

Dunloskin-Ardrnadam Group.

Platform 24. ARDNADAM. NS 1618 7933.

*Clingabeet 3. Rennie  
July 1986*

Platform 24 of the Dunloskin-Ardrnadam group is situated at 70m above sea level on a moderately steep, wet, hillside that carries an open growth of hazel, birch, rowan and oak at different stages of maturity. The Platform is one of 16 on the Ardrnadam side of the Eas a' Chaibeil burn, all of which measure about 6.5m by 7.5m. Of the 23 Platforms on the Dunloskin side 20 of them measure about 8.5m by 9m and only 3 are of the smaller size. However it should be noted that Platform 9 on the Dunloskin side, which was excavated in 1985 and which measured 8.5m by 9m. was found to have on top of the primary floor, a secondary floor which had a diameter of 7.5m. Further many of the large size Platforms on the Dunloskin side have a convex profile which suggests that others may have smaller secondary floors on top of the larger surface.

Platform 24 was chosen because it did not appear to be well-formed and was not even recognised as a Platform in the original survey. The back scarp was insignificant and shallow, the surface sloped to the front by  $10^{\circ}$  and only some boulders set into the front lip indicated that it was indeed a Platform. On the hillside below, many moss-covered boulders were embedded in the ground. The hillside slopes to the East but where the Platform stands there is as much slope to the N.E. as to the E. The back half was very wet and boggy and carried a growth of rushes and bog myrtle.

Initially the two front quadrants (i.e. the S.E and N.E.) were de-turfed and drainage channels cut below and above the back bank. Eventually, as a hard floor could be felt below the mud in the back quadrants, they were cleaned out and the floor revealed. However time was lost in this labour and as the S.W. back bank remained soft and very wet, it, and the perimeter of the N. and S. arcs, were never explored.

Period 2

The removal of the turf over the front bank showed that there had been a heavily built revetment which had collapsed extensively although it could be seen that in parts it had stood over 1m. high and had been partially built of large boulders.

At the top of the curved revetment a gritty, gravelly floor heavily flecked with charcoal sloped upwards to the centre and then less steeply to the curved back bank. In the middle, a packing of clay about 1.5m in diameter had been set into the floor. On this clay base and impregnated into it there was a mass of burnt charcoal about 3 cm. thick. The area of burning and blackening extended beyond the clay to cover a circular area of floor about 2.5m in diameter. Beyond this and particularly towards the back bank pieces of charcoal were scattered and the blackening and even reddening was intense in patches. At the centre of the two back quadrants, the 'insignificant' back scarp was found to consist of very consolidated earthy material forming a false face over the true, near-vertical, back. The charcoal blackening on the floor and even lumps of charcoal were found

were found/

under the consolidated false face of the back bank. Over, and at the foot of the front revetment also, larger pieces of charcoal and of half-burned wood were found, sometimes under the tumbled stones of the revetment. Evidence that the wood had been cut by axe and saw was noted on some partially burnt pieces.

### Period 1.

Floor - In the two back S.W. and N.W. quadrants there was, below the floor of the hearth about 5 - 10cm of gravelly material. Beneath this the surface became firm and gritty. It was composed of packed gravel and sand and was yellowish-brown in colour. On the front S.E. quadrant the charcoal lay almost immediately on a spread of large cobbles (stones about 15-20cm in size). These stones extended southwards to the S. limit of the excavated area but not eastwards. Under the cobbles there was another flatter level of even larger stones which was recognised as paving. Eastwards of this floor was a pocket of packed fine, silty soil and then a ridge of material approximately 1m wide which resembled decayed turf. This material was lying on top of the lip of the revetment. In the front N.E. quadrant there was a similar, though less concentrated, spread of heavy cobbles which lay on a floor of flatter stones and packed earth. The floor level was bounded by a curve of edge stones, and from it packed earth sloped rapidly eastwards and northeastwards to the top of the boulders of the revetment. These flat levels in the centre of the two front quadrants were below the level of the floor on the back quadrant but through each of the two levels in the quadrants, the main post holes were cut.

Revetment - A more thorough cleaning of the front escarpment established that it had originally been a stone wall about 1.75m wide and that the front edge, which had mostly fallen away had stood about 1m high. The lower foundations were set in clean brown sandy soil. In the centre front, anchoring boulders were embedded about 50cm from the front edge of the bottom of the revetment wall, and the slope between was metalled with a packing of smaller stones. The level of the charcoal scatter lay above the foundations in the pockets from which the boulders of the revetment had fallen outwards. Charcoal was also found beyond the anchoring stones. Post holes had been set into the thickness of the revetment but only at P.H. 4 was the original deep socket preserved to an appreciable extent. The revetment wall curved round on the N.E. quadrant but was elongated to the S.E.

Back Bank - Only the back bank of the N.W. quadrant was explored. Below the charcoal scatter the bank was of brown earth and stoney with large stones set in to form the post holes. At the mid-point of the back bank for a visible distance of about 1.5m the scarp became nearly vertical and was about .75m high. Here there was one large boulder and a few smaller stones set in, to form a poor wall. Around the rest of the arc the bank had a more

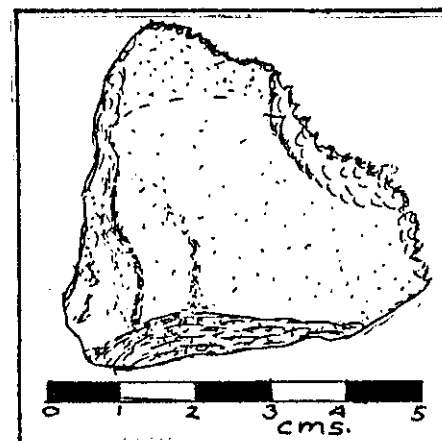
had a more/

gentle slope but the junction between the slope and the floor was not found because of the muddy conditions.

Post Holes - Within the gravel of the two back quadrants and amongst the 'paving' of the two front quadrants, 8 well built post holes were found. All were approximately 20cm to 25cm in diameter and about 30cm deep. Most were built with horizontally laid stones and all those in the front two quadrants had a fill of sandy silt. Those in the back were more gravelly. The sockets formed an oval 5m x 4m although the S. end was more rounded. There may have been another in the centre of the W side which was never discovered. Deep sockets were also found within the boulders of the front revetment but the outer side of most of these had gone when the boulders had fallen away. Thus only the bottom part of these, apart from P.H. 4, remained intact. Evidence from P.H.4 confirmed that the holes were large, about 20cm in diameter, and did not taper until at the bottom they finished with a rounded point. The shape of the structure indicated by these outer sockets was also more oval than round and measured 8.5m by 7.5m.

Finds. - The only artefact found was a piece of worked quartz which was immediately under the turf at the S. end of the platform. The charcoal which was plentiful was of *hazel*.

#### Discussions and Conclusions.



The Platform was initially built on a sloping hillside to support an oval roofed structure the front posts of which had been set in place before the front revetment wall was constructed. After the front revetment was built, the recessed area at the rear of the platform may then have been dug out and some of the soil thrown into the front between the revetment and the natural hillside. Into the 'fill' the posts for P.Hs. 5, 7, 6, 8 and 9 would be set. Horizontal stones were then, probably placed around the posts and more soil added to level up the ground. The back posts of both the inner and outer 'ring' may then have been dug into the natural gritty soil of the back quadrants - vis. nos. 11, 12, and 10, and 13, 17 and 18.

The layer of turf found along the top of the front revetment is probably the remains of an internal turf wall. Although there was no evidence of the turf in the N.E. quadrant, it may have slid down the slope when the revetment collapsed.

The use of the structure cannot be determined as there was no evidence of domestication such as a hearth or of small finds. What was evident was - that

was - that/

the front of the platform partially collapsed before its use in Period 2. Charcoal was found over the lower tumble and in the sockets from which the front boulders had fallen. It is possible that the two front quadrants of the floor subsided vertically thus causing the discrepancy in the floor levels between the front and back. It is also possible that the N.E. quadrant collapsed down the hill even more than the S.E. as there was no evidence of the turf ridge and the front of the floor on the N.E. sloped so steeply.

In Period 2 the Platform was obviously used as a charcoal burners' hearth. The surface at that time must already have been sloping for the clay under the pyre, and the cobbles in the two front quadrants seem to have been placed in an attempt to level up the floor. The position of the fallen charcoal over the tumble shows that the front wall had already collapsed when the charcoal burning was taking place. There was a further collapse after the charcoal burning for charcoal was found between tumbled stones (i.e. over tumble and under other tumbled stones).

Access on to the Platform at both Periods was probably from the South. The southern elongation of the revetment wall indicates this in Period 1 and the spread of large cobbles to the S. is the indicator in Period 2.

The amount of tumble at the front and the depth and consolidation of the material over the back scarp are the only evidence for the passage of time between the two Periods and between Period 2 and the present. As the accumulation forming the false face over the back scarp was so firm and dense, it is possible that the charcoal burning might be contemporary with the charcoal burning on Platform 9 which was dated to the 13th/14th centuries A.D. (\*) It is thought from evidence gained through the Ardnadam Excavation (\*) that activity had ceased in the area by the 16th C. A.D. If, therefore, Period 2 could be placed in the Mediaeval period, then Period 1 might belong to the Dark Ages - viz. 6th/7th or 8th centuries A.D. The shape of the structure, the form of construction of the Platform and the type of post holes cannot be paralleled at any of the huts built on Platforms or otherwise known to the excavator. The most similar post holes were those found in the Iron Age Round houses (Strs. 11 and 12) of the Ardnadam excavation but the poor construction of the front revetment does not suggest Iron Age builders. However it is relevant that both in the Early Christian period and in the Iron Age there was great activity in the enclosure in the Glen just 500m to the S.E.

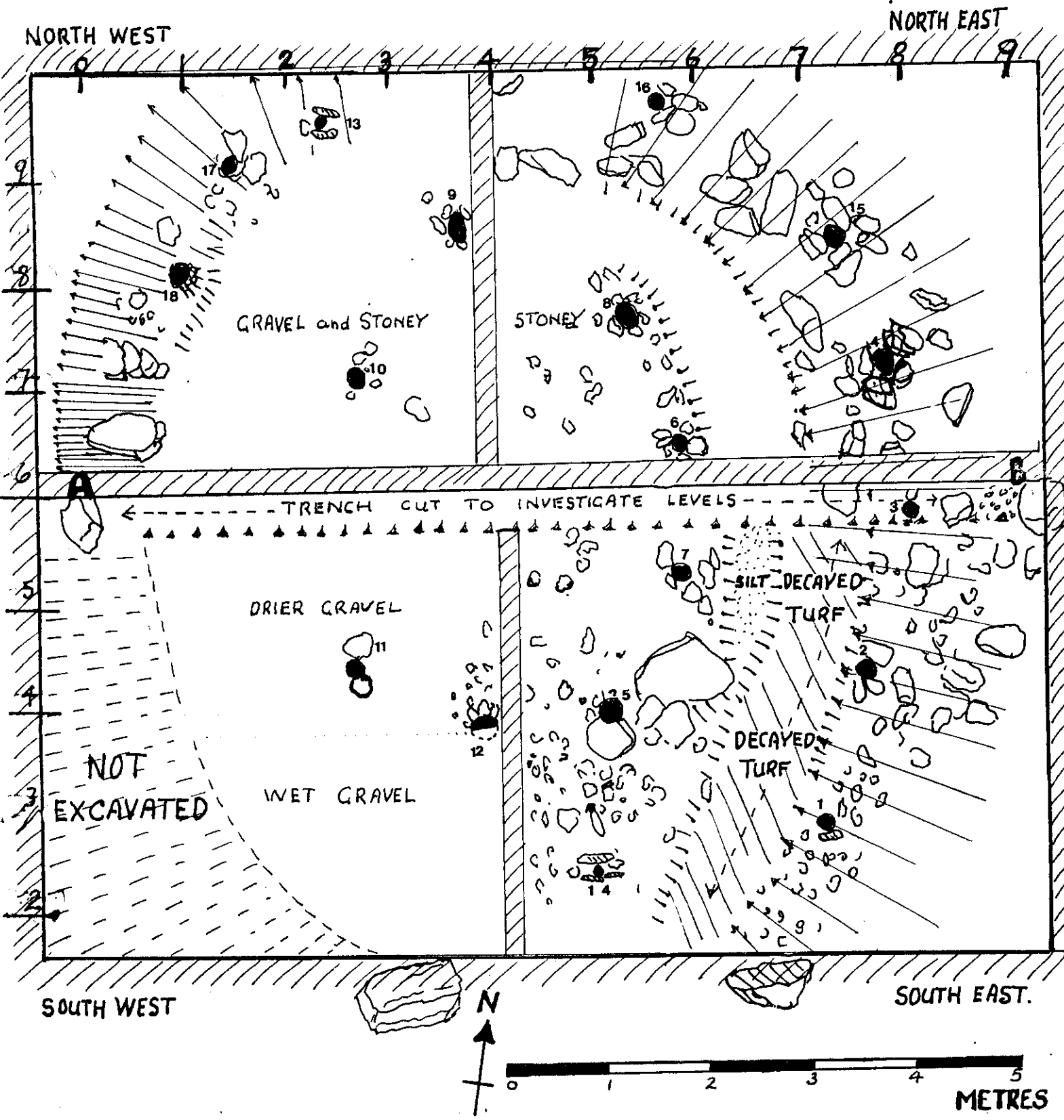
Cowal Archaeological Society is greatly indebted to Mr. Frank Newall and Mr. Harry Sinclair for their back-breaking work over 4 days in removing mud and for their interested and thoughtful excavation of the front revetment. Members also enjoyed and appreciated having Miss Lesley Ketteringham working with them once again. The Society would also like to record their gratitude to Tilhill Forestry for allowing the excavation and for their helpfulness over the period.

(\*) Unpublished excavation of Platform 9 Dunloskin-Ardnam Group - Eliz. B.

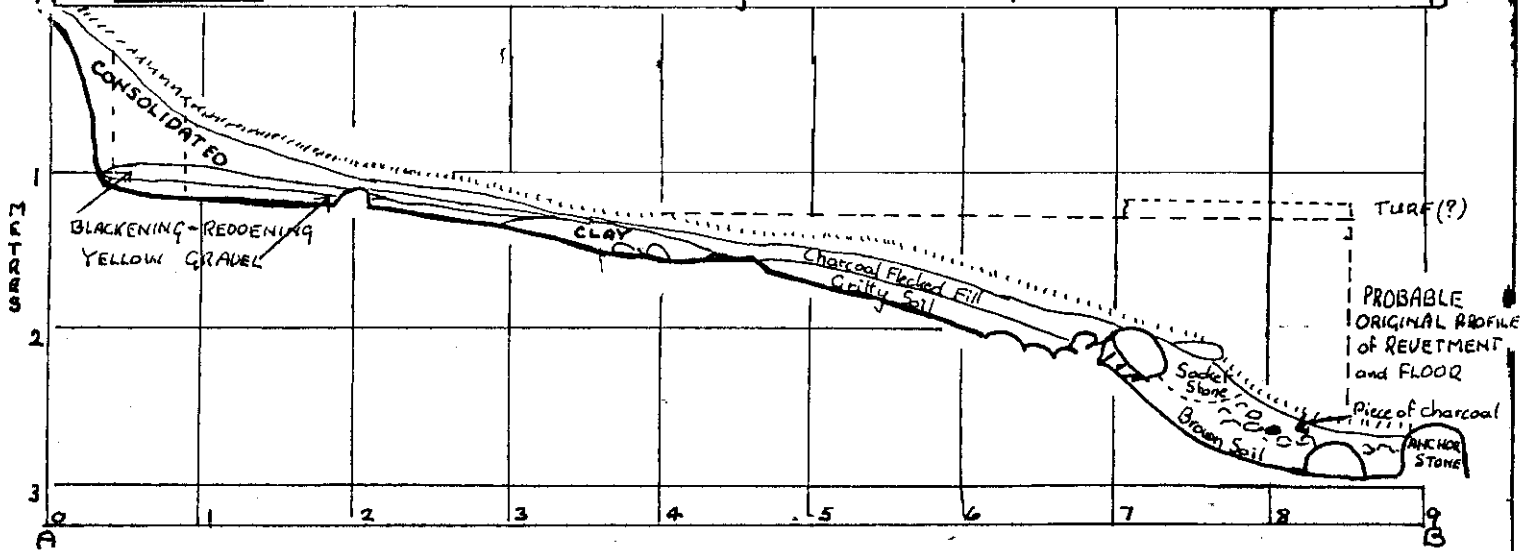
(\*) Excavations at Ardnadam, Cowal, Argyll 1964-1982.

Rennie.

PLATFORM 24  
ARDNADAM  
NS 1619 7933



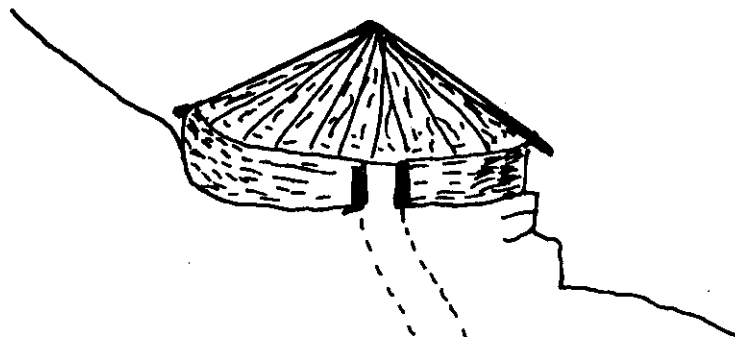
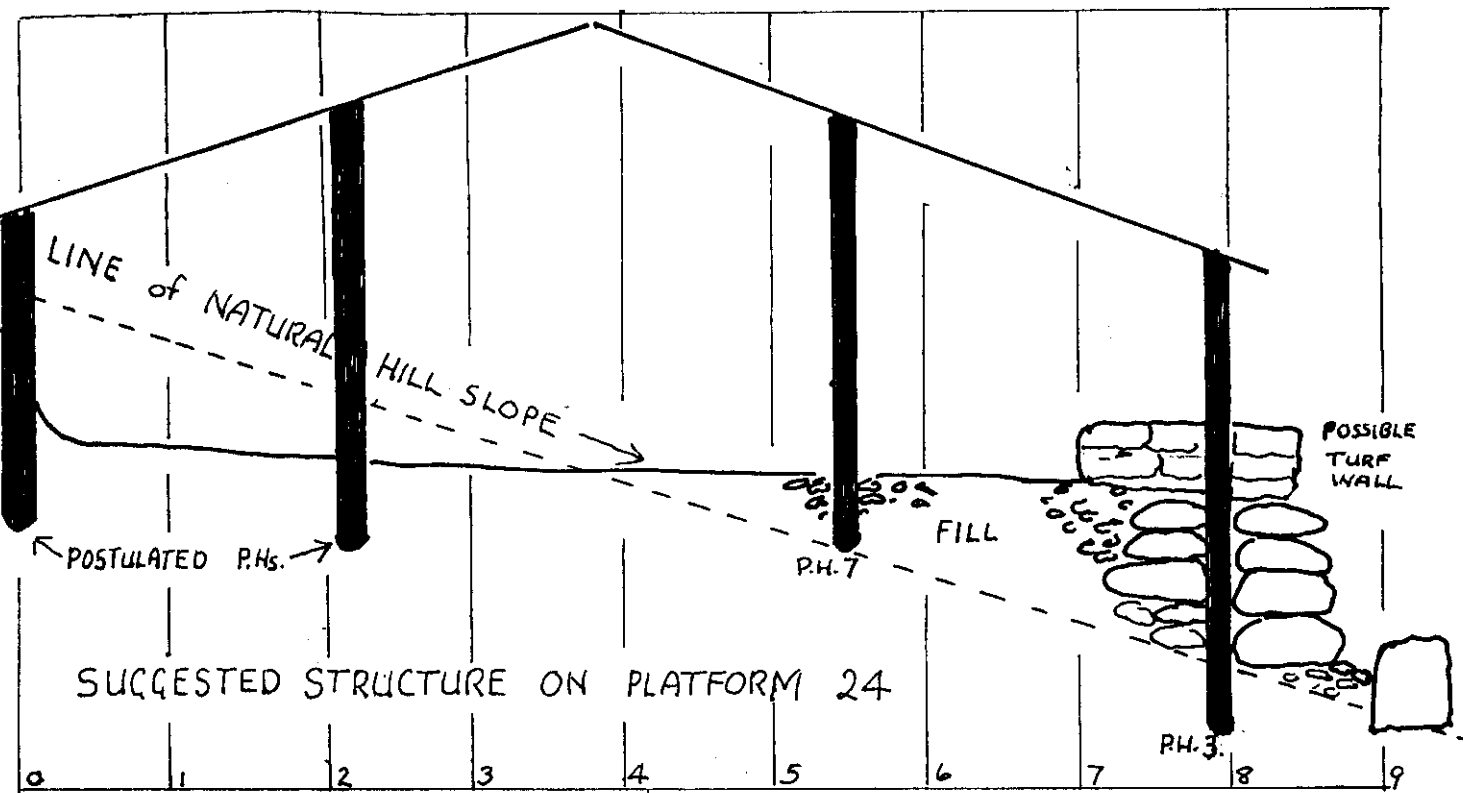
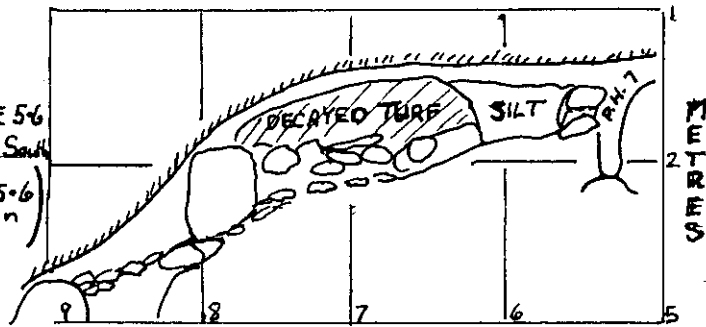
A. SECTION 1 - LINE 6 from W. to E. looking North A to B on PLAN.



SECTION 2.

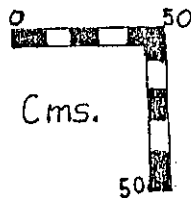
PROFILE ALONG LINE 5-6 from E. to W looking South

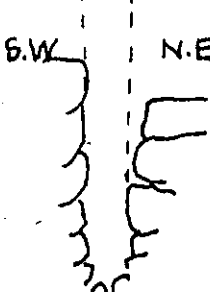
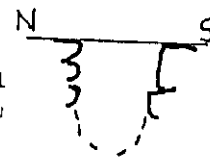
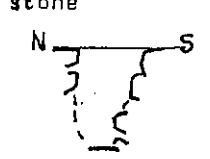
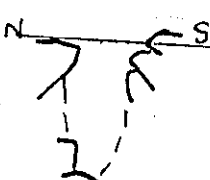
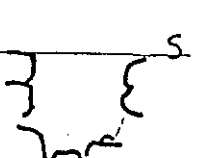
(TURF SHOWN ON LINE 5-6 DID NOT APPEAR ON LINE 6.)

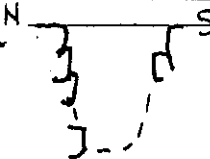

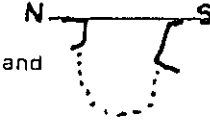
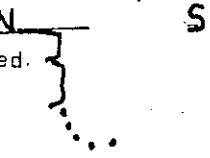
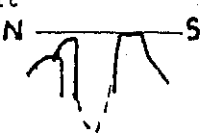
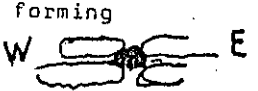
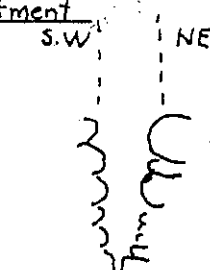


POST HOLES

Profiles — Scale — Cms.



1	75cm to top of revetment -15cm diameter. Stone packing against revetment. East side fallen away except for 20cm.
2	1m to top of revetment but only 30cm intact around hole. Completely stone packed -pointed. 18cm diameter.
3	Destroyed before measurements taken.
4	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Top of Revetment</u></p> 1m to top of revetment - circular hole, 200° visible S.W. N.E for 75cm, pointed. Completely stone packed. 
5	35cm to floor level. 25cm. diameter. Stone lined for 15cm. Fill of sandy material and packed sandy sides below stones. 
6	30cm to floor, 18cm diameter Stone packed with horizontal stone stones at top - sandy at bottom. 
7	35cm to floor, 18cm diameter Stone packed with horizontal stones at top and some rounded packing towards foot. Sandy fill. 
8	30 cm deep - 28cm diameter. stone lined at top. packed sandy sides below, -fill of sandy soil. 

9	40cm deep - oval 30 x 12cm. Fill of gravelly sand. 
10	30cm deep - 20cm diameter. Stones at top- gravel around lower sides and filled with gravel. 
11	25cm deep, - 25cm diameter, - Cut into gravelly material and filled with softer gravel. 
12	On one side packed at top with horizontal stones- at the other side must have been packed gravel which has become waterlogged and disintegrated. 
13	22cm deep and 12cmx6cm. Built of upright stones. 
14	22cm deep, and 12x8cm.- Set into vertical stones forming the sides.  <p style="text-align: center;">PLAN of 14</p>
15	90cm to top of <u>Top of Revetment</u> but only 35cm. remaining; completely stone-lined; pointed; 15cm. diameter. 
16	80cm to top of revetment.- only 30cm depth remaining,- 15cm diameter, pointed.
17	30cm deep, 15cm diameter. Stone lined but damaged by tree root.
18	25cm deep, 20cm diameter. packed with small stones and earth

This is the second highest platform of a group of 38 lying on each side of the Eas a'Chaibeil which divides the lands of Ardnadam Farm from Dunloskin Farm. The platform 9 lies above the trees at an altitude of 122m. It has been partially excavated four times, in 1971, '74, '77 and '85. It was first recognised as a round flat area about 9m in diameter set on a natural terrace and cut into the hillside for about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of its perimeter. The cut formed a vertical scarp about 75cms. at the centre back. The front was poorly defined but it was visible as a gently sloping scarp around the  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the perimeter opposite the back scarp. The areas between these two thirds, were level with the hillside. To the S.E. the levelling continued for a distance of about 4m suggesting that use had been made of this ground.

There are two 'bloomeries, one to the N.W. within 50m of the platform and the other 250m to the S.E.

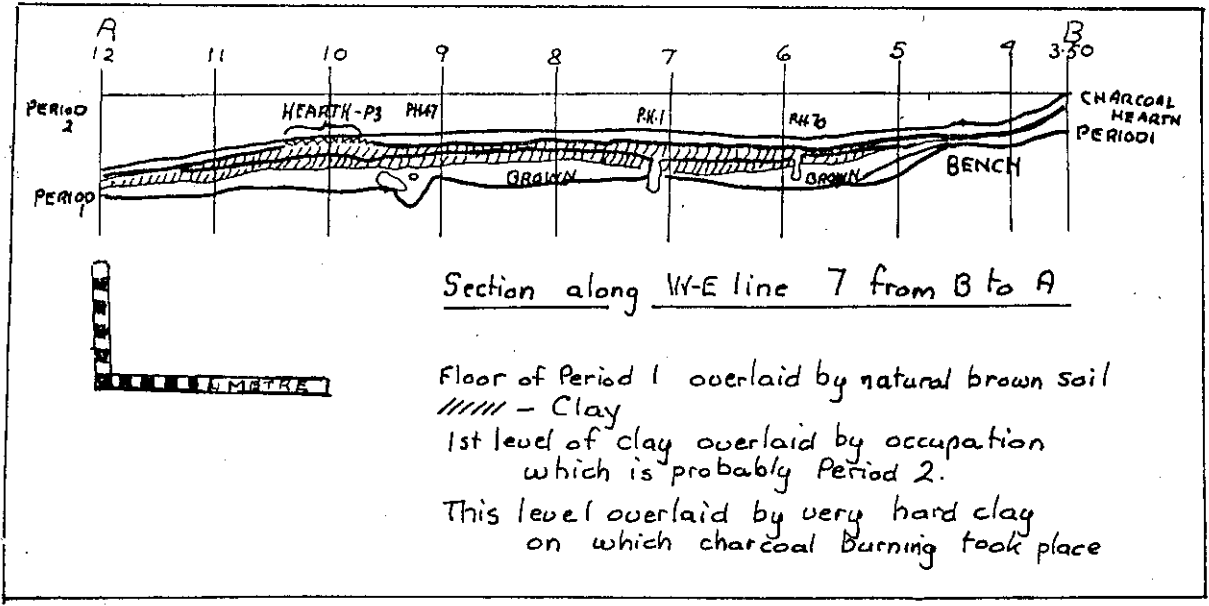
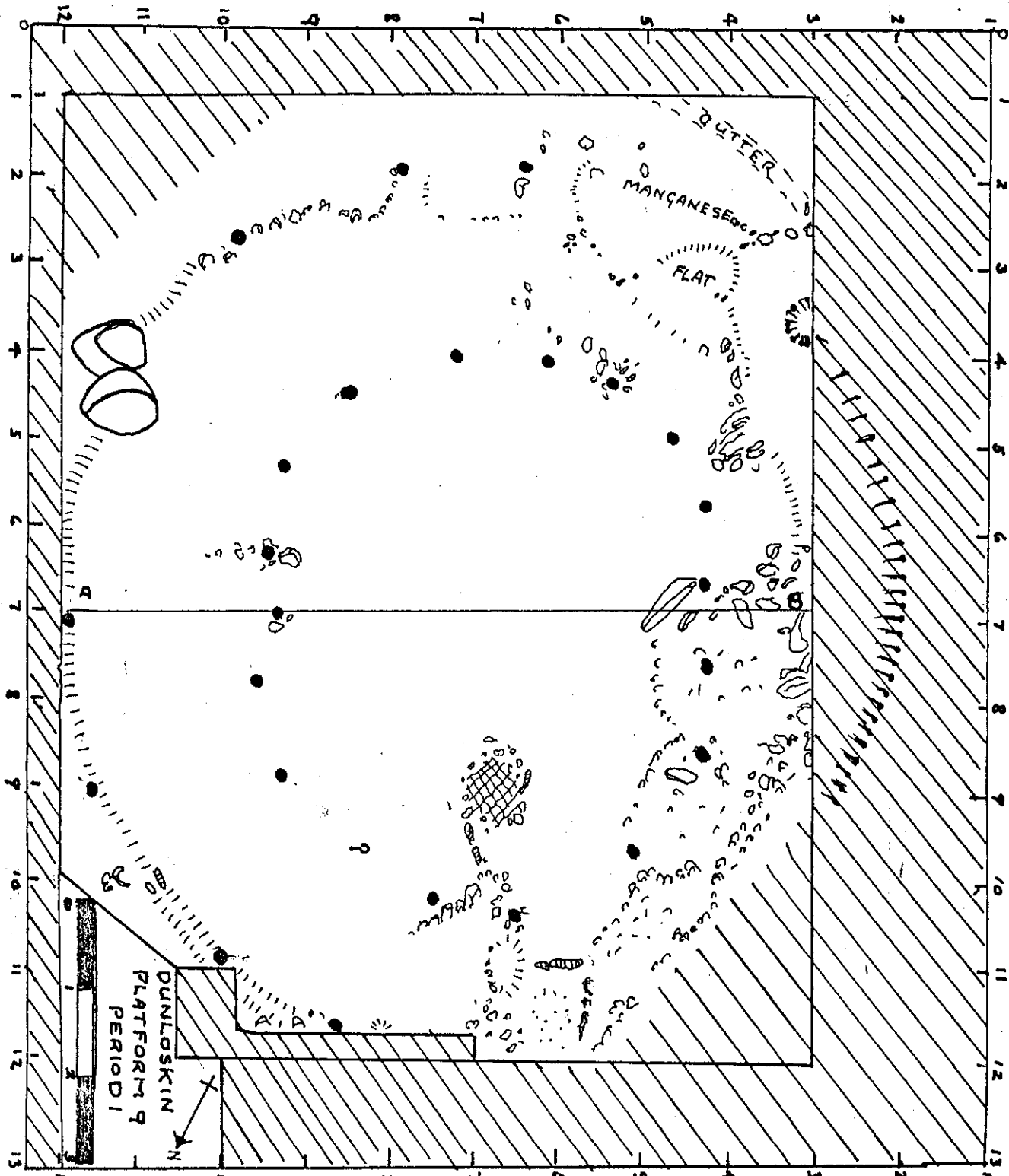
In 1971 and '74 the South quadrant and a small area of the North quadrant were uncovered to the Mediaeval level. A clay floor with iron slag and pottery sherds of the 13th-14th century A.D. and an area of burning were found. In 1977 about half of the North quadrant was excavated to the Period 1 floor uncovering (1) many post holes which were allotted to Periods 1 and 2 according to their levels; (2) an apparent outside edge to the platform, and (3) part of a hearth belonging to Period 1 from which a flint scraper was taken. The general interpretations of these findings was the same - viz. - that Period 1 and 2 were each represented by the post holes and floors of round timber-framed huts. Period 3 probably represented a prolonged utilisation of the platform in the Medieval period probably for some activity associated with iron working.

The plan for the 1985 excavation was to take the whole platform down to the lowest level - in the East and West quadrant from the turf level; in the South and North quadrants from the levels reached in the previous year's work. The plan was not fully completed because of bad weather and flooding. The North and East perimeter of the lowest level were not completely uncovered.

PERIOD 1 - The bottom level was approximately 50cm. below the turf.

The floor of a round timber-framed structure was defined by post-holes forming two near-circular rings; the inner being 7m in diameter and the other, 11m in diameter. In 1977 a series of small stake holes was found concentric with, and enclosing closely an apparent edge of the platform in the North quadrant. This year, (1985) the edge and curve of sockets was seen to form a ditch which encircles the downslope side of the platform.





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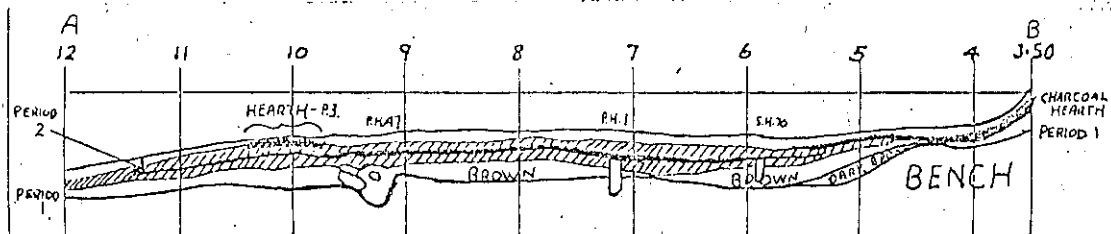
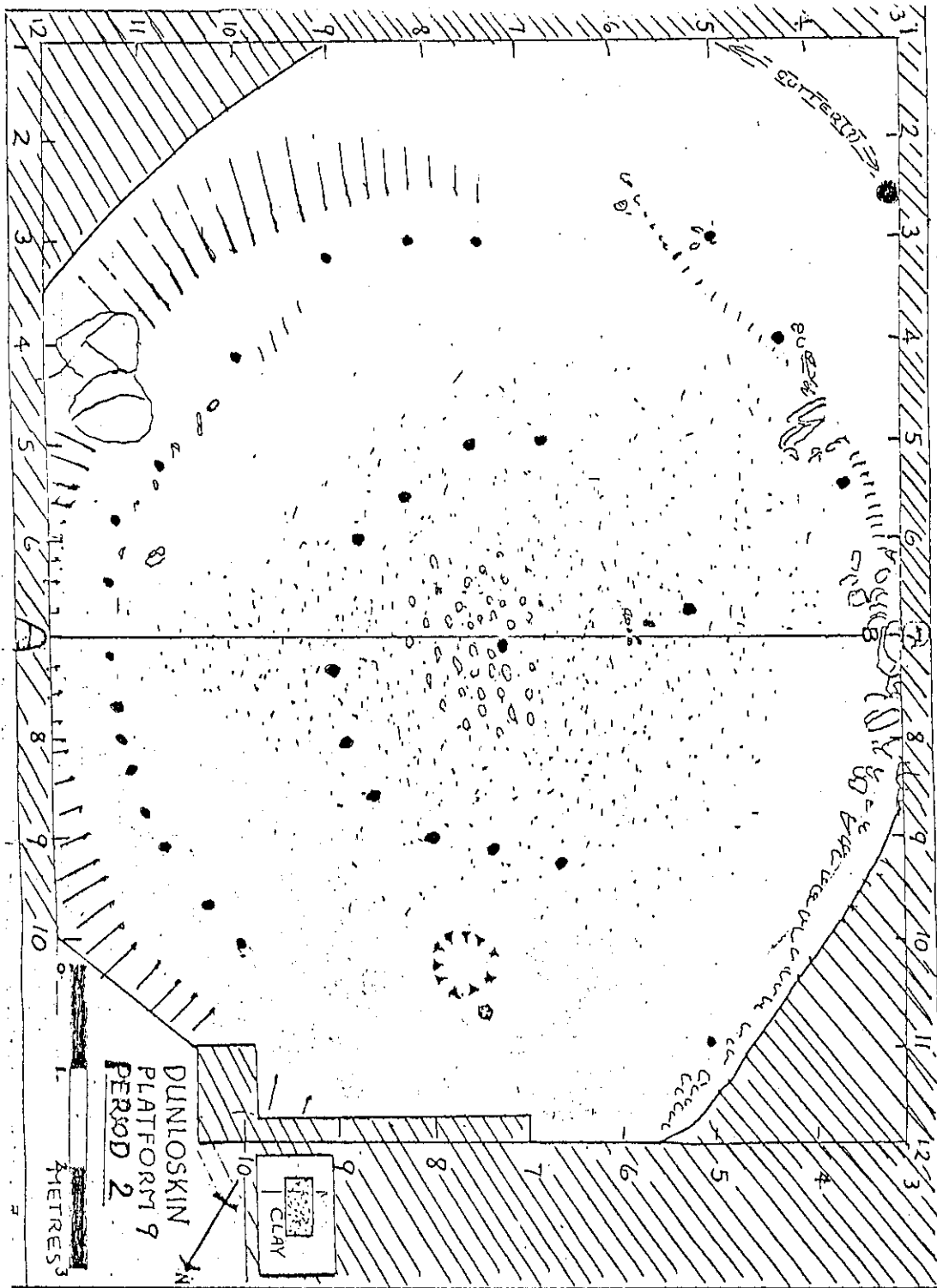
the platform./

The ditch is punctuated with larger post holes at intervals of about 2m. On the East quadrant the ditch was not excavated due to lack of time and bad weather, but it was probably represented by an enclosing curve of softer soil around a low scarp (the edge of the platform). The post holes around the perimeter were on average about 24cm deep, and 12cm diameter - some were stone lined, others were the post pits from which the stones had been removed.

On the uphill side of the platform, i.e. in the South and West quadrants, the rock of the hillside had been cut to accommodate the floor. When the arc of the circle formed by the perimeter ditch and post holes is projected around the South and West quadrants, a curve is postulated which goes into the unexcavated area above the back scarp. In the South quadrant, in the projected continuation of the perimeter, there is a large hollow cut into the West baulk. It is possible that this hollow is the end of the ditch which is postulated to encircle the perimeter. A slight berm which exists in the unexcavated ground behind and above the back bank may mark the position of the encircling ditch.

The inner ring of post holes formed a near-circle set concentrically within the outer ring. There was no centre post hole. The sockets were at intervals of between 2m and 2.5m. Strangely two sets of opposing holes were out of position relative to the perimeter of the 7m circle. On the uphill side the discrepancy might be due to the rocky ground; the pair of opposing holes were heavily strengthened with large stones. 17 post holes were found and one was postulated. 10 of these were 20cm deep, 4 were about 25cm. and 3 were 30cm or more. All were either rock cut, stone packed or appeared to have been stone packed. The diameters were all about 10cm.

On the uphill arc, where the hillside had been cut to accommodate the structure much of the natural rock had been left in position so that it formed a rocky bench against the bank. The 'bench' was extended with earth and stones, down the North Western arc. Passing between the natural 'bench' and the built one, an apparent doorway with threshold stones led out to the North West. The path and step forming the exit were gravelled and were very hard packed. Immediately to the East of the threshold in the constructed 'bench' there was an oval hollow 75cm x 50cm and about 10cm deep. It was edged with stone, and had a flat earth bottom. On the South side, in the opposing position, there was the possibility of another entrance. A hearth, nearly 1m in diameter was set on stones in the West quadrant. The ashy material was about 15cm deep. From this hearth a flint scraper - D.P. 9/22 - was taken in 1977. In '85, charcoal, and hazel nut shells were collected from the hearth.



Section along W-E line 7 from B to A.

Floor of Period 1 overlaid by natural brown soil

//// - Clay  
1st level of clay overlaid by occupation which is probably Period 2.

This level overlaid by very hard clay on which charcoal burning took place.

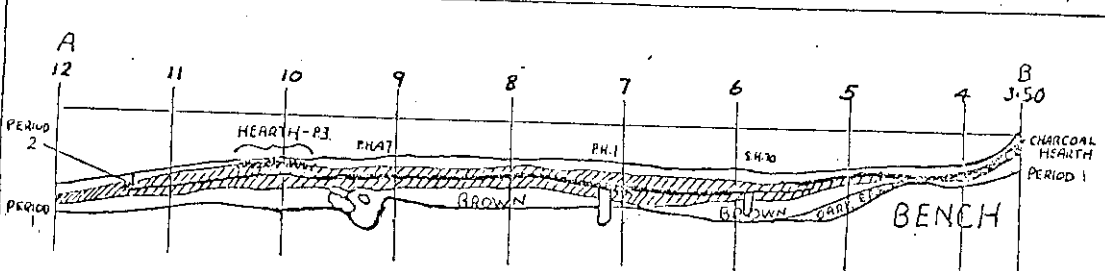
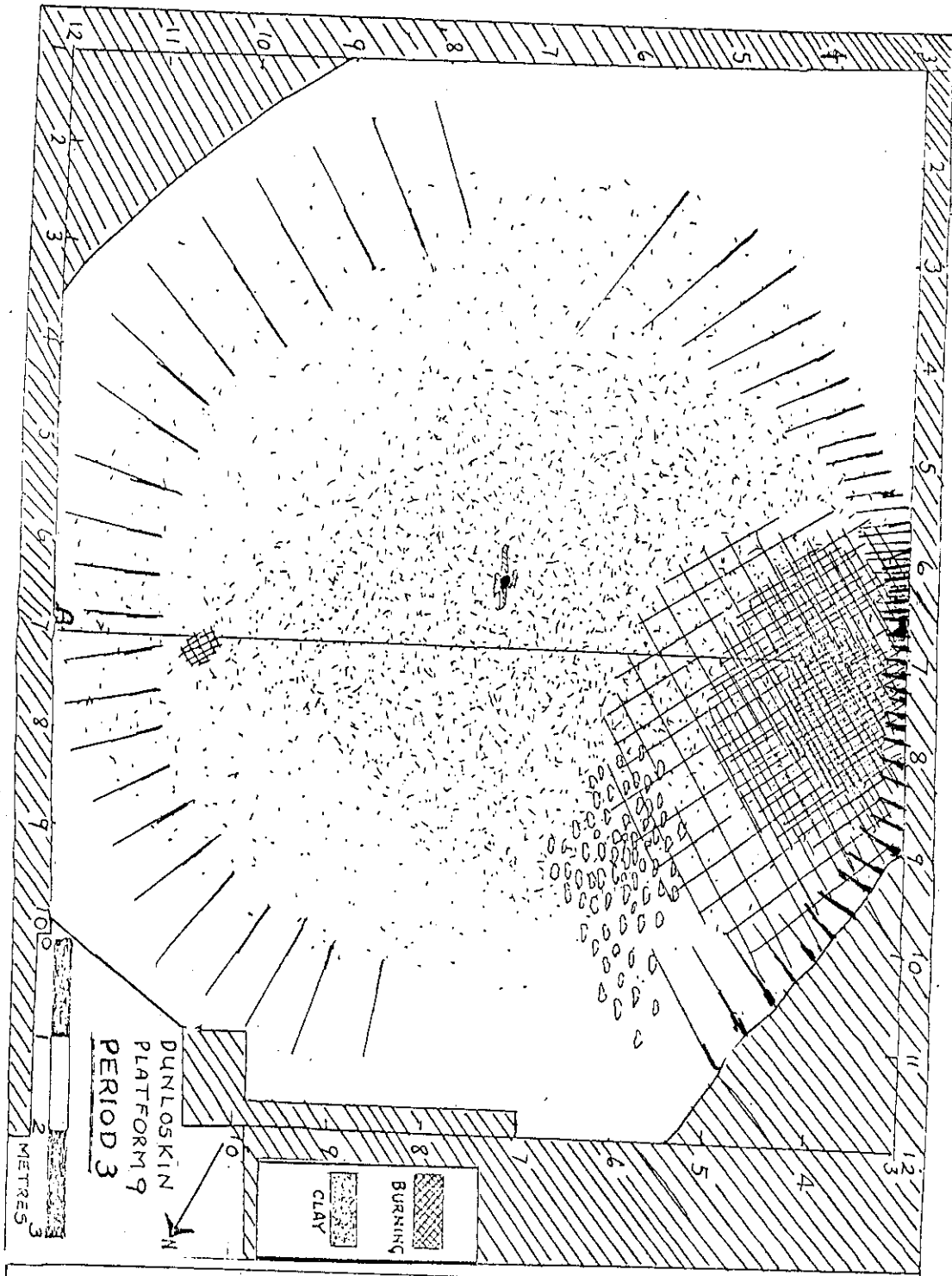
PERIOD 2. - Overlying the Period 1 floor, there was firstly a layer of sterile brown soil and secondly a layer of clay which was thickest in the back and centre, but thinned out towards the sides. The clay was thought to have been laid naturally by the surface water from the hill above.

Period 2 was recognised by part of two rings of post holes and a centre post hole, all set into the clay. Both rings were nearly complete on the 'downhill' side. The diameter of the inner ring was 4m and the sockets at about 1m intervals. They were all about 25cm deep and 10 to 12cm diameter, and mostly unlined. - 3 were lined and they were oval. The centre post hole was 24cm deep and set in a lined post pit. The diameter of the outer ring was judged to be 8.75m. In the North quadrant the sockets forming the outer ring were closely packed; in the East they were more widely spaced. None were more than 15cm deep and all were about 10cm diameter. 3 'odd' sockets in the South quadrant and 1 in the West may belong to this series although they are out of position.

The floor, except at the East and North extremities, was of clay but in the centre around the middle post hole there was an area of paving and cobbling. In the South and West it was extremely hard as it overlay the bench of the first Period. No hearth was found and the position of the doorway could not be judged. A hollow in the West quadrant against the earlier 'bench' is thought to belong to this period. It was filled with darker soft soil, and was flat bottomed and about 20cm deep. There was another smaller round pit adjacent to it.

PERIOD 3 - A thicker layer of clay covered the Period 2 floor spread over the same areas as in the earlier period. The clay was particularly hard and thick in the S.W. and W central area. There appeared to be various levels represented within the spread of clay, as darkened patches, pieces of slag and flat stones were embedded but the floors could not be separately identified. The top level was clearly indicated by a spread of good paving, a charcoal hearth, and a scatter of potsherds.

The charcoal hearth had been built in the centre back of the platform so that the back scarp was extremely baked and blackened. The heat had been intense as the clay on which the pyre had stood was reddened and cracked. There was not a spread of charcoal staining over the whole floor - the blackening was concentrated as shown on the plan - but two small piles of prepared charcoal were found when the S. and N. quadrants were de-turfed in 1971. The paving which consisted of slabs of schist up to 20 - 25cm., was spread around the pyre and leading off the platform towards the bloomery to the North West. Pottery sherds



Section along W-E line 7 from B to A.

Floor of Period 1 overlaid by natural brown soil  
 //// - Clay.  
 1st level of clay overlaid by occupation  
 which is probably Period 2.  
 This level overlaid by very hard clay  
 on which charcoal burning took place.

Pottery sherds/

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dating to the 13th-14th C. A.D. which probably all belonged to the one vessel were embedded on the clay in the centre area but one sherd was on the paving towards the perimeter in the North West arc. Pieces of slag which had the same <sup>dis</sup>tribution pattern as the pottery were also found on the top level of the clay in greater numbers than below. The slag was both of the 'fun' type and of the 'frothy' type.

A small domestic hearth measuring about 50cm in diameter and enclosed by a few stones was on the North side of the Eastern quadrant. Within 1 metre of this fire the only burnt sherd of pottery was found. A single deep post hole, made with large deeply set stones was near to the centre of the platform at this top level. A piece of schistose grit having a notch cut from one side was taken from the centre of the floor - DP 9/23.

Conclusions. - This year's excavation has confirmed and enlarged the findings of the three previous years' work viz. - The first level is the floor of a round timber framed structure of approximately 11m diameter. The structure was built on a natural terrace but the hillside to the South West had to be cut back to accommodate a house of such a size. The scarp so formed, was incorporated within the structure as the outer wall curved behind and over the scarp. The cut area of rock within the house was utilised as a bench. The door and probably a second one placed opposite were at either end of the cut into the hill.

The wall timbers seem to have been set into a pre-dug trench which probably encircled the house. The walling was probably of close-set posts which may have been clad with wattle and daub but there was no evidence of daub.

The hearth was conveniently placed near to the bench and showed evidence of use over a period of time as the ash was gathered in pockets at different levels on top of and under the side stones. Charcoal from the hearth has been sent for dating and so an approximate date for the life of the house should be obtained.

It is probable that a considerable length of time elapsed before the Period 2 structure was built. A level of brown soil under the layer of clay on which the Period 2 structure was set, overlay the Period 1 floor. In the '79 excavation, sinuous lines of thin dark soil noticed in the brown soil were interpreted as tree roots which had decayed - implying that the site had been abandoned. It can be further argued that before the spread of the clay the climate may have been drier as the clay which overlay the brown soil seems to be the result of hill wash which had not occurred at the earlier level.

The evidence for the Period 2 structure has survived only partially. Its overall diameter is calculated at about 9 metres but as many of the post holes were not found the dimensions and shape are doubtful. As it is the uphill side of the two post hole rings which are missing it is possible that because of the rocky hard nature of the ground, some other device may have been employed to support the posts. Evidence for the down hill side (the North and North Eastern arcs) suggests that a fence of close set posts formed the walls, and presumably they also were clad with wattle and daub. If the diameter was 9m then the complete structure would be set within the perimeter of the earlier floor. The front (i.e. the N. and N.E. arcs) wall and the floor have formed an edge which slopes towards the perimeter of the earlier and lower floor. This slope is the front lip of the platform.

It is possible that a much shorter length of time elapsed between Period 2 and 3 than elapsed between Periods 1 and 2. The clay which overlay Period floor was considered to have been, at least partially, deliberately laid. Further there was some evidence that there were floors of laid clay containing iron slag, and stained in patches, perhaps by tramping, incorporated in the clay below the Period 3 floor.

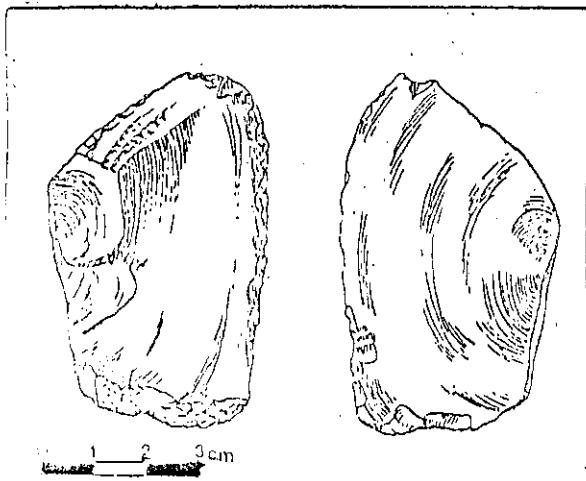
Whatever the reality and the uses of such intermediate floors, the top floor was visibly used for charcoal burning. The surprising evidence is that the charcoal hearth was not set in the floor centre but was placed in the West quadrant almost against the back scarp. It is also of interest that there was no charcoal staining on the clay surface beyond the close surrounds of the hearth. There the ground was extremely blackened and even reddened where the fire had been hottest.

The single post hole associated with the top floor does not appear to be part of a series and so it is unlikely that a roofed structure stood on the platform at this period. The domestic hearth, the pottery and the proximity of the bloomery suggest that the platform is a working and eating area. A house associated with pottery of the same type was found on the Ardnadam site, 350m below at the foot of the hill. Thus it is possible that the platform was a working area of the Medieval Ardnadam people.

However it is not proven that any of the slag found either on or in the clay of the charcoal level is contemporary with the adjacent bloomery. Nevertheless it is reasonable to infer that the charcoal burning is likely to be associated with the nearby bloomery or at least one of the other four in the neighbourhood. The number of bloomeries implies that there must be many charcoal hearths on the hillside but it has now been shown that round platforms are not necessary as sites for hearths.

Therefore it is possible that <sup>the</sup> other hearths...

Small finds from Platform 9.

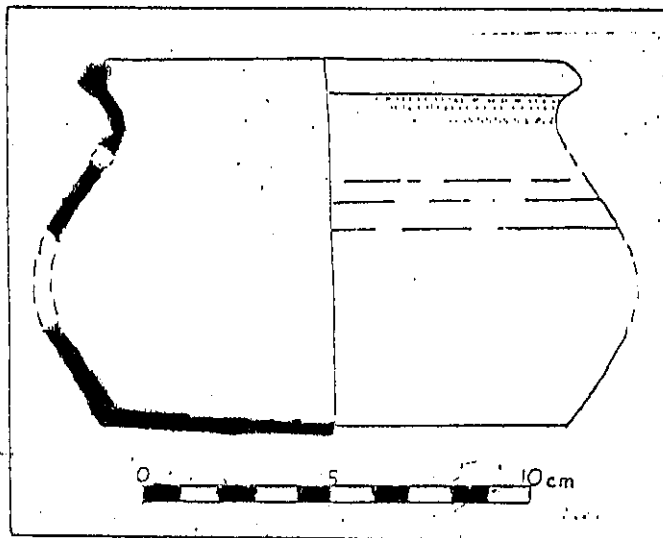


Flint Scraper from Platform 9, O.P. 9/21.

"Scraper of opaque, light gray flint 63mmx40mmx6mm. One end squared off retaining the original cortex, opposite end brought to rounded triangular point, one side of which shows considerable signs of use. The other side as far as the cortex, is carefully flaked presumably to give a grip."

The description of the flint is by Jack G. Scott and is taken from the Ardnadam Excavation Report, Appendix 7.

The pottery illustrated is of the sherds collected on Period 3 level of Platform 9. The sherds have been drawn and described by Diana Fox, and the extract below is taken from the description of Medieval Pottery in the Report of the Ardnadam Excavation - G.A.J. No.11- The 'Y' referred to is a type of pottery dated to 13th-14th C. A.D.



ARDNADAM - POTTERY DP

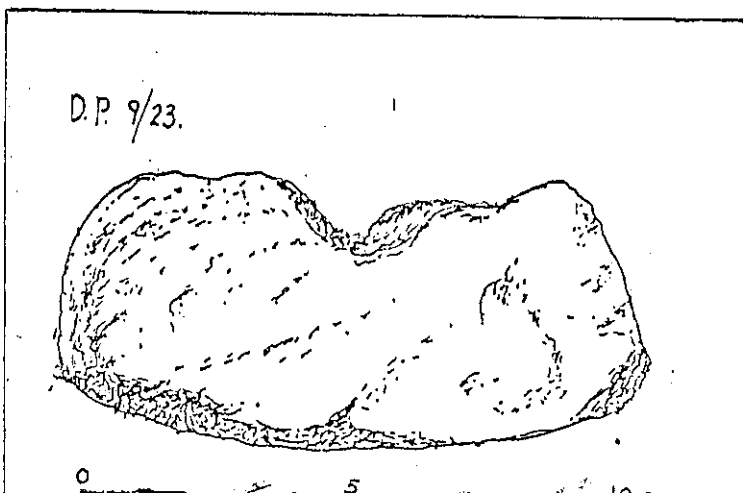
1 OR 2 VESSELS - DP. 1 ILLUSTRATED

DP.1 - rims-9/1,9/8,9/11,9/7,9/12,18

bases-9/3,9/6,9/10 and 9/22 (found 1986)

body sherds-9/2,9/4,9/5,9/6,9/9,9/14,9/17,9/19,9/20

Cooking pot with lobbed rim in the same fabric as Y although the body sherds from this pot show partial rilling.







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25th April, 1986.

RADIOCARBON DATING LABORATORY

Dunloskin Hill

Charcoal sample from nr Dunloskin Farm, Ardnadam (Natl Grid Ref NS 164789). Coll 18 Oct ~~1975~~ and subm by E.B. Rennie, Cowal Archaeological Society. **1985**

GU-2063 Dunloskin Hill  
Platform 9 DP9/24  
4725 ± 150  
 $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -27.12\text{‰}$

GU-2064 Dunloskin Hill  
Platform 9 DP9/24  
4570 ± 150  
 $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -27.31\text{‰}$

N.B. The above C-14 dates are quoted in conventional years b.p. (before 1950 AD) and are uncalibrated with respect to dendrochronological age. The errors are expressed at the ± one sigma level of confidence.

## DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

**REGION** Highland.

**DISTRICT** Lochaber.

**Site Name** Clunes, Loch Lochy

**Parish** Not known.

**Name of Contributor**  
Elizabeth B. Rennie.

**Type of Site or Find**  
Recessed Platform Group

**NGR** Centred on NN 215 896

NN28 NW,

### Report

On an area of about 70 acres on the NW side of Loch Lochy there are at least 26 Platforms. The area is very steep and has been under afforestation until recently. Now half has been harvested but is being immediately re-planted.

The Platforms occur from loch level to 600ft. and range from 27ft (8.2m) to 33ft (10m) although a few very small ones of 12ft (3.5m) were noted. They all appear to be stone revetted though identification is difficult in the 'felled' area.

One Platform had been re-used as the stance for a corn kiln. It was at loch level and the stone front lip which had stood 1.5m high, had been destroyed by waves and water. The corn kiln had been built into the half-floor which remained. It was well built and almost 3m wide at the top and 1.9m deep. The flue emerged on to the shore nearly 2m below. The kiln is now in danger as it has already been partly destroyed by wave action. The original floor level of the Platform showed in the broken section as a black line of organic soil and stone overlain with sterile soil.

Information originally supplied by Mr. Jim Kirby of the Forestry Commission.

**Address** Upper Netherby,  
Kirn Dunoon.  
Argyll.

## DISCOVERY &amp; EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

**REGION** Highland.

**DISTRICT** Glen Finnan

**Site Name** Allt Feadan Mhic Bheathain (1)  
Rubha Nan Sgriob(2)

**Parish** Unknown

**Name of Contributor**  
Elizabeth B. Rennie

**Type of Site or Find**  
Two Groups of Recessed Platforms

**NGR** (1) Centred on NM 896 790  
(2) Centred on NM 853 753

**Report** Two Groups of Platforms are recorded here - one of 18 Platforms at NM 896 790 and the other of 35 Platforms at NM 853 753. There is however, another group of 6 in Glas Choirean at NM 863 759, another 2 at NM 885 779 and a large singleton at NM 791 707. There are also other Groups in the side glens to the East.

The Group at Allt Feadan Mhic Bheathain has until recently been within a stand of Caledonian Pines. The Platforms are cut into very steep ground, set amongst and sometimes on top of boulders and scree. Above them and to the north are cliffs of naked rock. They are all stone built, ranging in size from one at 9ft (3m) to two at 33ft (10m).

The Platforms of the Group 'Rubha Nan Scriob' - NM 853 753 - range from 18ft (5.5m) to 41ft (12.5m); some are stone built - the others are difficult to recognise as they are not. 29 of them - stone built and otherwise - are concentrated into an area of about 35 acres; that is more densely packed than has been found anywhere else. As many of these were poorly constructed and smaller - viz. 21ft and 18ft (6.4m and 5.5m) - it is possible that the stone built Recessed Platforms have been augmented by quickly built charcoal hearth platforms.

The small group of 6 in Glas Choirean are in a 'hidden' site high up in a coire, about 1km away from the 'Rubha Nan Scriob' group. They are all stone built.

Information from Mr Jim Kirby, Forestry Commission.

**Address.** Upper Netherby, Kirn, Dunoon, PA23 8DT.

## DISCOVERY &amp; EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

REGION. Highland.

DISTRICT. Badenoch

Site Name. Craig Meagaidh Nature Reserve

Parish. Laggan

Contributor  
Elizabeth B. Rennie

Type of Site or Find  
Sheilings and/or settlement site.

NGR Centre approx. NN 492 892

## Report

12 structures were recorded within an area some 200m square north of the confluence of the Allt Coire Chrannaig and the Allt a'Chrannaig. The foundations, many of which were on knolls or mounds, were generally rectangular with rounded corners and varied internally from 4m x 2m to 2m x 1.5m. One foundation was circular 1.5m diameter. There was more stone in some walls than in others but most structures had probably been of turf.

On a low spur some 200m to the West there is a rectangular ruin 6.5m x 2.5m within low tumbled walls. Nearby is a stone walled circular structure 3.5m diameter which is scooped into the south slope of the spur. In addition to these there are foundations of other enclosure walls and at least four smaller rectangular structures.

Recorded by - R.C.Callander.

## Address.

Upper Netherby,  
Kirn, Dunoon.  
PA23 8DT.