

## HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

## FIELD MONUMENTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD



4 DISTRICT INVERNESS		5 PARISH KIRKHILL		1 SITE CODE H N H 5 4 S E 0 0 2		2 NGR N H 5 5 7 4 3 1		3 QUAL CE	
7 AREA STATUS SSSI		8 SITE STATUS		9 REGIONAL STATUS		6 SITE NAME M O N I A C K		10 GENERIC TYPE	
11 CONCORDANCE osNH 54 SE 2+3		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE		13 DIMENSIONS		14 PERIOD/DATE		15 DATING METHOD	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION		18 SHAPE		19 THREAT AND DATE		MOUNDS (ALLEGED BURIAL CAIRNS OR VITRIFIED ROCKS)	
20 LAND USE WOODLAND = SCRUB				21 GEOLOGY		22 SOILS			
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE				25 RELIEF STEEP PROMONTORY SIDE		26 ASPECT NNE		27 ALTITUDE 50=75m OD	
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)									
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)									
1. WALLACE, T: 1886: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: VOL. 20: pp345-56									
2. WALLACE, T: 1886: TRANS. INVERNESS SCIENTIFIC SOC.: VOL. III: p139									
3. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: 1979: SITES & MONS. OF NE INVERNESS: RCAHMS: p11, No. 44									
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 HAR: 6.10.1986		51 CHECK: DATE HSR: 9.10.1986	

## 52 TEXT

"This appears to be a natural feature centred at NH 557 431. No trace of vitrification could be found." (OSFI:RD:21.12.1964) "Three chambered mounds here with vestiges of cairns. Popularly known as Fairy Hill." (OSFI:EA:21.10.1955) "There is a relatively modern cairn at NH 5576 4320, and no trace could be found of any chambered cairns there, nor at NH 5579 4309, or the 'Fairy Hillock' which is a natural feature at NH 5579 4309." (OSFI:RD:21.12.1964) "NH 557 432. Moniack Burn. This unusual cairn is situated on a spur 420m SSW of Reelig House; oval on plan, it measures 5.2m x 2.9m and 0.8m high with three possible kerb-stones on the SW." (1)

*Vitrified Work at Moniack.*—A very curious example of vitrified work is to be seen at Moniack. It measures 8 or 9 feet from east to west and 10 feet from north to south, and about 3 feet thick. It is on the top of a long ridge about 15 feet high above the surrounding fields. With the permission of the proprietor, I made excavations all round this mass, and found it surrounded with pieces of stone broken small from 1 to 1½ and 2 inches in diameter. The ridge is of curious serpentine form, and measures in all 530 feet long. It is flat on the top, and measures from 6 to 8 feet broad at the narrowest part on the top, and from 18 to 32 feet broad at the widest parts, which are at the turns of the ridge. The general direction of the ridge is from north-west to south-east, and at the north end there are two mounds, one measuring 9 feet and the other 12 feet high, with a hollow of 25 feet between them. Between these mounds and the ridge under consideration there is a hollow measuring from 12 feet to 33 feet. At the south end of the ridge, and separated from it by a hollow about 40 feet wide, there is a conical mound called the "Fairy Hillock." The vitrification in every way resembles that of the forts, and is composed of the metamorphic rocks of the district, and chiefly limestone. One bit came evidently from Wester Clunes or Rebeg, having lime crystals and specimens of "abriach-anite" undisturbed by fire. Whatever was the object of this piece of vitrification, it was certainly not fortification. The mound has every appearance of being artificial, as was evident from the excavations made.

(1)(2)