

Photographic Survey

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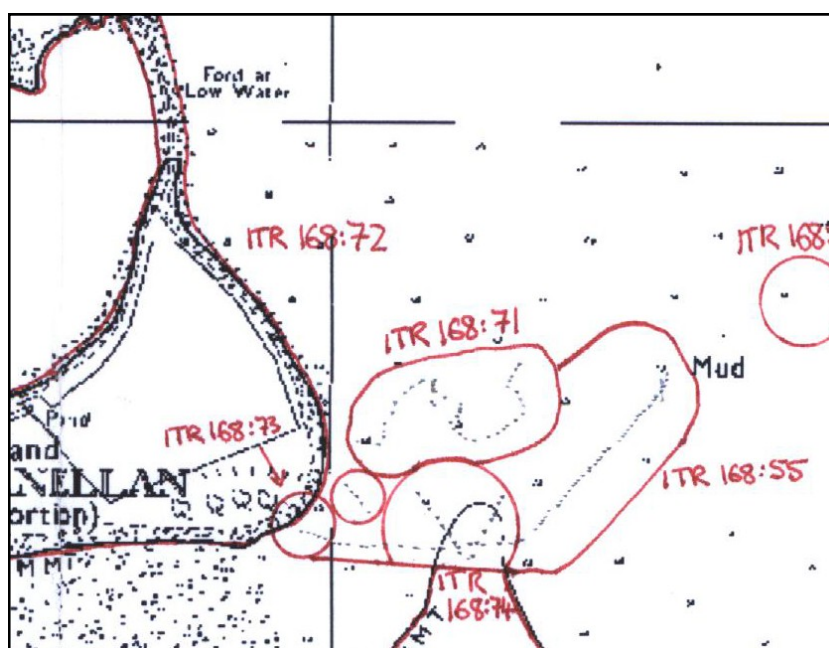
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Greyabbey Bay, South Island/Ballyurnenallen

MRD168:055 Stone Fish Trap

Description

A stone fish trap on the south-east side of South Island extends out from HWM across the gradually sloping shore of small stones onto flat sand. It consists of two slightly curving leaders; the western leader, which was altered by reconstruction during the 1970s, runs 53m east-south-east to a gap 11m wide. The modern upper part is constructed of small to medium stones superimposed on the base of the original trap. The base, which can be detected under the modern addition, appears to be of tightly packed stones and is 1.7m wide. The stone bank continues east for 72 m, where it begins to curve east north east for a further 22.6m. It then turns north-east, extending 64m, with an average width of 1.5m, culminating at the angle of the trap. The eastern leader is now largely covered by shellfish which obscure a kerb-and-fill wall, running north-north-east for 127m. Where the wall is visible it is about 70cm wide. 92m north-north-east of the angle is a well-defined gap 4.0m wide, revealing a stone edge 4.0m wide on the north, and a south-facing edge 1.0m across. A length of wood, 2.0m long by 8cm thick, was noted 5.0m south-south-west of the gap, but it is not known whether this is associated with the trap. The eastern wing merges into an eroded drumlin on the north-north-east. A channel of water flows north - south through the western leader, and a pool of water is retained behind it. At no time does this part of the fish trap dry out completely.





Taken from the eroded drumlin at the eastern end of the visible fish trap.



Although it is completely covered by muscles the eastern leader can still be traced, this section is 30m from the visible section. At this point the 'wall' is .75m high and has merged with the eroded drumlin on the 'outside'.

If it were not for the information on record I would have believed that clay etc. has been removed to enlarge the surface area behind the fish trap rather than a wall having been built.



One of the exposed section of the kerb wall.



Taken from the south 'outside' the fish trap and showing the height of the wall near the centre.



Looking down on the wall near the centre.



Looking east back along the wall and showing the spread of the wall towards its western end.



Looking east back along the wall and showing the reconstructed wall at its western end.



Looking across the gap at the western end of the wall, the outer (lefthand) edge shows the original kerb very well.



Taken from the ridge on South Island during an incoming tide which highlights the extension of the fish trap into the eroded drumlin.