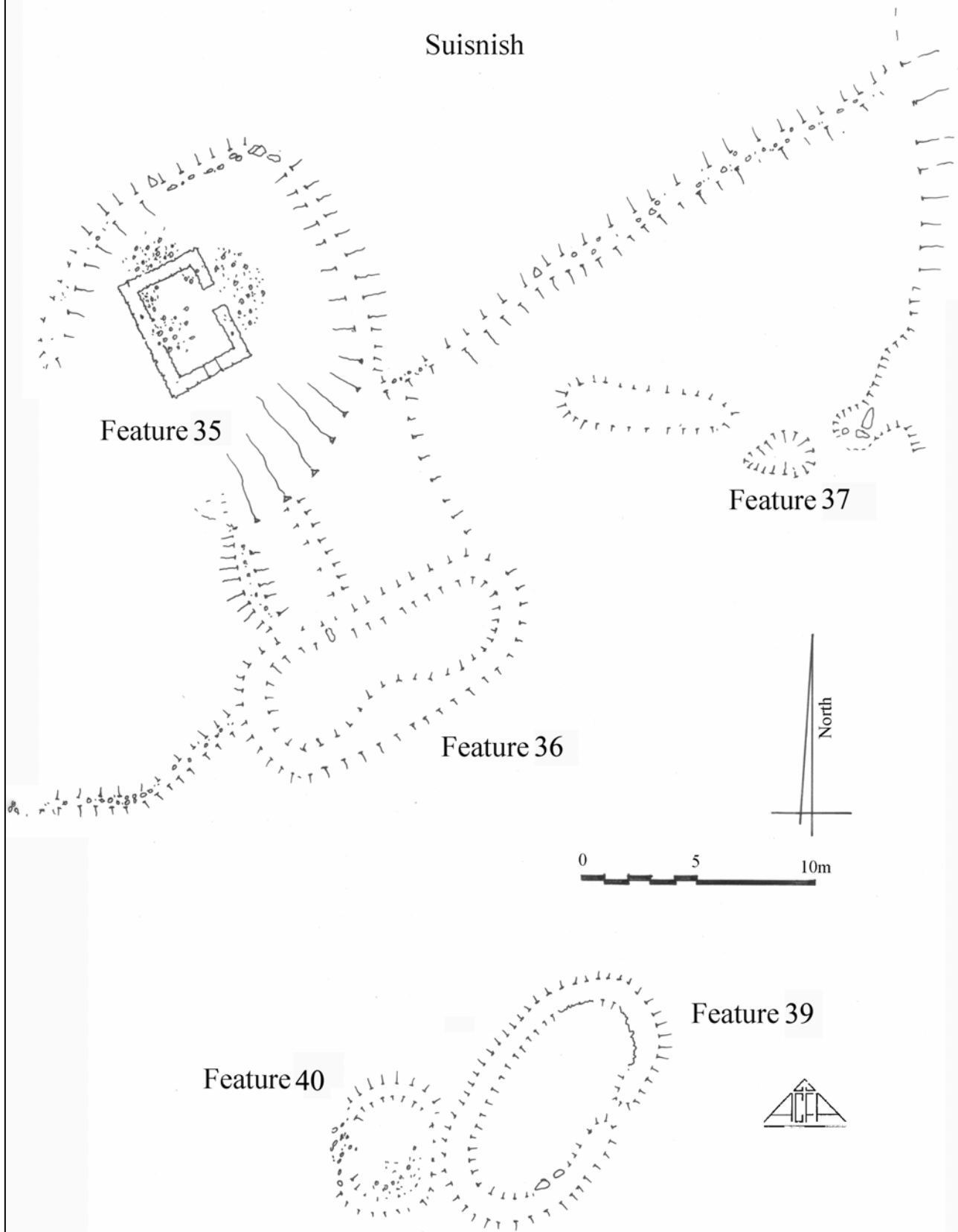
Feature 34

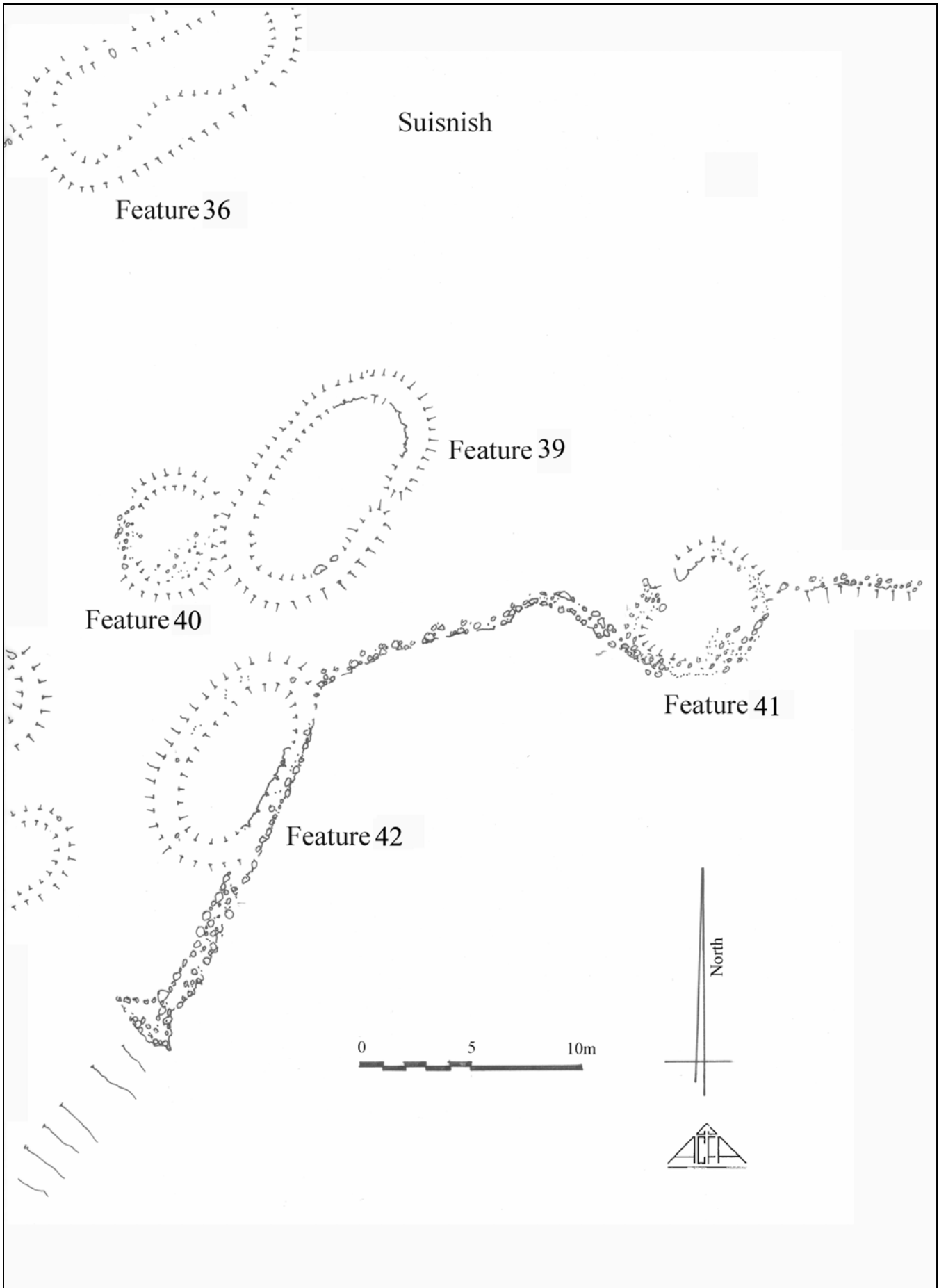


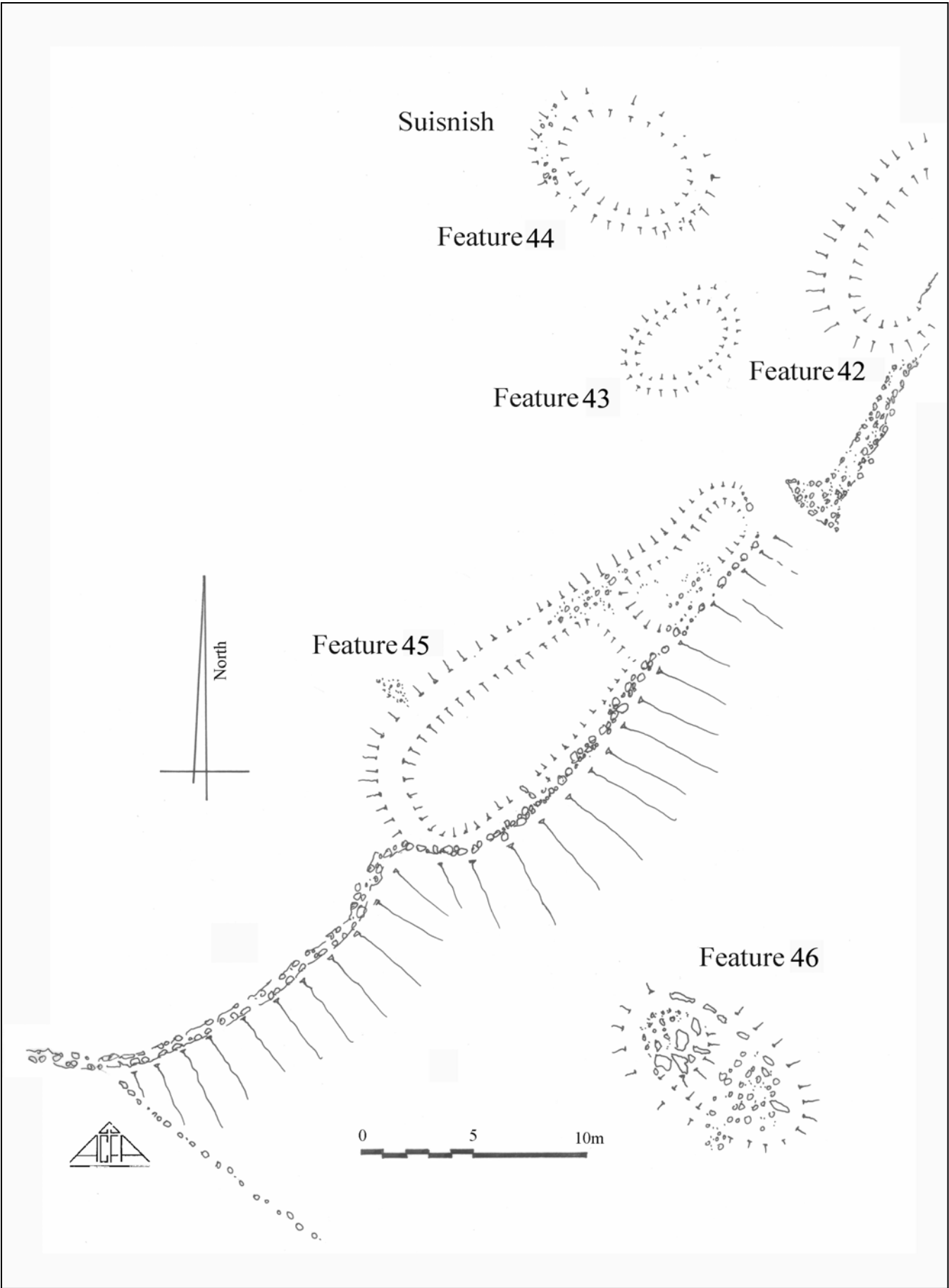
Feature 33



Suisnish







Area E

Centred on NG 5537 3489 [25m OD]

A sloping sub-rectangular area of grass, roughly 200m x 100m at maximum, is bounded to the west by a steep drop down to the modern road and the shoreline and to the east by a steep scree-covered ridge surmounted by a rocky scarp. Four upstanding structures lie along the foot of the scree slope and a spring lies roughly in the centre of the area. The structures, built by the crofter in the 1920's, were in use at the time of the survey (March 2005) as stabling for 2 horses and fodder stores. The fields all around have been cleared and improved but the area immediately around the structures is strewn with large tumbled stones. It was felt that there were broad stone and turf banks and possibly the foundations of older structures but the amount of tumble made it impossible to delineate them with any certainty.

Feature 47

Animal House

A sub-rectangular dry-stone structure (known as the Bull House) lies at the foot of a steep scree-covered slope at the southeast extremity of the site. The structure faces southwest over the Sound of Raasay some 130m northeast of the Magazine House (on the OS map). The walls are of varying lengths giving an internal area of about 2.60m x 3m. The walls are double faced stone with rubble infill. They are 0.60m thick standing to 2.10m at the north end and sloping to 1.60m at the south end. The southwest wall has been mortared in places around the doorway which lies 1m from the southwest corner. The doorway is 1m wide and 1.50m high with a



Feature 47

wooden lintel, 1.70m long, 0.30m high and 0.12m thick, remaining in place. The lintel has the appearance of a railway sleeper and the site is no more than 300m from the iron work lines. Four joists in the ceiling made of rough tree trunks are crossed by four thin wooden slats on which are laid sheets of corrugated iron weighted down with heavy stones. At the southeast end of the structure low tumbled walling extends out to form an extension 1.60m northeast-southwest x 4m southeast-northwest which has probably been open at the southwest side. This may be the old founds of a larger structure which has been rebuilt into the present building or the base of a cart stand.

Feature 48

Spring

Approximately 30m to the northwest of Feature 47 a mud-filled depression about 1m square has been edged with flat slabs. A modern plastic pipe runs from here to the horses' water trough and the spring obviously still runs in wet weather.

Feature 49

Barn & Byre

At the foot of a rocky, scree-covered slope about 5m northwest of Feature 48 a rectangular structure lies northwest-southeast on its long axis. The building measures 9.50m x 3.50m



Feature 49

internally. The walls are double faced dry-stone with rubble infill and are 0.65m thick. They appear to be standing mostly to the original height – about 1.50m on average. The short walls have intact gables, the southeast 3.50m high and the northwest almost 3m as some of the apex has fallen. There are two doors, both 1.20m across, in the west wall, one in the northwest corner and one 3.50m from the southwest corner. There have been two windows in the west wall, both now blocked up. Internally there is flagstone paving in the northwest end which may have been a drain for a byre and there is some paving against the west wall at the southeast end. The floor of the building where there is no paving is hard packed earth and gravel. Outside the west wall of the building an area 2.50m wide has been paved with large slabs. At the rear (east) side the sloping ground has been dug out for about 1m to form a ditch along the back of the structure and an arc of rough boulder walling is set along the contour roughly 1m from the edge of the ditch. The feature is now being used as a stable for 2 horses. A narrow path, flagged in places, connects Feature 49 with Feature 50.

Feature 50

Shed

Approximately 10m northwest of Feature 49 is a rectangular structure 4.20m x 3.20m externally over walls about 0.50m thick. The walls are of dry-stone construction and stand 2.50m high at



Feature 50

the east and 2m at the west with a flat roof of corrugated iron held down with large stones and fixed to rough tree branches which act as joists. A door 0.80m wide and 1.50m high stands in the middle of the southwest wall and a window 0.50m wide and 0.70m high lies in the middle of the west wall. The building is presently used for storing hay. At the northwest end of the structure is an irregular area about 2.50m square which has been paved with large flat stones. In front of Feature 50 can be seen the remains of an enclosure running northeast-southwest and measuring 27m x 7m bounded by stone and turf banks, partly rebuilt in more modern times. The enclosure walls have clearly been rebuilt and modified over the years and it is possible that there may have originally been several smaller enclosures on the site. The structure at NG 5534 3489, shown on the OS map, no longer exists although a stony platform, 5m x 4m, which lies against the inside of the southwest wall of the enclosure, is probably the base of it.

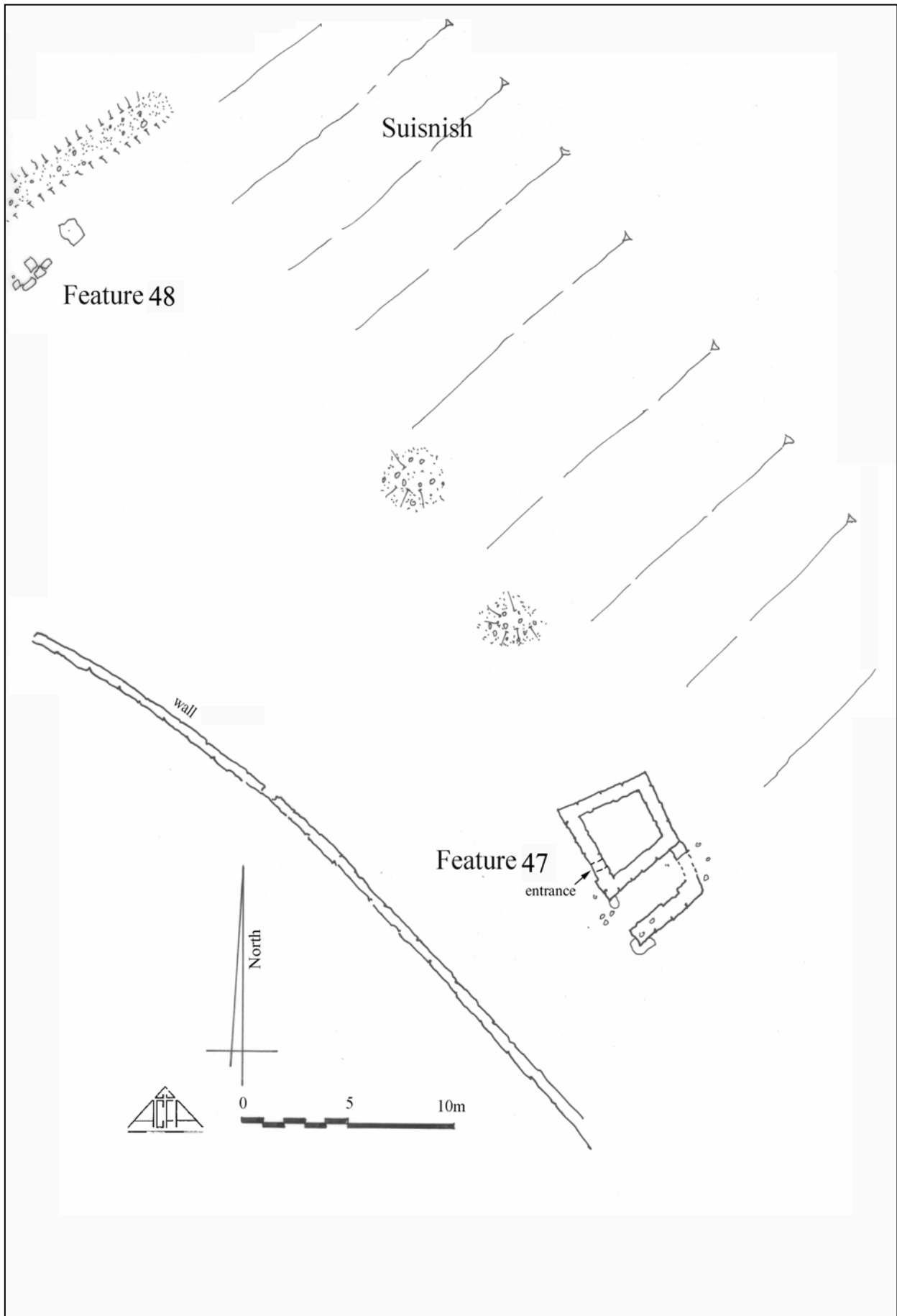
Feature 51

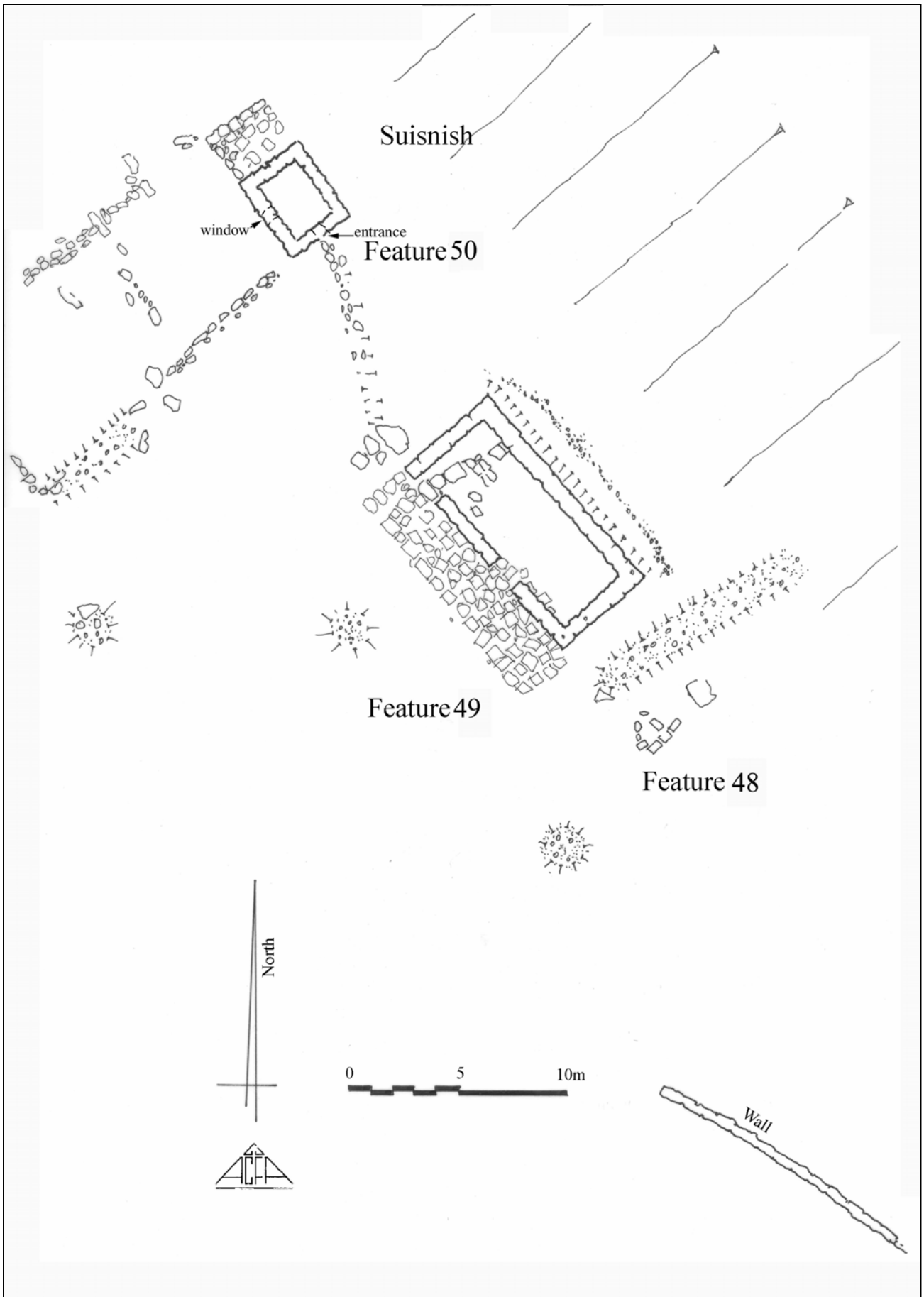
Enclosure and Barn

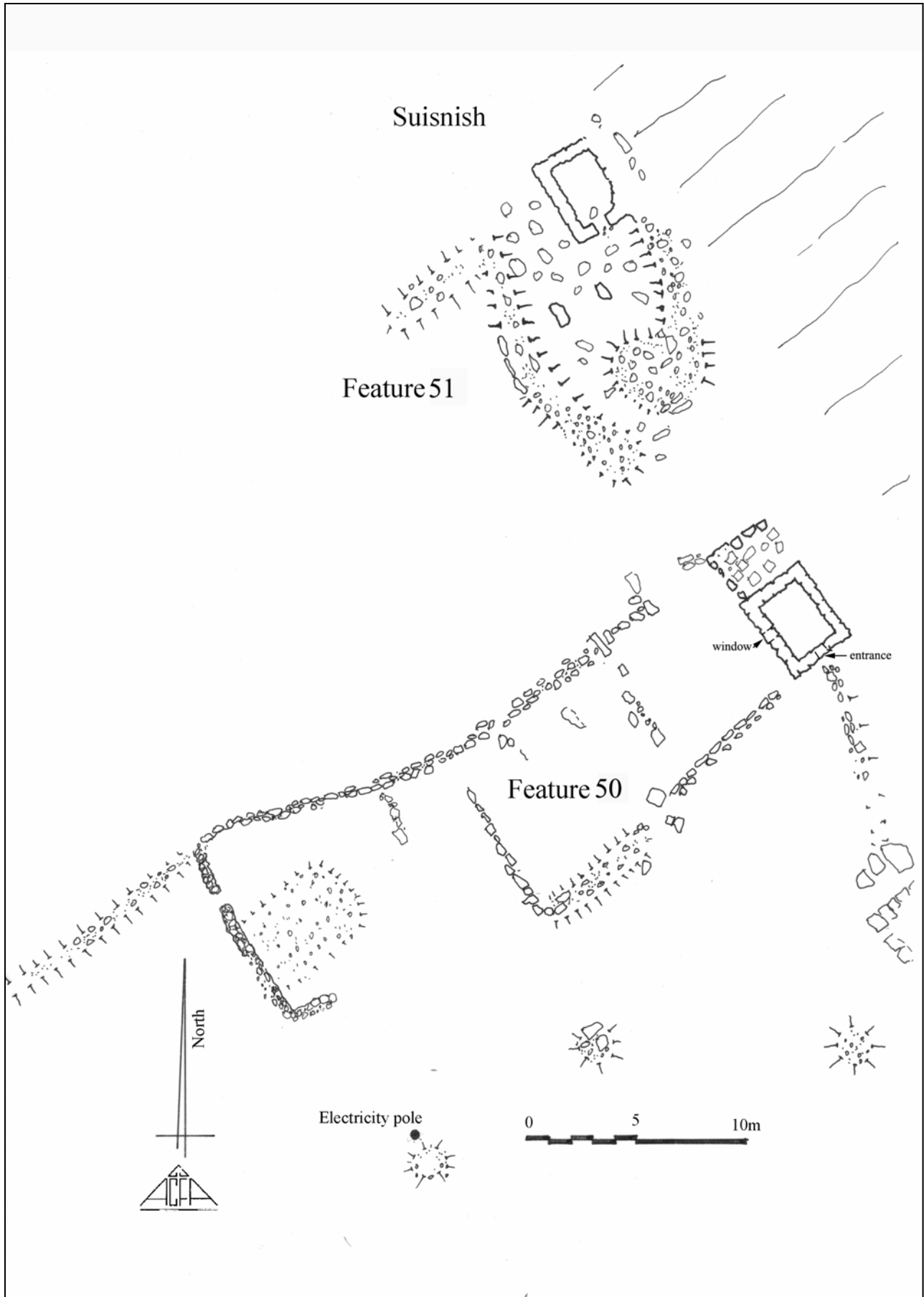
As the area of the site begins to narrow at its northwest end an enclosure has been built at the base of the steep scree slope. The oval enclosure, 10m x 7m at maximum, is bounded by a bank of stone and turf with some very large stones within it and there is an entrance, 1.30m across, at the south end. The enclosure is now very ruinous but clearly discernible for the most part. In the north end of the enclosure, built into the slope, is a small rectangular barn of double-faced drystone construction with rubble infill. The structure measures 2.80m x 1.90m internally and has a doorway 0.80m wide in the centre of the short southeast wall. The walls are 0.60m thick and stand to 1.40m high, thought to be their original height. A very large stone is built into the northwest wall. There is no indication of any roofing, unlike the other structures on the site which appear to be contemporaneous.



Feature 51







South Fearn

Throughout the various documented listings of the Raasay townships, Fearn appears from 1596, although there is considerable inconsistency in the spelling. The township appears as, basically, Fearn throughout the records until the 19th century when it is found as Upper and Lower Fearn. It is probable that these names relate now to what are named on the OS maps as North and South Fearn. Although divided up for renting purposes the township is recorded in the Census records as being simply Fearn.

During the 1840's poor harvests and potato blight caused great hardship in Raasay and it was at this time that the present road from Inverarish to Fearn was built by the Destitution Committee to give employment to the inhabitants of the townships.

At its peak in the 1851 Census Fearn had 40 families, 233 people, living there including a shoemaker and a merchant, Peter Nicolson, who later moved his business to Clachan when the population of Fearn was cleared. There was a school at Fearn at various times during the 19th century and it is last recorded in 1854, although the siting of the school is not now known.

During the early 1850's the movement of people from the south end of Raasay took place, some emigrating and some going to other parts of Raasay at the North end and to Fladda and Rona. The last inhabitants of Fearn sailed with several Raasay families on the Edward Johnstone for Portland Bay, Australia on June 17th 1854. After this the Census shows only 1 or 2 families living at Fearn.

The early 1920's saw the arrival of seven men from Rona who, as the Raasay Raiders, occupied the land at Fearn and Eyre and started to lay out crofts. Initially they were resisted by the island's owners, Baird & Co. from the Iron Works, and several were, in fact, imprisoned in Inverness for a short time. However, an agreement was finally reached between the Board of Agriculture and Baird's and the land was bought and passed on to the men for crofts, 3 at Eyre and 4 at Fearn. For a brief time the Raiders re-built one of the houses in Lower Fearn, in the woodland halfway between Eyre and Fearn, to live in while they built themselves shelter on their crofts for their families to move in to. It is thought that this re-used house, dubbed by the Raiders 'Company Lodge', was the structure at Feature 14. Once the families were provided with shelter the men took time to build for themselves the 'white houses' in North Fearn which were completed in 1929 and these houses remain in use as holiday homes.

Land Use

The township of South Fearn is situated south of the Allt Fearn which separates North and South Fearn. It lies on either side of the old track which comes from Hallaig, runs through Fearn and continues down to the township of Eyre which lies on the shore at the end of the public road from Inverarish. To the east of the track the ground is covered by a dense birch wood within which are a number of small clearings containing some of the houses. This wood continues down steep slopes to the shore line. To the west of the track the ground, which is mostly bog and rough moorland, rises steeply, reaching a height of 155m OD. The whole area, although now under rough heather and moorland vegetation, shows signs of much use in the past.

A large head bank runs from the Allt Fearn in the north, close to the modern road, southwest for 200m before turning southeast to the shore. Outside the head bank traces of very old field banks and occasional low outlines of structures show past use. Of interest is an upstanding gateway in the faint remains of a bank. In the corner, where the head bank changes direction, small fields have been outlined with stone rickles. In the area of these small fields a hollow, filled with stone and outlined on the west side with stone, suggests the possibility of a corn-drying kiln. Outside the head bank, southwest and west of it, signs of old rig and furrow, which varies from 3m to 6m in width, can be seen running downhill from below the scarp. It is thought that this rig pre-dates the present upstanding ruins. A field drain stretches across the site, running southwest through the rig, presumably to prevent water from entering the township.

A metal stob and wire fence also runs southeast from the road to the sea. Most of the upstanding remains lie within area between the track and the sea with clearance evident at most level areas and along the shore line. The majority of the ruins surveyed in South Fearn are thought to be comparatively modern, originating probably in the first part of the 19th century, although it was noted that some of the structures had been built on older foundations. It is clear from the archaeology throughout the island that the settlements were continually being re-built and re-modelled to meet the changing needs of the population and in light of such historical events as the punishment of the islanders for their part in the uprising of 1745. Taking into account the clear rise in the population in the late 18th and the 19th centuries it is probable that the remains surveyed at South Fearn are the ruined houses of those islanders who emigrated or were cleared from the area in the mid 19th century.

It would seem that, once the decision was made to mark out new crofts and build new houses in North Fearn, the buildings at South Fearn were abandoned completely and it is clear that, although the land in North Fearn has been consistently manured and improved and is even now considered to be some of the most productive land on Raasay, the land in South Fearn has for some considerable time been used simply as common grazing. The houses in North Fearn still stand and are now used as holiday homes. South Fearn is empty.

A3 Drawing
South Fearn Sheet 1

A3 Drawing
South Fearn Sheet 2

A4 Drawing
South Fearn Sheet 3

A3 Drawing
South Fearn's Sheet 4

Feature 1 **House and Enclosure** **NG 5865 3564 [70m OD]**

Situated about 31m south of the waterfalls and on a roughly north-south alignment are the remains of a house which measures 10.80m x 4m internally. The drystone walls stand to a maximum height of 1.20m and are 0.90m thick. The west wall has been built into a drystone field dyke and the track from North Fearn to Eyre passes immediately beyond that. The corners of the house are rounded both internally and externally and it is sitting on a stone platform or, possibly, on the foundations of an earlier house. There is an entrance 0.80m wide towards the south end of the east wall. There may have been a partition wall 0.60m wide across the house making a compartment at the north end 2.50m x 4m. There is no evidence for windows and no internal features are visible. Approximately 6m north of the house a length of faint walling runs northwest-southeast for 10m and 2m north of this is the ruin of a sub-rectangular enclosure which is also built into the field dyke at the west side. Stone and turf banks 0.50m high and 0.60m wide, enclose an area 9m x 4m with a possible entrance in the east side. The north end of the enclosure lies only 11m south of the waterfall in the Allt Fearn. Some rusted fence posts run through the site, the remnants of the old post and wire fence which ran southeast to the shore.

Feature 2 **Longhouse with enclosure** **NG 5866 3554 [58m OD]**

Lying almost north-south on its long axis is the ruin of a longhouse, 11.40m x 3.80m internally. The walls are of double-faced drystone construction with a rubble core and stand to an average of 1.50m in height and 0.80m in width. The corners are rounded and the structure is set on large, square boulder plinths with the whole structure standing on a substantial construction platform 1m high which extends outwards for 1.80m along the east face. An entrance 1m wide lies towards the north end of the east wall. There is no evidence of a window and no internal features are visible. A drain passes through the east wall towards the south end. Within the interior are turf-covered sheets of corrugated iron possibly relics of the re-occupation by the 1920's Land Raiders. At the north end and lying on a slightly different alignment is an irregular enclosure, 9.20m x 5.60m, with no obvious entrance. Two rough boulder field banks extend downslope from each end of the house to create a steep open-ended field.

Feature 3 **House and Enclosure** **NG 5861 3552 [70m OD]**

Lying about 50m southwest of Feature 2 on a roughly north-south alignment is a house site which has been built into the hillslope on its west length very close to the edge of the Fearn to Eyre track. The structure, which is of drystone double-faced construction with rubble core, measures 9.80m x 3.80m internally with walls standing to a maximum height of 1.20m and a width of 0.70m. The corners are rounded externally but square internally. The structure appears to be standing on the foundations of an earlier building which in turn appears to have stood on a substantial platform. An entrance 0.70m across lies towards the south end of the east wall but there is no evidence for any window. The interior is clear and no internal features are visible. Downslope to the east are the traces of low turf and stone banks which have formed enclosures or small fields which contain some clearance cairns.

Feature 4 **Enclosure** **NG5860 3550 [70m OD]**

A tumbled D-shaped enclosure 7m x 7m has walls standing to approximately 0.60m in height and 0.60m in width. The walling is of drystone with turf cover. There appear to have been 3 entrances - in the east wall 0.70m wide, in the south wall 1.20m wide and in the north wall 1.40m wide. There is some evidence of rebuild at the northwest arc. There may have been a small pen in the northeast corner.

Feature 5 **Sheilings** **NG5850 3544 [80m OD]**

(A) A small sheiling lying northeast-southwest on its long axis is built into the southeast side of a roughly built irregular turf and stone enclosure. The sheiling measures 5.20m x 2.60m internally with stone and turf walling about 0.70m thick. There may have been an entrance 0.60m wide in the southeast wall. Approximately 6m to the west of the sheiling (A) a further ruinous sheiling (B) has been built into the curve of the enclosure's west wall and lies almost east-west on its long axis. The oval structure measures 6.60m x 2.60m with low turf walls, 0.60m thick, with a few stones visible. There is no evidence for a doorway and there are no internal features. The west end of the sheiling (B) is incorporated into a larger enclosing bank which curves round to enclose an area to the north of the sheilings approximately 75m north-south x 50m east-west. Within this larger enclosure are 8 – 10 clearly visible rigs. The rigs can be seen to continue west of the bank to the top of the hill slope. At the south corner of sheiling (A) a line of large stones curves round to meet a more modern stone dyke 17m to the east, running northeast-southwest along the contour of the hill. 15m south of sheiling (A) some scattered stones may be the remains of a very old structure. It was felt that the sheilings and their enclosing bank are part of a much older use of the area before the more substantial ruins were built.

Feature 6 **Longhouse & Enclosure** **NG 5867 3545 [48m OD]**

On the edge of woodland some 90m south of Feature 2 are the remains of a house lying north-south on its long axis and measuring 12m x 4m internally. The walls, of double-faced drystone construction with rubble infill, stand to a maximum of 8 courses – 1.40m in height. There is no sign of mortaring in the walls which are on average 1m thick. The corners both internal and external are rounded and stand on large square plinth stones. An entrance 1.20m wide lies towards the south end of the east wall. There is no evidence for windows. The remains of what may be a small twinning pen are seen in the northwest corner but no other internal features are visible. Some 5m downslope to the east three stretches of low turf-covered walling, 0.20m high and 1m thick, form a U-shaped enclosure, open on the west side, measuring 5m x 4m. The south wall stands on about 1m of foundation material. A considerable amount of tumble from the main structure lies between the two features.

Feature 7 **Enclosure** **NG 5875 3538 [25m OD]**

Approximately 100m to the southeast of Feature 6, among natural woodland, three lengths of rough walling composed of large field boulders enclose an area 11m north-south x 12m east-west with the east side defined by a cliff edge.

Feature 8 **House/Store** **NG 5869 3536 [35m OD]**

Some 60m southwest of Feature 7 a sub-rectangular drystone building is set into the hillslope on its west side. The structure measures 6m x 2.60m internally and has walls 0.70m thick which stand to 7 courses on the west side and 5/6 courses elsewhere. An entrance 0.70m wide lies midway in the east wall and there are no visible internal features or windows. Some tumbled stone lies inside and outside.

Feature 9 **Cairn** **NG5860 3537 [50m OD]**

Some 40m to the west of Feature 8 on the edge of woodland a cairn, 2.80m in diameter, has a core of field boulders and slabs. There is some indication that the cairn may have spread further down slope for 2 – 3m and some tumbled boulders lie in the vicinity. It was felt that this may have been incorporated into a very old field boundary which can be seen extending down and across the hillslope to Feature 10.

Feature 10 **Store** **NG5859 3533 [53m OD]**

Within natural woodland on a southeast facing slope is a sub-rectangular drystone structure which is built into the hillside on the northwest side. The structure, which measures 5.80m x 2.80m internally, has rounded corners both internally and externally with an entrance, 0.70m wide, in the southeast wall. The walls stand to a maximum height of 1.20m and are 0.50m thick. There was no indication of a fireplace or of any windows. Within the east corner is a stoney platform 1.20m x 1m. A ditch runs along the northwest wall between the structure and the hillslope and then continues for a short distance downslope to the north.

Feature 11 **Cairn** **NG 5854 3534 [60m OD]**

Approximately 40m to the west of Feature 10 is a sub-rectangular setting of stones, 2.80m x 2m, with grass and turf cover. The setting lies on open hillside amid a spread of tumbled stones. It was not clear whether this feature is old clearance or possibly a burial cairn.

Feature 12a **Houses and Enclosure** **NG5866 3534 [30m OD]**

In the woodland at the lower east side of South Fearn are several upstanding structures with an enclosure and field. Feature 12a lies northeast – southwest on its long axis and measures 7.40m x 3.00m internally. The walls, which are of rough drystone construction with some tooling evident, are now turf covered and stand to an average height of 1m and are 0.80m thick. There is one entrance 0.80m wide in the centre of the southeast wall, with a sill stone still in place. The corners of the building are rounded externally and internally with squared foundation stones underlying the corners. There are no windows visible and no sign of a fireplace or any internal partition. There is a possible cruck slot in the northwest wall opposite the door. An apron of

rubble along the southeast length may indicate a construction platform or rough cobbling in front of the door.

Feature 12b

Long House and Annexe

6m to the northeast of Feature 12a is a long upstanding structure lying northeast – southwest on its long axis. The structure measures 12.80m x 3.90m internally with an annexe, 4.40m x 4m, built on the northeast end but not bonded to the main structure. The annexe has an



Feature 12a & b

entrance in the south corner of the southeast wall. The external corners of the house are rounded and are built of large foundation stones. There is an entrance 0.90m wide roughly midway in the southeast wall. The house is divided internally into 2 compartments by a drystone partition wall 3m long and 0.60m wide standing to a height of 1m which has been butted on to the southeast wall 1.20m southwest of the entrance. The partition divides the structure into 2 compartments, the south compartment being 5m long and the north 6.90m long, with access between the compartments in the northwest. In the south compartment there may have been a recess with a lintel stone low on the south side of the partition wall and in the northeast compartment a stone platform 1m x 1.2m lies between the entrance and the partition wall. The east corner of the north

compartment is threatened by a collapsed tree. There are no visible signs of internal features. From the north corner of the annexe a quite substantial turf and stone bank runs for about 13m to a small stream which runs downhill towards the sea. From close to the southwest corner of the house a low stony bank runs westward for about 5m.

Feature 12c

Enclosure

Some 40m to the northeast of Feature 12b across the small burn a small sub-rectangular enclosure has been created by constructing three lengths of walling across a promontory on the edge of the steep slope which runs down to the shore, the slope defining the east side. The walls stand to a maximum height of only 0.20m and are built of rough stones and large boulders, some set on edge, now spread to a width of 0.80m. The walls are 16m, 9m and 6m in length. There are no internal features. It was thought that the enclosure has formed a small field for growing potatoes etc., fertilized with seaweed from the shore below.

Feature 12d

Field Bank and Rig

Approximately 50m to the southwest of the structures (Features 12a & 12b) a field bank extends for 63m to connect with a further bank running northwest-southeast down the hill side, creating a large field with the steep slope as its east limit. Within the field rig, approximately 4m wide, can be seen.

Feature 13

Cairn

NG 5850 3512 [45m OD]

This sub-circular feature now stands above the south bank of a small stream among birch and ash woodland. In an earlier, cleared landscape it would have been situated on a promontory between two streams. The remains are a sub-circular kerb of large boulders, some contiguous and earthfast. The kerb delimits an accumulation of boulders 6m x 7m from which a birch tree now grows. This may represent the remains of cairn material with some field clearance stone piled on top, the whole now covered with moss.

Feature 14a

House

NG 5839 3494 [40m OD]

Feature 14a stands among natural woodland some 25m-30m from the edge of the raised beach line. A substantial rectangular structure is built of roughly coursed boulders, mainly of drystone construction but with some evidence of mortar towards the east end of the long north wall. The house lies roughly east-west on its long axis and measures 11.20m x 3.90m internally with walls standing to a maximum height at the southeast corner of 2.20m and an average width of 0.90m. There is one entrance 0.80m wide towards the east end of the south wall and two windows spaced evenly along the south wall between the entrance and the southwest corner. The windows are 0.50m wide with a slight internal splay of one jamb in each window. The stonework surrounds of the door and the windows have been shaped and dressed. An internal partition wall 0.40m thick has been butted on to the south wall immediately to the west of the door with access

between the compartments being at the north end. The two compartments formed thus measure 2m x 3m at the east end and 8m x 3.90m at the west end.

Immediately adjoining the house at its southeast corner are the low foundations of a sub-circular enclosure of rough boulder construction, approximately 7m x 5m, the northeast end of which may have met the southeast corner of the house.



Feature 14a

Feature 14b

Structure & Field Bank

Some 10m northeast of Feature 14a a small burn runs towards the sea and a further 7m from the burn are the low remains of a sub-rectangular structure lying roughly east-west on its long axis and measuring 10m x 2.40m (west end) and 5m (east end). The walls remaining are no more than 0.20m high and 0.30m thick of rough drystone construction and there is no evidence of an entrance. The feature is spread and poorly defined, built into the slope along its north length but with damage or robbing destroying evidence of its east wall. There is some evidence of reconstruction or adaptation at the southwest end particularly at the south corner. It is not clear whether this structure represents the remains of a house or byre or if it has been an enclosure. A low drystone wall runs from the southwest corner west for about 5m before it turns and runs off to the southeast for some 8m when it joins natural rocky scarp.

Feature 15**Byre****NG5830 3507 [85m OD]**

Approximately 5m from the north bank of a small burn lies a sub-rectangular structure with rounded corners which measures 4.30m x 2.90m internally. The building is made of drystone boulders and is now covered in moss and bracken. The walls are 0.80m high at maximum and on average 1m thick. There is an entrance 0.80m wide in the north wall. The structure stands on the foundations of an earlier building, 8.90m long, with a rounded end. At the southeast corner of these earlier foundations a large plinth forms the corner stone.

Feature 16**House****NG 5830 3506 [85m OD]**

A sub-rectangular building, located close to the south bank of the burn noted in Feature 15, utilizes a section of field bank which runs down to the bank of the burn. The house, fairly roughly built of drystone boulders, measures 10m x 3.80m at the maximum width, with walls 1m high at maximum and on average 0.90m thick. The walls remain fairly well-preserved in the north, south and east. There is an entrance, clearly defined and 1m wide, midway along the north wall, giving immediate access to the burn. The corners, both internal and external, are rounded. There are no signs of internal features but the floor of the house appears to have been levelled by building up the lower end.

A poorly defined sub-circular enclosure, 10m x 7.50m, lies 12m to the east downslope of the house again utilizing part of the field bank. There may have been an entrance at both the southeast and the northwest sections.

Feature 17**Remains of House****NG 5849 3494 [1m OD]**

The feature lies just above the beach on the edge of an un-named burn and at the foot of a slope amid birch and hazel trees. The ruins lie in a clearing 14m southwest of the burn which may have been diverted from the nearby gully by a drystone wall about 1m high and 0.80m wide. The structure appears to be 2-celled and the southwest cell may be older than the northeast and lie partially underneath it. The northeast section measures 6m x 3m internally and the southwest section measures 5m x 4m internally. There are two internal walls in the northeast section which have been inserted at a later date to form a small pen 2.80m x 1m with an entrance in the east corner. The house is of drystone construction with rounded external corners and square internal corners. There appears to have been an entrance into each section on the sea-facing walls. There is a considerable amount of tumble both inside and outside and some stone lying in front of the northeast section may have been part of earlier foundations.



Feature17

Feature 18

House

NG 5860 3513 [1m OD]

A ruinous house lies amid birch and hazel trees 10m inland from the shore line and 200m northeast along the shore from Feature 17. The house, of drystone construction, measures 9m x 4m internally with walls standing to a maximum height of 1.40m and between 0.60 and 0.80m thick. There is an entrance 0.80m wide towards the northeast end of the east wall facing the sea. The corners are curved externally and square internally and the walls are now moss covered. A short stretch of wall 1.50m long has been butted on to the inside of the southwest wall. A pen, 2m x 1.50m, has been inserted into the building by butting walls, uniformly 1.20m high, on to the northwest wall. An entrance to the pen lies in the north corner. A section of the back wall has been removed, probably to build this pen. The front wall of the house is now completely ruinous. A path from Fearn's to Eyre passes immediately in front of the house. On the other side of the path a small area is bounded on 3 sides by a tumbled wall which is 8m on its long side and is open to the sea.



Feature 18

Feature 19

Banks and Clearance

Centred on NG 5865 3527

From some 100m northeast of Feature 18 a number of banks and clearance cairns stretch along the edge of the shore line for 200m. The clearance cairns lie at right angles to the shore and appear to indicate the formation of small plots except for two substantial cairns, reminiscent of cairns noted previously at North Fearn, which lie near the foot of slopes and do not seem to act as field definition.

Feature 19A

A field bank, 23m long x 0.70m high x 0.80m wide, runs at right angles to the shore. To the southwest, above the shore, rig is visible.

Feature 19B

A field bank, 2m wide and 0.70m high, runs for 25m from the shore to the foot of the slope.

Feature 19C

Running at right angles to the sea is a long stony spread, 4m wide. This does not appear to be a field bank and is thought to be upcast from a field drain.

Feature 19D

A prominent, well-built clearance cairn 6m long x 2m wide x 1.50m high, has a very large boulder on the west side of it. This cairn is similar to those found in North Fearn.

Feature 19E

A clearance cairn, 6m long x 3m wide x 0.50m high, lies at right angles to the shore.

Feature 19F

A clearance cairn, 6m long x 4m wide x 2m high, lies at right angles to the shore.

Feature 19G

An older, moss-covered cairn has small stones piled on top of it; overall 4m x 4m x 1m.

Feature 19H

A clearance cairn, 4m x 4m x 0.70m high.

Feature 19J

A rectangular clearance cairn, 4.50m long x 4m wide x 1.20m high, is similar to the carefully constructed cairns at North Fearn.

Feature 19K

A long clearance bank, 18m long x 1.50m wide and 1m high in parts.

Feature 19L

Two very small clearance heaps.

Feature 19M

A small clearance bank lies at right angles to the sea, probably indicating a field edge.

Feature 19N

A clearance cairn, 10m x 2m x 0.50m high, lies at right angles to the sea.

Feature 19P

A clearance cairn, 6m x 4m x 0.50m high lies at right angles to the sea.

Feature 20

Cairn

NG5879 3535 [1m OD]

A large cairn built of smallish stones just above the stony beach at the foot of a birch-covered slope. The cairn is 26m long and on average 9m wide and reaches a maximum height of 1.60m at its inland end. At this higher end the top is slightly hollowed. An old fence which runs downhill from the North Fearn settlement to the sea crosses the cairn and there is a line of stones approximately 0.50m wide which have been used to support the fence. The surface has a lot of stone visible but no features are seen within it. The whole cairn has a considerable moss and bracken cover.

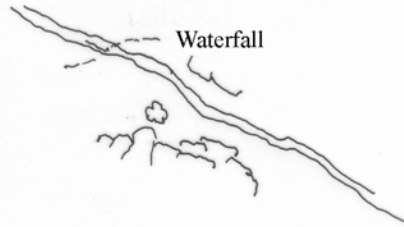
There was some speculation about the age or purpose of this cairn. It was felt that there are three possible explanations; it is natural, it is field clearance or it is a burial cairn.

It is obvious that the cairn material has been deliberately piled up and, although lying very close to the shore, the fact that the cairn lies at right angles to the shore precludes the possibility that it has been piled up naturally by wind and water.

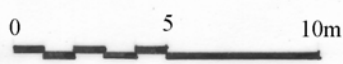
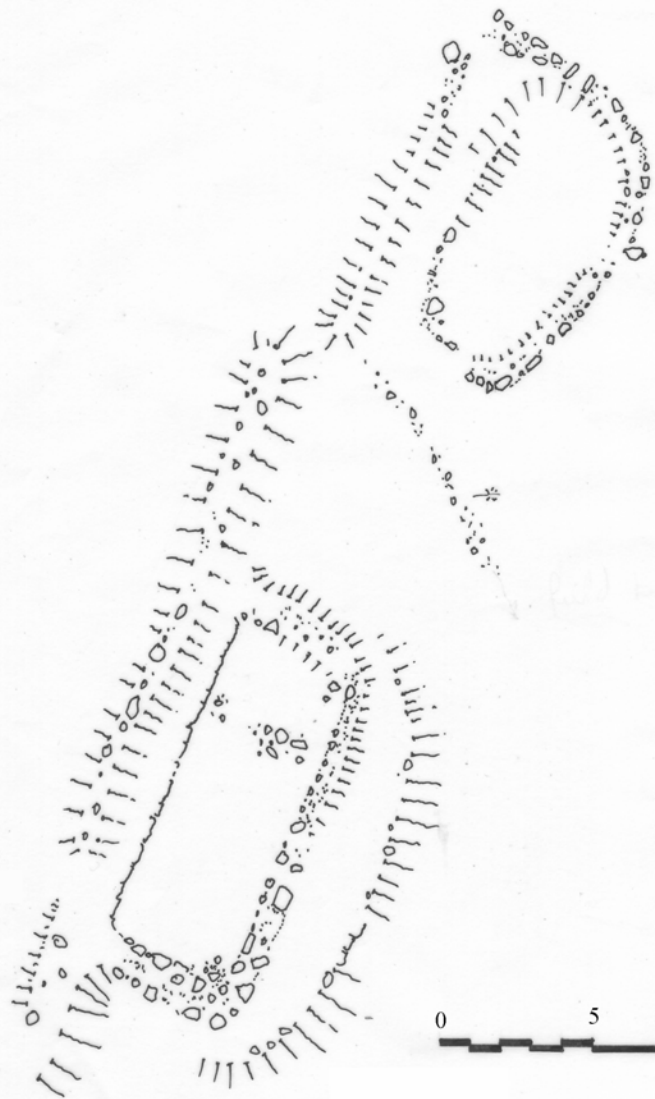
The second explanation, that it is a field clearance cairn, was explored. Consideration of its size alone would tend to make this explanation seem unlikely as the work involved would have been considerable and, as the fence line that runs across the cairn is of late 19th century date and no machines would have been available at that time, this would have to have been carried out by hand.

This leaves us with the last explanation, that the feature is a burial cairn. There are in fact a number of large burial cairns in the vicinity around Eyre. An argument against this interpretation is the rather unusual shape of the cairn, particularly at its sea-ward end although this may be due to erosion by storm action over time, the cairn being no more than 10m from the shore line.

South Fearn

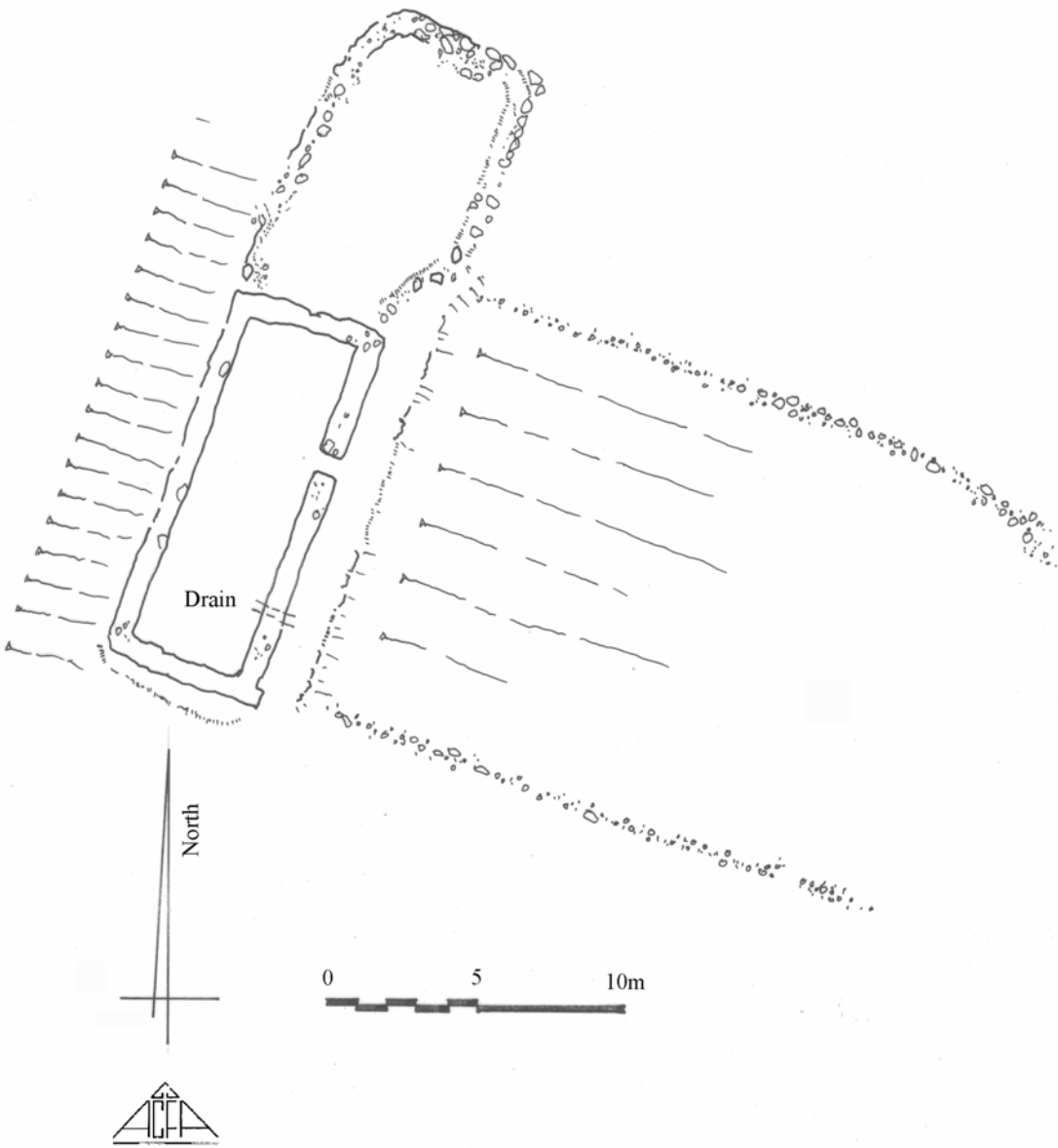


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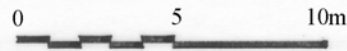
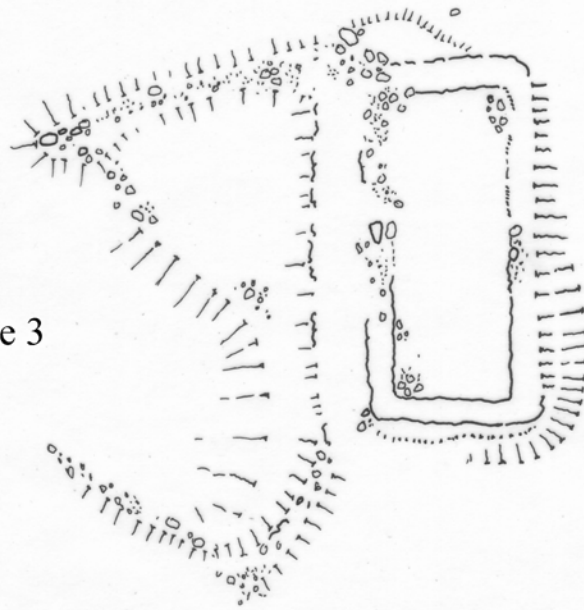
South Fearn

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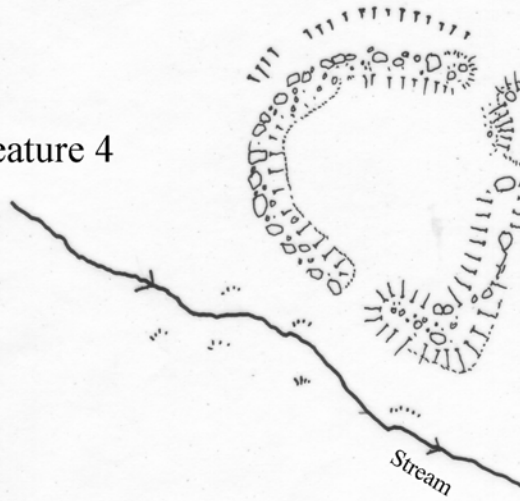


South Fearn

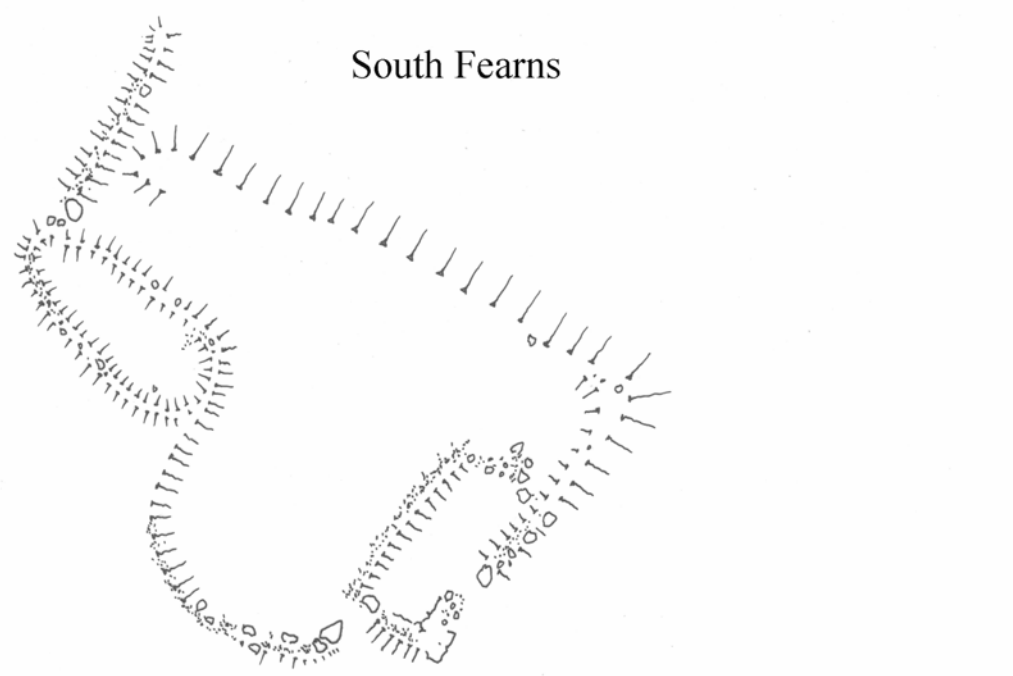
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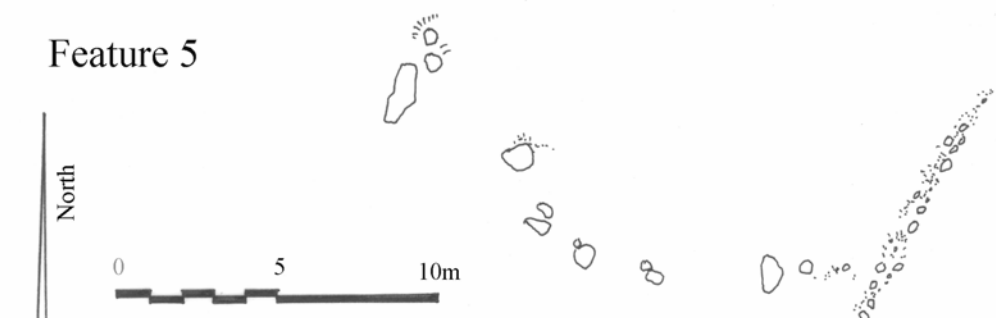
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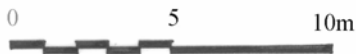
South Fearn



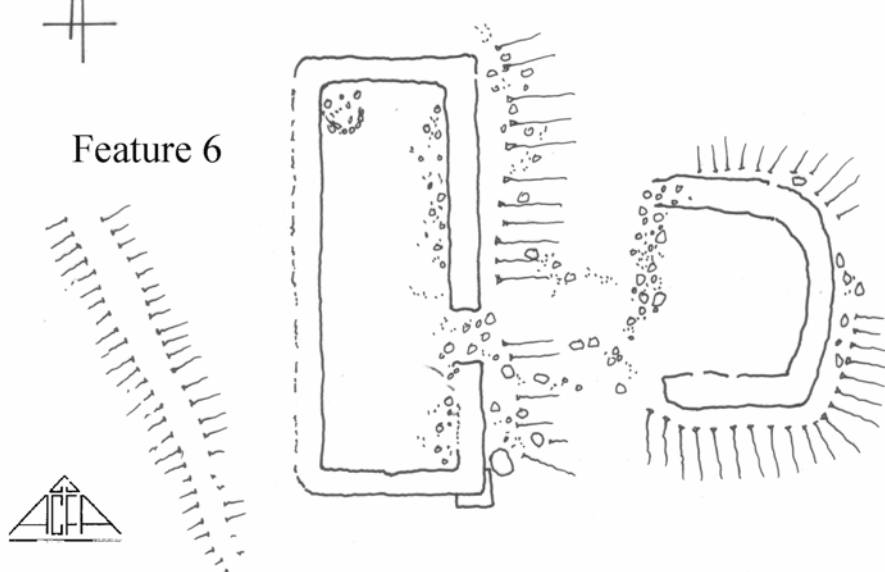
Feature 5



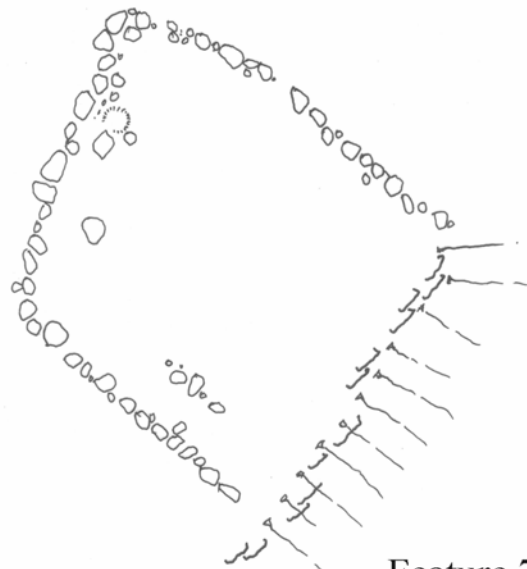
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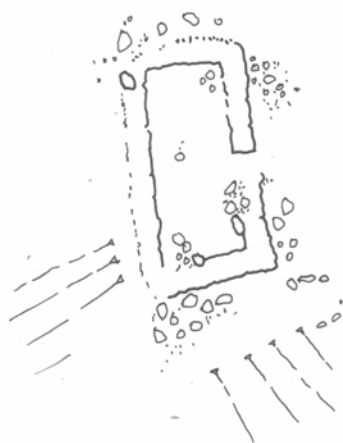
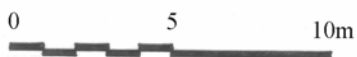
Feature 6



South Fearn



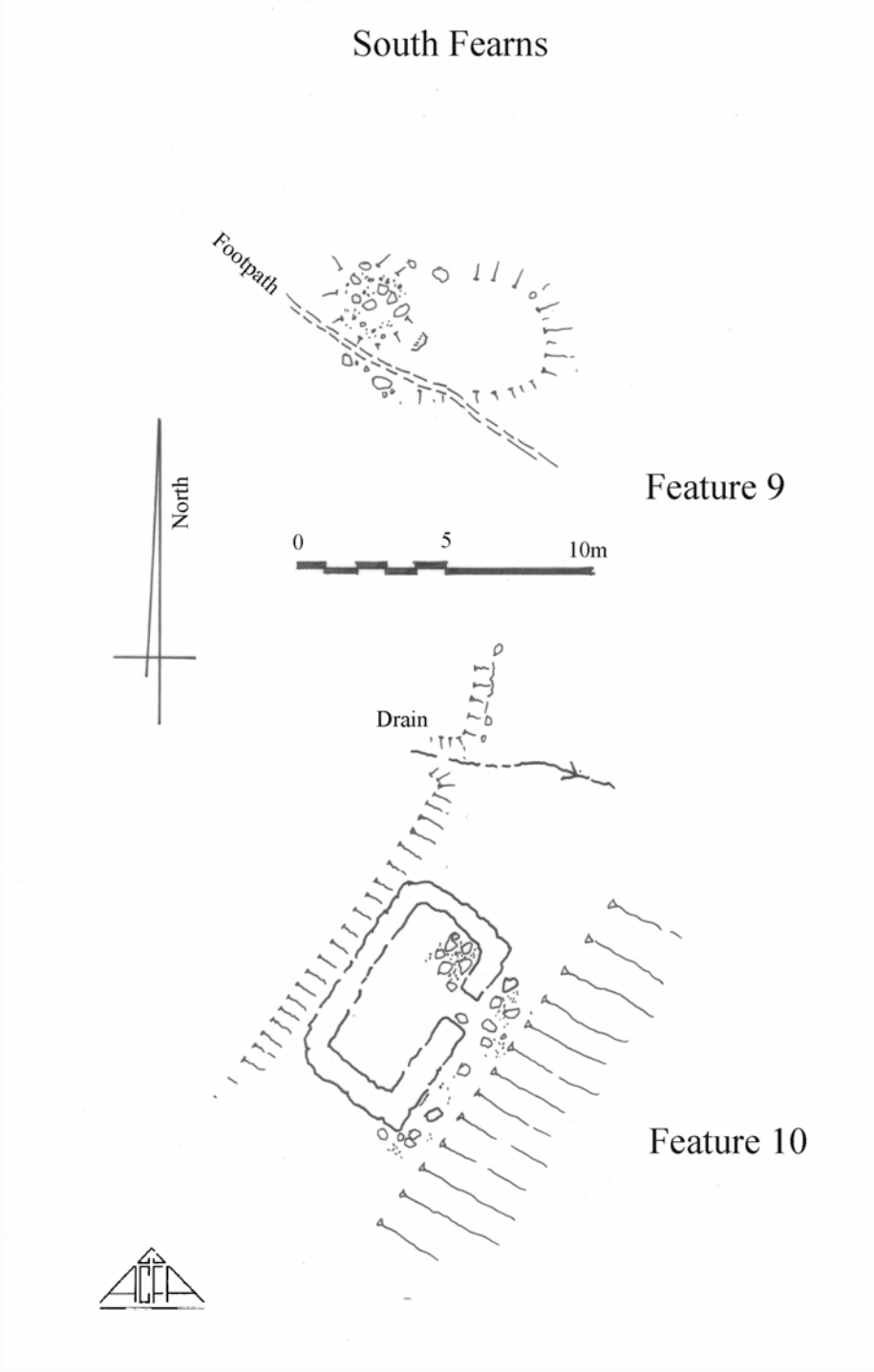
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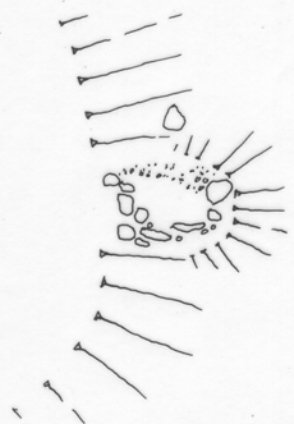
Feature 8



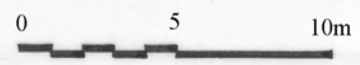
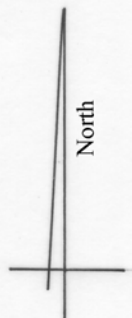
South Fearn



South Fearn



Feature 11



Feature 13

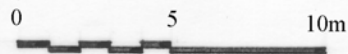
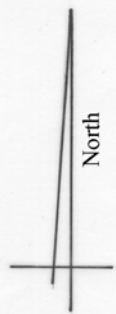


South Fearn

Feature 12 B

Feature 12 A

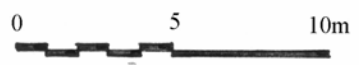
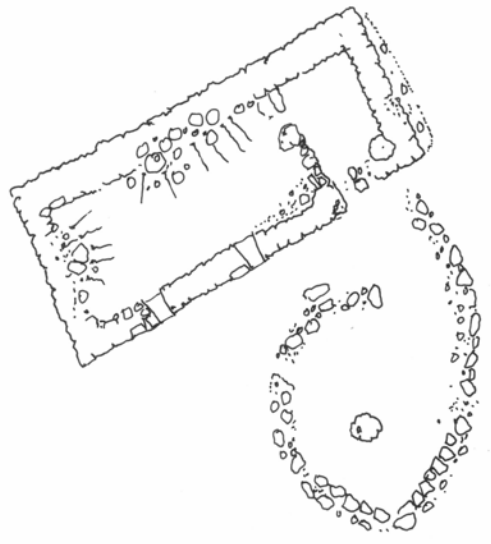
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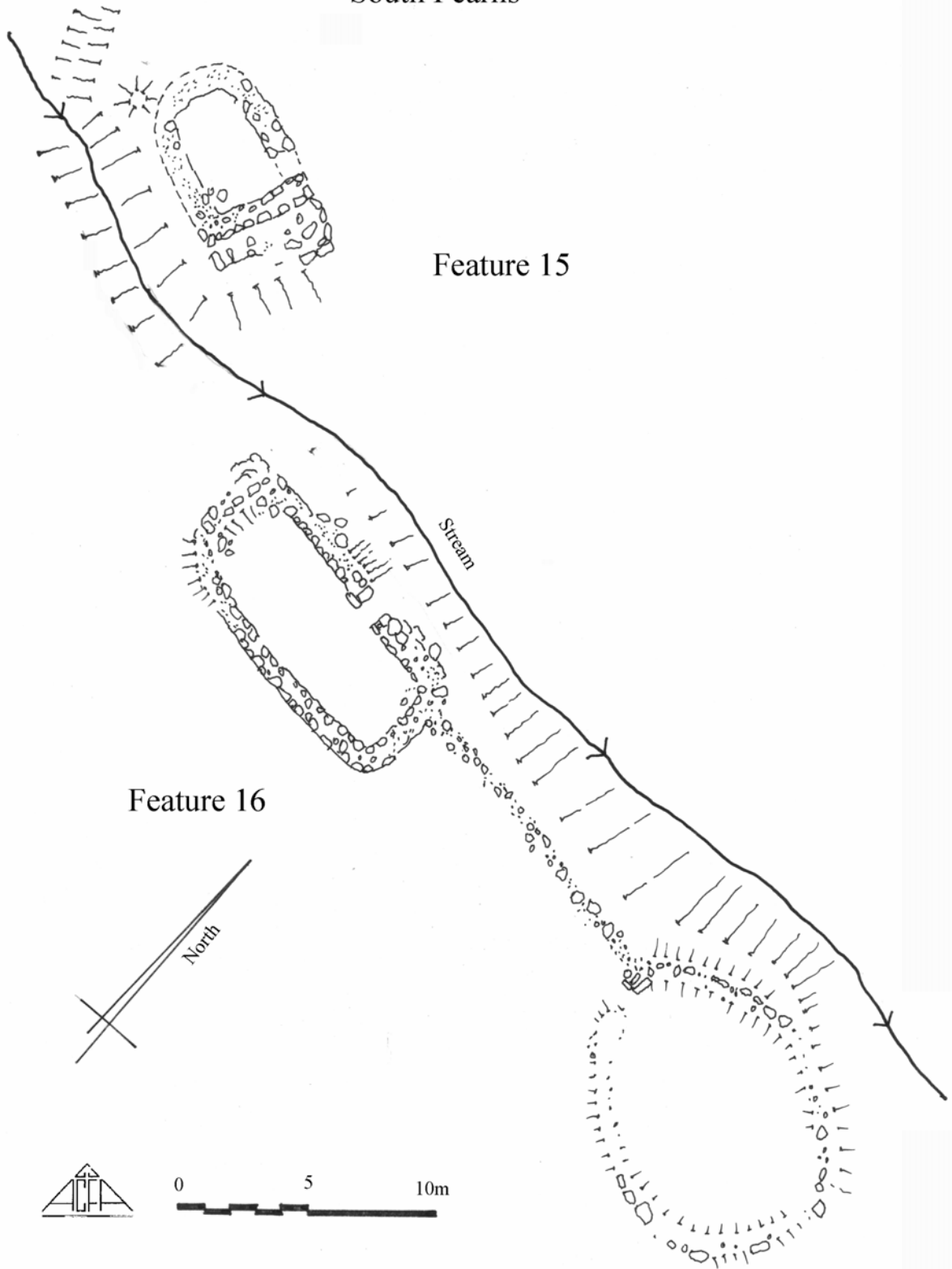
South Fearn



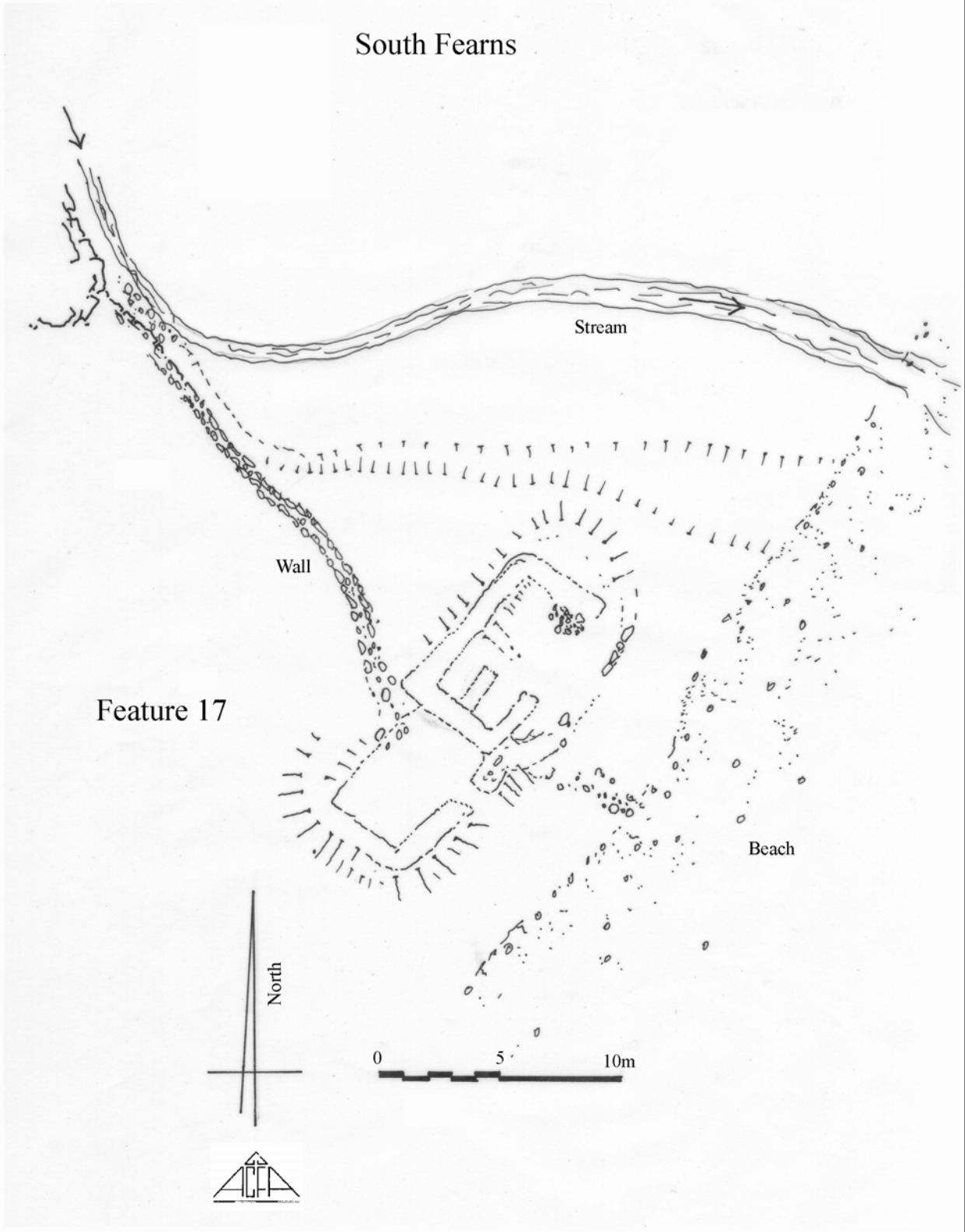
Feature 14



South Fearn

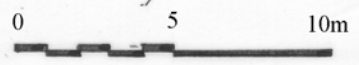
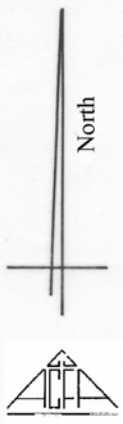
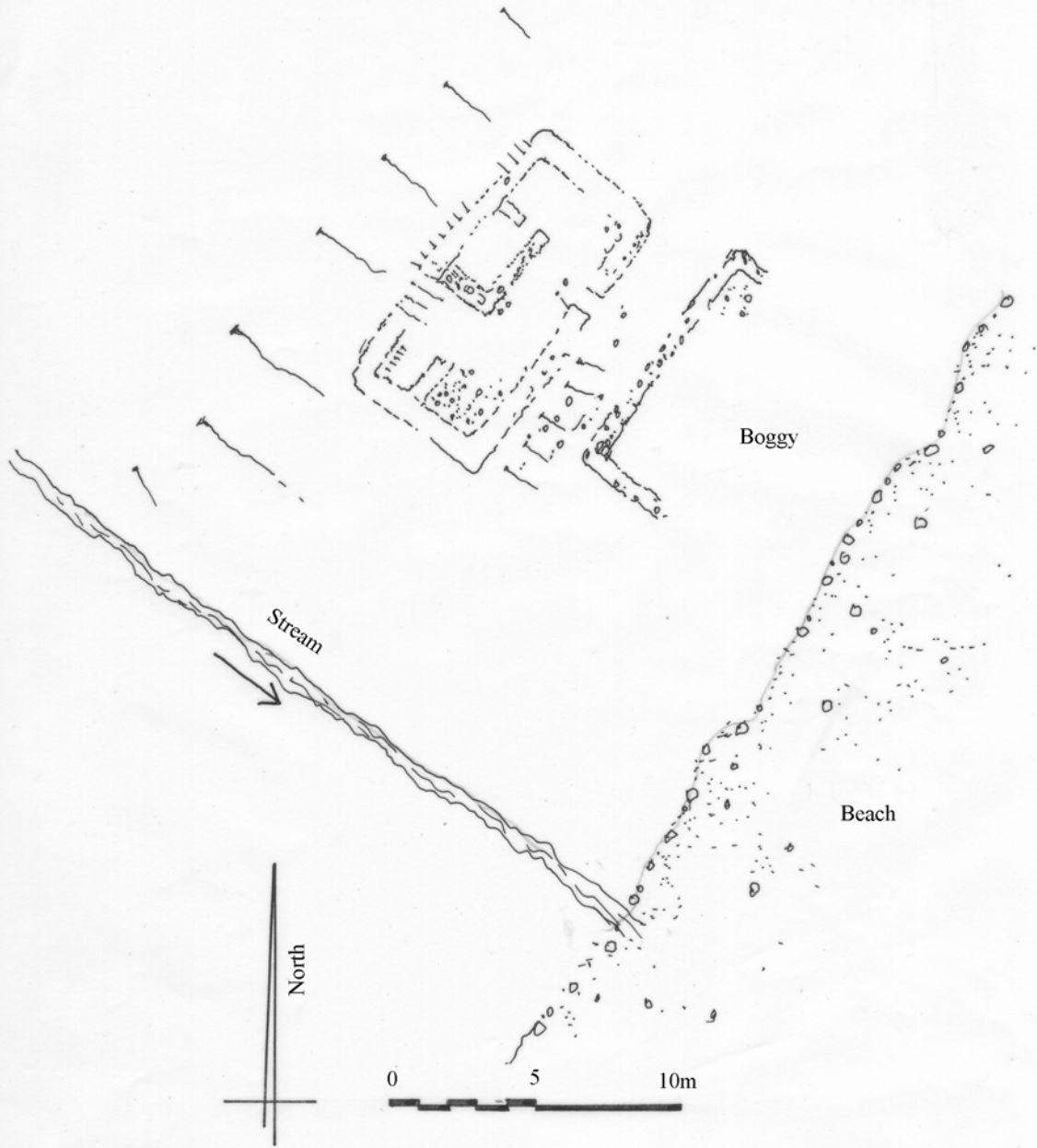


South Fearn



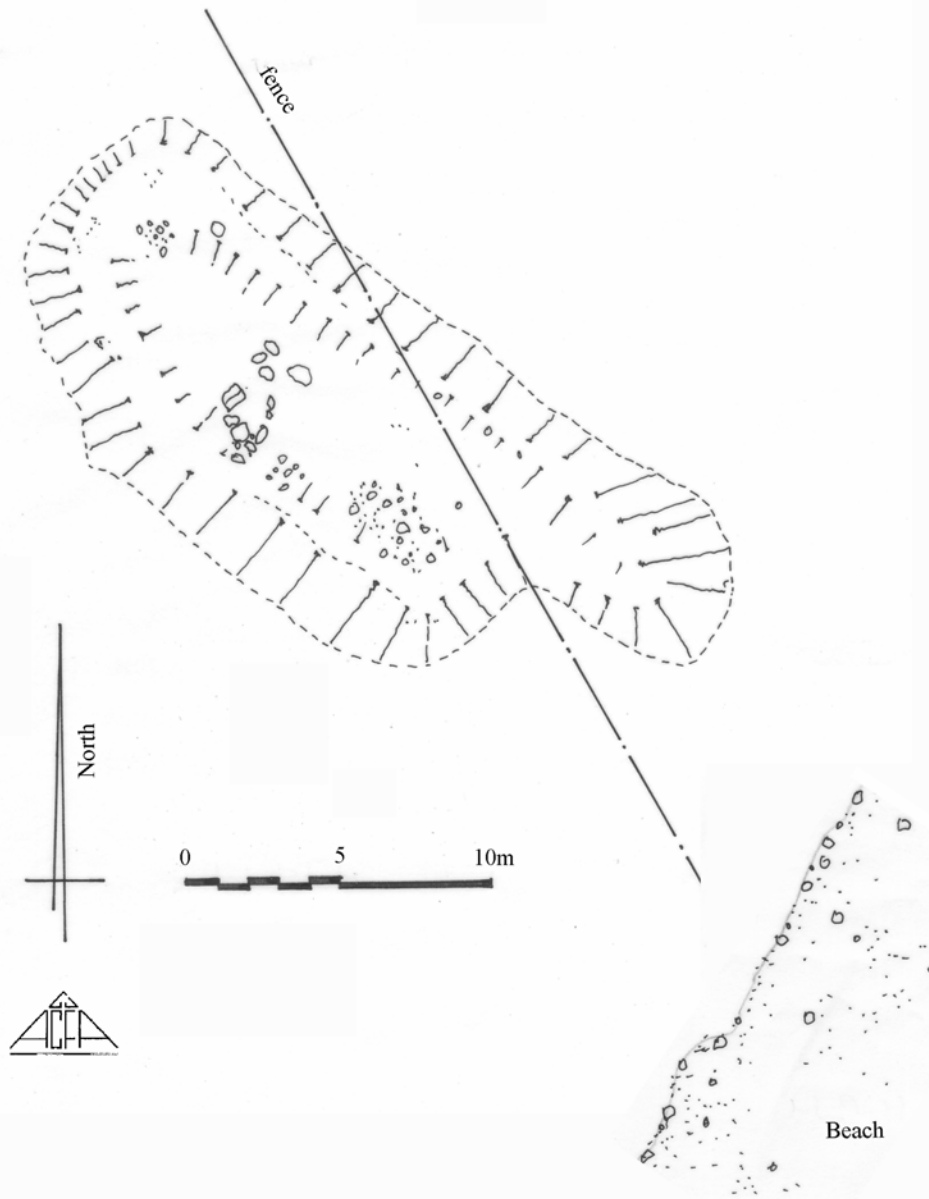
South Fearn

Feature 18



South Fearn

Feature 20



A3 Map

Feature 4 **Winding House** **NG 5604 3549 [60m OD]**

A substantial stone building, now roofless, has been the winding house for the haulage way spur which has been part of the early 20th century iron ore workings.

Feature 5 **Stone Heap** **NG 5593 3531 [53m OD]**

A long pile of stones, 14m x 4m, is aligned roughly east-west at right angles to the main haulage way of the iron mine on its west side. Three possible small shelters have been scooped out of the top of the pile.

Feature 6 **Rock Shelter** **NG 5687 3549 [135m OD]**

A small rock outcrop has been shattered by weathering and the debris has been scooped out to make a shelter 1.10m long along the rock face and 0.80m from the rock with walls 0.30m high.

Feature 7 **Cairn** **NG 5701 3579 [173m OD]**

A cairn, 1m in diameter and 0.40m high, stands on the summit of an unnamed hill.

Feature 8 **House** **NG 5658 3435 [96m OD]**

Lying north-south on its long axis on a south facing slope are the remains of a long house, 14.70m x 2.80m internally. The stone built walls are tumbled and covered with bracken but are clearly visible standing to a height of about 0.40m and a width of 1m on average. Both ends are



bowed and there are two entrances 1.20m wide in the centre of the east and west walls. A clear partition wall divides the structure into two parts, the smaller part, presumably the byre, being at the downslope end. A more recent modification at the northeast corner forms a probable lambing pen, 1.30m x 1m.

Some 30m to the south of the house is a substantial cultivated area showing rig and contained within prominent field dykes.

Feature 9

Hut Circle

NG 5680 3452 [95m OD]

On a levelled platform at the top of an east facing slope are the remains of a hut circle approximately 8m in diameter. The base layer of the double-faced stone walls remains clear over 240 degrees of a circle with the east sector indistinct. The walls, well faced with large stones and infill of small stones and turf, stand now to a height of 0.40m and are 1.20m thick. There is no sign of an entrance but it probably lay in the east sector which is now more poorly defined. No internal features are visible. The circle is close to and overlooks an enclosure on its east side which is shown on the OS map.



Feature 9

Feature 10

House

NG 5678 3456 [100m OD]

Situated on an east facing slope in a shallow bowl some 20m to the north of Feature 9 a sub-rectangular structure lies almost obscured by moss and bracken. The structure is in two parts, the larger section to the east being 5.20m x 4.80m internally and the smaller section being very irregular and approximately 2m x 2m. The rough stone and turf walls are on average about 0.50m high and vary in thickness from 0.70m to over 1m. There may have been an entrance more than 1m wide in the southwest corner.



Feature 10

Feature 11

Enclosure

NG 5680 3460 [100m OD]

Some 30m upslope and to the north of Feature 10 are the poorly defined remains of an irregular structure, approximately 6m x more than 2m internally. The original form of the structure, built of large and medium sized boulders, is now difficult to discern. The walls remain to not more than 0.20m in height and no entrance or internal features are evident.

Feature 12

House

NG 5781 3477 [98m OD]

At 100m northeast of the north corner of the large boundary dyke above Eyre a rectangular drystone structure stands below a bluff on a southeast facing slope. The house, which measures 6m x 2.80m internally, stands on the foundations of an older, round-ended structure. The walls, which are built of variably sized boulders, stand now to an average height of 0.50m and a width of between 0.80m and 1m. There is one entrance placed centrally in the southeast wall. There may have been a central dividing wall but no other internal features are discernible.

A moss-covered, circular structure lies 10m to the southwest of Feature 21. This structure has an internal diameter of about 2m and the ruinous drystone walls are 0.30m high and 0.60m thick. There has been an entrance in the downslope southeast section.

Feature 13

Sheiling

NG5747 3500 [118m OD]

The structure has two separate cells. The larger measures 3.20m x 1.80m and the smaller cell, which is roughly circular, measures 1.50m in diameter. Each cell has an entrance on the east side. There is a small opening between the cells.

Feature14 **Enclosure** **NG 5773 3519 [135m OD]**

Drystone walling defines the end of a natural gully, forming an enclosure 22m x 33m approximately. The northeast wall, which runs across the gully, remains more substantial than the others, standing to a height of between 0.60m and 1m and is 0.80m wide. The other walls are more ruinous.

Feature 15 **Rock Shelter** **NG 5781 3528 [130m OD]**

A larger rock shelter, 4m x 4m x 0.60m high at maximum, lies at the foot of a 4m high cliff facing southeast. The shelter has been constructed of large boulders using natural tumble and there is an entrance 0.80m wide.

Feature 16 **Rock Shelter** **NG 5785 3529 [130m OD]**

Some 40m east of Feature 15 is a rock shelter, 1.10m x 1m x 0.60m deep is built into the hillside in an area of copious rock tumble below a bluff. The top of the back wall is flush with the ground slope.

Feature17 **Sheiling** **NG 5764 3537 [160m OD]**

A double-celled sheiling, aligned east-west, has a main cell 1.80m x 1.60m and a secondary cell, 1.10m x 1.10m, abutted on the south section of the west end. The ruinous stone-built walls are 0.30m high at maximum and approximately 0.60m thick. There is an entrance at the north side of the west end.

Feature 18 **Stone Shelter** **NG 5788 3574 [150m OD]**

At the end of a spur of a field dyke and just below a cliff face there is a well-built small stone shelter built on the east side of the field dyke. The shelter is of dry-stone construction, using rough boulders and measures 1.30m square internally with the walls being 1.10m high internally. An entrance 0.50m wide lies at the north end of the east wall.

Feature 19 **Possible Sheiling** **NG 5787 3572 [150m OD]**

To the west side of the spur of a field dyke and southwest of Feature 18 are the vestigial remains of a possible sheiling. An oval shape 4m x 2m lies beneath moss and bracken on a mound approximately 0.30m high. There are no standing walls and no entrance is visible.



Feature 18

Feature 20

Possible Sheilings

NG 5786 3571 [150m OD]

Approximately 10m northeast of Feature 19 are two vestigial structures similar to Feature 15. The more easterly of the two has some wall standing to a maximum height of 0.30m.

Feature 21

Possible Sheiling

NG5785 3569 [150m OD]

To the southeast of Feature 20 a small circular structure, 1.70m in diameter, lies beneath a steep bluff on a gentle southeast facing slope. Only a ring of angular boulders remains and there is no obvious entrance.

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1:10000 Map

Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists

The following papers can be obtained from the Association by contacting The ACFA archivist

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Tigh na Fiodh,
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- 2 Gleniffer Braes, Renfrewshire
- 3 Garscadden Wood, Drumchapel, Glasgow
- 4 Auchengaich, Parish of Rhu, Argyll
- 5 Millbank Mill, Renfrewshire
- 6 Meall Darroch, Tarbert, Argyll
- 7 Clachaig Limekiln, Isle of Arran
- 8 Coalburn, Lanarkshire
- 9 Tirai, Glen Lochay, Killin, Perthshire
- 10 Glen Orchy, Dalmally
- 11 Neilston, Renfrewshire
- 12 Cathkin Braes, Glasgow
- 13 Raasay 1995, Oskaig & Holoman
- 14 Greens Moor, Lanarkshire
- 15 Bail' a Mhuilinn, Bridge of Balgie, Stirling District
- 16 Queen's Park, Glasgow
- 17 Little Cumbrae
- 18 Raasay, 1996 – Balachuirn, Balmeanach, Inbhire & Brae
- 19 Glen Luss, Argyll & Bute
- 20 Gargadale, Isle of Arran
- 21 Milton of Lawers, North Loch Tayside – Part 1
- 22 Castlemilk Ice House, Glasgow
- 23 Irvine Valley, East Ayrshire
- 24 Island of Gigha, Argyll
- 25 Craigmaddie Muir, East Dunbartonshire
- 26 Raasay 1997, Glame, Manish More, Brochel & Doire Domhain
- 27 Alexandra & Springburn, Two Glasgow Parks
- 28 Waulkmill Glen Ruin, Darnley, Glasgow
- 29 Castlemilk Glen, Glasgow
- 30 The Survey Director's Handbook
- 31 Duncroisk East, Glen Lochay, by Killin
- 32 Raasay 1998, North & South Screapadal
- 33 Dun Daraich, Glen Finart, Argyll
- 34 Largs Parish, Part 1
- 35 Milton of Lawers, Part 2
- 36 Tulloch Farm, Glen Lochay, nr Killin

37	Corry Charmaig, Glen Lochay
38	Duncroisk Farm, Glen Lochay
39	Four Worked Flints from Lorn, Argyll
40	Sandwood Estate, Sutherland (Survey 1)
41	The Island of Coll, A Preliminary Survey
42	Loch Restil & Glen Croe, Argyll
43	Raasay 1999, Manish Beg
44	Grimsay Wheelhouse, North Uist
45	Sites on Arran, Jura and Raasay
46	North & South Kirktonmoor, Eaglesham
47	Raasay 2000, Arnish and Torran
48	An Excavation at South Kirktonmoor, Eaglesham
49	North Moorhouse Farm, Eaglesham
50	South & East Moorhouse Farms, Eaglesham
51	Blackhill, Lesmahagow
52	Meldalloch Island, Kilfinan, Argyll
53	Leny Wood, Callander
54	Bracken Store, Glen Lochay
55	Coldstream Mill, by Beith, North Ayrshire
56	Survey at Sangachal, Azerbaijan.
57	Inverarish Mill, Isle of Raasay
58	Soils and Geology of Raasay.
59	Raasay 2002, North Fearn (Part 1)
60	Bonnyton Moor, Eaglesham
61	Sandwood Estate, Sutherland (Survey 2)
62	Raasay 2003, North Fearn (Part 2)
63	Raasay 2003, Umachan
64	Hign Botaurnie, GlenLochay (forthcoming)
65	Low Botaurnie, Glen Lochay (forthcoming)
66	Innischoarach, (forthcoming)
67	Cairns and Standing Stones on Raasay (forthcoming)
68	Dalgirdy in Tullich (forthcoming)
69	Blackhouse, Castlehill and Crosslees, Eaglesham (forthcoming)
70	Langlee, Bennan & Shieldhill Farms Eaglesham (forthcoming)
71	Raasay 2004 Hallaig & An Leac
72	Director's Handbook 05
73	Barns of Airlie a Souterrain.
74	Greenfield Farm, Eaglesham
75	East and West Revoch, Eaglesham
76	Dalgirdy, Glen Lochay
77	Former Residents of Glen Lochay
78	A Wash house Campbell Sreet, Greenock
79	Dippen Promontory Fort, Arran
80	Raasay 05 Suisnish and South Fearn