



Calanais Coastal Survey

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1. Introduction

From the 5th - 10th July 2021, SCAPE and seven locally based volunteers carried out a walkover survey of the coastal and intertidal zones in the immediate environs of the main site of standing stones at Calanais, Isle of Lewis.

The fieldwork was one element of the wider 'Beneath the Peat' geophysical and coastal survey investigation of the archaeological landscapes around Calanais. The project is led by Richard Bates University of St Andrews and Urras nan Tursachan (Calanais Stones Trust) and supported with a grant from Historic Environment Scotland's Coasts and Waters Heritage fund.

The walkover coastal survey met one of the main aims of the overarching project:

- Work with local community groups of volunteers to survey for archaeology by walking and recording the coastline of Loch Roag.

and contributed to project outcomes:

- Present the standing stones at Calanais within their broader archaeological context of the Outer Hebrides to the local community, academic researchers and to visitors from around the world.
- Ensure that the landscape and its heritage make a significant, and sustainable, contribution to the economy of the islands now and for future generations by providing new information on the archaeology for wide dissemination.

In addition, a rapid drone survey was carried out of as much of the coastal zone at low tide as possible within the timeframe in the immediate vicinity of the Calanais Stones (Appendix 3).

2. Methods

The timing of the survey was arranged during a week of suitable tides, so that the majority of the fieldwork was carried out in a two-and-a-half-hour window either side of low tide.

The fieldwork involving volunteers was carried out over three days and focused on low lying areas in the immediate vicinity of the Calanais Stones. SCAPE officers carried out rapid a survey of steeper cliff and/or more inaccessible stretches on the north side of the Calanais promontory (Figure 1).

Volunteers met at the Calanais Centre every morning for an introduction and daily briefing. This covered:

- the wider context and aims of the Beneath the Peat project,
- the wider archaeological context of the Calanais and Loch Roag area,
- specific objectives of the coastal survey,
- using the app,
- health and safety and any specific arrangements for that day.

Over the fieldwork period participants gained skills and confidence in recognising and recording coastal archaeological sites. Most volunteers participated for the whole of the three days and so had a substantial coastal survey experience.

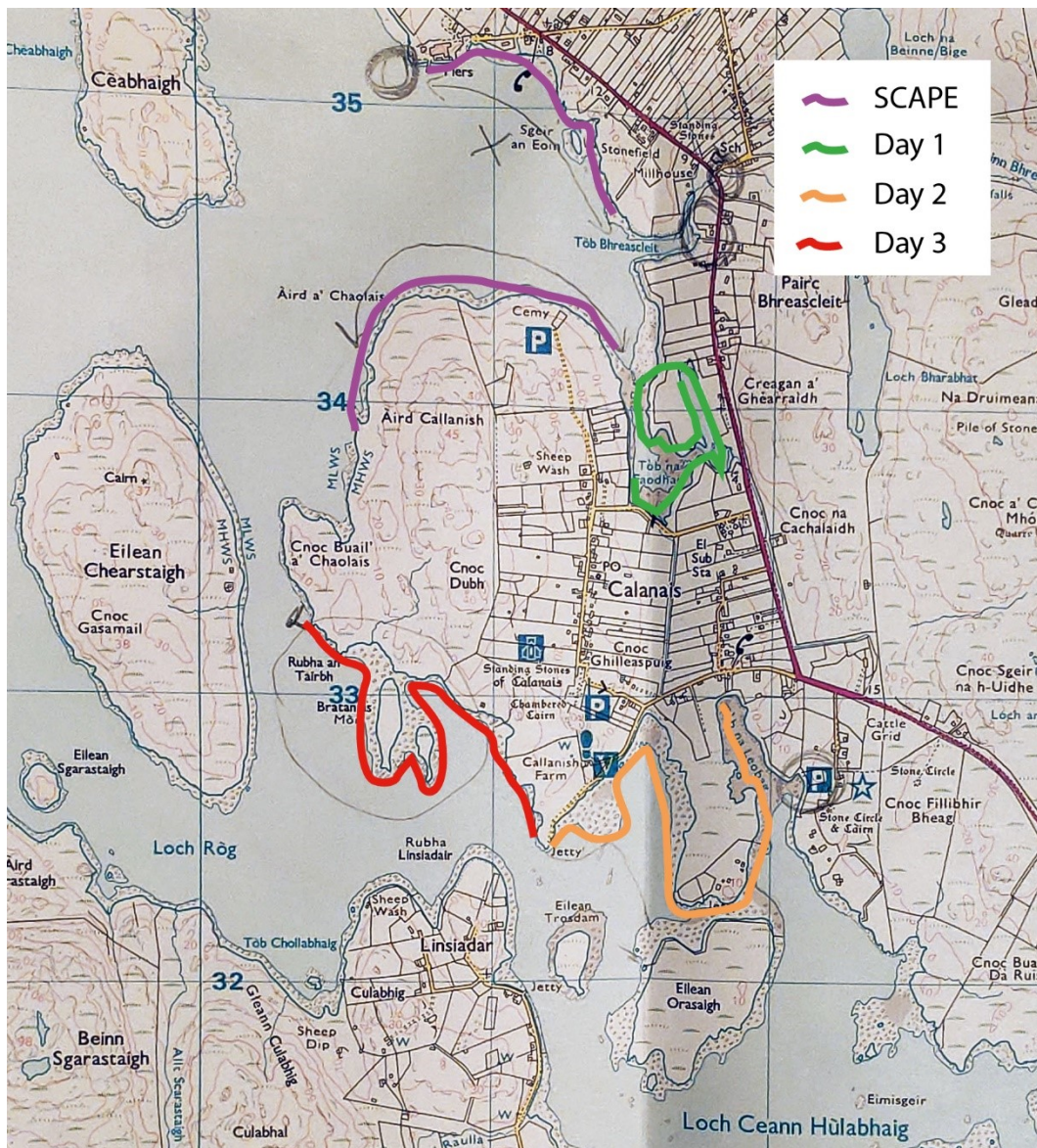


Figure 1. Areas covered in the coastal survey

The SCAPE Coastal Archaeology Recording app in survey mode was used to carry out the survey and recording. Survey mode means that lines and polygons can be collected as well as points (and requires an additional level of permission for registered users). A dedicated username “calanaisczas” was assigned to the survey so that all records were tagged with the same project ID.

The SCAPE app already held information about existing coastal archaeological records in and around Calanais recorded in the Lewis coastal zone assessment survey (CZAS) (Burgess & Church 1997, 176-196). These formed our baseline of known sites. For the Beneath the Peat project, sites identified as prehistoric or possibly prehistoric in the original CZAS survey were temporarily coded to appear green during the survey period, to distinguish them from the great many more recent records (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Screenshot of existing sites recorded in the Lewis CZAS survey in 1997 displayed on the Sites at Risk Map on the SCAPE website www.scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk

The team walked the coast edge and intertidal zone and used the SCAPE app to navigate to locations of existing site records. Existing records were updated and photographed. Where sites were encountered that were not recorded in the original CZAS, these were added as new sites with a location, full description and photographic record.



Figure 3. General view of the typical intertidal zone around Calanais

Following fieldwork, submitted records were moderated by SCAPE officers and uploaded to the SCAPE coastal heritage sites database.

3. Results

The survey updated 28 existing site records (Appendix 1) and recorded 34 new sites (Appendix 2). During moderation, nine of the newly recorded sites concurred with information held in Canmore and the Western Isles HER. These nine sites had been added to the national and regional Historic Environment Record since the Lewis CZAS was carried out in 1997.

3.1 Prehistoric sites

Six existing sites and 13 new sites may be prehistoric.

Table 1. Prehistoric sites updated and newly recorded in the Calanais Coastal Survey

Site ID	Site record hyperlink	Site name	Site type	Periods	East	North	Description
2733	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2733	Tòb nan Leòbag	STONE ALIGNMENT	Prehistoric	121898	932659	Alignment of boulders, about 40 m long, up to 2 m wide, max 50 cm high, broken and tumbled, stretching across bay, enclosing area of mud-flat about 15 m x 40 m. Probable part of Bronze Age field systems previously recorded on west side of Tòb nan Leòbag. Tòb nan Leòbag (14179) is the northern continuation of this wall.
2752	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2752	Tòb nan Leòbag/ Rubha na Cloiche	CELL	Period Unknown	121700	932530	Oval turf and stone feature measuring 4m by 2m. Located on a small promontory. Rectangular structure located to the east of cell.
2760	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2760	Calanais	ENCLOSURE, CURVILINEAR	Prehistoric	121400	932580	No clear sign of walling in this location. Seaweed hampers visibility, and it is a naturally boulder-strewn ground surface.

Site ID	Site record hyperlink	Site name	Site type	Periods	East	North	Description
2770	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2770	Calanais	STONE DYKES	Prehistoric	120650	932900	Master record for prehistoric stone dykes, fragmentary remains of which are visible in the intertidal areas of the tidal islets of Bratanais Beag and Bratanais Mòr. Many of these may relate to Neolithic and Bronze Age field systems, that are now buried beneath peat on land. Relative sea level rise of 3-4m since the Neolithic has submerged low-lying land and the dykes can be traced in the foreshore and intertidal zone. There may be further settlement remains of these periods in the intertidal zones, but thick seaweed coverage and a generally rocky and boulder-strewn foreshore makes features extremely difficult to identify. Possible prehistoric features on the Bratanais islands are: 14166; 14168; 14171; 14172; 14176; 14181; 14182; 14183
2782	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2782	Calanais	STONE ALIGNMENT	Prehistoric	120638	933115	Linear alignment of boulders, slightly curved, 10 m long, boulders up to 80 cm wide and 50 cm high, extending into intertidal from upper shore, roughly perpendicular to shoreline.
2784	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2774	Calanais	CAIRN	Period Unknown	120535	933158	Circular arrangement of stone, c 3 m diameter at low water mark enclosing a relatively stone free area. The location matches the original record, but this is not a convincing cairn! Tenuous feature but seaweed cover prevents more positive ID.
2787	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2787	Calanais Rubha an Tairbh	CELL	Period Unknown	120485	933163	Low turf walls on promontory could indicate cellular structures
2804	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2804/	Calanais	STONE SETTING	Prehistoric	121500	934100	The site as recorded in the Canmore record was visited as part of a Calanais coastal update survey in July 2021. The small recumbent stone was seen, but it seems far too

Site ID	Site record hyperlink	Site name	Site type	Periods	East	North	Description
							small to be a standing stone. Much more likely it is a natural stone on this bedrock outcrop where there are a great many naturally cleaved boulders and stone slabs.
14154	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14154	Calanais, Loch Gealabhat	SUBMERGED FOREST, INTERTIDAL PEAT	Prehistoric	121806	933800.4	Several concentrations of preserved wood fragments preserved in basal peat, overlying stony buried natural ground surface, buried beneath up to 2m of peat, exposed at several locations on the shores of Loch Gealabhat. Mostly root and twig fragments indicate drowned woodland. Looks very similar to submerged forest in Benbecula and Uists - identified as mostly willow with some alder and birch. Submerged woodland.
14166	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14166	Bratanais Mòr	STONE ALIGNMENT	Prehistoric	120621	933039.1	Curvilinear stone alignment extending from coast edge to low water mark, c. 25m long and 1m wide. The alignment is continuous between mid-tide and low tide and discontinuous in beach area at the high-water mark. It is visible continuing beneath the peat at the coast edge. This is probably one of the many prehistoric field and boundary walls running beneath the peat, fragments of which are visible on the shores of the two tidal islands of Bratanais Mòr and Bratanais Beag.
14168	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14168	Bratanais Beag	STONE ALIGNMENT	Prehistoric, Post-Medieval	120791	932892.1	Line of boulders, 20 m long, < 1 m high, 1 m wide, across intertidal zone, starting at shoreline, perpendicular to shoreline. Lower and broader towards seaward end. Either a jetty, or part of the sub-peat prehistoric stone dykes visible around the tidal islands of Bratanais Mòr and Bratanais Beag.

Site ID	Site record hyperlink	Site name	Site type	Periods	East	North	Description
14171	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14171	Bratanais Mòr	STONE ALIGNMENT, DYKE	Prehistoric	120628	933060.7	Linear alignment of stones, 10 m long, 1 m wide, up to 50 cm high, extending across upper intertidal zone, perpendicular to shore. Not associated with an obvious cleared way to land boats, so possibly a sub-peat dyke associated with prehistoric field boundaries visible on the shores of the tidal islands of Bratanais Mòr and Bratanais Beag. This is probably the same site as Calanais (2783).
14172	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14172	Rubha an Tairbh	STRUCTURE, DRYSTONE	Prehistoric	120567	933186.3	Curvilinear alignment of stones, forming near 180° arc, about 5 m diameter, open at landward side, at upper edge of intertidal zone. Remains of small enclosure, possibly related to prehistoric field systems exposed in intertidal areas around Bratanais islets. Possibly same as Calanais (2786).
14176	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14176	Bratanais Beag	BANK, EARTHWORK	Prehistoric	120786	932768	Stone and turf curvilinear earthwork bank about 13m long by 1.5m wide running north-south at the narrow south end of Bratanais Beag. The peat is absent or very thin at the southern tip of the islet compared to the interior, so it is possible this relates to prehistoric stone field walls; fragments of which are visible in the intertidal areas around the Bratanais islets.
14178	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14178	Tòb nan Leòbag	WALL	Prehistoric, Bronze Age	121861	932651.7	Short stretch of drystone wall revealed in erosion runnel, in salt marsh environment buried by peat. Possible glimpse of prehistoric field wall, same as, or related to wall 2733/2732 now located in the intertidal zone.

Site ID	Site record hyperlink	Site name	Site type	Periods	East	North	Description
14179	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14179	Tòb nan Leòbag	WALL	Prehistoric, Bronze Age	121857	932702.6	Short stretch of drystone wall exposed in erosion runnel in saltmarsh. Probably the northern continuation of intertidal wall 2733. Part of prehistoric (Bronze Age) field systems now buried by peat, in intertidal zone, or submerged.
14181	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14181	Bratanais Beag	STONE ALIGNMENT, DYKE	Prehistoric	120803	932792.3	Possible drystone linear wall, perpendicular to coast c. 1 m wide, 30m long, extending from coast edge to low water mark. Landward end appears to be running beneath peat. The portion of the wall on the 'beach' is missing, which seems to be fairly typical of these intertidal walls, which survive best between mid and low water mark. This is a good example of a probable prehistoric stone field boundary which run beneath the peat and are exposed around the tidal islets of Bratanais Mòr and Bratanais Beag.
14182	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14182	Bratanais Beag	STONE ALIGNMENT, DYKE	Prehistoric, Period Unknown	120810	932753.5	Short stretch of curvilinear stonework near low water mark near south end of island. Seaweed cover makes more positive identification impossible. Possibly part of prehistoric field systems, fragments of which are exposed on the shorelines of tidal islets Bratanais Mòr and Bratanais Beag.
14183	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14183	Bratanais Mòr	FINDSPOT	Prehistoric	120675	932869.6	Unmodified, struck flint flake in buried ground surface beneath c. 1m of peat. Exposed in coast edge on east side of Bratanais Mòr.
14184	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14184	Bratanais Mòr	STRUCTURE, DRYSTONE	Period Unknown	120657	932798.6	Rectangular arrangement of tumbled stone in upper part of intertidal zone. 3m X 4m. Jetty 14170 just to south. This is a tenuous feature.

Site ID	Site record hyperlink	Site name	Site type	Periods	East	North	Description
14185	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14185	Rubha an Tairbh	STRUCTURE, DRYSTONE	Prehistoric, Period Unknown	120537	933168.1	Two sides and corner of a tenuous rectangular stone structure in the mid intertidal zone. 5m x 2m of possible wall visible but seaweed cover prevents more positive ID. This is probably the same site as Calanais (2785)

One site (2804) described as a recumbent stone and identified as Calanais XIII is more likely to be a natural stone.

Prehistoric field boundaries

Eleven of the prehistoric sites are linear and curvilinear stone alignments visible in the intertidal zone and sometimes traceable continuing beneath the peat at the coast edge. The alignments are typically interrupted in the upper beach area, probably due to higher energy wave environments in this zone and livestock traffic. All of these low-lying intertidal areas are grazed by sheep and cattle.

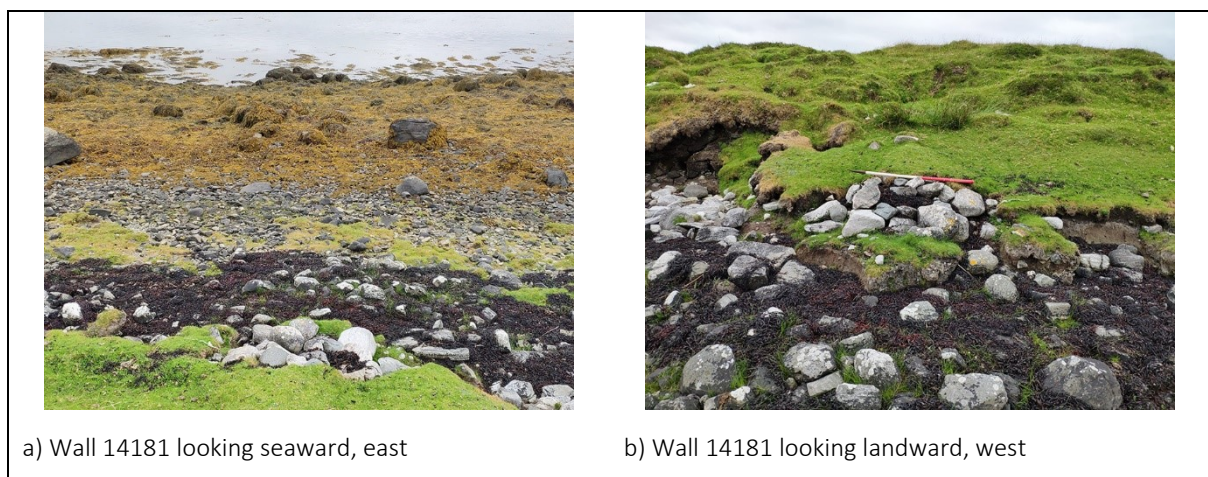


Figure 4. Site 14181 on the east side of Bratanais Beag is a typical example of a curvilinear stone alignment in the intertidal zone, which is also traceable running beneath the peat at the coast edge. Notice how it is interrupted in the upper beach zone in photograph a).

The stone alignments are almost certainly the remnants of stone and turf boundaries of Neolithic and Bronze Age field systems. They are most concentrated around the tidal islands of Bratanais Mòr and Bratanais Beag (see master record 2770). There is one clear submerged example in Tòb nan Leòbag (site 2733), the continuation of which can be seen in erosion runnels in the salt marsh (site 14178/9).



Figure 5. Sub-peat stone alignment (1479) exposed in a runnel in salt marsh in the foreground with the continuation of the wall (2733), now submerged, in the background.

Other structures

Four examples of circular and sub-rectangular arrangements of stone (sites 2784, 14172, 14184, 14185) were recorded in the intertidal zone around Bratanais Mòr. These were extremely tenuous but could represent the remains of small stock enclosures or settlement remains. On shore, turf and stone cellular structures were recorded on a promontory overlooking Bratanais Mòr at Rubha an Tairbh (site 2787) and a promontory near the Rubha na Cloiche peninsula south of Calanais (site 2752). Their period is unknown, but they are likely to pre-date the post-medieval period and could be prehistoric.

Buried ground surfaces

Former ground surfaces now buried beneath a depth of peat were particularly clearly visible in the coastal sections around the tidal islands of Bratanais Mòr and Bratainai Beag, in the intertidal zone and coast edge around Loch Gealabhat, and in the inner reaches of Tòb nan Leòbag. These are typically weathered hard stony surfaces of the underlying glacial till. A single struck flint flake was recovered from the surface of the till beneath circa 1m of peat on the east side of Bratanais Mòr (site 14183) (Figure 6).



Figure 6. The location of the only in situ prehistoric artefact recovered in the Calanais coastal survey (site 14183).

Submerged forest

Along the southern and western edge of Loch Gealabhat, several exposures of roots and tree remains (site 14154) were identified beneath the peat, just above the weathered stony till surface. These appeared to represent roots in growing position along with concentrations of re-deposited twigs and branches.



Figure 7. Locations of submerged tree remains around Loch Gealabhat (site 14154)



a) General view of intertidal peat around Loch Gealabhat, looking NNW



b) Roots



c) Concentration of root and branch remains beneath the peat

Figure 8. Submerged forest remains upon former ground surface beneath peat around Loch Gealabhat.

3.2 All other sites, mostly post-medieval and later

Twenty-one existing sites and 22 new sites probably date from the post-medieval and later periods.

Where identifiable, these are overwhelmingly maritime structures and features related to access to the sea. Cleared slipways with associated breakwaters; jetties; nausts; quays; navigation markers; an intertidal trackway and a possible fish trap were recorded in the survey.

The next most common features were property boundaries extending into the intertidal zone, a zone important for grazing and for kelp, so also part of the maritime landscape.

Loch Gealabhat and Tòb na Faodhail (Day 1)

Four stone alignments in the intertidal zone were recorded on the east coast of Loch Gealabhat. Two still retained a fence and are good examples of one of the purposes of these stone alignments which is to secure fence posts in very hard/rocky ground. Specifically maritime structures included a stone jetty (site 2795) and a circular cairn, 1.5m in diameter and c. 1m high (site 2796). The cairn is located at the south edge of the channel between Tòb na Faodhail and Loch Gealabhat and is probably a navigation marker.

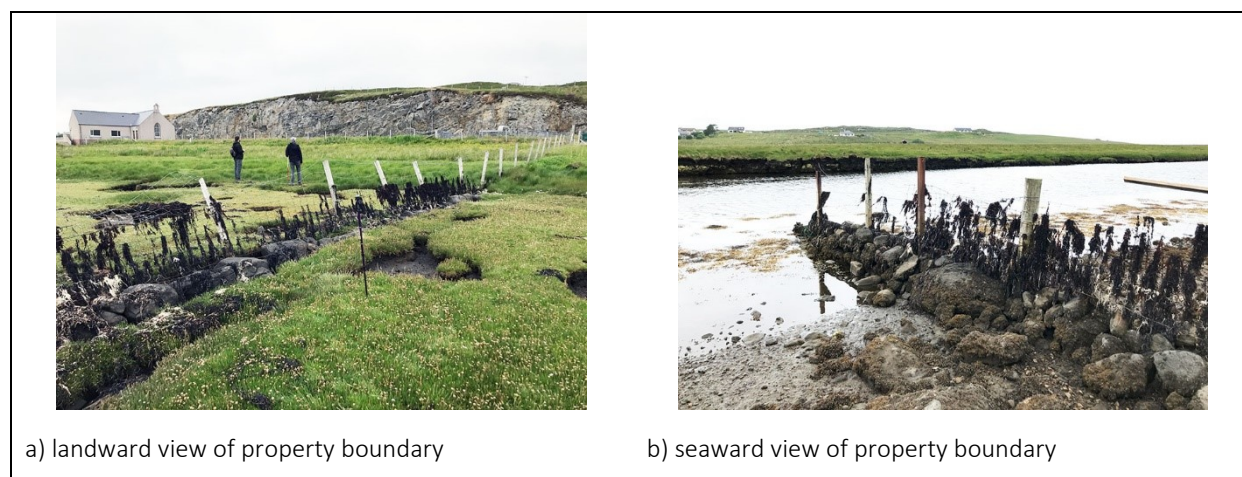


Figure 9. Typical example of a property boundary which extends into the intertidal zone, (site 14157), Loch Gealabhat

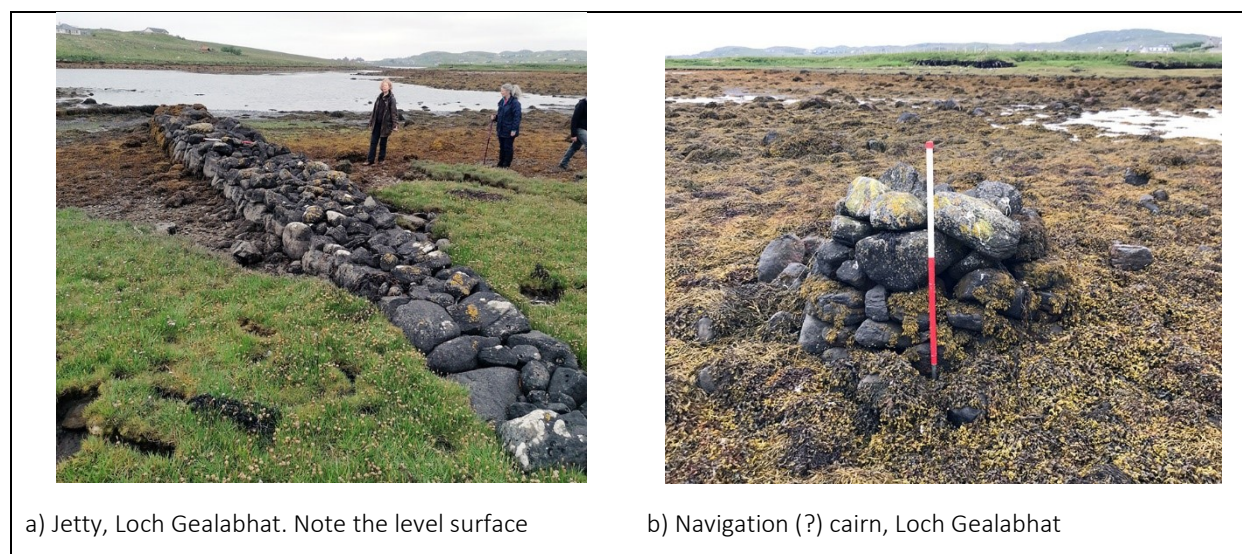


Figure 10. A good example of a stone jetty (site 2795) with level top, and a probable navigation marker (site 2796), Loch Gealabhat

A nice find in Tòb na Faodhail were stepping-stones across the narrowest point of the bay; the place-name translation from the Gaelic being 'Bay of the Ford'.



Figure 11. Stepping-stones (site 14156) across the Tòb na Faodhail "Bay of the Ford".

Rubha na Cloiche peninsula and Tòb nan Leòbag (Day 2)

The peninsula south of Calanais which ends in the Rubha na Cloiche headland and is bounded on the east side by Tòb nan Leòbag was rich in maritime landscape features. These were mostly a variety of landing places and included cleared slipways some with associated breakwaters creating small harbours and quays. The most substantial is on the northwest side; a small harbour (site 2755) associated with a jetty (site 2754) and intertidal trackway (site 14148), which would have provided cart access to Loch Roag from the northern half of the peninsula. On the west side and east side of the Rubha na Cloiche headland are examples of cleared slipways with associated breakwaters/ jetties (sites 14159/61 and 2743). Found at both sites were circular stone settings, 0.5m - 1m in diameter, located at the landward end of the inner side of the breakwater. The purpose of these features is unknown. A further example was identified, at Rubha an Tairbh (site 14174) on the shore above a cleared slipway (site 14186). It is possible they are foundations for mooring or marker posts.¹



Figure 12. Examples of circular stone settings associated with breakwaters/jetties on the Rubha na Cloiche peninsula

¹ Another example has since been identified at Mealista at the head of a possible landing place (<https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14188/>)

At the Rubha na Cloiche headland itself are two stone quays (site 2748 and site 14162) created by enclosing natural rocky promontories with revetment walling and infilling to create a level platform for easier access at all stages of the tide for loading and unloading boats. The western one (site 2748) is very substantial, with the stage extending out into the intertidal zone, and has a possible landing beach on its north side (site 2750).



Figure 13. Large stone quay (site 2748) at Rubha na Clòiche

On the east side of the peninsula a substantial stone alignment (site 2735) extends across the intertidal zone to a rocky islet around 60m offshore in outer Tòb nan Leòbag. Interpreted as a causeway in the original Lewis CZAS this is actually the seaward continuation of the main boundary dyke which encloses the drier, cultivated area around Cnoc a' Mhill in the southeast from the boggy ground that covers the central part of the peninsula. There are settlement remains of a black house (site 2737) and an early 20th century farmstead (site 2739) here. Fifty metres to the north, a further L-shaped intertidal wall also connects the shore to the rocky islet. Together the two walls enclose a shallow area of approximately 1400 square metres (1/3 acre) between the islet and the shore. Given the place-name Tòb nan Leòbag which means 'Creek of the Flounders', this enclosure could have functioned as a fish trap.



Figure 14. Boundary dyke and possible fish trap (site 2735) from the air, looking west

Strèimnish, Cnoc Isdeam, Bratanais, Rubha an Tairbh (Day 3)

The dense distribution of maritime features continued along the southeast stretch of coastline of the main Calanais peninsula from Strèimnish to Rubha an Tairbh.

A fine example of a cleared slipway and breakwater (site 2773) associated with a pair of nausts (2774) is found at Cnoc Isdeam, presumably belonging to the remains of the nearby black house and farmstead (site 2775). Drystone revetment walling is still visible in the nausts.

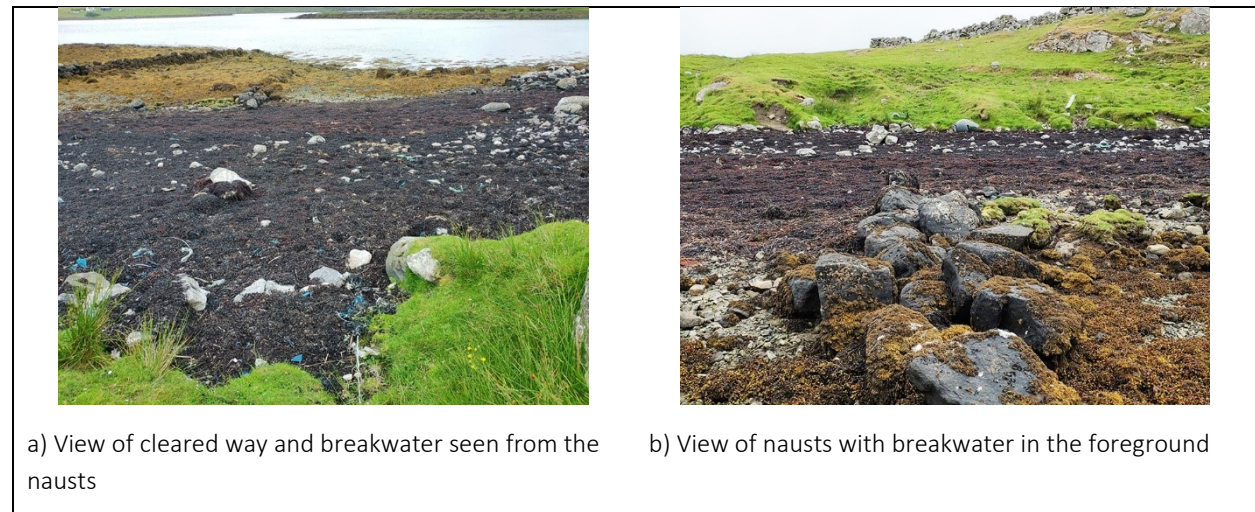


Figure 15. Nausts (site 2774) and associated cleared slipway and breakwater (site 2773) at Cnoc Isdeam

On either side of Rubha an Tairbh promontory are two large, cleared slipways (sites 14173, 14186). Rubha an Tairbh means ‘the Point of the Bull’ and promontories are traditionally places where livestock are corralled because, having three seaward sides, they are relatively easy to secure. It is possible, therefore, that the two slipways relate to the loading and unloading of livestock from the promontory.



Figure 16. Cleared slipway (site 14186) on the north side of Rubha an Tairbh

A causeway (site 2781/14177) links the Bratanais mainland to Bratanais Mòr and Bratanais Beag, but the only other clearly post-medieval and later sites on the islands are a mooring ring (site 14169) and probable jetty (site 14170), both of which are located towards the southern tip of the islands giving access to the main channel.

4. Main outcomes and some thoughts

The Calanais coastal survey was enjoyable and productive, and we learnt a lot about the coastal and intertidal landscape of one of Lewis's iconic archaeological sites.

The survey more than doubled the number of site records and updated and improved existing records, particularly in the correct identification of post-medieval and later maritime features. A new monument type, the small circular stone settings associated with boat landing places was documented and would merit further investigation into what they could be. Today largely empty of people, the richness of the intertidal maritime landscape attests to it being, until relatively recently, a focus of activity and a place of work. Most of the features identified were related to boat access for fishing, kelping and the transportation of livestock, things and people.

The survey confirmed the presence of buried prehistoric land surfaces and field boundaries surviving in the vicinity of the Neolithic monument. The potential of further prehistoric stone structures to survive in the intertidal zone is high. However, identification from the air or on the ground is greatly hampered by the general rockiness of the foreshore and thick seaweed cover. It is also very likely that even if structures do survive, archaeological sediments associated with them would not. Stone remains of probable prehistoric 'ghost' settlement in the intertidal zone have been recorded elsewhere in Loch Roag, (at Garynahine, Loch Ceann Hulabhigh <https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/12576/>) and in the intertidal zone along the west coast of the Western Isles at Lionacleit (<https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/13304/>) and Paible (<https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/9410/>).

The survey newly recorded several exposures of buried tree remains beneath peat around Loch Gealabhat. There are a great many historical references to encounters with buried trees in the Western Isles (Fossit 1996), and this is not the first finding of sub fossil wood at Calanais. But it does appear to be the most extensive. The previous find in 1979 was a layer of birch wood revealed in peat cuttings on the Tòb nan Leòbag peninsula around 35cm below the present ground surface (Cowie 1979, 46).

Subsequent pollen analysis of the peat column indicated that before extensive clearance in the Early Bronze Age, there would have been widespread woodland cover in sheltered areas around Calanias, dominated by birch with hazel, willow, ash and poplar and woodland plants such as honeysuckle and ferns. The birch wood was radiocarbon dated to 4249 – 3772 cal BC [GU 1150/51] (Bohncke 1988). Recent studies of intertidal submerged woodland at Lionacleit, Benbecula (Hambly and Timpany, 2019) and Sheabie, Berneray (Timpany and Hambly 2017) have undertaken analysis of the wood itself and are contributing more detail about the woodland composition and more radiocarbon dates for the period when woodland was much more widespread across the Western Isles. It would be interesting to see what the Loch Gealabhat material could add to the story.

We were fortunate in having Gaelic speakers participating in the survey and an understanding of Gaelic placenames enhanced our understanding of some archaeological features. Sometimes this was very direct, for example the discovery of a causeway in the Bay of the Ford (Tòb na Faodhail). Placenames can also be thought provoking. Calanais means 'the point of the calling or shouting' and has been applied to Calanais as the promontory from where one would call for a ferry to cross the water (Oftedal 1954, 382-383). The weather and conditions were calm and quiet during the week of survey and across the whole of the southern stretch of the survey area from Bratanais to Tòb nan Leòbag, the voices of

visitors at the main Calanais Stones were clearly audible. We became very aware of the acoustic reach across the natural amphitheatre of this inner part of Loch Roag and surrounding hills. We wondered whether this could have been significant in the siting and interconnectedness of the main Calanais and satellite stones. Acoustic research has been carried out within stone and wood henges, but not as far as we know between them.

In good conditions with knowledgeable volunteers, we were able to pay close attention to the archaeological features on the foreshore resulting in a detailed archaeological record. Many of the sites will be known to community members who would be able to enrich the record with local historical information.

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6. Acknowledgements

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Appendix 1. Calanais Coastal Survey

Updates to existing records

Update ID	Site ID	Site record hyperlink	Site name	Lat	Lng	Easting	Northing	Description
3581	2733	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2733	Tob nan Leobag	58.1947	-6.73455	121898	932659	Alignment of boulders, about 40 m long, up to 2 m wide, max 50 cm high, broken and tumbled, stretching across bay, enclosing area of mud-flat about about 15 m x 40 m. Probable part of Bronze Age field systems previously recorded on west side of Tob nan Leobag. Tob nan Leobag (14179) is the northern continuation of this wall.
3580	2734	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2734	Tob nan Leobag	58.1933	-6.73432	121900	932500	Field System
3588	2735	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2735	Tob nan Leobag	58.1937	-6.73312	121973	932534	L-shaped causeway feature linking high water mark to rocky outcrop or tidal islet. Associated with causeway feature to the south.
3575	2737	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2737	Tob nan Leobag, Cnoc a Mhill	58.1926	-6.73439	121890	932420	Ruins of black house and enclosures
3578	2740	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2740	Tob nan Leobag	58.1918	-6.73549	121820	932340	Drystone rectangular enclosure. Associated with ruinous 20th century farmstead.
3579	2741	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2741	Tob nan Leobag, Cnoc a Mhill	58.1916	-6.73344	121938	932301	Wall of boulders, 1m wide, up to 50 cm high, extending across intertidal from north shore of Caolas a' Mhill, first to SE and gently curving towards S, for about 30 m, tapering to nothing half way across strait.
3572	2743	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2743	Tob na Leobag	58.1914	-6.73624	121772	932291	Curving drystone breakwater in the inter tidal zone Adjacent to the breakwater small circular stone setting with 50 cm diameter possibly for a post
3590	2748	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2748	Calanais Rubha na Cloiche	58.1915	-6.73814	121662	932314	Substantial drystone walling enclosing a natural stone outcrop on the end of the promontory
3574	2750	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2750	Calanais	58.1917	-6.73812	121665	932338	7m long drystone wall. 80cm wide. Constructed with two parallel lines of boulders with a rubble core. Most of the wall is above high water mark. This wall marks the northern side of what looks like a landing beach or area for pulling up boats adjacent to the substantial landing stage/ hard at Rudha na Cloiche
3585	2752	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2752	Tob nan Leobag/ Rudha na Cloiche	58.1935	-6.73775	121700	932530	Oval turf and stone feature measuring 4m by 2m. Located on a small promontory. Rectangular structure located to the east of cell.
3571	2753	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2753	Calanais	58.1952	-6.73693	121761	932718	Numerous linear and angular ridges and ditches. Possible boundaries and drainage channels.
3589	2755	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2755	Calanais	58.1953	-6.73812	121692	932733	Natural harbour improved with stones cleared to improve access, associated trackway to east of harbour. Linear drystone alignment from shore extending into harbour suggests a probable jetty. It

Appendix 1. Calanais Coastal Survey

Updates to existing records

Update ID	Site ID	Site record hyperlink	Site name	Lat	Lng	Easting	Northing	Description
3568	2756	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2756	Calanais	58.197	-6.73954	121622	932932	Rectangular dry stone enclosure 5m—7m, no apparent entrance, possible crofting structure
3621	2760	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2760	Calanais	58.1937	-6.74289	121400	932580	No clear sign of walling in this location. Seaweed hampers visibility, and it is a naturally boulder-strewn ground surface.
	2770	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2770	Calanais	58.1961	-6.75599	120650	932900	Master record for prehistoric stone dykes, fragmentary remains of which are visible in the intertidal areas of the tidal islets of Bratanais Beag and Bratanais Mor. Many of these may relate to Neolithic and Bronze Age field systems, that are now buried beneath peat on land. Relative sea level rise of 3-4m since the Neolithic has submerged low-lying land and the dykes can be traced in the foreshore and intertidal zone. There may be further settlement remains of these periods in the intertidal zones, but thick seaweed coverage and a generally rocky and boulder-strewn foreshore makes features extremely difficult to identify. Possible prehistoric features on the Bratanais islands are: 14166; 14168; 14171; 14172; 14176; 14181; 14182; 14183
	2772	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2772	Calanais Cnoc	58.1964	-6.7496	121028	932910	Stone dyke extending into the intertidal zone.
	2773	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2773	Calanais Cnoc Isdeam	58.1966	-6.74971	121022	932922.8	Cleared slipway and breakwater for landing boats, associated with a pair of nausts Calanais Cnoc Isdeam (2774).
	2774	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2774	Calanais Cnoc Isdeam	58.1967	-6.74959	121030	932940.9	A pair of substantial nausts carved into the coast edge, the sides partially revetted with drystone walling. The nausts are associated with cleared slipway and breakwater, Calanais (2773), and presumably with farmstead/blackhouse Calanais (2775).
3599	2782	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2782	Calanais	58.198	-6.75644	120638	933115	Linear alignment of boulders, slightly curved, 10 m long, boulders up to 80 cm wide and 50 cm high, extending into intertidal from upper shore, roughly perpendicular to shoreline.
3614	2784	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2784	Calanais	58.1984	-6.75825	120535	933158	Circular arrangement of stone, c 3 m diameter at low water mark enclosing a relatively stone free area. The location matches the original record but this is not a convincing cairn! Tenuous feature but seaweed cover prevents more positive ID.
3605	2787	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2787	Calanais Rubha an Tairbh	58.1984	-6.7591	120485	933163	Low turf walls on promontory could indicate cellular structures
3583	2795	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2795	Calanais	58.204	-6.73989	121657	933710	25 metre long drystone structure. 3 metres wide at seaward end tapering to 0.5 metre at landward end. Situated perpendicular to the shore. Constructed to have a level surface. A more likely interpretation is a stone jetty.

Appendix 1. Calanais Coastal Survey

Updates to existing records

Update ID	Site ID	Site record hyperlink	Site name	Lat	Lng	Easting	Northing	Description
3566	2796	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2796	Calanais	58.2048	-6.73972	121673	933794	Solid circular undressed stone structure, currently four courses high, about 1.5m diameter, about 80cm high. Height currently just above high tide mark. Some tumble suggests originally it was .5m or higher. Possibly a maritime feature, ?territorial navigation.
3552	2797	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2797	Calanais	58.2096	-6.75575	120770	934400	Originally interpreted as a breakwater, this is natural bedrock.
3553	2799	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2799	Calanais	58.2082	-6.75144	121012	934221	Circular alignment of medium sized boulders demarcate level ground on NW side of small valley. C. 10m diameter. Looks like a building platform.
3551	2800	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2800	Calanais	58.2096	-6.75404	120870	934390	Substantial field boundary. On land appears as a turf dyke with squarish profile topped with modern fence. In intertidal zone, the Drystone structure is revealed. Two lines of massive facing stones with rubble core. The whole c. 1.5m wide. A massive crossing stone linking the two faces can be seen at mid tide point.
3560	2802	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2802	Calanais	58.2074	-6.74335	121480	934100	Curvilinear drystone dyke in intertidal zone. Seen from opposite shore.
3592	2804	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/2804	Calanais	58.2074	-6.74301	121500	934100	The site as recorded in the Canmore record was visited as part of a Calanais coastal update survey in July 2021. The small recumbant stone was seen, but it seems far too small to be a standing stone. Much more likely it is a natural stone on this bedrock outcrop where there are a great many naturally cleaved boulders and stone slabs.

Appendix 2. Calanais Coastal Survey
New sites

Site ID	Site record hyperlink	Site name	Site type	Periods	Lat	Lng	Easting	Northing	Description	Canmore ID	HER ID
14150	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14150	Calanais Mol Ghibidil	REFUSE TIP-vehicles	Modern	58.20939	-6.751444	121021	934357.3	Concentrated remains of rusted engine and chassis parts strewn across c. 20m square area of foreshore. A 20th century farm vehicle graveyard?		
14153	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14153	Calanais Loch Gealabhat	BOUNDARY WALL	Post-Medieval	58.20789	-6.739029	121737.6	934138.3	Drystone wall foundation c. 10m in length supporting a fence in intertidal zone.		
14154	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14154	Calanais, Loch Gealabhat	SUBMERGED FOREST, INTERTIDAL PEAT	Prehistoric	58.2049	-6.737465	121806.1	933800.4	Several concentrations of preserved wood fragments preserved in basal peat, overlying stoney buried natural ground surface, buried beneath up to 2m of peat, exposed at several locations on the shores of Loch Gealabhat. Mostly root and twig fragments indicate drowned woodland. Looks very similar to submerged forest in Benbecula and Uists - identified as mostly willow with some alder and birch. Submerged woodland.		
14155	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14155	Calanais, Loch Gealabhat	BOUNDARY WALL	Post-Medieval	58.20675	-6.738379	121766.8	934009.2	Linear drystone alignment in intertidal zone, perpendicular to shore, 5 m long. Possible boundary.		
14156	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14156	Calanais, Tob na Faodhail	STEPPING STONES	Post-Medieval	58.20669	-6.742708	121512.4	934020.3	Row of large stones running across intertidal zone at narrowest part of loch. Short break at deepest point, so cannot be fully traversed on foot. Probable stepping stones. The 2nd edition OS depicts and labels this area "Stones". Tob na Faodhail means "Bay of the Ford".		
14157	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14157	Calanais, Loch Gealabhat	BOUNDARY WALL	Post-Medieval	58.20589	-6.737544	121809.1	933910.1	Drystone wall foundation for fence in intertidal zone		
14158	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14158	Calanais	TRACK	Post-Medieval	58.19611	-6.738768	121660.6	932827.6	Intertidal trackway running parallel to the coast for approx. 200m from small harbour (site 2755). Possibly related to seaweed collection.		
14159	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14159	Rudha na cloiche	STONE SETTING	Post-Medieval	58.19325	-6.737593	121707.3	932505.2	1m diameter circular dry stone setting. Possibly for a post (marker or mooring?) associated with jetty site 14161. See comments on Update for site 14174, Rubh an Tairbh for further examples.		
14160	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14160	Tob na Leobag	CLEARED SLIPWAY	Post-Medieval	58.19276	-6.733462	121946	932433.7	Cleared way in foreshore for boat landing place for the croft (site 2737)		
14161	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14161	Rubha na Cloiche	JETTY	Post-Medieval	58.1933	-6.737882	121690.7	932511.9	Pt 1: Remains of drystone structure, 15 m long, 1 m wide, top roughly level with shoreline, overlooking intertidal zone, perpendicular to shoreline. Boulders arranged so as to form fairly flat vertical faces on either side of structure, filled in at seaward end with smaller stones in between, highly fragmented towards landward end. Pt 2: Apparent linear alignment of boulders, 40 m long, 3 m wide, < 1 m high, extending fully across intertidal zone, from base of pt 1, continuing its line. Relatively boulder-free pathway, 5 m wide, adjacent on northern side. Visible as dark line in satellite photo.		
14162	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14162	Rubha na Cloiche	QUAY	Post-Medieval	58.19122	-6.737442	121700.3	932279	A 2 m x 4 m level platform built by enclosing two sides of an uneven rocky outcrop with drystone walling, around 1m high. Located at the very edge of the intertidal zone forming a platform to the shore. The intertidal area in front and to the side of the platform is relatively clear of stone. Probably a landing stage.		
14164	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14164	Loch Gealavat	BOUNDARY WALL	Post-Medieval	58.20555	-6.736892	121844.8	933870.3	20-25 metres long by 1 metre wide linear drystone structure extending out into Loch Gealavat on eastern shore. Possible boundary.		
14165	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14165	Calanais, Rubha na Cloiche	BUILDING PLATFORM	Post-Medieval, Period Unknown	58.19135	-6.736363	121764.7	932289.2	Subrectangular 4m x 9m levelled area defined by low turf wall at seaward end. This looks like a platform for a light wooden building, possibly a shed or boat house associated with the adjacent jetty.		

Appendix 2. Calanais Coastal Survey
New sites

Site ID	Site record hyperlink	Site name	Site type	Periods	Lat	Lng	Easting	Northing	Description	Canmore ID	HER ID
14166	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14166	Bratanais Mor	STONE ALIGNMENT	Prehistoric	58.19734	-6.756648	120620.9	933039.1	Curvilinear stone alignment extending from coast edge to low water mark, c. 25m long and 1m wide. The alignment is continuous between mid tide and low tide and discontinuous in beach area at the high water mark. It is visible continuing beneath the peat a the coast edge. This is probably one of the many prehistoric field and boundary walls running beneath the peat, fragments of whcih are visible on the shores of the two tidal islands of Bratanais Mor and Bratanais Beag.	335207	MWE141583
14168	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14168	Bratanais Beag	STONE ALIGNMENT	Prehistoric, Post-Medieval	58.19613	-6.753586	120791.1	932892.1	Line of boulders, 20 m long, < 1 m high, 1 m wide, across intertidal zone, starting at shoreline, perpendicular to shoreline. Lower and broader towards seaward end. Either a jetty, or part of the sub-peat prehistoric stone dykes visible around the tidal islands of Bratanais Mor and Bratanais Beag.	335207	MWE141583
14169	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14169	Bratanais Beag	MOORING FIXTURE	Modern	58.19458	-6.753159	120804	932718.2	Heavily rusted iron chain, 10 m long, anchored to pole, 50 cm high, embedded in rocky outcrop in upper intertidal zone. The chin trails trailing over rocks towards lower intertidal zone. Passes around another iron pole, 20 cm high, about 8 m along its length. A further 30 cm of chain, broken off from main piece, lies next to bottom end. A mooring post and chain giving access to the main channel of Loch Roag.		
14170	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14170	Bratanais Mor	JETTY	Post-Medieval	58.19499	-6.755612	120663.2	932773.5	Drystone linear structure, 10 m long, 1.5 m wide, up to 80 cm high, perpendicular to shoreline, extending across intertidal zone from rocky outcrop at upper edge of shoreline. Large boulders on outside, filled in with smaller stones. Description is more like a maritime feature than a dyke. Possible jetty.		
14171	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14171	Bratanais Mor	STONE ALIGNMENT, DYKE	Prehistoric	58.19754	-6.756558	120627.7	933060.7	Linear alignment of stones, 10 m long, 1 m wide, up to 50 cm high, extending across upper intertidal zone, perpendicular to shore. Not associated with an obvious cleared way to land boats, so possibly a sub-peat dyke associated with prehistoric field boundaries visible on the shores of the tidal islands of Bratanais Mor and Bratanais Beag. This is probably the same site as Calanais (2783).	335220	MWE141596
14172	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14172	Rubha an Tairbh	STRUCTURE, DRYSTONE	Prehistoric	58.19862	-6.757734	120567.2	933186.3	Curvilinear alignment of stones, forming near 180° arc, about 5 m diameter, open at landward side, at upper edge of intertidal zone. Remains of small enclosure, possibly related to prehistoric field systems exposed in intertidal areas around Bratanais islets. Possibly same as Calanais (2786).	335223	MWE141599
14173	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14173	Rubha an Tairbh	CLEARED SLIPWAY	Post-Medieval	58.19827	-6.759011	120489.5	933152.4	Cleared way across intertidal area, free of boulders, 3 m wide, leading up to upper shoreline. A landing place for boats.		
14174	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14174	Rubha an Tairbh	STONE SETTING	Post-Medieval	58.19856	-6.759096	120486.8	933185.3	Small circle of stones, partially buried in turf about 1m in diameter. Probing with ranging rod indicates more buried stones inside the circle. Located on low cliff edge just to the north of cleared slipway site: 14186		
14175	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14175	Calanais, Streimnis	CLEARED SLIPWAY	Post-Medieval	58.19484	-6.748501	121079.4	932727.5	Possible landing place, cleared way.		
14176	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14176	Bratanais Beag	BANK (EARTHWORK)	Prehistoric	58.19502	-6.753524	120786	932768	Stone and turf curvilinear earthwork bank about 13m long by 1.5m wide running north-south at the narrow south end of Bratanais Beag. The peat is absent or very thin at the southern tip of the islet compared to the interior, so it is possible this relates to prehistoric stone field walls; fragments of which are visible in the intertidal areas around the Bratanais islets.	335207	MWE141583
14177	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14177	Bratanais Mor	CAUSEWAY	Post-Medieval	58.19772	-6.755595	120664.8	933077.9	Curvilinear stone alignment of large boulders providing walkway across intertidal area between north end of isle and Mainland. This is the same site as Bratanish Mor (2781).	335218	MWE141594
14178	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14178	Tob nan Leobag	WALL	Prehistoric, Bronze Age	58.19466	-6.735159	121861.2	932651.7	Short stretch of drystone wall revealed in erosion runnel, in salt marsh environment buried by peat. Possible glimpse of prehistoric field wall, same as, or related to wall 2733/2732 now located in the intertidal zone.	335183	MWE141546

Appendix 2. Calanais Coastal Survey
New sites

Site ID	Site record hyperlink	Site name	Site type	Periods	Lat	Lng	Easting	Northing	Description	Canmore ID	HER ID
14179	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14179	Tob nan Leobag	WALL	Prehistoric,Bronze Age	58.19511	-6.735288	121857.2	932702.6	Short stretch of drystone wall exposed in erosion runnel in saltmarsh. Probably the northern continuation of intertidal wall 2733. Part of prehistoric (Bronze Age) field systems now buried by peat, in intertidal zone, or submerged.		
14181	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14181	Bratanais Beag	STONE ALIGNMENT, DYKE	Prehistoric	58.19525	-6.75327	120802.7	932792.3	Possible drystone linear wall, perpendicular to coast c. 1 m wide, 30m long, extending from coast edge to low water mark. Landward end appears to be running beneath peat. The portion of the wall on the 'beach' is missing, which seems to be fairly typical of these intertidal walls, which survive best between mid and low water mark. This is a good example of a probable prehistoric stone field boundary which run beneath the peat and are exposed around the tidal islets of Bratanais Mor and Bratanais Beag.	335207	MWE141583
14182	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14182	Bratanais Beag	STONE ALIGNMENT, DYKE	Prehistoric,Period Unknown	58.1949	-6.753105	120809.7	932753.5	Short stretch of curvilinear stonework near low water mark near south end of island. Seaweed cover makes more positive identification impossible. Possibly part of prehistoric field systems, fragments of which are exposed on the shorelines of tidal islets Bratanais Mor and Bratanais Beag.	335207	MWE141583
14183	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14183	Bratanais Mor	FINDSPOT	Prehistoric	58.19586	-6.755522	120675.3	932869.6	Unmodified, struck flint flake in buried ground surface beneath c. 1m of peat. Exposed in coast edge on east side of Bratanais Mor.		
14184	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14184	Bratanais Mor	STRUCTURE, DRYSTONE	Period Unknown	58.19521	-6.755739	120657.5	932798.6	Rectangular arrangement of tumbled stone in upper part of intertidal zone. 3m X 4m. Jetty 14170 just to south. This is tenuous feature.		
14185	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14185	Rudh an Tairbh	STRUCTURE, DRYSTONE	Prehistoric,Period Unknown	58.19844	-6.758218	120537.4	933168.1	Two sides and corner of a tenuous rectangular stone structure in the mid intertidal zone. 5m x 2m of possible wall visible but seaweed cover prevents more positive ID. This is probably the same site as Calanais (2785)	335222	MWE141597
14186	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14186	Rudh an Tairbh	CLEARED SLIPWAY	Post-Medieval	58.19854	-6.75924	120478.1	933182.8	Substantial cleared way for landing boats on west side of point with placename 'Point of the Cattle'.		
14187	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14187	Bratanais	CLEARED SLIPWAY	Post-Medieval	58.19697	-6.751968	120892.6	932978.2	A short stretch of cleared way for landing boats on Bratanais mainland at base of steep lowish cliff. Located just to the west of a substantial turf and stone dyke.		
14189	https://scapetrust.org/sites-at-risk/site/14189	Calanais	NAUST AND CLEARED SLIPWAY	Post-Medieval	58.19548	-6.742685	121425.8	932774.1	Naust with modern boat, mooring ring and cleared way. This is the Calanais side of the Linshader ferry.		

Appendix 3. Drone coverage of the intertidal area in the Calanais coastal survey

