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Guinnerso (Uig Parish)

C Burgess, M J Church, A Heald & S Gilmour

University of Edinburgh

Relict landscape

NB 034 362: Excavation on the Guinnerso landscape examined the main focal point of activity identified during 1996 (DES 1996, 111-112). The curvilinear building with northern 'bays' was excavated to primary levels and found to incorporate a central post-hole and several phases of construction. This structure was then removed. The northern satellite Cell A was partially excavated and found to incorporate a late 19th-century rectangular shieling overlying a larger, more curvilinear structure of indeterminate function which may have incorporated corbel architecture.

A trench was cut across two relict agricultural rigs and soil micromorphology samples were taken. During this excavation the sub-peat remains of two roughly-built walls and a possible 'platform' of stones were discovered. These probably date to the later prehistoric period and represent the earliest excavated remains on the site to date. Further excavation in eastern satellite Cell B produced evidence for metalworking including slag, crucible fragments and a possible tuyere. Finds from this season's excavation include a generous pottery assemblage, mainly plain but including some decorated pieces. Preliminary assessments place the majority of excavated features on this site somewhere in the early medieval period, although radiocarbon dates are awaited.

Excavation of further features in the relict landscape revealed stone platforms on an enclosed promontory overlooking Loch Ruadh Guinnerso and a well-built stone pavement associated with orthostats previously believed to mark the location of graves. Detailed surveys of several of the monuments in the area were carried out and peat monoliths were taken.

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