

32 Nicholas St.
King's Island
Limerick

Tel: 061 634375
Fax: 061 310705

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Archaeological Assessment and Instrument Survey on the Great Blasket Island, Co. Kerry



**Report Author
and Licence Holder:** Frank Coyne BA MIAI

Client: Historic Properties
Office of Public Works,
51 St Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2.

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Copies of this report have been presented by ÆGIS to:	Client — Mr Eugene Keane, Historic Properties, OPW. Others – Mr Con Manning, Senior Archaeologist, National Monument Service, DEHLG; Ionad an Bhlascaoid;
Please note...	That the archaeological recommendations, mitigation proposals and suggested methodology followed in this report are similar to those used on previous similar projects approved by the Archaeological Planning and Licencing Unit National Monuments Service, Dún Scéine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2. The tender brief, along with The National Monuments Acts 1930-2004, The Planning and Development Act 2002 and the most recent EPA guidelines (2003) were consulted, in the carrying out of work for this project. Guidelines and plans issued from time-to-time by the statutory bodies have also been consulted. These are listed in the reference section of this report. Some of this work has been undertaken under an archaeological excavation licence. Every effort has been taken in the preparation and submission of this report to provide as complete an assessment as possible within the terms of the brief, and all statements and opinions are offered in good faith. However, ÆGIS cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from the data supplied by any third party, for any loss or other consequences arising from decisions made or actions taken on the basis of facts and opinions expressed in this report, (and any supplementary information), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived, or as the result of unknown and undiscovered sites or artefacts.
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II. Glossary of Terms Used

ASI	Archaeological Survey of Ireland, a division of the DEHLG.
Barony, Parish, Townland	These terms refer to land divisions in Ireland. The barony is the largest land division in a county, which is formed from a number of parishes. These parishes are in turn made up of several townlands, which are the smallest land division in the country. The origins of these divisions are believed to be in the Early Medieval/Christian period (AD500-AD1000), or may date earlier in the Iron Age (500BC-AD500).
CDB	Congested Districts Board.
DEHLG	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
E	East.
First Edition	This relates to editions of the OS 6 inch maps for each county. The first edition map completed for the area dates to the early 1840s and this is referred to in the text as the "First Edition".
KM	Kilometre.
M	Metres, all dimensions are given in metres or part of a metre, unless otherwise stated.
N	North.
NGR	National Grid Reference.
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.
NMI	National Museum of Ireland.
NMS	National Monuments Service. Regulatory body with the DEHLG with responsibility for archaeological heritage.
OPW	Office of Public Works.
OS	Ordnance Survey.
OSI	Ordnance Survey of Ireland.
PO	Preservation Order.
PS	Protected Structure.
Refs	References.
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places. An update of the older SMR, (sites and monuments record, which is still maintained by the ASI see below), on which all known archaeological sites are marked on a six inch map and listed in an accompanying list. The record is based on the 6-inch map series for the country and is recorded on a county basis. Each archaeological monument on the RMP has a unique code known as the RMP number (see below). The RMP was established in 1994. Archaeological monuments are indicated with a black circle or line on the RMP. The function of this line is only to draw attention to the archaeological monument and should not be used (although commonly is) as indicating a "zone of archaeological potential".
RMP Number KE	This code is the number of the site on the RMP constraint map. It begins with the county code, here KE for Co. Kerry, the 6-inch sheet number, followed by the number of the archaeological monument on that sheet.
RPS	Record of Protected Structures.
S	South.
Sheet	This relates to the 6-inch map for each county, which is divided into sheets.
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record. The precursor of the RMP, the SMR now commonly relates to the archive paper files of known archaeological monuments maintained by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). These files are arranged according to RMP number.
TB	Townland Boundary.
W	West.

1. Scope of Study

In early 2009, the State purchased property holdings on the Great Blasket Island, Co. Kerry. These comprised most of the old village, fields located some distance from the village and commonage interests. The ruined structures require initial urgent conservation and safety works. To facilitate this conservation, a baseline archaeological survey and assessment was commissioned by the OPW. Aegis Archaeology Limited was awarded this project in August 2009 and this report details the outcomes of the works required.

The Great Blasket Island has a long and nationally important literary tradition. The remains of the village are an important archaeological and cultural heritage resource, which require careful conservation. There are also other, older, recorded archaeological monuments on the island. The brief for the project, as set out in the tender documentation (OPW 2009) is as follows (section 2 of tender documentation):

- Collation and assessment of recording work already done. This includes: archaeological descriptions, drawn surveys, analysis of the development of the village and building phases of particular buildings and groups of buildings. A recent *lidar* survey should be checked to ascertain if it is useful in this context.
- Devise detailed archaeological work-programme with a view to facilitating urgent conservation to the buildings. Prioritisation will need to be established in consultation with the architect and OPW Management. Supervision of initial conservation works may be necessary if commenced this season.
- In addition, methodologies must be established in respect of future consolidation/conservation works and for archaeological inputs, and furnished in written, illustrated form.
- A laser survey, accompanied by descriptive texts and analysis, should be carried out on the buildings/structures in OPW ownership. Good control points, tied-in to permanent structures around the village, need to be established.
- The identification and recording of collapsed and scattered stones from the buildings should be carried-out as a priority. This will involve collection of stones from collapsed structures for possible re-use. Other areas of collapse requiring further archaeological recording/investigation need to be identified.

2. Method of Study

The following resources and methods of establishing the archaeological status of the site and the carrying out of the requirements of the project were used:

- The site area was examined and surveyed by archaeologists Mr Frank Coyne BA MIAI and Mr Bernard O'Mahony MA ;
- A laser scan survey of twelve upstanding structures was carried out by Gridpoint Solutions on behalf of Aegis Archaeology Ltd;
- A review of published archaeological work undertaken in the vicinity of the study area was undertaken (Excavations Bulletins in www.excavations.ie);
- The Record of Monuments and Places constraint maps and list were consulted;
- A wide range of historical and archaeological records relevant to the study area were consulted (such as SMR files and NMI topographical files);
- The *Dingle Peninsula Archaeological Survey* (Cuppage 1986) was consulted;
- Previously commissioned reports on the village and structures were reviewed and incorporated into this report (MacCárthaigh and O'Reilly 1991; Paul Arnold Architects 2003; 2009);
- An aerial photograph was consulted;
- Limited archaeological test trenching was carried out on a selection of the buildings by Aegis Archaeology Ltd;
- Upstanding structures on the western end of the island were visited, and their location recorded.

3. Existing Environment

3.1 The Site at Present



Figure 1. Location of the Great Blasket Island.

The Great Blasket Island is approximately two kilometres from the mainland and is the largest of the five islands in the Blasket group (figs 1 and 2). It is situated off the west coast of the Dingle Peninsula and is the closest island to the mainland. It is unclear when the island was first inhabited and when the village was first constructed. The archaeological remains on the island would suggest that people were utilising the island in the Early Medieval period. Historic documentation suggests a medieval date (MacCárthaigh and O'Reilly 1991, 9). The first edition six-inch OS map (1840s) indicates the village and names the school house, harbour and well (fig.3).

Twelve of the upstanding structures were surveyed using a laser scanner. Examples of the images are reproduced below, with a sample of a ground plan also reproduced for each of the twelve structures. (see section 9 for larger images.)

From the laser scanning process, an overall site plan of the village has been generated. Detailed elevations and sections were also generated of each structure. Aegis Archaeology Ltd carried out an instrument survey also, which details the buildings and also the field system associated with the village. The archaeological monuments at the western side of the island were also surveyed, and a contour map of the island produced.

Aegis house no.	OPW	Kerry Co Co	Protected structure ref no.	RMP	GB Numbers
H1	OPW 5	KCC 8			GB 8
H2	OPW 6	KCC 9			GB 9
H3	OPW 7	KCC 9			GB 9
H4	OPW 7	KCC 10			GB 10
H5	OPW 9	No number			GB 10a
H6	OPW 11	KCC 11			GB 11
H7	OPW 13	No number			GB 10d
H8	OPW 14	No number			GB 10e
H9	OPW 15	KCC 13			GB 12
H10	OPW 16	KCC 13			GB 13
H11	OPW 39a	KCC 22			GB 22
H12	OPW 50	KCC 28	21305103		GB 28
H13	OPW 45	KCC 26			GB 26
H14	OPW 64	No number			GB 25a
H15	OPW 25	KCC 20		KE051-012---	GB 20
H16	OPW 10	No number			GB 10b
H17	OPW 12	No number			GB 10c
H18	OPW 38	No number			GB 22b
H19	OPW 42	No number			GB 23a
H20	OPW 43	No number			GB 23 b

Table 1. Cross-referenced house numbers

Various numbering systems have been used over the years to identify the houses in the village. These are detailed above in table 1. These are referenced throughout the text. However, the Aegis numbers (H1 *etc*) are used in conjunction with the most recent and complete numbering system, Great Blasket (GB), created by Dáithí de Mórdha, OPW, Ionad an Bhlascaoid, based on an expanded version of the Kerry County Council (KCC) numbering system (figures 8 and 9).



Figure 3. OS 1st edition six inch map of the village on the Great Blasket Island.

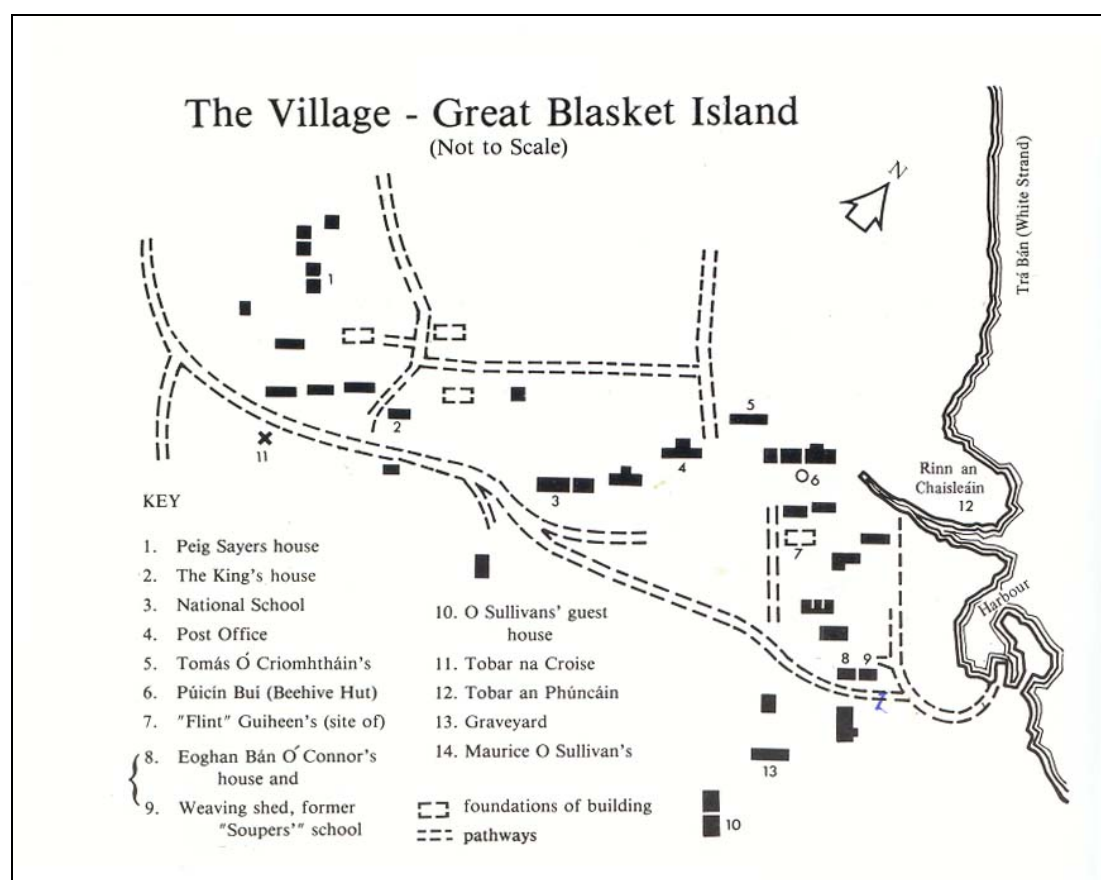


Figure 4. Plan of the village on Great Blasket Island (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 70).

3.2 History of the Great Blasket Island

The mass of islands located off the most westerly tip of the *Corca Dhuibhne* peninsula in North Kerry are referred to collectively as the Blasket Islands, the most famous of which is *An Blascaod Mór* ('the great island') itself, also known as the Great Blasket Island or Ferriter's Island. In addition, there are a further seven other islands as well as 157 rocks (O'Sullivan 1931, 569). The other seven islands include *Inis Tuaisceart* - 'the north island', Inishvickillane - 'island of the little church/MacFaolan's Island/island of the disciple of St Killian', *Inis na Bro* - 'quern island', *Beiginis* - 'little island', *Oileán Buí* - 'yellow island', *An Tiaracht* - 'the west', and *Oileán na n-Óg* - 'the island of youth' (*ibid*). None of the islands is now inhabited except *An Blascaod Mór*, on which, seasonal tourists and island descendants spend some of the summer months. *An Blascaod Mór* remained as an enclave of traditional island heritage until its final evacuation in 1953 (Stagles and Stagles 1998).

The Blaskets are located within the parish of Dunquin - *Dún Caoin*, 'beautiful fort' - and in the Barony of Corcaguiney - *Corca Dhuibhne* 'marshy land of the tribe of *Dhuibhne*' (Cusack 1945, 369; O' Donovan 1840a). The islands consist of Upper Palaeozoic/Devonian rocks of Old Red Sandstone (Pracht 1996). *An Blascaod Mór* or the Great Blasket is the largest of the islands and the Ordnance Survey maps indicate a size of 1132 acres. The general antiquarian records between the 1830s and the 1850s make only scant references to *Inis Mór*. A total of ten families inhabited the island in the 1830s (Lewis 1837, 212). In the 1840s the soil was described as 'very light producing potatoes, corn and flax' (O' Donovan 1840b). In 1853 the island was valued at a total of £68, with the land worth £56 11s and the buildings £6 9s (Griffith 1853). Few antiquities are mentioned in these records, apart from '...the ruins of a very ancient church with burial ground...' (Lewis 1837, 212; Smith 1756).

The habitation history of the Great Blasket is problematic. The presence of archaeological monuments on the island indicates some habitation in the ancient past. However, as noted below there are no references to anyone on the island during the Armada events. However recently discovered documents, compiled during a Spanish survey of Dingle Bay, indicate that the Great Blasket was populated in 1579 (D. de Mórdha, pers comm.). The islanders did have a tradition of a drowned individual from the Armada being buried outside the cemetery on the island (Thomson 1988, 13), indicating that the islanders believed the island inhabited since at least the 16th century. It is known that the island was inhabited in 1736 due to an account by the 6th Earl of Cork. Smith (1756) again referred to *An Blascaod Mór* stating that

five or six families inhabited it. He mentions that nobody had died on the island in the previous 45 years (*ibid*). This suggests that there was a community on the island since at least 1700 (Stagles 1998, 30). The island certainly appears to have been continuously inhabited from this period until the final evacuation in 1953. The population of *An Blascaod Mór* in 1821 was 128 people (Thomson 1988, 15). This rose to a maximum of 160 individuals in 1911, peaking at 176 in 1916, and finally just 22 inhabitants on the island at the time of evacuation in 1953 (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 48).

The Blasket Sound is notorious as a hazardous stretch of water. This is exemplified by the sheer number of ships that have been wrecked in the Sound (Bourke 1994). The remains of at least one of these - an Armada ship - was located off the Stromboli Reef in the 1960s. It is likely, given the naval history of the Sound, that many more wrecks lie on the seabed in the area, some perhaps as yet unrecorded.

There are a number of interesting references regarding the burial ground at *Rinn an Chaisleáin* (RMP site **KE051-00201**-). There are many stories told by the islanders of the difficulties encountered trying to get corpses to Dunquin on the mainland for burial. The adverse nature of the waters between the Great Blasket and the mainland frequently meant that corpses would remain unburied for a long period. There was a very strong tradition, certainly in the 19th and 20th centuries, that corpses (adults in particular) had to be buried in Dunquin rather than on the island. Due to the fact that all island families traced their ancestors to either Dún Chaoin or Ceann Trá (Ventry) parishes, islanders were buried in the graveyards in one of these parishes so they could rest with their families (D. de Mórdha, pers comm.).

Eibhlís Ní Shúillebháin related in a letter that when her grandmother died the weather was too bad to take the body to the mainland. The concession was to seal the body in a coffin, keep her in her room, and wait for the weather to improve (*Ní Shúillebháin* n.d., 38). Both O' Donovan (1840b) and O' Sullivan (1931) state, however, that if the weather was particularly bad then the bodies would actually be buried at *Rinn an Chaisleáin*. O' Donovan also stated that if the storms abated within three weeks of burying a body at *Rinn an Chaisleáin*, then it would be exhumed and taken for burial to the mainland (O' Donovan 1840b). The cemetery at *Rinn an Chaisleáin* seems to have been (certainly in the 19th and 20th centuries) reserved for the burial of unbaptised children, suicides, and shipwrecked sailors, and as such would appear to have been an unconsecrated burial ground. The nature of this is reflected again in

a story by *Eibhlís Ní Shúilleabháin* (*Ní Shúilleabháin* n.d., 37). An old man and a child of three months died at the same time. The body of the old man was taken to the mainland for burial; the child was buried in the 'temple', that is *Rinn an Chaisleáin* (*ibid*).

As mentioned earlier, the islanders had a tradition (told in a story by *Seán Ó Criomhthain*) that after the sinking of the *Santa Maria de la Rosa* in 1588 (see below) a woman was washed ashore (Thomson 1988, 13). She apparently was a rich lady as she was adorned with rings and bracelets. She was buried at *Rinn an Chaisleáin*, noticeably *outside* the cemetery (*ibid*). This is interesting, due to the fact that that cemetery was certainly later exclusively used for the burial of unconsecrated burials. It might be suggested, due to this story that it originated as a consecrated cemetery.

The first published account of the Blaskets is not until the eighteenth century by Smith (1756), although there are some limited earlier references. There is no mention of it in the *Annals of the Four Masters* or in any other surviving old Irish manuscripts (O' Sullivan 1931). There is a possible reference in Papal Taxation Lists from the early 14th century to a church on *An Blascaod Mór* (Cuppage 1986, 361, 367) but this cannot be confirmed. Robin Flower referred to a tradition of the islanders that 'the Danes dwelt here' (Durell and Kelly 2001, 143).

The first substantial historical reference to the Blaskets is that the Norman Fitzgeralds, the Earls of Desmond, seized the islands in the 12th century (Smith 1756; O' Sullivan 1931). The islands were subsequently granted to another Norman family, *Le Fureters* or the Ferriters (a detailed account of the Ferriters is provided by Westropp 1910; 1913). As part payment to the Earls of the Desmond, the Ferriters were obliged to supply hawks for hunting to their liege lords. There seemed to be good reason for this as '... the hawks of this coast are remarkably good, and were formerly in much esteem, those of the islands are accounted better than the falcons that are bred on the continent, because they are always on the wing, and constantly fly over to the mainland in search of prey. They seldom kill sea-fowl, nor will they feed on their flesh, except they be kept long fasting' (Smith 1756, 185). The last eagle seen on the Blaskets was in the 1890s (O'Sullivan 1931, 568), until the early 1980s when Taoiseach Charles J. Haughey introduced some eagles to *Inis Icileáin*. The eagles did not survive for long, however.

Perhaps one of the most poignant episodes in the history of the Blaskets relates to Spanish sailors. In 1588 the Blasket Sound - the notoriously dangerous stretch of water separating *An Blascaod Mór* from the mainland - became the stopover for a number of ships from the infamous Spanish Armada. Fallon (1978) provides some excellent detail on the events relating to the Armada in late September 1588. Much of the account is based on the records of one of Armada captains *Marcos de Aramburu* of the *San Juan Bautista*. A total of six ships, most damaged by the English fleet, entered the Sound over the course of a week. *Juan Martinez de Ricalde* of the *San Juan de Portugal* followed by *Aramburu*, and by *Ricalde's* tender entered the Sound during adverse weather. This alone was considered something of a miracle given the treacherous nature of the Sound (*ibid*). However, *Ricalde* had been commander of the fleet that landed the ill-fated six hundred troops at *Dún an Óir* in Smerwick Harbour in 1580, and would therefore have had some knowledge of the local waters (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 58). Despite severe problems of anchorage the ships remained relatively stable for almost a week (Fallon 1978). Sailors periodically went ashore for water, certainly to the mainland but also possibly to the Great Blasket under the watchful eyes and guns of English soldiers (eight of these excursionists from the Spanish ships were actually caught by the soldiers and later killed). The three ships were joined by two other ships the *Santa Maria de la Rosa* and either the *Nuestra Senora del Socorro* or the *San Antonia de Padua* under *Miguel de Aranivar*. The worsening weather, the lack of anchorage, and the fact that the *Santa Maria de la Rosa* was shot through four times with a breach at the waterline, contributed to the sudden and rapid sinking of that ship with the immediate loss of all but one of the crew aboard. *Aramburu's* account reports of the anguish of those aboard the other ships being unable to save anyone. Another ship then arrived in the Sound - the *San Juan Bautista* under *Fernando Horra*. (Although bearing the same name as *Aramburu's* ship, *Horra's* ship was a merchantman compared to *Aramburu's* galleon). This ship was later lost, apparently to the southwest of the Blaskets.

The sinking of the *Santa Maria de la Rosa* is important on a number of levels. Its sinking was witnessed by countless individuals with the actual event being recorded by *Aramburu* himself (*ibid*). In addition, and particularly pertinent at the time, the ship unexpectedly contained an important individual. His name was Prince *Ascule*, a man of 28 years, and the bastard son of the King of Spain (Smith 1756). His reported presence on the ship to the nearby English soldiers apparently came as a great surprise (Fallon 1978). Smith notes that he died wearing a 'suit of white satin with doublet and breeches cut in Spanish fashion with russet silk stockings' (Smith 1756, 190). These facts were recorded by the sole survivor of the

sinking of the *Santa Maria de la Rosa*, one *John Antonio de Monona*, son of the pilot of the ship (*ibid*). The man had survived by grasping loose timbers and was subsequently captured by the English. His interrogation resulted in the information on the sinking of the ship, and the presence of the prince. The misfortune of his story is accentuated by the fact that he revealed that his father (the pilot) had been killed just before the sinking on the mistaken belief that he was a traitor by cutting the anchor. In reality he had realised that the ship would certainly sink if she stayed where she was anchored in the Sound. *John Antonio de Monona*, despite surviving the sinking of the *Santa Maria de la Rosa*, was executed by English soldiers after three interrogations (Fallon 1978). The presence of the prince, although very much part of the folklore of the area, has since been disproven (D. de Mórdha, pers comm.).

In 1968, John Grattan recovered the remains of the ship in the Sound, two hundred yards to the southeast of the Stromboli Reef. It consisted of a mound of ballast covering the remains of the ship's timbers. Arquebuses, pewter plate, and shot, were recovered in the area in 1969 (their location is now unknown). In the 1840s a small brass cannon was recovered on the Blaskets with a coat of arms bearing the device of an uprooted tree. This was moved to Clonskeagh Castle in Dublin, but again its present location is now unknown (Bourke 1994, 157). It should be noted that in all of the known records of the Armada ships in the Sound at this time there is no mention of people actually living on the Great Blasket (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 26). Further investigations of the Sound by divers in the 1960s recovered the remains of numerous anchors (Fallon 1978, 170).

The next recorded event in the history of the Blaskets again regards the Ferriter family. The literature appears slightly contradictory, however. Smith notes that the Ferriters, by joining in the rebellion of the Earl of Desmond in the 1580s against the English, consequently forfeited their territories (including the islands) to the Crown (Smith 1756, 183). They were granted by letters patent, dated at Westminster, June 27, 1586 to George Stone and Cornelius Champion (*ibid*). However, Thomson records that in 1641 Pierce Ferriter led another insurrection against the English (Thomson 1988, 13). For a time Ferriter hid on the island - which seems unusual given that the islands were now (according to Smith) under the authority of the Boyles, Earls of Cork and Ossery, after Stone and Champion had granted them to Henry Billingsley who later sold them to the Boyles (Smith 1756, 183). However, perhaps the relative isolation of the islands, combined with Ferriters' past connections with them, enticed him to hide out there.

In the words of Robin Flower, Ferriter 'the poet and warrior' (Durrell and Kelly 2001, 143) apparently hid in a small cave on the north side of the island accessible only by a treacherous path. The cave has become known as *Scairt Phiarais* (O' Sullivan 1931, 579). However, Ferriter was later captured and executed in 1653 (Thomson 1988, 14). He was hung at Sheep's Mount in Killarney, along with a priest and a bishop (Westropp 1910).

Again, confusingly, Thomson states that it was at this stage that Ferriter's estates and lands were confiscated, eventually ending up in the hands of English landlords (*ibid*). Whatever the case, the islands became the property of the Earls of Cork and Ossery. These were generally absentee landlords and their representative agents were the Husseys.

In 1736, the 6th Earl of Cork actually visited his remote estates in *Corca Dhuibhne* for the first time. Standing on the mainland he is reported as remarking on seeing the island '...some tillage and a few cabins, from whence, during the time I was looking at the Island, some poor wretches entered into a boat with rabbits for sale. Nothing, sure, but necessity could force them to trust to so tempestuous a sea, the sight of which shock'd me so much that I hastened to Ballyferriter, but not without leaving my hearty prayers for the rabbit merchants' (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 27).

The Earl's rather jaundiced view of his estates in general is attributed by one writer to an episode in the Earl's past. On the Earl's first visit to Ireland his pregnant wife, who travelled against medical advice, accompanied him. They arrived in Cork in July 1732 and his wife died in the following month (The Knight of Glin 1972).

The island of the Great Blasket was not self-sufficient and to a greater or lesser extent depended on the mainland for certain goods and supplies. However, the range of foodstuffs available to the islanders is impressive. There were natural food resources of fish, shellfish, seaweeds, sea birds and their eggs, and rabbits (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 43). Potatoes were grown on the island (O' Donovan 1840b). Oats were also traditionally grown (*ibid*; Stagles and Stagles 1998, 85). In fact on the southern slope of the island was an enclosure known as *Garraí an Choirce* or 'the oat garden' (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 85). In addition, extensive tracts of turf were cut and used for fuel, which was particularly beneficial given the total lack of trees on the island. Sheep grazed on the commonages, and while some cattle were kept on *An Blascaod Mór* many more were kept and fattened on the some of the more hospitable

outlying islands such as *Beag Inis* (Smith 1756). In addition, most households also had hens. However, O' Sullivan also noted the importance of money being sent back by emigrants to their families for their survival (O' Sullivan 1931, 573). This again indicates the importance of the mainland to the islanders - there were no shops or public houses on the island and therefore most purchases came from the mainland.

Despite the obvious range of foodstuffs immediately available the Great Blasket was still affected by the Great Famine of the 1840s. The population had increased to 153 individuals by 1841 (Thomson 1988, 15). This population growth began in the mid 18th century, primarily due to influxes of people from the east that had been evicted from their lands. In 1756 Smith referred to five or six families on the island. By 1841 this had risen to 28 families (*ibid*). This rise in population put an obvious strain on the resources and when the potatoes failed the other foodstuffs proved inadequate. The strain is emphasized by the actual occupation in this period of a number of the surrounding islands such as *Inis Tuaisceart*, *Beiginis*, and *Inis na Bró* (Stagles 1975). Windele recorded travelling to *Inis Tuaisceart* in 1838 to view the antiquities and was surprised by the fact that a family (mother, father and two or three children) were living in a small *clochán* on the island (*de Brún* 1974). By 1851 the population of *An Blascaod Mór* had fallen to 97 individuals or 19 families (Thomson 1988, 15). However, this was not as severe as the mainland part of the parish of Dunquin whose population was halved between 1841 and 1851 alone (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 43).

The evidence indicates that although the Great Blasket was affected by the famine, it was not as drastically affected and indeed seemed to recover faster than many of the mainland areas. This was as a result of a number of factors (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 48). A certain degree of geographical isolation helped to minimize the spread of disease from the mainland. Despite threatened evictions by Clara Hussey (the agent of the Earl of Cork) in the late 1830s, the islanders had escaped the trauma and repercussions of evictions that caused such havoc on the mainland (*ibid*).

In particular however, the survival of the islanders during the famine is attributed to two important factors. In the 1840s the islands population (exclusively a Roman Catholic community) came under the attention of the Dingle and Ventry Mission, a Protestant group that sought converts while giving aid (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 43). As well as converting a small number of individuals the Mission completed a number of works on the Great Blasket. In 1840 a schoolhouse was built (O' Sullivan 1931, 577), possibly on the site of an ancient

church. A boiler was installed in 1846-'47 in the school and served soup and Indian meal to all the islanders (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 44). In addition the Mission provided paid labour and built a breakwater (*ibid*).

The desperate state of the islanders during the famine is noted in the words of the Minister of Ventry, Reverend Thomas Moriarty in 1848 'I know not how the poor people will weather out this (coming) year, when most of them are as badly off, if not more destitute than ever' (*ibid*). The Mission also completed a project making a path to a cliff well. Many of the wells on the island used to dry up in times of drought and the islanders had to resort to lowering someone down the side of a cliff to reach another well. It is believed that this well is *Tobar an Rinn an Chaisleáin*, which is a well on the cliff of Castle Point, which now has a path leading down to it (*ibid*). This is also possibly *Tobar na Faille*, which according to Tomás Ó Criomhthain (O'Crohan) is a well in the cliff near the pier which never dried up (D. de Mórdha, pers comm.).

The assistance of the Mission to the islanders abruptly stopped in 1850. In 1850 the breakwater was destroyed by storms and the 'old monastery of the soupers' (the school) had fallen into disrepair (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 54). The few converts to Protestantism reverted back to Roman Catholicism. At this time also there were a number of fortuitous wrecking (for the islanders) of several ships in the area at the time (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 46). In the same year, the Italian brig *Caroline* ran aground on White Strand with a cargo of wheat, providing much needed sustenance for the islanders (Bourke 1994, 158). The nine survivors of this ship were notoriously poorly treated by the islanders (*ibid*). Again in 1850 the *Commerce* of Liverpool was wrecked off the west coast. She had been carrying a cargo of palm-oil (*ibid*). Other wrecks enabled the community to continue by salvaging what they could from these wrecks. Indeed the Stagles record the islanders as considering the wrecks "heaven-sent" (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 46).

The *Great Blasket* community continued to recover after the Great Famine. From the low of 97 individuals in 1851 (Thomson 1988, 15) the population had risen to 138 individuals in 1871 (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 48). The period was not without its troubles, primarily from the agents of the landlords. In the 1870s Sam Hussey attempted to evict over half of the inhabitants (*ibid*). There are numerous stories of bailiffs coming to the island and being held off by stone throwing islanders at the little landing place known as *An Inncoin* or *Caladh an Oileáin* (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 53). Evidently the islanders primarily won out, which is

witnessed by the fact that the families continued to live on the island well into the 20th century. Access to the island was improved slightly in the 1890s with the construction of a concrete breakwater and boat slip at the landing point. There are some other landing points at caves on the northern headland of the island such as *Cuas na mBád* or “boat cove”, but these were particularly difficult to climb out of.

Field systems

In 1907 the island was purchased from the Earl of Cork by the Congested Districts Board (CDB), which allowed the islanders to ultimately own their own land. This period saw some major changes in many aspects of the island. Previously the system of agriculture on the island had been based on the Rundale system with individuals farming land in scattered strips. When the CDB redistributed the land after 1907 they essentially respected the old system. This was as much a concession to the islanders’ conservatism as an attempt to give each individual equal amount of good land and poorer land (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 89). Sheep were grazed on the 15 areas of commonage, and were cared for under a ‘well understood informal system’ (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 90).

The first and second editions of the Ordnance Survey six-inch map reveal some interesting developments in the field system during the 66 years between the editions of the map. It is possible to plot the general outline of the land tenure system of the island from 1841 onwards.

The first thing that can be noticed about the 1841 map is its emptiness. On the eastern inhabited end of the island striking changes in cultivation patterns took place between 1841-1895. The large fields shown in 1895 are traversed by two access roads from the village. It is difficult to determine exactly when the access roads were laid down between 1841-’95. The Congested District Board layout of the fields kept entirely within the field boundaries already in existence and retained the principle of scattered holdings.

The concentration of the most recent habitation in the village on the eastern side of the island is attributed to a number of factors (see Stagles and Stagles 1998, 30). There are several wells in the area providing fresh water, there is shelter from the prevailing south-westerly winds, this is where the greatest part of the arable land is located, and it is the closest point to the mainland with the most accessible point for landing boats (*ibid*). None of the dwellings in the current village appear older than two centuries (Stagles and Stagles

1998, 23). There are at present 34 to 35 houses in varying states of preservation and most follow a very traditional pattern. Many consist of a 'long single storied building with walls of un-mortared stones, built on a simple rectangular ground plan, and divided internally into two rooms, kitchen and bedroom, by means of a wooden screen with a loft at either end for storage and extra sleeping space. By tradition, houses on sloping sites were built at right angles to the contours, with the hearth gable (here the west gable) bedded into the hillside' (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 64). Two-thirds of the houses on *An Blascaod Mór* lie on this east/west axis (*ibid*). After 1910, the CDB constructed five houses on the island. While respecting certain aspects of the traditional houses on the island, these new houses were noticeably larger and were actually orientated on a north/south axis (*ibid*).

The Writers

Ironically this period also saw the ultimate flowering and decline of the fortunes of the island. Numerous literary works were produced by a selection of the islanders reflecting the unique way of life that existed on the island in the 19th and 20th century. These writers include *Tomás Ó Criomhthain*, *Muiris Ó Súilleabháin*, *Peig Sayers*, *Séan Ó Criomhthain*, *Mícheál Ó Gaoithín*, *Máire Ní Ghuithín*, *Eibhlís Ní Shúilleabháin*, and *Seán Sheáin Í Cearnaigh* (Thomson 1988, 98).

In addition, writers such as Robin Flower provided invaluable views on island life from an outsider's view (see for example MacConghail 1991). Island life continued as before until World War I. The islanders again were fortuitous in the salvaging of wreckage from torpedoed merchantmen (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 109). But the fortunes of *An Blascaod Mór* declined rapidly after the war, emigration playing a large part. From the large population of 160 individuals in 1911, it fell to 121 individuals by 1930 (O' Sullivan 1931, 570). The school - opened with Roman Catholic funding on 6th January 1863 - closed on the 1st January 1941 (*Nic Craith* 1995). With the population of *An Blascaod Mór* at just 22 people, the island was finally evacuated in 1953, thus severing the life of the unique island.

3.3 The Buildings

In 2009, the State purchased property holdings on the Great Blasket Island. These comprised most of the old village, fields located a distance away from the village and commonage interests. The ruined structures require initial urgent conservation and safety works. Aegis Archaeology Ltd carried out a laser survey of the upstanding buildings, and also an assessment of the area in State ownership (area outlined in orange, fig. 5 below).



Figure 5. Aerial photo, supplied by OPW (annotated by Aegis Archaeology Ltd).

For the purpose of this report, the buildings were numbered from 1-15 for ease of surveying. However, these numbers have been cross-referenced to the 1988 OPW map (see figs 6 and 7 below), on which MacCárthaigh and O'Reilly and based their numbering system. On this they numbered the buildings from 1 to 69. The Paul Arnold survey of 2003 also followed this OPW numbering system, and the current survey has cross-referenced this numbering system, (MacCarthaigh and O'Reilly 1991; Paul Arnold Architects 2003; 2009). (See table 1 above for a full concordance of the island's numbering systems.)



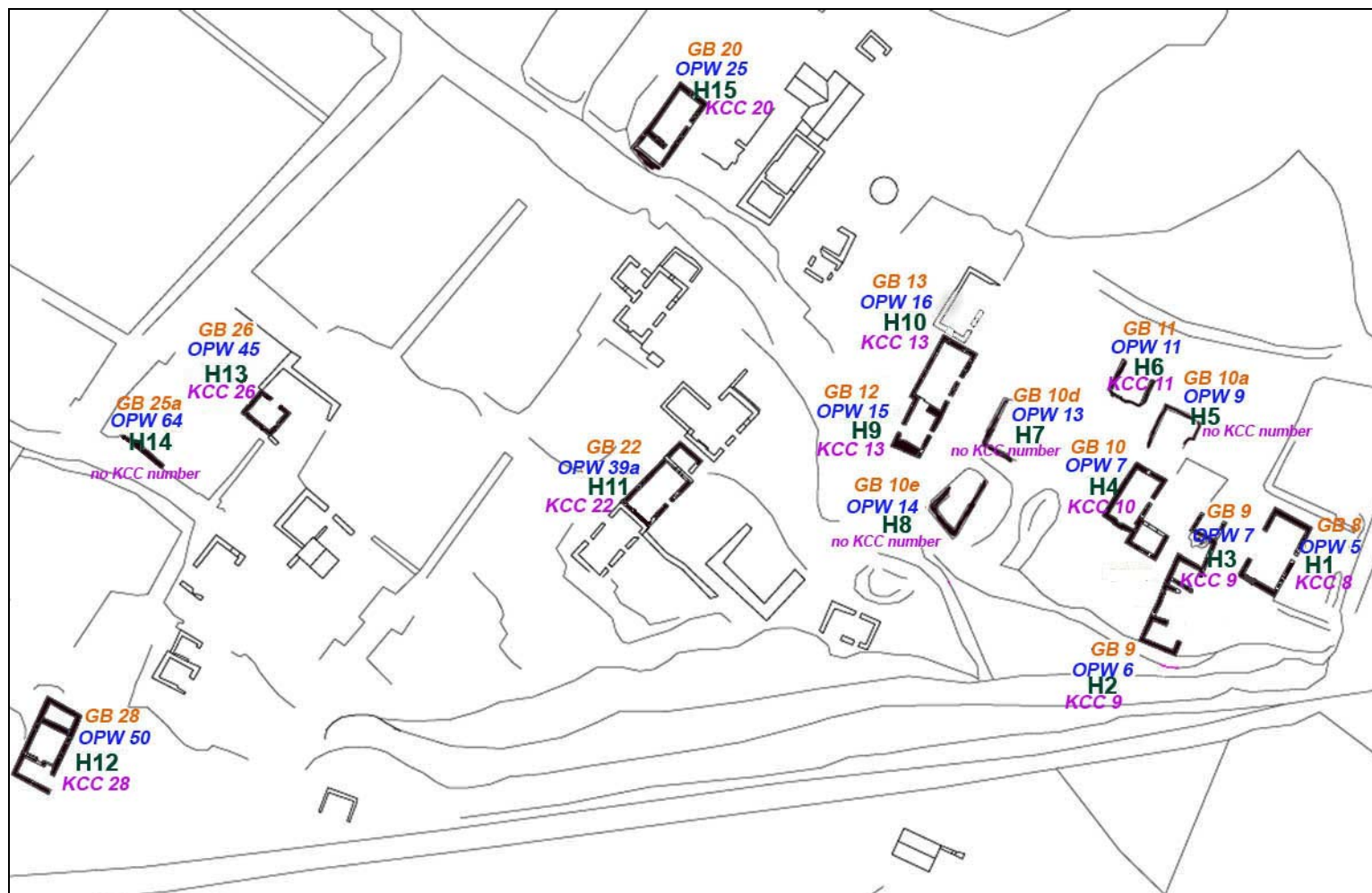


Figure 7. 2009 survey map of village (Gridpoint), annotated by writer; OPW numbers in orange, Aegis numbers in green, surveyed buildings in black

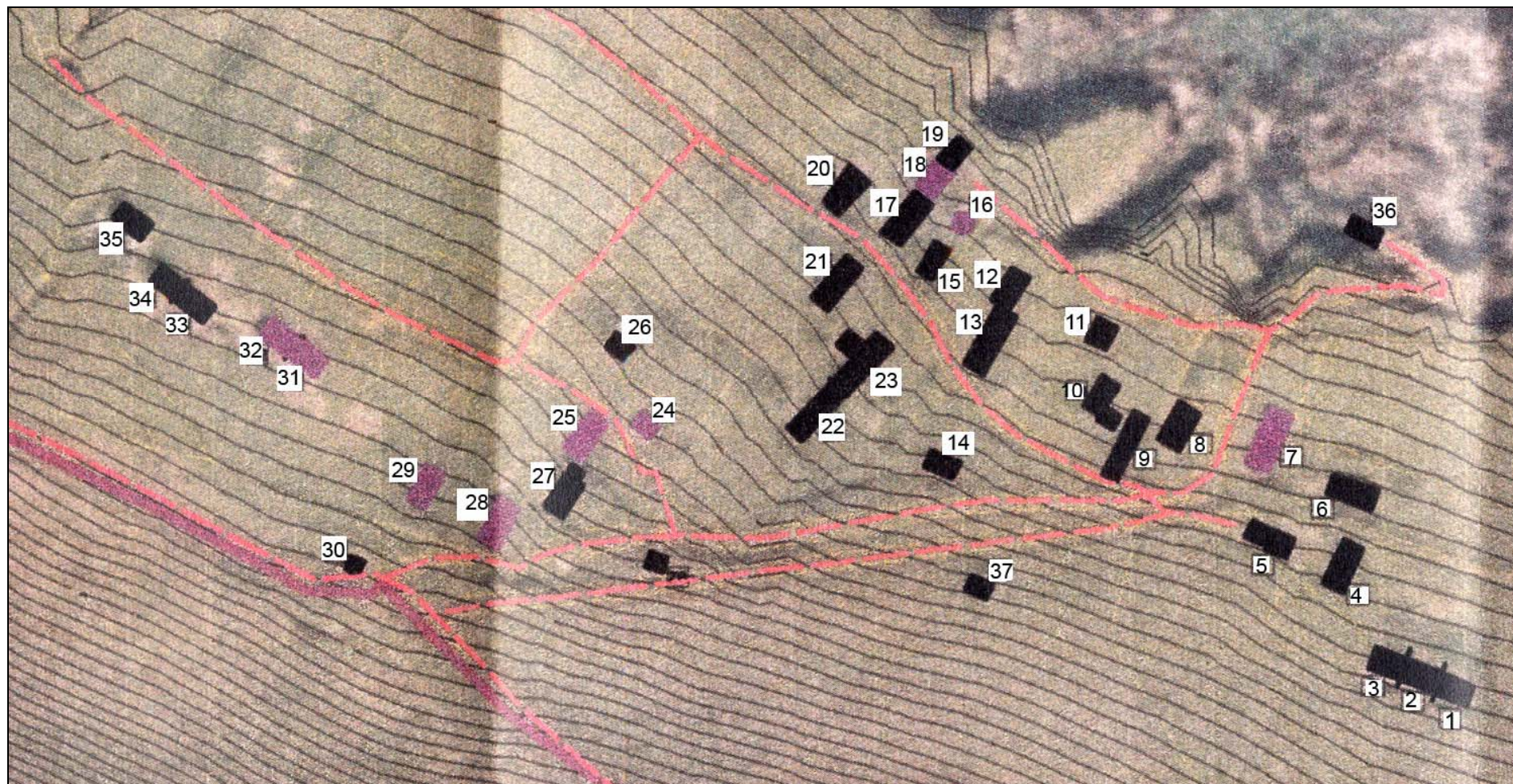


Figure 8. Local Area Plan map, KCC number, annotated by writer



Figure 9. Great Blasket (GB) numbers, after Dáithí de Mórdha, OPW, Ionad an Bhlascaoid

Aegis Building H1

GB 8

KCC 8

OPW 5

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: 5



Plate 1. Aegis House 1/GB 8

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This structure was surveyed in September 1991 and was identified as a house and outhouse in poor condition; the rear wall and upper part of the front wall had collapsed. A narrow gable window to the sleeping loft and five niches in the hearth wall were also recorded. The earliest map reference was from 1916 (presumably from the Congested District Board Map). The Valuation Office data of 1902 (map no. 1k (iii)) recorded the tenant as a Michael Shea, who had been recorded as living in Site 10 in the 1901 census. The census data of 1911 also states a Michael Shea as the tenant as well as the house, classified as a Grade 3 structure, consisting of two rooms and two windows. The outhouse was not recorded during the 1911 census, however it did appear on the 1916 Congested District Board (CDB) data map (map no. 4), indicating the period of 1911-1916 as the period of construction. The CDB data, which designated this property as Rental no. 20, also noted that the occupier was Michael Shea with full tenancy. In *An Blascaod Mór* (Pádraig Tyers, Dún Chaoin 1991), map no. 6, the occupier is Micheál O Sé ('Faight'). Building No. 5 also appeared in a photograph, taken in

circa 1930, where it was unclear as whether or not it was still roofed (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 55).

Paul Arnold Architects Description

The January 2003 report identified the Condition Grade of this structure as Grade C and the Structural Configuration as Type 4 (opes visible). The barge stones of both gables were missing and required consolidation. The south gable was in better condition and partially embedded in the hill side. The top of the north gable had collapsed. The north wall had very little connection with its side walls due to partial collapse. Both gable walls required stitching to the two side walls. The hearth was still evident, although the breast and chimney had collapsed leaving the flue exposed. Four niches were present in the south elevation. The west wall had almost completely collapsed. A door ope was present in the east elevation. The walls had collapsed below the lintel level (no lintels were remaining).

Internally, most of the applied render had been washed away. Pockets for the joists in the east and west walls showed the former existence of a hearth loft. There was no surviving evidence showing the existence of a sleeping loft. Two window opes were visible in the east elevation even though the wall had collapsed below the lintel level. The window ope at the north end of the building had been torn apart due to the possible movement of the north gable and the loss of the lintel and sill. The window ope at the south possessed a stone sill. The roof was missing.

It was suggested that settlement may have been occurring as it appeared that the north gable was moving and had caused the east and west walls to partially collapse. This falling gable tore apart the side walls at their openings where the movement forces were greatest.

The Paul Arnold Architects 2009 preliminary report identified no significant change in the condition of Building 5, but did highlight the presence of very loose stone on the top of the walls.

Local Area Plan

Rated as regionally important. Maintenance and restoration suggestions are (a) stonewalls should be stabilised and restored following best conservation practise (b) no material changes should be done to structure and the curtilage except for restoration works. (c)

restoration works shall be subject to planning permission. Ruin may be open to the public if this does not impinge on the preservation and appreciation of the structure and the setting.

Survey Drawings (*see appendix for A3 elevations and plans*)

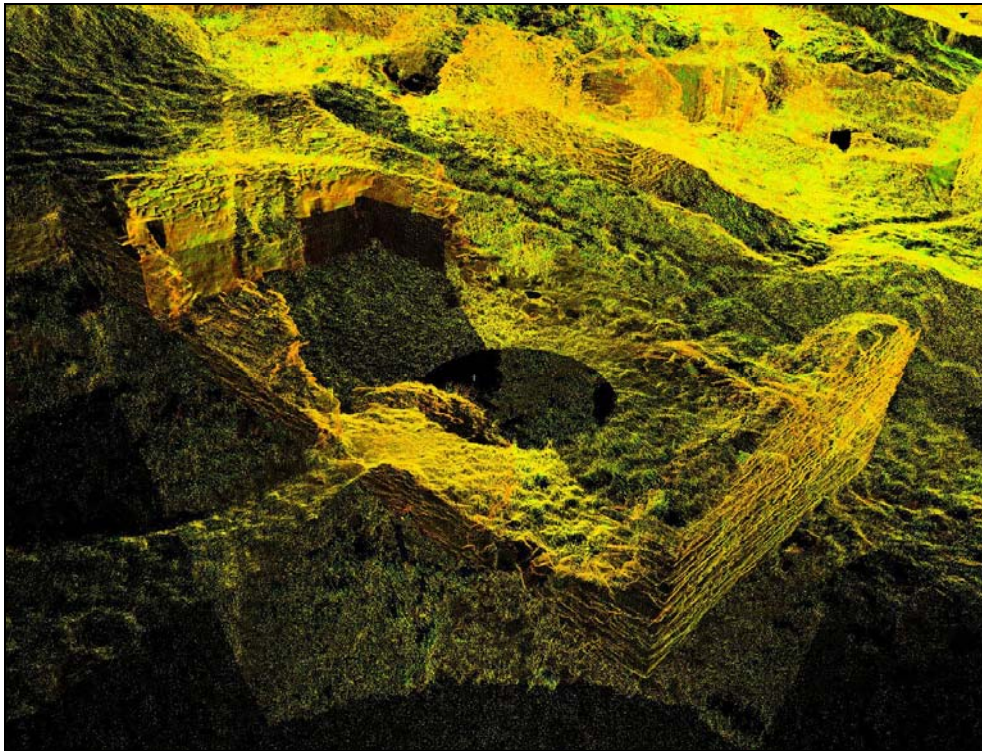


Figure 10. 3D laser scan of H1/GB 8, after Gridpoint Solutions

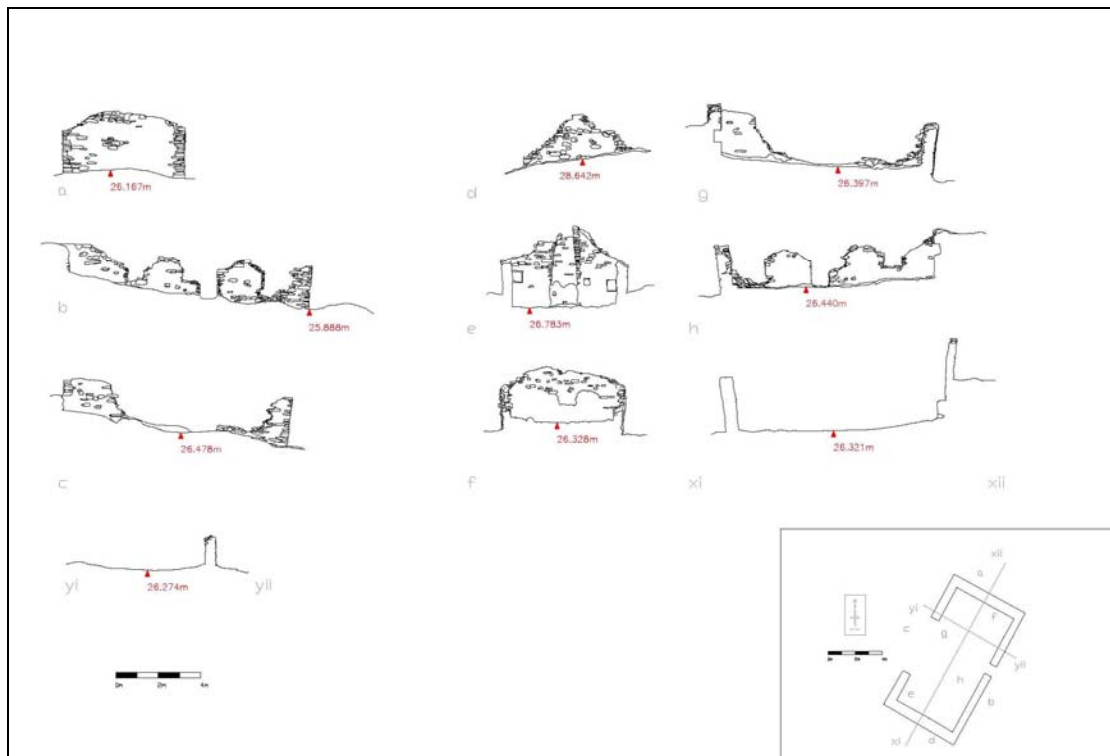


Figure 11. Elevations and Ground plan of H1/GB 8, after Gridpoint Solutions, for indication only, see appendix for scaled drawing

Aegis Building H2

GB 9

KCC 9

OPW 6

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: 6 (a-e)



Plate 2. Aegis House 2/GB 9

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This structure was surveyed in September 1991 and was identified as a house in poor condition; the front wall had collapsed as had part of the north gable. It was originally one house being extended into two dwellings certainly by 1901 when Jeremiah Shea occupied the new southern end. A drain ran between the two structures and evidence for lofting was seen in the southern unit. No evidence of hearths was seen. The first map reference is the 1st Edition OS map of 1846. The Valuation Office data of 1850 (map no. 1n) records the structure as Grade 3c with dimensions of 15' length, 14' breadth and 5' in height. This data also records the tenant in 1850 as Michael Sullivan, in 1859-1860 as Eugene Dunleavy, in 1860-1882 as James Guiheen, in 1885 as Patrick Guiheen Flint and in 1901 as Michael Guiheen Flint.

In the census data of 1901 the occupier of the northern end is a Michael Guiheen. The census data of 1901 records the northern house as having two rooms and two windows and

the southern as having one room and two windows. The 1911 census records the northern house, now occupied by Patrick Guiheen the son of Michael Guiheen, as still having two rooms and two windows, whereas the southern, occupied by John Shea, now has two rooms and two windows. The CDB data of 1916 (map no. 5), which designated this property as Rental no. 10, noted that the sole occupier was John Shea with full tenancy. By this time the Guiheen family, including Peig Sayers, have moved to building 58. The former dwelling was restructured and used as an outhouse. In *An Blascaod Mór* (Pádraig Tyers, Dún Chaoin 1991), map no. 7, the occupier is Seán 'Mhal' O Sé. Building No. 6 also appeared in a photograph, taken in 1924, as roofed (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 21), possibly roofed in a photograph of circa 1930 (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 55) and without a roof in the 1930s (O'Crohan 1929, 80).

Paul Arnold Architects Description

The January 2003 report identified the original dimensions, of the north unit, as 4.4m in length, 4.2m in breadth and 1.5m inn height. It also identified the Condition Grade of this structure as Grade D and the Structural Configuration as Type 4 (Opes visible). All the gables were present to some degree though no barge stones were present. It was recommended that the gable walls be consolidated and stitched to their flanking side walls. A drain was evident between H6a and H6d which had been filled by rubble from the falling gables. It was suggested, if possible, to remove the rubble. Niches were evident in the south gable of H6b and H6e even though no hearths were evident in any of the units. Walls H6a, H6b and H6c appeared to have originally formed a single unit while H6d and H6e formed a second unit to which was attached a cow shed with a lean-to roof. The east elevation was in a state of ruin. In H6b, on the east elevation, there appeared to be evidence of a blocked up door ope. Generally the upper portions of the remaining walls had collapsed and it was recommended that these should be consolidated. It was also suggested that the side walls of each of the units may have to be tied together and stitched to the cross gables. Only one small window ope was evident in the east elevation of H6b which had a stone lintel. The window in H6b had a stone sill. No roof was present and there was evidence of a lean to roof attached to the northern gable of H6c. The high priority work identified concerned the gable wall between H6a and H6b as it was about to fall. It was also suggested to tie in the loose stone within the north gable of H6c to prevent the collapse of the remaining gable. Further investigation was suggested to discover if settlement was occurring along the whole length of the house and to assess if the rubble between H6a and H6d was adding strength to the

two gables. The Paul Arnold Architects 2009 Preliminary report identified friable edges to the walls.

Local Area Plan

Rated as regionally important. Maintenance and restoration suggestions are (a) stonewalls should be stabilised and restored following best conservation practise (b) no material changes should be done to structure and the curtilage except for restoration works. (c) restoration works shall be subject to planning permission. Ruin may be open to the public if this does not impinge on the preservation and appreciation of the structure and the setting.

Aegis H3

GB 9

KCC 9

OPW 6

Paul Arnold Building No.: 6

This structure was recorded in the previous surveys as part of 6.



Plate 3. Aegis house 3/GB 9

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

See GB 9/KCC No. 9/H2 above.

Paul Arnold Architects Description

See GB 9/KCC No. 9/H2 above.

Survey Drawings (*see appendix for A3 elevations and plans*)

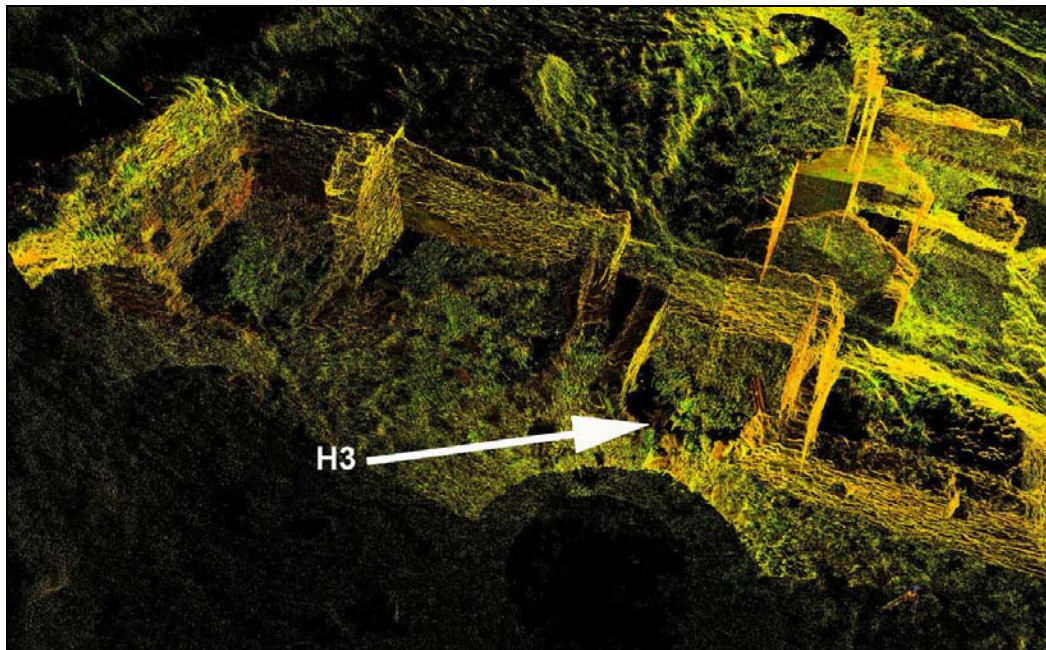


Figure 14. 3D laser scan of H3/GB 9, after Gridpoint Solutions



Figure 15. Elevations and Ground plan of H2 and H3/GB 9, after Gridpoint Solutions, for indication only, see appendix for scaled drawing

Aegis Building No.: H4
GB 10
KCC 10
OPW 7 & 8
Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: 7 & 8



Plate 4. Aegis house 4/GB 10

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

These structures were surveyed in 1991 and were identified as a house (Building No. 8) and extension (Building No. 7) in fair condition; with the upper portion of the front wall collapsed but with all gables intact. The extension post-dated the house with the opening from building 8 to 7 crudely made in an effort to preserve the front window. The hearth recess, with three niches in the hearth wall, and evidence of a sleeping loft in both buildings were also noted. The earliest map reference was the 1895 map. There was no Valuation Office data but they were recorded in the 1901 census as a Grade 2 structure consisting of two rooms, three windows and occupied by Eugene Sullivan. A cow house is also recorded in association with this property, possibly Building No 9 (see below), in 1901 though in 1911 only a fowl house is recorded. In the 1911 census they were classified as a Grade 3 structure with two rooms, but now with only two windows, and was occupied by Eugene Sullivan. The CDB data (map no. 6) of 1916, which designated these as Rental no 11, noted that the

occupier was Eugene Sullivan with full tenancy. In *An Blascaod Mór* (Pádraig Tyers, Dún Chaoin 1991), map no. 8, the occupier is Eoghan O Súilleabháin. In a picture of 1924 Building 7 is visibly roofed (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 21), possibly roofed in a picture of circa 1930 (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 55) and roofed in a picture from the 1930s (O’Crohan 1929, 80).

Paul Arnold Architects Description

The January 2003 report of Building 7 did not list any Condition Grade or Structural Configuration Type. Both barge stones were present, although the barge stone of the west elevation was partially missing. The west gable butts against the east wall on H8. There was a gable window in the east wall. Stitching of the east gable was required as its stability had been reduced by the collapse of the north wall.

A door opening, which possessed a stone lintel, was cut through the west gable giving access to H8. The north wall had collapsed and it was suggested that the remains should be consolidated. The south wall was in good condition and embedded in to the hill side with none of it extending above ground. There was evidence of the applied render but this was being washed away. There were no window openings in H7 although it was possible that at one time an opening existed in the north elevation which would explain the way the wall had collapsed to approximately sill level. No sills were evident, nor was the roof present. The high priority work identified concerned the remaining portion of the north wall as it was seen to be separating from the north gable and there was a great deal of loose stone which would need to be rectified before further collapse occurred. It was also suggested that the concrete barge on the west gable should be bedded in hydraulic mortar as it was about to fall. Further investigation was suggested to discover if settlement was occurring which may have explained the separation and collapse of the north wall.

Further to this, the Paul Arnold 2009 preliminary report identified a loss of stones from the right hand side of the door.

The January 2003 report of Building 8 did not list any Condition Grade or Structural Configuration Type. Both gables were intact and possessed pieces of their barge stones. Three niches were identified in the south wall. The sides of the chimney stack remained however the hearth and chimney had collapsed. The south wall was partially embedded in the hill side. A gable window was present in the north wall. Stitching of both gables was

needed. A door ope was present in the east elevation although its lintel was missing. The door ope through to H7 possessed a stone lintel. The upper portion of the east and west elevations had collapsed and needed consolidation. There was evidence of a sleeping loft from the gable but not from the side walls. Two window opes were evident in the east elevation although the wall had collapsed below lintel level. Both windows possessed their stone sills but their timber window boards were missing. No roof was present.

The high priority work identified concerned the north gable which was generally cracked, many of which were identified as serious to the stability of the wall. It was also suggested the upper portion of the south gable be stitched to the side walls as its stability was in doubt. Further investigation was suggested to discover if settlement was taken place which may explain the serious cracks in the north walls and why the window had collapsed to sill level, with a crack running down its length.

Further to this, the Paul Arnold 2009 preliminary report identified the northern, downhill gable was heavily fissured. Also the hillside gable was leaning dangerously: as this is adjoining a route which is used by many visitors. The repair of this gable was identified as a priority and that, pending repair, access to the building should be prevented by means of appropriate fencing and danger signs.

Local Area Plan

Rated as regionally important. Maintenance and restoration suggestions are (a) stonewalls should be stabilised and restored following best conservation practise (b) no material changes should be done to structure and the curtilage except for restoration works. (c) restoration works shall be subject to planning permission. Ruin may be open to the public if this does not impinge on the preservation and appreciation of the structure and the setting.

Survey Drawings (see appendix for A3 elevations and plans)

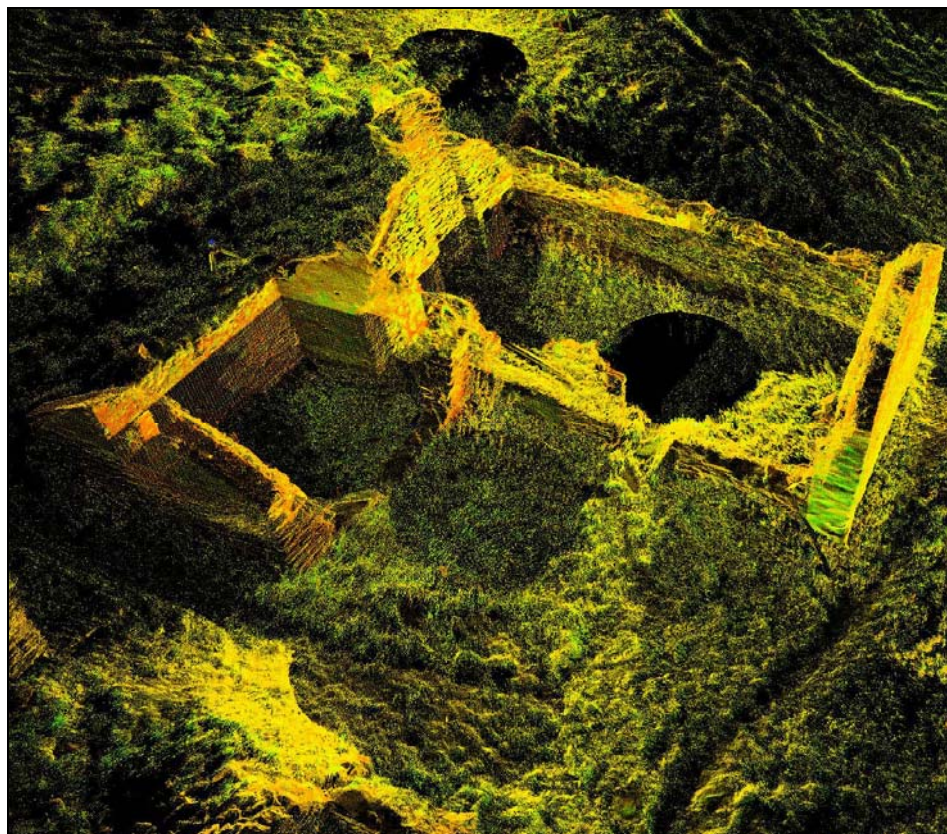


Figure 16. 3D laser scan of H4/GB 10, after Gridpoint Solutions

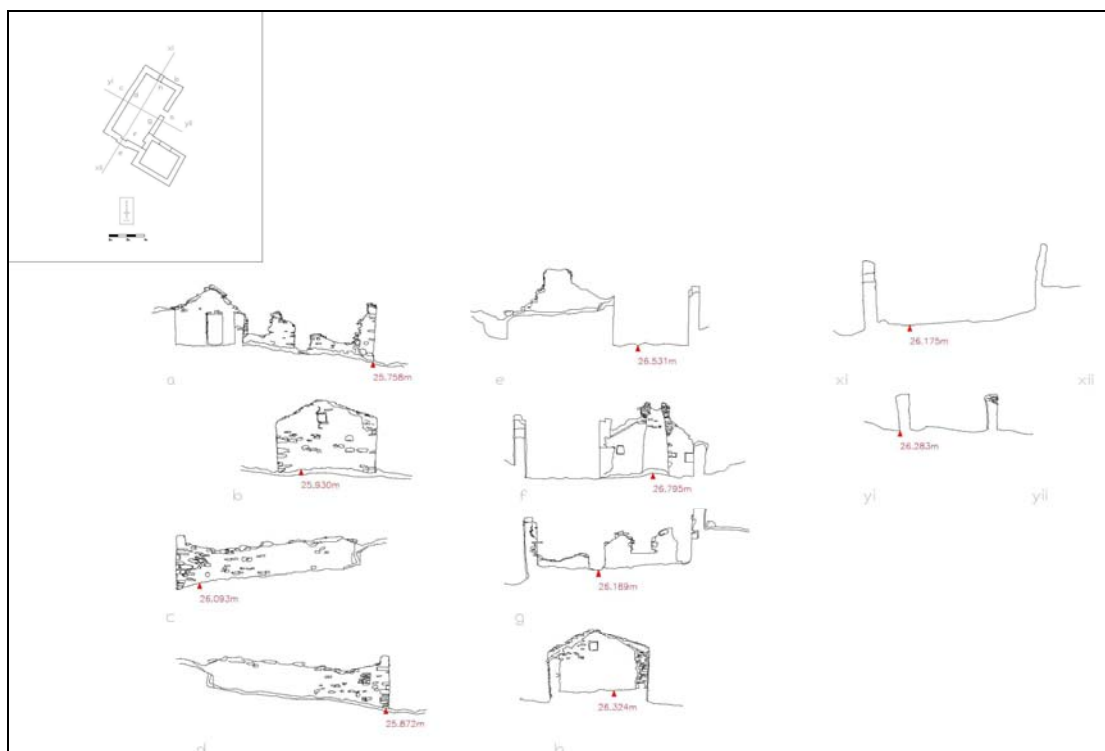


Figure 17. Elevation and ground plan of H4/GB 10, after Gridpoint Solutions, for indication only, see appendix for scaled drawing

Aegis H5

GB 10a

KCC No number assigned

OPW 9

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: *No number or description*



Plate 5. Aegis house 5/GB 10a

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

No written description of Building 9 was given by O' Reilly and MacCárthaigh, apart from it possibly being a cow house recorded in 1901 associated with Building 7/8. A scale drawing shows only the eastern wall, with approximately 1m of the north and south walls extending from it, and approximately 3m of the southern wall.

Survey Drawings (*see appendix for A3 elevations and plans*)

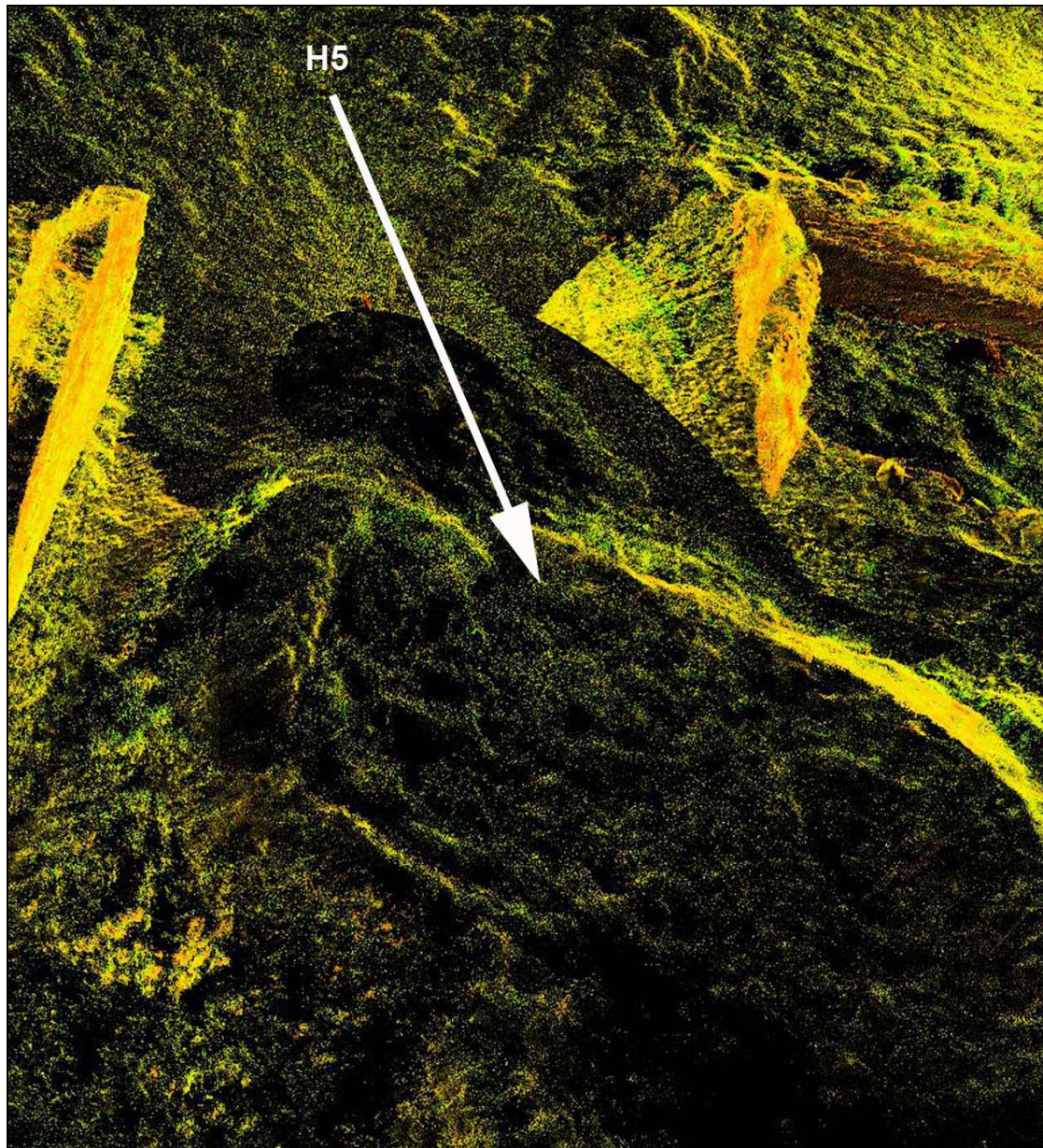


Figure 18. 3D laser scan of H5/GB 10a, after Gridpoint Solutions

Aegis H6

GB 11

KCC 11

OPW 11

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: 11



Plate 6. Aegis house 6/GB 11

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This structure was recorded in September 1991 and was identified as a house in poor condition; the side walls were in a partially collapsed state with most of the northern half destroyed. The hearth wall was almost intact, with two niches, which was clear evidence of a hearth loft, and only the base of the fireplace. The earliest map reference is from the 1903 valuation map.

There was no Valuation Office data but it was recorded in the 1901 census as a Grade 3 structure with two rooms, two windows and occupied by Patrick Guiheen. In the 1911 census it was similarly recorded. A potato house is recorded in the 1901 census, while a cow house was recorded in the 1911 census. Though no trace of this outhouse was noted in the survey it may have adjoined the northern end of the house. The CDB data (map no. 11) of 1916, which designated the structure as Rental no 14, noted the occupier was Patrick Guiheen (Patrick) with full tenancy. In *An Blascaod Mór* (Pádraig Tyers, Dún Chaoin 1991),

map no. 9, the occupier is Maidhc Leighin O Guithín. A gable of Building 11 appeared in a picture of circa 1930 (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 55) and it could be clearly seen in two pictures from the 1930s. The first from the early 1930s it could be seen roofed but in poor condition (Mac Conghail 1991, 84) and in the second, it is roofed (O'Crohan 1929, 80).

Paul Arnold Architects Description

The January 2003 report identified the Condition Grade of this structure as Grade D and the Structural Configuration as Type 4 (Opes visible). Only the south gable remained although the upper portion had collapsed, with only a small portion extending above ground level. It was suggested that the wall tops be consolidated. The southern wall was seen to be embedded into the ground. Two niches were present. The chimney and stack had collapsed. The hearth was filled with rubble which was suggested to be removed. The northern half of the building had been destroyed leaving no traces above ground. The upper parts of the side walls had collapsed and needed to be consolidated. The presence of a partial door jamb in the east wall gave the location of the former door opening. Joist holes were present in the east wall showing the former existence of a hearth loft. There was no evidence of window opes and the roof was missing.

The Paul Arnold Architects 2009 preliminary report identified the loss of stone from the pier at the left hand side and of mortar from the base of the wall on the right hand side.

Local Area Plan

Rated as regionally important. Maintenance and restoration suggestions are (a) stonewalls should be stabilised and restored following best conservation practise (b) no material changes should be done to structure and the curtilage except for restoration works. (c) restoration works shall be subject to planning permission. Ruin may be open to the public if this does not impinge on the preservation and appreciation of the structure and the setting.

Survey Drawings (*see appendix for A3 elevations and plans*)

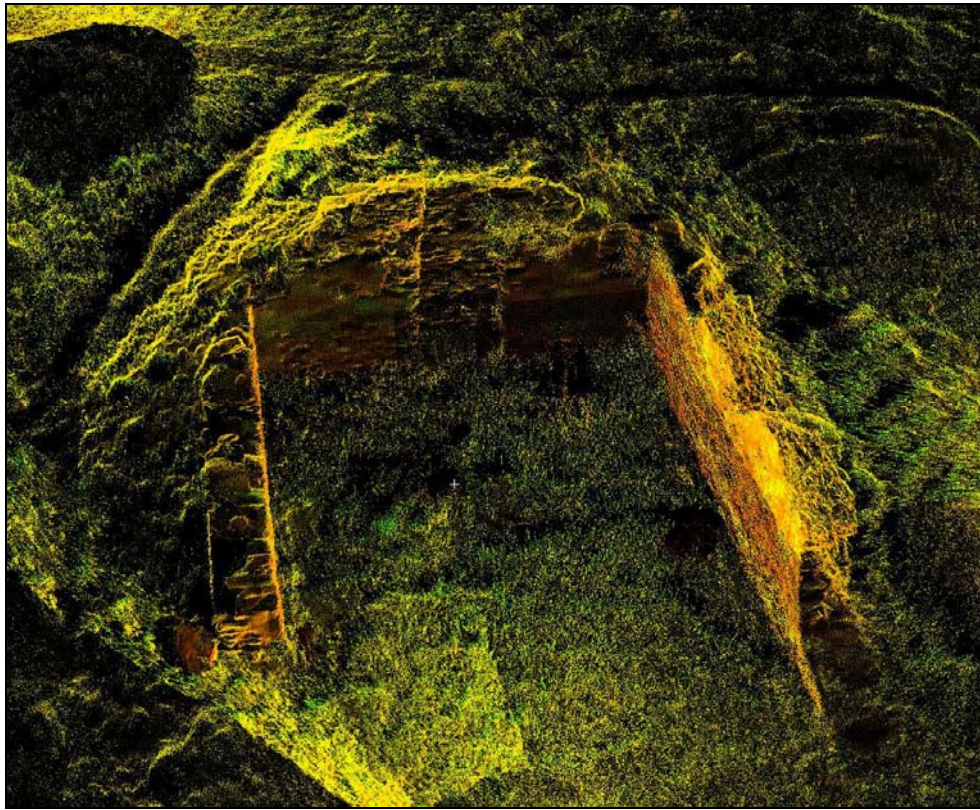


Figure 19. 3D laser scan of H6/GB 11, after Gridpoint Solutions

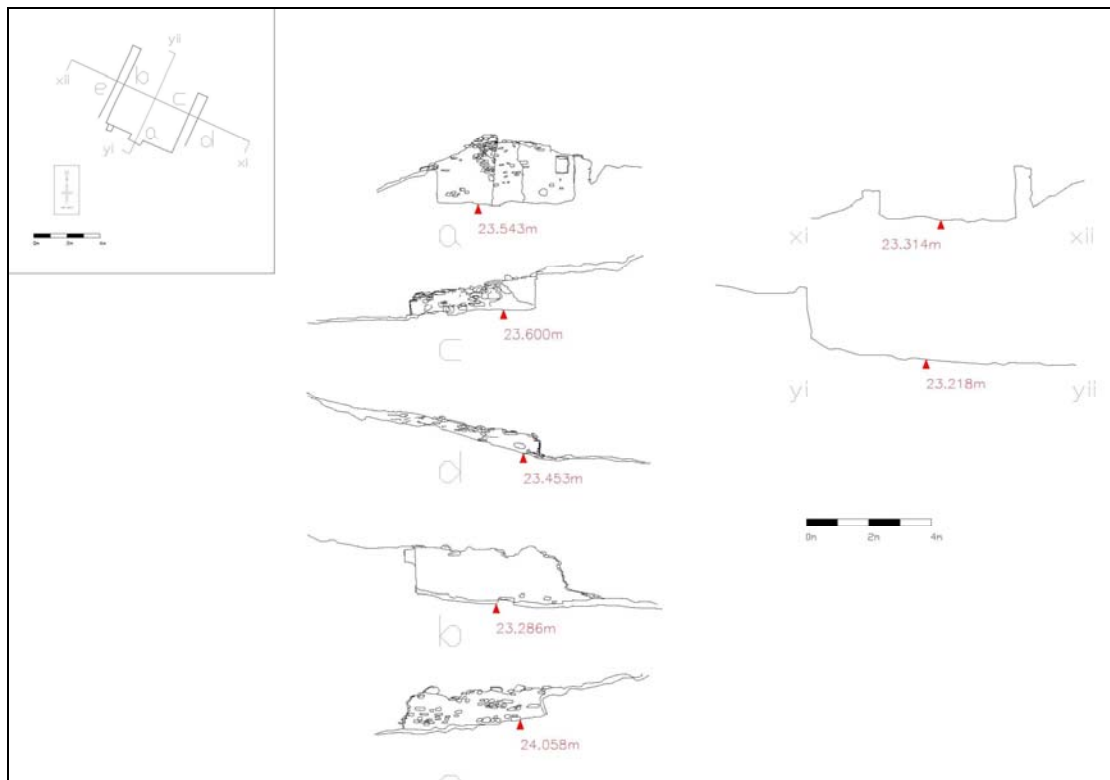


Figure 20. Elevation and ground plan of H6/GB 11, after Gridpoint Solutions, for indication only, see appendix for scaled drawing

Aegis H7

GB 10d

KCC No number assigned

OPW 13

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: 13



Plate 7. Aegis house 7/GB 10d

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This structure was surveyed in September 1991 and was identified as a house in very poor condition; the southern side of the house was completely destroyed with one sidewall partially surviving and one gable totally destroyed. A single niche was recorded within the hearth wall. The earliest map reference is the 1895 OS map. The Valuation Office data of 1850 (map 1m) records the structure as Grade 3c with dimensions of 21' in length, 16' in breadth and 6.6' in height. This data also records the tenant between 1850 and 1864 as Timothy Connor, between 1870 and 1882 as John and Patrick Connor and in 1885 as Michael Sullivan. The census data of 1901 and 1911 also lists the occupier as Michael Sullivan, with the building classified as a Grade 3 with two rooms and two windows. In the 1911 census a calf house is noted, which may have been Building 14 (see below). The CDB data of 1916 (map no. 10), which designated the property as Rental no. 13, noted that the occupier was Michael Sullivan (Michael) with full tenancy (former home). Michael Sullivan moved to

Building 28 circa 1916. In *An Blascaod Mór* (Pádraig Tyers, Dún Chaoin 1991), map no 14, the occupier is Mhicil O Súilleabháin. In a photograph of circa 1930 only low walls were visible (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 55).

Paul Arnold Architects Description

The January 2003 report identified the original dimensions as 6.4m in length 4.9m in breadth and 2m in height. It also identified the Condition Grade of this structure as Grade E and the Structural Configuration as Type 5 (Ruined). Only the south wall, which was embedded into the ground, partially survived. One niche was evident and only the footing of the north gable remained. The walls were in ruin with only the footing remaining, which revealed the footprint of the building.

The 2009 Preliminary report identified that the structure was being subsumed in the ground and had lost stone from the top of the surviving wall.

Survey Drawings

No laser scan survey was carried out on this site.

Aegis H8

GB 10e

KCC No number assigned

OPW 14

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: 14



Plate 8. Aegis house 8/GB 10e

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This structure was surveyed in September 1991 and was identified as an outhouse in very poor condition; only a portion of one of the sidewalls remained. The earliest map reference is the 1916 CDB map (map no. 7) which was the only documentary evidence of an occupier, a Patrick James Guiheen. Building 14 was depicted within the allotment rented by Patrick James Guiheen which also contained buildings 15 and 16 (see below). In a photograph of circa 1930 only low walls were visible (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 55).

Paul Arnold Architects Description

The January 2003 report identified the Condition Grade of this structure as Grade F and the Structural Configuration as Type 5 (Ruined). Only the south wall, which was embedded into the ground, partially survived. There was no remaining evidence of the north gable. Only the

footing of the east elevation remained, which revealed the footprint of the building. The west elevation was totally destroyed.

The 2009 Preliminary report identified that the structure was in danger of being subsumed in the ground and had lost stone from the top of the surviving wall.

Survey Drawings

No laser scan survey was carried out on this site.

Aegis H9

GB 12

KCC 13

OPW 15

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: 15



Plate 9. Aegis house 9/GB 12

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This building was surveyed with Building 16, both of which were identified as houses with Building 15 the earlier of the two. No date was given as to when the survey was conducted. The buildings were in poor condition with the upper portions of the gables and parts of the front wall in a state of partial collapse and with the cross wall badly collapsed. No visible evidence of a sleeping loft was noted. The earliest map reference is the 1842 OS map. The Valuation Office data of 1850 (map no 1L) records the structure as Grade 3c with dimensions of 16.6' in length, 14' in breadth and 5' in height. This data also records the tenant in 1850 as James Guiheen, between 1859 and 1864 as Mary Guiheen, between 1870 and 1882 as John Guiheen (Mary), in 1885 as James Guiheen and in 1892 as Patrick Guiheen.

The 1901 census lists the occupier as Patrick Guiheen with the building a Grade 3 with one room and one window. By the 1911 census the building had been extended and consisted of

two rooms and two windows. The CDB data of 1916 (map no. 7), which designated the property as Rental no. 18, noted that the occupier as Patrick James Guiheen with full tenancy. The CDB map also placed Building 14 (see above) within the rented allotment of Patrick James Guiheen. In *An Blascaod Mór* (Pádraig Tyers, Dún Chaoin 1991), map no 18, the occupier is Peats Shéamuis O Guithín. Buildings 15 and 16 also appeared in several photographs of the 1930s. One, *circa* 1930, show only the gables and adjoining field walls (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 55) with a second of *circa* 1930 showing only Building 15 (Mac Conghail 1987, 91). The third photograph showed both Buildings 15 and 16, both of which were roofed.

Paul Arnold Architects Description

The January 2003 report identified the original dimensions as 5.1m in length, 4.3m in breadth and 1.5m inn height. It also identified the Condition Grade of this structure as Grade D and the Structural Configuration as Type 4 (Opes visible). The portion of the south wall that was embedded into the hill side still remained. There was no evidence of a hearth but five large niches were present. The north gable, which had partially collapsed, abutted the south gable of H16. It was suggested to remove the rubble from the fallen gable. The tops of the walls had collapsed and needed consolidation. A door ope was in the east elevation but the lintel was missing. There was evidence of a window opening in the west elevation, although the wall had collapsed so much the lintel was missing and there was no evidence of a sill. The roof was missing. The high priority work identified concerned the stone from the collapsed gable. It was suggested that it should be cleared and if possible reinstated.

The 2009 Preliminary report identified that the stones on the right hand side of Building 15/16 were loose and the downhill gable was detaching itself from the side walls.

Local Area Plan

Rated as regionally important. Maintenance and restoration suggestions are (a) stonewalls should be stabilised and restored following best conservation practise (b) no material changes should be done to structure and the curtilage except for restoration works. (c) restoration works shall be subject to planning permission. Ruin may be open to the public if this does not impinge on the preservation and appreciation of the structure and the setting.

Survey Drawings (*see appendix for A3 elevations and plans*)

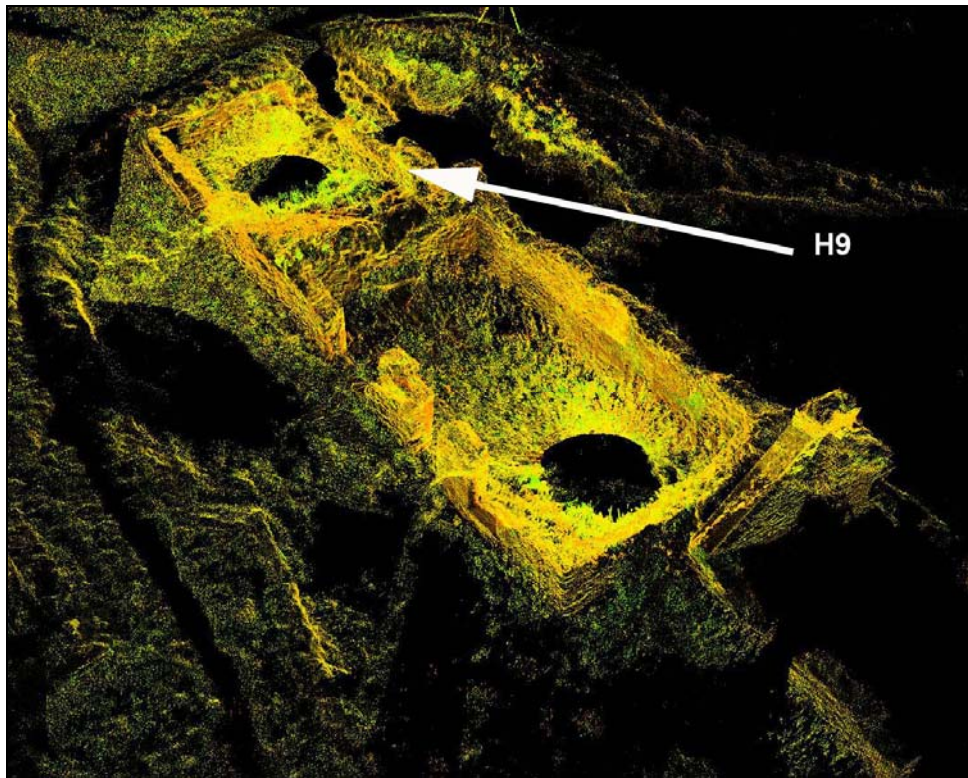


Figure 21. 3D laser scan of H9/GB 12, after Gridpoint Solutions



Figure 22. Elevation and ground plan of H9 and H10/GB 12 & 13, after Gridpoint Solutions, for indication only, see appendix for scaled drawing

Aegis H10

GB 13 (see above)

KCC 13 (see above)

OPW 16

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: *No Description*



Plate 10. Aegis house 10/GB 13

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

See above, as this survey described this structure with H9.

Paul Arnold Architects Description

This building was not surveyed in 2002 and as such did not appear in the 2003 report. It appears to have been assessed in conjunction with Building 15, as the 2009 Preliminary report commented on the condition of Building 15/16. They share the same KCC and GB No. 13.

Local Area Plan

Rated as regionally important. Maintenance and restoration suggestions are (a) stonewalls should be stabilised and restored following best conservation practise (b) no material changes should be done to structure and the curtilage except for restoration works. (c)

restoration works shall be subject to planning permission. Ruin may be open to the public if this does not impinge on the preservation and appreciation of the structure and the setting.

Survey Drawings (*see appendix for A3 elevations and plans*)

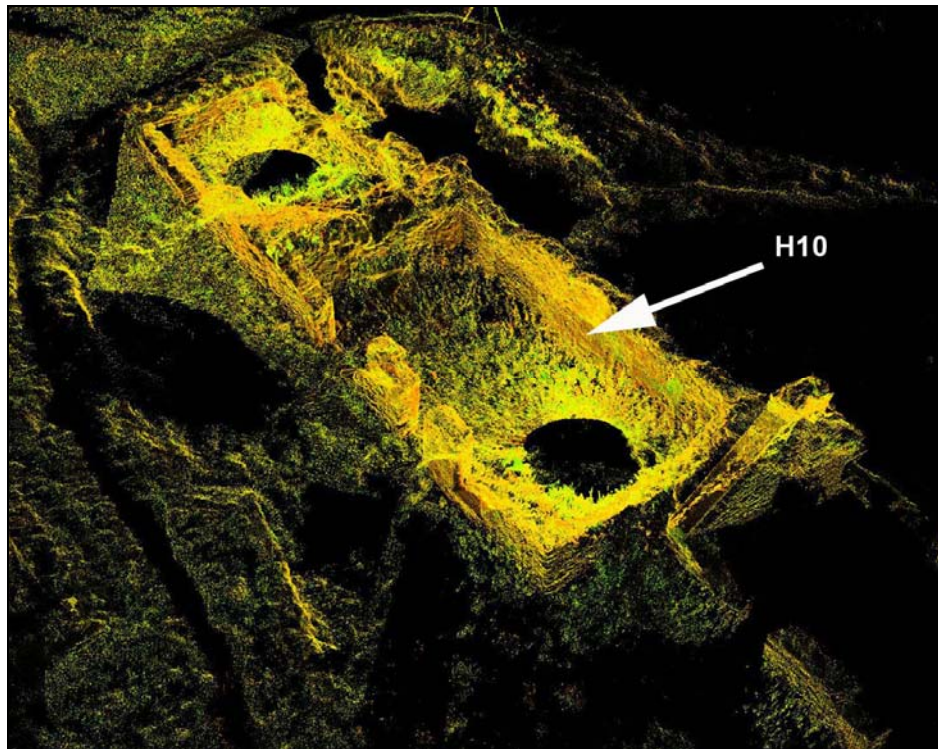


Figure 23. 3D laser scan of H10/GB 13, after Gridpoint Solutions

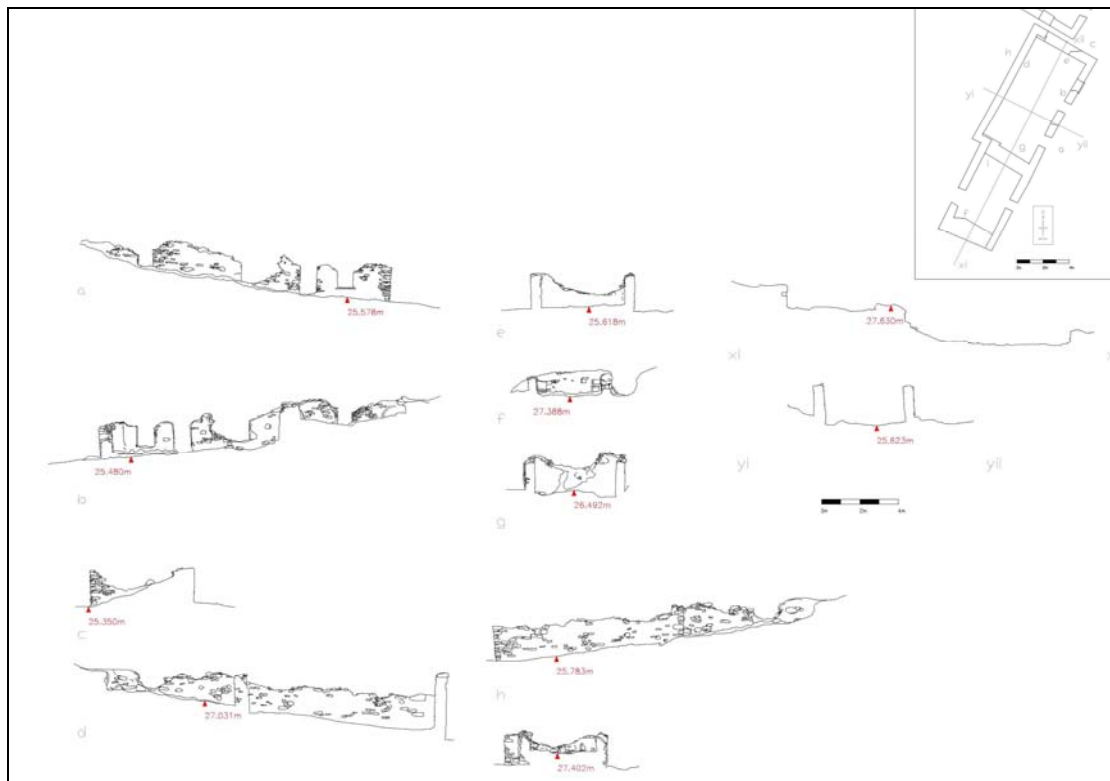


Figure 24. Elevation and ground plan of H9 and H10/GB 12 & 13, after Gridpoint Solutions, for indication only, see appendix for scaled drawing

Aegis H11

GB 22

KCC 22

OPW 39a

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: 39a



Plate 11. Aegis house 11/GB 22

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This structure was surveyed in September 1991 and was identified as a house in poor condition (though no details of the condition were given). There was clear evidence of a sleeping loft and one rear window. The hearth was an intricate affair with part of the chimney breast surviving. A door leading from this structure to 39B was knocked into the front wall but had been subsequently blocked up. The earliest map reference is the 1895 OS map. The Valuation Office data, from 1863 to 1892 (map no 1d), records Patrick Kearney as the tenant in 1885 and Thomas Kearney as the tenant in 1892. Only the map information is given for 1863-1882 though it is assumed that Thomas Kearney moved to Building 39a from Building 38 by the time of the 1863-63 valuation when the adjoining Catholic schoolhouse (Building 39) was built.

The census data of 1901 lists Thomas Kearney as the occupier with the building a Grade 3 with two rooms, two windows and with two associated cow houses and a potato house. By the 1911 census the building is a Grade 2 with two rooms, three windows and with an associated cow house and potato house; Thomas Kearney is also listed as the occupier. The CDB data of 1916 (map 18), which designated the property as Rental no. 6, noted the occupier as Thomas Patrick Kearney. Thomas Kearney moved to Building 63 after 1911, which had been built by the time of the CDB. In *An Blascaod Mór* (Pádraig Tyers, Dún Chaoin 1991), map no. 19, the occupier is Séan Tom O Cearnaigh. An illustration from the 1910s shows both Buildings 39 and 39a with a small out-building positioned in front of and at right angles to the terrace (Flower 1944, 133). Several photographs from the 1930s show the building roofed (Mac Conghail 1987, 84 and 91; Stagles and Stagles 1998, 55; O’Crohan 1929, 80.). A photograph from the 1970s shows the eaves in good detail (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 136).

Paul Arnold Architects Description

The January 2003 report identified the Condition Grade of this structure as Grade B and the Structural Configuration as Type 3 (Tops of walls collapsed, lintels to be replaced). The south gable abutted the north gable of H39. The hearth contained at least three niches and possibly more. One of the niches appeared to have been blocked up with other collapse to form one. This was regarded as an intricate piece of work. Half the chimney breast was still intact but the upper portion and stack had collapsed. The barge stone was missing. The north gable was in very good condition with almost all its render and its barge stone present. It also possessed a large gable window with a stone sill and lintel. The recess to except the sleeping loft was still visible. Both walls survived up to eave height. There was evidence of a sleeping loft by the joist holes in the side walls as well as evidence that thin timber partitions were used to divide the house into two sections (this was from slots in the wall). The window in the west wall was intact, but the timber window was missing. The holes in the wall that accepted the timber rafters could be clearly seen. There may have been a small hearth loft as seen by the joist hole in the west elevation. A strange recess was present within the southern side of the east wall which may have been another niche or a blocked window. In the east wall there was a door ope and two windows either side with its lintels missing. On the southern side of the east wall there was a blocked up door that once opened into a side room. The window in west wall possessed a stone lintel while the other window lintels were missing. The three windows all possessed stone sills but their timber window

boards were missing. The roof was missing; the rafter size and centres could be calculated from the pockets present in the south wall.

Local Area Plan

Rated as regionally important. Maintenance and restoration suggestions are (a) stonewalls should be stabilised and restored following best conservation practise (b) no material changes should be done to structure and the curtilage except for restoration works. (c) restoration works shall be subject to planning permission. Ruin may be open to the public if this does not impinge on the preservation and appreciation of the structure and the setting.

Survey Drawings (*see appendix for A3 elevations and plans*)

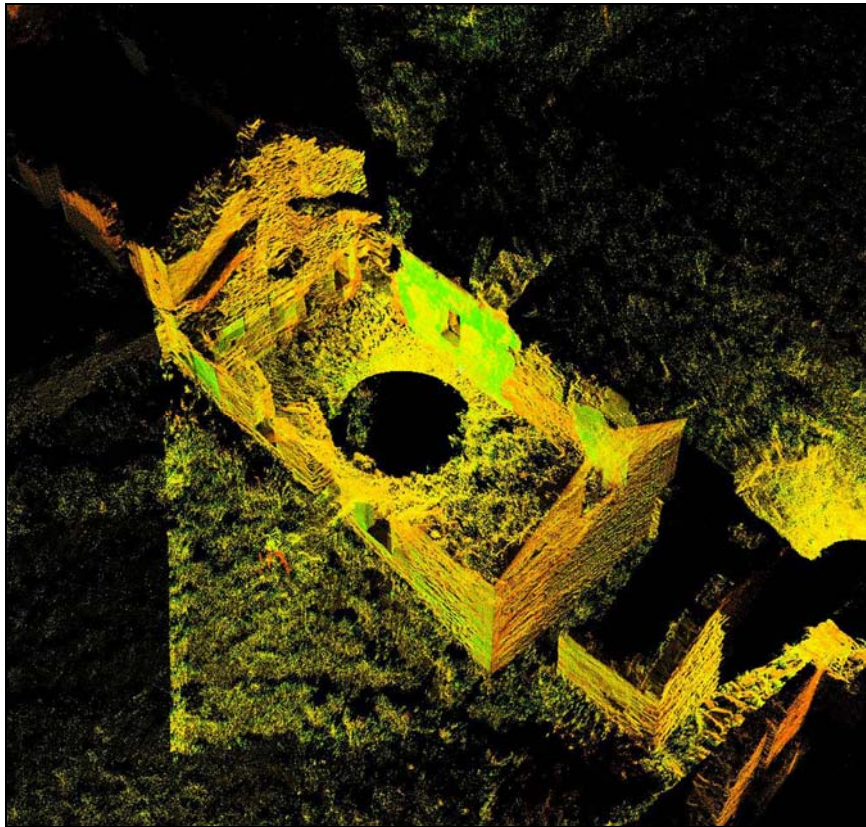


Figure 25. 3D laser scan of H11/GB 22, after Gridpoint Solutions

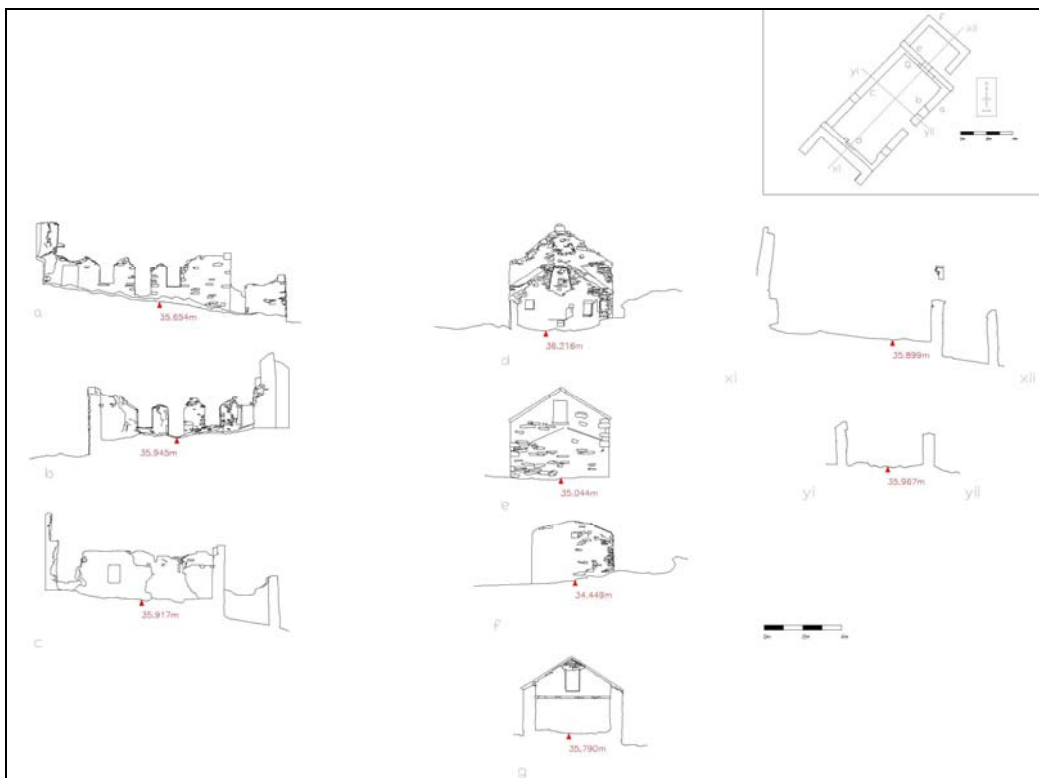


Figure 26. Elevations and ground plan of H11/GB 22, after Gridpoint Solutions, for indication only, see appendix for scaled drawing

Aegis H12 (The Dáil)

GB 28

KCC 28

Protected Structure Ref. 21305103

OPW 50

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.:50 & 50a



Plate 12. Aegis house 12/GB 28

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This structure was surveyed in September 1991 and was identified as a house in good condition though the extension had been destroyed. It was unroofed, with a crack visible in the upper north gable and the hearth destroyed. It consists of three rooms, one of which post-dated the 1911 census, with evidence of both a sleeping and hearth loft. A wooden lintel was seen above an internal doorway as was an *in situ* boulder employed in the construction of the north gable. An internal wall in the 'lower' room of the house was seen as modern and possibly used for the corralling of sheep. A garden was also noted in the front (at the east) of the house. The earliest map reference was the 1842 OS map. The Valuation Office data of 1850 (map no. 1a) records the structure as Grade 3c with dimensions of 28' in length, 15' in breadth and 5.6" in height and also includes a description of an 'office'. This was recorded as Grade 3c and measuring 10' in length, 13' in breath and 4.6" in height. The

recorded dimensions of the house, as opposed to the office, were smaller than the surveyed measurements indicating the house had been rebuilt and enlarged after 1850. This data also records the tenant from 1850 to 1882 as Patrick Kearney Senior and in 1902 as Thomas Kearney. The 1901 census lists the occupier as Thomas Kearney with the building a Grade 3 with two rooms and two windows. An associated cow house, which was not visible during the 1991 survey, is also recorded in the 1901 census, but not in the 1911 census. The 1911 census records the building the same however the occupier is Thomas P. Kearney.

The CDB data of 1916 (map no. 24), which designated the property as Rental no. 16, noted that the occupier as Thomas Kearney (Pouncaun) with full tenancy. In *An Blascaod Mór* (Pádraig Tyers, Dún Chaoin 1991), map no 31, the occupier is Tomás O Cearnaigh (An Puncán), i.e. An Dáil. Building 50 appears in several photographs of the 1920's and the 1930's. In two photographs of 1924 (Thomson 1988, 97; Stagles 1990, 39) the building can be seen in detail with the photograph appearing in Thomson (1988) showing the extension. A good frontal view of the building, which was in good condition, was taken in the late 1920's (Mac Conghail 1987, 78). It is just visible in an early 1930's photograph (Mac Conghail 1987, 84) which shows it to be still roofed. In two photographs of the 1930's (O'Crohan 1929, 144; Stagles and Stagles 1998, 83) the building is shown in good condition.

Paul Arnold Architects Description

The January 2003 report identified the original dimensions as 8.5m in length, 4.5m in breadth and 2.2m in height. It also identified the Condition Grade of this structure as Grade B and the Structural Configuration as Type 2 (Lintels present). The south gable of H50 was in fairly good condition, though it had lost part of its concrete barge stone, with only the portion to the west remaining. The chimney breast and stack had collapsed and the rubble burying the hearth. It was recommended that the rubble be removed to expose the intact hearth. There were no niches present although the gable possessed a doorway to H50a which was in very good condition and possessed a timber lintel. The north gable was in good condition but it was recommended to be stitched to its side walls as it was beginning to tilt. The north gable also possessed its concrete barge stones and a medium gable window, which had an intact wooden frame and stone lintel and sill. The south gable of H50a was almost completely embedded in the hillside and remained in good condition although a small amount of collapse could be seen in the upper sections. It was recommended that the top of the gable walls be consolidated. The side walls were in good condition and it was

recommended that the tops be consolidated to protect them in state. A doorway, which still possessed a stone lintel, was present in the east wall with windows either side. Render was evident although more was present on the interior west wall (which was the most sheltered). There was evidence of both a sleeping and hearth loft and for thin timber partitions used to divide the house into two sections. Including the extension this structure consisted of three rooms. The west wall of H50a was still at its original eave level but the east wall had suffered some collapse. It appeared that it once held a window opening, due to the presence of a window jamb and base, but it had been destroyed. Rubble from this collapse was recommended to be removed and reconstituted where possible. The windows in the east wall remained in good condition, and may have been the some of the better examples on the island. The window at the northern side was almost completely intact with an exterior stone lintel and a thin internal wooden one (this had rotted away leaving the outline in the wall). The window on the southern side of the east wall possessed its exterior lintel but the interior was missing. The window in H50a had collapsed and the lintel was missing. All the stone sills of the windows of H50 remained but they were missing in H50a. It was suggested that these could be replaced but the jamb would have to be built up, possibly with rubble from the house. The roof was missing. The internal cross wall at the northern end of H50 was identified as a modern wall used, possibly to pen sheep. It was recommended to investigate this activity to ascertain whether it was damaging or likely to damage the structure. It was also recommended that the timber lintel of the internal doorway (between H50 and H50a) be treated with preservatives. The 1850 measurements did not match the dimensions of the extant remains, suggesting that the house was demolished and rebuilt after 1850. A garden was located to the east (front) of the house.

Local Area Plan

Rated as nationally important. The Local area Plan states that the structure is recommended for inclusion to the Record of Protected Structures by the Minister of Environment and Local Government. Maintenance and restoration suggestions are (a) stonewalls should be stabilised and restored following best conservation practise (b) no material changes should be done to structure and the curtilage except for restoration works. (c) restoration works shall be subject to planning permission. Ruin may be open to the public if this does not impinge on the preservation and appreciation of the structure and the setting.

NIAH

The National Inventory of architectural Heritage describes this structure as the remains of detached three-bay single-storey house with dormer attic, built c. 1895, now ruinous. Roof originally pitched, now gone. Random rubble stone walls with traces of original lime render and projecting stone eaves course. Square-headed openings with stone sills and lintels. Square-headed window opening to attic to north gable with traces of fittings. Remains of plaster to internal walls of ground floor rooms. Overgrown site without landscaping.

Survey Drawings (*see appendix for A3 elevations and plans*)

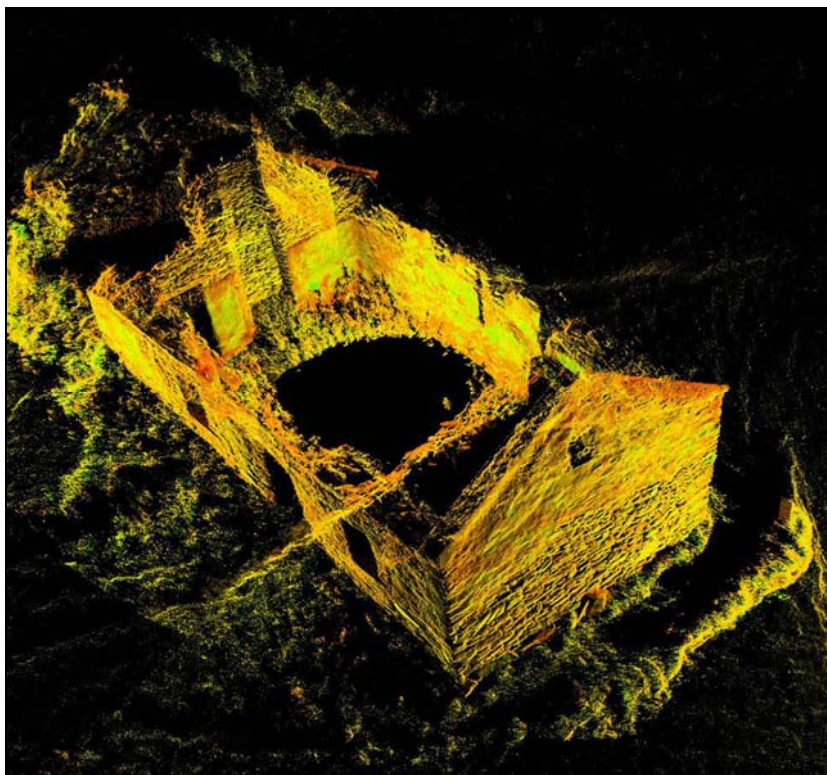


Figure 27. 3D laser scan of H12/GB 28, after Gridpoint Solutions

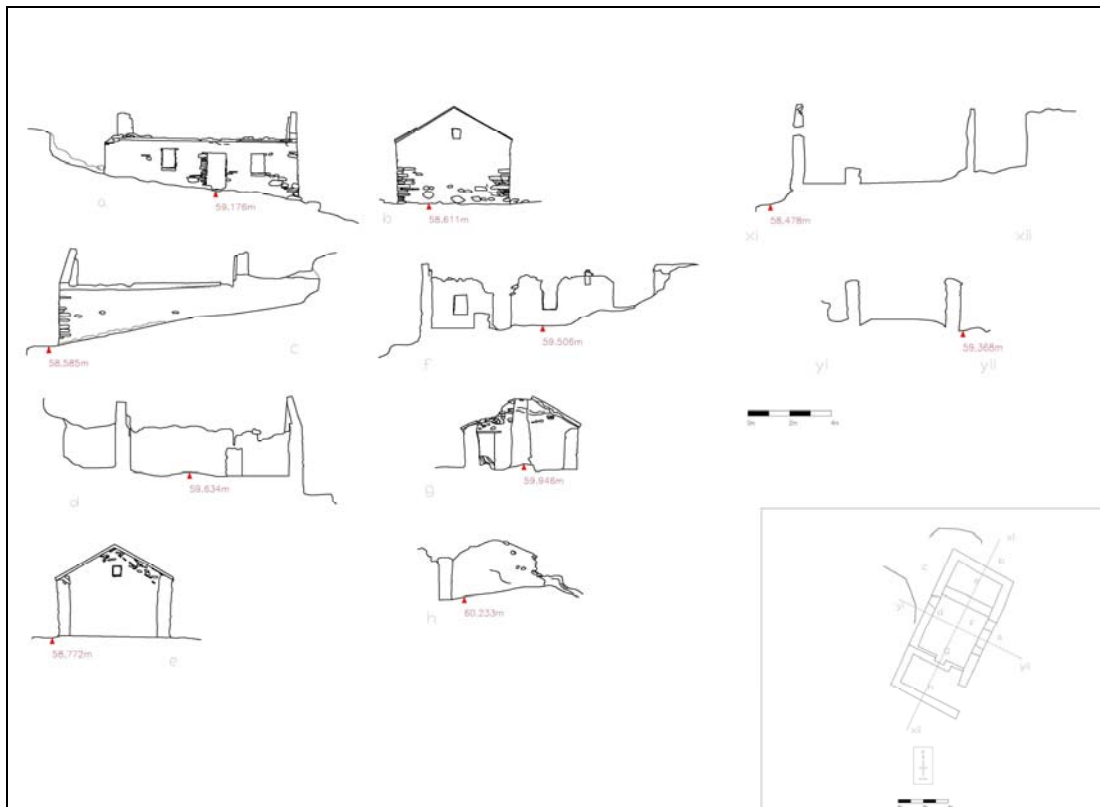


Figure 28. Elevations and ground plan of H12/GB 28, after Gridpoint Solutions, for indication only, see appendix for scaled drawing

Aegis H13

GB 26

KCC 26

OPW 45

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: 45



Plate 13. Aegis house 13/GB 26

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This structure was surveyed in September 1991 and was identified as a cow house in fair condition; the gables were intact and part of the front wall was destroyed. A blocked up door way was visible in the east gable and a short stretch of wall, that faced the northern sidewall, appeared to be modern, coinciding with the partially destroyed sidewall. The earliest map reference is the 1916 CDB map. It is only in *An Blascaod Mór* (Pádraig Tyers, Dún Chaoin 1991), map no 21, that any information is noted. Here the occupier is given as seomra bó Mhaidhc Uí Ghuithin. Building 13 appeared in several photographs of the 1930's (Mac Conghail 1991, 84 and 92; Stagles and Stagles 1998, 83). Where it can be clearly seen it appears without a roof in a photograph dated to the 1930s (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 83) and with a roof in a photograph dated to the late 1930s (Mac Conghail 1991, 92).

Paul Arnold Architects Description

The January 2003 report identified the Condition Grade of this structure as Grade C and the Structural Configuration as Type 2 (Lintels present). The west elevation was largely intact, with a small gable window. The barge stone was missing from the west gable and it was recommended that the wall tops be consolidated. The east gable had partially collapsed, and also contains a blocked doorway. No traces of render were identified. The side walls survived up to eave height. The south wall was totally embedded in the embankment, while a new opening appeared to have been made, quite crudely, in the north wall. The roof was missing. This is possibly a cow house for one of the nearby dwellings.

The 2009 Preliminary report identified that there had been some loss of masonry from the downhill wall.

Local Area Plan

Rated as regionally important. (a) Exterior should be maintained and restored following best conservation practice (b) no material changes should be done to exterior e.g. insertion of openings, *velux* windows and extensions of any scale (c) interior may be restored and upgraded following best conservation practice, respecting existing layout and features. (d) restoration works shall be subject to planning permission. Building may serve as holiday home, museum or information office

Survey Drawings (*see appendix for A3 elevations and plans*)

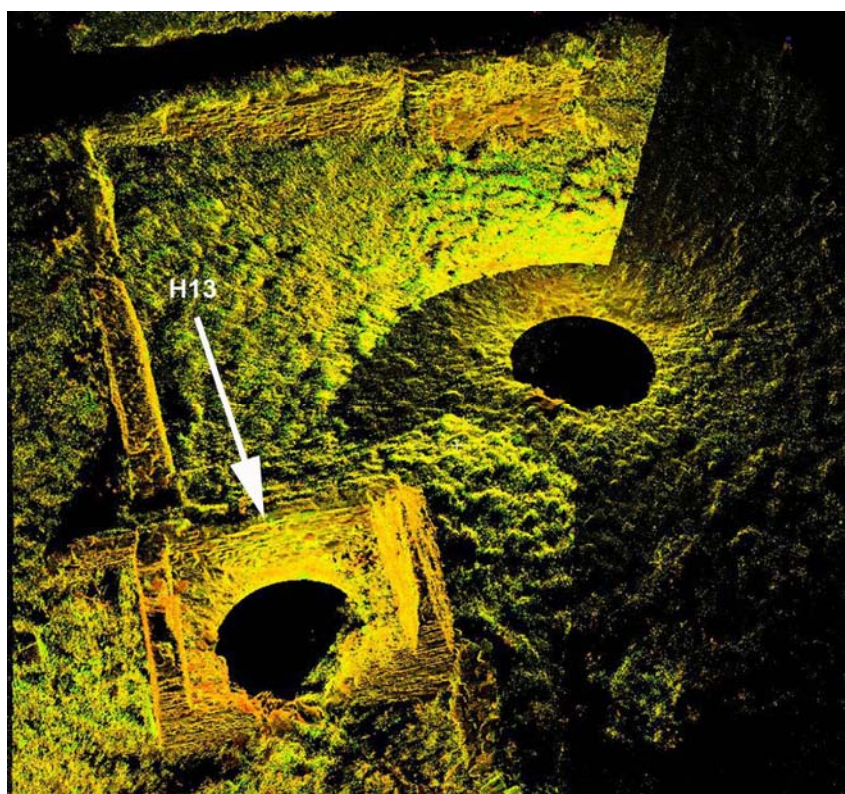


Figure 29. 3D laser scan of H13/GB 26, after Gridpoint Solutions

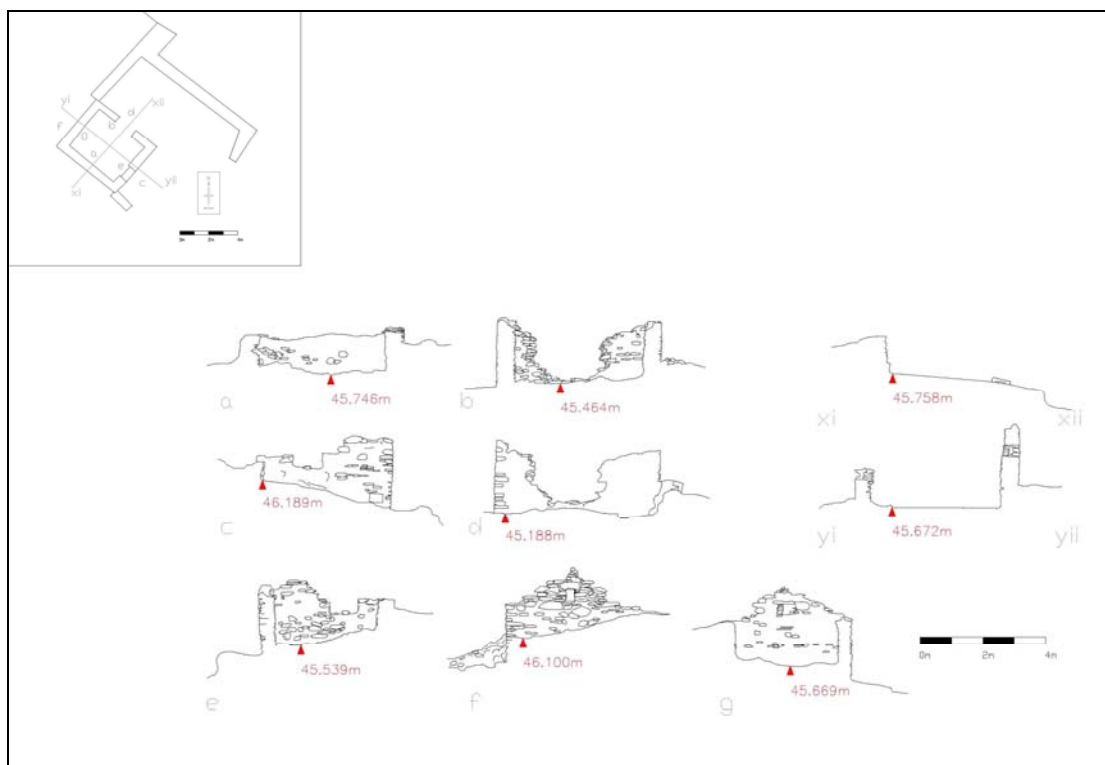


Figure 30. Ground plan of H13/GB 26, after Gridpoint Solutions, for indication only, see appendix for scaled drawing

Aegis H14

GB 25a

KCC No number assigned

OPW 64

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: *No number or description*



Plate 14. Aegis house 14/GB 25a

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This structure was surveyed in September 1991 and was identified as a house in very poor condition with only the hearth wall surviving to the level of the eaves. The earliest map reference is the 1842 OS map. The valuation Office data of 1850 (map 1c) records the structure as Grade 3c with dimensions of 21' in length 15.6' in breadth and 6' in height, which were only slightly different from the surveyed measurements of 1991. This data also records the tenant between 1850 and 1882 as Michael Kearney and in 1885 as John Kearney. The original house was abandoned sometime between 1885 and 1895 as it did not appear on the 1895 OS map.

Possibly as a consequence of the connections between the Kearneys and Guiheens (possibly by marriage as Building 38 appears to have been ceded to Patrick Guiheen in 1863) Ellen Guiheen and her family are likely to have re-occupied Building 64 at a time between 1895

and 1916 when the CDB helped in redrawing the map of the village. It was uncertain from the census data at what time the Guiheen family moved into Building 64 but it is assumed it took place prior to 1901 when the census records the occupier as Ellen Guiheen. The building was recorded in both the 1901 and 1911 census as Grade 3 with two rooms and two windows. In the 1911 census John Guiheen is listed as the occupier. The CDB data of 1916 (map no 27), which designated the property as Rental no. 4, noted that the occupier was John Guiheen with full tenancy. In *An Blascaod Mór* (Pádraig Tyers, Dún Chaoin 1991), map no 24, the occupier is Seán O Guithín ("Tim"). Building 64 also appeared in good condition in two photographs of the late 1920's and 1930's (Mac Conghail 1991, 92; Stagles and Stagles 1998, 83).

Survey Drawings (*see appendix for A3 elevations and plans*)

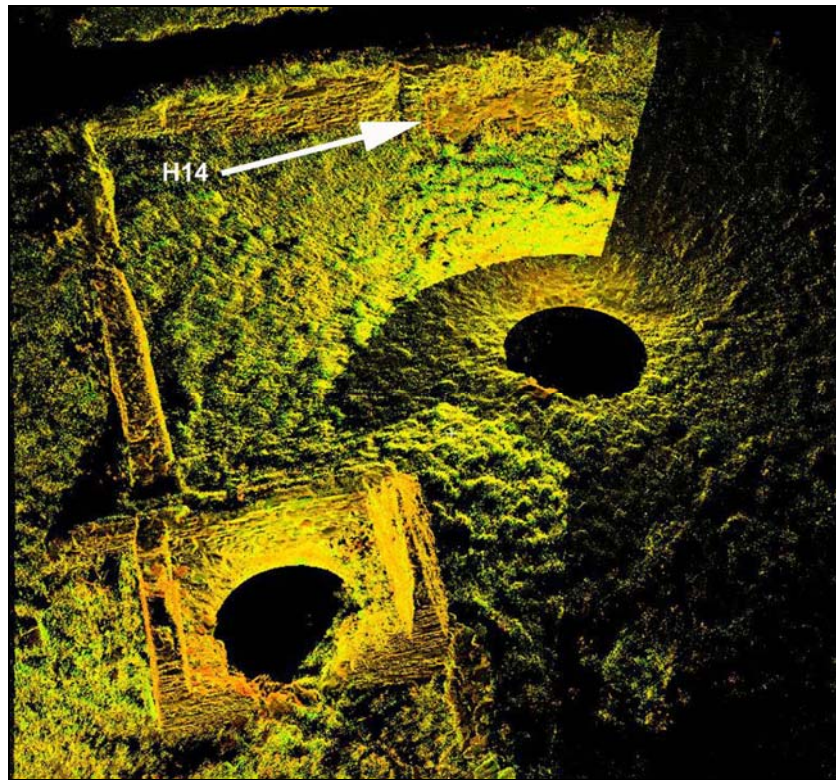


Figure 31. 3D laser scan of H14/GB 25a, after Gridpoint Solutions

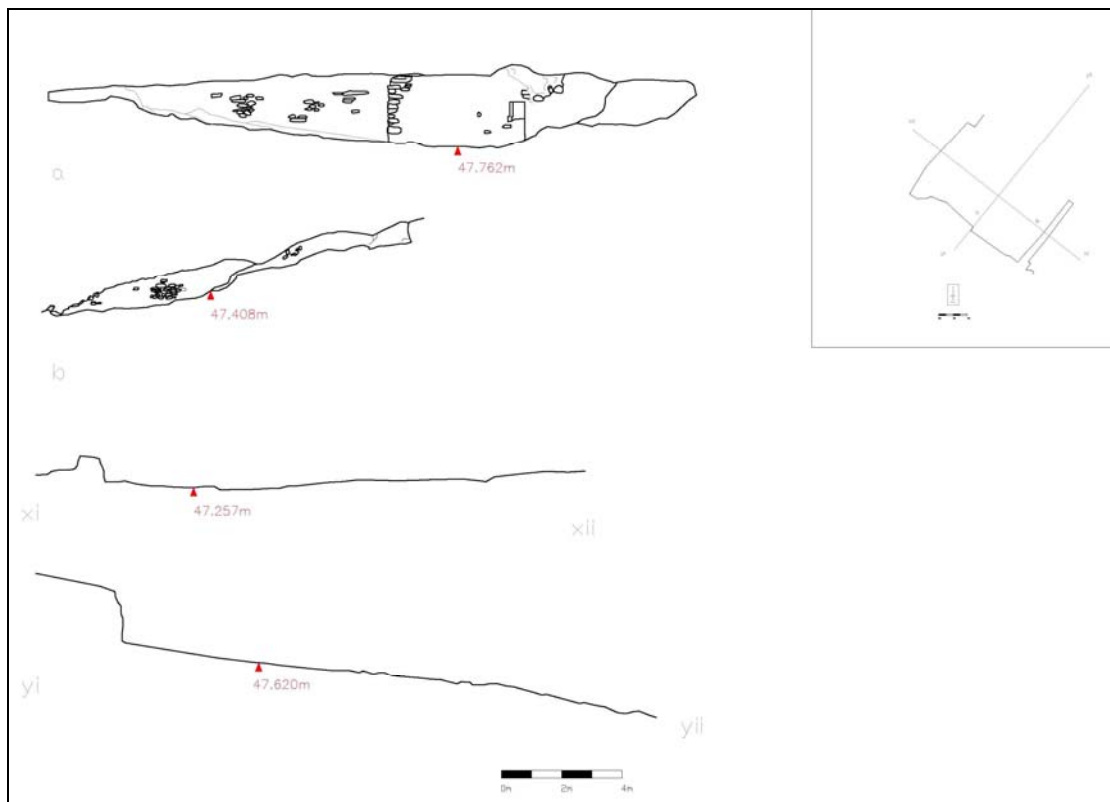


Figure 32. Ground plan of H14/GB 25a, after Gridpoint Solutions

Aegis H15

GB 20

KCC 25

OPW 25

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: 25

RMP KE051-012---



Plate 15. Aegis house 15/GB 20

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This structure was surveyed in September 1991 and was identified as a house in fair to good condition with the gables substantially intact though the internal door lintel was regarded as unsafe. A sleeping loft and presumably a hearth loft were present. The gable window of the sleeping loft was obscured by the roof of the outhouse (this window was presumably then blocked) indicating the construction of the outhouse to post-date the disuse of the loft for sleeping. This building overlay earlier Buildings 25a and 25b which appeared on the 1842 map as the western of two parallel terraces. O Criomhthain stated that the house, built in 1893, was the first Island house to be built from start with a felt roof (O Criomhthain 1929, 207-208 and 214).

The earliest map reference is the 1895 OS map. The 1901 census lists the occupier as Thomas Crohan, who moved from Building 20, with the building a Grade 3 with two rooms

and two windows. The building was extended to the south sometime between 1901 and 1911. It was recorded in the 1911 census as a Grade 3 with two room and three windows and occupied by Thomas Crohan. The 1911 census also records a cow house, a foul house and a shed (Building 24 which was originally the house of Patrick Thomas Kearney who moved to Building 20 probably at about the time Thomas Crohan moved to Building 25) belonging to this household. The CDB data of 1916 (map no. 16, which designated the property as Rental no. 17, noted that the occupier as Thomas Crohan with full tenancy. In *An Blascaod Mór* (Pádraig Tyers, Dún Chaoin 1991), map no 16, the occupier is Tomás O Criomhthain. Several photographs from 1924 (Mac Conghail 1991, 96-97; O’Crohan 1929, 24; Thomson 1988, 89) show Building 25 in good detail and one also showed part of the interior (Mac Conghail 1991, 119).

Building 25 is also shown in two photographs from the 1930s (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 55 and 75) with a third showing the doorway in detail (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 111). A photograph from the 1960s or 70s also shows Building 25 (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 65).

Paul Arnold Architects Description

The January 2003 report identified the Condition Grade of this structure as Grade C and the Structural Configuration as Type 4 (Opes visible). The concrete barge stone was present on the north gable, which also contained a gable window and evidence of a sleeping loft. It was recommended that the north gable be stitched to the side walls. The south gable contained a doorway to H25a, the lintel of which was broken and in danger of collapse. The concrete fireplace was intact and contained two niches. The chimney breast had collapsed, exposing the flue, but the stack remained. Only a small portion of the concrete barge stone of the south gable survived. A large niche was also present in the south gable and showed the existence of a hearth loft. Render was visible on both gables. The uppermost portion of the east and west elevations had collapsed. A door ope, with a stone lintel, was present in the east wall. The window in the north side of the east wall had been blocked up. The stone lintel was still present in the blocked window, but not in the other. Both window sills were missing. Render could still be seen on the west elevation but most had been washed away. Small patches of colour could be found. The roof was missing. The high priority work identified concerned the broken door lintel. This was very dangerous and needed to be replaced. This was the first island house to employ a felt roof from the start and Thomas Crohan was the owner.

The 2009 preliminary report identified a lintel and associated walling to have been lost from the left hand side of the chimney. The retaining wall at the south of the house required analysis as it was a full height structure.

Local Area Plan

The Local area Plan states that the structure is recommended for inclusion to the Record of Protected Structures by the Minister of Environment and Local Government. Rated as regionally important. Maintenance and restoration suggestions are (a) stonewalls should be stabilised and restored following best conservation practise (b) no material changes should be done to structure and the curtilage except for restoration works. (c) restoration works shall be subject to planning permission. Ruin may be open to the public if this does not impinge on the preservation and appreciation of the structure and the setting.

Survey Drawings (*see appendix for A3 elevations and plans*)



Figure 33. 3D laser scan of H15/GB 20, after Gridpoint Solutions

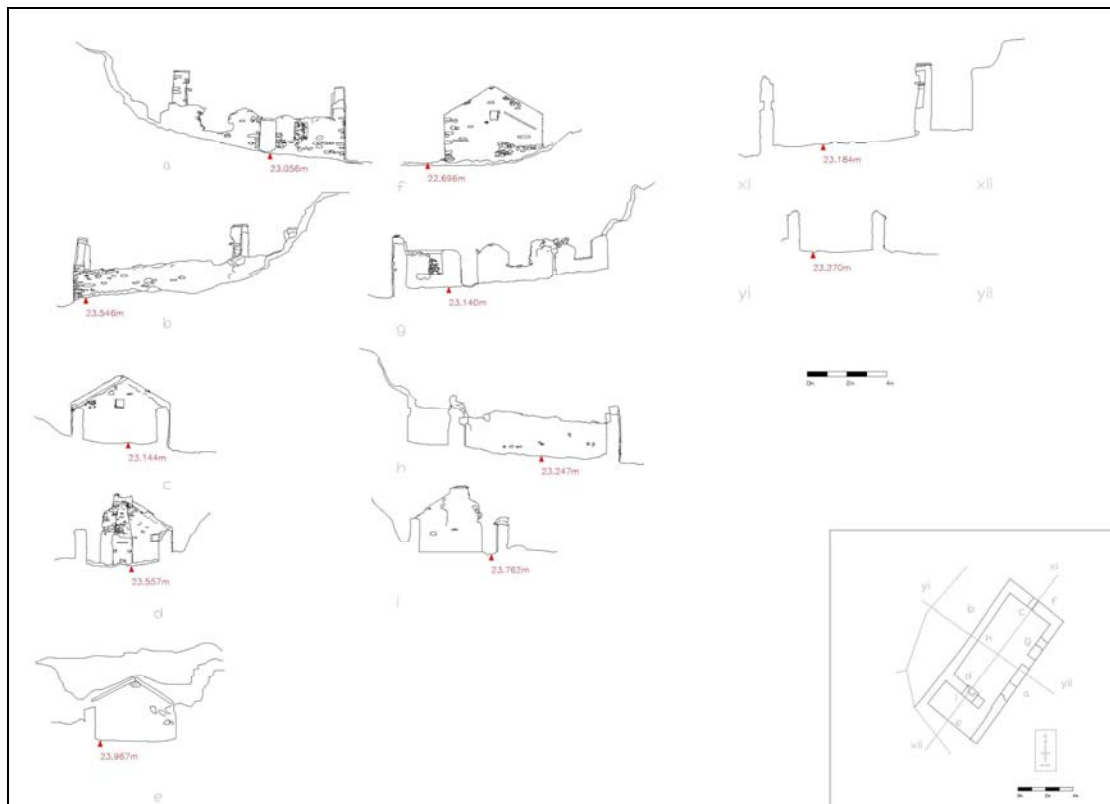


Figure 34. Ground plan of H15/GB 20, after Gridpoint Solutions, for indication only, see appendix for scaled drawing

Aegis H16

GB 10b

KCC No number assigned

OPW 10

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: *No number or description*

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This structure was surveyed in September 1991 and was identified as a house, although now completely destroyed, delineated only by a hollow in the ground. In 1850 the tenant was William O'Shea, and in the 1901 census the occupier was Jeremiah O'Shea, and Jeremiah and Mary O'Shea in 1911. It is likely that Jeremiah O'Shea occupied the site before moving to OPW site 6.

Aegis H17

GB 10c

KCC No number assigned

OPW 12

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: *No number or description*

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This structure was surveyed in September 1991 It was completely destroyed, delineated only by a hollow in the ground. It may represent the outhouse recorded in the 1850 Griffith Valuation, recorded as belonging to the household in OPW site 10.

Aegis H18

GB 22b

KCC No number assigned

OPW 38

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: *No number or description*

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This structure was surveyed in September 1991 and was identified as a house, although now in very poor condition with few remains. The earliest map reference is the 1842 OS map. The Valuation Office data, from 1850 to 1861 (map no 1d), records Thomas Kearney as the

tenant. In 1863-1864 the tenancy changes to Patrick Guiheen, and in 1885 it changes again to Ellen Guiheen. It is not mentioned in the 1901 census, nor is it mentioned in the 1911 census. The building is shown on the CDB map of 1916. An illustration by Ida Flower of the Upper village from the 1910s shows a building with an eastern face without openings (Flower 1944, 5) indicating that, by then, it served as an outhouse.

It appears that Thomas Kearney left site 38 by the time of the 1863-64 evaluation and moved to site 39a, Patrick Guiheen then taking possession of site 38. Patrick Guiheen later moved to site 64.

Aegis H19

GB 23a

KCC No number assigned

OPW 42

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: *No number or description*

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This structure was surveyed in September 1991. No trace of the structure was noted. The earliest map reference is the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1842). The Valuation Office data records the tenant as John Dunleavy senior, and in 1860-61 as vacant. The occupier in 1901 and 1911 is Michael Keane, and the Congested Districts Board data also notes the occupier as Michael Keane. Michael Keane moved to OPW 60 by 1916, leaving the site vacant. It would appear to have been abandoned earlier, by 1863-64 possibly used as an outhouse. The site was again being used as a dwelling sometime between 1895-1901. Both the 1901 and 1911 censuses record a cow house (OPW 43 below). This was once the home of the Island poet Seán O'Duinnshléibhe. Ida Flower's drawings from the early 1910s show conjoined beehive huts, the house and outhouse.

Aegis H20

GB 23b

KCC No number assigned

OPW 43

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: *No number or description*

MacCárthaigh & O'Reilly Description

This is the outhouse associated with OPW 43 (KCC 23a), as depicted in Ida Flower's drawings.

See description GB 23a above.

Aegis Building No.: *Rinn an Chaisleáin*

OPW Building No.: N/A

Paul Arnold Architects Building No.: N/A

RMP KE051-00201-

This is recorded in the Dingle Peninsula Archaeological Survey (Cuppage 1986, 375) as a small headland on the NE side of the island, and is reputedly the site of a castle. There are no known documentary references to a castle here, nor does it appear on any of the early maps. The castle is traditionally associated with Piaras Feiritéar, who sought refuge here around 1641, but was subsequently captured and executed. During the recent survey, a number of openings in the ground were identified here, where flat slabs have become displaced, revealing a two narrow stone built chambers. Their function is, as yet, unknown.



Plate 16. *Rinn an Chaisleáin*, from W

No skeletal material was noted in the openings. It is entirely possible that these represent portions of a souterrain.



Plate 17. *Rinn an Chaisleáin*, openings from S

3.4 Archaeological Investigations carried out as part of this Study

3.4.1 Background

Limited trial excavation was carried out on some of the structures on the Great Blasket Island. Five structures were chosen. The criteria used for selection were the remains of structures where portion of the ground plan was visible above the surface, usually visible as a grass-covered hump. Because of the unstable nature of the buildings which are the subject of this report, no trenches were excavated near upstanding, unstable walls. Because of this, houses H5, H6, H7, H8 and H14 (Mac Cárthaigh and O'Reilly numbers 9, 11, 13, 14 and 64) were chosen. Houses 10, 13, 42, 43 and 65 were also considered for test excavation. However, it was decided that these would require a larger programme of test excavation to ascertain their nature and extent, due to their extremely poor level of preservation. The archaeological investigations were carried out under excavation licence number 09E427. The licence holder was Frank Coyne.

3.4.2 Summary of previous archaeological investigations

Archaeological testing took place on the Great Blasket Island in 2004. The following report is reproduced from the Excavation Bulletin for that year and consulted on www.excavations.ie. No archaeological material was encountered in the course of the archaeological test trenching.

2004:0762

GREAT BLASKET ISLAND

No archaeological significance

SMR 51:13

04E0617

Testing took place in May and June 2004 at several locations in and around the west side of the village on the Great Blasket Island in advance of an application for planning permission to build a cafe and store, to build small extensions to three of the Congested District Board houses and to install septic tanks and percolation areas. Thirteen trenches in all were opened. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted in any of the trenches.

Five separate sets of two holes, generally 0.65m wide by 2-3m in length. The first three of these sets were close to where some of the original trenches had been dug earlier in the

summer, another was dug further east within the village and the final set was dug at the extreme eastern end of the village. Nothing of archaeological significance was found in any of the pits. **Isabel Bennett, Glen Fahan, Ventry, Tralee, Co. Kerry.**

3.4.3 Investigation Methodology

It is AEGIS' policy to use an amended form of the single context system, as based on the "Harris Matrix" and published originally by MoLAS. All trenches were excavated by hand. And all layers recorded. The cuttings were excavated to the top of the archaeological deposits. In this instance, the purpose of the trenches was to ascertain if structural features, such as floors or walls survive.

The following method of data gathering was employed on site:

- Photography Drawing
- Context Recording (sheets)
- Site Diary
- Sampling (as per agreed strategy)
- Levels
- Three-D recording of important artefacts (not used in this instance)

3.4.4 Context List, Matrices & Stratigraphic Sequence in Trenches Excavated (context descriptions)

House 5/GB 10a/KCC (no number assigned)/OPW 9

The grassed-over foundations are all that are visible.

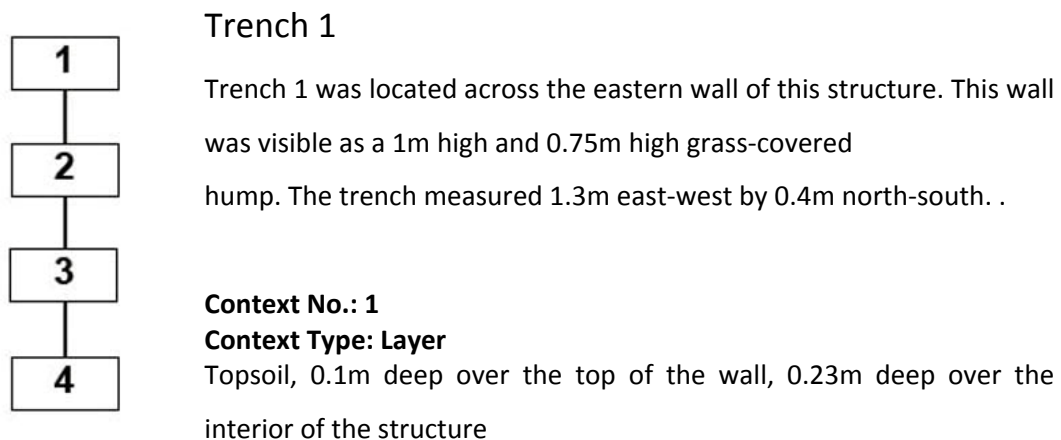


Figure 35. H6/GB 10a, Trench 1 matrix

Context No.: 2

Context Type: Deposit

An area of stone collapse 0.4m east-west and extending beyond the width of the trench.

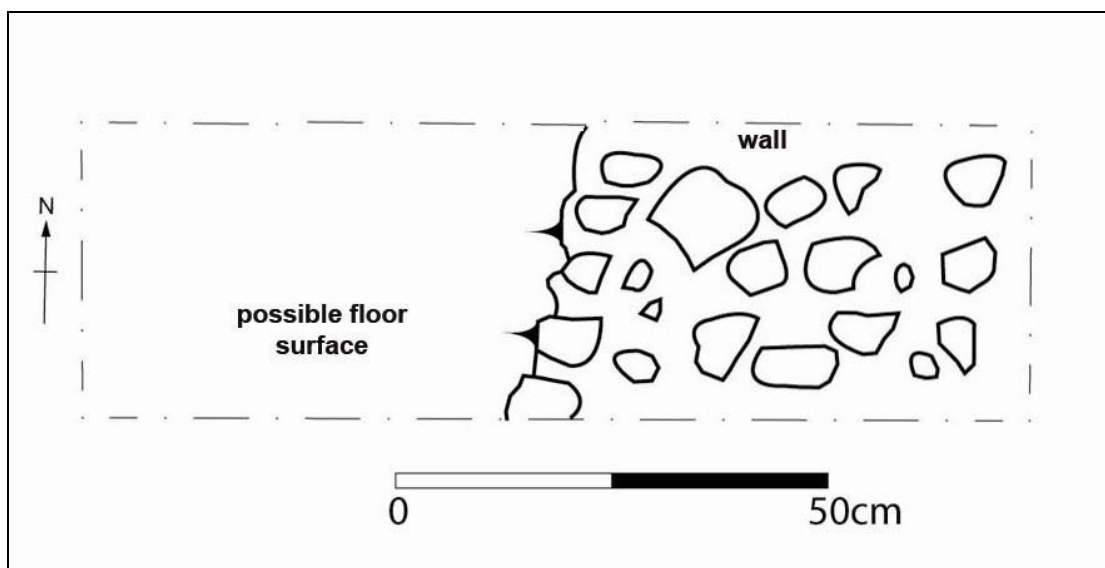


Figure 36. Plan of trench 1, H5/ GB10a

Context No.: 3

Context Type: Wall

This wall was 0.75m wide and extended beyond the width of the trench. It was constructed of loose rubble, with no facing stones visible. It was 0.7m high.



Context No.: 4

Context Type: Layer

This was a possible floor surface of sandy loam, at the interior (western) side of the wall.

Plate 18. H5/ GB 10a, trench 1, from W

House 6/GB 11/KCC 11/OPW 11

Only the western part of this structure is visible above ground.

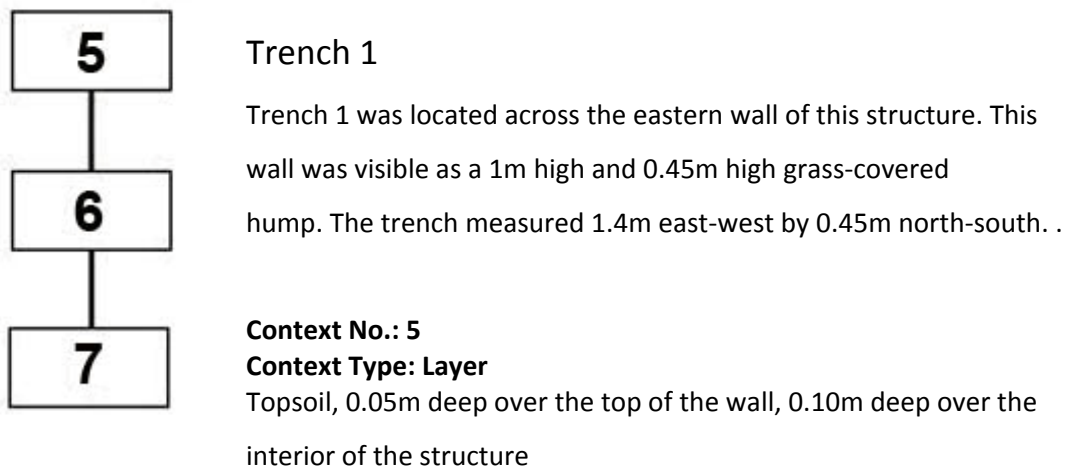


Figure 37. H6/GB11, Trench 1 matrix

Context No.: 6

Context Type: Deposit

An area of stone collapse 0.6m east-west and extending beyond the width of the trench.

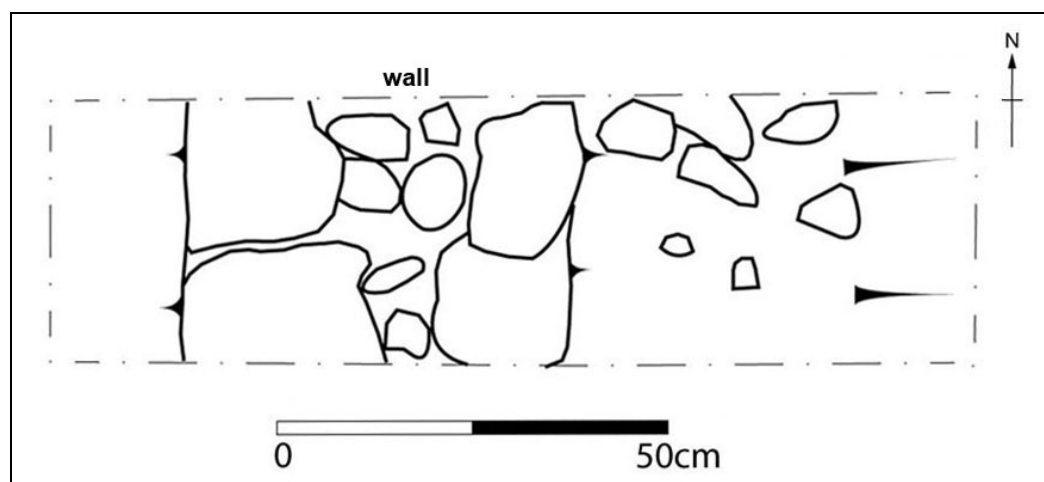


Figure 38. Plan of trench 1, H6/GB 11

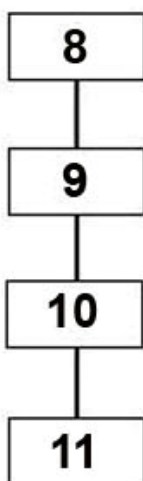
Context No.: 7

Context Type: Wall

This wall was 0.60m wide and extended beyond the width of the trench. It was constructed of facing stones and a rubble core. It was 0.3m high.



Plate 19. H6/GB 11, trench 1, from E



Trench 2

Trench 2 was located across the southern wall of this structure. This wall was visible as a 1m high and 0.45m high grass-covered hump. The trench measured 1.2m north-south by 0.40m east-west. .

Context No.: 8

Context Type: Layer

Topsoil, 0.05m deep over the top of the wall, 0.12m deep over the interior of the structure

Figure 39. H6/GB 11, Trench 2 matrix

Context No.: 9

Context Type: Deposit

An area of stone collapse 0.2m north-south and extending beyond the width of the trench.

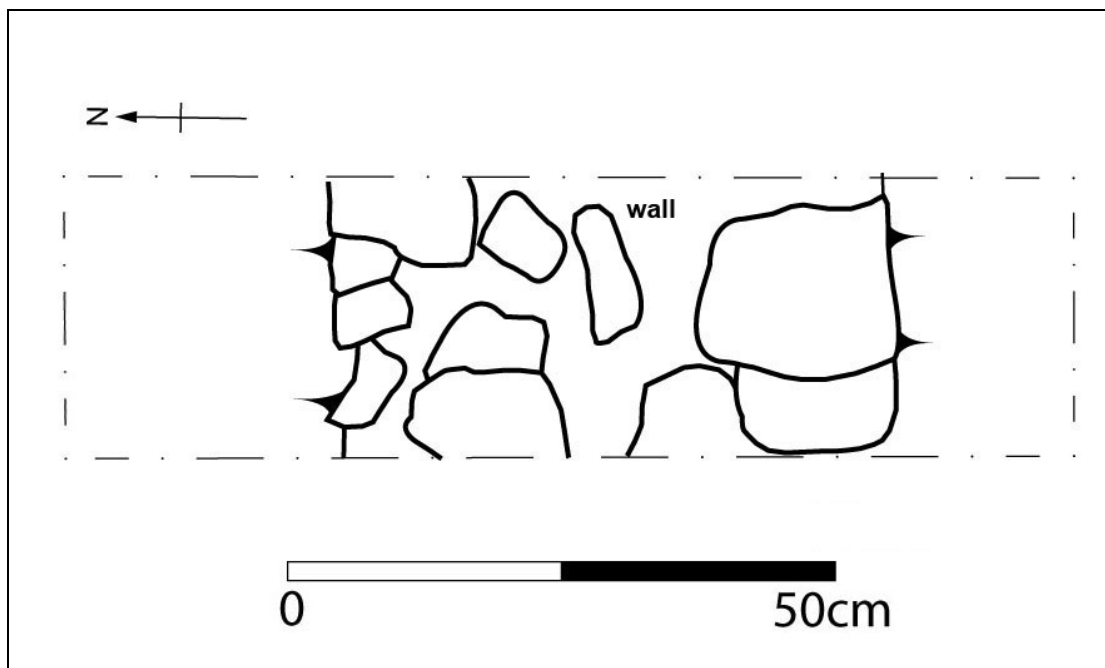


Figure 40. Plan of trench 2, H6/GB 11

Context No.: 10

Context Type: Wall

This wall was 0.52m wide and extended beyond the width of the trench. It was constructed of facing stones and a rubble core. It was 0.3m high.

Context No.: 11

Context Type: Floor

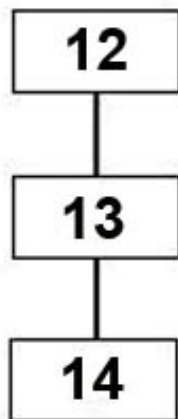
This possible floor, a layer of silty sand extended across the northern side (interior of the structure). No depth was ascertained.



Plate 20. H6/GB 11, trench 2, from E

House 7/KCC (no number assigned)/OPW 13

This is a rectangular structure with its western gable revetted into the slope.. The N wall stands to a height of approximately 1m, while the S wall is visible as a grass-covered hump. Elsewhere the wall is a grass-covered mound, averaging 0.5m high and 1m wide, with some possible facing stones visible externally at E. The structure measured 6.7m east-west by 3.9m north-south, total dimensions.



Trench 1

Trench 1 was located across the eastern wall of this structure. This wall was visible as a 1m high and 0.45m high grass-covered hump. The trench measured 2.2m east-west by 0.45m north-south.

Context No.: 12

Context Type: Layer

Topsoil, 0.05m deep over the top of the wall, 0.10m deep over the interior of the structure.

Figure 41. H7/GB 10d, Trench 1 matrix

Context No.:13

Context Type: Deposit

An area of stone collapse 0.8m east-west and extending beyond the width of the trench. This collapse takes the form of small shattered stones.

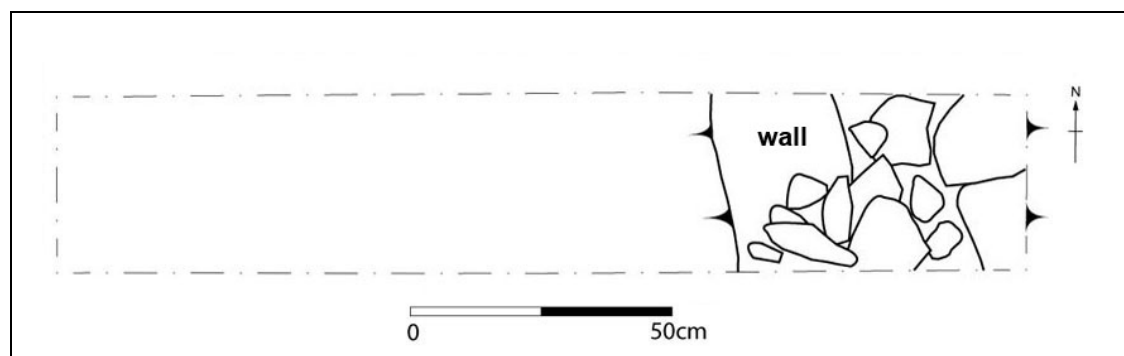


Figure 42. Plan of trench 1, H7/GB 10d

Context No.: 14

Context Type: Wall

This wall was 0.60m wide and extended beyond the width of the trench. It was constructed of facing stones and a rubble core. It was 0.1m high externally, with facing stones and a rubble core.



Plate 21. H7/GB 10d, trench 1, from W

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located across the southern wall of this structure. This wall was visible as a 1m high and 0.45m high grass-covered hump. The trench measured 1.2m north-south by 0.40m east-west. .

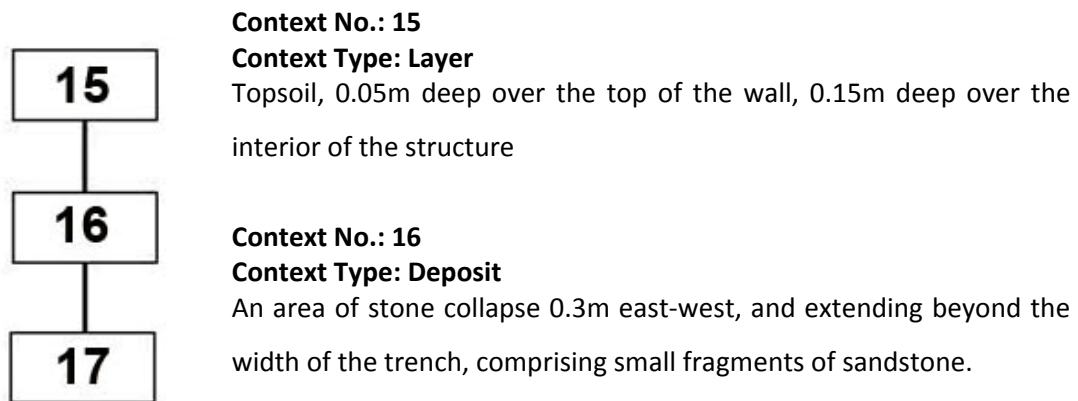


Figure 43. H7/GB10d, Trench 2 matrix

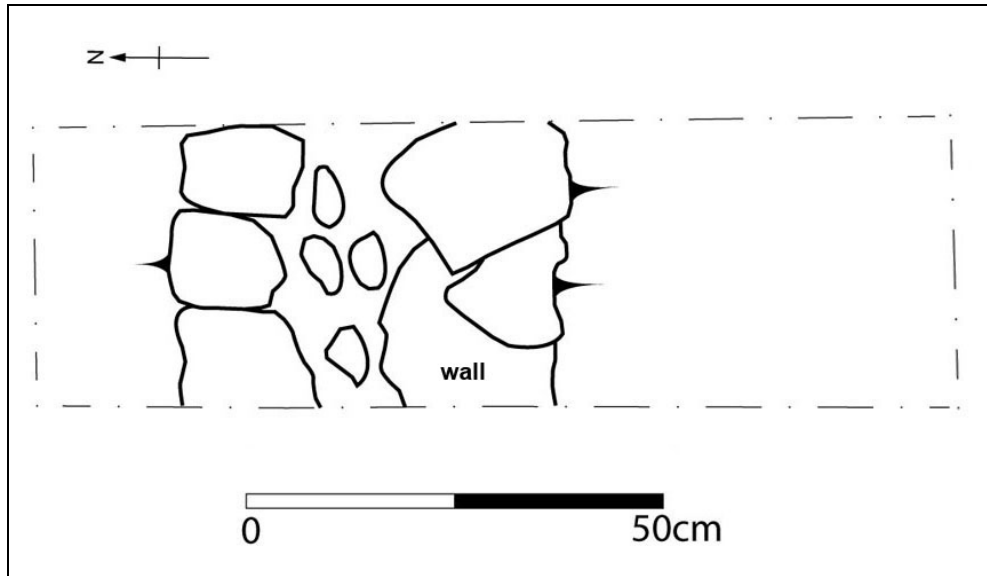


Figure 44. Plan of trench 1, H7/10d



Plate 22. H7/GB 10d, trench 2, from W

Context No.: 17

Context Type: Wall

This wall was 0.57m wide and extended beyond the width of the trench. It was constructed of facing stones and a rubble core. It was 0.25m high.

House 8/GB 10e/ KCC (no number assigned)/OPW 14

This is a rectangular structure located on a level shelf. The S wall appears to be the only original feature; the other walls appear to be recently rebuilt.

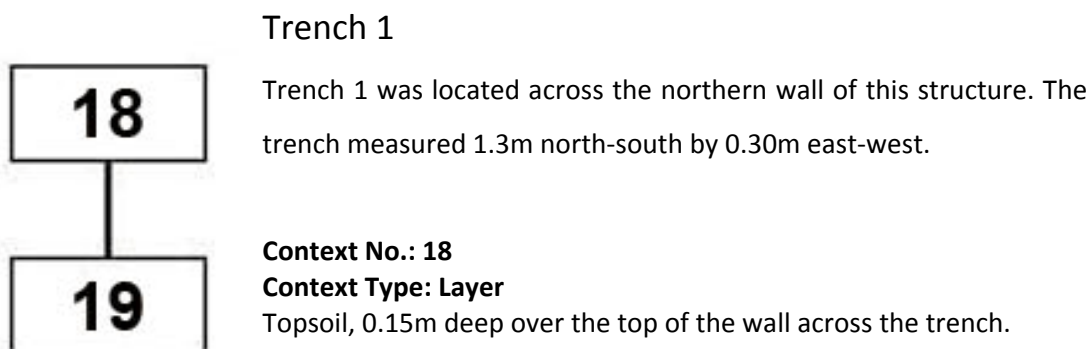


Figure 45. H8/GB 10e, Trench 1 matrix

Context No.: 19

Context Type: Deposit

An area of loose stone and gravel in a matrix of topsoil, with occasional larger stones visible. It measures 0.60m north-south and is 0.15m deep.

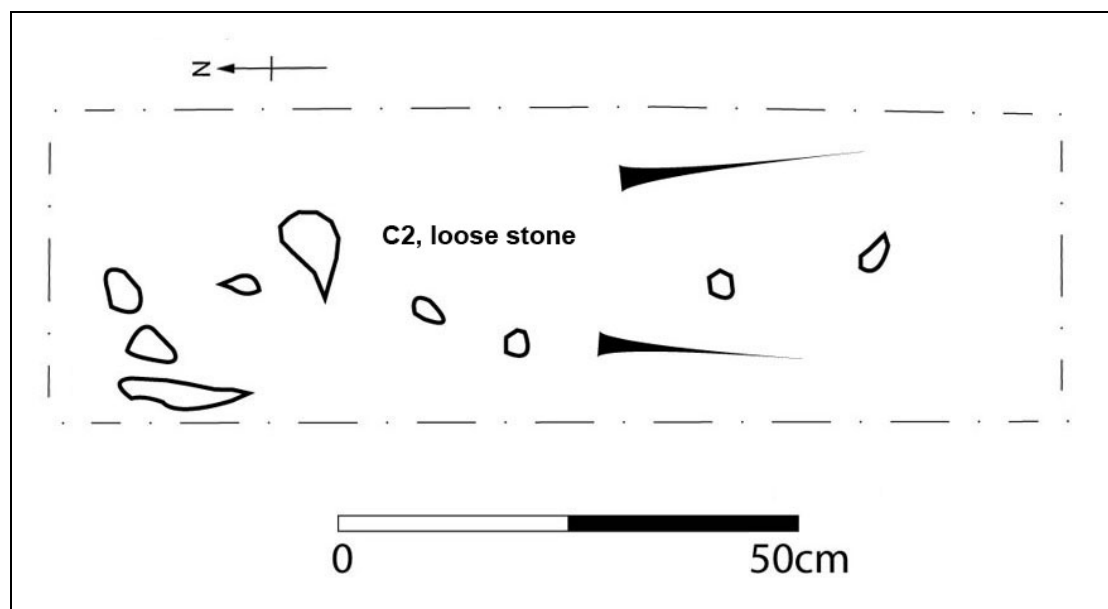


Figure 46. Plan of trench 1, H8/GB 10e



Plate 23. H8/GB 10e, trench 1, from S

Trench 2



Trench 2 was located across the eastern wall of this structure. The trench measured 0.9m east-west by 0.30m north-south.

Context No.: 20

Context Type: Layer

Topsoil, 0.10m deep over the width of the trench.

Figure 47. H8/GB 10e, Trench 2 matrix

Context No.: 21

Context Type: Deposit

An area of loose stone and gravel in a matrix of topsoil, with occasional larger stones visible. It measures 0.60m north-south and is 0.15m deep. These larger stones appear to function as a revetment, and are in excess of 0.3m deep.

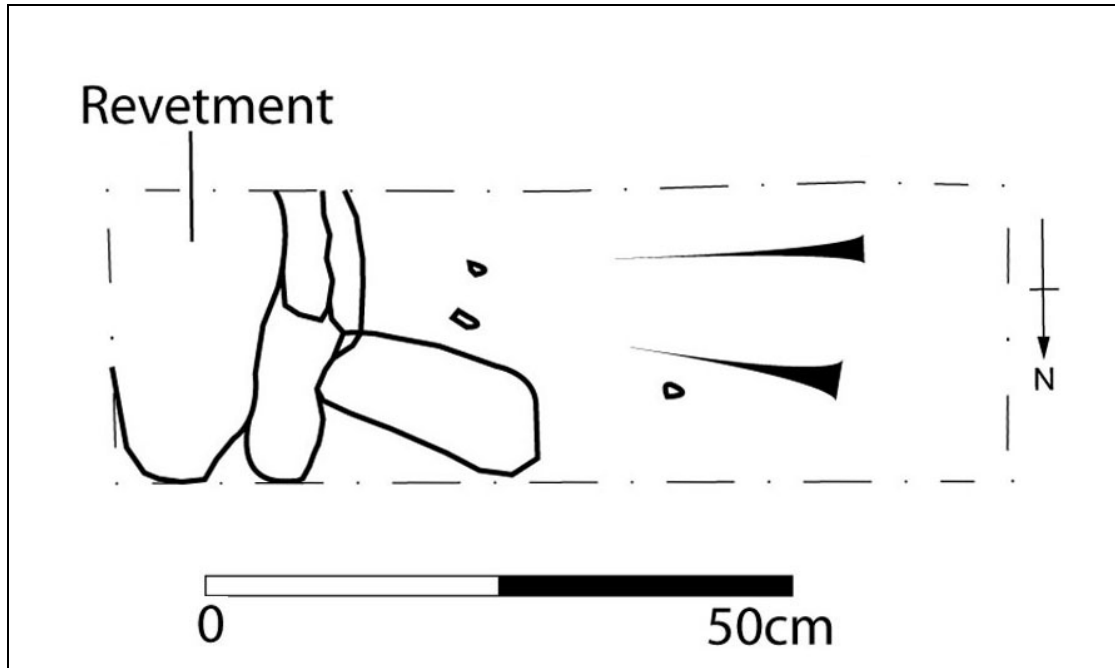


Figure 48. Plan of trench 2, H8/GB 10e



Plate 24. H8/GB 10e, trench 2, from W

House 14/GB 25a/KCC (no number assigned)/ OPW 64

This is a rectangular structure with only the w gable surviving. The S and W walls appear as a grass-covered hump.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located across the southern wall of this structure. The trench measured 1.3m north-south by 0.30m east-west.

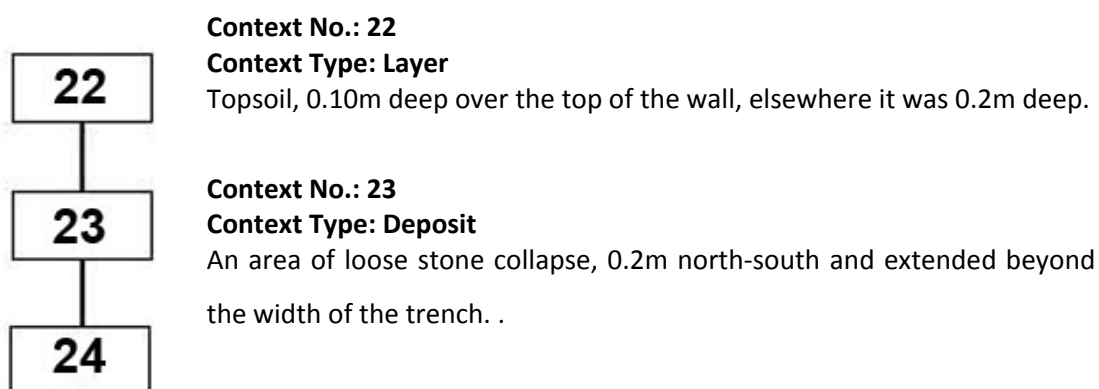


Figure 49. H8/GB 25a, Trench 1 matrix

Context No.: 24

Context Type: Wall

This wall was 0.55m wide and extended beyond the width of the trench. It was constructed of facing stones and a rubble core. It was 0.2m high. It was constructed of facing stone with a rubble core.

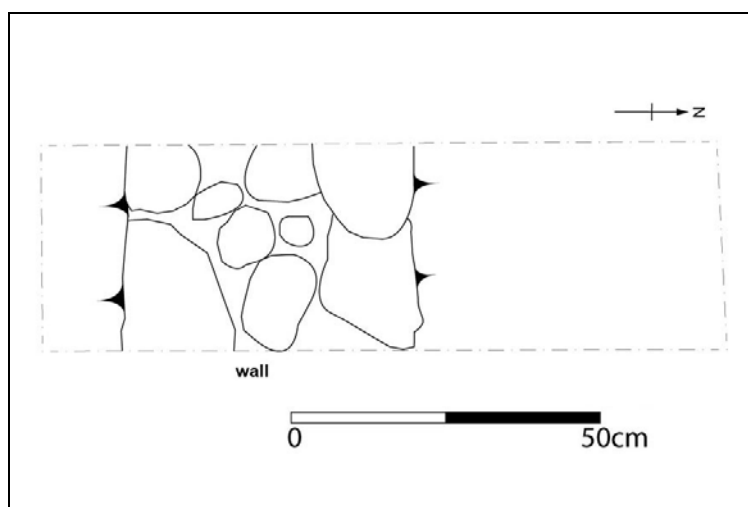


Figure 50. Plan of trench 1, H14/GB 25a



Plate 25. H14/GB 25a, trench 1, from S

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located across the northern wall of this structure. The trench measured 1.75m north-south by 0.40m east-west.

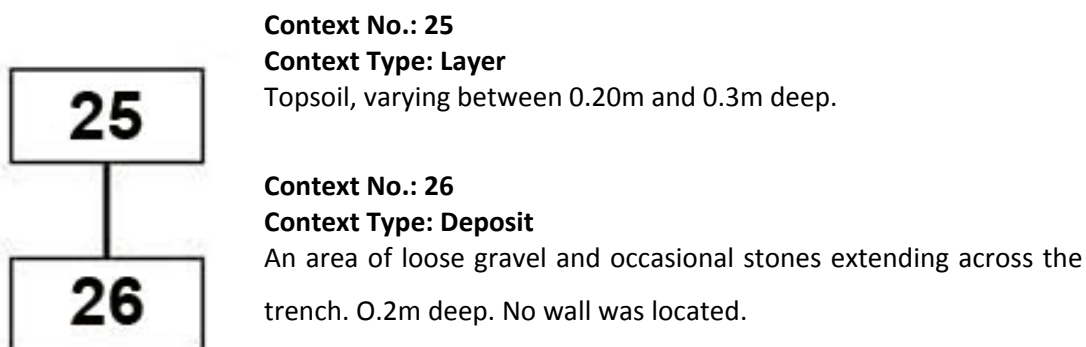


Figure 51. H14/GB 25a, Trench 2 matrix

Trench 3

Trench 1 was located across the western wall of this structure. The trench measured 1.8m east-west by 0.40m east-west.

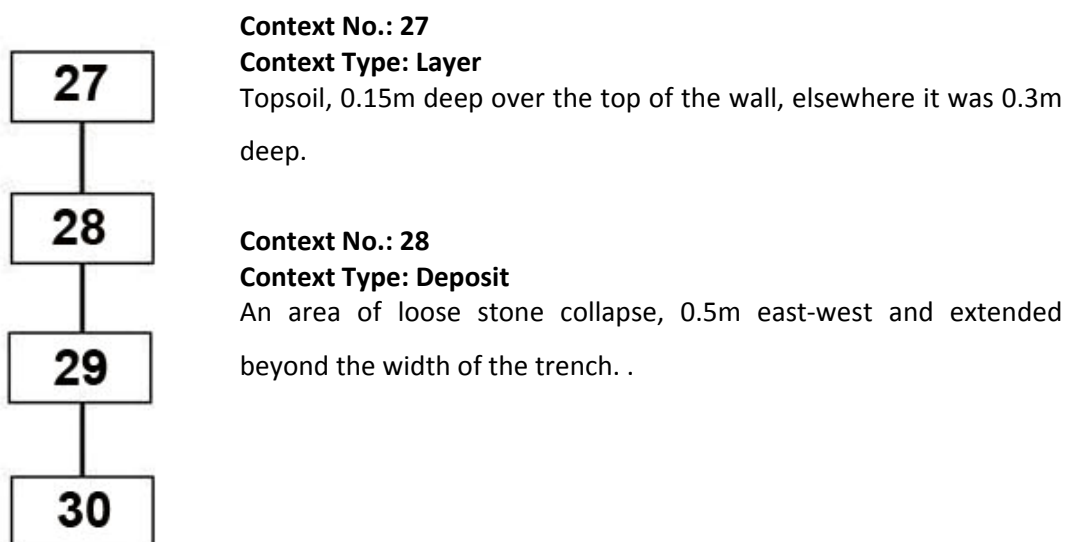


Figure 52. H14/GB 25a, Trench 3 matrix

Context No.: 39
Context Type: Wall
 This wall was 0.65m wide and extended beyond the width of the trench. It was constructed of flat slabs. It was 0.2m high and appears to have been disturbed.

Context No.: 30
Context Type: Layer
 This layer was located on the western side of the wall. It was a buff coloured sandy surface, composed of compressed beach sand. This appears to be the floor of the structure.

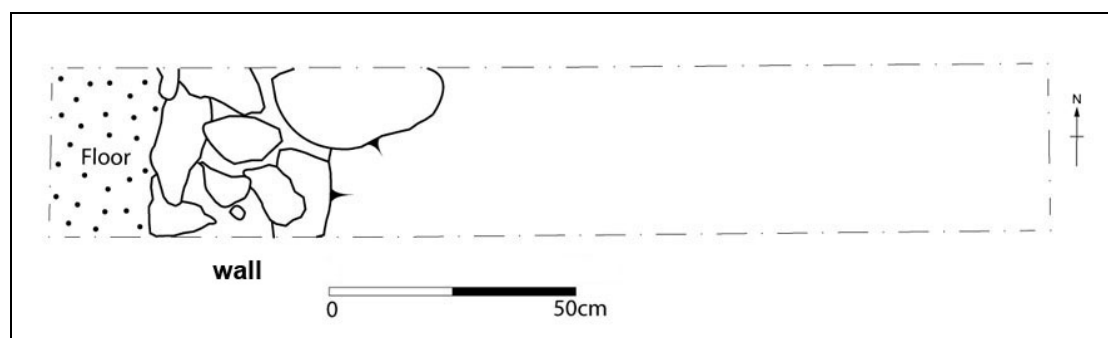


Figure 53. Plan of trench 3, H14/GB 25a



Plate 26. H14/GB 25a, trench 2, backfilled, from S



Plate 27. H14/GB 25a, trench 3, from W

3.4.5 Finds and Samples

A selection of pottery sherds and broken, all of relatively modern date was recovered from some of the test trenches. A piece of animal bone was also recovered.

The finds numbers below should be prefixed by the excavation licence number issued: 09E0427, followed by the context number and then by the find number of that context.

Licence Number	Context	Find no.	Type	Description
09E0427:	2	1	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, cream, basal sherd 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	2	2	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, cream, rim sherd, 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	2	3	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, cream with brown transfer print, body sherd, 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	2	4	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, white, basal sherd, 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	2	5	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, cream with green transfer print, body sherd, 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	2	6	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, cream with blue transfer print, body sherd, 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	2	2	Bone	Animal bone jaw with teeth
09E0427:	5	1	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, white, basal sherd, 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	5	2	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, white , basal sherd, 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	5	3	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, white, handle frag, 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	5	4	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, white, body sherd, 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	5	5	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, white, body sherd, 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	8	1	Glass	Clear bottle glass, rim, 20 th C
09E0427:	8	2	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, white, body sherd, 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	8	3	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, cream, body sherd 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	8	4	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, cream, body sherd 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	8	5	Ceramic	Red earthenware, green glaze, body sherd, post-medieval?
08E0873:	12	1	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, cream, rim sherd 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	12	2	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, white, rim sherd, 19 th /20 th
09E0427:	12	3	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, cream with brown and red transfer print, body sherd, 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	12	4	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, cream with brown transfer print, body sherd, 19 th /20 th C.
09E0427:	12	5	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, cream with brown transfer print, body sherd, 19 th /20 th C
09E0427:	12	6	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, brown, body sherd, 19 th /20 th C

09E0427:	12	7	Glass	Clear bottle glass, 20 th C
09E0427	12	8	Glass	Green bottle glass, 20 th C
09E0427	12	9	Glass	Blue bottle glass, 20 th C
09E0427	18	1	Ceramic	Tin glazed earthenware, cream, basal sherd 19 th /20 th
09E0427	25	1	Glass	Clear bottle glass, 20 th C
09E0427	25	2	Glass	Light green bottle glass, 20 th C
09E0427	25	3	Glass	Dark green bottle glass, 20 th C

Table 2. Finds List

3.4.6 Interpretation of Stratigraphy and Discussion

No depth of stratigraphy was encountered in the trenches. However, the purpose of the test trenching was to ascertain if the ground plan of the selected structures survived sub-surface.

H5/GB 10a/KCC No. (no number assigned)/OPW9

A trench was excavated across the eastern side of the structure. The remains of a wall were found, as was an extremely sandy surface, interpreted as the remains of a floor.

H6/GB 11/KCC 11/OPW 11

It was found from the trenching that the eastern and southern walls of the structure remain subsurface.

H7/GB 10d/ KCC (no number assigned)/OPW 13

In the case of this structure, it was found from the trenching that the eastern and southern walls of the structure remain subsurface.

H8/GB 10e/ KCC (no number assigned)/OPW 14

Two trenches were opened, in the northern and eastern sides of the site. No definitive walls were uncovered.

H14/GB 25a/ KCC (no number assigned)/OPW 64

Three trenches were opened at this site, on the northern, eastern and southern sides. The trench at the northern side did not reveal any trace of a wall. However, the wall was located in the eastern and southern trenches, as was evidence of a sandy floor surface.



Figure 54. Plan of house and test trench locations

4. Archaeology of the Site and Vicinity

RMP No.	Description	Location: Townland	Any other Information
KE051-002--- KE051-00201- KE051-00202- KE051-00203-	Archaeological Complex Castle site Possible Church Children's burial ground	Great Blasket Island NGR 2802/9775	Status: National Monument No trace of the castle can be seen. Small low un-inscribed headstones are visible. Openings noted on the headland, partially covered by slabs with dry-stone side walls.
KE051-003	Hut site	Great Blasket Island NGR 2798/9771	Púicín Bui, was constructed approximately one hundred years ago
KE051-004 KE051-00401-	Holy well Cross-inscribed Stone	Great Blasket Island NGR 2817/9762	<i>Tober na Crusha</i> , a stone on which a cross was carved stood at this well formerly (Cuppage 1986; O'Danachair 1960)
KE051-005---	Enclosures conjoined	Great Blasket Island NGR 2595/9659	<i>An Dún</i> , on northern side of the island
KE051-006---	Clochans conjoined	Great Blasket Island NGR 2401/9529	On western side of the island
KE051-007---	Hut sites	Great Blasket Island NGR 2431/9532	On western side of the island
KE051-008---	Hut sites	Great Blasket Island NGR 2423/9518	On western side of the island
KE051-009---	Hut sites-possible	Great Blasket Island NGR 2417/9509	On western side of the island
KE051-011---	Armada Wreck	Unlocated to a small area NGR unknown	Cuppage 1986
KE051-012---	Home of Tomás Ó <i>Criomhthain</i>	Great Blasket Island NGR 2795/9773	Not marked as an antiquity on 1842 or 1895 maps
KE051-013---	Home of Muiris Ó <i>Súilleabháin</i>	Great Blasket Island NGR 2786/9769	Not marked as antiquity on 1842 or 1895 maps.
KE051-014	Home of Peig Sayers	Great Blasket Island NGR 2796/9767	Not marked as antiquity on 1842 or 1895 maps

Table 3. List of Recorded Monuments on the Great Blasket Island

There are a number of sources that refer to antiquities on the Great Blasket. The monuments are confined to three parts of the island, firstly in and around the village in the east, secondly near the centre of the island, and lastly at the western end of the island. Firstly, the church near the village (RMP site **KE051-00202-**) noted by Lewis is not mentioned by O' Donovan writing in the 1840s (O' Donovan 1840b), and there is no known description of the structure. There is a reference in the Papal Taxation List of 1302 to 1307 to *Ecce de Inse*, which may refer to a church on the Great Blasket, but it more likely refers to a church at Inch East near Annascaul (Cuppage 1986, 361, 367). At Garraun Point (*Poinnte an*

Ghorráin) to the east of the village is *Tobar na Croise* (RMP site **KE051-004---**), well of the cross. Rounds used to be made at this well for the purpose of curing sick cattle (Cuppage 1986, 355). A cross-inscribed slab reportedly formerly stood here (RMP site **KE051-00401-**).

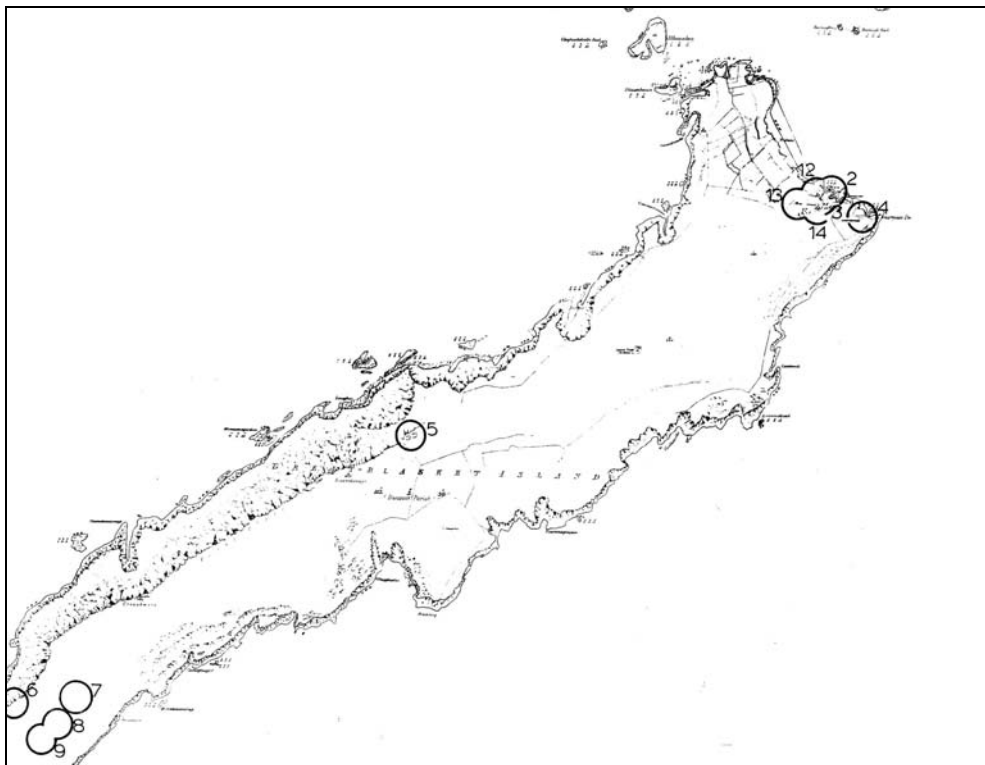


Figure 55. RMP constraint map, sheet 51, showing, showing recorded archaeological sites on the Great Blasket Island

It has been suggested that the Dingle and Ventry Mission built a school on the site of the church in 1840, and that the stones of the old church were used in its construction (O' Sullivan 1931, 579; Stagles and Stagles 1998, 43). However, Cuppage locates the church at *Rinn an Chaisleáin*, which is also associated with a castle and a burial ground.

Rinn an Chaisleáin is reportedly the location of a castle (RMP site **KE051-00201-**) connected with Pierce Ferriter of which no trace now remains. Indeed, the records of the Spanish Armada ships in the Blasket Sound in 1588 made no mention of this castle (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 26).



Plate 28. *Rinn an Chaisleáin* on aerial photograph, (supplied by client)

This site (*Rinn an Chaisleáin*) was also used as a burial ground for unconsecrated interments (RMP site **KE051-00203**). It is traditionally known as 'Ferriter's Castle' (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 26). This site was later used for the burial of young children, sailors, and suicides as stated above. *Tomás Ó Criomhthain*, one of the Great Blasket writers, recorded that when they were digging one of the graves at this site tooled masonry was uncovered (*ibid*). This was an unusual discovery, as uncut stone was used in the construction of the traditional island houses.

Located near the middle of the island are traces of antiquarian remains known as *Claiseacha An Dúna* (the ditches/moats of the *Dún*)' (O' Sullivan 1931, 279) (RMP site **KE051-005---**). Stagles (Stagles and Stagles 1998) also refers to the *Dún*, which rests on a 900ft northern escarpment looming above the Lochar rocks (*ibid*, 23). On the first edition of the OS six-inch maps (dated 1841) these appear as two complete circles side by side. At present the conjoined circles consist of semi-circles only with erosion possibly accounting for the change in shape (*ibid*).



Plate 29. An Dún, from W

The remains of a large number of structures can be seen at the southwest of the island. Several of these are likely to be the remains of sheep-folds or shelters. However, fourteen of these are hut sites or probable hut sites (Cuppage 1986, 416) and are grouped in four separate locations. These sites were known as *Na Clocháin Gheala* by the inhabitants of the island (Flower 1944, in Cuppage 1986, 416) but had no tradition relating to *Na Clocháin Gheala* other than 'they belonged to the people long ago'. The most northerly of this group consisted of three hut sites and three possible hut sites (RMP sites **KE051-007-** - **KE051-007005-**), and a possible souterrain (RMP sites **KE051-007006-**). The souterrain appears as a rectangular hollow outside the remains of the wall of hut site **KE051-007003-** (Cuppage 1986, 416). The second group of hut sites is located approximately 100m to the south-southwest of the northern group. These consist of four hut sites and three possible hut sites (RMP sites **KE051-008-** - **KE051-007006-**), two or possibly three of which are conjoined circular clochauns (*ibid*). The most southerly of these hut groups (RMP sites **KE051-009-** - **KE051-009002-**) is located approximately 75m to the south-southwest of the second group. This consists of two possible (**KE51-009001-** and **KE51-009002-**) and one hut-site (**KE51-009--** -). The fourth and final group (RMP sites **KE051-006-** - **KE051-006002-**) is located to the northwest, being approximately as far north as the first group and several meters to the east of the cliff edge. This consists of three conjoined clochauns with the central structure the best preserved (*ibid*).



Plate 30. Example of *Na Clocháin Gheala*, from SW

There is also the ruin of a Martello/Lookout Tower on a high point on the island to the west of the village (*ibid*). This was struck by lightning in the late 1930s and collapsed (D. de Mórdha, pers comm.).



Plate 31. Great Blasket Village, from SW

In addition there are the remains of vernacular houses in the Great Blasket village, and three of these have been classified and listed as 'house' in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). These include RMP sites **KE051-012---**, **KE051-013---**, and **KE051-014---**. A *clochán* (RMP site **KE051-003---**) located in the village is known as *Púicín Buí*, was constructed about a hundred years ago (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 69).

Four of the vernacular structures have been classified and listed as 'house' in the record of monuments and places (RMP) and the sites and monuments record files (Archaeological Survey of Ireland n.d.). These include RMP sites **KE051-012---**, **KE051-013---**, and **KE051-014---**. A *clochán* (RMP site **KE051-003---**) located in the village is known as *Púicín Buí*, was constructed just a hundred years ago (Stagles and Stagles 1998, 69). **KE051-012---** is the home of *Tomás Ó Criomhthain*, (*O'Crohan*). **KE051-013---** is the home of *Muiris Ó Súilleabháin* and **KE051-013---** is the home of Peig Sayers. This appears to be a typographical error in the SMR files as, though noted as the home of Muiris Ó Súilleabháin in the Archaeological Survey of Ireland files, **KE051-013---** is actually the site of Peig Sayers' house. On the ground **KE051-014---** is actually the home of Muiris Ó Súilleabháin.

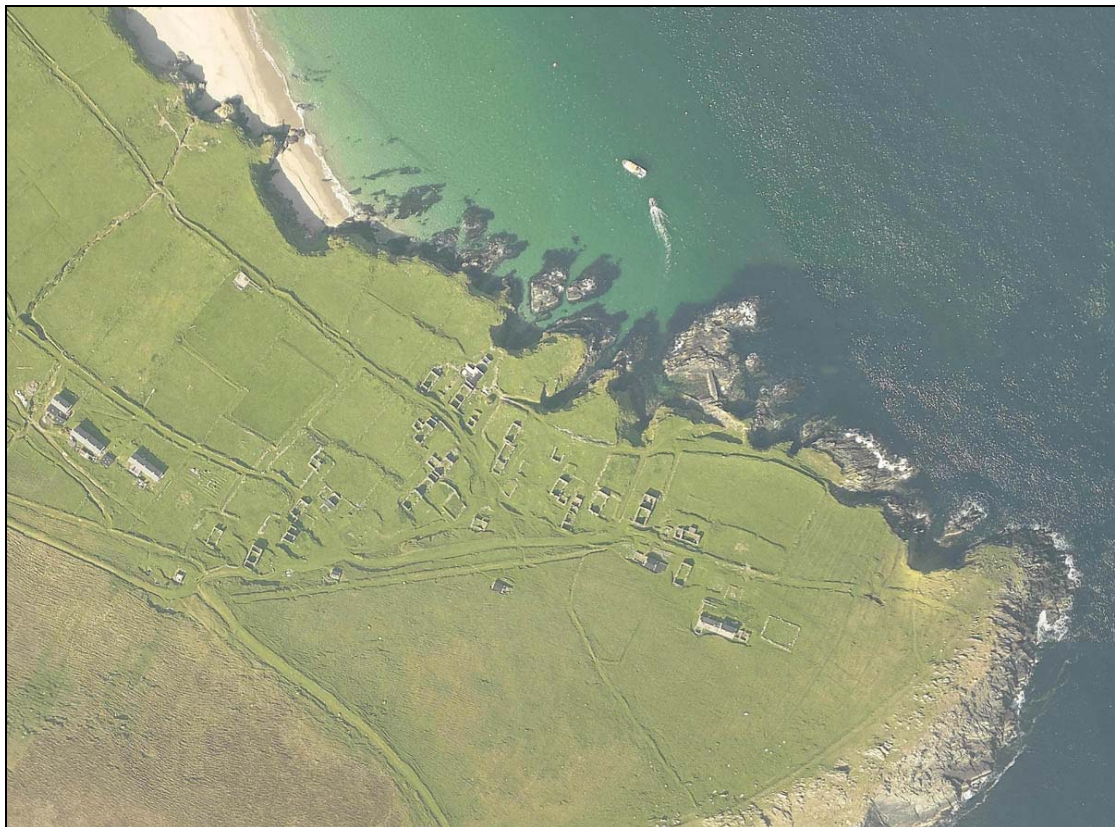


Plate 32. Aerial photograph of the village (supplied by client)



Figure 56. Great Blasket Island survey



Figure 57. Great Blasket Island survey, detail of eastern side of island



Figure 58. Great Blasket Island, detail of village

5. Predicted Impact of Any Proposed Conservation

This section might be more accurately described as the prediction of impacts on the cultural heritage, including archaeology, since the impacts by definition have not yet occurred (EPA 2003).

5.1 The “Do-Nothing” Impacts

If no conservation is carried on at this site then the buildings will further deteriorate over time. The purpose of this report is to formulate a programme for conservation works in association with OPW and project architects.

5.2 The Predicted Impacts

It is possible that any conservation works on the island may impact on subsurface unrecorded archaeological deposits and/or artefacts, if those conservation works are of an intrusive nature (i.e. if they require digging of any sort. In light of this, section 6 suggests suitable archaeological mitigation in relation to conservation works.

5.3 The “Worst Case” Scenario

Should the proposed development proceed with no archaeological, cultural heritage or conservation mitigation measures, there is the possibility that archaeological and architectural material may be uncovered and/or destroyed without the supervision and guidance of a professional archaeologist.

5.4 Interaction of Impacts

It is important to realise that the proposed development’s impacts relating to different disciplines (such as the ones listed above for archaeology and cultural heritage), may have parallel impacts in other disciplines, such as general visual, noise or public health impacts which have not been specifically addressed in this report.

6. Conclusions and Suggested Mitigation

The table below is an attempt to prioritise the structures in most need of conservation at this stage. It is based on the suggestions made by Paul Arnold architects (summarised in this report), and not from an assessment of the buildings, as Aegis Archaeology Ltd are not professionally qualified to assess the stability or otherwise of the structures.

6.1 Structures in order of condition grade

House No.	Paul Arnold Architects condition grade and brief summary of report
H8/KCC 10e/OPW 14	Condition Grade F. Only the S wall partially survives, loose masonry on the S elevation should be consolidated.
H7/KCC 10d/OPW 13	Condition Grade E. The walls are in ruins with only the footing remaining.
H2 & 3/KCC 9/OPW 6 & 7	Condition Grade D gables present, no barge stones. The gable wall is about to fall, investigation required to ascertain if settlement is occurring along the length of the house.
H4/KCC 10/OPW 7	Condition Grade D The N wall has collapsed and should be consolidated.. Stitching of the E gable is required. The remaining portion of the N gable is separating from the N gable. The concrete barge on the W wall is about to fall. Investigation required to ascertain if settlement is occurring, which might explain the separation and collapse of the N wall.
H6/KCC 11/OPW 11	Condition Grade D .Only S gable remains, wall tops should be consolidated. N portion of the building has been destroyed.
H9 & H10/KCC 13/OPW 15 & 16	Condition Grade D Tops of the walls have collapsed and should be consolidated. Stone from the collapsed gable should be cleared and if possible reinstated.
H1/KCC 8/OPW 5	Condition Grade C. Barge stones of both gables missing, top of N gable collapsed, N wall has very little connection with the side walls, and both gables require stitching to the side walls. The W wall has almost completely collapsed. Settlement may be occurring as it appears that the N gable is moving, causing the E and W walls to partially collapse.
H15/KCC 20/OPW 25	Condition Grade C House of T'OC- historically significant. Concrete barge is present on n gable, which needs stitching to the side walls. The uppermost portion of both the E and W elevation have collapsed, a broken door lintel is about to fall, is dangerous and should be replaced.
H13/KCC 26/OPW 45	Condition Grade C The w elevation is intact, E gable has partially collapsed, rubble from this wall collapse should be removed from the house.
H11/KCC 22/OPW39a	Condition Grade B .The S gable abuts the N gable of OPW39. The N gable is in good condition. <i>*Note- since P Arnold report, gable to W is collapsing into this house.</i>
H12/KCC 28/OPW 50	Condition Grade B An Dail-historically significant. S gable in fairly good condition, lost part of its concrete barge stone, chimney breast and stach has collapsed.N gable is in good condition but should be stitched to the side walls as it is beginning to tilt. Tops of the walls should be consolidated.

Table 4. Structures in order of condition grade

6.2 Structures without condition grade

H5/KCC 10a/OPW 9	No Condition Grade. Survives subsurface
H14/KCC 25a/OPW 64	No Condition Grade. Western gable survives, substantially subsurface
H16/KCC 10b/OPW 10	No condition Grade-now survives as hollow, limits should be archaeologically identified
H17/KCC 10c/OPW 12	No condition Grade. - now survives as hollow- limits should be archaeologically identified
H18/KCC 22b/OPW 38	No condition Grade. now survives as hollow, limits should be archaeologically identified
H19/KCC 23a/OPW 42	No condition Grade. -now survives as hollow, limits should be archaeologically identified. Beehive huts noted in Ida flowers drawings should be identified
H20/ KCC 23b/OPW 43	No condition Grade. -now survives as hollow, limits should be archaeologically identified. Beehive huts noted in Ida flowers drawings should be identified

Table 5. Structures, no condition grade

6.3 Archaeological Requirements*

- **Rinn an Chaisleain**-The displaced slabs should be replaced. Because they appear to cover a dry-stone built passage or chamber, it is important that they should be archaeologically investigated, in order to ascertain their nature and extent. They may in fact be an indication of a souterrain, so it would also be useful in assessing the safety of the site, and identifying potential future areas of collapse. The archaeological works should be carried out by hand, working within the confines of the possible structure, in order not to disturb burials in the vicinity. At present the burials appear to be located to the east of the possible souterrain.
- **Monitoring of works**-all works on the houses should be archaeologically monitored where there is an impact on the ground surface.
- **Future Excavation**-if it is decided in the future to move from conservation to restoration, and depending on the level of restoration (i.e. removal of sod to original floor level), then the interior of the house and immediate exterior should be archaeologically excavated.
- **Test trenching of H16/OPW 10, H17/OPW 12, H18/OPW 38, H19/42, H20/OPW 43**-these three sites are now only visible as hollows. They should be archaeologically test trenched in order to ascertain the nature and extent of the structures. In the case of H19/OPW 42 and H20/OPW 43, beehive huts were also recorded in the early 20th century. It should be ascertained by archaeological test trenching if these survive subsurface.

**Please note that it is the National Monuments Service and the County Archaeologist who will ratify any archaeological mitigation and this report can only make suggestions in this regard.*

7. Signing-Off Statement

Archaeological Firm: ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

Writer: Frank Coyne BA MIAI
ÆGIS Archaeology Limited,
32 Nicholas Street,
King's Island,
Limerick

Client: Historic Properties
OPW
51 St Stephen's Green
Dublin 2

Signed:



For AEGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

Dated: February 2010

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9. Appendices

9.1 A3 Images for Project

9.2 Project CD