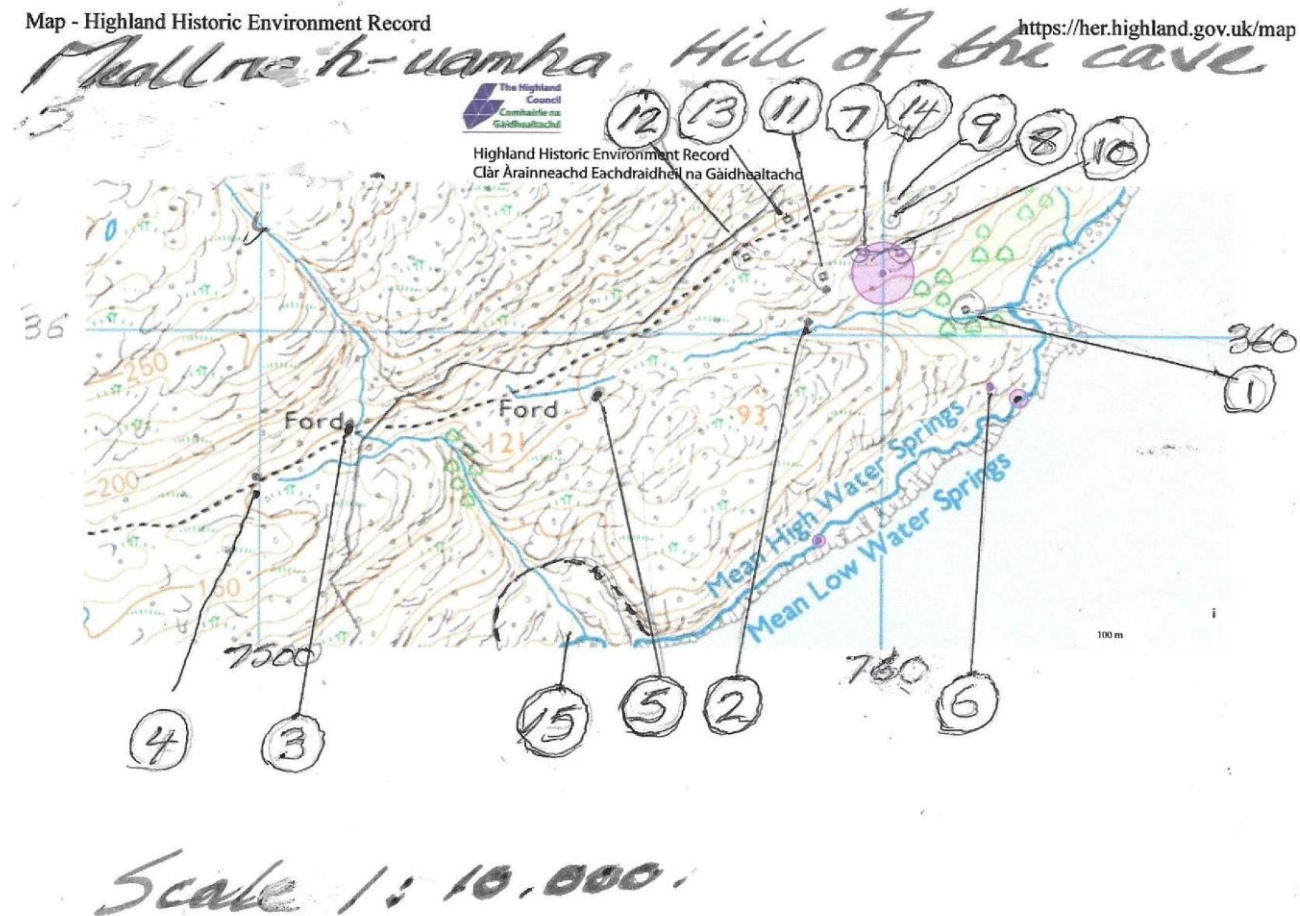


Meall na h-Uamha - Hill of the Cave. Applecross Peninsula

An archaeological Survey. Duncan Ross May /June 2025



The southern part of the Applecross peninsula is isolated and wild and only accessible by footpath or sea, however within a few sheltered and slightly more fertile areas there are the remains of several mainly pastorally based buildings. Many are small seasonal sheiling huts and some are marked on the latest O.S. 6" 10560 map of 1968.

This survey details some sites on the lower southern slopes of Meall na h-Uamha, centred at NG759360 between sea level and 150 m OD

There is a cave and rock shelter MH 37255 that is already recorded on the HER near to the seashore just 50m east south east site 6.

Site 6 Sheiling hut NG 76173571. (Already recorded on the HER). It lies on a low terrace at 12m OD and measures 5.7m by 2.4m within double faced walls, up to 1.2m high and from 80cms to 1.0m wide and is apsidal ended on the north, it is quite well preserved. There is an entrance on both the west and east sides with an indistinct subdividing wall to the south of the entrances. There are some short lengths of associated dykes in the locality.

Site 1 Sheiling hut NG 7613 3602 lies just on the north side of the burn that flows into the sea via a sheltered shingle beach. It measures 5.1 m by 3.4m internally east-west within stone walls up to 90cms high and there is an internal subdivision, the entrance is on the north east (see photo below).



Site 2 Sheiling hut NG 7587 3601 also lies right beside the burn in moorland and is heather covered and more indistinct. It is subrectangular measuring 4.4m by 2.6m internally and is apsidal ended on the north. The walls are up to 90cms high with the entrance in the east.

Site 3 Enclosure NG 7520 3572. On a grassy terrace and 20m west of the fence crossing near the burn are the indistinct footings of a small sub rectangular enclosure measuring 3.1m by 2.2m overall. Nearby are some clearance cairns and the remains of a head dyke.

Site 4 Circular enclosure / hut. NG 7500 3572 A small circular enclosure or hut foundation measuring 1.8m in diameter on the end of a head dyke and beside an old path. In the interior is a smaller secondary enclosure /animal pen. Approx 30m WSW is a small cairn.

Site 5 Boulder, striated . NG 75553 35912 A smooth rounded and prominent boulder facing north east has some distinct and unusual markings /striations on its main face. It lies just to the south west of a marshy area and 15 m south of a small burn that feeds into it, a rivulet passes the boulders north west side See photos . There could be more marked stones part concealed under vegetation.

Figure 1: site 5



stone in centre



To the north of the unnamed burn are the remains of several buildings clustered together, these are mainly of the same condition and age, above and about them are some sheiling huts of an earlier era.

Site 7 House (remains of). NG 7594 3611 A quite well preserved building measuring 7.1m by 2.5m internally within walls up to 2.4m high at the gable on the west. The entrance is on the south west. To the west are the slight remains of a dyke enclosing an associated “field “ See photo.



Figure 2: Site 7

Site 8 . Longhouse (remains of) NG 76023617 . In a prominent position overlooking a fertile area are the remains of a longhouse that is quite well preserved. It measures 11.3m by 3.4m internally within double faced walls up to 1.6m high . There is an entrance and windows on the south side and a subdivided interior. See photos.



Figure 3: Longhouse site 8



Figure 6: Sites 8 and 9

Site 9 Building (remains of) NG76033620 Building not far from and uphill from the longhouse . It measures 5.7m by 2.5m internally and the walls stand up to 1.4m high. See photo.

Site 10 Building and enclosure remains. NG 76033612 Long building within birch woodland measuring 9.1m by 3.0m within walling up to 1.6m high, unusually corbelled at the east end. The entrance is on the south and leads into a stock enclosure measuring 15m by 7m and built with some very large stones . See photos.



Figure 4: site 10 corbelled gable



Figure 5: Site 10 enclosure wall

Site 11 Building (remains of)NG75893609 On the sheltered edge of a knoll, a building foundation quite denuded measuring 8.0 m by 2.5 m internally within walls up to 90cms high and 1.2m wide at gable.

Site 12 Sheiling NG 75793610 On the end of a low terrace, a sheiling hut measuring 7.0m by 2.5m overall with rubble walls up to 1.1m high and an entrance on the southwest. It has been modified into two smaller animal pens/ buchts at east and west gables, each 1.5m in diameter. See photo.



Figure 6: Site 12

Site 13 NG 7585 3617 Sheiling hut 4.8m by 2.1m internally with rounded corners and a rubble wall up to 70cms high. The entrance is on the south. Nearby a short length of dyke foundations and a clearance cairn are probably contemporary.

Site 14 NG 7603 3622 A small sub oval ? stock enclosure measuring 3.0 m by 1.5m internally within a rubble wall 40cm high and built against a rockface. It lies just to the north of site 9.

Above it a grassy fertile terrace has been utilised as a field where it has been bounded by a dyke and measures approx 30 m by 40m.

Site 14 Enclosures and dykes . NG 755 355 (centred)

A gently south western sloping more fertile area about 500m south west of the main settlement has been cleared of stones to enhance grazing. It lies from just above the seashore to its upper slopes where are the remains of a head dyke. Also there are on the north, some small lambing pens and a small enclosure/shelter measuring 1.9 x 2.3 m internally with an entrance on the south, all much obscured by dense old bracken.