

## HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



## FIELD MONUMENTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT		5 PARISH		1 SITE CODE		2 NGR		3 QUAL		6 SITE NAME		10 GENERIC TYPE		14 PERIOD/DATE		15 DATING METHOD			
ROSS & CROMARTY		GAIRLOCH		H N G 7 8 S E 0 0 1		N G 7 8 5		8 1 0		CE		M E A L L M O R		SETTLEMENT + FIELD SYSTEMS + DEPOPULATION + FIELD ENCLOSURES		BA = IA + MO		TYP	
7 AREA STATUS 6551		8 SITE STATUS		9 REGIONAL STATUS		11 CONCORDANCE osNG 78 SE 1+2		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURES		13 DIMENSIONS -		16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS WIDELY SCATTERED HUT CIRCLES + PRE-1850 DEPOPULATION		17 CONDITION INCOMPLETE		18 SHAPE -		19 THREAT AND DATE	
20 LAND USE HEATH		21 GEOLOGY		22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF ROCKY MODERATELY SLOPING HILL		26 ASPECT ESE = SSE = SSW		27 ALTITUDE 46 = 160m OD					
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)																			
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)																			
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1967: 6" MAP																			
30 GROUND PLAN NO.		31 GROUND PHOTO NO. AO/64/163/1		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 GS: 10.9.1985		51 CHECK: DATE DH: 11.9.1985																	

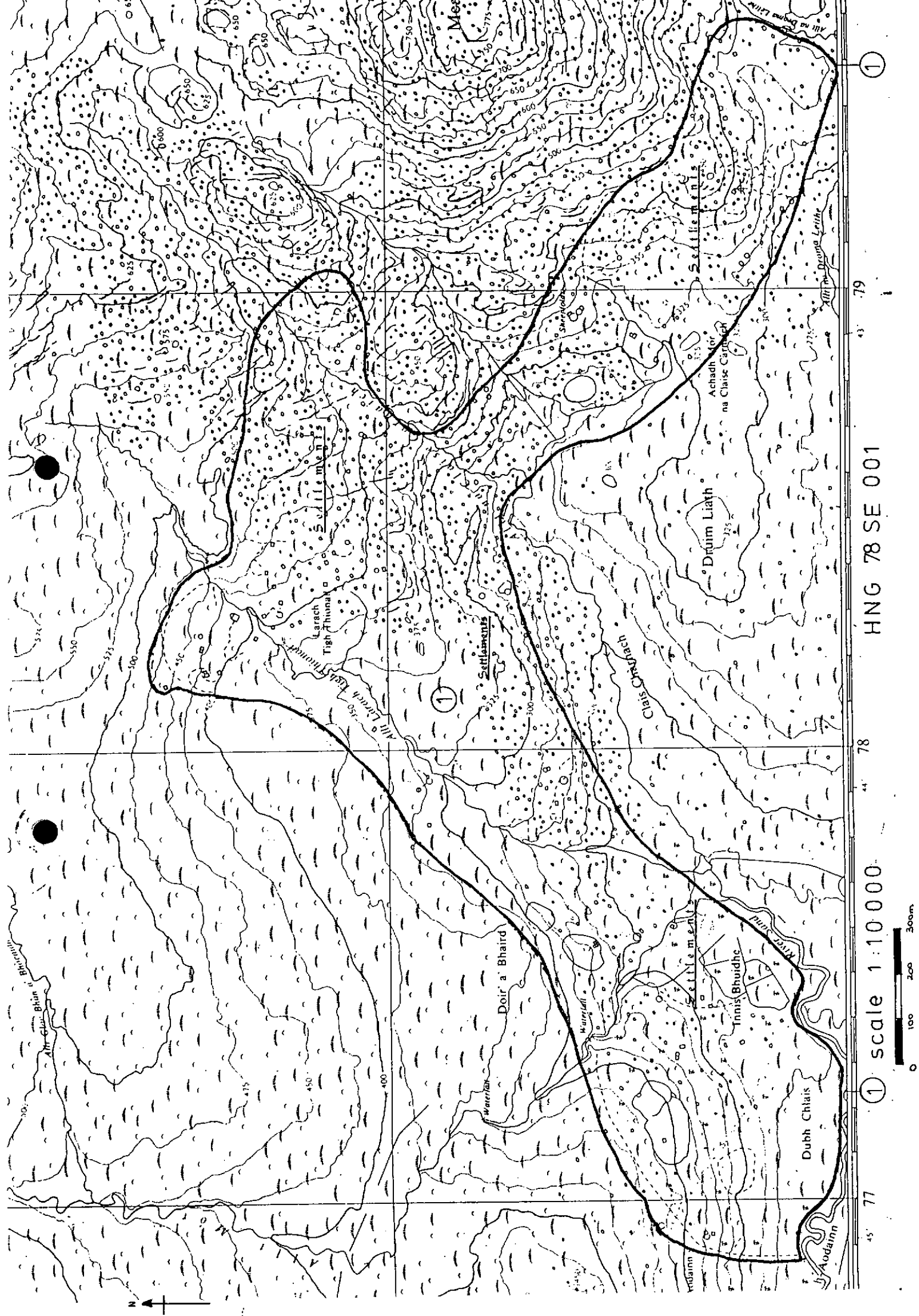
52 TEXT

"Settlements: NG 768 800 - NG 796 800."

"See continuation cards for texts and map."

"See attached photocopy of letter from W.J. Mitchell."

(1)



(NG 773802) : An ancient settlement (c.3000 B.C.) in an area of some 40 acres, is situated 1,350 yards from Loch-an-ta-Searno-bhalla and 1,600 yards from Loch na Lairig.

The remains of at least four beehive huts exist, three of which appear to be undisturbed. The fourth has about half of the perimeter wall dismantled.

An 'altar' stone weighing some 4-5 tons extensive walling and a long mound were noted. (LETTER:WJM:9.9.1964)  
(OSFI:PKB:21.9.1964)

From NG 768800 to NG 786814 there are the remains of a probable I.A. settlement area occupied later as shielings followed by more recent (pre-1850) occupation.

The probable I.A. settlement is indicated by some twenty hut-circles widely scattered, two enclosures and fragmentary traces of field walls of stone. The huts vary in condition from mere boulder outlines to substantial stone walls and in size from 6.0 m. - 13.0 m. overall diameter with entrances where evident in the E. segment. Several have a small compartment either attached to the outer or inner face of the enclosing wall. The best preserved is at NG 77938090. It is 11.5 m. in overall diameter and is formed by a heather covered stone wall, with inner and outer facings 2.4 m. thick and c.0.7 m. high with a well defined entrance on the E. side. Two short stretches of wall extend N.W. & N.E. from the hut between the W. side of the N.E. wall and the outer face of the wall is a small sub-triangular compartment. See (OSFI:WDJ:11.10.1964)  
GP: 40/64/163/1.

The larger of the enclosures is situated at NG 77588045. It measures 17.5m. E-W x 16.0m. N-S overall and now consists of two concentric walls of stone, 2.3m apart (but which may have been 2.3m thick) and 0.5m. max height. No definite entrance was established.

The occupation of the area as shielings is shown by the presence of some thirty shieling bothies, two of which have been constructed within older hut-circles. The bothies, built of stone, are either rectangular or boat-shaped with an average size of 5.0m. x 3.0m. x 0.3m, although one measures 9.0m. x 4.0m. Above the modern sheepfold at NG 782813 the shieling area has been partially enclosed by a stone dyke, the foundations of which are quite distinct. (OSFI:WDJ:11.10.1984)

Later occupation of the area is indicated by the remains of rectangular stone walled buildings, an enclosure, small fields or paddocks, large stock enclosures and the remains of an enclosing dyke of earth and stone extending from the Allt Mòr at NG 77328056 to the River Sand at NG 76828009. There are four buildings (area NG 77368035) varying in size from 6.0m. x 3.5m. to 9.0m. x 4.0m. with an average wall height of 0.6m. The enclosure (at NG 77318036) measures 12.0m. x 5.0m. x 0.8m. and has a rectangular compartment 6.0m. x 3.0m. within its NE angle. The fields are enclosed by turf covered stone walls and the stock enclosures by substantial boulder walls. Two of the large stock enclosures and one of the small fields have a small compartment (3m. x 2m. average size) built against the inside of the enclosing wall. (OSFI:WDJ:11.10.1964)

Two types of stone clearance were noted within the area.

Firstly, the usual gathering of the stones into small heaps, now heather-covered, and secondly, on ground thickly covered by stones and rock fragments, small cultivation plots have been created here and there by simply throwing the stones aside.

Mr. W. Mitchell, proprietor, Cairloch Sands Estate, pointed out a small (5.0m. x 3.0m.) 'D' shaped stone compartment attached to the inside of the large enclosure wall at NG 77238045 as a "beehive". Mr. Mitchell said that there were four such "beehives" in the area but these are merely stone-built boat-shaped or sub-rectangular structures and are included in the features surveyed or mentioned previously. (OSFI:WDJ:11.10.1964)

Within a large area centred on NG 792803 are the remains of a probable I.A. settlement with later shieling occupation.

The probable I.A. settlement is indicated by eight hut-circles, circular enclosure and the remains of a field system outlined by courses of boulders. The hut-circle remains vary from mere boulder outlines to substantial stone walls and in size from 6.0m - 8.0m. in diameter, with entrances generally in the S.E. segment.

The best preserved is at NG 79078020. It is 8.0m in diameter and is formed by a stone wall 1.7m. wide and 0.6m. average height. No obvious entrance was noted; there are indications of a probable shieling inside. Another, at NG 79198010, is 6.0m. in diameter and consists of a stone wall 1.6m. wide x 0.5m. average height set in the S.W. corner of a larger sub-circular structure c.9.0m. in diameter. There are also traces of an oval structure.

c.4.0m. x 3.0m. within the N.E. side of the larger feature. The enclosure at NG 79228021 measures c.13.0m. in diameter with a stone wall 1.8m. average width and 0.6m. average height. The well-defined entrance is in the S.E. segment.

The shieling occupation is shown by the presence of some twelve bothies, five of which lie within older hut-circles. The bothies, built of stone, are generally boat-shaped and measure 5.0m. x 3.0m. on average.

Little evidence of stone-clearance was seen in this area.

(OSFI:WDJ:14.10.1964)

NMR Concordance NG 78SE2

AG/SCOT/X/L.

SANDS(GAIRLOCH) LTD.

Directors:

~~Wm. J. Mitchell, F.R.S.E.~~

J. Gowans Mitchell, L.B., Ch.B.

Tel. Gairloch 82.

GAIRLOCH SANDS ESTATE.

GAIRLOCH,

ROSS-SHIRE

9th September, 1964.

The Director General,  
Ordnance Survey Office,  
Chessington, Surrey.

Dear Sir,

NEW 1/2500th & 6" Survey, GAIRLOCH, ROSS-SHIRE.

Ross & Cromarty 1/2500 th sheet XLIV.10. refers.

On the 19th Nov. 1960 the area west of the combined township of Lonemore and Strath Gairloch, including Big Sand, North Erradale, Peterburn and Aultgishan, the farm, the aforementioned townships common grazings, and Longa Island were sold to Sands (Gairloch) Ltd. with effect from the 23rd Nov 1960.

On and from 28th Nov. this area was named Gairloch Sands Estate and the farm was known as Little Sand was renamed Gairloch Sands.

The name is taken from a deposit of unique sand to be found on and about O/S Fd. Nos. 1098, 1112 to and including 1115. In a geological report published by H.M.S.O. there is an article on these sands and a map determining their area and location. The report states that these sands are named Gairloch Sands and that they are to be found nowhere else. I have lost my copy of this report and efforts to obtain another have been unsuccessful. It would appear that it is out of print. Other reports available of H.M.S.O. do not include the particular reports required. The book dealt specifically with N.W. Scotland. If your Librarian could give me the precise name of the report the information would be very much appreciated.

It would be very much appreciated if you could arrange for the correct names "Gairloch Sands" to be shown on the new O/S sheets.

Sands(Gairloch) Ltd. are the superiors of the land and have purchased what is known in England as the freehold of the estate.

ANCIENT REMAINS ON THE ESTATE.

In 1961 when walking across the hills I came across indications of ancient settlement at two places. In April 1964 I saw in Glasgow University a simple survey of one settlement dated as early stoneage about 3,000 B.C. During 1964 I have been able to make two quick looks at both areas. The first (Glasgow University ref.) is in fair condition and is located on 1/2500th Ross & Cromarty Sheet XLIV.11. as Field Nos. 1199 and 1200. This sheet does not however show the remains of a two compartment dwelling. Aerial Photographs taken for the revision of your 6" maps show the settlement very well.

The other settlement is located in an area of some 40 acres 1,350 yds. from Loch-an-t-Seano-bhaille, and 1,600 yds. from Loch na Leirige which lies to the north of Lonemore Township. I know practically nothing of early Scottish Settlements but in my view this second settlement will prove to be of considerable importance. I have found at least 4 remains of beehive hutments three of which do not appear to have been interfered with in any way. The fourth has about one half of the

perimeter wall dismantled. In my view the date is about 3,00 B.C. There is an interesting stone weighing some 4-5 tons which could be an altar set up at that time. This is particularly interesting. There is also another interesting stone weighing about the same amount which appears to have been toppled. There are extensive primitive wallings. But nowhere could I find any indication of worked or split stones. From a distance of about 800 yds I have seen a peculiar long mould(sic) which calls for closer inspection. Since May this year I have been working almost continuously from about 8.30 a.m. to 2 a.m. and later the following day seven days a week and have had no time to spare to make further research.

I understand that for the 6" revision no aerial photographs have been taken of ~~this~~ this area of the settlement.

I understand that there is some similarity between this settlement and remains found on Shetland.

Owing to the unusual climatic conditions prevailing at the site of this settlement as compared with inland areas or elsewhere in Scotland it may well be that these remains will be found to be of first class importance.

From time to time I have pointed out the existence of these remains to some of your survey teams up here in recent years.

I would be very much obliged if you would kindly put me in touch with your archaeological section who I am sure would be most interested in recording what ~~would be~~ may be worth while. An aerial survey of this area would have an enormous amount of work in preparing an accurate survey of the remains. Is it possible please for your appropriate sections to co-operate with me in the survey.

I shall be pleased to give you any further information.

Would it be possible for me to have copies of the aerial photographs for reference and working on. I would be pleased to pay appropriate charges for them.

If your staff find it worth while to visit the area I would be pleased (out of the holiday season) to accommodate them nearby in furnished caravans and they could have the use of a mobile drawing office and equipment. At the moment I have no theodolite here but anything else they might want.

Yours truly,  
(Signed) William J. Mitchell  
(William J. Mitchell)  
for Sands (Gairloch) Ltd.

A Xeroxed Copy of this letter is in Scot R.C. File N/3/17 3rd cover under No. 86B. Scot R.C. is replying only to the change of names.

Copy taken 29th September, 1964.

