

BRONZE AGE FARMS AND IRON AGE FARM MOUNDS OF THE OUTER HEBRIDES

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Tapestry excavation in progress at Hornish Point

BRONZE AGE FARMS AND IRON AGE FARM MOUNDS OF THE OUTER HEBRIDES

by

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ORGANISATION OF THE VOLUME

In Chapters 1–3 the background to the project is presented together with a general introduction to the physical environment, the natural history and archaeology of the Western Isles. The results of the excavations are presented in Chapters 4–8 in a highly synthesised form, with field interpretation, post-excavation analyses and final archaeological interpretation summarised by Block (see Chapter 1.3.5). Chapters 9–18 contains the detailed results of the post-excavation analyses together with the conclusions of the project.

When original context numbers appear in the text, they are rendered in square brackets thus, [274]. Radiocarbon dates are presented either as raw radiocarbon determinations BP, eg 2350 ± 50 uncal BP, or as calibrated age ranges BC or AD, eg 1500 to 1275 cal BC. Where more general terms are used, as in ‘the second millennium BC’ the dates should be understood as indicating calendar dates, unless otherwise specified and if the context seemed to require it the phrase ‘cal BC’ or ‘cal AD’ has been employed. The term ‘radiocarbon years’ has been used to identify the intervals between the means of radiocarbon determinations, eg there are 100 radiocarbon years between 2350 ± 50 uncal BP and 2450 ± 50 uncal BP.

This monograph has taken many years in the making and consequently, many of the specialist reports were written some time ago. To avoid further delay in publication the original texts are published, with the date of their submission in brackets after the author’s name.

PREFACE BY COLIN WALLACE, MANAGING EDITOR OF SAIR

The sharp-eyed reader will notice that SAIR 3 is different in appearance and concept to the other reports in the SAIR series. *Bronze Age Farms and Iron Age Farm Mounds of the Outer Hebrides* was welcomed by the SAIR Pilot as a parallel project, a long-running one with its own editor and publication history, that would find a home under the SAIR umbrella. It was not reasonable to impose further delays consequent on putting it in the hands of the Pilot Editor and entering it into another editing process, when the point of SAIR is to make the results of archaeological fieldwork available. Read on!

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Plate 1. Ceramic vessel in the foreground and other archaeological material of Dark Age date on the island of Ensay, Sound of Harris



Plate 2. Site of Paible, North Uist. Figure to left is examining Beaker period midden deposit at the base of the dune. Coring showed that the Beaker deposits drop steeply inshore of the exposure so that parts of it lie at 10–15 m below the current land surface