

Robert, 2004
Alaska
Rees

Waste Water Treatment
Centre E of Thurso

Report 1386

1. Cultural Heritage

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This section describes the results of a desk based assessment and walk over field survey undertaken to assess the impact upon the cultural heritage of a programme of works associated with the construction of a secondary waste water treatment works and pipeline to the east of the town of Thurso.
- 1.1.2 Archaeology is the study of the past through its surviving artifacts, structures and environmental data. In the UK, archaeology has revealed the history and prehistory of human occupation from the early hunters and gatherers to the present day.
- 1.1.3 The study of cultural heritage involves consideration of archaeological remains, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Historic Gardens, Designed Landscapes and other heritage designations. Four general categories of remains are encountered:
- **Upstanding remains:** built structures such as buildings, field boundaries, and features such as standing stones and stone circles.
 - **Earthworks:** soil-covered remains that can be seen as surface undulations at ground level. These can include ruined buildings or their foundations, banks, mounds, ramparts, ditches, gullies and hollows.
 - **Buried features:** soil-covered remains which have no visible trace at ground level (possibly revealed by aerial photography).
 - **Artefact scatters:** scatters of potsherds, flint, tools, metal objects, animal bones, worked stone, mortar or human remains.
- 1.1.4 Palaeoenvironmental evidence may also be found in association with archaeological remains. This can be used for dating purposes, and provide evidence of past land use or landform change.
- 1.1.5 The earliest ancient monuments in Scotland comprise very slight traces of temporary settlements left behind by hunters and gatherers, while some of the most recent comprise the remains of recently deserted farmhouses or 2nd World War defence structures.
- 1.1.6 Scheduled Monuments, i.e. those considered to be of national importance and given legal protection under the 'Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979', currently number approximately 7500 in Scotland. Approximately 260 of these are located in Highland Region. In addition, it is estimated that there may be more than twice this number again which meet the necessary requirements for designation.

(Maps on
computer)

1.2 Summary

- 1.2.1 The desk-based assessment and field survey were designed to identify and assess the archaeological sites and monuments present on or close to the site in order to assess the likely impact of the proposed development on this heritage, and to propose initial mitigation measures.
- 1.2.2 The results of this work suggest that the archaeological potential is low, but buried archaeological remains could be present in areas unaffected by previous activity. Two sites of archaeological or historical interest have been identified that may be directly affected by the development, parts of the policies of Thurso Castle (**Site 3 & 32**) and the site of a WWII camp (**Site 21**). Although no sites of surviving archaeological significance have been detected directly within the immediate area to be affected by the wastewater treatment works itself, the likelihood remains that buried remains may be present within the footprint of the treatment works or along the route of the proposed pipeline.
- 1.2.3 These sites are of variously, National, Regional, Local and Lesser scales of importance (as defined in NPPG 5). No sites of National Importance are present within the proposed development area. A Scheduled Ancient Monument Old St Peters Church and Burial Ground (**Site 1**) is present close to the study area.
- 1.2.4 Potential impacts of the development on the archaeological resources are assessed and suitable potential mitigation measures are proposed in relation to the sites and monuments identified by the study, taking into account their individual variable archaeological significance.
- 1.2.5 A programme of field evaluation and watching briefs has been proposed. This work would require a series of trial trenches to be excavated in order to identify any buried archaeological remains that may be present on the site of the treatment works. The presence of enclosures (**Sites 14, & 15**) and other sites that exist just beyond the study area suggest Prehistoric activity and buried remains may survive close to or within the boundaries of the site. In addition, the presence of a battlefield site (**Site 7**) may also indicate the potential presence of human remains close to or within the site. An archaeological evaluation is recommended. If significant remains are found, further recording will be necessary. A watching brief may also be appropriate mitigation depending on the results of the evaluation.

1.3 Planning and Legislative Background

- 1.3.1 For the purposes of this study, cultural heritage resources include Scheduled Ancient Monuments, other archaeological features, listed and other historic buildings, and historic gardens and designed landscapes. The archaeological assessment has been carried out within the framework of the following legislation, planning policy and structure plans:

Legislation

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (hereafter 1979 act)
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 (1997 Act)

National Planning Policy

- National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and Planning (NPPG 5)

- National Planning Policy Guideline 18, Planning and the Historic Environment (NPPG 18)
- Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology (PAN 42)

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

- 1.3.2 Under the 1979 Act the Scottish Ministers are required to compile and maintain a Schedule of monuments considered to be of national importance. The statutory consent of the Scottish Ministers is required before any works are carried out which would have the effect of demolishing, destroying, damaging, removing, repairing, altering, adding to, flooding or covering up a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). A formal process of application to conduct such works known as Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is administered on behalf of the Scottish Ministers by Historic Scotland. Effects of proposed development works upon the setting of a SAM form an important consideration in the granting or refusal of consent to conduct development works. Further information on development control procedures relating to SAMS is provided in NPPG 5 and PAN 42.

Listed Buildings

- 1.3.3 Under the 1997 Act, the Scottish Ministers are required to compile a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. These buildings are classified into Categories A, B and C (S), in decreasing order of importance. This statutory protection covers not only the building itself, but also other features within its curtilage (e.g. stables and garden walls). There is a presumption against development that will adversely affect the character of a listed building or its setting, and planning authorities are required to have a special regard for the desirability of preserving listed buildings and their settings. Further policy information on listed buildings is published in NPPG 18. Additional guidance is published in the Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas 1998 (hereafter 'memorandum'; Historic Scotland 1998).

Other archaeological sites and monuments

- 1.3.4 Archaeological sites and monuments without statutory protection are curated by the local planning authority. NPPG 5 and PAN 42 provide national planning policy guidance and advice on the treatment of this resource. PAN 42 indicates that the principle that should underlie all planning decision-making is preservation of cultural resources, *in situ* where possible, and by record if destruction cannot be avoided. It is recognized in that document that preservation may not always be possible, and where damage is unavoidable various mitigation measures may be proposed.

Planning Considerations pertaining to the site

- 1.3.5 Ms Hilary White of the Archaeology Unit of Highland Council will advise the local planning authority on archaeological matters pertaining to the proposed development proposals.

- 1.3.6 The study area partly covers the area of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). This site (**Site 1**) is the site of an early church and burial ground. As the proposed development is located in the general vicinity of Site 1, the following information is of relevance to the developer. Upon the area of a Scheduled Ancient Monument without the prior formal consent of Historic Scotland. The types of impact that can be caused to a Scheduled monument by a development also include visual impacts, i.e. where the setting of a monument is disturbed by an inappropriate or unsympathetic design or layout. This principle is described in National Planning Policy Guidelines:

“Scheduled ancient monuments are of national importance and it is particularly important that they are preserved in situ and within an appropriate setting. Developments, which would have an adverse effect on scheduled monuments or the integrity of their settings, should not be permitted unless there are exceptional circumstances. Scheduled monument consent is required from the Scottish Ministers through Historic Scotland for any development affecting a scheduled ancient monument, and notification to Historic Scotland of any planning application affecting the site of such a monument is required under article 15 (1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Scotland) Order 1992.”

1.4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.4.1 The aim of this study is to identify the cultural heritage content of the site proposed for development near Thurso. The evidence presented and the conclusions offered should provide a comprehensive basis for further discussion and decisions regarding the future of this site and for the formulation of a mitigation strategy, should this be required. The objectives to be undertaken in pursuing this will focus upon assessing the cultural heritage of the area proposed for development. The archaeological potential of the site will be assessed by examining a variety of evidence for remains in and around the area. Based upon the cultural heritage and archaeological value then identified, and the nature and scale of the proposed redevelopment, recommendations will be offered for a mitigation strategy.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

General

- 1.5.1 The scope of this desk-based assessment meets the requirements of current planning regulations set out in NPPG 5 and PAN 42. Babbie Group conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of conduct, the IFA code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, the IFA Standards and Guidance for desk Based Assessments and Field Evaluations.
- 1.5.2 Babbie Group has been awarded status as a Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO) through the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). This status ensures that there is regular monitoring and approval by external peers of our internal systems, standards and skills development. All work was conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct and relevant Standards and Guidance documents.

Desk-based assessment

- examination of documentary materials held in national and local archives including the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS), and the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Register (HSMR) and the map Library of the National Library of Scotland;
- Historic Scotland's Listed Building section was consulted to check whether any listed structures were present within or near the proposed development sites
- Historic Scotland's List of Ancient Monuments in Scotland was checked for information regarding Scheduled Ancient Monuments within or adjacent to the proposed development sites
- Vertical aerial photographs in the collection of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments Scotland (RCHAMS) were examined
- The results of a walkover survey undertaken to assess the survival and significance of previously identified sites and to identify further upstanding remains
- An examination of Ordnance Survey 6 inch to the mile first and second edition and 1:10,000 map coverage was made, together with other readily available earlier cartographic sources held by the Map Library of the National Library of Scotland.
- Descriptions of the Parish of Thurso were checked for relevant historic information concerning the 18th and 19th centuries in the *Statistical Account* and the *New Statistical Account for Scotland*.
- Correspondence from Ms Hilary White at Highland Council Archaeological Unit

Field Survey

- 1.4.1 A walk-over survey was carried out over the proposed pipeline routes and the site of the treatment works to assess the topography and geomorphology of the area. Archaeological features identified during the desk-based study that are identifiable on the ground today, and the presence and extent of any other sites not identified from the desk study, were assessed.

Report Structure

- 1.4.3 In undertaking this desk-based assessment, data was sought for all sites monuments and buildings of potential archaeological interest. Each archaeological or historical site, monument or building referred to in the text is listed in the gazetteer in Appendix 1. Each has been assigned a "Site No" unique to this assessment, and the gazetteer includes information regarding the type, grid reference, NMRS number, statutory protective designation, and other descriptive information, as derived from the consulted sources, for each Site No.
- 1.4.4 Each archaeological or historical site, monument or building referred to in the text is plotted on the location map at the end of this report, using the assigned site no's. Archaeological sites and monuments located are summarized in Section * and detailed in a gazetteer (Appendix 1). The relative importance of these sites and

monuments is discussed and listed in Table 1 and the archaeological potential of the study area as a whole is considered. A list of the bibliographic, aerial photographic and cartographic sources consulted are listed in Section 8. Figure 4.1 shows the distribution of sites adjacent to the study areas.

1.5 Archaeological and Historical Evidence

General

- 1.5.1 Numbers in bold and parentheses in the following sections refer to site numbers annotated in Figure 4.1 and detailed in Appendix 1.
- 1.5.2 Thirty seven sites have been identified within the study area.

Desk-based Study

- 1.5.3 Consultation with Historic Scotland confirmed that there are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments directly affected by the development.
- 1.5.4 Oblique aerial photographs show the presence of a dam, sluice and lade (**10**) which was noted from the 1st and 2nd editions of the OS map. Further sites discovered through the desk based-study include the possible fishtrap (**16**) and stepping stones (**12**) within the River Thurso. A quarry (**9**) and the site of a building and a well (**11**) were also noted from the early edition of the OS maps.

Field Survey

- 1.5.5 A walk-over survey was carried out on the 15th July 2004, to determine whether or not any of the archaeological features identified from desk sources are still visible on the ground. Field survey confirmed the presence of most upstanding sites including the site of the dam and sluice (**10**) which is now in-filled. The stepping stones (**12**) and possible fish trap (**16**) were no longer visible.
- 1.5.6 No trace of the firing range (**33**) was found during the survey as was the site of the military camp (**21**).

Prehistoric Period (10,000BC – AD 43)

- 1.5.7 The area to the east of the development area is, in archaeological terms, characterised by the presence of upstanding stone enclosures, Brochs and hut circles. While many of these sites and features may date to the Prehistoric Period, it is also possible that elements of these sites date to later periods thus preserving a record of land-use spanning a considerable amount of time. No cropmarks have been identified within the proposed development area itself. However, given the frequency with which upstanding prehistoric sites are present helped by the predominance of pastoral agriculture, it is likely that sub-surface archaeological remains will be present within the areas where development is proposed.

The Roman Period (AD 43 – 410)

- 1.5.8 There are no known archaeological remains dating to the Roman Period in the assessment area.

The Medieval Period (AD 410 – 1700)

- 1.5.9 There is good evidence including Site 1 for early settlement in and around Thurso, including the historic core of Thurso itself. The Ulbster stone, a Pictish cross-slab was formerly located at Thurso Castle and has now been moved to Thurso Museum. Although its original position is unknown, it can be presumed that it was probably recovered from the area close to the present town of Thurso. The natural harbour and shelter offered by Thurso would have meant that it was in use throughout much of the early and later Medieval period.

Post Medieval (Ad 1700 – 1900)

- 1.6 This period is represented by an increase in fishing and sea trade as well as improvements to the agricultural landscape. However, there are few actual sites known from this period with the obvious exception of Thurso Castle itself and the numerous maritime wrecks indicating the hiatus of commercial shipping and fishing using the harbour at Thurso. The firing range (33) indicated as a "Volunteer" range demonstrates that there were numerous conflicts that the British Empire was involved in which required personnel for the army.

Modern (post 1900)

- 1.6.1 The site of the military camp (21) and the WWII defences (34) indicate that there was substantial activity in this area during WWII. The precise nature of this activity has not been examined by this desk top report.

Archaeological potential of the study area

- 1.6.2 Agricultural land-use is the principal factor shaping the landscape of the study area and influencing the potential for the survival of other archaeological remains not detected by this study. There is a possibility that extensive archaeological remains survive in the agricultural fields that have not been extensively ploughed. The presence of numerous archaeological sites outside the study area as well as the presence of the battlefield site (7) underlines the potential for prehistoric archaeological remains to occur within the study area. The archaeological potential of the study area is therefore high.

1.7 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

Assessment of potential impacts

- 1.7.1 Direct impacts include the potential damage to any unknown archaeological features that may be present within the boundaries of the proposed development site. Although no known archaeological sites have been located in the course of this study, buried remains are likely to be present. The likelihood of sub-surface archaeology surviving on the site has been discussed in 1.5.7 & 1.6.2.
- 1.7.2 To circumvent the potential adverse impacts discussed in section 1.7.1 a programme of pre-development archaeological works is recommended. Geophysical survey is not recommended due to the probable proximity of the bedrock to the ground surface. Possible mitigation may be an evaluation along the route of the pipeline. This programme would be designed to ensure that potential surviving archaeology along the pipeline is identified at an early stage. In addition, recommended archaeological works would comprise a percentage trial trenching evaluation at the site of the

treatment works. The final decision on the scope of the archaeological works will be decided by the Archaeological Unit of Highland Council.

1.8 CONCLUSIONS

- 1.8.1 The assessment identified 37 sites altogether, with many of these close to Thurso harbour. While no archaeological sites were identified within the footprint of the proposed development, sites of archaeological importance are present nearby. This includes four listed buildings and one Scheduled Ancient Monument. In addition, the site of Thurso Castle and in particular the walls which line the driveway to the castle (32) could be directly impacted upon by the construction of the pipeline.

Acknowledgements

Babtie Group wish to thank RCHAMS, the National Library of Scotland, Highland Council Archaeology Unit and Historic Scotland for their assistance in data gathering for this assessment.

1.9 REFERENCES

1.9.1 Bibliographic References

- Beaton, D. 1909 Ecclesiastical history of Caithness and annals of Caithness parishes, Wick, 43-4
- Hume, J R. 1977a. The industrial archaeology of Scotland 2, the Highlands and Islands, London, 194
- Mercer, R J. 1981, Archaeological field survey in northern Scotland: volume II, 1980-81, University of Edinburgh, Department of Archaeology, Occasional Paper No. 7, [Edinburgh], 62, 153, No. 498.
- Whittaker, I G. 1998. Off Scotland: a comprehensive record of maritime and aviation losses in Scottish waters, Edinburgh, 97.

1.9.2 Cartographic References

- 1642 R Gordon Caithnesia
 1654 J Blaeu Atlas Novus Cathnesia
 1744 Alexander Bryce A map of the north coast of Great Britain from Row stair of Assynt to Wick in Caithness
 1750 James Dorret A general map of Scotland and islands
 1822 Thomson Caithness-shire
 1823 Thomson Sutherlandshire
 1872 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" to the mile Sheet V Caithness
 1907 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6" to the mile Sheet V Caithness

1.9.3 Vertical aerial photographs

Sortie	Frames	Date	Scale	Lib
540/RAF/506	4018 – 4014 3019 - 3014	19.5.51	1:10,000	B326
58/RAF/802	4075 – 4070	12.10.51	1:10,000	B336
OS/65/038	115-113, 046-049, 038-034	12.4.1965	1:7500	B336

60888	233-235	6.5.1988	1:24000	C233
-------	---------	----------	---------	------

APPENDIX 1: SITE GAZETEER

Site No. 1

Name Old St Peter's Church
 Type of remains: Church and Burial Ground
 NGR: ND 1204 6862
 NMRS No ND16NW 10
 Status: Scheduled Ancient Monument No 618/A listed HB Number 42044

Description: The NMRS records that the ruins of St Peter's Church are situated in the old part of Thurso adjacent to the river. It is cruciform, without aisles, measuring externally across the transepts 79ft E-W by 82ft transversely, and has a low, vaulted apsidal cell at the E end of choir. Adjoining the S side of this cell is a curiously planned staircase tower placed acutely to the main wall, and with a long vaulted passage leading from it into church. The building is unlikely to belong all to one period, nor to have been originally planned as it now appears. The apsidal cell has more affinity to a 12th century structure such as St Margaret's Chapel, Edinburgh Castle (NT27SE 1.3) than to 16th or 17th century, to which nave and transepts belong. The dedication of St Peter suggests an early date and it is stated that Gilbert Murray, Bishop of Caithness (d. 1245) founded a church in Thurso.

Site No. 2

Name Thurso Conservation Area
 Type of remains: Conservation area
 NGR:
 NMRS No
 Status: Conservation Area

Description:

Site No. 3

Name East Thurso Castle
 Type of remains: Castle
 NGR: ND 1244 6890
 NMRS No ND 16 NW 9.00
 Status: None

Description: The NMRS records that there is now no trace of the original castle constructed around 1660 by George, Earl of Caithness, it was removed to make way for the existing castle which was built about 1875. The present castle, constructed from locally available stone and occasionally concrete is now in ruins.

Site No. 4

Name Harold's Tower
 Type of remains: Religion/Mausoleum; Chapel (site of)
 NGR: ND 13542 692
 NMRS No ND 16NW 15
 Status: B Listed (HB14919)

Description: The NMRS and Historic Scotland records the presence of a memorial erected by Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster circa 1790-98, to commemorate Earl Harold buried near this site after being killed in battle, circa 1190. Comprising a hexagonal mausoleum, the angles marked

by crude pencil turrets rising through wallhead to blunt-headed pinnacles; all harled. No trace of the former chapel exists at the site. The mausoleum has a plaque on the SW side bearing the words: 'The burial place of the Sinclairs of Ulbster'.

Site No. 5
Name East Thurso Castle Lodge
Type of remains: Lodge, Gateway
NGR: ND 12465 68573
NMRS No ND 16 NW 9.1
Status: B Listed (HB 42034)

Description: A gate lodge and impressive gateway constructed at the entrance to the driveway leading to Thurso castle. The Lodge comprises a square 2-storey, 2-bay dwelling with square angle turret projecting at SE corner and rising 1 storey above the wallhead. Corbelled and crenellated wallheads; corbelled crenellated angle bartizans masking flues; extensive cable moulding decoration, including angle margins. The gateway is of a similar style to the lodge with a cusped high round headed arch with flanking buttresses, corbelled and a crenellated wallhead.

Site No. 6
Name Lady Janets Seat Tower
Type of remains: Monument/Folly
NGR: ND 1277 6937
NMRS No ND 16 NW 9.2:
HSMR No ND 16NW 0318
Status: None

Description: The NMRS and field survey confirmed the presence of Lady Janet's seat, comprising part of the estate and buildings of Thurso Castle, a small circular tower sited to the north east of the castle at the entrance to the harbour on the edge of a steep cliff. Comprises a small, low, circular tower constructed from stone walls with a cement coating. There are cruciform recesses on the exterior of the tower.

Site No. 7
Name Clardon Hill
Type of remains: Battlesite
NGR: ND 1401 6928 (centred)
NMRS No ND 16 NW 14
HSMR No N/A
Status: None

Description: Various sources record that in 1196 William the Lion were to subdue Harold the Elder, Earl of Caithness; but before the king had even entered Caithness, Harold avoided battle by taking out to sea. The king therefore sent his army to Thurso, the vill of Harold, and destroyed Harold's castle there. Harold the Younger, the grandson of 'Saint' Rognvald, in order to take possession of his legal portion of Caithness and Orkney, and after campaigns in the Isle of Man and Orkney, returned to Caithness at Wick and fought against Harold the Elder; in that battle Harold the Younger and all his army were slain. This battle is said to have been fought on Clardon Hill, near Thurso, in 1196.

Site No. 8
Name Ellan Bridge
Type of remains: Bridge
NGR: ND 12030 68340
NMRS No N/A

HSMR No ND 16 NW 0080
Status: None
Description: As described, a 20th century footbridge constructed from concrete and steel.

Site No. 9
Name Clardon Quarry
Type of remains: Quarry
NGR: ND 1361 6935
NMRS No N/A
HSMR No N/A
Status: None

Description: The 2nd edition OS 6" to the mile map records the presence of a stone quarry at this location.

Site No. 10
Name Thurso East Dam
Type of remains: Dam/Sluice/Spring
NGR: ND 1276 6894
NMRS No N/A
HSMR No N/A
Status: None

Description: A dam and sluice is indicated on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps, as is a natural spring at this location. The dam and sluice are also visible on aerial photographs taken in 1951, the dam and sluice is also visible on photographs taken in 1965. Field survey revealed that the dam has now been filled in.

Site No. 11
Name Plantation Croft
Type of remains: Building (OS 1st edition)
NGR: ND 1330 6881
NMRS No N/A
HSMR No N/A
Status: None

Description: A small roofed building is indicated on the OS 1st edition map at this location. The 2nd edition OS map records the building as unroofed while a well is indicated which is not present on the 1st edition.

Site No. 12
Name River Thurso
Type of remains: Stepping Stones
NGR: ND 1210 6842 (centred)
NMRS No N/A
HSMR No N/A
Status: None

Description: The 1st edition OS map records the presence of a semicircular setting of stepping stones across the River Thurso at this location.

Site No. 13
Name Ulbster Stone (former site of)
Type of remains: Pictish Cross Slab

NGR: ND 1255 6879
NMRS No ND 16 NW 13
HSMR No
Status: None

Description: This symbol stone once stood in the ancient burial ground attached to the ruined church of St Martin at Ulbster (ND34SW 28) and was subsequently placed over a grave there which assisted in the defacement of the front side; at some other unknown date it was removed and placed upright on an artificial mound in the grounds of Thurso Castle where its exposed position (especially the front face turned to the Castle and the sea) has led to further defacement of the sculpture; the front has also been mutilated in the upper third with the modern inscription in Gothic letters 'The Ulbster Stone' by which name it is also known. This stone now stands in the entrance doorway of Thurso Museum. The large artificial mound in the grounds of Thurso Castle on which it stood is a result of landscape gardening

Site No. 14
Name Clardon Hill
Type of remains: Enclosure
NGR: ND 1371 6958
NMRS No ND 16 NW 30
HSMR No
Status: None

Description: Field Survey in 1981 recorded the presence at ND 1371 6958, set in a NW-facing slope in a field, the remains of an enclosure. Only the N half is evident, as a turf-covered wall spread at most pronounced 2.5m broad by 0.1m high internally, 0.6m high externally. The course of the wall elsewhere has either been ploughed-out or is obscured by stone-dumping. A depression in the N arc suggests an entrance position. This may be a hut circle, but there are insufficient remains to enable classification (Mercer 1981).

Site No. 15
Name Clardon Hill East
Type of remains: Enclosure
NGR: ND 1412 6969
NMRS No ND 16 NW 37
HSMR No
Status: None

Description: The NMRS records the presence of a sub-circular, stone structure, 12 by 10m, defined by a grass-covered bank, 0.5m high. There is stone rubble inside.

Site No. 16
Name River Thurso
Type of remains: Posts (fish trap?)
NGR: ND 1270 6848
NMRS No N/A
HSMR No N/A
Status: None

Description: The OS 1st edition map shows a circular setting of posts at this location. The function of this setting of posts is however, unclear. It may be the site of a fish trap.

Site No. 17
Name Clayhusbandry Mill
Type of remains: Corn Mill (site of)
NGR: ND 1389 6788
NMRS No ND 16 NW 58
HSMR No
Status: None

Description: Site of a early 19th century former corn mill. In 1977, the site was recorded as a small rectangular two-storey building, partly ruinous, with the axle only of an 8-spoke overshot wheel, 2ft 7ins (0.89m) wide by 11ft (3.35m) diameter. The interior is gutted and the building used as a cow shed.
J R Hume 1977.

Site No. 18
Name Thurso East Pavement Works
Type of remains: Stone quarry/pavement works
NGR: ND 1220 6867
NMRS No ND 16 NW 62
HSMR No
Status: None

Description: Building formerly used as pavement works, now used as industrial premises.

Site No. 19
Name Thurso East Icehouse
Type of remains: Icehouse
NGR: ND 1227 6875
NMRS No ND 16 NW 78
HSMR No
Status: None

Description: As described, an upstanding icehouse with a turfed roof in the grounds of a bungalow.

Site No. 20
Name Thurso East Mains/Thurso Castle Cottage
Type of remains: Residential
NGR: ND 1251 6900
NMRS No ND 16 NW 114
HSMR No
Status: None

Description: As described, farm buildings previously associated with Thurso Castle.

Site No. 21
Name Thurso Castle
Type of remains: Defence/Military Camp
NGR: ND 1240 6870 & ND 1260 6875 (Centred)
NMRS No ND 16 NW 367

HSMR No
Status: None

Description: A large military camp has been identified from post-war RAF vertical air photographs (CPE/Scot/UK 185, 1219-20, flown 9 October 1946) in the grounds to the SW of Thurso Castle. Up to 70 Nissen huts, in two main groups can be seen on the photographs with several other hut types. The set of photographs on which the site was visible were not made available at the time of writing, however, on aerial photographs taken in 1951 (540/RAF/506 4018-4014) the camp and the huts were no longer visible.

Site No. 22
Name Margaret/Thurso Harbour Entrance
Type of remains: c.19th Maritime/unassigned/craft
NGR: ND 122 689
NMRS No ND 16 NW 8005
HSMR No
Status: None

Description: A shipwreck site is given as 'near Thurso'.

Site No. 23
Name Labernum/Thurso/Pentland/Firth
Type of remains: Maritime/Brigantine
NGR: ND 124 690
NMRS No ND 16 NW 8014
HSMR No
Status: None

Description: The NMRS records that "Whittaker classifies this wreck as a schooner and locates its stranding 'below the Castle on the east side of Thurso River'. Thurso Castle (ND16NW 9.00) is at ND 1244 6890, and a location of ND c. 124 690 may be suggested for the wreck"

Site No. 24
Name Barbara/Thurso/Pentland Firth
Type of remains: Maritime c.19th
NGR: ND 124 690
NMRS No ND 16 NW 8015
HSMR No
Status: None

Description: Whittaker locates this stranding 'near Thurso Castle'. Thurso Castle (ND16NW 9.00) is at ND 1244 6890, and a location of ND c. 124 690 may be suggested for the wreck. I G Whittaker 1998

Site No. 25
Name Fleetwing/Thurso/Pentland Firth
Type of remains: c.19th/Maritime
NGR: ND 124 690
NMRS No ND 16 NW 8016
HSMR No
Status: None

Description: On the 25th June 1890, a fishing lugger was wrecked at the mouth of the River Thurso.

Site No. 26
Name Alaska/Thurso Bay/Pentland Firth
Type of remains: c.19th/Maritime/Lugger
NGR: ND 122 689
NMRS No ND 16 NW 8018
HSMR No
Status: None

Description: On the 23rd February 1894, a 25 ton wooden lugger was wrecked at the entrance to Thurso Harbour (Whittaker, I G 1998)

Site No. 27
Name Fraternitas/Thurso Bay
Type of remains: c.19th/Maritime
NGR: ND 122 688
NMRS No ND 16 NW 8031
HSMR No
Status: None

Description: On the 10th November 1885, a 136 ton Danish schooner was wrecked at the entrance to Thurso Harbour.

Site No. 28
Name Laburnum
Type of remains: c.19th/Maritime
NGR: ND 124 690
NMRS No ND 16 NW 8033
HSMR No
Status: None

Description: On the 16th September 1878, a wooden schooner of 139 tons was wrecked at the entrance to Thurso harbour below Thurso Castle with the loss of 2 lives.

Site No. 29
Name 21 Miller Lane
Type of remains: Listed Building
NGR: ND 1215 6853
NMRS No N/A
HSMR No
Status: C listed/HB 42004

Description: Late 18th/early 19th century, 2-storey and dormerless attic house with rear outshot. All modern white harled with rendered margins. Centre door, small windows. Pair ground, 1st and single attic windows in west gable. 2-pane glazing; end stack; concrete tiled roof.

Site No. 30
Name 20 Millers Lane
Type of remains: Listed Building

NGR: ND 1215 6853
NMRS No ND 16 NW 146
HSMR No N/A
Status: B Listed/HB 42003
Description: Early 19th century, tall 2-storey and attic house; rubble, rendered ashlar dressings with long and short detailing. Centre door with decorative glazing in fanlight; 2 piended dormers; 12-pane glazing; end stacks (1 renewed) slate roof.

Site No. 31
Name 5-7 Riverside Road/The Whitehouse
Type of remains: Listed Building
NGR: ND 1204 6862
NMRS No ND 16 NW 41
HSMR No N/A
Status: C listed/HB 42022

Description: Earlier 18th century former Church of Scotland Manse, restored circa 1980. 4-bay frontage (SE) built into side of slope, with off-centre entrances both front and rear. All dry dashed; modern lean-to porch masks front entrance; near symmetrical 1st floor windows; multi-pane glazing throughout; renewed end stacks; Caithness slate roof. Drystone wall to Wilson Lane. Appears to have been superseded as Parish Manse of 1770, now Pentland House.

Site No. 32
Name Thurso Castle
Type of remains: Gardens/policies
NGR: ND 1250 6880 (centred)
NMRS No N/A
HSMR No ND 16 NW 0324
Status: None

Description: The Highland SMR records the gardens and policies to Thurso Castle (ND 16NW 0009) marked on 1st ed OS maps. A belt of trees around the grounds on all sides except the S. Access drive passes along the eastern band from the lodge (ND 16 NW 0116). Bowling green is marked E of the castle buildings which lie towards the N end, with two large walled gardens to the N of this. Flagstaff is indicated at the lodge and on a mound in a small circular protuberance in the eastern corner of the wood belt (see also Site 13). From the other side of the river, the boundary wall is intact, large and castellated.

Site No. 33
Name Thurso East Rifle Range (site of)
Type of remains: Military
NGR: ND 1270 6925 (centred)
NMRS No ND 16 NW 0308
Status: None

Description: The highland Council SMR and the desk-based assessment records the presence of a rifle range (Volunteers) indicated on the 1st and 2nd edition OS map coverage, as is a flagstaff, presumably associated with the rifle range. Distance markers are also indicated on the maps.

Site No. 34
Name WWII Defences, Thurso
Type of remains: Military/Defence
NGR: ND 12200 68700
NMRS No N/A
HSMR No ND 16 NW 0305
Status: None

Description: The Highland Council SMR records the location of anti-invasion obstacles here. Wire obstacles were located from here to ND 122 684. Info from Redfern "20th Century fortifications in the UK" Vol V.

Site No. 35
Name Tullochs Well
Type of remains: Well
NGR: ND 12139 68264
NMRS No N/A
HSMR No ND 16 NW 0314
Status: None

Description: The 1st edition OS map shows 'Tullochs well' on the W side of the road.

Site No. 36
Name Castle Pavement Works
Type of remains: Industrial/quarrying
NGR: ND 1219 6860
NMRS No
HSMR No ND 16 NW 0313
Status: None

Description: The Highland Council SMR records the presence of the Castle Pavement works at this location. The site and building is presently used as an industrial unit.

Site No. 37
Name Kirk Ebb Church (Site of)
Type of remains: Religious
NGR: ND 1205 6895
NMRS No ND 16 NW 16
HSMR No
Status: None

Description: To the W of the harbour bar at Thurso there was a kirk, 'the kirk at the ebb'. It was recorded in the late 19th century that the ruins of this site were still visible. From a drawing still preserved it appears to have been supported at the sides by high buttresses, in which were niches for statues, and to have had a great window similar to St Peter's (ND16NW 10). There seems also to have been a clerestory if not undervaultings. J B Craven 1908; D Beaton 1909.