

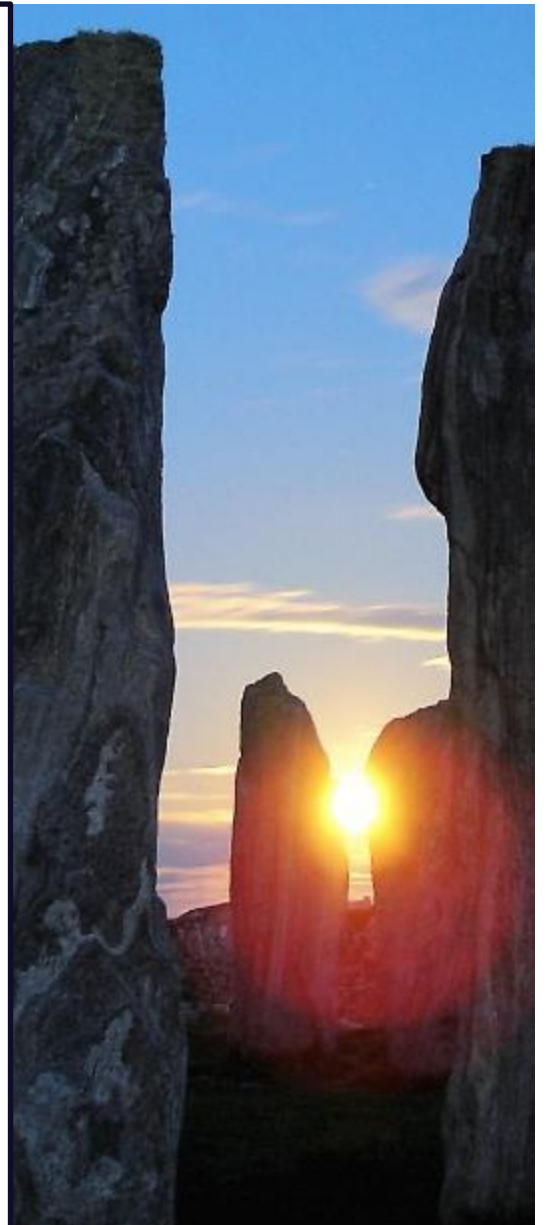
# **A Desk Based Assessment and Walk Over Survey at 3A, Flodabay, Isle of Harris.**

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MAY 2020

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## 1.0 Non- Technical Summary

Chris and Annick Merlin of No.7 Quidinish wish to build a new house on Croft No.3 Flodabay (although the planned house must be numbered 3A for legal reasons) and the council's planning department have requested a programme of Archaeological work, comprising a Desk based Assessment and Walk Over Survey, be completed before any building work can commence (planning reference No: 20/00015/PPD). The archaeological work was undertaken in April and May 2020. The following document represents the outcome of this work, detailing all Archaeology within the area of the croft and any potential impacts of the development upon it. It has been commissioned by the developers and carried out by Mr Ian Mchardy (BSc(Hons), AIFA).

Archaeological features and structures were found, and recorded. One of these features will be impacted by the development and recommendations are made.

## 2.0 Introduction, Site Location and Description

No. 3 Flodabay is located on a small headland called Aird Flodabay, leading to Flodabay Point, near the centre of the township, around NG 09910 88814. It is currently covered in Feannagan or old cultivation beds but without tree or shrub cover.

The Archaeologist for the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar gives the reasoning for the requirement for a Desk Based Assessment and Walk-over survey on this piece of land as follows:

*“This development proposes to construct a dwelling and associated access on the small peninsula adjacent to the current settlement of Flodabay. The proposed access of approximately 380m in length will link into the existing main road and intends to use construction material from borrow pits. The general area of the peninsula is croft land comprising of natural rock outcrops, cultivation ridging and possibly some areas of peat cutting. The Historic Environment Record (HER) does not show any known*

archaeological sites in the area indicated on the development location map; however a study of the aerial photographs clearly show that the land has had extensive activity on it in former times, this evidence is seen in the form of cultivation ridges, potential peat cuttings and boundaries. Additionally the settlement of Flodabay is depicted on the 6" 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1878) in a manner that is easily related to the modern lay out of the settlement. More crucially however is the earlier depiction of the pre-crofting settlement of Flodavagh is seen on William Balds Map of Harris (1805). The differences in agricultural practise over this time frame maybe identifiable and should be assessed with regard to the proposed development impact. It should also be considered that the cultivation ridging was the last phase of activity in this area and as such has the potential to mask earlier archaeological deposits or features. Given the undeveloped nature of the peninsular and the evidence of earlier activity on it, there is a potential for unknown archaeological deposits or features to be encountered."



**Figure 1: Location of Flodabay, Isle of Harris**





*Plate 1: Aerial view of Croft 3 Flodabay*

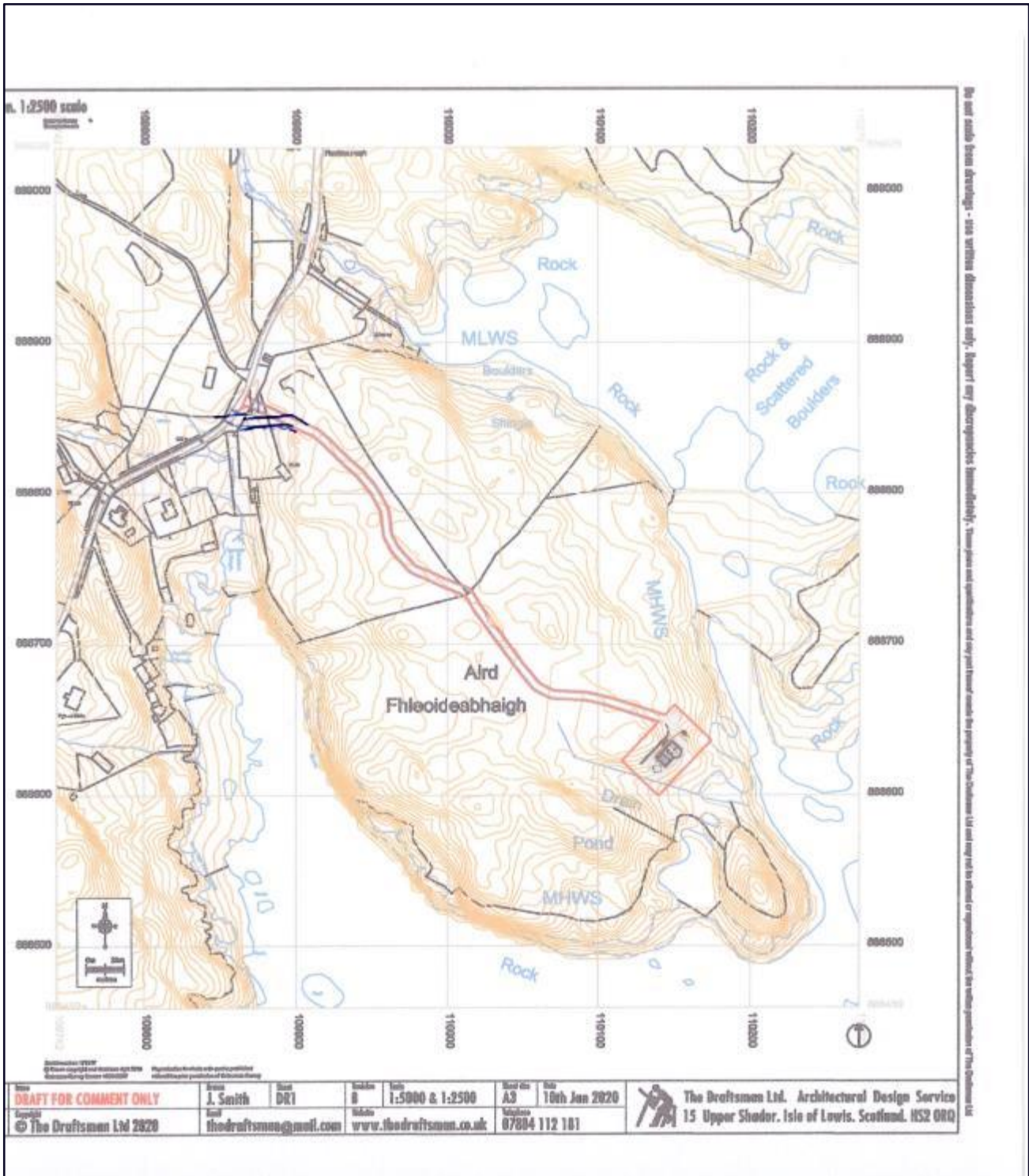


Figure 3: Architects plan of proposed new build and access track



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The placename Fladabay or more properly Fleo'ideabaigh means "Float Bay" from Norse<sup>1</sup>, giving us the probable origin of the settlement here in that period, as although Norse names were given to landmarks visible from the Sea (Seamarks) most surviving names refer to an actual settlement<sup>2</sup>.

The Norse period is usually given as AD 800 – AD 1263. However the Norse language didn't instantly die out in the Hebrides after 1263, but continued to be spoken and mixed with Gaelic. Therefore the most accurate date we can deduce from the placename is that the Norse settled at Fladabay sometime after 800 AD, and that the settlement has continued in a more or less unbroken fashion since then.

The area concerned is not the most desirable area for human habitation on the island, being scant in flat land let alone good arable pasture. Many people were cleared from the better land on the West to the Bays area in the East from the early 19th century onwards, causing great hardship.

Some idea of the character of the ground can be gained from the Old Statistical Accounts, from 1794, shortly before the area was forced to support many more inhabitants:

***"The East coast is indented all along with harbours bays and creeks, and exhibits to a spectator at sea the most barren aspect, appearing to be a continued bare rock. Near the shore, however, a few green patches are to be seen, brought into culture by the laborious industry of the inhabitants.."***<sup>3</sup>

However, with plenty of deep water harbors with easy access to the Minch, the area lent itself to fishing; likely why the Norse had settled here in the first place. Also in the late

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.parliament.scot/Gaelic/placenamesF-J.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> "The Place-names of Lewis and Harris" by Maciver, Donald, Stornoway Gazette 1934

<sup>3</sup> <https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk:443/link/osa-vol10-p389-parish-inverness-harris>

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18th and early 19th century people could also help support themselves by gathering Kelp for the Kelp industry, although this turned out to be an unreliable source of income. Consequently there are a number of deserted pre-crofting townships nearby.

The British Geological Society's website informs us that the underlying bedrock in the area is:

***Uig Hills - Harris Igneous Complex: Vein Complex [central Zone] - Granite And Porphyritic Granite. Igneous Bedrock formed approximately 1600 to 2500 million years ago in the Period. Local environment previously dominated by intrusions of silica-rich magma.<sup>4</sup>***

The superficial or drift geology is mainly peat bog.

### 3.0 Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives, put simply, are to find out as much as possible about this parcel of land; the first desk based part relying upon documentary evidence and the second walkover part of the work relying upon extant physical evidence on the ground. Any evidence found during this second part of the work was recorded by photograph and written description, and scale drawing if thought necessary, and presented below.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

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## 4.0 Methodology

### 4.1 Desk based Assessment

The CIFA standards and guidance on Desk based assessments<sup>5</sup> will be followed, as well as the HES documents “HES policy statement 2016”<sup>6</sup> and “Managing change in the Historic Environment – Setting”<sup>7</sup>.

#### Sources

The following sources were consulted:

- Statutory UK designations (Scheduled monuments, Listed buildings etc)
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Archaeology Service’s Historic Environment Record (HER) database;
- National Monument Record of Scotland/ CANMORE Database.
- OS name books;
- Old and new Statistical Accounts;
- The Napier Commission transcriptions;
- Museum nan Eilean archive/ Tasglann;
- Hebridean Connections database; and
- Historic Environment Scotland’s online Historic Landuse Assessment for Scotland website.

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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS%26GDBA\\_3.pdf](https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS%26GDBA_3.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=f413711b-bb7b-4a8d-a3e8-a619008ca8b5>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549>

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In addition, the DBA undertook:

- A map regression of the area; and
- A visual study of Aerial Photographs of the area.
- A study of any other sources which may turn up

## 4.2 Walkover Survey

The walkover part of the study will entail walking transects not more than 5m apart, or close enough to cover all the ground by sight, over the entire area. Stacks, cliff faces and ledges will be checked only if it is safe to do so. If it is not then these areas will be viewed from a distance through binoculars. Any sites found will be described, photographed and drawn to scale unless these have already been recorded. GPS coordinates will be noted so that an accurate plan of the whole area can be produced as an outcome.

## 4.1 Impact of Development

Finally, if archaeological sites are discovered, there needs to be a methodology for ascribing relative importance to each site, and then a level of impact from the proposed development and a way to decide if this impact to each site is acceptable or not, and finally whether the impact could be mitigated if not acceptable.

### **Value or Significance of Cultural Heritage**

The following simplified criteria - based on priorities noted in PAN 2 2011, in Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)<sup>8</sup> and in HES policy statement 2016<sup>12</sup> - has been adopted for the purposes of the assessment of direct impacts.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/scottish-planning-policy/>

*Table 1: Heritage value classification.*

Heritage value	Summary rationale
High	Sites of national or international importance, including: World Heritage Sites; Scheduled Monuments and sites proposed for scheduling; Undesignated archaeological sites of likely national importance identified in Historic Environment Records (HERs) or Sites and Monument Records (SMRs); Category A Listed Buildings; Gardens and Designed Landscapes (Inventory sites); Outstanding Conservation Areas; and Designated Wreck Sites.
Medium	Sites of regional importance, including: Archaeological sites and areas of distinctive regional importance; Archaeologically Sensitive Areas; Category B Listed Buildings; and Conservation Areas.
Low	Sites of local importance, including: Archaeological sites of local importance; Category C(S) Listed Buildings; and Unlisted historic buildings and townscapes with local (vernacular) characteristics. Negligible Sites of little or no importance, including: Artefact Find-spots; Unlisted buildings of minor architectural interest; and Poorly preserved examples of particular types of features.

**Magnitude of impact**

Magnitude of impact is the degree of change that would be experienced by a cultural heritage asset and its setting resulting from the development. Magnitude of impact may

include physical impacts on the asset or impacts on its setting or amenity value. Typical criteria for magnitude is described in *Table 2*.

*Table 2 Magnitude of Impact Classification.*

Magnitude of Effect	Criteria
High	Change to most key archaeological materials such that the resource is totally altered. Comprehensive changes to setting.
Medium	Changes to many key archaeological materials, such that the resource is clearly modified. Considerable changes to setting that affect the character of the asset.
Low	Changes to key archaeological materials, such that the asset is slightly altered. Setting slightly altered.
Negligible	Slight alteration of archaeological materials.

## Impact Assessment

On overall evaluation of impact is determined as a combination of the value of the asset and the magnitude of impact. A matrix of assessment is provided in *Table 3*.

*Table 3 Matrix for assessing magnitude of direct impacts*

Magnitude of Effect	Heritage Value of Site		
	High	Medium	Low
High	Major	Major	Moderate
Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor
Low	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
Negligible	Minor	Negligible	Negligible

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## 5.0 Summary of Archaeological Results

Two hitherto unknown oval cellular structures were discovered on the walk over but will not be impacted by the development. A “Cattle fold” documented on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps was noted and photographically recorded. This structure will be impacted by the development and mitigation strategies are discussed below. The study also noted many Feannagan and Peat cuttings, as well as a stratigraphic relationship between these features. These will be impacted by the road and footprint of the house but due to their abundance and relative lack of Heritage value this is considered of negligible impact.

### 5.1 Desk based Results

#### **Statutory Designations**

There are no World Heritage Monuments, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Gardens and Designed Landscapes Historic Battlefields or Conservation areas within the study area. The area is a National Scenic Area (NSA), but there are no existing heritage or archaeological site management plans in operation in the locality.

#### **Documentary Sources**

##### **CNES HER database**

In Scotland, each council area maintains a Historic Environment Record (HER) database of sites and monuments within their jurisdiction which may hold information not present on CANMORE. The Comhairle nan Eilean Siar database has been accessed and it

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was found that there were no known sites within Croft No 3. Two sites were just outside of its boundary but will not be in any way affected by the development.

### **Known sites from CANMORE database**

Historic Environment Scotland's CANMORE online database holds all known Historic Environment Records (HERs) for Scotland, other than those on council HER's which have not yet been transferred across. There are no known sites within the study area.

### **OS Name Books**

The OS name books<sup>9</sup> were notebooks filled out by the early Ordnance Surveyors for every place they surveyed. This source can sometimes contain additional descriptions or other useful information added when each place name was entered. No new evidence was found.

### **Statistical accounts**

Scotland's statistical accounts are detailed parish reports covering the whole of Scotland, conducted and reported mostly by Church of Scotland ministers, into the general state of the country. They detail population, industry, agriculture, social conditions and much more in each parish. The first, or "Old Statistical account" was published between 1791 and 1799. The second, or "New" statistical account between 1834 and 1845. These are all now available online<sup>10</sup>. Population figures for Harris were noted in order to aid the interpretation of archaeological features – see Section 5.3

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<sup>9</sup> <https://scotlandspplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey-name-books/ross-and-cromarty-os-name-books-1848-1852/ross-and-cromarty-insular-volume-54>

<sup>10</sup> <http://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/app/index.html#/home>



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below. In 1755 there were 1969 “souls” in Harris; by 1792 there were 2536 and by 1834-45 there were “upwards” of 4,000<sup>11</sup>. To put that into perspective, in 2011 the population was 1,916<sup>12</sup>.

## The Napier Commission

The Napier Commission<sup>13</sup>, more formally known as “The Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Condition of Crofters and Cottars in the Highlands and Islands” was set up as a “response to crofter and cottar demonstrations against excessively high rents, lack of security of tenure on land that had been in families for generations and the forced evictions of crofters”. The final report was published in 1884 and led obliquely to the 1886 Crofters’ Holding Act. The Napier Commissions’ Report is a valuable piece of documentary evidence from the Highlands and Islands in 1883, presenting facts and information on the population, as well as the political, historical and social climate of the time. These documents were not searchable by keyword but anything relevant to Harris would fall within the evidence of which was given in Obe, Harris on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 1883. These transcriptions were read through completely, and no new evidence relating to the study area were found. However, there was much relevant detail of what was happening on the island at the time when most of our known archaeological features were being created. Reverend Alexander Davidson gives some idea of the local situation in 1883:

***“There are about 100 people about the bays between Rodel and Loch Stockinish, within an extent of seven or eight miles. There are a great many cottars, and this kind of crowding has a great tendency to impoverish the people—where there are so many, for instance, three families on one lot.*”**

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid, Volume XIV p156

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/strategy-performance-and-research/outer-hebrides-factfile/population/island-populations/>

<sup>13</sup> West highland college–UHI Mallaig: <http://napier-outerhebrides.blogspot.com/>

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***What change in the condition of the people do you remark ? Do you think generally, with reference to their physical condition, that they are better or worse?***

***—Well, I think they are nothing better whatever. They were suffering very much at the time I came here from the failure of the potato crop in 1846 and 1847. They were in a very depressed state at that time, but I don't think there is any improvement since that time.***

***Is there any marked deterioration ? Do you think they are decidedly getting worse?***

***—I cannot say it is very apparent that they are getting worse, but I don't think they are getting better at all, for when they are crowded together that way it is a very great discomfort to them, and diminishes the supply of everything”.<sup>14</sup>***

## **The Hebridean Connections database**

The Hebridean Connections<sup>15</sup> database collates local information, mainly from the archives of local historical societies (*comunn eachdraidh*) and other member organisations, to digitally make available thousands of records relating to the genealogy, history, traditions, culture and archaeology of the Western Isles. However, at present the spatial extent of the database does not currently cover the proposed development area<sup>16</sup>.

## **The Historic Land Use Assessment (HLA) Scotland**

Historic Environment Scotland’s online Historic Land Use Assessment (or HLA) map is another useful resource for researching an area of land, using information drawn from Historic Scotland and the former body RCAHMS.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://napier-outerhebrides.blogspot.com/2010/07/obe-harris-31-may-1883-rev-alexander.html>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.hebrideanconnections.com/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.hebrideanconnections.com/current-project-coverage>

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“The HLA map is a Scotland-wide view of land use in modern and past times. It uses simple annotated maps to show how the landscape has changed over time, giving the user a tool to decipher the broad elements of the historic environment.”

The map shows that Croft 3 and the area around it as being:

**Currently: Smallholdings.** Irregular small plots of land forming a smallholding with a dwelling may have both arable and pasture within their bounds. They were created during the 19th and 20th centuries to provide land for poorer tenants.

**Previously: Medieval/Post-medieval Settlement and Agriculture.** The remains of settlements and field systems that pre-date the agricultural improvements of the 18th or 19th century survive in marginal areas, with ruinous buildings, small kilns, curvilinear boundaries, and rig cultivation.

The croft and township area are currently surrounded by **Rough Grazing**

Hill ground or lower-lying land that shows no evidence of recent agricultural improvement can be used for rough grazing. Such areas are largely heather moorland or rough grassland.

There is also a plantation on a headland just to the north.

## 5.2 Map Regression

### 5.2.1 Ordnance Survey maps

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1” to the mile, published in 1876, shows two structures on the headland at the ‘neck’, one to the north and one to the south (The structure to the North is now

in Croft no. 2, that to the south in Croft no. 3 and will be described in the results section, below). There also appears to be a little cross roads where the croft meets the main north-south road.



*Figure 4: 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1" to the mile map of the area (surveyed 1876/ published 1887). Note shaded area on the southern part of headland.*

The 1st edition 6" has slightly more detail and shows four structures to the east of the main north south road, two small structures appearing that are not present on the bigger

scale map. Also a “Cattlefold” appears at the end of the headland. A shaded area – denoting rough grazing - encompasses the Cattle fold and a further area.

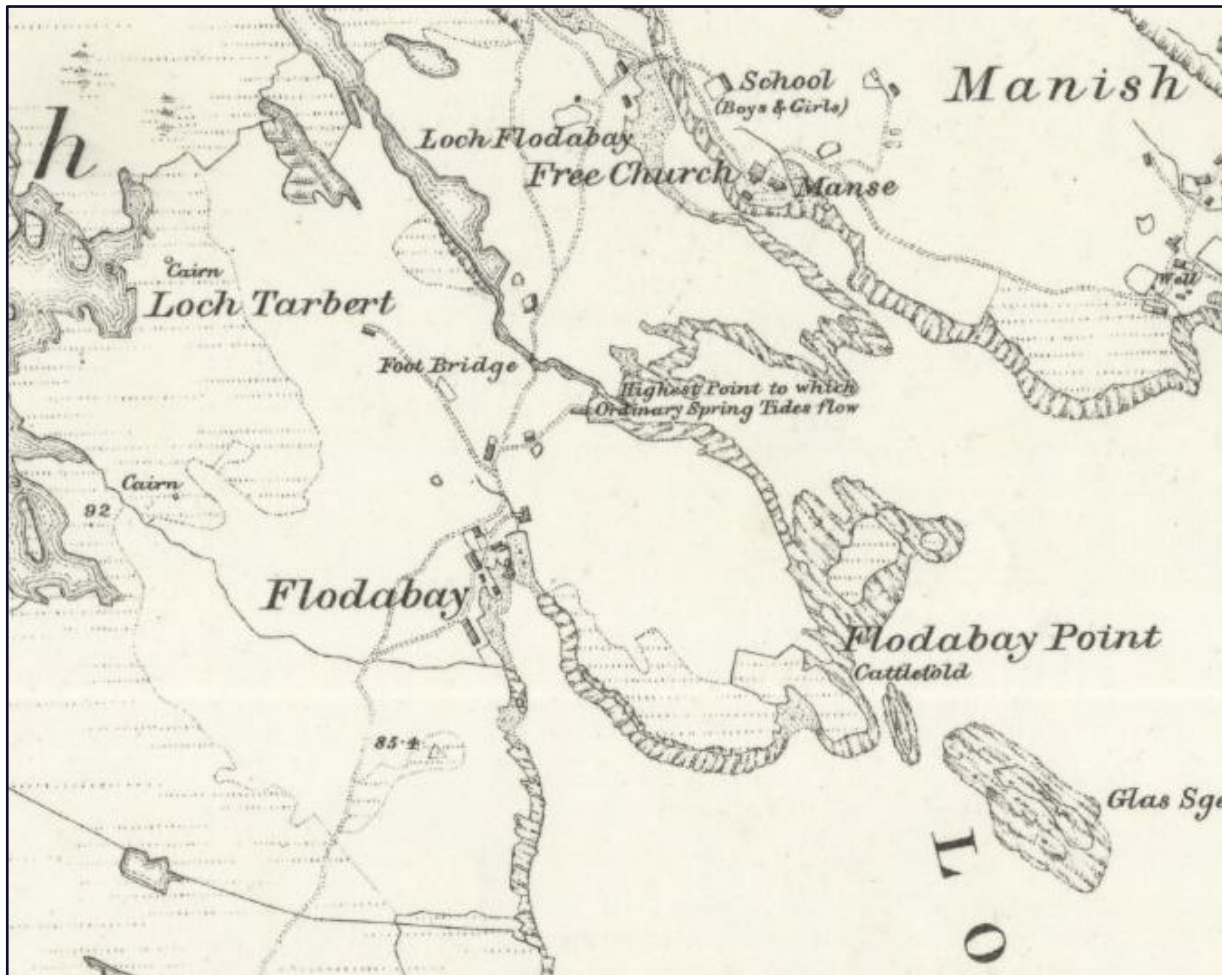


Figure 5: 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6" to the mile (surveyed 1878/ published 1882)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition has no further detail. In a 3<sup>rd</sup> edition published in 1903, the “cattlefold” makes a re-appearance, and the area of rough grazing is increased to the line of the modern day fence. The small building near the centre of the headland is now unroofed (denoted by lack of shading).

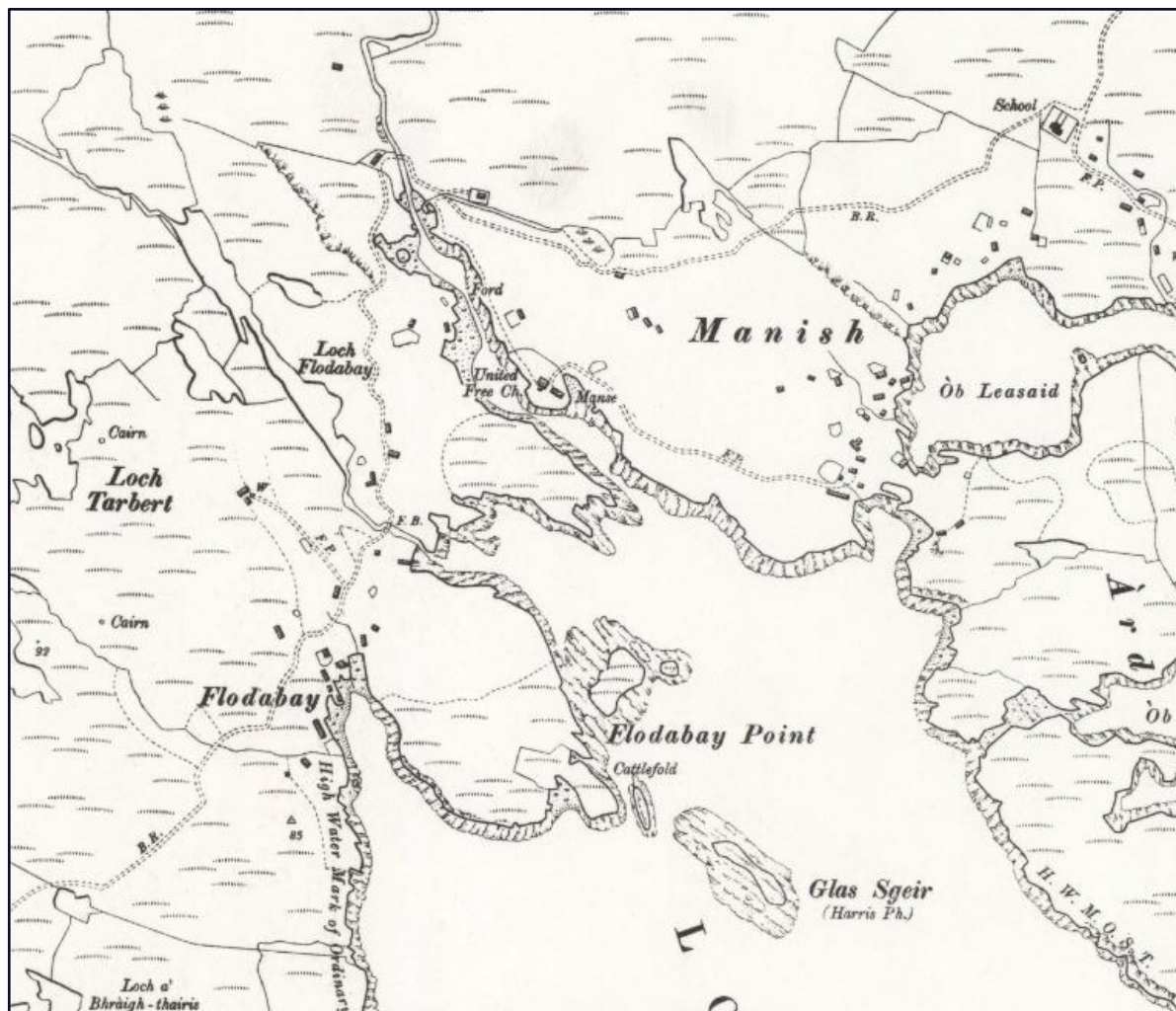


Figure 6: 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map of the area (1903)

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## 5.2.2 Other maps

Various other maps depict the area through the ages. One of the earliest to be of interest here is William Bald's map of 1805.



Figure 7: Bald's 1805 Map of Harris<sup>17</sup>

Bald's map is the map mentioned in the CNES' planning condition. It depicts a settlement at this location at a time before the so called "improvements" changed the pattern of settlement and land use by creating "Crofts". "Crofting" villages divided the land into

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<sup>17</sup> <http://maps.nls.uk/counties/detail.cfm?id=660>

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strips and positioned a house on each strip, or croft; Pre-crofting “Clachan” villages were nucleated settlements, with surrounding land divided up equitably. The evidence of Balds map shows that there was indeed a pre-crofting village at Flodabay, located at the “neck” of the headland. Some evidence of which may still remain – see results from walkover survey below.

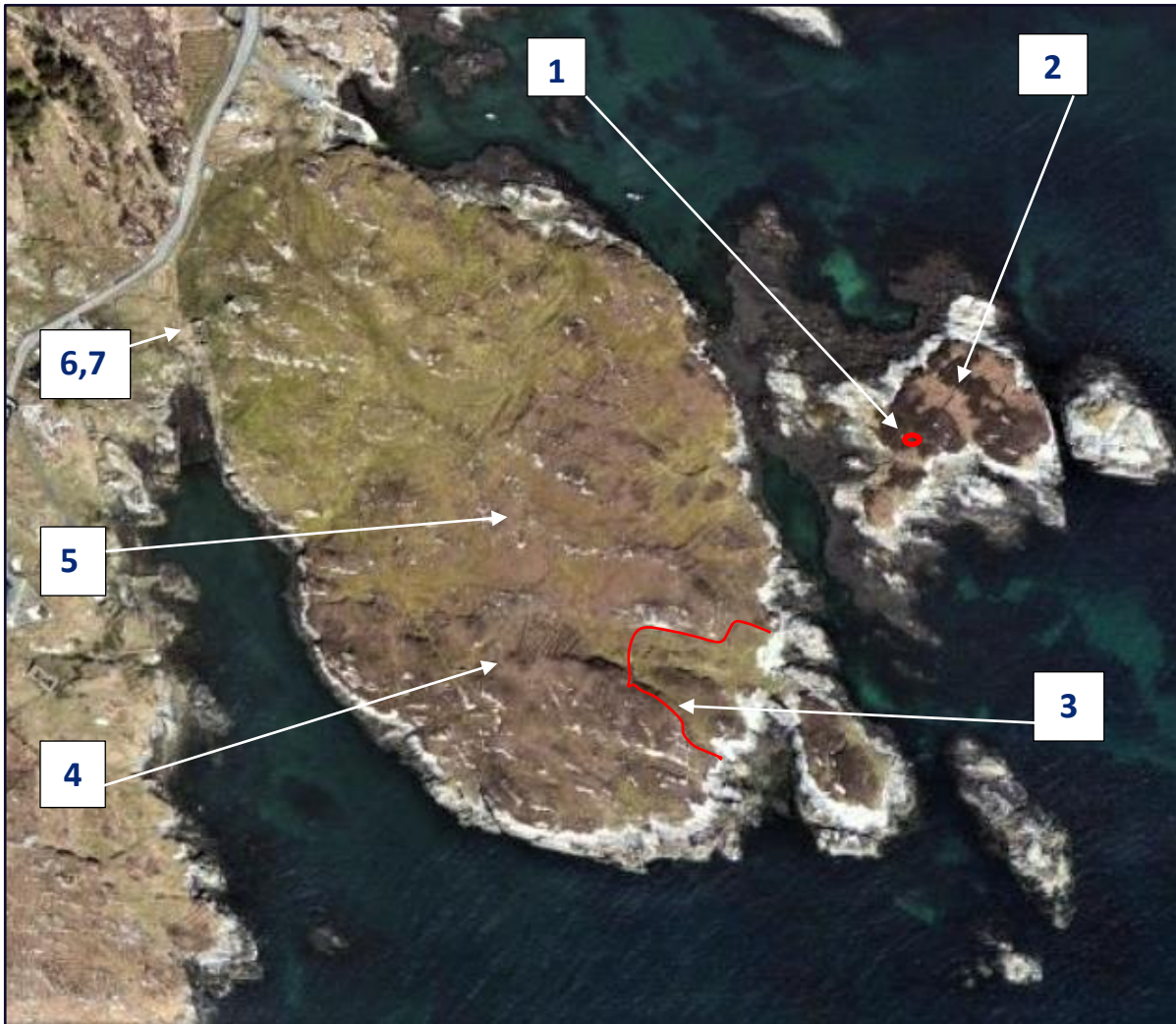
### 5.3 Walkover Results

The walkover survey discovered and recorded five features of archaeological interest. A photographic record was made of these and many other features as the walkover was carried out, a log of which can be found in Appendix A. The photographs themselves can be found on the CD-ROM attached to the last page of the printed version of the report, or also available online at

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1FKNBoSotfDvXKEBxXbVcpKRwc097V9-p>

Each site on the map image below will be discussed in turn with photographs drawn from this record.





*Plate 2: Location of sites found on walk over survey*

### Site 1: Oval Structure

The remains of a small oval structure were observed on the west of the small unnamed island lying north of the headland. The remains of slight stone walls around 0.2m – 0.3m high traced a roughly oval shape encompassing c.3m x 4m. It would seem too small and

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slight for a building, and may be the remains of a Kelp kiln, although these are usually three sided and narrower<sup>18</sup>.



*Plate 3: Structure 2*

## Site 2: Peat cutting through Feannagan cultivation beds

Near Site 1 there were obvious examples of peat banks cutting through existing Feannagan. This clearly happened at very different times. Further research might help answer why, but a brief discussion of potential dating can be found in Section 6, below.

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<sup>18</sup> Carol Knott pers comm.



*Plate 4: Peat bank cutting into existing Feannagan*

### Site 3: Cattle fold

A “Cattle fold” is marked upon the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1876, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1896 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 1903 (see above), attesting to its importance and/or continued use over this period. It is not marked on any of the earlier maps, although these maps do not show the required level of detail. Therefore it could potentially be older than 1876.

It was a substantially built coursed stone wall cutting off the eastern extremity of the headland, encompassing an area of roughly 0.5 hectares. The wall was either cut into the deep peat or followed natural cliff lines in a large arc across the headland.



*Plate 5: Cattlefold, southern section*

The southern section was a well-built dry stone wall revetted into existing peat deposits, with the peat in front of the wall appearing to have been excavated away and perhaps deposited on top. This created a barrier with one side higher than the other, the lower side inside the fold.



*Plate 6: Some of the Southern section face on*

At the western side this had to cross a flat area with a small water course where a ditch and turf wall seemed to suffice.



*Plate 7: Western section of Cattlefold*

To the north the wall continued to use the natural topography to its full advantage in order to efficiently produce a strong barrier.



*Plate 8: Use of natural topography*



*Plate 9: Northern side of Cattle fold*



*Plate 10: Northern side of Cattle fold as it nears the shore*



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Within the Cattle fold were what looked like Feannagan or cultivation beds, but only traces of them, not as clear and distinct as the others further inland.



*Plate 11: Possible Feannagan cultivation beds within the Cattlefold*



*Plate 12: More possible Feannagan within the Cattlefold*

It seems obvious that there could not have been cultivation beds and cattle in the same area at the same time. The observed features may have had a seasonal change of use, or two entirely different periods of use. There is also a possibility that ditches were cut to enhance grass production.

#### Site 4: Larger enclosure / Rough Grazing

The OS maps don't always name it a "Cattle fold", but every map has a larger shaded area on the end of this headland, part of which conforms to the shape of the "Cattle fold" on the others. This shading denotes outfield, rough grazing, land not within cultivation. Interestingly, when you trace this line by walking the ground with the maps in hand, an obvious natural line of small cliffs can be discerned which could have been

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enhanced to produce a similar barrier which cut a larger area of the headland off, although this time with the higher part on the opposite, headland side. However with some enhancement this could still have been used to pen animals out of an area under cultivation. Immediately to the north on the inland or village side of this line were many cultivation beds – see Figure 27 and 28, below. To its south there were far fewer and they were less defined.



*Plate 13: Natural topography which seems to have been used as the border between infield/outfield with Cultivation beds to the right or infield*



*Plate 14: Line of enhanced natural barrier between infield and outfield in yellow and shared section of wall with cattlefold, depicted in dark blue*

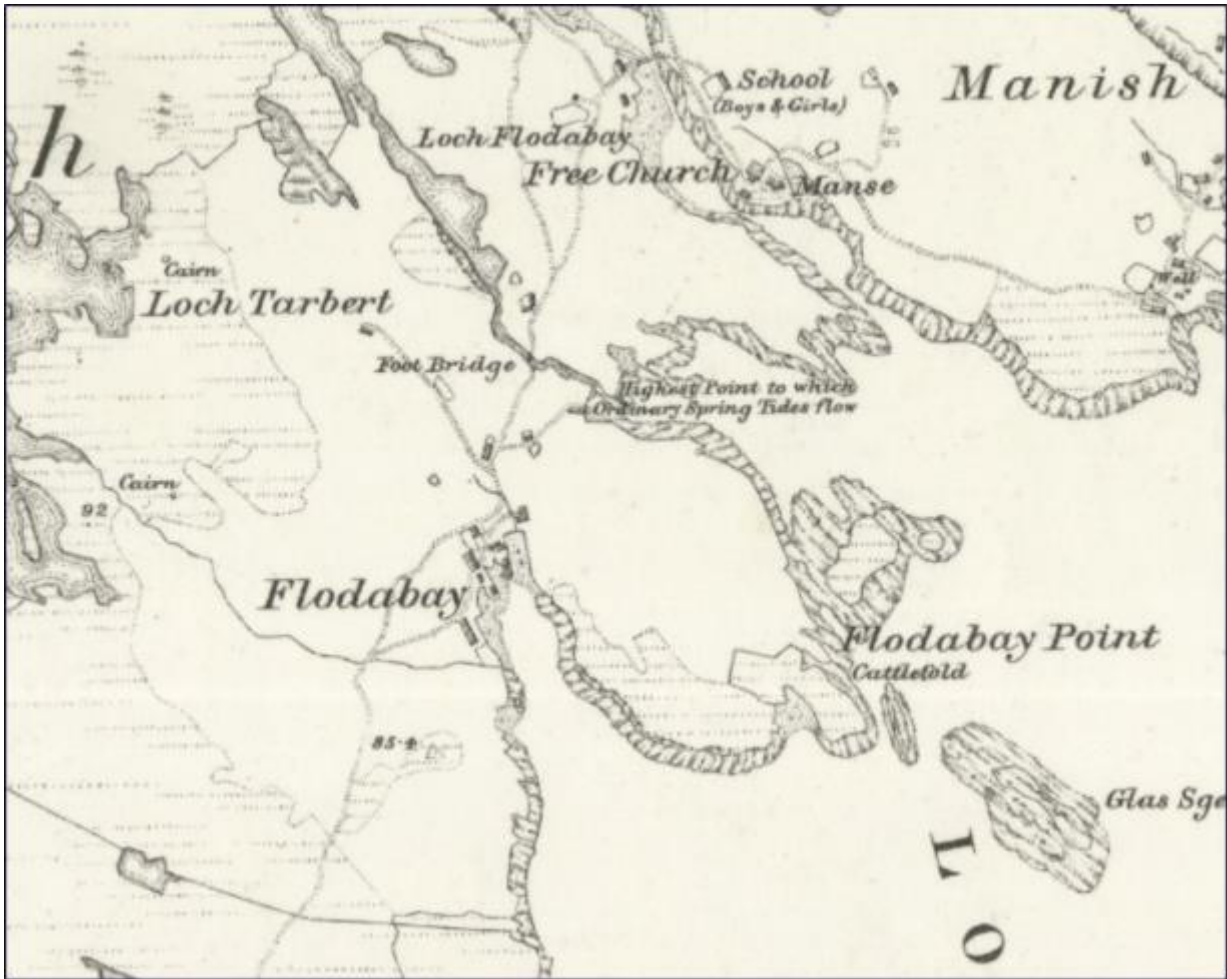


Figure 8: 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6" to the mile (surveyed 1878/ published 1882) showing distinction between southern (outfield/rough grazing) and northern (infield) areas

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## Site 5: Feannagan cultivation ridges



*Plate 15: Example of Feannagan covering northern part of headland*

These are very common landscape features and can be seen all over the Hebrides, and those on Croft 3 were typical examples. Parallel ditches ran downhill c.3-4m apart, respecting the form of the land and draining intervening beds which had been manured and used to grow crops.

Feannagan cultivation beds spread north from the line of Site 4 across the rest of the headland – virtually every possible patch of earth is covered in them. It represents intensive agriculture; in labour at least. The man hours involved in creating this many Feannagan is way beyond what one family could manage. Perhaps they weren't all in

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operation at the same time – but as they would require considerable effort to make, use and maintain, why keep making new ones in different areas? The fact that the whole headland is covered suggests that they were all in operation at the same time, as a matter of necessity. This landscape feature is a document of a time of great need, where the land was used to its absolute maximum. This is discussed in more detail below.

#### Site 6. Blackhouse with squared gables and windows



*Plate 16: Site 6 - later Blackhouse*

On the westernmost corner of the land stand two Blackhouses. The westernmost of these is 16m long and 8m wide with walls around 1.5m wide. It has squared gables with internal chimneys and windows in its walls, making it a later example, probably from the

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second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It has since had concrete breeze block walls added inside, possibly for use in sheep management.

Site7. Blackhouse with rounded gables



*Plate 17: Site 7 - Earlier blackhouse*

Just 15m to the east of this stands another Blackhouse. This one is 12m long by 6m wide with similarly 1-1.5m thick walls. It has rounded gables with no internal chimneys and no windows. The fireplace in this house would have been in the centre of the floor. This is an earlier example, probably from the earlier part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and may even be one of the structures marked upon Bald's map above (Figure 8, p21).



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## 6.0 Discussion of Archaeology

Taken together these features would suggest quite a sophisticated land management system, with a Cattle fold, rough grazing area, cultivation area and settlement all present on the headland at the same time. As mentioned above, this system, or parts of it, could potentially be older than 1878.

So when do these features date from? One line of enquiry is suggested by the sheer number of Feannagan covering the headland – population. The Statistical accounts mentioned in Section 5.1 above give population figures for Harris:

*“In 1755 there were 1969 “souls” in Harris; by 1792 there were 2536 and by 1834-45 there were “upwards” of 4,000”.*

To put that into perspective, in 2011 the population was 1,916. In 1883 The Napier Commission heard evidence, again detailed above in section 5.1, that nothing had got better for the people by that date. So we have sustained over population during this time. On top of this it is important to remember that hidden in those figures we also have the added effect of people being evicted from the west coast of Harris and having to relocate to the east, massively increasing pressure on the east. Therefore we could deduce that the profusion of Feannagan over the headland probably dates from this time of overcrowding in the early to mid- 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, the Cattle fold may have been older than this. Further documentary research may help narrow down the possibilities.

Presumably then the peat cuttings date from a time *after* this overcrowding, when land was needed less for growing food, and it made sense to use the underlying peat for fuel instead.

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More detailed research into the dates and numbers of people moved around in this period, and on when the overcrowding finally eased, would be interesting and is likely to further enhance our understanding of the story of this piece of land.

All this of course is only what we can see above the Peat. The blanket peat bog did not cover the islands until around the Iron Age (c.700BC – 800AD) and there may well be prehistoric features under the peat which we could not have not picked up on here.

There completes the results of the assessment and survey.

## 6.0 Impacts

We have detailed 7 separate features of archaeological interest; Using *Table 1 Heritage value classification* on page 10 above, the archaeological features encountered would be ascribed a “Heritage value” as follows:

The oval structure is interesting, but ephemeral, insubstantial, not representative of a lot of human activity, and not well preserved. We could therefore ascribe a “low” heritage value.

The Peat cutting through the Feannagan is an interesting document of social history - all represented in one piece of landscape. We might therefore ascribe a ‘Medium’ heritage value category.

The Cattle fold is an interesting feature, much less common than the forgoing features and would have to be described as in a good state of preservation. Therefore it would more readily fit into the slightly higher “regional” or “medium” category of heritage value.

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The rough grazing area is very common and of Low Heritage Value. The Feannagan covering the headland are again an interesting social document but very common on the island and therefore only of 'Low' heritage value. The two Blackhouses are again very common and of relatively 'Low' value.

Next, we need to ascribe a magnitude of effect. Using Table 2 and 3 (p.11 & 12), above, we can suggest the following magnitudes:

Sites 1 and 2 will not be effected at all by the plans. Site 3 will be directly effected - the Cattle fold is directly under the house foot print and would be significantly altered/ partly destroyed by the development. We could say that the effect will be of "medium" magnitude, on a "medium" heritage value site. Site 4 would not be effected and site 5 will have only a low effect. Sites 6 and 7 will not be effected at all.

Using the matrix in Table 3 (p.13) above, we can work out the magnitude of impact. The results are presented below in Table 4:

**Table 4: Impact assessment**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Heritage value</b>	<b>Magnitude of effect</b>	<b>Magnitude of Impact</b>
1. Oval Structure	Low	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>
2. Peat cutting through Feannagan	Medium	None	None
3. Cattlefold	Medium	Medium	Moderate
4. Larger enclosure of rough grazing	Low	None	None
5. Feannagan	Medium	Low	Minor
6. Later Blackhouse	Low	None	None
7. Earlier Blackhouse	Low	None	None

Site 3, the Cattlefold is the only site to be impacted – Figure 23 below shows that the corner of the platform for the house will cut through a section of the Cattlefold.

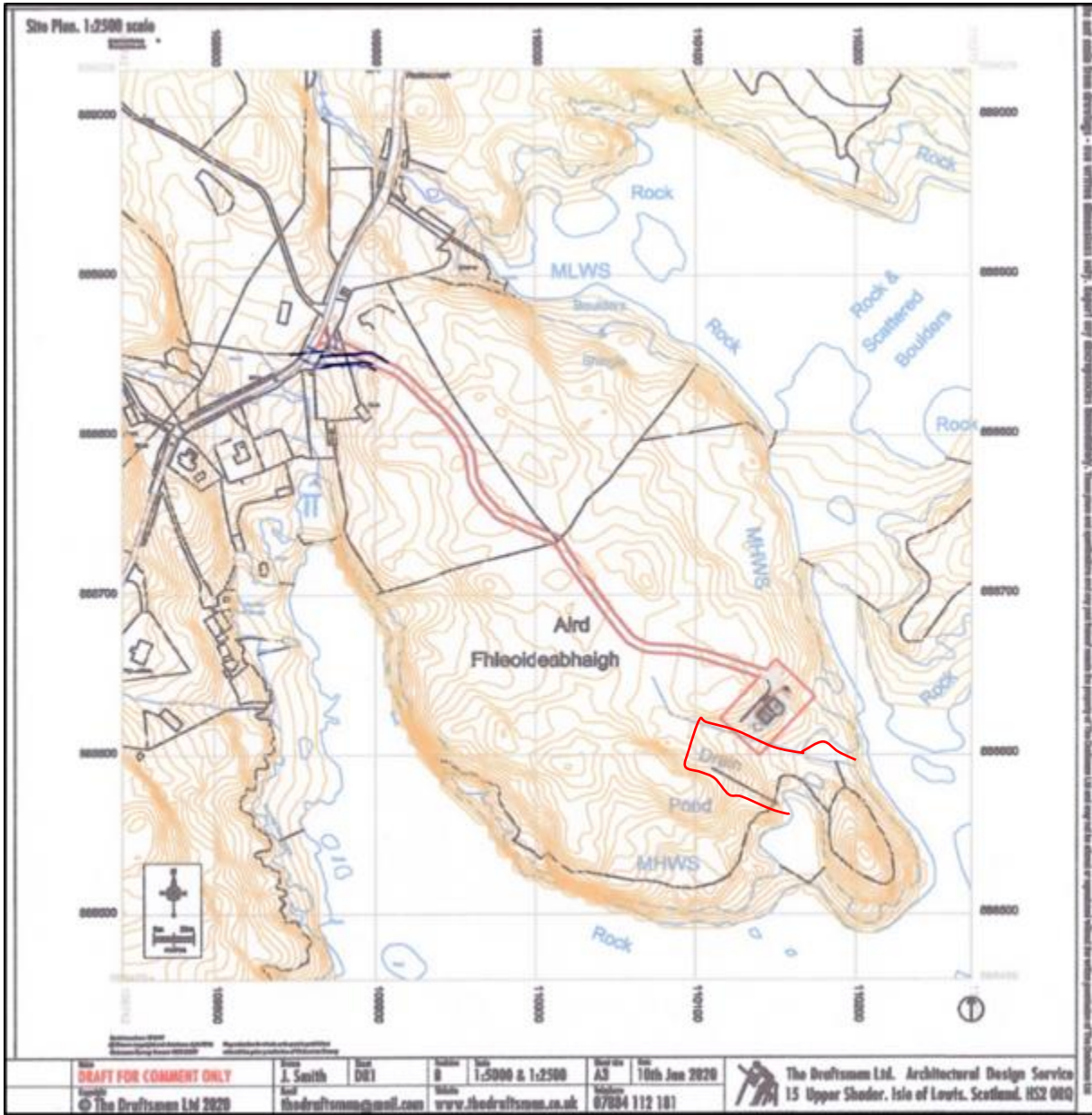


Figure 9: Locations of Cattle fold (in red) and proposed development

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## 7.0 Recommendations

The Cattlefold will be moderately impacted by the development. However the feature has already been recorded in this report and further work is not likely to yield a great deal of new information about it. Carbon dates from the base of the wall would be interesting, but there is no guarantee that an excavation would obtain a suitable sample for dating the wall within the area to be excavated.

It is therefore recommended that the development go ahead and demolish a small section of the wall, but that the rest be left intact and preserved. Should there be further interest in the feature in times to come there will then be enough of the feature remaining for further study.

This concludes the Landstory report on No 3 Flodabay. This will be passed on to the CNES planning department to decide on any future actions.

## 8.0 References

All maps are courtesy of the Ordnance Survey and accessed through the National Library of Scotlands online map facility - <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/find/>

All other references are presented as footnotes within the text.

## 12.0 Appendix 1: Photographic Record

Photo Number	Subject description	Direction facing
1	Blackhouse in Croft 2 immediately to the north	
2	As above	
3	Feannagan along northern side of headland	
4	As above	
5	As above	
6	As above	
7	Kelp kiln? On island to the north	
8	As above	
9	Peat bank 1 on small island to North east	
10	As above	
11	As above	
12	Peat bank 2 on small island	
13	Peat bank 3 on small island	
14	As above	
15	Feannagan area 1 on small island	
16	Peat bank on even smaller island	
17	As above	
18	Feannagan area 2 on small island	
19	As above	
20	Peat bank 1 intercutting Feannagan area 1	
21	As above	
22	As above	
23	Feannagan area 3 on small island	
24	As above	
25	Peat bank 4 on small island	
26	As above	
27	Peat bank 4 intercuts Feannagan	
28	Feannagan on headland adjacent small island	
29	As above	
30	Cattlefold A (South to North)	
31	Cattlefold B	
32	Cattlefold C	
33	Cattlefold close up A	
34	Cattlefold close up B	
35	Cattlefold close up C	
36	(older?) Feannagan within the Cattlefold	
37	Cattlefold north side face on (North to south)	

38	Cattlefold north side face on	
39	Cattlefold north side face on	
40	Cattlefold north side face on	
41	Cattlefold north side face on	
42	Cattlefold north side face on	
43	Cattlefold north side face on	
44	Cattle fold top dyke	
45	As above	
46	As above	
47	Cattlefold south side face on	
48	Cattlefold south side face on	
49	Cattlefold south side face on	
50	Cattlefold south side face on	
51	Cattlefold south side face on	
52	Cattlefold south side face on	
53	Cattlefold south side face on	
54	Feannagan inside cattlefold	
55	Flodabay point general shot	
56	As above	
57	Peat cutting	
58	Old fence lne	
59	Small Blackhouse in Croft 4, to south of Croft 3	
60	As above	
61	Structure A	
62	As above	
63	As above	
64	As above	
65	As above	
66	As above	
67	As above	
68	Caraidh – fish trap	
69	As above	
70	Southern inlet general shot	
71	Feannagan and “Natural Boundary” behind	
72	Cattle fold south end close up	
73	As above	
74	As above	
75	Large Blackhouse in Croft 4, to south of Croft 3	
76	As above	
77	As above	
78	As above	
79	As above	



80	As above	
81	Smaller Blackhouse showing rounded Gable end	
82	As above	
83	As above	
84	“Natural Boundary” face on, facing South	
85	As above	
86	As above	
87	As above	
88	Same “Natural Boundary” from its summit, facing North	
89	As above	
90	As above	
91	As above	
92	As above	
93	As above	
94	As above	
95	As above	
96	As above	
97	As above	
98	Old fence line looking North	
99	Old fence line looking South	

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## Appendix 2: Contacts

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