

III.

AN UNRECORDED STONE CIRCLE, LOCH SEAFORTH,
LEWIS. By WALLACE THORNEYCROFT, F.S.A.Scot.

This stone circle is on the northern shore of Loch Seaforth, one mile west from the cottage called Fangs at Seaforth head. It lies close to

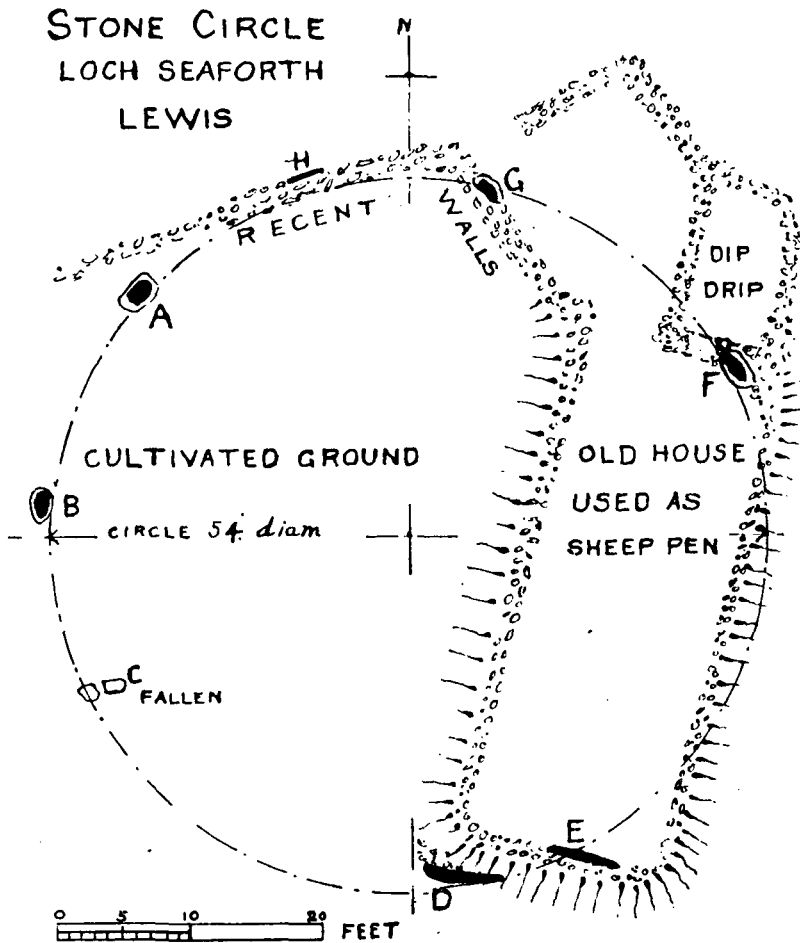


Fig. 1. Stone Circle, Loch Seaforth, Lewis—Plan.

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the shore on a remnant of a raised beach, the centre being about 70 feet from the present high-water mark. Latitude $58^{\circ} 3' 19.6''$ N. Longitude $6^{\circ} 36' 53.5''$ W.

The present house on M'Lellan's croft, which is not shown on the



Fig. 2. Stones in Circle at Loch Seaforth.

6-inch Ordnance Map, surveyed 1851 and revised 1896, is a short distance east of it, and the track to this house leaves the road from Balallan to Eishken Lodge, where it begins to bend eastwards above the shore of Loch Seaforth.

There are seven stones visible, marked A B C D E F G on the plan, set on the circumference of a circle about 54 feet in diameter (fig. 1).

Stone A stands 5 feet 6 inches above the present ground-level, stone B 4 feet 3 inches, and the rest about the same (fig. 2). C is broken and lies on the ground. Stones D and E have been moved and turned on edge to form part of the walls of a house built more than 120 years ago and subsequently abandoned. F was also built into the wall but upright. It is possible that there was another stone built in between E and F, but it is not visible. G is built into a modern wall.

When M'Lellan took over this croft about forty years ago he was instructed by the estate officials not to move these stones.

The keeper, who has been on the place more than fifty years, thinks that there were at least 4 large flat stones lying near the centre. H, which is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, may be one of them now built into the recent wall; there is another inside the sheep pen.