

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

FIELD MONUMENTS



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT SUTHERLAND		5 PARISH KILDONAN		1 SITE CODE H N C 9 2 S W 0 3 8		2 NGR N C 9 1 4 2 2 1 C E		3 QUAL	
7 AREA STATUS SCHEDULED		9 REGIONAL STATUS		6 SITE NAME K I L D O N A N B U R N					
11 CONCORDANCE OS NC 92 SW 38		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURES		10 GENERIC TYPE SETTLEMENT + FIELD SYSTEM.					
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS 12 HUT CIRCLES		17 CONDITION INCOMPLETE		14 PERIOD/DATE BA=IA				15 DATING METHOD TYP	
20 LAND USE ROUGH PASTURE.				21 GEOLOGY					
22 SOILS				23 VEGETATION					
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF MODERATE HILLSLOPE				26 ASPECT E=SE=S		27 ALTITUDE 122=160m OD	
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)									
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)									
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1963: 6" MAP.									
2. RCAHMS: 1911: SUTHERLAND INVENTORY: HMSO: : : p120 No 344-6.									
3. HBM(SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS									
30 GROUND PLAN NO.					31 GROUND PHOTO NO.				
32 SLIDES NO.					33 HR. AP. NO.				
34 NMR. AP. NO.					35 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE				
36 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION									
37 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY					38 SAMPLES				
39 PALYNOLOGY					40 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.				
41 SMALL FINDS								42 MUSEUM/LOCATION	
43 OTHER									
44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER								45 ATTITUDE OF OWNER	
46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT								47 ATTITUDE OF TENANT	
48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS									
49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE						50 RECORDER: DATE MC: 9.7.1985.		51 CHECK: DATE GS: 17.7.1985	

52 TEXT

"See attached photocopies for text."

"NC 911 217 Kildonan Burn, Hut Circles + Field System."

"NC 916 2 4 Kildonan Church, Hut Circles + Field System."

345. *Do.*—Some 300 yards distant from the burn, and 600 yards from the road, is a hut circle, the interior of which is faced with stones. The interior is circular, with a diameter of about 34', and has been entered from the SE. On the right of the entrance within the interior are the ruins of what appears to have been a circular stone building, with a diameter over all of from 10' to 12'. The stones have fallen inwards, and lie in concentric rings over the interior. The bank or wall of the main enclosure is some 8' in width, except towards the entrance, where it broadens out on both sides, so as to form a passage 20' in length. The walls of the passage, which have been largely built of stone, are still in places some 3' high, and the amount of stone lying in and about shows that originally the height of the building must have been considerable. At the interior extremity the width of the passage is 3' 4". At 8' outwards are two door checks 3' apart. Within them the passage has expanded to 4' 8",

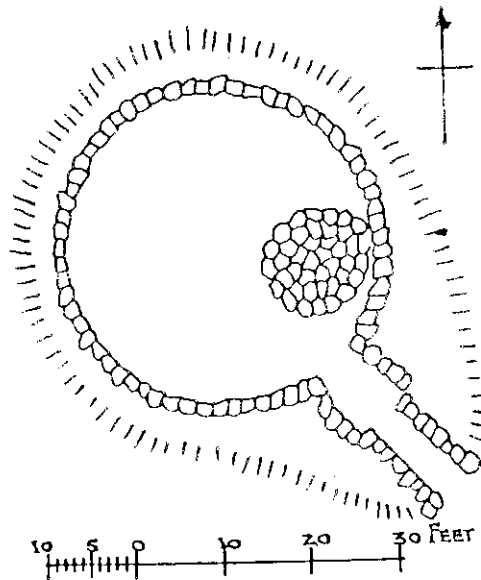


FIG. 45.—Hut Circle, Kildonan Burn (No. 345). (C)

and beyond to the exterior it maintains a width of 3'. This is the only hut circle in which such provision for a door has been observed (fig. 45).

(NC 914221) Enclosures and Hut Circles (NR)

(1).

Up the west bank of the Kildonah Burn on Creag Druim nan Rath, is a large group of hut circles and small mounds. Six enclosures (A-F) are specified, two of which (B and C) are planned. At the south end of the group of hut circles on the top of the bank above the burn and on the SE point of the hill, is a circular depression, 7ft internal diameter, lined with stones and 'filled with ruins'. An entrance seems to have been from the SE.

(2).

In addition to those noted by the RCAHM seven more hut circles were found. Associated with the huts are numerous clearance heaps and traces of old field enclosure banks. (OSFI:WDJ:3.6.1961).

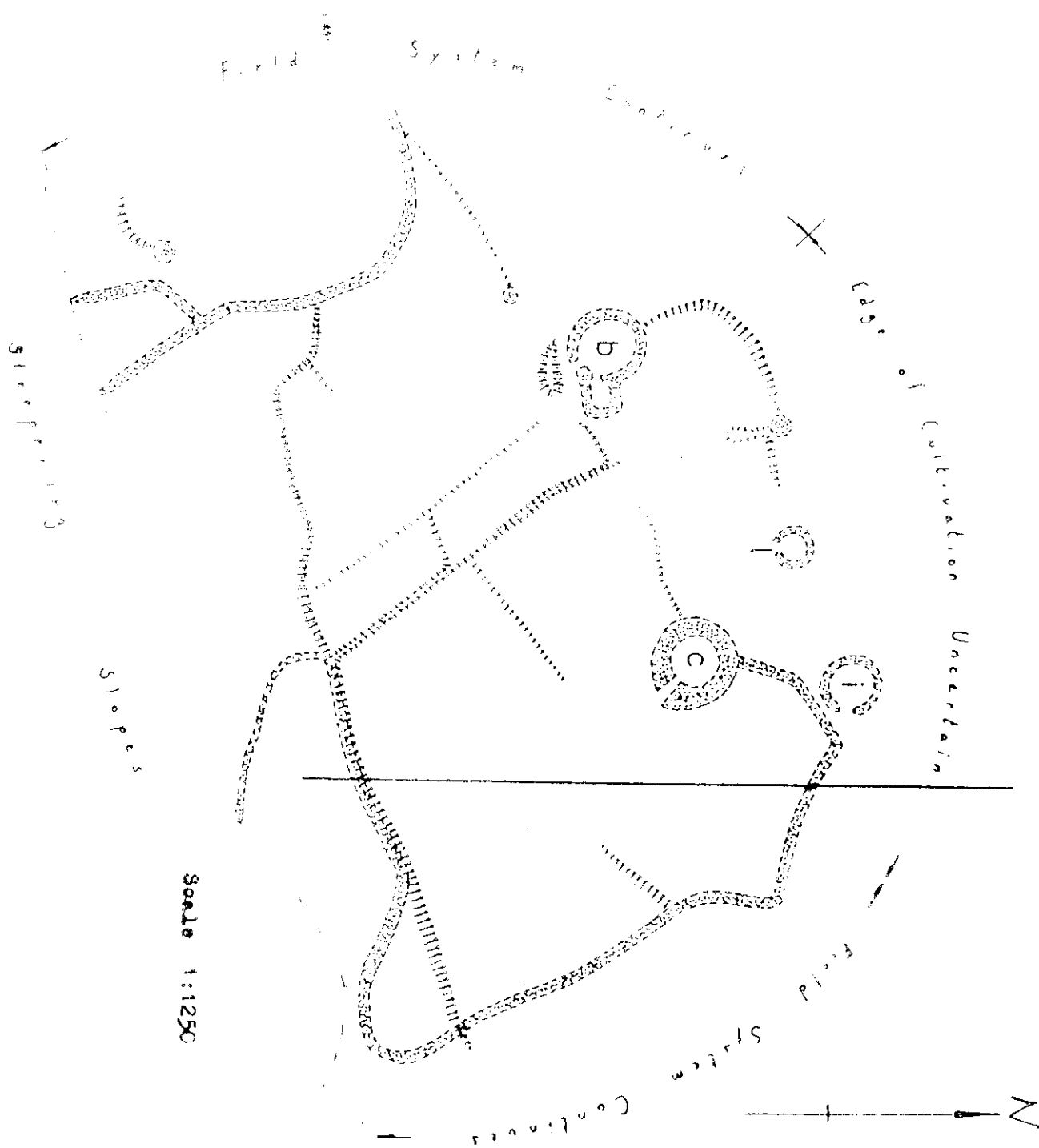
Hut 'C' is of the Kilphedir Hut V type*, as may be hut 'K'. Using the Kilphedir excavation as an analogy the sequence of occupation would appear to be a settlement of 'simple' huts with field clearance heaps, about 500 BC, followed about 130 BC by the Kilphedir type V huts, with fields. *(See HNC 91 NE 025)

This is a settlement of twelve hut circles (A-L) including a newly recognised hut (L), on the gentle S and E flanks of a hill, in association with a field system. Of the published features at NC 91012213 and NC 91562202, the first is a rectangular footing, about 8.0m by 3.0m, of a bothy-type structure; the other an apparent segment of revetted platform which may be the E half remaining of a hut about 14.0m diameter overall but the presence of stone clearance in what would be the W half makes a field plot more realistic.

The majority of the huts are circular varying from 6.0m to 10.5m inside diameters; two huts, 'B' and 'K', are oval being 12.5 by 11.5 and 12.0 by 9.0m respectively, internally, the longer dimension in both cases on a NW-SE axis. Walls, in the main heather covered, are spread from 1.5-3.0m broad, roughly in ratio to hut sizes and stand at best, in huts 'B' and 'D' to 0.9m. Entrances are from the E or SE arcs and in huts 'C' and 'E' are clubbed; the latter hut would seem of the Kilphedir Hut V type rather than hut 'K' noted by the PSAS. Hut 'C', the best defined preserves a fairly extant inner wall facing of contiguous boulder slabs on edge; its entrance passage, stone-coarsing lined, is 6.0m in the E and 4.5m long in the opposing side, the latter somewhat obscured by debris; there are door jambs 2.5m out from the inside. In hut 'B' a break, 3.0m east of the entrance, in the wall opens into an outside sunk chamber rectangular in form, 6.0m ENE-WSW by 3.0m internally and standing, inside, to 1.0m high: About 1.5-2.0m outside the same hut concentric to the wall arc approaching the W side of the entrance, is an elongate mound 11.0m long, tapering from the N to the greatest dimension at the S where it is 6.0m wide and 1.0m high; a windbreak is suggested.

The field system is well illustrated by mounds of stone clearance, wasted banks and occasional lynchets. Cultivation plots, averaging 20.0 by 15.0m are discernible.

At NC 915220 are three or four circular depressions filled with stones, one of which is presumably that noted by the RCAHM. They appear to be natural sink-holes in the peat into which field stones have been dumped. (OSFI:JM:9.12.1976).



344. *Kildonan*.—On Creag Druim nan Rath, about the 500' elevation above sea-level, some 400 to 500 yards WNW. of the Kildonan Burn, and about the same distance N. of the road up the strath, is a group of small mounds, and at the W. end of them faint indications of a number of round turf enclosures.

Up the W. bank of the Kildonan Burn, at a level of about 100' to 150' above the stream, and running up the glen for about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the road, is a large group of hut circles and small mounds. The hut circles are mostly of circular form, largely built of stone, and the remains of walls which run among them, as if demarcating holdings, are very numerous. The groups of mounds as well as the hut circles appear to be within these enclosures.

Some 400 yards from the W. bank of the burn, and 500 yards above the road, is a circular enclosure, with an interior diameter of 26'. The thickness of the bank is indefinite. Along the inner face large stones are set at intervals. The entrance is from the SE.

Some 40 yards SE. of the last is an oval enclosure, with interior dimensions of 38' \times 41'. It is entered from the SE., but the width of the entrance is not apparent. The bank is 7' in width, is overgrown with heather, and seems to be composed of turf and stone. At about 6' along the inner face of the bank, to the right of the entrance, is a passage through it, some 6' in length, but of indefinite width, giving access to a sunk chamber, the roof of which has entirely disappeared. The chamber is oval in form, and measures some 20' in length by

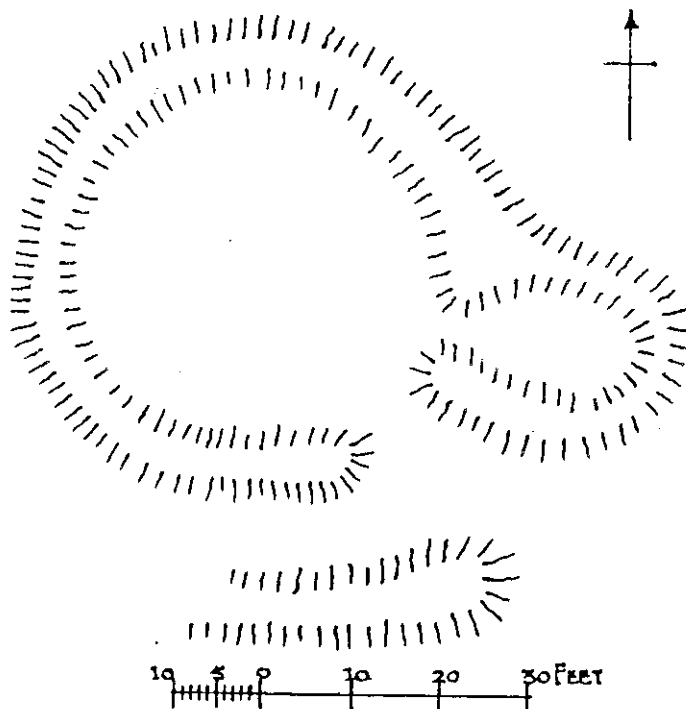


FIG. 44.—Hut Circle, Kildonan Burn (No. 344). (b)

11' in width. The present floor level is about 4' lower than that of the hut circle, and 2' to 3' below that of the surrounding ground, which slopes in its direction. The sides have been built. From the lower end of this chamber on the outside an old wall passes down the hill. Some 15' distant from the entrance to the hut circle, and partially covering it, a bank about 17' wide runs in a westerly direction for a distance of about 33'. A number of small mounds lie around (fig. 44).

HUT GRID REF:

'A': NC 9120 2202.

'B': NC 9126 2200.

'C': NC 9132 2202.

'D': NC 9140 2217.

'E': NC 9143 2227.

'F': NC 9143 2239.

'G': NC 9116 2195.

'H': NC 9116 2198.

'I': NC 9132 2204.

'J': NC 9151 2216.

'K': NC 9150 2236.

'L': NC 9130 2204.

"All Sites Published." (1).