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Mackie ANTIQUITY 76: 293 Figure 1.

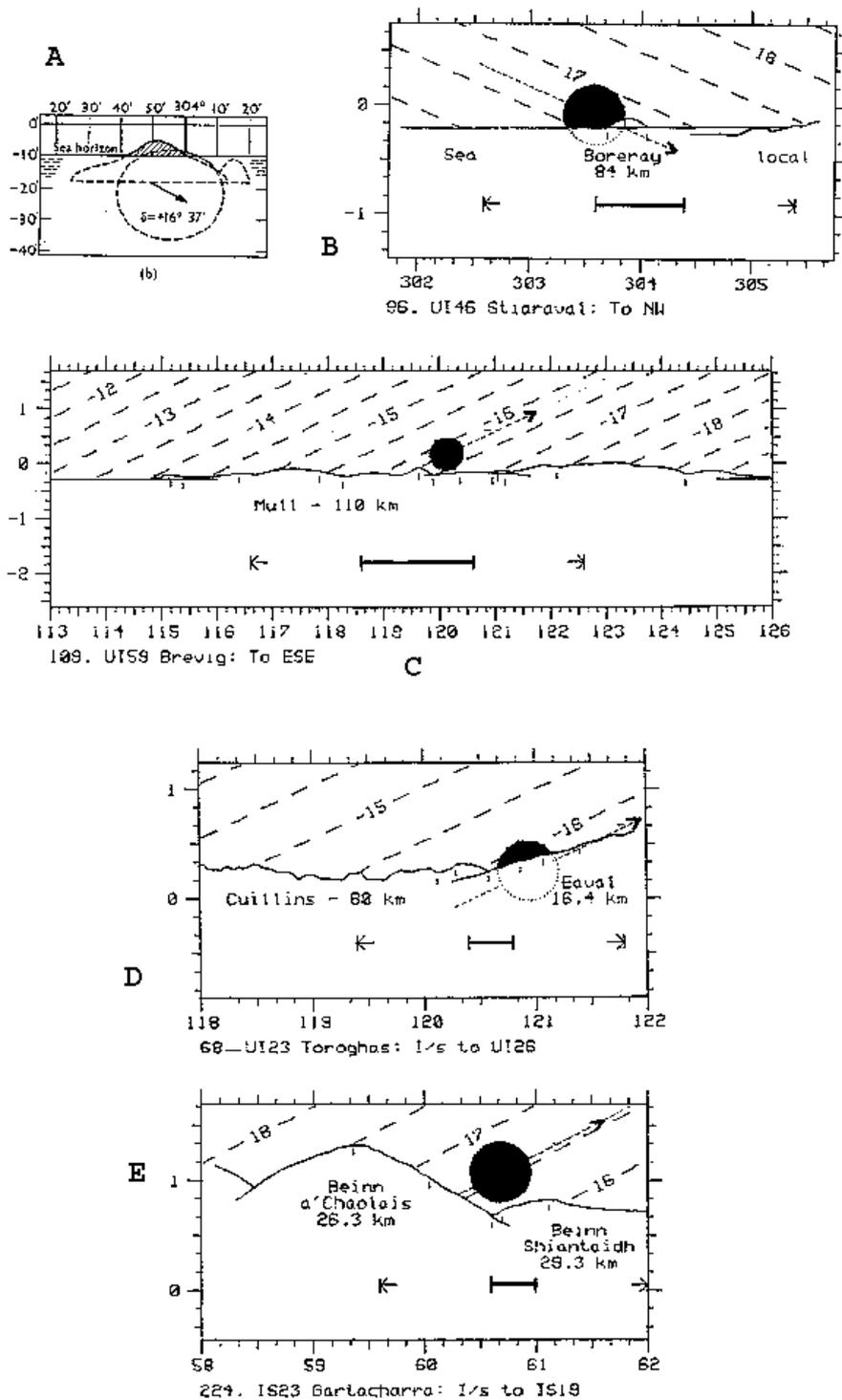


FIGURE 1. Horizon profiles of four standing stone sites in the western Scottish highlands and islands where clearly indicated, long and potentially accurate alignments point to Quarter Day sunrises and sunsets. Except for A all the drawings are from Ruggles 1984; on B-E the suns have been added as black discs and represent the 'ideal' position in each case as computed by A Thom (1967: 110, table 9.1). In fact the position of sunrises and sunsets on the Quarter Days would vary slightly from year to year for the same reason as the equinoctial ones do (Thom 1967: 113, fig. 9.2). The thick horizontal line marks the minimum length of horizon which the standing stone(s) can be said to indicate, the two arrows outside mark the maximum length. In each case it will be seen that the shorter line brackets the horizon mark which defines the Quarter Day sunrise or sunset. The

*distance of the horizons are given in km.*

*A and B: two records of the view to the north-west to Boreray from the Stiaraval standing stone in North Uist, A by Thom and B by Ruggles; the foresight marks sunset on the second and third Quarter Days (early May and early August).*

*C: the standing stone at Brevig on Barra marks the first and fourth Quarter Day sunrise (early February and early November) against a very distant peak in the SE on Mull.*

*D: the standing stone at Toroghas in North Uist marks the same two sunrises against a notch in the south-east formed by the distant Cuillins on Skye and nearby Eaval. The situation is rather similar to that at Sornach Coir Fhinn stone circle (Figure 2).*

*E: the Gartacharra standing stone on Islay indicates a notch in the north-east in the Paps of Jura, where the sun rises on the second and third Quarter Days (early May and early August).*

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