

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# FIELD MONUMENTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE	H	N	D	3	4	N	W	0	0	4	A
2 NGR	N	D	3	2	7	5	4	9	2	8	CE
3 QUAL											
6 SITE NAME	CAIRN HILL										

4 DISTRICT CAITHNESS	5 PARISH WICK	10 GENERIC TYPE BROCH+BURIAL CIST+BURIAL, INHUMATION + HIDDEN, DOMESTIC
7 AREA STATUS	8 SITE STATUS STANDING STRUCTURE	11 CONCORDANCE OS ND34NW4A
9 REGIONAL STATUS	12 FORM	13 DIMENSIONS MOUND - c26.0m DIAMETER BROCH - C 9.0m INT.DIA
14 PERIOD/DATE IA	15 DATING METHOD TYP	16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS
17 CONDITION INCOMPLETE (ROBBED MOUND)	18 SHAPE CIRCULAR	19 THREAT AND DATE

20 LAND USE ENCLOSED LAND	21 GEOLOGY
22 SOILS	23 VEGETATION
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE	25 RELIEF LEVEL GROUND=RIVER MEANDER
26 ASPECT 360°	27 ALTITUDE 30=40m OD

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY) ANDERSON, J: 1871: PARTIAL: UNSCIENTIFIC	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL) 1. RCAHMS: 1911: CAITHNESS INVENTORY: HMSO: pp144-5, No499 2. ANDERSON, J: 1883: SCOTLAND IN PAGAN TIMES: IRON AGE: p232 3. ANDERSON, J: ARCHEOLOCLIA SCOTIA: VOL.5: pt 1: p142 4. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1975: 1/10,000 MAP 5. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1906: 25" MAP 6. ANDERSON, J: 1865-6: MEMOIRS OF LONDON ANTHROP. SOC.: 2: pp230-1 7. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1976: 1/10,000 MAP	
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 AFM: 9.6.1986	51 CHECK: DATE SM: 17.6.1986

52 TEXT  
"See over for text and continuation card for map (5)."

"ND 3275 4928. Cairn Hill Broch(remains of)."(4)(7)

Broch, Cairn Hill, Old Stirkoke: The mound had an original diameter of 80 to 90 ft, but about two-thirds of it had been removed on the N side before 1871, when Anderson observed the stone-robbing and published his observations in Arch Scot. The broch's walls were about 13 ft thick, enclosing an area some 30 ft in diameter. Objects recovered are mostly in the N M A S (Acc Nos: GA 73-81). They include a bone bodkin, a polished bone needle, half a disc of mica schist, a stone lamp, a few spindle whorls, two whetstones, hammer-stones, thin circular discs of slaty stone, a fragment of bronze and a portion of the hilt end of a very broad, double-edged sword. (1)  
(2)  
(3)  
(HND34NW004B)

On the NE of the mound an extensive midden was found which consisted principally of turf or peat ashes with wood-charcoal, shells, bones and pottery. (6)

Cairn Hill is situated on the edge of the haughland. On its W side it has a height of some 6.3 m which reduces to about 1.3 m on its E side, while on the N it merges with the surrounding ground. The top of the hill has obviously contained some sort of stone structure, probably a broch, but it has been quarried and excavated to such an extent that no surveyable traces of any structure remain, apart from a short stretch of walling on the E side. (OSFI:WDJ:23.4.1963)  
Published survey (1:2500) revised.

The 'cairn', which had a circumference of about 90 yds, was still being quarried in 1882, when, among many other finds, iron ore and an iron ball were discovered as well as a large stone cist 'in an important position'. It measured 8 ft by 2 ft by 20 ins deep, and was composed of rough slabs. The skeleton, although incomplete, appeared to be of great size. The skull was well-preserved, apart from the upper teeth, and measured 23 ins in circumference. (8)

(See also ND 34 NW 14 - long cists.)

The remains of the broch are as described by F1. No further information regarding the 'large stone cist' was encountered. The farmer at the adjacent farm, Old Stirkoke, disputed the title 'Cairn Hill', stating that this name applied to 'Cairn of Stirkoke' (ND 34 NW 12). Published survey (1:2500) correct. (OSFI:JB:1.9.1982)

"Cairn Hill (brough)." (5)

## THE BROCH OF OLD STIRKOKK.

This broch, which was cut into by the farmer as a convenient quarry to furnish stones for drains, was a grass-covered mound, 120 paces in circumference at the base, about 12 feet high, and nearly 40 feet in diameter across the somewhat level summit. Owing to the way in which the operations were conducted, no plan of the building could be obtained, but the farmer gave every facility for the preservation of such relics as happened to be noticed during the progress of the work, and collected most of them himself. The broch wall was about 13 feet thick, and the space enclosed about 30 feet diameter. A square drain ran underneath the floor. One long oval-ended chamber in the thickness of the wall was made out. It was 11 feet long, and 4 feet wide. Near the centre of the circular internal area was a cist-like construction, formed of four slabs, with a slab in the bottom. It was slightly wider at one end than the other, and was 4 feet long,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet broad in the middle, and 20 inches deep. It was completely full of ashes, with scarcely any intermixture of earth or stones, and nearly a foot of almost pure ashes lay over the top of it, which had no covering stone. We considered it a fireplace.

At the north-east side of the mound there was a pretty extensive refuse heap or kitchen midden, consisting principally of turf or peat ashes, mingled with charred wood, and containing a large admixture of broken and split bones of the usual animals, among which were also portions of a human skull. Fish-bones occurred sparingly, and the common shore shell-fish were abundant. The manufactured relics found were a polished bone needle, 3 inches in length, with a round bevelled eye; the half of a thin polished disc of mica schist, with garnets in it, similar to one in the Museum obtained by Mr Farrer from the broch of Burray, Orkney; a block of red sandstone, having two intersecting hollows in its upper surface similar to one found in the broch of Kettleburn by Mr Rhind; two very rude spindle whorls of sandstone simply chipped to shape, several whetstones, rude stone discs or pot lids, stone pestles, pottery of the usual plain and rudely made kind, a bone bodkin about 8 inches long, several cut and sawn deer's horns, a fragment of bronze, and a piece of iron like the hilt portion of an iron sword. (3)

52.

HND 34 NW 004A

Old Stirrkoke

B.M. 1244

3079  
2-296

3078  
897

3112  
12-592

3080  
19-643

Fair Hill  
(Brought)

3111

3082  
392

3081  
430

3083  
4-767

3084  
946

3106  
1-735

3085  
674

3088  
2-502

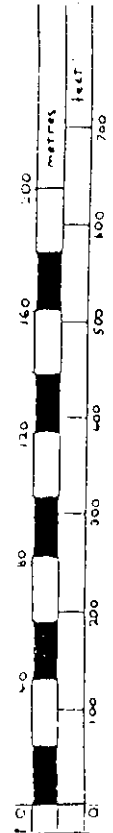
3087  
2-542

3086  
24-389

3092  
1-356

3091  
1-054

Mill Dam



(5) SHEET CAITHNESS  
XIV.9+13

4-807

12-900

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# ARTEFACTS

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2 NGR	N	D	3	2	7	5	4	9	2	8
3 QUAL CE										
6 SITE NAME C A I R N H I L L										

4 DISTRICT <b>CAITHNESS</b>		5 PARISH <b>WICK</b>	
8 CONCORDANCE OS <b>ND34NW48</b> NMR	9 MUSEUM/LOCATION OF FIND(S) <b>RMS(QUEEN STREET)</b>	10 ACCESSION NO. <b>G.A. 73-81</b>	
13 FIND CIRCUMSTANCES <b>EXCAVATION</b>		14 CONDITION	
17 LAND USE		18 GEOLOGY	
19 SOILS		20 VEGETATION	
21 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		22 RELIEF	
		23 ASPECT	
		24 ALTITUDE	
7 GENERIC TYPE <b>STONE OBJECTS BONE OBJECTS + SWORD HILT, BRONZE</b>			
11 PERIOD/DATE <b>IA=EM</b>		12 DATING METHOD <b>TYP</b>	
15 EXCAVATOR AND DATE <b>ANDERSON: 1871</b>			
16 EXCAVATION RECORD NO.			

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION/DIMENSIONS <b>BONE BODKIN. POLISHED BONE NEEDLE. HALF A DISC OF MICA SCHIST. A STONE LAMP. A FEW SPINDLE WHORLS. TWO WHETSTONES. HAMMER STONES. THIN CIRCULAR DISCS OF SLATY STONE. FRAGMENT OF BRONZE. HILT END OF BROAD DOUBLE - EDGED SWORD.</b>	
26 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. RCAHMS: 1911: CAITHNESS INVENTORY: HMSO: pp144-45, No 499</li> <li>2. ANDERSON, J: 1883: SCOTLAND IN PAGAN TIMES: IRON AGE: p232</li> <li>3. ANDERSON, J: ARCHEOLOGIA SCOTIA: VOL. 5: pt1: p142</li> <li>4. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1975: 1/10,000 MAP</li> <li>5. ANDERSON, J: 1865-6: MEMOIRS OF LONDON ANTHROP. SOC.: 2: pp230-1</li> <li>6. THE ANTIQUARY: 1882: VOL. 5: p228</li> <li>7. <b>ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1976: 1/10,000 MAP</b></li> </ol>	
27 GROUND PLAN NO.	28 GROUND PHOTO NO.
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43 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS			
44 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE		45 RECORDER: DATE <b>APM: 9.6.1986</b>	46 CHECK: DATE <b>F.S.: 16.6.1986</b>
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