

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT CAITHNESS		5 PARISH REAY		1 SITE CODE H N D O 5 N E 0 0 4		2 NGR N D 0 6 0 8 5 7 5 3		3 QUAL CE	
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED		9 REGIONAL STATUS		6 SITE NAME S I T H E A N B U I D H E		10 GENERIC TYPE BURIAL CAIRN, CHAMBERED, ROUND, (OCH)	
11 CONCORDANCE OS ND 05 NE 4		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE		13 DIMENSIONS 17.0m DIAM		14 PERIOD/DATE NE		15 DATING METHOD TYP	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION INCOMPLETE		18 SHAPE CIRCULAR		19 THREAT AND DATE			
20 LAND USE ROUGH PASTURE				21 GEOLOGY					
22 SOILS				23 VEGETATION					
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE				25 RELIEF KNOLL ON GENTLE HILLSLOPE		26 ASPECT NW = N = NE		27 ALTITUDE 114 = 122m OD	
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)									
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)									
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1963: 6" MAP 2. HENSHALL, A.S.: 1963: CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND: EUP: VOL. 1: p290 3. RCAHMS: 1911: CAITHNESS INVENTORY: HMSO: pp99-100, No. 364 4. MERCER, R.J.: 1985: FIELD SURVEY IN NORTHERN SCOTLAND: EUP: VOL. 3, No. 385 5. HMB (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 DY: 6.8.1985		51 CHECK: DATE DY 14.8.1985	
52 TEXT									

"See continuation card for text."

(ND 0608 5753) Sithean Buidhe (NAT)
Chambered Cairn (NR)

(1)

A chambered round cairn of the Orkney-Cromarty group, now a conspicuous grass-grown mound, steep-sided and flat-topped and apparently almost intact apart from the chamber roof which has collapsed. It is 55ft in diameter and 6ft high, and the entrance has been from the east, on which side two large passage lintels are exposed about 20ft from the edge, as are the passage walls, 3ft apart, of flat horizontally-laid slabs. To the west of the lintels, a transverse slab projects from the north side; its partner to the south was visible in 1910 (3). A short stretch of the south wall of the chamber, consisting of a few slightly oversailing courses, can also be seen.

55ft = 16.88m
6ft = 1.83m
3ft = 0.91m

(2)

A chambered cairn as described above, measuring 17.0m in diameter and 2.0m in height. See illustration.

(OSFI:JLD:10.4.1962)

No change to the preceding field report.
Published survey (1:10,000) correct.

(OSFI:JK:1.7.1981)

51 SITHEAN BUIDHE
[SHEAN MOR]*
(O.-C., round)
In the parish of
REAY
Location halfway between
LOCH CALDER and
LOCH SHURRERY
7 m. SSW of
THURSO
Map reference
ND/060575
Sheet XVII; ND 05 NE
Inventory number 364
Reference
R. C. A. M. Inv. 99-100¹
Plan by A. S. H. and M. J. S.
(fig. 50)
Visited 15.8.56

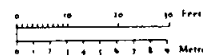
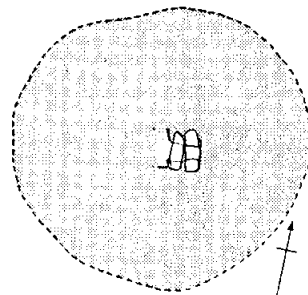
Description. The cairn is situated in undulating moorland at 250ft. O.D. It is a conspicuous grass-grown mound, steep-sided and flat-topped, and appears to be almost complete except for the chamber roof. The diameter is 55 ft. and the height 6 ft. The entrance has been from the E. At about 20ft. from the edge on this side are exposed two large lintels over the passage. The tops of the passage walls of horizontally laid flat slabs are visible under the outer lintel, and are 3ft. apart. The outer ends of these walls have the appearance of being a built corner, and it is probable that a wall-face runs round the chamber in the body of the cairn. To the W of the lintels a transverse slab projects from the N side while its partner to the S was formerly visible.¹ A short stretch of the S wall of the chamber can be seen consisting of a few slightly oversailing courses. The chamber roof has evidently collapsed and no more of the plan can be discerned at present.

A cairn about 60ft. to the N is so ruined that nothing of its internal structure can be seen.

* In the Inventory the names of two sites have been confused. Brawlbin Long is marked "Sithean Mor" on the 6 in. OS. map, but the name "Shean Mor", Brawlbin, has been given to this site in the Inventory, which is named "Sithean Buidhe" on the map. The latter name is used here.

(2)

Sithean Buidhe



385. Chambered cairn. 'Sithean Buidhe'. 'Shean Mor'. Dimensions: 20m x 19m. Height: 2m. Circular grass-covered mound with a central depression 9m x 4m revealing a chamber. Two lintels 2.50m x 0.80m remain in situ. Some facing-slabs are visible on the S side of the mound. Elevation: 375' OD.
 ND 061575.
 O.S. Card ND 05 NE 4.
 Henshall, A.S. (1963) The Chambered Tombs of Scotland, vol. 1, 290, No. 51. RCAHMS (1911) Caithness, 99-100, No. 364.
 (Fig. 16)

