

Burgess, C, Church, M J, Flitcroft, C & Gilmour, S (1997) An Dunan (Uig Parish).
Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (1997): 85.

An Dunan (Uig Parish)

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Utilised natural islet

NB 044 345: The 1997 season of excavation on this tidal islet revealed a more coherent picture of the underlying structure associated with a major central hearth (see DES 1996, 110). The hearth proved to be the focal point of the site incorporating many episodes of use. It was founded on a clay base, the four corners being marked by large orthostats, the two northern of which flanked a possible clay or compacted ash feature accessing the hearth. The southern orthostats flanked entry to a multi-phase area of 'niches' which may have originally held many of the artefacts deposited in the building. These include a range of quartzite pebbles, some struck quartzite artefacts and a mixed assemblage of plain and decorated pottery. The building itself consisted of a mix of large orthostats and rough coursing around the west side and a much poorer construction of smaller stonework to the east. A small trench across the visible causeway to the site revealed a single period construction, possibly late in the site sequence due to its location cut into the peat. Current preliminary interpretations of the site place it within the Mid to Late Bronze Age and focus on its possible ritual aspects as a suspected mortuary building. The penannular shale bracelet recovered last year originated from the building.

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