

7. Possible Unenclosed Platform Site at Ballageich Hill

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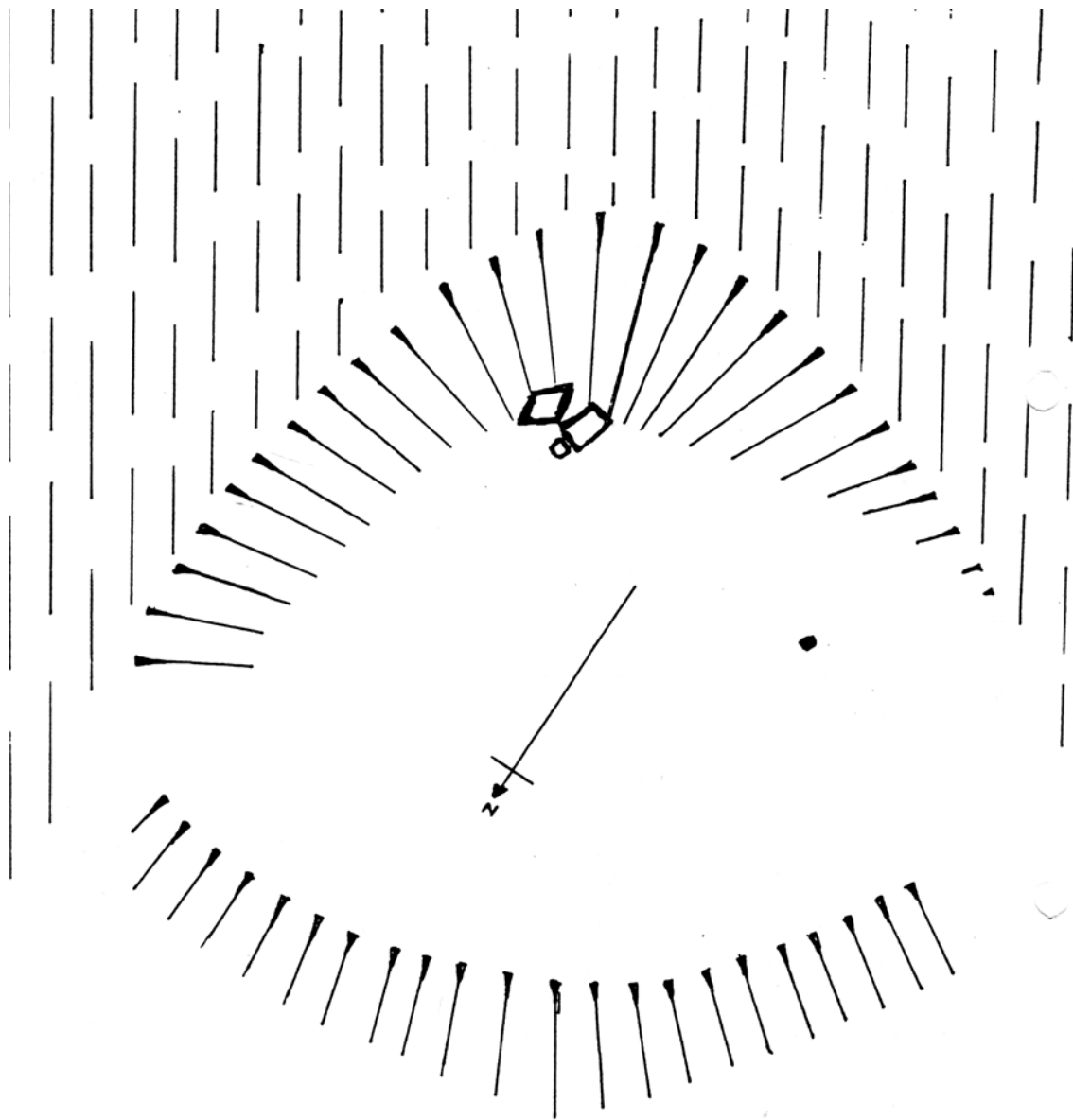
A field survey was carried out in January 1994 at Ballageich Hill which is about two and a half miles west of Eaglesham. (NS 526499) The subject of the survey was a possible Unenclosed Platform Site which was on, and surrounded by, marginally improved moorland. The site, on a north facing slope, has an open outlook over the eastern end of Bennan Loch, and is at a height of just over 300 metres O.D.

On the lower slopes of the hill there is evidence of recent farming activity; field dykes and a sheepfold.

The platform measures 15 metres in length, with a possible depth of 10 metres. The rear scarp and frontal apron are defined by a break in slope from the natural hillslope which is steep at this location. The frontal apron measures approximately half a metre in height and the platform slopes very slightly towards the apron. The back scarp was just over half a metre in height. The NE side of the platform appears to be almost closed while the SW is more open, perhaps suggesting an access on the latter side.

A scale drawing was made at 1:100. When the area close to the back scarp was probed there appeared to be turf covered stones on either side of the large, visible stones shown on the plan.

Editors' Note: Unenclosed platform sites are levelled stances for circular timber houses cut into hillslopes. They were first recognised at Green Knowe near Peebles. The excavation there indicated an early first millenium B.C. date for this type of hillside settlement. Many more UPS's have now been recorded, particularly by Betty Rennie in Argyll and Tam Ward in Clydesdale. This could be a first for Eastwood District.



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