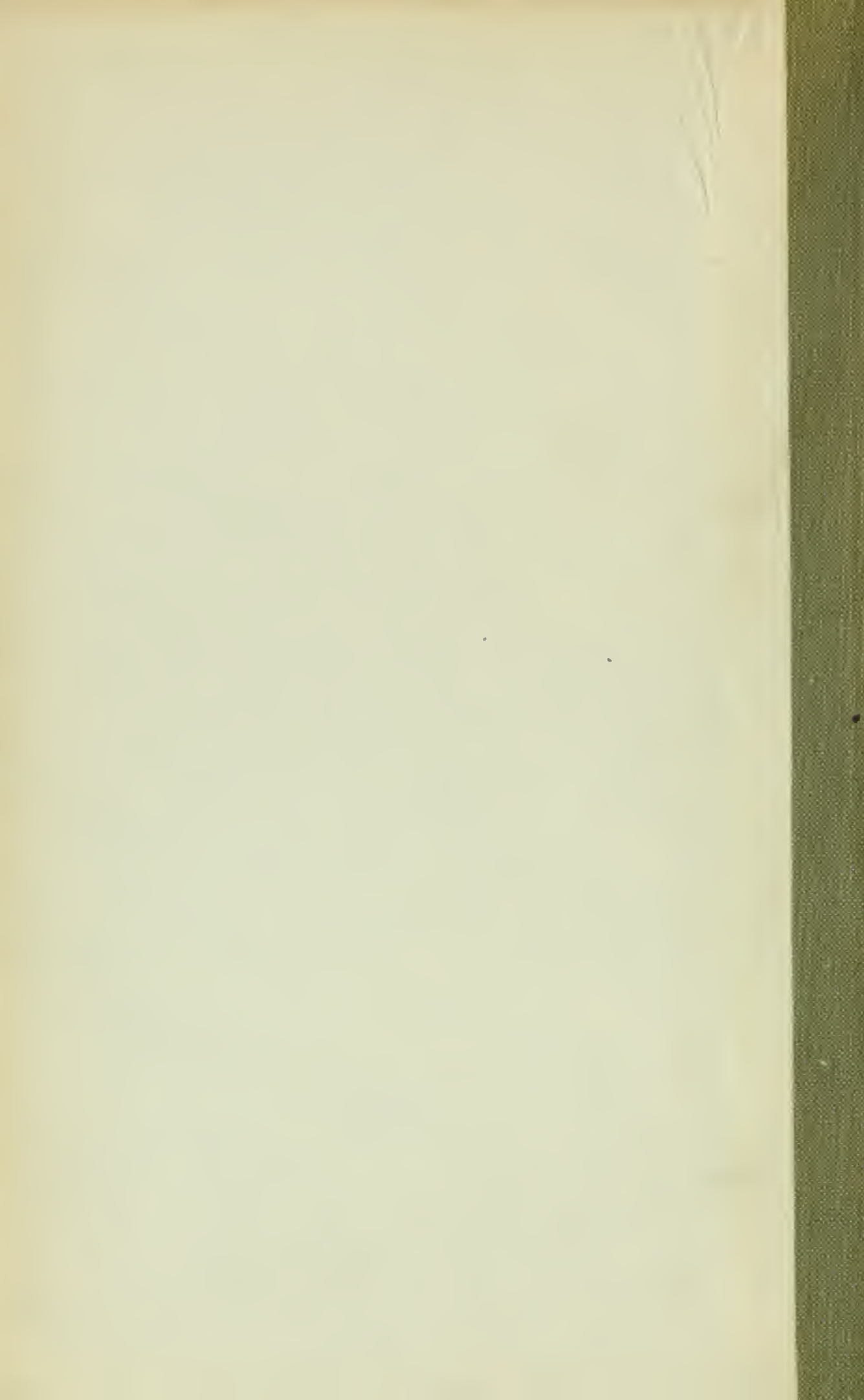





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1. 15th. Ancient and Historical Monuments and
... Constructions of Scotland, Royal Commission on the

(THE ROYAL COMMISSION)

ON

(THE ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS
(AND CONSTRUCTIONS OF SCOTLAND)

[- Third]

SECOND REPORT

AND

INVENTORY OF MONUMENTS AND
CONSTRUCTIONS

IN THE

2nd. COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND
3rd. County of Caithness



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ROYAL WARRANT

RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING THE TERMS OF THE COMMISSION
ISSUED IN THE REIGN OF HIS LATE MAJESTY.

GEORGE, R. I.

GEORGE THE FIFTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith, to all to whom these Presents shall come,—Greeting!

Whereas it pleased His late Majesty from time to time to issue Royal Commissions for various purposes therein specified:

And whereas, in the case of . . . the Ancient Monuments (Scotland) Commission, . . . the Commissioners appointed by His late Majesty, or such of them as were then acting as Commissioners, were at the late Demise of the Crown still engaged upon the business entrusted to them:

And whereas We deem it expedient that the said Commissioners should continue their labours notwithstanding the late Demise of the Crown:

Now know ye that We, reposing great trust and confidence in the zeal, discretion and ability of the present members of each of the said Commissions, do by these Presents authorise them to continue their labours, and do hereby in every essential particular ratify and confirm the terms of the said several Commissions.

And We do further ordain that the said Commissioners do report to Us under their hands and seals, or under the hands and seals of such of their number as may be specified in the said Commissions respectively, their opinion upon the matters presented for their consideration; and that any proceedings which they or any of them may have taken under and in pursuance of the said Commissions since the late Demise of the Crown and before the issue of these Presents shall be deemed and adjudged to have been taken under and in virtue of this Our Commission.

Given at Our Court at Marlborough House, the second day of June, one thousand nine hundred and ten, in the first year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command.

PENTLAND.

SECOND REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF SCOTLAND.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,—

We, your Majesty's Commissioners, appointed to make an Inventory of the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions connected with or illustrative of the contemporary culture, civilisation, and conditions of life of the people in Scotland from the earliest times to the year 1707, and to specify those which seem most worthy of preservation, humbly present to your Majesty this our second Report.

During the summer and autumn of 1909, Mr A. O. Curle, Secretary to the Commission, undertook a survey and examination of the monuments and constructions in the county of Sutherland, and has compiled an Inventory thereof, showing the situation and characteristics of each, along with a bibliography, a reference to the Ordnance Survey sheet (6-inch scale) on which it is noted, and the date on which it was visited. Photographs and ground-plans have been appended where these have been considered necessary to explain the text. In order to render the Inventory more serviceable, maps have been annexed, on which the positions of the various monuments and constructions, or groups thereof, are indicated by numbers referable to the Inventory. Annexed as an appendix to this Report is a list of those monuments and constructions which, in the opinion of your Commissioners, seem most worthy of preservation. These, as formerly, have been divided into two classes, viz.: (*a*) those which appear to be specially in need of protection, and (*b*) those worthy of preservation but not in imminent risk of demolition or decay. A detailed and illustrated account of all the monuments, etc., will be found in the Inventory which has been issued as a Stationery Office publication.

The monuments and constructions of Sutherland were found greatly to exceed in number and importance those previously known to exist, and they mainly belong to prehistoric times. Not only

have many examples of well-known types been noted for the first time, but a large number of constructions, representing types of early habitations, which have not hitherto been made the subject of special observation on the mainland of Scotland, have been examined and planned. There have been enumerated in the Inventory groups of objects as well as single objects, so that the actual numbers do not indicate the fulness of the record. Very few of the objects noted have hitherto been described. Owing to the great extent of the county and the sparseness of its population, trustworthy information regarding its ancient monuments was difficult to obtain, and we believe that there still exist a certain number of objects which have not come under our observation. We trust, however, that the publication of the Inventory will attract attention to such monuments, and that intimation of their existence may be ultimately made to us.

Full facilities have been granted by proprietors and tenants to inspect the monuments on their ground, and general interest has been shown in the work of your Majesty's Commission. To the Ministers of the Gospel as well as the Parish Schoolmasters, and to others throughout the county occupying no official position, your Commissioners have been indebted for much assistance.

We view with much regret the destruction which has overtaken so many remarkable prehistoric monuments and constructions throughout the county owing to the facilities they have afforded for a supply of stones for road-metal and building purposes, but we have pleasure in bringing to your Majesty's notice the efforts of the County Council, which for the present have been successful in checking further mischief. Vigilance, however, will be required to prevent a repetition of these objectionable practices.

The attention of proprietors may be drawn to the damage frequently done to ancient constructions through the practice of planting trees upon or immediately adjacent to them.

The attention of your Commissioners has been directed to frequent instances throughout the county of the excavation of monuments without any record having been kept of the results, or plans made of the structures. This is much to be regretted, as it involves the loss of valuable evidence regarding the racial characteristics and culture of the prehistoric inhabitants.

In further execution of your Majesty's Commission we have requested the co-operation of the Town Councils of the Royal Burghs throughout Scotland, and have asked them to assist by preparing lists of ancient buildings and other objects existing within their bounds. The response to this request has been most gratifying, and we have much pleasure in bringing to your Majesty's notice the great trouble which in many instances has been taken to further the objects of the Commission.

During the year a number of intimations have reached us of the threatened destruction of ancient monuments in various parts of Scotland, and we have been able by representations to assist towards their preservation.

A survey of the monuments and constructions in the county of

Caithness has been completed during the past summer, and the Inventory thereof is in preparation.

We cannot conclude this Report without expressing recognition of the continued good service rendered to us by the Secretary of the Commission, who has grudged no time and spared no personal exertion in the work of inspecting and cataloguing the monuments scattered over a very wide and sparsely populated district.

HERBERT MAXWELL, <i>Chairman.</i>	FRANCIS C. BUCHANAN.
CHARLES J. GUTHRIE.	W. T. OLDRIEVE.
G. BALDWIN BROWN.	THOMAS ROSS.
THOMAS H. BRYCE.	ALEX ^R . O. CURLE, <i>Secretary.</i>

EDINBURGH, *November* 1910.

LIST OF ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIONS

IN THE COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND

WHICH THE COMMISSIONERS DEEM MOST WORTHY
OF PRESERVATION.

I.—MONUMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIONS SPECIALLY IN NEED OF PROTECTION.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

Brochs—

	PARISH.
An Dun, Loch Ardbhair (No. 4*)	Assynt.
Do. Loch a' Chairn Bhain (No. 168)	Eddrachillis.
Backies (No. 272)	Golspie.
"Carn Liath," Uppat (No. 270)	Do.
Carrol, Loch Brora (No. 27)	Clyne.
Castle Cole, or Caisteal na Coille, Black Water (No. 25)	Do.
Clachtoll (No. 7)	Assynt.
Dail Langwell (No. 49)	Creich.
Dun Creagach, Loch Naver (No. 175)	Farr.
Dun Dornaigil or Dornadilla, Strathmore (No. 155)	Durness.
Dun na Maigh, Kyle of Tongue (No. 527)	Tongue.
Dunrobin Wood (No. 271)	Golspie.
East Kinnauld, Strath Fleet (No. 477)	Rogart.
Feranach, Strath na Frithe (No. 314)	Kildonan.
Grum-more, Loch Naver (No. 174)	Farr.
Kilphedir, Strath of Kildonan (No. 307)	Kildonan.
Kintradwell or Cinn Trolla, Kintradwell (No. 467)	Loth.
Langdale Burn, Syre, Strathnaver (No. 177)	Farr.
Salachadh, Loch Shin (No. 392)	Lairg
Skelpick, Strathnaver (No. 182)	Farr.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

Chambered Cairns—

Achaidh (No. 82)	Creich.
Coillenaborgie, Strathnaver (horned long cairn) (No. 243)	Farr.
Kinbrace Burn, Strath of Kildonan (No. 372)	Kildonan.
Loch Borrolan (No. 14)	Assynt.
Skelpick, Strathnaver (horned long cairn) (No. 241)	Farr.

* The numbers throughout the list refer to the Inventory.

SEPOLCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS (*continued*).

<i>Stone Circles—</i>	PARISH.
Aberscross (No. 291)	Golspie.
Auchinduich (No. 91)	Creich.
“Clach an Rìgh,” Dailharraild, Strathnaver (No. 247)	Farr.
Chnoc an Liath-bhaid, Strath Brora (No. 518) .	Rogart.
Drum Baile ùr, Achany (No. 461)	Lairg.
Learable, Strath of Kildonan (No. 374) . . .	Kildonan.
River Shin (No. 462)	Lairg.

MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS.

Sculptured Cross, Strathy (No. 260)	Farr.
<i>Standing Stones—</i>	
Allt Breac, Strath of Kildonan (No. 379) . .	Kildonan.
Learable Hill, do. (No. 381)	Do.
Torrish Burn, do. (No. 378)	Do.

II.—MONUMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIONS DESERVING PROTECTION BUT NOT IN IMMINENT RISK OF DEMOLITION OR DECAY.

ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

	PARISH.
Belfry tower, Clynekirkton (No. 22)	Clyne.
Sepulchral monument in Durness Church (No. 154)	Durness.

CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

Ardvreck Castle (No. 2)	Assynt.
Dunrobin Castle, Golspie (No. 269)	Golspie.
Castle Varrich or Bhurraich (No. 526) . . .	Tongue.
Helmsdale Castle (No. 306)	Kildonan.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

Brochs—

Ach an Duin (No. 156)	Durness.
Achcoilleanaborgie, Strathnaver (No. 183) .	Farr.
Allt a' Choire Mhoir, Strath of Kildonan (No. 312)	Kildonan.
Allt Breac (No. 395)	Lairg.
Brae (No. 107)	Dornoch.
“Carn Bran,” Glen Loth (No. 468)	Loth.
Camus an Duin (No. 157)	Durness.
Coill'ach a' Chuil, Loch Naver (No. 176) . .	Farr.
Dun Carnachaidh, Strathnaver (No. 180) . .	Do.
Dun Chealamy, do. (No. 179)	Do.
Dun Viden, do. (No. 181)	Do.
Eldrable, Strath of Kildonan (No. 309) . . .	Kildonan.
Inshlampie, Skail, Strathnaver (No. 178) .	Farr.
Skelbo Wood (No. 106)	Dornoch.
Suisgill, Strath of Kildonan (No. 308) . . .	Kildonan.
“The Borg,” Forsinain, Strath Halladale (No. 186)	Farr.
“The Sandy Dun,” Baile Mhargait, Strathnaver (No. 184)	Do.

FORTS AND FORTIFIED ENCLOSURES, &c.

Forts—

	PARISH.
Ben Griam Beg, Strath of Kildonan (hill fort) (No. 316)	Kildonan.
Duchary Rock (No. 29)	Clyne.
Dun Creich (vitrified fort), Dornoch Firth (No. 54)	Creich.
East Kinnauld, Strath Fleet (No. 479)	Rogart.

Fortified Enclosures—

Auchinduich (No. 55)	Creich.
Dalnain (No. 118)	Dornoch.
Circular enclosure, The Ord (No. 396)	Lairg.
Rectangular construction, "Grianan," on islet in Lochan Hacoin (No. 531)	Tongue.

Earth-houses—

Achinnearin, Suisgill, Strath of Kildonan (No. 343)	Kildonan.
Kirkton (No. 274)	Golspie.
Salscraggie, Strath of Kildonan (No. 324)	Kildonan.

Hut Circles, &c.—

Aberscross Hill, Strath Fleet (No. 279)	Golspie.
Achnagarron (No. 487)	Rogart.
All Cille Pheadair, Strath of Kildonan (Nos. 327 and 328)	Kildonan.
Between Dailharraild and Syre, Strathnaver (No. 207)	Farr.
Bighouse, Strath Halladale (No. 226)	Do.
Brae, Strath Carnaig (No. 129)	Dornoch.
Caen Burn, Strath of Kildonan (No. 318)	Kildonan.
Carnachaidh, Strathnaver (No. 211)	Farr.
Cnoc an Liath-bhaid (No. 506)	Rogart.
Coich Burn, Sciberscross, Strath Brora (No. 36)	Clyne.
Creag an Amalaidh, Loch Fleet (Nos. 111-113)	Dornoch.
Creag Ruidh nan Caorach, Strath of Kildonan (No. 351)	Kildonan.
Dail a' Bhaite, Strathy Water (No. 230)	Farr.
Dalhalvaig, Strath Halladale (No. 224)	Do.
Dremergid (No. 503)	Rogart.
Dulaich (No. 417)	Lairg.
Feith Osdail (No. 434)	Do.
Forsinard, Strath Halladale (No. 223)	Farr.
Kildonan, Strath of Kildonan (Nos. 344 and 345)	Kildonan.
Kinbrace Hill, do. (No. 352)	Do.
Knockarthur (Nos. 498-500)	Rogart.
Sciberscross, Strath Brora (Nos. 32 and 33)	Clyne.
Do. do. (No. 511)	Rogart.
Scottarie Burn, do. (No. 37)	Clyne.
Skaig (No. 490)	Rogart.
S. of Lairg Station, Strath Shin (No. 56)	Creich.
Strath Fleet (No. 414)	Lairg.
Swordale, Kyle of Sutherland (No. 63)	Creich.
Tannachy (No. 512)	Rogart.
Torboll, Strath Carnaig (No. 126)	Dornoch.
Tulloch, Kyle of Sutherland (No. 69)	Creich.
Uppat Wood (No. 281)	Golspie.

CAIRNS.

Chambered—

	PARISH.
Achany (No 447)	Lairg.
Achebeargary, Strathnaver (No. 244)	Farr.
Allt nam Ban (No. 44)	Clyne.
Badnabay (remains) (No. 172)	Eddrachillis.
Balcharn (No. 457)	Lairg.
Benbhraggie Wood (remains) (No. 289)	Golspie.
Caen, Strath of Kildonan (long cairn) (No. 359)	Kildonan.
Caen Burn, Strath of Kildonan (long cairns) (Nos. 356 and 358)	Do.
“Carn Tigh nan Coileach” (long cairn), Allt ach na h-Uaigh (No. 373)	Do.
Cnoc an Daimh (No. 169)	Eddrachillis.
Evelix (No. 143)	Dornoch.
Invershin (remains) (No. 90)	Creich.
Kilournan, Strath of Kildonan (long cairn) (No. 361)	Kildonan.
Kyleoag (No. 83)	Creich.
Lairg Moor (Nos. 453 and 454)	Lairg.
Ledmore Wood (No. 84)	Creich.
Lothbeg (long cairn) (No. 472)	Loth.
Skail, Strathnaver (remains) (No. 233)	Farr
Skelpick, do. (horned cairn) (No. 238)	Do.
The Ord (remains) (No. 444)	Lairg.
Torboll (No. 134)	Dornoch.

With Cists and of unascertained character—

Aberscross (No. 288)	Golspie.
Achany (Nos. 448-451)	Lairg.
Allt a' Chaoruinn (No. 163)	Durness.
Allt nan Eun (No. 79)	Creich.
Balnacoil (No. 42)	Clyne.
Cam Loch (No. 12)	Assynt.
Camore Wood (No. 141)	Dornoch.
“Carn an Fheidh,” Harriet Plantation (No. 138)	Do.
Clashmore (No. 144)	Do.
Creag an Amalaidh (No. 133)	Do.
Creag Ruidh nan Caorach, Strath Beag (No. 367)	Kildonan.
Dalcharn, Strath na Frithe (No. 366)	Do.
Dornoch (No. 137)	Dornoch.
Feranach, Strath na Frithe (No. 365)	Kildonan.
Fiscary (Nos. 234-237)	Farr.
Harriet Plantation (No. 139)	Dornoch.
Kinbrace Hill, Strath of Kildonan (No. 368)	Kildonan.
Kinloch (No. 539)	Tongue.
Loch a' Chairn Bhain (No. 170)	Eddrachillis.
Loch Awe (No. 10)	Assynt.
Loch Loyal (No. 538)	Tongue.
Maikle (No. 89)	Creich.
Skelpick, Strathnaver (No. 242)	Farr.
The Ord (Nos. 443 and 445)	Lairg.
Torrish Burn, Strath of Kildonan (No. 362)	Kildonan.
Traligill Burn, Inchnadamph (No. 9)	Assynt.

Stone Circle—

Learable, Strath of Kildonan (No. 374)	Kildonan.
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MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS.

	PARISH.
<i>Cup-marked Stones—</i>	
Dornoch (No. 137)	Dornoch.
Grum-beg, Loch Naver (No. 252)	Farr.
Kinloch (No. 542)	Tongue.
Learable, Strath of Kildonan (No. 383)	Kildonan.
Lochan Hacoin (No. 541)	Tongue.
Torrisdail (No. 540)	Do.
<i>Rectangular Construction—</i>	
“Lettie’s Grave,” Blarich (No. 520)	Rogart.
<i>Sculptured Crosses—</i>	
Creich (No. 95)	Creich.
Farr (No. 258)	Farr.
Grum-beg, Loch Naver (No. 250)	Do.
Kildonan, Strath of Kildonan (No. 377)	Kildonan.
Klibreck, Loch Naver (No. 248)	Farr.
Learable Hill, Strath of Kildonan (No. 380)	Kildonan.
Skail, Strathnaver (No. 256)	Do.
<i>Standing Stones—</i>	
Achnagarron (No. 519)	Rogart.
Camore Wood (No. 148)	Dornoch.
“Carradh nan Clach,” Glen Loth (No. 473)	Loth.
“Clach Mhic Mhios,” do. (No. 474)	Do.
“Clach a’ Charra,” Ospisdale (No. 97)	Creich.
Invershin Mains (No. 96)	Do.

INTRODUCTION

TO

INVENTORY OF ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIONS

IN THE COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

SUTHERLAND is a large county containing an area of upwards of 1880 square miles. As a field for archaeological research, it presents many attractions; for not only do prehistoric remains exist in great numbers, but the sparseness of the population and the relatively small area of ground broken up by agriculture have left many of these in a better state of preservation than elsewhere. These remains, however, are by no means equally distributed over the whole area of the county. Its western half, from its mountainous and barren character, is extremely unfavourable to the support of human life, and it need occasion no surprise that comparatively few traces of the occupation of the prehistoric people are to be found in these infertile districts. Where man exists to-day man existed in former ages, and the majority of the objects of antiquity must be sought in the eastern half of the county, along the seashore, or by the margin of some productive loch or kyle, on the sides of the principal straths, and by the main arteries of communication. Occasionally in the heart of a deer forest the site of some ancient settlement may be discovered, but this is an exception which only gives prominence to the rule.

On the many problems as to the origin and affinities of the Celtic races the ancient monuments of Sutherland throw little light. Something, however, we learn of the earliest inhabitants of the county from such memorials. The men who first penetrated into this northern land through the pine forests whereof the blackened stumps stand so thick in the peat cuttings, have left evidence in their chambered cairns, their polished stone tools or weapons, and pottery, that they belonged to a race that hailed from the Mediterranean seaboard, and reached the north probably up the western coasts of Britain. The round cairns containing cists, the stone circles and rarer stone rows, as well as the cinerary vessels from cisted interments, enable us to recognise their Bronze Age successors. When, however, bronze for tools and weapons had given place to iron, sepulchral customs are no longer an aid to racial identification, and the ethnologist must turn to evidence derived from ornament and habitable structures. The broch, the most characteristic structure of the Iron Age, reveals a Celtic influence, while numerous ornamented objects of this period found in the

county bear the impress of the prevailing Late Celtic art. The faint glimmer of light preceding the dawn of history, at a time when the brochs were certainly in occupation, shows the country under the rule of the Picts. With the northward expansion of the Scottish kingdom of Dalriada in the west may be connected the spread of Christianity into Sutherland and the gradual extension of the influence of the Scots which, culminated in the union of the Scottish and Pictish crowns in the middle of the 9th century and extinction by absorption of the Pictish race as a distinct nationality. Whether any class of construction noted in the Inventory belongs to this Scoto-Pictish period is unknown. With the commencement of history in the 8th or 9th century the Norsemen began their plundering expeditions on the coasts of Scotland, and abundant traces of their influence may be recognised in the place-names of this county. Though this etymological influence was extensive and tells of the penetration of the Norsemen into many a strath far from the seaboard, no single structure or construction has been met with in the county whose origin or occupation is assignable to these invaders. Nor are personal relics recovered which show that the Celtic art was in any way influenced by that of Scandinavia.

It is recorded in the *Landnamabok* that, about the year 874, Thorstein the Red, son of Olaf the White, Norse King of Dublin, and grandson of the famous Ketill Flatnose, subdued "Katanes and Sudrland" (Caithness and Sutherland). According to the *Laxdæla Saga*, the Pictish King Constantin acquiesced in this conquest, which doubtless he was in no position to dispute. Thorstein's rule was brief; the *Chronicle of the Picts and Scots* allows him only one year, and this is corroborated by the *Annals of Ulster*, where it is stated that he was treacherously slain in 875 by the people of Alba (*i.e.* the Picts or Scots). Howbeit, a more permanent Norse occupation began about twelve years later, when Sigurd the Powerful, Jarl of Orkney, again conquered Caithness and Sutherland, establishing a dominion over them which lasted until shortly after the beginning of the 13th century, when the line of the Norse Earls failed.

After that, the Celtic element in the population resumed predominance, though it cannot be doubted that a strong infusion of Scandinavian blood remains as the effect of three centuries of Norse occupation.

ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

Few indeed are the objects in the county that fall to be noticed under this heading. Place-names such as Kildonan, Kilphedir, and Kilournan, the number of early monuments sculptured with Celtic ornaments and symbols (most of which are safely housed in the museum at Dunrobin), and the ancient graveyards, all point to the existence of numerous cells or churches existing in the past, of which at this day not a trace remains. Here and there only, as in the graveyard on the island of Handa, or in that near Klibreck on Loch Naver, is a foundation traceable below the turf which may be that of a religious building. The oldest church of which any remains exist is probably the **Cathedral at Dornoch** (No. 102), first erected

by Bishop Gilbert de Moravia in the early half of the 13th century. It has suffered at the hands of its friends as well as of its foes, for the ruins which the Master of Caithness and Mackay of Strathnaver left smouldering in 1570, and the tempest further wrecked in 1605, were swept away for the most part in the well-meaning restoration of 1835-37. An illustration in Cordiner's *Ruins*, and the pointed arches rising from clustered columns supporting the tower, show it to have been a building of the Transitional and First Pointed styles of Gothic architecture. The ruined **church of Durness** (No. 153), dating from 1619, presents no structural features of particular interest; but the **tomb of Donald Makmurchou** (No. 154), contained in a recess on the left of the doorway, bears a quaint inscription dated 1623, worthy of remembrance. In the churchyard is the **grave of Rob. Donn**, a notable Gaelic poet. He is known as the Burns of the North, and died in 1777.

CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

Few castellated buildings of any note remain in the county, and of these none showing characteristics belonging to an earlier date than the 16th century. Of these, **Dunrobin Castle** (No. 269) is pre-eminently the most important. Its keep, now entirely enclosed within a pile of 17th century and later building, occupies the site, and probably incorporates the remains of a much earlier structure. The continuous mouldings in place of corbelling beneath the parapet and the angle bartisans are features of a late date. Attention may be drawn to its fine iron "**yett**" with a wicket-gate through it, now removed from the doorway but preserved against an adjoining wall. All that remains of the **Bishop's Palace at Dornoch** (No. 104) is a fragment which, after passing through various vicissitudes, is now incorporated in a dwelling-house. It belongs to the end of the 16th century. These are the only two castellated buildings now capable of habitation. The ruined **Castle of Helmsdale** (No. 306), beautifully situated above the high bank of the Helmsdale river overlooking the town, is said to have been reconstructed in 1616 from an older edifice. Its chief claim to interest lies, not in its architecture, but in the grim tragedy enacted here in 1567, previous to the reconstruction, when, at the instigation of the Earl of Caithness, John, the 11th Earl of Sutherland, and his Countess were poisoned at supper by the Earl's aunt, Isobel Sinclair, in order to divert the succession of the title to her own son. Her plan, however, miscarried, for while the heir to the Sutherland title escaped, her son accidentally drank of the poison and perished along with the Earl and Countess.* The ruins of **Skelbo Castle** (No. 105) are now unimportant. **Inver-shin** or **Duffus** (No. 100), and **Proncy** (No. 152), are reduced to foundations. The mounds the two latter have occupied, more or less artificially constructed, and each protected by an encircling moat, suggest an early date for their original erection. **Castle Varrich** or **Bhurraich** (No. 526), such a conspicuous object at the head of the Kyle of Tongue, though it has had attributed to it a great antiquity, presents no features suggestive of an earlier date for the existing structure than the 16th century. **Ardvreck Castle** (No. 2), a ruin on

* Gordon's *Earldom of Sutherland*, p. 146.

Loch Assynt, is a picturesque specimen of a late 16th century tower. Historically, it is interesting as the place to which the Marquess of Montrose was led a prisoner by Macleod of Assynt in 1650. Of **Borve Castle** (No. 264), once a stronghold of the Mackays on the north coast, practically nothing remains. **Tongue House** (No. 525), lying among pleasant gardens and woods by the shore of the Kyle of Tongue, is the only structure representative of the domestic architecture of the latter half of the 17th century, but it has been altered and added to since its first erection in 1678. Sir Robert Gordon, in his *Earldom of Sutherland*, states the existence of "castles and pyles" at the following places in the first half of the 17th century, viz.:—"Skibo (wher ther is a fair orchard, in the which ther be excellent cherreis)," "Dulrossie, Golspikirktooun, Torrish (built by Sir Alexander Gordon in 1621), Cratok, Cuttle, Clyn, Enbo, Durnies, Abirscors, Ospisdale, and Clentredwale." Of these, no trace now remains. The existence of various islands in lochs, probably of partially artificial character, has been noted in the Inventory. They are referred to by Sir Robert Gordon as pleasant habitations in summer; and on one of them, viz.—the island in **Loch Brora**, there are still foundations of a building.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

Of the defensive constructions, the brochs, or massive circular dry-built towers, must take precedence by reason not only of their number, which far exceeds that of all other objects of this class, but also for the peculiar interest which attaches to these structures. From the few better-preserved examples existing in various parts of Scotland, as well as from the plans of those which have been excavated, a more or less complete knowledge is obtainable of their original form and arrangement. In construction they are built of undressed, roughly shaped stones, without mortar or cementing material of any kind. In plan they are round, almost invariably circular, with a wall of from 12' to 18' in thickness at base, with a batter for the first 8' or 10' as it mounts upwards, enclosing an interior court open to the sky with a diameter of from 28' to 34', any measurement less or more being exceptional. The height of the structure is presumed to have been from 40' to 60'. An entrance some 3' wide and 4' 6" to 5' high, roofed with flagstones, leads to the interior through a narrow passage, having checks for a door a few feet inward, and a guard-chamber on the right in the thickness of the wall, with occasionally another chamber on the opposite side. Save the entrance, no other aperture pierced the wall of the broch from the exterior. From the interior court there opened one or more small chambers in the thickness of the wall, roofed with converging stones, lighted at times by an opening above the doorway, carried inward as a shaft along the roof of the chamber passage. A staircase within the thickness of the wall, approached through an entrance situated on the left of the court, wound to the top, giving access to a number of floors or galleries carried round the tower, the flagged roof of each gallery being the floor of that above. From the galleries a series of openings on to the courtyard, rising one above the other, served as windows and supplied the light. Nowhere out of Scotland is a broch known

to exist, and within it, while their numbers preponderate in the northern counties, their range is from Orkney and Shetland to Berwickshire. The relics found in them, as well as a faint analogy, from the construction and position of their chambers with other dry-stone buildings of the Early Iron Age to be found elsewhere in the Celtic area, demonstrate that they belong to that period, while the fragments of Samian ware occasionally discovered in them testify to their having been in occupation at some time during the period of the Roman invasions of Scotland, in the first three centuries of the Christian era. When they were first erected, or when they ceased at length to be occupied, are both alike unknown. The only historical references to occupation relate to the broch of Mousa, on the small island of that name lying off the E. coast of Shetland, and are contained in the *Orkneyinga Saga*. There it is stated that about A.D. 1155 Erlend carried off the widow of Maddad, Earl of Athol, and took up his residence in Moseyarborg—the broch of Mousa—where he was besieged without avail by her son, Harald, Earl of Orkney. The *Saga of Egil Skalagrímsón* tells also of a temporary occupation of the same broch about A.D. 900.*

In Sutherland the brochs still in existence or of which the sites are recognisable, or recorded, number 67. Of these, 48 show measurable features, while the remaining 19 have either been entirely demolished or are represented by structureless heaps of stones. Two structures included with the existing remains are doubtful brochs, viz. that at **Camus an Duin**, Loch Eireboll (No. 157), and the circular construction near Learable in the Strath of Kildonan (**Broch** (supposed) **Learable**, No. 315). In regard to the buildings themselves, no single example exists rising higher than the lower part of the first gallery, except **Dun Dornaigil** or **Dornadilla**, in Strathmore (No. 155); and the portion of the walling there, which reaches to a height of 22', is merely the outer half of the wall above the entrance, supported by a modern buttress built up from the interior. A number of others have an elevation of from 8' to 12', notably **Carrol** (No. 27), **Carn Liath** (No. 270), **Backies** (No. 272), **Sallachadh** (No. 392), and **Kintradwell** (No. 467), all of which have been excavated, and **Clachtoll** (No. 7), **Castle Cole** (No. 25), **Dun Dornaigil** or **Dornadilla**, **Dun Creagach** (No. 175), "**The Borg**," **Forsinain** (No. 186) and **Dun na Maigh** (No. 527), and those at **Dail Langwell** (No. 49), **Grum-more** (No. 174), **Skelpick** (No. 182), **Kilphedir** (No. 307), and **Feranach** (No. 314). Taking the interior diameter as the gauge of the size of the structures, it is noticeable that there is a great uniformity among them. The greatest number have that factor lying between 28' and 32', while below that scale there are only 8 or 9 of the 48 measurable examples, and above it 5 or 6. The smallest broch, and also perhaps the most inaccessible, is **Castle Cole**, on the Black Water, with an interior diameter of only 21'; while the largest in the county appears to have been that situated near **Achaneas** (No. 51), on a meadow by the river Cassley, which, though reduced to its very foundations and much overgrown with turf, shows an interior diameter of 42' with a wall 18' in thickness. The broch at **Suisgill** (No. 308) approaches this with 40'; while the next largest is that at

* *The Orkneyinga Saga* (Edinburgh, 1873), p. cxi and chap. 92, quoted in Anderson, *The Iron Age*.

Feranach, with a diameter of 36'. Another broch of very small dimensions is that on the **Armadaile Burn** (No. 190), which in its isolation as well as its size resembles Castle Cole, standing some six miles distant as the crow flies from its nearest neighbour, and measuring only 23' across the interior. The thickness of the wall of the brochs varies from about 10' 6", as in the broch at **Kylesku** (No. 168), to 18' 6", as measured along the entrance passage of that at **Dail Langwell**. As might be expected, the thickness of the wall increases with the diameter of the interior. The wall of **Castle Cole** measures 12' in thickness, while that of the example mentioned at **Achaneas** is 18'. Where so few have been excavated and so many are little more than structureless ruins, definite information regarding details of their plan is difficult to procure. Certain features, however, are remarkable for their constancy. Of the 16 brochs which possess guard-chambers or in which these are recognisable, 15 have them placed on the right of the passage, while 4 of these, viz. **Clachtoll**, **Dail Langwell**, **Sallachadh**, and **Allt Breac** (No. 395), show one situated on the other side as well. Only in the broch on the **Allt a' Choire Mhoir** (No. 312) are there indications of a guard-chamber on the left side only; but this broch is so dilapidated that, without excavation, it is hardly safe to assert that no guard-chamber existed on the right of the passage. The guard-chamber is not, however, an invariable feature, and in 5 brochs, viz. **Allt an Duin** (No. 182), **An Dun**, **Kylesku**, **An Dun**, **Loch Ardbhair** (No. 4), **Backies**, and **Kilphedir**, there are no indications of such a chamber ever having existed. The evidence is strengthened by the fact that both **Backies** and the dun on **Loch Ardbhair** have been cleared of débris. In the broch on the **Allt an Duin** above Skelpick the curve which the passage makes as it passes inwards is a feature observed nowhere else. The other arrangement from which departure is exceptional is the position of the entrance to the stair, which is to be found to the *left* of the main entrance in the interior. In 10 brochs this feature is discernible, and the rule holds in regard to 9. In the exception, viz. **Kilphedir**, the entrance is situated in the wall directly opposite the main entrance to the broch. In no single instance is there any indication of the stair entering from the right of the interior or passing upwards in the opposite direction. The number of chambers contained in the thickness of the wall varies, but knowledge of their existence obtainable without excavation is necessarily incomplete. While the broch near **Kylesku** and that on **Loch Ardbhair** reveal no traces of chambers whatever on the ground-level, those at **Feranach**, and on the **Allt Breac** near Lairg, including their guard-chambers, show five such apartments. As far as the limited data admit of a generalisation, the usual arrangement appears to have been either a guard-chamber with a single chamber situated at the foot of the stair, or that accommodation with an additional chamber entering off the interior. Of the brochs where the plan is evident, a guard-chamber and one other chamber are to be found in the brochs at **Sallachadh** and **Carrol**, while the guard-chamber and two other chambers exist in those of **Kintradwell** and **Backies**, and probably also of **Dun Dornaigil** or **Dornadilla**, "**Carn Bran**" (No. 468), and **Castle Cole**. In "**Carn Liath**" the only entrance from the interior is that of the stair, while

in the structures at **Kylesku** and on **Loch Ardbhair** even that characteristic is not apparent.

The distribution of the brochs calls for some comment. The region where they are found is mainly the eastern half of the county, and there, up the straths and glens, by the sides of the lochs, and on the fringe of the seashore: frequently they occur in groups at no great distance from each other, but also occasionally isolated. In Strathnaver from Loch Naver to the sea; in the Strath of Kildonan and up its lateral valleys; from Forsinain down Strath Halladale to Melvich; by the shores of the Kyle of Tongue; around Loch Shin at its lower end, where the land is capable of cultivation; in Strath Fleet and Strath Brora, and along the coast-line from Golspie to Helmsdale. They are few in number along the north coast, except near Tongue, where, of the three that stood beside the Kyle, only **Dun na Maigh** now exists. **Ach an Duin**, between Lochs Hope and Eireboll, seems to mark the range westward; for the structure about 2 m. to the S. by the Camus an Duin on the eastern shore of the latter loch, though included in the list of brochs, would possibly be more accurately designated a dun. Besides its elliptical form, the absence of débris in the interior and its general character raise doubts as to its being a broch. From the Ach an Duin therefore westward past the Kyle of Durness to Cape Wrath and southward as far as Loch a' Chairn Bhain the broch-builders have left no traces, and even when the broch is met with again at Kylesku it shows an absence of the characteristic features encountered elsewhere. In addition to the broch at **Kylesku**, only two other brochs are to be found down the W. coast, viz. that on **Loch Ardbhair** on the opposite side of Loch a' Chairn Bhain to Kylesku, and showing similar peculiarities to the broch there, and **Clachtoll** near Stoer. This last presents a striking contrast to the two others, in that it shows all the features of the fully developed type and is one of the finest examples in the county. The other structures to be found on rocky headlands in this region belong to another class of defensive work, and will be treated of elsewhere.

The external details of the brochs, as well as their internal arrangements, demand some notice. Though these in certain cases may be complicated by the addition of secondary buildings, an encircling or partially encircling wall was frequently a feature of the original plan. This served as an additional defence, and formed an enclosure wherein the stock might be safely housed. At **Dun Creagach**, **Coill'ach a' Chuil** (No. 176), **Dun Viden** (No. 181), **Sallachadh**, and probably "**Carn Bran**," a wall or rampart forms a loop enclosing about one-half of the broch, including the entrance. **Backies**, "**Carn Liath**," and the broch in **Dunrobin Wood** (No. 271) and that in **Skelbo Wood** (No. 106) have each been entirely surrounded by a rampart or wall; while the brochs at **Clachtoll**, **Carrol**, **Kilphedir**, **Suisgill**, **Allt an Duin**, and **Kilbrare** (No. 24) have had still more formidable outworks. A striking anomaly characterises the positions in which the towers have sometimes been placed, as well as the means adopted to strengthen them by outworks. When perched high on the flanks of the hills, or crowning the summits of isolated knolls, on islets connected with the shore by causeways half or wholly submerged, they seem to place attack at defiance;

but when situated on the low ground along the main arteries of communication, even occupying, as "**Carn Bran**," the very throat of a pass, they appear from their position actually to court it. Nor must the fact that both classes of position are occupied in the same district be overlooked. All down Strathnaver to the sea, on both sides of the river, the ruins of brochs overhang the road that winds along the bottom of the strath, with one exception. At **Achcoillenaborgie** (No. 183), not far from the mouth of the river, are the remains of a broch which lie on level ground in a meadow absolutely devoid of any natural protection observable at the present time, and with little sign of outer defences. The two nearest brochs—"The **Sandy Dun**" (No. 184) on the opposite side of the river, and that on the **Allt an Duin** near Skelpick—present the very antithesis of situation. As the occupation of the brochs is believed to have extended over many centuries, it is not to be supposed that they were all built at the same time, and experience as well as the requirements of the actual date of building must have affected the choice of situation. The fact of proximity does not of necessity imply a similar date of erection, and while resemblances in such circumstances as noted below may suggest this, a striking dissimilarity may indicate the converse. In this consideration it is of interest to note the site of two brochs on the haugh at **Achaneas** in Glencassley (Nos. 50 and 51) which have been situated within a few hundred yards of each other. The former is not measurable, but there is no indication that it has been at all large, while the latter gives the greatest diameter of any broch in the county. The **Carrol** broch stands within a walled enclosure protected by a trench. Around its neighbour by the **Duchary Rock** (No. 28), about 1 m. distant, is an utter absence of such outworks.

Considered topographically, it will be seen that certain peculiarities of situation or structure tend to be reproduced in particular groups. Three brochs are situated around Loch Naver, two of them (Nos. 175 and 176) on islets connected to the mainland by causeways, and the third, though now above the summer level of the loch, yet so near it that the waves almost lap the base of its wall. Down the strath the brochs of **Langdale** (No. 177), **Inshlampie** (No. 178), **Dun Chealamy** (No. 179), **Dun Viden**, and **Dun Carnachaidh** (No. 180) all occupy similar striking positions and present little difference in size, the interior diameter of the first being 31', of the second 29', and of each of the remaining three, which are nearest to one another, 30'. The two brochs on either side of Loch a' Chairn Bhain on the W. coast are remarkable, in both being situated on islets connected by causeways with the shore, and in the structural detail, as already noted. The broch of **Kilphedir** stands on a hillock encircled by a broad ditch, with an additional outwork adjoining the entry through the defences. Its neighbour at **Suisgill** has a very similar scheme of protection. The brochs at **Bunahoun** (No. 187) and **Trantlemore** (No. 188), adjacent to each other, appear to have had over all an identical diameter of 58'. And lastly, as already mentioned, the brochs in **Skelbo Wood**, of "**Carn Liath**" near Dunrobin, **Backies** in the same district, and that in **Dunrobin Wood** are each encircled by a wall at no great distance from the base.

With regard to their relation to other prehistoric structures, it is

important to note that the majority of the brochs do not appear to have been situated in close proximity to the hut circles and their associated mounds; though in certain cases, as at Kilphedir and on the haugh below Dun Chealamy, these abound, in general their absence is noteworthy. The instances where small mounds unconnected with hut circles lie in their immediate vicinity are fewer still, the neighbourhood of the "Sandy Dun" opposite Bettyhill being one of the few places where this peculiarity was observed.

The relics recovered from the brochs of this county comprise the usual steatite cups, querns, etc., but of special note are the two hammer-marked plates of brass found in "**Carn Liath**," Dunrobin, and the portions of the antlers of reindeer from the broch of **Kintradwell**. The presence of the reindeer horns gives credence to the statement in the *Orkneyinga Saga*, that (*circ.* A.D. 1158) the Orkney Earls Rognvald and Harald, "every summer were wont to go over to Caithness and up into the forests to hunt the red deer or the reindeer."

The remaining defensive constructions may be divided into three main classes, viz. :—

- (1) Promontory forts.
- (2) Hill forts.
- (3) Small constructions, circular and otherwise, of a defensive character.

The first class may be again subdivided into earth-works and stone-works. Of the former variety only two came under observation, both of which were on the N. coast though far separated from each other, viz. "**An Tornaiddh Bhuidhe**" near Port Skerry (No. 193), and the "**Seanachaisteal**" near Durness (No. 158). The first named occupies a most remarkable position, and its parapet or rampart follows the outline of the plateau on which it is situated. So hazardous has nature made the approach to it that further defences would have been superfluous. The latter fort has been formed by the usual method of cutting a trench across the neck of the promontory and raising a rampart in rear of it. With these features and the depressions, presumably for huts, in the interior, it ranks with a class of fort well represented in other parts of Scotland.* Of the stone-works little can be said. So fragmentary are the remains that they are no more than sufficient to indicate their stone-built character. They occupy the summits of projecting rocks of small extent, and are four in number (Nos. 5, 6, 191, and 192); two being on the W. coast and two on the N. **Dun Mhairtein**, Baligil (No. 191), and the **Dun of Culkein** (No. 6) have outer defences on the landward side which the positions of the other two did not necessitate. The underground passage running from the centre of Dun Mhairtein to the face of the cliff is a peculiar feature. To what period these structures belong it is difficult in their present condition to determine. The structure at **Camus an Duin**, Loch Eireboll (No. 157), already referred to among the brochs, may possibly belong to this class, though it stands, not on a promontory, but on a low projecting rock by the water.

There appear to be only five hill forts known in the county, all

* Since the completion of the Inventory the Commissioners have been informed of the existence of another similar construction not far from the ferry on the W. side of the Kyle of Durness.

situated in the eastern half. Of these, **Dun Creich** (No. 54), is noteworthy as being vitrified, but to what extent only excavation could disclose. The ramparts are much overgrown with turf. Two others stand apart by themselves, distinguished by their size and character. These are the fort on the summit of **Ben Griam Beg** (No. 316), and that on the **Duchary Rock** above Loch Brora (No. 29). Both of these are surrounded by massive stone-built walls. Except where the precipitous flanks serve the purpose of defences, a single wall encircles the summit of the Duchary Rock, with an entrance through it at either end, and with the remains of a chamber visible within it at the S. extremity of the fort. A flanking wall seems to have protected the main entrance, which is 6' wide. Much more complicated are the lines of defences around **Ben Griam Beg**, and the theory has been advanced that they formed, not a fortress, but a deer-trap, the animals being driven up the hill and forced by the position of the walls over the precipitous rocks which terminate the mountain to the westwards. A consideration of the facts observed on the spot, however, does not tend to confirm this idea. The construction has the character of a fort, and escape down the rocks would be far from impossible to the deer. (The millstones mentioned as lying in the ruins and about the hill have probably no relation to the fort.) A similar theory appears to have been held in regard to the fort on the **Duchary Rock**, but in that case it is even less tenable. The small fort on the hillock at **Dalnamain** (No. 108) is included in this class rather from the extent of its fortifications than from its position; and the ruin at **East Kinnauld** (No. 479) appears to be of the same character, though, from its condition, difficult to classify.

The third class includes a fortified site at **Syre** (No. 194), to which a modern attribution has been given locally, but which is possibly prehistoric. A smaller construction surrounded by a ditch on **The Ord** at **Lairg** (No. 396) seems to be akin to the hut circles that exist in its neighbourhood, and with the same suggestion of relationship the enclosure at **Auchinduich** (No. 55) may be considered.

One small ruin, differing from all the foregoing, remains to be noticed by itself. It is the oblong building occupying the islet in Lochan Hacoin, and known as "**Grianan**" (No. 531), a name literally meaning "a sunny place," and used in literature to signify a summer house or a royal palace. Its position and the strength of its walls bespeak its defensive character. The absence of any doorway is puzzling, while its rectangular plan implies a date for its erection within historic times.

HUT CIRCLES, ETC.

No objects of antiquity are so numerous throughout this county as the hut circles and their associated constructions. Representing as they do, in their various forms, the dwellings of the people from prehistoric times, possibly down to the comparatively modern period when round buildings were finally superseded by those of rectangular plan, they are deserving of much consideration. The term "hut circle," in default of a better, has been accepted for these remains. It is, however, somewhat inaccurate, as the structures were not,

properly speaking, huts, nor are they invariably circular. How, if at all, they were roofed in remains a matter of speculation, and possibly some of the peculiar features hereafter noted may have been adopted to facilitate this end by lessening the span of the interior. Considerable variation in structure and plan has been observed among them, from which, on more complete examination, their continuous development may be evolved. But however this may suggest itself to superficial observation, the intimate knowledge necessary to render a classification reliable can only be procured by excavation. Though the hut circles exist over the county in great numbers, there is no record of a single example having been thoroughly or scientifically excavated, consequently allowance must be made in reading the following remarks for the incomplete data on which they are based.

With regard to the antiquity of "hut circles," the labours of the Dartmoor Exploration Committee of the Devonshire Archæological Society have demonstrated that structures on Dartmoor resembling certain of the Sutherland examples belong to the early Bronze Age, if not to late neolithic times, and a like conclusion has been arrived at from the exploration of others in the island of Anglesea; but, as dwellings of a cognate, though not identical, form were actually observed in use in the island of Lewis so recently as the middle of the 19th century, and were described in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, the survival of these archaic types of dwellings in remote parts of the mainland to a late date is a probability to be borne in mind. In the county of Sutherland their range is concurrent with that of the other antiquities. On the west coast W. of Loch Eireboll no example came under observation, nor is a single instance of their existence in that region noted on the Ordnance Survey maps. Though certain variations are confined to particular districts, one form is found everywhere, and may be regarded as the type. This throughout the Inventory is described as the simple form. It is an oval or pear-shaped structure formed with a bank of earth or turf, and stones, or sometimes merely of the former, now rarely above 2' in height, enclosing an area measuring some 5' more in length than in width, the longest axis being in line of the entrance. There is great variety in size, but the variation of the diameter across is usually from 20' to 30'. The enclosing bank is some 5' to 6' in thickness, and of a uniform thickness throughout. The entrance, which varies in width from, apparently, 1½' to 3', with rare exceptions, faces the SE. Though the entrances are generally too indefinite to afford an accurate measurement, it is observed that in many of the larger circles they have been wider, affording sufficient space for the access of sheep or cattle, and it is presumed consequently that these may have been folds. Closely associated with those of simple form are invariably to be found the small mounds, in many cases no doubt sepulchral, afterwards to be considered. The presence of two circles in close proximity to each other, one of which is not infrequently larger and circular, is occasionally noticed, also the conjunction of two of the simple form, but of different dimensions (Nos. 417 and 511, figs. 60 and 74). Of this variety are others again to which a much smaller circle is attached on one side of the entrance (No. 207, fig. 20). The first departure from the

simple form seems to have been brought about by the widening of the bank on either side of the entrance, thus increasing the length of the passage to the interior by several feet; and a further development of this plan is to be observed in the addition of a small chamber or chambers, resembling the guard-chambers of a broch, on the sides of the passage (No. 398, fig. 57). In the eastern half of the county, where these structures exist in greatest number and variety, subdivision of the interior on various plans was met with; but it is noteworthy that only in one instance, and that in the parish of Tongue, was this departure observed in the western half, while down Strathnaver, though hut circles are numerous, they are also of the simple form, diversified only in a few instances by the lengthening of the entrance passage. As the interior tends to a circular form, a setting of flat-sided boulders, in some cases set contiguously so as to form a facing along the inner periphery, is found (see Nos. 126 and 398). In many of the hut circles of the simple form, with the object apparently of restricting the interior area, a bank of turf, or more frequently a wall of boulders, is met with, carried in a curve from side to side, cutting off a portion of the interior at the back, and reducing the remainder to a more circular form (see fig. 414). As a passage through such a wall was only in one instance observed, it seems probable that this modification is to be attributed to a secondary occupation. In further confirmation of this view is the fact that this inner cross wall was never found in any of those stone-built circles to be described hereafter, except in one instance, where, however, its object was evident, for, having its convexity towards the entrance, it formed a definite chamber against the back wall (No. 506, fig. 73). A still further variation is observable in the substitution of stone walls (some 8' in thickness and built without mortar) for turf and stone banks. The walls are usually much ruined and seldom stand above 2' to 3' in height, and the amount of débris does not suggest an original height of more than 4' or 5'. When the walls are of stone, the interiors are almost always circular, or approximately so, and display a considerable diversity in their arrangement, a feature in common with the interiors of some of the stone-lined circles. Bases of walls are observed running from one side of the entrance inwards, or out from the back, dividing the interior into two unequal and irregular compartments (Nos. 351 and 499, figs. 47 and 69), and chambers appear in the thickness of the enclosing walls (Nos. 112 and 113, figs. 13 and 14). Occasionally the ruins of small circular stone huts are found in the interior (Nos. 69 and 345, figs. 9 and 45), and within one particular hut circle (No. 499, fig. 69) there has been a large circular structure, apparently a solid building with small chambers within it, probably each under a separate roof. The regular position of the entrance, from the SE., which characterised those of the simple form is in these circular varieties more frequently departed from; and the association of the small mounds lying in the neighbourhood, though still occasionally observed, is not so constant as with the former. It is to be further noted that the more complicated and stone-built circles are usually to be found in groups by themselves. Of such are the groups at **Creag an Amalaidh** in Dornoch parish, the **Allt Cille Pheadair** in Kildonan parish, and near **Knock-**

arthur in Rogart parish. A further departure shows a number of smaller circles either attached to one of greater size (Nos. 111 and 230, figs. 12 and 26), or themselves conjoined (No. 223, figs. 21 and 22). Lastly, an oblong or elliptical form with the ruins of a small dwelling at its inner end approaches to a modern type; and the singular structure at **Uppat** (No. 281, fig. 33), though retaining in the features of its entrance characteristics of a hut circle, nearly approaches in plan to a rectangular building. Connected to the stone-built circles, and running among them where they are found in groups, are frequently to be seen the remains of old banks or walls, showing that enclosing in some measure was practised when this form was in vogue. With circles of the simple form this feature is much less frequently encountered.

Turning from these general characteristics to a consideration of particular features, the geographical limitations of certain forms and peculiarities are manifest. In the Strath of Kildonan the **earth-house** appears to have been a not infrequent adjunct of the hut circle. In no other part of the county was there the slightest indication of such relationship. Two small conjoined groups of a plan not observed elsewhere (figs. 21 and 22) were found in Strath Halladale, below **Forsinain**, though with them may be compared an example at **Dail a' Bhaite**, above the Strathy Water, in the same region. A circle at **Dail a' Bhaite** (No. 230, fig. 27) was peculiar by reason of the mound in the centre and a small enclosure abutting on the outside to the left of the entrance. A few miles to the W., on the moor near **Bighouse**, an almost identical form was met with (No. 226, fig. 25), but nowhere else. Similarly, in small details the repetition is likewise noticeable. A hut circle near **Achnagarron** in Rogart parish (No. 487, fig. 66) shows the bank on one side of the entrance projecting for a considerable distance beyond that on the other side, in such a manner as to be remarkable. A similar feature of the entrance is seen on another circle (No. 490, fig. 67) at **Skiag**, 1 m. to the SE., and not elsewhere. Of particular interest are the examples which show a small inner circle contained within the outer one (Nos. 36 and 487, figs. 5 and 66), as if for the joint accommodation of the people and their stock, both situated within a few miles of each other in the parishes of Rogart and Clyne respectively; and a striking development of this plan, illustrated in Nos. 498 and 63, figs. 68 and 8 (the former of which is also in Rogart parish), shows an arrangement whereby the inconvenience of a common access was obviated, on the presumption that the wide entrance implies an enclosure for stock and the narrow one that for the owners.

No. 503, fig. 72, in the parish of Rogart, is a remarkable example of what may be termed a **homestead**. The hut circle, which is subdivided, contains several chambers, and also recesses, which appear to have been hearths, in the division wall. The horseshoe-shaped construction in the rear has the appearance of a shelter, while the circular enclosure with which it is connected has probably been a fold. Similar horseshoe-shaped constructions, it may be stated, were observed in two other instances in this neighbourhood, viz. one quite close to the previous example, and the other a short distance away, near **Sciberscross** (No. 34).

A hut circle near the **Kildonan Burn** (No. 345, fig. 45), alone of all those examined, contained near the centre of the built entrance passage, which was 20' in length, jambs for a door. It also was one of the examples already referred to containing the ruins of a small circular hut in the interior.

Attention may be drawn to the hut circles (Nos. 318 and 328, figs. 37 and 42) in the **Strath of Kildonan**, which have earth-houses attached to them. It will be observed that that on the bank of the **Cille Pheadair Burn** is a circular stone-lined or interiorly revetted construction with a great mound formed to contain or cover the earth-house existing on one side, evidently a part of the original plan. Such a mound, it may be observed, would not tend to conceal the existence of the subterraneous structure. The position of the sunken chamber to the right of the entrance of the hut circle (No. 344, fig. 44) by the **Kildonan Burn** is equally evident. In the hut circle by the **Caen Burn**, no such external evidence proclaims the existence of the gallery which passes under the natural surface. There is evidence of alteration, however, in the plan of this circle, and the earth-house may possibly belong to a secondary occupation. Besides the above instances in which the underground chambers or galleries are visible, three of the hut circles in the strath show such remarkable extensions of the enclosing bank as to suggest the possibility of their containing similar structures. In two of these cases (Nos. 327 and 350, figs. 41 and 46) the extension occurs on the left of the entrance; and in the other (No. 352, fig. 48), near **Kinbrace**,* it occurs about a third of the distance round the periphery, on the left. In the first of these three circles a stone-built circular enclosure is contained within another of pear-shaped plan. The earth-house in front of **Salscraggie** (No. 324, fig. 39) was discovered beneath a mound of earth some 25' in diameter and some 6' to 8' in height, but as the ground about it had been partially levelled many years ago, no remains of an associated construction were observed.

Occasionally small hut circles are met with in connection with the entrances of large walled enclosures as on **Lairg Moor** (No. 419) or on the **Cnoc a' Chatha** (No. 426), or occupying a position in the centre of a continuous wall or bank as on **The Ord at Lairg** (No. 404).

In regard to the whole class in this county, the absence of defensive works connected with them is particularly noteworthy, as in the south of Scotland, with rare exceptions, the hut circle is unknown except within the ditch and rampart of a fort, or kindred structure. As these enclosures are thus devoid of any defensive character, they appear to be connected with the peaceful occupations of a pastoral people.

Certain groups are the remains of the sheilings to which, till late in historic times, the young women betook themselves in the summer with the cows and goats to make the cheese for the winter's consumption. The huts so occupied appear to have been small and oblong rather than round, and the situations selected for them small sheltered meadows by the sides of streams. Such groups are noted

* Since going to press, an earth-house has been located in this hut circle, entering from the interior near the centre of the left side, and curving towards the left. For the first 5' or so of its length it is broken down, but thereafter it remains intact for 20', with a width of 4', and height of 5' 6".

by the **Skelpick Burn** (No. 217), beside the **Allt Ardbhair** (No. 8), and by the **Feith Osdail** near Lairg (No. 439). The small trefoil-shaped constructions observed by the last-mentioned stream and near **Loch Coire nam Feuran** (No. 200) probably belong to this class, and may have been shelters for the calves.

Yet another class of circular dwelling falls to be considered, to which it is difficult to assign a period of occupation. Frequently in places where evidences of early occupation abound are to be observed a number of small circular ruins of stone structures rising a foot or two above the ground-level, measuring from 16' to 18' in diameter, and distinguishable from the more or less conical mounds overgrown with vegetation. The centre of the ruin being slightly lower in elevation than elsewhere, and the stones there being fully exposed, the whole presents the appearance of a small cairn partially excavated. There is no admixture of earth and turf with the stones, and there is noticeable an absence of vegetation over the surface, except for a fringe some 3' to 4' wide around the outer edge. Occasionally several of these structures are linked together by walls, or have curving lines of walling projecting from them as if to protect their entrances from the storms, while running hither and thither among them in sinuous lines may be detected the remains of old enclosing banks and walls. These huts appear to have existed in many places, but are most noticeable at **Dalhalvaig** (No. 224, fig. 23), and on **Meall Mor a' Bhealaich** (No. 225) in Strath Halladale, on **The Tulloch** near Bonar Bridge (No. 69), and on **Cnoc a' Chatha** (No. 431) near Lairg. In a few cases the ruins of similar constructions may be seen in the interior of hut circles of the circular type (Nos. 69 and 345, figs. 9 and 45) and at the inner end of certain oblong or elliptical examples (Nos. 37 (fig. 6) and 224). Though the ruination is usually so complete that without removal of the débris no walling is visible, yet in one case (on **Meall Mor a' Bhealaich**) the inner wall face remained to a height of 2', showing that the interior diameter of the hut had been about 6', and the diameter over all about 18'.

According to local tradition, these ruins, as well as the groups of mounds, are graves marking the sites of ancient battlefields, and the fact that all knowledge of their occupation has died out infers a remote period for their origin.

Closely associated in locality with the hut circles, more especially of the simple form, are a number of other constructions. Some of these are very probably sepulchral, though conclusive evidence of interment in them is rarely obtained, while others seem to have been connected with the pastoral occupations of the people. To all these objects, formed for the most part of stones and turf, or earth, and overgrown with grass and heather, the term "**mound**" has been applied as being more strictly descriptive and lacking the significance—at times inaccurate—which the word "tumulus" as employed on the O.S. maps implies. The mounds for which a sepulchral character is assumed are by far the most numerous, and call for particular remark. Everyone who is at all familiar with this county or with other parts of the Highlands of Scotland must have observed the numerous groups of small mounds which stretch along the sides of the straths, or indent the skyline on the low shoulders of the hills at an elevation frequently of from 500' to 600' over sea-level. Though believed

locally to be battlefields, a careful search among the mounds of any group will usually reveal the presence of one or more hut circles, generally of the simple form. If the group be a small one, the relation of the mounds to the circles is more obvious from their relative situation, mounds to the number of ten or twelve being frequently disposed around a circle at no great distance from it. Occasionally a mound is found so close as to be actually in contact with the bank or close to the entrance. But though this association is the rule, there are cases where no hut circle is observable among numerous mounds, and other cases where hut circles appear to have existed only in a small ratio to the mounds. Even in these cases, however, no argument can safely be based on the absence of the circles, as instances were observed of the almost complete extinction of hut circles owing to the encircling bank having been formed entirely of earth. The dimensions of these mounds are not always the same in each group, nor have they a uniform shape. In general, however, they are circular and slightly conical, measuring in diameter some 12' to 26', and in height from 1' 6" to 3' 6". In a few instances a single upright stone was observed erected on the top (but not necessarily the centre) of the mound, and occasionally the mounds themselves were raised against large earth-fast boulders or rocks. Of the numbers that have been excavated in various parts of Scotland, few have revealed any signs of interments, though occasionally a short cist has been discovered within one. A close inspection of a considerable number throughout the county of Sutherland, the interiors of which had been laid open in the process of forming roads, etc., revealed no sign of interment or structure except in one instance, viz. on **Druim na Coup** near Beinn Laoghal (No. 535), where a cist was exposed, while the recorded discovery of another at **Syre** has been noted (No. 209). Of those of circular form the most conspicuous from their size are situated near **Dalreavoch** on the Brora, where, with a diameter of 26' and over, a number attain a height of from 3' 6" to 5'. Besides the circular form, they are frequently met with oblong or oval on plan, having an average length of from 24' to 28', and a breadth of about one-half that extent. These do not appear to be oriented in any particular way. In one unique case near **Sciberscross** (No. 35) a small round mound measuring some 11' in diameter was set on the extremity of one of the oblong variety. More rarely they are observed of a conjoined or "dumb-bell" form, two mounds of the usual circular variety being connected by a narrow neck (Nos. 407 and 279). This form seems to have been designedly adopted and not produced by accident, as a close examination fails to convey the impression that the neck is due to dilapidation of either mound. A few instances were observed where the mounds were of considerable length, and formed in three divisions, not in alignment. The best example of this formation is to be seen near **Knockarthur** (No. 501, fig. 71) in the parish of Rogart, where the three portions measured 15', 18', and 18' respectively in length, some 9' in breadth, and from 2' to 2' 6" in height. A small circular mound lay about 6' distant at one end. In the immediate vicinity there was no sign of any enclosing bank of which this might have formed a part. Somewhat similar in character are certain long mounds on the haugh near the **Carnachaidh Burn** (No. 211), on the right bank of the Naver

between **Dailharrauld** and **Syre** (No. 207), near **Loch Coire nam Feuran** (No. 200), and at **Conaisaite** (No. 536), at the base of Beinn Laoghal, where the example bears the name of "Dhiarmid's Grave." More remarkable still are those of greater rarity which take the form of the letter S. The most perfect instance found is situated in a remarkable group of constructions on the haugh by the **Carnachaidh Burn** (No. 211). It measures 111' in length following the curve, and is some 3' in height. Whether these last two forms in any circumstances can be regarded as sepulchral, in the present state of our knowledge it is impossible to say. Careful excavation might possibly reveal the fact. There is also a possibility that some of the round and oblong mounds may likewise be the ruins of small huts, though beyond their outline and dimensions there is no feature to suggest it.

The mounds for which no sepulchral character is suggested are fewer in number, but are similarly met with near the hut circles. The large crescentic mounds measuring some 8' to 12' in thickness across the base, tapering to either extremity, some 25' to 30' between the points of the crescent, and with a concavity some 5' to 8' deep in the centre are probably shelters for stock. Without exception they are placed with the convex outline towards the upper slope of the hill.

Another class of construction frequently observed remains of doubtful definition, though the excavation of a single specimen led to the belief that it, at least, had been a **kiln**. These objects, similarly associated, are formed of two mounds some 20' to 30' in length, 12' to 14' in thickness at base, and 3' to 4' in height, laid in the main parallel though converging towards one end, and leaving between them a circular depression some 6' to 8' in diameter. Between the converging ends the bank is low and occasionally shows signs of walling. At the open end in two instances lintels were observed resting on or fallen from low supports covering a gallery some 2' wide leading into the interior. The immixture of stones and charcoal and the evidences of fire on the blackened stones in the interior of the construction which was excavated suggested that it had been used as a kiln, of which the gallery was the passage for the draught. In certain cases they were found divided in two by a low foundation, crossing the interior, and they were also observed of a size much exceeding the dimensions given above, which, however, may be taken as descriptive of an average example. It is noteworthy that these constructions are usually to be found associated with the hut circles of the simple oval form.

Small circular hollows of 1' to 1' 6" in depth, evidently artificially formed, have also been occasionally noted associated with the hut circles and mounds of various classes. The purpose for which these were formed is not ascertainable from a superficial examination.

EARTH-HOUSES.

With the hut circles have been linked in classification the earth-houses, or subterraneous galleries, with which, as shown in the foregoing pages, they have at times been found connected. Of those in Sutherland there are three varieties, distinguishable by their plans.

First, those having access from one end only, measuring 20' to 40' or thereby in length, with no definite chamber attached other than that produced by a slight expansion at the end, curving in their course inwards more or less to the right, with a width along the gallery of from 2' 6" to 3', and a slightly greater width towards the inner end. Though very low at the entrance, the height increases inwards to from 4' 6" to 6', but as the floors of several of them are covered with boulders this dimension is not always ascertainable with accuracy. The existence of ten of this variety is known in the county, ranging from Loch Eireboll in the N. to Beinn a' Bhraggie in the SE., and five of these are to be found in the Strath of Kildonan. In structure they are all similar. The sides, slightly converging upwards, are usually built of boulders; and the roof is formed of flags laid horizontally across from wall to wall, and slightly overlapping each other with a view probably to hinder the percolation of water from the surface.

Those of the second variety differ conspicuously from the first by having an opening at both ends and definitely formed chambers. There are but two examples, viz. one at **Kirkton** (No. 274, fig. 31) and the other at **Kintradwell** (No. 469). The one opening or entrance is from the ground-level down a short flight of steps, and the other at the opposite end through a very narrow aperture opening on to the top of a bank. In plan, though dissimilar, both these examples differ from the simple gallery variety. The earth-house at Kirkton is cruciform, with two side chambers opening off the main gallery; while that at Kintradwell, though now in part ruined, contained two chambers separated by a low division wall. In construction they also are rudely built on the sides and flagged on the roof.

The examples which form the third variety resemble the so-called "pit-dwellings." They have been oval chambers with their sides built and only partially sunk in the ground. Three of these are noted, but as all are roofless, few details are obtainable regarding them without excavation. One by the **Kildonan Burn** (No. 344, fig. 44) is connected with a hut circle, while that situated by the **Silver Rock** near The Mound (No. 283) and the other close to the **broch of Carrol** (No. 27) show no remains of a related structure adjoining them.

Whether such places are to be regarded as sleeping-chambers, or habitations during the rigorous months of winter, secret retreats in time of danger, or merely storehouses, are questions still open to discussion. The extreme narrowness of the first variety and the small dimensions of the expansions at the inner end, together with the lack of air and light, make them very unsuitable places for human habitation; but if these galleries were used as granaries, the presence of querns, as in that at Salscraggie, is easily understood. Nor, if they were intended as places of retreat in times of danger, or for concealment of such treasure as the inhabitants possessed, does it seem probable that the fact of their existence would have been made so conspicuous as it appears to have been in certain cases, notably in the hut circle by the **Cille Pheadair Burn** (No. 328, fig. 42) with its huge covering bank, or in that of the third variety by the **Kildonan Burn** (No. 344, fig. 44), which must have displayed a marked elevation close to the entrance of the hut circle. Situated as some of these are, opening out of conspicuous hut circles, presumably the daily

abodes of the people, they do not seem to answer to the requirements of a secure retreat. Attention may also be drawn to the intake or check which was observed both in the earth-house at **Cracknie** (No. 220) and in that on the **Caen Burn** (No. 318, fig. 37), formed by a constriction of the gallery. Though the check is not on both sides, such an arrangement would admit of the inner end being closed by a door opening outwards only. None of these limitations apply to the second variety, and it is noteworthy that much food refuse, as well as other signs of occupation, were discovered in both examples. In both cases the entrance from the upper slope of the ground was down steps visible only from near at hand, while the opening at the opposite end was not more than capable of affording passage-room to a full-grown man. With very little difference in their present environment, the existence of both constructions would be perfectly concealed. This variety resembles the underground room mentioned in the *Saga of Gisli the Outlaw*, written in the 12th century, and relating to events occurring between the years 930 and 980. There it is stated how Thorgerda in Vadil concealed the outlawed Gisli in an underground room one end of which opened on the river bank and the other below her hall. The Roman dressed stones in the earth-houses discovered many years ago at Newstead near Melrose, and at Crichton Mains in Midlothian, show their occupation to be subsequent to one or other of the Roman invasions of Scotland, while the discovery of Samian ware in several others links their date nearer to these events.

CAIRNS.

Before considering this subject, it may be stated that throughout the Inventory the term "cairn" is used to denote a construction of greater or less extent, formed entirely of stones, and whose sepulchral character is not open to doubt. Where a construction completely overgrown with vegetation presents features which suggest a different formation, such as stones and earth, or turf, whereby its sepulchral character, though probable, is uncertain, it has been designated a "mound."

The cairns containing the burials of the prehistoric people, from the evidence their structure and contents may afford of culture and racial characteristics, claim no small amount of attention. The chambered cairns, moreover, as far as we at present know, are the only monuments of Neolithic times which have come down to us. The total number of cairns examined throughout the county is 117, following very much the geographical distribution of the brochs, but, unlike these structures, capable of subdivision into various classes which differ greatly in point of antiquity. The earliest cairns and those in which Neolithic man deposited his dead, burnt and unburnt, are provided in the interior each with a carefully constructed chamber or chambers, and are designated "chambered cairns." These again fall to be divided into four distinct classes:—

- (1) Horned long cairns ;
- (2) Horned round cairns ;
- (3) Unhorned long cairns ;
- (4) Round chambered cairns.

In the annexed table it will be seen that the total number of cairns whose chambered character is definitely ascertainable without further excavation is 45, and of these the remains of two only were observed down the whole W. coast of the county from Durness to Lochinver, viz. at **Badnabay** (No. 172) and on the **Cnoc an Daimh** near Badcall Bay (No. 169) respectively, both in the parish of Eddrachillis. Nor were there any other cairns noted in these regions which might possibly be proved to be chambered on closer examination. In the more habitable districts, however, in close company with the other remains their distribution is general. Taking into consideration first the horned long cairns, as being probably the earliest group, as it is certainly the most remarkable, their rarity is as notable as the restricted area of their existence. These cairns, which are of great length (the longest measuring some 230'), expand towards one end and terminate in projecting arms or horns forming a crescentic or semicircular outline. From the centre of this crescent at the broadest end a passage leads inwards to the chamber. The three examples (Nos. 241-243) are all situated within 2 m. of each other, on the right bank of the **River Naver**, not far from its mouth on the N. coast. An almost similar geographical limitation characterises the long unhorned group. The characteristics of this class are also great length as well as form, being narrow and low at the W. end, rising and broadening out towards the E. Seven of these occur in the **Strath of Kildonan** towards its lower end, while one outside that area is situated but a few miles distant to the S. at **Lothbeg**. One solitary example in Dornoch parish, also on the E. coast but further S., is included, though slightly dissimilar in form and length to the others. Two large cairns (Nos. 369 and 370) on **Kinbrace Hill**, some 15 m. up the strath, though not included in this computation, may also be considered long cairns, but do not appear to be of the same type. Their length is not so remarkable, nor does their height increase, nor their breadth expand, from one end to the other in the same manner.

The horned character of the round cairns, from their smaller size and the state of dilapidation into which they have mostly fallen, is more difficult to determine. They are recognisable by having two pairs of arms or horns projecting some 10' to 20' from the base of an otherwise round cairn, the entrance to the passage being usually at the E. end, from a point midway between the horns. The cairns of this class are also observed in a group of three (Nos. 82-84) in the vicinity of **Spinningdale** in the parish of Creich, while a single example at **Skelpick** (No. 238) lies adjacent to one of the horned long cairns. The other three, in Golspie (No. 286), Kildonan (No. 367), and Lairg (No. 454), are all doubtful; the first of these, in fact, only showing evidence of a single projection.

Passing in review the plan of the chambers, considerable distinctions fall to be noticed. Of the horned long cairns, two are three-chambered, while the other appears to have had but one chamber, in each instance entered by a passage from the N. end. The three cairns lie N. and S., in the direction of the valley in which they are situated, with their broad horned extremities towards the N. In only one of the nine unhorned long cairns, viz. that at **Lothbeg**, is the chamber visible or remaining, and without removal of the débris that

fills it its plan is unascertainable. All these latter, in contradistinction to the previously mentioned group, lie with their longest axes approximately E. and W., and have their broadest ends towards the former direction. From this direction the Lothbeg cairn is entered.

Only one of the horned round cairns has been explored, viz. that at **Achaidh** in Creich parish (No. 82). It was found to have a single undivided chamber, entered by a passage from the ESE.

In the ordinary round chambered cairns the prevailing plan throughout the county is that of a single chamber divided into two unequal compartments by two low partition stones set across the chamber on either side some 1' 6" to 2' apart. The inner compartment measures usually about 7' in length by 6' in width, while the outer is somewhat less. The walls of the chamber are formed of large flat slabs placed opposite to each other in the sides, and one occupying the back, while neatly laid horizontal building fills the interspaces, the whole being covered with a roof formed of converging stones. The chamber is entered by a passage some 2' square leading directly into the smaller compartment, usually from a direction approximately SE. The cairns on the W. coast are notable exceptions, that at Badnabay having had its entrance passage from the S., and that at Badcall apparently from the N. Of this class there are eleven ascertainable examples.

In three instances three chambers or compartments occur in the round cairns, viz. near **Loch Brora** (No. 44), near **Rhives** (No. 289), and near **Kinbrace** (No. 372). Of the cairn at Rhives only the megalithic slabs remain. The other two show a distinct feature: the slabs are of less size than in the chambers last mentioned, and there is a marked increase in the amount of building in the walls. Unfortunately the cairn by Loch Brora is in a very ruinous condition, and there being no published record existing of the details disclosed on its excavation, full particulars are not obtainable. In the other cairn, that near Kinbrace, this feature of the building is particularly evident, the side slabs of the central chamber being comparatively small. It is again remarkable that these two tripartite, or more properly three-chambered, cairns (each compartment being separately roofed) lie comparatively near each other, both on the E. coast, and adjacent to the county of Caithness, where the same type prevails.

Of cairns with single undivided chambers, only three came under observation: one near **Aultnacealgach** (No. 14), another the horned cairn at **Achaidh** (No. 82), and the third at **Coillenaborgie** (No. 243), near the mouth of the river Naver. They are not situated in the same neighbourhood, nor are they in structure identical. All have been excavated, but while the chambers of the first two are patent to observation, that of the other is partially filled with débris.

The first mentioned is peculiar in having a well-built recess on one side, a feature resembling the cells in the chambered cairns of Orkney and the cairn near Bruan in Caithness, while the pottery obtained from it, though consisting only of a few fragments, is of a quality more frequently associated with Bronze Age than with Neolithic interments, consequently indicating a later period for its use. From the second cairn, however, the fragment of pottery

recovered, associated with an unburnt interment, was of the fine hard quality characteristic of Neolithic burial.

In 26 other cairns which show a chambered character the details of the chambers were unascertainable.

Round cairns of uncertain type with a diameter of 40' and over number 43. Of these, a considerable proportion may prove on excavation to be chambered; but though occasionally a depression on the top is suggestive, no definite characteristics have disclosed themselves.

Cairns of a less diameter than 40' exist to the number of 29, and in 12 of these cists have been exposed, placing them in order of antiquity subsequent to the Neolithic period.

A feature in the cairns, usually of the smaller size, which frequently asserts itself is the kerb of boulders of from 1' to 2' in height placed contiguously, or approximately so, around the base. This has been observed in thirteen instances (Nos. 41, 136, 286, 287, 288, 362, 363, 364, 445, 446, and 538). In nine of these the character of the cairn is still indeterminate, while in four, short cists have been found. No record exists of what relics, if any, were discovered when three of them were opened, but in the case of the fourth—that on **Learable Hill**—the beads of jet show it to be a monument of the Bronze Age.

Unlike the brochs, the association in locality of cairns with the small mounds and hut circles, or with the former alone, is frequent, and this is true of the large chambered cairns as well as of the smaller cairns with cists and of those of indeterminate character. This proximity of situation is particularly emphasised in the following cases:—In Dornoch parish, near the cairns on **Cnoc Odhar** and **Creag an Amalaidh**, at **Torboll**, and on **Aberscross Hill**. In Farr, to a remarkable extent at **Fiscary** near Bettyhill, also near the horned and other cairns at **Skelpick**, and near **Achcheargary** (No. 244). In Kildonan, on **Learable Hill**, and near the "**Carn Tigh nan Coileach**" by Harvieston. In Lairg, most conspicuously on **The Ord**, and also on **Lairg Moor**. The complete absence of such association on the W. coast, where the cairns that came under observation were few, is worthy of note.

In addition to the general characteristics mentioned above, a few special features have been noted. The large cairn at **Fiscary** (No. 235) is distinctly set on a platform of stones with a definite outline which extends some 25' out from the base of the cairn, and a similar feature characterises the large cairn near the summit of **The Ord** at Lairg (No. 443). A few cairns, instead of being approximately circular, are distinctly elliptical. Such is the cairn near **Achany** in Lairg Parish (No. 449), and to a lesser extent the cairn near **Torboll** (No. 135). The staliths which are so prominent at the N. end of the **Coillenaborgie** horned cairn (No. 243) are well known. They are not, however, free standing-stones, but have been set in the outlines of the crescent; and similar stones, though less prominent, are visible along the flanks of the cairn itself. A crescentic setting of large slabs appears protruding through the surface of the chambered cairn near the Gruidie Burn at **Achany** (No. 447), apparently on either side of the entrance passage. The outline of the cairn in front seems definitely marked, and the meaning of this setting is not obvious. Round one

side of the cairn near the **Allt a' Chaoruinn** on the Kyle of Durness (No. 164) runs a trench or ditch. This was the only instance observed of such a feature.

STONE CIRCLES.

The stone circles, a class of sepulchral monument of the Bronze Age, are not very numerous in Sutherland. To the two previously recorded, six new examples have been added, exclusive of one at **Linsidmore** (No. 92) which is doubtful. These eight are situated on the E. side of the county, viz. three at no great distance from each other to the S. of **Lairg** (Nos. 91, 461, and 462, figs. 10, 63, and 64), two at **Learable** in the Strath of Kildonan (Nos. 374 and 375, figs. 50 and 51), and three in different localities, viz. at **Aberscross** (No. 291), **Dailharraild** (No. 247, fig. 29), and on the **Cnoc an Liathbhaid** near Braegrudie (No. 518, Pl. IX.). They may be divided into two main classes, viz. those consisting of a single circle and those consisting of two concentric circles. Of the former class there are six examples, of the latter two. The single circles vary considerably both in regard to their diameter and the number and size of the stones of which they are composed. The circle at **Dailharraild** has been formed of large stones, but is of small size. That at **Achany** (No. 461) is the largest, with a diameter of some 88'; while the circle not far distant from it beside the **River Shin** (No. 462) is the smallest, with a diameter of only 13' to 14'. The stone circle at **Aberscross** is formed of stones similar in size to those at **Dailharraild**, and has exactly the same diameter, viz. 22'. Of the stone circles on **Learable Hill**, one is formed of very small stones and the other of large pointed blocks. Of the latter, only three stones remain. The diameter of the first of these two circles has been about 60', and though that of the second cannot be obtained with exactitude, it appears to have been identical. A striking uniformity characterises the two double circles situated near **Auchinduich** and **Braegrudie** respectively, some 8 m. apart. The diameter of the outer circumference of both is 22', and, contrary to the usual practice, in each case the stones forming the circle have been set with their broad faces at right angles to the line of the circumference. This exceptional feature also appears to have been present in the circle at **Dailharraild**. To certain special features attention may be directed. In the centre of the circle at **Dailharraild** are the remains of a low cairn rising little above the general surface level, and a single recumbent stone, which has all the appearance of being *in situ*, lies at the base of one of the standing-stones, pointing slightly outside the line of the circumference. In the centre of the circle at **Aberscross**, which in appearance resembles that at **Dailharraild**, was found a cremated interment, and beneath it a cist which contained no remains. Near the centre of the circle on the top of **Learable Hill** lies a small round mound, but from the presence of others in the immediate vicinity it is doubtful if it has any connection with the circle as originally erected. Lastly, the cup-marks and separate ring on the fallen stone of the other circle at **Learable** are notable features, especially in regard to the near vicinity of another cup-marked stone. No one of these stone circles stands far apart from the evidences

of early settlements, and at times the local association is very marked. Near the stone circle on **Learable Hill** (No. 374) are cairns (one of which (No. 362) contained a Bronze Age interment), numerous mounds, and also the stone rows referred to hereafter (No. 381). Not far from the neighbouring stone circle (No. 375) are mounds, hut circles, and a cup-marked stone. Similarly, mounds and hut circles are situated in the vicinity of the stone circles at **Auchinduich** and **Dailharraild**, and by the **River Shin**. The stone circle on **Druim Baile fiur, Achany**, is closely associated in locality with cairns, hut circles, and mounds; while close to that on the **Cnoc an Liathbhaid** near Braegrudie are hut circles and numerous mounds of exceptional size.

CUP-MARKED STONES.

Ten cup-marked stones have been noted, three of which on broken slabs of schist or sandstone are not *in situ*, viz. those at **Dornoch Manse** (No. 147), **Grum-beg Graveyard** (No. 252), and in **Dunrobin Museum**, (No. 301) respectively. In two cases the marks may be regarded as definitely associated with sepulture, namely, on the fallen stone of the stone circle at **Learable** (No. 375, fig. 51), where also is an unconnected ring-mark, and on the cist cover of the cairn near **Embo, Dornoch** (No. 137). The other cup-marks are all on earth-fast boulders, and in each case are numerous. The only markings surrounded by rings occur on the boulder at the side of **Lochan Hacoin** (No. 541).

CROSSES.

The slabs bearing crosses and other Christian symbols with Celtic ornament, especially of early date, are numerous, and have for the most part been collected into **Dunrobin Museum**. Two fine examples, however, remain *in situ*, viz. the magnificent Celtic cross slab in **Farr** churchyard, and the less ornate cross near the church of **Creich**. All these crosses have been fully described in *The Early Christian Monuments of Scotland*, and need not be further treated of here. Two, however, of considerable interest, not previously recorded (Nos. 250 and 251, fig. 30), are lying on the top of the wall of the disused graveyard at **Grum-beg** in Strathnaver. They are both of types dating from the 10th to the 12th century, rare in Scotland, and here to be met with only on the W. coast, but of frequent occurrence in Ireland. Several plain crosses of distinctively Celtic form incised on slabs have been noted for the first time. Attention may be drawn to a cross on a slab in **Creich** churchyard (No. 94), the peculiarity of which is the oblique termination of the arms. This is a late 16th-century type, several examples of which were observed in Berwickshire.

STANDING-STONES.

Several remarkable standing-stones exist in the county. Two tall pointed pillars of similar character stand not many miles from each other, the one in the **Camore Wood** near Dornoch (No. 148), and the other on the roadside near **Ospisdale** (No. 97). The latter is over 11' in height above ground, and the former a foot or two less.

An impressive monument of a different shape is the "Clach Mhic Mhios" (No. 474), a huge slab 11' high, and nearly 5' broad towards its upper extremity and less at base, raised up on the moor near the head of **Glen Loth**. It is the more remarkable from being set with its broad end uppermost.

None of the other standing-stones are particularly noticeable.

IRON SMELTING.

Wherever heaps of scoria or slag, indicating the sites of early iron workings, were met with, they have been recorded. These are situated usually on the banks of burns, and twice they were observed in the immediate vicinity of brochs (Nos. 393 and 463). That these heaps are the refuse from prehistoric smeltings seems probable from the remote situations in which they are found.

STONE ROWS.

Included among the miscellaneous monuments, though their sepulchral character has in some cases elsewhere been definitely ascertained, are various settings of stone rows. The settings on **Learable Hill** (No. 381, fig. 54) have been noted before, and appear to represent the remains of at least four different groups, each composed of numerous parallel or radiating rows. Associated in locality with them is a stone circle (No. 374, fig. 50), an excavated cairn of the Bronze Age (No. 364), and numerous mounds, presumably sepulchral, but the connection of any one of them with the rows is in no case apparent. The other two settings (Nos. 378 and 379) have been observed for the first time, nor is the relation of either of them to any sepulchral construction obvious. It is noteworthy that all these settings are situated within a short distance of each other in the Strath of Kildonan, close by the border of the county of Caithness. In no other part of the county of Sutherland have such settings been observed, nor elsewhere in Scotland, except in the neighbouring county of Caithness, has their existence been recorded. In England they are said to be found on Dartmoor, in Cornwall, in Northumberland, and also in Wales.

RECTANGULAR SETTINGS OF STONES.

Lastly, attention may be directed to the object known as "**Lettie's Grave**" (No. 520, plate X.), in Rogart Parish, and the similar constructions situated in its immediate vicinity. These are small rectangular enclosures, measuring interiorly some 5' or 6' square, formed of longish stones laid on edge, and, in the case of the first-mentioned, with upright stones still erect at two corners. As the other corners have, however, been disturbed, it is impossible to say if they also were marked by similar stones or not. The meaning or purpose of these constructions is not apparent.

TABLE OF BROCHS IN THE COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND,
SHOWING THE INTERIOR DIAMETER IN EACH CASE
WHERE ASCERTAINABLE.

	ASSYNT.	NO. IN INVENTORY.	INTERIOR DIAMETER.
1.	An Dun, Loch Ardbhair	4	24'
2.	Clachtoll	7	32'
CLYNE.			
3.	Coich Burn	23	28'
4.	Kilbrare	24 (site)	
5.	Castle Cole or Caisteal na Coille	25	21'
6.	Killin	26	Unascertainable.
7.	Carrol	27	31'
8.	Duchary	28	58' over all.
CREICH.			
9.	Dail Langwell	49	31'
10.	Achaneas	50	Unascertainable.
11.	Do.	51	78' to 80' over all.
12.	Doir a' Chatha	52	Unascertainable.
13.	"Carn Mor," Swordale	53	Unascertainable.
DORNOCH.			
14.	Skelbo Wood	106	60' over all.
15.	Brae	107	27'
DURNESS			
16.	Dun Dornaigil or Dornadilla	155	27'
17.	Ach an Duin	156	26'
18.	Camus an Duin	157	55' and 42'
EDDRACHILLIS.			
19.	An Dun, Kylesku	168	28' 6"
FARR.			
20.	Grum-more	174	30'
21.	Dun Creagach	175	31'
22.	Coill'ach a' Chuil	176	28'
23.	Langdale Burn	177	31'
24.	Inshlampie	178	29'
25.	Dun Chealamy	179	30'
26.	Dun Carnachaidh	180	30'
27.	Dun Viden	181	30'
28.	Skelpick	182	28'
29.	Achcoillenaborgie	183	28'
30.	"The Sandy Dun"	184	29'
31.	Borgie Bridge	185	About 52' over all.
32.	"The Borg," Forsinain	186	34' and 26' 6"
33.	"Carn Liath," Bunahoun	187	About 30'
34.	Trantlemore	188	58' over all.
35.	Loch Mor	189	55' over all.
36.	Armadale Burn	190	23'
37.	Clerkhill	265 (site)	

	GOLSPIE.	NO. IN INVENTORY.	INTERIOR DIAMETER.
38.	"Carn Liath"	270	30'
39.	Dunrobin Wood	271	23' to 28'
40.	Backies	272	27'
KILDONAN.			
41.	Kilphedir	307	32' and 33'
42.	Suisgill	308	40'
43.	Eldrable	309	25'
44.	Kilourman	310 (site)	
45.	Gylable Burn	311	31'
46.	Allt a' Choire Mhoir	312	58' over all.
47.	Allt an Duin	313 (site)	
48.	Feranach	314	36'
49.	Learable (supposed broch)	315	78' over all.
50.	Cnoc Chaisteal	386 (site)	
51.	Dun Phail, Gartymore	387 (site)	
LAIRG.			
52.	SE. end of Loch Shin	391	56' over all.
53.	Salachadh	392	32' 6"
54.	Shinness	393	Unascertainable.
55.	Dalchork	394	Unascertainable.
56.	Allt Breac	395	31' 6"
LOTH.			
57.	Kintradwell or Cinn Trolla	467	31'
58.	"Carn Bran"	468	55' over all.
59.	Wilkhouse	476 (site)	
60.	Midgarty	476 (site)	
ROGART.			
61.	E. Kinnauld	477	31'
62.	A' Mheirle	478	Unascertainable.
TONGUE.			
63.	Dun na Maigh	527	27' and 31'
64.	Torrisdail	528 (site)	
65.	Dun Riaskidh	529 (site)	
66.	Reidh theanga	530 (site)	
67.	Dun Buidhe	544 (site)	

TABLE SHOWING THE CHARACTER AND DISTRIBUTION OF
CAIRNS AND THEIR CHAMBERS IN THE COUNTY OF
SUTHERLAND.

	PARISHES.												Total.	
	Assynt.	Clyne.	Creich.	Dornoch.	Durness.	Eddrachillis.	Fart.	Golspic.	Kildonan.	Laing.	Loth.	Rogart.		Tongue.
Horned long cairns . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Do. round cairns . . . . .	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	7
Unhorned long cairns . . . . .	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	7	...	1	...	...	9
Round chambered cairns	3	2	3	4	...	2	5	1	1	4	...	...	1	26
														45
Round cairns of uncertain type, with diameter of 40' and over	4	1	5	5	4	...	5	...	8	8	...	2	1	43
Small cairns of uncertain type, with less diameter . . . . .	...	1	...	1	...	2	2	1	4	6	...	...	...	17
Cairns in which cists have been exposed . . . . .	...	2	2	2	...	...	2	3	1	...	...	...	...	12
Cairns of uncertain type in- cluded above, with kerbs of boulders round base . . . . .	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	2	2	...	...	1	9
Do., chambered, do. . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do., with cists, do. . . . .	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	4
Chambers of horned cairns—														
Tripartite . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Undivided . . . . .	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Chambers of unhorned cairns—														
Tripartite . . . . .	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	3
Bipartite	1	...	1	3	...	1	2	1	...	2	...	...	...	11
Undivided	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Uncertain	1	1	4	2	...	1	4	...	10	2	1	...	1	27

Chambered cairns 45
 Large cairns of uncertain type 43
 Smaller cairns of uncertain type 17
 Cairns with cists 12
 Total number of cairns 117

LIST OF GROUND PLANS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

IN INVENTORY FOR THE
COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

I.—GROUND PLANS.

PARISH.	FIGURE.	NAME.	NO. IN INVENTORY.
Clyne . . .	1	Broch, Castle Cole	25
	2	Broch, Carrol	27
	3	Hut circle, Sciberscross	32
	4	Mounds, do.	33
	5	Hut circle, do.	36
	6	Hut circle, Scottarie Burn	37
Creich . . .	7	Do. S. of Lairg Station	56
	8	Do. Swordale,	63
	9	Do. Tulloch	69
	10	Stone circle, Auchinduich	91
	11	Sculptured cross, Creich	95
Dornoch . . .	12	Hut circle, Creag an Amalaidh	111
	13	Do. do.	112
	14	Do. do.	113
	15	Do. do.	116
	16	Do. Torboll	126
	17	Do. Brae	129
	18	Chambered cairn, Torboil	134
	19	Do. Evelix	143
	Farr	20	Hut circle, Dailharraild	207
21		Do. Forsinard	223
22		Do. do.	223
23		Hut ruins, Dalhalvaig	224
24		Hut ruin, do.	224
25		Hut circle, Bighouse	226
26		Do. Dail a' Bhaite	230
27		Do. do.	230
28		Horned cairn, Skelpick	238
29		Stone circle, Dailharraild	247
30		Sculptured cross, Grumbeg	250
Golspie . . .	31	Earth-house, Kirkton	274
	32	Hut circle, Aberscross Hill	279
	33	Hut enclosure, Uppat Wood	281
	34	Chambered cairn, Benbhraggie Wood	289

PARISH.	FIGURE.	NAME.	No. IN INVENTORY.
Kildonan	35	Broch, Kilphedir	307
	36	Do. Feranach	314
	37	Hut circle, Caen Burn	318
	38	Do. do.	320
	39	Earth-house, Salscraggie Lodge	324
	40	Hut circle, Allt Cille Pheadair	325
	41	Do. do.	327
	42	Do. do.	328
	43	Earth-house, Achinnearin	343
	44	Hut circle, Kildonan Burn.	344
	45	Do. do.	345
	46	Do. Creag Ruidh nan Caorach	350
	47	Do. do.	351
	48	Do. Kinbrace Hill	352
	49	Chambered cairn, Kinbrace Burn	372
	50	Stone circle, Learable	374
	51	Do. do.	375
	52	Stone rows, Torrish Burn	378
	53	Do. Allt Breac	(folder) 379
	54	Do. Learable Hill	(folder) 381
Lairg	55	Broch, Sallachadh	392
	56	Do. Allt Breac	395
	57	Hut circle, The Ord	398
	58	Do. do.	399
	59	Do. Strath Fleet	414
	60	Do. Dulaich	417
	61	Hut foundations, Feith Osdail	439
	62	Chambered cairn, Achany	447
	63	Stone circle, Druim Baile fiur	461
	64	Do. River Shin	462
Rogart	65	Broch, East Kinnauld	477
	66	Hut circle, Achnagarron	487
	67	Do. Skiag	490
	68	Do. Knockarthur	498
	69	Do. do.	499
	70	Do. do.	500
	71	Mound, do.	501
	72	Hut circle, etc., Dremergid	(folder) 503
	73	Do. Cnoc an Liath-bhaid	506
	74	Do. Sciberscross	511
	75	Do. Tannachy	512
	76	Stone circle, Cnoc an Liath-bhaid	518

II.—ILLUSTRATIONS.

PARISH.	PLATE.	NAME.	No. IN INVENTORY.
Clyne	I.	Broch, Castle Cole.	25
	II.	Broch, Carrol (entrance passage from interior)	27
Kildonan	III.	Broch, Kilphedir	307
	IV.	Cairns, Kinbrace Hill	368-370
	V.	Stone rows, Torrish Burn	378
	VI.	Do. Learable Hill	381

PARISH.	PLATE.	NAME.	NO. IN INVENTORY.
Loth	VII.	Broch, Kintradwell (entrance passage from interior)	467
	VIII.	Standing stone, Glen Loth	474
Rogart	IX.	Stone circle, Cnoc an Liath-bhaid	518
	X.	“ Lettie’s Grave,” Blarich	520

LIST OF PARISHES.

	PAGE		PAGE
Assynt	1	Golspie	90
Clyne	7	Kildonan	104
Creich	18	Lairg	135
Dornoch	36	Loth	160
Durness	52	Rogart	164
Eddrachillis	56	Tongue	183
Farr	58		

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INVENTORY

OF THE ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIONS IN THE COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

PARISH OF ASSYNT.

ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

1. *Burial Vault, Inchnadamph*.—An arched burial vault within the churchyard is said to have formed part of the ancient Parish Church, but it presents no features of architectural interest. It was the burial-place of the Macleods of Assynt. There are no monuments or inscribed stones of any importance within it.

See *Origines*, ii. pt. ii. p. 693; *New Stat. Acct. Suth.*, etc., xv. p. 111.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxi.*

Visited, 9th June 1909.

CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

2. *Ardvreck Castle* is situated on the N. side of Loch Assynt, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Inchnadamph, on the neck of a long rocky peninsula. It has been a simple rectangular keep, with a round stair-case tower at the SE. angle, corbelled out on the upper floors to form square rooms, the turret stair to the upper rooms being carried on corbelling in the re-entering angle. In the basement have been three vaulted apartments, that running parallel with the S. wall being merely a passage 3' 9" wide, into which the doorway entered from the E. The first floor has also been vaulted. The castle is in a very ruinous state. The N. wall has entirely disappeared and the E. and W. are fragmentary. It is said to have been built towards the end of the 16th century, and that the Marquess of Montrose was taken to it after his capture in 1650.

See *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, iii. p. 631 (plan and illus.); *New Stat. Acct. Suth.*, etc., xv. p. 111.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxi.

Visited, 10th June 1909.

3. *Calda House*, locally known as "the White House," is also situated on the N. side of Loch Assynt, about 1 m. from Inchnadamph, at its SE. end and not far from Ardvreck Castle. The structure is much ruined. It is an oblong block 54' long by 43' wide, divided in two by a wall running down the centre. The side facing the loch has entirely disappeared. It is said to have been erected in 1660 by the 3rd E. of Seaforth.

See *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, iii. p. 632 (illus.); *New Stat. Acct. Suth.*, etc., xv. p. 111.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxi.

Visited, 10th June 1909.

* This reference throughout is to the Ordnance Survey maps, 6-inch maps.

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DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

4. *An Dun, Loch Ardbhair*.—This broch or dun stands on an isolated rock at the S. end of Loch Ardbhair on its east shore, about 100 feet from the mainland, to which it is connected by a rough roadway of boulders, now in part displaced. The broch is only approachable at low tide, and at high water there is little space between the edge of the rock and the base of the building. It is a circular dry-built construction with an interior diameter of 24', the wall being 10' 6" thick near the base. The entrance passage is from the S., is only 2' wide at the interior end, and remains to a height of 3' 6" on the left side. The exterior end is not measurable. Of the outside wall only one or two of the lowest courses of the building remain visible in places, and the rest is concealed by ruins. The interior has probably been cleared of débris, and there the wall exists to a height of 7' 4". There are no signs of chambers in the wall, nor of galleries; the building is poor; the stones are not carefully selected and laid, and the numerous interstices are packed with small angular fragments.

O.S.M., SUTH., xlix.

Visited, 7th June 1909.

5. *An Dun, Clashnessie*.—On the W. side of the Bay of Clashnessie are the remains of a dun. On a prominent flat-topped rock which rises abruptly to a height of some 30' above the shelf that fringes the shore, are the remains of an irregular elliptical structure following to some extent the outline of the rock and measuring over all about 36' × 26'. Only the foundations remain. The entrance has been at the landward end. On either side the rock is cut off by a deep chasm, up which the waves dash, and to seawards it is precipitous.

O.S.M., SUTH., lviii.

Visited, 8th June 1909.

6. *An Dunain, Culkein*.—At the N. end of the Bay of Culkein are the remains of a fortress of great strength. A promontory is divided into two portions by a chasm bridged over by a neck of rock some 3' to 4' long, about 5' deep, and not more than 1' 6" broad. The outward portion to which this bridge leads rises abruptly from the shelving rocks below to a height of about 50'. Its surface is some 50' long by 20' broad. At the W., or landward end, for a distance of some 20' there are remains of building, which, above the cliff to the N., is still visible to a height of 3' or 4'; elsewhere there are only indications of a wall running along the N. side. About 40' landward from the bridge the neck of the promontory has been traversed by a wall of great strength, about 7' thick, faced outwardly with huge blocks of stone—one on the left of the entrance being 3' high, 2' 10" across the base, and 2' thick. The entrance has been at the S. end of this wall, through a passage 8' long and apparently 3' 6" wide. The right side is completely ruined. The area enclosed within the wall is roughly oval, measuring about 40' by 37'.

O.S.M., SUTH., xlviii.

Visited, 8th June 1909.

7. *Broch, Clachtoll*.—At Clachtoll, on the edge of the flat ledges of rock that fringe the shore at the S. end of the Bay of Stoer,

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is a broch. Its position is not a very strong one to the landward side, and its outworks on that account are somewhat exceptional. About 100 yards distant are the remains of a massive outer wall, much ruined, crossing the uncultivated land to the E. The land to the S. being all cultivated, the outworks in that direction have been demolished. At 40' distant from the broch is another wall built of great stones, 2' to 3' in height and some 6' in thickness, which leads from either side of the entrance and was evidently carried round to flank the building. On the S. the details are still evident. At the turning it enclosed a mound of stone and earth about 8' across, faced with building on the inner side. The distance between the stone uprights of the gateway through this wall is 6'. The broch is in a fairly good state of preservation, except towards the sea, where it has been for a short distance almost demolished. The interior is very full of débris, and the greatest height of wall showing above it is only about 3'. On the outside the wall is in places 6' to 7' high, and the top of the interior face is 3' to 4' above that. The thickness of the wall at its highest level is 12', but as the ruins block the passage in the interior it is not possible to obtain that measurement at base. The interior diameter is 32'. The entrance is from the E. A large triangular stone, 4' 6" long, 3' 10" high, and 1' thick, forms the outer lintel, as at Dornadilla (No. 155). At the outside the entrance passage is 3' wide and now about 3' 6" high. At 4' from the exterior are door jambs on either side, beyond which the passage suddenly widens to 3' 10", and gradually expands as it leads inwards to a width of 4' 2" opposite to the entrances to guard chambers, which are reached 3' in rear of the door jambs. These chambers are opposite to each other, and the entrances to them are about 2' 5" wide, and, at present, only 2' high. Except for a short portion near the middle, the roof of the passage is entirely covered with flags. The chamber on the right of the entrance extends inwards following the curve of the wall for 12', and the highest point of its overlapping roof is 6' from the present floor level. The chamber on the left is small and low, and a hole in the back of it suggests a connection with something beyond. In the interior of the broch, and directly opposite the entrance, the top of the stairway is visible. The stair itself probably exists for 12' or 14' downwards, but is concealed by débris to within 3' of the roof, which partially covers it. It apparently was entered from the wall on the interior to the left of the main entrance. The masonry of this broch is good owing to the horizontal cleavage of the sandstone of which it is built.

A steatite cup was found many years ago in a recess of the wall of the guard chamber, on the right of the entrance passage, by the Rev. J. M. Joass, LL.D., Golspie, in whose possession it still is.

The O.S. map indicates "Tumuli" about 100 yards to the S. of the broch.

O.S.M., SUTH., lviii.

Visited, 8th June 1909.

HUT CIRCLES AND ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS.

8. *Allt Ardbhair*.—On the left bank of the Allt Ardbhair, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. above Loch Ardbhair, on a fertile little haugh fringed in with

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birch woods, are the remains of several small circular huts. One towards the E. end of the haugh has an interior diameter of 5'. Another is somewhat larger. They are set on low hillocks.

About 80 yards further down the burn is an oval enclosure measuring interiorly some 18' × 6', and another, about 50 yards onwards, measures 7' × 5'.

These are probably the remains of summer sheilings.

O.S.M., SUTH., xlix. (unnoted).

Visited, 7th June 1909.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

9. *Cairn, Traligill Burn, Inchnadamph.*—On the right bank of the Traligill Burn, about 1 m. E. by N. from Inchnadamph Hotel, on the summit of a slight rocky ridge, is a cairn. It is considerably dilapidated, and its original outline can only be conjectured, but it appears to have been circular, with a diameter of about 50'. It is still 6' to 7' in height. Several large flat stones are exposed lying unevenly about the top, but there is no sign of a chamber or cist having been opened.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxi. (unnoted).

Visited, 10th June 1909.

10. *Cairn, Loch Awe.*—Immediately W. of the S. end of Loch Awe, at an elevation of about 200' above it, and just above an old enclosure studded with heaps of stones (which do not appear to be of a sepulchral character), is a cairn. It is circular, or rather slightly oval, with a diameter of 63' from N. to S. and 70' from E. to W., but as the ground falls away sharply to the E., the extra length of the diameter may be due to the fall of the stones down the slope. On the top, 15' from the N. edge, is a depression running S. for about 20' and measuring 10' across at its greatest width; and there is another hollow towards the E. Neither of these shows signs of recent excavation. There are some large slabs lying about on the top of the cairn, but there is no sign of either chamber or cist exposed. The cairn is still 7' to 8' high.

11. *Chambered Cairn, Ledbeg River.*—On the top of a knoll, just to the S. of the road bridge over the Ledbeg River at Lyne, and about 50' E. of the road, are the remains of a large circular cairn, much dilapidated, and in great part removed. Three of the large upright blocks which have formed the sides and end of the chamber remain *in situ*, and a small stone protrudes between two of the larger ones at the NW. The two largest stones measure 4' across the base, are 1' 5" thick, and 3' to 4' high. The diameter of the cairn has been about 36'. The end stone of the chamber is about 23' from the S. edge. The side stones, which are slightly divergent, are 6' apart.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxxii. (unnoted).

Visited, 11th June 1909.

12. *Cairn, Cam Loch.*—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. ESE. of the most south-easterly arm of Cam Loch, on the low-lying ground between the high road and the river, is a large circular cairn, with a diameter of 60' from N. to S. and 54' from E. to W. At 21' from the N. edge the top of a large slab is visible standing upright facing N. and S., measuring 4'

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across, but there is no chamber or cist exposed. The cairn at highest is about 6' high. It has been much disturbed on the top.

13. *Chambered Cairn, Loch Borrolan*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. from the NW. end of Loch Borrolan, between the road and the loch at the landward end of a point which projects into the latter, is a circular cairn, totally demolished on the E. side. It has had a diameter of about 60'. At 19' in from where the edge has been on the E. side are two large slabs facing each other 4' 10" apart, and 7' further W. are two low partition stones of a chamber, with their ends facing each other 2' 6" apart. 7' E. of the partition slabs two slabs just visible above the ground probably mark the E. end of the chamber. The greatest height of the remaining portion of the cairn is 7'.

14. *Do. do.*—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Aultnacealgach Hotel, on the slope of the hill about 100' above Loch Borrolan, is a cairn which has been very completely excavated. It has a diameter of 44'. 16' in from the outer edge is a chamber measuring about 10' long and 6' 3" broad across the centre, with its longest axis WNW. and ESE. It is polygonal in form, constructed of six large slabs having the interspaces filled with building, except between the two large stones at the ESE., where the space is filled up with round boulders and earth, and in the NNW. corner, where there is a recess. This recess is 4' 6" in length and 2' 6" in depth, and is roofed with overlapping stones. Its outer edge is marked off by a double line of flat stones, partially superimposed, about 6" or 8" in breadth. There are no signs of paving behind it. The greatest height from the floor of the chamber to the top of the cairn is 6' 6". No sign of an entrance passage is visible, but the filling between the two slabs at the ESE. indicates its existence.

Several small fragments of unornamented pottery, parts of a single vessel with walls about $\frac{1}{4}$ " in thickness, were recovered on excavation. They are coarse in quality, the clay being immixed with numerous small pieces of quartz and stone. The interior surface is blackened and smooth. They are preserved in the Museum at Dunrobin.

15. *Cairn, do.*—About 400 yards NNW. of Aultnacealgach Hotel, on the side of the hill, and about 100' above Loch Borrolan, is a circular cairn, with a diameter of some 50' and height of from 5' to 6'. There is an irregular depression on the top, and some large stones have been displaced, but no chamber or cist has been revealed. The cairn has been broken into for a short distance on the E. side.

O.S.M., SUTH., xci. (unnoted).

Visited, 11th June 1909.

MISCELLANEOUS.

16. *Old Graveyard, Loch Ardbhair*.—At the head of Loch Ardbhair, on the S. shore, nearly opposite the broch (No. 4) and just to the SE. of the sheep-folds, is situated an ancient graveyard. It is so covered with small stones as to suggest at first that it is the site of a settlement, but closer inspection shows that the graves have each been outlined and covered with stones, probably to prevent their desecration by wild animals. No symbols or letters are

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observable on any of the stones. The graveyard, which roughly measures 78' × 51', has been at one time enclosed.

O.S.M., SUTH., xlix.

Visited, 7th June 1909.

17. *Old Graveyard and Ruins, Oldany Island*.—On the W. side of the vale or "flow" which runs through the centre of the Island of Oldany, and rather nearer the N. end than the centre, on the top of a low spur of the hill, is an ancient burial ground. The graves here have all been outlined with flat stones, and similar stones have in some instances been placed on the top of them. The spot bears the name "Baile na Cille."

At the back of the burial ground, against the hill, are the ruins of a rude structure outlined with great slabs of rock set on end, the largest 3' high, 3' broad, and 1' thick. It is roughly rectangular, and lies almost N. and S., measuring interiorly some 12' × 10', with an entrance from the E. Attached to it is a smaller building about 13' long by 8' wide with a circular structure, possibly an oven, in the N.E. corner about 3' high and 5' diameter.

In the vicinity are the remains of several small circular and oval huts of 5' or 6' diameter.

See *Stat. Acct.*, xvi. p. 205.

O.S.M., SUTH., xlvi.

Visited, 8th June 1909.

18. *Enclosure, Inchnadamph*.—On the haugh, by the side of the graveyard at Inchnadamph, is an oval enclosure surrounded by a bank some 2' to 3' high and 25' broad at base, the interior of which measures 134' × 86'. A slight hollow running alongside the mound on its inner side is probably due to the formation of the latter. There appear to be two entrances from the N. and E. respectively.*

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxi.

Visited, 10th June 1909.

19. *Caves, Inchnadamph*.—About 1 m. up the Allt nan Uamh, a tributary of the River Loanan, which flows into Loch Assynt at its upper end, are a series of caves in a limestone cliff some 200' above the level of the stream on the S. Evidences of human occupation were found in one of these which was excavated, about 2' below the surface; and from 3' to 4' in depth there was also found, among other osseous fragments, a finely preserved canine tooth of the brown bear.

See *Trans. Inv. Scient. Soc.*, iv. p. 118.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxxii.

SITES.

20. *Chapel and Graveyard, Feadain, Loch Roe*.—The site of this chapel is said to lie about 25' back from the N. bank of Loch Fasg an t-Seana Chlaidh, to the E. of Feadain, near an old rowan tree; but a heap of stones, structureless and featureless, is all that remains.

A small level area in front of the crofter's house, kept uncultivated, is said to be the site of the graveyard.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxix.

Visited, 9th June 1909.

* This is said to have been the place where the Chief of the Macleods slept, surrounded by his followers, in time of danger. It is, however, in a very assailable position.

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21. *An Dun, Stoer*.—The O.S. map indicates a construction "An Dun" towards the NW. end of Loch-an-Aigeil, and between the loch and the Bay of Stoer, but there is nothing now observable on the site.

O.S.M., SUTH., lviii.

Visited, 8th June 1909.

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ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

22. *Belfry Tower, Clynekirkton*.—Situated on the top of a knoll some 12' to 13' high, to the NW. of the church at Clynekirkton, is a small circular tower some 29' in circumference and about 10' in height to the base of its conical roof and 14' to the apex, pierced with small square openings at the top of the wall. Before the present roof was put on, the belfry had two large square apertures opposite each other in the roof. The present square openings beneath the roof were the recesses for the beam ends connected with the support of the bell.

See *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, v. p. 221.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi.

Visited, 9th August 1909.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

23. *Broch, Coich Burn*.—Situated on the top of a bank some 60' or 70' above the bed of the Coich Burn, $\frac{1}{4}$ m. above its junction with the River Brora, and on its E. bank, about 1 m. ENE. of Seiberscross, are the remains of a broch. Little of the structure is left. On the SW. the wall has been entirely demolished, and on the NW. the exterior face of the wall exists to a height of about 3', and that only for a short distance. In the interior a small portion of wall, about 4' high, remains on the E. side. The interior diameter has been 28' and the thickness of the wall 13'. In the wall towards the NW. the top of a chamber, about 3' across, is exposed. No other details are visible.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi.

Visited, 19th August 1909.

24. *Broch, Kilbrare, Scottarie Burn*.—On the right bank of the Scottarie Burn, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. above its junction with the River Brora, and near the shepherd's house at Kilbrare, the O.S. map indicates a "brough." The broch, which has occupied a most commanding position on an isolated knoll, has entirely disappeared and a sheep stell has taken its place.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi.

Visited, 19th August 1909.

25. *Broch, Castle Cole or Caisteal na Coille*.—This is perhaps the most picturesquely situated broch in the county. It occupies an almost impregnable position on the left bank of the Blackwater, about 2 m. above the junction of that stream with the River Brora. Below a gorge where the Blackwater has cut its way through cliffs which rise to a height of 70' or 80' is an isolated rock, precipitous towards the river, which flows past it on two sides, and steep to landward. From the moorland in rear of it, it is cut off by a gully down which a small stream flows. On this rock stands the

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broch. It is entered from the ESE. through a passage 12' 10" in length, 2' 8" in width at the exterior end, and 3' 6" in the interior. At 5' in from the outside is a rebate of 6" on either side for a door, and 4' 8" further in is a similar rebate 8" wide. On the right of the passage beyond the first door check, but at what exact distance is uncertain owing to the ruin of the wall, was the entrance to a guard chamber. It led through a passage some 4' in length, one lintel of which at the inner end, measuring 3' 7" in length, still remains. The chamber, which is largely filled with débris, measures, as far as exposed, 5' 8" in length by 5' in breadth. Two lintel slabs remain in position at the exterior end of the entrance to the broch, and the height of the doorway at present is about 5'. The broch is circular in the interior, with a diameter of 21'. Towards the SW., above the river, the wall has entirely disappeared to the foundation, which is 12' across. On the N. the wall is 8' high, which is the

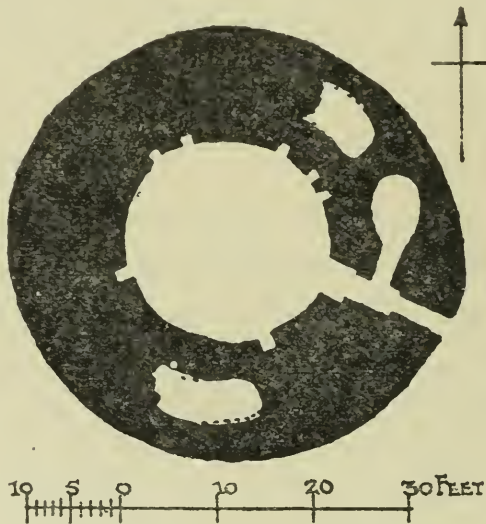


FIG. 1.—Broch, Castle Cole (No. 25).

greatest height in the interior, and on the exterior the greatest elevation is towards the E., where it is 10' high. At its greatest height the wall is 10' in thickness. There are remains of a chamber in the thickness of the wall visible 6' from the back wall of the guard chamber. The upper part only is exposed above the débris with which it is filled and is 4' wide; its length is unascertainable. At a point 11' 6" back from the inner end of the entrance on the S. side and 4' in from the interior, the wall of another chamber is visible among the ruins. Neither of the entrances to these chambers remains apparent. At 6' to the left of the entrance on the interior is a recess on the present ground level 2' square, and at intervals in the interior about the same level are four other small square recesses, measuring three of them respectively 1' 4" across, 1' 6", and 9". Where the wall has fallen away there are indications of another, and above the first two recesses from the right of the entrance are others measuring 1' x 10". The third and fourth recesses from the right of the entrance are at 6" higher level than the other two. The base of the rock on the landward side has been protected by a wall running for a part of its length along the top of a rocky outcrop.

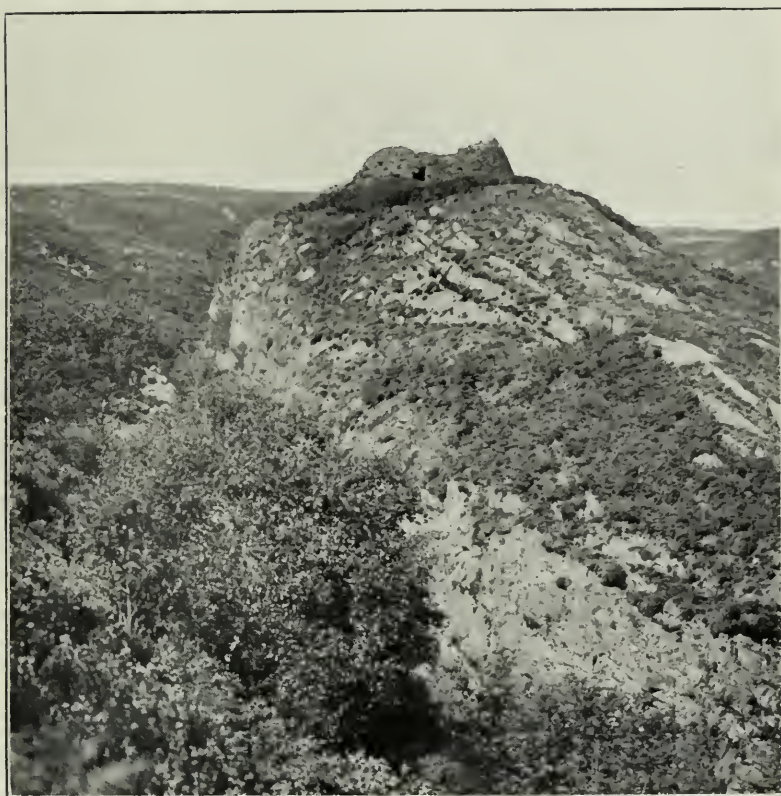


PLATE I.—Broch, Castle Cole (No. 25).

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A small portion of it is visible at the SE. and towards the N. A similar wall appears to have encircled the summit (fig. 1 and Pl. I.).

See *Antiquaries*, xv. p. 310 (plan); Anderson, *The Iron Age*, p. 185 (illus.); *Agriculture of Sutherland*, p. 170 (illus.); *New Stat. Acct. Suth.*, etc., xv. p. 154; *The Scottish Gaël*, i. p. 17.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxxviii.

Visited, 20th August 1909.

26. *Broch, Killin*.—About $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. SE. of Oldtown and $\frac{1}{4}$ m. back from the old road leading thence to Wester Clynekirkton, at an elevation of some 650' above the sea, are the ruins of a broch, now a structureless mass of stones. What was probably the entrance is exposed towards the WNW. by one side of the passage for a distance of about 10'. At the inner end of the wall face, placed at right angles to the line of its direction, is a remarkable slab standing 5' 4" above present level and 3' broad by 6" to 8" thick, which may have formed one of the jambs of the doorway. A very small portion of the outer wall is visible for a foot or two of its height on the N. and a part of the outer wall of a chamber on the S. The inner face of the broch wall is in no place exposed, and without excavation it is not possible to obtain accurate measurements. The massive rampart which protects the broch on the W., some 200 yards distant, appears to be of natural formation.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi.

Visited, 24th August 1909.

27. *Broch, Carrol*.—On the W. side of Loch Brora, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. S. of Carrol Rock and $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Brora, at an elevation of about 200' above the level of the loch, is situated the broch of Carrol. The entrance is from the ESE. through a passage 14' in length, 2' 9" wide at the outer end, and 3' 9" at the inner. The passage has been protected by two doors, the checks of which occur at 3' 4" and 9' 1" from the outside. Within the outer checks the passage is 3' 10" wide. Its greatest height is 5' 8", and the roofing remains almost complete, only two slabs being wanting. Behind the inner jambs are bar holes at 2' and 2' 4" respectively from present ground level. That on the W. side passes through the wall into the chamber to the S. of the stair. At a distance of 2' behind the outer checks, or 5' 11" from the outside, on the right of the passage, is the entrance to a guard-chamber 2' wide, 3' 6" long, and 3' 11" high. The chamber closely resembles that at Kintradwell. It is oval, 8' 6" long by 6' 4" wide, and 9' 6" high. The roof is entire, except for an aperture in the apex about 2' square. The diameter of the interior of the broch is from 30' 6" to 31'. At 19' distant from the W. side of the doorway on the interior is the entrance to a chamber and stair 3' 6" above the present floor level, through a passage 6' long, 2' 10" wide at the entrance, and 3' 7" in the interior. The stair rises to the right for 11'. Thirteen steps are visible, varying from 2' 6" to 3' 3" in length, 7" to 8" across the tread, and 4" to 5" in height. To the left a narrow passage 18' long and about 2' 6" wide leads to a chamber some 7' 6" long and 4' wide at the back, which is straight. Only a small portion of the roof remains at the back of the chamber, which is 9' high above present floor level. The steps which have been described as leading down to this chamber are now obscured with débris. The breadth of wall across the top of the

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stair is 14' 8". The greatest height of wall above the present floor level in the interior is 13', and the average height about 10'. Some 9' above floor level is a scarcement about 1' 6" wide. The greatest height of wall visible on the exterior is 5'. From a point 7' distant from the side of the entrance passage towards the E. a portion of a gallery remains for 25', with a width of from 1' 8" to 2'. The width of the opening on to the interior above the entrance passage is about 2' 11".

Outside the broch a well-built wall from 7' to 8' thick surrounds it at a distance of about 23' on the N., 28' on the NW., and 13' on the S., having a ditch or trench outside it about 20' in width. The approach through these defences is in line with the entrance to the broch. The main wall, where it passes through it, is some 38' distant; and an outer wall, 7' thick, which here takes the place of the

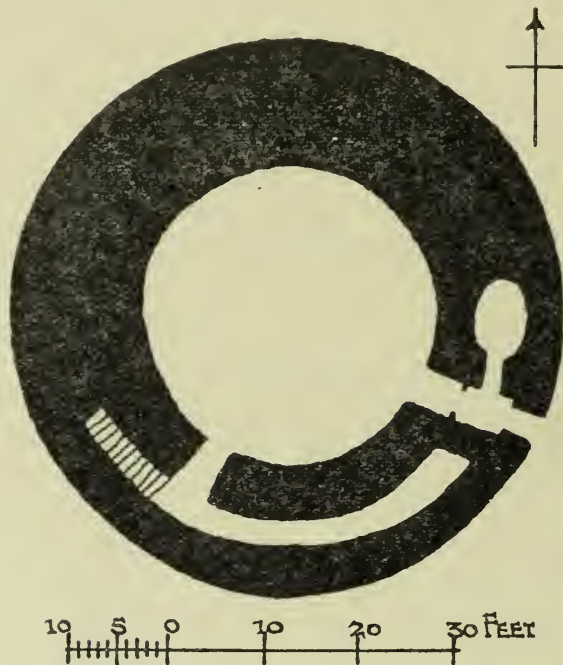


FIG. 2.—Broch, Carrol (No. 27).

counterscarp of the ditch, is about 52' distant. From the main or inner wall a passage 5' wide, walled on either side, leads to the broch. Some 53' to the S. of the entrance a small passage leads through the wall on the inner side of the ditch under a lintel, 3' wide, and, from present level, 2' high. The moor to the W. is marshy, and, in consequence, the ditch appears to have been discontinued in that direction.

The setting of flagstones inside the broch on the left of the entrance, measuring 7' by 3', is in rather a ruinous state, and the flags are getting displaced. Lying in the interior is a round stone, with a circular depression on the top, in which the pivot of a door has evidently worked.

The broch has been excavated, and the relics found are preserved in the Museum at Dunrobin. These included a steatite cup, with a side handle; a rude shale ring; and a concave oval plate of ox horn, like the bowl of a large spoon, with four rivet holes at one end and two iron rivets *in situ* (fig. 2 and Pl. II.).

Some 40 yards to the N. of the broch is an ill-defined enclosure



PLATE II.—Broch, Carrol : Entrance Passage from Interior (No. 27).

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measuring about 66' in length by 33' at the W. end and considerably less at the E.

The shallow weem-like structure noted in *Arch. Scot.*, 8' in diameter at top, and with well-built wall, is visible about 80 yards to the SE. of the entrance to the broch. The walling around it is now almost obscured by grass. The trench running NE. from it is still apparent, and is also visible running towards the bank of the Allt Coire Aghaisgeig on the SW.

See *Arch. Scot.*, v. pt. i. p. 107; (relics illus.).

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi.

Visited, 25th September 1909.

28. *Broch, Duchary*.—Towards the S. end of Loch Brora, about 1 m. SE. of the Carrol broch, and some 300 yards W. of the road, on a slight knoll, whose green surface is conspicuous in the heather, are the remains of a broch. It is much overgrown with vegetation, and in no place is the face of the inner wall visible. The diameter over all has been 58'. The entrance seems to have been from the E. On the right or N. of its presumed position are signs of a chamber, with suggestions of another on the S. side. Slightly to the S. of a point directly opposite the entrance are remains of another chamber. The height of the mound formed by the ruins is about 5'. A small enclosure, about 15' in width, has extended round about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the circumference of the broch from NE. to N.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi. (unnoted). Visited, 30th September 1909.

29. *Fort, Duchary Rock*.—From Kilmain, a crofter township 2 m. W. of Brora, an old peat road leads NW. into the deer forest for nearly 2 m. To the E. of this road near its termination rises abruptly a massive rock, precipitous on the E. and W., with a steep slope at the S. end, and a comparatively easy approach from the NW. It bears the name of the Duchary Rock. The level summit where, not defended by nature, has been strongly fortified by a wall. This wall at the N. or NW. end is 12' in thickness, in places 3' high, and well built of flat stones. It is pierced towards the NW. by an entrance passage 6' wide between the faces of the opposing walls. The wall forming the W. side of the entrance passage is faced with two large flat slabs apparently *in situ*. Some 14' outside the wall at this entrance are the foundations of an outer wall some 7' thick seeming to run from a point on the main wall about 10' E. of the opening and to meet it again at the edge of the steep slope 80' or 100' to westward, thus covering the entrance. Between the steep cliffs at the S. end is another wall some 70' in length and 10' thick through which is an entrance 4' wide. On the W. side of it is an indication of a chamber in the wall. The total length of the interior is some 260 yards, and the average width about 60 yards. The immense mass of débris indicates that the height of the walls was considerable.

Some 30' below the outer wall at the SE. is a natural rock shelter, the covered area measuring about 12' \times 17'.

In the rocks facing eastwards some 100 yards NE. of the NW. entrance under a large rock is the entrance to an underground passage apparently natural. At its commencement it is about 2' wide and 3'

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high. It passes inwards in a southerly direction for about 13', then, turning sharply to the right, runs onward for 18' or 20' further with a width of some 15".

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvii. (unnoted). Visited, 30th September 1909.

HUT CIRCLES, AND ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS.

30. *Easter Clynekirkton*.—On the moorland above the eastmost crofts of Easter Clynekirkton is a scattered group of mounds, small and inconspicuous.

31. *Clynemilton*.—On the hillside, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NNW. of Clynemilton West, at an elevation of about 300' above sea-level, is a group of prominent mounds of the small type, all of which appear to have been excavated. They have numbered about fifteen.

At the extreme upper end of the group is a hut circle, much worn away, and showing no peculiar features. Some 40' W. of it is a depression of about 10' interior diameter, encircled with a bank about 5' thick. The bottom of the depression is some 2' below the top of the bank and 1' 6" below the natural level.

Some 30' SE. of the last is a hut circle, the entrance to which has been excavated. The interior diameter is about 24' \times 31'. The thickness of the encircling bank is about 5', increasing to about 9' on either side of the entrance, which is from the SE. Adjoining it, at the S. side of the entrance, is a mound which has been excavated. Some 40 yards S. is another hut circle of ordinary type, with the entrance from the SE., and about 100 yards W. is another small hut circle of simple oval form.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi. (unnoted).

Visited, 9th August 1909.

32. *Sciberscross*.—Some 40 yards NNW. of Sciberscross House is a hut circle, with a group of five or six small mounds around it. The

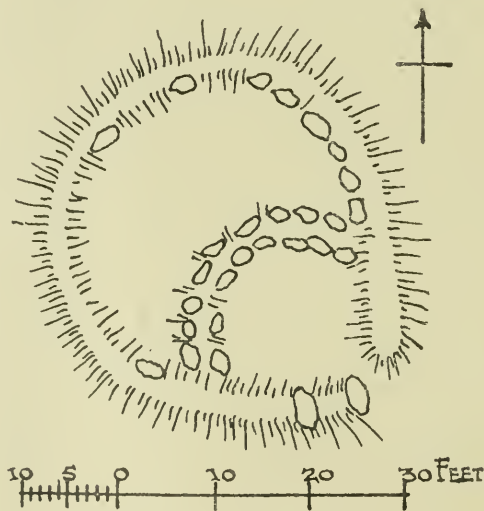


FIG. 3.—Hut Circle, Sciberscross (No. 32).

circle measures interiorly some 31' \times 35', and the enclosing bank or wall is about 5' in thickness. Some 14' in from what appears to be the entrance, which is from the SE., a bank or wall, 3' in thickness, curves across the circle from one side to the other, thus cutting off the back

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portion and forming another enclosure some 13' × 14' facing the entrance. Adjoining the entrance in the outer bank or wall are two large upright stones, conspicuous from the lower slope of the hill, but though they are set with their broad faces across the direction of the bank, the space between them appears to have been built up. The position of the entrance, if such existed, to the back part of the circle is not apparent (unnoted) (fig. 3).

33. *Do.*—Some 600 yards NNW. of the farm-house of Seiberscross, on the E. side of the road that leads across the moor to Ben Armine Lodge, is a small group of mounds larger and more conspicuous than usual. The mound nearest to the road has a diameter of 24' and height of about 3'; another, 30' N., is 29' in diameter and in height 3' 6" to 4'. On the top of the latter is a depression of about 8" in depth and 6' in diameter.

Some 100 yards E. of the road is a long low mound about 3' high, with its longest axis NNE. and SSW. 39' in length, 19' in breadth at the SSW. end, and 11' at the NNE. extremity. 12' distant from it, at the N. end, lies a small mound of 11' diameter, and 9' away at the opposite end is another, 13' in diameter (fig. 4).

To the S. of the mounds are the faint indications of an ancient enclosing bank. Where it forms an angle there appears to have been an entrance, and abutting on one side of it a small enclosure measuring about 9' × 12' in interior diameter. In the vicinity are several small circular enclosures of about 10' interior diameter, with banks about 4' thick and entrances from the SE. One of these is set against the end of a fairly large mound, which has, in consequence, been slightly dilapidated. Many other mounds lie around.

34. *Do.*—Some 400 yards N. of the farm-house is a considerable group of mounds, some of them larger than usual, and in conjunction with those above mentioned, they stretch along the hillside eastward for nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ m.

One mound near the W. end of the group, lying ESE. and WNW., measures 29' in length by 13' at the W. end, and 10' at the E. It is about 2' high. Another near it, lying N. and S., measures 25' × 15'.

Close by is a large circular enclosure, well defined, measuring 44' × 46' interiorly, surrounded by a bank about 10' in thickness, and having an entrance probably from the SE., but indefinite.

Facing southward near it is a semicircular enclosure 52' across the opening, with a bank about 2' high and 8' to 10' across. A mound near it measures 33' in diameter.

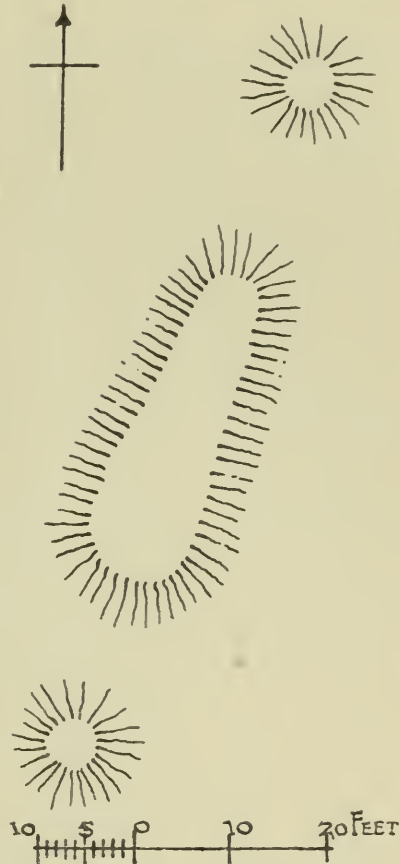


FIG. 4.—Mounds, Seiberscross
(No. 33).

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The mounds of this group are large and very numerous, some of them measuring from 20' to 30' in diameter, and from 3' to 3' 6" in height. Towards the NE. they are rather smaller, and some have been excavated, but there are no cists exposed. At this end is a small hut circle, measuring 13' × 19' interiorly, with a bank 5' thick in the circumference widening to 13' on either side of the entrance. There are remains of numerous old banks or walls running along the hillside.

O.S.M., SUTH., xevi. (unnoted).

Visited, 19th August 1909.

35. *Do.*—Some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. NE. of the farm-house is an elliptical enclosure 23' long by 7' wide, with an entrance 2' 6" wide towards the E. passing through the wall near the S. end by the side of a large earth-fast boulder.

Near the lower end of the group of mounds, etc., directly above the point where the highest part of the birch wood to the E. of Sciberscross terminates towards the W., and about 150 yards distant from it, is a mound formed of largish stones, considerably overgrown with peat, lying with its longest axis NNW. and SSE. It is 30' in length by 15' in breadth and 1' to 2' in height. On the NW. extremity of it is placed a small round mound of 11' diameter and $1\frac{1}{2}$ ' to 2' in height.

36. *Coich Burn.*—On the hill to the NE. of the Coich Burn, beginning about 200 yards NE. of the broch (No. 23), there is a

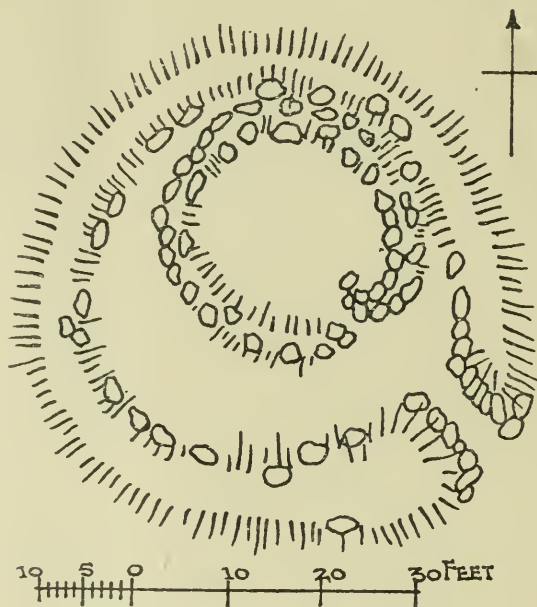


FIG. 5.—Hut Circle, Sciberscross (No. 36).

group of mounds. Some of them, especially those high up on the hill, are larger than usual, and resemble those near Sciberscross. Among them run the remains of banks of old enclosures, and there are other signs of occupancy of the ground.

On the lower slope of the hill, towards the SE. of the group, on a natural terrace, is a large hut circle of indefinite detail. Some 100 yards NE. of it is another showing the remains of much stone work in its construction. It has an interior diameter of about 36'. The

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entrance is from the SE. through a passage 11' long and 2' 6" wide. At the back of the interior, abutting on the bank or wall on the E., is a smaller enclosure measuring interiorly 20' × 22', with a wall 3' 6" in thickness, and an entrance opposite the main entrance 2' wide. At one side of the entrance to this inner enclosure its wall curves inwards for a distance of 7'. The wall of the main enclosure is about 5' thick, widening towards the entrance on either side (fig. 5).

About 150 yards to the eastward is a stone-built circle, with an interior diameter of about 26'. The entrance is from the SE., and the wall is about 6' thick. There are no division walls in the interior. From its E. side the remains of an ancient wall pass indefinitely down the hill.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi. (unnoted). Visited, 19th August 1909.

37. *Scottarie Burn*.—About 100 yards SW. of the site of the broch at Kilbrare, on the Scottarie Burn, is a small circular enclosure of about 17' interior diameter. The entrance is from the SE. and is about 2' wide. The bank or wall, which is about 5' thick, is on its inner face lined with large contiguous boulders from 1' to 1½' high and 1½' to 2' across. One or two small mounds lie near.

On the hillside, to the SW. of the shepherd's house at Kilbrare, is a group of small mounds, some of which have been opened.

Below the upper end of the group is a hut circle of simple oval form, the outline of which, however, is rather indefinite.

About ½ m. up the glen of the Scottarie Burn, on its W. side, is a stone-built hut circle of 34' interior diameter. The entrance is from the E. through a passage 9' long and 3' wide. The wall, now broken down, is about 5' 6" in thickness, widening towards the entrance.

Some 150 yards higher up the glen are the ruins of an oblong

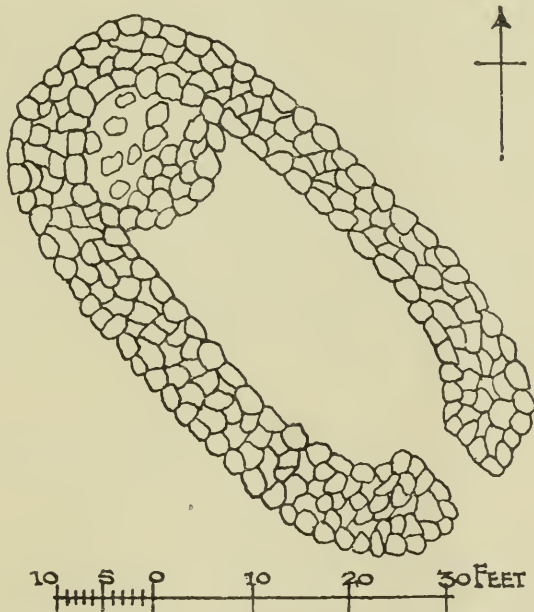


FIG. 6.—Hut Circle, Scottarie Burn (No. 37).

structure, with walls entirely of stone, in the construction of which very large boulders have been used. The entrance is from the SE.

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The total length of the interior is 46', and the greatest width 18'. The wall is 7' thick, expanding to 10' on either side of the entrance, which is 4' wide. At the back of the interior are the ruins of a circular building measuring 15'×14' over all, but as the space occupied by it is entirely covered by the ruins, the thickness of its wall and position and details of the entrance are not ascertainable (fig. 6).

About 170 yards up the glen is a group of a score or so of mounds, well defined, measuring from 10' to 26' in diameter.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi. (unnoted). Visited, 19th August 1909.

38. *Allt Ach nam Bathaich*.—On the E. bank of the Allt Ach nam Bathaich, from about 1½ m. above its junction with the River Brora downwards, are a number of hut circles and small mounds. Most of the former are overgrown with deep heather, but they appear to be of the simple oval or pear-shaped type, with banks of earth and stone about 5' wide, and entrance from the SE.

One, situated a short distance above the influx of the Back Burn, which flows in from the W., measures interiorly some 25'×29', and is entered from the ESE. through a passage 8' long and probably about 3' across, but the width is doubtful. At 17' in from the entrance a semicircular wall 3' wide stretches from side to side, thus cutting off the back portion of the circle and forming another enclosure facing the entrance. About half a dozen small mounds lie in rear of this construction. Between it and the burn are the remains of other indistinct enclosures and mounds.

Directly opposite the confluence of the burns is a well-preserved circular enclosure, with an entrance from the SE., presenting no particular features of interest.

39. *Loch Brora*.—On the top of an eminence NE. of the island, at the lower end of Loch Brora, and about ¼ m. back from the E. bank of the loch, is a small mound, outlined with large and almost contiguous boulders. It is about 16' in diameter and not more than 2' in height. It does not seem to contain a great quantity of stone, and there is a very considerable growth of peat on it. To the N. and NE. are a number of small mounds. Eight or ten lie some 30 yards to the NE. and several on the slope of the hill to the N.

40. *Do*.—On either side of the old road which leads from Oldtown to Wester Clynekirkton, from about ½ m. SE. of the former place, for a considerable distance are numerous mounds of the usual small type, and another group is situated about 1¼ m. NW. of the latter place.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi. and xcvi. (unnoted).

Visited, 24th August 1909.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

41. *Cairns, Sciberscross*.—Some 350 yards ESE. of the farm-house, on a slight eminence in the middle of a meadow, are the remains of a cairn. The upper part of it has been removed, and a cist exposed, of which the covering slab, ends, and one side remain. It lies WSW. and ENE. The covering slab measures 4' 4" × 2' 9", and the length of the interior is 3' 7". The diameter of the cairn is about 33', and

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its present height about 4'. The outline of the cairn has been marked with large contiguous boulders of from 1½' to 2' in length.

Some 30' E. is another cairn which has been excavated and the cist displaced. It is 30' 9" in diameter, and is about 4' high. Around the base is a setting of large, but not contiguous, boulders.

Some 20' N. of the first cairn is a mound about 5' high and 19' in diameter, from the slope of which some large stones protrude. It is probably another cairn.

Some 40 yards W. of the same cairn is a natural mound, with a cairn on the top of it, measuring 27' in diameter, and having an outline of contiguous boulders. It appears to have been excavated, but no cist is visible. It is overgrown with grass.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi. (unnoted). Visited, 19th August 1909.

42. *Cairn, etc., Balnacoil*.—Near the top of the hill at Balnacoil, and somewhat less than ½ m. NE. of the lodge, is a cairn of from 48' to 50' diameter and about 4' high. Slight excavations have been made in several places, but no cist is exposed.

Between the cairn and the lodge, and also along the S. slope and level summit of the hill for a considerable distance to the eastward, are numerous small mounds of the usual type.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxxviii. Visited, 25th August 1909.

43. *Cairn, Allt a' Mhuilinn*.—To the E. of the Allt a' Mhuilinn, about ½ m. NNE. of Ascoile, is a cairn of about 66' diameter. It has been excavated. Two large displaced stones, which may have formed part of a chamber, are lying in the interior about 26' from the S. side. The height of the cairn is about 6' where undisturbed.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxxviii. ("Brough"). Visited, 25th August 1909.

44. *Chambered Cairn, Allt nam Ban*.—On the left bank of the Allt nam Ban, which flows into the middle one of the three divisions of Loch Brora, near the centre of the E. bank and about 30 yards back from the road, in a birch wood, are the remains of an excavated chambered cairn. The passage which approaches the chamber from the W. has been removed almost up to the lintel covering the entrance, which is at 20' from what appears to have been the outside. The passage exists for the last 3' 8", including the part covered by the lintel, and is 3' wide. The portals which support the lintel are 2' high, and have on the top of each an additional stone, raising them to 2' 9". The lintel is 5' long, 1' 8" deep, and 1' 4" across. The chamber appears to have been tripartite. The first compartment is 5' long: the S. side has fallen, but the width has been about 7'. The sides have been curved, and are entirely built instead of having large upright slabs forming a portion of the walls. Two partition stones 3' long by 1' thick and 3' in height, as far as exposed, and about 2' apart, separate the first and second compartments. The second compartment, which is also built, is 4' 9" in length by 8' 3' in breadth. At the back are two other division stones 1' 9" apart: that on the N. 3' 6" long, that on the S. 3'. They are in great measure covered with débris, and no part of the chamber beyond is visible. The diameter of the cairn along the line of the direction of the chamber

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from E. to W. has been about 54' and across the chamber about 46'. The remains of the cairn are covered with moss and fern.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvii. (unnoted). Visited, 25th August 1909.

MISCELLANEOUS.

45. *Constructions (remains of) and Old Graveyard, Sciberscross.*—In the haugh beside the River Brora, to the SSE. of Sciberscross House, are the remains of several constructions and an ancient burying-ground called "Cladh Maireannach." No stones with symbols are visible in the latter. The haugh has all been under cultivation.

46. *Circular Enclosure, Sciberscross.*—On the haugh to the E. of the old graveyard at Sciberscross, about 50' from the river, is a circular enclosure—presumably a sheep or cattle-fold, with an interior diameter of about 30', which has been noted, as it shows an arm projected past the entrance, for protection from storms—a characteristic observed in the case of some hut circles.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvii. (unnoted). Visited, 19th August 1909.

SITES.

47. *Island, Loch Brora.*—Situated on Loch Brora, towards the S. end, is a small island formed of boulders, said to be artificial, named on the O.S. map "Eilean nam Faoileag." No signs of building remain visible on the level top, but along the E. face for 30' or 40' are the remains of a retaining wall some 4' to 5' high. On the E. and W. faces, near the N. end, two built recesses probably indicate the position of the stairs mentioned in the *New Statistical Account*. At the S. end a circular depression may mark the site of the well. The island appears to have been occupied by the Earl of Sutherland as a hunting seat in the 17th century. Sir Robert Gordon thus mentions it: "In Loch Broray there is ane ileand where the Erle of Southerland has a delectable habitation and pleasant for hunting of reed deir and roes in the woods on both syds of the laik."

See Gordon, p. 5; *Stat. Acct.*, x. p. 303; *New Stat. Acct. Suth.*, etc., xv. p. 155.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvii. Visited, 25th September 1909.

PARISH OF CREICH.

CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

48. *Caisteal na coire.*—Some $\frac{2}{3}$ m. SW. of Rosehall, in a low-lying meadow, almost formed into an island by the River Oyke and a creek which runs W. from the river for about $\frac{1}{4}$ m., are the fragmentary ruins of a small rectangular building. The NW. wall has entirely disappeared, the other walls are much ruined, and no details of the structure remain. The exterior measurements appear to have been about 29' \times 23', and the thickness of the walls 7'. There is no sign of vaulting. The castle seems to have been encircled by a ditch.

O.S.M., SUTH., ci.

Visited, 30th June 1909.

PARISH OF CREICH.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

49. *Broch, Dail Langwell*.—On the W. side of Glencassley, about $7\frac{1}{2}$ m. above the junction of the River Cassley with the River Oykel, on the slope of the hill some 80' above the river, are the ruins of a broch. The ground falls sharply away from its position on the N. and NE. sides and towards the river. It is much dilapidated on the S., on which side large sheep-folds have been erected from its material. The interior is very full of débris, the wall being nowhere visible for more than 5' above it. The highest portion of wall exposed is towards the NW., where on the exterior it is 11' high, and on the inside opposite rises some 5' to 6' higher. The thickness of the wall at its highest level is about 11' 6", and on the SSW., at about 5' from the ground, it is 14' 8", but on this side the easier slope of the ground has made the position more assailable. The interior diameter is some 31'. The entrance has been from the E. through a passage about 18' 6" in length. Measuring from the exterior, the first 5' 6" are blocked with ruins, for the next 3' the side walls are exposed, and for the last 10' the passage is complete, roofed with flags throughout. At 8' 6" from the exterior, on the right side, is the entrance to the guard-chamber, only 1' 6" wide and now 1' 8" high. It is entered through a passage, gradually widening, 4' in length, beyond which the chamber curves round to the left, and is roofed with overlapping stones. The roof appears to be intact. At 4' inwards from the entrance to the guard-chamber two door jambs project across the passage, leaving a space between them of 1' 8". They are slabs 4" thick, and do not act as supports—there being no lintel above them. In the walls behind them, 2' 2" from the roof, are the holes for the bar, measuring about 6" × 7". That on the left goes 1' 2" into the wall, that on the right 2' 6", and appears to have passed into the guard-chamber beyond, as light is visible at the back of it. Outwards from the jambs the passage is 3' wide, and the walls diverge till at 5' 6" from the exterior, where last measurable, it is 4' 8" wide. Inwards from the jambs it is 5' wide, and now about 4' high.* On the S. side of the broch a portion of a gallery or chamber is exposed, still crossed by one huge stone 7' long, 2' broad, and 10" thick. The chamber has been 3' 6" wide. To the N. is an opening from it into the interior 3' across. A portion of the same gallery is visible on the W. About 7' S. of the entrance the opposing ends of an oval chamber are visible on the ground level about 10' in length, with an entrance from the interior 3' across. Some of the stones used in the structure are very large. One on the S., whose upper surface is 5' above the ground level, is 5' long, 3' across, and 1' thick.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciii.

Visited, 16th June 1909.

50. *Broch, Achaneas*.—On the haugh to the W. of Achaneas Farm, between the road and the River Cassley, on a knoll about 50 yards back from the latter, are indications of the existence of a broch. Only a stone or two of the outer wall is visible. The site is overgrown with grass and the dimensions are unobtainable.

* It is probable that there have been two portals in the passage, any existing trace, however, of that towards the exterior is obscured by the ruins.

PARISH OF CREICH.

51. *Do., do.*—About 300 yards N., at the upper end of the haugh, is the site of another broch, of which a very little more is apparent. It has been of great size, and has had a diameter over all of from 78' to 80'. The wall appears to have been 18' thick. Its lower course on the exterior is quite visible on the N. and SE., and a slight elevation marks the foundation.

O.S.M., SUTH., ci.

Visited, 16th June 1909.

52. *Broch, Doir' a' Chatha.*—Close beside the farm-house of Durcha, $\frac{3}{4}$ m. NE. of Achurigill, are the remains of a broch. It is now a structureless heap of ruins, from which most of the large stones have been removed. It has apparently been of great size, and the ruin measures 106' across, but, as no wall faces are visible, the actual dimensions of the structure are not obtainable.

See Pococke, p. 115.

O.S.M., SUTH., cii.

Visited, 30th June 1909.

53. *Broch, "Carn Mor," Swordale.*—In a field at Swordale, to the S. of the Combination Poorhouse, is the site of a broch known as "Carn Mor." Only a low mound of small stones remains.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxi.

Visited, 2nd October 1909.

54. *Vitrified Fort, Dun Creich.*—On the summit of a wooded hill which projects into the Dornoch Firth from its N. bank, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. SE. of Bonarbridge, is situated the Dun of Creich. To seaward it presents an almost precipitous front, and hardly less accessible are the slopes on its N. and S. flanks. The hill attains an altitude of 370', and, from the westward, is easily ascended along a narrow ridge, which culminates in a rocky summit. Here a single rampart of stone encloses a circular area measuring about 260' from NE. to SW. by 220' from NW. to SE. (O.S. measurement). The highest portion of this area, which is towards the N., has again been further fortified by an inner rampart, now insignificant, along the top of a rocky scarp, and measures about 167' from E. to W. by 96' from N. to S. In the centre of this inner area, and enclosed within a low bank about 10' from its walls, are the fragmentary ruins of a rectangular mortar-built structure measuring 18' by 25', said to be the castle built by Paul Mactire in the 13th century. The main outer rampart of the original construction is highest towards the S., where it measures some 4' high and 12' wide on base. The principal approach appears to have led up a steep slope from the NE. to an entrance at the seaward end of the fort. Within the interior on the N. of this entrance is a depression which appears to be round and lined with stone, measuring about 12' by 8', while on the opposite side are indications of similar remains. The width of the entrance is indefinite, and there is much vegetation, which obscures the details. Towards the S. there appears to have been another entrance of less importance. At the W. or landward end of the inner enclosure is a natural bastion, and at the base of this lies a large mass of wall, vitrified throughout. At the highest point on the S. side of the outer rampart there is a partially vitrified stone projecting. The natural

PARISH OF CREICH.

rock is a reddish micaceous schist. The ramparts are much overgrown with turf.

See Gordon, pp. 8, 37; *New Stat. Acct. Suth.*, etc., xv. p. 18; *Sutherland and the Reay Country*, p. 108.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxi.

Visited, 27th July 1909.

55. *Fortified Enclosure, Auchinduich*.—Some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. S. of Auchinduich Lodge, at the edge of a birch wood between the road and the railway, and some 150 yards W. of the former, is a circular enclosure. It is surrounded by the base of a stony bank or wall, well defined on the outer and inner circumference with large contiguous boulders. The interior appears to have been subdivided into numerous chambers, but as it is entirely overgrown with turf and bracken, the details are unobtainable. The interior diameter from N. to S. is 51' and from E. to W. 48'. The thickness of the wall is 10', except at the entrance, where on either side it is 14'. The entrance passage is 3' wide, and leads inwards from the W.

O.S.M., SUTH., ciii. (unnoted).

Visited, 2nd July 1909.

HUT CIRCLES AND ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS.

56. *S. of Lairg Station*.—About 200 yards short of the first milestone beyond Lairg Station, on the E. side of the road to Bonarbridge, immediately above it, and in the birch wood, are a group of a dozen small round mounds and the remains of a hut circle of simple oval form.

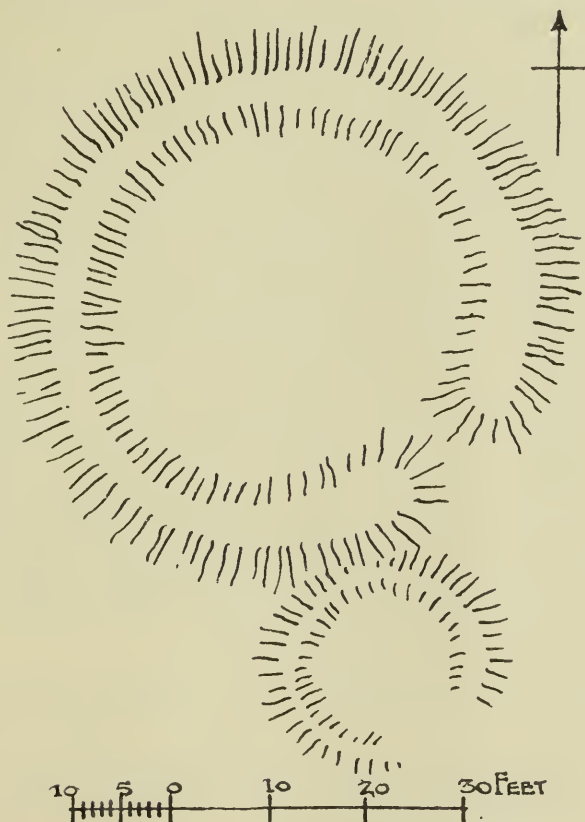


FIG. 7.—Hut Circle, S. of Lairg Station (No. 56).

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About 300 yards further S., and just past the milestone, on the same side of the road, is another group of about fourteen mounds and a well-preserved hut circle about 30 yards from the road. The circle measures 38' across, but as the bank at the entrance has been thickened in the interior so as to make the passage 13' in length, the diameter from the NW. to SE. is only 32'. The entrance faces the SE. The bank is thicker, and seems more peaty than usual. Abutting on the exterior of the bank at the S. is a smaller enclosure of about 16' × 13' interior measurement, with an entrance apparently from the SE., but it has been much broken down (fig. 7).

About 100 yards E. of the last is another circle of usual form. On either side of the entrance, which is in the customary direction, the outer edge of the bank has been outlined for 10' or 12' with large stones. Three mounds lie adjacent—one within 12' of the entrance.

Some 500 yards E. of the road, on the hillside, is another considerable group of mounds, and near them a large pear-shaped enclosure, measuring some 46' × 70', with a wide entrance from the S. about 20' across. The E. wall is continued round past the front of the entrance and follows the S. side of a hollow down hill to the W. for about 100 yards. Some 60' N. of this wall another wall runs from the W. side of the enclosure roughly parallel along the other side of the hollow, and at about 100 yards turns sharply to the S. and passes the end of the first wall so as to leave an entrance way between them about 10' in width. To the N. of the large enclosure is a small circle, with interior diameter of about 10' enclosed within a bank of stone and turf. To the S. of the enclosure and along the hillside to the S. for half a mile are numerous mounds and hut circles.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of the Allt na Fearna Mor, and some 400 yards E. of the road, is a double hut circle. The circle on the W. is of the usual form, measuring 24' × 30', with entrance from the SE. apparently about 3' wide. It is at a slightly higher elevation than its neighbour. The second circle has been built against the first, the E. side of the former being the left side of the latter. Interiorly it measures 30' × 39', and has its entrance from the SE.

Some 40 yards S. is a double mounded construction which may possibly be a kiln. In the centre is a circular depression of about 6' diameter, flanked on either side by mounds of earth and stone about 20' in length and 13' broad across the base where widest. They are at highest about 3' 6" high above the centre of the depression, and lie N. and S. To the S. is a narrow passage about 2' wide, defined on one side by a single square-edged stone 2' 4" long and by two similar stones on the opposite side. Though the mounds are not continued across the back of the construction there seems to be the base of a wall in that position.

O.S.M., SUTH., ciii. (unnoted).

Visited, 22nd June 1909.

57. *Altassmore*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. E. of the Post-Office at Altassmore, on a piece of moorland about 150 yards S. of the road, is a group of four or five small circular mounds.

On the moor to the N. of Altassmore, and directly to the W.

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of the cultivated fields, are a considerable number of small mounds and the remains of a hut circle.

58. *Doir' a' Chatha*.—About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Altassmore, on the SW. slope of the Doir' a' Chatha, near the 700' level, and just above the enclosed land, is a large group of mounds and hut circles. Immediately above the most easterly of the crofts is a circle of the usual oval form, with the entrance from the SE. overgrown with heather. Near the upper side of the enclosed tract of moorland directly behind the eastmost croft is a hut circle measuring interiorly $23' \times$ (about) $27'$. The bank at the entrance has disappeared. Some eight mounds lie around.

About $40'$ SE. of the entrance to the circle, and with its convex side towards it, is a crescentic mound measuring $12'$ in thickness at the centre. It has a chord of $30'$ and a radius of $10'$.

Some $30'$ N. of the NW. end of the enclosed field behind the eastmost croft is a mounded construction overgrown with heather. It is oval in form, with its longest axis NW. and SE. measuring $19' \times 35'$. Externally it is from $1' 6''$ to $2'$ high. From the E. a narrow passage leads with a curve to the interior, gradually expanding to a width of $3' 7''$ at its termination— $9'$ from the outside, and sloping downwards till the floor level at the back is $2'$ deep. Two large stones with flat faces to the chamber form the back wall, the largest stone being $2'$ high and $2'$ across. The centre of this back wall is $19'$ from the SE. edge and $12'$ from the NW. The breadth of the mound behind it is $10'$.

O.S.M., SUTH., cii.

Visited, 30th June 1909.

59. *Coille Poll na h-Airde*.—In the Coille Poll na h-Airde, the wood which lies to the N. of Newton Point on the Dornoch Firth, are many hut circles and mounds.

Some 200 yards NE. of the pier is a hut circle of ordinary oval or pear-shaped form, with its entrance from the SE. measuring interiorly $39' \times 45'$. The entrance is some $7'$ across, but there is a tree stump in the middle of it rendering its original dimensions uncertain.

Some 30 yards NNW. of the last is a long low mound, overgrown with blaeberreries, lying NNW. and SSE., measuring $49' \times 15'$, and about $2'$ high. Its character is uncertain without excavation.

Some 50 yards E. of the hut circle is a mound lying E. and W., measuring $22' \times 15'$.

Another mound about 100 yards E. of the circle is circular, with a diameter of about $22'$.

The hut circle noted on the O.S. map about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NE. of the end of Newton Point is of the ordinary form, with its entrance from the SE. about $2'$ across. The interior measurement is $27' \times 31'$ and the bank is from $5'$ to $6'$ wide. A number of small round mounds lie in its vicinity.

On the N. side of the clearing, near the centre of the wood, is a mound lying N. and S., measuring $22' \times 12'$, and some $3'$ in height.

About 50 yards N. are the remains of a hut circle.

60. *Gablon*.—On the first ridge of Achany Moor, to the N. of the woods at Gablon, on the Ospisdale estate, is a group of about a dozen

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small mounds of the usual character. To the W. of the group, on the crest of a ridge between two ravines, are the remains of a hut circle of the usual oval form, with an entrance from the SE. The banks are so effaced as to make accurate measurement impossible.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxii.

Visited, 23rd July 1909.

61. *Allt nan Eun*.—On the W. side of the Allt nan Eun, to the N. of the road from Spinningdale to Migdale, are two circular enclosures, that nearest the burn measuring about 46' in interior diameter, the other, some 30 yards westward, 35' × 34'. Their entrances are uncertain. These constructions have probably been folds.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxi. (unnoted).

Visited, 23rd July 1909.

62. *Swordale, Bonarbridge*.—Some 300 yards S. of Ordan Farm, within the Swordale wood, and opposite the SE. corner of the arable land, is a hut circle, much effaced, with an entrance apparently from the SE. It seems to have been of the usual oval form. Some 30' E. are the dilapidated remains of another, probably circular, but now indefinite in outline.

A small group of mounds lies adjacent, and there are more in the wood towards the N.

On the W. side of the old crofter enclosure, near the deer fence, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SE. of Ordan, and S. of the old road to Little Swordale, is a small group of mounds and a much effaced hut circle of simple oval form.

Within the Clabran Salach, near its N. end, there appear to be other mounds, and there is a group of some half a dozen in the wood to the E. of the opening N. of it, about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. WNW. of Little Swordale.

Within the birch wood, W. of the tongue of arable land to the W. of Little Swordale, is a small group of mounds.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxi. (unnoted).

Visited, 27th July 1909.

63. *Do.*—Some 400 yards W. of Little Swordale, within the wood near the SW. point of a portion of the cultivated land which projects to the SW., is a hut circle of unusual character. It is formed of two circles, one within the other, but not concentric, the inner circle resting on the outer towards the ESE., and being some 19' distant from it at the WNW. Within this inner circle, and somewhat to the SE. of the centre, is a small circular foundation with ruined walls and a diameter over all of from 6' to 7', having an entrance from the SW. The wall of the inner circle has been composed entirely of stone, and is now a structureless mass 8' across. The entrance to the interior has been from the ESE., but the details are obscured by the ruins of the walls. The wall or bank of the outer circle is also entirely of stone, and in its present condition shows no sign of building; it is 13' to 14' across, and about 2' high. There is an entrance through it from the WNW. about 8' in width. For some 40' along the circumference on either side of the entrance to the inner circle the solid character of the outer wall or bank changes to a single line of contiguous stones set on end and from 1' to 2' high. There appear to be flanking walls running for some 45' outwards NE. and SSW. on both

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sides of the entrance to the inner circle, that on the SSW. being at its extremity some 12' distant from the outer circumference, and that on the NE. 22' distant. They appear to have been about 6' wide. Owing to the ruined state of the structure and the undergrowth of brackens and birch trees, the plan cannot be regarded as absolutely accurate, though drawn to scale as far as possible (fig. 8).

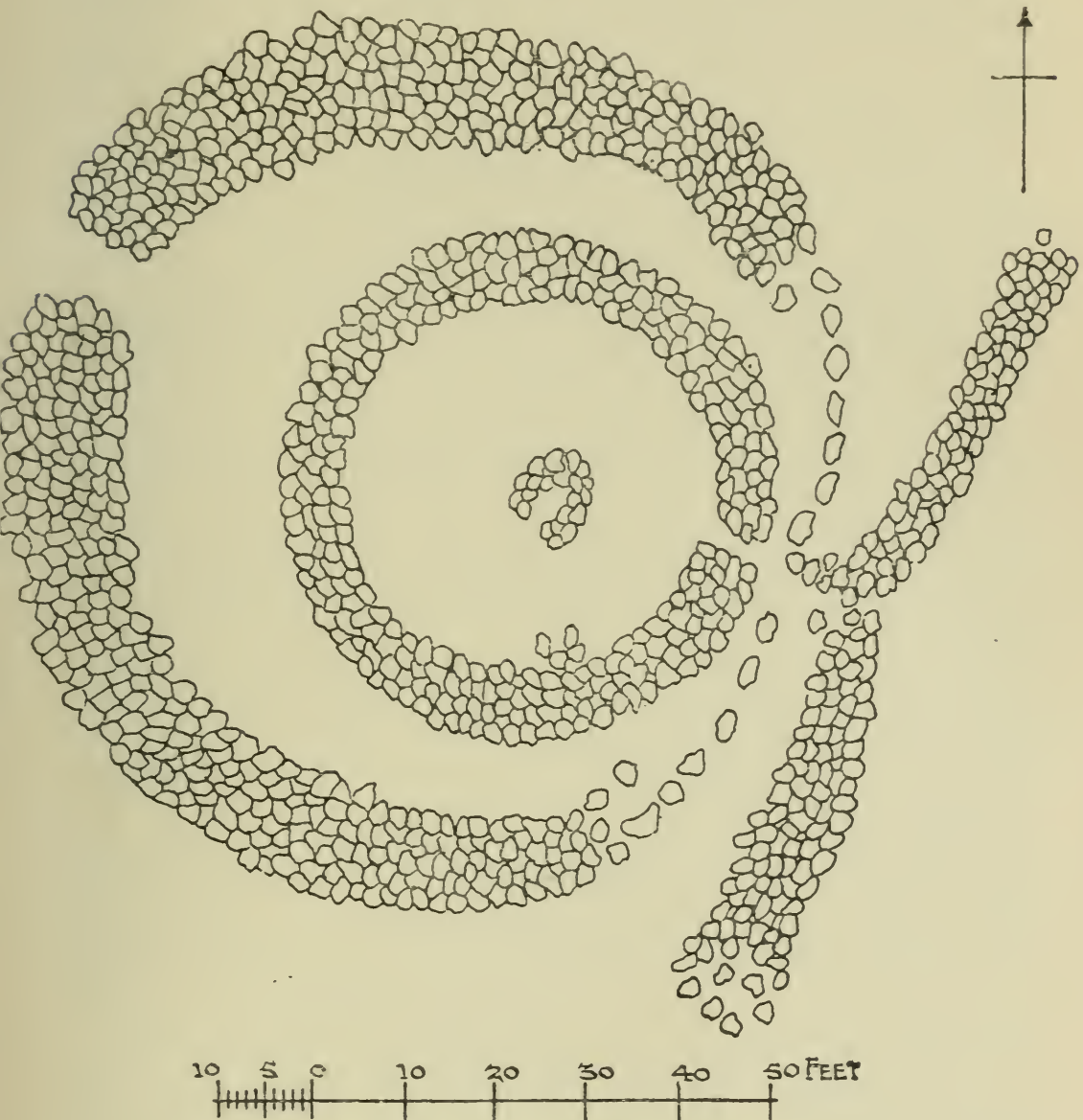


FIG. 8.—Hut Circle, Swordale (No. 63).

There are a few small mounds lying near. One to the S., about 40' distant, measures 22' across, and is composed of large stones uncovered with soil.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxi. (unnoted).

Visited, 27th July 1909.

64. *Creich*.—Within the wood to the N. of the NW. corner of the westmost of the upper cultivated fields above the Manse of Creich is a small group of seven or eight mounds of the usual character. One, situated about 80 yards NW. of the corner of the field, measures some 23' in diameter, and is about 3' 6" in height

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65. *Swordale Wood, Bonarbridge*.—In the portion of Swordale Wood which lies between the Market Park and the old road to Little Swordale lie a great number of heaps of earth and stone. They differ from the ordinary small mounds in not being circular or composed to the same extent of stones. In each case there is a depression on one side from which they seem to have been dug. In direction the greater number of them lie N. and S., though some lie E. and W. In length they vary generally from 4' or 5' to 15' or 16', though a very few are even longer. One is 23' in length by 8' to 9' broad; another 20' × 11'. A great number of them are about 11' long. The average breadth is from 4' to 7' and height from 1' to 2'.

66. *Market Park, Bonarbridge*.—At the SE. end of the SE. portion of the Market Park is a hut circle entered from the SE. through a bank about 6' wide. Its interior measurement is some 13' by 15'. A number of mounds of the usual class lie to the N. and NE. There is also a crescentic mound, which faces the N., with its back to the higher slope of the hill. The chord of the crescent measures 25', and the depth of its curve is 5'. The mound is 11' thick at centre, tapering to 6' at each end, and is 2' to 3' high.

In the portion of the park where the market is held are the remains of three hut circles, somewhat eroded, with the remains of mounds lying near.

Towards the centre of the SE. park is a circle measuring 26' × 29' 6", with its entrance from the SE., and showing indications of subdivision in the interior. About half a dozen small mounds lie near it.

67. *Migdale*.—Near the W. end of Loch Migdale is a hut circle. It is circular, with an interior diameter of about 28', and the entrance from the SE. about 3' across. The bank is some 6' wide, increasing to 8' 6" on either side of the entrance. An excavated small mound lies in rear of it.

To the S. of Culnara croft, between it and Loch Migdale, is a hut circle, much worn down. It appears to have been of the ordinary type.

To the W. of the miller's house, on the N. bank of Loch Migdale, are a number of small mounds.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxi.

Visited, 2nd August 1909.

68. *Do.*—To the N. of the Migdale crofts, close by the small reservoir on the Allt na h-Atha, and to the W. of it, is a group of about eight small mounds, the largest of which is some 18' in diameter and about 3' in height.

On a slight elevation at the N. end of the reservoir are two conjoined hut circles of simple oval form. The banks have been of turf, now much worn away, and the entrances from the SSE. The westmost enclosure measures interiorly 24' × 28'. Its entrance seems to have been about 2' 6" wide, and the bank some 5' across. The adjoining enclosure is larger, measuring 34' × 41'. The bank appears to have been about 7' thick. The width of the entrance is not now obtainable.

O.S.M., SUTH., cviii.

Visited, 4th October 1909.

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69. *The Tulloch, Bonarbridge.*—The Tulloch, and Druim Liath, which is a portion of it, are covered with stony mounds and hut circles. Of the former by far the greater number present features suggesting that they are the ruins of huts. Most of them are circular, with a diameter of 16', some are oblong, and some of the heaps are so long as to suggest that several huts have stood attached in a row. Among them here and there are conical mounds overgrown with vegetation, but these are much less numerous.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. E. of the school-house and a short distance to the E. of "Carn an fhithich" (No. 85) are a number of the supposed hut ruins. One heap of stones lying E. and W. measures 30' \times 17'. Adjacent to it, in the form of a crescent, is a long mound facing S., some 60' long by 20' wide at the centre. Near the top of the hill, towards the SW., are a few small overgrown mounds measuring from 12' to 16' in diameter. On the same part of the hill is an oval heap of stones measuring 20' \times 14'. The remains of old walls are visible among the ruins. In one instance a portion of wall is succeeded by two mounds about 15' apart, and 15' to 16' in diameter.

Some $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of the W. end of Loch Migdale are the ruins of a hut circle measuring interiorly 24' \times 20', with foundations of walls running from it. To the N. of it, some 40', is a heap of stones lying N. and S., measuring 40' \times 18', and showing marked depressions near the centre. Near by are a number of conical mounds overgrown with vegetation, some 12' in diameter, and about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' in height.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NNW. of the church is a well-marked hut ruin. It measures 16' in diameter over all, and the interior depression, which is clearly defined, about 7' in diameter. The entrance appears to have been from the SE. Some 80 yards NNW. of it are two small mounds some 18' in diameter, and 2' to 3' in height.

On the W. side of the road which crosses Druim Liath from N. to S., and towards the N. side of the hill, is a small circular enclosure measuring 12' in interior diameter. The entrance appears to have been from the W. Some 30 yards to the N. of it is a semicircular enclosure facing NW., measuring some 30' in diameter, with a bank about 9' thick. Opposite the end of the bank at the SE. is a low heap of stones about 14' in diameter.

On the N. side of Druim Liath, some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. NNE. of the Poorhouse, is a circular enclosure with an interior diameter of about 30'. The wall, which has been entirely broken down, has measured about 8' in thickness, and has been formed of boulders. On the E. side a bank projects 25' in length and 15' in breadth, probably flanking the entrance. What appear to be the ruins of one or two small circular huts lie near to the S. On the SE. flank of the hill are the remains, almost obliterated, of several hut circles of simple oval form.

Some 300 yards SW. of the last described circle is another of simple form, measuring interiorly 26' \times 32'. The entrance appears to have been from the E., but the circle is overgrown with whins, and the details are indefinite.

On the top of the hill, near its NW. end, are some large heaps of stone, probably ruins of contiguous huts. Two of these heaps measure 28' in length by 16' in width.

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On the top of Druim Liath, about 1 m. NE. of Bonarbridge, is a small hut circle measuring interiorly $20' \times 23'$, with its entrance from the SE. 2' wide through banks 5' thick.

Some 100 yards W. is a circular enclosure with an interior diameter of $33'$, surrounded by the ruins of a wall composed of rather small stones, in its present state from 7' to 8' broad. The entrance has probably been from the ESE., and been 3' wide. Against the wall in the interior, and slightly to the N. of a point opposite the entrance, are the ruins of a hut, similar in appearance to those all over the hill, measuring some $12' \times 14'$ (fig. 9).

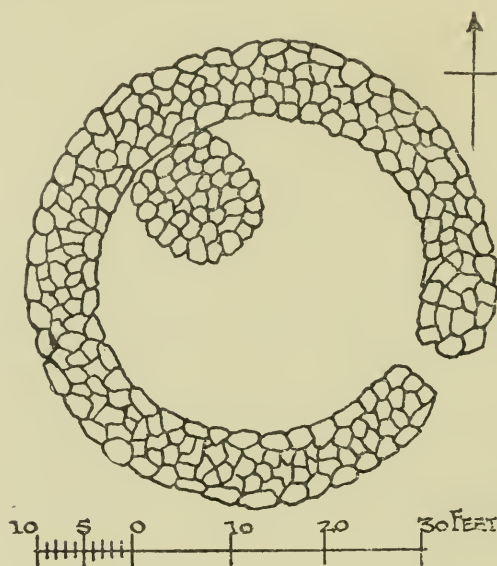


FIG. 9.—Hut Circle, Tulloch (No. 69).

Some 15' to the N. are the remains of another circular enclosure with an interior diameter of $38'$. The bank has been of stone and turf, the entrance from the ESE. about 9' wide.

At the extreme NW. end of Druim Liath is a group of small mounds, about six in number, conical in form, of some 17' in diameter, and from 2' 6" to 3' in height.

Some 100 yards N., on the N. slope of the hill, is a hut circle with an interior diameter of $21' \times 26'$; the entrance is from the E., and the surrounding bank of turf and stone is about 4' thick. Several small mounds lie adjacent; none, however, having the hut features.

At the W. end of the hill, some 120 yards N. of "Carn Liath," is a hut circle which has had an enclosing wall of stone 6' to 7' thick. The interior diameter is $28'$. The entrance is from the E., and is 3' wide. Around it are small mounds of from 15' to 18' in diameter, mostly covered with vegetation.

O.S.M., SUTH., cviii.

Visited, 2nd October 1909.

70. *Airdens, Bonarbridge*.—At Airdens, on a ridge some 80 yards SE. of the targets, are the remains of a hut circle having an interior diameter of $30'$, a bank 4' thick, and the entrance from the E.

About 150 yards N. of the targets is a group of about eighteen small mounds. One measures 24' in diameter, and from 4' to 5' in height. Several of them measure some 18' in diameter.

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71. *Garbh Leathad, Bonarbridge*.—To the E. of Garbh Leathad is a small group of mounds of from 18' to 20' in diameter, presenting the presumed hut features.

72. *Creagan Reamhar, Bonarbridge*.—At the S. end of Creagan Reamhar, about 400 yards N. of the croft of Druimban at Airdens, near the Peat Road, are two hut circles and a number of small mounds. The most westerly of the circles is of the simple oval form, being entered from the SE. through what appears to have been a wide entrance. Its interior dimensions are 26' × 31', and the enclosing bank is of stone and turf. The other enclosure, which lies to the E. of the Peat Road, is circular, with an interior diameter of some 30'. Its entrance is from the SE., and the bank is from 5' to 6' wide, formed of earth and stone. The level of the interior is slightly higher than that of the surrounding ground.

About 140 yards to the E. of the circle last described is a small group of about half a dozen mounds. The most westerly of the group measures about 15' in diameter, is about 1½' high, and has its outline defined by large stones. One of the mounds lying with its longest axis NNW. and SSE. measures 23' × 13', and is from 2' to 3' in height; the others are from 16' to 18' in diameter and some 3' in height.

O.S.M., SUTH., cviii.

Visited, 2nd October 1909.

73. *Badbeithe*.—Some 80 yards SSE. of the house occupied by Mr F. Campbell at Badbeithe, among the whins, is an enclosure with an interior diameter of some 30'. Its entrance, which is about 2' 6" in width, is from the SSE., through a bank some 5' to 6' in thickness.

Among the whins, about 100 yards to the NW., the remains of another circle are visible.

On the shoulder of the hill, behind the houses of Messrs Thomas and Alexander Murray at Badbeithe, are a few small mounds and a hut circle.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxi. (unnoted).

Visited, 4th October 1909.

74. *Achaidh*.—To the E. of the house of Mr John Murray, Cnoc Dubh, Achaidh, is a small group of four or five mounds, only two of which are clearly defined. These lie NW. and SE., and measure some 16' × 11'.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxii. (unnoted).

75. *Balblair Wood*.—On the slope of the hill, about ¼ m. E. of Invershin Station, is a small group of mounds of about 18' in diameter.

O.S.M., SUTH., cviii. (unnoted).

Visited, 5th October 1909.

76. *Maikle Wood*.—In the Maikle Wood, to the N. of the W. end of the cultivated land, are some half a dozen mounds, overgrown with vegetation, measuring from 18' to 20' in diameter; also the indefinite remains of a hut circle, through which a road passes running E. and W. Small mounds extend for some distance through the wood towards the W. and N.

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In the SE. corner of the wood, about 150 yards above the road, is a small group of ill-defined mounds.

O.S.M., SUTH., cviii. (unnoted).

Visited, 6th October 1909.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

77. *Cairns, Coille Poll na h-Airde*.—Some 300 yards S. of Red-house, and almost entirely overgrown with whins, are the remains of a cairn which appears to have been circular, with a diameter of about 57'. The interior and E. side at some remote period have been entirely removed.

The cairn at the Newton Point has been excavated and almost completely carted away for road metal.

78. *Cairn, etc., Black Wood*.—The cairn in the Black Wood, near the shore, has been almost entirely removed. There are two small mounds to the W. of it.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxii.

Visited, 14th July 1909.

79. *Cairn, Allt nan Eun*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Spinningdale Post-Office, on the E. of the Allt nan Eun, and some 30 yards back from the road, inside a wood, are the remains of a large circular cairn, much dilapidated and overgrown with grass. Its diameter has been about 60'. There is no indication of its character.

80. *Do., do.*—Some 40 yards to the NE. are the remains of another cairn, the interior of which has been almost entirely carted away. The diameter has been about 90', and the height on the SE. side is still about 12'. Near the centre a single large upright slab is exposed for a height of about 3', and suggests a chambered character, the direction of the chamber being apparently NNE. and SSW.

See *Antiquaries*, xliv., p. 104.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxii. (unnoted).

Visited, 23rd July 1909.

81. *Cairn, Achaidh*.—Near the edge of the wood, to the SE. of Achaidh, about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. N. of Rhivra, and some 30 yards from the road, is a cairn, elliptical in outline, and measuring 35' x 24', with its longest axis WNW. and ESE. It is only a foot or two in height, and is almost level on the top. Neither cist nor chamber is apparent, nor is it certain that the character of the remains is sepulchral.

82. *Chambered Cairn*.—*Do.*—Some 30 yards NE. of the last, and nearer the road, is another cairn, which has been excavated. Its general appearance suggests that it is of horned character, but this can only be definitely ascertained after the stones obscuring its outline have been cleared away. The diameter across the centre between the supposed horns from N. to S. is 53' and from E. to W. 50'. The horns appear to project for some 16' and to be some 20' broad at the base. In the centre of the E. or ESE. side the top of a large lintel stone *in situ*, 6' 4" long, is visible, apparently covering the entrance to the passage. At 12' inwards from this stone is another lintel stone, at the entrance to the chamber. It is triangular in section, 6' in length, 2' across the base, and 2' deep. It has originally rested on two jambs, 3' 1" and 2' 6" in length respectively, about 2' apart, and 4' high, but the jamb on the S. side being lower than that

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opposite, the height of the latter has been supplemented with stones. From this insecure bed the lintel has shifted somewhat. The main axis of the chamber is ESE. and WNW. It is almost rectangular in form, except at the back, where building fills the angles between the sides and the back slab. The extreme length is 8' 9", the extreme breadth 7'. The walls are formed of seven large slabs, two on either side of the chamber, one forming the back wall, and one on either side of the entrance to support the lintel. The spaces between the edges of the slabs are filled with well-laid horizontal building. The height of the chamber to the remaining portion of the overlapping roof is 6' 9" and to the point from which the roof begins to converge 4' 6". The height of the cairn, previous to excavation, was some 8'. The floor of the chamber is paved with flags over its greater extent, laid on the old natural surface. There were found, on excavation, the remains of a single unburnt interment, a short-tanged flint scraper, and a fragment, some 2" square, of darkish pottery, of fine texture, part of a round vessel with a slightly everted lip, ornamented with impressions of a finger nail. The flint and fragment of pottery are preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

See *Antiquaries*, xliv. p. 104 (illus.).

O.S.M., SUTH., cxi.

Visited, 23rd July 1909.

83. *Chambered Cairn, Kyleoag*.—About 200 yards NE. of Kyleoag, at the upper end of an open area in the wood, is a large cairn. Its exact outline is difficult to determine, but its diameter at right angles to a large triangular block, apparently a lintel, is 57', and across the supposed chamber in rear of it 50'. On the NW. and S. there are indications of projecting horns, but the growth of bracken and other vegetation obscures details. The horn towards the S. appears to project for about 10', and to be about 15' wide at base. On the E. a stone dyke has been built close to the cairn. At 10' in from the edge, on the S. side, lies a large block, triangular in section, 10' 6" in length, about 2' deep, and 1½' across. It lies ENE. and WSW., so that the chamber in rear of it probably lies NNW. and SSE. The cairn is about 12' high on the W. side.

Between 150 and 200 yards SE. of Kyleoag House, on the top of a slight ridge some 30' S. of the road from Spinningdale to Migdale, is a cairn entirely overgrown with long heather. It measures some 40' from N. to S. and 45' from E. to W., and in height it is from 8' to 10' high. Its character is not revealed.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxi.

Visited, 23rd July 1909.

84. *Chambered Cairn, Ledmore Wood*.—Just past the W. end of Ledmore Wood, and about 1 m. N. of the Dun of Creich, is a large cairn. Its diameter from N. to S. is some 47' and from E. to W. 52'. This appears to be a horned cairn. The horn projecting towards the NW. is quite distinct, the outline of stones being clearly visible. It appears to project about 10', and is about 17' broad at base. The horn to the SE. is indicated, but excavation is necessary to establish its existence. The diameter from the end of the NW. horn, across the cairn to the SE., is 65'. At 30' in from the W. side is a broad

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flat slab, standing erect, measuring 4' 4" across, and to the SW. of it the top of another protrudes at right angles. These are evidently parts of a chamber.

Against the cairn, towards the NE., are the foundations of a small rectangular construction.

Some 40 yards W. of the cairn is a low mound, with a depression in the centre of about 4' 6" diameter and 1' 3" in depth. The enclosing bank of stones, overgrown with turf, is 3' to 4' in thickness.

Along the open area above Ledmore Wood, at about the 500' elevation, towards the W. end of the wood, are a number of small mounds.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxi.

Visited, 27th July 1909.

85. "*Carn an fhitch*," *The Tulloch, Bonarbridge*.—On The Tulloch, $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of the schoolhouse, are the remains of "*Carn an fhitch*." The diameter is some 42' and the height about 5'. The cairn has been excavated, and one or two slabs, which have formed part of a cist, lie displaced among the stones. The O.S. 6" map indicates that two stone cists existed in it.

86. *Chambered Cairn*, "*Carn Liath*."—*Do.—Do.*—At the W. end of Druim Liath, and about 1 m. N. of Bonarbridge, is "*Carn Liath*." It has been excavated, and much of the stone removed, especially from the E. side inwards. The diameter is about 65', and the greatest height 9'. Certain large stones, set upright, suggest a chambered character. One at 19' from the E. edge probably indicates the commencement of the chamber, and the pointed head of a large boulder, set with its broad face to the E. at 42' inwards, seems to have formed the back.

O.S.M., SUTH., cviii.

Visited, 2nd October 1909.

87. "*Carn an Dwin*," *Creagan Reamhar*.—On the top of a slight eminence at the SW. end of Creagan Reamhar are the remains of what has probably been a cairn. The construction has to a great extent been removed, but appears to have measured 64' from N. to S. by 77' from E. to W. Two lines of large stones, set point upwards, are visible, one line marking the exterior limit of the cairn, the other some 12' within it on the N., 13' on the E., 5' on the S., and 16' on the W. The position in which the stones are placed weighs against the probability that this has been a broch, which the name suggests. It has been so pillaged that its true character is difficult to determine.

88. "*Carn Mor*," *Tulloch*.—On the croft of Mr Wm. MacKenzie at Tulloch, to the N. of Bonarbridge, and about 150 yards SSW. of his house, is a cairn, measuring some 60' in diameter and 6' in height, bearing the name of "*Carn Mor*" (unnoted).

O.S.M., SUTH., cxi.

Visited, 4th October 1909.

89. *Cairn*, *Maikle*.—On the farm of Maikle, about 200 yards NNW. of the farm buildings, are the remains of a large cairn. It appears to have measured some 70' in diameter; but about one-third of it, on the E. side, has been removed. The remainder is from 10' to 12' high. There are no signs of a chamber or cist exposed. A short cist, con-

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taining a cinerary urn and a bronze blade, was found in the cairn in 1853.

See *Antiquaries*, x. p. 432 (relic illus.).

O.S.M., SUTH, cviii.

Visited, 6th October 1909.

90. *Chambered Cairn (remains of), Invershin.*—On the top of a low oak-clad knoll, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of Invershin Station, and some 30 yards E. of the road, are a number of large slabs which have formed part of the walls of the megalithic chamber of a cairn. The chamber seems to have been undivided, measuring 13' in length by 7' in breadth, and to have been entered from the S. Seven slabs remain, two on each side, one at the back, and two low portal stones at the entrance. The most southerly of the two stones on the W. side has fallen, the others are *in situ*. All trace of the outline of the cairn has disappeared, but the chamber is still partially filled with stones.

O.S.M., SUTH., cviii. (unnoted).

Visited, 5th October 1909.

91. *Stone Circle, Auchinduich.*—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. due E. of the road from Lairg to Bonarbridge, and nearly the same distance NE. of the



FIG. 10.—Stone Circle, Auchinduich (No. 91).

shepherd's cottage at Auchinduich, are the remains of a stone circle. It has consisted of an outer and an inner circle. Of the outer circle five consecutive stones remain from NE. to SSW., while those towards the E. and S. have been removed. The stones have been set with their broad faces at right angles to the line of circumference. The largest stone—that at the NE.—is 4' high above ground, 3' wide at base, and about 1' thick; it has a sharp edge to the interior of the circle, and slightly tapers to the top. Counting from NE. to S. by W., No. 2 is a similar stone to No. 1, 3' across, 4' high, and nearly 2' thick. It is 8' distant from No. 1. No. 3 is 11' distant from No. 2, is slightly tilted to the NE., measures 3' wide, is exposed for a height of 3' 8", and is about 1' thick. No. 4 is 10' distant from No. 3, is 3' broad, 3' 4" high, and some 1' 2" thick at centre. No. 5, 6' distant, is a rectangular block some 3' 1" in height, and 1' 3" by 1' in thickness. The diameter of the circle has been about 28'.

Of the inner circle only three stones remain, about 5' distant from the outer circumference, approximately concentric with it, and within the existing arc. The most southerly stone is situated N. by W. of

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the most southerly stone of the outer circle (No. 5), and is a stone of similar character. It is a tall block, rectangular in section, measuring 1' 4" × 8", with its broad face at right angles to the line of the circumference, and is 3' high. It has evidently been interfered with and recently propped up. No. 2 northwards has been similarly set, but is tilted over. It is exposed for a length of 2' 4", measures 1' 3" across and 6" in thickness. It is about 4' distant from No. 1. No. 3 is a broad flat-pointed slab, set with its face in line of the circumference. It measures 2' 6" across the base, 7" in thickness, and is exposed for 1' 10". It stands about 4' distant from No. 2. There is a depression in the centre, as if the interior had been excavated, and a slight mound on the E. side tends to confirm this (fig. 10).

There are no mounds or hut circles immediately near, though they occur on the slope of the hill nearer the road.

O.S.M., SUTH., ciii. (unnoted).

Visited, 2nd July 1909.

92. *Stone Circle (supposed), Linsidemore.*—At Linsidemore, on a croft near the middle of the township, and some 40 yards N. of the high road, is a natural gravel mound, encircling which, at a few feet above its base, is a setting of stones, which seems to be the remains of a continuous circle, the stones of which appear to have been set contiguously. Two or three pointed stones remain set with their broad faces in line of the circumference, but the majority are boulders. The two largest stones remaining *in situ* measure 3' 10" × 2' 10" and 3' × 2' 10" respectively. A quadrangular block, about 2' high, placed in the centre of the circle, does not appear to be *in situ*. From the NE., running round by E. to SW., are the remains of an outer circle of boulders which seem to converge with the inner circle towards the NE. The elevation of the centre of the inner circle suggests that a small cairn may have existed there, while a depression seems to indicate that this has been excavated. The diameter of the inner circle is from 40' to 43', and the outer circle seems to have been some 6' distant from it. The exact character of the construction is not quite evident, owing to interference due to the cultivation of the land in which it stands.

O.S.M., SUTH., cii. (unnoted).

Visited, 5th October 1909.

MISCELLANEOUS.

93. *Sculptured Cross, Tutim.*—In the NW. corner of the old graveyard which stands on the top of a bank some 300 to 400 yards E. of the shepherd's house at Tutim, in Strath Oykeil, is a slab covering a modern grave. It is of the native schist, 4' long by 1' 7" broad, and has incised on its surface a plain long-shafted Celtic cross, with the arms expanded to the extremities and the angles at the intersections hollowed. The ends of the arms are straight, and the base of the stem is rounded. The full length of the cross is 3', the breadth across the arms 1' 6", and the width of the shaft 5"; the arms are 8" in length, and expand from 4" to 5" in breadth.

O.S.M., SUTH., ci.

Visited, 30th June 1909.

94. *Do., Creich.*—In the churchyard at Creich, about 50' SSE. of the SE. corner of the Parish Church, is a recumbent slab, 6' long,

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2' 10" broad at its W. end, and 1' 8" at the E. Incised on the surface is a Latin cross set on a graduated base measuring 5' in length over all and 1' 6" across the arms. The breadth of the shaft is 4". The upper arm is pointed symmetrically at its termination and the side arms obliquely. An inscription, now undecipherable, runs round the upper edge of the slab.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxi.

Visited, 4th October 1909.

95. *Do., Creich*.—Some 40 yards SE. of Creich Church is a rough unhewn block, with a long-shafted Celtic cross incised on the NE. face of it. The slab stands 6' 10" above ground, and is 2' wide. The cross is 4' 3" long; the upper arm 10" across, the side arms 9", the stem 9". At 1' 7" from base it contracts to 7", and again swells out at the foot so as to form a base 4" deep. The angles are hollowed and rounded. The stone is known locally as "St Demhan's Cross" (fig. 11).

See *Stat. Acct.*, viii. p. 372.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxi.

Visited, 8th July 1909.

96. *Standing-Stone, Invershin Mains*.—In a cultivated field at Invershin Mains, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Inveran Inn, and 100 yards W. of the high road, is a standing-stone. It faces N. and S., is quadrangular in section, measuring 5' 5" in height above ground, 2' 6" in breadth at base, and 1' 5" near the upper end, and 1' 4" in thickness. Some 4' to the S. of it a stone, 5' in length and 7" to 8" in thickness, hog-backed in form, protrudes to a height of about 1' from the ground.

O.S.M., SUTH., cvii. (unnoted).

Visited, 5th October 1909.

97. *Standing-Stone, "Clach á Charra," Ospisdale*.—On the roadside near Ospisdale House is a tall pointed monolith standing 11' 2" above ground. It is quadrangular in section, the sides measuring 20", 22", 17", and 11" respectively. The S. face is flat and smooth, and 5' above the ground a hole, $1\frac{1}{4}$ " across and $1\frac{3}{4}$ " deep, has been drilled into it about 1" E. of the centre. It is called "Clach á Charra."

O.S.M., SUTH., cxii.

Visited, 8th July 1909.

98. *Construction (remains of), Swordale, Bonarbridge*.—Within Swordale Wood, at the edge of the cultivated land and on the E. of the tongue that projects towards the SSW., about 270 yards W. of Little Swordale, is a great triangular mass of stones, with a slight

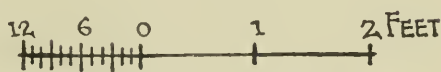
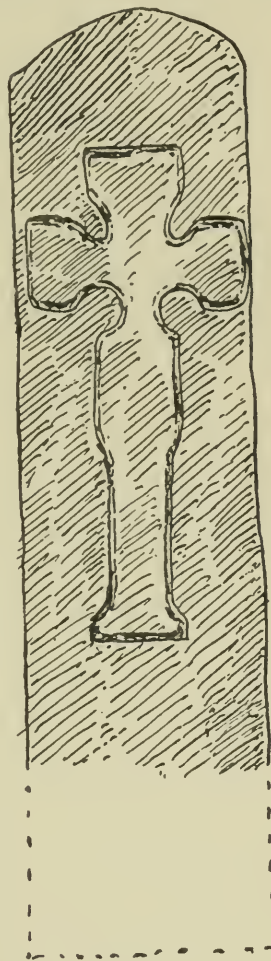


FIG. 11.—Sculptured Cross, Creich (No. 95).

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concave outline to the NE. It is 50' in length and 46' across the front facing NE. It is flat on the top, and about 4' high. In front of it are irregular indefinite foundations of walls. This mass of boulders seems too huge to have been formed of stones merely gathered from the adjacent fields, unless these were thickly strewn with cairns, and it does not resemble any known construction.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxi. (unnoted).

Visited, 27th July 1909.

99. *Iron Smelting (remains of), Auchinduich.*—On the right bank of the Allt an Raidhe Dhorcha, a short distance E. of the railway, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. S. of Auchinduich Lodge, is a heap of iron slag, measuring 30' across and 4' in height.

O.S.M., SUTH., ci. (unnoted).

Visited, 2nd July 1909.

SITES.

100. *Invershin Castle or Duffus Castle.*—The Castle of Invershin or Duffus, situated on the E. side of the Kyle of Sutherland, some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. to the S. of Inveran Inn, has almost entirely disappeared. The mound on which it was placed stands on the bank above the Kyle, and is some 14' in height on the landward side. It has been surrounded by a ditch.

O.S.M., SUTH., cvii.

Visited, 5th October 1909.

101. *Islet, Loch Migdale.*—At the W. end of Loch Migdale, some 60 yards from the shore, is an islet, which appears to be artificial. It is formed of boulders laid on a sub-aqueous ridge of clay, and is some 63' in diameter. The loch is shallow towards the landward side at the W., but deep on the other sides. The islet is said to have been a place of occupation in 1630.

See Gordon, p. 5; Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, ii. p. 545.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxi.

Visited, 2nd August 1909.

PARISH OF DORNOCH.

ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

102. *Dornoch Cathedral.*—The Cathedral, said to have been erected by Bishop Gilbert in the first half of the 13th century, was burned by the Master of Caithness and Mackay of Strathnaver in 1570, and the ruin was further destroyed by a gale in 1605. A certain amount of restoration was undertaken about the year 1616; otherwise the structure remained in a ruinous condition until 1835–37, when it was rebuilt from the foundation, with the exception of the central tower, resting on lancet arches springing from shafted pillars, the old windows being more or less preserved. A large pointed five-light window, with unfoliated intersecting tracery, occupies the W. wall of the nave. There is a piscina on the S. side of the chancel, with continuous mouldings. Cordiner gives a plate showing a part of the ruins as they existed towards the end of the 18th century.

See *Trans. Aberdeen Eccles. Soc.*, 1891, p. 31 (illus.); *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, ii. p. 336; Neale's *Eccles. Notes*, p. 66; Gordon, pp. 31,

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156, 255, and 309; Cordiner's *Ruins*, ii. (illus.); Pennant (1769), pp. 187, 359; Pococke, p. 168; *Agriculture of Sutherland*, p. 167 (illus.).

103. *Recumbent Effigy*.—At the W. end of the nave lie the mutilated remains of a recumbent effigy on the top of a sarcophagus, said by Sir Robert Gordon to be that of Richard Murray, a brother of Bishop Gilbert, slain at the battle of Embo. The figure is shown as clad in chain mail, covered with a surcoat having a bordered edge at the neck and arm holes. The head of the figure, resting on a small square cushion, is detached. The upper part of it is broken off and the features effaced. The arms are gone, also the lower half of one of the legs and part of the remaining foot. There has apparently been a shield resting on the left breast, and the knight has been girt with his sword. The legs have been crossed, and have rested on the back of a lion. The full length of the figure is 6' 11". The sarcophagus is 7' long, 1' 4" high, 1' 11" wide at the head and 1' 6" at the foot. The cushion projects 7" beyond the top of the sarcophagus.

See *Origines*, ii. pt. ii. p. 624; Gordon, p. 33; Pennant (1769), p. 359.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxiii.

Visited, 6th July 1909.

CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

104. *Bishop's Palace, Dornoch*.—Opposite the Cathedral at Dornoch stand the remains of the Bishop's Palace. Like the Cathedral, it was destroyed in 1570, and after lying in ruins was partially restored in the beginning of the 19th century for use as a County Court House and Jail. At the NW. corner is a lofty tower having angle bartizans and crow-stepped gables, with a round stair turret containing the entrance filling the angle between it and a modernised wing.

See *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, ii. p. 336 (illus.); *Origines*, ii. pt. ii. p. 647.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxiii.

Visited, 6th July 1909.

105. *Skelbo Castle*.—Skelbo Castle occupies an imposing site overlooking Loch Fleet, at the edge of a high bank. The castle is a complete ruin, and of the N. wall only does any considerable portion remain. It has occupied the NW. corner of a walled enclosure, and has been a rectangular structure measuring interiorly 43' from E. to W. and 29' 6" from N. to S., with walls 4' 9" in thickness. The wall of the enclosure, which is 4' 6" in thickness, in great measure remains standing. Abutting on the SW. end of the castle has been a range of buildings, now completely ruined. The castle formerly belonged to the family of Sutherland of Duffus.

See *Origines*, ii. pt. ii. p. 646.

O.S.M., SUTH., cx.

Visited, 12th July 1909.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

106. *Broch, Skelbo Wood*.—Near the centre of Skelbo Wood, on a low knoll to the E. of the path which crosses the wood from N. to S., on a situation commanding an extensive view of Loch Fleet and the adjacent shore, are the remains of a broch. It is now a structureless mass of ruins, in great measure covered with grass and planted over with trees. Neither face of the wall is visible. The diameter over

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all appears to be about 60'. At about 17' distant from its base the broch has been surrounded by a rampart or wall, now entirely overgrown. Towards the NE. the wall has receded further from the broch, and an enclosure has been formed, 37' long by 20' wide, by walls crossing the interspace. To the E. of this enclosure a break in the rampart, and the levelling up of the hollow in rear of it, suggest the position of the entrance to the broch.

O.S.M., SUTH., ex.

Visited, 12th July 1909.

107. *Broch, Brae*.—On the left bank of the Allt Lochan Ianan Bhuidhe, $\frac{1}{4}$ m. above its junction with the Carnaig River, are the ruins of a broch. The situation is near the base of the hill, on the top of a bank whence the ground slopes sharply to the flat land by the river. The broch now occupies the upper end of a large walled enclosure. It is a complete ruin, and has been greatly pillaged. The interior diameter is 27'. The greatest height of walling visible in the interior is about 5', and externally the wall is reduced to the foundation. The position of the entrance is uncertain, but it appears to have been from the WSW. The thickness of the wall at that point is 19', while on the ENE. it is 14'. A large circular enclosure abuts on the broch towards the ENE.

O.S.M., SUTH., civ.

Visited, 12th August 1909.

108. *Fortified Enclosure, Dalnamain*.—On an isolated hillock at the E. end of the birch wood, on the S. side of the road up Strath Carnaig, opposite Dalnamain, are the remains of a fortified enclosure. The hillock rises to a height of some 40' from its base. On the summit is an oval enclosure measuring some 78' from E. to W. by 42' from N. to S. A portion of the wall remains to a height of about 2' at the E. end, and is about 8' broad. This wall has been encircled by another from 12' to 15' distant at the edge of the summit towards the E. and along the slope on the flanks. At the W. end these walls probably converged, but there the remains are very indistinct. Entirely surrounding the hillock at its base are the foundations of an outer defence, from 6' to 8' thick, 110' distant from the second line at the W. end and 98' at the E., supplemented on the N. by a trench some 6' deep below the top of the rampart and some 8' to 12' wide. The only break in this bank or rampart is one of 3' in width at the W., from which to the central enclosure there is an approach up an easy slope. The entrance to the main enclosure is not apparent, but has probably been from the E. end. The foundations of the walls are stony, and appear to be built, but there is hardly sufficient débris to indicate that the walls were entirely of stone.

O.S.M., SUTH., civ. (unnoted).

Visited, 3rd September 1909.

HUT CIRCLES, AND ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS.

109. *Cnoc Odhar*.—Some 20' to the N. of the cairn on the E. end of Cnoc Odhar (No. 132) are the remains of a hut circle, partially demolished, and the site of another about 50' W. of it. Both appear to have been of the simple oval form. There are a few small mounds in their neighbourhood, but the hill at this part is overgrown with whins, and they are difficult to find.

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110. *Creag an Amalaidh*.—About $\frac{1}{3}$ m. WSW. of Cambusmore Lodge, on the upper side of the road to Achinael, is a group of about a dozen mounds of the usual small circular type. One, however, is sub-oval, measuring $22' \times 12'$, with its longest axis NE. and SW.

111. *Do.*—Some 150 yards NW. of the cairn on *Creag an Amalaidh* (No. 133) is a hut circle of unusual form. The main enclosure is sub-oval in form, and is $37'$ in length. A slight constriction near the middle divides it into two compartments, that at the N. measuring $19'$ across and that at the S. $12'$. The entrance is by a passage $10'$ long and $2'$ wide leading into the larger compartment at its SW. end. The wall of the smaller compartment where it bounds the passage takes the form of a mound of earth and stone $7'$ in width. On the opposite or W. side the passage is flanked by a small circular compartment, of about $4'$ interior diameter, entering $7'$ from the exterior through a passage about $3'$ long. Abutting on

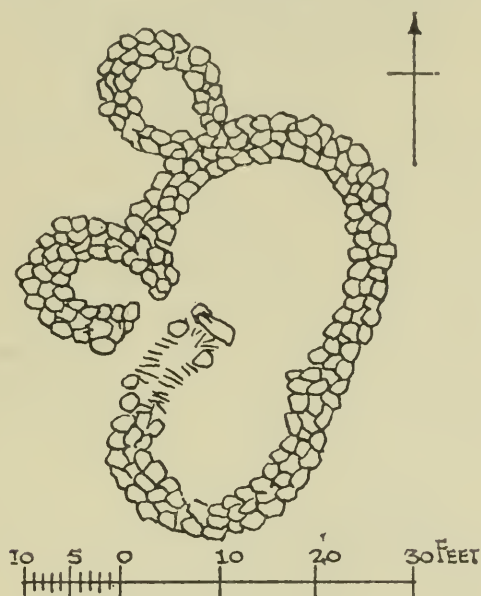


FIG. 12.—Hut Circle, *Creag an Amalaidh* (No. 111).

the outer main wall towards the NW. is a small circular compartment with an interior diameter of about $6' 6''$. The walls of the structure have been formed entirely of undressed stone, built without mortar, about $4' 6''$ in thickness except, as above mentioned, on the side of the entrance. They are almost completely ruined (fig. 12).

112. *Do.*—Some 200 yards WNW. of the cairn on *Creag an Amalaidh* (No. 133) is a circular dry-built enclosure, with a wall of $13'$ in thickness, of large undressed stones. The entrance is from the NW. through a passage $18'$ in length and $1' 6''$ in width, to contain which the wall has been thickened to that extent along the circumference for $10'$ towards the E. and $9'$ towards the W. On the SW. of the interior is a round recess in the thickness of the wall, $4'$ across and $4'$ deep, and to the right of the entrance another, $4'$ deep and $3'$ across, with signs of another, similar in situation and dimension, on the opposite side. To the N. side of the centre of the interior is a built hearth of stone, of about $3'$ interior diameter, partially enclosed by a wall still at the back about $1' 6''$ high. The wall enclosing the

PARISH OF DORNOCH.

whole structure is at most 2' high. The interior is overgrown with bracken (fig. 13).

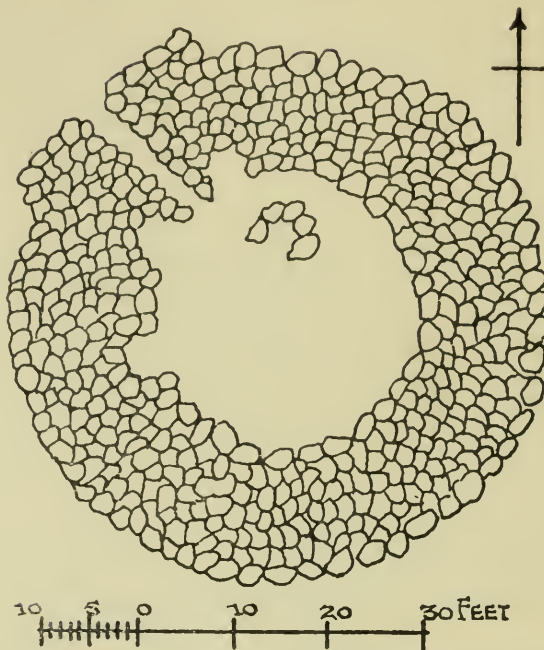


FIG. 13.—Hut Circle, Creag an Amalaidh (No. 112).

113. *Do.*—Some 100 yards W. of the last is another similar construction, with two well-defined circular recesses in the thickness of the wall. The interior diameter is about 25'. The thickness of the wall is about 13', expanding gradually to 21' on either side of the entrance. The details of the interior of the structure are difficult to determine.

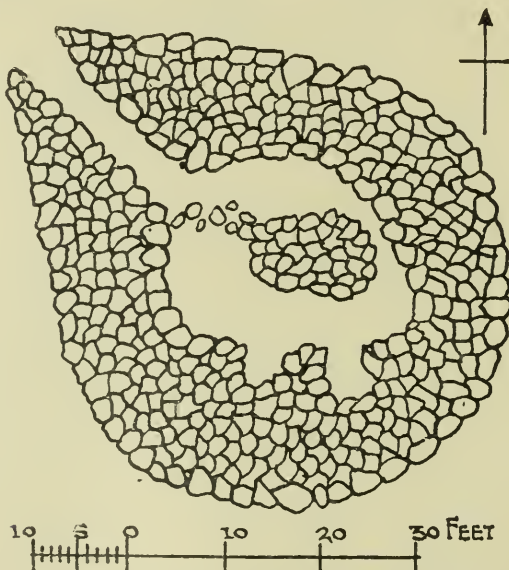


FIG. 14.—Hut Circle, Creag an Amalaidh (No. 113).

From the end of the entrance a bed of stones extends into the interior towards the SE., expanding from about 5' to 9' across, with a length of about 18'. The E. side of this bed is 2' distant from the interior wall opposite, and it appears to divide the structure into two main compartments. In the thickness of the wall, at the S. of the

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interior, are the two semicircular recesses: that at the E. side some 4' to 5' in diameter, and that towards the W. some 3' to 4'. The entrance is from the NW. (fig. 14).

114. *Do.*—Some 50 yards E. of the last is a ruined structure, the wall of which, about 8' in thickness, is formed of boulders. Its total length is 46', and its main features are a circular enclosure at either end, joined by connecting walls. It lies N. and S. The enclosure at the N. end measures 15' 6" across by 13' in length interiorly: that at the S. 10' × 11' 6", the remaining portion being about 8' wide and apparently divided into compartments. There is an outer enclosure abutting on it at the NW., some 18' in length, and expanding from 4' at the N. end to 8' at the W., with an entrance from the S. The entrance to the main structure appears to have been from the SE., but its details are obscure.

115. *Do.*—Some 40 yards W. of the last is a hut circle of about 26' interior diameter, with an entrance about 3' wide from the W. The wall, which is of stone, is about 6' thick, expanding to 10' on either side of the entrance.

116. *Do.*—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NW. of the large cairn on Creag an Amalaidh is a hut circle, with a wall 7' across formed of boulders.

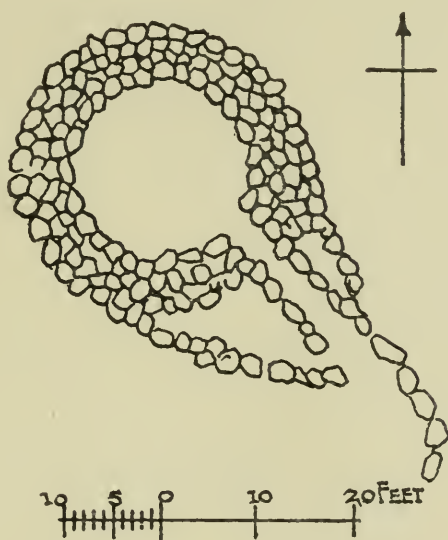


FIG. 15.—Hut Circle, Creag an Amalaidh (No. 116).

The interior, which is circular, is about 18' in diameter. The entrance is from the SE. through a passage 20' in length and 1' 4" wide. It is flanked on the W. side by a chamber entering off the passage near its outer end about 18' in length. The wall on the E. side is prolonged beyond the termination of the passage for an indefinite distance winding down the hillside (fig. 15).

117. *Do.*—About 300 yards SE. of Achinael Cottage, on the upper side of the road, is a hut circle of stone, with a wall about 7' thick, increasing to 10' at either side of the entrance. The interior diameter is 25', and the entrance is from the NE. Several small rounded recesses are apparent in the interior face of the wall.

118. *Do.*—To the N. of Achinael Cottage some 300 yards is a

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hut circle, a circular enclosure with an entrance 5' wide, and a large group of mounds of the ordinary low circular type.

O.S.M., SUTH., cix.

Visited, 7th July 1909.

119. *Achvaich, Strath Ach a' Bhathaich*.—On the E. side of Strath Ach a' Bhathaich, nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of the confluence of the Ach Vaich Burn and the River Evelix, on the SW. slope of the hill, is a small scattered group of mounds. On a slight eminence is a hut circle of the simple oval form, with entrance from the S., but its outline is too indefinite for accurate measurement.

Some 60 yards to the NNW. of it is a low artificial mound, oval or kidney-shaped. On the top is an enclosure 13' long by 9' wide, with an entrance from the SE. about 1' 10" wide. The thickness of the enclosing bank is about 5'.

O.S.M., SUTH., cix.

Visited, 10th July 1909.

120. *Dalchiel*.—At Dalchiel near Fleuchary, 3 m. ENE. of Dornoch, on a piece of waste land between the road and the River Evelix, is a small mound with traces of circular enclosures in its vicinity.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxii.

Visited, 10th July 1909.

121. *Camore Wood*.—Some 300 yards SE. of the cairn (No. 141), near the centre of Camore Wood, at the edge of a clearing, is a hut circle. It measures interiorly 30' \times 34', with its entrance from the SE. The enclosing bank has been from 5' 6" to 6' in thickness, except at the entrance, where it projects outward on either side so as to form a passage 10' or 11' in length. The present width of this passage is 9', but a tree has been planted in the centre of it, and it appears to have been in part dug out.

On the top of a knoll some 300 yards S. is a circular enclosure of 28' interior diameter, surrounded by a bank some 6' thick. The entrance is from the NE., and is 6' wide. The interior has been hollowed out to some extent, and its level in the centre is about 3' below that of the top of the bank.

There are several small mounds and remains of a few simple oval hut circles about the wood at this part, but the undergrowth of heather and the planting have obscured the details. Four of the enclosures in the E. half of the wood, noted on the O.S. map as hut circles, have more the appearance of cattle enclosures. Interiorly they measure some 40' in diameter. The banks are some 5' in thickness, and the entrances from various directions are from 7' to 8' wide.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxiii.

Visited, 13th July 1909.

122. *Clashmore Wood*.—About 1 m. NW. of the factor's office at Clashmore, on the N. side of the track through Clashmore Wood and some 100 yards NW. of the cairn (No. 144), is a hut circle, with its entrance from the SSE., measuring interiorly 33' 6" \times 35' 6". The encircling bank is some 6' wide, broadening gradually for a distance of about 17' as it approaches the entrance on either side to a width of 13' 6". There are indications of the existence of a chamber on the W. side of the passage. A tree planted on the E. side prevents the width of the passage being ascertained.

A number of well-preserved small mounds lie around, one actually

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abutting on the bank towards the E. Some 50 yards NW. is a conspicuous mound measuring 20' in diameter and some 3' in height.

Through the wood to the NW. are a number of other mounds.

The O.S. map indicates a hut circle in the wood about $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. WNW. of the factor's office at Clashmore.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxii. (unnoted).

Visited, 20th July 1909.

123. *Astle*.—Up the Crask and along the ridge which runs towards the SE., at an elevation of from 400' to 500' above the sea, are numerous mounds, hut circles, etc., and indistinct remains of ancient walls.

Some 400 yards NW. of the westmost cottage in Astle are two circular enclosures almost contiguous. That to the W. is of the usual oval form of hut circle, with entrance from the SSE. It measures interiorly 36' \times 38'. The bank is 7' 6" thick, and gradually widens towards the entrance, where it measures 14' 6" along the line of the passage. The entrance appears to be about 1' 4" wide. The slope of the hill is towards the entrance, and the back of the enclosure has been excavated so as to render the floor level. There is little sign of the bank on the upper side.

The enclosure adjacent is 9' 6" distant. It is circular, with an interior diameter of about 43', and has the entrance from the SSE. about 5' wide. The bank, which is much broken, appears to have been about 7' thick. Some half a dozen mounds lie in the immediate neighbourhood of these enclosures.

Some 400 yards NNE. of the westmost house at Astle are the ruins of a circular enclosure. It is slightly pear-shaped in form, measuring about 31' 6" \times 35', with the main entrance probably from the NE. The wall has been composed largely of stone, and has evidently been higher than that of the ordinary hut circle. The interior appears to have been divided into three main compartments by stone walls. At about 14' 6" from the E. end the base of a wall, some 8' thick, crosses it from N. to S., and is joined by a wall, about 5' 6" wide, running inward from the N. side of the entrance. The compartment formed on the S. appears to have measured some 9' \times 10', and that on the N. is somewhat less. The wall appears to have been from 7' to 8' thick. Owing to the amount of stone in the interior from the ruined wall the details are obscured. There are indications of separate entrances through the wall into each chamber. There are no mounds in the immediate vicinity.

O.S.M., SUTH., cix. (unnoted).

Visited, 20th July 1909.

124. *Harriet Plantation*.—On the W. side of the westmost of the two tracks which enter the Harriet Plantation from the S., and some 200 yards N. of the road past Birichin, is a small circular enclosure, surrounded by the base of a wall, outlined on both faces with boulders. The walls are 3' 6" thick, the interior about 3' diameter; and the entrance from the S. is through a passage 3' long and 1' 1" to 1' 4" wide.

O.S.M., SUTH., cix. (unnoted).

Visited, 12th July 1909.

125. *Torboll*.—On the S. face of the hill, about 1 m. W. of Torboll, and $\frac{1}{3}$ m. N. of the River Carnaig, are a number of mounds rather larger

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than usual. One measures $30' \times 16'$, is irregular in outline, and is formed of very small as well as very large stones. Near by is a hut circle of simple oval form, with its entrance from the SE., and its longest axis in the same direction, measuring interiorly $26' \times 32'$. It is overgrown with heather. The enclosing bank is about 8' thick. Some 40' N. is another, also entering from the SE., measuring interiorly $11' \times 17'$.

Some 300 yards to the N., higher up the hill, about the 500' elevation, is another large group of small mounds, with a small hut circle to the S. of the group. The inner face of the bank of this circle appears to have been faced with stone. The entrance has been from the SE., but its dimensions are indefinite. The interior diameter is $5' \times 8'$. The bank is 6' across. Numerous small mounds lie to the NNW., mostly circular, measuring about 18' in diameter, and 3' 6" to 4' in height.

Immediately to the N. of "Carn Liath" (No. 134) is another group of small mounds and a hut circle. The latter measures $8' \times 12'$, and is enclosed by a bank 6' thick. The entrance appears to have been from the NW., and to have been narrow. On the S. the bank projects for 7', so as to flank it.

Some 200 yards NW. of "Carn Liath" is a mound, with a diameter of 37', and height from 3' to 3' 6".

Some 40' W. of it is a circular enclosure, with interior diameter of about 25', and an entrance from the NW. about 7' across. There are also indications of a narrow entrance from the SE. and of other details flanking it. In front, to the NW. of this enclosure, is a low oblong mound lying SE. and NW., 38' long, 13' broad at the SE. end, and 16' at the NW.

126. *Do.*—Some 200 yards S. of the large cairn below Craig a' Bhlair, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NW. of "Carn Liath," is a well-defined circular enclosure, with walls of stone about 6' thick, faced towards the interior with flat-sided boulders set contiguously. The interior diameter is 37'. The entrance is from the SE., through a passage 10' 6" long on the W. side and 7' on the E. Entering from the passage on the W. side, at about 4' from the exterior, through an opening 1' to 1' 3" wide, is a triangular chamber 10' long and 4' to 4' 6" wide. In the interior, to the E. of the entrance, is a small enclosure set off with boulders abutting on the wall, measuring interiorly 4' long by 3' wide. From the S. side of the circle an old ruined wall runs S. for a few yards, and then curves away eastwards round the flank of the hill (fig. 16).

O.S.M., SUTH., civ.

Visited, 9th July 1909.

127. *Do.*—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. above Torboll waterfall, and some 150 yards WNW. of the large cairn (No. 136), are the remains of a circular construction, of some 30' interior diameter, which appears to have had secondary rectangular erections in the interior.

Some 60 yards W. of the large cairn is a small oval mound, measuring some $17' \times 8'$, with its longest axis NW. and SE.; and a few feet to the NW. of it is a natural hillock, with a small circular mound of some 16' diameter, probably artificial, on the top of it.

O.S.M., SUTH., civ. (unnoted).

Visited, 12th August 1909.

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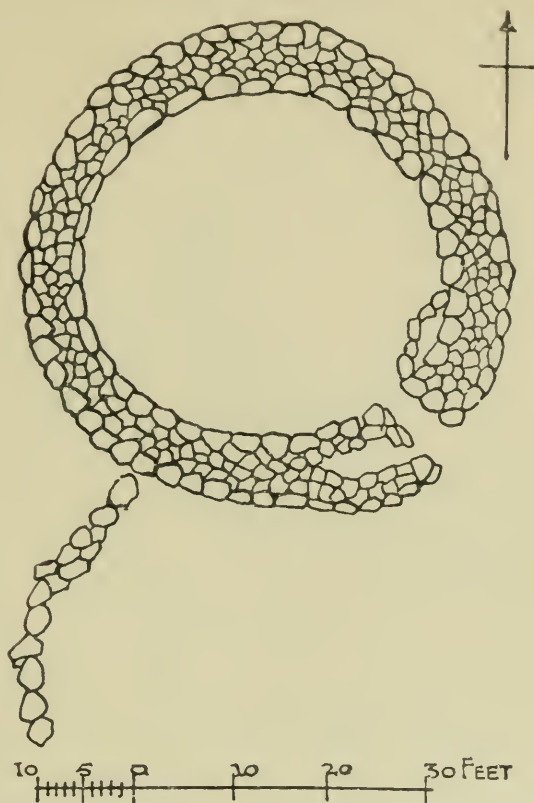


FIG. 16.—Hut Circle, Torboll (No. 126).

128. *Brae*.—Some 300 yards E. of the keeper's house at Brae, close by the road on the right bank of the Carnaig River, is a hut circle enclosed by a bank of earth and stone some 7' in thickness. The entrance is from the ESE., and is 3' wide. The interior measurement is 30' \times 32'. From a point some 10' distant from the entrance, along the outer circumference of the circle, a bank runs out in an easterly direction, and from the opposite side of the entrance, and flanking it, an arm projects for a distance of 10'.

129. *Do.*—Situated about 100 yards NW. of the last hut circle is another of more complex form, measuring interiorly 39' \times 33'. Its surrounding bank is of turf and stone, and the entrance is from the ESE. The interior has been sub-divided into two main compartments by a bank or wall, varying from 6' to 9' in thickness. The compartment on the SW. side, which is oblong, with a curve towards the E. at the S. end, measures about 21' \times 9', while the other on the NE. is approximately circular, and has a diameter of about 20'. Opening out of the latter compartment towards the SE. is another, measuring interiorly some 7' \times 4', and containing on its NE. side a small enclosure, 3' 6" in length by 1' 6" in breadth. The entrance to the large circular enclosure has been from the ESE. by a passage 2' 6" wide and about 9' long. The entrance to the other large enclosure is not apparent. In the back of the circular compartment is a recess in the main wall, 2' wide by 1' 6" deep. The original width of the main entrance is not ascertainable. Beyond it, in the interior, is an open circular space of from 10' to 12' in diameter. The bank on the E. side of the entrance is carried outward for a total length of 22',

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and at its termination there is an indication of a wall base passing at right angles to it, in front of the entrance (fig. 17).

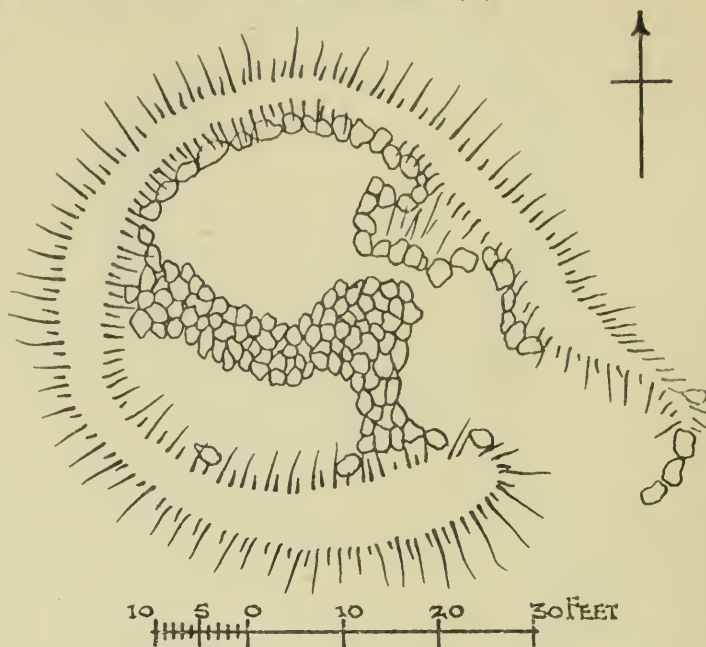


FIG. 17.—Hut Circle, Brae (No. 129).

Nowhere in the vicinity of these enclosures are there any mounds.

O.S.M., SUTH., civ. (unnoted). Visited, 12th August 1909.

130. *Dalnamain*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NE. of the shepherd's house at Dalnamain, at an elevation of some 400' over sea level, is a group of about a dozen mounds, of the usual small type, and a hut circle. The circle has an interior diameter of some 26'. Its entrance is from the SE. through a passage 9' long. The width of the entrance is indefinite, but it has been narrow—probably about 3'. The thickness of the bank is 6'. Near by are the remains of old enclosing banks.

131. *Allt Tigh Neill*.—On the W. side of the Allt Tigh Neill, about 100' above the road up Strath Carnaig and immediately above the birch wood, is a group of from fifteen to twenty small mounds and two hut circles. Of the hut circles, the most easterly measures 26' \times 31', with its entrance from the E. The bank is of turf and stone 7' thick in the circumference and 9' at the entrance. The second circle is some 30 yards to the W. It enters from the SE. through an entrance 3' wide. The bank is about 4' 6" thick. The interior dimensions are 20' \times 25'. Abutting on it to the SW. is a small rectangular enclosure, which measures interiorly 12' \times 5', and is probably a secondary construction.

O.S.M., SUTH., civ.

Visited, 3rd September 1909.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

132. *Chambered Cairn, Cnoc Odhar*.—At the E. end of Cnoc Odhar which rises to the W. of Cambusavie Station, and some 120 yards N. of the W. end of the cultivated land, are the remains of a large round cairn. From the centre the greater part of the stones have been removed, almost completely denuding the slabs that form the W. side of the chamber. The chamber is not cleared out, and

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the ends of several large stones protruding through the turf show its extent. It has probably been bipartite. The main chamber is reached at some 25' from the SE. edge of the cairn. It has been polygonal in form, about 7' long by 6' 6" broad. Of the slabs exposed, that towards the SW. is about 5' across, 3' 8" high above ground on the outside, and 1' 4" in the interior. An outer chamber or compartment stood in the same line towards the NW., where several large displaced stones are lying, two of them, opposite each other, being 2' 6" and 3' long respectively. The dimensions of the cairn have been 62' from NE. to SW. and 69' from SE. to NW. The main axis of the chamber has been along the former direction. The O.S. map indicates the discovery of human bones here in 1868.

133. *Cairn, Creag an Amalaidh*.—Some $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SE. of Achinael, just to the W. of the wire fence and above the road, is a large cairn, sub-oval in form, with its longest axis E. and W. It measures 70' in length, 43' across at the E. end and 26' at the W. About 19' from the E. it expands to 53', forming lugs on either side about 11' across. This peculiarity seems quite distinct on the N. side, but the partial demolition of the cairn renders it less obvious on the S. At the W. end it is only a foot or two in height, and it has risen towards the E., but as it has been considerably dilapidated in that direction it is impossible to say where it attained its greatest elevation. At highest it is about 6' high. No chamber or cist has been exposed. There are a few small mounds in its immediate neighbourhood.

O.S.M., SUTH., cix.

Visited, 7th July 1909.

134. *Chambered Cairn, Torboll*.—On the summit of the hill, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. NW. of Torboll, is a large cairn known as "Carn Liath," which

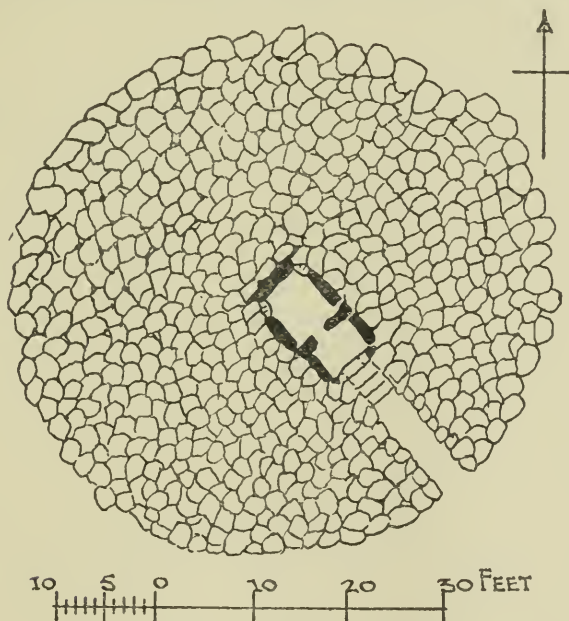


FIG. 18.—Chambered Cairn, Torboll (No. 134).

has been excavated and the chamber and passage cleared out. It is circular, with a diameter of about 60'. The chamber is entered by a passage from the SE., 14' 6" in length and about 2' 4" in width. Access is between two slabs, 1' 6" apart, covered by a lintel 3' long

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and 7" deep and 2' 6" above the floor level. The chamber is bipartite, divided by two slabs some 3" to 5" thick and some 2' 6" high and 2' 4" apart. The outer compartment is roughly rectangular, 4' 7" in length by 4' 3" in width. The inner one is polygonal, but not very markedly so, measuring 6' 2" in length by 5' 4" in width. The largest slab, which is on the NE., is 4' 5" long, and the greatest height in the interior to the top of the highest slab is 3' 6". The spaces between the slabs are filled with horizontal building. From the similarity of the curved surface at the upper extremities of the end slab and of that on the NE., they appear to be portions of the same boulder which has been split. The slabs are thinner than usual. At 7' in from the outer end of the passage are two upright stones opposite each other, 2' 2" high and 2' 5" apart (fig. 18).

135. *Cairn, do.*—On the lowest slope of An Droighneach, at its extreme E. end, lies an oval cairn, with its longest axis SE. and NW., measuring 60' × 49'. Though much excavation has been done on it, neither cist nor chamber is exposed.

A group of small mounds lie to the SE.

O.S.M., SUTH., civ.

Visited, 9th July 1909.

136. *Cairn, etc., do.*—On an open piece of moorland, just beyond the termination of the birch wood, between the road up Strath Carnaig and the right bank of the Carnaig River, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. above Torboll Fall, and some 100 yards back from the road, is a well-preserved circular cairn, overgrown with grass and studded with birch trees. Its diameter is about 50', and its height 6' or thereby. Around its base is a kerb of large contiguous boulders, averaging about 1' in height above ground and from 1½' to 2' across. On the top of the cairn is a slight circular depression of some 7' diameter. In the vicinity are a number of small mounds.

About 150 yards W. of the cairn there seems to be another, its longest axis E. and W. measuring 23' × 19'. Towards the NE. some large stones are visible, marking its outline.

O.S.M., SUTH., civ. (unnoted).

Visited, 12th August 1909.

137. *Cairn (and Cup-marked Stone), Dornoch.*—Some 1½ m. NNE. of Dornoch, on a stretch of waste land overgrown with whins, to the W. of the railway, are the remains of a circular cairn, with a diameter of some 44'. It has been excavated. Near the centre a cist has been exposed, formed of four flat slabs, 4" to 5" in thickness, set on edge, measuring interiorly 3' 5" in length, 2' 4" in width, and 1' 10" in depth. The slab, which still partially covers the cist, is some 6' in length by 2' 4" in breadth across the centre and 6" in thickness. It is of sandstone, and presents a concave outline on its S. edge, which may have been caused by a fracture when the cist was opened. On the under side of this stone, at its W. end, is a well-defined cup mark about 2½" across and $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep. Some 2½" to the S. of the cup a shallow groove runs along the centre of the stone from its W. end for about 1' 11", curving at its E. extremity towards the S. There are a number of small hollows on both surfaces, which seem to be natural.

See *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 270.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxiii.

Visited, 10th July 1909.

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138. "*Carn an Fheidh*," *Harriet Plantation*.—Some 400 yards into the Harriet Plantation from the S., on the W. side of the westmost of the two tracks, is a circular cairn, with a diameter of about 56', and a height of from 5' to 6'. It has been broken into in several places, but neither cist nor chamber is exposed.

139. *Cairn, do.*—About 16' to the N. lies another circular cairn, with a diameter of about 36' and a height of about 3' 6". It has been opened up in places, but neither cist nor chamber is exposed.

O.S.M., SUTH., cix.

Visited, 12th July 1909.

140. *Cairn, Skelbo Wood*.—The O.S. map indicates the remains of a cairn in Skelbo Wood, some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. S. of Skelbo Castle, but the thick undergrowth and the young plantation have obscured them. There are a number of mounds in the neighbourhood, which are of the ordinary small class.

O.S.M., SUTH., cx.

Visited, 12th July 1909.

141. *Cairn, Camore Wood*.—Some 650 yards WSW. of the W. end of Loch an treel, in Camore Wood, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SE. of Evelix, on a slight elevation some 100 yards within the wood, is a cairn. Excavation has been made about its centre, and several cart-loads of stone, at a comparatively recent date, have been removed from its W. side, but neither chamber nor cist has actually been exposed, though there has been uncovered the head of a large slab, 3' 9" long and about 9" thick, lying E. and W. about 19' in from the circumference on the E. The cairn has been circular, with a diameter of about 47', and its greatest height is about 5'.

142. *Chambered Cairn (remains of), Clashmore*.—In a field immediately to the W. of the school at Clashmore, and some 120 yards N. of the high road, are three large slabs, which appear to have formed the end and part of one side of a megalithic chamber in the interior of a cairn, a small portion of which still remains. The main axis of the chamber has been SE. and NW. The slab which has apparently formed the back wall is 5' 9" across the base, 1' 6" thick, and 6' 3" high from ground level. The two slabs remaining on the SE. side measure respectively 4' 3" and 5' 8" in breadth at base. On the NW. side the head of a large stone protrudes a few inches from the ground. The cairn has been removed to such an extent that its outline is not obtainable, but the portion remaining in rear of the slabs on the SE. is still 3' to 4' high.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxiii. ("Standing Stones").

Visited, 14th July 1909.

143. *Chambered Cairn (remains of), Evelix*.—On the S. side of the road from Dornoch to Bonarbridge, about half-way between it and the River Evelix, at the edge of the wood, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of Evelix, are the remains of a chambered cairn. The cairn, which has been almost entirely removed, has been circular, with a diameter of about 68'. Several of the slabs used in the formation of a large bipartite chamber remain. The chamber has had its main axis WNW. and ESE. The back slab at the WNW. end has been removed. Of the inner compartment two opposite slabs remain, about 8' 5" apart; that on the W., slightly tilted backwards, measures 4' across its base, while

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that on the E. measures 5' across its base, is 3' 6" high, and 2' 7" thick. Only one of the partition stones remains, viz., that on the W. side. The front half of it is flat along the top at 1' 9" above ground; the other end rises to 3'. Of the outer compartment two side slabs remain, about 4' 4" apart. They measure 2' 10" and 3' across the base respectively, and are each some 2' 6" above ground. That on the W. is 2' distant from the divisional stone and about 17' in from the outer edge of the cairn. In rear of the chamber several



FIG. 19.—Chambered Cairn, Evelix (No. 143).

large stones protrude, such as may have formed the back and two sides of another chamber facing the S., the side slabs in this case standing anglewise to the back slab (fig. 19).

144. *Cairn, Clashmore*.—About 1 m. NW. of the Factor's Office at Clashmore, on the E. side of the track through Clashmore Wood, is a cairn. It is circular, with a diameter of about 60', a height of about 7', and though considerably demolished, neither chamber nor cist is exposed.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxii. (unnoted).

Visited, 20th July 1909.

MISCELLANEOUS.

145. *Town Cross, Dornoch*.—Situated to the W. of the Cathedral at Dornoch are the remains of the Town Cross. The shaft, chamfered at the corners, and square at the top and bottom, alone remains. It is set in a square base, chamfered in its upper edges.

See Small's *Crosses*, pl. 107 (illus.).

146. *Earl's Cross, Dornoch*.—Rather more than $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NE. of Dornoch, and about 350 yards from the shore, is situated the Thane's

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or Earl's Cross, stated to have been erected there as a memorial of the battle of Embo, fought about the year 1245, in which William first Earl of Sutherland defeated the Scandinavian invaders. It belongs, however, to a much later date than the traditional event which it is said to commemorate. It is a tall shaft, which has been broken, expanded at the head, whereon rests a triangle of stone, perforated in the centre, a fragment of the original crosshead, which was circular, and had arms expanding to the margin, with perforations between them. Cordiner describes it as he found it in the year 1776, and supplies an illustration of it at the side of his plate showing the ruins of Dornoch Cathedral. The extreme height of the cross is 7' 3½". The edges of the shaft are chamfered, and at 4' 1" above the ground is a projecting band, 10" deep, relieved on the E. and W. faces with a shield, that on the E. charged with three stars of five points (two and one) for the Earl of Sutherland, that on the W. indecipherable, but stated by Cordiner to have borne "the armorial ensigns of Caithness." The breadth of the shaft is 1' 6"; its thickness 8½". The cross faces E. and W. It is now enclosed within an iron railing.

See Cordiner's *Antiquities*, p. 70; Cordiner's *Ruins*, ii. (illus.); Pococke, p. 167; *Origines*, ii. pt. ii., p. 647.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxiii.

Visited, 10th July 1909.

147. *Cup-marked Stone, Dornoch*.—At the Manse of Dornoch is a triangular slab of micaceous schist, measuring 12" long by 9½" across the base, showing five well-defined cup marks and portions of other three at the broken edge of the stone. Towards the apex of the triangle is a single cup mark, 1½" diameter, with another below it 2¼" diameter by ½" deep, and near the centre of the triangle a row of three, and another row parallel to the last at the base.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxiii.

Visited, 9th July 1909.

148. *Standing-Stone, Camore Wood*.—Among the trees in the Camore Wood, about 170 yards SE. of the E. end of Loch an treel, is a standing-stone. It is a large monolith of sandstone, roughly quadrangular at base, tapering to a point at its upper extremity. It is 8' 9" in height above the ground, 2' 5" across the W. face at base, and 1' 10" across the N.

O.S.M., SUTH., cxiii.

Visited, 13th July 1909.

149. *Standing-Stone, Dalnamain*.—At the N. side of the enclosed park to the E. of Dalnamain, in Strath Carnaig, protruding from a long low cairn of stones about 2' high (possibly collected from the surface of the field), is a quadrangular standing-stone, measuring 4' 4" above ground, 1' 11" across the base, and 1' 1" thick. The stone faces NNW. and SSE. Locally this is known as "The Swedish Man's Grave."

150. *S-shaped Cairn, do*.—At the lower end of the enclosed park to the E. of Dalnamain, in Strath Carnaig, is a long low heap of stones, more or less S-shaped in form. The elevation of the field is but little above that of the river; the general direction of the construction is the same as that of the river. It seems to be a natural deposit of boulders and gravel, supplemented with stones from the field. The only other regular S-shaped constructions noticed are in

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Strathnaver, on a haugh beside the Carnachaidh Burn (No. 211). The situation is almost similar, as also the relative general directions of the constructions parallel with that of the stream.

O.S.M., SUTH., civ.

Visited, 3rd September 1909.

151. *Rock Shelter, Creag an Amalaidh*.—On the N. side of Creag an Amalaidh, on the E. face of its most northerly shoulder facing "the Mound," and some 60' above the high road, is a rock shelter. It is absolutely hidden by a large mass of rock, which occupies the front of the platform, but is easily located from below by the growth of ivy which, issuing from the recess, clambers over the rocks above. This shelter is known as "Macpherson Cham's Cave." There are signs of human occupancy in the soil at the N. end.

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Visited, 7th July 1909.

SITES.

152. *Proncy Castle*.—On the summit of a mound 12' to 15' high, of a somewhat artificial appearance, occupying the N. extremity of a ridge which runs northwards from Proncy farm buildings, are the fragmentary remains of Proncy Castle. Near the centre of a circular enclosure of about 100' diameter, surrounded by a rampart or wall, with traces of buildings on its inner side, there has been a rectangular keep, measuring interiorly some 20' from NE. to SW. and 12' wide, with walls from 5' to 6' thick. The ruin is overgrown with grass, save a detached mass of masonry lying to the S. of it. The entrance to the enceinte appears to have been from the S.

O.S.M., SUTH., cx.

Visited, 12th July 1909.

PARISH OF DURNNESS.

ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

153. *Church, Durness*.—The old church of Durness lies about 100 yards W. of the house of Bailenacille, a picturesque 18th century structure. The plan consists of a main building running E. and W., measuring interiorly some 40' × 16', with a wing projecting 25' to the northward. In the gable of the wing is a two-light window under a pointed arch, with the central mullion dividing into two small arches at the head, and a transom. The gables are crow stepped.

See *Eccles. Arch.*, iii. p. 557 (plan and illus.).

Font.—In the middle of the church lies the font. It is circular, with four half-round equidistant projections 3½" across and 1" deep, carried from top to base. The width over all is 1' 10"; that of the interior 1' 5½", and the depth 9". A sketch of it in the MS., by Mr James Horsburgh, of his paper entitled "Notes of Cromlechs, etc., in the County of Sutherland" (*Antiquaries*, vii. p. 271), is preserved in the library of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.*

154. *Sepulchral Monument*.—In an arched recess to the left of the

* The flat stone over the grave of a Mackay, said to have been brought from the Lewis, having carved on it an old Highland claymore, with reversed guards, etc., referred to in Mr Horsburgh's paper, and similarly illustrated in his MS., above referred to, is no longer visible.

PARISH OF DURNESS.

doorway of the church lies a slab 6' 6" in length by 2' 8" in breadth. A compartment at the E. end contains a representation of a hunter drawing a bow at a stag (which the artist, through the exigencies of space, has placed in a vertical position), and, beneath, the letters D.M.M.C. The slab also bears a representation of the skull and cross-bones, and the inscription—

DONALD MAKMURCHOV HIER LYIS LO
VAS IL TO HIS FREIND, VAR TO HIS FO
TRVE TO HIS MAISTER IN VEIRD AND VO. 1623.

Above is a tablet within a moulded border, bearing the following arms:—Quarterly: 1st, a sinister hand appaumé; 2nd, a ship with two masts, sails furled, flag at stern; 3rd, a stag's head cabossed; 4th, a salmon naiant. Initials at top, ^{DMC}KNRM. Date at foot, 1619.

See *Sutherland and the Reay Country*, p. 43; Morrison's *Guide*, p. 105; *The Book of Mackay*, p. 281 (illus.); *New Stat. Acct. Suth.*, etc., xv., p. 94 (footnote).

O.S.M., SUTH., v.

Visited, 4th June 1909.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

155. *Broch, Dun Dornaigil, or Dornadilla*.—This broch stands on the E. side of Strathmore, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Alltnacaillich and some $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of the southern extremity of Loch Hope. Here the Strathmore River, at right angles to its general direction, has crossed the strath to the E. side, and for a distance of about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. flows along the base of the steep hillside. This important position is commanded at its S. end by the broch which stands about 12' above the ordinary level of the stream. The broch is much ruined, but on the E. side a portion of the outer wall above the entrance stands to a height of 22'. The inner portion of this part, with the galleries, having fallen, a buttress has been built for support of the remainder. The rest of the structure is reduced to the level of the floor of the first gallery, and varies from 6' to 11' in height externally. The interior is 27' in diameter, and the top of the walls at their present level 8' in thickness. The entrance faces the NE., and is now only 3' in height. It is 3' 4" wide at the outside, and is covered by a large triangular block of stone 4' 8" along its base and 3' in height. The passage is for the greater part blocked with stones, and only the two outer covering stones remain in position. At 3' 9" inward, on the left side, one of the checks of the doorway remains *in situ*, but beyond this the passage is entirely ruined. On the opposite side there is still evidence of the existence of the guard-chamber. The interior is filled up with débris almost to the level of the top of the surrounding wall. At a distance of about 24' round the circumference to the left of the entrance in the interior, is a large lintel, indicating the entrance to a chamber, or possibly the stairway, and directly opposite the doorway a small opening reveals the top of a chamber, roofed with overlapping flags. There is the usual batter of the wall on the exterior.

See *Stat. Acct.*, iii. p. 584; *Origines*, ii. pt. ii. p. 706; *Archæ. Scot.*,

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v. pt. i. p. 191; *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 298; Cordiner's *Ruins*, ii. (illus.); Cordiner's *Antiquities*, p. 105 (illus.); Pennant (1772), iii. p. 340 (footnote); Pococke, p. 121 (illus.); *The Scottish Gael*, ii. p. 16 (illus.).

O.S.M., SUTH., xxxiii.

Visited, 19th May 1909.

156. *Broch, Ach an Duin*.—About 1 m. W. of Hope Ferry, on the end of a rocky ridge that terminates near the N. end of Loch Creagach, are the remains of a broch. A ruined cottage stands partially on the foundations and explains its dilapidation. It is much ruined, and very little walling remains. The interior diameter has been 26' and the thickness of the wall 11'. The entrance is from the N. along the ridge. The guard chamber, visible through the roofing slabs, in part displaced, still exists, entered at 5' in from the outside on the right of the passage. It is 8' long, and rounded at the end, 2' 6" to 3' wide, and from present floor level to covering flags 4' 3" high. About 24' along the wall to the SE. the top of another chamber, filled with débris, is visible. There are no details of the passage obtainable.

O.S.M., SUTH., xv.

Visited, 3rd June 1909.

157. *Broch or Dun, Camus an Duin*.—On a low projecting rock on the E. bank of Loch Eireboll, at the S. end of the Camus an Duin, about 1 m. S. of Heilem Ferry, and to the W. of a fisherman's cottage, are the remains of a broch or dun. It appears to have been a structure, elliptical in outline, with an entrance 5' wide to seaward on to the point of the rock. The length of the structure over all seems to have been about 55', and similarly its breadth 42' about the centre, but the indefinite outline of the N. wall does not allow this measurement to be accurately obtained. The thickness of the wall at the entrance is 14', and on the S. side, near the centre, 10'. On the S. side of the entrance the outer face of the wall is 8' high, and for 43' round the circumference in that direction it still remains several feet in height, but beyond that it is overgrown with turf. It is built of large stones without mortar. At 4' from the outside, on the right of the passage, a square-edged intake shows that there has been an entrance to a chamber or stair at this point. The interior on the S. side is full of débris, and there are suggestions of chambers in the thickness of the wall. A circular depression, about 3' 6" across, near the E. end, may be the site of a well. The edge of the rocks on the loch side is 22' distant from the entrance, and the approach appears to have been flanked with rubble mounds or walls on either side. The remains of steps leading to the shore are still visible.

O.S.M., SUTH., xv.

Visited, 3rd June 1909.

158. "*Seanachaisteal*."—On the point of the Aodan Mhor, about 1 m. due N. of Durness church, are the remains of a defensive construction, known as the "*Seanachaisteal*." Its site is a rocky promontory, whose precipitous sides rise for 100' or more above the sea. The actual summit measures about 54' × 37', and is grass grown. Towards the landward end it presents a comparatively even grassy surface, while seaward it slopes away to the edge of the cliff, rugged with confused masses of rock and crags, sheltering about them small level areas where grass and nettles luxuriate. The neck of the promontory has been traversed by a high stony rampart, with a

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trench on either side about 40' across. To the outside the rampart is about 8' above the bottom of the ditch where highest on the W. side, and 6' on the inner side, and is 25' wide at base. The remains to the eastward down where the ground slopes away are less distinct. The entrance has been through the middle of the rampart. There is a circular depression on the inner side of the top of the rampart, to the W. of the entrance, and there are similar depressions, with signs of low enclosing walls about the summit.

O.S.M., SUTH., v.

Visited, 4th June 1909.

HUT CIRCLES, EARTH-HOUSES, AND ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS.

159. *Earth-house, Eireboll*.—About 200 yards SE. of the farmstead of Eireboll, in the middle of an arable field, is a flagstone covering the entrance to an earth-house. It is not now accessible. The following details are abstracted from a description of it, written in 1865 (*Antiquaries, infra*):—The whole length of the passage is 33', but is known to have been 10' or 12' longer. The passage at its entrance is less than 2' wide and under 4' high. The average height of the passage is only 4', the average width 2'. At the entrance it curves for a few feet round to the right, thereafter is straight. It terminates in a pear-shaped chamber, at its widest only 3½', which width it retains for only 3' of its length. A spherical object of bronze showing numerous small hammer-marks on its surface, measuring 1½" in diameter, preserved in Dunrobin Museum, is said to have been found along with a spiral finger ring of the same metal.

See *Antiquaries*, vi. p. 249 (plan and secs.); Anderson, *The Iron Age*, p. 289 (plan and sec.).

O.S.M., SUTH., xxiv.

Visited, 3rd June 1909

160. *Earth-house, Portnancon*.—On the W. side of Loch Eireboll, on the top of a mound to the S. of the burn which passes under the road about ½ m. N. of Portnancon Pier, is an earth-house. The entrance is blocked by a large heavy stone, which prevents ingress. It was discovered when the road to Durness was being made, previous to 1845, and is described as being about 40' long, 6' high, and about 6' wide, built of dry stone, and covered over by flags. The descent was by regular steps. It is indicated on the O.S. map by the name "An Leabaidh fholaich."

See *New Stat. Acct. Suth.*, etc., xv. p. 94.

161. *Loch Creagach*.—Between the N. end of Loch Creagach and the road on the W. side, and about 100' back from the loch, is a hut circle of the usual oval character. The length of the entrance passage into the interior is about 7'.

O.S.M., SUTH., xv.

Visited, 3rd June 1909.

162. *Eireboll*.—About 1 m. SW. of Eireboll Farm, and 150 yards W. of the road, is a hut circle of the ordinary type.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxiv.

Visited, 3rd June 1909.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

163. *Cairn, Allt a' Chaoruinn*.—Situated on a ridge between the Allt a' Chaoruinn and the Kyle of Durness, about ¼ m. E. of the road

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and 170' above it, and about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. due S. of where the road crosses the burn, is a cairn. It has a diameter of about 44' and height of 7'. Though it has been dilapidated to some extent in the past to form a sheep-fold which adjoins it, no chamber or cist has been exposed.

164. *Do., do.*—About 300 yards NNE. of the bridge over the Allt a' Chaoruinn, and about 250' back from the road, are the remains of another cairn with an external diameter of about 50'. The whole of the centre, to the extent of 14' diameter, has at some time been cleared out, so as to leave walls all round 3' to 4' high, forming a shelter. The bottom is covered with large boulders, and the sides show no signs of building, the outside appearance being that of a cairn. There is no sign of a cist or chamber in the interior. All round the N. half there is a trench about 10' wide and 2' deep, but this is not continued round the S. half, where the ground slopes rapidly away.

O.S.M., SUTH., xiv.

Visited, 3rd June 1909.

165. *Cairn, Sarsgrum.*—At the S. end of the shepherd's cottage, on the W. side of the road at Sarsgrum, about $2\frac{3}{4}$ m. SW. of Durness, in a small enclosure, are the remains of a large cairn, with a diameter of about 50'. The removal of the greater part has exposed a cist, formed of a covering slab 4' 10" long by 3' 4" wide and 8" thick, supported on three upright slabs, the fourth at the S. end having fallen. The longest axis lies N. and S.

O.S.M., SUTH., v. (unnoted).

Visited, 3rd June 1909.

166. *Cairn, "Cnoc nan Ceannan."*—About $1\frac{3}{4}$ m. SW. of the inn at Durness, near where the road from Keoldale joins the main road on the W. side, are the remains of another cairn, known as the "Cnoc nan Ceannan," now almost entirely overgrown with turf. Its diameter is about 45'. It has been excavated, and a small brass elliptical object and a polished bone are said to have been found in it about 1832.

See *New Stat. Acct. Suth.*, etc., xv. p. 94.

O.S.M., SUTH., v.

Visited, 3rd June 1909.

SITES.

167. Sites of graveyards are indicated on the O.S. map on the following islands:—

Eilean Hoan;

An Corr-eilean, Loch Eireboll;

but there are no noteworthy remains at either place.

O.S.M., SUTH., vi. and xv.

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DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

168. *Broch, An Dun, Loch a' Chairn Bhain, Kylesku.*—This ruin stands towards the end of a rocky promontory or islet, connected with the shore by a causeway about 70' long, 10' wide, and 2' high, formed of boulders. It is only separated from the mainland at high tides.

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The rock projects into Loch a' Chairn Bhain, near its S. end, for a distance of about 100 yards. The structure on the end of it is circular, with an interior diameter of 28' 6" or thereabout. The thickness of the wall is some 12', except on the NE., where, in order to cover an approach between two rocks, it widens to 14' or 15'. The height of the wall to the outside is obscured by débris, but inside, where highest on the S., it is 7' high, and, except towards the N., several feet in height all around. The entrance has been from the SE., and is 3' wide at the only point observable, which is between the two lowest stones on either side at the outer end. There are no signs visible of chambers in the thickness of the wall, nor any traces of a gallery. The edge of the rock, about 20' from the broch, appears to have been strengthened on the landward side with a wall.

See Anderson's *Guide to the Highlands*, p. 618.

O.S.M., SUTH., 1.

Visited, 7th June 1909.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

169. *Chambered Cairn, Cnoc an Daimh*.—About $\frac{3}{4}$ m. due N. of the Manse of Eddrachillis, on the Cnoc an Daimh, at an elevation of about 300' above the sea, and some 300 to 400 yards N. of the public road, on an out-cropping rock, is a cairn. The roof of the chamber has evidently fallen in, and the interior has been somewhat disturbed. The exact measurements of the chamber are not obtainable. Four large upright stones, the highest of which is about 3' high, remain *in situ*, and have formed part of the walls of the chamber. The length of the chamber from the centre of the space between the two stones at the N. to that between the other two stones at the S. is 7'. The width between the most southerly of the opposing slabs is 6' 6". A hollow to the S. suggests a greater length, but there are no slabs observable. The diameter of the cairn is about 40', and the two upright stones at the N. are 20' distant from the outside. Towards the N. the cairn is still about 6' high, and at the S. it is set against a rock. It is called "Dun Carn Fhamhair."

O.S.M., SUTH., xxxix. (unnoted).

Visited, 6th June 1909.

170. *Cairn, Loch a' Chairn Bhain*.—Half way between the broch on Loch a' Chairn Bhain and Kylestrome Lodge, on a slight rocky eminence, stands a cairn, apparently undisturbed. It measures in diameter from E. to W. 35', from N. to S. 25', in height about 5', and is built against a rock to the S. It has been covered with heather, now burned off.

O.S.M., SUTH., 1. (unnoted).

Visited, 7th June 1909.

171. *Do., do.*—About 4 m. by road from Kylesku, on the S. side of Loch a' Chairn Bhain, just beyond the W. end of the wood that stretches along the shore for about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. from Torgawn, and about 20' above high-water mark, is a small cairn, with one large stone, about 2' long, 1' 6" thick, and 1' 5" above the ground, set in the middle of it. The whole diameter is about 7'. This is traditionally known as "Oscar's Grave," and locally is believed to mark the

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burial-place of a son of the King of Sweden. It is said to have been excavated.

O.S.M., SUTH., xlix. (unnoted).

Visited, 7th June 1909.

172. *Chambered Cairn (remains of), Badnabay.*—At Badnabay, about 300 yards N. by W. of the cottage, and within 50' of the road to Scourie, on low-lying marshy ground, are a number of standing-stones, the remains of a megalithic chamber of a circular cairn. The cairn has been entirely removed, but its outline is distinctly visible, and it has measured in diameter about 40' from N. to S. by 37' from E. to W. The chamber has been bipartite, the inner portion being 10' 4" long from N. to S. by 8' 9" wide, and polygonal in shape. Seven stones remain *in situ*, of which the highest above ground level is 3' 8" high, 2' 9" across at greatest breadth, and 1' 1" thick. It is divided from the outer compartment by two slabs, set on edge, 1' 6" thick, 3' and 2' 4" long, and about 2' 7" apart. The stone on the E. is not exactly opposite the other. Of the outer compartment, only three stones remain, two at the entrance and one on the W. side. This compartment has been about 4' long, and about 5' 10" wide. The entrance has been from the S., where the two portal stones of the passage apparently remain *in situ* 2' apart and 9' distant from the interior end of the entrance to the chamber.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxxi. (unnoted).

Visited, 5th June 1909.

SITE.

173. *Old Graveyard, Handa Island.*—The graveyard lies above a sandy bay on the S. side of the island, and though a number of stones are protruding from the turf, none have any visible marks of interest on them. Towards the upper part of the graveyard a space about 24' × 12', slightly depressed, and on which are no tombstones, may be the site of a chapel.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxx.

Visited, 5th June 1909.

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DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

174. *Broch, Grum-more, Loch Naver.*—This broch is situated on the N. side of Loch Naver, about 4 m. from Altnaharra, and is much dilapidated. The entrance faces the W., and is almost closed to the outside. One of the door checks is still *in situ* on the right of the passage, 3' 6" inwards; and 3' further inwards, on the same side, the entrance to the guard chamber is also observable, but it is almost closed with débris. In rear of the door check, for a distance of 9' towards the interior, the covering stones remain on the roof of the passage. The breadth of the passage towards the interior is 2' 6". Its height is not ascertainable. The interior diameter of the broch is 29' to 30', and the thickness of the wall through the passage 12' 6", and across the top of the existing wall about 10'. The highest portion of the wall visible in the interior is about 10'. About 21' to the right of the entrance in the interior is the entrance to a chamber which is almost filled with stones, and from opposite the doorway

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round by the N. to the W. there are the remains of a long chamber which probably contained the stair. At about the level of the top of the doorway there is a ledge or scarcement, about 10" broad on average, running around the interior, and formed by the thinning of the wall upwards. The masonry below is large, and appears to be bonded into the wall.

175. *Broch, Dun Creagach, Loch Naver*.—This broch is situated on a small island on the S. side of Loch Naver, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of Klibreck farm-house, and is connected with the shore by a causeway, about 10' broad and about 100' long, formed of rough boulders. The interior is filled with débris to a height above the level of the top of the doorway and almost to that of the first gallery, obscuring any entrances to chambers which may exist. The height of the wall exposed on the best preserved portion of the exterior is 11', and not much less at any point. In the interior the wall rises only about 4' above the débris. At the highest part the wall is 13' 6" thick. The entrance is from the E. through a passage, now almost filled up with stones, 2' 6" wide towards the outside, and 3' wide at 10' inwards. There has been a guard chamber on the right, the entrance to which is blocked with fallen stones. The door checks are not visible. The covering stones remain *in situ* over the greater part of the entrance passage. The interior diameter is 31'. A stone wall flanks the broch at 15' distant on the shore side, and swings round towards the entrance, where the mass of fallen stones conceals its connection. This wall has been pierced at the end of the causeway with a doorway 3' wide, the jambs of which remain in position.

O.S.M., SUTH., liv.

Visited, 17th May 1909.

176. *Broch, Coill' Ach a' Chuil, Loch Naver*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of the lower end of Loch Naver, on the S. side of the loch, and on a short spit of land which projects into it at the E. end of the wood, are the remains of a broch. The broch has been built of very large stones, but is now completely ruined. On the E. side only is any walling visible, and that for a short distance to the N. of the entrance which faces the SE. The N. side of the entrance passage remains entire to a height of 2' 9" at the outside. The passage has been 12' in length. At 3' 9" from the outside, on the right, has been the entrance to a guard chamber, which shows signs of recent excavation. The diameter of the broch over all has been about 52'. The landward end of the spit has been marshy, or probably partially under water, and is crossed by a causeway which runs in the direction of the entrance. At 38' distant from the entrance are the ruins of a wall which covered the broch on the landward side, and apparently curved inward towards it on either flank.

O.S.M., SUTH., xliv. ("Hut Circle"). Visited, 20th May 1909.

177. *Broch, Langdale Burn, Syre*.—This broch occupies a commanding position on a ridge above the Langdale Burn, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. N. of Syre. It has been built of large stones, but is much ruined. The interior diameter is about 31'; the thickness of the walls on the S. side, where there is a steep bank to the burn, is about 16' to 17', and on the N. side about 15'. The wall in the interior, where most exposed, is about 3' high. The entrance is from the W. by a passage

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15' long and 3' wide at the outer end. The wall on the S. side of the passage remains to a height of 3' 6", and 3' from the interior on the same side is a built check for a door.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxxv.

Visited, 22nd May 1909.

178. *Broch, Inshlampie, Skail*.—This broch stands on a projecting bank 70' to 80' above the River Naver, on the opposite side of the river from Skail, and is protected on either flank by a deep ravine. It is a complete ruin. Neither the entrance nor any of the chambers is discernible. The diameter of the interior is 29', and the thickness of the wall 13'. On the E. side the wall is visible in the interior to a height of 4'.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxxvi.

Visited, 22nd May 1909.

179. *Broch, Dun Chealamy*.—This broch occupies a splendid situation on the end of a spur of Cnoc Chealamy. From the broch the ground slopes abruptly to the Carnachaidh Burn, which flows past the base of the hill 100' below. The building has been greatly pillaged for stone, and so ruined is it that the outline of the wall can only be found with difficulty. Neither the entrance nor any other feature is visible. The wall appears to have been about 14' thick, and the interior diameter about 30'.

See *Antiquaries*, xl. p. 132.

180. *Broch, Dun Carnachaidh*.—This broch is perched on a cliff on the E. slope of Cnoc Carnachaidh, above the road down the strath, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. N. of Carnachaidh croft. It is a complete ruin. The interior diameter is 30', and the thickness of the wall 15'. The entrance passage is not recognisable.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxvii.

Visited, 22nd May 1909.

181. *Broch, Dun Viden*.—Dun Viden, situated some $2\frac{3}{4}$ m. to the S. of Skelpick Lodge, on the E. bank of the River Naver, occupies an extremely strong position on the summit of a knoll that rises for a height of 70' or 80' above the haugh which stretches from its base to the river. The slopes of the knoll are very steep, except on the E., where the approach from the high ground behind is more accessible. The broch is an absolute ruin, and the face of the wall is not easily found. The interior diameter has been about 30', the thickness of the wall about 16', and the breadth of the entrance passage, at the only point measurable which is near the interior, 3' 5". Almost the only walling visible is a small portion, two courses in height, on the N. side. None is apparent in the interior. From either side of the entrance a rampart runs S. for a distance of about 45', and swings round on either side to meet the broch where the banks are steepest. Towards the E., where the position is most assailable, the rampart, comparatively low on the inside, has a steep scarp about 12' high, and at about 16' distant from its base is covered by an outer rampart, now only two or three feet high and stony.

See *Antiquaries*, v p. 360; *Ibid.*, vii. p. 272.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxvii.

Visited, 25th May 1909.

182. *Broch, Allt an Duin, Skelpick*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of Rhinovie, occupying the summit of a rocky knoll, strengthened on the S. by

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the rugged channel of the Allt an Duin or Allt a' Chaisteil, and towering 100' or so above the plain which reaches from its base to the River Naver, are the ruins of a broch. The situation is most commanding. The building, though much ruined, if cleared of the débris which almost chokes it up, would be found to be still of considerable height. The wall is 16' thick. The interior diameter is 28'. A scarcement, projecting about 1' 6", is built against the wall all around the interior. The entrance is from the NW. The passage, which for the first few feet from the exterior is ruined, is thereafter only 2' wide, and curves slightly towards the S. as it proceeds inwards. About 3' from the exterior, on the right side of the passage, there is an upright stone, probably one of the door jambs, but in rear of it there is no sign of a guard chamber. In the interior the wall is still in parts 6' to 8' high above the accumulated rubbish, and in places 2' or 3' higher than the top of the scarcement. Externally, the facing stones have been to a great extent removed or have fallen; and towards the N., where highest, the wall is still 6' above the débris, while the rubble in the centre is several feet higher. The ruination of the interior obscures any details of chambers or galleries.

183. *Broch, Achcoillenaborgie*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of the road bridge across the River Naver near Bettyhill, situated on a slight knoll between the base of the hill and the river, and on the E. side of the road, are the remains of a broch. The structure is much ruined, and the elevation of the wall is everywhere trifling. Its interior diameter is about 28', and the thickness of its wall 14'. The entrance is from the N. To the W. of the passage, and about 8' distant from it, the walls of a chamber have been exposed. There are remains of various out-buildings around.

O.S.M., SUTH., xviii.

Visited, 27th May 1909.

184. *Broch, "The Sandy Dun," Baile Mhargait, Bettyhill*.—On the summit of the cliff which rises to the W. of the gravelly plateau opposite Bettyhill, and on the N. side of the track which leads from Strathnaver to Torrisdail, is situated a broch. It is called "The Sandy Dun." The wall is probably erect for a considerable height, but the interior is largely filled up with blown sand. The entrance is from the SW. The interior diameter is 29', and the thickness of the wall 12'. Near the top of the wall in the interior is a projecting ledge, about 10" wide, running all round. The slabs which form it are an integral part of the structure, and the wall is thicker below than above. The outer face of the wall is much ruined, and no fuller details are obtainable. A number of small mounds lie on the top of the cliff immediately to the W. of the broch.

See *Antiquaries*, xl. p. 132.

O.S.M., SUTH., xvii.

Visited, 24th May 1909.

185. *Broch, Borgie Bridge*.—Situated on the S. side of the road from Tongue, about 300 yards E. of Borgie Bridge, is the site of a construction probably a broch. A gravel mound about 40' high on the side towards the river, situated on the edge of the bank in which the high ground terminates, has been further strengthened in

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flank and rear by a deep ditch 24' across, with a scarp 12' high and a counterscarp about half that height. The ditch is divided into two by a roadway across it from the SE. 14' wide, but is not carried out to the edge of the bank to the N. at either side where the natural surface is 5' or 6' below the top of the mound. The slight remains on the summit indicate a circular building, with a diameter over all of about 52', the outline of which is not very definite. The diameter of the top of the knoll is about 62'.

O.S.M., SUTH., xvii.

Visited, 28th May 1909.

186. *Broch, "The Borg," Forsinain.*—Situated on a slight elevation on the E. of the Halladale River, some 230 yards distant from the road and about 1 m N. of Forsinain Bridge, are the remains of a broch, known as "The Borg." From its base the ground falls sharply away on all sides, except the S. It has been built of very large stones. The interior has been partially cleared out. The entrance is from the E. through a passage 22' long. At the exterior it is 2' 6" wide, expanding at 15' 6" inwards to 3' 9". At 8' 6" inwards, on the E. side of the passage, has been the entrance to a guard chamber, now completely ruined. The passage, though retaining the roofing slabs for 15' 6" of its length, is in a ruinous condition. The interior diameter of the broch from N. to S. is 34', and from E. to W., opposite the entrance, 26' 6", the wall on the E. side having been strengthened at some period by some 9' of extra building. The thickness of the wall on the S. at base is about 13' 6", on the W. at base from 16' to 17', and at 8' elevation, 14' 6". The greatest height of wall visible in the interior is 6'; and the average height, if cleared of débris, 8' or 9'. The greatest height on the exterior is 9'. A gap has been made through the wall towards the N. At 18' S. of the inner end of the entrance a passage 2' wide is traceable inwards seemingly for 10' or 11'. There are no signs of a chamber connected with it, and the passage may be secondary. An old wall runs eastward from the broch at its E. side for about 40 yards, and, passing northward, returns to the structure, forming a large enclosure against it. This is probably of later date.

187. *Broch, "Carn Liath," Bunahoun.*—On the W. side of the Halladale River at Bunahoun, on a slight elevation between the road to Trantlemore and the river, are the remains of a broch known as "Carn Liath." It is now a structureless mass of small stones. The entrance has been from the E. through a passage 14' in length and some 2' 3" in width at its inner end. The diameter of the structure over all has been 58', and of the interior about 30'. Only here and there the foundation stones remain visible.

188. *Broch, Trantlemore.*—On a croft at Trantlemore, on a slight elevation, about 250 yards to the W. of the Halladale River, are the remains of a broch, now overgrown with turf. Some of the foundation stones of the outer face of the wall are visible, indicating a diameter over all of about 58'. The entrance appears to have been from the N.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxix.

Visited, 27th September 1909.

189. *Broch, Loch Mor.*—About 1½ m. SSE. of Melvich Inn, towards the N. end of Loch Mor, and on the E. side where it narrows, are the

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fragmentary remains of a broch. Only a few of the foundation stones remain, which indicate a diameter over all of about 55'. An upright stone 3' 6" high, 16' in from the N. end, possibly marks the end of the entrance passage.

O. S. M., SUTH., x.

Visited, 27th September 1909.

190. *Broch, Armadale Burn*.—On the W. bank of the Armadale Burn, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the sea, are the ruins of a broch which stand 100' above the burn, on the top of a hillock crowning a cliff and rising steeply from the moorland behind. On the exterior, little beyond the foundations is visible, except beside the entrance, where the wall is some 3' high. In the interior, towards the NW., about 4' of wall is exposed, where the débris has been cleared from the face of it. The entrance has been from the top of the steep bank on the SE. through a passage 14' long and 3' wide at either end. No door checks are visible. The thickness of the wall has been 14'. The diameter of the interior is 23'. Some 12' S. of the entrance are apparent the ruins of a chamber which passes round towards the W., and of which the E. or interior wall is visible for some 19' in length. The ends of the hillock projecting N. and S. beyond the broch have been fortified with walls. The situation has been an exceedingly strong one.

O. S. M., SUTH., x. (unnoted).

Visited, 28th September 1909.

191. *Dun Mhairtein, Balligil*.—On a promontory whose precipitous cliffs tower 100' or so above the ocean, situated to the NE. of the village of Balligil, and on the W. of where the burn of that name enters the sea, are the foundations of a castle or fort. A narrow neck, partially excavated from either side so as to reduce the width of the approach to 8', connects it with the mainland. The base of a wall, some 17' in thickness, crosses the landward end of the fort. Beyond it to seaward are the indefinite foundations of a structure, from the interior of which a passage 3' wide, and at present a couple of feet in height, built without mortar on the sides, and covered with flags, runs under the surface for a distance of 42', and opens on the face of the cliff, where there is a slight ledge some 4' below the upper level. A depression at the inner extremity suggests that the passage may have been 10' or 12' longer. It is difficult to conjecture the use of this passage, as the cliff below it seems quite precipitous; but it must be borne in mind that centuries of buffeting by wind and wave may have greatly altered its aspect.

192. *An Dun, Balligil*.—On the E. side of the Balligil Burn, on a slight promontory some 200' above the sea, are the indefinite foundations of a fort or castle. A parapet, some 6' in thickness, has been built round the edge of the cliff; and about 15' back from it, at the centre of the curve, are the foundations of a structure, measuring interiorly about 20' × 8'. There are no remains of mortar visible, and the form and character of the construction are not obvious.

193. "*An Tornaidh Bhuidhe*," *Rudha na cloiche*.—At the E. side of the Rudha na cloiche, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Port Skerry, two deep goes run inland. Separating them is a long promontory, whose sides rise sheer from the water's edge for some 70' or 80'. Occupying its

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seaward end are the remains of a fort, very difficult of access, along a hog-backed ridge some 50' in length. For about one-half of that distance the edge along which the path runs is only some 2' to 3' in width. Beyond that it circles round the side of a grassy hillock on the top of the cliffs, and terminates on a fresh green plateau, measuring approximately some 250' in length by 100' in breadth. Round the edge of this runs an earthen rampart or parapet, but in the hollows in the interior there are no indications of buildings ever having existed. Some 20' down the cliff, at its N. end, is a ledge on which there is a depression; but if any passage was connected with it, as at Dun Mhairten, it is not now apparent. The position in early times must have been quite unassailable. It is called "An Tornaigh Bhuidhe."

O.S.M., SUTH., x.

Visited, 28th September 1909.

194. *Fortified Enclosure, Syre*.—At Syre, on the E. side of the road, and quite close to it, is a small fortified enclosure, locally known as "General Leslie's Fort." It is circular in form, and is defended on the W. by a ditch 36' across from the top of the rampart to the top of the counterscarp, and 3' deep below the natural level. The bank of the enclosure is 9' to 10' high on the W., and has been surmounted by a dry-built stone wall some 15' thick. The height of the bank towards the interior is about 5'. The interior is some 52' in diameter. There has been an entrance by a mound across the ditch on the S., and apparently another on the N.E., flanked by a wall. The rampart is gone from the E. side, where a stone wall is being built out of its material; and as the interior of the fort is in cultivation, what remains of the construction is in danger of demolition. The ditch has not been continued around the N.E. side.*

O.S.M., SUTH., xxxvi. (unnoted).

Visited, 22nd May 1909.

HUT CIRCLES, EARTH-HOUSES, AND ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS.

195. *Klibreck, Loch Naver*.—Situated at the E. end of a ridge, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Klibreck farm-house, is a hut circle. It is oval in form, measuring interiorly 28' \times 36', enclosed by a bank of turf and stone about 8' across and 1' 6" to 2' high, with the entrance from the SE. Placed around the hut circle in its immediate vicinity are some ten or twelve small round mounds of earth and stone, covered with vegetation, each about 15' in diameter and 2' in height.

196. *Do.*—On the top of a knoll, SSE. of the farm-buildings at Klibreck, and about 300 yards E. of the hut circle, are the remains of a circular enclosure. The interior diameter is about 28'. The surrounding bank, which shows much stone in its composition, is some 12' wide, and the height on the S., where the natural surface of the ground declines, is about 3' externally, and about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' in the interior.

O.S.M., SUTH., liii. (unnoted).

Visited, 15th May 1909.

* Pennant (1769, p. 345) mentions that at Langdale "there were noble remains of a druidical temple, being a circle of 100 feet diameter, and surrounded with a trench, so that the earth formed a bank; in the midst of it a stone was erected like a pillar. . . . The country people have now trenched or delved that ground, and sown it with corn."

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197. *Loch Naver*.—On the N. side of Loch Naver, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of the cross roads on the lower side of the road along the loch, are three hut circles, and a number of small mounds on the lower side of them. The entrances, as usual, are from the SE. Between these and the top of the hill to the N. (Meall a' Gob Mor), there must be nearly a hundred more mounds and a number of hut circles which are mostly on the upper part of the hill.

One of the circles, about 200' above the road, is of very distinct outline. Its interior diameter is 35'; the thickness of the enclosing bank 5'; and the entrance, which is from the S., is about 5' wide. About 100' to the NE. is another circle, overgrown with heather. On the top of the hill, at the W. end, is another, presenting no peculiar features, having the entrance from the S.

About 120 yards E. of the last, and between it and the highest point of the hill, lies a mounded construction, which is possibly a kiln. Its interior diameter is 6' from E. to W. and 7' from N. to S. There is a narrow opening into the interior from the S. The enclosing bank, covered with heather, is about 10' broad on either side, and on the N. less prominent. There is a slight depression of about 5' diameter in front of the entrance.

About 70 yards SE. of the summit is a very well-defined hut circle, with a surrounding bank about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ' high. On the E. side of the entrance, which is 3' wide and from the SE., is a large upright slab, standing 1' 9" above the present ground-level. The interior diameter across the direction of the entrance is about 24'. In front are several small mounds.

O.S.M., SUTH., liii. and liv. (unnoted). Visited, 19th May 1909.

198. *Dun Creagach, Loch Naver*.—On the top of a knoll, about 200 yards S. of the broch on the S. side of Loch Naver, is a mound, with a diameter of about 18'. About 40 yards to the S. of it is a hut circle, the interior diameter of which, measured across the direction of the entrance, is about 35'. It is surrounded by a stony bank, and the entrance is from the SE.

O.S.M., SUTH., liv. (unnoted). Visited, 17th May 1909.

199. *Loch Naver*.—By the side of the old drove road from Strathnaver to Lairg, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. SSE. of the broch on the S. side of the loch, is a hut circle. The interior diameter is about 34', and the thickness of the wall about 5', widening at either side of the entrance so as to form a passage about 9' in length, but of indefinite breadth. The entrance is from the SE. The wall is composed of boulders of moderate size, with larger stones on the exterior. No appearance of building is visible.

A short distance to the E. lies another circle, overgrown with turf, with about a dozen small round mounds, of some 15' diameter, lying around it.

O.S.M., SUTH., liv. (unnoted). Visited, 18th May 1909.

200. *Loch Coire nam Feuran*.—On the N. side of the loch, at the top of the bank which rises from its shore near the remains of crofters' dwellings, are several small round mounds presenting no particular features of interest. One of these, near the W. end of the

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group, is circular, about 2' high, covered with heather, and measures 16' or 17' in diameter. Some 60 yards N. of it is a similar mound, and about 350 yards N. of that again are the remains of a hut circle, with a small round mound about 40' to the NE. of it and another about 80' to the W.

Some 100 yards NE. of the first-mentioned circle of this group is another of similar oval form.

Situated on the easternmost of two hillocks which rise some 300 yards apart to the N. of the ridge on which lie the mounds and circles last described, are a number of other small mounds. These are on the summit and along the western face; no signs of hut circles are visible.

Situated on the hill to the W., along its E. face, is an enclosure of an irregular oval form, having its lower or E. end open, like a horse-shoe. Its longest diameter is about 70', and the breadth across the open end 33'. It is surrounded by a rough line of boulders, which may have formed the base of a turf wall. At the W. end there appears to have been a narrow entrance, and on the left of it are the foundations of a small circular hut, with an interior diameter of about 6'. Immediately outside, to the W., are the remains of an enclosure, of trefoil form, having apparently had three chambers radiating off a common centre. These chambers measure interiorly about 6' x 4'. The interior diameter of the structure, bisecting the N. and S. chambers (which are nearly in line), is 28'. The measurement through the chamber on the SE. to the centre of the opposite wall is 17'. The position of the entrance is doubtful, but it appears to have been through the main wall to the SE.

Situated about 30' N. of the last enclosure is the outline of a small irregular oval, measuring interiorly 11' x 8', with the entrance from the SE.

Around the same hill, chiefly on the N. and W., are fourteen or fifteen small round mounds. There are one or two long banks of stone, the purpose of which is indeterminate, and there seem to have been other large enclosures, now in part obliterated.

201. *Do.*—Just outside the wood, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. of the loch, and nearly opposite the bay that indents it on the S. side, is a long low heap of stones. The greatest elevation is only about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ' above the present ground-level. It lies N. and S., is 38' long, and about 7' broad at the N. end, but its general breadth for 26' southwards is about 5'; thence expanding, it measures 10' across at its S. extremity. The character of this is indeterminate.

202. *Coriefeuran Hill.*—About 1 m. S. of the W. end of Loch Coire nam Feuran, on the W. slope of the hill, and by the side of the pass which leads from Strathnaver to Loch Coir an Fhearna, scattered over a distance of several hundred yards, is a group of about a hundred small round mounds overgrown with peat. There are no signs of hut circles among them, nor is there any indication of a settlement.

About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NNW. is a small group of about half a dozen mounds, presenting no features of interest.

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203. *Grumbeg, Loch Naver*.—Situating about 300 yards E. of the shepherd's cottage at Grumbeg, on the N. side of Loch Naver, and on the upper side of the road, is a small circle surrounded by a stony bank measuring about 3' 6" across, with an opening towards the S. It is slightly oval, with an interior diameter of 7' × 9', the longest axis being towards the entrance.

To the N. of the small knoll immediately in rear of this circle are ten or twelve small mounds of the usual type, one or two of which appear to have been opened.

O.S.M., SUTH., xlv. (unnoted).

Visited, 20th May 1909.

204. *Cnoc na Gamhna*.—On the right bank of the Mallart River, about 1½ m. above the bridge at the waterfall near Achness, and rather more than ½ m. to the E., on the shoulder of Cnoc na Gamhna, near the 500' contour line, is a large group of mounds. They are very numerous, with a few hut circles interspersed among them, especially towards the S. end. The mounds are of the usual small class, and the circles are of the simple oval form, and one or two of them are remarkably well preserved, with the walls about a couple of feet high, and with upright stones of about the same height on either side of the entrance.

At the extreme S. end of the group, and at the edge of the swampy ground, is a construction which is probably an ancient kiln. Two mounds, apparently composed of earth and small stones, about 30' long, 12' thick, and 4' to 5' high, lie parallel about 6' apart, in a N. and S. direction. Between them are two well-defined depressions, the one at the N. end measuring about 8' long by 6' broad, while that to the S. measures about 7' × 6'. They are divided from each other by a ridge joining the mounds about 4' long and 2' broad, from which large stones protrude, suggesting walling. At the S. end of the S. depression lies a flat slab 3' long and 1' 8" broad, supported on stones at either side. It is at present a few inches above the soil. This is probably the outer end of a covered passage to supply a draught.

205. *Allt a' Bhealaich*.—About ½ m. to the S., just above the 500' contour line, and some 200 yards N., on the right bank of the Allt a' Bhealaich, are two hut circles within about 20' of each other. That nearest to the river is very well preserved. It is oval, measuring interiorly 33' × 36', enclosed by a bank 6' thick and from 2' to 3' high. The entrance passage, which is from the S., is 3' wide, the exterior angles being carefully rounded with an outline of large stones. There are signs of an ancient bank of stone and turf, enclosing apparently about half an acre, within which the circles are situated.

Across the stream to the S., and higher up the slope of the hill to the E., are many mounds.

Proceeding S. about the same level, viz., 500' to 600' above the sea, round the W. side of the Cnoc na h-Iolaire, are many hundreds of mounds stretching round the shoulder of the hill for fully a mile, and over an area of nearly half a mile in breadth. The mounds are all of the usual sort, round, from 10' to 20' in diameter and about 2' in height. One of the constructions, with a hollow between two mounds, believed to be a kiln, is situated about the centre of the

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group. Hut circles are among the mounds, but proportionally they are few, half a dozen only being observable, and those of simple oval form.

206. *Cnoc Bad an Leathaid, Truderscaig, etc.*—On a spur of the Cnoc Bad an Leathaid, between the Allt na Creadha on the E. and Allt Truderscaig on the W., about 600' above sea-level, are numerous mounds and one or two hut circles of simple oval form; while a little less than a mile beyond to the E., on Leathad an Daraich, about the same level, is another large group. Mounds and hut circles extend almost continuously along the slopes facing the Mallart River, westward over the watershed to the N. of Loch Truderscaig and the S. end of Loch Rimsdale.

O.S.M., SUTH., liv. and lv.

Visited, 20th May 1909.

207. *Between Dailharraild and Syre.*—On the right bank of the River Naver, from Dailharraild to within about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. of the bridge at Syre, dotted here and there for a distance of nearly 3 m., are numerous

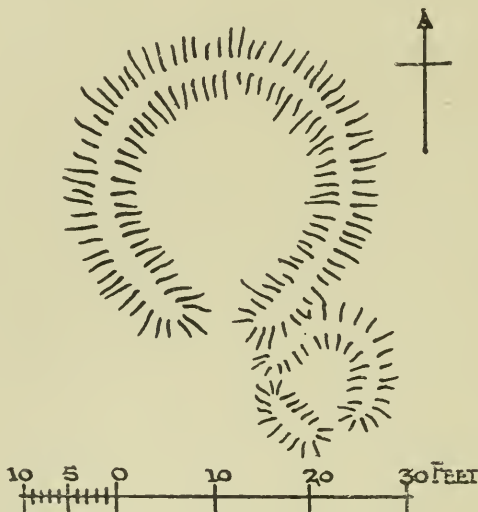


FIG. 20.—Hut Circle, Dailharraild (No. 207).

mounds. They lie mostly on terraces which intervene between the flat land near the river and the higher ground behind. In appearance they are for the most part of the usual character, viz., round, overgrown with vegetation, about 2' high in the centre, and 12' to 14' in diameter.

One of the mounds in the group, situated about 2 m. S. of the bridge, is of peculiar appearance. It lies N. and S., and seems to be formed of two, or probably three, ordinary stony mounds, each connected by a narrow neck. The third mound is entirely overgrown with heather, and is not very distinct. The other two measure over all 45' in length. The N. mound is 17' long by 12' broad at the widest part, and is connected by a neck which gradually contracts until it is about 4' wide; thereafter it expands again to join the S. cairn, which is 15' long and 12' broad. The length of the connecting portion, which is very distinct, is in each case 3'. The third mound appears to be about 12' or 13' long. No part of the construction is more than 1' 6" high. The three mounds are not in alignment. They do not seem to be mounds that have been connected in consequence of dilapi-

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dation, their outline being too regular and continuous. A dozen or more mounds of the usual type lie around, none of them ruined.

About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. further on, on the top of a bank about 100' above the river, is a somewhat similar construction, continued for a considerable distance.

A short distance further on, on the N. side of the burn that flows into the river opposite Ceann na Coille, are a hut circle of simple form and several mounds.

About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the S. of the last-mentioned hut circle, and about the same distance E. of the river, within an ancient enclosure, the ruined wall of which is partially visible at the SW. corner, are some fifteen mounds of the usual type and a hut circle. The latter is of the simple oval form, measuring interiorly 20' \times 25', and having the entrance from the S. It is peculiar in having attached to it, on the right side of the entrance, another small circle, measuring 7' \times 8', with an enclosing bank about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' broad. The latter appears to have had two entrances—one facing the W. towards the entrance to the main circle, and the other towards the SE. (fig. 20). About 50' SE. of these is a small circular depression of about 7' interior diameter, with a low bank about 6' across on the E. and W., and a very slight bank on the N.

A hill called Blar na Fola, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of the "Clach an Righ" at Dailharraild, is covered with mounds.

On the left bank of the River Naver, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. below its junction with the Mallart River, the O.S. map indicates two hut circles.

208. *Ceann na Coille*.—On the left bank of the River Naver, above Ceann na Coille, and about 300 yards W. of the road, on the top of a slight eminence, is a hut circle of simple form.

Further down the same side of the river, about 1 m. N. of the suspension bridge at Ceann na Coille, are a number of mounds between the road and the river, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. further N., on the W. side of the road, are a hut circle and mounds.

About $\frac{3}{4}$ m. NW. of Ceann na Coille, on either side of the Allt Ceann na Coille, is a group of mounds of the usual character.

About 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of Ceann na Coille, and about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. W. of the road in the centre of an old park, and immediately behind a sheep-fold, is a construction, formed of two cairns of large stones, converging towards the W., each about 4' high and 16' apart at the E., the diameter of the interior space from back to front being 31'. The cairn on the N. is 34' long and 13' broad, that on the S. 36' long and 15' broad. They both taper towards the W. end. The interior space is slightly hollowed out. At the SW. end of the S. cairn there has been some excavation.*

O.S.M., SUTH., xliv.

Visited, 21st May 1909.

209. *Syre*.—To the W. of Mr Chisholm's house at Syre are a number of mounds. In one of these a cist was found many years ago, measuring 5' 9" in length, formed of flattish stones set on edge,

* Mr Chisholm, Syre, for long farm manager over this property, states that there existed here a built opening. It was flagged over, and, to the best of his recollection, was about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' high, and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' to 3' wide. It was entered from the end of the S. cairn, on the S. side, and ran E. in the direction of its length.

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covered with six small cross slabs. It yielded only a small fragment of bone.

See *Antiquaries*, vi. p. 387.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxxvi.

Visited, 22nd May 1909.

210. *Earth-house, Syre*.—On the right bank of the River Naver, some 80 yards distant from it, and about 1 m. above Syre, is said to be an earth-house. It was discovered some thirty years ago, when it was fairly complete for 30', and was traceable on the surface for 10' more.*

O.S.M., SUTH., xlv. (unnoted).

211. *Carnachaidh*.—Situated on the haugh, to the N. of the remains of the broch on Cnoc Chealamy (No. 179), is a remarkable group of mounds, hut circles, etc.

About 50 yards from the Carnachaidh Burn, N. of the broch, is an irregular mound about 44' in length from E. to W. and some 2' to 3' in height. It appears to be formed of three separate parts in different alignment, the first and third portions pointing in the same direction at about an angle of 30° from the central mound which lies E. and W. The first portion at the W. end is 7' long, the middle portion 21' long, and the third 16' long. The third is less well defined than the others, and near its junction with the middle portion are some very large boulders.

Some 40 yards W. of this last-mentioned construction is a hut circle of the usual oval form, with a diameter of about 34', measured across the direction of the entrance.

Close beside it to the N. is a mound of a very definite S shape, about 3' in height, and measuring along its outline 111'.

Some distance to the N. of this are two large contiguous circles, which have been hollowed out to a level lower than that of the adjacent ground. They are bounded on both sides by great banks of stone, and are divided by the remains of a stone wall 6' across. The southmost circle is 42' in diameter from N. to S., and measures 17' across the entrance at the S. The N. circle is 38' in diameter, and 22' across the entrance. The bank on the W. side of the S. circle is 23' across, and about 6' high at the highest point. On the E. side it is of less extent and lower, while the E. bank of the N. circle is higher than the W. bank.

About 50 yards N. are two long banks of stone running E. and W. The eastmost of the two has in outline a tendency to an S form, while the westmost has similar features, but less pronounced. The former is about 2' high on the S. side, but considerably higher on the N., where the ground is lower. It is about 54' long and 10' broad at the E. end, where it is broadest.

Towards the NE. side of the haugh are four or five more of these constructions, with their general direction E. and W. Some have a less curving tendency than others. The haugh has been under cultivation, but it is to be noted that the ridges pass to either side of these constructions.

There are numerous other mounds, as well as hut circles on the

* Information supplied by the Rev. J. M. Joass, LL.D., Golspie.

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haugh and on the other side of the road. Some of the mounds are about 25' long, 10' to 15' broad, and 3' to 4' high. Towards the SE. is a mound about 4' high, circular, with a diameter of 36'.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxvii.

Visited, 22nd May 1909.

212. *Baile Mhargait, Bettyhill*.—On the W. bank of the River Naver, near its outlet and opposite Bettyhill, is a gravelly plateau, devoid of vegetation, which bears the name of Baile Mhargait. It is elevated some 20' above the river, and measures about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. in length by $\frac{1}{3}$ m. in breadth. On it are numerous remains of constructions of various kinds. Stony mounds abound, mostly small and circular. Towards the SW. end is a round cairn, 22' in diameter, and about 4' 6" in height. About 100 yards NW. of it is another cairn, measuring about 30' in diameter, but only now about 2' high, the top of it seemingly having been removed.

There are numerous hut circles, presenting no unusual features. From some all the turf or soil which went to the formation of the banks has gone, leaving the stones alone visible, and showing two parallel rows of large boulders with an interspace of about 3'. There is a circular enclosure on the E. side, towards the S. end, with interior diameter of about 24', which is apparently formed in similar fashion to a hut circle. There is, however, no entrance to it visible, but a thickening of the stony bank to the S. probably marks where it was. There are one or two flat heaps of stones, circular, evidently the remains of cairns, with a diameter of from 50' to 60', situated near the middle of the S. end. No remains of brochs are observable.

The sand on the surface of the plateau is constantly shifting, disclosing various remains. A list of constructions, including the remains of at least two brochs observed after a stormy winter in the spring of 1900, is contained in *Antiquaries*, xl. p. 132.

O.S.M., SUTH., xvii. and xviii.

Visited, 24th May 1909.

213. *Fiscary, Bettyhill*.—On a stretch of moorland, lying about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of Bettyhill Hotel, and reaching towards the hamlet of Swordly, are mounds in great numbers, and also hut circles. Some of the mounds are oblong, with their longest axes in no particular direction. Two of these measured gave dimensions 28' \times 14' and 21' \times 11' respectively. One of the hut circles near the eastmost of the large cairns has a diameter of 29' and an entrance from the S.

O.S.M., SUTH., xviii.

Visited, 24th May 1909.

214. *Farr*.—On the N. side of the road from Swordly to Farr, near the first house in the latter township, is a hut circle known as the "An Rath Chruineach." It is of the simple oval form, measures 32' in interior diameter, and has an entrance from the S. A "tunnel" is said to have been discovered many years ago in the field adjacent, but no trace of it now remains.

O.S.M., SUTH., ix.

Visited, 24th May 1909.

215. *Loch ma Naire*.—Near Loch ma Naire, at its S. end, are some small mounds of the usual type (unnoted).

216. *Achanellan Burn*.—About 1 m. up the Achanellan Burn, which enters the River Naver to the N. of Dunviden, and a short

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distance N. of its right bank between the 300' and 400' contour lines, are several hut circles of the usual type, with entrances from the S., and around them a large number of small mounds (unnoted).

217. *Skelpick Burn*.—About $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. up the Skelpick Burn, on a low ridge which lies between the high ground on the W. and the burn, are numerous small mounds of from 12' to 14' in diameter. One, near the burn at the NE. end of the ridge, measures 21' in length by 8' in breadth, and is some 2' in height. Its longest axis lies nearly N. and S. At the N. end of this ridge is a small area of haugh land, on the W. or hill side of which are the ruins of an old enclosing wall of large boulders. About 100 yards back from the burn, and at the very end of the ridge, on the top of a sandy hillock, is a well-defined oval enclosure, measuring interiorly 12' \times 6'. It is surrounded by a bank of stones about 2' in thickness, and has apparently a narrow entrance about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ' wide to the S., and there is a similar opening in the opposite wall towards the N. The longest axis lies NE. and SW. About 50' to the NE. is a small circular enclosure, with an interior diameter of about 7', surrounded by a rude walling or bank of stones similar to the above. The entrance is from the N. About 100' NE. are the remains of another similar small oval enclosure, surrounded with large boulders, and set against the old enclosing wall mentioned above. Its interior measurements are 9' \times 7'. The entrance is to the S. Abutting on its NE. side is a small circular mound about 7' in diameter, with a wall of boulders all round to a height of 2'. The top is covered with turf, and presents a slightly concave surface, beneath which the soil is loose and free from stones. No entrance is observable. Close to the edge of the burn, just beyond the NE. end of the ridge, and occupying what is probably a natural hillock, is another small oval enclosure, measuring interiorly 12' \times 6', surrounded by a low bank about 8' thick on base. The level of the interior is about 1' below the surrounding surface.

218. *Do*.—On the W. side of the Skelpick Burn, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SE. from Skelpick, is another group of small mounds of the usual type, but no hut circles, or other objects of interest associated with them, are observable. The mounds lie along the flat top of the moorland that slopes down towards Skelpick.

Another large group of mounds lies in the vicinity of the cairns (Nos. 241 and 242).

O.S.M., SUTH., xxvii.

Visited, 25th May 1909.

219. *Dail na Drochaide*.—About half-way between the point where the Skelpick Burn flows into the River Naver and the broch (No. 182) on the N. of the Allt a' Chaisteil, on a terrace at the foot of the hill, is a circular enclosure. Its interior diameter is about 36'. The wall is about 8' thick, built of large stones, showing on the inner face two courses of boulders laid horizontally about 2' high. The entrance is from the SE. The wall is higher and more important than that of the hut circles met with in this district. It stands on a slight hillock. Within 50' to the E. is a hut circle of the ordinary form.

O.S.M., SUTH., xviii. ("Picts House"). Visited, 27th May 1909.

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220. *Earth-house, Cracknie*.—This earth-house is situated 5 m. due S. of Borgie Bridge, and $2\frac{3}{4}$ m. E. of the E. shore, at the N. end of Loch Loyal, near the deserted crofter settlement of Cracknie, whose green hillocks are easily distinguishable a long way off from the northward. The entrance on the top of the second hillock from the NW. passes beneath a slab through an aperture about 2' square. The passage slopes downward, gradually growing wider and higher, and about 20' from the entrance is some 3' wide and from 4' 6" to 4' 10" high. At 32' inwards its width is reduced to 2' by a rebate on the right side: thereafter it gradually widens, and, curving round to the right, terminates in a pear-shaped expansion about 6' wide and 4' 4" high. The extreme length of the earth-house is 42'. A few flags lying displaced outside the entrance suggest that it was once longer. The sides are carefully built without mortar, and it is roofed with slabs overlapping each other. The walls throughout are in perfect condition.

See *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 276.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxvi. (unnoted).

Visited, 28th May 1909.

221. *River Borgie*.—Some 2 m. S. of Borgie Bridge, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. E. of the River Borgie, on the S. end of the ridge, at an elevation of some 300' above sea-level, is a group of about a dozen small round mounds. In the vicinity are the remains of old enclosures—probably connected with crofter-occupation.

About 1 m. further S., on the W. slope of the Druim Buidhe, and stretching up from the low ground near the River Borgie to about 150' above it, is another group, comprising from 80 to 100 mounds of the usual type. On the lower part of the slope, about 300 yards distant from the river, and directly E. of an island, is a well-marked hut circle, with the portal stone still standing on the left side of the entrance. It is a pointed stone 3' high and 2' 10" across the base, standing with its broad face towards the passage and 4' distant from the opposite side. The bank or wall of the circle is about 6' thick, and seems to have been more stony than usual. The interior diameter appears to be about 30', and what seems to be the ruins of an inner wall on the W. suggests that at some time the size of the circle has been reduced.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxvi. (unnoted).

Visited, 28th May 1909.

222. *Forsinard*.—About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. NE. from Forsinard Lodge, and to the N. of a pony-track which leads from the right bank of the Halladale River eastwards, is a group of small mounds, extending along the hill-side for about $\frac{1}{4}$ m., at a distance of about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ m. from the river. These mounds are somewhat larger and more stony than the usual type. One, near the S. end of the group, lying with its longest axis ENE. and WSW., measures 28' \times 18', and is about 3' 6" high. There are remains of old walls running among them from E. to W., and another wall is apparent along the lower side of the group, lying N. and S. About 150 yards to the N. of the pony-path a crescentic hollow in the hill face, with a chord of 28' and a radius of 8', is lined with stones, and faces SW. Towards the N. end of the group are the remains of a hut circle, the bank of which is much

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worn down, measuring interiorly $26' \times 29'$, and entering from the SW. The details of the entrance, etc., are indefinite. Some 60 yards E. of it, at a higher level, there appear to be the foundations of a number of small contiguous circular enclosures, but the remains are very indistinct.

To the N. of the group are the ruins of walls forming field-like enclosures. One of these is irregularly quadrangular, and contains probably about $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre. At the NW. corner a hut circle opens out of it measuring some $28' \times 34'$, with a bank about 6' thick. From the back of the circle the wall runs northward.

223. *Do.*—A little further N., and some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. N. of the pony-path, are the remains of several stone-built hut circles, formed of three or more conjoined circular or oval enclosures, with interior diameters of from about 8' to 14' and walls of about 5' in thickness. The walls are much ruined. The entrances appear to be from the W. Two of

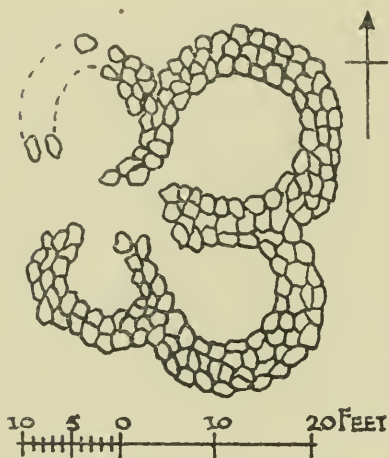


FIG. 21.—Hut Circle, Forsinard
(No. 223).

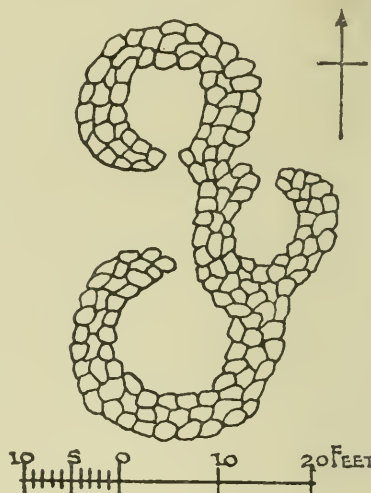


FIG. 22.—Hut Circle, Forsinard
(No. 223).

these dwellings lie adjacent, and in their neighbourhood are the ruins of old walls running along the hillside (figs. 21 and 22).

O.S.M., SUTH., xxxviii.

Visited, 27th September 1909.

224. *Dalhalvaig*.—On the E. side of the strath, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of Dalhalvaig School, on the slope of the hill from about 100 yards back from the high road, are a large number of stony mounds, measuring from about 16' to 25' in diameter, and stretching along the hillside for about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. They differ in appearance from the ordinary small mounds, so common on the hillsides, by having a depression in the centre in which stones are exposed as if from partial excavation; by there being no admixture of earth or turf with the stones; and by an absence of vegetation over them, except for a fringe some 3' to 4' wide around the outer edge. They are also in some instances linked together by walls, and in other instances have curving lines of walling projecting from them, as if to flank the entrances. Remains of old walls run hither and thither among them in sinuous lines. These constructions are believed to be the ruins of small huts.

At the extreme NW. end are two conjoined huts, which seem to

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have been partially excavated for stones. One is 18' in diameter and the other 14'.

Southward there is a group of four such ruins, connected, except

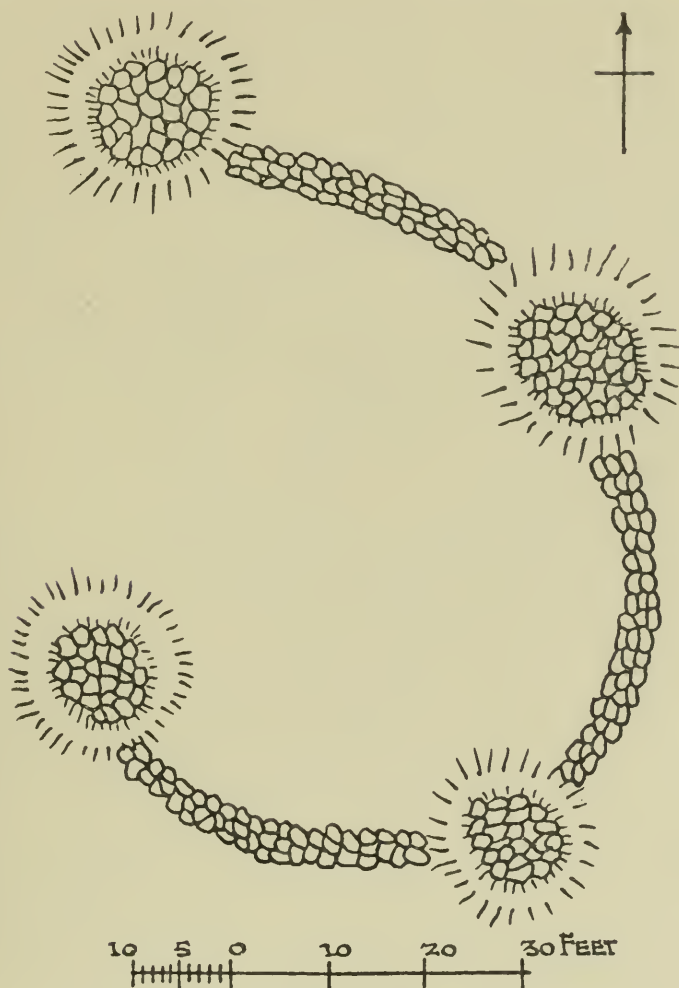


FIG. 23.—Hut Ruins, Dalhalvaig (No. 224).

towards the W., by walls, the foundations of which alone remain, 28' in length and about 3' in thickness, the whole construction

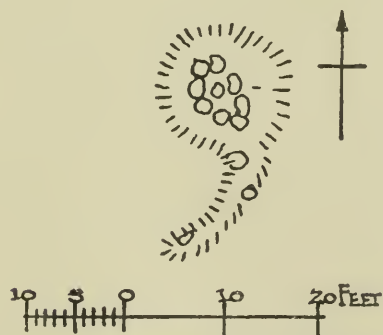


FIG. 24.—Hut Ruin, Dalhalvaig (No. 224).

forming a horse-shoe shaped enclosure, measuring 42' across the open end. Each ruin measures some 18' in diameter (fig. 23).

Near this group is a single example, 16' in diameter over all, and having a short wall curving to the SW. for 13' (fig. 24). One large

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mound near the SW. end of the group lies with its longest axis N. and S., and clearly discloses the outlines of several small circular chambers among the débris.

At the extreme SW. end is a specimen which indicates an interior diameter of from 12' to 15' and entrance from the SW. As far as indications serve, the interior diameters seem to have been from 8' to 10', and the entrances from W. or SW.

At the SE. end of the group are the remains of a small oblong building, with rounded ends, measuring about 42' over all from NE. to SW., having the ruins of a stone-built structure about 9' across at the NE. end. The interior diameter of the construction, including the ruin, has been about 33'. The entrance has been from the SW., and has been 3' wide. The bank is of turf and stone. There are among these ruins a very few mounds, overgrown with turf, and lacking the characteristics of the group, in no way differing externally from the ordinary small mounds.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxix.

Visited, 27th September 1909.

225. *Meall Mor a' Bhealaich*.—Some 2 m. further N., on the S. end of Meall Mor a' Bhealaich, opposite Calgarry Beg, on the W. side of Strath Halladale, and about 150' to 200' above the river, is another group of constructions similar to the last. The same features are present, and in some of the ruins traces of the circular wall on the interior are visible. They are mostly circular, with a diameter over all of about 18'. One oval example measures over all 25' × 16'. At the extreme S. of the group is a ruin which shows remains of the wall about 2' high in the interior. The diameter of the interior seems to have been about 6', and the measurement over all 18'. The entrance has probably been from the S. From the W. side of one ruin, of about 18' diameter, a wall curves S. and then E. down the hill in an irregular line. The chord of the arc which it forms with the E. end of the construction is 53' in length.

O.S.M., SUTH., xx. (unnoted).

Visited, 27th September 1909.

226. *Bighouse*.—A little more than 1 m. SSE. of Bighouse Lodge, on the E. side of the Thurso road, is a hut circle. The enclosing bank, which is about 3' in height, has been largely formed of stones. The interior diameter is 32'. The entrance has been from the SE. through a passage 10' in length, the thickness of the bank in the circumference being about 7'. In the centre of the interior is a small stony mound 9' in diameter and 2' in height. From the SW. side of it, 18' distant from the entrance, a wall appears to have crossed to the bank, as if to form the back of a chamber facing the entrance. Some 10' to the left of the entrance a narrow break in the bank, 1' 6" wide, gives access to a small enclosure, formed of large stones, with an interior diameter of 7'. In the interior of the main structure there are indications of other walls, but so overgrown as to be indefinite (fig. 25). This circle is almost identical in plan with that above Strathy Church (No. 230).

Some 50 yards to the NE. are the remains of another enclosure of simple oval form, the bank of which is much worn away. The entrance is from the SE., and the interior dimensions 23' × 27'.

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Some 30 yards N. on the other side of the road is another similar construction, entering from the SE., through an entrance 2' wide, and with banks 6' to 7' thick. The interior measurements are about 22' x 30'. Four or five small mounds, overgrown with turf and heather, lie quite near. One of these, some 30' N., is 18' in diameter, has a depression on the top, and is about 2' 6" in height.

On the top of the bank, across the burn, and some 300 yards NNE. of the enclosure with the mound in the centre, is a large

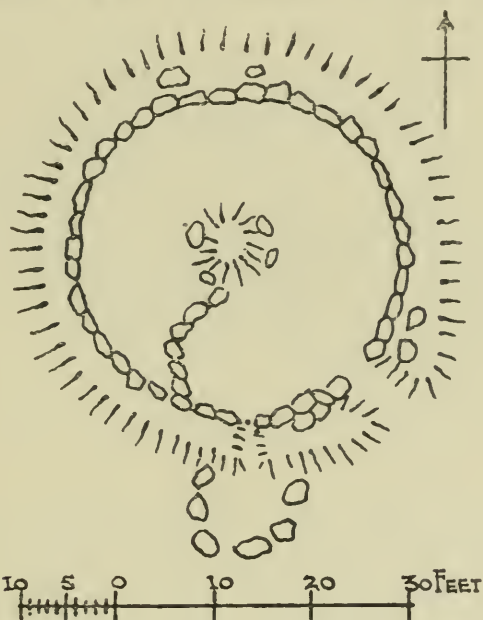


FIG. 25.—Hut Circle, Bighouse (No. 226).

circular enclosure, with walls 4' to 6' thick, and an interior diameter of 43'. It appears to have had several smaller constructions in the interior, and adjoining it on the exterior to the N.

Some 80 yards N. of the last is a hut circle, overgrown with ferns, and showing signs of ruins in the interior, but the details are obscure.

About 30 yards further N. are the remains of another hut circle, also indistinct. This construction seems to have been composed of four or five small circular compartments, from 5' to 8' in diameter. Adjoining it on the N. is a small oval enclosure, measuring 40' x 20', the outer wall of which is continued round to the N. of the hut construction.

Some 40' or thereby to the W. is another small enclosure of simple form, the banks of which are much worn down. It has been entered from the S., and has an interior diameter of from 15' to 20'.

O.S.M., SUTH., xi. (unnoted). Visited, 29th September 1909.

227. *Armadale Burn*.—Some 1¼ m. up the Armadale Burn, on its W. bank, and about ¼ m. down from the broch, on the top of the bank, are a few circular ruins, similar to those at Dalhalvaig (No. 224).

228. *Bowside Lodge*.—At Bowside Lodge, some 2¾ m. S. of Strathy, situated about 100 yards NE. of the keeper's house, on a terrace beside the Bowside Burn, is a small group of about ten hut ruins, most of which present the same features as those at Dalhalvaig, etc. The stones in the interior are exposed, the centre is lower than the edges,

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and there is no admixture of earth. The diameters are from 14' to 16', and the heaps of stones from 30' to 40' apart. There are no signs of connecting walls, but one is built into a bank, as at Dalhalvaig, A few mounds of similar size, conical, and overgrown with vegetation, exist among the ruins.

O.S.M., SUTH., xix. (unnoted). Visited, 28th September 1909.

229. *Dail Teine*.—About 1 m. above Strathy Church, on the W. bank of the Strathy water, and on the haugh to the N. of the influx of the Allt Dail Teine, are a number of circular enclosures and mounds. Some of the latter show a depression in the centre, like those at Dalhalvaig, while others are conical.

Near where the Allt Dail Teine flows into the Strathy water is a mound, some 18' in diameter and 3' to 4' high, showing no depression on the top, from which a wall or bank runs towards the river and also in the opposite direction up the bank of the burn.

Some 50' NW. of this is a small circular enclosure of about 12' interior diameter; and some 50' W. of it again a larger one, with an entrance from the E., having an interior diameter of about 14', and surrounded by the remains of an encircling wall some 6' thick. Attached to it on the W. there appear to be the ruins of a small chamber.

Some 30 yards NW. is a mound, overgrown with heather, about 16' in diameter and 3' high. Proceeding N. along the haugh are from fifteen to twenty more mounds. Two of them, rather larger than the rest, are situated within 20 yards of each other, and measure some 20' in diameter and 3' in height.

At the extreme N. end of the haugh is a small enclosure, with an entrance from the E., measuring over all some 29' from N. to S. by 27' from E. to W. From the entrance two passages pass respectively to right and left, leading into small circular chambers 8' and 5' in interior diameter, separated from each other by a foundation, from 3' to 5' across, projecting from the back wall. In the thickness of the wall at the back are two almost contiguous hollows, 2' in diameter. Two or three other enclosures near, overgrown with heather and fern, appear to be of similar character.

230. *Dail a' Bhaite*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Strathy Church, on the slope of the hillside, and some 100' above the level of the river, is a group of hut circles and small mounds.

At the extreme S. end of the group, opposite the most southerly of the Strathy crofts across the valley, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. back from the river, is a hut circle of three compartments, two in line E. and W., and the third alongside that at the E. The most westerly one measures interiorly 16' \times 12': that to the E. of it 14' \times 10', and that to the S. 14' \times 9'. The entrance from the outside has been by a curving passage near the centre of the S. side. The thickness of the enclosing wall seems to have been about 9' around the W. compartment and 5' round the others. There is much stone from the walls lying in the interior, and the inner faces of the walls have been lined with flat-sided boulders set on end (fig. 26).

Some 100 yards to the northward, at the same elevation as the last, are the remains of a hut circle, in the construction of which

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much large stone has been used. The entrance is from the E. through a passage 9' long and from 1' 6" to 2' wide. Near the centre of the passage two large upright stones, 3' and 3' 6" high, stand opposite each other 1' 6" apart. The wall is from 2' to 3' high, and, except

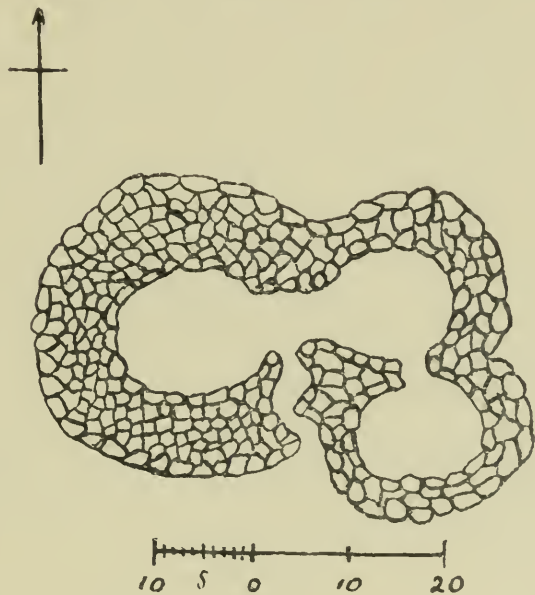


FIG. 26.—Hut Circle, Dail a' Bhaite (No. 230).

at the entrance, about 4' thick. The interior diameter from N. to S. is 27' and from E. to W. 25'. In the interior, 4' 8" from the entrance, and 8' from the back wall, is a mound measuring 13' \times 10' in diameter, outlined with large stones some 3' in height, and having a depth of a foot or two of humus on the top. On the S. side of

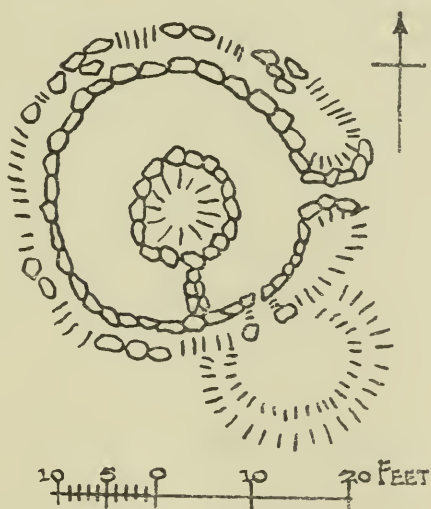


FIG. 27.—Hut Circle, Dail a' Bhaite (No. 230).

the interior a wall curving from the centre mound to the side forms the back of an enclosure 15' long by 7' wide. Many large stones lie scattered over the rest of the interior, obscuring any other details. Abutting on the outer wall to the S. is another enclosure, measuring interiorly about 13' \times 9', and apparently entered from the main circle. The thickness of the wall is not very apparent (fig. 27).

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Some 30 yards NW. are the remains of a small construction, formed of two or three conjoined circles, entirely overgrown with heather, and near by and further to the N, several small mounds of from 18' to 20' in diameter.

231. *Do.* — About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SW. of Strathy Church, and somewhat less to the W. of the river, on the N. side of a small ravine, and between it and an old feal dyke, is a circle of upright and almost contiguous boulders 9' 6" in diameter. On the N. and NE. are the remains of an outer and nearly parallel row, some 5' to 8' distant, the stones of which are not so closely set. On the S. side of the circle is a mound about 10' long, 5' across, and 2' high, which may be the remains of the original bank. To the NE., at 7' distant, is a small mound about 9' in diameter. This construction resembles the circle of stones on the An t-Sron, near Lairg (No. 424), and also that near Knock Arthur in Rogart (No. 497).

232. *Earth-house, Strathy.* — On the left bank of the Strathy water, some 80 yards S. of the road bridge beside Strathy Church, and near the top of the bank, a slight excavation marks the site of the entrance to an earth-house discovered a few years ago. No signs of building are visible. It does not appear to have been thoroughly explored (unnoted).

O.S.M., SUTH., x.

Visited, 28th September 1909.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

233. *Chambered Cairn, remains of, Skail.* — At Skail, about 70' E. of the road, in a clump of birch trees on Adam Mackay's croft, is the denuded megalithic chamber of a cairn. The cairn, which has been circular, with a diameter of about 66', has been almost entirely removed. The longest axis of the chamber has been NE. and SW., and its total length appears to have been about 15', but the NE. end is now indefinite. In form it is polygonal. At about 8' from the SW. end the chamber is divided into two compartments by two large slabs, some 2' 6" in height from the ground level, and about 2' apart, projecting from either side 2' 10" into the interior. These slabs are not exactly opposite each other, that on the N. being about 6" W. of the one on the other side. The SW. compartment of the chamber is about 8' broad, and is formed of five large slabs set on end—the highest, 5' 8" above ground and 3' 6" across at broadest, tapering to a point. The other slabs are each about 4' 6" high. The space between the upright stones is neatly filled with horizontal building. In the E. division of the chamber only one large stone on the N., 4' 6" high and 3' 7" broad, remains standing. The slab on the opposite side has fallen. No sign of the passage is visible.

This cairn was excavated some years ago by the tenant of one of the shooting lodges, but no record appears to have been kept. A steatite cup with a side handle is said to have been found in it, and to be preserved in the Dunrobin Museum.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxxvi. (unnoted).

Visited, 22nd May 1909.

234–237. *Cairns, Fiscary, Bettyhill.* — At Fiscary, to the E. of Bettyhill, a ridge runs along the upper part of the moor from E. to

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W., and crowning three eminences are four large cairns. The first, which is the most easterly, is circular in form, is about 68' in diameter, and 15' 6" high to the apex, on which a small pile of stones has recently been erected. The cairn does not appear to have been excavated, but the stones in several places have been pulled out, probably in attempts to discover the chambers or in pursuit of rabbits. The second and third cairns lie several hundred yards to the W., some 300' above the sea, overlooking the Bay of Swordly. Of these the southmost does not appear to have been excavated. It is circular, with a diameter of about 52', and is some 10' high to the top of the modern pile of stones on its apex. It presents a peculiar feature. At the N. end is clearly visible a broad platform of stones extending to a distance of 25' from the base of the cairn, and, though largely overgrown with turf, traceable by the outline of stones almost entirely around it. This platform has been described as a neck connecting the two cairns, but in reality it stops 7' distant from the adjacent cairn.

The third cairn adjoining has been excavated, and is now completely destroyed. The chamber is half filled up with débris, and

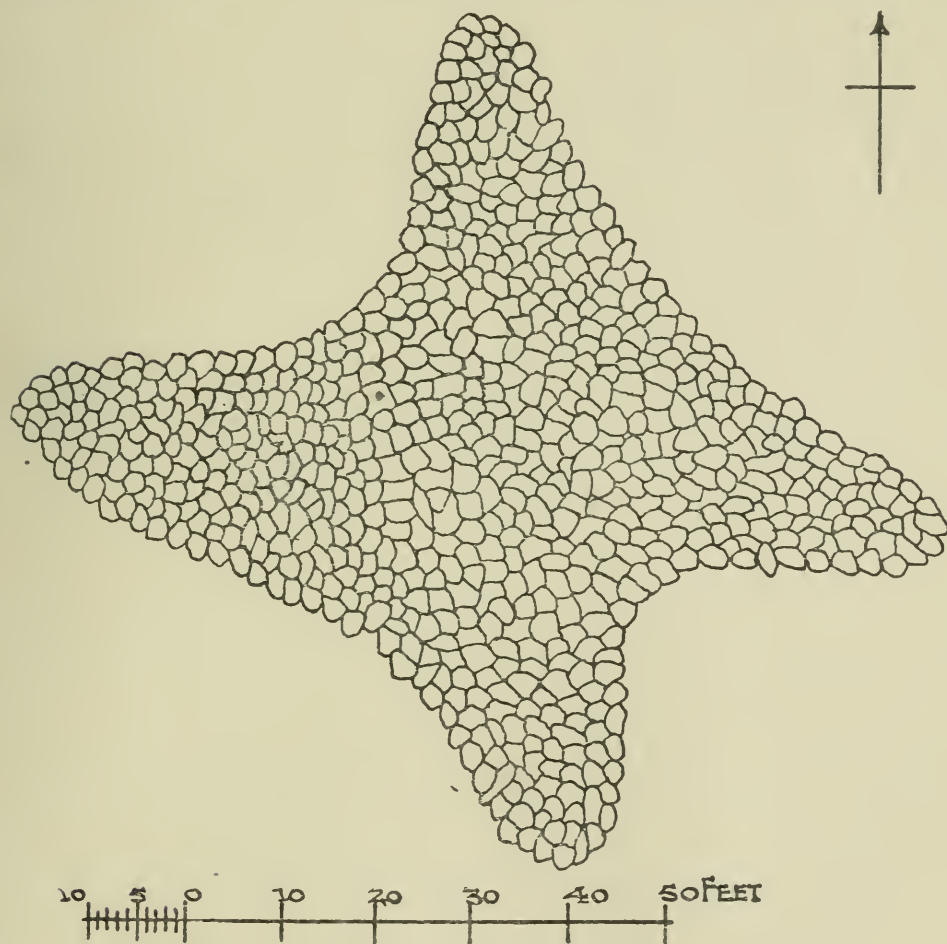


FIG. 28.—Horned Cairn, Skelpick (No. 238).

only two or three large slabs remain, the others having disappeared. Its diameter has been about 46', and its height is 4' to 5'.

The fourth cairn, still further to the W., measures 28' to 30' in

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diameter, and is about 6' high. There are no signs of chambers visible, and the cairn has been a good deal dilapidated.

O.S.M., SUTH., xviii.

Visited, 24th May 1909.

238. *Horned Cairn, Skelpick*.—Occupying the crest of a ridge to the E. of the small plantation near the farm buildings at Skelpick is a construction, apparently a horned cairn. It has been much dilapidated, especially on the SE. side, from which great quantities of stones have at one time been removed. There are various other signs of excavation, but no structural details have been exposed. The main mass of the cairn has a diameter of about 43', and is from 7' to 8' high. From four points, roughly corresponding with the cardinal points of the compass, radiate low horns, about 2' in height, measuring across the base at the N. and W. 20', and at the S. and E. 18'. They project at the N. and W. 20', and at the S. and E. 26' and 28' respectively. The N. and W. horns are 67' apart at their extremities, the S. and E. horns 55', while the W. and S. are 77' apart and the N. and E. 71' (fig. 28).

O.S.M., SUTH., xxvii.

Visited, 27th May 1909.

239. *Chambered Cairn, Skelpick*.—About 300 yards SE. of the Farm-house of Skelpick are the remains of a very large circular cairn. The stones of which it was formed have in great measure been removed. The diameter is about 93', and the height is still at highest 6' to 7'. There has been a chamber near the centre of the S. half at about 23' from the circumference, which has been excavated and is now ruined. It has probably been divided into two by partition slabs, 2' 6" high and 3' across, which occur at 30' from the outside. The chamber appears to have been about 17' in length. One low upright stone remains in the inner division on the E. side.

240. *Cairn, do.*—About 100 yards SE. of Skelpick Farm-house are the remains of another large round cairn, which does not appear to have been excavated, but is much dilapidated. The diameter from N. to S. is 59' and from E. to W. 54'. The height is about 5'. On the W. and S. sides it has been much pulled about.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxvii. (unnoted).

Visited, 27th May 1909.

241. *Horned Long Cairn, Skelpick*.—A horned long cairn is situated on the E. side of the Skelpick Burn, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. by E. of Skelpick. It lies with its longest axis N. and S. It is some 200' in length, and is 35' broad at the S. end, and at the N. end the projecting horns at their extremities are 66' apart. The S. end has been in part removed. The horns, which project considerably eastward and westward, are about 22' in length, and are each some 12' in breadth at the base. A passage, not opened out, enters from the N. end, and at about 15' 6" from the exterior gives access to a small separately roofed chamber about 6' 6" long, 4' broad, and 4' 3" high. It opens into a second chamber through a portal 2' 7" wide, and 3' 6" high above present level, surmounted by a large lintel, triangular in section, nearly 10' long and 2' 6" deep. This compartment measures some 8' \times 10'. One large slab alone remains *in situ* on the E. side, but none are on the W. This compartment is separated from the third by two upright stones, about 3' 6" high, supporting a

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lintel about 9' long, 1' 2" thick, and 3' 6" deep. The division stones are 4' apart. It is polygonal, measures some 10' × 12', and is formed of six large upright slabs, with regular horizontal building filling the spaces between them.

On the slope to the W. lie a number of small mounds, and these objects are numerous on the terrace about 100' higher up.

See Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 263; *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 273.

242. *Cairn, Skelpick*.—Towards the S. end of the group of mounds to the W. of the cairn (No. 241), and on a slight eminence, stands a large circular cairn, with a diameter of about 54'. It is about 8' high, and though the stones have been pulled about here and there on the top, it does not appear to have been excavated (unnoted).

O.S.M., SUTH., xviii.

Visited, 27th May 1909.

243. *Horned Long Cairns, Coille na Borgie*.—Situated on the right bank of the River Naver, about 1 m. above the road bridge to the S. of Bettyhill, on a natural terrace beside the road from Skelpick, are the remains of two, or possibly three, chambered cairns. They lie in line, with a general direction N. and S. The most southerly of the cairns is the largest. It is some 230' in length, some 80' wide at the N. end, and 50' wide at the S. end. Its elevation rises towards the N. At the N. end the cairn terminates in a crescent, measuring some 48' from point to point, formed by two projecting horns. These appear to have been outlined, on both the outer and inner faces, with large pointed stones set upright, varying in height from 3' to 7' 10", in breadth from 2' to 3', and in distance from each other from 10' to 16'. Though on the W. side the horn remains distinct, the standing-stones on the outer side have disappeared. They still, however, exist on both faces of the E. horn. Those on the outer sides of the horns are smaller than those in the line of the crescent, and the highest stones are at the extremities. To the front there are eight stones standing, three to the W. of the centre, and five to the E. Immediately to the W. of the entrance a large stone lies prostrate, with its point outwards. At intervals along the sides of the cairn, and more markedly on the W. side, from which the ground slopes, the heads of standing-stones protrude. The position of the standing-stones at the S. end, relative to the termination of the cairn, is difficult to determine. On the E. they appear merely to continue in the direction of the side, but on the W. there are two projecting slabs some 20' in from the present termination, which, facing towards the SE., suggest that they may have formed a portion of a crescentic setting. The chamber is tripartite. It is entered by a passage from the centre of the N. end, described as 17' in length and about 2½' in width and height. This passage, as well as the division of the chamber into which it opens, is now almost entirely filled with débris. The middle compartment is some 5' in length and breadth, and is said to have been some 6' 10" in height. It is still partially covered with slabs. The outer compartment, now ruined, is said to have been slightly less, and the innermost compartment over 7' in diameter and some 8' in height.

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The second cairn to the N. of the other is a mass of stones about 100' in length. It is said to have shown indications of a chambered character, but none are now visible. As in the cairn previously described, upright stones are visible at intervals in the lateral outlines, especially on the W. side.

The third cairn, which may possibly be a portion of the second, is circular, with a diameter of some 60', and contains a single polygonal chamber, now half filled with stones. The chamber measures some 8' in diameter, and was originally about the same in height. Its walls have been formed of great stones, with horizontal building filling the interspaces. This cairn appears also to have had horns at the N. end, but as it has been so much pillaged the indications are not very definite. Some 8' to the E. of the position of the outer entrance to the passage lies a large stone, mostly on its edge, exposed for a length of 5', and measuring 2' across. Some 25' N.E. the head of another protrudes. On the W. there are more indications of a horn, but there are no standing-stones.

See Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 260 (plan and illus.); *Antiquaries*, xviii. p. 228 (plan and illus.).

O.S.M., SUTH., xviii.

Visited, 27th May 1909.

244. *Cairns, etc., Achcheargary*.—On the S. side of the Achcheargary Burn, about 20 yards from the top of the W. bank of the River Naver, and 50 yards from the burn, is a large circular cairn, with a diameter from N. to S. of some 77' and from E. to W. of about 70'. The top of it has been removed, so as to expose, somewhat to the N. of the centre, three slabs, apparently the end and sides of a chamber, which does not appear to have been cleared out. The length of the chamber from E. to W., as far as exposed, is 7', and its width about 5'. One stone protrudes about 1' 2" at the E. end, and the upper portion of one is visible on each side. That on the N. side has been slightly displaced. The present height of the cairn is about 7'. Between it and the road on the W. lie about half a dozen small mounds.

At about 150 yards and 200 yards to the S. respectively, in the direction of the shepherd's house, have apparently been two more similar cairns, now almost entirely removed.

To the W. of the road, about 150' above it and some 100 yards S. of the burn, are the considerable remains of another cairn, which has been pillaged to build a sheep fold. It appears to have had a diameter of about 54'. Its present height is about 4' on the E., but on the W. or upper side it is almost level with the ground. Scattered about in its vicinity are a few small mounds of some 12' to 14' diameter.

About 100 yards N. of the burn, and 70 yards W. of the road, is a round cairn, with a diameter of about 26', and a height of about 4'.

About 70 yards NW. of it are the remains of yet another cairn beside a sheep fold. Near the centre of it has been exposed a cist, intact, except for the stone at the S. end, which has been removed and lies adjacent. The cist is full of soil to within 1' 2" of the covering slab, which is 3' 8" long, 3' wide, and 7" thick. The diameter of the cairn has been about 45'; its height is 5'.

About 30' NW. are the remains of a similar cairn, partially removed. A large thin slab, protruding to the S. of the remaining

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heap of stones, probably marks the site of a cist. The height of the existing portion, which is probably about one-half of the original, is about 4', and its diameter is 24'.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of the Achcheargary Burn is a group of mounds extending from the roadside to 80 or 100 yards W. of it.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxvii. (unnoted). Visited, 1st June 1909.

245. Across the River Naver, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. of the bridge over the Allt a' Chaisteil, on the road to Skelpick, is another group of a score or more mounds.

O.S.M., SUTH., xviii. (unnoted). Visited, 1st June 1909.

246. *Chambered Cairn (remains of), Melvich.*—On the hillside to the W. of the township of Melvich, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SSW. of the Hotel, are the dilapidated remains of a cairn. The diameter from E. to W. has been about 63', and from N. to S. about 70'. Some 27' in from the N. side the upper part of a large slab facing N. probably indicates the back of a chamber, and other large stones protruding seem to have formed part of such a structure.

O.S.M., SUTH., x. ("Borg. [remains of]").

Visited 29th September 1909.

247. *Stone Circle, Dailharraild.*—On a haugh beside the River Naver, at Dailharraild, stands the "Clach an Righ," the remains of a stone circle, with a low cairn in the centre. Of the stones forming the

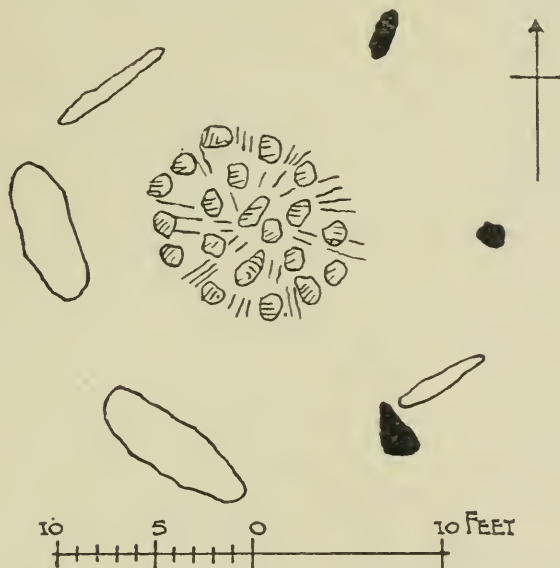


FIG. 29.—Stone Circle, Dailharraild (No. 247).

circle two only are upright, standing almost N. and S. of each other, and 21' 6" apart. They both stand with their broad faces at right angles to the line of the circumference. On the W. half of the circle three stones lie prone, and between the two upright stones the head of another protrudes through the turf. With its end against the E. face of the standing-stone to the S. lies a large stone on its edge, its opposite end lying a foot or so beyond the line of the circumference. The diameter of the circle appears to be about 22', that of the cairn in the middle 11'. The tall standing-stone to the S. is 8' high, 10" broad at the top, and 3' 6" at the base. It is a flat slab 8" to 10"

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thick. The other standing-stone is 6' high, 2' 9" broad at the base, and 1' 2" at the top, and about 8" thick. The three fallen stones on the W., counting from the S. stone northwards, are of the following dimensions, viz.:—1st stone, 9' long, 2' 8" broad, 9" thick; 2nd stone, 6' 6" long, 2' 8" broad, and 8" thick; 3rd stone, lying on edge, 6' 6" long, 9" thick, and 8" in breadth so far as visible. The head of the protruding stone is 2' long. The slab against the S. stone is 5' 4" long, 1' 9" broad where most exposed, and 3" to 4" thick (fig. 29).

See *Antiquaries*, v. p. 358 (illus.).

O.S.M., SUTH., xliv.

Visited, 21st May 1909.

MISCELLANEOUS.

248. *Sculptured Cross, Klibreck, Loch Naver*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S.E. of the farm buildings at Klibreck, on marshy ground S. of the enclosure called Stewart's Park, are two upright slabs of undressed schistose

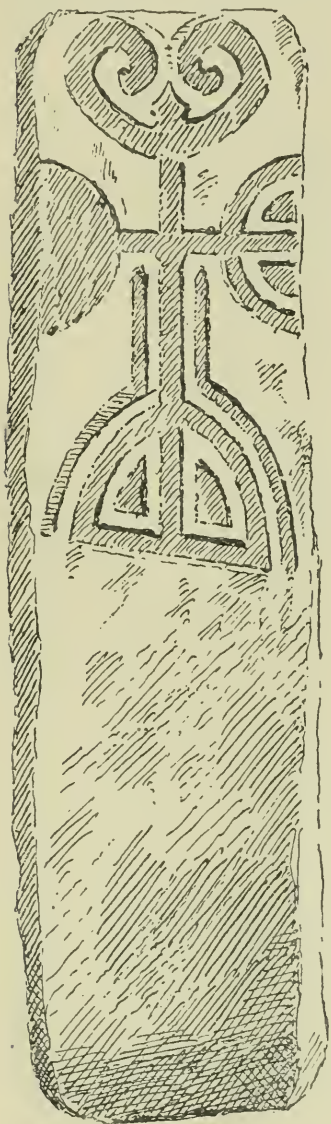


FIG. 30.—Sculptured Cross, Grumbeg (No. 250).

stone within 6' or 7' of each other. On the N. face of the most southerly, roughly chiselled out, is a Celtic cross, long-shafted, with the arms expanding towards the ends, and the angles at the points of intersection rounded. The height of the stone above ground is 3' 10", and its breadth is 1' 2". The total length of the cross exposed is 3' 6", and the breadth along the arms 11". The upper arm measures 8" in length, the side arms 4½", and the stem 2' 8".

249. *Foundations, Klibreck, Loch Naver*.—About 40' W. of the standing-stone are the foundations of a small rectangular building. The outline is now somewhat indefinite. Externally the measurement is about 21' over all; internally, the diameter seems to be about 12' from E. to W. by 10' from N. to S. At the N.E. corner there is a large mass of débris, suggesting some additional structure. Numerous large stones protrude from the ground in the vicinity, but none of them, so far as ascertainable, bear any symbols.

O.S.M., SUTH., liii. (unnoted).

Visited, 15th May 1909.

250. *Sculptured Cross, Grumbeg, Loch Naver*.—On the top of the E. wall which surrounds the

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ancient burial-ground of the Aberach Mackays at Grumbeg, on the N. side of Loch Naver, and some 6' from the SE. corner of the wall, is a stone with a cross incised on it. The stone measures 2' 4" in length, 6" in depth, and 7" in width; and the cross, which is at one end, occupies the breadth of the stone, and is 1' 1" long. The upper and lower arms slightly exceed in length the lateral arms. The upper and lateral arms terminate in semicircular expansions, while the other or lower end has a heart-shaped termination. The semicircular expansions enclose two small hollowed triangular compartments (on one side obliterated), while the remaining expansion bears a double incurving spiral (fig. 30).

251. *Do., do.*—A few feet to the N. of the above, also on the top of the wall, is a similar slab, some 3' in length, with a quadrangular figure 8" square incised on the face of it, and subdivided by four intersecting lines, cutting each other at right angles, thus forming four small connected crosses.

O.S.M., SUTH., xliv. (unnoted).

Visited, 17th May 1909.

252. *Cup-Marked Stone, do., do.*—Within the graveyard lies a small triangular stone of micaceous schist, having a surface measurement of 20" × 18" and a thickness of 4". There is shown on its face three well-defined cup-marks of about 3" diameter and 1½" depth. Towards the base of the stone is another marking, which is less well defined.

See *Antiquaries*, xl. p. 130 (illus.).

O.S.M., SUTH., xliv.

Visited, 17th May 1909.

253. *Sculptured Stone, Langdale.*—At Langdale, on the croft of Angus Gunn, lying against the wall at the N. side of the field in front of his house, is a portion of an incised slab 3' 8" in length, 2' in extreme breadth, and 3" thick, bearing, in the left upper corner, part of a crescentic device.

See *Antiquaries*, xl. p. 128 (illus.).

Visited, 22nd May 1909.

254. *Saddle Quern, do.*—At the upper end of the same field, beside an open drain, is lying a large stone 2' 3" long and 1' 7" broad, hollowed gradually from either end in the direction of its length to a depth of 3" at the centre, showing signs of attrition. It is possibly the lower stone of a saddle quern, and locally is said to have been used for tanning hides.

This seems to be the stone described as a font in *Antiquaries*, xl. p. 131.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxxvi.

Visited, 22nd May 1909.

255. *Cladh Langdale.*—Situated between the edge of a cultivated meadow and the River Naver, near Langdale, is an ancient burial-ground, enclosed within a wall. None of the tombstones exposed bear any markings of interest.

256. *Sculptured Cross, Skail.*—In a cultivated field at the edge of the River Naver, about 280 yards ENE. of the Schoolhouse at Skail, are the remains of an old graveyard, unenclosed, in the centre of which stands a short granite pillar, about 2' 4" high by 1' 2" in breadth and thickness, bearing a rudely incised cross, nearly equal

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armed, and having the upper arm rounded off at the extremity. This is known as "the Red Priest's Grave."

See *Antiquaries*, v. p. 359 (illus.).

257. *Cladh Rivigill*.—This disused graveyard is situated on the top of a knoll, on the right bank of the River Naver, in the meadow in front of the shooting-lodge of Rheafail. The few flat slabs that are exposed bear no inscriptions or symbolical markings.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxxvi.

Visited, 22nd May 1909.

258. *Sculptured Cross, Farr*.—To the E. of the Parish Church of Farr, within the graveyard, is a rectangular cross slab of blue schistose slate. It measures 7' 6" in height, 2' in width at the bottom, 2' 1" in width at the top, and 9" in thickness. It is divided into two panels, a narrow one at the top containing a key pattern, and a lower one containing in the upper part a cross, with a raised circular boss in the centre of it, oval hollows in the angles between the arms, and a circular ring connecting them, and having a narrow shaft springing from a semicircular arched base. The cross is highly ornamented with spirals, key pattern, and interlaced work, while the semicircular base contains a figure, formed of two birds, with their necks intertwined. Below the cross the panel is filled with key pattern. The background is also highly ornamented.

See *Early Christ. Mon.*, pt. iii. p. 53 (illus.); *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 274; *Sutherland and the Reay Country*, p. 111 (illus.).

O.S.M., SUTH., xviii.

Visited, 24th May 1909.

259. *Heraldic Stone, Kirktown*.—On a pillar of the cemetery gate at Kirktown, Strath-halladale, is a triangular stone, carved with armorial bearings, which was found in 1894 among the ruins of Kirkton Chapel, and is supposed to have marked the tomb of the first wife of Angus Mackay, second of Bighouse. The shield may be blazoned thus—Per fess, the chief per pale; in the dexter, a stag's head coupé, pierced through the neck by an arrow. Sinister, three bears' heads erased and muzzled. In base, a dexter hand between two dirks in chevron. The stone bears the initials of Angus Mackay, A.M.K., and the date 1630.

See *Antiquaries*, xxxviii. p. 529 (illus.); *The Book of Mackay*, p. 279 (illus.).

O.S.M., SUTH., xix.

260. *Sculptured Cross, Strathy*.—About 700 yards WSW. of the road bridge over the Strathy Water at Strathy, some 32 yards E. of the upper of the two feal dykes which crosses the moor from N. to S., and about 120 yards N. of the dyke, running E. and W., is a cross slab. The stone is lying NE. and SW. It is 4' 4" in length, 1' 8" wide where widest across the arms of the cross, and 1' 2" at base, and about 8" in thickness. Incised on the surface is a Latin cross 2' 8" in length, and 1' 7" across the arms. The shaft is 1' 6" long and 4" broad. The arms and shaft terminate in circular expansions formed of a plain disc 3" across, enclosed within a ring, the whole measuring 7" in diameter. The termination at the base of the cross is somewhat flattened from the round, and measures 6" × 7".

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Parallel incised lines are cut down either side of the shaft and arms.

See *Antiquaries*, xxxiv. p. 252 (illus.); *Early Christ. Mon.*, pt. iii. p. 55.

O.S.M., SUTH., x.

Visited, 29th September 1909.

261. *Megalithic Structure, Dunviden*.—About 120 yards E. of Dunviden broch, on the River Naver, on the top of a slight eminence, are the remains of a megalithic structure. The stones are irregularly placed, and seem to form a portion only of the original number. In the centre of a cup-shaped depression, from the sides of which protrude small round stones, stands a large block of grey granitic rock, 4' 6" high, 3' across, and about 10" thick. One stone stands to the N. and another to the S. of this block, 12' apart, and other five stand irregularly to the W. of a line between them. It is possible that it is the ruins of a chambered cairn.*

O.S.M., SUTH., xxvii. (unnoted).

Visited, 25th May 1909.

262. *Iron Smelting (remains of), Skelpick*.—On the right bank of the Skelpick Burn, directly to the W. of the N. end of the long cairn (No. 241), and about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of Skelpick, there is exposed, 8" below the present surface, a bed of iron slag 9" thick. Some 4" to 5" beneath it lies a seam of charcoal $2\frac{1}{2}$ " thick. The slag is intermixed with portions of burnt wood.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxvii. (unnoted).

Visited, 27th May 1909.

263. *Circular Building, Mound, etc., Ach nabourin*.—About 150 yards E. of the road at Ach nabourin, and between it and the River Naver, near the centre of the birch wood, are the remains of a small circular building, about 10' in diameter, with rude stone walling. To the S., a few feet distant, is a small round mound, and in front, where beneath the broken surface many large stones are visible, is said to have formerly existed an opening underground, 1' 6" to 2' square.

O.S.M., SUTH., xviii.

Visited, 28th May 1909.

SITES.

264. *Borve Castle*.—About 1 m. N. of the S. end of Farr township, on a promontory joined to the mainland by a narrow neck very precipitous on either flank, though accessible from the sea or NE. extremity, are the scanty remains of the Castle of Borve. Nothing exists but part of the foundations, which show a range of rectangular building, with walls about 7' thick. The main structure has been on the W. side of the promontory, but its plan is now indefinite. The NW. wall has for the most part gone. The promontory slopes down towards the seaward end, where there are several hollows, circular and rectangular, probably marking the site of the well and foundations of some kind. Below them a ditch crosses the lower end of

* The construction was visited by the Rev. J. M. Joass, LL.D., about the year 1864, and a ground plan of it, as it then appeared, was published in *Antiquaries*, v. pl. xxiv. This shows two rectangular enclosures set *en échelon*. The same number of stones as is there shown still remain, but some have probably fallen, and their positions are consequently altered.

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the headland. The neck connecting the promontory with the mainland is traversed by a ditch covered by a rampart on the seaward side, and there are the remains of a bank still nearer the land further protecting the approach on the NW. side at the top of the cliff.

See Gordon, p. 135; Pennant (1769), p. 346; *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 275; *The Book of Muckay*, p. 98; *Sutherland and the Reay Country*, pp. 40 (illus.) and 112; Cordiner's *Ruins*, ii. (illus. frontispiece)

O.S.M., SUTH., ix.

Visited, 24th May 1909.

265. *Broch, Clerkhill, Farr.*—At the extreme W. end of a low rocky ridge on which are situated the buildings of a croft bearing the name of "The Dun," formerly stood a broch. Only a few large stones, which formed part of the foundation, now remain on the top of the rock.

See *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 275.

O.S.M., SUTH., ix.

Visited, 24th May 1909.

266. *Earth-houses (supposed), Achnabourin.*—About $\frac{1}{3}$ m. WSW. of the farm-house at Achnabourin, and some 80 yards W. of the road, on the summit of a grassy knoll, two boulders probably mark the site of the entrance to the earth-house which formerly existed here. A depression running SE. for about 44' seems to indicate its extent.

On a hillock immediately E. of the road and between the wood and the farm-house at Achnabourin, is a similar depression running N. and S., about 54' in length and nearly 9' in width, showing signs of stone building at either side.

O.S.M., SUTH., xviii.

Visited, 28th May 1909.

267. *Chapel (supposed Site) and Graveyard, Kirktown.*—The O.S. map indicates the supposed site of a chapel at Kirktown, about 2 m. S. of Melvich.

268. *Old Graveyard, Achness.*—On the right bank of the River Naver, a short distance above the influx of the Mallart River, is an old graveyard. Nothing of interest is visible in it.

O.S.M., SUTH., liv. and lv.

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CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

269. *Dunrobin Castle.*—Dunrobin Castle is situated about $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. to the NE. of Golspie. It stands on the summit of a high bank overlooking the Dornoch Firth. Sir Robert Gordon thus describes it: "A house well seated upon a mote hard by the sea, with fair orchards, wher ther be pleasant gardens, planted with all kynds of froot, hearbs, and floors, used in this kingdom, and abundance of good saphron, tobacco, and rosemarie." It appears to have consisted originally of a keep at the NE. angle, 27' x 23', with walls 6' 6" in thickness, which still stands, but is entirely surrounded and enclosed with numerous additions of different ages. The keep is vaulted on each floor. The angle bartisans and the continuous

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mouldings in place of corbels beneath the parapet are features of late date. In the 17th century a large mansion, on the plan of a central courtyard, was erected to the SW. of the keep, and connected to it with a circular tower containing a wheel staircase. Over the windows of this staircase the original small pediments still exist, containing the initials I. ^{E.} s. for John, Earl of Sutherland, and A. ^{C.} s. for Anna, his countess. The greater part of the structure erected at that time is still preserved, although somewhat added to and altered. The iron "yett," with which the entrance to the old courtyard was provided, is still preserved at the castle.

See *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, iv. p. 300 (plans and illus.); *Antiquaries*, xxii. p. 310 ("yett" illus.); Gordon, pp. 8, 26, 509, 519; *Origines*, ii. pt. ii. p. 681; Cordiner's *Ruins*, ii. (illus.); *Sutherland and the Reay Country*, p. 110; Pococke, p. 166; *Views in Orkney*, etc. (illus.); *Old Lore Miscellany*, etc., ii. pt. iii. (illus.); *Ibid.*, ii. pt. iv. p. 199 (illus.).

O.S.M., SUTH., cv.

Visited, 17th July 1909.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

270. *Broch*, "Carn Liath."—Situating about $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. E. of Dunrobin Castle, to the S. of Uppat Wood, and just below the railway, on the top of a bank, is the broch of "Carn Liath." It has been thoroughly excavated. The entrance is from the E. by a flag-covered passage 18' long, some 6' high and 3' wide; 8' in from the outside occur jambs, beyond which the passage widens somewhat. At 2' 2" below the roof of the passage are holes on either side for the reception of a bar, that on the S. side passing 2' 3" into the wall, that on the N. 1' 3". In rear of the jamb, on the right of the passage, is the entrance to a chamber which is 10' long, 5' broad, and 8' high. The interior diameter of the broch is 30'. A quarter distance round the inner face of the wall, to the left, an entrance 3' wide gives access through a passage 6' long and 5' high to a flight of twenty-one steps, rising to the right. The average height of the wall in the interior is about 12'. Some 6' from the present floor level there is a scarcement 6" to 8" in breadth, formed by a restriction of the wall. In the middle of the interior is a sunk chamber, 11' long, 7' wide, and 8' deep, connected at the E. end with a smaller structure 3' deep. The walls of this chamber are formed of large, upright flags, about 5' in height, above which occurs neatly-built masonry. Close to the wall, on the N. side of the interior, is a similar sunk chamber, 8' long, 6' broad at greatest breadth, and 6' deep. On the outside a covered and flagged passage, 12' long, 3' wide, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ ' high, leads to the entrance passage from the S. The outer lintel of this passage bears two cup-marks on its upper face. It also displays certain linear markings, which appear to be artificial, and which are described and illustrated in *Antiquaries*, xv. p. 180. Around the broch are the remains of encircling walls and outbuildings. The relics found are preserved in the Museum at Dunrobin. Among them are many shale rings; two steatite cups, one with a handle; two plates of brass, each a little more than $\frac{1}{8}$ th in thickness, the one oblong, measuring

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11" × 7½", the other nearly semicircular, with a radius of about 7½". They are both marked with blows from the pin end of a hammer.

See *Arch. Scot.*, v. pt. i. p. 102 (plans, secs., and illus.); Anderson, *The Iron Age*, p. 221.

271. *Broch, Dunrobin Wood*.—In the wood, about ½ m. NW. of Dunrobin Mains, between the road and the cultivated land, are the remains of a broch, situated on a hillock cut off from the hill to the N. by a wide natural trench, and steeply sloped on the W., S., and E. The broch is much ruined, and the outer wall face has, to some extent, been cleared of débris, exposing the entrance, which is from the W. The interior diameter is not fully ascertainable. Where opposing wall faces are visible on the SW. and NE. it is 23', but from NW. to SE. it appears to have been greater—seemingly about 28'—thus giving the courtyard a slightly oval form. The entrance passage is 4' wide, where measurable at 7' from the exterior, and its length 16'. At 9' from the exterior, on its S. side, is the entrance to a guard chamber, which extends inwards for 8', and is 5' wide at greatest width. The inner half of the wall on the N. side of the passage is gone. At 6' back from the passage, on the N. side, is the end of a chamber, the outer or NW. wall of which is exposed for a distance of 24'. It probably contained the staircase. The greatest height of wall visible on the exterior is 7'. The thickness of the wall at 6' from ground level is 13'. The débris entirely obscures the wall faces on the E. side, and the growth of bracken makes observation additionally difficult. The broch has been encircled by a wall some 4' distant from it, now much ruined, and of indefinite thickness.

See Pococke, p. 166.

O.S.M., SUTH., cv.

Visited, 13th August 1909.

272. *Broch, Backies*.—Situated on a knoll at the foot of the hill behind Backies, and at an elevation of some 600' above the sea, is a broch. It has been excavated, and an immense pile of stones lies around. The entrance is from the WNW. through a passage 16' 6" in length, 3' 6" wide in the interior at base, 3' wide below the lintel, and 4' 8" high. The lintel stones covering the passage, with the exception of one or perhaps two, are all *in situ*. The interior diameter is 27', the greatest height of wall visible in the interior is 8' 6", but on the exterior the height is inconsiderable. The width of the wall at the height of 6' is 13' 6". A scarcement runs round the interior at about 5' 8" from the present floor level. Opposite the entrance to the broch is the entrance to a chamber through a passage measuring 5' 6" in length, and 2' 1" in width. Over the lintel at the latter entrance is an opening 1' 9" high by 1' 6" wide, carried inwards to the chamber above the passage roof. The chamber, the roof of which has fallen in, measures 13' to 14' in length by 6' in width. At 9' 6" to the N. of the entrance to the broch access is given to the staircase and a chamber opposite it by a passage 9' 8" long and 2' 8" wide. The stair rises towards the N.; and the walls of the staircase at the base, as well as those of the chamber opposite, have converged. There is no chamber entering off the entrance

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passage. At about 40' out from the entrance is a wall encircling the broch, on the inner side of which are signs of numerous secondary constructions. Among the objects recovered on excavation were a small stone cup, fragments of rude pottery, and an armlet of shale. These are preserved in Dunrobin Museum.

See *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 291; Pococke, p. 167.

O.S.M., SUTH., cv.

Visited, 13th August 1909.

HUT CIRCLES, EARTH-HOUSES, AND ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS.

273. *The Mound*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. E. of the Mound Station, in a young plantation of larch trees, between the road and the railway, is a hut circle. The interior is circular, with a diameter of 35' and entrance from the SE. The enclosing bank is some 6' thick, except on either side of the entrance, where it expands to 10'. The breadth of the entrance is not obtainable.

274. *Earth-house, Kirkton*.—About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. ENE. of the Mound Station, to the E. of the row of cottages above the wood at Kirkton

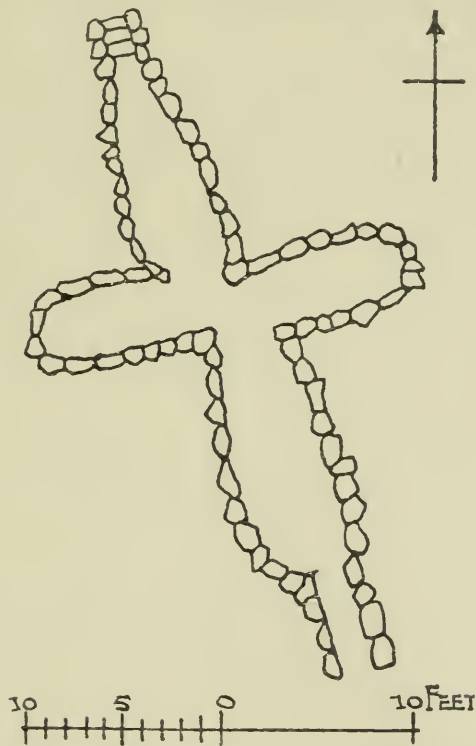


FIG. 31.—Earth-house, Kirkton (No. 274).

quarry, is an earth-house. It is 37' in length, cruciform in plan, with a chamber opening out of the main gallery on either side. In direction it runs NNW. and SSE., following the slope of the hill. Access is obtained to it at the N. end down a flight of six or seven steps, 1' 7" across, from the top of which, for a distance of 3', the roof has been removed. The main gallery expands to an extreme width of 4' before the side chambers are reached; and beyond them, after restriction to 3' 4", again expands to 4' 4" at its widest point. The greatest height of the roof is 6'. On the E. side, at 15' from the N. extremity of the side wall, is the entrance to a side chamber, 3' wide and 7' 1" in length, roofed with slabs 4' 11" in

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height above the present floor level. The end of the chamber is rounded, and the walls slightly converge upwards. The wall on the N. side of the entrance to this chamber projects about 1' further into the main gallery than that on the opposite side. On the W. side of the main gallery, at about 14' from the N. entrance, is the entrance to another chamber 2' 2" across. This chamber is 7' in length, 3' 5" wide at greatest width, and 4' 11" high, with a roof formed of overlapping slabs. The wall on the S. side of its entrance projects about 1' 9" further into the main gallery than that on the opposite side. At the S.E. extremity, 12' 10" from the S. side of the entrance to the E. chamber, a narrow passage leads through a doorway to the exterior. On either side of the doorway are projecting jambs, 1' 4" apart; that on the W. side projecting 7" from the passage wall, and that on the E. 3". The width of the passage beyond them is 1' 6", and at the exterior 1' 8". The height above present floor level is 1' 6" and the length 6'. Behind the jambs in the interior, 1' 4" from the roof, are square holes for a bar, that on the W. extending 1' 10" into the wall, and that on the E. 1' 5". The walls are neatly built of thin flat stones, and the roof is formed of flags. When the earth-house was cleared out, there were discovered a small ring of shale, 1" in diameter, and a fragment of another of similar dimensions, preserved in the Dunrobin Museum. Much food refuse lay on the floor (fig. 31).

275. *Kirkton*.—On the moor, about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. NW. of the cottages above the quarry at Kirkton, is a hut circle of ordinary type, covered with vegetation and rather ill-defined. A group of about half a dozen small mounds lie adjacent.

276. *Culmaily*.—On the W. side of the Culmaily burn, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NNW. of Culmaily, is a well-preserved hut circle, overgrown with brackens. The interior is almost circular, with a diameter of some 30'. The surrounding bank is 4' 6" across, except on either side of the entrance, where it expands to 7'. Its outline on the interior is well-defined with large flat-faced boulders set on end at irregular intervals. The entrance, which is about 1' 10" in width, faces the S. Two or three small mounds lie in the immediate vicinity, and a short distance to the NW. there are about a dozen more.

277. *Loch Lundie*.—About 1 m. up the Culmaily burn is Loch Lundie. On its NE. side, near its E. extremity, and above the road, is a hut circle. It measures interiorly 27' \times 31', and has the entrance from the SE. The surrounding bank appears to be about 8' thick, and to be largely formed of turf. The entrance is ill-defined. A few small mounds lie around, and several more are situated on the flank of the hill to the eastward.

Some 40 yards E. is another hut circle, with the bank much levelled, having its entrance from the SE. One or two small mounds lie to the S. of it.

Some 300 yards further along the loch side is the site of another hut circle, now ill-defined, and near it, and on the hillside above, are seven or eight mounds.

One or two small mounds lie in the whins, just above the cultivated land, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Culmaily.

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278. *Loch a' Vicair*.—To the N. of the Mound Rock, on a level stretch of moorland to the W. of Loch a' Vicair, is a large group of small mounds. At the W. end of the group are the remains of a hut circle. Only a portion of the bank on the W. exists: the rest has entirely disappeared. Around it lie numerous small mounds. One towards the S., more conspicuous than its neighbours, measures 20' in diameter.

O.S.M., SUTH., cv. (unnoted).

Visited, 19th July 1909.

279. *Aberscross Hill*.—At the S. end of Aberscross Hill, at an elevation of about 450' above the sea, on the slope above the burn, is a hut circle. It measures interiorly 37' 6" \times 38' 6". The entrance is from the S. The bank has been about 3' 6" thick in the circumference, expanding to 8' on either side of the entrance. It has been faced on the interior with large flat stones, and there is a marked

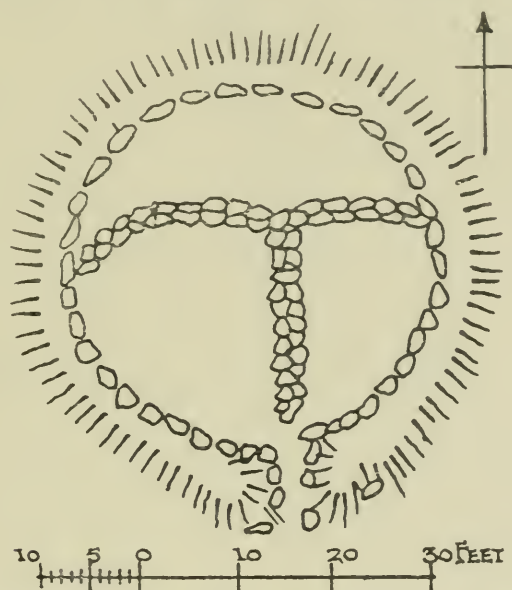


FIG. 32.—Hut Circle, Aberscross Hill (No. 279).

absence of stones on the outer circumference and in the centre of the bank. At 2' 9" from the entrance within the interior, the base of a wall, 2' 10" wide, runs towards the back of the enclosure for a distance of some 21', where it meets a wall curving round from either side, thus dividing the enclosure into three main compartments. Where the back compartment was entered from is not apparent. In the compartment to the E. of the entrance there are indications of further sub division at the S. end, but the details are indefinite (fig. 32).

Some 50 yards to the E. is another hut circle, but it is much dilapidated. A group of mounds lies around. All along the face of the hill to the northwards, at about the 500' contour line, are numbers of small mounds of the usual character. To the E. of one mound in the hollow above the hut circles is a setting of stones, oval in outline, measuring interiorly 6' 10" \times 3' 8", lying NW. and SE., with three large stones lying in the centre. It presents more the appearance of a grave than a cairn. The stones are some 8" to 10" across. There are remains of a croft not far distant.

On the W. flank of Aberscross hill is a large group of small mounds.

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Among them is one, in appearance two mounds joined by a low neck about 3' long, lying E. and W. The total length of the construction is about 25', the breadth of the mounds is about 12'.

To the E. of the Aberscross Burn, and almost due E. of the last group of mounds to the N. of Aberscross, is a small hut circle. Its interior diameter is about 12'. The entrance is from the NE. The features towards the entrance are obscure, but on the E. side of it the bank appears to project for about 6' beyond that on the opposite side, making the passage some 11' 6" long on the E. side, and about 5' 6" on the other.

On the top of the cliff, to the S. of Aberscross, is a circular enclosure, the outline of which is indefinite.

About 100 yards distant from the top of the birch wood to the E. of Morvich Lodge is a circular enclosure, with an interior diameter of about 35' 6". The bank is 4' across, and the entrance, which is from the NE., is 4' wide. A number of small mounds lie around it, one to the E. being only 8' distant.

O.S.M., SUTH., civ.

Visited, 19th July 1909.

280. *Fairlaraich*.—On the ridge of a spur that projects from the hillside towards the SE. end of Loch na Fuar-laraiche, about 40' above the road, is a hut circle abutting on an old wall which runs down the hill past the front of the entrance. It measures interiorly 29' × 30'. The bank is some 7' thick, and the entrance, which is from the E., is 3' 6" wide.

Several small mounds lie between the circle and the loch on its N. side. Two below the road are rather larger than usual. One of them is 24' in diameter, and 2' to 3' high.

A short distance to the E., on the flat below the road, is a mounded construction, evidently a kiln. Several old walls are visible along the hill face.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi. (unnoted).

Visited, 3rd August 1909.

281. *Uppat Wood*.—In a cleared portion of Uppat Wood, about 100 yards WNW. of the monument to James Loch, Esq., are the ruins of a structure of dry-stone masonry. In form the building is oblong, curved at one end, measuring some 54' in length by 15' in breadth, with a circular annex of some 19' in diameter adjoining it at the curved end. The main axis of the structure lies ESE. and WNW., and the entrance is from the former direction through a passage 14' in length and 3' 6" in width, the left side of which is formed by the wall of the circular annex. The walls of the building, which have been of massive stones, are from 7' to 8' in thickness, and remain to a height of about 3'. Though the side walls of the main building are curved, the angles at the WNW. are almost right angles. The interior appears to have been lined to some extent with thin smooth slabs set on end. The entrance to the circular enclosure has been from the SE., but its width is indefinite (fig. 33).

(O.S. "Brough.")

282. *Do.*—Some 200 yards N. of the last is a hut circle of simple form, with its entrance from the SE. Its interior dimensions are 33' × 36'. The enclosing bank is 8' thick. The width of the entrance

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is indefinite. At the base of an uprooted tree on the S. side are disclosed a number of shells of edible molluscs. The whole is overgrown with heather.

O.S.M., SUTH., cvi.

Visited, 16th August 1909.

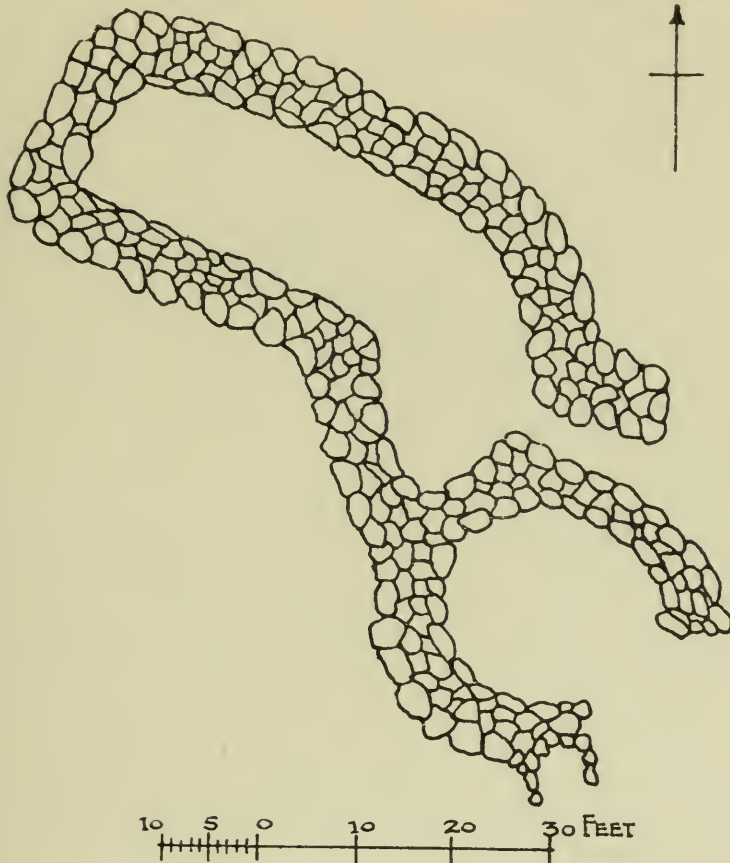


FIG. 33.—Hut Enclosure, Uppat Wood (No. 281).

283. *Earth-house, etc., Silver Rock*.—At the base of the Silver Rock, and at its E. end, in a hollow near a number of small mounds, is a depression lying E. and W. some 4' deep, measuring 25' × 18', the sides of which appear to have been roughly lined with stones. This has been a partially subterranean structure.

O.S.M., SUTH., cv.

Visited, 16th August 1909.

284. *Earth-house, Beinn a' Bhragie*.—Situated on Beinn a' Bhragie, to the SE. of the monument, and about 100' below it, just above an open space inside the wood, is an earth-house. It is narrow at the entrance, and continues so for about 6', and thereafter it expands to about 4' in width and 5' in height. It is almost straight, and is some 40' in length, though only about one half of it remains entire.*

O.S.M., SUTH., cv. (unnoted).

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

285. *Cairn, Kirkton*.—Some 30 yards N. of the hut circle (No. 275) situated about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. NW. of the cottages above the quarry at Kirkton is a cairn, elliptical in outline, measuring some 60' × 38', with its

* Particulars furnished by Rev. J. M. Joass, LL.D., Golspie.

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longest axis ENE. and WSW. Some 40' from the N. end, and 18' from the E. side, is a stone cist, formed of four large slabs, the covering slab being amissing. It lies in the direction of the main axis of the cairn, and is interiorly 3' 5" long by 3' 1" broad.

O.S.M., SUTH., cv.

Visited, 16th July 1909.

286. *Cairn, Aberscross*.—About 1 m. NW. of the Mound Station, on the top of the bank above the road to the W. of the burn at Aberscross, are the remains of a large cairn. The interior of it has been entirely removed at no distant date, and no trace of the chamber or cist remains. It has been of somewhat unusual form, apparently having had a single projecting horn towards the NNW. The outline of the cairn, as well as of the projection, has been marked with large boulders from 2' to 3' in length and 1½' to 2' in height, many of which still remain *in situ*. The diameter from E. to W. has been about 80' and from N. to S. 78', while from NNE. to SSW. along the projection it is 95'. The displacement of the stones on the S. render the details in that direction obscure.

287. *Cairns, do.*—Towards the upper part of the hill, about ½ m. E. of Morvich Lodge, is a ruined cairn, in the centre of which a very small cist, formed of flat-sided stones, is exposed. Its longest axis lies NE. and SW. The SW. end is displaced. The apparent length has been about 2' 6", and the breadth 1' 5". There are single slabs at the NE. and NW. sides and two on the SE. side. The diameter of the cairn has been about 31'. It is now quite low in elevation.

Some 50 yards to the S. is another cairn, the circumference of which has been marked with large boulders. The diameter has been about 25'. An excavation has been made in the centre, and a built polygonal cist, measuring some 2' 10" either way, has been exposed. The cairn is quite low.

On the higher ground to the N. of the cairns lie a number of small mounds of the usual character.

O.S.M., SUTH., civ.

Visited, 19th July 1909.

288. *Cairn, do.*—At the upper side of the plateau to the N. of the Mound Rock, about 100 yards SW. of the hillock that rises at the N. end of it, is a cairn. Its outline has been carefully defined with large contiguous boulders from 2' to 3' in length and as much as 2' in height. On the N. these boulders are wanting, but they appear to have been used in the construction of a small enclosure abutting on the cairn at that point. The cairn is circular, with a diameter of about 35'. It has been excavated for about 1' of its depth, but neither cist nor chamber has been exposed. It is some 4' in height.

O.S.M., SUTH. cv. (unnoted).

Visited, 19th July 1909.

289. *Chambered Cairn (remains of), Benbhraggie Wood*.—At the SE. corner of Benbhraggie Wood, about ¼ m. NE. of Rhives, is the denuded chamber of a cairn. The cairn has been entirely demolished, but there are indications that it had a diameter across the chamber of about 60'. From its situation on a slight elevation it was presumably circular. The chamber has been tripartite. The inner compartment has measured 6' 6" in length by about 9' 6" in width, and

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the middle one 6' 3" by about 7'. Of the outer compartment only one slab remains, that on the E. side, which is 4' 6" in length. Of the inner compartment the slab at the back, which is 4' 10" high and

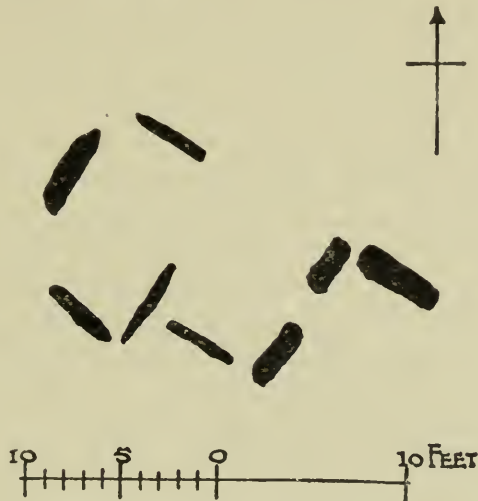


FIG. 34.—Chambered Cairn, Benbhraggie Wood (No. 289).

about 1' thick, and the two side slabs, 3' 8" and 4' high respectively, remain, as also one of the partition stones on the SE. side, which is 2' high and 4' 9" long. Of the middle compartment the slab on the SW. side, which is only 2' high above ground, and the partition stones between it and the outer chamber, which are about 3' high, 2' 7" and 3' 6" long, and 2' apart, are *in situ*. The main axis of the chamber is ESE. and WNW. The entrance has been from the ESE. The slabs of the inner compartment are higher than the others. A large tree is growing in the centre of this part of the chamber, which, if allowed to remain, in time is likely to destroy it (fig. 34).

O.S.M., SUTH., cv.

Visited, 13th August 1909.

290. *Stone Cist, Dunrobin*.—In the grounds of Dunrobin Castle, and some 30 to 40 yards W. of the monument to the Duchess of Sutherland, on the top of a gravelly knoll, about 2' 2" below the surface, is a stone cist, the E. end of which has been removed. It lies with its longest axis E. and W., and is formed of three slabs and a cover. The internal dimensions are 4' long, 2' 4" wide, and 2' 3" high. An urn of the drinking-cup class found in it is preserved in Dunrobin Museum.

O.S.M., SUTH., cv.

Visited, 17th July 1909.

291. *Stone Circle, Aberscross*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of the Mound Station, and about 30 yards above the road, are the remains of a stone circle. Three stones are standing, two are prostrate, and one is awaiting. The diameter of the circle has been about 22'. The stones are set with their broad faces in line of the circumference. The highest stone is about 6' high, 6' 6" across base, and 1' thick. A trench was cut through the circle in 1867. In the centre there was discovered a cremated interment, and beneath it a cist which contained no remains.

See *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 473 (plan and illus.).

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MISCELLANEOUS.

292. *Sculptured Stone, Dunrobin.*—Standing at the side of the walk which runs along the top of the banks through the wood to the E. of Dunrobin Castle is a stone, sculptured with incised symbols. It is 6' 2" in height above ground, 2' 4" broad at base, tapering slightly to the upper end, and is about 1' 3" thick. On its S. face is cut a crescent 3' 2" between the points and 1' 2" across, bearing in its centre a figure formed of an oval $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}''$ having a small circle of $3\frac{1}{2}''$ diameter at either end of it. A V-shaped rod symbol passes beneath the crescent, of which the end of the lower arm terminates in a sceptre, while the head of the upper arm is lanceolate. At the upper end of the stone is a symbol, probably the so-called "tuning-fork," and at the base another not easily identified, but which has been interpreted as a variety of the flower symbol.

Sculptured Stones, Dunrobin Museum.—In the Museum at Dunrobin are a number of sculptured stones removed from various sites in the county, illustrated and described in detail in *The Early Christian Monuments of Scotland*, part ii. pp. 38–54, and inventoried below, Nos. 293 to 300 :—

293. *From Clynekirkton, 3 Stones.*—(1) A slab of red sandstone, of irregular outline, discovered in 1855, measuring 4' 3" in length, 1' 11" in width at the top, and 1' 7" at the bottom, by $4\frac{1}{2}''$ in thickness. It has sculptured on one face, at the top, with incised lines, the crescent and V-shaped rod symbol, and below it the rectangular symbol, both ornamented with patterns formed of curved and straight lines.

(2) A slab of sandstone, approximately rectangular, found in Clyne churchyard in 1868, but said to have been taken by a crofter from the 300' terrace on Clynemilton Farm. It measures 4' in length, 1' 5" in width, and $2\frac{1}{2}''$ in thickness. There is sculptured, with incised lines on one face, at the top, the rectangular symbol; below this the crescent and V-shaped rod symbol, and at the bottom the mirror symbol.

(3) The head of a rectangular cross-slab, with rounded top, of purple sandstone. This stone was found in 1877, built into the E. gable of Clyne Church. It measures 1' in height, 1' 1" in width, and $3\frac{1}{2}''$ in thickness, and has sculptured in relief on one side a cross, with square ends to the arms and square stepped hollows in the angles between the arms, ornamented with spiral work, and showing a fragment of key pattern in the background.

294. *From Clynemilton, 2 Stones.*—(1) A slab of sandstone, of irregular six-sided shape, broken across, found prior to 1860 near Dalchalluim. It measures 3' 6" in height, 3' 6" in width, and $4\frac{1}{2}''$ in thickness, having sculptured, with incised lines on one face, at the top, in the centre, the horse-shoe symbol, below this the crescent and V-shaped rod symbol, and to the left of it the mirror symbol without the comb. The horse-shoe and crescent are ornamented with curved and spiral lines.

(2) A slab of sandstone, of irregular six-sided shape, broken at the top. It measures 3' 2" in height, 2' 11" in width, and 8" in thickness, and has sculptured, with incised lines on one face, at the

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top, on the left, the rectangle and Z-shaped rod symbol, and on the right the mirror and comb symbol.

295. *From Craigton*.—A rectangular slab of purple sandstone. It was formerly used as a tombstone in the graveyard at Craigton, and was thereafter removed to the churchyard of Golspie, whence it was taken to the Museum at Dunrobin in 1868. The stone measures 6' in height, 2' 8" in width at the bottom, and 2' at the top, and is 6" in thickness. It is sculptured partly in relief and partly with incised lines on four faces, and is inscribed with oghams on two angles. The sculpturing consists of a cross, with circular hollows in the angles between the arms, having interlaced and spiral work on the front face, with an ornamented background divided into panels containing interlaced work. On the back the rectangular, "elephant," serpent, rod and disc, and other symbols, a man holding an axe in one hand and a knife in the other, a beast with its tail curled over its back, and the fish, flower, and crescent. The symbols are ornamented with patterns composed of spirals and straight lines. On the right and left sides is a spiral border pattern, composed of one row of double spirals connected with S-shaped curves. On a roll moulding is an ogham inscription, commencing at the bottom, reading along the vertical edge, and continuing along the top edge.

296. *From Golspie*.—A sculptured stone, which was found in 1854 about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of Dunrobin Castle. It was one of three stones (the other two plain) covering a grave containing two skeletons of adult men and a portion of the socket of an iron spearhead. The sculptured stone, which is of sandstone of irregular oval shape, was over the heads of the skeletons. It measures 3' 8" in length, 1' 11" in width, and 5" in thickness, and has the following symbols sculptured on the smooth surface of one face in finely incised lines—a fish, "tuning-fork," and mirror and comb.

297. *From Kintradwell, 4 Stones*.—(1) A slab of sandstone, of irregular shape, found in 1864 some 100 yards W. of the Cinn Trolla broch (No. 467). The stone, which measures 3' 2" in length, 1' 1" in width, and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in thickness, has sculptured, with incised lines across one face near the top, the S-shaped symbol, and below it the mirror case symbol—the former ornamented with curved lines and the latter with concentric circles.

(2) A slab of iron-coloured sandstone, of irregular triangular shape, found in 1873 about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NE. of the Cinn Trolla broch, close to the railway on the S. side, which measures 2' 9" in length, 1' 3" in width, and 4" in thickness. Sculptured, with incised lines on one face, are the S-shaped symbol, ornamented with straight and curved lines, with semicircular hollow in the end of the S, and below it a disc, supposed to be either the mirror or the triple-disc symbol.

(3) A slab of red sandstone, of irregular oval shape, found in 1872 on Kintradwell beach, in the same place as the last. It measures 3' 8" in length, 2' 2" in width, and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in thickness, and has sculptured, with incised lines on one face, and placed side by side, the crescent, ornamented with curved lines and V-shaped rod symbol, towards the left, and the mirror and comb symbol towards the right.

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(4) A fragment of sandstone, of irregular shape, found, in 1873, in the same place as the two last mentioned stones. It measures 1' 6" in length, 1' in width, and 2" in thickness, and has sculptured, with incised lines on one face, four parallel straight lines, two of which are closed at one end; probably forming part of the "tuning-fork" symbol.

298. *From Little Ferry, 4 Stones.*—(1) A fragment of sandstone, of approximately square shape, found, in 1872, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Golspie, on the S. side of Ferry Road, on a bare gravelly flat. It measures $7\frac{1}{2}$ " in length, $7\frac{1}{2}$ " in width, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ " in thickness, and is sculptured, with incised lines on one face, with two straight parallel lines and two others terminating in spiral curves in the centre, probably forming part of the rectangular symbol.

(2) A fragment of sandstone, of irregular shape, found in 1874 near the same place as the last. It measures 1' 5" in length, 11" in width, and 3" in thickness, and is sculptured on one face at the top, in incised lines, with the crescent symbol, without the V-shaped rod, or perhaps the horse-shoe symbol, and below this the termination of either a V-shaped or Z-shaped rod (the rest of the figure being broken off), and, to the right, part of a second crescent.

(3) A fragment of red sandstone, of irregular five-sided shape, found in 1872 near the same place. It measures 6" in length, 6" in width, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ " in thickness, and has sculptured on one face, with incised lines, two concentric circles and portions of three curved lines branching from the outer circle; probably forming the middle part of the mirror symbol or the double disc symbol.

(4) A fragment of red sandstone, of irregular shape, found in 1880, about 2 m. W. of Golspie, on the same line of links as the others. It measures 1' in length, 8" in width, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ " in thickness, having sculptured on one face, with incised lines, the termination of a V-shaped rod and part of a crescent symbol. The ornamental termination of the V-shaped rod on this stone is remarkable for the beauty of its design.

299. *From Collieburn, Kintradwell.*—A sculptured stone found in 1869 during the railway excavations near Collieburn erect *in situ* under 7' of sand. It is the lower part of an upright cross slab of yellow sandstone, measuring 5' 2" in height, $2' 2\frac{1}{2}"$ in width at the bottom, and $2' 5\frac{1}{2}"$ at the top, by $9\frac{1}{2}"$ in thickness at the bottom, and 11" at the top, sculptured in relief on two faces, thus:—*Front*—The lower part plain, except where a swastica cross (†) is carved near the bottom. Above this a single panel, containing two different kinds of ornament—(a) at the bottom circular double-headed knot-work, (b) at the top a key pattern. *Back*—Bottom part plain, and over it a portion of a panel containing circular double-headed knot-work. On both faces the spaces are filled in with small circular pellets or bosses. The slab appears to have been re-used to form the jamb of a door or for some such secondary purpose.

300. *From Lothbeg.*—A sculptured stone, which was found in 1869 during the construction of Lothbeg railway cutting. It is a portion of an upright cross slab of purple sandstone, measuring 1' 7" in length, 1' in width, and $5\frac{1}{2}"$ in thickness, sculptured in relief on three

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faces, thus:—*Front*—The left arm of a cross, with circular hollows between the arms, ornamented with interlaced work, with traces of interlaced work on the background. *Back*—The right arm of a cross, with square stepped hollows in the angles between the arms, and a circular ring connecting them. The arm is ornamented with a key pattern, the circular ring with a sort of cable, and the background with interlaced work. *Left side*—Triangular interlaced work.

301. *Cup-marked Stone, Dunrobin Museum*.—Preserved in the museum is an irregularly shaped slab of sandstone, measuring some 1' 7" × 1' 4", on which appear three well-defined cup-markings and one less distinct, with a diameter of about 2", showing numerous distinct tool-marks, and a number of smaller depressions about $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter. On the left of the stone as it stands in the museum is a small group formed of one small central marking about $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter, surrounded by six equidistant and almost contiguous marks, each of a similar diameter. The whole figure measures 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " across. The stone was found at Uppat.

302. *Caves, Strath Steven Cove*.—About 2 m. along the coast S. of Brora, in the face of a sandstone cliff at the northern end of a small bay known as Strath Steven Cove, is a cave. Its entrance is some 25' above the base of the cliff, easily accessible by steps cut in the rock. The cave faces to the S., and measures some 18' across the opening by 15' deep. In the back wall two wide apertures give access to another chamber at a higher level. In the interior the rock has been cut out so as to form benches and seats, and the walls bear marks of tools over a great part of their surface. It has been excavated, and half an amber bead was found in it.

Some 40 yards S. along the cliff, at the same level, is another cave of smaller dimensions and less accessible.

See *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 292; Pennant (1769), p. 191; Pococke, p. 166.

O.S.M., SUTH., cvi.

Visited, 16th August 1909.

303. *Cave, Backies*.—Towards the top of the Cagar Feosaig, to the NNE. of the broch at Backies, and at the head of a gully which runs in a northeasterly direction, is a cave which shows evidence of human habitation. It is approached by a flight of laid steps. A lofty gallery, some 3' to 4' wide, runs inwards for a distance of about 20', where a narrow passage turns sharply to the right and passes into the hill for an indefinite distance.

O.S.M., SUTH., cv.

Visited, 13th August 1909.

SITES.

304. *Chapel (s.) and Graveyard, Kirkton*.—To the W. of Kirkton farm-house, in a wood between the road and the steading, is a neglected graveyard. The farm-house is said to be built on the site of the Chapel dedicated to St Carden.

O.S.M., SUTH., cv.

Visited, 16th July 1909.

305. *Golspie Tower*.—A few stones in front of a cottage at Golspie Tower Farm mark the site of Golspie Tower.

O.S.M., SUTH., cv.

Visited, 13th August 1909.

PARISH OF KILDONAN.

CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

306. *Helmsdale Castle*.—The ruins of Helmsdale Castle occupy a most commanding position on the end of a steep bank at the S. side of the mouth of the Helmsdale River, opposite the harbour of Helmsdale. The structure was evidently of the L form, with a circular staircase in the angle, but is now a mere shell. The ruin stands to a height of some 24'. The castle is said to have been erected in 1488 by the seventh Countess of Sutherland, and to have been rebuilt and repaired by Sir Alexander Gordon of Navidale in 1616. A lintel from the castle, preserved in the Dunrobin Museum, bears the following inscription:—

“Si sapiens fore vis, sex serva quæ tibi mando
Quid dices, et de quo, ubi, cui, quomodo, quando.”

See *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, v. pp. 294 (plan); Gordon, pp. 8, 79; *Sutherland and the Reay Country*, pp. 45 (illus.) and 113.

O.S.M., SUTH., xc.

Visited, 10th August 1909.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

307. *Broch, Kilphedir*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Salscraggie Lodge, situated on a hillock which rises on the slope of the hill, and at an elevation of about 450' above sea level, is the broch of Kilphedir.

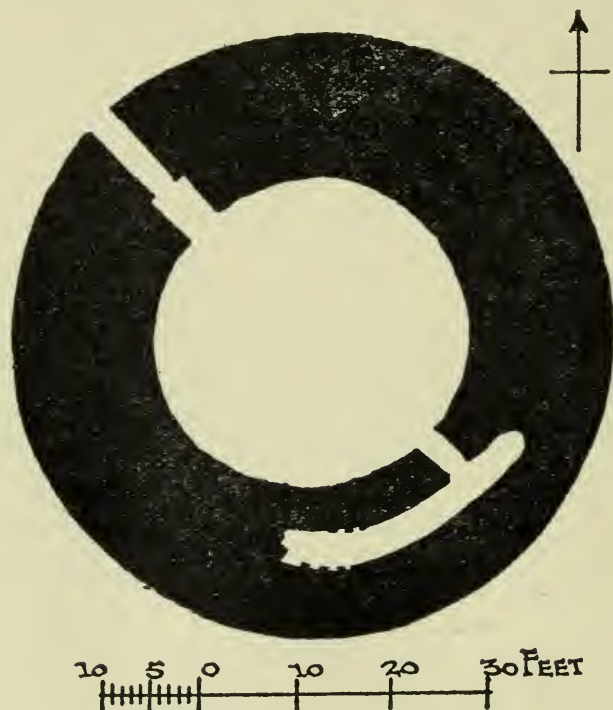


FIG. 35.—Broch, Kilphedir (No. 307).

The top of the hillock measures some 220' × 132' (O.S.), and the broch stands near the centre of it, towards the N. end. The broch has an interior diameter of 32' from NW. to SE. and 33' from SW. to NE. The entrance is from the NW. through a passage 15' 6" long, 3' wide at the exterior, and 4' 10" on the interior. At 10' inwards is a rebate of 6" on either side, forming door checks.

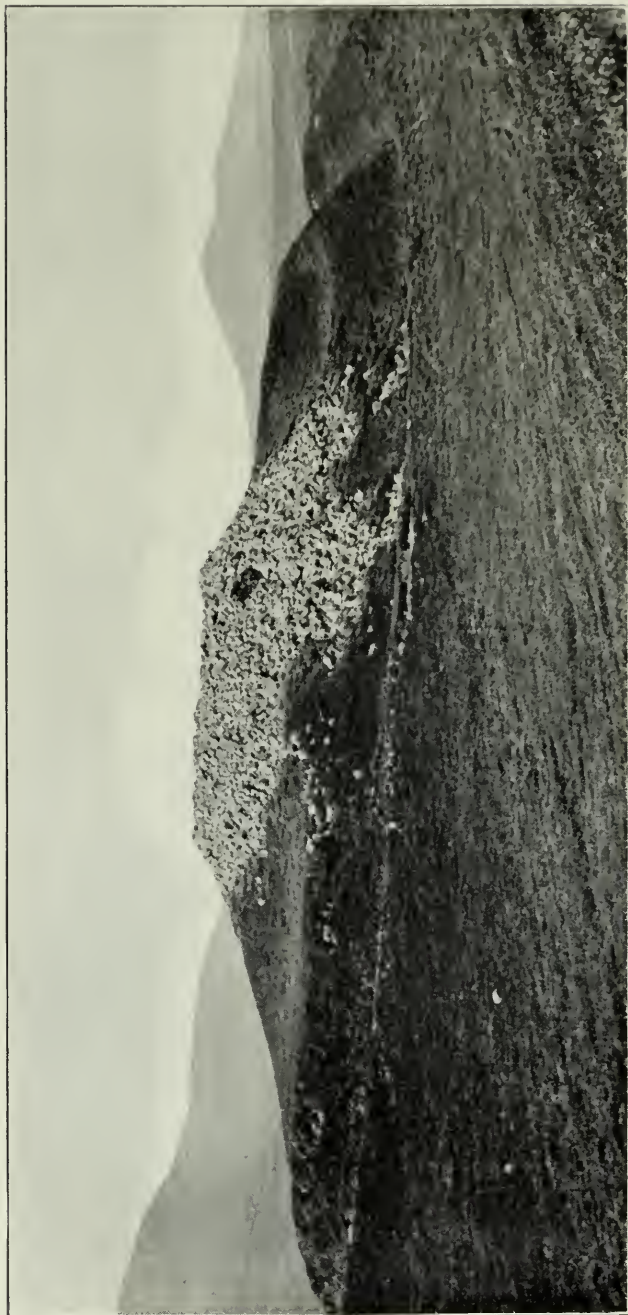


PLATE III.—Broch, Kilphedir (No. 307).

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The outer covering slab, and two others at 6' from the outside, alone remain in position. The passage is full of débris, and no entrance to a guard chamber is visible. From the interior, directly opposite the entrance, a passage 4' long and 2' wide by 4' 2" high leads into a chamber which opens to the left. The chamber is filled with débris, but as far as visible is 5' 6" in length and 2' 7" in width. Opposite it, to the right, the staircase rises southwards for a distance of about 15' between walls about 2' 6" apart. The steps are entirely covered with débris. The greatest height of wall in the interior is 7' 3", while the average height all round is not much less. The width of the wall at this level is about 12' 6". The greatest height of wall visible on the exterior above the ruins is 4' 6". The broch occupies a most commanding position, which has been strengthened by fortifications. The base of the hillock is encircled by a ditch some 23' wide and 9' deep below the top of the counterscarp, on the crest of which, from the NW. end round to the E., is a rampart, some 14' thick at base. At the N., on the E. of the entrance, a short outer ditch runs parallel with the inner one for a distance of about 20', and is some 22' wide and 6' deep. Some 50' from the extremity of the ditch, on the W. side of the entrance, a small oval enclosure, measuring interiorly about 17' × 12', is contained in the rampart. On the N. the hillock is about 20' in height, and about half way down the scarp there is cut a platform some 6' broad, with a parapet on the outside. Towards the S. and SW. the ground falls sharply away towards the strath, and the defences in these directions are less prominent. The circle of the ditch is broken on the N. by the approach which passes between its open ends, and is flanked by a mound between the ditch and broch on the W. side (fig. 35 and Pl. III.).

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxix.

Visited, 27th August 1909.

308. *Broch, Suisgill*.—About $\frac{2}{3}$ m. above where the Suisgill Burn enters the Helmsdale River, on the N. side of the strath, is situated the Suisgill broch. It occupies the summit of a mound some 30' in elevation above the river and sloping steeply towards it. Away from the river bank on the E. and W. sides it has been protected by a ditch, with a wall on the top of the scarp. This wall is about 18' distant from the broch, except towards the river, where it is less. On the S. an approach passes through the defences to the top of the mound. To the E. of the approach an outer mound, some 12' broad on base, runs for a short distance parallel with the main defence at about 28' distant from the top of the counterscarp. The ditch is about 34' in width, and at deepest 8' to 10' in present depth. Of the broch itself little remains. It is greatly dilapidated, and a considerable portion of the N. wall has quite recently been removed. The interior diameter has been 40', the wall on the N. 15' thick, and on the S. or river side only 12'. The remains of a chamber are visible on the S. Very slight remains of the wall faces exist on either exterior or interior, and the entrance is not apparent. The outer defences bear a close resemblance to those of the neighbouring broch of Kilphedir. It is noteworthy that the structure is placed at a narrow part of the strath, in the centre of the pass.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxvii.

Visited, 16th September 1909.

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309. *Broch, Eldrable*.—On the W. bank of the Eldrable Burn, some 200' up from the Helmsdale River, are the remains of a broch. The ruin stands on the upper end of a ridge running down to the strath, protected by the gorge of the burn on the E. and by a natural hollow separating it from the shelving side of the hill on the W. The interior is a mass of débris, and in no place is the wall visible for a greater height than 3', except at the back of the entrance to the stair, where about 5' of walling remains exposed. The interior diameter has been about 25', and the thickness of the wall 12'. The greatest height of wall visible to the exterior is about 6'. The entrance has been from the ENE., opposite the burn, and has been 4' wide near the exterior. Elsewhere it is not measurable. Some 13' 6" along the inner face of the wall to the southwards is the entrance to the stair through a passage about 3' in length, but now of uncertain width. There has been no chamber adjoining the stair, which rises to the right, directly from the end of the passage. Four steps are visible, 2' long and 9" broad.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxix.

Visited, 21st September 1909.

310. *Broch, Kilournan*.—On a knoll beside the burn at Kilournan has stood a broch, now entirely demolished. Only a few structureless heaps of small stones remain.

311. *Broch, Gylable Burn*.—On the E. side of the Gylable Burn, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. above its junction with the Helmsdale River, are the remains of a broch, now a complete ruin, with only the base of the wall visible. The interior diameter has been 31', and the thickness of the wall 16'. No further details are observable. There are no remains of outworks.

312. *Broch, Allt a' Choire Mhoir*.—On the W. bank of the Allt a' Choire Mhoir, rather more than $\frac{1}{2}$ m. above its junction with the Helmsdale River, and about 40' to 50' above the burn, are the ruins of a broch. No portion of the inside of the wall is discernible, and only here and there the lowest course of the outer face. The diameter over all has been about 58'. The entrance appears to have been from the S., and inwards on the left of it are indications of a chamber.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxviii.

Visited, 20th September 1909.

313. *Broch, Allt an Duin*.—The broch which was situated between the Allt an Duin and the River Frithe, on the top of the bank overlooking the low meadows by the river, has been almost entirely removed for building purposes. The site was protected on the W. by a ditch 24' across, running to the edge of the bank, with a parallel rampart beyond it.

314. *Broch, Feranach*.—Some 2 m. above the confluence of the Frithe and Helmsdale rivers, and about 100' above the former, are the remains of Feranach broch. The wall of the broch remains on the exterior to a height of 7' to 8', and though on the interior it is nowhere visible for more than 7' above the ruins, it no doubt exists for 4' or 5' more. The entrance is from the W., through a passage 15' 6" in length. At the exterior it is 2' 6" wide. 5' 6" inwards is a rebate for a door, behind which the passage widens to 3' 11". At

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3' 6" from the interior it again slightly contracts to 3' 6", and retains that width to the end. Five of the lintel stones remain *in situ*. The greatest height of the passage above the débris is 3' 6". The interior diameter of the broch is 36'. The thickness of the wall at base is 15' 6", and at 7' 6" elevation 11' 6". There are remains of no less than six chambers in the wall. On the right of the passage is the ruined entrance to a guard chamber, the access to which was through a passage some 4' in length. The chamber measured some 6' x 5'. At 7' 6" from the back of this chamber, measuring along the wall, is the W. end of another chamber, 14' 6" long by 4' wide. The entrance to it is obscured by the ruins. At 6' beyond it is a third chamber, 15' 6" long by 4' 6" wide, the entrance to which also is not visible,

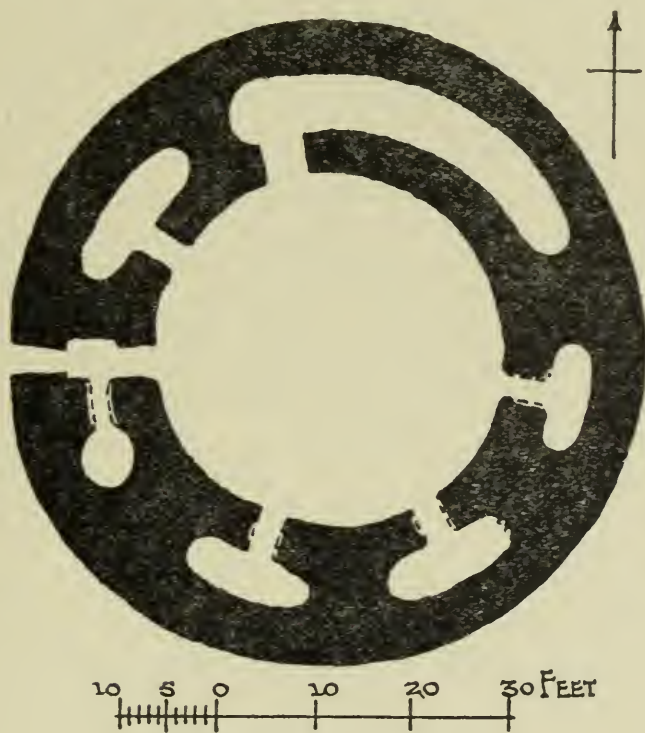


FIG. 36.—Broch, Feranach (No. 314).

and 7' of wall divides this chamber from a fourth, which is 13' long and 3' 6" wide. Another 7' of wall divides the fourth from the chamber which has apparently contained the stair. It is 36' long and 4' 6" wide, and is entered through a passage, 2' distant from its W. end, measuring 5' in length and 4' in width. At 4' 6" westward is a sixth chamber, 18' 6" long and 4' wide. The entrance to it is visible at 7' 6" from the E. end, and is 3' 9" long by 2' 8" wide. Over this entrance is an opening on the courtyard, 1' 6" wide and 2' 6" long, to light the chamber. The interior of the broch and of the chambers (which are all roofless) are full of débris. Around the broch there are no signs of outworks, nor are there any mounds visible in the immediate vicinity (fig. 36).

O.S.M., SUTH., lxvi.

Visited, 17th September 1909.

315. *Broch (supposed), Learable*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Suisgill Lodge, and some 20 yards NE. of the large cup-marked stone

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(No. 383), are the remains of a circular enclosure, 78' in diameter over all, much dilapidated. The building has been so much pillaged, and is so overgrown with grass and heather, that its true character is indefinite. The wall seems to have been about 19' thick, and the entrance from the SE.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxvii. (unnoted).

Visited, 17th August 1909.

316. *Hill Fort, Ben Griam Beg.*—Ben Griam Beg rises to a height of 1903', and strategically commands the approaches from the N. and E. coasts by Strath Halladale and Strath Helmsdale, as well as affording a prospect over a great area of country to the W., N., and E. To the southward the view is interrupted by Ben Griam More. The upper part of the hill is rugged, with remains of old red sandstone in out-cropping rock and detached slabs which have formed abundant material for fortification. Two main lines of defence fortify the summit. Approaching from the S., between the 1500' and 1600' elevations, a solid stone wall, some 5' thick, and in places still as much in height, runs down from the summit at the SE., and is carried westward along the edge of the shoulder of the hill for what appears to be a distance of some 500 yards, terminating at the edge of a mossy hollow, beyond which a precipitous rocky face (Creagan Iolaire) forms a natural defence to the W. Through the wall near the centre of its course is a gap, which has probably been an entrance. In rear of it, to the E., in the interior, is a circular dépression. The absence of the wall across the short stretch of wet peat that fills the hollow at the W. end is not remarkable, as there would be a difficulty in obtaining a firm foundation on such material. A wooden palisade may have been used as a substitute. To the E. of the centre of the course of this wall there is a space of about 150 yards, over which there is an almost complete absence of stone on the hillside and where only the foundation of the wall is apparent. On the slopes below it, except at the gap mentioned, there is a perfect network of ruined walls or piled stones enclosing irregular spaces and forming an outer defence. At the W. end of the hill, above the mossy hollow, and passing round towards the N., the same system of defence is repeated, but at a higher level than on the S. face. Between the lower edge of this defence at its S. end and the wall along the edge of the shoulder, an open space is left, varying from 20 to 60 yards or thereby in width. Around the more or less level portion of the summit, towards the W., runs another wall, 4' to 5' thick, and at highest some 3' high, forming an enclosure, sub-oval in outline, about 500' in length by 200' in breadth (O.S. measurements). A break in the upper wall, just below the summit on the N. side, 6' wide, seems to have been an entrance. This wall appears to terminate to the W. of the actual summit, which is a rocky peak. Beyond the peak, some 40' distant, are visible the remains of another wall flanking the intervening space on the E. and running for a short distance (about 50') westward. Some 100' below this appears a network of ruined walls, from which starts the wall first described running along the shoulder. The NE. flank of the hill is precipitous, and the N. is also very steep. The actual top of the hill within the upper enclosure is wind-swept and barren, with little vegetation on it. There is no

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spring of water visible in the fort, but there are several on the hillside just below it.

Lying among the ruins of the lower wall, roughly 150' below the summit, at the extreme E. end, is a round mill-stone of the native sandstone, broken in halves. It is 4' in diameter, 5" thick, and is pierced in the centre, with a hole 5' in diameter. To lessen the amount of piercing the stone has been previously flaked towards the centre in a circle of 1' 7" diameter, reducing the thickness to 2". Neither face of the stone is worn regularly smooth by friction, but there are depressions across the line of its revolution. Two other similar mill-stones are said to have lain on the slopes of the hill below the fortifications. One of them has now been rolled to the bottom.

See *Vertebrate Fauna of Suth., etc.*, p. 87.

O.S.M., SUTH., xlvi.

Visited, 18th Sept. 1909.

HUT CIRCLES, EARTH-HOUSES, AND ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS.

317. *Caen Burn*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. up the glen of the Caen Burn, on its W. side, and some 250 yards above the long cairn (No. 358), on a marshy spot, with no trace of cultivation anywhere in the vicinity, are two parallel mounds, about 18' apart, 22' long by 14' broad, and 4' high, slightly converging to one end. This construction appears to have been a kiln similar to those noted elsewhere.

There are numerous small mounds of the usual type scattered along the side of the glen.

318. *Do.*—Some 1000 yards above the road bridge over the Caen Burn, on the W. side of the glen, and some 200' above the burn, is a hut circle. It enters from the SE. through a passage 12' 6" long and about 3' wide. The main enclosure is circular, with a diameter of 37', surrounded by a bank about 4' thick, increasing towards the entrance. The interior has been diminished by a wall or bank from 2' to 4' thick, running in a curve from either side at a distance of 24' 6" from the centre of the entrance. The crescentic space left between the back of this wall and the outer bank is at a slightly higher level than the interior. Against the inside of this wall there appears to have been another small oval enclosure, measuring interiorly some 16' \times 7', directly opposite the main entrance. The W. half of the main enclosure is at a slightly lower level than the rest of the interior. The outer bank terminates abruptly on the NW. At 7' E. of the entrance, in the interior, is the entrance to an underground gallery under the bank, which at this point is 7' thick. The entrance is 2' wide and 4' high, and is reached by two or three steps. It is covered by a lintel 3' 4" long, 1' deep, and 1' 2" wide. The passage at first slopes downwards, and runs inwards in a direction about 70° E. of S. for 6', then turning southwards to the right, at 13' 6" from the exterior, it takes a southerly direction which it maintains to the end. The total length of the passage is 26', measuring along the curve of the S. wall. At 12' from the entrance it is 2' 9" wide; at 17' there is a slight intake on the E. wall, contracting the passage to 2' 6". At 21' it expands to 2' 10", and gradually widens to the back, where it measures 3' 6" across,

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and is 4' 10" high. The whole of the floor of the passage is covered with boulders to within about 2' 8" of the roof, except for a few feet at the entrance and at the end where a few stones have been picked out so as to expose the original floor level. The walls are as usual built, and the roof covered with flags. Between the entrance to the circle on the interior and the opening into the underground passage a low bank runs for 7' into the enclosure. From the E. side of the entrance passage to the circle a wall has run down the hill in front. It is noteworthy that the external features of the circle give no indication of the existence of the underground gallery (fig. 37).

Some 200 yards SSW. of the last circle is another hut circle, with an interior diameter of 24', entering from the SE. through a passage 14' long and 5' wide. The enclosing bank is about 7',

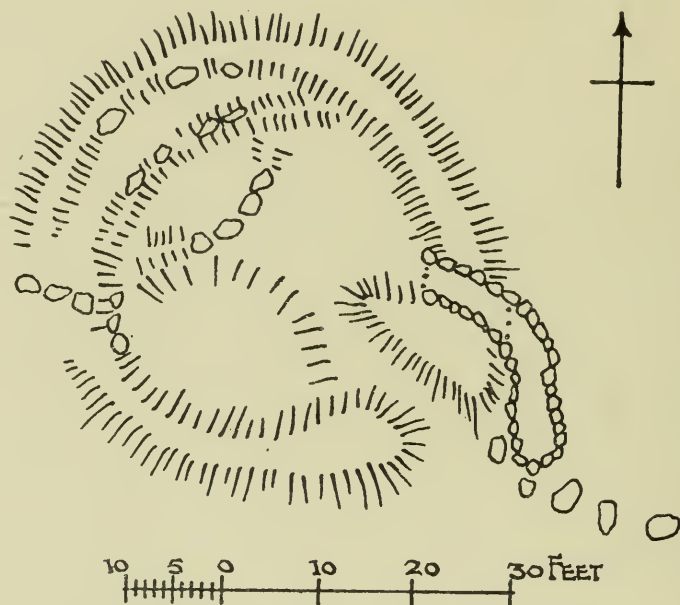


FIG. 37.—Hut Circle, Caen Burn (No. 318).

except for 16' on each side of the entrance, through which it gradually increases to form the passage.

About 100 yards NNE. of the first enclosure is another, which is circular, with a diameter of 31' interiorly. Its enclosing bank is about 8' wide, and the entrance is from the SE., about 5' across. An old wall runs off from the bank on the E. of the entrance.

Numerous small mounds lie around these enclosures.

319. *Do.*—On the opposite or E. side of the Caen Burn are also a number of hut circles and small mounds.

Some 700 yards distant from the road, and about 100' above it, is a circular enclosure which has been surrounded with a stone wall. There has been an entrance from the SE. through a passage about 2' wide and 10' long, the wall in the circumference being about 6' thick. The interior dimensions are some 22' x 24'. The upper side of the enclosure has been dug out of the slope of the hillside, and the wall built against the bank. From the left or S. side of the entrance an old bank runs down the hill, and another joins the W. side from the direction of the burn. There are indications of chambers in the

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interior, but they are too indistinct to plan from superficial observation.

320. *Do.*—Some 100 yards lower down the glen are two circular enclosures with wide entrances and no signs of interior divisions, and on the hillside above them are remains of one or two others and of old walls.

The lower of the two circles has an interior diameter of about 34'. It enters from the S. through a passage 9' to 10' long and some 5' wide. The interior is levelled and dug out of the hillside on the E., where it is about 7' below the top of the bank. The bank on the W. side is about 6' thick, and on the top of the slope on the

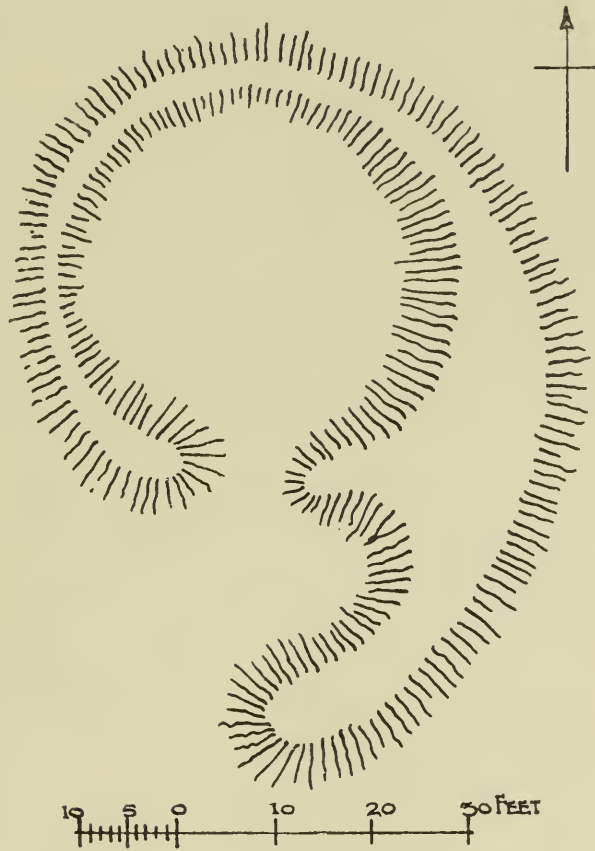


FIG. 38.—Hut Circle, Caen Burn (No. 320).

E., where it has apparently got spread out, it is 18' across. It is continued of great thickness to the entrance, beyond which it projects. On the face of the projection is a semicircular recess, measuring about $8' \times 12'$ (fig. 38).

321. *Do.*—Some 30' S. of the W. end of the long cairn on the Caen Burn (No. 356) is a small round mound, presenting a depression in the centre. The diameter is about 22'. It is overgrown with heather.

Some 15' W. of it are the remains of a small oval enclosure, measuring interiorly $15' \times 9'$, surrounded by a bank about 2' 6" thick. The entrance to it is uncertain.

322. *Salscraggie.*—About 700 yards W. of the Caen Burn and 100 yards above the Salscraggie road, is a group of four or five mounds, small and inconspicuous.

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Situated about 100 yards to the W. of the long cairn near Salscraggie (No. 357) are two small enclosures, overgrown with heather. That nearest the cairn is oval, measuring interiorly about 10' × 6'. Its longest axis lies N. and S., and the entrance, which is about 4' wide, is from the SE. The enclosing bank is about 3' 6" wide, and on the E. side of the entrance is carried forward for a distance of about 7'. The details of the other construction are less distinct.

323. *Do.*—About $\frac{1}{3}$ m. E. of Salscraggie Lodge, above the road, and at the base of the hill, is a group of five or six small mounds of ordinary type. Adjacent to them is a hut circle, the inner circumference of which has been lined with large stones. The interior diameter has been about 21' × 22'; the bank is about 6' thick, and the entrance is from the ESE. The interior is overgrown with long heather.

Some 50' W. is another hut circle, overgrown with heather. It is circular, with an interior diameter of 33'. The entrance passage is 9' long and 4' wide, and is from the SE. The bank is about 7' thick, and its inner face does not appear to be lined with stones.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxix.

Visited, 10th August 1909.

324. *Earth-house, Salscraggie Lodge.*—In the centre of the lawn in front of Salscraggie Lodge is an earth-house, the entrance to which was discovered when an earthen mound some 25' in diameter and 6' to 8' in height was being cleared away, possibly the remains of a

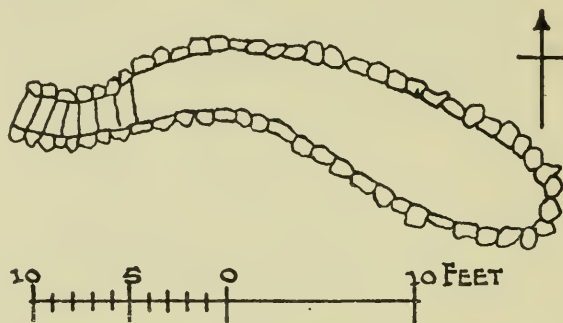


FIG. 39.—Earth-house, Salscraggie Lodge (No. 324).

hut circle. It is entered down a flight of six steps, 2' wide, curving round to the left. At 6' from the top step the covered passage commences, with a width of about 3', and height of 4' 5". For the first 4' 6" it curves slightly towards the right, and thereafter runs straight from WNW. to ESE. to the end. The extreme length is 22' following the curve of the E. wall, and 19' 6" on the W. At 10' from the back it is 4' 8" high and 3' 2" wide. The back is rounded, measuring 3' 6" in width and 5' 2" in height. The sides are built of boulders, and the roof flagged. Within the gallery when it was cleared out were found a human arm bone, a rotary quern, a portion of another, and a saddle quern, all of which, with the exception of the first item, are lying around the entrance (fig. 39).

325. *Allt Cille Pheadair.*—On the W. bank of the Allt Cille Pheadair, about 150 yards SW. of the point of debouchure of the Clais Rath Fhinn, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. or thereby N. of the Helmsdale River, is a hut circle. The interior, which is circular, has a diameter of 32',

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and is sub-divided. At 10' in from the entrance a wall about 7' in thickness runs for a distance of about 17' towards the back, and there bifurcates to the circumference, forming a triangular compartment at the back, 16' long by 5' across. The surrounding bank is formed of earth and stone, against which there has been built in the interior, except at the back of the triangular compartment where no building is visible, a wall of dry masonry, still visible in places for a height

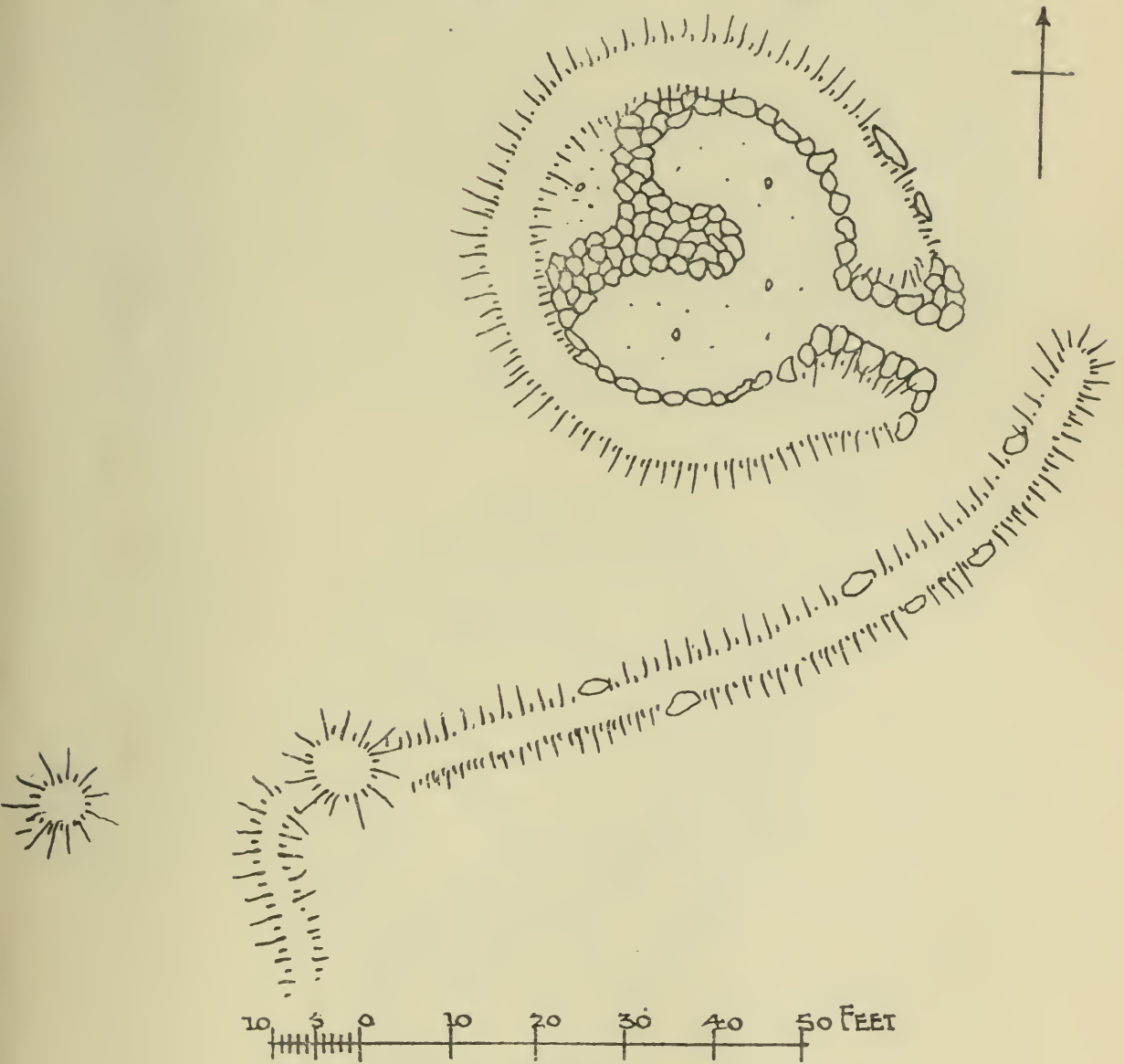


FIG. 40.—Hut Circle, Allt Cille Pheadair (No. 325).

of some 3'. The division wall also appears to have been entirely of stone. The entrance is from the ESE. through a passage 3' 6" wide and 15' long. The thickness of wall and bank is 8', except towards the entrance, where it expands to 15' on the W. side for some 9' or 10', and on the E. for some 6'. Towards the E. the bank is about 5' high on the exterior. Covering the entrance at 13' distant from it is a wall, 6' thick, which runs for a distance of about 98' in a south-westerly direction, and terminates in a small stony mound of 12' diameter. Beyond the mound there are indications of the wall

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passing to the SW. Westerly of this mound, some 25', is another of similar dimensions. Towards the NE. are indications of other walls (fig. 40).

Some 75 yards NE. is another hut circle, measuring interiorly $33' \times 37'$, entering from the ESE. through a passage 5' wide and 7' long. The bank in the circumference is 6' broad. Several small mounds lie around.

Some 60 yards NW. is another circle, of simple form, entering from the SE. through a passage 5' wide and 9' long. The bank in the circumference measures 4'. The interior diameter is $34' \times 38'$. Several small mounds lie near.

326. *Do.*—Due E. of the last group on the opposite bank of the Allt Cille Pheadair, and above the deep gorge, is a hut circle, lined with a stone wall in the interior, having an interior diameter of 23'. The entrance is from the SE., and is 5' wide. The bank appears to broaden towards the entrance, but the heather with which it is overgrown is deep, and the details are unobtainable. From opposite sides of the circle, walls seem to run down the hill.

327. *Do.*—Some 30 yards S. of the last is another circle, the interior circumference of which is also lined with stone, having an



FIG. 41.—Hut Circle, Allt Cille Pheadair (No. 327).

interior diameter of 32'. It is situated on a slope, and the interior at the back has been dug out to form a level floor. The back of the circle is formed of a line of boulders about 3' high. It appears to have been placed within an oval enclosure, with a bank of turf and stone, the longest diameter of which exceeds that of the circle by

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some 8' 6". The interspace is filled up probably with ruins. The whole interior is overgrown with deep heather. The wall in the interior is in places about 3' high. The entrance is from the SE., and is about 3' wide, through a passage 16' to 17' in length. The outer bank at the back is 6' 6" in width, but at the sides, where it coalesces with the inner circle of stone, it is 12' thick. On the left or W. side of the entrance it forms a mound, some 6' high to the exterior, and at 25' from the outer end of the passage it is some 26' in thickness. At 10' 6" inwards on the left, a passage, 2' wide and some 5' 6" in length, passes into a small opening or chamber 2' to 3' in diameter. The walls of the passage are about 2' high. At its inner end is a lintel, 3' 6" in length, lying about 10" above the ground level. There is a considerable amount of débris lying about the entrance and in the passage and small chamber. The thickness and height of the mound suggest the possibility of there being an earth-house in it, as in that of the hut circle in the vicinity lower down the burn. There are no mounds in the immediate neighbourhood (fig. 41).

328. *Do.*—On the left bank of the Allt Cille Pheadair, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. above its junction with the River Helmsdale, and some 50' above the

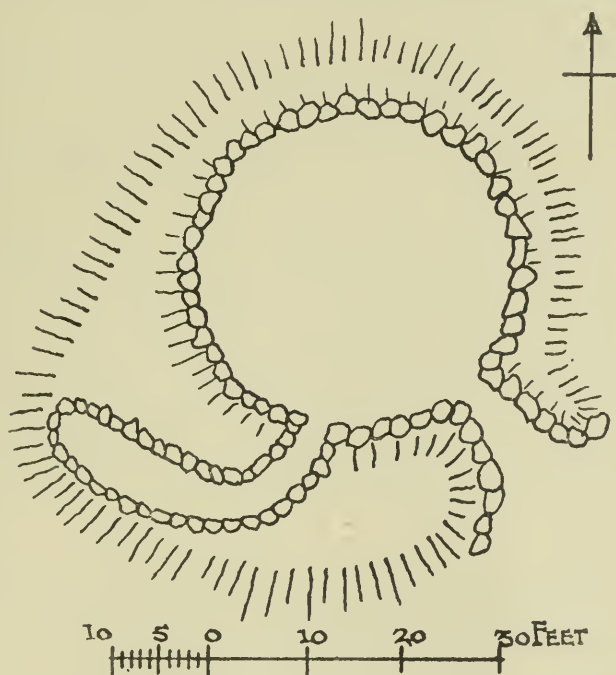


FIG. 42.—Hut Circle, Allt Cille Pheadair (No. 328).

burn, is a hut circle, stone built in the interior, and circular, with an interior diameter of 32'. The entrance is from the SE. through a passage 15' long on the W. side, 16' on the E., and 3' wide, expanding towards the exterior. At about 14' from the entrance, on the SW. side of the interior, an opening in the wall, 2' wide, leads into an earth-house, built up on each side and covered with flags. At the entrance it is about 3' high. The floor, which has not been cleared of fallen stones, slopes downward for the first 10' or 12'. At 3' 6" from the outside it is 2' 4" in height, at 13', 3' in height. At 18' inwards it is 3' in width, 4' 6" in height, and curves sharply round to

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the right, increasing beyond the bend to 4' in width. This width is maintained till almost the end of the gallery, where it contracts to 2' 10". The back is rounded. The extreme length is 31' 6". At the inner end a small opening has been cleared in the roof. This is probably the "trap" mentioned in *Antiquaries*, v. p. 246. The breadth of the bank over the gallery is some 22', and beyond it on the N. and E. about 7' (fig. 42).

329. *Do.*—Some 40 yards E. of the last is a hut circle of the usual form, rather indefinite, with the entrance from the SE.

There are a great many small mounds to the S., the nearest of which is some 50 yards from the main circle (No. 328). Most of the mounds are small, except towards the S. of the group, where some are rather larger. One of these measures 21' in diameter, and is 2' to 3' high. In another mound adjacent to it is an upright stone at the SE. end, about 2' 6" high and 2' across.

330. *Do.*—To the N. of the road bridge over the Cille Pheadair Burn, and some 200' above the river, is a circular enclosure, formed of a single line of low contiguous boulders, the turf bank which lay on them having entirely disappeared, except to the S. of the entrance, which is from the SE. The interior dimensions are 33' × 37'. The bank at the entrance is 7' thick, and the width of the entrance is 3'. At the NE. a mound of about 14' in diameter lies partially on the circumference. A great number of mounds lie near by, several of which appear to have been excavated.

Among the mounds and hut circles mentioned above are the remains of old banks or walls, in some instances connecting with small circular enclosures.

331. *Do.*—Some 350 yards SSW. of the broch above Salscraggie (No. 307) is a small circular enclosure, with an interior diameter of some 9', opening from the S. through an entrance 3' wide. Attached to it to the S., and facing the entrance, is an oval enclosure, measuring interiorly some 15' × 11'. The bank on the E. is continuous, but a break of 10' or 11' in width on the W. side affords access to the larger enclosure. The bank of the larger enclosure is 8' thick, and towards the S. projects to a point 15' from the interior.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxix.

Visited, 26th August 1909.

332. *Do.*—On the E. side of the Cille Pheadair Burn, about 1 m. N. of its junction with the Helmsdale River, is a group of three contiguous enclosures, two of which appear to have been cattle or sheep folds. One is circular, with a diameter of 27' and a bank 7' thick. The dimensions of the entrance are doubtful. Adjoining it in the rear is a semicircle, and to the W. of it an enclosure measuring 33' × 38', with an entrance from the SE., 8' wide, protected by a horn projecting on the W. side. An opening 8' wide appears to have been broken through the banks of this circle and of the semicircle at a later date.

Near the three enclosures are a dozen or so of small mounds.

Some 30 yards N., on the end of a slight knoll, is a cup-shaped hollow, with an opening to the S. 10' in diameter, and apparently lined with stones.

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Some 200 yards N. of the three enclosures, on a small hillock, are the faint remains of another circle of ordinary type.

Some 30 yards S. of the three is a circular enclosure, with its entrance from the SE. Its interior dimensions are 29' × 34'. The surrounding bank is 7' thick, increasing to 12' at either side of the entrance, and broken through on the NW. On the N.W. of the interior are traces of an inner compartment, the wall of which appears to have been disturbed.

333. *Do.*—On the opposite or W. bank of the Allt Cille Pheadair, 1 m. N. of its junction with the Helmsdale River, is a hut circle. It appears to have been originally a turf and stone enclosure, with interior dimensions of about 28' × 34', having an entrance from the SE. and a bank about 8' thick. Within this a circular stone structure has been erected partially against the bank on either side of the entrance, with a diameter of 23', leaving a chamber at the back between the two structures, with an entrance to it passing through the inner wall. The remains of an ancient stone wall run from the back of the enclosure, and three large boulders crossing the back compartment are in continuation of its direction. The bank of the outer enclosure at the back is 8' wide, and where the two walls coalesce at the sides the width is 11'. The width of the main entrance is 3' in the interior, and 4' at the outside, while the length of the passage is 8'.

Some 20 yards N. is another hut circle of usual oval form, with the entrance from the SE. about 3' wide, and interior dimensions 28' × 37'. The thickness of the bank is indefinite.

Four or five small mounds lie in the immediate vicinity.

334. *Coulan Burn.*—On the slope of the hill immediately above Torrish, and to the E. of the Coulan Burn, is a large group of mounds. They are of the usual type, varying from 10' to 18' in diameter. A leaf-shaped flint arrow-head with the point broken off, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ " in length, and a shale necklace were found in a short cist in one of these mounds in 1868, and are preserved in the Dunrobin Museum.

See *Antiquaries*, viii. p. 408 (relic illus.).

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxix.

Visited, 27th August 1909.

335. *Torrish Burn.*—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of the junction of the Torrish Burn with the Helmsdale River, on a slight elevation, are the foundations of an elliptical enclosure, measuring 20' × 9', lying ENE. and WSW. The walls have been about 3' thick.

Some 50' to the SE. is a low mound, with a diameter of 11'. Some 80 yards N. of the elliptical enclosure is a small circular enclosure, 22' in interior diameter, with an entrance from the SE. On the left of the entrance in the interior, and abutting on the wall or bank, is a small circular enclosure, with interior diameter of 3', and wall 2' thick. The bank of the main enclosure is about 4' thick, and 8' at what appears to be the entrance, which seems to have been 2' wide.

Some 30 yards W. are the remains of another circle, of ordinary form, with banks of turf and stone not very well defined.

Some 80 yards N. of the small enclosure is a large one, well pre-

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served, enclosed by a bank about 10' wide and 4' 6" high. The interior dimensions are 34' x 37'; the entrance is from the SE. about 7' across.

A few mounds lie near, and westward they stretch along the hill face above the strath for a considerable distance. Among them are remains of old walls and enclosures.

336. *Allt Breac*.—To the northward of and across the road from the rows of standing-stones (No. 379), about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of the bridge over the Allt Breac, are the remains of several mounds, and on the moor on the top of the bank are mounds and several hut circles.

About $\frac{1}{3}$ m. W. of the Allt Breac are two conjoined circular enclosures. An outer circle, with diameter of about 36' from E. to W. and 38' from N. to S., having an entrance from the E. 5' wide, contains in the interior a smaller circular enclosure springing from the SE. side, with a diameter of 26' and bank about 5' thick. The bank of the outer circle is about 6' thick, except on the N. side, where it appears to be about double that thickness, and it is also 12' thick on the S. side of the entrance. Both banks abut at the E. on another circular enclosure, with a diameter of 27'. Its bank is 5' thick, and its entrance is from the E. This circle flanks the entrance to the other enclosure on its N. side, and from its SE. a horn projects across the opening at about 8' distance from its outer extremity.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxviii.

Visited, 27th August 1909.

337. *Allt a' Choire Mhoir*.—On the left bank of the Allt a' Choire Mhoir, about 1 m. above its junction with the Helmsdale River near Kilournan, on the S. side of the strath, are a number of circular enclosures.

The first, which is situated about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. up the glen and some 200 yards back from the burn, is ill defined. It has a wide entrance to the E., and has probably been for cattle. The second, situated several hundred yards higher up the ridge, may be entirely a sheep or cattle fold, but is not modern. It consists of a circular enclosure, of 25' interior diameter, with an entrance from the ENE. 5' wide. At 6' to the W. of the entrance is an opening into an oval enclosure, 23' long by 16' broad. The E. bank of the entrance to the main circle is prolonged towards the N. for about 60', and thereafter turns eastward, and forms a small rectangular enclosure some 45' across. One or two similar constructions lie near. No mounds are in the immediate vicinity.

Some 300 yards W. of the last enclosure is a complicated construction, consisting of two circular enclosures and an oval one, all conjoined. Two of these have smaller enclosures in the interior. The main enclosures are entered from the eastward. There is much stone on the inner face of the enclosing banks, and remains of numerous walls are visible on the ridge on which all these constructions lie.

To the S., between the enclosures last described and the burn, are numerous small mounds.

Some 100 yards E. is another construction, overgrown with

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heather, of indefinite detail, but presenting features of a character similar to the constructions immediately above described, and some 30 yards S. of it is another enclosure, much worn away.

338. *Do.*—Some 100 yards distant from the burn, at the upper end of the group, is a well preserved hut circle, with an interior diameter of 35', and bank of stone and turf about 5' 6" high and 8' across the base. The entrance is from the NE., facing down the glen, and is 3' 6" wide. It is protected by a mound, 24' long, 21' across the base, and 5' to 6' high on the low side, lying about 6' in front of it. A number of small mounds lie around. Adjacent to the circle on the N. is a small mounded construction, presumably a kiln.

339. *Do.*—Across the burn on either side of the road from Kildonan to Glen Loth, and some 300 to 400 yards from the burn, is a large group of small mounds. Towards the centre of the group are three, lying adjacent, and larger than the others. Of these, that nearest the road measures about 26' in diameter, and from the lower slope is about 6' high. 25' to the W. of it lies the next, with its longest axis N. and S. measuring 26' × 18', and of about the same height as the last. 25' further W. is the third, measuring 20' in diameter, and about 5' in height. They are all overgrown with heather.

To the S. of the group is a small hut circle of simple type, also overgrown with heather. Its entrance is from the SE., and it measures interiorly 29' × 26'. The bank is about 5' thick.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxviii.

Visited, 20th September 1909.

340. *Craggie.*—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Craggie, on the N. side of the glen, are indistinct remains of one or two hut circles (unnoted).

341. *Allt Halligarry.*—About 100 yards to the E. of the Allt Halligarry, and some 60' above the road, is a levelled up platform, measuring about 23' × 29' 6", on which has apparently been a hut circle, but no details are now visible.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxviii.

Visited, 21st September 1909.

342. *Earth-house, Suisgill.*—On a level meadow which has been cultivated about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of the junction of the Suisgill Burn and the Helmsdale River, and situated some 50' back from the river, are the remains of an earth-house. Neither extremity is open, and at two places the roofing slabs have been removed, so that the interior is largely filled up with earth and stones. The passage is visible for a distance of 24', curving round so as to give a chord of 19' between the extremities on the inner side. The sides are built and the roof formed of slabs. The passage is 2' 6" and 2' 8" wide respectively at the extremities, and 3' wide where unroofed near the middle of its course.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxvii. (unnoted). Visited, 16th September 1909.

343. *Do., Achinnearin, Suisgill.*—Situated at Achinnearin, about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. SE. of Suisgill Lodge, and beside a ruined cottage above the birch wood to the S. of a small rivulet, is an oblong enclosure, with rounded

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ends, which has probably been a garden. The enclosure is modern, but two converging horns projecting from its E. bank may have

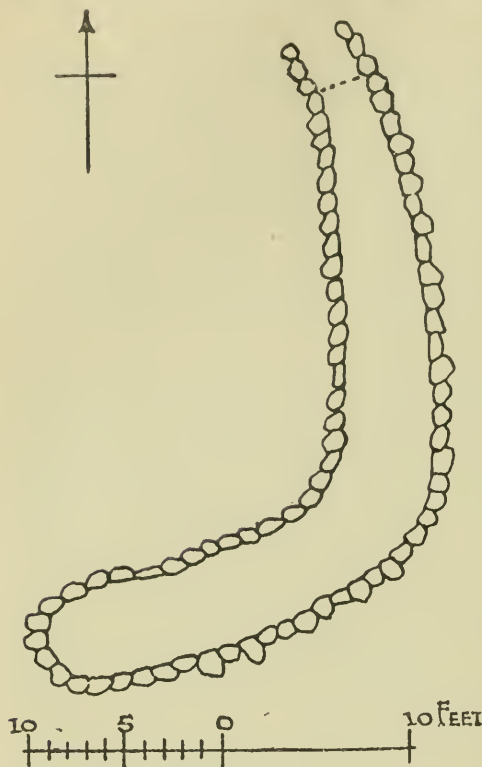


FIG. 43.—Earth-house, Achinnearin (No. 343).

formed part of a previously existing hut circle. Entering under the bank in the SE. corner is an underground gallery or earth-house. The entrance to the gallery is about 2' 4" wide, and slopes down, sharply curving with a general south-easterly direction for 3', at which distance the roofing begins. It then takes a southerly direction for about 22'; thence, curving to the right, it runs to the WSW. for the remainder of its course, the end being reached at a distance of 40' from the first roofing slab, measuring along the inner side of the curve. At 9' from the outside the gallery begins to widen out, and at that point is 3' 10" wide and 2' 8" high. At 15' 6" it is 3' 10" wide and 4' 2" high; at 22' it is 4' 2" wide, and the same in height; at 28' it is 4' wide and 6' 2" high; and at 35' 6" it is 4' 6" wide and 4' 6" high. The wall at the back is rounded. The floor at the end is covered with several inches of soil. The walls are built to a great extent with boulders, and the roof is formed of flags (fig. 43).

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxviii. (unnoted).

Visited, 16th September 1909.

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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' x 41'. It is entered from the SE., but the width of

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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

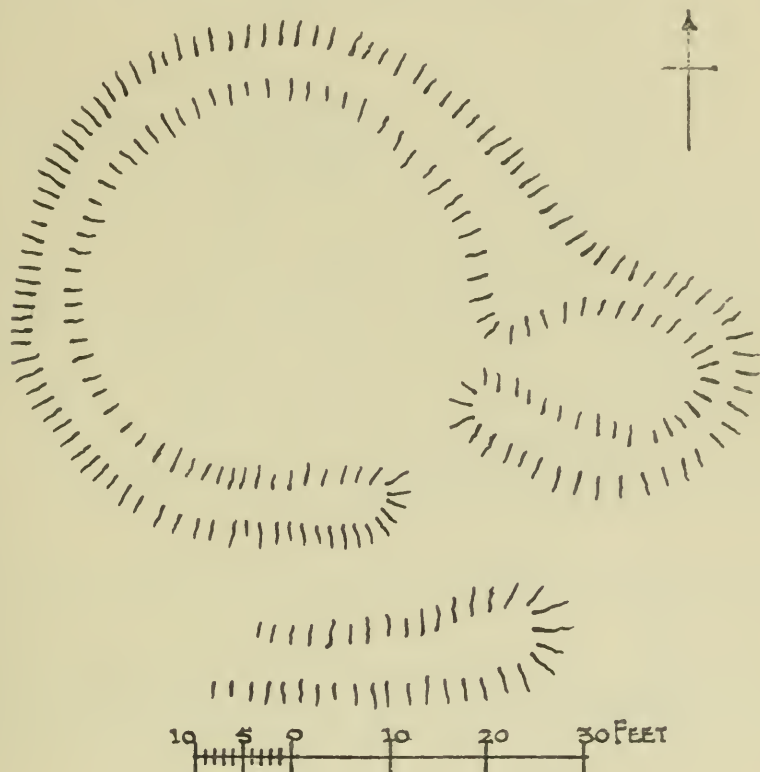


FIG. 44.—Hut Circle, Kildonan Burn (No. 344).

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).

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

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the width of the passage is 3' 4". At 8' outwards are two door cheeks 3' apart. Within them the passage has expanded to 4' 8",

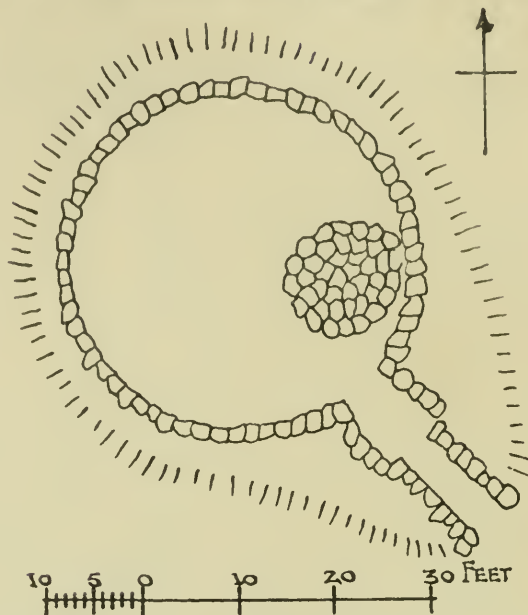


FIG. 45.—Hut Circle, Kildonan Burn (No. 345).

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).

346. *Do.*—Some 200 yards further up the glen is a small circular enclosure of 24' diameter, with a stony bank, and the entrance from the SE. A small mound covers the entrance on the exterior, otherwise it presents no features of particular interest. A few mounds lie immediately in front, and a number lie further off to the S.

Some 80 yards further up the glen is another circular enclosure, the wall of which appears to have been built of stone. It has an interior diameter of 26' to 28'. The entrance is from the SE. through a passage 2' 6" wide and 11' in length. The exact width of the wall is unobtainable, as the circle is overgrown with heather, but it appears to be from 5' to 6'.

Some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. distant from the road is the last circle of the group. It is largely formed of stones, has an interior diameter of 24', and is entered from the SE. through a passage 10' long and of indefinite width. A large group of small mounds lies between it and the burn, which is some 200 yards distant.

At the lowest or S. end of the group, on the top of the bank above the burn, and on the SE. point of the hill, is a circular depression, with an interior diameter of 7', lined with stones and filled with ruins. Its entrance seems to have been from the SE.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxviii. (unnoted). Visited, 16th September 1909.

347. *Learable Hill.*—On the S. slope of Learable Hill, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Suisgill Lodge, is a large group of small mounds, of from 16' to 20' in diameter, and among them one or two round hut circles of no particular interest.

Near the top of the hill, and towards the W. of the group, is

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an oval depression, measuring interiorly $6' \times 4'$, with the remains of a stone wall lining the interior all round. The bottom is about 2' below the natural surface on the exterior.

The mounds are very numerous. There is an absence of old walls among them.

At the NE. end of the group is a hut circle, with a diameter of about 34', but the details are indefinite.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxvii.

Visited, 16th September 1909.

348. *Allt an Duin*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Allt an Duin Lodge, on the W. side of the low hill bearing the name of Tomich, is a numerous group of small mounds, and towards the lower side of the group a few turf-built hut circles of simple form. One entering from the SE. measures interiorly $36' \times 43'$. Its banks are much worn down. Some 200 yards NW. is another similar construction. Some 200 yards NW. of it again is another, near the base of the hill, which measures $39' \times 45'$, and enters from the SE. Its banks are much worn away. Some 30 yards SW. of it is another, in similar condition (unnoted).

349. *Feranach*.—On the left bank of the River Frithe, about 1 m. above Dalcharn, and 200 yards back from the stream, is a hut circle of simple type, with its entrance from the SE. The enclosing bank is much eroded and overgrown with heather. About a dozen mounds lie near it.

Some 100 yards to the E. is another hut circle, in similar condition, which also enters from the SE.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxvi. (unnoted).

Visited, 17th September 1909.

350. *Creag Ruidh nan Caorach*.—Along the lower slopes of Creag Ruidh nan Caorach, from a short distance SE. of Kinbrace Station to

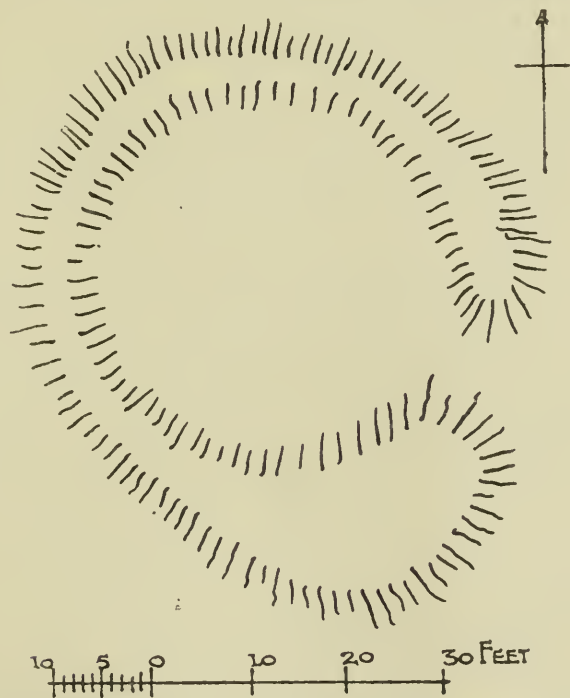


FIG. 46.—Hut Circle, Creag Ruidh nan Caorach (No. 350).

the Allt Chonneis-gil at Burnfoot, lie numbers of small mounds, with remains of enclosures and old walls on the lower slopes above the

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road. In the mounds along the upper edge of the group a considerable amount of stone is exposed near the centre, differentiating them from the ordinary grass or heather-clad mounds.*

About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SE. of Kinbrace Station is a hut circle, with an entrance from the ESE., and an interior diameter of 35'. The bank is 7' wide, except near the entrance, where on the E. side it is 10' wide, and on the W. side 13', increasing to 18' at 11' distant from the entrance along the inner circumference. Externally it is about 5' 6" high. The entrance is some 6' wide. Numerous mounds lie around (fig. 46).

351. *Do.*—Some 250 yards E is another circle, stone built, the walls of which are quite ruined. The interior has been dug out of the slope of the hill, so as to make a level floor. The interior

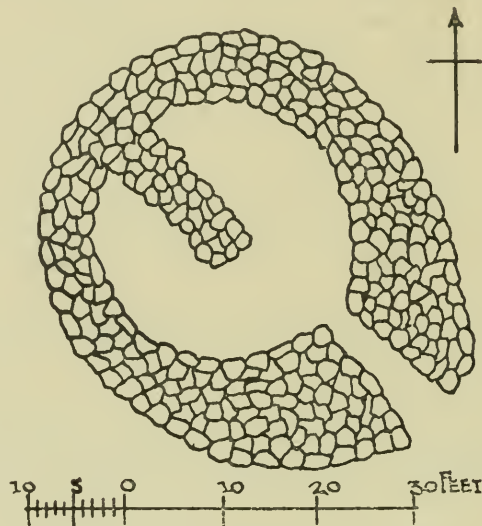


FIG. 47.—Hut Circle, Creag Ruidh nan Caorach (No. 351).

dimensions are about 26' \times 28'; the thickness of the wall 6', increasing to 15' on either side of the entrance, which is narrow, but of indefinite width. From the centre of the wall at the back a platform of stone, 6' wide, projects for about 18' into the interior towards the entrance. The entrance is from the SE. (fig. 47).

352. *Kinbrace Hill.*—Situated about 40' E. of the road, and some 50 yards S. of the cultivated land at Burnfoot, is a hut circle. The main enclosure is oval, measuring interiorly about 30' \times 35', with its entrance from the SE. through a passage 15' long and about 2' 6" wide at the interior end and 4' at the exterior. The thickness of the bank on either side of the entrance passage towards the outer end is 5'. The breadth of the bank on the E. side of the circle is about 11'. It has had much stone in its composition. To the W. it is about 9' in thickness for the first 19' from the interior end of the entrance, whence it expands rapidly to a width of 24', decreasing again to 8' at the NW., opposite the entrance. This thick bank has been much broken into and pillaged for stone. Though no earth-house is exposed, from the plan and the number of flat stones laid bare in the broad part of the bank, it possibly contains one. Abutting on the circle on the NE. is a small oblong enclosure,

* Cf. No. 224.

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measuring about $37' \times 9'$, widening towards the N. The banks are much broken down. There has been an entrance to this from the main enclosure, which may be secondary. The bank is much broken down and has been about 7' thick. The whole circle has been much

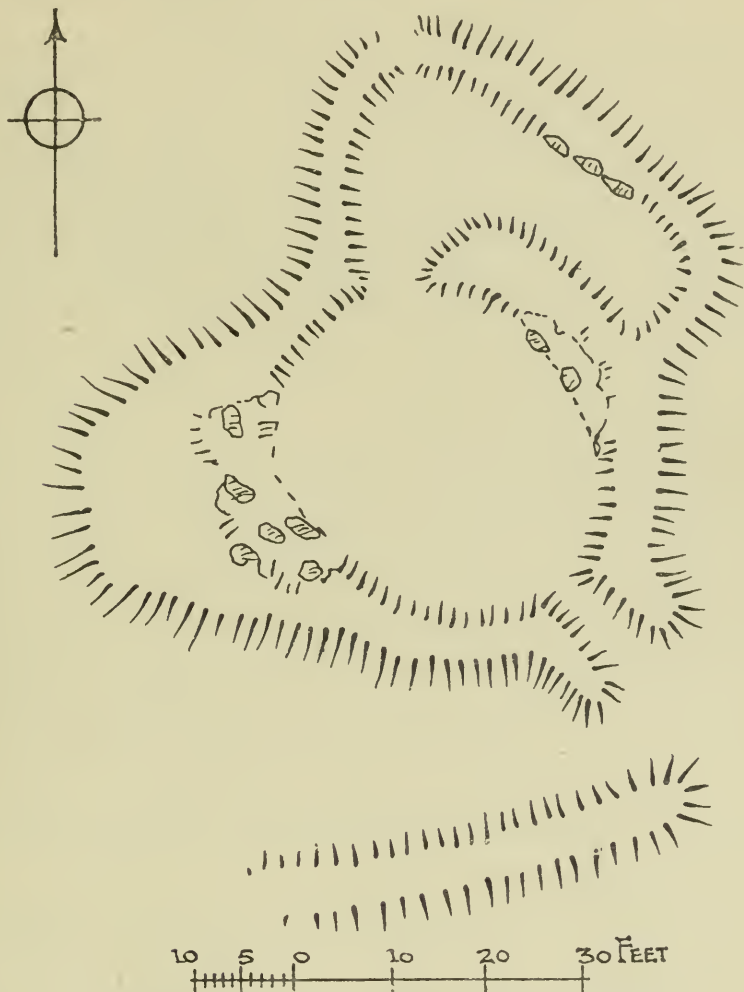


FIG. 48.—Hut Circle, Kinbrace Hill (No. 352).

dilapidated at a recent date—for the sake of stones. Some 9' in front of the entrance, on its S. side, a bank some 8' across runs round towards the W. at a distance of about 13' from the main bank, and disappears, passing northwestwards beyond the circle (fig. 48).

Some 50 yards ENE. of the last is another enclosure. It is circular, with an interior diameter of 31'. The entrance, which is from the S. or SE., appears to have been altered, and has been wide.

Some 30' E. of the first enclosure is a mounded construction, with a depression on the top, probably a kiln.

353. *Ben Griam Beg.*—Some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. NW. of Greamachary is a group of small mounds running along the slope of the hill at about the 700' elevation above sea-level. Among them the indistinct remains of what appears to be a hut circle is visible.

O.S.M., SUTH., xlvi.

Visited, 18th September 1909.

354. *Baddanloch.*—On the E. side of the road from Kinbrace to Syre, about 2 m. N. of Easter Baddanloch, is a group of mounds,

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and on the N. side of Loch Baddanloch, near its W. end, are several hut circles.*

O.S.M., SUTH., lv. and lvi. (unnoted).

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

355. *Long Cairn, "Carnlaggie," Helmsdale.* — Some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. above Helmsdale, on the E. side of the valley, and at the N. end of the cultivated land, are the remains of the cairn known as "Carn Laggie." The cairn has in great measure been removed, and there now remains a long low heap of small angular stones, with a bank of broken road metal at one end of it. The whole is about 180' in length by about 50' in width. The cairn lies almost due N. and S. The dilapidation is so great that no proper measurements are obtainable.

O.S.M., SUTH., xc.

Visited, 6th September 1909.

356. *Do., Caen Burn.*—About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. up the Strath of Kildonan from Helmsdale the Caen Burn joins the Helmsdale River, and some 300 yards W. of the burn, and about the same distance N. of the river, is a long cairn. It is situated on a terrace on the hillside, where the ground begins to slope by an easier gradient towards the river. It lies with its main axis almost due E. and W., and appears to be about 168' in length, 27' broad at the W. end, and 46' at the E. At the W. end it is only a foot or so in height, but rises gradually eastward, till near the extremity it has an elevation of about 7'. At 18' in from the S. side, at the E. extremity, is a large boulder, 4' high and 4' across, which may give some indication of the position of the passage. Excavation has been made at several points, but no chamber is exposed.

357. *Do., do.*—Westward of the Caen Burn, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. on the same terrace of the hill as the last, are the remains of another long cairn. It has been entirely ruined and the centre cleared out, leaving merely an outline of stones to mark its position. Its main axis has lain ESE. and WNW. It appears to have been about 27' broad at the W. end and 50' at the E. Its extreme length appears to have been about 135'. There are no signs of a chamber left.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxix.

Visited, 10th August 1909.

358. *Do., do.*—On the W. side of the Caen Burn, about 500 yards above the road bridge, are the remains of a long cairn. The cairn is much dilapidated, but no chamber is exposed. It lies ENE. and WSW., and measures about 100' in length, some 35' in breadth at the E. end, and 27' at the W. Its condition makes accurate measurement impossible.

359. *Do., do.*—On the W. side of the hill road, about 400 yards above the cottage at Caen, are the remains of a long cairn. The cairn has been greatly dilapidated, but no chamber is exposed. Its longest axis is NE. and SW. It measures about 166' in length, 25' in width at the SW. end, and about 46' at the NE. end.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxix. (unnoted). — Visited, 6th September 1909.

* From information supplied by the Rev. J. M. Joass, LL.D., Golspie.

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360. *Do., Salscraggie.*—To the S. of Salscraggie Lodge, between the road and the river, are the remains of a long cairn, so recently demolished that the tracks made by the carts which took away the stones from the interior are not yet obliterated. It is said to have had two chambers, but no trace remains of them. It lies E. and W. Its length is 178', the breadth at the E. end about 63', and at the W. end about 12'. It does not appear to have been horned.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxix.

Visited, 26th August 1909.

361. *Do., Kilournan.*—On the moor, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S.W. of Kilournan, is a long cairn. It lies with its longest axis E. and W., is 108' long, 27' wide at the W. end, and 43' wide at the E. end. It rises from a low elevation at the W. end to 7' in height at the E. Both extremities are rounded. Numerous excavations have been made in it, but no chamber appears to have been exposed.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxviii.

Visited, 20th September 1909.

362. *Cairn, Torrish Burn.*—On a slight eminence beside the road, on the W. bank of the Torrish Burn, is a large round cairn. A great part of it has been quite recently removed from the W. side, but neither cist nor chamber is exposed. The outline of the cairn has been marked with large boulders from $1\frac{1}{2}'$ to 2' across, placed at frequent intervals, but not contiguous. On the N. this setting is 7' to 9' distant from the cairn, but on the S., in which direction the hill slopes, the cairn appears to rise directly from it. The diameter of the cairn over all is 61' from N. to S. and 63' from E. to W.

363. *Cairns, Learable.*—In the birch wood on the W. bank of the River Helmsdale, opposite Suisgill Lodge, and some 300 yards to the W. of it, is a mound overgrown with heather and grass, which is probably a cairn. It is 58' to 60' in diameter, and from 8' to 9' high (unnoted).

Some 15' N. of the cross-marked standing-stone on the summit of Learable Hill (No. 380) is a cairn, with a diameter of about 31' and a height of from 2' to 3'.

A short distance to the SSW. of the standing-stone is a low circular cairn of about 20' diameter and height of about 2'. Its outline is defined by boulders from 1' to $1\frac{1}{2}'$ in length, and 6" to 8" above ground, set almost contiguously.

364. *Cairn, do.*—Some 40' NNW. of the standing-stone is a cairn which has been excavated. It has a diameter of about 42'. Near the centre lies a covering slab of a cist, 4' 6" in length by 3' in breadth. The outline of the cairn is well marked with boulders from 2' to 3' in length, and about 1' above ground, set almost contiguously. When the cairn was excavated there were found in the cist a burnt interment and some beads of jet. Close beside one of the stones of the circumference was found an urn of cinerary type, inverted upon a small flat slab, and covering a deposit of burnt human bones, among which lay an oval tanged blade of bronze. The blade, beads, and urn are in Dunrobin Museum.

A number of low irregular mounds, which have the appearance

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of banks of old enclosures, are visible here and there among the round mounds and cairns on the hill.

See Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 132.

365. *Cairn, Feranach.*—On the low moorland to the S. of the River Frithe, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SW. of Feranach, is a cairn with a diameter of from 24' to 26' and a height of from 3' to 4'. It is overgrown with turf, from which a number of round stones protrude (unnoted).

366. *Cairn, Dalcharn.*—On the hillside, some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. W. of Dalcharn, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. back from the left bank of the River Frithe, is a cairn, of some 25' to 26' in diameter and about 4' in height, overgrown with heather (unnoted).

O.S.M. SUTH., lxvi.

Visited, 17th September 1909.

367. *Cairns, Creag Ruidh nan Caorach.*—Some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. SE. of Kinbrace Station, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. above the road, are two large cairns. The most easterly is circular, with a diameter of about 50' and a height of about 6'. It has been dilapidated considerably in the centre, but no cist has been exposed. There is no indication of a chamber.

Some 50 yards SE. is the second cairn. It also has been to a certain extent interfered with. Some large flat slabs lying exposed near the centre may indicate a chambered character. Towards the NE., SW., SE., and NW. are distinct projections, but whether these are structural or not can only be determined by excavation. The projections are from 6' to 8' in length. The diameter of the cairn between them is about 41', and along them about 54'. The height of the cairn is about 4' 6".

Some 180 yards E. is a smaller cairn, which has been considerably dilapidated on the SE. Its diameter from N. to S. is 41' and from E. to W. 44'. Its height is about 4'.

Numerous small mounds lie along the hillside below these.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SSE. of the last is a low cairn of about 21' in diameter and 3' in height.

Beyond the enclosed land at Burnfoot the small mounds again appear and continue down the strath for a long distance.

O.S.M., SUTH., lvi.

Visited, 1st September 1909.

368. *Cairn, Kinbrace Hill.*—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. down the strath from Burnfoot, and some 40' distant from the road, is a large cairn. From E. to W. the diameter is about 87' and from N. to S. 83'. Its height is some 9'. On the E. side it has been pulled about to a considerable extent, but no chamber has been exposed.

Numerous small mounds lie near. One to the NE. has recently been almost entirely removed.

369, 370. *Long Cairns, do.*—Some 400 yards SE. of the large cairn last mentioned, at an elevation of about 500' above sea-level, are other two large cairns about 12' apart. The most northerly is some 100' in length, 79' across at the NE. end and 52' at the SW. Its greatest height (somewhat to the N. of the middle of its length) is some 12' to 14'. A small amount of exploration has been done on it, but no chamber is exposed. There is a semblance of projections towards the N. and S., but the indications are very indefinite.

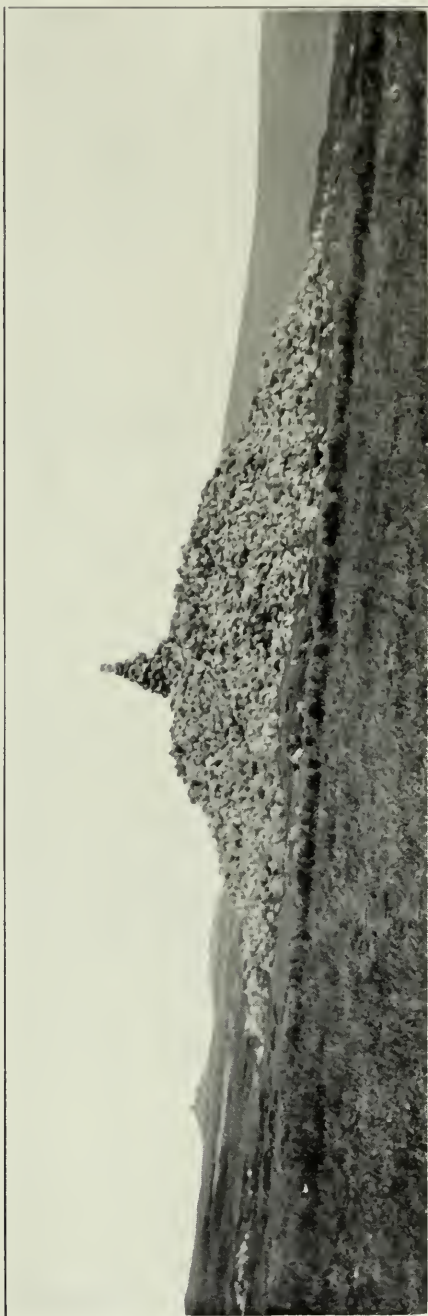


PLATE IV.—Cairns, Kinbrace Hill (Nos. 368-370 ; 368 in the foreground).

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The second cairn, which is situated to the SW. of the previous one, lies also NE. and SW. It is 102' in length, 36' broad at the NE. end, and 62' at the SW. Its height about the centre of its length is some 10'. It, too, has been pulled about a little, but no chamber is exposed.

Some 40' from the SW. end the foundations of an ancient wall are visible running out towards the SE., which, curving round, meet the neighbouring cairn at its SW. end. A similar wall has joined the two cairns on the E. side, thus utilising the cairns as part of the wall of an enclosure (Pl. IV.).

371. *Cairn, do.*—Some 250 yards E. is another cairn, with a diameter of about 64'. It has been excavated at some remote period, but no cist is exposed; nor is there any indication of a chamber. Its height is some 5'. To the E. about 150 yards lies a large group of small mounds of usual type (unnoted).

372. *Chambered Cairn, Kinbrace Burn.*—On the top of the left bank of the Kinbrace Burn, some 250 yards above the road, is a

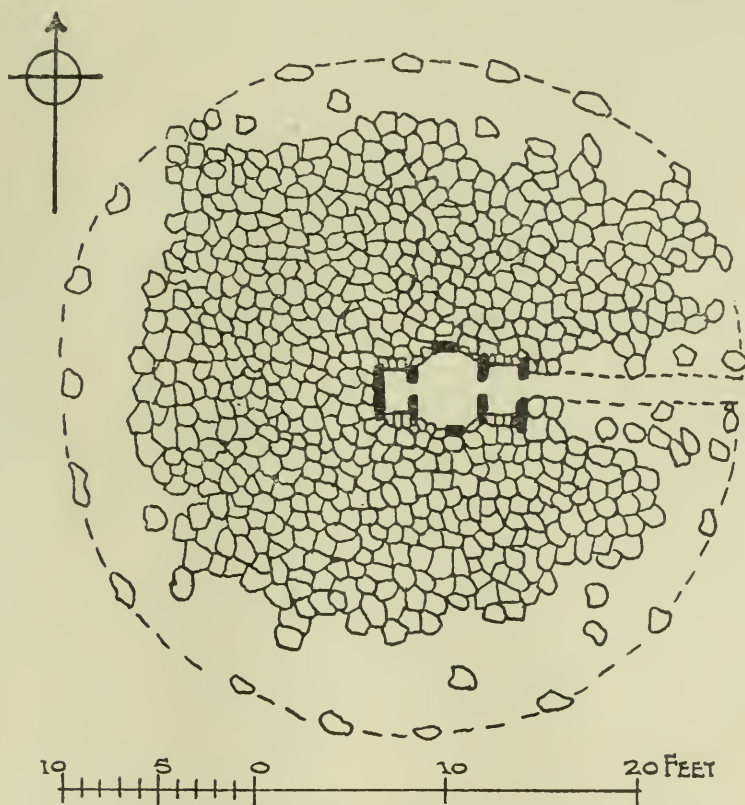


FIG. 49.—Chambered Cairn, Kinbrace Burn (No. 372).

chambered cairn which has been excavated. Its diameter from N. to S. is some 68' and from E. to W. about 73'. It has had three connected chambers in alignment lying E. and W. The passage enters from the E. It has been completely destroyed for the first 19' of its length; thereafter it remains entire for a distance of some 5', covered with slabs and 2' in width. It gives access, through portals 2' 10" apart, to a small rectangular chamber or vestibule, measuring 3' from front to back and 5' across, the sides of which are built. This chamber is low (2' high), and roofed with slabs. Between two

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partition stones, 1' 10" apart and about 3' high, covered with a lintel 4' 8" long, 1' 10" broad, and 8" thick, cracked across, is the entrance to the main chamber. It is polygonal in plan, and measures 6' 5" from E. to W. and 7' 9" from N. to S. On the N. side the wall is broken down to a height of 3', but on the S. side it remains intact for 5' 6" of its elevation. Its walls are for the most part built: the single slabs, which occur opposite each other, one on each side, being only 1' 10" and 2' 4" in breadth at present floor level. It has been covered with a roof of converging stones, and the wall is vertical for 3' above the present floor level. The third chamber is entered through the centre of the back wall, between two jambs, 1' 10" apart and 11" high, covered with a lintel stone 5' long, and, like the other, broken. It is of the same dimensions as the small chamber at the E. end (3' x 5'). It is low, and roofed with slabs, is built on both sides, and has one large slab at the back. The greatest height of the cairn externally is from 10' to 11'. It is considerably dilapidated, and there are evidences of a building having been placed against it at the W. end, where about 20' from the outside of the cairn there are the remains of a regularly constructed wall for a distance of about 10' (fig. 49).

Great numbers of small mounds lie to the E., and there are remains of circular enclosures in its vicinity.

When the cairn was excavated there was found in the passage a pierced heart-shaped amulet of polished serpentine, with a diameter of some $\frac{3}{4}$ ", now in Dunrobin Museum. This was the only relic discovered.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxvi.

Visited, 2nd September 1909.

373. "*Carn Tigh nan Coileach*," etc., *Allt Ach na h-Uaigh*.—About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. due W. of Kinbrace Station, on the hillside beyond Harvieston, are a great number of small mounds of from 12' to 20' in diameter.

Some 200' above the road, towards the W. end of the group, is a large cairn, known as "*Carn Tigh nan Coileach*." It is from 58' to 60' in diameter, and about 6' in height. It has been somewhat dilapidated on the top, and several large flat slabs are exposed, lying horizontally, suggesting a chambered character. On the hillside below lie numerous small mounds, the nearest of which is some 60' to the S.W., and constructed of larger stones than usual.

O.S.M., SUTH., lvi.

Visited, 1st September 1909.

374. *Stone Circle, Learable Hill*.—Some 120 yards W. of the cross-marked standing-stone on Learable Hill are the remains of a stone circle, formed of slabs of schistose rock, the highest about 2' high, and varying from 1' 5" to 2' 5" in breadth. Five of the stones are *in situ*, standing well above ground, two have almost sunk out of sight, and two have fallen. The diameter of the circle appears to have been about 60'. Slightly to the S. of the centre of the circle is a small mound, some 2' high, and with a diameter of about 13'; and just outside the circle, beyond a stone ESE. of the centre, is another mound about 3' high and 17' in diameter (fig. 50).

375. *Do., do.*—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Suisgill Lodge, and some 30 yards NW. of the cup-marked stone (No. 383), on a slight eminence,

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are the remains of a stone circle. Three long-pointed stones remain, all overturned, and another large stone protruding from the ground

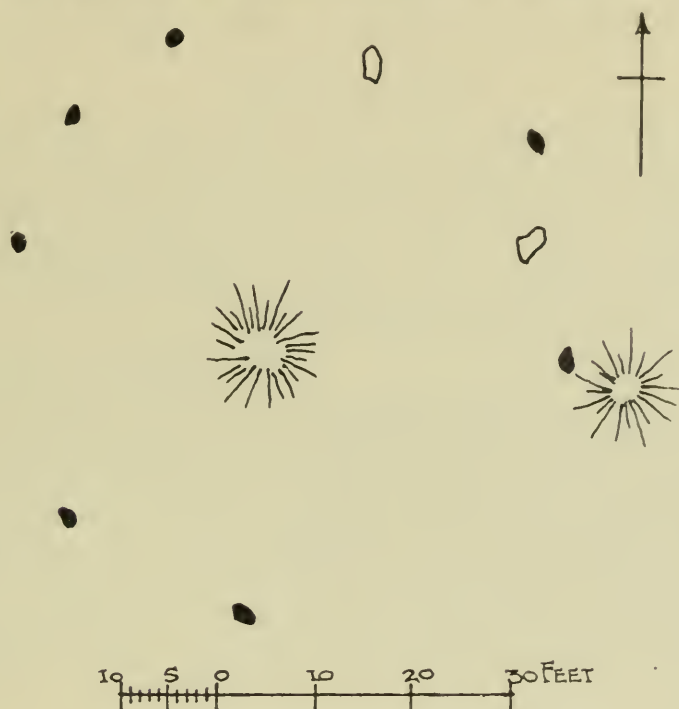


FIG. 50.—Stone Circle, Learable (No. 374).

towards the SW. may possibly have formed part of the circle. The stones are from 5' 6" to 8' in length, and from 2' 8" to 4' in breadth, and are pointed towards one end. There is grooved on the stone

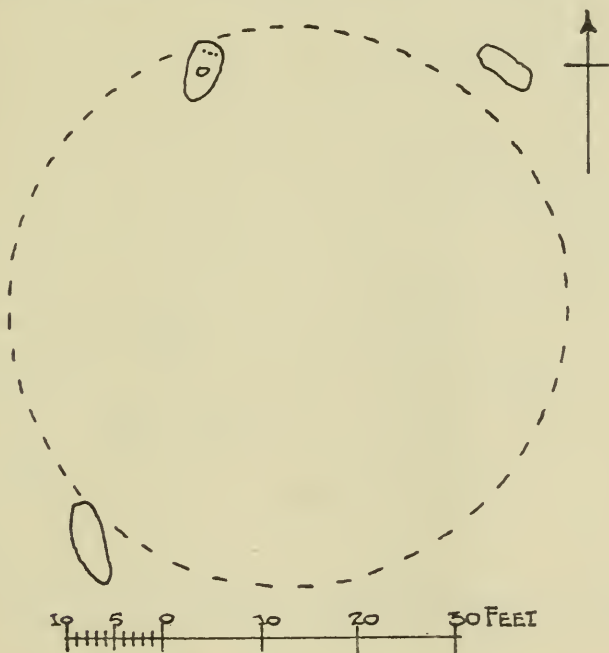


FIG. 51.—Stone Circle, Learable (No. 375).

which lies towards the N. of what has presumably been the centre, at 2' 4" from its pointed end, a single ring-mark, measuring 6" over all, and 4" within the marking. Some 2' nearer the base of the stone

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is a small cup-mark, 2" across; and about 1' 2" from the base appear another well-defined cup-mark and two faint ones (fig. 51).

O.S.M., SUTH., lxvii. (unnoted). Visited, 17th August 1909.

MISCELLANEOUS.

376. "*Crois*," *Suisgill*.—On the E. side of the road up the strath, some 300 yards S. of Suisgill Lodge, is a projecting rock which bears the name of "*Crois*." On its SW. face is said to have formerly existed a cross, which is now, however, entirely obliterated by the action of the weather. It is said to have marked the northern boundary of the Sanctuary of Kildonan.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxvii. Visited, 17th August 1909.

377. *Cross-marked Slab, Kildonan*.—Some 150 yards N. by W. of Kildonan farmhouse, near the base of a conical mound and at the NW. side of it, is a stone 4' 7" high and 2' 3" broad, bearing, grooved out on its W. face, a plain Latin cross, expanding towards, and rounded at, the base, existing for a total length of 2', and measuring 1' 10" across the arms. The stone is called "*Clach an Eig*," or "*Clach na h-Uaighe*." The conical hill (*Cnoc a' Chrochaidh*) adjacent appears to be natural. It is said that a passage, now filled up, led into the heart of it.

See *Memorabilia Domestica*, 2nd ed., p. 48.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxviii. (unnoted). Visited, 17th August 1909.

378. *Stone Rows, Torrish Burn*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of the junction

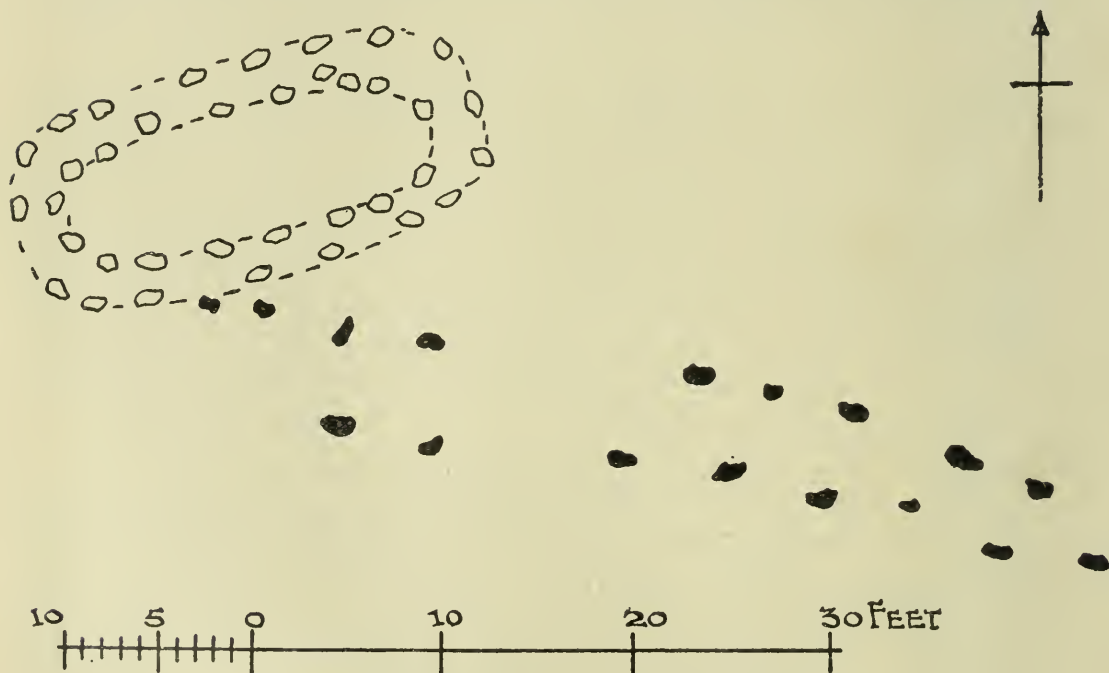


FIG. 52.—Stone Rows, Torrish Burn (No. 378).

of the Torrish Burn with the Helmsdale River is a line of stones running in an easterly direction from the SW. corner of the foundation of the elliptical structure (No. 335) for a distance of 44' 3",



PLATE V.—Stone Rows, Torrish Burn (No. 378).



PLATE VI.—Stone Rows, Learable Hill (No. 381).



FIG. 54. STONE ROWS, LEARLEABLE HILL.
(NO. 380).

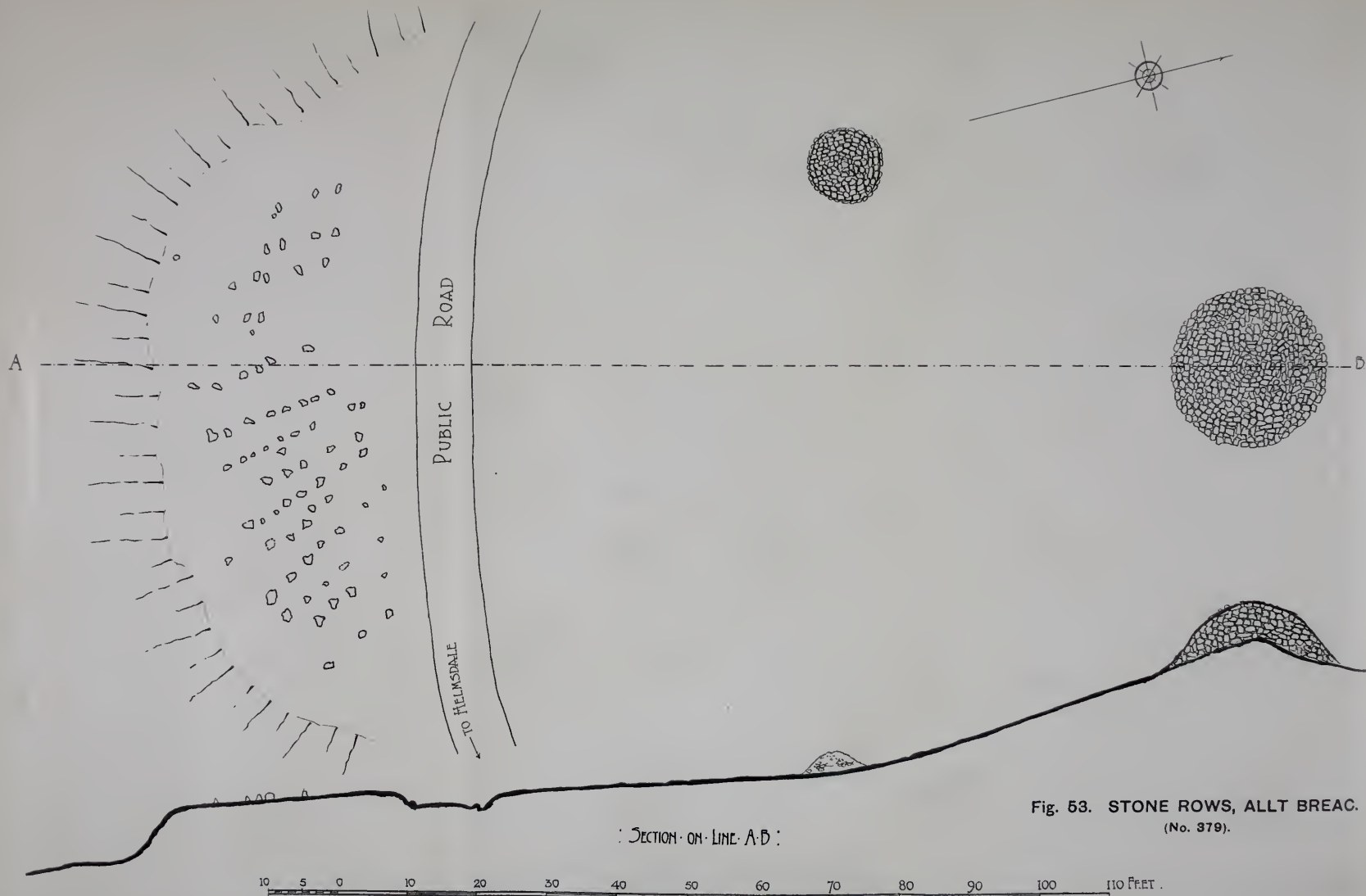


Fig. 53. STONE ROWS, ALLT BREAC.
 (No. 379).

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and parallel to it, or slightly converging towards the E. at a distance of about 5', is a similar row. In the former row are nine stones and in the latter eight. The stones resemble in size those in the similar settings on Learable Hill, and are placed with their broad faces in line. The highest are about 2' high, while some of the others now merely protrude above the ground. The rows slightly converge down the slope towards the E. (fig. 52 and Pl. V.).

379. *Stone Rows, Allt Breac*.—On a semicircular terrace at the S. side of the road up the Strath of Kildonan, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of the bridge over the Allt Breac, are a number of small standing-stones set in parallel rows, forming in outline a semicircle, the base or diameter of which is about 66' and the radius 25'. There appear to be fourteen or fifteen rows, about 3' apart, except in the centre of the semicircle, where the distance seems to be slightly greater. The stones in the rows are also about 3' apart. The lines have the appearance of convergence, as they do not run quite at right angles to the base formed by the road. The stones are set with their broad faces in line of the direction which is almost SSE. and NNW. (accurately, from 20' E. of S. to 20' W. of N.). For the most part the stones are low and pointed, none being more than 2' 6" in height. Some have recently been removed, and others broken. The roadway has probably cut off a portion of the construction (fig. 53).

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxviii. (unnoted). Visited, 27th August 1909.

380. *Standing-Stone, Learable Hill*.—On the summit of Learable Hill, a little more than $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Suisgill Lodge, is a cross-marked standing-stone, 5' 2" high, 2' 8" broad, and 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick. It stands facing E. and W., and on its W. face, near the upper end, is incised or grooved a plain Latin cross, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long by 5" across the arms. The grooves are about 1" across.

381. *Stone Rows, do*.—Crossing the hill are numerous lines of stones set in parallel rows, for the most part with their broad faces in the line of the direction of the rows. The stones are from 1' to 2' in height above the ground, and are mostly angular slabs of schistose rock. To the S. of the cross-marked standing-stone are lines running in a south-easterly direction, while on the N. are several lines, well defined, from 4' to 5' apart, set E. and W. The stones in the lines appear to be from 6' to 7' apart. Many small mounds lie around, and in several instances they are laid across the lines of stones, breaking their continuity, but not apparently forming bases from which the lines radiate (fig. 54 and Pl. VI.).

See Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 132.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxvii.

Visited, 17th August 1909.

382. "*St Donnan's Chair*."—Some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. W. of where the Allt Breac flows into the Helmsdale River, on the N. side of the road up the strath, and some 80' above it, is a large earth-fast granitic boulder, about 8' square on the upper surface, and 5' to 6' in height, with a natural depression on the upper face, known as "Cathair" or "Suidhe Donnan," from which St Donnan is said to have preached. The old statistical account, however, mentions, with particulars, the destruc-

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tion of a stone which existed near the same spot and had a similar association.

See *Stat. Acct.*, iii. p. 405.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxviii.

Visited, 21st September 1909.

383. *Cup-marked Stone, Learable*.—Somewhat less than $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Suisgill Lodge, at the side of a broken-down stone wall which runs back from the river, and not far above the birch wood, is a large earth-fast boulder or out-cropping rock lying NE. and SW. Its flat upper side is exposed to the extent of about $7' \times 3' 4''$. From the middle of the stone towards the SW. are seventeen well-defined cup-marks, some $3\frac{1}{2}''$ in diameter by $1\frac{1}{2}''$ in depth, besides three which are elongated (probably due to the wearing away of rock between single marks), measuring from $6''$ to $7''$ in length. They appear to be in two groups, one at the end of the stone consisting of ten round markings and a long one, and the other near the middle of the stone of seven small markings and two long ones. The rock or boulder is schistose.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxvii. (unnoted).

Visited, 17th August 1909.

384. *Circular Mound, Kinbrace*.—Some 150 yards NE. of Kinbrace Farm is a circular mound, about 4' high, having a diameter of about 50'. It is overgrown with grass and heather, and its character, beyond being artificial, is not quite obvious.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxvi. ("Cairn").

Visited, 2nd September 1909.

385. *Iron Smelting (remains of), Allt an Duin*.—At the foot of Achrimsdale Hill, on the N. bank of the River Frithe, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. above Allt an Duin Lodge, is a heap of iron slag, which has been exposed by the action of the burn, and some $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. further up, on the same side of the Frithe, are other two heaps.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxvi.

SITES.

386. *Broch, "Cnoc Chaisteal," Helmsdale*.—A villa bearing the name of "Cnoc Chaisteal," due N. of the end of the harbour at Helmsdale, is built on the site of a broch. In digging the foundations there were recovered a steatite cup with a handle of the usual type, a stone lamp, a saddle quern of granite, measuring $1' 4''$ in length by $9''$ in width, portions of one or more rotary querns, and a thick heavy stone whorl. All these objects are preserved at the villa. The quantity of shells of edible molluscs exposed in a small piece of garden ground adjoining, probably indicates the site of the kitchen midden.

O.S.M., SUTH., xc. (unnoted).

Visited, 10th August 1909.

The O.S. map indicates sites as under:—

387. *Broch, Dun Phail*, near shore of *Gartymore*, at county boundary.

388. *St John the Baptist's Chapel and Well, Helmsdale*.

389. *St Ninian's Chapel and Graveyard, Navidale House, Helmsdale*.

390. *Chapel, Gartymore, Helmsdale*.

O.S.M., SUTH., xc.

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DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

391. *Broch, SE. end of Loch Shin.*—Situated just within a plantation at the SE. end of Loch Shin, some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. due N. of the summit of the Ord and some 200 yards W. of the shore of the lower loch, are the remains of a broch. The diameter over all has been about 56'. The wall has been removed almost to the lowest course, and no details are obtainable. The thickness of the wall appears to have been 15', but the inner facing is indefinite.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv. (unnoted).

Visited, 3rd July 1909.

392. *Broch, Sallachadh.*—This broch is situated on the W. bank of Loch Shin, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. NNW. of Sallachadh, and about 100' above the

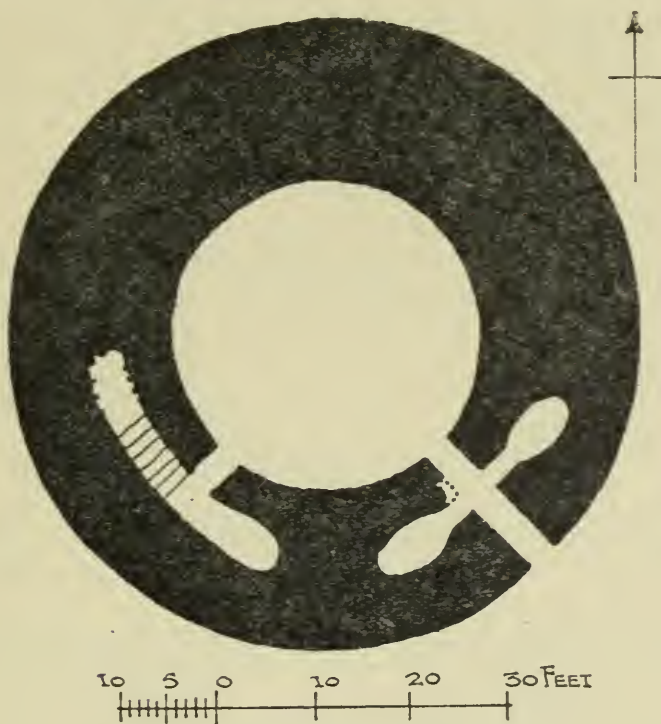


FIG. 55.—Broch, Sallachadh (No. 392).

loch, but is not on a very strongly defensible position. It has been cleared out to a great extent in the interior, and the débris has been removed from the stairway and chambers. The greatest height of wall exposed to the exterior is about 6' 6", and on the interior about 10' 4". The thickness of the wall across the top is 13' 6", and the interior diameter is 32' 6". The entrance has been from the SE. through a passage, as far as measurable, 15' in length (the outer end is not exposed), and 3' 4" in width. There are two chambers opposite each other in the entrance passage, about 8' 8" in from the exterior. The chamber on the right is entered through a passage 3' long, through the thickness of the wall, and 2' wide, and is oval in form, measuring 8' 2" long, 4' 5" wide, and 7' 6" high, with a step at the entrance 1' 8" high. The roof has for the most part gone. The chamber on the left appears to be intact, except at its entrance, where the wall on the inner side has collapsed. The entrance is 1' 11" wide and 3' high, and has a step up from the passage 1' 8" high. At

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19' 6" to the NW. from the left side of the inner end of the main entrance passage is the entrance to the staircase and chamber opposite to it. The entrance is 1' 8" above ground level in the interior, and is 3' 6" in width, 4' within the wall. The stair, which rises to the right, still exists for seven steps, for the most part broken and displaced. It is 3' 4" wide. An oval chamber is opposite the stair foot, 3' 6" wide at entrance, expanding to 4' 6", and 9' 4" long. It has been covered with an overlapping roof, now gone. The entrance to it is covered with a lintel 4' long, 1' 7" broad, and 11" thick. On the S. side, between the main entrance and the entrance to the stair, at about 9' from the ground, is a single stone projecting about 4" beyond the wall below and 11" beyond the wall above it, which, for a distance of about 6' along the curve, is slightly restricted so as to form a ledge. About the same level, on the opposite side, a like partial restriction appears for a similar distance. Opposite the main entrance, at a height of 8' 7" from ground level, another similar stone projects. At this level there has been a course of larger stones around the inner circumference. At 46' SE. of the outer end of the entrance to the broch are the ruins of an outer defensive wall, which curves round to the flanks, meeting the broch at 28' from the entrance on the S. side, and at about 37' on the W. The details of this defensive work are obscured at the entrance by the mound of rubbish taken from the interior in the excavation (fig. 55).

See Pococke, p. 116.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv.

Visited, 26th June 1909.

393. *Broch, Shiness*.—The broch of Shiness is situated on a knoll at the foot of a field about 400 yards NW. of Shiness House, at the N. end of Loch a' Bhainbh. It is now a featureless cairn of stones, some 7' to 8' high. The remains of two chambers are visible on the SE. side.

In the bank of the burn to the S. a quantity of iron slag is visible.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxxv.

Visited, 19th June 1909.

394. *Broch, Dalchork*.—This broch is situated on the left bank of the River Tirry, near Dalchork, on the top of a knoll which rises out of the flat haugh land to a height of about 30' above the river. The numerous sheep drains show the marshy nature of the surrounding land in former times. Towards the river the slope of the hillock is abrupt, and on the S. there is a scarp of about 6' in height. A short distance from the base of the scarp the ruins of a wall curve round westwards towards the river bank. On the N. and E. sides, coming up to the edge of the broch, are considerable remains of enclosures, which are probably original, as the slope of the mound in these directions is not steep, and there are no other signs of outer defences. The broch itself has occupied the centre of the flat summit, but is now a structureless mass showing no wall faces or other measurable details, from which all the larger stones appear to have been removed. It does not seem to have been of exceptional size.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv.

Visited, 1st July 1909.

395. *Broch, Alltbreac*.—At Alltbreac, on the SE. end of a grassy hill, some 150 yards distant from its summit, and about 1 m. E. of

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Dalchork, are the remains of a broch. It has been sadly dilapidated and used as a quarry for sheep-folds and numerous secondary constructions in its immediate neighbourhood. Of the outer wall little but the lowest course remains, but this shows the masonry to have been very large, as some of the stones composing it are over 3' in length and from 1' 6" to 2' in height. The structure on the interior has been equally demolished, and the outline of the wall is only ascertainable with difficulty. The interior diameter has been about 31' 6", and the thickness of the wall 13'. The entrance has been from the SE., and seems to have been about 3' wide through a passage 13' in length. The door checks, if any existed, have gone, and the sides are much ruined. There have been chambers on both sides entering from the passage; that on the right about 6' 4" in from the exterior,

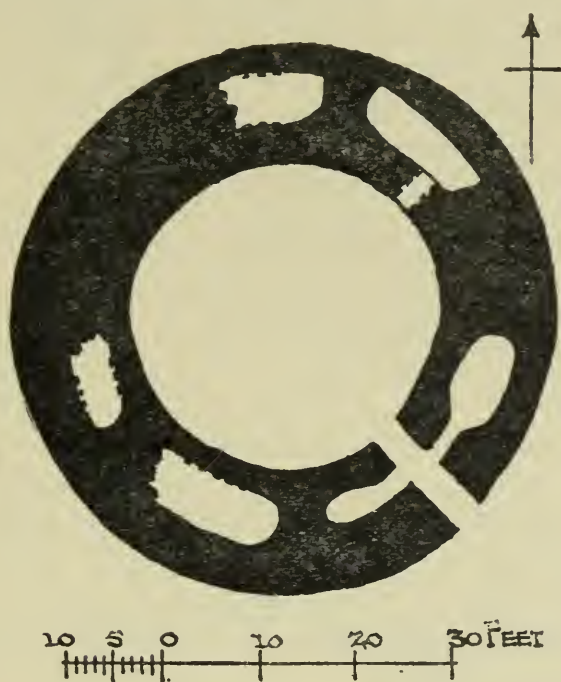


FIG. 56. —Broch, Allt Breac (No. 395).

that on the left perhaps a little further in. The chamber on the right is entered by a passage through the wall 1' 8" wide and about 4' long. The chamber itself has been about 10' long, but, as the roof and outer wall are gone, its other dimensions are unobtainable. The passage into the chamber on the left seems to have been about 2' 6" in length and 2' broad. The chamber has been about 7' long and only about 2' 8" broad, but its ruined state makes the measurements rather unreliable as to its original form. Some 4' S. of the end of it is the back wall of another chamber, still 6' high and 4' 10" wide. Its length is unascertainable with certainty, as the W. end is blocked up with ruins, but it appears to have been about 7', and a continuation for other 8' westward of its S. wall most probably indicates the position of the stair. At 5' 6" further W. is the S. end of another small chamber, which has been about 4' wide, and is filled with stones. Following the curve of the wall in the opposite direction from the E. side of the entrance the back of a chamber lying to the N. is met with at about 44' 6". It has a width of about 5', but, as the wall on

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the outside or NE. is perpendicular and built against the rounded wall at the back, it has probably been originally wider. 3' 6" to the E. of it is the end wall of another chamber running SE. for 13'. The outer wall here also presents the same features as in the previous case. The span of the original roof has probably been too great, and an additional wall has been necessary for its support. The present greatest width of this chamber is about 3' 6". The original out-works are not distinguishable from the remains of folds, etc., around the broch (fig. 56).

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv.

Visited, 28th June 1909.

396. *Circular Enclosure, The Ord, Lairg.*—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SSE. from the summit of the hill, on a slight ridge, is a circular enclosure, with an interior diameter of 43', surrounded by a wall of turf and boulders 7' across and now only about 1' 6" high. Beyond the wall is a berm 19' wide, reaching to the edge of an enclosing ditch 21' across and about 6' deep. The circle of the ditch is broken towards the SSW., where has been the entrance. It has passed between two walls now traceable only from the outer edge of the berm, diverging from 9' apart to 13' at their outer extremities. Their thickness is not ascertainable. The wall of the enclosure is of the same character as that of the ordinary hut circles. A turf dyke, old, yet comparatively modern, has crossed over the construction.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv. and cii.

Visited, 14th June 1909.

HUT CIRCLES AND ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS.

397. *The Ord, Lairg.*—About 200 yards SE. of the summit of the hill is a large hut circle of simple form, but of larger dimensions than usual, measuring across from SE. to NW. about 38' and from NE. to SW. 52'. There has been an entrance from the SW., about 4' 6" across, through a passage some 12' in length, having a chamber entering off it on the right.

About 250 yards SE. of the summit is a mound of about 27' diameter, which seems to have been excavated. It has been pillaged, and is overgrown with turf.

Some 250' SE. of the summit, just inside the wall of an old enclosure, is a large mound, probably a cairn, covered with grass and the remains of burnt heather. It is some 50' in diameter and 6' to 7' in height.

Within 20' to the S. of it is a mound, measuring about 15' from N. to S. by 10' from E. to W., and 2' high, partially opened by rabbits.

Some 60' S. is another mound, some 18' \times 10' in diameter and 2' high.

Some 50 yards N. of the small circular fort (No. 396) are the remains of a hut circle, of ordinary form, of about 30' interior diameter. Some 40' SE. of it again is a small round mound of some 16' diameter.

About 100 yards SE. of the fort (No. 396) is a large group of mounds, varying from 10' to 22' in diameter and from 1' 6" to 3' high, the majority some 16' to 18' in diameter. There are from thirty to forty of them in the group.

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398. *Do.*—Among them appear several hut circles. One towards the NW. is fairly discernible, and measures some 26' across the interior. At the SE. end of the group is a well-preserved hut circle, measuring 37' in interior diameter and 6' across the enclosing bank.

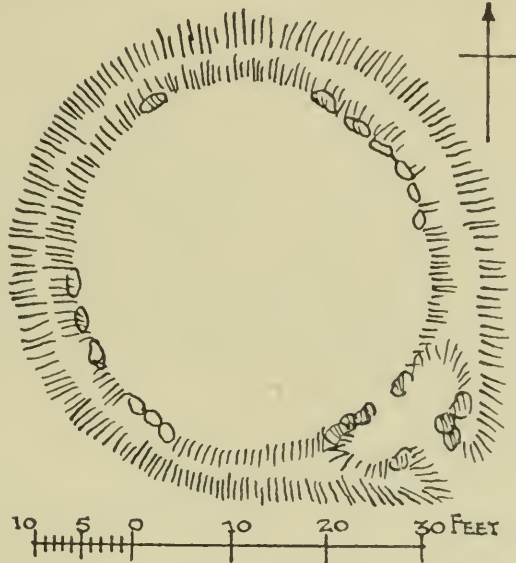


FIG. 57.—Hut Circle, The Ord (No. 398).

The inner line of the bank is well defined in places, with pointed stones set on end. The entrance is from the SE. through a passage 14' in length, containing on either side a small semicircular chamber or recess, measuring 6' x 5', and opening on the passage at its inner end (fig. 57).

399. *Do.*—About 30 yards NE. of the last is another circle, measuring interiorly 35' x 38', with its entrance from the SE. (fig. 58).

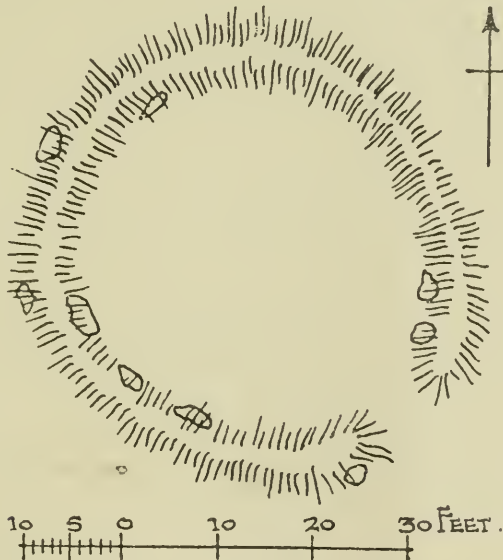


FIG. 58.—Hut Circle, The Ord (No. 399).

Some 30' to the N. of it lies a mound, with its longest axis E. and W., measuring some 28' x 14' in length and breadth, and 2' in height. Another, similar, in the same alignment, about 20' W. of the last, measures 28' x 16'. It lies some 20' to the NW. of the last hut circle.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv. and cii.

Visited, 14th June 1909.

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400. *Do.*—About 250 yards SE. of the summit, on the W. flank of the hill, are a number of curious constructions, clustered together. At the extreme SE. end of the group is a small semicircular enclosure, 18' across, with a wall stretching across the open end for a distance of 11' from the W. About 30 yards NW. of it is an enclosure, circular or square with rounded angles, about 35' in diameter, surrounded by the remains of a turf and boulder wall 7' thick, the entrance to the SE. about 5' across. Adjoining it to the E., and facing NW., is a large crescentic mound, measuring 21' wide at the centre, 3' high to the outside, and 4' 7" in front, 41' between its extremities, and with a concavity of 12'. Some 21' from the centre of the crescent is a low oblong heap of stones, quite flat on the top, measuring 19' from NW. to SE. by 25' from SW. to NE. It is some 2' high. Some 18' NW. of the last construction is a heap of boulders, 16' in circumference, and 2' high, which does not appear to be sepulchral.

401. *Do.*—Some 100 yards SW. of the constructions last mentioned is a hut circle of the usual type, measuring interiorly 35' × 37'. About 50' SW. of the hut circle is a mound which appears to be formed artificially of earth and boulders, with a diameter of about 20' and height about 2'. Its character is doubtful.

402. *Do.*—About $\frac{1}{3}$ m. S. of the summit, on a slight knoll, is a cup-shaped hollow, measuring 11' across and 1' 5" deep in the centre; and immediately adjoining it to the SW., with its longest axis SW. and NE., is a rectangular construction, formed of flat sharp-edged boulders set on end round three sides—the end towards the hollow being open. The interior dimensions are 6' 8" × 3' 10". There is no appearance of a wall, and a considerable number of small stones lie about in the interior, which is raised about 8". The highest stone is 1' 6" above ground, and 1' 7" across by 9" thick.

Some 30' S. of it is a hut circle, of ordinary type, with entrance from the SE., 5' across, between two large stones. Its interior dimensions are 45' × 36'.

Some 14' SE. of the cup-shaped hollow is a small mound of some 6' in diameter; and some 20' to the N. of the adjacent circle is a mound of earth and boulders lying N. and S., measuring 12' 6" × 10', and 1' to 1½' high, and several others are in the vicinity.

403. *Do.*—50 yards or so W. of the great cairn (No. 443), near the summit, is a circular mound or cairn 28' in diameter and some 3' 6" high. A slight excavation appears to have been made on the top, but neither cist nor chamber is exposed.

Some 100 yards NW. of the great cairn is a hut circle of the usual form, with the entrance from the SE.

All along the hill face, from the summit downwards for 100', are numerous mounds, mostly circular, varying from about 12' to 23' in diameter (the greatest number measuring about 20' across and some 3' high). These mounds are larger and more conspicuous than those generally observed in similar situations.

Some 50 yards E. of the last hut circle is another, with interior diameter of some 18' × 20', and entrance apparently from the N.

Some 250 yards NNW. of the great cairn is a well-defined hut

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circle, overgrown with heather, quite circular, with a diameter of 30', and the entrance from the SE.

Several mounds lie around it. One, some 20' to the W., lying N. and S., measures about 17' × 12', and is about 3' high. Towards its S. end a single large stone protrudes on the top 8" or 10" above the ridge.

404. *Do.*—Some 100 yards NW. of the great cairn is a circle, measuring over all about 20', with an interior diameter of about 6', surrounded by a stony bank. The centre is covered with turf, and does not seem stony. Running from it on the NW. are the ruins of an ancient wall, which continues for a distance of 96', and terminates in a low stony mound about 10' long and 9' across. At 54' beyond, over a space where there is no trace whatever of walling, the wall recommences running in the same direction, with a curve open to the E. 21' across, connected with a large oval heap of stones, probably the remains of a hut enclosure, measuring some 47' × 20', facing the W., and with an interior depression measuring 18' × 12'. From the NW. of this heap the wall proceeds down the hill, and at about 100 yards it appears to turn eastwards. Here there are indefinite indications of similar enclosures connected with it. The wall is not carried to the top of the hill, nor has it the strength or character of a fortification.

405. *Do.*—About 200 yards NNW. of the great cairn is a crescentic construction, measuring about 30' over all, with an interior of about 12' diameter.

Some 100 yards N. by W. of the great cairn to the N. of the pathway across the hill are the remains of a large walled enclosure, with interior measurements of about 43' × 45', and entrance from the SE., while adjoining it to the NE. is a large oval mound, measuring about 33' from NE. to SW. and 23' from NW. to SE., and about 3' high.

406. *Do.*—Some 100 yards due N. of the great cairn, and on the upper side of the pathway, is a small circle, with an interior diameter of 16', flanked on the N. and S. by banks about 2' high and 12' across, while on the E. and W. the base of the bank is merely indicated. Near the entrance to the E. the wall is 4' thick. This has probably been a kiln.

About 20' E. is a hut circle, of ordinary form, measuring interiorly 24' × 29', with an enclosing bank about 5' thick, and entrance from the NW. facing the object described in the preceding paragraph. Some 81' E. is a mound, with a diameter of about 22'.

At about 100 yards NE. of the summit is a crescentic mound of earth and boulders, measuring about 42' along the crest, about 12' across the centre, and 29' between the points facing NE., with the back to the hill.

Some 150 yards N. by E. of the summit, within 50' of the path, is a cup-shaped hollow of 6' interior diameter and 1½' depth, open to the N.

Some 200 yards due N. of the summit is a circular enclosure of about 27' interior diameter, and with a wide opening to the E. In its vicinity lie numerous small mounds.

Some 40' N. of the circular enclosure is a hut circle of the usual

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character, with the entrance from the SE. The interior diameter is some $24' \times 27'$.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of the great cairn is another hut circle of the usual form, but somewhat indistinct.

The mounds on the N. and NW. slopes of the hill must number somewhere about 100.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv. and cii.

Visited, 14th June 1909.

407. *Do.*—To the S. of the road to Invercassley, about 150 yards W. of where it leaves the main road to the S. of Lairg, are two hut circles. The westmost one is small, measuring some $23'$ across; the other, overgrown with heather, measures some $28'$ in interior diameter.

Between the last circle and the main road to Bonar Bridge is a small group of mounds, most of which have been demolished. One, close to the road, about 100 yards S. of the crossing, is from $1\frac{1}{2}'$ to $2'$ high, and measures $20' \times 13'$.

Some 350 yards S. of the cross roads, on the W. side of the road, are the remains of a hut circle, of the usual form, but smaller in size, measuring interiorly $18' \times 24'$. The entrance is from the SE. The bank is much broken down.

Close to the last is a group of mounds, about twelve in number, mostly circular, with diameter of about $14'$.

Towards the SE. end of the group is a mound formed of two smaller mounds joined by a neck. The whole length of the construction is $24'$. The expansions at either end are $10'$ long, and the neck about $4'$ long. The SE. end is $14'$ across, the neck $8'$, and the NW. end $13'$. There is a marked concavity on the W. in the centre, but not so marked on the E., and a lowering of the ridge at the neck.

Another mound, about $20'$ NW., partially demolished, measures some $22' \times 14'$, and has its longest axis E. and W.

408. *Do.*—Another small group lies between the road and the river some 150 yards S. of the junction of the Invercassley road. One at the SW. of the group is oval, measuring $17' \times 8' 6''$, with its longest axis E. and W. One, a little to the N. of it, is almost circular, with a diameter of $18'$. Another to the S. measures $15' \times 9' 6''$, with its longest axis SW. and NE.

O.S.M., SUTH., cii.

Visited, 14th June 1909.

409. *SE. end of Loch Shin.*—On a slight hillock, about 30 yards S. of the site of the broch (No. 391), in the plantation to the N. of the Ord, is a circular enclosure, overgrown with heather. Its dimensions are in consequence not accurately obtainable, but the interior diameter appears to be about $25'$.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv.

Visited, 5th July 1909.

410. *River Shin.*—On the right bank of the River Shin, about 1 m. S. of Lairg church and some 30 yards down from the stone circle (No. 462), is a well-defined hut circle on the top of the river bank. It is of the usual form, but small, measuring interiorly only $14' \times 20'$.

411. *Baile fiur.*—Some 180 yards SW. of the cairn (No. 449) on Druim Baile fiur is a hut circle, with the entrance from the SE., measuring interiorly $31' \times 37'$. The faces of the encircling bank are

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well marked with boulders, laid end to end, and the bank appears to have been from 8' to 10' across.

About 100 yards SE. of the hut circle are three mounds of from 18' to 20' in diameter, and 2' to 3' in height.

A hut circle, with its entrance from the SW., lies about 100 yards E. of the single cairn (No. 450). The inner line of the wall is marked by pointed stones (the highest about 2' high) projecting at irregular intervals. The enclosure is circular, with a diameter of 26'. The width of the entrance is not ascertainable (unnoted).

412. *Pitarxie*.—On the hill between Gruids and the road from Lairg to Invershin, on the W. side of the River Shin, near Pitarxie, are a number of hut circles and mounds. About 100 yards from the road is a group of about eight mounds and a hut circle through which a roadway has been cut. One mound, some 30' W. of the hut circle, measures some 30' × 26', and is about 2' high.

Another hut circle lies about 100 yards SW. of the first, measuring 19' × 24' interiorly, with its entrance from the SE. Its bank is more stony than usual, and measures about 6' across. A group of four or five mounds lies to the SW. of it.

O.S.M. SUTH., cii.

Visited, 5th July 1909.

413. *Torroboll and Rhianbreck*.—On the E. side of the road leading from Lairg towards Torroboll, about 1 m. S. of Lairg, on a track of moorland about 100' above the River Shin, is a group of seven or eight mounds, and the remains of a small hut circle, with an entrance from the S., and an interior diameter of about 19' × 21'.

On the N. side of the road to Rhianbreck, about 200 yards beyond its junction with the Lairg road, is a hut circle of the usual type, with its entrance from the SE. Its interior dimensions are about 24' × 27'.

On the S. side of the road to Tomich, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. E. of its junction with the Lairg road, is a group of seven or eight mounds measuring from 12' to 18' in diameter, and from 2' to 3' in height.

Some 100 yards to the S., and stretching along the hillside above the crofts, are about a score more mounds of the usual form.

A few hundred yards SE. of the upper end of the crofts at Torroboll, and on the W. side of an old road, are several hut circles and mounds.

Two circles, marked on the O.S. map, are of the usual form, overgrown with grass and heather, with entrances from the SE. A small group of mounds lies about them.

Some 80 yards N. and NW. respectively of the northmost of the two circles are the indistinct remains of two others, with five or six mounds beside them.

About 100 yards E., across the road from the circles noted on the O.S. map, is another, with more mounds near it. The mounds are all overgrown with heather, and are eighteen to twenty in number.

On the piece of waste ground S. of the burn that runs through Torroboll, and NW. of the last enclosed crofts, is a hut circle of usual type, measuring interiorly 30' × 34', enclosed by a bank 5' thick and about 2' high, and with an entrance from the SW. Around this circle are about a score of mounds of the usual small type.

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On the top of one, at its N. end, a single large boulder sticks up about a foot above the heather.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv. and ciii.

Visited, 17th June 1909.

414. *Strath Fleet*.—About 3 m. E. of Lairg, on the N. side of the road to Rogart, situated on a slight terrace on the hillside, above which the rocks rise abruptly for some 50', is a hut circle of the usual form, with its entrance from the SE. It measures interiorly

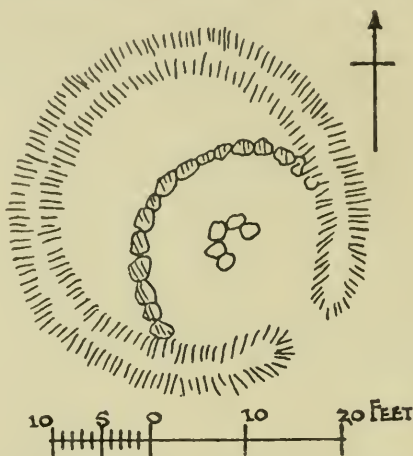


FIG. 59. —Hut Circle, Strath Fleet (No. 414).

26' × 29'. The interior space has been diminished by a low wall of boulders and turf, which curves across from either side, cutting off the back of the enclosure, so as to form a circle of the front portion 21' in diameter. In the centre of this area is a low bed of stones, about 4' across, which has probably formed a hearth, as, on cutting out a turf, wood-charcoal was found (fig. 59).

Some 60' further E., and at a slightly lower level, nearer the road, is another circle, measuring some 28' × 34' interiorly, with its entrance from the SE. The bank is about 4' thick, except at either side of the entrance passage, where it expands to 7'. The passage is from 3' 6" to 4' wide. An old road passes along the hillside between these two circles.

A circular mound, low, and rather dilapidated, with a diameter of 22', lies about 40' NW. of the last circle and about 12' lower on the slope.

On a slight elevation, about 100 yards W. of the last, and some 20' above the road, are the remains of another circle. The bank on the N. has fallen away, taking a considerable part of the enclosure with it, and disclosing a section of the interior, which shows a layer of charcoal about 2" deep from 5" to 6" below the present surface, lying on a level floor of earth. There are no bones or foreign matter among the charcoal, which lies near where the inside of the bank must have been. In the NE. portion of the interior is a cup-shaped hollow about 7' across and 1' 6" deep.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv.

Visited, 18th June 1909.

415. *Balindailish, etc.*—On the ridge running W. above the crofts at Balindailish, about 1¼ m. from Lairg, are situated various groups of mounds.

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The first group is above Balindailish, and consists of three or four of the ordinary low, grass-covered type.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. above Balcharn is another group. A short distance to the N. of Balcharn is a group of about half a dozen, all grass-grown.

Of the group at Culmaily, to the E. of it, only one remains, half broken down on the edge of the road past the crofts. Some 100 yards S., on the moorland, the outline of a hut circle is observable.

The group of mounds some 400 yards E. of Culbuie consists of about a dozen, from 12' to 18' in diameter, and some 3' in height.

416. *Dulaich*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. E. of Savalbeg, at Dulaich, is a group of about fourteen mounds. One or two are rather higher, and more pointed than usual, being about 3' 6" in height.

417. *Do*.—A short distance to the NE. of Loch Dulaich, and on either side of the road or track to Loch Tigh na Creige, is a large group of mounds and hut circles. The first hut circle is on slightly rising ground to the N. of the road, some 300 yards beyond the loch. It is of the usual form, but its outline is not now very definite. A short distance beyond it, to the NE., is a group of six or eight mounds of the usual type.

About 100 yards further on, and some 40 yards N. of the road, is another hut circle, of usual form, with entrance from the SE., and measuring interiorly 21' \times 27'.

Across the road, where the ground rises steeply, along the top of the ridge, and on its N. slope, are about a score of mounds, overgrown with grass and heather, measuring from 12' to 18' in diameter. Scattered among them are five hut circles.

The most northerly of these is situated close beside the road, and is somewhat larger than usual, measuring 34' \times 45' interiorly. The entrance, which is 3' wide, is as usual from the SE. Abutting on it, on the W. side, is another smaller circle, measuring 28' \times 31', and with an entrance from the SE. They are connected by a common bank or mound 12' across (fig. 60).

Some 50 yards SW. of it is another, with interior dimensions of 24' \times 31', and an entrance from the SE. It appears to have been at one time much larger, but to have been filled up on the W. side, making the bank in that direction 14' across.

Another circle on the top of the ridge, about 100 yards S. of the double circle, is also in good preservation. It measures about 21' \times 24', and has the entrance to the SE. The interior appears to have been hollowed out to some extent, and is some 2' below the ground level on the upper side.

The other circle of the group, some 50 yards W. of the last, is much effaced.

Across the burn—the Feith Mhor—which flows to the N. of these remains, on a slight elevation, is a similar group, consisting of a hut circle and mounds. The circle is some 190 yards NNW. of the bridge across the burn. It measures interiorly about 19' \times 23', and is entered from the SE. To the S. and E. of it lie about a dozen mounds of the usual type.

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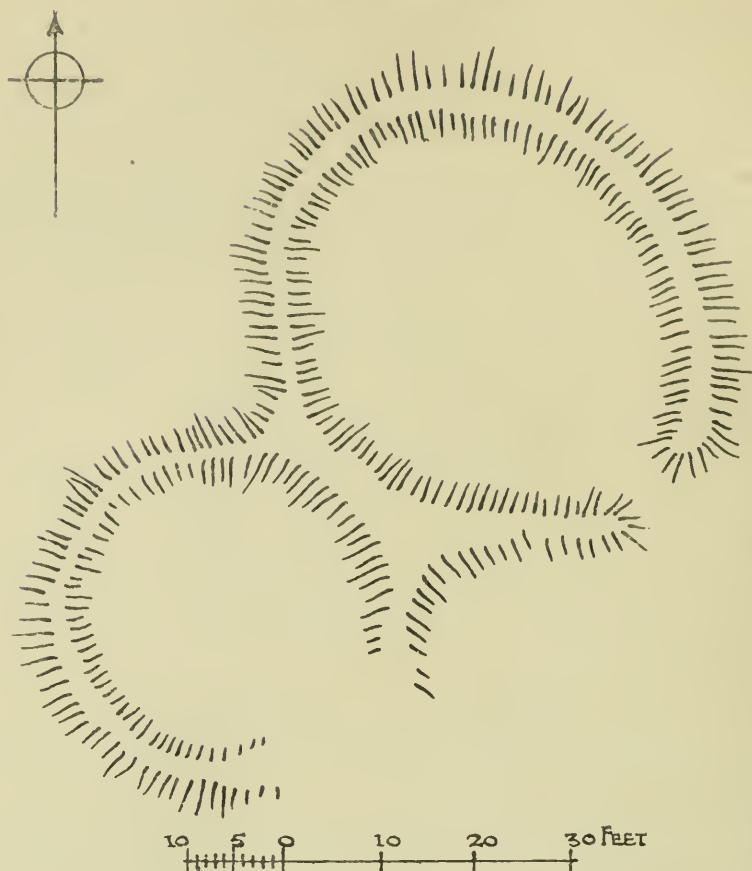


FIG. 60.—Hut Circle, Dulaich (No. 417).

418. *Lairg*.—On a small piece of waste land, some 300 yards SE. of Sydney House, is a group of seven or eight mounds. All of these are of the ordinary type, except one, in the SE. corner of the enclosure, which is somewhat larger, and measures 23' × 21'. Another mound lies some 300 yards S. of Sydney House.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv.

Visited, 18th June 1909.

419. *Lairg Moor*.—A small group of mounds, about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. N. of Lairg Church, are of the usual character. There are, besides these, remains of one or two hut circles, now ill defined.

Some 250 yards NW. of Sydney House are two hut circles set in relation to an old enclosing bank. The bank or mound is irregular in outline and height, but in places it is 12' to 14' wide and 2' high. It crosses the moor from NNW. along the edge of a slight depression, turns to the SW. where the hut circles have been placed, thereafter curving to the S., crosses the road, and is lost in the cultivated land beyond. There is an opening through the bank 6' across, just where it first alters its direction, flanked on the S. by a broadening of the mound to 20' and on the opposite side by a hut circle placed against the mound on its outer face. The circle measures interiorly about 20' × 23', and has two entrances, one from the SE. and another from the entrance passage to the interior of the enclosure. Nearly opposite the opening, and about 50' NW., within the enclosed area, is the other hut circle, which is of similar dimensions, well preserved, and with an

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entrance from the S. To the N. and NE. of the circles are a number of small mounds of usual type.

420. *Do.*—About 150 yards NE. of Sydney House is another hut circle, of usual form, with an entrance from the S. A number of mounds lie to the N. and NE. of it.

421. *Creag an t-Sabhail.*—About 250 yards NNE. of Creag an t-Sabhail is a group of mounds, in number about two dozen, of usual type, and about the same distance to the NW. lies another small group.

422. *Savalmore.*—About $\frac{1}{3}$ m. SSW. of Savalmore, on a ridge, are a group of mounds and a well-preserved hut circle of 30' interior diameter.

O.S.M. SUTH., xciv.

Visited, 24th June 1909.

423. *An t-Sron.*—On the top of a low grassy hill, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of Lairg Lodge, is a group of about sixteen small mounds, of the usual type, covered with vegetation.

424. *Do.*—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. due N. of the last, on the An t-Sron, a ridge running N. and S., are a large number of mounds and several circles.

On the E. face of the hill, towards the S. end of it, is a singular construction. The main feature has been a circle of contiguous boulders, with a diameter of some 46'. The largest of the remaining boulders is from 1' 6" to 2' high, and about the same width at base. A number of the stones have been removed so recently that the beds in the peat where they stood still remain. At 4' within this circle the remains of another circle, concentric, but formed of smaller stones, are at several points apparent, and also at 4' outside it the stones forming a portion of a third circle, also concentric, are met with. The growth of heather rather obscures these details in places. Towards the SE. an entrance 4' to 5' wide, edged with stones on either side for 9' towards the centre, passes through the main circle. The seats from which have been removed two large stones (which stood with their broad faces lining the passage on one side) are quite evident. At 9' inwards there is a regular causeway of large stones laid across the end of the opening for a further distance of 9', at the end of which is a low grass-covered circular mound, occupying the centre of the circles, 11' across and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ' high. Between the three circles there is no sign of a turf bank or of building, although here and there on the surface a few stones are lying. On piercing the turf, stones were found over nearly the whole interior area about 8" below the surface.

425. *Do.*—Some 40 yards SE. of the last is a low mound of 24' diameter, which appears to have been enclosed within a circle having a diameter of from 36' to 38' formed of low stones, set about 9' apart. Of the fourteen stones which apparently formed the circle, only three small stones remain, but there are the well-defined seats of seven others, leaving only four unaccounted for. The existing stones, though firmly set in the peat, do not protrude more than 10" to 1', and are not broad. The stones removed have all been larger. Most of them stood with their broad faces at right angles to the line of circumference. The mound is not more than 2' to $2\frac{1}{2}$ ' in height.

About 40' E. of the mound is a small depression, bounded by a

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bank about 8' across and 1' 2" high on the E. side, in which direction the ground slopes. The interior is circular, with a diameter of from 6' to 7', and has been entered from the S.

There are numerous mounds all along the slope of the hill facing the SE.

Towards the top of the hill, and S.E. of the large enclosure indicated on the O.S. map, is a hut circle, with its entrance from the S.E. 9' wide. It is of the usual form, and measures interiorly 36' × 41'. The bank is of turf and stone.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv.

Visited, 25th June 1909.

426. *Cnoc a' Chatha*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of the An t-Sron, across a stretch of boggy land, rises the Cnoc a' Chatha, a grassy hill about 200' in height, and running SE. and NW. for a distance of about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. Extending all over the crest and flanks of the hill are a number of round mounds, overgrown with turf, of the usual character.

Near the mounds at the SE. end is a hut circle of usual oval form, measuring 29' × 35' interiorly, with an entrance from the SE.

A little to the NW. is another, whose breadth is greater than its length, measuring 14' × 12', with the entrance from the SE. From the NW. of it a bank curves northwards up the hill for a short distance, and then, running W. for about 15', meets the E. side of a semicircular enclosure at its open end. This semicircle is 33' in diameter, and measures about 33' across the open end, being probably a cattle shelter. The bank enclosing it, where best preserved on the E. side, is about 13' across and 3' high, formed of earth or turf and stones. Some 40' to the S. of the lower circle is apparently the opening through a bank or wall, the ends of which are discernible on either side running in an NW. and NE. direction respectively.

Some 40 yards W. of the upper enclosure are the remains of a circular stone building of 14' interior diameter, with the entrance from the S., and ruined walls of boulders 6' across their foundations.

A little to the N. of it is a well-preserved hut circle of the ordinary form, measuring 26' × 31', with an entrance from the S. 5' wide. The bank thickens towards the entrance, where it is 11' across.

About 60' SW. of the last are the ruins of a stone structure, showing remains of a wall of from 1' 6" to 2' high, and from 9' to 10' thick. It is oval, with its longest axis at right angles to the direction of its entrance, which is from the S. Its interior measurements are 25' × 23'. The entrance is much ruined, but appears to have been about 2' wide. There are indications that the interior has been subdivided into small oval or round chambers, with outlines of boulders, but the débris lying all over the interior renders the plan indefinite.

427. *Do.*—About 50 yards NW. of the last is a construction with two circular enclosures, separated from each other by a stone foundation 3' across, and bounded on the W. side by a mound of earth and stones 29' long, 14' broad on base, and 2' to 3' high, and on the E. by a mound of lesser dimensions. The two enclosures lie in line in a direction NW. and SE. That towards the NW. is oval, and measures interiorly 13' in length by 9' in breadth, and appears to have a wide opening to the NE., where the ends of the mounds do not converge. The enclosure towards the SE. measures 8' in breadth by 10' in

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length, and has an entrance from the SE. 2' wide through a wall with a well-defined edge 2' 5" thick on the W. side; the stone on the opposite side being overgrown with grass, the actual length of the passage is unascertainable. From the E. side of the circle, near the centre, on the exterior, a wall runs SE. for about 40', then turns NE. up the hill for about 70 yards, thereafter turning sharply to the N. and NW. for about 100 yards, terminates in an oval enclosure 22' across by 11' long, with an opening from the SW. Parallel with the wall as it runs up the hill, and some 27' distant, a similar wall is observable, terminating at its upper end in a cup-shaped depression of some 12' interior diameter. The walls are not defensive, but they are noticeable by reason of their connection with the small enclosures, which are a regular feature of them.*

428. *Do.*—Some 150 yards NW. of the first-mentioned stone hut circle (No. 426) are the ruins of another, which is circular, with an interior diameter of 18'. At the N. end are indications of a small oblong chamber (or perhaps of two oval ones) in the thickness of the wall, measuring some 6' × 4', with an entrance from the interior. The entrance to the main circle has been from the S.

429. *Do.*—At the SE. extremity of the flat top of the hill are the ruins of a circular building, showing traces of chambers in the thickness of the walls. There is much stone lying all over the interior, to a great extent covered with grass. There is no height of walling anywhere visible, but the interior is lower than the sides. The diameter over all is 34', and that of the interior appears to have been about 16'. The entrance has been from the SE. through a passage about 13' in length, 13' wide at the outer end, and converging to 2' at the inner.

430. *Do.*—On the very summit of the Cnoc is a double enclosure, presumably a cattle pend, forming a diverging spiral. The upper circle has a diameter of 42', and is surrounded by a ruined wall 5' to 6' thick. The entrance from the S. is 20' wide, and is flanked on the E. by a horn projecting 21' to the SE. The wall from the W. side of the entrance runs S. for about 60', then curves round to the westwards, forming another enclosure, with a diameter of 43', terminating parallel to and 5' distant from the S. bank or wall. The banks of the lower spiral are faint, and have probably been made of turf. This is particularly noted on account of the resemblance of its plan to those of the so-called "Serpentine" cairns.

A rather prominent mound lies to the E. of the summit. It has a diameter of 26', and is some 3' in height.

Another, about 150 yards to the NE., measures 20' in diameter, and is some 3' to 4' high.

Towards the NW. end of the E. face of the hill, about 160 yards NE. from the large mound on the top, is a crescentic mound, with its concavity towards the NE. It measures 22' from point to point, is 11' broad at centre, has a concavity of some 4', and is some 2' high. It is formed of earth and stones. Like others observed, the front of the crescent faces down hill.

About 30 yards NW. of the last is an oval enclosure, sur-

* *Cf.* Nos. 404 and 419.

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rounded by a broad bank of boulders and earth some 6' thick, with an interior measurement of 10' × 20'. The entrance is from the SE., and the longest axis is in the direction of the entrance.

On the lower slope of the hill to the NE. is a circular enclosure, with an interior diameter of about 13', with a bank from 1½' to 2' above the bottom of the interior. The entrance has apparently been from the NW.

At the NW. end of the hill on the flank are two or three enclosures, with wide entrances—probably cattle enclosures. One, measured, is 30' wide and 37' long.

On the W. slope of the hill, to the NW. of the ruins of the stone enclosures, and 100 yards or so SE. of the so-called cattle enclosures, is a hut circle, measuring 26' × 28', with its entrance from the SE., and opening out of it at the NE. a smaller circle with a diameter of 11'.

431. *Do.*—On the lower slope of the hill, on the W. side, are a number of mounds which do not appear to be sepulchral. They all show a slight depression in the centre, where much stone is exposed. They are all very similar in dimensions, measuring some 18' × 22' over all, and interiorly about 5' × 4'. Their appearance suggests that they are the ruins of primitive stone huts.

432. *Creag an t-Sabhail.*—About ½ m. N. of Creag an t-Sabhail, between the old road leading to the ford over the Allt a' Chasaidh-ghil and the fence to the W. of it, a green hillock rises from the swampy moorland. Near to its SE. end is a small circle, measuring interiorly some 12' × 16', with its entrance from the SE. 2' wide. The thickness of the bank at base is about 6'. Some 8' in from the entrance is a semicircular setting of stones, 2' 6" across, probably a hearth. On cutting out a turf, charcoal was found, but only a small quantity.

Some 30' S. of the last is a larger circle, measuring interiorly about 30' × 33', with the entrance from the SE.

Some 40' NE. of the small circle is another larger one, broken down on the E. side, with its entrance from the SE. about 10' across.

All along the hillock are small mounds of the usual character.

433. *Cnoc nan Neul.*—About ½ m. NW. of the ford over the Allt a' Chasaidh-ghil, on the lower slope of Cnoc nan Neul, overlooking the flow, is a good specimen of a hut circle. Its interior measures 32' × 33'. The surrounding bank at the entrance is about 6' thick and 2' high, largely overgrown with heather, except on the outside, to the right of the entrance, where the construction of the wall of boulders set in earth or turf is well displayed. The entrance is from the SE.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcv.

Visited, 28th June 1909.

434. *Feith Osdail.*—About ½ m. N. of a point 1¼ m. along the road which leads to Dalnessie from the main road between Lairg and Altnaharra, on the S. slope of the hill across the Feith Osdail, are the remains of a circular construction which occupy the summit of a slight grassy elevation. In the centre is a well-defined circle, formed of contiguous boulders from 1' to 3' in length, at largest about 2' in breadth and about 1' in height. The diameter is some 12', and the entrance has been from the E. The width of the entrance is not

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accurately obtainable, as a detached stone lies in it, but it cannot have been more than 2', and was possibly less. At 16' from the centre of the construction towards the N. and NE. are the remains of an outer circle, approximately concentric, connected with the inner circle by a line of boulders which curves round towards the N. side of its entrance. 7' N. of the entrance, measured along the line of the inner circle, another line of stones extends directly to the outer circumference, and 3' further N. there is a small bed of stones projecting 3' 6" into the space between the circles. There is a suggestion of round chambers being enclosed within these cross lines, but without excavation the plan is only indefinitely obtainable. Some 21' ENE. of the centre is a large standing-stone 4' high and 2' across its base, set with its broad face parallel with what appears to be the line of the entrance to the inner enclosure, and from its outer edge the foundation of a wall appears to run NE. for 8', and turning NW. to have formed the circumference of a third circle, also approximately concentric, some 34' from the common centre. Four large boulders, with their flat faces inwards, stand near each other in the line of this circumference from N. to NE., 34' from centre at NE. and 38' at N. Southward of the standing-stone the line of the second circumference swings outward again, and towards the SE. is 27' from the centre. Beyond SSE. it is lost. The surface is overgrown with turf and the plan difficult to make out. On removing a turf near the centre of the inner enclosure a considerable amount of charcoal was found 6" to 8" below the surface.

435. *Do.*—Some 20' E. is a flat-topped mound, from the edge of which many large stones protrude.

On another grassy hillock, some 120 yards SE., is the foundation of a structure 20' long, rectangular towards the S. end, where it is 8' wide interiorly, and with a rounded addition at the N. end 7' from N. to S. by 11' across. In the interior of the latter is the foundation of a circular chamber of 5' diameter.

436. *Do.*—On the top of the next knoll, about 30 yards E., are the ruins of a small rectangular enclosure some 6' square.

On another hillock, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. E. of the first circle, is a structure, overgrown with grass, with apparently an entrance from the W., measuring 28' \times 31', and in form resembling an ordinary hut circle. The outlines of foundations, plainly indicated below the turf, show that the back half has been divided up into several small circular enclosures. There appears to have been an entrance into one of the small chambers at the back from the N. In rear of the construction are two small round enclosures facing each other, open towards the S. and N. respectively, measuring each 5' in interior diameter and 3' across the opening.

437. *Do.*—Some 30 yards WNW. of the first-mentioned construction (No. 434) are remains probably of another similar structure, overgrown with grass. From the centre of what appears to be the interior circle, at about 8" below present level, charcoal was found.

438. *Do.*—On a knoll some 120 yards NW. of the first construction (No. 434) are the confused ruins of a circular building. The surface is so covered with stones that the plan is difficult to determine. It

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appears to have been a dry stone structure, with diameter over all of from 29' to 30', having various small chambers of from 4' to 6' interior diameter in the thickness of the walls. The thickness between the chambers and outside of wall is in each case 6', and there appears to have been considerable thickness of wall between the chambers themselves. Two small circular constructions of about 8' diameter over all have abutted on it towards the N. and W. The entrance is not apparent in the present state of ruin, but it has probably been from the E. From the SE. a wall has curved round towards the E. for 70', then turned westward for about 24', and in the direction of its termination a cross wall has curved out for 15' from the SE. wall, thus forming an enclosure with an entrance 15' wide.

There are no mounds anywhere visible in the neighbourhood of these ruins.

439. *Do.*—On the left bank of the Feith Osdail, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. above its junction with the River Tirry, are the foundations of a trefoil-shaped structure, similar to that above Loch Coire nam Feuran

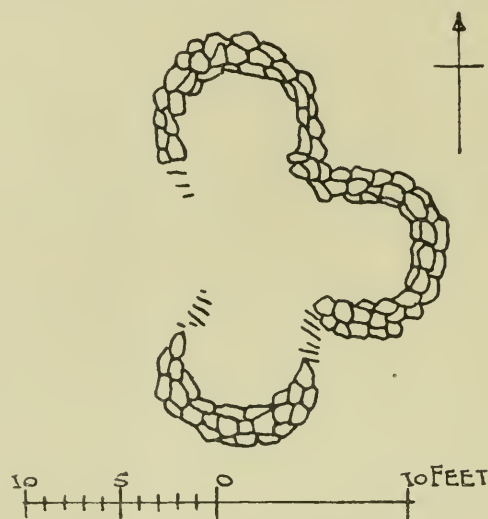


FIG. 61.—Hut Foundations, Feith Osdail (No. 439).

(No. 200). It is formed of three small circular enclosures, two in line facing N. and S. respectively, and the third on the E. apparently facing the entrance. The enclosures measure about 4' from front to back, and about 5' in width at entrance. The distance between the W. or outer points of the two opposite enclosures is 9', and from the same points to the centre of the back line of the E. circle 16' on the N. and 14' on the S. The walls seem to have been only about 1' 6" across, and were built without mortar. The whole is much overgrown with grass (fig. 61).

Some 10' SW. are the remains of a small rectangular enclosure, measuring 8' \times 6' interiorly; and about 30' E. are the foundations of another, also apparently rectangular, measuring 7' \times 9'.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S., 100 yards or so to the S. of the road to Dalnessie, is a small group of mounds, a hut circle of simple form, and a small mounded construction of the usual character between two parallel mounds.

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440. *Colaboll*.—At the N. side of a small plantation near its E. end, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Colaboll, is a hut circle of the usual form, measuring interiorly some $25' \times 33'$, and having an entrance from the SE.

With this exception, the hut circles and "tumuli" marked on the O.S. map as existing here have entirely disappeared.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv.

Visited, 19th June 1909.

441. *Ard na Sinnis*.—Towards the end of Ard na Sinnis, about 400 yards from its SE. point, are a hut circle and several mounds of the usual form.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxxv. (unnoted).

Visited, 19th June 1909.

442. *Shiness*.—Some 300 yards NW. of the monument in memory of Mr Murray of Geanies, on the moorland to the N. of Shiness, is a hut circle, measuring interiorly $33' \times 36'$, with its entrance from the SE. A foot or two to the E. of its centre is a small semicircle of stones, some 2' across, which has probably been a hearth. On cutting out a turf a small quantity of charcoal was found. Some 10' in from the entrance on the left side of the interior is a hollow about 2' across and 1' 2" deep. One large stone seems to be *in situ* on one side, and another has fallen in.

Some 100 yards W. is another hut circle, smaller than usual, and circular, with an interior diameter of about 18'. It seems to have had a secondary stone building inside it—probably in connection with a small house, the foundations of which lie near.

There are remains of a number of mounds in the vicinity, overgrown with turf.

About 1 m. NW. of the monument are two hut circles of usual form, with some half a dozen mounds lying around them.

All along this ridge the mounds occur at intervals, and one or two hut circles are visible among them, but the enclosing banks appear to have been formed solely of turf, and they have in great measure disappeared.

The mounds, where indicated on the O.S. map at the N. end of the ridge, are very numerous, but show no features of peculiar interest.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxxv.

Visited, 19th June 1909.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

443. *Cairn, The Ord*.—On the hill bearing the name of the Ord, about 1 m. SW. of Lairg and across the River Shin, and situated about 80 yards NW. of the summit is an immense cairn, sub-oval in outline, with the longest axis N. and S. From the point at which the stones rise abruptly its diameter from N. to S. is about 77', and from E. to W. about 91'. Like the cairn at Fiscary (No. 235), it appears to stand upon a base which extends about 20' out beyond the edge of the pile. The outline of this is very distinct over the greater part of the periphery. It is approximately circular, except at the S., where it appears to run to a point following the outline from the W. Eastward of the point there seems to be a concavity in the outline, but without excavation the existence of this feature cannot be accepted as certain. For a space of 13' across and 12' in towards

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the cairn there is an absence of stones. The outline is well defined, with large stones exposed for about 1' of elevation. The base is not absolutely level. On the W. side there is an inclination of 2' in the first 15', thereafter of 12' in 33'. On the E. side the level is 2' 6" in 16', and thereafter 11' 9" in 28'. The diameter over all is from N. to S. 128', from E. to W. 120'. The greatest height is about 14'. It has been dilapidated to a considerable extent, and excavation has been made at various points, but neither cist nor chamber is exposed. Along the top from E. to W. a depression runs inward for 39', disclosing some large boulders. The cairn occupies a conspicuous position overlooking Loch Shin.

444. *Chambered Cairn (remains of), do.*—On the very summit of the hill, at an elevation of some 519' over sea-level, are the megaliths which have formed the chamber of a demolished cairn. The main axis lies ESE. and WNW. The chamber appears to have been bipartite, with the larger compartment at the W. end. This portion is now represented by four stones; viz., three on the N., the S., and the NW. respectively, being upright, and the fourth, a large stone towards the W., about 5' long, 2' 8" broad, and 11" thick, lying on its back. The compartment has been of polygonal form, with dimensions of about 8' × 6'. At the E. end the two partition stones are low, somewhat pointed, and 2' apart. They have given access to a second compartment 5' long and probably of about the same breadth. One stone only remains on the SW. side, about 1' 8" long, and protruding about 8" from the ground, and at the E. end are other two partition stones, 1' 9" apart. Two feet further out are another pair of stones, similarly set 2' apart, which probably formed part of the passage wall. The highest stone in the inner compartment is about 2' high, 1' 7" across, and 1' thick. The diameter of the cairn from NE. to SW. has been about 46'. Along the line of the chamber the diameter is not obtainable. The distance from the circumference to the stone at the back of the chamber is about 26'.

445. *Cairn, do.*—About 100' SSW. of the summit is a well-built circular cairn, measuring about 28' in diameter, and 3' 6" in height. The circumference all round is carefully defined with large contiguous stones, set point upwards, and with flat faces outwards. There is a slight depression on the top about 10" deep, 7' long by 4' 6" broad, running N. and S.

446. *Cairns, do.*—About 30 yards W. of the hut circle (No. 397), which is some 200 yards SE. of the summit of the hill, is a cairn which has been considerably dilapidated, but no signs of a chamber or cist are revealed. It has a diameter of about 34', and is about 3' high.

About 15' to the E. of it is another circular cairn, with a diameter of 22', its outline carefully marked with large boulders.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv. and cii.

Visited, 14th June 1909.

447. *Chambered Cairn, Achany.*—Situated on the right bank of the Gruidie Burn near Achany, immediately to the E. of the road from Lairg to Invershin, are the remains of a chambered cairn. It has been much dilapidated, and there are signs of structures near by which must have been built out of it. The chamber is fully exposed. The dimensions of the cairn appear to have been about 56' along the

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direction of the chamber, which is from NE. to SW., and 69' across it. The front of the cairn towards the NE. is marked by a kerb of large stones following the line of the circumference, from which rises an upright pointed stone to the N. of the chamber. Some 7' inwards from what is probably the outer end of the entrance passage is the centre of a crescentic setting of large flat slabs, rounded on the top, set with their broad faces towards the front of the cairn. The slabs are four in number, but it is possible that originally there may have been more, as the outer stone on the NW. is much further back from the edge of the cairn than that on the NE. Three of the slabs measure from 3' 6" to 4' 6" across, by about 1' 2" in thickness, and project from 1' 6" to 2' above the cairn. The fourth slab is somewhat smaller. They are set two on either side of the position of the

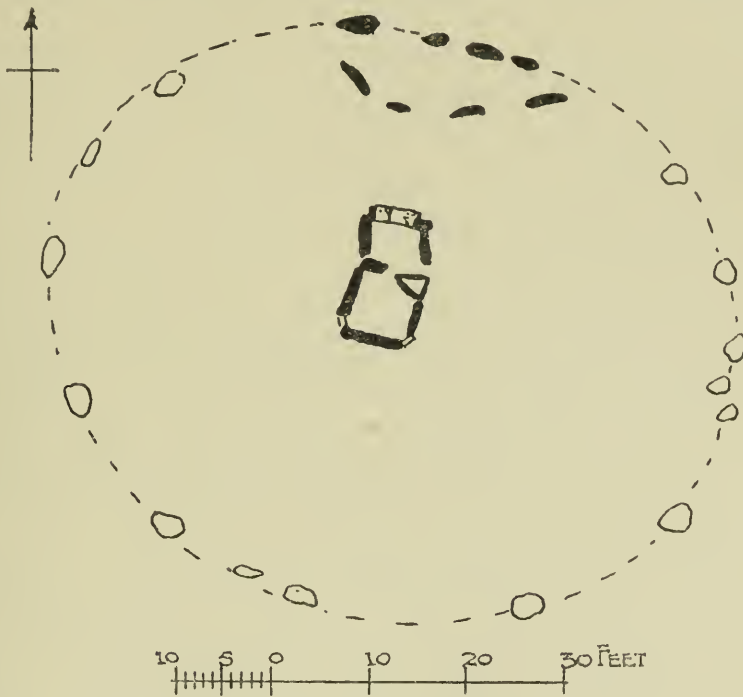


FIG. 62.—Chambered Cairn, Achany (No. 447).

entrance passage. The centre pair are 6' 6" apart, and the extreme points of the outer stones 22' apart. The chamber is roughly rectangular, 12' 9" long, and has been divided by partition stones (of which only that on the W. side remains) at 6' from the back wall, forming two compartments, the inner or southmost measuring 6' in length by 5' 2" in breadth, and the outer 4' 11" long by 4' 2" broad. The partition stone projects 2' 1" into the interior, is 2' 1" high, and 1' 5" thick. At the N. end of the chamber is a lintel 3' 4" long, 2' broad, and 9" thick, supported on two single stones 1' 10" high, and covering an entrance 2' 10" wide. The main axis of the back compartment is NNE. and SSW., but the sides of the outer compartment have been inclined, so as to give it a northerly direction. Four large flat slabs form the walls of the back compartment, one on the W. and S. respectively and two on the E. The W. slab is 5' across and 4' high; the back one 4' 8" across, 4' 3" high, and 1' 3" thick; the SE. slab 3' across by 2' 7" high. The fourth slab has fallen forward,

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owing to the removal of the partition stone. The outer compartment has a single large slab on either side; that to the W. 3' 5" long by 2' 1" high, that to the E. 4' 6" long by 3' 3" high. The interspaces between the slabs is as usual filled with neatly laid horizontal building (fig. 62).

O.S.M., SUTH., cii. (unnoted).

Visited, 2nd July 1909.

448. *Cairns, etc., Achany.*—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. due N. of Achany House, towards the S.E. end of Druim Baile fuir, is a round cairn, measuring some 55' from N. to S. by 51' 6" from E. to W., and some 5' 9" in height. Towards the SW. a portion of the cairn has been apparently removed, leaving a space measuring 8' 6" along the circumference, extending inwards for 6' 6". In rear of this a clearing of 7' diameter has been made, probably for a shelter. Neither cist nor chamber has been exposed.

449. *Do. Do.*—Rather more than $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of the last, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of the shepherd's house at Raemore, on a slight elevation, is another cairn. It is elliptical in outline, with its longest axis E. and W., measuring 54' \times 37'. Its height is some 6'. The cairn has been disturbed somewhat in the centre, but no cist or chamber has been exposed. About eight small mounds lie to the E. of it.

O.S.M., SUTH., cii. (unnoted).

Visited, 2nd July 1909.

450. *Do. Do.*—Some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. S. of Raemore and some 60' W. of the stone circle (No. 461) is a cairn, covered with turf, standing on the edge of a declivity that runs to the Gruidie Burn. It is about 40' in diameter, including a platform or base of from 7' to 10' in width, on which it appears to stand. It is 6' high above the edge of the outer circumference, and from what appears to be the inner side of the platform about 4'.

451. *Do. Do.*—About 100 yards SSE. of the hut circle (No. 411) is a mound, believed to be a cairn, overgrown with grass, measuring about 25' in diameter and 2' 3" in height. On its NW. face three large pointed stones stand in line of the circumference (the largest 2' 2" high, 2' 2" broad at base, and 1' thick), with their broad faces outwards. Three similar stones lie as if displaced in the line of the circumference towards the S.

452. *Cairn (supposed), Gruids.*—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SW. of the W. end of the suspension bridge over the River Shin, near Lairg railway station, on the top of a sharp declivity towards the E., is a hillock, which appears to be a cairn, though, as it is overgrown with heather, its character is not quite assured. In outline it is almost circular, measuring 38' from N. to S. and 35' from E. to W., and about 5' in height.

O.S.M., SUTH., cii. (unnoted).

Visited, 5th July 1909.

453. *Chambered Cairn, etc., Lairg Moor, etc.*—Some 300 yards N. of Sydney House are the remains of a cairn. It has been in great measure removed. A portion, however, still remains across the centre, from which the ends of several large upright stones protrude, indicating the chambered character of the construction. The diameter of the cairn has been about 47'.

454. *Cairn, do.*—Some 600 yards NE. of Sydney House is a cairn,

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overgrown with grass, on the top of which stands a sheep-fold. Its diameter is about 64', and its height 4' to 5'. There is no sign that the chamber or cist has been exposed. The outline has been much disturbed, but towards the E. there is a distinct projection, measuring some 18' in length and some 28' across at base. The inward curve of the outline towards the S. is quite apparent, and it is evident that stones have been removed from what was probably a similar projection towards the S. There are no signs of horns at the opposite side of the cairn, but at the N. and W. are two semicircles of stones, carefully laid about 8' across, which, though symmetrically placed, are probably the foundations of huts or shelters.

(O.S. "Cairn [site of].")

455. *Do. Do.*—An oval mound on the face of the hill above the manse of Lairg is marked "cairn" on the O.S. map. Its longest axis lies NW. and SE., and its diameter is 83' × 54', and height about 6'. It is entirely covered with turf, and its artificial character is doubtful, though the SE. end of it has more appearance of a sepulchral cairn than the remainder.

456. *Cairn, Creag an t-Sabhail.*—About 300 yards due N. of Creag an t-Sabhail are the remains of a great circular cairn, with a diameter of about 80'. It has been almost removed, but a ridge is left standing, from 4' to 5' high from NW. to SE., across the centre. Some details of the interior arrangement may be concealed in this fragment, as no definite signs of a chamber are elsewhere visible.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv.

Visited, 24th June 1909.

457. *Chambered Cairn, Balcharn.*—Some 300 yards from the S. end of the road leading up to Balcharn, on the W. side of it, and near the lowest of the two dwelling-houses, are the remains of a circular cairn. It has been greatly dilapidated; a large sheep-fold abuts on it to the E., and on the SW. are the foundations of cottages. The diameter appears to have been about 90'. A portion of the cairn containing the chamber remains to a height of several feet in the centre. 43' from the NE. edge two large-pointed stones, 2' 3" apart, protrude for 1' to 1' 2", and at 8' further in the same direction the heads of another similar pair, 2' apart, are visible. The stones are set so that those diagonally opposite are parallel. The breadth of the chamber appears to be about 6'.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv.

Visited, 28th June 1909.

458. *Cairn, Savalbeg.*—Behind the shepherd's house at Savalbeg is the half of a cairn, the house being partially built on the site of the remainder. It appears to have been circular, with a diameter of from 60' to 70', and, where the section is exposed, is still about 6' high. It is overgrown with grass on the surface. Neither cist nor chamber is visible.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv. (unnoted).

Visited, 28th June 1909.

459. *Cairns, River Shin.*—Some 50 yards back from the right bank of the River Shin, opposite the lower island directly behind the hut circle (No. 410), are the ruins of three separate constructions. They seem to be, as regards two of them, demolished cairns which have

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been put to a secondary use, but the remains are very indefinite. The third to the NW. has the appearance of a truncated cairn. It measures 33' in diameter and about 2' in height. Neither cist nor chamber is exposed.

O.S.M., SUTH., ciii. (unnoted).

Visited, 14th June 1909.

460. *Cairn, Rhianbreck*.—At Rhianbreck, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the junction with the Lairg road, and about 50' from the road, in a field in front of a cottage, is a circular cairn, overgrown with grass and whins. It is 32' in diameter, and from 3' to 4' high. A cattle-shed has been built partly into it on the SE. The exposure of a section of the construction seems to show that it was formed of boulders and turf.

461. *Stone Circle, Druim Baile fiur, Achany*.—Situated towards the W. side of the moor at Druim Baile fiur, near the edge of the



FIG. 63.—Stone Circle, Druim Baile fiur (No. 461).

bank which slopes towards the Gruidie Burn, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. S. of Raemore, is a stone circle. It has been formed of ten stones, of which nine remain *in situ* or fallen, and one has been removed. The circle is irregular in form, as several of the stones are evidently

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out of position, especially towards the N.E., but it appears to have had a diameter of about 88'. The stone at the N. point has disappeared, but numerous flakes of it remain on the site. The stones are large, thick, syenite boulders, sunk deep in the peat, and they seem to have been set with their broad faces in line of the circumference. Numbering from the N. point of the circle and passing round by the E., the details of the stones are as follows:—(first stone), the N. point, where broken fragments only remain; (second stone), 22' 6" distant from the first stone, a boulder, displaced, lying with its broad end towards the centre of the circle, length 3' 6", breadth 2' 2", thickness at base 1' 3", thinning towards the top; (third stone), 46' 6" distant from the second stone, a long pointed boulder, lying along the line of the circumference, length 4' 9", breadth 2', thickness about 1' 7"; (fourth stone), 35' 6" distant from the third stone, a large pointed boulder, sunk beneath the surface, lying with its point away from the circumference, length 4' 9", breadth 2' 3", thickness unascertainable; (fifth stone), 33' 6" distant from the fourth stone, a long pointed stone, probably fallen, lying in the line of the circumference, length 5' 7", breadth 2' 8", thickness about 2' 2"; (sixth stone), 28' distant from the fifth stone, a large boulder sunk beneath the surface, measuring 3' 9" across the top either way; (seventh stone), 28' distant from the sixth stone, a pointed boulder, quadrangular in section, height 2' 11", and about 2' square on base; (eighth stone), 22' 6" distant from the seventh stone, an upright stone, with its broad face set in line of the circumference, height 2', breadth 3' 9", thickness 1' 6"; (ninth stone), 19' 5" distant from the eighth stone, an upright stone, set with its broad face in line of the circumference, height 2' 9", breadth 2' 9", thickness 1' 10"; (tenth stone), 24' 6" distant from the ninth stone, and 21' 6" distant from the first stone, a large boulder, deeply sunk in the ground, lying with its broad face at right angles to the line of the circumference, measuring over the top 3' 8" by 3' (fig. 63).

O.S.M., SUTH., cii. (unnoted).

Visited, 5th July 1909.

462. *Stone Circle, River Shin*.—On a low knoll between two small burns some 20' back from the right bank of the River Shin, exactly

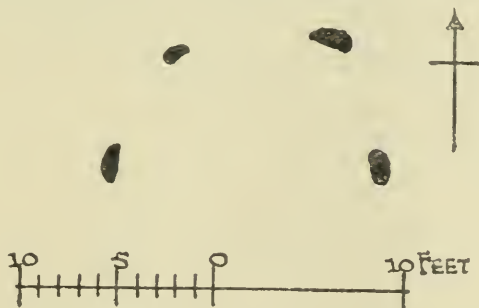


FIG. 64.—Stone Circle, River Shin (No. 462).

opposite the N. end of the lower island, 1 m. S. of Lairg Church, are the remains of a stone circle. Four stones remain *in situ*—two towards the N., one on the E., and one on the W. The stones on the S. have disappeared, the side of the ridge in that direction having been eaten into by the burn. The stones are from 1' 3" to 2' 3"

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high above ground, and stand with their broad faces in the line of the circumference. The diameter of the circle appears to have been from 13' to 14' (fig. 64).

O.S.M., SUTH., ciii. (unnoted).

Visited, 14th June 1909.

MISCELLANEOUS.

463. *Iron Smelting (remains of), Loch Shin.*—On the shore of the narrow strait which connects Loch Shin with the small loch at the head of which stands Lairg is lying a considerable deposit of iron slag. The site of the deposit is some 200 yards E. of the broch (No. 391).

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv. (unnoted).

Visited, 3rd July 1909.

SITES.

464. *Mound, Balcharn.*—In the lowest field on the right side of the road leading up to the croft at Balcharn is a mound, measuring from 60' to 70' in diameter, surrounded by a ditch about 40' wide and about 5' deep. There is a slight rampart on the top of the counterscarp. It is situated close to the E. boundary of the field, and the whole site has long been under cultivation.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv. ("Cairn, remains of").

Visited, 28th June 1909.

465. *Islet, Loch Dulaich.*—In Loch Dulaich there is an island, the site of a habitation mentioned by Sir Robert Gordon. It is now thickly overgrown with rank grass, and is the nesting-place of numerous seagulls.

See Gordon, p. 5.

O.S.M., SUTH., xciv.

Visited, 18th June 1909.

466. *Islands, Loch Shin.*—The O.S. map indicates four islands in Loch Shin, viz.,—*Eilean na Fiodhaig*, near where the River Fiag enters the loch, and *Eilean Domhnuill*, *Eilean a' Chairn*, and *Eilean na Craoibhe* at its SE. end. Sir Robert Gordon refers to the islands in Loch Shin thus:—"Ther are four ilands in Loch Shin, to witt, Ellan Murie, Ellan Donald, Ellan Seyad, and Clach Ellan; all pleasant duellings in summer. To these ilands ther doe resort good store of wild goose, swanes, and reid deir."

See Gordon, p. 5.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxiii. and xciv.

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DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

467. *Broch, Kintradwell, or Cinn Trolla* (O.S. "*Clentrolla*").—The broch of Kintradwell, or Cinn Trolla, is situated about 3 m. to the NW. of Brora, on a natural terrace beside the railway and near the shore. The entrance to the broch is from the W. When excavated the passage was found to be some 7' high at the outer end, about 3' in width, and 18' in length, covered with slabs some 8" apart. The floor of the passage is now covered with débris, and the inner



PLATE VII.—Broch, Kintradwell : Entrance Passage from Interior (No. 467).

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end, on the left side, is in a somewhat ruinous condition. At 6' inwards from the outer end, the passage slightly contracted for a doorway, and 8' further inwards was a similar contraction. Between the two door checks a guard chamber opens on the right of the passage through a doorway 2' above the floor level, 4' high by 2' wide, and a passage 4½' in length. The guard chamber is circular in ground plan, 7' in diameter, and 11' in height. Its roof is formed of overlapping stones, and is entire. The interior diameter of the broch is 31'. 6' along the inner face of the wall from the entrance to the interior, on the left, an opening 3½' high and 3' wide led into a chamber 11' long and 10' high, the roof of which has now fallen in. Beyond it to the left, at a height of 4' from the floor, a passage 3' wide and 6' long gave access, on the left, to a chamber 10' long and 9' high, and on the right to the remains of the staircase, consisting of thirteen steps, now for the most part covered with débris. Immediately below the entrance to the first chamber was an irregularly shaped cavity, partly in the floor, 8' long, 5' broad at its widest part, and 3' deep, now filled up. Close to the wall on the SE. is a neatly built shaft or well, which was 7' deep, 4' wide above, and 2' below, with steps leading down to a point 3' from the bottom. The inner wall of the broch is faced to an average height of 8' by a scarcement 1' thick, bonded at the door corners, but not throughout. The height of the wall in the interior varied from 10' to 15'. Outside the broch, for a distance of some 60' from its base, are the remains of irregularly built constructions, connected by passages, with an access leading up to the entrance to the broch.

Numerous relics were found on excavation, including upwards of fifty quern stones, a number of stone mortars and pounders, a stone cup with handle (found on the edge of the well), a number of spindle whorls and handles of deer horn, an iron spearhead and dagger blade, and several fragments of implements, as also portions of antlers of the red-deer and reindeer. The relics are preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh, and in the Dunrobin Museum (Pl. VII.).

See *Arch. Scot.*, v. pt. i. p. 95 (illus., plan, and secs.); Anderson, *The Iron Age*, p. 216; *Antiquaries*, viii. p. 188; *Ibid.*, ix. p. 53.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi.

Visited, 9th August 1909.

468. *Broch*, "*Carn Bran*."—This broch is situated on the E. side of Glen Loth, on low-lying ground between the base of the hill and the river, about 1 m. above the road bridge at Lothbeg. It occupies a strategic position in a narrow pass, through which a road runs to Kildonan. It is a mass of débris about 12' high, among which the faces of the wall can with difficulty be perceived. The diameter over all is about 55', the thickness of the wall is about 12' where measurable, and the interior diameter is from 31' to 32'. Though only the top of the wall is visible here and there, beneath the ruins it may stand for a considerable height. The entrance appears to have been from the WSW., or river side, but details of it are unobtainable. Some 27' to the N. of the presumed entrance, the back wall of a chamber is visible. The chamber is accessible through a hole in the roof 3' long. It is largely filled with débris, and is

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about 8' in length by 4' in width. 30' from its N. end is another chamber, also largely filled with débris, the inner wall of which is traceable to the southward for 36', and has evidently formed one side of the stair. The entrances to the chambers are not apparent. On the SE., 18' distant from the broch, are the remains of an outer wall, about 8' in thickness. It probably encircled the broch, except along the river bank, but on the N. and NW. it is no longer visible. The broch appears to be known as "Carn Bran."

See Pennant (1769), p. 356.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxxix.

Visited, 25th September 1909.

HUT CIRCLES, EARTH-HOUSES, AND ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS.

469. *Earth-house, Kintradwell.*—On the W. bank of the Kintradwell Burn, about 4' below the top of the bank, and opposite the lower end of the farm buildings of Kintradwell, is the entrance to an earth-house which is said to have borne the name of "Coshgeavag." It consisted originally of two chambers, separated by a low division wall, each having an entrance from the outside at its extremity. The entrance from the E. is through a passage some 2' square for 7', then underneath a lintel only 1' 6" from the ground. The other entrance, which was down a flight of steps, is now closed up. The outer chamber, which alone is now accessible, is 5' high, 4' broad, and 10' long. The walls are built of undressed stone, and the roof is formed of flags. This earth-house was examined in January 1864. There was discovered in the low division wall a stone, bearing a runic inscription, which has unfortunately been used as building material, and lost.

See *Antiquaries*, v. p. 244; *New Stat. Acct. Suth.*, etc., xv. p. 201.

470. *Kintradwell.*—On the hillside above the enclosed land, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of Kintradwell, is a group of about a dozen small mounds. One or two of them have been excavated.

471. *Do.*—On the top of the W. bank of the Kintradwell Burn, some 330 yards above the high road, are the remains of a large dry-built construction, which was excavated about 1870. A main passage enters from the top of the bank from the NE., 2' 2" wide, expanding to 3' 6" at 12", where an opening, 2' 6" wide, to the right gives access to what has apparently been a large chamber about 22' along by some 15' across, but the outline of which is somewhat indefinite; and on the left another passage, 2' 6" wide, runs SE. for 6', then turns sharply to the S. for 7', leading apparently to other chambers now indiscernible. At 18' in along the main passage is a door jamb on the right, and a hole in the wall opposite shows the position of its fellow. Beyond the door jamb the passage gradually expands to 4' 9". At 10' 9" beyond the jamb on the right side an entrance 3' wide opens into another chamber 12' 6" long and of indefinite width, and opposite to it another passage, 3' wide, on which there has also been a door, runs SE. for 6' 6". The main passage appears to have terminated in a small chamber some 7' in length. At the back or SW. side of the large chamber, on the right of the passage, is a recess, 6' across the front, 3' to 4' deep,



PLATE VIII.—Standing Stone, Glen Loth (No. 474).

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and 5' 6" across the back, which is formed of three large upright slabs. The highest walling of the structure is about 3' 10" high. Lying in the interior is a round boulder about 1' across the top and 9" deep, with a depression on the top 3½" in diameter and 2" deep. This may have been the stone in which a stone pivot of a door turned. When excavated, there were found in the interior food débris, flattened antlers, charcoal, bones, and fragments of manufactured shale.

See *Antiquaries*, viii. p. 466.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi.

Visited, 9th August 1909.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

472. *Long Cairn, Lothbeg*.—On the top of the bank above the road, some 250 yards to the E. of Lothbeg Bridge, are the remains of a long cairn. It appears to have been about 130' in length, but it is now reduced to about 65', the western half having been removed at no distant date. It lies with its longest axis WNW. and ESE. At the W. end it appears to have been about 37' broad, and at the E. end from 65' to 70', but the rank growth of bracken and grass render accurate definition impossible. At 32' in from what appears to be the extreme E. end is a large lintel stone 5' 10" long, 3' 10" deep, and 1' 4" thick, fully exposed, supported on two upright stones 2' 4" apart. About 5' to the E. of it a portion of the passage is exposed, 2' in width. In rear of the lintel the back wall of the chamber, partly formed of a large slab, and partly built, is just visible among the débris with which the chamber is filled. The length of the chamber is 6' 10", but the breadth, without excavation, is not ascertainable. Though excavations have been made in several places, no other chamber is exposed. Towards the E. end the cairn is about 12' high on the side where the ground slopes away.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxxix.

Visited, 25th September 1909.

MISCELLANEOUS.

473. *Standing-Stones, Glen Loth*.—On the top of a bank where the Glen Sletdale Burn flows into the Loth Burn are two standing-stones. They stand in alignment 21' apart, facing about 30° E. of N. The eastmost stone is a flat slab measuring 4' 11" high, 3' 6" across the base, and 5" thick. The other stone is square in section, and measures 4' 8" high, 1' 6" across the front, by 1' 2" across the side. On the slope of the bank to the SE. lie other two or three flat slabs which may have formed part of the construction. This monument is known as "Carradh nan Clach."

474. *Standing-Stone, do.*—Situating on a slight eminence on the moor, to the E. of the hill road from Loth to Kildonan, at an altitude of about 800' above sea-level, and about 3 m. N. of Lothbeg Bridge, is a high standing-stone of red sandstone. It is 11' high, 4' 11" broad where broadest about 7' from the ground, 2' 9" broad at base, 1' 3" thick, and faces ESE. and WNW. It is known as "Clach Mhic Mhios." No mounds are observable in its vicinity, but the O.S. map indicates them to the N., S., and E. (Pl. VIII.).

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxxix.

Visited, 31st August 1909.

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SITES.

475. *Hunting House, Lothbeg.*—About $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. above Lothbeg Bridge, on the E. side of the road, are the indefinite foundations of the "Hunting House" mentioned in Pennant's *Tour* (1772), pt. ii. additions, p. 18, plate 47.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxxix.

Visited, 31st August 1909.

476. *Brochs* are said to have been situated at *Wilkhuse*, and to the E. of *Midgarty*.

See *New Stat. Acct. Suth.*, etc., xv. p. 200.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcviii. and xc.

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DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

477. *Broch, E. Kinnauld.*—On the NW. end of a rocky peak rising from the E. side of a glen which runs northwards above the steep slope behind the gamekeeper's house at E. Kinnauld is a broch, now

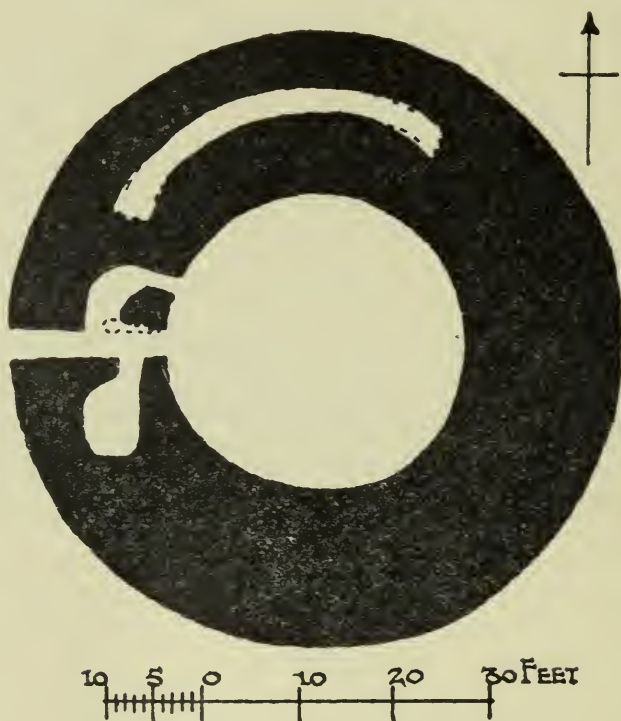


FIG. 65.—Broch, E. Kinnauld (No. 477).

in ruins. It is situated at an elevation of about 400' above sea level, and though not visible from Strath Fleet, which lies to the S. of it, commands a view of Loch Fleet and the hill country to the W. It is much dilapidated, but does not appear to have been pillaged, and if the débris was cleared away, the wall would be found standing to a considerable height all round. The interior diameter is 31'. The entrance is from the W. through a passage 17' in length, 2' 9" wide at the exterior, and 3' on the interior. Three of the covering slabs remain *in situ*, but the passage is choked with débris. At 9' inwards from the exterior, on the N. side, is a wall face at right angles to the

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passage, which appears to have been the entrance to a chamber. Another entrance, 3' long and 2' wide, opens from the back of this chamber into the interior courtyard. The chamber measures 8' from the side of the main passage to its further end, and is about 4' 9" wide. It is full of débris, and the wall on the inner side is broken down. On the S. side of the passage, at 2' from the interior, is the entrance to another chamber. This chamber extends into the wall for 10'. At 7' inwards the wall to the interior is 5' 3" thick and to the exterior 6' 9". The width of the entrance to it appears to be about 1' 10". The chamber is about 4' wide, and at the back, where one covering slab remains in position, it is 4' high. The interior of the broch is full of débris, and the entrance to the staircase is not visible. The gallery remains on the N. for about half way round. The greatest height of wall visible above the débris on the interior is some 4', and there is a similar height visible on the exterior (fig. 65).

O.S.M., SUTH., civ.

Visited, 3rd September 1909.

478. *Broch, A' Mheirle*.—At the upper end of Strath Fleet, some 3 m. ESE. of Lairg, on the S. side of the strath, and about 300' above the road, at the upper side of an enclosure, at one time under cultivation, are situated the remains of a broch. The structure is an absolute ruin. The line of the outer face of the wall is visible in one or two places, the inner nowhere. On the E. side the end of a chamber has been exposed, and on the N. side the existence of a chamber is also noticeable. What may be the entrance passage is on the E. side, visible through a small aperture in front of a roofing slab. The diameter of the structure is unobtainable without excavation. On the W., in the direction in which the ground slopes, the ruin is about 12' high, but considerably less on the E.

O.S.M., SUTH., ciii.

Visited, 18th June 1909.

479. *Fort, E. Kinnauld*.—On the summit of a bluff which overlooks the high road to the E. of the gamekeeper's house at East Kinnauld, 1 m. E. of Rogart Station, are the ruins of what appears to have been a fort. The summit, which measures some 126' from N. to S. by some 96' from E. to W., has been enclosed by a wall some 6' to 7' in thickness, now entirely dilapidated. On the E. slope, about half way up, is a shoulder or terrace some 90' long by 30' wide, and above this the defences have been supplemented by an extra wall 7' thick, still for a short distance showing its outer and inner faces. Within these defences are the ruins of an inner circular enclosure, with a surrounding wall of from 12' to 15' in thickness and an interior diameter of 31'. The approach appears to have wound upwards from the S. end of the shoulder, passing diagonally through the outer wall in a northerly direction, being then diverted sharply to the SW. as it approaches the central enclosure by the end of a flanking wall which runs from the N. end of the latter in a general southeasterly direction. This wall appears to terminate 17' distant from the central enclosure and some 2' 6" from the outer wall opposite the point where the entrance passes through the latter. In the thickness of the outer wall, to the N. of the entrance through it, are appearances of two chambers, one in rear of the other, some 6' and 10' in diameter re-

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spectively. The position of the entrance to the inner enclosure is not evident. Though the measurements of the inner enclosure are suggestive of a broch, there is an absence of the débris in the interior, which is usually characteristic of ruins of that class. The dilapidation of the walls renders the details difficult of discernment. The rock is isolated and steep on all sides, though not difficult of access on the N. and NE.

O.S.M., SUTH., civ. (unnoted).

Visited, 1st October 1909.

HUT CIRCLES AND ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS.

480. *Blarich*.—Some 50 yards SE. of Blarich, on the top of a slight knoll, is a circular depression, about 38' across, with an entrance from the SE., surrounded with large boulders, for the most part placed naturally. There are traces of banks between the boulders, but the indications are slight.

Some 80 yards SW. of Blarich, on the top of a slight eminence, is a circular enclosure, with an interior diameter of 49' and its entrance most probably from the SE. The surrounding bank has been pillaged, and the details are obscure. Almost abutting on it is another similar enclosure, with an interior diameter of about 44', and an entrance from the E. Another, which appears to be more of an oval form, lies about 100 yards S. of the first. Its outline, however, is less distinct.

481. *Rossal*.—Across the railway from Blarich, on the S. side of the valley, and all along the W. slope of the ridge which runs SE. from Rossal, from 400' to 500' above sea level, lies a group of many score of mounds. Locally the hill is known as Cnoc Rìgh Shonaidh. The mounds are well preserved, and the average size is rather larger than usual. Some are nearly 3' high. One, towards the N. side of the centre of the group, is elliptical in outline, measuring 29' × 20', and about 4' in height. Its longest axis lies NNW. and SSE. Another, near the top of the ridge, is circular, with a diameter of about 23', and height of 3'. The remains of an outline of boulders, 2' to 3' long and 1' to 2' high, is apparent on its circumference towards the S. and W.

Another mound, towards the north side of the upper end of the ridge, measures 40' × 17', and lies with its longest axis NNW. and SSE. At the S. side of its southern extremity are the foundations of a small circular enclosure, with an interior diameter of about 10', and an entrance from the NW. about 6' 6" wide. The wall seems to have been built of material pillaged from the mound. Its width is not ascertainable.

At the upper end of the ridge, on its northern slope, and about 1 m. SSW. of Blarich, is a hut circle of the usual character, with its entrance from the SE. It is overgrown with heather, and its outline is indefinite. Some 40 yards W. of it is a low circular mound, measuring about 22' over all, with a circular depression of about 6' diameter in the centre, entering from the NW.

At the lower or N. end of the ridge, near Rossal, on the E. bank of the Achvairail Burn, are the remains of several hut circles. One is almost circular, measuring 27' × 28' interiorly. The entrance

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is from the SE. The bank, which appears to have had little stone in its composition, is about 6' 6" wide, and is much eroded. To the NW. lie two others, apparently contiguous, with entrances from the SE., but too indefinite to measure.

On an area of common land between the crofts at Rossal, on the E. of the Achvraill Burn, are the ruins of an oval enclosure, which has been surrounded by a wall from 3' to 4' thick. It has measured 40' across and 51' towards the entrance, which is about 4' wide. It seems to have been a cattle or sheep fold.

O.S.M., SUTH., civ. (unnoted).

Visited, 22nd July 1909.

482. *Ardaigh Chonachair*.—On the W. slope of Ardaigh Chonachair, on both sides of the march fence, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. NE. of Blarich, are numerous small mounds.

On the hill above Ardaigh Chonachair, about 1 m. N. of Tressady Lodge, is a mound or cairn, overgrown with vegetation, measuring 32' in diameter and about 5' 6" in height. A number of small mounds lie around it.

Along the ridge, stretching westwards for about $\frac{1}{2}$ m., there are several scattered groups of mounds, a few of which have been excavated, but no cists are visible.

483. *Breackue*.—To the E. of Morness, at Breackue, on the rising ground to the E. of the road NW. of the crofts, at an elevation of about 480' above sea-level, is a considerable group of mounds of ordinary type. Towards the E. side of the group, on the upper slope, some 50 yards W. of the croft dyke, is one rather more conspicuous than the rest. It is almost circular, with a diameter of about 21', and is some 3' 6" high.

About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the N., on the W. side of the road, on the Cnoc Dubh, and near the 500' contour line, is a small group of about half a dozen mounds of the ordinary type.

484. *Achadh na h-Uaighe*.—About 1 m. further N., on the S. slope of the moorland, just beyond Achadh na h-Uaighe crofts, is a very considerable group of mounds. One of these, towards the NE. end of the group, is oval or oblong in plan, and lies with its longest axis WNW. and ESE. It measures 20' \times 9', and is some 2' to 3' in height.

485. *Do*.—Near the centre of the group of mounds, on the upper side of the highest of the two tracks that run to West Langwell, is a hut circle, with an entrance from the SE. It measures interiorly 39' \times 42', with a bank about 6' thick, gradually widening to 17' on either side of the entrance. The width of the entrance passage is indefinite. The circle is surrounded by mounds.

Just above the upper track, and a short distance to the W. of the last-mentioned hut circle, are the dilapidated foundations of a more complicated structure. It shows signs of quite recent demolition, and several of the large stones which have marked the outline of its walls have been torn out of place, while others have been removed. The plan shows a construction of three compartments: a main oval compartment, measuring 17' \times 29' 6", into which the entrance opens from the S, and two apsidal compartments opening off it, one at the N. and another towards the SW., each measuring

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interiorly 16' × 14'. The principal entrance is 2' 8" wide, through a passage about 8' long, clearly defined, with large stones laid along each side. The thickness of the banks has been from 4' to 5'. They have been outlined with large stones on both sides, and a considerable amount of stone seems to have been used in their construction. For the most part the interior is overgrown with rank heather. There are no mounds in the immediate vicinity nearer than about 100' distant.

To the S. of the lower track, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Achadh na h-Uaighe, is a hut circle, very clearly defined. The enclosing bank is some 4' 6" wide, composed of boulders and turf, and about 2' high at highest. It is outlined on the inner side with large boulders 3' to 4' in length; and one huge earth-fast boulder, some 6' broad, is set across the bank opposite the entrance. The entrance is from the SW., and is 3' in width. In front of this are indications of another similar construction.

Some 30' SW. of the last is another circular enclosure, with a bank formed of boulders, about 4' thick. Its interior dimensions are some 13' × 19'. The entrance from the SW. is about 7' wide, through a passage 8' to 9' long. The bank on either side of the entrance ends with a square termination. One or two small mounds lie in the immediate neighbourhood.

Some 250 yards westwards are three hut circles. The upper of the three occupies a slight elevation. Its banks are much worn away, but it seems to have been of the ordinary type, with its entrance from the SSE. The bank on either side of the entrance has been carried forward, and finished with square terminations, as in the previous instance. In the interior are very distinct indications of the sub-division of the space into oval compartments, but accurate details are obscured by the growth of turf. Some 20' S. of it is another, oval in plan, measuring interiorly 16' × 9', set with its longest axis N. and S. The bank around it is much broken down, and the entrance is obscured. The other—a small round enclosure, measuring 11' × 9'—lies immediately in rear of the first circle. A few small mounds lie around.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi.

Visited, 29th July 1909.

486. *E. Langwell*.—Immediately to the E. of the most southerly area of enclosed land at East Langwell, on the rising ground above the Garbh Allt, is a small group of mounds of the usual character.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi.

Visited, 29th July 1909.

487. *Achnagarron*.—All along the ridge to the N. of the crofts at Achnagarron, at about 500' above sea-level, are scattered small mounds. They are of the usual character. One, lying N. and S., measures 14' × 9'.

Towards the E. end of the ridge, and E. of most of the mounds, is a hut circle, measuring interiorly 31' × 40', having an entrance from the SE. It contains in the interior a smaller circle abutting on the S. side, which is entered from the main entrance, and measures interiorly 17' × 21', with a bank 3' 6" in thickness. There appears to have been a passage into the main enclosure between the ends of the two

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circles on the E., apparently some 3' wide. The bank of the main enclosure is 5' 6" thick in the circumference and 9' thick on the S. side of the entrance. On the E. side of the entrance it projects SE. for a distance of 6' beyond the opposite side. The entrance passage

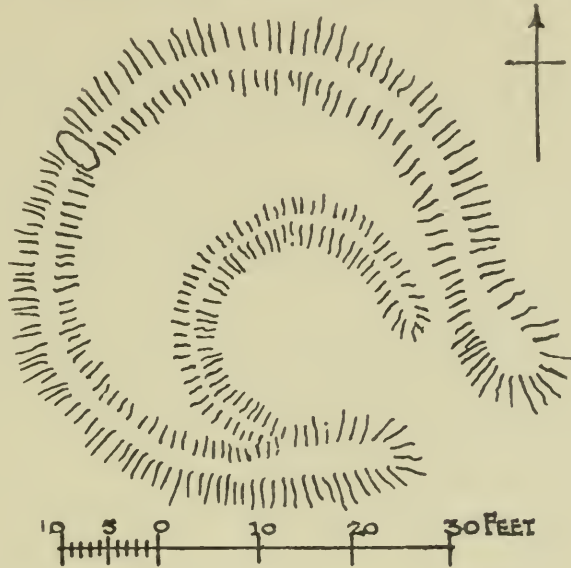


FIG. 66.—Hut Circle, Achnagarron (No. 487).

is 6' wide in the interior. In the middle of the circumference, at the back, is a large flat stone, about 2' 6" high, set with its face across the bank, and there are indications of a narrow entrance into the back enclosure to the E. of it. The bank on the N. of the circle is still some 2' in height (fig. 66).

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi.

Visited, 21st July 1909.

488. *Dalnessie*.—Some 2 m. to the E. of Dalnессie, on the S. slope of the hill between the Allt na Innse Mor and the rivulet to the E. of it, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. N. of the River Brora, is a group of mounds and hut circles. At the SE. end of the group, near the W. bank of the burn, is a construction formed by a bank 22' long and 14' wide on either side, tapering away towards the S. Towards the N. is an opening 7' wide. The interior is an oval depression, measuring 7' \times 5', the bottom of which lies some 2' 6" below the highest point of the bank and a few inches below the natural ground level.

The mounds which lie along the hillside for several hundred yards westwards are of the usual type, from 12' to 18' diameter and from 1' to 2' 6" high. The hill abounds in large boulders, and the mounds seem to have been constructed of rather larger stones than usual. The end of one mound is formed of two boulders, one 4' long and 2' high, with another 2' \times 2' adjoining it. Within 5' of this mound is a hut circle, measuring interiorly some 19' \times 22'. There is a break in the circumference directly opposite the mound towards the E., but the original entrance appears to have been as usual from the SE.

Towards the N. end of the group, about 100 yards SE. of an old sheep-fold, is another mounded construction, with its entrance from the E. The interior measures 7' \times 11'. The enclosing mound is about 12' thick on the N. side, and thins away to either side of the entrance,

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forming the sides of a passage about 4' long and 1' 8" wide, faced with stone for 4' on one side and 2' on the S. or left side. A large earth-fast boulder has been utilised to form part of the bank on the SW. There appears to have been a passage broken through the back to the N. of this boulder.

Some 40' N. of the last is a small circular enclosure, with an interior diameter of about 7', and an entrance from the E. 1' 4" across. The enclosing bank of earth and stone is about 5' thick.

Some 60' W. are the remains of another similar enclosure.

O.S.M., SUTH., lxxxvi.

Visited, 29th June 1909.

489. *Blairmore*.—On the N. slope of a low hill at Blairmore is a large group of small mounds.

Some 100 yards NE. of the hill are the remains of a hut circle of the ordinary character, with the entrance from the SE., and a group of ten or twelve small mounds lying near. One mound lies directly opposite the entrance and within 20' of it.

Some 30' SW. of the entrance is a long low mound lying N. and S., measuring 27' \times 16', tapering towards each end, and 2' 6" high.

About 40' S. is another, not quite so high, lying N. and S., and measuring 22' \times 9'.

490. *Skiag*.—On the top of the hill immediately to the E. of Blairmore, and at about 500' above sea-level, is a large group of small mounds.

On the E. flank are situated two hut circles. The larger of the two measures interiorly some 33' \times 34', with the entrance from the SE.

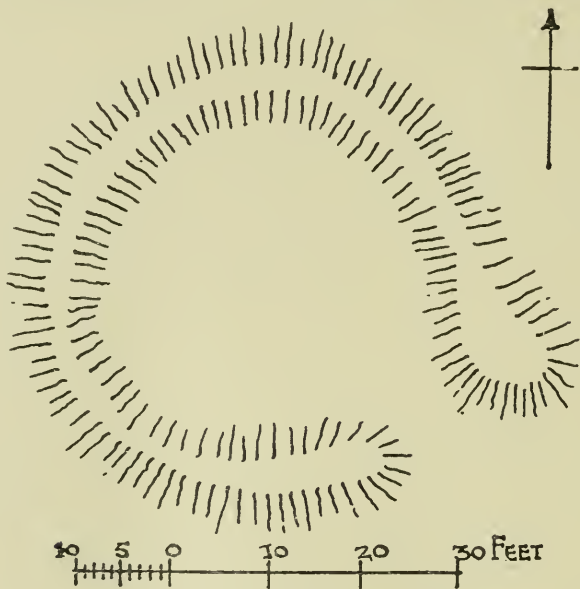


FIG. 67.—Hut Circle, Skiag (No. 490).

some 4' across. The surrounding bank is some 8' across, expanding to 11' on the S. of the entrance. On the E. side the bank flanks the entrance for 14', and is 9' broad at its outer extremity. On the E. of the circumference, towards the outside, it is some 3' 6" high. The interior is raised slightly above the level of the ground outside.

Some 30' S. is another hut circle of smaller dimensions, measuring interiorly 18' \times 15', with an entrance from the SE. about 3' 6" across.

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The enclosing bank is some 6' thick, and projects 10' on the NE. side of the entrance (fig. 67).

491. *Do.*—Along the top and the W. flank of the hill, to the E. and NE. of Rogart Parish Church, mounds lie in great numbers above the 500' elevation over an area about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. square. They are almost all circular, and of the usual character. Some are laid against earth-fast boulders.

One, about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. ENE. of the Parish Church, lies with its longest axis NNW. and SSE., measures 29' \times 18', and is from 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' to 2' high.

Some 40' N. of it is a construction forming a semi-oval enclosure, facing E., 17' across the open end and 11' deep, enclosed by low banks 5' to 6' across, and with a cairn-like mound 18' long and 16' broad in rear of it.*

O.S.M., SUTH., civ.

Visited, 21st July 1909.

492. *Achnagarron.*—On the E. side of the Garbh Allt, to the S. of East Langwell, and on the W. side of the path to Achnagarron, is a hut circle of ordinary type, much effaced, with a few mounds lying around it.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi.

Visited, 29th July 1909.

493. *Achalloch.*—On the slopes of a hillock which rises from the peat bog to the N. of the croft at Achalloch is a small group of mounds. One of these is set against a large earth-fast boulder.

494. *Dremergid.*—In the angle between the main road from Rogart to Strath Brora and the road by Backies to Golspie, on the S. of the latter road, is a large group of mounds. Some on the top of the rising ground are rather larger than usual.

495. *Achork.*—About 1 m. SE. from the junction of the above roads to the E. of Achork on the Sithean Clais an Uanain is a hut circle of the ordinary form, with its bank much worn away. The entrance is from the SE. Around it is a group of about a dozen mounds. One mound, lying some 40' to the SE., measures about 23' \times 17', and lies with its longest axis E. and W.

A few hundred yards further S., on the rising ground to the E. of Achork, is a large group of mounds at an elevation of some 650' to 700' above sea-level. One is set against an outcropping rock. One hut circle only is observable, situated almost immediately E. of the most northerly house and some 200 yards distant from it. It is of the common form, with the entrance from the SE., about 1' 8" across. The interior diameter is some 17' \times 19', and the bank is 4' to 5' in width.

496. *Knockarthur.*—Immediately to the E. of the eastmost croft at Knockarthur are the remains of a hut circle and a group of small mounds.

All along the hillside from about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of Knoekarthur for a considerable distance NE. are mounds and the remains of hut circles.

The most westerly of the hut circles, just above the old peat road, is of the ordinary form, with the entrance from the SSE. Its

* A mound excavated during the formation of a wall around the glebe contained a cist of slabs from which was recovered a double-edged, oval, tanged blade of bronze ornamented with diagonal lines crossing each other. Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 24 (illus.).

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diameter across is 33'. The bank at the back has been demolished. Its thickness elsewhere is about 8'.

Some $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Knockarthur, almost due N. of Fairlaraich, is a very well preserved hut circle, overgrown with heather. It is almost circular, with a diameter interiorly of 31'. The entrance is from the SE., and the bank of the structure, which is about 3' 6" high on the interior, is about 14' thick. It appears to be largely formed of stone, but there is a great accumulation of soil over it. The details of the entrance are not obtainable. Many mounds lie near, some almost contiguous.

497. *Do.*—Some 150 yards westward of the last, just across a hollow, are the remains of a double-circled enclosure, much eroded. The circumference of the outer circle is very indistinct. Towards the S. there is a segment in which the earth and stone bank, about 4' across, still remains, but elsewhere it is represented by an outline of single stones observable through the heather. It has had a diameter from E. to W. of about 32'. 6' within it from the S. is the outer edge of a stone and earth wall, now merely a foundation, about 4' thick, enclosing an inner circular area measuring some 9' or 10' in diameter. Immediately in rear of this, and partially on the wall, and abutting on that of the outer circle, is a circular mound having a diameter of about 14'.

498. *Do.*—Some 50 yards W. are the ruins of an enclosure, formed of two circles, not concentric, one within the other. The wall of the

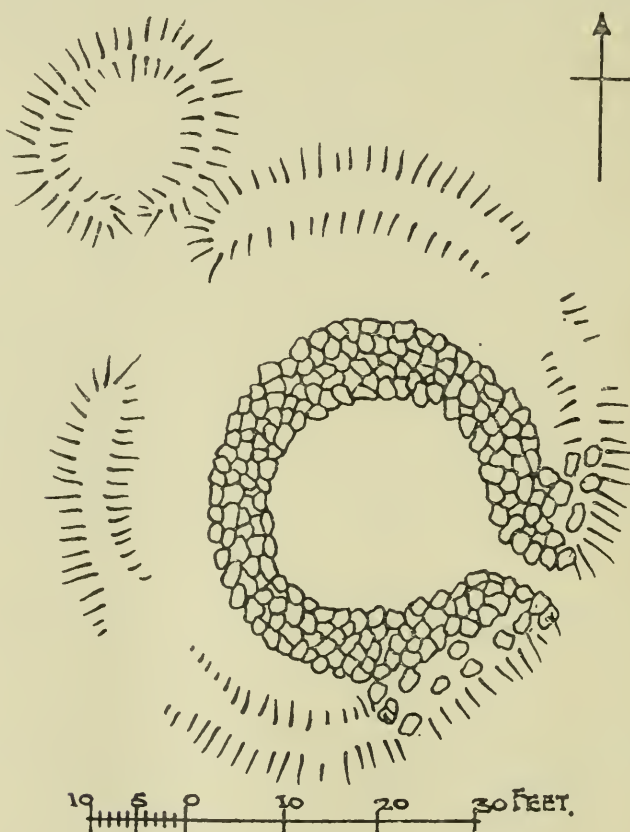


FIG. 68.—Hut Circle, Knockarthur (No. 498).

inner circle coalesces with that of the outer towards the ESE., where is situated the entrance through it, and is some 9' distant from the

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outer bank at the opposite side towards the WNW., where is the entrance to the outer enclosure. The inner circle has an interior diameter of about 24'. Its wall, which has been entirely of stone, has been about 5' 6" in thickness. The bank of the outer circle seems to have been of earth and stone, and is considerably worn down. It coalesces with that of the inner enclosure at about 15' to the S. of the entrance to the latter. On the opposite side of the entrance the point of coalescence has been nearer. The entrance through the outer circle is about 11' in width. On the E. side of it, and abutting on it at the outside, is another small circular enclosure, with an enclosing bank some 3' thick and interior measurement of some 12' x 15'. The entrance to this small enclosure opens on to the opening through the outer circle and is about 1' 4" wide. The entrance to the inner enclosure has been through a passage about 11' long, 2' wide for the central 5' of its distance, and gradually expanding to 4' outwards and inwards.

Numerous mounds lie around (fig. 68). Also about 40' S. is a small hut circle of the ordinary type, with the entrance from the SSE.

499. *Do.*—Some 60 yards NE. of the most westerly hut circle of this group is a stone-built structure, much ruined, with a wall about 2' high at highest in the interior and 5' thick. It has an entrance

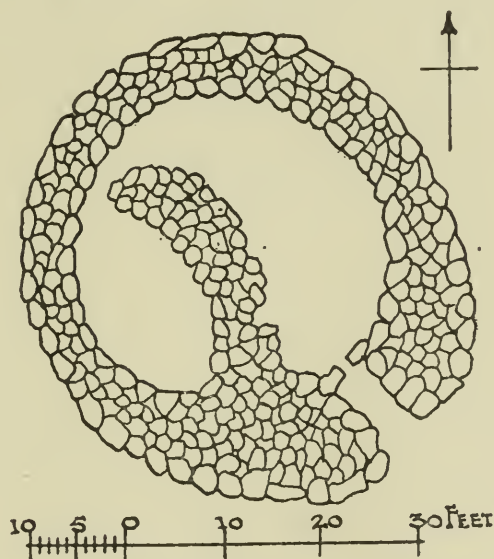


FIG. 69.—Hut Circle, Knockarthur (No. 499).

from the SE. In diameter it measures interiorly about 31' x 32' 8". 6' to the S. of the entrance in the interior, a wall (7' across where it joins the circumference, and diminishing to 5' about the middle of its length) curves round towards the NW., enclosing an oval chamber running N. and S., measuring about 21' x 12', and entered between the end of the division wall and the back of the circle by a passage or entrance about 2' 6" wide. Some 5' or 6' from the S. end of the division wall, on its E. side, is a recess 3' across the opening, 2' 8" deep, and 1' 6" across the back. The wall on either side of the main entrance has been about 9' in thickness. The passage, 3' 6" wide at

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8' from the interior, at its inner end passes between stones forming portals 1' 9" apart. The original entrance to the interior appears to have been wider and to have been built up. A number of mounds lie all around and quite near (fig. 69).

500. *Do.*—Some 30 yards NE. of the last is another stone-built circle, much ruined, measuring interiorly 37' × 39', with entrance from the SSE. Within the interior, and abutting on the inner wall from the E. side of the entrance northward, has been a stone-built structure, almost circular in outline, measuring over all some 31' from E. to W. and some 27' from N. to S. It is much ruined, and the plan in consequence difficult to determine, but it has evidently been entered by a narrow passage, some 2' wide, curving inwards from the N. side, giving access to a round chamber in the centre of the construction and probably to

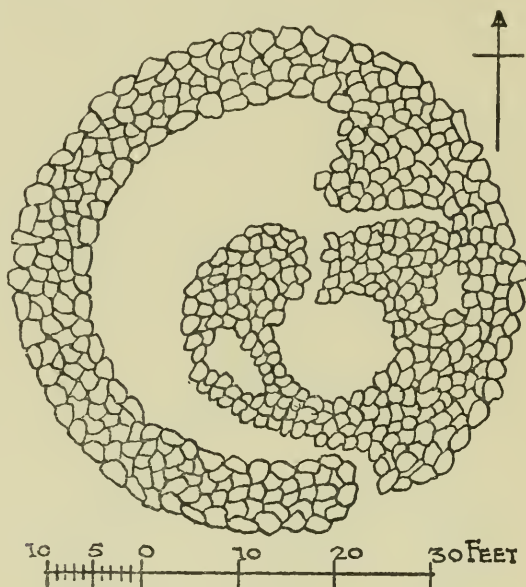


FIG. 70.—Hut Circle, Knockarthur (No. 500).

another which appears to have existed to the W. of it. There has also been a chamber at the E. side, close to the wall of the circle, which has possibly been entered by a separate passage, a branch from the passage to the main chamber at its commencement. The wall of this structure has been very thick, and the chambers appear to have been in the heart of it. Flanking what appears to be the passage to the chamber at the E. side is a triangular foundation, measuring about 10' × 14'. The space between this inner building and the wall of the circle on the S. is 2' wide at the entrance and 5' wide 15' inwards. The wall of the main circle has been about 5' thick around the circumference and 6' 6" thick on either side of the entrance, which has been about 2' wide and lined with stone (fig. 70).

501. *Do.*—Some 30 yards NNW. of this last circle is a long, low mound, formed in three portions, not in alignment. The first portion, 15' in length, lies E. and W.; the centre portion, 18' in length, lies ESE. and WNW.; and the last part, 18' in length, lies E. and W. The breadth throughout is about 9', and the greatest elevation

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from 2' to 2' 6". A small round mound of the ordinary form lies about 6' distant at its E. end. There is no cultivated or reclaimed

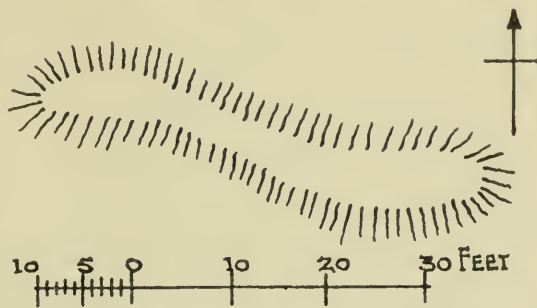


FIG. 71.—Mound, Knockarthur (No. 501).

crofter land anywhere near, nor any sign whatever of an ancient enclosing wall of which this construction might have formed a part (fig. 71).

502. *Do.*—On the low ground, about 150 yards S. of the double circle, with the mound in the interior (No. 497), is a mounded construction, which excavation proved to be a kiln. A horse-shoe shaped mound, open towards the SSE., encloses a hollow of about 16' diameter. From front to back the mound on the W. is 39' long and 21' across, and on the E. about 47' long by 16' across. At the open end of the hollow lies a large flat slab, 4' 3" long, and on the W. side of it are two upright stones on which it rested, forming the mouth of the flue. The height of the mound is about 5' 6". On excavation the central area was found to be formed of deposits of rubble, intermingled with charcoal. Though not far distant from the hut circles, no modern buildings lie within a mile of it, nor in the immediate neighbourhood is there any trace of the moorland ever having been under cultivation.

O.S.M., SUTH., xevi.

Visited, 5th August 1909.

503. *Dremergid.*—On slightly rising ground in the moorland, immediately to the N. of the enclosed land at Dremergid, are a large number of small mounds and the remains of several hut circles. Towards the S. end of the hillock are a hut circle and associated enclosures of unusual character. The plan of the circle belongs to the class which is usually formed of stone, though in this case the bank is of stone and earth, or turf, while the foundations in the interior appear to be of stone. The construction is circular, with an interior diameter of 43', and has its entrance from the SE. The encircling bank is about 8' in thickness, broadening gradually for a distance of from 26' to 28' towards the entrance, where it is 15' thick on the S. side and about 18' on the E. The entrance passage, which is about 2' 6" wide at the inner end, expands gradually outwards. The interior has been divided into two main compartments by a wall, of which the foundation only remains, some 8' in thickness, except at its northern end, where it seems to thicken against the wall of the circle, running from the E. side of the entrance with a slight curve towards the N. On its outer or W. face, near the centre, are two recesses; that nearest the entrance measuring some 4' x 1' 8", and

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the other, which is adjacent, some 2' 6" \times 1' 8". There appears to be a passage curving through this wall at about 12' from where it joins the main bank towards the N. The area enclosed is an irregular oval, measuring 20' in length by 13' 6" in breadth. In the remaining portion of the interior of the circle abutting on the W. side has been a small enclosure, measuring about 10' from N. to S. by 11' from E. to W., surrounded by a wall some 4' in thickness. Adjoining the circle on the S. is another circular enclosure, with an interior diameter of 34' and banks about 8' thick, connected by a bank about 5' wide, now much worn away, with a horse-shoe shaped enclosure 42' in depth and 46' between its extremities at the open end, which is situated towards the N. of the main circle, 15' distant from it and facing NE. The connecting bank seems to form the side of a passage towards the smaller circle 8' wide at its termination. On the opposite or E. side of the main enclosure a similar low bank runs parallel with the wall at about 8' or 10' distant from the N. towards the entrance, but fades away before it junctions with the main wall. From the S. of the smaller circle a line of large boulders runs in a south-easterly direction, probably the base of an old enclosing wall. This appears to be a fairly complete example of a homestead of the period to which the hut circle belongs (fig. 72).

Numerous small mounds lie around, and, besides indications of other hut circles of ordinary type, there is another horse-shoe shaped enclosure, similar to that above described.

504. *Rhilochan*.—On the piece of common land immediately to the S. of the branch road to Knockarthur, a short distance from where it leaves the main road from Rogart to Strath Brora, at about 600' above sea-level, is a large group of small mounds.

O.S.M., SUTH., xevi.

Visited, 5th August 1909.

505. *Cnoc an Liath-bhaid*.—On Cnoc an Liath-bhaid, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of the River Brora, and just opposite the W. end of the birch wood on the S. side of the river, is a circular mound. It measures some 15' in diameter and 2' to 3' in height, and several large boulders are disclosed in its construction. A number of mounds lie to the W. of it.

Some 30 yards SSW. are the remains of an oval enclosure, measuring interiorly about 19' \times 25'. The entrance seems to have been wide and from the N. The bank on the W. side has extended outwards some 7' beyond that on the opposite side.

506. *Do*.—On a slight eminence from $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to $\frac{3}{4}$ m. N. of the upper end of the birch wood, and 300 to 400 yards NE. of the river, are the ruins of a stone-built hut circle, of some 36' interior diameter. The inner face of the wall is formed of large contiguous boulders; the exterior of smaller stones. The entrance is from the SE., and is about 1' 9" in width through a passage 9' in length, formed, as usual, by the thickening of the wall, which is 5' thick elsewhere around the circumference. At 19' from the entrance, a wall, some 4' thick, curves across the interior, enclosing an oval space some 22' \times 7' 6", the position of the entrance to which is obscured by the ruins.

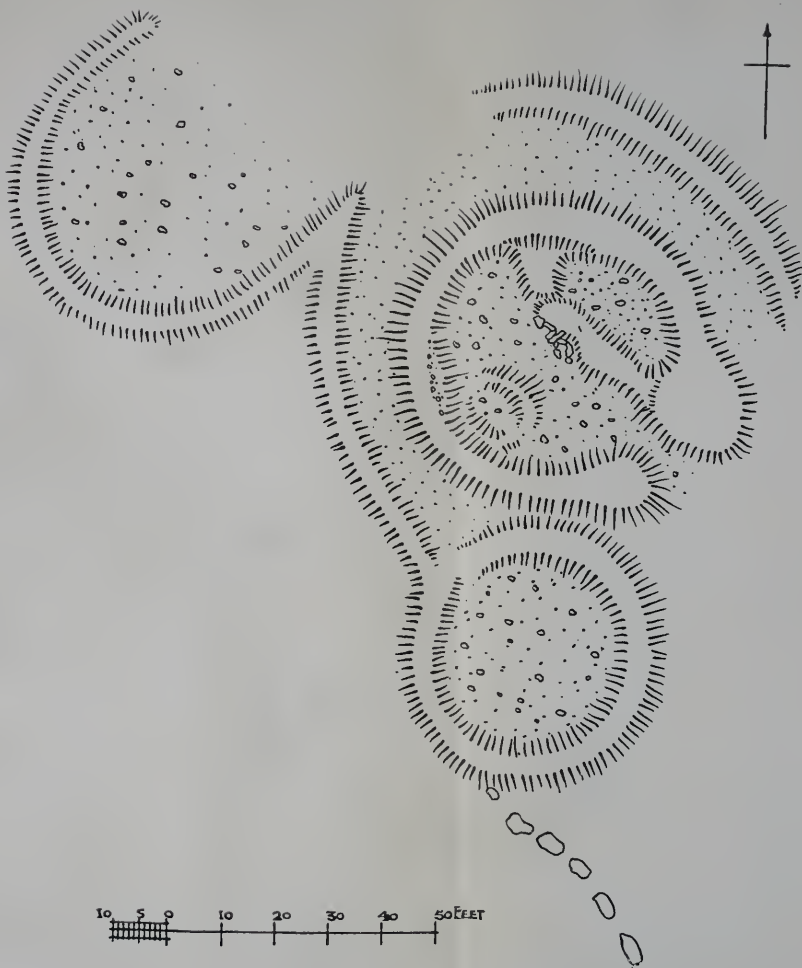


FIG. 72.—Hut Circle, etc., Dremegid (No. 503).

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Against the back wall, and partially recessed into it, is a small circular enclosure of about 3' 6" diameter. There are indications of other

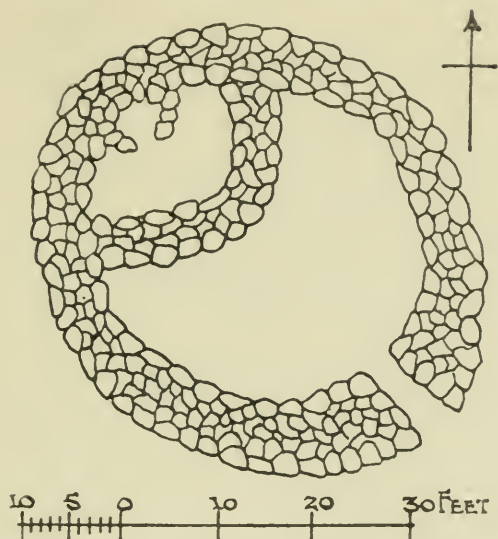


FIG. 73.—Hut Circle, Cnoc an Liath-Bhaid (No. 506).

enclosures in the interior. There are no mounds in the immediate vicinity (fig. 73).

507. *Cnoc Blar an Dubhaidh*.—On the hillside, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. to 1 m. to the N. of the shepherd's house at Braegrudie, is a walled enclosure, which may be about half an acre in extent, with an entrance from the S. On the W. side of the entrance is a small circular enclosure, with a diameter of some 12', and walls about 6' thick, opening on to the entrance, and opposite, at the other extremity of the wall, a smaller circle. These walls do not present the appearance of such great antiquity as others where similar features are apparent (unnoted).

508. *Cnoc an Liath-bhaid*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. ENE. of the shepherd's house at Braegrudie, and some 40 yards E. of the stone circle (No. 518) on Cnoc an Liath-bhaid, is an old circular enclosure, measuring 40' \times 46', with an entrance from the SE. of indeterminate width. The wall on the W. side extends indefinitely along the hillside.

Some 300 yards SE. is a group of mounds, some of which are rather larger than usual. One at the N. end measures 34' \times 22', lies NNW. and SSE., and is about 3' to 4' high. Another, some 50' W. of it, is nearly circular, with a diameter of some 26' and is nearly 5' high.

Near the S. end of the group is a large hut circle, overgrown with deep heather and of rather complex plan. It is formed of a single circle, measuring about 19' \times 26', with three smaller circles abutting on it, and a smaller circular enclosure in the interior. The deep heather makes an accurate survey impossible.

509. *Do.*—About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. WNW. of Dalreavoch Lodge, and about 300' above the River Brora, is a group of mounds much larger and more prominent than usual. One near the N. end measures 28' to 30' in diameter, and is some 3' 6" in height. Another, lying near by, measures 26' in diameter, and is from 3' to 4' in height. Several others are about the same dimensions and a number are less. None of them seem to have been opened. They are overgrown with heather, but large stones which have been used in their construction

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protrude here and there. The group appears to contain from eighty to a hundred.

Near the S. end of the group is a hut circle of simple type. At the back it appears to have been dug out of the hillside. The interior dimensions are 28' × 33'. The entrance is from the ESE. through a passage 11' in length. The bank on the E. side is 7' in thickness, while that on the W. is 16' across. Mounds lie all around it, some rather large, and grouped closely together.

Towards the extreme E. end of the group is a large circular enclosure, 45' in diameter, with a surrounding bank 7' thick and entrance from the SE. about 6' wide. Beyond this the mounds still continue, but they are smaller.

510. *Cnoc Fhiomliadh*.—On the right bank of the Allt a' chlamhain, which flows out of Loch Grudie, forming the boundary between the parishes of Rogart and Clyne, some 400 yards above the road and 100' above the stream, is a group of small mounds of the usual character, the largest of them having a diameter of about 20'. Remains of an old bank or wall are visible near them.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi.

Visited, 18th August 1909.

511. *Sciberscross*.—Opposite Sciberscross, on the S. side of the River Brora, and above the left bank of the Allt an Tuirc, which skirts the base of the Cnoc an t-Socaich, is a group of hut circles

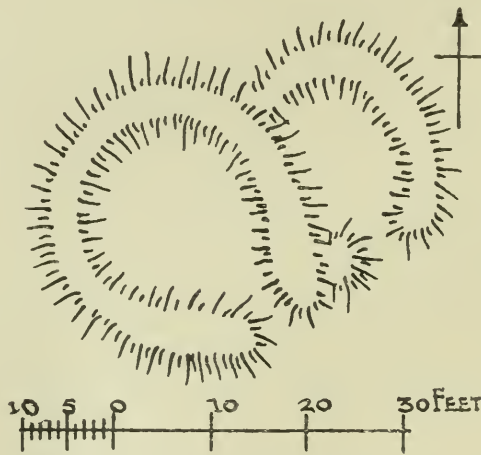


FIG. 74.—Hut Circle, Sciberscross (No. 511).

and small mounds. About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of the River Brora, and 150' to 200' above the burn, is a small circular enclosure, with interior measurement of about 8' 6" × 9', entered from the S. through a passage 7' long and 2' wide, the bank, except towards the entrance, being about 4' in width.

Some 40 yards W. of it are the indistinct remains of a hut circle, of the ordinary form, and about 100 yards NW. is another. About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of the burn, near the top of the hill, is a large group of small mounds and hut circles. One of the latter, with a stony bank or wall, measures 10' 6" in interior diameter, is entered from the SE., and is surrounded by a bank 7' wide on the circumference and 10' on either side of the entrance.

Some 30' E. of the last is an elliptical enclosure, measuring some

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24' × 15', with a wide entrance from the SE. and bank about 12' 6'' in thickness. Two small enclosures of about 6' interior diameter abut on it towards the S. and SW.

Some 30' S. of it is another enclosure, with a wall of stone about 6' thick. Its interior diameter is 11', and its entrance is from the SE.

Some 100 yards to the W., higher up on the hill, is another hut circle, of ordinary form, with an entrance from the SE. through a passage 2' wide and 9' long. The interior dimensions are 17' × 19', and the bank is 6' thick. Attached to it on the E. side is a smaller enclosure, measuring interiorly about 10' × 16', with its entrance from the SE. 2½' wide (fig. 74).

Higher up on the hill are several small enclosures of about 6' interior diameter, with their banks about 5' in thickness, and lined on the interior with large stones. Their entrances are from the SE.

O.S.M., SUTH., xvi. and xvii. (unnoted).

Visited, 19th August 1909.

512. *Tannachy*.—From the low hill which rises to the E. of the keeper's house at Dalreavoch, groups of small mounds extend for fully ¾ m. in a southeasterly direction, at an elevation of between 600'

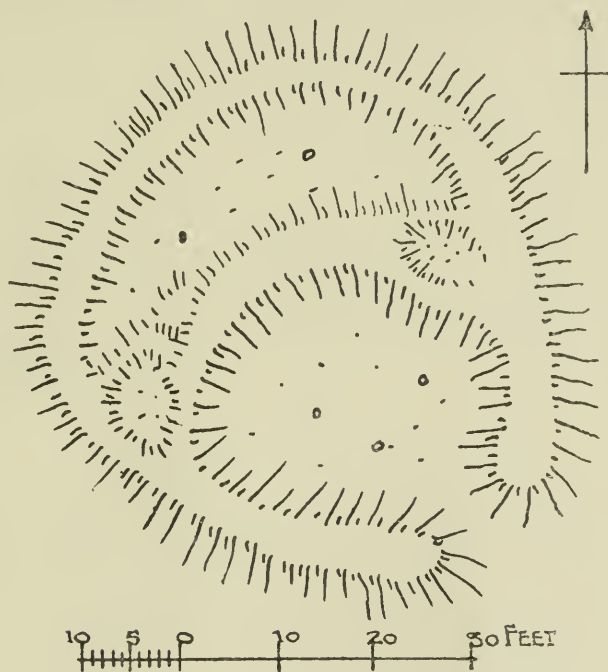


FIG. 75.—Hut Circle, Tannachy (No. 512).

and 700' over sea level. In rear of Tannachy is a group of about a dozen. One in rear of the eastmost house is particularly well preserved. It is 19' in diameter, and about 3' 6'' in height. Another, some 300 yards SE., measures 22' × 19', and is from 2' 6'' to 3' high. Others near are from 17' to 18' in diameter.

Towards the end of the group, on the lower side, is a hut circle with an entrance from the SE. through a passage 10' long and 6' wide. The circle measures interiorly about 40' × 43', and is enclosed by a bank 5' 6'' in thickness. At 26' in from the entrance a wall, 7' thick in the centre of its course, curves round to meet the sides of

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the main enclosure at 24' and 16' distant respectively from either side of the entrance. In the back division are signs of several small chambers and also in the thickness of the division wall (fig. 75).

Numerous small mounds lie around. One, lying some 40 yards to the S., has its longest axis NNE. and SSW. It measures 32' × 20', and is some 3' high. Another lies N. and S., measures 22' × 16', and is about 3' 6" high. Near are the remains of an old wall running down the hill and terminating in a small circular enclosure with an interior diameter of about 16'. Its wall is 4' thick, and the entrance is from the S.

Between $\frac{3}{4}$ m. and 1 m. from Tannachy, at the end of the group, is another hut circle overgrown with heather. It is of simple form, measuring interiorly about 26' × 31'. It is entered from the SE., but the details of the entrance are indefinite. About a dozen mounds of the ordinary form lie around it.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi.

Visited, 20th August 1909.

513. *Blarich*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Blarich, on the SE. side of a small corrie, are two small oval depressions. One of these measures interiorly about 12' × 7'; is some 3' in depth, and shows the remains of a low bank on the edge around it. It is situated on sloping ground facing the NW. On excavation there was found below the turf a thin layer of charcoal, from which was recovered a flake of yellow flint, measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ " × $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The other depression, situated about 40' to the W., is of similar dimensions.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi. (unnoted).

Visited, 1st October 1909.

514. *Creag a' Bhata, Little Rogart*.—On the W. end of Creag a' Bhata, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of the westmost croft in Little Rogart, and immediately to the SE. of a lochan, is a small group of mounds, the largest having a diameter of about 20'.

O.S.M., SUTH., civ.

Visited, 25th April 1910.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

515. *Cairn, Reidchalmi*.—Situated about 100 yards to the E. of the southmost house at Reidchalmi is a large cairn entirely overgrown with birch scrub which renders accurate measurement somewhat difficult. From E. to W. its diameter appears to be about 80', and from N. to S. about 60'. The ground slopes away towards the E., from which direction the cairn rises to a height of about 14', while the elevation on the W. is about 6'. It does not appear to have been excavated, nor is there any indication of its character.

516. *Cairn, Balclaggan*.—Placed on an elevated and conspicuous position at the S. end of Creag Bail a' Chlaiginn, on the left side of the path which leads from Rogart to Achnagarron, are the remains of a large cairn. It has been removed to a considerable extent, but the centre, which still has an elevation of some 6', seems intact. It has measured some 60' in diameter. There are no indications of its character.

O.S.M., SUTH., civ.

Visited, 25th April 1910.



PLATE IX.—Stone Circle, Cnoc an Liath-bhaid (No. 518).



PLATE X.—“Lettie's Grave,” Blarich (No. 520).

PARISH OF ROGART.

517. *Stone Cist, Cnoc an Liath-bhaid*.—On the farm of Sciberscross, almost due S. of the summit of Cnoc an Liath-bhaid, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of the River Brora, just opposite the W. end of the birch wood across the river, between two great earth-fast boulders some 8' apart, the longer of which is 15' in length, is exposed a stone cist formed of four flat slabs. The cist is 3' 8" long, 2' wide, and 1' 10" deep. It does not appear to have been covered with a cairn.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi. (unnoted). Visited, 18th August 1909.

518. *Stone Circle, Cnoc an Liath-bhaid*.—A little more than $\frac{1}{2}$ m. ENE. of the shepherd's house at Braegrudie, just above the 600 contour line, on a terrace on the hillside, is a stone circle (fig. 76 and Pl. IX.). The circle has had a double ring of stones—an outer with a

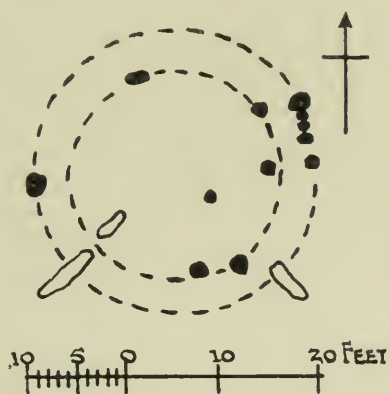


FIG. 76.—Stone Circle, Cnoc an Liath-bhaid (No. 518).

diameter of 28' and an inner with a diameter of 22'. Of the outer circle two stones remain upright in position; one merely protrudes above the ground and two lie prostrate. The largest stone is at the W. side, and faces 10° S. of E. It measures 6' 6" in height, is triangular in section measuring some 2' across each side. At 8' to the S. of it lies another large pointed stone, also 6' 6" long and about 1' 9" across. The next stone in the outer circle is to the SW., and is also prone. It measures 4' 4" in length by 1' 8" across. The fourth stone of the outer circle stands a little to the N. of E. of the first stone and just protrudes. The next stone is on the NE., and measures 4' high by 1' 10" deep. From the S. side of the last-mentioned stone a row of small stones marks the line of the circumference for a distance of 4' 9", and elsewhere in the circle there are indications of other stones similarly set. Both upright stones stand with an edge towards the centre of the circle. Of the inner circle there appear to be five stones *in situ* and one prostrate. The upright stones are from 2' to 3' in height above the ground, and the prostrate stone is 4' 2" in length. They appear to have been set with their broad faces in line of the circumference. Slightly to the N. of the centre of the circle are signs of a low cairn, which seems to have been excavated.

For nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ m. northwards along the haunch of the hill there are numerous small mounds.

O.S.M., SUTH., xcvi.

Visited, 18th August 1909.

PARISH OF ROGART.

MISCELLANEOUS.

519. *Standing-Stones, Achnagarron*.—Some 100 yards NE. of the westmost croft at Achnagarron, on the upper part of the N. slope of the rising ground, are two standing-stones, which look as if they might have been members of a stone circle. They stand about 95' apart in a direction pointing 70° E. of N. The most easterly stands about 5' high, is about 2' 6" wide at base, roughly quadrangular in section, and pointed at the upper end. It leans slightly to one side. The second stone is some 4' 8" high, some 2' 3" across the base, and is also pointed.

O.S.M., SUTH., xevi. (unnoted).

Visited, 21st July 1909.

520. "*Lettie's Grave*," *Blarich*.—About 1 m. N. by W. of Blarich, on the flat haunch of the hill, some 150' above the Lettie River, is a rectangular construction bearing the name of "*Lettie's Grave*" (Pl. X.). It is situated on an area which has to a great extent been under cultivation, and remains of crofter settlements are in the immediate neighbourhood. It has apparently been a square of about 7' in external measurement, with the sides lying N. and S. and E. and W. The E. side alone seems to be complete. It is formed of two upright stones, one at each end. One measures 2' 7" high by 1' 2" across the base, and from 7" to 9" thick; while the other is 3' 2" high, 2' across base, and about 7" thick. Between them are two flat stones set on edge, 3' 6" and 1' in length respectively, and each projecting about 1' above the ground, and lying for a considerable depth beneath it. The higher of the upright stones is at the S. end, and stands with its broad face northwards. Along the N. side of the square lie two stones, one small and just visible, and the other at 1' 11" from the upright, 4' 5" long and 1' above ground, by 1' thick. Towards what would have been the SW. corner lie other three large boulders, which have probably formed part of the construction.

Some 40' to the NW. there is a square, formed of boulders set on edge, measuring interiorly some 5' x 6', nearly the same size as "*Lettie's Grave*," but without standing-stones at the corners.

Some 30' to the W. of "*Lettie's Grave*" there is the semblance of a third construction similar to the last.

O.S.M., SUTH., xevi. (unnoted).

Visited, 6th August 1909.

SITES.

521. *Church, Rovie*.—At Rovie, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Rogart Station, the O.S. map indicates the site of a church.

522. *St Callan's Chapel, W. Kinnauld*.—Between the railway and the River Fleet, to the S. of W. Kinnauld, the O.S. map marks the site of St Callan's Chapel.

523. *Graveyard, Cruinn nam Marbh, Blarich*.—On a knoll about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SE. of Blarich is a disused graveyard.

524. *Stone Circle, Pittentrail*.—The O.S. map indicates the site of a stone circle near Pittentrail Bridge. The site is now built over.

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CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

525. *Tongue House*.—This mansion is situated on the eastern shore of the Kyle of Tongue, about 1 m. N. of Tongue. The older portion, to which wings have been added, is a long, low, oblong building of one storey, with windows set in the roof. Three decorated pediments, which probably surmounted dormer windows before the roof was altered and buttresses added, are built into the wall of the dining-room. One pediment over the mantel-piece bears an ornamental shield, charged with the Mackay arms, viz., three boars' heads coupé and muzzled: in middle base a dexter hand fessways, coupé at the wrist, holding a dagger erect. Crest above the shield, a stag's head pierced through the neck by an arrow. At the top and sides of the shield are the initials D^M R. On the sloping sides of the pediment is the motto MANU FORTI, and against them two lions, bearing on their heads two thistles, whose stems cross at the apex. A second pediment bears the initials A^M R, and the third the two foregoing sets of initials in a cypher between the date 1678, which is probably the date of the erection of the house. On the skew that finishes the E. end of the N. gable of the more modern wing of the building are cut the dates 1678 and 1750.

See *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, iv. p. 372 (illus.); *Origines*, ii. pt. ii. p. 717; *Sutherland and the Reay Country*, p. 61 (illus.); *The Book of Mackay*, p. 282 (illus.).

O.S.M., SUTH., xvi.

Visited, 30th May 1909.

526. *Castle Varrich or Bhurraich*.—The ruins of this castle stand on the head of a promontory on the E. side and near the head of the Kyle of Tongue. It has been a small square tower of two storeys in height, the masonry of which has been coarse and irregular. There are no signs of a stair to the first floor. Nothing but the outer walls now remain, 4' 6" in thickness. A great antiquity has been attributed to the castle, which the character of the structure does not warrant. It is fully described in *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, quoted *infra*.

See *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, iii. p. 253 (plan and illus.); *New Stat. Acct. Suth.*, etc., xv. p. 175; *Origines*, ii. pt. ii. p. 717; *Sutherland and the Reay Country*, pp. 27 (illus.) and 113.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxv.

Visited, 1st June 1909.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

527. *Broch, Dun na Maigh*.—On a prominent rock which rises from the ridge dividing the Kinloch River (Amhainn Ceann Locha) from the Allt Ach' an t-Strathain, at the upper end of the Kyle of Tongue, stand the ruins of Dun na Maigh. The situation is a very strong one. On the W. the rock rises precipitously for 50' or more, and on the E., where the entrance faces, the slope is abrupt. On the N. and S. the approach along the ridge is easier, and for defence in these directions walls have been built along the edge, enclosing the more level areas immediately adjoining the broch. The entrance has been from the

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E. through a passage about 16' long, over which three or four of the covering flags still remain *in situ*. For the first 5' from the exterior the passage is 2' 3" wide, thereafter its width is 3'. The ruination obscures any sign of a guard chamber. The height of the passage to the lintel above the débris on the inside is only 2'. The broch is much ruined, but does not appear to have been pillaged for stones. The structure is not circular, the W. side being considerably flattened, and it has the appearance of having been reconstructed. There is a chasm in the face of the cliff on the W., the upper part of which is built up, and the outer wall of the broch is some feet back from the edge of it. The interior diameter from N. to S. is about 31' and from E. to W. 27'. The highest part of the wall visible above the ruins in the interior is 8' high, and the greatest height to the exterior, above several feet of débris, is on the SE., where it is 7' 6". On the NW. side a chamber, about 8' long, with rounded end and converging walls, roofed with flags, has been partially exposed in the wall. The slab, beneath which access is now obtained into it, is about 3' long and 1' 3" thick. Immediately to the E. of it is another chamber, 5' long and 3' wide, built up at the end and half filled with stones.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxv.

Visited, 2nd June 1909.

528. *Broch, Torrisdail*.—A short distance E. of the graveyard at Torrisdail is a natural mound of clay about 25' high, partially excavated on its N. face. On the top of this is the site of the Dun of Torrisdail. Its outline and character are indiscernible, but the top of the mound is covered with débris, for the most part overgrown with grass. The scanty remains are probably those of a broch.

O.S.M., SUTH., xvii. (unnoted).

Visited, 26th May 1909.

529. *Broch, Dun Riaskidh*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of the footbridge across the River Borgie, near Torrisdail, and on the W. side of Druim a' Chleibh, are the remains of a broch. No outlines of walls are visible. The site is indicated by a structureless heap of stones.*

O.S.M., SUTH., xvii. (unnoted).

530. *Broch, Kyle of Tongue*.—On a hillock between Reidh theanga and the sea, on the E. side of the Kyle of Tongue, is the site of a broch. A confused mass of small stones is all that remains of the structure.

O.S.M., SUTH., xvii.

Visited, 1st June 1909.

531. "*Grianan*," *Lochan Hacoïn*.—At the S. end of Lochan Hacoïn, on an islet within about 50 yards of the shore, are the ruins of a small rectangular building. The walls are built of thin flat stones, without mortar, and are from 6' to 7' thick, and remain upright to a height of from 5' to 6'. The building is oblong, and measures interiorly 19' x 22'. There are no indications of a door or windows nor signs of floor or vaulting. It covers the greater part of the islet, which is natural. There are no signs of any causeway leading to the shore of the loch.

A sketch of the structure by Mr James Horsburgh, as it appeared

* From information supplied by Hew Morrison, LL.D.

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about the year 1866, is preserved in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

See Torfæus (Notes), p. 92; *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 276; *Sutherland and the Reay Country*, p. 113.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxv.

Visited, 2nd June 1909.

HUT CIRCLES, EARTH-HOUSES, AND ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTIONS.

532. *Achnantot*.—Situated on green hillocks a short distance below the junction of the Allt Creag an Fhithich with the Allt Ach nan Tot, and about 300 yards W. of the latter stream, are three hut circles of the usual type.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxvi. (unnoted).

Visited, 28th May 1909.

533. *Melness*.—On the moorland behind Melness House, some 150' to the W. of the road, are two mounds each of about 14' diameter.

O.S.M., SUTH., xvi.

Visited, 31st May 1909.

534. *Loch Crocach*.—On the shoulder of a hill below some steep rocks $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of the Tongue road, at a point about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. E. of its junction with the Skerray road, is a hut circle, of the usual oval or pear-shaped form, measuring 30' \times 32', with the entrance from the S. It has been divided into chambers by rude boulder walls of similar construction to those of the circle itself, and about 2' 6" wide, running from the W. side out to the centre and then towards the left side of the entrance, the space enclosed being again sub-divided. The entrance to the inner structure was from the N. or back. The thickness of the outer wall is from 4' to 5'. There are the remains of another circle about 100 yards S., and about a dozen small mounds lie in the vicinity.

O.S.M., SUTH., xvii. (unnoted).

Visited, 1st June 1909.

535. *Druim na Coup*.—On the SE. slope above the flow which lies between the moorland and the NW. base of Beinn Laoghal is a group of small round mounds of from 12' to 20' or thereby in diameter. They are not so thickly placed as in some other situations, but extend for about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. In one of them, about half way along the ridge, measuring some 20' in diameter, and only a foot or two in height, there has been exposed a cist. The covering slab is 3' broad and at least 3' long, but its exact length is not ascertainable. The upper edges of the single slabs on each side are visible, and also that of the slab at the E. end, which has apparently slipped inwards. The width of the interior is 2' 6". The longest axis of the cist lies NE. and SW.

Towards the SW. end of the ridge on which the mounds lie is a hut circle of the ordinary pear-shaped form, with an interior measurement across of 31'. The wall or bank, faced with flattish slabs on the inside, is about 4' across. In the entrance, which is from the S., there has been erected a small hut of comparatively modern type a few feet square.

O.S.M. SUTH., xxv. and xxxiv.

Visited, 2nd June 1909.

536. Lying at the base of the majestic peak which terminates Beinn Laoghal to the N., and set among the birch woods, is the shepherd's house of Conaisaite, and here, near the S. end of the field

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dyke on the W. or outside of it, is a long stony bank known as "Dhiarmid's Grave." The bank appears to be formed of rather small stones, and is overgrown with grass. It is 59' in length along its central ridge. Its main axis lies N. and S. At the S. end for the first 11' it has an inclination from SSE., and thereafter for the remaining 48' it assumes a N. and S. direction. At the point where the direction alters it is 11' across. At about 19' from the S. end, and 17' from the N., it gradually increases in bulk till at the centre it is 14' thick and 3' 3" high.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxv.

Visited, 2nd June 1909.

537. *Earth-house, Skerray Mains, Torrisdail.*—At the farm of Skerray Mains is an earth-house, the mouth or entrance to which was recently exposed by the farmer. It is situated about 15' distant from the NE. window of the dwelling-house, and is now entirely covered over again. It is said that when it was first discovered there were found in it two "urns" or vessels of clay, which, on being exposed, crumbled away.

See Morrison's *Guide*, p. 99.

O.S.M., SUTH., viii.

Visited, 26th May 1909.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

538. *Cairn, Loch Loyal.*—Situated on the S. side of the ridge separating Loch Craggie from Loch Loyal at its extreme E. end, and overlooking the latter loch which lies about 50' directly beneath it, is a circular cairn, with a diameter of about 50'. The outline is definitely marked with large boulders (the largest over 2' high), laid contiguously point upwards. The cairn is for the most part overgrown with heather, but towards the centre a quantity of stones have been pulled out, without, however, disclosing any structure. The height of the cairn is about 6'. Along the top of a bank which projects to the SE. are three large boulders, set in a row—the first 2' from the cairn, the next 9', and the next 16', but it is very doubtful if these are *in situ*.*

O.S.M., SUTH., xxvi.

Visited, 31st May 1909.

539. *Cairn, Kinloch.*—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Kinloch Lodge, on the S. slope of the hill on which the broch of Dun na Maigh stands, is a cairn. It is overgrown with turf through which five large upright slabs protrude and apparently form part of the sides of a chamber or chambers. The greatest distance between the opposing slabs at the N. and S. ends is 17'. The diameter of the cairn is about 30', and its height 2' to 3'.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxv.

Visited, 2nd June 1909.

MISCELLANEOUS.

540. *Cup-marked Stones, Torrisdail.*—Situated on the rocky moorland some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. SW. of Torrisdail, adjacent to the track that leads thence across the moorland to join the road from Borgie Bridge to Tongue, are two cup-marked stones. The largest boulder, that situated furthest W., is about 8' high and 14' in length. On

* This cairn is noted as a "broch" in *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 278.

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its S. side, chiefly on the flat and less abrupt face of the stone, are groups of cup-marks of from 2" to 3" in diameter, the deepest being about 1½" in depth, while a number are now almost obliterated. The extent of the markings is not very definite, but there appear to be two groups containing about twelve cup-marks each. Some 10' E. is the smaller stone, about 6' long and 4' high. On its NW. face are some twenty-six small cup-markings, and indefinite traces of others. The southern face is scored with deep lines crossing each other, but in no evident design. The extreme E. end of the stone is slightly concave, and in its centre is an oval boss or projection, measuring about 8" × 5" and 1½" in depth, slightly undercut.

See Morrison's *Guide*, p. 98.

O.S.M., SUTH., xvii.

Visited, 26th May 1909.

541. *Cup-marked Stone, Lochan Hacoïn.*—At the S. end of Lochan Hacoïn, to the SE. of the islet on the top of the bank, is a large earth-fast boulder, on the flat upper surface of which are a number of cup and ring marks placed irregularly over it. The total number of undoubted markings is thirty-four, of which those surrounded by a ring number eleven. No cup with a double ring round it is observable. The best defined cup-mark measures 3" across by 1¼" deep, and the enclosing ring is 7" in diameter. Eight of the markings are well defined; the others less noticeable. At the S. end there is a boss or projection, roughly rectangular, measuring 12" × 6". A sketch of this stone, made about the year 1866 by Mr James Horsburgh, is preserved in the library of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

See *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 276; *Archaic Sculpturings*, p. 64.

542. *Cup-marked Stone, Kinloch.*—On the W. side of the road to Kinloch, about ½ m. N. of the bridge over the Kinloch River (Amhainn Ceann Locha), and on the N. edge of a gravel pit close to the road, is a large earth-fast boulder, 5' in length as far as exposed, and 3' 10" in breadth, showing on its upper surface eighteen cup-marks of various depths, of which the most distinct is towards the N. end of the stone, measuring about 3" in diameter and 1" in depth. The whole length of the stone is not visible, but the markings do not seem to extend to the portion covered (unnoted).

O.S.M., SUTH., xxv.

Visited, 2nd June 1909.

543. *Prehistoric Midden, Ferry House.*—On the W. side of the Kyle of Tongue, on the shore near the Ferry House, to the N. of the Achmholltairach Burn, is a prehistoric kitchen midden. There is a thick deposit of oyster and other shells, among which specimens of stone implements and coarse pottery have been found. These relics are in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

See *Trans. Inv. Scient. Soc.*, iv. p. 29.

O.S.M., SUTH., xvi.

Visited, 31st May 1909.

SITES.

544. *Broch, Dun Buidhe.*—About ¼ m. to the S. of Melness House is the site of a broch known as Dun Buidhe. The structure has entirely disappeared.

O.S.M., SUTH., xvi.

Visited, 31st May 1909.

PARISH OF TONGUE.

545. *Graveyard, Loch Loyal*.—The O.S. map indicates the position of a disused graveyard about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. of Loch Loyal Lodge. No sculptured or carved stones are visible.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxxv.

Visited, 31st May 1909.

546. *St Columba's Chapel, Eilean Co'omb*.—The site of this Chapel is also indicated on the O.S. map, but there are no remains to be seen.

O.S.M., SUTH., viii.

547. *Cairn, Tongue House*.—In the wood to the E. of Tongue House, on the top of a knoll about 70 yards E. of the gardener's house, are apparently the remains of a cairn, the chamber of which is referred to in *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 277.

O.S.M., SUTH., xvi.

548. *Earth-house, Ribigil*.—In a park about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of Ribigil farm-house is the site of an earth-house which was closed up many years ago.

O.S.M., SUTH., xxxvi.

Visited, 2nd June 1909.

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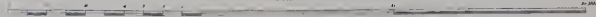
See Map No. II

Black Spot Class
 - Second Class
 - Third Class
 - Buildings
 - Family Enclosures
 - Church

Diagram showing the numbers of the ordinary lines



Scale of Four Miles in One Inch



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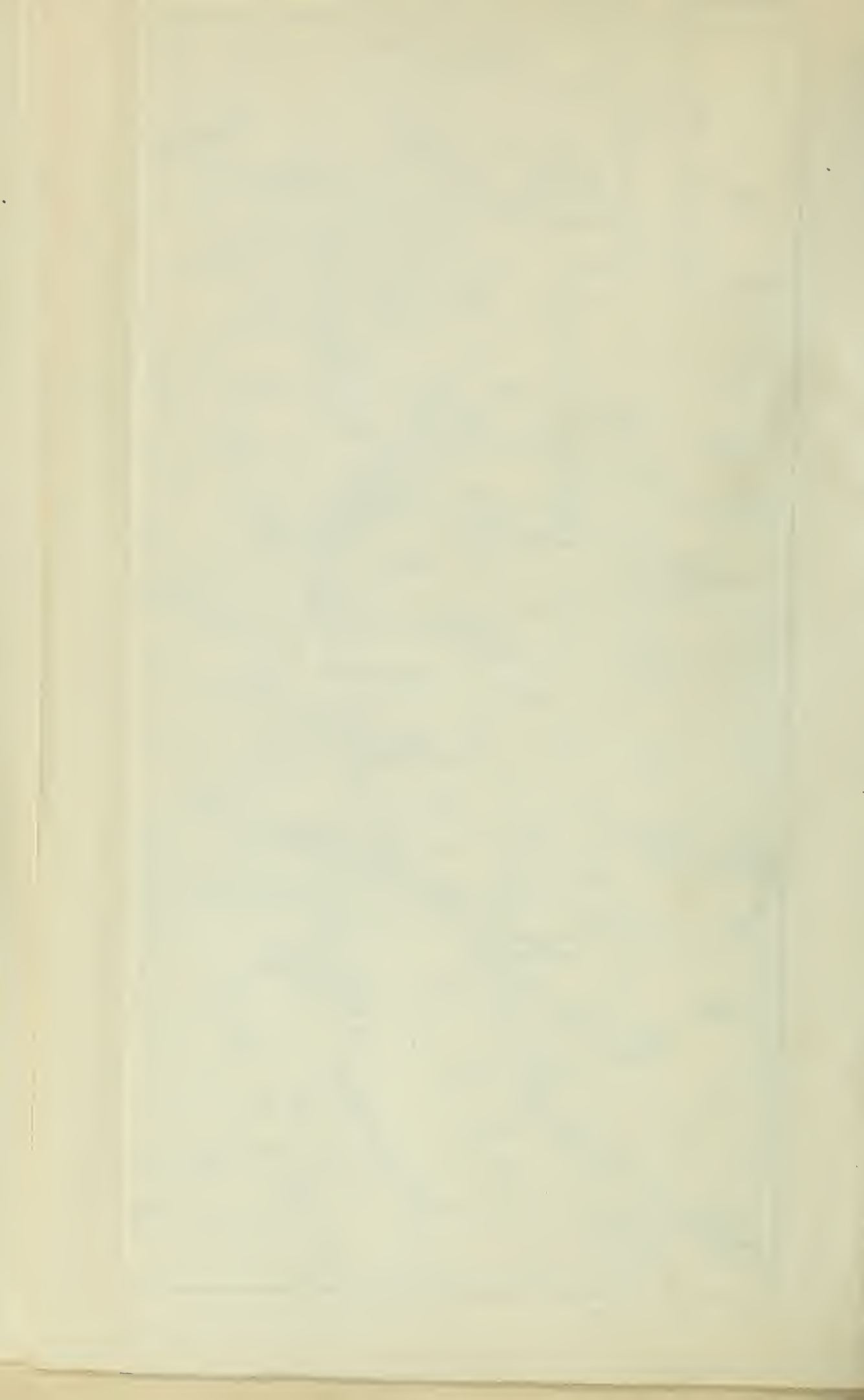


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THE ROYAL COMMISSION
ON
THE ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS
AND CONSTRUCTIONS OF SCOTLAND

THIRD REPORT
AND
INVENTORY OF MONUMENTS AND
CONSTRUCTIONS
IN THE
COUNTY OF CAITHNESS



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THIRD REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF SCOTLAND

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,—

We, your Majesty's Commissioners, appointed to make an Inventory of the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions connected with or illustrative of the contemporary culture, civilisation, and conditions of life of the people in Scotland from the earliest times to the year 1707, and to specify those which seem most worthy of preservation, humbly present to your Majesty this our third Report.

During the summer and autumn of 1910, Mr A. O. Curle, Secretary to the Commission, undertook a survey and examination of the monuments and constructions in the county of Caithness, and has compiled an Inventory thereof, showing the situation and characteristics of each monument, with its bibliography, a reference to the Ordnance Survey sheet (6-inch scale) on which the object is noted, and the date on which it was visited. Illustrating the text are numerous photographs and ground-plans, and there has been added a map on which the positions of the various monuments and constructions, or groups thereof, are indicated by numbers referable to the Inventory. An appendix to this Report contains a list of those monuments and constructions which, in the opinion of your Commissioners, seem most worthy of preservation. These, as in former Reports, have been divided into two classes, viz.: (*a*) those which appear to be specially in need of protection, and (*b*) those worthy of preservation but not in imminent risk of demolition or decay. The Inventory, which contains a detailed and illustrated account of all the monuments, etc., has been published by the Stationery Office.

The monuments and constructions of Caithness were found to be more numerous and important than was expected, and, though belonging mainly to prehistoric times, they include a number of castles characteristic of the various periods of Scottish castellated architecture from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century. The list of long cairns, the earliest monuments of prehistoric times, was

considerably augmented, many of these being identified and examined for the first time, while of later cairns, chambered and otherwise, there were also found a number of fresh examples. In the year 1870 seventy nine brochs were enumerated within the county. The number still in existence, or of which the sites are recognisable and recorded, has now been increased to one hundred and forty-five as the result of the survey. Many of these, however, are reduced to little more than foundations, and most of them are contained in mounds entirely overgrown with vegetation. Throughout the county some twenty-four were found to have been excavated, and details of the excavations and a note of the relics recovered are contained in the Inventory.

A new class of construction, a dwelling belonging to the Iron Age, circular or oblong in shape and megalithic in character, was discovered in the parish of Latheron—the remarkable feature in which is the gallery or corridor around the interior.

Several new settings of parallel rows of stones have been found in various parts of the county.

Every facility has been afforded by proprietors and tenants to inspect the monuments, and interest has everywhere been taken in the work of the Commission. Ministers of the Gospel and parish schoolmasters, as well as others occupying no official position in the county, have been of much assistance to your Commissioners in their labours. Your Commissioners are also indebted to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland for kindly placing at their disposal a number of blocks and plates, and to Mr John Nicolson, Nybster, for several plans of brochs excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry and not hitherto published. We desire also to acknowledge gratefully the help we have received from Dr Joseph Anderson, Assistant Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, whose exceptional knowledge of northern antiquities greatly facilitated our proceedings.

The objectionable practice of utilising the cairns and other ancient monuments for a supply of road metal, though not so prevalent in Caithness as elsewhere, was brought to the notice of the Commissioners in that county, and the condition of many of the brochs and cairns bears testimony to their spoliation in the past.

We would draw attention to the destruction of many prehistoric monuments (some of them of great importance) in consequence of their having been excavated and then left exposed to the elements, and to the interference of thoughtless visitors. The numerous brochs throughout the county which have been excavated are in urgent need of attention, without which, in a few years' time, they will be reduced to crumbling heaps of stone. Your Commissioners strongly deprecate interference with such structures unless under supervision of persons skilled in archæology. The attention of proprietors and their factors is invited to this matter, and also to the expediency of filling up any excavations that have been, or may be, undertaken, so soon as the structure has been carefully planned and illustrated.

Throughout the year your Commissioners have had their attention drawn to the unsatisfactory condition of various ancient structures of historic interest in other parts of the country than that under their immediate review. These they have, as far as possible, inspected,

and, where their condition appeared to be serious, they have made representations to the proprietors and the local bodies interested.

The advice of your Commissioners has been sought in several instances in regard to alterations contemplated on old buildings, and though such work does not actually fall within the scope of the Commission, we have felt it desirable in the public interest to render assistance in such cases in order to encourage effort for the proper preservation of the buildings in question.

A survey of the monuments and constructions in Galloway is now being undertaken, and work is also being organised for the survey of ancient buildings in the towns, commencing with Edinburgh.

In connection with the proposed memorial at Holyrood to the late King Edward, the Commissioners have expressed their sense of the great importance of preserving existing examples of Old Edinburgh architecture included in the scope of the scheme.

An architect and an architectural draughtsman have been added to the staff, in order that the work of the Commission may be accelerated.

We have pleasure in recording once more our sense of the valuable services rendered by our Secretary, Mr A. O. Curle, W.S., who has conducted the survey of the county of Caithness (whereof the greater part is desolate moorland, involving prolonged physical exertion) with indefatigable zeal, besides transacting the clerical work of the Commission with thorough efficiency.

HERBERT MAXWELL, *Chairman*.
CHARLES J. GUTHRIE.
G. BALDWIN BROWN.
THOMAS H. BRYCE.

FRANCIS C. BUCHANAN.
W. T. OLDRIEVE.
THOMAS ROSS.
ALEX^R. O. CURLE, *Secretary*.

EDINBURGH, *July* 1911.

LIST OF ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIONS

IN THE COUNTY OF CAITHNESS

WHICH THE COMMISSIONERS DEEM MOST WORTHY
OF PRESERVATION.

I.—MONUMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIONS SPECIALLY IN NEED OF PROTECTION.

ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

	PARISH.
St Mary's Chapel, Lybster (No. 338)	Reay.
St Peter's Church, Thurso (No. 418)	Thurso.

CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

Bucholie Castle (No. 32)	Canisbay.
Forse Castle (No. 185)	Latheron.
Castle of Old Wick, or "Old Man of Wick" (No. 495)	Wick.
Girnigoe Castle and Castle Sinclair (No. 497)	Do.
Keiss Castle (No. 498)	Do.

BROCHS.

"Hill of Works" (No. 3)	Bower.
Skirza Head (No. 35)	Canisbay.
Ousedale Burn (No. 204)	Latheron.
Dunbeath (No. 215)	Do.
Kilmster (No. 507)	Wick.
"Norwall," South Kilmster (No. 508)	Do.
Yarrows (No. 509)	Do.
"Wester," or "Castle Linglas," Keiss Links (No. 513)	Do.
"Road Broch," Keiss (No. 517)	Do.
Nybster (No. 518)	Do.
"Cairn of Elsay," Staxigoe (No. 521)	Do.

EARTH-HOUSE.

Ham (No. 65)	Dunnet.
------------------------	---------

CAIRNS.

"Shean," Stemster (No. 9)	Bower.
"Torr Beag," Brawlbin (No. 359)	Reay.
Warehouse Hill. Cairns of Warehouse (No. 552)	Wick.
Garrywhin (cairn with cist and stone rows, No. 558)	Do.

CAIRNS (*continued*).

	PARISH.
Broughwhin (cairn with cist and stone rows, No. 560)	Wick.
Camster (horned long cairn, No. 563)	Do.
Do. (No. 564)	Do.

STONE CIRCLE.

Guidebest (No. 279)	Latheron.
-------------------------------	-----------

STONE ROWS.

Dirlot (No. 165)	Halkirk.
Hill o' Many Stanes, Mid Clyth (No. 292)	Latheron.
Upper Dounreay (No. 397)	Reay.
Battle Moss, Loch of Yarrows (No. 570)	Wick.
Broughwhin (No. 572)	Do.
Camster (No. 573)	Do.

SCULPTURED STONES.

Sandside House (No. 406)	Reay.
Do. (No. 407)	Do.
Thurso Castle (No. 444)	Thurso.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Bell-Tower, Latheron (No. 283)	Latheron.
Standing-stones (setting of), Achkinloch (No. 293)	Do.

II.—MONUMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIONS DESERVING PROTECTION BUT NOT IN IMMEDIATE RISK OF DEMOLITION OR DECAY.

CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

	PARISH.
Barrogill Castle (No. 31)	Canisbay.
Braal Castle (No. 95)	Halkirk.
Dunbeath Castle (No. 187)	Latheron.
Old Dwelling House, Bank Street, Thurso (No. 425)	Thurso.
Ackergill Tower (No. 494)	Wick.

BROCHS.

Halcro (No. 1)	Bower.
Brabstermire (No. 37)	Canisbay.
Hollandmey (supposed broch, No. 39)	Do.
Mybster (No. 96)	Halkirk.
Achies (No. 97)	Do.
Do. (No. 98)	Do.
Spital (No. 100)	Do.
Achlochan Moss (No. 102)	Do.
"Cnoc Donn," Achlochan Moss (No. 103)	Do.
"Carn na Mairg," Westerdale (No. 105)	Do.
"Tulach Mor," Tormsdale (No. 108)	Do.
North Calder (No. 110)	Do.
Framside (No. 111)	Do.
"Shean Harraig," Scotscalder (No. 113)	Do.
Upper Sour (No. 114)	Do.
"Knockglass" (No. 117)	Do.

BROCHS (*continued*).

	PARISH.
Camster (No. 189)	Latheron.
Warehouse (No. 190)	Do.
"Green Hill," Roster (No. 191)	Do.
Ballachly, Stemster (No. 192)	Do.
Bruan (No. 193)	Do.
Mid Clyth (No. 195)	Do.
Tiantulloch, Houstry (No. 196)	Do.
Minera, Newlands of Houstry (No. 197)	Do.
Occumster (No. 198)	Do.
Achavar (No. 199)	Do.
"Burg Langwell" (No. 201)	Do.
"An Dun," Allt an Duin, Berriedale (No. 203)	Do.
Berriedale (No. 205)	Do.
Upper Borgue (No. 206)	Do.
"Burg Ruadh," Berriedale Water (No. 207)	Do.
Achow (No. 208)	Do.
Smerral (No. 209)	Do.
Latheronwheel (No. 211)	Do.
Burn of Latheronwheel (No. 212)	Do.
Balantrath, Dunbeath Strath (No. 213)	Do.
Achorn, Dunbeath (No. 214)	Do.
Knockinnon (No. 216)	Do.
Upper Latheron (No. 217)	Do.
"Appnag Tulloch," Forse (No. 218)	Do.
Rumster (No. 219)	Do.
Golsary (No. 220)	Do.
"Usshilly Tulloch," Forse (No. 221)	Do.
"Greysteil Castle," Loch Rangag (No. 222)	Do.
Thurdistoft (No. 318)	Orlig.
Murkle (No. 319)	Do.
Castlehill, Castletown (No. 320)	Do.
Sibmister (No. 321)	Do.
Orlig Glebe (supposed broch, No. 322)	Do.
Orlig House, (do., No. 323)	Do.
"Tulloch of Stemster," Stemster (No. 344)	Reay
Stemster Farm (No. 345)	Do.
Crosskirk (No. 347)	Do.
"Green Tullochs," Borrowston Mains (No. 348)	Do.
"Knock Urray," Lower Dounreay (No. 349)	Do.
"Achbuiligan Tulloch," Upper Dounreay (No. 350)	Do.
Achunabust (No. 351)	Do.
Achvarasdal Lodge (No. 353)	Do.
Scrabster (No. 429)	Thurso.
Do. "Thing's Va" (No. 432)	Do.
"Brimside Tulloch," Lythemore (No. 434)	Do.
"Tulloch of Shalmstry," Weydale (No. 437)	Do.
Old Hall of Dunn (No. 461)	Watten.
Green Hill, Wester Watten (No. 464)	Do.
"Bail a' chairn," Acharole (No. 466)	Do.
"Carn a' chladda," Scouthal (No. 467)	Do.
Watten (No. 468)	Do.
"Grey Cairn," Lynegar (No. 471)	Do.
"Gearsay Cairn" (No. 472)	Do.
Spital (No. 474)	Do.
Knockglass (No. 475)	Do.

BROCHS (*continued*).

	PARISH.
Tannach (No. 500)	Wick.
Thrumster Little (No. 503)	Do.
Hempriggs (No. 504)	Do.
Stemster (No. 505)	Do.
"Cairn of Humster" (No. 506)	Do.
Borrowston (No. 510)	Do.
Hillhead, or "The Pap," Broadhaven (No. 520)	Do.
Camster (No. 522)	Do.
Ulbster (No. 523)	Do.
Watenan (No. 524)	Do.
Toftgun (No. 525)	Do.

FORS.

"Ring of Castle Hill," Lyth (No. 4)	Bower.
"Buaile Oscar," Ben Freiceadain (No. 354)	Reay.
Cnoc an Ratha, Shurrery (No. 355)	Do.
Holborn Head (No. 438)	Thurso.
Loch Watenan (No. 526)	Wick.
Garrywhin (No. 528)	Do.

GALLERIED DWELLINGS.

Morven (No. 249)	Latheron.
Langwell (No. 250)	Do.
Braemore (No. 251)	Do.
Dail a' chairn (No. 255)	Do.
"Wag Mor," Dunbeath Strath (No. 256)	Do.
"The Wag," Achnaclyth, do. (No. 257)	Do.
Achnaclyth, do. (No. 258)	Do.
"Cor Tulloch," Houstry (No. 262)	Do.
Forse (No. 263)	Do.

HUT CIRCLES.

Warehouse Hill (No. 225)	Do.
Loch of Yarrows (No. 530)	Wick.
Hill of Yarrows (No. 533)	Do.
Watenan (No. 538)	Do.

EARTH-HOUSES.

Langwell (No. 246)	Latheron.
Brae na h-Eaglais (No. 247)	Do.

CAIRNS.

Mill of Knockdee (No. 8)	Bower.
"Sinclair's Shean," Stemster (long cairn, No. 10)	Do.
"Carney Hillock," Moss of Tain (long cairn, No. 12)	Do.
Island of Stroma (No. 42)	Canisbay.
"Earl's Cairn," Hollandmaik (No. 72)	Dunnet.
"Tulloch of Milton," Halkirk (No. 129)	Halkirk.
Achanarras Hill (No. 130)	Do.
Do. (No. 131)	Do.
Do. (No. 132)	Do.
Dorrery (No. 133)	Do.
Do. (No. 134)	Do.
"Tulach an t-Sionnaich," Loch Calder (long cairn, No. 135)	Do.
"Tulach Buaile Assery," do. (horned long cairn, No. 136)	Do.
"Torr Bàn na Gruagaich," do. (No. 137)	Do.

CAIRNS (*continued*).

	PARISH.
Knockglass (long cairn, No. 138)	Halkirk.
Westfield (No. 139)	Do.
Do. (No. 140)	Do.
Houstry (No. 265)	Latheron
Langwell (No. 267)	Do.
Do. (No. 268)	Do.
Berriedale (supposed cairn, No. 269)	Do.
Allt ard Achaidh, Berriedale (No. 270)	Do.
Leodebest, "Carn Liath" (horned long cairn, No. 273)	Do.
Leodebest (No. 274)	Do.
Cnoc na Maranaich, Dunbeath Strath (cairn and standing-stone, No. 276)	Do.
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Achiebraeskiall (No. 368)	Do.
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Knock Stanger, Sandside (No. 375)	Do.
Brawlbin (No. 376)	Do.
Borrowston Mains, "Green Tullochs" (No. 378)	Do.
Sordale Hill, "Gallow Hill" (horned long cairn, No. 439)	Thurso.
Sordale Hill (No. 440)	Do.
Sordale Hill (horned long cairn, No. 441)	Do.
"Oslie Cairn," Lynegar (No. 478)	Watten.
"Gallow Hillock," Backlass (supposed long cairn, No. 482)	Do.
Lynegar (supposed cairn, No. 479)	Do.
Loch of Yarrows (No. 542)	Wick.

STONE CIRCLE.

Achanarras Hill (No. 141)	Halkirk.
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STANDING STONES.

"Stone Lud" (No. 13)	Bower.
Hill of Rangag (No. 284)	Latheron.
Do. (No. 285)	Do.
Latheron (No. 288)	Do.
Borgue (No. 290)	Do.
Houstry School (No. 291)	Do.
Shurrery (No. 398)	Reay.
Upper Dounreay (No. 399)	Do.
Do. (No. 400)	Do.
Broubster (No. 401)	Do.
Do. (No. 402)	Do.

STANDING-STONES (*continued*).

	PARISH.
Gansclet (No. 566)	Wick.
Loch of Yarrows (No. 567)	Do.
Ulbster School (No. 575)	Do.

SEPULCHRAL MONUMENT.

“Groat Stone,” Canisbay Church (No. 25)	Canisbay.
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SCULPTURED CROSSES.

Skinnet (No. 92)	Halkirk.
Lybster (No. 297)	Latheron.
Reay Church (No. 339)	Reay.
Grave-yard, Mid Clyth (No. 295)	Latheron.
Roadside Farm, do. (No. 296)	Do.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Standing-stones (setting of), Broubster (No. 163)	Halkirk.
Mound, “Tulach Lochain Bhraiseil,” Westerdale (No. 143)	Do.
Do. “Tulach an Fhuarain,” do.	Do.
(No. 144)	Do.
Mounds, “Tullochs of Assery,” Loch Calder (Nos. 160 and 161)	Do.
Foot-mark, Port an eilein, Shurrery (No. 162)	Do.
Construction, Shurrery (No. 390)	Reay.
Do. “Tota an Dranndain,” Torr a’Ba- thaich, Shurrery (No. 391)	Do.
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INTRODUCTION

TO

INVENTORY OF ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIONS

IN THE COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

PART I.

THE County of Caithness occupies the extreme NE. angle of Scotland, projecting as a great promontory into the ocean, a feature which earned for it from the Norsemen the name which, in a modified form, it bears to-day—the “Ness” or “Nose” of the Catti. Nature has rendered Caithness singularly inaccessible. High cliffs and shelving rocks for the most part create a formidable barrier on its coast line, while along its northern shore the racing tides and currents of the Pentland Firth must from all times have hindered navigation. The mountains of Scaraben and Morven on its landward bounds cut it off from the neighbouring county of Sutherland on the south, while on the west, save along the coast line, a lonely waste of uninhabitable moorland, now traversed by the railway, completes its isolation. From these circumstances intercourse with the outer world in early times must have been difficult and intermittent. The interior of the county, to the north of its southern mountain range, and eastward from where Ben Dorrery and Ben Freiceadain stand sentinel towards its western boundary, expands in a great plain or plateau, varied here and there with a gentle undulation, until it dips abruptly into the ocean on the north and east. One small island, Stroma, lying in the Pentland Firth some two miles distant from the north coast, is included in the county.

The surface is at this day singularly devoid of timber, except in the south where the hills and valleys afford protection from the almost incessant winds, or around the residences of the landed proprietors, where isolated patches of woodland have been sedulously reared.

The fringe of the coast and the central part of the plain are fertile and highly cultivated, and there the sites of brochs so frequently adjacent to the farms indicate an occupation and probable tillage of the land for a lengthened period. Over the whole of the county, except where the somewhat boggy moorland has offered no attractions, there are numerous evidences of human settlement from early times, and a superstitious yet fortunate belief that disaster would befall

anyone who should interfere with the mounds which cover these early remains has tended greatly towards their preservation.

Though the distribution of the prehistoric remains throughout the habitable parts of the county is fairly regular, there are in certain regions considerable groups of monuments representative of former eras of culture. Such groups are to be found around the lochs of Yarrows and Warehouse, by the loch of Calder, on Shebster Hill, and in the lower reaches of the Langwell and Dunbeath Straths.

Our chief source of knowledge regarding the earlier inhabitants is derived from sepulchral monuments and their contents, for little or no trace remains of the dwellings wherein they lived. Skulls and bones indicate the racial characteristics, while the grave goods, which by Pagan rites of burial accompanied the body to the tomb, disclose the state of culture, the condition of material existence in this life, and probable belief in a future state.

The monuments of greatest antiquity in Caithness—the sepulchres of neolithic man — are the long cairns, of which some eighteen examples still remain. These are elongated constructions of stone varying in length up to about 250', narrow and low at one extremity, — where the breadth is usually from 30' to 40', and the height trifling—and from about two-thirds of their length increasing to a width of about 50' or 60' and a height of some 10'. As, however, no perfect example exists, these dimensions must only be regarded as approximate. At both extremities the typical cairn terminates with a semicircular concavity formed by the projection of two low arms or horns. The researches of Dr Joseph Anderson in the long cairns situated beside the Loch of Yarrows, in 1865, disclosed the fact that these cairns, so far as their external aspect was concerned, were not mere structureless masses of piled stones, but that along the edge of each, and around the horns, there was a double wall of building retaining the mass of the cairn in position. Entering from the centre of the concavity at the higher end through a portal from 2' to 3' in height by 2' in width, may be found a passage lintelled over, some 15' to 20' in length, leading into a chamber of two or more compartments. Though the position of the entrance passage in the centre of the frontal semicircle seems the usual arrangement, its occurrence is no more universal than is the presence of a single chamber in the whole length of the cairn. The length and form of the chamber may vary, but that discovered in the long cairn of Yarrows (No. 543) will serve as a typical example. It measures 12' in length, and is divided into three compartments of varying width by divisional stones which do not reach to the roof, set at right angles to the walls, opposite to each other. Upright flagstones and horizontal building have both been employed in the formation of the walls of the chamber, and the roof has been closed in by slightly projecting each stone as the wall mounts upwards, commencing at a height of about 7' above the floor level until the span was so reduced that it could be covered with slabs. Such tombs appear to have been used for successive burials, access being gained by the passage as occasion arose, and inhumation and incineration were both practised. As far as evidence in Caithness goes, incineration seems to have preceded inhumation, burnt bones being found in

the deposit covering the floors of the cairns and unburnt remains above. Tools and weapons of stone or flint were deposited with the remains; and round-bottomed vessels of hand-made pottery, semi-globular in form, close in texture and smooth on the surface, occasionally ornamented with impressions of a finger nail, as a rule accompanied the interments.

The numerous bones of animals found in chambered cairns show that our neolithic ancestors had domestic animals of much the same species as our own, though differing, no doubt, greatly in appearance, viz., sheep or goats and oxen. They kept dogs for the chase, and they trapped or hunted the red-deer. That these cairns are the tombs, not of the ordinary population, but of rulers and warriors renowned in their day, is a natural supposition, and the magnitude of such monuments is a measure of the esteem, if not of the affection, in which their occupants were held. The people who could erect these tombs had a power of combination and a subjection to discipline which distinguish them from mere savages; and the ability which enabled them to overcome the engineering difficulties to be encountered in poisoning the massive lintels on the portal stones and in building and roofing these chambers, was of no mean order. The culture disclosed in these sepulchres is that of the neolithic period, and the skulls found within them are those of a long-headed people of medium height with clear-cut profiles and refined features. These chambered-cairn builders, according to the general consensus of opinion among anthropologists, belonged to a primitive stock which inhabited the Mediterranean basin and spread northward in neolithic times. Their general distribution in Europe is to be gathered from that of the dolmens and megalithic chambers.

Such, then, are the earliest monuments of man still to be found in the county. Of the same type, and differing only in their form and size, are the round or short cairns with horns.

These disclose the same features of chamber, passage of access, concave outline at either end formed by the projecting horns, and structural walls on the external face of the cairn, but they differ in their dimensions, the body of the cairn measuring from 40' to 60' in diameter. The skeletal remains and relics recovered from such of these cairns as have been excavated belong to the same race and culture as those from the previous class. A small number are to be found in Caithness, and also in the adjacent county of Sutherland, but they do not appear to be represented among the barrows of England, nor are they at present known elsewhere in Scotland.

Long cairns without a semi-circular concavity at either end, judging from the results of excavation in the analogous long barrows in England, likewise appear to belong to this period. It has, however, yet to be ascertained by the scientific excavation of the few remaining examples of these three varieties, whether any distinction is to be observed among their racial and cultural remains.

Another form of cairn to be found in this county marks a later development. Still chambered and entered by a passage, it is no longer horned, and is either circular or elliptical in outline. In Caithness, the culture disclosed in such cairns of this class as have been excavated, is still neolithic in its general features, though in certain instances the relics and pottery suggest a relation with the

subsequent culture, and they may be regarded as transitional. In all probability the older culture and sepulchral practices were not suddenly displaced, but were gradually modified by the presence and influence of new ideas and new knowledge. As the stone age drew to a close, and before the use of bronze became general, a change in the quality and decoration of the pottery found in association with burials becomes apparent. This new type of pottery differs essentially from that of the chambered cairns. It is still hand-made, but the vessels are tall, somewhat cylindrical in shape, flat-bottomed, and decorated with chevrons, diapers, and encircling lines of impressed ornament in repeating zones. The vessels belonging to this type or class are normally associated with a form of sepulture which is radically different from that of the chambered cairns. The cairn may still remain, but the chamber within it, as well as the passage of access, has disappeared, and in place is a stone-built cist or coffin, formed of slabs and similarly covered. It is often of very small size, measuring interiorly some 3' in length by 2' in breadth and 14" to 18" in depth. Within the cist is usually a single interment, burnt or otherwise, and occasionally a vessel of pottery. In addition to the pottery the graves may still contain objects of flint—arrow-heads and knives—also beads of jet, and, more rarely, objects of bronze. Nor is the cairn always present, for such cists are not infrequently discovered without any superincumbent monument, and occasionally they are found sunk in the top or somewhere within the limits of earlier cairns. Such a cist, found on the farm of Glengolly near Thurso, contained a typical urn of the class described which is preserved in the Thurso Museum. Another at Acharole, Watten, yielded besides an urn (now in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh) a skeleton with characters quite distinct from those of the chambered-cairn skeletons. We are here on the track of a new immigrant race which entered Britain towards the end of the stone age, and buried their dead in short cists. They were a people of medium stature, and their distinguishing physical characteristic was a greater breadth of skull in proportion to its length than in the case of the chamber-cairn folk, while their faces were low and broad instead of high and narrow like the faces of their predecessors. They belonged to a primitive stock which occupied central Europe towards the end of the stone age, and it is not certain whether they had a knowledge of bronze when they first invaded Britain. It is certain, however, that they soon acquired bronze tools, and their fashion of sepulture prevailed through the age of bronze, while their culture modified, and ultimately displaced, that of the chambered cairns.

Another class of monument associated with the sepulchral usages of the bronze age is the stone circle.

Around certain cairns of the neolithic age have been noted upright stones set in their outline at irregular intervals. They resemble buttresses, and probably in the original state of the cairn performed a somewhat analogous office in preventing the spreading of the structure. Such stones may be seen in the sides of the cairn at the N. end of Loch Calder (No. 135). A similar arrangement of boulders in the outline of a number of round cairns, though not so frequent as in Sutherland, is still observable in this county (No. 72). A develop-

ment from these by gradations, not found here, has been suggested for the circles of upright stones known to modern antiquaries as stone circles, and to the public in the past as druidical circles. For the druidical attribution, originally propounded by Stukeley in the end of the 17th century, there is not one grain of evidence, though the popular fallacy disseminated by the older maps and handbooks is difficult to eradicate. Stone circles are to be found over the greater part of Britain, and in form and size they present many variations. Their sepulchral character is established by the discovery, in the central area of many of them, of cists containing interments and pottery of the bronze age; but whether the circle had any religious significance, or what the nature of the religion was which these people of the bronze age affected, we cannot tell.

In a similar category with these circles may be placed the stone rows, of less general distribution, but whereof the frequency in Caithness is remarkable. These monuments are to be found also in the County of Sutherland, as well as in Dartmoor, in Cornwall, Northumberland, and Wales. It may be assumed that they formerly existed in many districts where, in common with numerous other structures and monuments, they have been obliterated in the process of agriculture. In Scotland, though their association with interment is not invariable, they are in certain cases found radiating from small cairns containing burials of the bronze age (see No. 558).

The numerous tall standing-stones to be met with throughout the county, singly or in pairs, may probably belong to this period, but their true significance does not yet appear to be established.

Though the sepulchral monuments of the bronze period show fewer structural features than those of the neolithic, it is connected with the bronze age that we first begin to find definite traces of the habitations of the people.

Oval or circular banks of turf, or walls of stone, of low elevation and enclosing an area of some 20' to 30' diameter, to be met with on the drier portions of the moorland, are the remains of the dwellings of the early inhabitants, and are known as hut circles. In Scotland little research has been made on these sites, but exploration among similar remains in Dartmoor and elsewhere in England has established their relationship to the bronze age, if not to late neolithic times. But while this is the case in the south, it must be borne in mind that in the remote parts of our island primitive types of structure must have lingered on, so that the connection of the hut circle with the iron age, and possibly with mediæval times, is highly probable. It may be remarked that hut circles are not numerous in this county, and that where they do exist it is principally in the south. The fashion of roofing these structures is still a matter of speculation, but in all probability branches must have formed a considerable part of the material employed. As presumably during the prehistoric period the same races occupied both this county and Sutherland, where hut circles are particularly in evidence, it may be that an absence of timber in Caithness, even at that early period, produced a modification in the style of their dwellings. Certain ruins, to be described hereafter, are remarkable for the employment of stone flags of large size to form a low roof, a practice not observed outside the county boundary, but probably adopted for the same reason.

Certain of the hill forts in England have been definitely assigned to the age of bronze, but without excavation it would be rash to attribute the construction of the forts of Caithness to any particular period.

The knowledge of iron is calculated to have reached Britain between the 6th and 4th centuries B.C., and its introduction is commonly attributed to Celtic tribes who are believed to have invaded the island about this time. The art of the early iron age, as revealed by the objects of use or ornament referable to this epoch, has therefore been called "Celtic" or "late Celtic" art.

During the iron age the fashion of sepulture was still further modified, and though the cairn burial to some extent survived, the cairns became low and unimportant, while more frequently the cists were placed in the earth with no monument superimposed. The perishable nature of iron has resulted in a difficulty of determining conclusively the burials of this period, and in Scotland, up to the present date, there are on record only two reports of excavations of burials from which iron grave goods have been recovered. The bones from these interments yielded no very definite anatomical data, and we have therefore no evidence of a special racial type which can be identified with the early iron age. The proof of the "Celtic" invasion must be sought in linguistic, archæological, and other data. In the absence of graves which can be attributed to this period, it is to the abodes of the living rather than to the houses of the dead that we must turn for enlightenment.

Over the whole region of the county, with the exception of the inaccessible and infertile tracts of moorland, are to be observed grass-covered hillocks of from 70' to 100' in diameter, and 10' to 12' in height. Locally they are called "tullochs." These mounds contain the ruins of brochs, structures of more than ordinary interest, and very numerous in Caithness where the remains of some one hundred and forty-five have been noted. From the not inconsiderable ruins of examples in other parts of Scotland, as well as from the excavated brochs within the county, we are enabled to form a fairly complete picture of one of these buildings in its original condition. In plan it was cylindrical, having a wall from 12' to 15' in thickness, and built of dry masonry without any adhesive material, enclosing an interior courtyard open to the sky, with a diameter of 30' or thereby. The wall of the broch rose to a height of from 45' to 50' and had occasionally a considerable batter on the exterior for the first 10' or 12'. No opening pierced the outer wall save the doorway on the ground level. Through this doorway, which was built up on each side to a height of about 5', with a width of some 3', and surmounted by a lintel, access to the interior was gained by a passage directly through the wall. The passage was roofed with large flags between which a sufficient space was sometimes left to assail from above any foe who had effected an entrance. Within the passage, some 6' or thereby, were checks for a door, and in some instances there were additional door checks nearer the inner extremity. Behind the first door checks entering from one side of the passage there was usually a guard chamber, fashioned in the thickness of the wall and measuring some 7' or 8' in length by 5' to 6' in width. Opening off the court were one or more small oval chambers, also in the thickness of the wall, while about a quarter-way round the periphery a passage some 3' to



PLATE A.—The Broch of Mousa, on the Island of Mousa, Shetland.

4' long led to the foot of a staircase which rose up to the right having a chamber invariably opposite its commencement. The stair as it spirally circled upwards gave access to a series of horizontal galleries, one above the other, the slab roof of one gallery forming the floor of that above. These galleries were lighted by vertical rows of rectangular openings forming small windows looking into the interior. In the interior, on the ground level, might be found a hearth placed within a square enclosure formed of upright slabs, and occasionally a well cut out of the rock and approachable by steps, with sometimes also an underground chamber or cellar of similar formation for the storage of grain and other provisions. Tank-like constructions, formed of flagstones set on edge in the floor, have been found in several cases, and a well-made drain passing out under the entrance passage was not an uncommon feature.

No broch exists beyond the limits of Scotland; and though the range of the type is from Orkney and Shetland to Berwickshire, their numbers greatly predominate in the northern counties. When they were first built, or last inhabited, are alike unknown. Comparatively few have been excavated, but a great similarity in the relics recovered characterises them all: querns, both rotary and of the saddle form, stone mortars and pounders in abundance, drinking-cups and lamps of steatite, long-handled combs for weaving on the loom and whorls for the spindle, shards of coarse pottery (for the most part undecorated) and occasionally fragments of *terra sigillata* or other Roman ware.

No object characteristic of neolithic culture has so far been found in a broch, nor any implement or weapon peculiar to the age of bronze. The type of pottery, the fashion and ornamentation of the combs and other relics, are those peculiar to the early iron age or late Celtic period of art. Within two of the Caithness brochs were found quartzite pebbles, painted or stained with spots similar to others found in the cave of Mas d'Azil in the Pyrenees, and referred there to the period of transition between the palæolithic and neolithic cultures. The occurrence of these pebbles alone, whose purpose is unknown, is not sufficient to place the brochs in point of antiquity previous to the early iron age, to which the other relics are referable.

The development of the broch is still obscure, but no more complete adaptation of the materials available to the end desired—the construction of an impregnable dwelling—could be devised. The people who dwelt in them had herds of cattle, and possibly flocks of sheep. They owned horses, and tilled the soil, on which they grew crops of oats and bere. They were also competent judges of the quality of the land, as it is over the most fertile tracts that the ruins of the brochs mostly occur, while numerous instances of their occurrence adjacent to modern farm buildings throughout the county could be cited. The comparatively close proximity to each other in which they frequently stand, marks them out as the dwellings of families rather than of the heads or chiefs of larger social organisations. Only one example remains in an approximately perfect state, viz., the broch of Mousa in Shetland (shown in Plate A) which still exists to a height of 45', and it alone appears on the pages of history—it being recorded in the *Orkneyinga Saga*, that about the year 1155, Erlend carried off the widow of Maddad, Earl of Athol, and taking

up his residence in Moseyarborg, held it against the attack of her son Harald, Earl of Orkney, while the *Saga* of Egil Skalagrimson tells of a temporary occupation of it about A.D. 900.

Over what period the brochs continued to be built we do not know, but it is probable that many centuries intervened between the erection of the first and of the last. By the enterprise of the late Sir Francis Tress Barry, more have been excavated in Caithness than elsewhere, but much scientific exploration must be carried on over Scotland before their history and development is fully revealed.

To the period of the iron age also belong the underground chambers and galleries known as earth-houses. Probably owing to the shallow nature of the soil there are few of these in Caithness.

Almost before the latest brochs could have been in ruins we are on the borders of historic times. Before the close of the 5th century of our era a colony of Dalriadic Scots from Ireland, established themselves in Argyllshire, where they founded a kingdom, with their capital at Dunadd. They were Christians, and to them came Columba, with a band of twelve disciples, in the year 563, and settled in the island of Iona. Caithness was at this time a part of the kingdom of the Northern Picts, ruled over by Brude, whose capital was near the site of the modern town of Inverness. Thither St Columba journeyed within two years of his landing in the west, and after gaining access to the king by miraculous agency, as it is related, he converted him and his people to Christianity. Subsequent to this date, therefore, the missionaries of the Irish church began to visit this county, building churches, as they went, for their converts, and dedicating them to their saints.

Though dedications are no sure guide to the dates of erection of churches, it may be presumed that those to saints purely Celtic, and not in the Romish hagiology, are referable to the period of the Celtic church. To this period may have belonged the original church of Odrig, known as St Coomb's, and the church of Dirlot, dedicated to St Columba; the chapel near Strathmore, dedicated to St Ciaran; the church at Wick bearing the name of St Fergus; St Ninian's chapel at Wick; the church of St Trostan at Westfield; and probably the chapel of St Tears, whose name is supposed to be a corruption; St Maddan's at Freswick; and St Duthac's in the Moss of Kilmster. The sculptured monuments bearing inscriptions in Ogham characters (a variety of Irish monumental script) and symbols of unknown meaning, are also to be associated with the Celtic church. Of these, seven have been found in Caithness, though only three now remain in the county.

With the coming of the Norsemen the history of Caithness may be said to commence. From the end of the 8th century the Vikings infested the northern and western seas, spreading terror, and leaving desolation in their tracks. Twice within five years they destroyed the monastery of Iona, on the second visit slaying sixty-eight of its occupants; and in the year 852 they conquered Dublin, where Olaf the White established a kingdom. By the victory of Harald Harfager, or the Fair-Haired, in 872, which made him sole king of Norway, many of the wealthy landowners were dispossessed, and fled to Orkney, making these islands a convenient base from which they issued to plunder and vex the Norwegian kingdom. Harald collected

a powerful fleet, and subdued the northern and western isles, conferring on Rognvald, Earl of Moeri, the isles of Orkney and Shetland, with the title of Earl of Orkney. Rognvald made over his new possessions to his brother Sigurd; Sigurd, allying himself with Thorstein the Red, son of Olaf the White, king of Dublin, crossed to the mainland, and, subduing the Catti who occupied Caithness and Sutherland as far south as Ekkialsbakki, now identified as the Oykel, added their lands to the earldom. Throughout the period of the Norse Earldom, however, the dominion of the king of Scots in regard to Caithness was probably never relinquished, and it appears to have received early acknowledgment. The Norse udal system of tenure was productive of much ill-will between the joint holders of the earldom, and appeals for support to the king of Scots, from one or other of the rivals, occur from an early date. Sigurd the Stout, who fell at Clontarf in 1014, married a daughter of Malcolm II., and many other blood ties were doubtless formed between the two races. Duncan, the native maormor or chief, is mentioned in the *Orkneyinga Saga* as marrying the daughter of Thorstein the Red, about the year 875 A.D., and one Maddad is referred to as "appointed over Caithness by the king of Scots" nearly 200 years later.

To the end of the 10th century the Norsemen still retained their pagan faith, but there is no record to show that they interfered with the Celtic church in Caithness. In the year 995, Olaf Trygvison, who had established the Christian religion in Norway, encountering Sigurd, Earl of Orkney, as he returned from a cruise in the western seas, forced him to accept the faith. Earl Sigurd, however, a convert by compulsion, retained a lingering affection for his old belief till his death in 1014. This year may thus be taken to mark the termination of the pagan period of the Norse rule in Caithness.

The date of the foundation of the bishopric is unknown, but it is assumed that Andrew, who received a grant of land from King David in 1153, was the first bishop. The see included Sutherland as well as Caithness, and the cathedral church was at Dornoch, where, as well as at Halkirk and Scrabster, the bishop had a residence.

With the murder of Earl John in 1231, while taking refuge at Thurso, in the cellar of an inn which had been set on fire, there ended the line of the Norwegian earls who, for a period of 350 years, had ruled Orkney and Caithness. The tale of their rule may be read in the graphic narrative of the *Orkneyinga Saga*, believed to have been written in the 13th century by Biarni Kolbeinson, Bishop of Orkney from 1188-1223 A.D.

The Scandinavian influence on the topography and ethnology of the county has left its impress to a remarkable degree, though the absence of any peculiar system of tenure, or of customs of Scandinavian origin, such as are to be found in the neighbouring islands, tends to show that the Norwegian occupation did not imply the extirpation or eviction of the older inhabitants. The Celtic influence still remains predominant in the west and southwest, while an imaginary line drawn from the north of the Forss Water southwards to Latheron, roughly divides the areas of the Celtic and Scandinavian place-names.

There are in Caithness no remains of churches of distinctly Norse type, though the chapel and hospital dedicated to St Magnus may

originally have been of Norse construction. The oldest church, St Peter's, or St Mary's, at Lybster in Reay, may be of as early a date as the 12th century.

A few relics of the Viking period have been found in the county. On the summit of the mound covering a broch near Castletown was found in 1786, beneath a flat stone, a cist containing an unburnt burial, accompanied by two oval, bowl-shaped brooches of the type worn by women during the pagan period of the Norse invasions. Along with them were a bracelet of coarse jet and a bone pin 4" in length, all of which are now preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh. In 1837 two similar brooches were found in a full length stone cist in a gravel hillock on the farm of Westerseat, near Wick. Beside the Kirk o' Tang were discovered seven penannular bracelets of silver, and near the ruined church of St Peter's in Thurso, on the top of a cist containing an unburnt burial, a portion of a grave cross (No. 446), inscribed in runic characters, which is preserved in the Thurso Museum.

With the extinction of the line of the Norse earls, the earldom of Caithness, from which was now disjoined the County of Sutherland, passed to Malise, Earl of Strathern, and, after being held by various families, was finally settled, in 1455, on William Sinclair of Rosslyn, Lord High Chancellor of Scotland.

Being so remote from the centre of the kingdom, the county has not been associated in any particular degree with the stirring events of Scottish history. The history of the Sinclair earls and their almost incessant feuds with the neighbouring earls of Sutherland; the quarrels of the leading families—Sinclairs and Sutherlands, Keiths, Oliphants, and Gunns, furnish the chief materials of its story. This may be read in Calder's *History of Caithness*, the main authority for the greater part of which is Sir Robert Gordon's *Earldom of Sutherland*; while in a recent compilation, *The County of Caithness*, the various aspects of the county's development are treated of at length.

PART II.

ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

The early ecclesiastical structures in Caithness, though originally numerous, are now for the most part reduced to mere foundations. The styles of Gothic architecture do not seem to have penetrated into this remote county, though features of late date, such as the pointed windows in St Peter's, Thurso, occur in one or two instances, and the greater number of the structures have been small chapels, rudely built of the native slate, without mortar, and unrelieved by architectural ornament or enrichment.

The mere sites of chapels and churches number over thirty, and to these are to be added to complete the total the considerable ruins of St Mary's at Lybster in Reay parish, St Thomas' at Skinneth, St Magnus' at Spittal, St Peter's at Thurso, and St Trothan's at Odrig, as well as the parish churches of Dunnet and Canisbay, both still in use.

The most remarkable church, and that of earliest date, is **St Mary's at Lybster** (No. 338). In its main features, although

chancelled, it bears a strong resemblance to some of the rude chapels to be found on the islands to the W. and N. of Scotland. The entrance doorway, now built up, is situated in the centre of the W. wall, and has jambs which incline upwards, while in its existing walls there is no sign of a window, though possibly in the E. gable of the chancel, now gone, a narrow slit may have existed as in the primitive chapels. The nave and chancel are divided by a solid wall pierced by a low doorway, similar to that which gave access to the nave. Though it may not be possible definitely to date this structure, it probably belongs to a period as remote as the 12th century, and is certainly one of the earliest chancelled churches on the mainland of Scotland. **St Peter's Church, Thurso** (No. 418), appears in its present form to be the result of various alterations made to meet the requirements of different times, and probably the greater part of the building dates from the 16th or 17th century. Its plan discloses in the base of the tower a small, low-vaulted, apsidal cell, square on the outside, now unfortunately inaccessible. This cell has an early form quite unrelated in style to either the nave or transepts of the church, and is possibly a relic of 12th century date. The **church of St Thomas at Skinnet** (No. 91) is a chancelled building, with no architectural features to indicate its precise period of erection, but it evidently occupies the site of a much older structure, as the finely carved, sculptured stone (No. 445), now in the Thurso Museum, was found built into its S. wall. The remains of a Celtic cross (No. 93) are still to be seen on a slab standing adjacent to the doorway. The **churches of Dunnet and Canisbay** (Nos. 61 and 23), both on the north coast, are of Pre-Reformation date, possibly 14th century, and much resemble one another, each having a square tower in the centre of the west front, surmounted with a roof of the saddle-back type in line with the roof ridge of the church.

CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

The castellated buildings of Caithness, of which there are any considerable remains existing, range in date from the 14th to the 17th century, and furnish examples of the development of the castle throughout that period. Of any structures subsequent to the era of the brochs, such as might have been the halls of the Scandinavian earls or the castles of the Scottish maormors, and identifiable as such, there is not a trace. Nor are the great courtyard castles that express elsewhere in Scotland the prosperous reigns of Alexander II. and III. represented in this county. The small rectangular keeps, which came into vogue of necessity in the lean years beginning with the Wars of Independence, here commence the series. Such are the **Castles of Old Wick** (No. 495) and **Forse** (No. 185), occupying positions of great natural advantage on the necks of promontories whose precipitous flanks rise sheer from the ocean. A deep trench has been cut across each promontory, and from the seaward side of this rises the castle. Each is rudely built, and the thick walls are pierced by narrow windows few in number. The main doorway has been in the first floor reached by movable steps or by a ladder, and, as no stair exists in the thickness of the walls, probably some equally primitive arrangement in the interior gave access to

the upper floor. So similar are these two castles in character and plan that it may safely be assumed that no long interval separates the dates of their erection. Both properties belonged in the 14th century to Rannald Cheyne, who died in 1350, and from him they passed by marriage into the hands of the Sutherlands. Similar in type, but less primitive, is the **Castle of Braal** (No. 95). In its massive walls are a staircase and apartments, while its window embrasures, furnished with stone seats, form in themselves small rooms. The earliest record of Braal Castle is 1373. The many inconveniences experienced by the occupants of the small rectangular towers, with their scanty accommodation, led to a development of their plan by the addition of a wing projecting at right-angles to the main building, thus forming an L plan, and also by the erection of outbuildings against the inner wall of the barmkyn, or court. Though the L plan continued to be used as long as purely defensive castles were erected, the courtyard, with its surrounding buildings, is particularly characteristic of the period from 1400 to 1542. Of castles built between these dates in Caithness, of which there are now any substantial remains, we have **Bucholie** and **Girnigoe** (Nos. 32 and 497), both with courtyards attached, and **Ackergill Tower** (No. 494), retaining the simple rectangular form. Of these **Bucholie** is probably the earliest. The keep is small and rude in its masonry, while the passage leading through it to the courtyard beyond is characteristic of the 15th century. **Girnigoe** probably owes its origin to the first or second Sinclair, Earl of Caithness, and thus dates from the second half of the 15th century. It has originally been on an L plan, modified at a later date by the addition of a second wing. Like Bucholie, access is gained by a passage directly through the tower. Its complicated system of defence and singular situation must in early times have rendered it almost impregnable, and now distinguish it as one of the most remarkable castles in the North of Scotland. The erection of **Castle Sinclair** in its outer ward early in the 17th century must have added greatly to its importance. The **Tower of Ackergill**, which probably dates from the end of the 15th or beginning of the 16th century, though erected on the rectangular plan, is on such a scale that the inconveniences of the earlier structures of like form have been obviated. In its original state it was no doubt surrounded by a moat, now filled in. Of castles dating from the latter half of the 16th century there are **Brim** (No. 424), **Dounreay** (No. 343), **Keiss** (No. 498), and **Barrogill** (No. 31). The two former present no features of particular interest. **Keiss** stands on the edge of a cliff in a picturesque situation. In the treatment of the corbelling round the base of its turret it shows the modification of structural features to purely decorative detail, which came into vogue towards the end of the 16th century. The defensive character of the structure is less pronounced than in the earlier examples, and the more purely domestic aspect is coming into prominence. **Barrogill**, which is on a Z plan, shows a still further departure from the purely defensive type, and though the keep is still maintained, a large mansion with spacious rooms indicating an advanced degree of refinement has been added. This type of castle is peculiar to a period of about fifty years at the end of the 16th and commencement of the 17th century. One other castle remains

to be specially noticed, viz. **Dunbeath** (No. 187). Though of late date, and, according to the statement of a former proprietor, dating from 1633, it undoubtedly occupies the site of an earlier building, a part of which it may possibly incorporate. Standing on a lofty promontory, round whose base the ocean surges, it is the most picturesque mansion in Caithness. With its pointed angle turrets it shows in a marked degree the French influence, which at the period of its erection affected the style of Scottish domestic architecture. Though defensive considerations no longer control the plan, the details which they engendered continue to exist as purely decorative features. The castle has been altered to some extent on the exterior, but to no such degree as to forbid its being regarded as an admirable example of the Scottish domestic architecture of the first half of the 17th century.

The **town houses** of **Caithness** of date previous to 1707, that are of any interest, are few. None in Wick fall to be noticed, and in **Thurso** there are but two, both dating from the end of the 17th century. The old **town dwelling** of the **Murrays** of **Clairden** (No. 425, fig. 25), at the end of **Bank Street**, has been an important edifice in its time and contains an interesting carved stone mantelpiece. The other **old house**, which is in **Shore Street** (No. 426, pl. XL.), bears the date 1686, and has a picturesque tower carrying the stair to the upper flats, which projects right across the pavement of the street.

BROCHS.

Though the number of brochs still remaining in the county reaches the considerable total of 145, their condition is such that a mere superficial examination adds but little to our existing knowledge. The native stone of which they have been built in most districts is the Caithness shale, which, after long exposure to the elements, has become disintegrated and resolved into a soil that now maintains a luxuriant sward effectively concealing the details of the structure beneath. Thus by far the greater number are only distinguishable as grass-covered hillocks, or slight elevations in the cultivated land. In the latter instances, numerous fragments of shaley stone scattered over the surface occasionally afford an indication of the character of the remains beneath and lead to their identification.

But, though so little fresh knowledge is to be gleaned from superficial observation, many opportunities for enlightenment as to their constructive details have been afforded by excavations. Thanks mainly to the enterprise of the late Sir Francis Tress Barry, twenty-four of these ruins have been more or less completely cleared out, a larger number than in any other county, and the most important of the valuable relics which they have yielded are preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

From very few of the unexcavated examples are measurable details of their structure procurable. There are, however, certain features connected with the sites they occupy worthy of notice. In the plain, which stretches over the greater part of the county, there were not available commanding situations such as existed, and were so largely taken advantage of, throughout the neighbouring county of Sutherland, and means had consequently to be adopted to

make good the lack of natural advantages in position. In numerous instances where the site was on level ground this was effected either by excavating a ditch around it, and erecting a rampart or wall on the top of the scarp, or by building a formidable wall around the broch at some distance from its base. Examples of the former method are to be observed in the brochs of **Kilmster** (No. 507) and **Camster** (No. 522); while the latter finds its exposition in the "Road Broch" at **Keiss** (No. 517), the **Keiss Broch** (No. 515), and the broch at **Upper Borgue** (No. 206). Where existent, any low prominence seems to have been selected, and, if necessary, added to, so as to form a flat-topped mound of such diameter as would afford room for the tower and leave a space of some 20' or thereby between the base of the structure and the edge of the mound. This arrangement was probably adopted to give greater stability to the broch on its artificial foundation, but it also furnished a base court into which stock might be driven, thus resembling the enclosures occasionally to be found in front of the Sutherland brochs. The average present height of these mounds is about 8'. Against the scarp in two instances—the broch at **Stemster** in Reay parish (No. 344) and that at **Sibmister** in Odrig parish (No. 321), a revetment was observed, and it is probable that such a stone facing was general. The remains of a parapet wall or rampart are usually visible around the edge of the mound, while an encircling ditch, sometimes of considerable dimensions, completed the defences. Over the ditch passed a roadway on unexcavated ground, giving access to the enceinte. Good examples of this latter type are "**Cnoc Donn**" (No. 103), "**Carna Mairg**" (No. 105), and "**An Dun**" (No. 203). Along the coast line situations have been selected adjacent to the cliffs, or, as in the case of castles of later date, on the landward ends of promontories fortified by a ditch across the neck. Such are the situations of the brochs of **Crosskirk** (No. 347) and **Borrowston** (No. 348) in Reay parish, **Ness** (No. 33) and **Skirza Head** (No. 35) in Canisbay, and **Nybster** (No. 518) and "**Cairn of Elsay**" (No. 521) in Wick parish.

On considering the principal features of the structures themselves we find that, besides the twenty-four excavated examples, the interior diameter is revealed in only other six; but though, as in Sutherland, this dimension averages about 30', the variation is much greater, ranging from 22' in the promontory brochs of **Ness** and **Skirza Head** to about 43' in the broch on the cliff at **Borrowston**. The existence of two stairs on opposite sides of the court in four of the excavated brochs—**Acharole** (No. 466) in Watten Parish, and **Brounaban** (No. 511), **Keiss** (No. 515), and the "**Road Broch**" (No. 517) in Wick parish—is a structural feature not observed anywhere in the neighbouring county. In each of the three last mentioned there was evidence of a second entrance from the outside at the foot of one of the stairs. A similar arrangement was also found in the **Ness** broch, but unconnected with a stair. Outer passages leading up to the broch entrance and furnished with door checks have been exposed in the brochs of **Hillhead** (No. 520), **Kilmster**, and **Nybster**, while occasionally the wall on either side of the entrance has been strengthened by additional building on the outer face, as at the "**Cairn of Elsay**." Outbuildings forming a network of irregularly shaped chambers have in several cases been exposed

around the excavated brochs, while their presence in numerous other instances is revealed by surface indications. In Sutherland such outbuildings appear to be exceptional. Around the broch of **Yarrows** (No. 509) the existence of food refuse, presumably from the broch, beneath the level of these structures, demonstrates their secondary nature. A water supply was provided by wells sunk in the interior court as at **Keiss** (No. 515), **Ness** (No. 33), and "**Hill of Works**" (No. 3), or within the defences adjacent to the entrance as at **Hillhead** (No. 520); while to carry off surface water from the interior a drain was constructed, passing beneath the entrance passage. Such drains were observed in the brochs of **Brounaban** (No. 511), **Nybster** (No. 518), and others. The settings of slabs in the floor of the interior sometimes formed tanks or fireplaces, but the object of other arrangements formed by slabs on end or on edge and believed to be secondary is not equally apparent.

In a number of instances human remains have been found on the tops of the mounds covering the ruins. The extended burial, and the orientation of the bodies, usually characteristic of these interments, indicate their relation to Christian times. The burial found above the ruins of the broch at **Castletown** (No. 320), with which were two oval bowl-shaped brooches of brass (one of which is here shown,

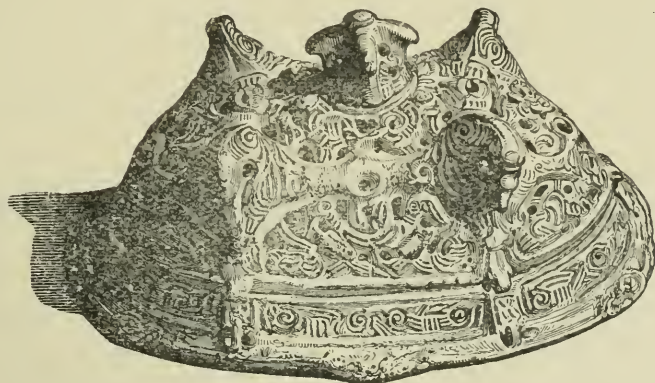


FIG. A.—Bowl-shaped Brooch from Castlehill, Castletown ($4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length).

fig. A.), belonged to the Norse pagan period, which, however, may be held to have terminated in the 11th century.

Of the relics recovered, many are objects of stone such as might have been utilised in any age, but such as bear the impress of a distinctive culture are clearly characteristic of the early iron age

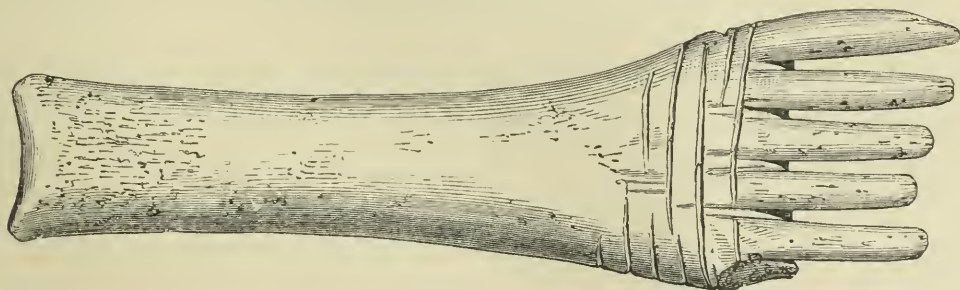


FIG. B.—Bone Weaving Comb from the Broch of Kettleburn.

period in Scotland. The long-handled bone weaving-combs (fig. B.) found in almost all brochs, and so frequently recovered from Romano-

British and late Celtic sites, the bronze tweezers (fig. C.) which came from the broch of **Kettleburn** (No. 588), the Roman pottery and glass

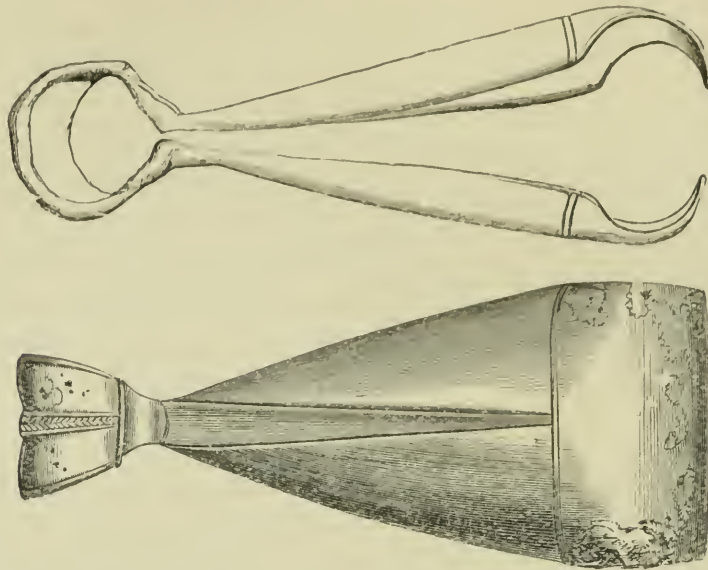


FIG. C.—Bronze Tweezers from the Broch of Kettleburn ($4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length).
Front and side views.

from the **Keiss** brochs, and the occasional objects of iron, all bear out this conclusion. Included among the relics are querns both rotary and of the saddle type (fig. D.), whorls for the spindle, and round objects of stone probably weights for the loom, stone mortars and

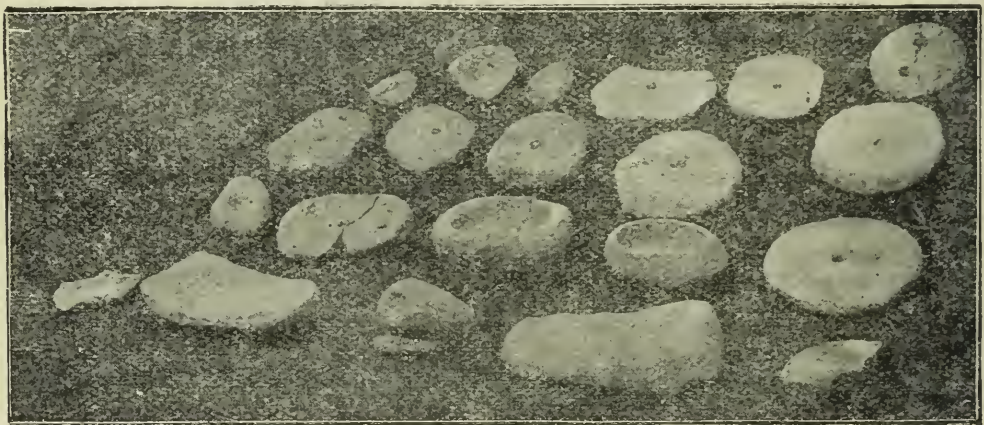


FIG. D.—Rubbing-stones, Querns, Stone Vessels, Pivot stone, etc., from the
"Road Broch," Keiss.

pounding stones, lamps and drinking cups of stone, two pins of bronze of similar type (the one from **Bowermadden** (fig. E.), the other from **Nybster**), each having a fixed annular head on a short, right-angled projection from the stalk, a ring and an armet of bronze, an iron spearhead, which came from the broch of **Dunbeath** (No. 215), and a few fragments of iron knives which came from the broch of **Yarrows**. With regard to the last two items, it must be observed that neither the position nor depth at which the spearhead was found is noted, nor is it stated whether the fragments of knives came from the actual broch or the secondary structures around it. Specially noteworthy are a number of quartzite pebbles of ovoid shape, painted

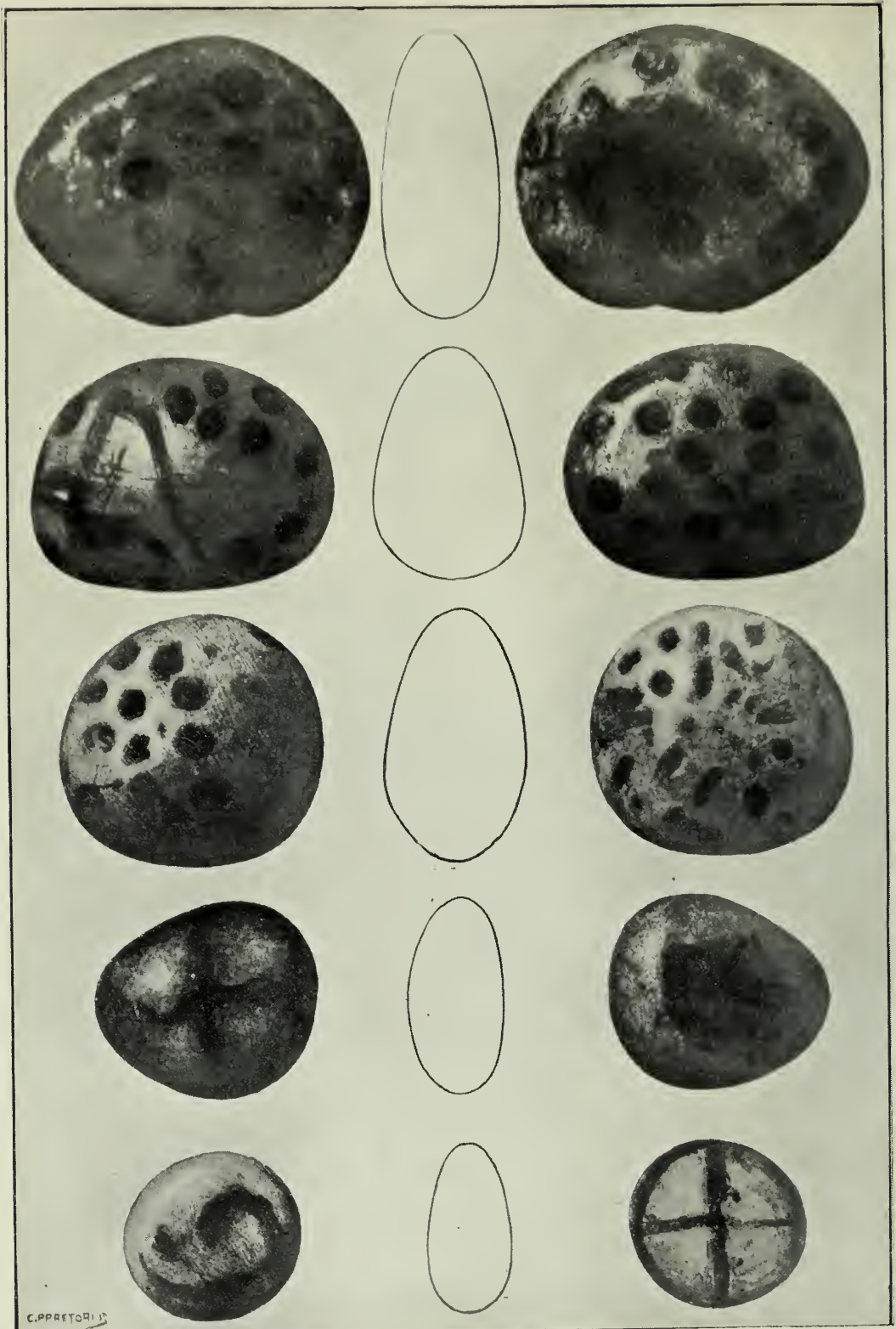


PLATE B.—Painted Pebbles from Keiss Brochs.

on their surfaces with spots in a blackish or brownish pigment (pl. B.), which came from the broch of "**Wester**" and the "**Road Broch**" at **Keiss**, and bear a close resemblance to others found in the cave of Mas d'Azil in the Pyrenees, ascribed in that case, to the transition

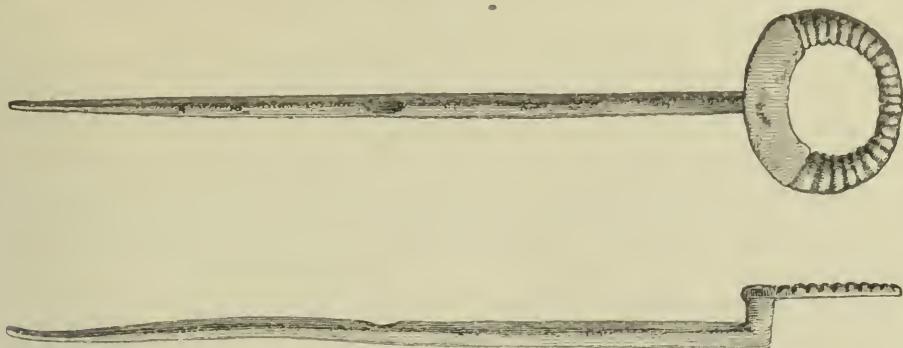


FIG. E.—Bronze Pin from the Broch of Bowermadden. Front and side views (actual size).

period between the palæolithic and neolithic cultures. Fragments of Roman pottery were found in three of the brochs. One small piece of 1st-century Samian ware (Dragendorff, type 29), and a small portion of the rim of a Roman glass vessel, came from the **Everley** broch (No. 36). The **Nybster** broch yielded a fragment of the same ware, but too much worn for exact identification; while from the "**Keiss** broch" there came two fragments of Samian ware bowls of 2nd-century type—one showing a figure of Venus (Déchelette, No. 173)—and also two pieces of white ware, covered with a black slip and decorated with a scroll ornament in white, of the same period. The Roman pottery found in the Keiss broch was not in the lowest level of occupation disclosed in the interior court. From the "**Road Broch**" at **Keiss** came a small sandstone disc (fig. F.) bearing on both



FIG. F.—Obverse and Reverse of Sandstone Disc from the "Road Broch," Keiss (slightly enlarged).

sides incised markings, unintelligible but suggestive of an attempted inscription. An object of unusual interest was the crown of a human skull found in the **Hillhead** broch, and which had been pierced near the centre with three holes forming roughly an equilateral triangle. A skull similarly pierced was found associated with late Celtic relics, by Sir Henry Dryden, in his excavations at Hunsbury, Northamptonshire.

The animal remains which the Caithness brochs have yielded include those of the reindeer, the true elk, and possibly the brown bear, also the great auk.

FORTS.

The fortified enclosures of Caithness may be divided into three main classes according to their situations, viz. :—

Hill forts.

Promontory forts.

Defensive enclosures on low ground and of small dimensions.

In the first class four are included, viz.—“**Buaile Oscar**” on **Ben Freiceadain** (No. 354), and the fort on **Cnoc an Ratha** near Shurrery (No. 355), both in Reay parish; an unnoted fort to the S. of the Loch of **Yarrows** (No. 512), and the fort of **Garrywhin** (No. 528). All these are stone forts, surrounded for the most part by thick walls built of flat stones, following the outline of the eminences on which they are situated, and in structure resembling the walls of the similar forts in Sutherland.

Within the fort of “**Buaile Oscar**,” and occupying a conspicuous position, are the considerable remains of a chambered round cairn. The fort on **Cnoc an Ratha**, in the same district, shows in the interior the ruins of what appears to be a bee-hive hut, and is remarkable for the large hut circle placed against the exterior face of the wall to the right of the entrance, apparently a part of the original plan. The fort of **Garrywhin** is particularly noticeable for the details of its entrance, a feature no longer prominent in the others. The wall, which along the flanks measures some 6' in thickness, on either side of the entrance has been increased to about 12', where against its outer and inner faces there have been set large slabs or portal stones, three of which remain *in situ*. Of the fort on the **Yarrow Hills** very little remains, and it is now recognisable mainly by the ditch in front of its entrance. With the hill forts has been associated, from its situation, a small, strongly fortified enclosure at the end of a rocky ridge above **Loch Watenan**, in the parish of Wick (No. 526). The interior is of such small dimensions that, were it not for the character of the remains and the absence of ruins, it might be taken for a broch. It greatly resembles a construction at East Kinnauld in Sutherland, and noted in the Inventory for that county.* In both cases there is an inner circular enclosure with a diameter of about 30', and an outer encircling wall along the edge of the narrow ridge or rock on which the construction has been placed. It is probably a coincidence, but perhaps worthy of observation, that in each case a broch has existed a few hundred yards away.

Of promontory forts there are only three, and the application of the term to two of these is dubious. The undoubted example exists on the most easterly portion of the promontory of **Holborn Head** near Thurso (No. 438). It has been formed by the construction of a stone wall across the promontory, in rear of a spot where the breadth of the neck has been diminished by the erosion of the rock from either side. The interior of the fort is barren and wind-swept, and shows no signs of occupation.

* *Inventory of the Monuments of Sutherland* (No. 479).

Across the landward end of **St John's Point**, in Canisbay parish, has been dug a deep ditch, further protected by a wall on the top of the scarp (No. 40). The area thus cut off measures some 10 acres in extent, and is said to contain the site of a chapel.

The third fortified position is the remarkable peninsular rock called "**An Dun**" (No. 223), in the parish of Latheron. It is a hog-backed ridge of small extent rising from precipitous flanks, and lying parallel with the cliffs on the mainland, to which it is linked by a natural bridge of rock at a level considerably below that of the ground at either end. Though the peninsula affords hardly any flat ground, and is for the most part steeply sloped, there are visible the remains of a wall along its crest facing the bridge.

Other two fortified enclosures are to be distinguished from those in the foregoing classes by their situations on low-lying ground and their different characteristics. Near the roadside at Kilmster, to the N. of Wick, is an oval enclosure surrounded by a single rampart of earth and stone, with a ditch outside it (No. 529). The enclosure is regularly under cultivation and the defences are in part obliterated. The fragments of flint, worked and otherwise, which have been collected from its surface suggest that this is a defensive site of an early period. The other construction, situated on the estate of Barrock, on land which has been mossy but is now drained, bears the name of the "**Ring of Castle Hill**" (No. 4). It is a circular mound, partially artificial, with a low parapet on the top of the scarp and surrounded by a ditch, formerly wet, with a broad, flat-topped rampart outside it. The construction bears a strong resemblance to many of the moated mounds on which brochs have been erected, but there is no surface indication of its ever having carried such a structure. The regularity maintained in the lines of its defences suggests a possible mediæval origin.

In addition to the foregoing there are two or three small circular constructions whose dimensions and more defensible aspect seem to differentiate them from ordinary hut circles. Such is the enclosure near **Langwell** (No. 224), with an interior diameter of 32' and a wall measuring 11' in thickness. A similar construction has been noted near Auchinduch in Sutherland.* Of a somewhat similar character, as being more important than an ordinary hut circle, appears to be the enclosure near **Watenan** (No. 527).

HUT CIRCLES.

The hut circles of Caithness are comparatively few in number, and show only in a trifling degree the diversity of plan and feature which distinguishes those in the neighbouring county of Sutherland—the simple pear-shaped or oval form, with a bank, or wall, of even thickness, being most generally met with. In distribution they are confined chiefly to the hilly regions on the S. and W., the greatest numbers being found in the Parish of Latheron, where the physical aspect of the country differs but little from that of the adjacent part of Sutherland. Elsewhere, among the **Yarrow Hills** and near **Ulbster** in Wick parish, a few are to be found (No. 530 *et seq.*); a small group is situated on **Flex Hill** in Watten Parish (No. 476), and by the

* *Inventory of the Monuments of Sutherland* (No. 55).

bases of **Ben Freiceadain** and **Ben Dorrery** in Reay and Halkirk are several others. Smaller enclosures, built against the bank of a larger circle and adjacent to the entrance, were met with several times, and in one instance a double circle was noticed forming a figure 8, the inner enclosure entering through the back of the other (No. 125). The hut circle (No. 357, fig. 20) situated at the base of **Ben Freiceadain**, illustrates a plan not infrequently observed in Sutherland.* Its main features are the segmental wall dividing the interior, and the thickening of the wall on either side of the entrance so as to form a passage. There is one exceptional construction (No. 356) situated near **Brawlbin**, which, though without parallel in Caithness, seems to find its analogue in Sutherland.† It appears to be a solid building, with a diameter of some 45', having chambers within it opening off a narrow passage which curves around the interior.

In a few instances hut circles were observed connected with larger enclosures (Nos. 244 and 245), as was frequently the case in the neighbouring county, but here such association was exceptional. The small mounds of earth and stone, with a diameter of from 12' to 26', presumed to be sepulchral, which occur so frequently in close proximity to hut circles in Sutherland, were more rarely met with in Caithness. They were, however, observed in a number of instances, *e.g.* on **Warehouse Hill** (No. 225), by the **Berriedale Water** (No. 231), and near **Ulbster** (No. 534), situated adjacent to hut circles.

A number of oblong structures with rounded ends are the remains of shieling bothies connected with the practices of farming in former days. They are to be found in the upland part of the county, usually situated on low hillocks in a sheltered hollow by the side of a burn. The booth consisted of a dwelling apartment and a place for storing the milk vessels, while there was in addition a small fold to keep the calves separated from the cows during the night. The women and girls went up yearly to the shielings with the cows about midsummer, and there remained, making butter and cheese for a month or six weeks, while the hill pasture was good. The practice had fallen into disuse by the end of the 18th century.‡

EARTH-HOUSES.

Only three earth-houses came under observation in the county, of which two were in the **Strath of Langwell** (Nos. 246 and 247) in Latheron Parish, and one was near **Ham** (No. 65) in Dunnet parish. The former are both imperfect, but are of the simple gallery type of which a number of instances occur in the adjacent Strath of Kildonan in Sutherland. One of them (No. 247) is situated among the foundations of rectangular buildings which appear to be the remains of crofters' houses. The earth-house near **Ham** is of a different class. Instead of being beneath the natural surface of the ground, it occupies the centre of a large artificial mound reached by a low and narrow entrance passage opening off an oval depression which

* See *Inventory of the Monuments of Sutherland*, No. 512, fig. 75.

† *Ibid.*, Nos. 429 and 500.

‡ See *General View of the Agriculture of Caithness* (1812), p. 145.

suggests a hut circle. The passage at its termination gives access to a distinct chamber, the floor of which, covered with food refuse, bears abundant evidence of occupation. The marked absence of underground dwellings throughout the county is possibly due to the shallowness of the soil.

GALLERIED DWELLINGS.

In the parish of Latheron, which occupies the southern end of the county, a class of dwelling was met with which has not hitherto come under observation. In plan the construction is either circular with an interior diameter usually of from 20' to 25', or oblong with rounded ends measuring on an average about 45' by 14', while occasionally there are conjoined chambers or enclosures of both forms. The walls, now as a rule much ruined, are formed of large stones laid in courses without mortar. At some 3' or 4' inwards from the face of the wall around the interior, pillar stones have been set in the floor 5' to 6' distant from each other, and judging from the one example which has been excavated (No. 250), from 5' to 6' in height above the floor level. From the top of the wall there have been laid to the top of the pillars, which have been of similar height, massive slabs measuring from 6' to 7' in length, 2' to 3' in breadth, and from 7" to 12" in thickness, while roofing the interspaces slabs of square-like form have been laid across, as may be seen in the "**Cor Tulloch**" at **Houstry of Dunbeath** (No. 262, pl. XXII.), where one such slab remains *in situ*. By these means a covered gallery, or aisle, has been formed around the interior leaving a central nave between the opposing pillars. Whether this was roofed over or left open it is not possible to state definitely without further excavation; but in the oblong examples, where the total width in the interior on an average is about 15', and the width of the central area only some 4' or 5', the completion of a slab roof over the whole structure is most probable. In the circular buildings, where the area within the circle of pillars has a diameter of 16' or 17', the employment of such a form of roofing is unlikely. In the example excavated, the chamber had been partially dug out of the slope of a hill, and the floor level at the back lay in consequence as much as 4' to 5' below that of the surface on the exterior. The masses of ruins from the fallen pillars and roofing slabs which now encumber the interiors, as well as the considerable accumulation of soil, disguise this feature, but it seems probable, from the low height to which the pillars are now usually exposed, that previous to the erection of the buildings the sites have been dug out.

Though the actual chambers containing the galleries are as a rule circular or oblong, there is considerable variety in the plans of the structures of which they have formed a part. On the **Wagmore Rigg** (No. 248) two circular enclosures lie conjoined; those near the base of **Morven** (No. 249) and near **Braemore** (No. 252) are combined circles and oblongs; the example near **Langwell** (No. 250) is a curved oblong attached to a hut circle around which there has been no gallery; while that near **Forse** (No. 263) consisted of four galleries varying in length from 48' to 54' or 55', and in breadth from 11' to 15', all interior measurements, with indications of circular enclosures connected with them. The large circular structure at **Dail**

a' chairn, Braemore (No. 255), though much ruined, appears to have had a second and inner concentric line of pillars. The oblong enclosure at Langwell was found to be divided into two by a cross wall near the centre, leaving an outer court which showed no signs of having been roofed.

Most of these structures occur in very remote situations. Far up the Langwell Strath, at the base of Morven, there are two or three; across the watershed on the Berriedale, by Braemore, are a number of others; while that at Dail a' chairn, is in an inaccessible spot several miles further up the Berriedale glen. In the Strath of the Dunbeath river, near the lonely shepherd's house of Achnaclyth, their ruins may be seen; while near the extremity of the cultivated land at Houstry of Dunbeath is a large example—the "Cor Tulloch."

Before the roofs had fallen, the cave-like appearance of these dwellings caused the Gaelic-speaking people to term them "**Uamh**" or "**Uamhag**," a name still surviving in the Anglicised corruption "**Wag**." The ruined condition to which they have now been reduced renders the original term no longer descriptive, though it still survives as a place-name. **Wagmore Rigg** takes its name from the circular constructions (No. 248); "**Wag Mor**" represents a group of three in the Dunbeath deer forest (No. 256), while "**The Wag**" by the side of the Wag Burn signifies another group near **Achnaclyth**.

Though no examples were found outside Latheron parish, it is possible that some of the indeterminate constructions concealed beneath grassy mounds near Shurrery, in Reay parish, may have been of this character. Further, in the secondary buildings beside the broch of Yarrows, the upright slabs placed at short distances from the wall in the interior of the two long enclosures evidently indicate a similar structural arrangement.

Though no upright pillars or fallen slabs in the interior of any of the Sutherland hut circles suggested this type of dwelling, there is a resemblance to them in the forms of the oblong structures noted in Strath Brora and in the wood near Uppat* in that county. Thomas Pennant, in the account of his tour in the Highlands of Scotland in 1769, furnishes a description, supplied by the Rev. Alexander Pope of Reay, of certain "forest" or "hunting-houses" in Glen Loth in Sutherland which he says were called by the natives "Uags."† The description suggests that they were analogous to the structures under discussion. The foundations of these buildings are still visible and are noted on the Ordnance Map, but they are overgrown with grass and their plans are indeterminate. Structures of an analogous nature are said to occur in Orkney, and the ruins of a circular building, with a row of built piers, instead of monoliths, around the interior giving support to a bee-hive roof, are to be seen near Huishnish in South Uist, and are described and illustrated in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, vol. vii. p. 165, pl. xxxiv. and xxxv.

To these structures there may be assigned an origin in the iron age, and, from their varied plans, probably a late one; but their exact position in the sequence of ancient habitations has yet to be revealed.

* See *Inventory of the Monuments of Sutherland* (Nos. 37 and 282, figs. 6 and 33).

† See Pennant's *Tour* (1772), Pt. II., *Additions to the Tour in Scotland*, p. 18.

CHAMBERED CAIRNS.

1. *Horned Cairns.*

The number of horned cairns still recognisable in the county is fifteen, though many of them are in an extreme state of dilapidation and have suffered much for the sake of the stones of which they have been composed. Of the fifteen, **eleven** are **horned long cairns**, while the remaining **four** are of the **horned—round**, or **short horned** variety. Though they are distributed with fair regularity throughout the county from Dounreay in the NW. to the Strath of Langwell in the S., in two particular regions they preponderate at the present time—in the hills around the Loch of Yarrows in Wick parish, where there are five to be found, and by Loch Calder and Shebster Hill in the parish of Reay, where there are six.

Only four of the first class are known to have been excavated. The horned long cairns of **Yarrows** (Nos. 543 and 544), and the similar cairn at **Camster** (563), were explored and reported on by Dr Joseph Anderson in 1865–66, and the cairn of **Heathercro** in the parish of Bower (No. 5) was examined by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry, but no record was published. Though each of the four cairns had a chamber in the higher or easterly end, these chambers were not uniform in plan. In the **Yarrows** cairns the chambers were tripartite or tricameral, and were reached by passages entering from the centre of the frontal concavity. The chamber in the prominent end of the cairn of **Camster** (No. 563) was a small cell, entered from the side of the cairn by a low narrow passage about 2' in height and breadth; but near the centre of the length of the cairn there was a large tri-

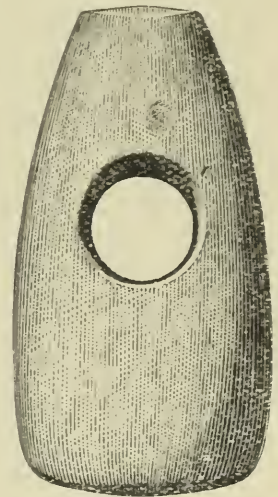


FIG. G.—Polished Hammer of Grey Granite (4 inches in length) from the Ormiegill Cairn (No. 556).



FIG. H.—Arrow-head of Flint from the Ormiegill Cairn.



FIG. I.—Leaf-shaped Arrow-head of Flint (actual size) from the "Cairn of Get" (No. 559).

partite chamber, reached by a passage from the same side as the other and remarkable for its size. The chamber in the end of the **Heathercro** cairn was five-sided, undivided, and of small size, 4' 8" in width, and was entered also from the side, thus resembling the cell in the **Camster** cairn.

Of the **horned, round cairns**, two, the cairns of **Ormiegill** and "**Get**" (Nos. 556 and 559), are in Wick parish, and two (Nos. 372 and 374) are in the parish of Reay. The former have both been excavated by Dr Joseph Anderson, and some of the relics found are here illustrated (figs. G, H, and I).

The chamber of the **Ormiegill** cairn was tripartite, while that of the "**Cairn of Get**" was divided into two compartments. Neither of the other two cairns has been explored.

The results of Dr Joseph Anderson's examination of the horned cairns of Caithness are summed up in his article thereon published in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, vol. vii. p. 480. The conclusions he arrived at were that, though there was no actual proof that the primary interments in these cairns were those of unburnt bodies, yet the discovery of fragments of unburnt human bone under and through the deposit of ashes and burnt bones on the chamber floor, as well as quantities of unburnt teeth in the corners of the compartments, might lead to that presumption. The compacted layer of burnt human bones, burnt and splintered bones of animals, and fragments of pottery which formed the floors, was ample evidence of a period during which burial after cremation was practised and one possibly of very long duration, while the human remains of unburnt bodies deposited above it with unburnt bones of animals indicated the latest mode of sepulture. Between the long and short cairns there was a marked difference in the quantity of contents found in the chambers. "In both the short cairns the accumulation of ashes and burnt bones in the floors was very great. In the long cairns the floor was composed nearly as much of clay as of ashes and bones. In the short cairns the quantity of broken pottery was very large. Pottery only occurred in one of the long cairns, and then only two small fragments were found—the secondary cist and its contents [in No. 544] being excepted. In both the short cairns flint chips and worked flints were numerous, and finished weapons were found in both; but no vestige of worked flint was found in any of the long cairns, except a small conical core, and even chips were extremely rare. While, therefore, cremation seems to have been practised sparingly in the long cairns, it becomes the principal feature of the chamber in the short ones, and along with it the deposition of weapons and ornaments seems to have taken place only in the short cairns."*

2. *Unhorned (long) Cairns.*

No single example of the **unhorned long cairns**, of which there are six or seven in the county, has been explored; it is unknown, therefore, whether or not in the character of their chambers or the nature of their contents they present any difference from the horned variety. Externally, except for the absence of horns, they do not differ in appearance, and though the situation of certain of these cairns precludes the idea of their ever having been horned, yet in several other cases evidence of the horn-like projections and frontal concavity might be discovered beneath the turf on excavation.

The orientation of the long cairns of both classes is usually stated to be E. and W., with the more prominent extremity in the former direction. This statement, however, is only approximately accurate, for, of the eighteen examples noted, only three (including one regarded as a site) lie with their main axes E. and W. and their prominent end towards the E. One (No. 441) lies N. and S., expanding towards the latter direction. Two (Nos. 369 and 370) lie adjacent to each other on the crest of a hill, so placed that they converge in direction with

* *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, vol. vii. p. 509.

their more prominent extremities towards the point of convergence, the main axis of one lying WNW. and ESE., and of the other NNE. and SSW.

3. *Round Cairns.*

The **round cairns** whose chambered character has been ascertained number thirty-eight. Excavation in these has revealed much the same conditions as in the horned round cairns—the same compacted floor of ashes in which are intermingled burnt human bones and bones of domestic animals, numerous fragments of pottery, and chips and tools or weapons of flint, with the remains of unburnt interments on the surface of the floor.

The cases in which the chamber has been fully exposed (which form, however, only a small proportion of the total number of chambered cairns in the county) seem to indicate that the prevailing plan of the chamber has been tripartite, as in Sutherland it was markedly bipartite. The excavated cairns are mostly situated on the E. side of the county. In the W. near **Shurrery** is a large cairn (No. 362, pl. XXXIII.) from which massive slabs project in such a manner as to suggest that the chamber to which they appear to belong is of a form not hitherto recorded in the county; while another cairn situated in the vicinity (No. 363), which has been demolished recently for road metal, has contained either two large parallel chambers or a chamber of complex character such as is to be found in certain cairns in Orkney. A cairn near **Halkirk** (No. 129) seems to have been of a similar variety.

One of the excavated cairns, "**Cairn Hanach**" (No. 562), showed in its chamber a peculiarity of plan. While the chamber itself was bipartite, there opened off the inner compartment on one side a small recess. The fragments of pottery found embedded in the floor within the chamber of this cairn were extraordinarily numerous, and, from the variety of their quality and ornament, they probably indicate the use of the cairn over the transitional period between the neolithic and bronze ages. A cairn with a similar recess, but opening off an undivided chamber, was noted near Aultnacealgach in Sutherland* and the fragments of pottery recovered from it were also such as probably belonged to a late date.

Besides the difference from the prevailing type of Sutherland cairn revealed in the existence of tripartite instead of bipartite chambers, another marked distinction is to be noted in the character of the building. While in the Sutherland chambers the use of large slabs in substitution of building is almost invariable, in those of Caithness slabs of great size are, with rare exception, employed only as partition stones and in the back wall. In Sutherland a similar feature was observed to be peculiar to certain round cairns also with tripartite chambers on the E. coast adjacent to the Caithness border.

The fashion of demarcating the base of a round cairn with large boulders, especially noticeable in the case of those of small size in Sutherland, does not appear to have been followed to any extent in this county. In two instances, however, it was especially noticed—

* *Inventory of the Monuments of Sutherland* (No. 14).

the "**Earl's Cairn**" at **Hollandmaik** (No. 72, pl. XI.), and the "**Cnoc na Ciste**" on **Sordale Hill** (No. 442). Both of these, however, are chambered cairns and not of small dimensions. These cairns have been excavated, but in neither case does there seem to be a record of the particulars observed, and the details known do not warrant any conclusions as to the period of their erection.

Though in no instance do standing-stones appear in the outline of the horns of any of the horned long cairns as in the **Coille na Borgie** cairn in Sutherland, yet, as in that cairn, upright stones occur at irregular intervals along the outline of the "**Tulach an t-Sionnaich**" near **Loch Calder** (No. 135).

Attention may be directed to the situations on which many of the chambered cairns have been erected. Though no invariable practice seems to have been followed in the selection of a site, the top of some elevation of moderate height, rising from the plain and conspicuous from afar, has been seldom left unappropriated. The summit of **Cnoc Freiceadain**, on **Shebster Hill**, is crowned with the two horned long cairns (Nos. 369 and 370) visible from a large surrounding area; and equally conspicuous against the sky-line from the W. is the long cairn (No. 439) on **Sordale Hill**. The **Heathercro** cairn (No. 5) occupies the end of a hill which rises from the **Brabster Moss**, and large round cairns are to be found on the sunmits of **Cnoc na Maranaich**, the **Warehouse Hill**, and **Ben Freiceadain** respectively.

CAIRNS CONTAINING CISTS.

In thirteen cairns cists have been revealed, and, of these, nine are situated in the parish of Wick. In several instances also, cists were observed placed as secondary constructions within cairns of an earlier period. One was found by Dr Joseph Anderson set in the floor of the outer compartment of one of the long cairns of **Yarrows** (No. 544), another was found in the long cairn known as "**Sinclair's Shean**" (No. 10), while, near the distal end of one of the horns of a horned round cairn at **Upper Dounreay** (No. 372), another is exposed. A megalithic cist was discovered in a cairn (No. 551) on **Warehouse Hill**, containing the skull and bones of a human skeleton lying on a quantity of shingle.

Two cairns containing cists (Nos. 558 and 560) were noted in definite association with stone rows.

STONE CIRCLES.

There is a remarkable absence of stone circles in Caithness, though tradition, and the occurrence of monoliths whose appearance suggests that they have respectively formed parts of such settings, imply that a number which formerly existed have now disappeared. There is at the present time only one undoubted example in which more than two stones remain erect, *i.e.* the stone circle at **Guidebest**, in the parish of Latheron (No. 279). In the neighbourhood of this circle, but further down the burn of Latheronwheel and on its opposite bank, other two circles, destroyed about forty years ago, are said to have stood, but of these no record appears to exist. One unnoted

stone circle (No. 141) was discovered on **Achanarras Hill**, in the parish of Halkirk, but the five large stones which now represent it are all prostrate. A setting of stones (No. 142) at **Backlass**, in the same parish, is possibly the remains of another, but its character is doubtful.

The O.S. map indicates a stone circle near **Forse** (No. 294), but the situation of three stones which remain does not suggest that, in their present positions at least, they have formed part of such a monument.

STANDING-STONES (SETTINGS OF).

One of the most remarkable monuments in the county is the setting of standing-stones at **Achkinloch** (No. 293, pl. XXX.). It is in form an irregular oval open at one end like a horseshoe, estimated originally to have contained fifty-four stones when complete, of which thirty-four are still standing. All the stones are placed with their broad faces across the line of direction of the circumference of the oval. Outside it a cist-like construction of flags is set in the ground abutting on one of the stones, but it is not known whether it contained an interment or not. There have been noted in the Inventory the remains of what appears to have been a similar monument (No. 163, fig. 10) in Halkirk parish, near **Broubster**. It is, however, in a very imperfect condition. No cairn is apparently connected with either setting, and their true significance is unknown.

STONE ROWS.

Settings of stone rows are unusually numerous in Caithness. In all, ten examples have been noted, of which seven are in the parish of Wick, five of them lying at no great distance from each other near **Watenan**, where, associated in locality with them, are cairns and other prehistoric monuments. A similar association characterises the setting at **Upper Dounreay** (No. 397). The setting in Latheron parish (No. 292) has given a name to its situation, "The Hill o' Many Stanes," and is the most remarkable monument of this class in the county. Many of the stones which composed its twenty-two rows have been removed, but a sufficient number still remain to render it impressive. Since 1871, when a plan was made, the numbers appear to have been reduced considerably. Four of the settings (Nos. 165, 558, 560, and 561) radiate from cairns, two of which have been excavated and contained cists. In one of the latter, examined by Dr Joseph Anderson, there were found fragments of an urn decorated with the impress of a twisted cord, and two oval-shaped pieces of chipped flint. There is no record regarding the excavation of the other cist. One setting near **Broughwhin** (No. 572) is peculiar, in that it consists of two rows radiating from a single upright stone and not from a cairn. The number of rows in these monuments varies, but the character of the stones of which they are formed, and the method in which they are placed, are very similar in all cases. The stones are as a rule small slabs, seldom standing to a greater height than two feet above the present ground level, firmly wedged in at the base with smaller stones, and placed so that their broader surfaces face across the direction of the rows. In some instances

the size of the slabs increases slightly towards the outer extremities of the rows.

It is worthy of note that similar settings found in Sutherland were in the Strath of Kildonan, which lies adjacent to the Caithness boundary on the south, and that no others of a similar character are known at the present time in Scotland.

STANDING-STONES.

There are a large number of standing-stones throughout the county. The most conspicuous are the stone on the moor at **Borgue** (No. 290), and a stone of great dimensions at **Latheron** (288), each measuring 12' 8" in height. Some of the stones are pillars, more or less square in section, and others are flat slabs, but whether any significance attaches to this distinction is unknown. On the crest of a ridge adjacent to the Loch of **Yarrows** are two conspicuous pillars, 18' 6" apart. Though excavation was made many years ago around them, no trace of an interment was found. Pairs of stones have also been noted in **Bower** parish, where a prostrate stone was observed 96' SSE. of the stone known as "**Stone Lud**" (No. 13); on the **Hill of Rangag**, where one only of the pair (No. 284) remains erect, the other having fallen about fifty years ago; and at **Achvarasdal** (No. 404), where both stones lie prostrate. The Rangag stones are 160' apart, while those at Achvarasdal are 60' from one another. Distant 64' to the SE. of the pair by the Loch of **Yarrows** are the remains of a small cairn, which contained a cist; while 23' to the NW. of "**Stone Lud**" are also the remains of a small cairn, apparently excavated. A single standing-stone on **Cnoc na Maranaich** (No. 276) stands 20' to the E. of a ruined cairn which seems to have been chambered. No observance of any fixed rule in the orientation of the standing-stones has been noticed.

CUP-MARKED STONES.

Only three cup-marked stones (No. 576) have been recorded, and these are all detached blocks collected together at **Nybster**.

SCULPTURED STONES.

The sculptured stones bearing symbols or crosses characteristic of the period of the Celtic church have not been found in such numbers in Caithness as in some other counties in the north-east of Scotland. In all, there are on record nine stones sculptured with symbols or interlacing designs. Of these, three (Nos. 299, 577, 587) are now in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh; two (Nos. 93 and 340) are beside the remains of the churches of **Skinnet** and **Reay** respectively; one (No. 444) has been removed from the old churchyard at Ulbster to the top of a mound in front of **Thurso Castle**; another (No. 445) is in the **Thurso Museum**; one (No. 405) is said to have gone to Denmark; and the last (No. 407) was found covering a mill-lade and is now at **Sandside House**. Of these stones, five are of the class on which symbols appear without the cross, two show

symbols as well as a cross enriched with Celtic interlaced work, and two bear such crosses without any other device.

On three of the stones of the first class there appears a symbol of unknown meaning, consisting of three connected oval figures (pl. XXXVII.), which, so far, has not been found elsewhere in Scotland. On two of the stones of the same class are portions of Ogham inscriptions. The survey has produced one new example of the third variety, the cross slab (No. 93) beside the ruined church at **Skinnet**. Several crosses of later date have been recorded for the first time, among which one on a boulder at Lybster (No. 297) is perhaps the most interesting.

At **Sandside House** there is a second stone bearing symbols, but these obviously are not of the character associated with Celtic art.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Among the miscellaneous monuments, attention may be directed to the inscribed memorial commemorating members of the **Groat** family, built into the wall of Canisbay Church (No. 25). The inscription is not clear, and has possibly suffered from re-cutting at some period.

The detached **bell-tower** in **Latheron** (No. 283) is a structure of unusual occurrence in Scotland, and probably of 17th century date.

An object of peculiar interest is the **impression** of a **human foot** (No. 162) cut on a rock surface near Shurrery. A number of such sculpturings are to be found in Scotland and elsewhere, and it is asserted, in regard to those in this country and in Ireland, that they indicate the places of inauguration of petty kings or chieftains.*

A number of **old dove-cots** of various forms have been noted and illustrated. One on the island of Stroma (No. 50, pl. VII.) bears a date—1677—and is further peculiar in that it forms an upper storey to a burial vault.

* See *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, vol. xiii. p. 28, where a number of instances of the occurrence of such marks is given.

TABLE SHOWING THE CONDITION AND DIMENSIONS, WHERE ASCERTAINABLE, OF BROCHS IN THE COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

No. in Inventory.	Name and Situation.	Diameter over all.	Diameter of Interior.	Condition.
<i>Parish of Bower.</i>				
1	Halero . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
2	"Gunn's Hillock," Barrock	...	...	A low mound surmounted with trees.
3	"Hill of Works," do.	55'	29'	Excavated.
18	Camster . . . . .	...	...	A mound under cultivation.
19	Bowertower . . . . .	...	...	A mound (partially removed).
22	Ha' of Bowermadden . . . . .	...	c. 30'	Excavated and removed.
<i>Parish of Canisbay.</i>				
33	Ness Broch, Freswick	52' 6"	22'	Excavated.
34	Freswick Links	55' 8"	32' 8"	do.
35	Skirza Head	50'	22'	do.
36	Everley, Tofts of Freswick	60'	29'	do.
37	Brabstermire . . . . .	...	...	A mound under cultivation.
38	Scoolary . . . . .	...	...	do.
39	Hollandmey (supposed broch) . . . . .	...	...	do.
52	Auckingill . . . . .	...	...	A site under cultivation.
53	Gills . . . . .	...	...	A mound under cultivation.
54	Stemster . . . . .	...	...	A site under cultivation.
<i>Parish of Dunnet.</i>				
62	Scarfskerry . . . . .	...	...	A fragment on a promontory.
63	Murza . . . . .	...	...	A mound under cultivation.
64	Ha' of Greenland (supposed broch) . . . . .	...	...	do.
<i>Parish of Halkirk.</i>				
96	Mybster . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
97	Achies . . . . .	...	...	do.
98	do. . . . .	...	...	do.
99	Achanarras . . . . .	...	...	A fragmentary mound.
100	Spital . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
101	do. . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound (partially removed).
102	Achlochan Moss . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered annular mound.
103	"Cnoc Donn," Dale . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.

No. in Inventory.	Name and Situation.	Diameter over all.	Diameter of Interior.	Condition.
104	Dale . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound (partially removed).
105	"Carn na Maing," Westerdale	52'	31'	A grass-covered mound (entrance passage exposed).
106	"Tulach Buaillea' Chnoic," do.	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
107	"Tulach Beag," Tormsdale.	...	...	A grass-covered mound (partially removed).
108	"Tulach Mor," do.	c. 54'	...	A grass covered mound.
109	Leosag . . . . .	...	...	A mound under cultivation.
110	North Calder . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
111	Framside . . . . .	...	...	do.
112	"Tulloch of Achavarn"	62'	...	Removed almost to its foundations.
113	"Shean Harraig," Scots-calder . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
114	Upper Sour . . . . .	...	...	do.
115	"Housel Cairn," Halkirk (supposed broch) . . . . .	...	...	do.
116	Skinnet . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound (partially removed).
117	"Knockglass," Westfield . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
179	Hoy . . . . .	...	...	Site marked on O.S.
180	Achies . . . . .	...	...	do.
<i>Parish of Latheron.</i>				
189	Camster . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
190	Warehouse	60'	...	do.
191	"Green Hill," Roster	64'	...	do.
192	Ballachly, Stemster . . . . .	...	...	do.
193	Bruan	50'	...	do.
194	"Gunn's Hillock," Bruan . . . . .	...	...	do.
195	Mid Clyth, . . . . .	...	...	do.
196	Tiantulloch, Houstry	56'	...	do.
197	Minera, Newlands of Houstry	70'	...	do.
198	Occumster . . . . .	...	...	do.
199	Achavar, Occumster	68'	...	do.
200	"Tulloch Ternal," Langwell	48'-50'	...	Much dilapidated and pilaged.
201	"Burg Langwell," do.	48'	28'	Excavated to a small extent.
202	"Tulach Bad a' Choilich, do. . . . .	...	...	Much dilapidated.
203	"An Dun" Allt an Duin, Berriedale.	46'	24'	Wall exposed to a height of 3'.
204	Ousedale Burn	52'	24'	Excavated and in good preservation.
205	Berriedale	54'	...	Much dilapidated.

No. in Inventory.	Name and Situation.	Diameter over all.	Diameter of Interior.	Condition.
206	Upper Borgue	63'	...	Wall partially exposed.
207	"Burg Ruadh," Berriedale .	54'	...	Wall partially exposed to height of 7'.
208	Achow . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
209	Smerral	63'	...	do.
210	do.	66'	...	do.
211	Latheronwheel	66'	...	do.
212	Burn of Latheronwheel . .	53'	...	do.
213	Balantrath, Dunbeath Strath	c. 60'	...	An unmeasurable ruin.
214	Achorn, Dunbeath . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound (partially removed).
215	Dunbeath	55'	...	Excavated; trees growing within it.
216	Knockinnon . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
217	Upper Latheron . . . . .	...	...	do.
218	"Appnag Tulloch," Forse .	60'	34'-36'	A grass-covered mound (excavated to a small extent).
219	Rumster	52'	...	A grass-covered mound.
220	Golsary	56'	...	do.
221	"Usshilly Tulloch," Forse .	64'	...	do.
222	"Greysteil Castle," Loch Rangag	69'	c. 39'	A ruin—greatest elevation about 12'.
<i>Parish of Odrig.</i>				
318	Thurdistoft	66'	...	A grass-covered mound, but wall exposed on exterior.
319	Murkle . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
320	Castlehill, Castletown . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound (partially removed).
321	Sibmister . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
322	Odrig Glebe (supposed broch) . . . . .	...	...	A mound under cultivation.
323	Odrig House (do.) . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
<i>Parish of Reay.</i>				
344	"Tulloch of Stemster," Stemster . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
345	Stemster . . . . .	...	...	A mound partly under cultivation.
346	"Tulloch of Lybster," Hill of Lybster	61' 6"	32' 6"	Much ruined and partially removed.
347	Crosskirk	58'-62'	30'-32'	Wall partially exposed.
348	"Green Tulloch," Borrowston Mains	28'-30'	43'	A circular mound of debris.
349	"Knock Urray," Lower Dounreay . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.

No. in Inventory.	Name and Situation.	Diameter over all.	Diameter of Interior.	Condition.
350	"Achbuiligan Tulloch," Upper Dounreay . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
351	Achunabust	53'	...	do.
352	Creag Leathan, Achvarasdal	c. 66'	...	Removed for the most part.
353	Achvarasdal Lodge . . .	59'	33'	Excavated.
<i>Parish of Thurso.</i>				
429	Scrabster . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
430	Geise . . . . .	...	...	do.
431	"Bell Mount," Scrabster . . .	...	...	do.
432	"Thing's Va"	60'	30'	Partially excavated.
433	Adjacent to Thing's Va . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
434	"Brimside Tulloch," Lythe- more	58'	...	Ruins considerably exposed.
435	Hoy Farm . . . . .	...	...	Partially demolished.
436	Ha' of Durau . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
437	"Tulloch of Shalmstry," Weydale	72'	...	do.
455	Oust. . . . .	...	...	No structural remains visible.
<i>Parish of Watten.</i>				
461	Old Hall of Dunn . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
462	"Cairn of Dunn" . . . . .	...	...	A mound under cultivation.
463	Old Hall of Dunn . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
464	Green Hill, Wester Watten	...	...	A grass-covered mound (pas- sage partially exposed).
465	Banks of Watten (supposed broch) . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
466	"Bail a' Chairn," Acharole . .	58'	30'	Excavated and filled in again.
467	"Carn a' Chladda," Scouthal	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
468	Watten	64'	...	do.
469	Cogle or Coghill	63'	29'	Excavated and filled in again.
470	Scottag . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
471	"Grey Cairn," Lynegar . . . .	...	...	do.
472	"Gearsay Cairn" . . . . .	...	...	do.
473	Achingale . . . . .	...	...	Mostly removed.
474	Spital . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound
475	Knockglass . . . . .	...	...	do.
<i>Parish of Wick.</i>				
499	Cairn Hill, Old Stirkoke . . .	56'	30'	Partially removed.
500	Tannach . . . . .	...	...	A mound under cultivation.
501	Gaisclet . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound, partially built upon.
502	Thrumster	66'	36'	Excavated.
503	Thrumster, Little	56' 6"	30' 6"	Wall faces partially exposed.

No. in Inventory.	Name and Situation.	Diameter over all.	Diameter of Interior.	Condition.
504	Hempriggs	56'	...	A grass-covered mound.
505	Stemster . . . . .	...	...	do.
506	"Cairn of Humster" . . . . .	...	...	do.
507	Kilmster	63'	33'	Much ruined. Partially excavated.
508	"Norwall Broch," South Kilmster	53'	26'	Partially excavated.
509	Yarrows	54'	30'	Excavated and in bad repair.
510	Borrowston . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
511	Brounaban . . . . .	...	...	Excavated.
513	"Wester Broch," Keiss	53'	27'	do.
514	Bilbster . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
515	Keiss	62'	38'	Excavated.
516	"Broch at the White Gate," Keiss	52'	26'	Excavated.
517	"Road Broch," Keiss	61' 6"– 65' 6"	34'	Excavated and in bad repair.
518	Nybster	51'	23'	Excavated.
519	Thuster . . . . .	...	..	Mound under cultivation.
520	Hillhead, Broadhaven	56'	30'	Excavated and partially filled in again.
521	"Cairn of Elsay," Staxigoe	63'	29'	Partially excavated and in bad repair.
522	Camster . . . . .	...	...	A grass-covered mound.
523	Ulbster . . . . .	...	...	do.
524	Watenan	63'	...	do.
525	Toftgun . . . . .	...	...	Almost entirely removed.
588	Kettleburn . . . . .	...	...	Excavated and removed.

TABLE SHOWING THE CHARACTER AND DISTRIBUTION OF CAIRNS AND THEIR CHAMBERS IN THE COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

	Parishes.										
	Bower.	Canisbay.	Dunnet.	Halkirk.	Latheron.	Olig.	Reay.	Thurso.	Watten.	Wick.	Total.
Horned long cairns . . .	1	...	...	1	1	...	3	2	...	3	11
Do. round cairns . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	4
Unhorned long cairns . . .	2	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	(?)1	1	7
Round-chambered cairns . . .	2	1	2	4	9	...	9	2	1	8	38
											60
Round cairns of uncertain type, with diameter of 40' and over . . .	...	...	...	1	2	...	3	..	1	1	8
Small cairns of uncertain type, with less diameter	3	1	4	3	2	1	3	...	2	3	22
Cairns in which primary cists have been exposed . . .	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	9	13
<i>Analysis of Plans of Chambers.</i>											
Chambers of horned cairns—											
Tripartite . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Bipartite . . . . .	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Undivided	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Chambers of unhorned cairns—											
Tripartite . . . . .	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
Bipartite . . . . .	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3
Do. with recess . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Undivided	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Uncertain	3	1	1	7	7	1	14	3	2	4	43

Chambered cairns 60
 Large cairns of uncertain type 8
 Smaller cairns of uncertain type 22
 Cairns with cists 13

Total number of cairns 103



INVENTORY

OF THE ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIONS IN THE COUNTY OF CAITHNESS.

PARISH OF BOWER.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

1. *Broch, Halcro.*—At Halcro, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of the Manse, situated amidst the cultivated fields, is a grassy knoll which apparently covers the ruins of a broch. It has been dug into and removed to a small extent on the NE. and SW. but for the most part is well preserved. The top is flat and the sides somewhat steeply scarped. The diameter across the top is some 66' and the elevation about 10'.

The O.S. map records the finding of human remains here.

O.S.M.,* CAITH., xii ("Cairn.") Visited, 28th June 1910.

2. *Broch, "Gunn's Hillock."*—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SSW. of Barrock House, in a walled enclosure, and surmounted with trees, are the remains of a broch now represented by a low mound some 3' in height, and with a diameter of about 60'. It is overgrown with rank vegetation, and no structure is visible.

3. *Broch, "Hill of Works."*—This broch, which is situated at the corner of a wood about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Barrock House, was excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry in 1900, and a plan made at the time is here reproduced (fig. 1). It is entered from the WSW. by a passage 13' in length, 3' 4" wide at the exterior, and 3' 8" wide at the inner end; at 8' inwards on the left is a rebate 9" deep, and on the right another of 7" ending in a square-edged recess measuring 7" by 3" such as might contain the wooden jamb of a door. Within these door checks the passage is 4' wide. The interior diameter of the broch is some 29'. A break in the wall 10' to the left of the inner end of the entrance passage marks the entrance to a chamber and probably to the stair, now obscured by ruins and vegetation. In front of this, some 5' distant from the wall, is a well, now for the most part choked with debris, reached by steps some 2' 3" below the floor level. In line with the right side of the entrance passage a secondary wall projects for 7' into the interior from the wall of the main structure: at its distal end it is 2' 6" high and 2' broad. Portions of flags protrude here and there through the vegetation that now covers the interior. The wall at greatest height in the interior measures 4', but is for the most part broken down: on the exterior it has a height of about 2' 6". Outside the broch, at an irregular distance of from 3' to 4', is a wall running concentrically around it for three quarters of its periphery, the remaining segment, as appears from the plan, being faced with a scarcement. From a point on the S. some 32' distant

* This reference throughout is to the Ordnance Survey Maps, 6-inch scale.

PARISH OF BOWER.

across the top of the wall from the inner end of the passage on the left, a wall has been exposed branching to the SE. About 26' distant

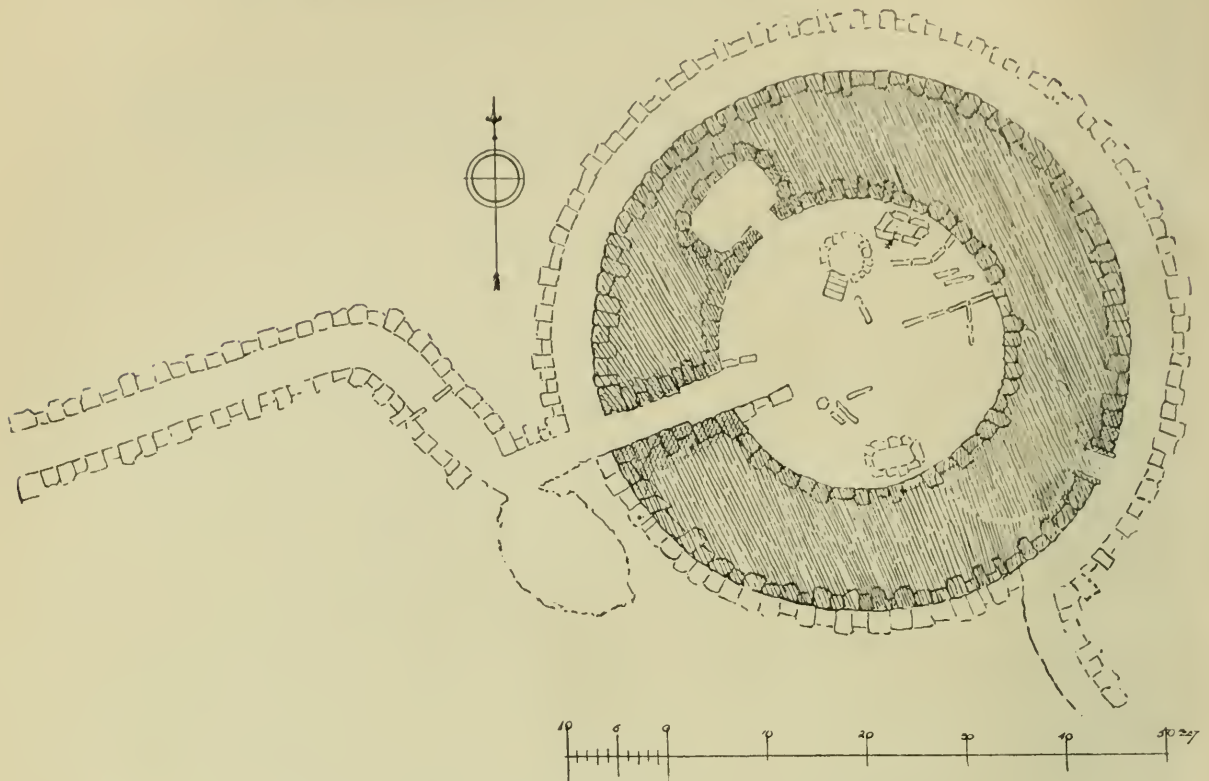


FIG. 1.—Broch, "Hill of Works" (No. 3); Ground-plan.

from the outer face of the broch on the N. and 50' on the S. but obliterated on the W. a ditch has encircled the structure. On the N. this ditch is 45' in width and still some 10' in depth below the crests of scarp and counterscarp, but on the S. it is less well defined. The area between the ditch and the broch does not appear to have been explored. The plan shows an outer passage leading towards the entrance to the broch. A quantity of fragments of coarse hand-made pottery was found, indicating large and small vessels, which are now in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh. Within the chamber, lying on the floor were found the remains of two skeletons.

4. *Fort, "Ring of Castle Hill," Lyth.*—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the S. of Barrock Home Farm is a circular green mound rising from the middle of a moss now drained, which has evidently been a defensive construction of small extent. A ditch some 35' in width encircles it at its base, having on the outside a bank, formed of the upcast, some 2' 6" in elevation above the natural level, and 11' broad across the top, which is flat. The ditch has a depth of some 5' below the level of the top of this outer bank, and of 8' 2" from the top of the breastwork which crowns the scarp. The breastwork, which seems to be an earthen mound, is some 8' thick at base and some 2' to 3' high on the inner side; the diameter of the interior is some 94'. The entrance has been from the N., from which direction the continuity of the ditch is interrupted by an approach over unexcavated ground some 15' wide. There is no stone-work visible through the turf with

PARISH OF BOWER.

which the construction is covered, but at one or two places near the base of the scarp on the W. rock protrudes, indicating that a natural elevation has been utilised. The ditch was probably wet, the bottom being considerably below the natural level.

O.S.M., CAITH., xiii.

Visited, 4th July 1910.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

5. *Chambered Cairn (horned, long), "Cairn of Heathercro," Brabster Moss.*—Situated on the end of a hill which rises to an elevation of some 272' over sea level, and about 1 m. to the E. of the Free Church at Halcro, is the cairn of Heathercro. It is much dilapidated, but appears to have been a long cairn with a length of about 150'; the body of the cairn, however, in rear of the chamber has been removed to such an extent that accurate measurements of that portion are not now obtainable. The main axis lies NE. and SW. At the former end a considerable mound still remains, with a diameter from NW. to SE. of 62' and from NE. to SW. of some 50'. Its elevation is about 8'. At 41' from the NE. end the upper portion of a large slab 4' broad is visible standing erect at right angles to the major axis of the cairn; at 5' S. of it and nearer the edge of the cairn is another similar slab; while some 8' in rear of the latter is a third. The cairn was excavated by Sir Francis Tress Barry, and a five-sided undivided chamber formed of flags set on end was found in the mound at the NE. end. An entrance passage led into it from the SE. side. In one corner lay the broken fragments of an urn and in another four teeth of a horse. These objects were replaced in the cairn, by desire of the proprietress, and it is to be regretted that they are no longer available for examination. It is stated that the cairn was horned, but at the SW. end only.

The O.S. map records a previous discovery of human remains and pottery in 1871.

The author of the article in the *Statistical Account* (1793) relating to the parish of Bower, in describing this cairn, says, "The cairn of Heather Cow is surrounded by 6 or 7 circles described at different distances around by large stones set on edge." No sign of these remains.

O.S.M., CAITH., xii.

Visited, 28th June 1910.

6. *"Cairn of Ushly," Hastigrow.*—On the crest of the moorland a little more than $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. of the Smithy at Hastigrow is a small cairn measuring some 30' in diameter and 3' in elevation. A depression on the top probably implies that it has been excavated.

O.S.M., CAITH., xiii.

Visited, 4th July 1910.

7. *Cairn (supposed), "Torran Reitheach," Knockdee.*—In a grassy field about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. SW. of the Mill of Knockdee is a low mound which is probably a cairn. It has a diameter of about 30', and an elevation of about $1\frac{1}{2}'$. The mound has been much ploughed down.

The O.S. map records that human remains and an urn were found here.

8. *Chambered Cairn, Mill of Knockdee.*—About 150 yards SSW. of the Mill of Knockdee is a small cairn. It measures in diameter some

PARISH OF BOWER.

33' and in elevation about 3' 6". Three large slabs protruding through the turf indicate its chambered character. A depression in the centre suggests that it has been partially excavated. (O.S. "Mound.")

O.S.M., CAITH., xii.

Visited, 7th September 1910.

9. *Chambered Cairn, "Shean," Stemster.*—At Stemster, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. to the NNW. of Stemster House, is the "Shean" or "Sithean," a chambered cairn excavated in 1904 by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry. The following details are derived from MS. Reports which, along with plans, are in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. The diameter of the cairn was 40' and its elevation 12'. In the centre was found a square chamber built of rubble-work, with two upright flagstones set in each corner. The floor consisted of five flagstones stretching right across from side to side. The width of the chamber was 4' 8". Its height from the floor to the top of the walls 8', and to the top of the debris 13'. Flagstones were found on the top laid in a slanting position to form a roof. On the floor in the SW. corner were found the unburnt remains of a human skeleton, the area on which it lay being marked off on the floor by an arc of grey boulders. The skull, as indicated by the fragment recovered, had been "ovoid" in form, with a cephalic index low in the mesocephalic group if not actually falling into the dolichocephalic category. The entrance to the chamber was from the S. through a doorway 4' 6" high and 1' 10" wide, which was walled up with walling 2' 9" thick. The passage was opened for a distance of 4' outwards. It was found to be well built and roofed, and its floor, paved with flagstones, was 8" lower in level than the floor of the chamber. The whole length of the passage was estimated at 15'. Beneath the flooring of the chamber was found a layer of broken stones about 4" deep resting on a bed of clay. In the debris near the top of the cairn were found the remains of another unburnt interment and pieces of a "clay jar or urn." The roof of the chamber was removed when the excavation took place, and for it a covering of railway sleepers has been substituted.

O.S.M., CAITH., xii. ("Mound"). Visited, 9th September 1910.

10. *Chambered Cairn (long), "Sinclair's Shean," Stemster.*—On the moor about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Stemster House is a long cairn. It has been considerably pillaged for stones at both ends, and the horns, if such formerly existed, are not now visible. The cairn lies NNW. and SSE., expanding towards the latter direction. Its extreme length is 173'. At the NNW. end it measures some 33' in breadth and 3' 6" in height, while at the SSE. end its breadth is 63' and its height 7' to 8'. Some thirty years ago a short cist containing an unburnt interment was discovered just below the surface at the ESE. end.*

O.S.M., CAITH., xii.

Visited, 9th September 1910.

11. *Cairn, Sordale Hill, Stemster.*—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SSW. of Sinclair's Shean, on the moor, is a low cairn which has been partially excavated. It has a diameter of about 32' and an elevation of 3'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xii. (unnoted). Visited, 9th September 1910.

12: *Chambered Cairn, "Carney Hillock," Moss of Tain.*—At the S. end of the Moss of Tain, and by the edge of the cultivated land to the

* Information supplied by Mr A. Murray, Ground Officer, Stemster.



PLATE I.—“Stone Lud” (No. 13).



PLATE II.—Dove-cot, Stemster House (No. 14).

PARISH OF BOWER.

N. of Bowermadden, is a cairn-like mound, somewhat oblong in form, lying with its longest axis NW. and SE. It measures 100' by 65', and near the centre of its length it has an elevation of about 7'. Some 30' from the SE. end two large slabs set on end and slightly converging towards the E. protrude a few inches through the turf with which the mound is covered, while 40' from the NW. end stands another slab set at right angles to the longest axis, in rear of which is a circular depression suggesting the existence of a chamber.

O.S.M., CAITH., xii. ("Mound"). Visited, 19th September 1910.

MISCELLANEOUS.

13. *Standing-Stone, "Stone Lud."*—Situated at the side of a stone wall on the moorland, about 1 m. WSW. of Bower Church, is a high standing-stone (pl. I.) bearing the name of "Stone Lud." It measures 8' 6" in height above ground, 3' 8" in breadth at base, about 3' in breadth near its upper extremity, and 1' 9" in thickness. It is set facing almost ENE. and WSW. Some 96' to the SSE. is a similar stone, lying prostrate, which seems to have stood in the same alignment. It measures 8' 3" in length, 4' 10" in breadth at base, 3' 10" in breadth at its upper end, and 10" in thickness. Some 23' to the NW. of the upright stone is a small cairn, with a diameter of 26', which has been excavated. Its elevation is now about 1'. The erect standing-stone is frequently referred to in print, and the suggestion made that "Lud" is a corruption of "Liot," the name of one of the Orkney Earls who was mortally wounded in a battle with the Scots at Skida Mire, and is supposed to have been buried here, but there is no other warrant for the suggestion than the slight resemblance of the names. As no reference exists to the prostrate stone it has evidently been long in its present position.

See Calder's *Caithness*, p. 52; *Stat. Acct.*, vii. p. 521.

O.S.M., CAITH., xii.

Visited, 28th June 1910.

14. *Dove-cot, Stemster House.*—To the N. of Stemster House stands an old dove-cot (pl. II.) in a somewhat dilapidated condition. On plan it is a square of 17' 3". It has a span roof, and the gables are crow-stepped. In height it measures some 26' to the roof ridge. The walls inside are lined with the usual stone nests and are about 3' in thickness.

Foundations, Stemster.

15. In the SW. corner of the park immediately to the W. of Stemster policies are the indefinite foundations of a number of circular buildings. Without excavation it is impossible to say to what age they belong.

16. Immediately in front of the dovecot at Stemster there have recently been discovered the foundations of a building. The plan is rectangular, measuring some 72' in length by 28' in breadth over all. The main axis is WNW and ESE. There has been an entrance through the WNW. wall at its W. end and other two entrances within 4' of each other through the ENE. wall. There is said to be a chamber 20' × 14' against the WNW. wall. There is no feature

PARISH OF BOWER.

to show that this has been an ecclesiastical building as has been stated.

See *Eccles. Hist. Caith.*, p. 334.

O.S.M., CAITH., xii. (unnoted). Visited, 9th September 1910.

17. *Ruins, Alterwall*.—In the corner of a cultivated field on the N. side of a deep ditch running WNW. and ESE., and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the SW. of Ha' of Alterwall, are the partially excavated remains of a dry-built structure. The plan is now quite indefinite. The walls are about 5' in thickness, and the building has evidently been a small mediæval castle. A jug of hand-made pottery formed from red clay, with a handle at one side, flat bottomed, and with a slight constriction at the neck, was found in fragments in the ruin. It has been reconstructed, measures 8" in height, and is in the possession of Mr John Nicolson, Nybster.

O.S.M., CAITH., xiii.

Visited, 19th September 1910.

SITES.

18. *Broch, Camster, Bower*.—About 120 yards NNW. of Camster farm, situated in a cultivated field, is a low mound surrounded by a trench, probably the site of a broch. It is now regularly under cultivation and much ploughed down. The ditch has been about 40' wide, and the diameter of the mound is about 150'.

19. *Broch, Bowertower*.—In a cultivated field, some 200 yards SW. of the farm of Mains of Bowertower, are ruins beneath a mound which may possibly be those of a broch. Much of the mound has been removed and the outline is quite indefinite.

O.S.M., CAITH., xii. (unnoted).

Visited, 28th June 1910.

20. *Cairn, Stemster*.—Some 50 yards W. of one of the crofts at Stemster, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Stemster House, is a mound on a natural ridge which appears to be the remains of a cairn. One large slab, some 5' in length and 6" to 8" in thickness, protrudes from the back of a hollow caused by the removal of the stones. Skeletal remains are said to have been found here.

O.S.M., CAITH., xii. ("Mound"). Visited, 9th September 1910.

The O.S. maps indicate sites as under:—

21. "*Kirk*," at *Kirk*.

O.S.M., CAITH., xix.

22. *Broch, Ha' of Bowermadden*.—This broch was trenched over by the farmer after it had been for many years used as a quarry. No plan of the structure could be made out. The central area was roughly estimated as about 30' in diameter, and near the centre there was a well with twelve or fourteen steps leading down to it. This the farmer filled up. There were recovered a number of deer horns, cut and sawn; two circular stone balls about 3" in diameter; a small mortar; a neatly shaped oval vessel of red sandstone, measuring interiorly 4" × 3" × 3", with sides worked round at the lip, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " thick, the whole blackened externally by fire and split lengthwise; a disc of red sandstone 7" diameter, and 2" thick, with a hole of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " through the centre; two spindle whorls of stone, well

PARISH OF BOWER.

finished, and rubbed smooth, one having a false boring in the middle; a very small and neatly fashioned comb of bone, with an open semi-circular handle; a bead of blue vitreous paste, enamelled with a yellow spiral ornament on three sides; and a very neatly fashioned bronze pin 3" long, having an annular head, with ribbed ornamentation on the upper part set on a short rectangular projection from the stalk. Several large stone vessels, or vats, one of which was 3' deep, were also found. Most of these objects are preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

See *Archæologia Scotica*, v., part i. p. 143; *Antiquaries*, ix. p. 247 (pin illus.).

O.S.M., CAITH., xii.

PARISH OF CANISBAY.

ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

23. *Canisbay Church*.—This church (fig. 2) is situated on the N. coast, some 2 m. W. of John o' Groat's. Being entirely covered with



FIG. 2.—Canisbay Church, previous to the last alteration (No. 23).

harling, and the architectural details few, the date of its erection is somewhat difficult to determine. Further, it has undergone alteration at various periods, particularly in the 18th century, as evidenced by the dates 1720 and 1724 on the skew puts of the nave and S. transept respectively. It also received very extensive repairs in 1832–33, as well as in recent years. There are indications, notwithstanding, that the original structure dates from before the Reformation, and probably from the 15th century. The plan discloses an affinity to that of many other churches in Scotland of this period and earlier. It is an oblong structure, measuring some 84' × 24', with S. and N. transepts (the latter, however, of later date), and a tower in the centre of the W. front. This tower is the feature most indicative of pre-Reformation date. It is an absolutely plain structure, unrelieved by mouldings or string courses, with a few small windows at the bell chamber in the roof. The roof is of the saddle-back type, running as usual in line with the roof of the church. The tower measures 14' 6" square, with walls 2' 6" in thickness.

PARISH OF CANISBAY.

There is no stair, access being obtained to the bell chamber by a door within the church roof, after the manner of some of the early towers in Scotland. The entrance doorway was in the S. wall and, as usual, towards the W. end, as will be seen on plan,* but has been obliterated, along with other features, in the course of the last alterations effected some twenty years ago. Most of the windows and door openings in the side walls are square-lintelled, a common feature in small pre-Reformation churches, reserving openings of a pointed form for the gables. The church was apparently dedicated to St Drostan.

See *Origines*, ii., pt. ii. p. 792.

Sepulchral Monuments.

24. In the S. transept there are the remains of a good monument in the Renaissance style of the late 17th century. It consists of four fluted Corinthian pillars resting on a base, of which two pillars are arranged at the ends, leaving a space for an inscription. All this, with the carving, is much defaced, and the inscription is gone, as also all of the monument that originally existed above the pillars. The remaining portion measures 7' 6" in width by 6' 6" in height. It is difficult to account for the condition of the monument, seeing that it is within the church and under cover.

25. Set into the S. wall of the S. transept of the church, on the outside, is a slab commemorating various members of the Groat family. The slab (pl. III.) is of red sandstone, and measures 6' 4" in length, 2' 7" in breadth, and 4" in thickness. On its surface is carved a plain Latin cross set on a stepped base, with a shield bearing a merchant's mark higher up on the stone. Around the slab runs an inscription in quaint lettering carved in relief, and in part difficult to decipher. It commences near the base of the cross on the left, and may be read as follows:—

DONALD GROT SONE TO JHONE GROT LAID ME
HEIR APRLL XIII DAY 1568 M.D.L. LCWYS † AND
DONALD GROT JHONE GROT AND HIS GONAIELD
LAD AND THAAR FAORBARS OF DONALD WHOUSE
GOD CALD ME YE XIII DAY OF APRLL ANNO DOMINY
M.D.L. 1568.

The lettering on the base of the cross seems to read AMIORALE, possibly intended for A MEMORIAL. The slab was found under the floor of the church in 1894, and has probably been recut.

See *Scottish Antiquary*, viii. pp. 52 (illus.), 162; *ibid.*, ix. p. 35.

A number of interesting old tombstones are exposed in the surrounding graveyard.

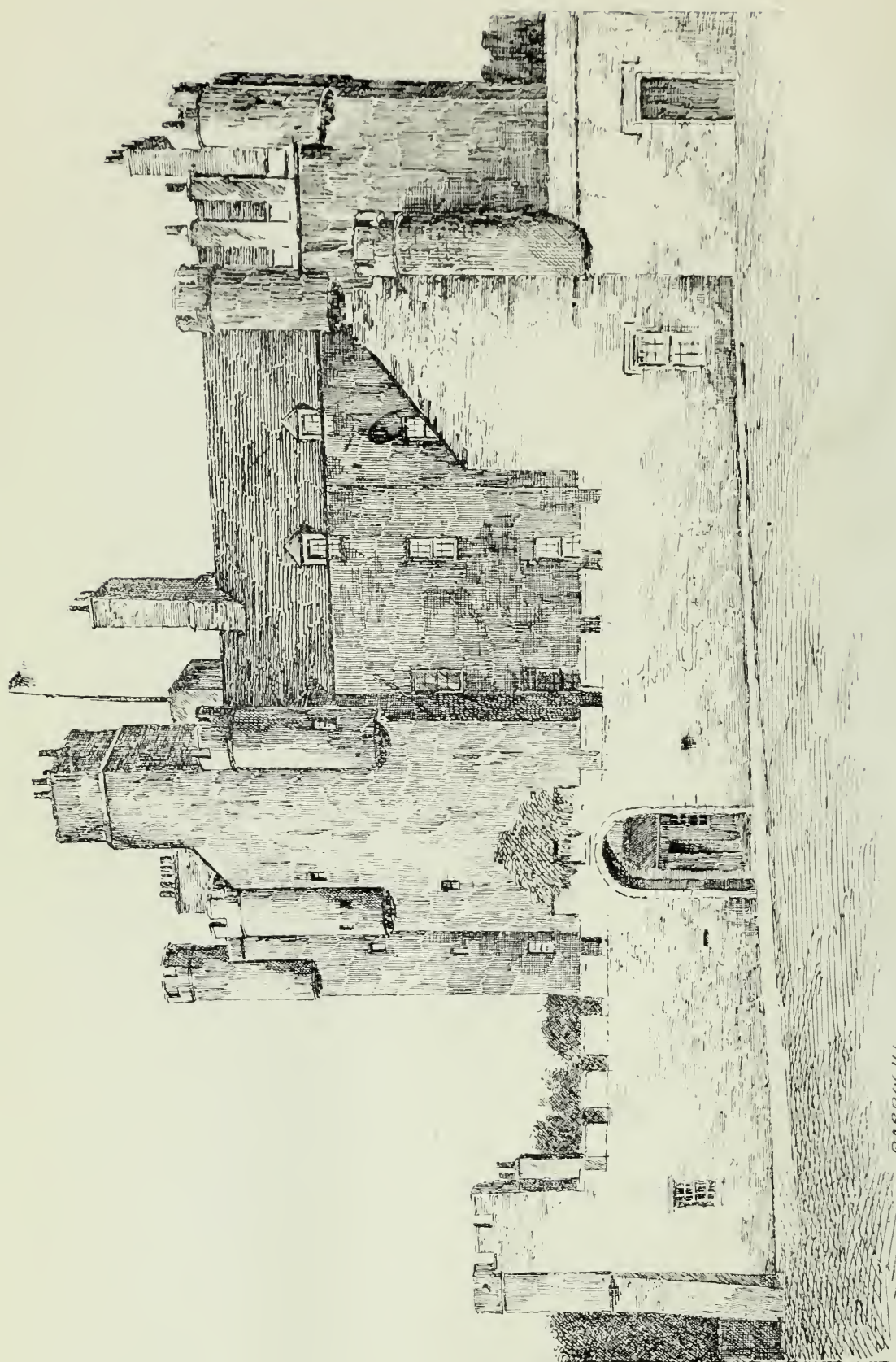
26. Some 50' S. of the E. end of the church is a flat slab bearing a plain Latin cross on a stepped base. The cross measures in extreme length 3' 9½", and in breadth 1' 8". Above the cross is a

* The Commissioners are indebted to Mr Hippolyte J. Blanc, R.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., for the sketch of this church, made before the last alterations in 1891.

† ?likewise.



PLATE III.—The “Groat” Stone, Canisbay Church (No. 25).



BARROGILL. — 21.10.1878. 1910

PLATE IV.—Barrogill Castle (No. 31).

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shield charged with three open crowns (1 and 2) between the initials F.G. Around the edge of the stone runs the following inscription, in relief:—

HEIR LIES FINDLAY GROT IN DUNCA(N)SBY QUHA
DEPARTIT 18 DAY OF MAII 1601. SPES ALTERA
VITE.

There is also cut on the stone in incised lettering the initials DG and EG with the date 1789.

27. Against the S. wall of the graveyard there has been erected a slab inscribed to the memory of the Rev. Mr Andrew Ogstoun, Minister at Canisbay, who died 31st March 1620, at the age of 83. The inscription has been recently recut.

28. A slab lying S. of the E. end of the church, measuring 9' 4" in length by 2' 1" in breadth, shows at the upper end a shield bearing impaled arms:—Dexter, a stag's head cabossed: Sinister, in chief a three-masted ship; beneath, three salmon naiant, and in dexter base a hand appaumé: on a panel below, the initials AS. MM. The lower half of the stone contains, carved in high relief within a frame, the usual emblems of mortality—a skull and cross-bones, spade and shovel, two coffins, two hand-bells and an hour-glass. The inscription, which was round the edge of the stone, is now effaced.

29. Beneath an arch in the S. wall of the graveyard is erected a slab bearing the following inscription in incised letters:—

HEIR RESTS THE DUST OF MR JAMES INNES
SOMETIME OR 37 YEARS MINISTER OF CANASBAY
WHO LEFT HIS BODI THE 24 DAY OF DECEMBER IN
THE YEAR OF GRACE 1704 AND OF HIS AGE 67;

followed by a verse from Holy Writ. At the base of the stone within a panel are the initials *MI.* and *IM.*, along with the date 1705. Beneath this are two shields bearing arms, viz., Dexter, three stars (2 and 1): Sinister, an eagle's head erased.

30. Lying by the W. wall of the graveyard, some 40' to the SE. of the W. end of the church, is a slab measuring 5' 3" in length by 2' 2" in breadth. It is incised with the following inscription:—

HEIR IS YE MONUMENT OF ISOB. MOUAT DOCHTER
TO THE LAIRD OF BOGHOLLE LACY STANSTEL QUHA
DEPARTIT YE 19 DAY OF MAII 1601;

and bears between the letters *IM* an impaled shield. Dexter, three stars (1 and 2): Sinister, uncharged.

O.S.M. CAITH., ii.

Visited, 14th September 1910.

CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

31. *Barrogill Castle*.—This castle (pl. IV.), originally known as the Castle of Mey, is situated about 1.5 m. E. from Thurso. It stands on rising ground sloping gently towards the Pentland Firth, distant about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. Above a plantation of stunted trees, so characteristic of the NE. coast, its turreted skyline rises with imposing effect. Considerable modern additions have been made to the building to render it

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suitable for present-day occupation, but the original plan (fig. 3, tinted black), can easily be made out, from its general resemblance to that of many of the 16th and 17th-century castles in Scotland. The passage on the ground floor leading to the cellars; and the vaulting of this floor in the main oblong building; the comparatively large staircase, with its higher vault; the jutting towers; the corbelled turrets; and other decorative details, are very characteristic of the period of the 16th century subsequent to the Reformation, and the resemblance in plan to such a castle as Carnassery in Argyllshire, built just after that event, is quite obvious. Barrogill has, however, an additional tower, making it an example of the Z plan so frequent at that time. The principal entrance was from the courtyard through the NW. tower, in which was the original staircase. This is evident from the vaulted roof above the stair-landing on the first floor, and the commencement at that level of a new stair in an angle turret, features illustrated in numerous castles of the period, *e.g.*, Notland Castle in Orkney, and Elcho Castle in Perthshire. Another stair, at the opposite end of the main building, rises straight from the basement to the first floor, beside the SE. tower, and thence is continued spirally within a rectangular turret to the top floor. This turret occupies the re-entering angle between the main building and the tower. Another entrance doorway through the S. front near this stair is probably not original. At some later period an outside staircase was made leading up to this latter door, as seen in fig. 2, which was superseded in the last century by a large porch, the outline of which is shown on the ground plan. The kitchen occupies the E. end of the main building, and as a very large fireplace or *ingle-neuk* was required, the building was projected outwards about 6', thus accounting for the slight deviation from the usual outline of the Z plan. The fireplace was about 12' 6" in width by 6' in depth. The vents and chimneys of the kitchen and other rooms in the wing are carried up above the apex of the gable in building having almost the massiveness of a tower. The first floor contains the great hall, about 40' long by 18' wide, the private room entering off the same over the kitchen, and another room in the SW. tower; while the two upper floors are devoted to bedrooms. Most of the windows throughout the castle have been enlarged; the fireplaces are mostly fitted with modern mantelpieces, although some made of wood may date from the 17th century. As seen from a distance, the turreted aspect of the castle is striking. In the view (1821) published in Daniell's *Voyage*, the lesser turrets are shown as terminating with pointed roofs, and only the large one on the SW. tower containing the stair from the upper floor to the roof is finished with an open crenellated parapet, whereas at the present day all of these have been brought to the latter condition. The corbelling of the small turrets is of the chequered character, so common at the period. The parapet of the large turret containing the stair is, however, supported on winged cherub heads as corbels, somewhat similar to those on Carberry Tower, Midlothian. In the S. wall of the basement of the tower in the interior, is a recess some 2' wide by 1' 6" deep, now bricked up at the top, which probably formed a hatchway from the room above.



Fig. 3. BARROGILL CASTLE (No. 31): GROUND PLAN.



PLATE V.—Bucholie Castle (No. 32).

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The courtyard, measuring some 67' × 42', is doubtless contemporaneous with the castle, though the various offices against the walls may be of later date. The round arched entrance doorway is unaltered and is old. There are numerous horizontal gun-holes throughout the ground floor, several in the angles of the tower and also on the first floor.

In 1566, George, Fourth Earl of Caithness, acquired the barony of Mey from the Bishop of Caithness, and granted a charter in March 1572 to William Sinclair his second son, and the Z plan of the castle indicates the year of its erection as probably being between these two dates. Lithgow, the traveller, paid a visit to it on his way to Orkney in 1629, and has left a long grandiose description of the building and of his entertainment there—

“ Yet with good lucke, in Februar, Saturnes prey
Have I not sought, and found out Fruitfull May,
Flank'd with the Marine Coast, prospective stands,
Right opposite to the Orcade Iles and Lands:
Where I for floures, ingorg'd strong grapes of Spaine,
And liquor'd French, both Red and White amaine:
Which Pallace doth containe, two foure-squar'd Courts,
Graft with brave Works, where th' Art-drawne pensile sports
On Hals, high Chambers, Galleries, office Bowres,
Cells, Roomes and Turrets, Plat-formes, stately Towres.”

In Macfarlane's *Geographical Collections* it is described (*circa* 1726) as “a good old building with a tower, . . . built by the Earle of Caithness 120 years ago, but is going to ruin.”

Pennant refers to it as “a beautiful strong castle belonging to Sir John Sinclair,” while the *Statistical Account* (1793) relates that “Barrogil Castle is an old aristocratic pile, but renewing its age apace under the additions and embellishments it is daily receiving from its noble owner.”

See Daniell's *Voyage*, v. (illus.); *Caithness Family History*, pp. xxiv. and 60; Lithgow, p. 434; Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 152; Pennant's *Tour* (1769), p. 352; *Stat. Acct.*, viii. p. 164.

O.S.M., CAITH., ii.

Visited, 2nd September 1910.

32. *Bucholie Castle*.—This castle (pl. V.) has been built on a peninsular rock about 100' in height, standing out of the ocean some 5 m. S. of Duncansby Head, and lying parallel with the shore. The rock is joined to the land by a narrow neck at its NW. angle, which has been cut through by a trench some 7' wide, the bottom of which is about 9' below the level of the threshold of the entrance gate and must consequently have been spanned by a movable wooden bridge. The keep which rose from the outer edge of this trench has been of small dimensions, measuring some 14' × 20' over all. The W. wall, to a height of about 30', and a portion of the S. wall, alone remain. The walls at the basement are some 4' in thickness and above that on the sides only about 2' 6". The entrance passage, 4' 6" wide, and one apartment to the S. of it, occupy the basement and are vaulted; the roof of the upper chamber has also been vaulted, while the intermediate floor has been carried on joists. The entrance passage pass-

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ing beyond the keep gave access to a courtyard which was long and narrow, and had buildings on each side of it (see ground-plan, fig. 4); these buildings are for the most part built with clay. A kitchen midden of great extent lies along the top of the cliff to seaward.

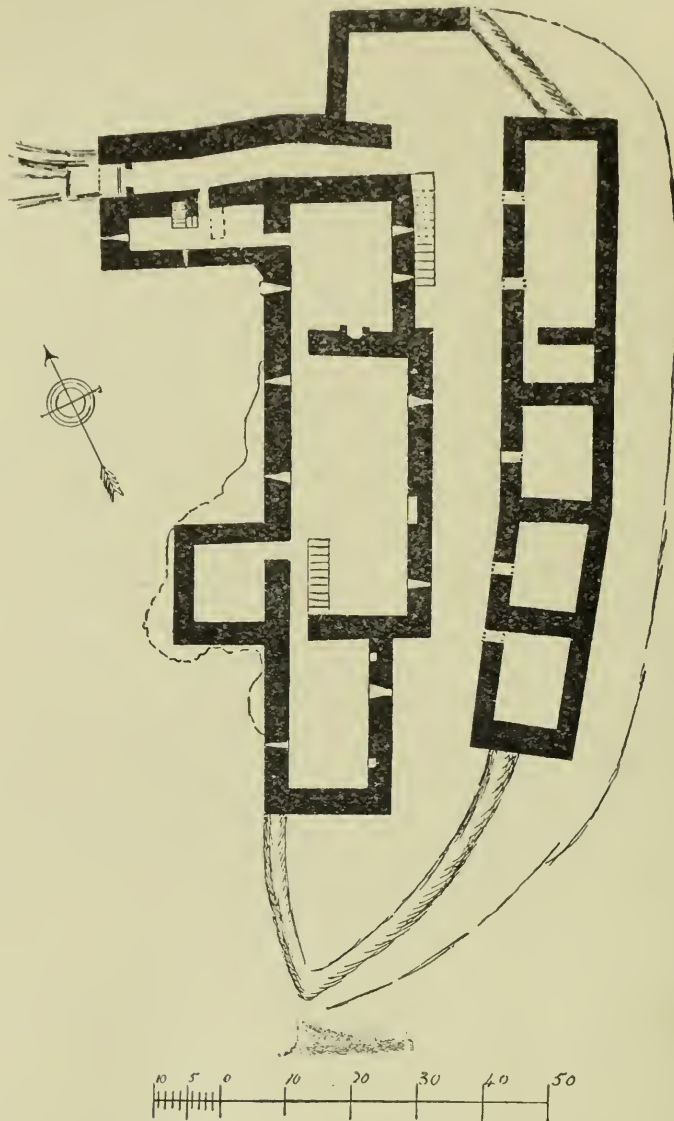


FIG. 4.—Bucholie Castle (No. 32); Ground-plan.

In its defensive arrangements the castle somewhat resembles Girnigoe in having an entrance passage through the keep.

It was formerly known as Freswick, and belonged to the family of Mowat, who likewise owned the property of Bucholie, now called Hatton, near Turriff in Aberdeenshire. The date of their first connection with Caithness is unknown, but one of the family had a charter of the lands of Freswick from King Robert the Bruce. The estate remained in their possession until 1661, when it was sold to William Sinclair, of Rattar.

See Pennant's *Tour* (1769), p. 196 (illus. "Freswick Castle"); Pope's *Torfaeus*, p. 138; *Archæologia Scotica*, v., pt. i. p. 161; *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 65; *Caithness Family History*, p. 173.

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DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

33. *Broch, Ness*.—This broch (fig. 5), is situated at the landward end of a high promontory which runs out to sea for a distance of

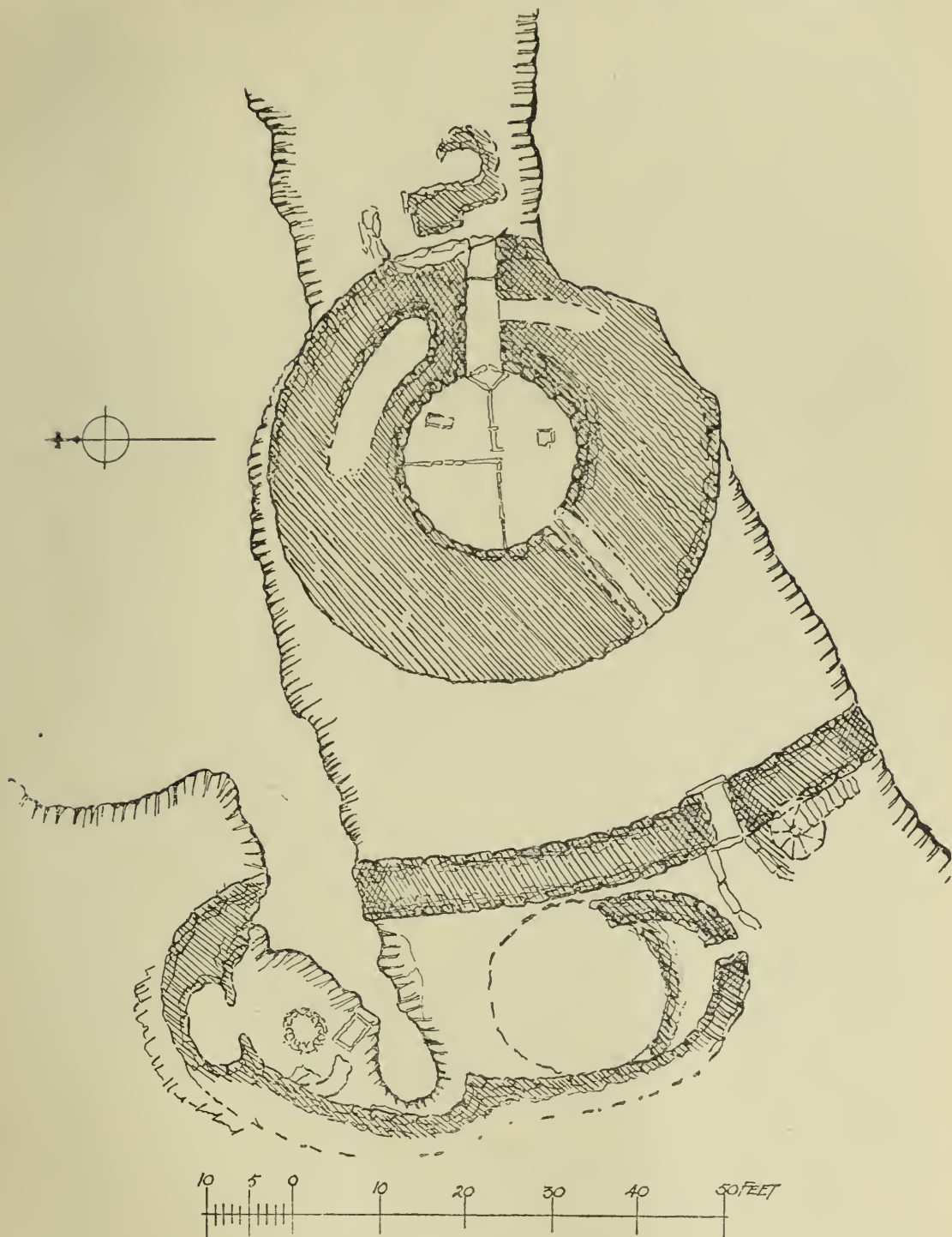


FIG. 5.—Broch, Ness (No. 33); Ground-plan.

about 80 yards and of which it occupies the neck about 25 yards wide. It was excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry, and was described by Dr Joseph Anderson, from whose description the following details are mainly taken:—Across the neck there is a strong wall

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about 6' high, with a depression in front of it, in which there is a well, now filled up, 9' 6" in depth, with twelve steps leading down to it and roofed with flags; the broch wall has largely gone. There appear to have been two entrances, one from the SW. now much broken down, and another from the E. or seaward. The latter is through a passage 15' 3" in length, 3' 8" in width at the exterior end, and 4' 4" at the interior. There has been a guard-chamber on the left at about 6' 4" from the outer end, the entrance to which is broken down. There are no signs of door checks, but a sill projects from the floor of the passage opposite the outer edge of the entrance to the guard-chamber. At 5' back from the right wall of the entrance passage, near the middle of its length, is the back wall of a chamber 4' 6" wide, now of indefinite length. Within this chamber were found two ingots of bronze 4" and 6" in length, several moulds for casting ingots, and two links of a slender chain of bronze. The interior diameter of the broch is 22'. There are remains of out-buildings on both sides, but those to landward are more extensive and better preserved, and seem to have been continuous with chambers now cut off by a narrow ravine on the N. One of these chambers has a tank-like construction of slabs in the floor, and off the chamber is a recess 9' in length by 6' in width.

See *Antiquaries*, xxxv. p. 143.

34. *Broch, Freswick Links*.—Situated among the sand-hills about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Freswick House, is a broch (fig. 6) the foundations of which

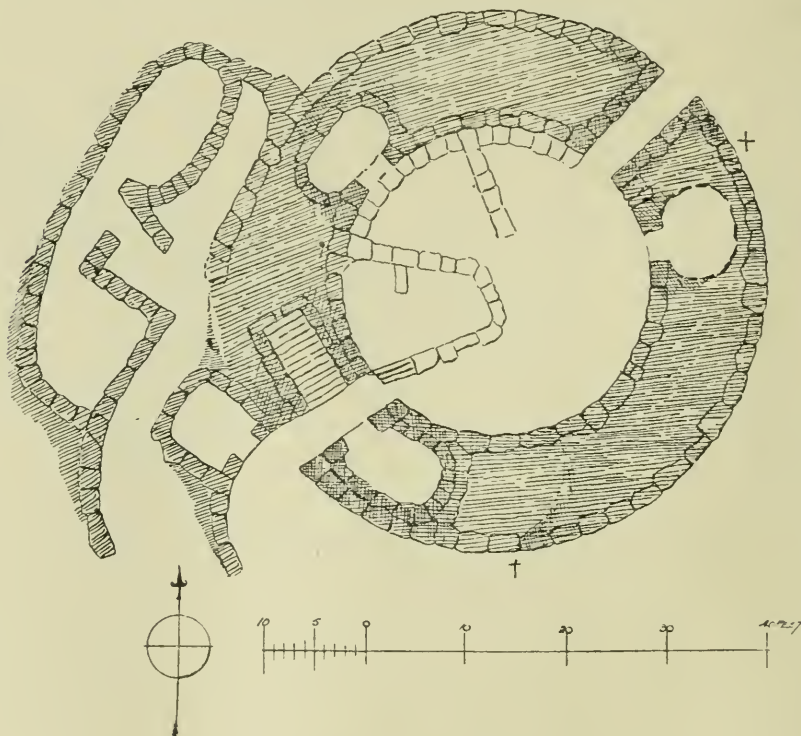


FIG. 6.—Broch, Freswick Links (No. 34); Ground-plan.

rest on the pure sand. It was excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry, and described by Dr Joseph Anderson, but it is now in a very ruinous condition and its features largely obscured by sand and debris. On excavation the broch wall was found to be 11' 6" thick, with a

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scarcement 12" to 18" wide on the inside: it enclosed an interior area 32' 8" in diameter. The wall was for the greater part of its extent about 7' high, but was partly broken down on the W. side where the original entrance probably had been. Facing NE. is still visible the entrance passage by the foot of the stair, 2' 9" wide, beside which there was a chamber. Fourteen steps of the stair remained, passing up to the left from the entrance passage as entered from the exterior, the steps growing narrower from 3' 10" in width at the bottom step to 2' 6" at the highest. At a distance of 17' round to the left from the inner end of the entrance passage was the opening to a chamber in the thickness of the wall, now ruinous. This entrance was 2' 3" in width, and 4' in height, and gave access to an oblong chamber 12' in length, 4' in width, and nearly 7' in height. Directly opposite the entrance in the interior is also the entrance, 2' 9" wide, to a chamber not now measurable. Two curved walls of secondary construction roughly divided the interior area into segments.

There were found in this broch the cup-marked stone now at Nybster (No. 576 (1)), an oval vessel of sandstone with a rudely hollowed cavity measuring 6" by 4", and several quern stones.

See *Antiquaries*, xxxv. p. 143.

35. *Broch, Skirza Head*.—This broch was also excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry and described by Dr Joseph Anderson. It is situated on the promontory of Skirza, some 3 m. S. of Duncansby Head. Like the brochs of Nybster and Ness, it occupies the neck of the promontory and is cut off from the land by a ditch some 30' wide. The broch has had a circular wall some 14' in thickness enclosing an area 22' in diameter. On the N. side, where part of the wall has fallen over the cliff, there is a scarcement on the interior about 2' 9" wide at its widest part. The entrance passage is from the seaward end of the promontory. It is 14' in length, 3' in width at the exterior end, and has checks for a door at 8' inwards. Within these it expands some 6" on either side and thereafter narrows to about 3' at the inner end. The wall in the interior is considerably broken down, but still maintains for a short distance a height of about 5'. At a distance of 16' round the wall in the interior to the left of the main entrance is the entrance to the stair in the thickness of the wall 2' 7" wide, with a small chamber opposite the stair foot. Only two steps of the stair remained when excavated and these are not now visible. On the right of the entrance to the stair in the interior court is a tank-like construction sunk in the floor 3' 8" long, 1' 9" broad, and 2' deep, covered with slabs, and adjacent on the N. is another of similar dimensions. In the centre of the interior area was a hearth covered with ashes. The wall on the exterior is now about 2' in height. As well as a portion of the broch wall, a part of the outbuilding has also fallen over the cliff forming the N. side of the promontory. On the seaward side of the broch, to the S. of the entrance, is an irregularly shaped chamber or well, measuring across the top some 10' × 7' and some 10' in depth, with a drain leading into it from the S. This well-like cavity still retains water. In one of the outbuildings on the right of the entrance was found a palmated horn of the true elk now preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh. There were

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also found quern stones, several flat circular discs of slaty stone, and a number of pounders—oblong pebbles wasted at the ends by use.

Above the cliffs on the S. side of the geo which flanks the promontory on which the broch stands, and at the landward end, is a group of stones—some square in section, some oblong—extending over an area of about 25' × 16'. These appear to be the remains of four rows roughly set in alignment some 3' to 4' apart. The stones vary in breadth from 1' to 2', projecting about the same extent above ground, and are from 2' 5" to 4' apart. Their object is not apparent.

See *Antiquaries*, xxxv. p. 144.

36. *Broch, Everley, Tofts of Freswick*.—This broch, which is situated on the E. side of the high road to John o' Groat's, about 1 m. to the NNW. of Freswick House, was also excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry; since then it has been much quarried into and in great measure removed. The entrance has been from the WSW. but the passage walls are now gone. The interior diameter is 29', and the thickness of the wall 15' 6". No chambers are visible. The out-buildings were not excavated. The relics recovered included quern stones and grain-rubbers, and a small piece of 1st-century Samian ware (Dragendorff, type 29); also a portion of the rim of a Roman glass vessel. These objects are preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

See *Antiquaries*, xxxv. p. 139.

O.S.M., CAITH., viii.

Visited, 5th July 1910.

37. *Broch, Brabstermire*.—About 150 yards SSE. of the crofts at Brabstermire occupied by Mr A. Sinclair, and some $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SSW. of the farm of Thomsonsfield, is a mound under cultivation containing the remains of a broch. Its dimensions are unobtainable. The mound was very partially excavated by Mr John Nicolson, Nybster, and from it were recovered a rotary quern; three water-worn stones, probably loom weights, some 6" in length, each with a groove cut around at one end, seemingly for attachment of a cord; and a diminutive cup, or hollowed pebble, some $2\frac{3}{4}$ " in length by 2" in breadth and $\frac{3}{4}$ " in thickness. The cup is some $\frac{5}{8}$ " in depth and $\frac{3}{4}$ " in thickness. With the exception of one of the loom weights, which is in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh, these objects are in the possession of Mr Sinclair.

O.S.M., CAITH., vii. ("Mound"). Visited, 14th September 1910.

38. *Broch, Scoolary*.—Some 30 yards NW. of the upper of the two crofts at Scoolary is a low artificial mound which has been long under cultivation. It appears to cover the ruins of a broch, the wall of which is encountered when the area is ploughed.

O.S.M., CAITH., vii.

Visited, 19th September 1910.

39. *Broch (supposed), Hollandmey*.—At the edge of a cultivated field, under crop at the date of visit, and about 300 yards N. of the farm of Hollandmey, is a low mound of indefinite measurements believed to contain the remains of a broch. Some slight excavation was done in it by Mr John Nicolson, Nybster, and a small bone ring was recovered.

O.S.M., CAITH., vii. (unnoted). Visited, 14th September 1910.

PARISH OF CANISBAY.

40. *Fort, St John's Point*.—Across the landward end of the promontory of St John's Point from cliff to cliff has been dug a deep trench some 50' in breadth, with a rampart some 10' in height along the seaward side and a low mound crowning the counterscarp to landward. The rampart has probably borne a wall along its crest on the line of the present modern dyke, as a small portion of an ancient wall is visible beneath the latter near the W. end of the defence. Some 50' from the western extremity of the rampart there appears to have been an entrance. The area cut off by this fosse is some 10 acres in extent. Within it, and in the vicinity of the supposed site of the chapel (No. 56), is elevated ground which is possibly an artificial mound.

O.S.M., CAITH., ii.

Visited, 14th September 1910.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

41. *Cairn, Warth Hill*.—Crowning the summit of the Warth Hill, a conspicuous eminence 2 m. to the S. of John o' Groat's Hotel, is a large cairn, now considerably dilapidated, with a diameter of some 57'. On the S., along the outer edge, are exposed a number of large blocks of stone, nearly contiguous, laid on their sides, measuring from 2' to 4' in length and 1' to 1' 6" in height; and some 6' in from the edge, placed apparently concentrically with it, are a number of large stones set point upwards. Those settings of stones are not visible on the N. side. Some 17' in from the edge on the S. there has been exposed a rectangular cist. This cairn was excavated by Dr Joseph Anderson about forty years ago. He discovered a stone cist lying E. and W. $3\frac{1}{2}'$ long, 2' 4" wide, and 1' 9" deep. It was covered by a very large irregularly shaped slab. The bottom of the cist and sides had been roughly dressed to fit, and an oblong water-rolled stone, which had been evidently used for that purpose, lay on the covering slab. Within the cist were traces of an unburnt skeleton, but neither pottery nor implements. Many years previously another cist had been exposed, measuring $4\frac{1}{2}'$ in length, 2' 3" in width, and 1' 8" in depth. It also contained a skeleton.

See *Antiquaries*, ix. p. 294.

O.S.M., CAITH., viii.

Visited, 5th July 1910.

42. *Chambered Cairn, Island of Stroma*.—About 100 yards SW. of the lighthouse, at the N. end of the island of Stroma, is a cairn which has been partially excavated, and which appears to have contained a chamber, now ruined. In diameter it measures some 52', and in elevation 5'. Near the centre is exposed a slab 8' 6" in length, lying on its edge, in direction N. and S., while 3' to the E. and 1' 6" to the W. respectively lie shorter slabs set parallel.

O.S.M., CAITH., iii^A.

Visited, 17th September 1910.

43. *Cairn (supposed), Mell Head, Island of Stroma*.—At the landward end of the promontory of Mell Head, and on the N. side, a deep chasm known as the Giddy Geo extends southward for a distance of about 120 yards. Immediately to the E. of this, at the seaward end,

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is a low stony mound which is probably a cairn. It measures 25' in diameter and 2' in elevation.

O.S.M., CAITH., ii^A. (unnoted). Visited, 17th September 1910.

MISCELLANEOUS.

44. *Mound, "Cairn o' Mey," Barrogill.*—In a cultivated field, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. WSW. of Barrogill Castle, is a low mound lying N. and S., measuring some 50' \times 27' in diameter and 2' to 3' in elevation. The level in the field adjacent indicates that it is a remnant of a larger construction which has been ploughed down. Its character is quite indeterminate without excavation.

O.S.M., CAITH., ii. ("Brough"). Visited, 2nd September 1910.

45. *Sgarbach, Auckingill.*—On the shore, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. E. of Auckingill school, is a high cliff promontory of a curved form bearing the name of Sgarbach (pl. VI.). The landward end is crossed by a well constructed wall of dry masonry, some 62' in length, 12' 6" in thickness, and, near the middle of its course, some 4' in height. It runs from the edge of a deep ravine on one side to the cliff on the other. Somewhat to the E. of the centre this wall is pierced by a passage leading directly through it, and 3' 2" in width at the outer end. At 6' 8" inwards on the right (the left side is broken down) is a rebate for a door faced with a slab 6" thick, set edgewise in the wall, the passage in rear of it widening to 4' 9". Across the passage, in front of the door check, projects a sill 8" in height. Behind the rebate a bar hole 8" square passes for a distance of at least 3' 6" into the wall. At the inner end of the passage, and to the left, some 4' back from it, is an oval chamber measuring about 10' \times 7'. In rear of the entrance was found a hearth defined with flags set on end, in which were ashes, food refuse, and fragments of pottery. A drain passes from the interior outwards below the floor of the entrance passage. This construction, the details of which are very indefinite, was also excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry.

O.S.M., CAITH., xiv. Visited, 24th June 1910.

46. *Standing-stone (remains of), Sgarbach, Auckingill.*—Some 60 yards N. of the wall across the end of the Sgarbach is the base of a standing-stone broken over some fifty years ago. It is a schistose block 4' to 5' in width and 9" in thickness, facing NE. and SW. It has been exposed by digging for a height of about 2'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xiv. (unnoted). Visited, 24th June 1910.

47. *Dove-cot, Freswick.*—About 120 yards to the W. of Freswick House is an old circular or bell-shaped dove-cot, built in two stages, some 20' to 22' in height, and having an opening in the roof for the ingress and egress of the pigeons. From a height of 7' above the floor it is lined with stone nests.

O.S.M., CAITH., viii. (unnoted). Visited, 5th July 1910.

48. *Kitchen Middens, Freswick Bay.*—Stretching along Freswick Bay, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of Freswick House, at a spot known as the "Lady's Brow," are several kitchen middens, from which bone



PLATE VI.—Sgarbach, Auckingill (No. 45).



PLATE VII.—Burial Vault and Dove-cot, Island of Stroma (No. 50).

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pins and numerous fragments of coarse undecorated pottery have been recovered.

O.S.M., CAITH., viii. (unnoted).

Visited, 5th July 1910.

49. *Ruins, Freswick Bay*.—Situating about 200 yards SE. of the modern chapel at Freswick there have been exposed by excavation the ruins of a rectangular building with walls 4' thick, and showing traces of lime on its inner face. The entrance has been from the SE. through a doorway 2' 5" wide. Behind the door-jambs, near the centre of the thickness of the wall, are bar holes on either side. Lying all over the floor, which was paved, was found much iron slag.

O.S.M., CAITH., viii. (unnoted).

Visited, 5th July 1910.

50. *Burial Vault and Dove-cot, Island of Stroma*.—Towards the E. end of the southern shore of the island of Stroma, on the top of a promontory rock, is situated a graveyard, and from the centre of it rises a rectangular structure (pl. VII.), now roofless, built with grey flags and pink sandstone quoins. It has been finished with an ordinary span roof, now gone. The building measures exteriorly 25' x 18' 5", is formed of two storeys, and is some 22' in height. On the ground level, entered by a door in the W. wall which is 2' 6" thick, is a low vaulted chamber, evidently a burial vault. The vault is not continued to the floor, but rises from a ledge, 6" wide, at 2' above the ground level. There is a continuous bead-and-hollow moulding around the door. On the floor above the vault is a pigeon-house, entered by a door at the higher level in the E. wall. It is furnished with the usual stone nests. A stone at the S. side of the W. front of the building bears the date 1677 cut in relief.

This is no doubt the vault referred to by the early travellers and writers, instancing a remarkable case of preservation of dead bodies by natural means. Pennant writes of Stroma as "famous for its natural mummies, or the entire and uncorrupted bodies of persons who had been dead sixty years"; and the Rev. Alex. Pope of Reay says: [in Stroma] "there is a vault where they bury, built by one Kennedy of Carnmuch. The coffins are laid on stools above ground: but the vault being on the sea edge, and the rapid tides of the Pentland Firth running by it, there is such a saltish air continually as has converted the bodies into mummies." Bishop Forbes, who visited Caithness in 1762, reiterates the tale, and goes on to relate that the body of Dr Kennedy, who built the vault, was to be seen there "for many years, and would have been so still, "had it not been for his son, Murdoch Kennedy, who played such "wretched tricks (O facinus indignum! Referens tremisco!) on "the Body of his Father, for the Diversion of Strangers, as in time "broke it to pieces, and the Head was the part that fell first off. "He used to place Strangers at his Father's Feet, and by setting "a Foot on one of his Father's made the Body spring up speedily and "salute them, which surprized them greatly. Then, after laying the "body down again, he beat a march upon the Belly, which sounded "equally loud with a Drum. William Sutherland of Wester "particularly informed me that, about 40 years ago, he was in "Murdoch's House, the same built by ye Fayr, and with him went "to the Burying-place, qre he witnessed him thus beating a march,

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“and saw several other Bodies entire, particularly some Bodies of children hanging by Nails and Pins upon the walls like dried Haddock, as he termed it. Wester’s son, a married man, told me that only about 12 years ago he was on Stroma, and saw there Dr Kennedy’s Body entire.”

See Pennant’s *Tour* (1769), p. 197 and *App.*, p. 353; Pococke’s *Tours*, p. 156; Calder’s *Caithness*, p. 19; *Stat. Acct.*, viii. p. 165; Macfarlane’s *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 152; Forbes’ *Journals*, p. 206; *Origines*, ii., pt. ii. p. 793.

O.S.M., CAITH., iii^A.

Visited, 17th September 1910.

51. *Mounds, Lochend*.—About 1 m. E. of Lochend farm, on the slopes of the moorland, and stretching back from the top of the steep bank which has in former times been the margin of a lake, are various grassy mounds of low elevation and irregular surface. One of these beside the bank has a diameter of some 35’ and appears to be the remains of a turf structure. About 100 yards ENE. is another, with a diameter of 45’ and an elevation of 3’ to 4’. Some 30 yards to the S. is a third, with a slight circular depression in the centre, measuring over all 40’ × 38’. The true nature of these remains is not obvious.

O.S.M., CAITH., vii. (“Cairns”). Visited, 19th September 1910.

SITES.

52. *Broch, Auckingill*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NNW. of Auckingill school is the site of a broch which has long been under cultivation and on which no remains are visible.

O.S.M., CAITH., xiv. (unnoted).

Visited, 5th July 1910.

53. *Broch, Gills*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of the road from Mey to Canisbay church, and 100 yards E. of the road through the township of Gills, is a low mound under cultivation, which is evidently the site of a broch. It has been much quarried for stones. A rotary quern was found in it.

O.S.M., CAITH., ii. (unnoted). Visited, 14th September 1910.

54. *Broch, Stemster*.—The O.S. map indicates on the Greenhill to the E. of Stemster, and beside the burn, the supposed site of a fort. From information received in the district it is clearly the site of a broch, of which no measurable remains exist.

O.S.M., CAITH., viii.

Visited; 5th July 1910.

55. *John o’ Groat’s House*.—A mound, now marked by a flagstaff in front of the door of the hotel, is supposed to indicate the site of the original house. Excavation made in it a few years ago revealed the foundations of a rectangular building, but no signs of the octagonal structure traditionally stated to have been built by John o’ Groat.

See *Antiquaries*, x. p. 673.

O.S.M., CAITH., iii.

Visited, 5th July 1910.

56. *St John’s Chapel*.—At the landward end of St John’s point, toward the E. side of it, and partially traversed by a modern wall, is a foundation, some 32’ in length but of indefinite breadth, said to be





PLATE VIII.—Castle Mestag: showing situation (No. 58).



PLATE IX.—Castle Mestag (No. 58).

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that of the chapel. In the interior two slabs protrude, which may have formed the ends of a long cist. The building is not correctly oriented, and its designation is doubtful.

O.S.M. CAITH., ii.

Visited, 14th September 1910.

57. *St Drostan's Chapel, Brabstermire*.—The site of this chapel, which was dedicated to St Drostan, lies on the W. side of the high road to the NW. of Brabstermire House. It was excavated, and showed a small building evidently of the chancelled type, but the ruins are now entirely covered up.

See *Eccles. Hist. Caith.*, p. 49.

O.S.M., CAITH., vii. ("St Eustan's").

Visited, 14th September 1910.

58. *Castle Mestag, Island of Stroma*.—At the NW. end of Mell Head, some 12' to 15' out from the edge of the cliffs which fringe the shore, stands a stack, or detached perpendicular mass of rock. Occupying nearly the whole summit has been a small keep, now reduced to a few courses of masonry. Except by means of a bridge the position is inaccessible (Pls. VIII. and IX.).

There appears to be no extant history of the structure, and its existence is merely referred to in the *Statistical Account*.

See *Stat. Acct.*, viii. p. 164.

O.S.M., CAITH., ii^A.

Visited, 17th September 1910.

59. *Cairn, Island of Stroma*.—A slight elevation towards the S. end of the island bears the name of Cairn Hill, but no cairn remains on it.

O.S.M., CAITH., iii^A.

Visited, 17th September, 1910.

60. *Ruins, etc., Nethertown, Island of Stroma*.—Half a mile down the E. coast from the N. end of the island, is a little harbour at the Geo of Nethertown. Beside the house occupied by Mr Smith, immediately to the S. of this harbour, are remains which are probably prehistoric. Some 20' to the S. of the house there protrude a few inches through the turf two slabs set on edge, parallel, and 3' apart, while 2' to the W. of the most northerly is another in alignment with it. It was stated that along the coast, towards the N., were many such cist-like settings of slabs, known as "Picts' beds," but no others, except such as are here recorded, have been noted. On the N. side of the house, at the edge of the bank, are exposed the ruins of a structure in which upright slabs are visible, set parallel 2' 10" apart, with bones and shells intermingling with the debris.

O.S.M., CAITH., iii^A.

Visited, 17th September 1910.

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ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

61. *Dunnet Church*.—This church (Pl. X.) is situated about 7 m. E. from Thurso and 3½ m. S. from Dunnet Head, the most northerly point of Scotland. It bears a considerable resemblance to Canisbay church, situated some 8 m. further E., and is similar in size, measuring some 84' × 30'. It has, however, no transepts. The harling which covers

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the whole exterior of church and tower obscures the style of masonry and evidence of the alterations, which have probably been effected in the windows and doors, as well as its few architectural details. The W. doorway in the N. wall has escaped alteration, except that it is built up. It is round-arched, with a broad splay continued down the jambs, and from its position and character it undoubtedly dates from pre-Reformation times. In width it measures 2' 3", but its height is unascertainable owing to the raising of the churchyard level. The tower in the centre of the W. front measures 19' 4" from E. to W. by 20' 4" from N. to S., with walls 3' 6" to 4' in thickness, and is finished with a saddle-back roof in alignment with the church roof. It has square-headed windows in the gable of the bell chamber, with a few other small windows partly lighting the staircase, which projects into the tower at one corner. This staircase is an unaltered feature, and its construction and the style of its splayed doorways closely resemble those frequently found in castles and churches of the 16th and earlier centuries. It is an interesting fact that Timothy Pont, the well-known early geographer of Scotland, was the minister of this church during the first decade of the 17th century.

See *Origines*, ii., pt. ii. p. 789.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi.

Visited, 18th August 1910.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

62. *Broch, Scarfskerry*.—On a short promontory rock, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the W. of Scarfskerry Post Office, are the fragmentary remains of a structure, probably a broch. The building has occupied the whole of the outer end of the promontory now some 30' in breadth, but the crumbling away of the rock has considerably curtailed its dimensions. The whole is overgrown with grass and no part of the structure is visible. Across the landward end of the promontory a trench has been dug.

O.S.M., CAITH., ii.

Visited, 14th September 1910.

63. *Broch, Murza*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. ESE. of Murza farm, in a field, is a mound which contains the ruins of a broch. (The ground being under crop at the date of visit no details were obtainable.)

O.S.M., CAITH., xiii.

Visited, 19th September 1910.

64. *Broch (supposed), Ha' of Greenland*.—About $\frac{1}{3}$ m. SE. of the farm of Ha' of Greenland, situated in the middle of a cultivated field, is an artificial mound much reduced by ploughing. There is no definite indication of its character, but it probably covers the remains of a broch.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi. ("Mound"). Visited, 19th September 1910.

EARTH-HOUSE.

65. *Earth-house, Ham*.—On the E. side of a small geo about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Ham harbour is an earth-house or chambered mound (fig. 7). A grassy mound some 62' in diameter and 6' in elevation is situated at the edge of the cliffs. At several places small excavations have been made in it disclosing its artificial character. Entering from S. by W.



PLATE X.—Dunnet Church (No. 61).



PLATE XI.—“Earl's Cairn,” Hollandmaik (No. 72).

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is the passage which has been opened out, leading to a chamber in the centre. The outer portion of the passage as originally exposed on excavation extended for a distance of some 14' beyond the present entrance, passing directly inwards for over 9' or 10', thereafter making a sharp turn to the left. Where now exposed it is built on each side and roofed with flags. In height it measures 3' and in

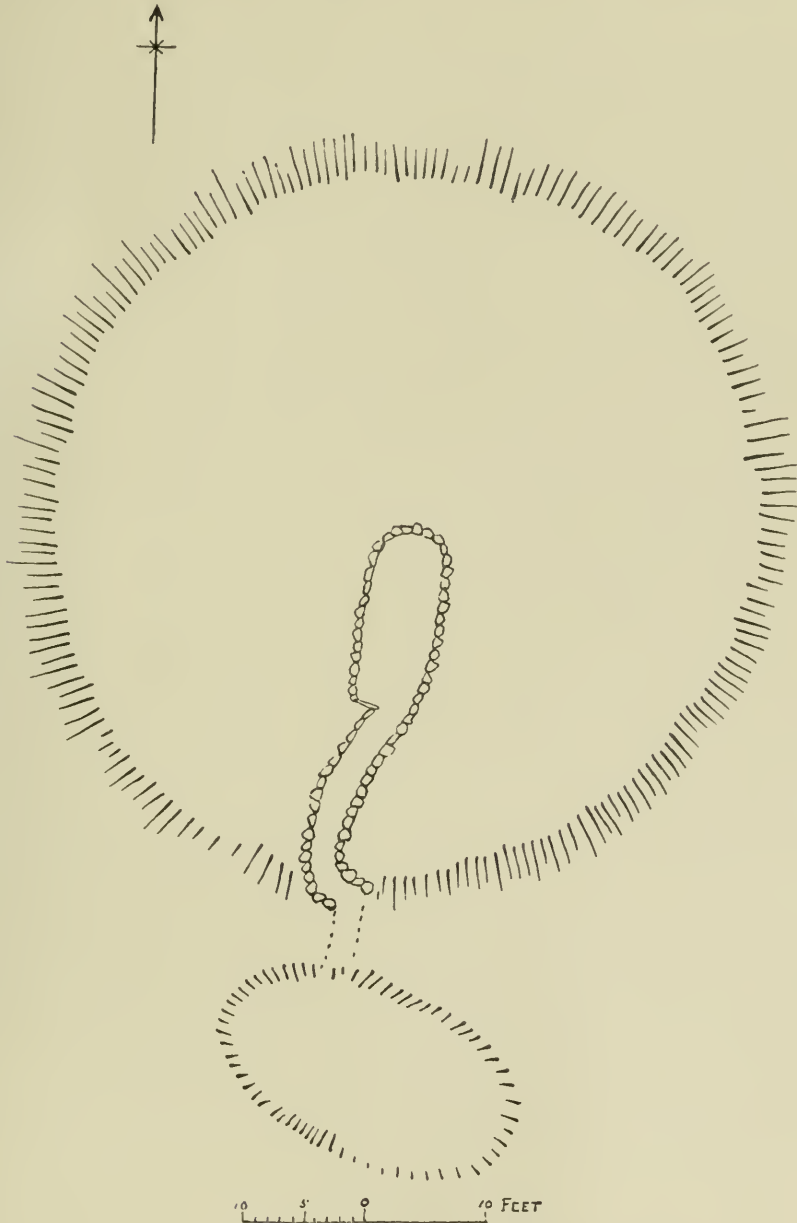


FIG. 7. —Earth-house, Ham (No. 65); Ground-plan.

width 2', and appears to pass along the original ground level. Curving slightly to the right it extends inwards for a distance of 13', increasing in height to 3' 10". In its course there are neither door checks nor bar holes. The chamber, into the end of which the passage opens, is oblong on plan and rounded at the back. It measures 14' 9" in length, 4' 10" in width at the entrance of the passage, and 5' 11" at its greatest width in the centre. The walls, which are dry-built, slightly converge upwards and are roofed with

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flags. The greatest height in the centre from what appears to be the original floor level is 6' 6". In the end of the W. wall, where the curve of the back commences, about 3' above the present floor level, is a small recess or ambry measuring 1' in height, 1' 3" in breadth, and 1' 6" in depth. The floor, which is said to be paved, is covered with a deposit, nearly a foot in depth, of soil and food refuse which has not been examined. There is a hole some 2' to 3' square in the centre of the roof where the slabs have apparently fallen in. The top of the roof in the interior is some 1' 6" to 2' below the summit of the mound. At the extreme outer end of the entrance passage is an oval depression, measuring 27' x 14', which has not been excavated.

This monument may possibly be the "Pict's House" noted in 1760 by Bishop Pococke, who gives the following account of it:—
 "I found two cells, three yards apart, and the mouth about a yard
 "wide. The passage to one is destroyed, and, as I apprehended,
 "two yards of the other. It is three yards into a bend, and then two
 "yards more. The cell within is two yards wide and five yards long
 "in a sort of an oval, and at the entrance is a sett in of three-
 "quarters of a yard, and on the other side it forms the narrow end
 "of the oval, the sides are straight for a yard high, and set in for
 "another yard to three-quarters of a yard in width at top, which is
 "covered with flags. There are two or three small holes as convenient
 "recesses. The other cell is only a yard and a half high. At the
 "end is a hole, half a yard above the floor, about two feet six inches
 "high, three feet long, and three feet broad, lessening by a set-in of
 "three-quarters of a yard, and this was probably a chimney, as there
 "seemed to have been an opening to the top. Both the cells and
 "passages have without doubt been in some degree filled with earth,
 "for it is with difficulty any one can get in by the passages, which
 "are about a yard high."

If the places are identical, only one "cell" is now apparent.

In the *Statistical Account* relating to the parish of Dunnet there is a description evidently of the same construction. Its external appearance is described as a "beautiful green mount about 8 or 9 feet above the level of the adjacent field." Two entrances to the "cells" about 8' asunder are said to have led from two outer intercommunicating circular apartments of about 17' or 18' diameter.

See Pococke's *Tours*, p. 156; *Stat. Acct.*, xi. p. 257.

O.S.M., CAITH., i. ("Brough"). Visited, 18th August 1910.

HUT CIRCLES AND ASSOCIATED MOUNDS.

66. *Hut Circle, Links of Greenland*.—Some 40 yards to the N. of the mound No. 77 is a larger mound overgrown with bents, with a hollow depression in the centre. Over all the mound measures in diameter 55' from N. to S. by 66' from E. to W., and in elevation about 4'. The depression, which is probably the interior of a hut circle, measures some 30' in diameter. From it two or three thin slabs protrude through the surface. A number of shells of limpets, etc., have been turned up by the rabbits around the site.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi. ("Cairn"). Visited, 23rd August 1910.

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67. *Hut Circle, do.*—Some 200 yards ESE. of the last is another hut circle, with an interior diameter of 31'. The entrance from the SE. is visible for a length of 6' 4", faced on either side with flags, and has a breadth of 2' 6". In the interior several thin slabs protrude set edgewise against the bank. The present thickness of the bank is from 13' to 14'.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi. ("Cairn"). Visited, 23rd August 1910.

68. *Hut Circle, Links of Dunnet.*—At the S. end of a ridge of sand about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. SSE. of Dunnet church is a large circular depression, around the edge of which stones are evident. It has an interior diameter of about 36'.

69. *Mounds, do.*—Some 50 yards to the E. are three small conical stony mounds, each with a diameter of from 16' to 18' and an elevation of some 3'. One of them appears to have been dug into, but no cist is exposed. (O.S., "Cairns.")

O.S.M., CAITH., vi. Visited, 23rd August 1910.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

70. "*Killi Cairn,*" *St John's Loch, Hunspow.*—At Hunspow, by the N. end of St John's Loch, are the remains of a small cairn measuring some 21' in diameter and 2' to 3' in elevation. It appears to have been excavated, and from the centre rises a single upright slab 2' 2" in height above ground by 3' 4" in breadth, which may have formed part of a cist.

O.S.M., CAITH., i. Visited, 18th August 1910.

71. *Cairns, Links of Greenland.*—On the W. side of the road from Castletown to Dunnet and about $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. of Dunnet church are two small cairns close to one another. They measure some 32' in diameter and from 5' to 6' in elevation. Neither appears to have been excavated.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi. Visited, 23rd August 1910.

72. *Chambered Cairn, "Earl's Cairn," Hollandmaik.*—Situated in a grass park some 200 yards N. of the farm of Hollandmaik, is a circular chambered cairn (Pl. XI.), which was excavated by Sir Francis Tress Barry. It measures in diameter from 41' to 43' and in elevation about 6'. At the base are several large boulders, irregularly placed and evidently disturbed from their original positions, which appear to indicate that the base was outlined with such stones. The chamber, which is tripartite, is entered from the ESE. At 15' 6" inwards from the outer edge of the cairn two upright slabs mark the entrance to an outer rectangular compartment 2' 2" in length and apparently some 4' 10" in width, but the destruction of one side has rendered the latter dimension indefinite. Between portal stones, one of which only remains, access has been gained to the central compartment, which is approximately circular, measuring 6' from back to front and 7' across. The wall, for the most part built of thin slabs laid horizontally and corbelled out upwards, exists to a height of 3' 4". In the centre of the back is an opening 2' 9" in width between two upright slabs placed obliquely, giving access to the third compartment, a built

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semicircular recess 3' in depth. Its height has been that of the two upright slabs which are at present 1' 10" above ground level, but the lintel which rested on them is broken and the roof of the recess is, in consequence, in a ruined state.

Within the chamber were found "two urns of dark blue clay, highly ornamented but in fragments," also "burned wood and ashes."*

O.S.M., CAITH., vii.

Visited, 19th September 1910.

73. *Chambered Cairn (remains), Rattar*.—Some 30' to the SW. of the mound (No. 75), there project from the turf the heads of three large slabs all facing N. and S., two in line and one a short distance to the rear opposite the space between the two slabs in front. These appear to be the remains of a chambered cairn.

74. *Cairn, Easter Head, Dunnet Head*.—Situated about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SE. of Easter Head, Dunnet Head, is a small cairn of low elevation with a diameter of 16' or thereby. A surveyor's cairn has been erected on the top of it.

O.S.M., CAITH., i.

Visited, 18th August 1910.

MISCELLANEOUS.

75. *Mound, Rattar*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of Rattar House, and a short distance to the N. of the site of a broch (No. 83), is a grassy mound, oval on plan. It lies NE. and SW., and measures in length and breadth 45' \times 30', and in elevation 5'. It was partially opened by Mr John Nicolson, Nybster, who discovered a passage 4' deep by 2' wide, extending along it from the SW. end, faced with slabs set on end and covered by flat stones for lintels. There were found in this passage a stone poulder, two split bones, and a quantity of shells of edible molluscs.

O.S.M., CAITH., i. ("Tumuli").

Visited, 18th August 1910.

76. *Do., do.*—At the edge of the bank above the shelving rocks about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Rattar House is a low mound which has been partially carried away. It has a diameter of 30' and an elevation of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' to 2'. Its character is not apparent.

O.S.M., CAITH., i. ("Cairn").

Visited, 18th August 1910.

77. *Mound, Links of Greenland*.—On the S. side of a small burn which crosses the links about 1 m. S. of Dunnet church, and about 250 yards E. of the road from Castletown, is a conical sandy mound. In diameter it measures 33' and in elevation about 5'. From the top two thin slabs protrude 5' 8" apart, inclining towards each other at an angle of about 15°–20°; and some 6' and 9' respectively towards the W., another pair in similar alignment are just visible about 5' distant from each other. The slabs are thin, and the construction does not appear to be a chambered cairn.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi. ("Cairn").

Visited, 23rd August 1910.

78. *Mound, Dunnet*.—Some $\frac{2}{3}$ m. S. of Dunnet church, on the E. side of the road, is a high sandy mound with an elevation of 16' or 17', around the top of which much stone is visible but no

* Information supplied by Mr John Nicolson, Nybster.

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structure exposed. The diameter of the area over which the ruin is apparent is about 46'. The character of the remains is quite indefinite.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi. ("Cairn"). Visited, 23rd August 1910.

SITES.

79. *St John's Chapel, St John's Loch.*—The site of St John's Chapel is recognisable on a grassy knoll of slight elevation at the SE. end of St John's Loch. The dimensions of the building are not ascertainable without excavation.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi. Visited, 14th September 1910.

80. *Chapel, Ham.*—At the corner of a field to the E. of Kerry Geo, Ham, are evidently the foundations of some structure which are said to be those of a chapel.

O.S.M., CAITH., i. Visited, 18th August 1910.

81. *Chapel, Kirk o' Banks, or Kirk o' Tang.*—The outlines on the turf marking the foundations of this chapel are clearly visible close beside the sea to the E. of the burn of Rattar. It appears to have been a chancelled building measuring interiorly about 32' × 12'. What appears to be the wall of the chancel occurs at 17' from the W. end. Close beside the kirk to seawards was found a small hoard of seven penannular armlets or bracelets of silver, of a form associated with the Viking times. Five of them are preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh, and the rest in the Thurso Museum. The circumstances of their discovery are fully recorded.

See *Antiquaries*, ix. p. 424.

O.S.M., CAITH., ii. Visited, 18th August 1910.

82. *Castle, Brough.*—On the landward end of a long rocky promontory about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of the E. end of the hamlet of Brough are the foundations of a castle. A trench some 40' wide and 10' to 12' deep has been dug across the neck and on either side of the rock; in rear of it has been a range of buildings separated by a narrow courtyard or passage. The keep is not recognisable. The promontory tails away seawards to a shelf of rock. There appears to be no history of this castle.

O.S.M., CAITH., i. Visited, 18th August 1910.

83. *Broch, Rattar.*—In a field about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NNW. of Rattar House are the fragmentary remains of a large circular construction, the stones from which have been removed. It has probably been a broch.

O.S.M., CAITH., i. Visited, 18th August 1910.

84. *Broch, Rattar Burn.*—There are no visible remains of the broch which is indicated on the O.S. map as at the mouth of the Burn of Rattar.

O.S.M., CAITH., i. Visited, 14th September 1910.

85. *Ruins, Greenvale.*—On the farm of Greenvale, to the SE. of the farmhouse, about 120 yards E. of the cross-roads, and on the S. side of the road to Huna, is the site of a construction, recognised by the upright slabs coming in contact with the plough. It has not been

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excavated and the character of the ruin is unknown. A bone weaving comb is said to have been found on the site.

The O.S. map indicates that two stone cists containing human remains were found at the spot in 1872.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi. Visited, 14th September 1910.

The O.S. maps indicate sites as under :—

86. *Tumuli, near Ham.* O.S.M., CAITH., i.

87. *Church and Graveyard, Kirk Hillock, Reaster.* O.S.M., CAITH., xiii.

88. *Chapel, Dunnet Head.*—There is also the site of a chapel about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. by W. of the W. end of the Loch of Bushta, Dunnet Head. The adjacent ground bears the name of "Chapel Hill," and the inlet of the sea on the W. is known as "Chapel Geo."

See *Eccles. Hist. Caith.*, p. 46.

O.S.M., CAITH., i.

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ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

89. *St Magnus' Chapel, Spital.*—Some 250 yards NW. of the farm of Spital Mains are the ruins of the Chapel of St Magnus. The building is in a very ruinous condition. Interiorly it has measured some $65' \times 19'$, with walls some $3' 4''$ in thickness. The E. gable still stands to a height of about $12'$, and the side walls average $6'$ to $8'$ in height. At the E. end of the N. wall is a round-arched recess rising from the floor, $6'$ across its base by $1' 9''$ in depth. The entrance has been through the S. wall near its W. end. There are no decorative features visible. The interior is overgrown with nettles, and the adjoining graveyard, long used as a burial-place by the Clan Gunn, is in a neglected condition.

The chapel is said to have been originally attached to the hospital of St Magnus. The earliest reference to the hospital appears to be contained in a charter of 1476 by James III. to William Sinclair, son of William, Earl of Caithness.

See *Origines*, ii., pt. ii. p. 757 ; *Stat. Acct.*, xix. p. 44.

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii. Visited, 20th June 1910.

90. "*Gavin's Kirk*," *Dorrery.*—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S.E. of Dorrery Lodge, and within an enclosed graveyard, are the ruins of a small chapel. It has consisted of a nave and chancel, the former measuring $15' \times 12'$, and the latter $8' \times 7'$. The total length of the interior has been $27'$ and the thickness of the outer walls $3' 6''$. The greatest height of wall remaining is about $3'$.

The chapel was known as "Gavin's Kirk."

See Pennant's *Tour* (1769), *App.*, p. 351.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. Visited, 9th August 1910.

91. *St Thomas' Chapel, Skinnet.*—Situated about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. to the N.E. of Skinnet farm, and about 4 m. S. of Thurso, are the ruins of the Chapel of St Thomas. In pre-Reformation times this was the church

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of a parish subsequently united to the parish of St Fergus of Halkirk. The S. and W. walls vary in height from 3' to 7'; the N. wall is reduced to 2' or 3', as is also the greater part of the E. wall. In plan the building has been of the chancelled type, measuring interiorly 59' 6" in length—whereof the nave measured 38' x 16' and the chancel about 21' x 13', the diminution of the width being caused by an intake of the N. wall only. The walls, which have been built with clay for mortar, are 3' 6" in thickness. The entrance to the nave has been through the S. wall at 12' from the SW. corner and has been 3' in width, while an entrance to the chancel near its W. end has also been through the S. wall. In the S. wall of the nave have been two small oblong windows 1' 9" in height by 7" in width, passing straight through the wall for 1' 2" and immediately widening thereafter to 3'. A similar window has existed in the S. wall of the chancel.

92. At the British Linen Bank House, Thurso, there is a rough ovoid stone measuring 1' 6" x 1' 3", with a hollow basin 8" x 9" in diameter and 7" in depth, which was brought from the chapel and may have been a holy-water stoup of rude workmanship.

See *Origines*, ii., pt. ii. p. 756; *Stat. Acct.*, xix. p. 47.

Sculptured Stones.

93. Standing some 6' out from the S. wall of the chapel and



FIG. 8.—Celtic Cross, Skinnet (No. 93).

towards the W. end of it, is an upright slab (fig. 8) measuring 4' 11" in height above ground, 2' 9" in breadth, and 5" in thickness. On the

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W. face are the remains of an equal-limbed Celtic cross, with a central boss $2\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter from which the arms radiate. Only the upper arm remains at all perfect, the rest of the cross being almost effaced owing to the flaking of the surface of the stone. This arm expands upwards, and is 1' in length and $1' 3\frac{1}{2}$ " broad at its outer end where it is convex in outline. It is surrounded by a single moulding, and contains a triquetra knot of interlaced ornament. At the point of intersection it is 2" in width.

Another sculptured stone taken from the wall of this chapel, in which it had been used as building material, lies in the museum at Thurso, and is afterwards described (see No. 445).

O.S.M., CAITH., xi.

Visited, 13th August 1910.

CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

94. *Dirlot Castle*.—Some 2 m. due S. of Westerdale are situated the ruins of Dirlot Castle. Between the old bank of the Thurso River and the present bed of the stream lies a small haugh or unenclosed meadow, from one end of which, close by a deep pool of dark water, rises an isolated rock to a height of some 30'. On all sides it is steep, and the summit difficult of access. At the N. end of this rock are the ruins of the castle, now some 3' to 4' in height, with walls 6' 6" in thickness. The keep has been very small, measuring interiorly only some $18' \times 10'$, and has been of the usual rectangular form, occupying the full extent of the N. end of the rock. The S. portion of the summit, measuring some $40' \times 24'$, has formed a courtyard, around which the remains of a parapet are visible. Some 30' out from the base of the rock on the side away from the river are the remains of a stony rampart or wall about 6' in height.

In the 15th century Dirlot belonged to a family of Sutherlands. Being concerned in the slaughter of one Alexander Dunbar, Alexander Sutherland was declared rebel, and having been captured and brought to the King, was executed. For effecting the capture and transporting the rebel to the King, Odo *alias* Y Makky in Strathnaver received a Crown Charter of, *inter alia*, the lands of Dilred dated 4 November 1499.

See Cordiner's *Antiquities*, p. 83, pl. xviii.; Gordon's *Earldom of Sutherland*, p. 80; Calder's *Caithness*, p. 99; *Reg. Mag. Sig.*

O.S.M., CAITH., xxii.

Visited, 4th August 1910.

95. *Braal Castle*.—The ruins of Braal Castle are situated in rear of the present mansion, on the N. bank of the Thurso River and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NE. of Halkirk. The tower is a rectangular rubble-built structure, measuring externally some $35' \times 37'$, and existing to the level of the top of the second storey. The battlements and distinctive features of the roof have, however, all disappeared. The walls are from 8' to 10' in thickness. The entrance door is on the first floor level through the SW. angle, and just within it the staircase rises to the right in the thickness of the wall. The basement, which measures interiorly $20' 9" \times 18'$, has not been vaulted; has had no external door; and has been lighted by two narrow vertical loop-holes. On the first floor are deep broad window recesses in the N. and W. walls





PLATE XII.—Window-recess in Braal Castle (No. 95).



PLATE XIII.—Broch, Achies (No. 98).

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(see pl. XII.). They are arched, and furnished with stone seats, and measure 6' in width, 6' 3" in depth, and 8' 2" in height. In the E. wall are a fireplace and *garde-robe*, and there is a closet in the SW. angle. The floors have all fallen. The corbels of the first floor exist along one half of the S. wall and are exceedingly broad, forming a pavement 3' to 4' across. The castle probably dates from the 14th century. In 1375 or 1376 King Robert II. granted to his son David Stewart, created in 1371 Earl Palatine of Stratherne, the Castle of Brathwell and all the lands thereof, inherited by Alexander of Ard in right of his mother Matilda of Stratherne, and resigned by him. In 1452, King James II. granted the lands of Brathwele to Admiral Sir George Crechtoun of Carnis, on the resignation of Sir James Crechtoun of Frendraucht and his wife. In 1547 the castle was in the possession of George, Earl of Caithness, who, along with several others, had a remission from Queen Mary for taking the Castle of Ackergill and for forcibly confining Alexander Keith, the Captain, and John Skarlet, his servitor, in the place of Girnigo, Brawl, and other places.

The modern house adjoining the ruin was erected in 1856 on the vaults of an earlier mansion whose construction had not proceeded further.

See *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, iii. p. 137 (plan); Cordiner's *Antiquities*, p. 82; *Origines*, ii., pt. ii. p. 759; *New Stat. Acct. Suth., etc.*, xv. p. 70.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi.

Visited, 7th September 1910.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

96. *Broch, Mybster*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Mybster Inn, on the S. side of the road to Westerdale, is a large grass-covered mound in the corner of a field, concealing the remains of a broch. From E. to W. it measures 135' in diameter, and from N. to S. 123'. Its elevation is about 12'. The mound has been considerably broken into and much of it removed from the NE. side.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiii.

Visited, 16th June 1910.

97. *Broch, Achies*.—Some 200 yards ESE. of Achies farm a grass-covered hillock rises from a cultivated field. Its diameter from N. to S. is 90', and from E. to W. 80'. A considerable part of the mound has been removed from the E. side. Its greatest elevation from the general surrounding level is about 8'. The exposed building and depressions on the summit suggest that this is a broch.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii.

Visited, 23rd June 1910.

98. *Broch, do.*—To the NW. of Achanarras Hill, and some $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NE. of Achies farm buildings, is a large grassy mound covering the ruins of a broch (pl. XIII.). Over all it measures about 150' in diameter, and 12' to 14' in greatest elevation. Above a steep scarp, some 6' to 8' higher than the field level, a terrace varying from 12' to 20' in breadth encircles the mound, leaving an elevated area in the centre with a diameter of about 76'. On the summit of this is a circular depression with a diameter of about 28' and a depth of about 5'. The mound has been, to a small extent, dug into from the SE.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. ("Mound").

Visited, 20th June 1910.

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99. *Broch, Achanarras*.—To the N. of Achanarras farm steading, and bounding the midden, are the remains of a broch. The grassy mound which represents the ruin is some 25' in diameter and 4' in elevation.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. ("Mound"). Visited, 20th June 1910.

100. *Broch, Spital*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SE. of the farm of Spital Mains a grassy mound rising from an arable field conceals the ruins of a broch. Its extent has been much reduced, and it now measures some 60' in diameter from E. to W. by 40' from N. to S. and 6' to 8' in height. A trench has been dug through it towards the E. end, exposing two jambs covered by a lintel, probably a portion of the entrance passage. (O.S. "Fairy Hillock.")

101. *Broch, do.*—Some 250 yards E. of the farm are the remains of a grassy mound which has evidently covered a broch. Some two-thirds of it have been carted away, and the remains are now unimportant. (O.S. "Torr an Fhidhlier.")

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii. Visited, 20th June 1910.

102. *Broch, Achlochan Moss*.—At the S. end of Achlochan Moss, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. ESE. of Dale farm, a grass-covered circular mound, in form of a ring, marks the remains of a broch. The diameter over all from E. to W. is some 69', and from N. to S. 74', and the elevation varies from 4' to 6'. The interior measures some 35' across, and is from 4' to 5' deep. Certain depressions on the top of the enclosing mound may indicate the positions of chambers. There are no indications of outworks.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxii. Visited, 21st June 1910.

103. *Broch, "Cnoc Donn," Do.*—Within 300 yards of the last mentioned broch, and to the N., are the remains of another the position of which has been fortified to a remarkable extent. A grassy mound rising some 6' to 7' in height above the surrounding level is cut off from the moorland by a ditch passing southward from NE. to SW. and varying from 60' to 66' in width. Crowning the scarp has been a wall or rampart forming a parapet still some 3' to 4' in height on the inside, and 9' to 10' in elevation above the bottom of the ditch. Above the counterscarp has also been a mound, now some 12' to 14' wide at base and separated from the edge of the ditch, for the greater part of its length, by a berm some 7' in width. Its greatest height is some 7' above the bottom of the ditch. Between the parapet and the central mound which covers the buildings is a level area some 15' to 20' in breadth except on the W., where it appears to have been broken down. The central mound measures some 86' from N. to S. by 73' from E. to W., and has an elevation above the terrace at its base of from 6' to 7'. There has been an approach and entrance through the rampart from the NW. The top of the mound is pitted with numerous depressions, and a portion of it towards the E. has at some time been removed. Beyond the ends of the ditch the surrounding ground is still in places marshy, and the numerous sheep drains suggest that in former times it was more so.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. Visited, 21st June 1910.

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104. *Broch, Dale*.—In a field on the W. side of the road that leads from Westerdale to Halkirk, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. by E. of Dale, is a mound covering the remains of a broch. It has been of considerable size, but almost one half has been removed from the E. side. The original dimensions have been about 140' \times 122', while the remaining portion measures 64' from N. to S. by 113' from E. to W. The greatest elevation is about 9'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxii.

Visited, 23rd June 1910.

105. *Broch, "Carn na Mairg," Westerdale*.—Situated on the right, or E. bank of the Thurso River, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Westerdale, is a broch known as "Carn na Mairg." It is a conspicuous grass-covered mound rising from the water's edge and cut off from the moorland by a well defined ditch opening on the river bank, wet in the bottom, and filling when the river is in flood. This ditch measures some 22' in width on the SE., and about 15' on the NE. From the top of the parapet which crowns the scarp it is from 8' to 10' deep, but its depth from the top of the outer bank is only 2' to 3'. Towards the E. the continuity of the ditch is broken by the approach to the broch which crosses on the solid and is 6' wide where it passes through the enceinte. On either side of this approach as it crosses the ditch, the foundations of a wall are visible beneath the turf, and beyond it on the moorland two parallel mounds or ruined walls exist for a distance of some 50', 24' apart and measuring 17' across at base, indicating the direction of the roadway inclining obliquely towards the entrance. Between the ends of these flanking mounds and the ditch an old road now interposes. The parapet wall on the top of the scarp has been some 4' to 5' in thickness, and has been carried entirely round the broch. Between it and the base of the tower has been a level space some 30' in width over which numerous flag-stones set on end protrude from the turf. The outer end of the entrance passage of the broch has been exposed to a height of 2' 3", as also the inner end, while on one or two places on the exterior small portions of wall are visible. The entrance has been from the E. through a passage 10' 6" in length, 3' 4" wide at the exterior, and 2' 4" wide at the interior extremity measured at the level of its roof. The outer lintel is gone, but the succeeding four remain *in situ* (though one is broken), roofing the passage for 8' of its length. No guard chamber or door jambs are exposed. The diameter over all is about 52'. Above the present floor level of the passage the greatest height of the mound is 8'. A depression on the top marks the court.

106. *Broch, "Tulach Buaille a' Chnoic," Westerdale*.—On the top of the left bank of the Thurso River, about 100 yards below Westerdale bridge, is an oblong mound measuring some 60' to 70' in length by 20' in breadth, covering the remains of a broch, small fragments of the wall of which are visible. The mound has at one time been quarried into at the S. end, and the river has eaten into it on the E., reducing it to its present form.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxii.

Visited, 23rd June 1910.

107. *Broch, "Tulach Beag," Tormsdale*.—At Tormsdale, about $1\frac{3}{4}$ m. up the Thurso River from Westerdale and some 40 yards back from its right bank, are the remains of a broch. The stones have

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been to a great extent removed from the ruin and the outer face of the wall is at no point visible. The diameter over all seems to have been about 58'. Towards the NW. a portion of the interior of a chamber is exposed. The greatest elevation is some 5'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxii.

Visited, 4th August 1910.

108. *Broch*, "*Tulach Mor*," *Tormsdale*.—On a rock rising from the edge of the right bank of the Thurso River, about 2 m. above Westerdale, are the remains of a broch. Like the broch of "Carn na Mairg" (No. 105) lower down the river, it has been defended by a ditch or trench of varying width, best preserved towards the NE., the bottom of which is some 8' below the top of the scarp and 6' below the counterscarp. On the NE., or side away from the river, between the top of the scarp and the base of the broch, there has existed a terrace some 20' in width, diminishing in breadth as it approaches the base of the tower on either side. At the edge of this terrace, or glacis, there has been a wall or parapet crowning the scarp. The diameter of the tower is difficult to ascertain but appears to have been about 54'. On the side above the river portions of walling appear at one or two places, suggesting that the wall has either been greatly increased in thickness on that side or that there has been building on the bank below to give stability to the foundations. On the side above the river bank the inner end of a chamber is visible, curving towards the S. A considerable amount of quarrying has taken place into the face of the terrace on the E. side.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxii.

Visited, 4th August 1910.

109. *Broch*, *Leosag*.—In the angle formed by the confluence of the Olgrimbeg burn with the Thurso River, on the S. side of the former and about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NE. of Leosag farm, is a low hillock evidently containing the remains of a broch. It has been long under cultivation, and is much spread out. The diameter over all is about 95' and the greatest elevation 6'. No part of the structure is visible.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. ("Mound").

Visited, 4th August 1910.

110. *Broch*, *North Calder*.—In cultivated land about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the W. of North Calder farm is a grassy hillock on the summit of which there has evidently stood a broch. The hillock seems to some extent to be artificial. It has a diameter over all of about 146' and an elevation of some 10' to 12'. No part of the structure is visible, but the portion of the mound which seems to have contained the tower measures some 70' in diameter.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi. ("Mound").

Visited, 5th August 1910.

111. *Broch*, *Framside*.—At the edge of a cultivated field about 180 yards to the E. of the farm-house of Framside is a grassy knoll with an elevation of some 6' or 8', on the top of which has stood a broch. From the position occupied by the tower at the NW. end the mound slopes gradually away towards the SE. No part of the structure is visible, but it appears to have had a diameter of about 54'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi. ("Mound").

Visited, 5th August 1910.

112. *Broch*, "*Tulloch of Achavarn*," *Achavarn*.—About 130 yards S. of Achavarn, on the E. shore of Loch Calder, is the site of a broch. The structure, which has measured some 62' in diameter, has been

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almost entirely removed. At some 4' or 5' from its base is a low encircling bank or wall.

113. *Broch*, "*Shean Harraig*," *Scotscalder*.—On the E. side of the road to Thurso, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Scotscalder station and $\frac{1}{3}$ m. E. of the S. end of Loch Olginney, are the remains of a broch known as "Shean Harraig." The mound covering the ruin has been quarried into to some extent on the S. side. It has a diameter over all of about 76' and an elevation of 8'. No measurable part of the structure is exposed.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii.

Visited, 5th August 1910.

114. *Broch*, *Upper Sour*.—In the corner of a field some 300 yards W. of the farm-house of Upper Sour, is a large grassy mound, sloping away gradually to the S., and containing the ruins of a broch at its N. end. It has been quarried to some extent, but the face of the wall is in no place exposed. The diameter of the structure has been from 60' to 70', and the greatest elevation of the mound is some 8' or 9'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi.

Visited, 5th August 1910.

115. *Broch* (*supposed*), "*Housel Cairn*," *Halkirk*.—At the edge of a cultivated field about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. WSW. of Ben Morven Distillery, Halkirk, is a large grassy mound. The mound has been sharply scarped all round and the fragmentary ruins on the top appear to be those of a broch. The construction has, however, been so much pillaged that definite measurements are unobtainable. The O.S. map records that here were found stone cists containing human remains, bronze rings, iron spear-heads, and pottery.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii.

Visited, 5th August 1910.

116. *Broch*, *Skinnet*.—On the W. side of the Thurso Road, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SSW. of Skinnnet farm-house, are the remains of a broch. The E. side has been entirely removed, and a segment, representing less than one half of the original structure, overgrown with grass, is all that now remains.

See *Archæologia Scotica*, v., pt. i. p. 185.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi.

Visited, 5th August 1910.

117. *Broch*, "*Knockglass*."—Rising from the cultivated fields about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SW. of the Mill of Knockglass, and some 80 yards back from the N. bank of the Forse Water, is a high grassy hillock, on the top of which are the remains of a broch. The portion of the mound containing the ruins has a diameter of about 70' and an elevation of about 8'. No part of the structure is visible at any point. Between the base of the broch and the edge of the lower slope of the mound there appears to have existed the usual terrace. The highest elevation of the whole mound is from 16' to 17'.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 10th August 1910.

HUT CIRCLES, ETC.

118. *Hut Circle*, *Achlochan Moss*.—About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Mybster Inn, on the N. side of the road to Westerdale and some 20 yards distant from it, are the remains of a hut circle. It has been circular, with an interior diameter of about 12', surrounded by a bank or wall some 4' 6" in thickness. The inner outline of the bank is marked by large stones placed end to end a foot or so apart, and a similar arrangement appears

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to have characterised the outer circumference, which, however, is much overgrown with grass. The entrance has probably been from the SW., but the bank in that direction has been broken down.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxii. (unnoted). Visited, 21st June 1910.

119. *Hut Circle, Achalibster Hill*.—On the N. end of Achalibster Hill and about 1 m. WNW. of Achalibster farm, are the indefinite remains of what appears to have been a large hut circle, but may possibly be the site of a cairn. The construction is entirely overgrown with turf and heather, accurate dimensions are unobtainable, and the inequalities on the surface suggest some interior structure. It bears the name "Carn Liath" on the O.S. map.

Some 40' SE. is a much smaller hut circle, the interior dimensions of which are 18' × 20', and having the entrance from E. by N. The bank, which is formed of turf, is much worn down and its width indefinite. There are no mounds visible in the vicinity.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxii. Visited, 4th August 1910.

120. *Hut Circle, "Torr nan Dearcag," Dorrery*.—On the top of a green hillock rising out of the moorland about 1 m. NNE. of Dorrery Lodge, are the remains of what has probably been a small hut circle. The diameter over all is 21'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. Visited, 9th August 1910.

121. *Circular Enclosure, Dorrery*.—On the top of a hillock some 150 yards SE. of the last are the foundations of a large circular construction, the plan of which is now quite indefinite. There appears, however, to have been a circular enclosure measuring interiorly some 32' × 34', within which are indications of subdividing walls. On the W. the enclosing wall instead of completing the circle is carried by the N. to the SSE., passing the E. wall of the enclosure at some 17' distant, and thus forming a spiral figure. The measurement of the whole construction is some 78' × 90' over all.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. ("Mound"). Visited, 9th August 1910.

122. *Hut Circle, do.*—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of Dorrery Lodge, on the E. side of the peat road, is a large hut circle. It is entered from the E., but the bank on both sides of the entrance is much worn away and its details are unobtainable. The interior measurements are 24' × 28'. The thickness of the bank or wall, which is overgrown with grass and heather, is 9'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. (unnoted). Visited, 9th August 1910.

123. *Hut Circle, Hill of Lieurary*.—At the N. end of the top of the Hill of Lieurary are the remains of a small circular hut, with an interior diameter of 7' × 8'. The bank, which has been formed entirely of turf, is much worn down and measures about 6' in width. The entrance has been from the ESE. and 2' wide.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi. ("Mound"). Visited, 10th August 1910.

124. *Hut Circle (supposed), Skinnnet*.—In the low lying ground some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. NE. of Skinnnet farm-house, and about 200 yards W. of the Thurso River, is a circular enclosure. Over all it measures some 48' × 53', with the longest axis NE. and SW. There is a hollow towards the SW. which may mark the position of the entrance, but the surface

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is entirely covered with thick turf and details of the interior plan are quite obscure.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi. ("Mound"). Visited, 13th August 1910.

125. *Hut Circle, Loch Calder*.—About half way down the W. side of Loch Calder, SW. of the "Big Island," and some 200 yards from the shore, is a hut circle. It is formed of two circular enclosures in alignment, the one opening out of the other in line of the main entrance, which is from the SE. The back circle measures interiorly 25' × 27'. The floor, which has been dug out to some extent, is some 4' below the top of the enclosing bank and 2' 6" or thereby above the floor level of the front enclosure. The thickness of the bank is indefinite, but appears to have been about 8'. The front circle measures interiorly 23' × 25'. Details of the entrance and connecting passage are not procurable without excavation. The whole construction is overgrown with heather.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi. (unnoted). Visited, 22nd August 1910.

126. *Hut Circle, do.*—Somewhat less than $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of No. 125 is another hut circle, also overgrown with heather. It measures interiorly 20' × 25' and is entered from the SE. The thickness of the bank appears to be from 8' to 9'. No details of the entrance are obtainable.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi. (unnoted). Visited, 22nd August 1910.

127. *Hut Circle, Thulachan*.—On a grassy mound about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Thulachan are the remains of what has apparently been a stone-built hut circle, on the foundations of which in modern times a sheep stall has been built. It has been circular, with an interior diameter of 22', walls 9' thick, and an entrance from the SE. The foundations of the wall on the left of the entrance passage still remain. The width of the passage has been 2'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxii. ("Picts' Houses"). Visited, 7th July 1910.

128. *Hut Circle, do.*—Some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. N. by W. of the second group of ruins (No. 151), on a low green mound in the moor, are the remains of a hut circle. The structure has been formed entirely of turf, and is now much effaced. Its interior diameter is 22', the turf bank is 9' thick, and the entrance is from the S.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxii. (unnoted). Visited, 7th July 1910.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

129. *Chambered Cairn, "Tulloch of Milton," Halkirk*.—Situated about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. to the W. of Halkirk are the remains of a large oval cairn, much quarried. The dimensions are 100' from N. to S. by about 76' from E. to W. Towards the S. end some six or seven slabs set on end protrude from 8" to 14" above the ground, parallel, and almost in line. They face WNW. and ESE., and are about 27' inwards from the S. end. The first two at the W. side are 2' 6" apart, passing E., the next slab is 13' 8" distant, parallel, but somewhat S. of the other two. At 2' 6" distant from it is the next, parallel, and in line. Some 5' 4" E. is another, parallel, and somewhat S., and 22' further E. is a sixth, also parallel. In line with the last and 20' to the N. is another. Towards the N. end of the

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construction a small portion of cairn-like appearance remains intact, and beside it are one or two more slabs all facing in the same direction as the others. The slabs vary from 2' 6" to 3' in breadth as exposed, except one which is 4' 3" in breadth. This appears to have been a cairn with one or more chambers, and of a plan not hitherto noted on the mainland of Scotland, but possibly resembling that of certain chambered cairns in Orkney. Excavation is, however, necessary to ascertain fully its features.

The O.S. map indicates that human remains were found at the spot.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii.

Visited, 1st September 1910.

130. *Cairn, Achanarras Hill*.—On the N. end of Achanarras Hill, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NNW. of Achanarras farm, is a low heather-clad mound which is probably a cairn. It measures in diameter some 33' from N. to S. by 30' from E. to W., and in elevation from 2' to 3' (unnoted).

131. *Do., do.*—Some 40 yards W. of the stone circle on the N. end of Achanarras Hill (No. 141), situated about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Achanarras farm-house, is a low mound overgrown with mossy turf which seems to be a cairn. Its limits are indefinite, but it appears to measure in diameter some 43' from E. to W. by 56' from N. to S. (unnoted).

132. *Cairn, "The Shean," Achanarras Hill*.—At the N. end of Achanarras Hill at an elevation of about 300', and some 600 yards W. by N. of Achanarras farm, is a small cairn. It measures some 30' in diameter and 3' in elevation. A slight depression on the top suggests that it may have been excavated.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii.

Visited, 20th June 1910.

133. *Chambered Cairn, Dorrery*.—Situated about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. by E. of Dorrery Lodge is a chambered cairn which has been partially excavated. The diameter over all has been about 42'. Towards the W. on the outer edge two slabs set on end 2' apart probably mark the end of the entrance passage. At 16' inwards a thin slab placed at right angles to the direction of the passage has probably formed one of the portals to an outer compartment of the chamber, and at 4' 9" in rear of it another slab, 2' 5" broad and 6" thick, protruding 1' 6" above the ruin has formed the N. portal of the inner compartment. The main compartment has been entirely cleared out, and its dimensions are unobtainable. A small portion only of its wall remains visible on the N. side. The cairn for the most part is overgrown with turf.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. (unnoted).

Visited, 9th August 1910.

134. *Cairn, Dorrery*.—Some 200 yards NNW. of the last mentioned cairn (No. 133) is another with a diameter of about 40' and an elevation of about 4'. On the top near the centre a cist lying NE. and SW. has been exposed, 3' 8" in length by 1' 6" in breadth. The slabs forming one end and one side alone remain. At the edge of the cairn towards the S. a thin slab set upwards 2' 6" in breadth protrudes through the turf to a height of 1' 3". Its significance is not apparent.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. ("Mound").

Visited, 9th August 1910.

135. *Chambered Cairn (long), "Tulach an t-Sionnaich," Loch Calder*.—At the N. end of Loch Calder, and about 100 yards from the turn

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of the E. shore, is a long cairn completely overgrown with vegetation. Its main axis lies WNW. and ESE. and its broader and higher end is in the latter direction. The total length is 195', the width at the WNW. extremity 28', and at the ESE. 53'. The greatest elevation is about 6'. There are no surface indications of the existence of horns. Along both sides at irregular intervals the tops of upright slabs protrude, set with their faces in line of the direction of the cairn, and probably marking its outline. At 40' from the WNW. end near the mesial line of the cairn, an upright slab measuring 4' across and another inclined at an angle towards it, indicate the position of a cist or chamber. At several points stone has been removed, and a trench has been excavated right across at about 50' from the ESE. end. The cairn otherwise does not seem to have been excavated.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi.

Visited, 10th August 1910.

136. *Chambered Cairn (horned, long)*, "*Tulach Buaile Assery*," *Loch Calder*.—On the W. side of Loch Calder, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of the "Big Island" and $\frac{1}{4}$ m. back from the loch, is a horned long cairn known as "*Tulach Buaile Assery*." It lies WSW. and ENE., having its broader and higher extremity towards the latter direction. Except at the ENE. end it has been greatly pillaged for stones. The extreme length, inclusive of the horns, has been about 230'. At the ENE. the horns are not very evident beneath the turf, but they appear to have measured about 26' in length, and 60' between their outer terminations, while the distance from the centre of the end of the cairn to their outer extremities is 37'. The horns at the opposite end are more distinct. They appear to be also 26' in length, but are only 46' apart at their outer extremities. At the WSW. end the cairn measures 44' in breadth and some 4' in elevation. Two large slabs, set on end, protrude from the turf 18' from the end, indicating the former existence of a chamber, which, although ruined, shows no signs of having been cleared out. The breadth of the cairn near the centre is some 42'. At about 80' from the ENE. end it begins to expand, and increases to a breadth of 64' and height of 12'. The whole is overgrown with grass and heather, and the principal end shows no sign of excavation.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi. ("Brough").

Visited, 22nd August 1910.

137. *Chambered Cairn*, "*Torr Bàn na Gruagaich*," *Loch Calder*.—About 200 yards S. by E. of the horned long cairn on the W. side of Loch Calder (No. 136) are the remains of a round chambered cairn. The cairn has had a diameter of about 53' and has an elevation of about 7'. The chamber is in a ruined state. Some 14' in from the E. edge lies a large slab *in situ* as a lintel. It measures 6' 4" in length, 2' 10" in breadth, and 10" in thickness. At 4' in rear of it a single division stone is standing and 8' to 9' back from it some of the building at the back of the chamber is exposed. The interior is overgrown with turf, and the width of the chamber is not apparent.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi. ("Brough").

Visited, 22nd August 1910.

138. *Chambered Cairn (long)*, *Knockglass*.—Situated at the edge of a high bank above the Water of Forss, and about 150 yards SSE. of the Mill of Knockglass, is a long cairn. It lies with its major axis NW. and SE., and expands and rises in elevation towards the latter

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direction, terminating at the very edge of the bank. The cairn is entirely overgrown with grass and has been much quarried, an indefinite portion having been removed from the NW. end. As it now exists it measures 112' in length, and 31' in width at the NW. end and about 46' at the SE. extremity where its outline is somewhat disturbed. The elevation at the higher end is about 6' and at the lower 2'. Along the sides the lower courses of the facing wall are visible, though displaced. Some 30' in from the higher end there protrudes through the turf the head of a large slab set on end at right angles to the main axis of the cairn.

O.S.M., CAITH., x. (unnoted). Visited, 21st September 1910.

139. *Chambered Cairn, Westfield.*—At the edge of a grass park some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. SW. of Westfield House, and about 160 yards to the S. of the Forss Water, is a cairn entirely overgrown with grass. It has a diameter of about 36' and an elevation of 3' 6". The top of a large slab protruding near the centre suggests that it is of a chambered character.

O.S.M., CAITH., x. ("Mound"). Visited, 10th August 1910.

140. *Cairn, Westfield.*—About 100 yards to the N. of the last, and about 60 yards back from the Forss Water, on the top of the bank, is a circular mound overgrown with grass which is evidently a cairn. It measures in diameter about 36', and in elevation about 5'.

O.S.M., CAITH., x. ("Mound"). Visited, 10th August 1910.

141. *Stone Circle, Achanarras Hill.*—On the N. end of Achanarras Hill, a little more than $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Achanarras farm-house, are the

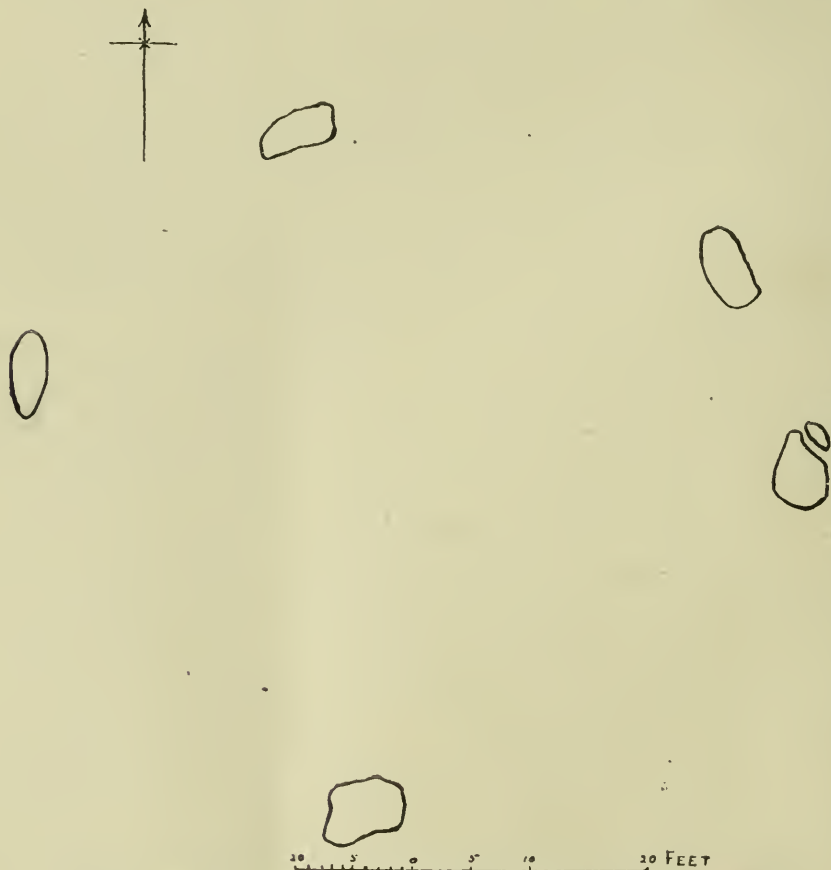


FIG. 9.—Stone Circle, Achanarras Hill (No. 141); Ground-plan.



PLATE XIV.—Dove-cot, Dale House (No. 145).



PLATE XV.—“Clach na Ciplich,” Thulachan (No. 149).

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remains of a stone circle (fig. 9). Surrounding a low stony mound with a diameter of some 60' and elevation not exceeding 2' are five large blocks each about 6' in length, varying from 2' 9" to 4' 6" in breadth by about 1' in thickness, slightly tapering to one end. They are all prostrate, and, as all lie with their longest axes along the line of the circumference, presumably they originally stood at right angles to it. There is a slight depression in the centre of the mound which may imply that it has been excavated.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. (unnoted). Visited 20th June 1910.

142. *Stone Circle, Backlass*.—At Backlass, some 200 yards W. of the shepherd's house and immediately outside the garden wall, are remains which appear to be those of a stone circle. Only a segment towards the N. exists, consisting of five stones apparently *in situ*, and one displaced. The stones are for the most part pointed and do not stand high above ground. Counting from the W. they measure in height, breadth, and thickness respectively, No. 1, 2' 9", 1' 9" and 1' 6": No. 2, 1' 5", 1' 7", and 1' 4": No. 3, 1' 8", 1' 10", and 11": No. 4, 2', 1' 8", and 1' 2": No. 5., 2' 3", 3' 4", and 1' 5". A large displaced stone 6' 6" long, 3' 3" broad, and 1' 5" thick, is lying half upon the eastmost stone. The diameter of the circle has been about 22'. A large number of pointed stones in the adjacent walls seem to have been removed from the monument.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxvii. (unnoted). Visited, 7th July 1910.

MISCELLANEOUS.

143. *Mound, "Tulach Lochain Bhraiseil," Westerdale*.—About a $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NNW. of Westerdale bridge, on the left bank of the Thurso River and about 100 yards distant from it, is a conical grassy mound of artificial character. There is no depression on the top, and the greatest elevation is about 10'. In diameter it measures 119' from N. to S. by 103' from E. to W. There is nothing to indicate whether this is a cairn or a broch, but from its shape it is possibly the former. (O.S. "Pict's House.")

144. *Mound, "Tulach an Fhuarain," Westerdale*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of Westerdale bridge, close by the left bank of the Thurso River and within 50 yards of the mound (No. 143) last described, is another known as "Tulach an Fhuarain." It is also of indeterminate character, but the depressions on the top of it are suggestive of a broch. Its greatest elevation is 8'; its diameter from N. to S. 105', and from E. to W. 90'; the lesser diameter in the latter direction being due to the removal of a portion of the mound in the formation of a road.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxii. Visited, 23rd June 1910.

145. *Dove-cot, Dale House*.—At the end of the old abandoned garden to the S. of Dale House, near the village of Westerdale, is an ancient dove-cot (pl. XIV.) of the beehive or circular type. It is built in four stages, with an elevation of some 17' 6" and a diameter over all at base of 16'. The wall is 2' 10" in thickness. The interior is lined with the usual stone nests, and there is an aperture at the top for the ingress and egress of the pigeons. The building is in rather a ruinous state.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxii. (unnoted). Visited, 21st June 1910.

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146. *Standing-Stone, Pullyhour*.—Halfway between the cottage at Pullyhour and the Thurso River, near the edge of a cultivated field, is a pointed flat-sided boulder standing 3' 5" above ground and measuring 8' 3" in circumference at base.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. (unnoted).

Visited, 23rd June 1910.

147. *Mound, Pullyhour*.—On the right bank of the Thurso River, to the N. of the termination of the road which leads from the Free Church School at Harpsdale Hill to Pullyhour, and some 200 yards W. of the latter place, on a piece of waste ground, is a construction consisting of a circular bank about 2' in height and 8' to 9' in thickness, enclosing a space measuring about 43' in diameter, in the centre of which is a flat-topped mound 28' in diameter and about 1' 6" in height. The whole is overgrown with turf, but appears to be stony underneath. Its character, however, is doubtful. There is no break in the enclosing bank.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. ("Tumulus").

Visited, 23rd June 1910.

148. *Standing-Stone, Thulachan*.—Some 80' SE. of the most southerly of the group of ruins beside the burn to the S. of Thulachan (No. 151) is an upright stone sunk deep in a mossy depression. It is pointed symmetrically, measures 4' 4" in breadth, 9" in thickness, and projects 2' 6" above the ground level, facing ENE. and WSW. It is firmly set in the peat, and is possibly a standing-stone.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxii.

Visited, 7th July 1910.

149. *Cross Slab, Thulachan*.—About 1 m. S. by W. of Thulachan, on the highest part of the watershed, at an elevation of 600', is a thin sandstone slab (pl. XV.) measuring 4' in total length by 2' in breadth and 3" in thickness. It faces NE. and SW., and on the latter face is traced a rude cross. The cross measures 2' 6" in extreme length, and 1' 2" across the arms. The stem is 4" broad, and the arms, which slightly expand, are 6" in length. At 5" below the intersection a line has been drawn across the shaft. The angles are not hollowed, and the shaft is rounded at the base. The slab is broken in three pieces. The stone is known as "Clach na Ciplich."

See *The Gunns*, p. 188.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxii. (unnoted).

Visited, 7th July 1910.

Shielings (ruins of), Thulachan.

150. About $\frac{3}{4}$ m. S. by W. of Thulachan, on low grassy knolls, are the ruins of several primitive rectangular buildings, oblong in shape, the largest measuring some 35' \times 12'. Large blocks of stone have been used in their construction.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxii. ("Picts' Houses").

151. About $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. to the WSW. of Thulachan on the N. side of a burn which runs into the S. end of the westmost of the two lochs, is another group of small rectangular buildings which have been built with large stones. Adjacent is a construction round in plan, measuring 24' in diameter, with a narrow opening, 1' 7" in width towards the S., probably a kiln.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxii. (unnoted).

Visited, 7th July 1910.

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152. About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NE. of the eastmost loch at Thulachan, on a slight elevation, are the ruins of a house, measuring some 34' \times 14' and rudely built of very large stones and slabs. Little but the foundations of walls some 3' thick remain.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxvii. (unnoted). Visited, 7th July 1910.

153. *Slabs (setting of), Dalemore.*—On the E. side of the Thurso River, opposite Dalemore, is a grassy mound marked "Pict's House" on the O.S. Map. The mound appears to be natural, but from the base at one side three large upright stones protrude. Their connection with any sepulchral construction is not obvious, nor is their purpose evident.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxii. Visited, 4th August 1910.

154. *St Peter's Chapel, Olgrimbeg Burn.*—On the left bank of the Olgrimbeg Burn, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. above its junction with the Thurso River, are the ruins of St Peter's Chapel. The walls stand to a height of about 2' and are 3' in width. The interior dimensions are 24' \times 13'. There is no sign of a chancel nor are there any details to indicate the period of erection.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. Visited, 4th August 1910.

155. *Hut Foundation, Cnoc Scoot, Dorrery.*—On the S. end of a low ridge rising from the moorland, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. N. by E. of Dorrery Lodge, is a small rectangular enclosure lying E. and W., measuring some 5' \times 3' and surrounded by a broad low bank of turf. The ends of the interior are faced with slabs set on edge about 10" above ground, and on the S. side building is visible. An entrance passage 2' wide and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' in length leads into the enclosure at the SE. angle. Over all, the construction measures about 25' in diameter.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. ("Mound"). Visited, 9th August 1910.

Standing-Stones, Dorrery.

156. In the low, wet ground to the NE. of Ben Dorrery, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Dorrery Lodge, is a standing-stone. It is a sandstone slab measuring 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' in height above ground, 3' 3" in breadth, 10" in thickness, and faces NE. and SW.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. Visited, 9th August 1910.

157. On the E. shoulder of Ben Dorrery, just above the 600' contour line and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the W. of Dorrery Lodge, is a standing-stone measuring 5' in height above ground, 3' in breadth, and 1' 2" in thickness. It faces ENE. and WSW. and is slightly pointed towards the upper extremity.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. Visited, 9th August 1910.

158. On the W. slope of Ben Dorrery, just above the base of the hill, is a slab pointed symmetrically, standing erect. It measures 3' in height above ground, 3' 5" in breadth, 6" in thickness, and faces N. by E. and S. by W.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. Visited, 9th August 1910.

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159. *Font, St Trostan's Chapel, Westfield.*—Built into the SE. wall of the graveyard at Westfield is a large stone vessel supposed to be the font of the church or chapel which formerly stood here. It is an oval block of sandstone rounded at the bottom, 22" in length, 17" in breadth, and 13" in depth. The basin, which is also oval, measures $12\frac{1}{2}'' \times 11''$, and is 8" deep.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi.

Visited, 10th August 1910.

160, 161. *Mounds, "Tullochs of Assery," Loch Calder.*—At the N. end of Loch Calder, towards the E. side, and not far from the shore, are two mounds overgrown with vegetation and standing within a few yards of each other. The character of both is obscure.

The westmost mound, which is the larger, measures over all $112' \times 87'$, and has an elevation of about 12'. Over the surface are a number of small circular depressions measuring about 6' in diameter, and one or two of larger dimensions, all seemingly connected. The mound shows no indication of its being a cairn, nor does it suggest a broch structure. If it is a broch, however, it has a number of secondary constructions built on the top of the ruin.

The eastmost mound has a diameter of $66' \times 60'$, and is of low elevation. An entrance passage visible at its inner end, where it is 3' in width, leads inwards from the N. In the interior a number of large thin slabs set on end protrude from the turf at various points, and one pointed stone, such as is used to form a pillar in a galleried house. The number and position of the slabs do not suggest a chambered cairn, and the remains are probably those of a dwelling of some sort akin to the secondary structures so frequently found in this county surrounding the brochs.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi. ("Broughs"). Visited 10th August 1910.

162. *Footmark, Port-an-eilein.*—On the W. end of the summit of the hill of Port-an-eilein, about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ m. NE. of Shurrery church, is a flat exposed rock-surface measuring some 10' square. Towards the N. end, near the mesial line, there has been hollowed out the impression of a human left foot. It is exactly 12" in length, 6" in breadth across the sole, and $4\frac{1}{2}''$ across the heel, while the depth of the depression is about $1\frac{1}{4}''$. The foot is regularly shaped, the arch below the instep and the constriction of the sole at that point being clearly indicated. The artificial character of the mark seems quite obvious. It is set N. 18° W. and S. 18° E. The rock on which it is carved is said to have been called "Clach na luirg."

O.S.M., CAITH., xvi. (unnoted). Visited, 11th August 1910.

163. *Standing-Stones (setting of), Broubster.*—On the moor, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. NE. of Broubster village, are the remains of a setting of standing-stones, which appear to have formed a monument similar to that at Achkinloch beside the Loch of Stemster (No. 293). The monument (fig. 10) is very imperfect, but appears to have been erected in the form of an elongated horse-shoe, with the longest axis lying NNE. and SSW., its greatest length along the mesial line being about 140' and the width between the ends about 90'. In the centre of the line of the setting, at the NNE. end, stands a single slab pointed upwards, 5' 5" in height and 3' 7" in breadth at base, facing NW. and SE. Along the NW. side

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five stones remain *in situ*. The highest of these only protrudes 1' 3" above the surface, and measures 3' 10" in breadth and 1' 3" in thickness. The end stone on the NW. side is sunk in the peat and appears to have been displaced. On the NE. side two stones remain



FIG. 10.—Standing-Stones (setting of), Broubster (No. 163); Ground-plan.

standing, one of which is sunk beneath the surface, while the other protrudes 1' 9" above ground and measures 3' 8" in breadth by 10" in thickness. Between these two stones another lies overturned. The stones have been set with their broader faces at right angles to the direction of the line, and seem to have been placed from 12' to 14' apart, but the imperfect character of the monument does not admit

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of the latter fact being accurately ascertained. To the SW. of the monument, about 129' distant from the first stone on the NW. side, stands another tall pillar 6' 11" in height, 2' 3" in breadth, and 1' 9" in thickness, facing NE. and SW. This stone, though now isolated, may possibly indicate the original length of the monument. The area in the centre of the monument has been dug to some extent for peats, and at one or two points small heaps of stones or hollows seem to indicate the positions of slabs which have been removed.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 22nd August 1910.

164. *Mound, "Corr a' Chaise," Bridge of Broubster.*—At the edge of an enclosed cultivated area in the moorland, about 1 m. NNE. of the Bridge of Broubster, is a low mound recently supplemented with much stone gathered from the adjoining field. It has a diameter of 31' and elevation of about 2'. Probably it is a cairn, but its character is not evident.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 22nd August 1910.

165. *Stone Rows, Dirilot.*—Some 300 yards WSW. of the graveyard at Dirilot, on a rounded heather-clad knoll, is a setting of stone rows. The setting (fig. 11) appears to have consisted of some thirteen or fourteen rows presenting the usual characteristics, the stones being set with their flat faces looking across the rows. Most of the stones merely protrude from 6" to 8" and are about 1' in breadth, except at the outer termination where they have been larger, the largest stone being 2' high and 2' 4" broad. They are somewhat irregularly placed, some 3' to 5' distant from each other in the rows, and the rows 6' to 7' apart at the narrower end of the monument. On the crest of the hillock are two low mounds or cairns from which the rows appear to radiate. The most northerly of the cairns has a diameter of about 14' and a slight elevation, while the other situated near the centre of the base of the rows measures about 19' in diameter and 11½' in elevation. Some 20' to the SE. of this cairn in the line of the rows is another slight mound measuring some 5' in diameter. The knoll has an elevation of about 12', and the rows run from the crest to the base in a direction approximately ESE. and WNW. At base the setting measures some 85' across and at its outer termination about 160'. The length of the longest remaining row has been about 106'. Several stones have recently been upturned, and the beds from which others have been removed are quite apparent.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxii. (unnoted).

Visited, 24th August 1910.

SITES.

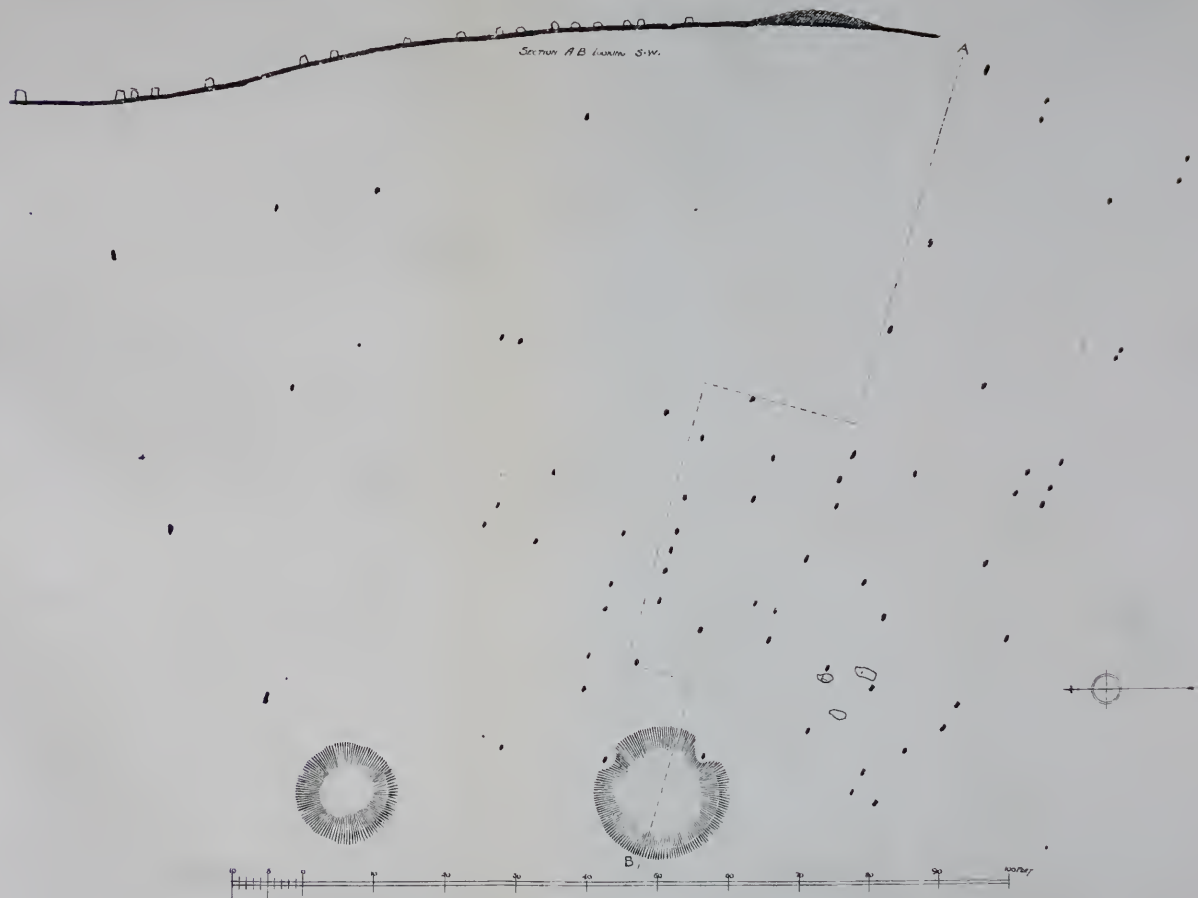
166. *Chapel and Graveyard, Banniskirk.*—To the SE. of the farm buildings at Banniskirk, close to the old hill road and to the W. of it, is a slight elevation said to mark the site of a chapel, but no building is visible.

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii.

Visited, 20th June 1910.

167. *St Trostan's Chapel and Graveyard, Westerdale.*—At the edge of a field to the E. of the road that leads from Westerdale to Balindannich, and ½ m. N. of the former place, the O.S. map indicates

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the site of St Trostan's Chapel. An unenclosed graveyard of small extent, measuring some 60' × 45', marks the spot. It is entirely overgrown with grass and weeds, beneath which the presence of numerous gravestones is evident.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxii.

Visited, 23rd June 1910.

168. *St Bridget's Chapel and Well, Achscoraclate*.—A structureless heap of stones is said to be ruins of the Chapel of St Bridget. It is situated about 100 yards NE. of Achscoraclate.

A short distance to the NNW. of the ruins is a so-called holy well still in use.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxvii.

Visited, 7th July 1910.

169. *St Columba's Chapel, Dirlot*.—Within the graveyard at Dirlot is the site of a chapel dedicated to St Columba, of which no vestige now remains.

170. *Well, "Tobar Chalum-Cille"*.—Due N. of the graveyard, and close to the shepherd's house at Dirlot, is a well bearing the above name.*

O.S.M., CAITH., xxii.

Visited, 4th August 1910.

171. *Broch, Knockglass*.—In a meadow by the left bank of the Fors Water, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. above the Mill of Knockglass, is a small fragment of a building. The character and curve of the wall suggest that it is the remains of a broch.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 10th August 1910.

The O.S. maps indicate sites as under:—

172. *Chapel, Gerston*.

173. *Do. Halkirk Church*.

174. *Do. Sibster Burn*.

O.S.M. CAITH., xvii.

175. *St. Trostan's Chapel, Westfield*.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi.

176. *St Ciaran's Chapel, Rumsdale Water*.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxi.

177. *Chapel and Graveyard, near Achardale, Harpsdale*.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii.

178. *Bishop's Palace, near Braal Castle*.

179. *Broch, near Hoy Station*.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi.

180. *Broch, $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of Achies, Harpsdale*.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii.

181. *Cairn, Achscrabster*.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi.

182. *Mound, Olgrinmore*.

183. *Standing-Stone, Olgrinmore*.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii.

* Information supplied by the Rev. Angus Mackay, Westerdale.

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ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

184. *Latheron Church Burial Aisle*.—In rear of Latheron church is a burial aisle of the Sinclairs of Dunbeath, probably a fragment of an earlier edifice but presenting no features of architectural interest. Built into the wall is a 17th-century monument bearing a much effaced inscription in Latin. A translation of this inscription is given as follows in Henderson's *Caithness Family History*:—

“John Sinclair of Dunbeath, crowned knight, erected this monument to his dearly beloved ones—namely, to his wife, Christian Muat, daughter of Magnus, Lord of Bollquholly, who died prematurely in the bloom of life, and to his daughter, etc.

Their Epitaph.

This monument covers ladies turned into ashes, whose names were Gemma and Christian; the one was cut off in early life, the other in old age. Their mother was the second wife of the Knight of Dunbeath. There might have been a more abundant list of the innumerable praises of both had this small monument admitted. Learn hence, O Mortal, that the divinities who spin the fatal threads of life, spare neither young nor old.”

There are no stones of any interest visible in the churchyard.

See *Caithness Family History*, p. 84 (note).

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. Visited, 26th July 1910.

CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

185. *Forse Castle*.—Forse Castle (pl. XVI.) stands on a high peninsular rock approached along a narrow ridge. A trench some 15' in width crosses the ridge at the base of the castle. The keep, which resembles that of Old Wick, has been a rectangular structure, measuring interiorly 21' × 11' 6", with walls 7' in thickness. The NE. wall stands to a height of some 30'; two-thirds of the NW. wall remain, with a crack through it from top to bottom. The W. angle has entirely gone and most of the SW. wall. Occupying the space between the N.E. wall of the keep and the edge of the cliffs has been a gatehouse, formerly reached by a drawbridge across the trench, and in the outer face of the adjacent wall of the keep there is a round-headed recess some 6' above ground, measuring 4' in width and 5' in height, obviously connected with the upper floor of this structure. Through the gateway the approach led to the seaward side of the tower, in which, probably on the first floor, was the doorway, now broken down along with the wall beneath it. There is no sign of a stair, and the roofs have not been vaulted. In the basement looking seaward is a small splayed gun-loop, and above it, on the first floor, a window.

In rear of the keep is a small triangular courtyard, on either side of which have been ranges of buildings. A portion of the walls of one of these on the SE. still stands to the level of the first storey.

Kenneth Sutherland, descended from William, Earl of Sutherland, married the daughter and heiress of Keith of Forse about the year



PLATE XVI.—Forse Castle (No. 185).



PLATE XVII.—Dunbeath Castle (No. 187).

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1400. In 1538, King James V. granted in heritage to William, Earl Marischal and Lady Margaret Keith, his wife, *inter alia*, the half of the lands of "Force" and its castle; but with the descendants of the Sutherlands the property remained until recent times. The castle probably dates from the 14th or early 15th century.

See *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, iv. p. 299; *Caithness Family History*, pp. 151, 152; *Reg. Mag. Sig.*

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii.

Visited, 29th July 1910.

186. *Latheron Castle*.—On the right bank of the Latheron Burn, about 120 yards below the road bridge at Latheron, are the fragmentary ruins of Latheron Castle. A portion of the N. angle of a rectangular building remains, with some 15' of the NE. wall which is about 7' thick.*

In the "Geographical Description of the Parish of Lathron" (*circa* 1726), in Macfarlane's *Geographical Collections*, this castle is referred to as standing, and is described as a ruinous fabric, the corners rounded and the stones "handsomly sett" though with no freestone in the whole building. The greater part of the building at that time appeared to be remaining, but nothing was known of its history.

See Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 163.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii.

Visited, 26th July 1910.

187. *Dunbeath Castle*.—This castle (pl. XVII.) is situated on the coast about 12 m. N. from Helmsdale, and has been greatly enlarged by the addition of modern buildings erected on its seaward side. Although altered to suit modern requirements, most of its original characteristics remain.

The castle stands on the landward end of a narrow promontory projecting seaward, and was cut off from the land by a ditch immediately in front, the section of which is still visible on the face of the cliff crossed by the present approach.

The building is oblong on plan, but not quite rectangular. The frontage to the SE. measures 64' and to the NW. 62', with a breadth of 25', and the walls are 5' thick. At the corners, on the upper floor level and at the angle, rise small pointed turrets, except towards the E., while the frontage is relieved with two semi-circular turrets rising from the first floor level, and finished square at the roof with gabled fronts. A modern entrance is on the ground level facing the approach on the NW. The ground floor is vaulted, and has been divided by partitions into four apartments. In the centre is the entrance hall, to the left the kitchen with a large arched fireplace in the N. gable, and on the right were two cellars entering through each other. From the inner of these, which was doubtless the wine cellar, the usual private stair, in the thickness of the SE. wall, leads to the upper floor, while in the thickness of the back wall opposite the present entrance is a small concealed stair 1' 3" wide. The structural arrangement of the first floor has been entirely altered to suit modern requirements. Entering from what was formerly part

* Since this ruin was visited a large portion of it is reported to have been blown down in a storm.

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of the hall, a stair in the southmost of the two projecting turrets on the NW. front leads to the second floor; thence a narrow corbelled-out stair in the re-entering angle leads up to the attics. The turret to the northward, shown in the view (pl. XVII.), is modern, but occupies the position of an original one carried up square from the ground level. Daniell's view of the castle made in 1821 shows this turret, while the illustration in the *Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland* gives the frontage without it.

The present edifice occupies the site and possibly incorporates a portion of an older building whose existence is recorded as far back as 1428. In 1452 Dunbeath belonged to Sir George de Crechtoun, Admiral of the kingdom, who succeeded to it from his mother. In 1507, James IV. granted a charter of confirmation to Alexander Innes, son and heir of Alexander Innes of that ilk, of, *inter alia*, the lands of Dunbeath which Malcolm Culquhone of Dunbeath had resigned. In 1529-30, Alexander Sinclair of Stamister, son of William, second Earl of Caithness and Elizabeth Innes his spouse, received a Crown charter of the lands of Dunbeath, etc., with the tower thereof, resigned by the foresaid Alexander Innes. Towards the close of the 16th century William Sinclair, then the proprietor, was so harassed by his relative the Earl of Caithness, that he left the property and retired to Morayshire, where he died in 1608. His grandson, in whose favour he had resigned his estates in 1590, succeeded him. The latter is supposed to have been facile, and in 1610 resigned the barony in favour of his brother-in-law Arthur, Lord Forbes. About 1624 Alexander, Master of Forbes, sold Dunbeath to John Sinclair of Geanies, second son of George Sinclair of Mey, who had made a fortune as a merchant and had acquired possession of other estates in Caithness and Ross-shire. By him the old portion of the existing mansion is said to have been erected in 1633. He married as his second wife Christian, daughter of Magnus Mowat of Buchollie, whose monogram and heraldic bearings, viz. C. M. and a lion rampant, may be seen on the tympanum surmounting each of the two small windows placed in the centre of the turrets that project from the front of the castle.

In the year 1650 Dunbeath was attacked by Montrose and withstood a siege for some days before Lady Sinclair (third wife of the proprietor) capitulated, being allowed to retire with her baggage. It was thereupon garrisoned by the Royalist troops. After the fight at Carbisdale General Leslie proceeded to Caithness and laid siege to the castle. It was valiantly defended for some days, until the water supply of the garrison was cut off and they were forced to surrender.

An iron "yett," which formerly belonged to the castle, was presented to the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh, in 1895.

See *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, iv. p. 371 (illus.); *Caithness Family History*, pp. 14 and 83; *Deeds of Montrose*, pp. 297 and 496; Daniell's *Voyage*, v. (illus.); *Antiquaries*, xxii. p. 286 ("yett").

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. Visited, 15th June 1910.

188. *Achastle*.—At the foot of the park in front of Langwell House are the scanty ruins of Achastle. It seems to have been a

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large rectangular keep, measuring interiorly some 70' × 43', with a projecting turret at the NW. angle. Some 26' of the N. wall to a height of about 10' remains, with a thickness of 5' 6". The interior is full of ruins and the plan is not obtainable with certainty. The castle has stood at the extremity of the high ridge forming the watershed between the waters of Berriedale and Langwell, and on the N. and W., where not protected by the steep banks, it has been enflanked by a broad, deep ditch. The ruin is mentioned in Macfarlane's *Geographical Collections* (circa 1726) as "an antient fabrick, a part whereof stands yet"; while Cordiner shows the ruin (circa 1788) as consisting of two square towers connected by a curtain wall, crowning the cliffs above the junction of the streams. In the *Statistical Account* it is said to have been built and possessed by John Beg, third son to the Earl of Sutherland.

See *Stat. Acct.*, xvii. p. 30; Cordiner's *Ruins*, i. (illus.); Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 165.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii.

Visited, 21st July 1910.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

189. *Broch, Camster*.—On the moorland, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. of Camster farm and somewhat concealed by the higher ground to the E. and W., is a green flat-topped mound covering the ruins of a broch. It has been surrounded by a ditch some 44' in width. The scarp, which measures down the slope some 30', is about 5' in elevation, and the counterscarp, which is much steeper, is some 4' in height. The base of a wall encircling the mound at the level of the top of the scarp is visible all round, and an entrance through it is made apparent on the ENE. by the exposure of a few feet of the face of a wall curving inwards. The diameter across the space enclosed by this wall is some 85', and across the level top of the mound which rises for some 4' or 5' above it, is 35'. Placed at irregular intervals around the base of the mound, and in one instance on the sloping side of it, are some four or five small cairn-like heaps of stones measuring about 8' in diameter.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 30th June 1910.

190. *Broch, Warehouse*.—About 100 yards N. of Warehouse farm rises a grassy hillock marking the site of a broch. The hillock has been cut off from the surrounding moorland on the S. and E. by a broad ditch, and on the N. and W. a burn enflanks it, while in addition, on the latter sides, its base is protected by a breast-work. The broch has occupied the E. end of the hillock. At several places the base of the outer walls is exposed showing a diameter over all of some 60': it has an elevation of about 11'. Over the area between the base of the broch and the breast-work on the W. the remains of outbuildings are visible below the turf.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. ("Cairn").

Visited 13th July 1910.

191. *Broch, "Green Hill," Roster*.—Rising from among the cultivated crofts at Roster, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. E. of the Camster Road, is a green mound covering the ruins of a broch. The outer wall of the tower is in places exposed, showing a diameter over all of some 64'. The

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elevation of the mound is about 8'. From the base of the broch the slope of the hillock towards the W. seems to indicate on its surface the existence of outbuildings.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiv. ("Mound"). Visited, 14th July 1910.

192. *Broch, Ballachly, Stemster.*—Situated on the moorland, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. of Ballachly, is a broch. The structure is almost entirely overgrown with turf; only here and there a few large stones appear on the surface. The mound containing the tower has a diameter of some 76' over all, and an elevation of about 13' at highest. On the E. are the foundations of some outbuildings. The broch has been encircled by a wide ditch, but as the ground around has at one time been under cultivation this is to a great extent obliterated.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxviii. Visited, 15th July 1910.

193. *Broch, Bruan.*—At Bruan, on the S. side of the road, are the remains of a broch for the most part overgrown with turf. The tower has risen from the centre of a hillock cut off by a ditch 28' wide from the surrounding level, and further protected by a breastwork along the top of the scarp. The bottom of the ditch lies some 8' below the top of the breastwork or parapet, and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ ' below the top of the counterscarp, but except on the W. it has been almost obliterated by cultivation. The base of the broch is some 31' distant from the edge of the ditch. It appears to have had a diameter over all of some 50' and has a present elevation of from 9' to 10'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiv. ("Mound"). Visited, 16th July 1910.

194. *Broch, "Gunn's Hillock" or "The Burnt Ha'," Bruan.*—In rear of the Free Church Manse, near the Bridge of East Clyth at Bruan, a mound covers the remains of a broch known as "Gunn's Hillock" or "The Burnt Ha'." It has been to some extent broken into, and cottages have at one time been erected on the top of it. There are no measurable details.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiv. ("Mound"). Visited, 16th July 1910.

195. *Broch, Mid Clyth.*—By the roadside at Mid Clyth, just in rear of the tenth milestone from Wick, rises a grass-covered hillock which contains the ruins of a broch. The mound over all measures about 110' in diameter, and has an elevation of some 15' above the roadway. No building is visible, and part of the broch near the top seems at one time to have been removed.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiv. ("Mound"). Visited, 16th July 1910.

196. *Broch, Tiantulloch, Houstry.*—Directly in rear of Tiantulloch croft house is a broch. On the E. the wall face is exposed for a height of about 5' for a considerable part of the periphery. The diameter over all appears to have been about 56', but on the W., part of the mound has been removed. The present elevation to the top of the mound is 10'. Towards the N.E. is an area evidently occupied by outbuildings. An exposed wall bounds it on the S. with an elevation of a few feet.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii. Visited, 18th July 1910.

197. *Broch, Minera, Newlands of Houstry.*—Close by the croft of Minera, Newlands of Houstry, is a grass-covered mound from which

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many large stones protrude showing the ruins of a broch. The wall face at base, formed of large stones, is in places exposed, indicating a diameter over all of 70'. The present elevation is 11' or 12'. There has been a little excavation of the mound on the W. at some remote period.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii.

Visited, 18th July 1910.

198. *Broch, Occumster*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SE. of Occumster Railway Station there rises from the middle of the arable crofts a grassy mound containing the ruins of a broch. The mound is somewhat conical, and has an elevation at highest of some 12'. Its diameter over all is about 80'. No part of the structure is visible.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiv.

Visited, 19th July 1910.

199. *Broch, Achavar*.—Rising from the N. end of a rocky ridge, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. by W. of Occumster Railway Station, and immediately in rear of the buildings of a croft on the W. of the Camster Road, are the remains of a broch. The mound formed by the ruins has been to some extent dug into from the top and the E. side, and stones have been removed from it at no distant date, but no part of the structure is exposed. The tower has measured over all some 68', and the present elevation of the mound is about 6'. There is a circular depression on the summit with a diameter of 20' or thereby. Between the base of the broch and the steep slope of the ridge on the N. a terrace has been left, running out towards the N. and S. with a breadth of some 15' to 20'. The O.S. map records that human remains were found here in 1867.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiv.

Visited, 19th July 1910.

200. *Broch, "Tulloch Turnal," Langwell*.—About 2 m. to the W. of Langwell House, on the S. side of the road to Wag, are the ruins of a large circular construction which has probably been a broch. It is much dilapidated, and the stones of which it was built have in great measure been removed. The diameter over all is some 48' to 50'. Only the two lowest courses of large stones are in places visible, and no features of interest are apparent.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii.

Visited, 20th July 1910.

201. *Broch, "Burg Langwell"*.—On the S. side of the Langwell Water, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. due S. of the gamekeeper's house, and at the upper end of a small glen, are the remains of the broch known as "Burg Langwell." Some recent excavation has been done on the structure, and a gallery 2' 8" in width has been exposed on the S., which probably contains the stair, and on the W. for a short distance a portion of a chamber has been opened up through a break in the outer wall at one end. The diameter of the broch over all is some 48', and the thickness of the wall, where exposed above the gallery, 10'. The wall on the exterior is reduced almost to the foundation.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii.

Visited, 21st July 1910.

202. *Broch, "Tulach Bad a' Choilich"*.—On a spit of land to the E. of the Allt Bad a' Choilich, beside the path up the Berriedale Water, and about 1 m. NW. of Langwell House, are the ruins of a

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small broch. Towards the river, but nowhere else, the lower face of the wall is visible; no measurements, however, are obtainable.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii.

Visited, 21st July 1910.

203. *Broch, "An Dun," Allt an Duin, Berriedale.*—On a prominent position on the moorland, on the top of the steep banks in the angle between the Allt an Duin and the Berriedale Water, stand the ruins of a broch. The tower occupies the centre of a hillock, and has been encircled at its base by a ditch 16' in width and some 6' in depth on the SW., but less well defined on the other portion of the periphery. The entrance, which has been from the W., is 2' 6" in width, but is much broken down, and the length of the passage is not obtainable without excavation. On the left of the passage has been a guard chamber, the back of which is visible at 14' from the wall of the passage. The diameter of the broch over all has been 46', and the thickness of its wall 11'. The greatest height of wall exposed on both faces is about 3'. To the SW. of the entrance a break in the counterscarp of the ditch gives access to a small circular enclosure dug out of the bank with a diameter of about 11'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii.

Visited, 21st July 1910.

204. *Broch, Ousedale Burn.*—Situated at the top of a steep bank on the N. side of the Allt a Bhurg, about 200 yards above its junction with the Ousedale Burn, is a broch (fig. 12, pl. XVIII.). It was excavated by Mr James Mackay, F.S.A. Scot., in 1891, and is in a good state of preservation, except above the entrance to the stair where the wall shows signs of dilapidation. The position is strongly defended on one side by the deep glen of the burn, and on the other sides by a well-built wall some 8' in thickness. Against this outer wall, on the W., are the remains of various enclosures probably of secondary construction. The entrance is from the SW., through a passage 14' in length, 5' 6" in height, and 2' 6" in width. At 3' 9" and 10' 3" from the exterior, slabs set edge-wise in the wall of the passage form checks for doors, and at 6' 7" inwards on the right a doorway 2' 6" high and 2' wide gives access to a guard chamber 8' 6" long, 5' wide, and nearly 8' high. The centre portion of the roof of the guard chamber has fallen in. Seven of the covering slabs over the passage remain in position. The interior diameter is 24'. At 3' to the left of the entrance within the interior is the entrance to a small oval chamber similar in size to the guard chamber, the roof of which has now fallen in; while on the same side, about a quarter of the distance round the periphery, is the entrance to the stair some 3' above the floor level. The stair rises to the right in the centre of the wall, and twelve steps are still visible 3' 6" in width with a tread of about 6". At the foot of the stair is a guard chamber measuring 6' 6" in length, 3' 6" in width, and 8' in height. Over the entrance to the stair are the remains of a window to give light to the first gallery, and similar remains are extant over the main entrance at its interior end. In the inner face of the wall opposite the entrance to the stair is an ambry 5' above the floor level, 2' high and 2' 6" deep. Rising from the floor a scarcement about 8' high with a projection of 1' runs round the interior, while, at a distance of 8' apart, large stones having the appearance of corbels jut out from the ledge. On excavation there was found near



PLATE XVIII.—Broch, Ousedale Burn: entrance from interior (No. 204).

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the centre of the interior a rectangular setting of flags connected by a V-shaped drain, with a pit 2' 6" in diameter and depth dug out of

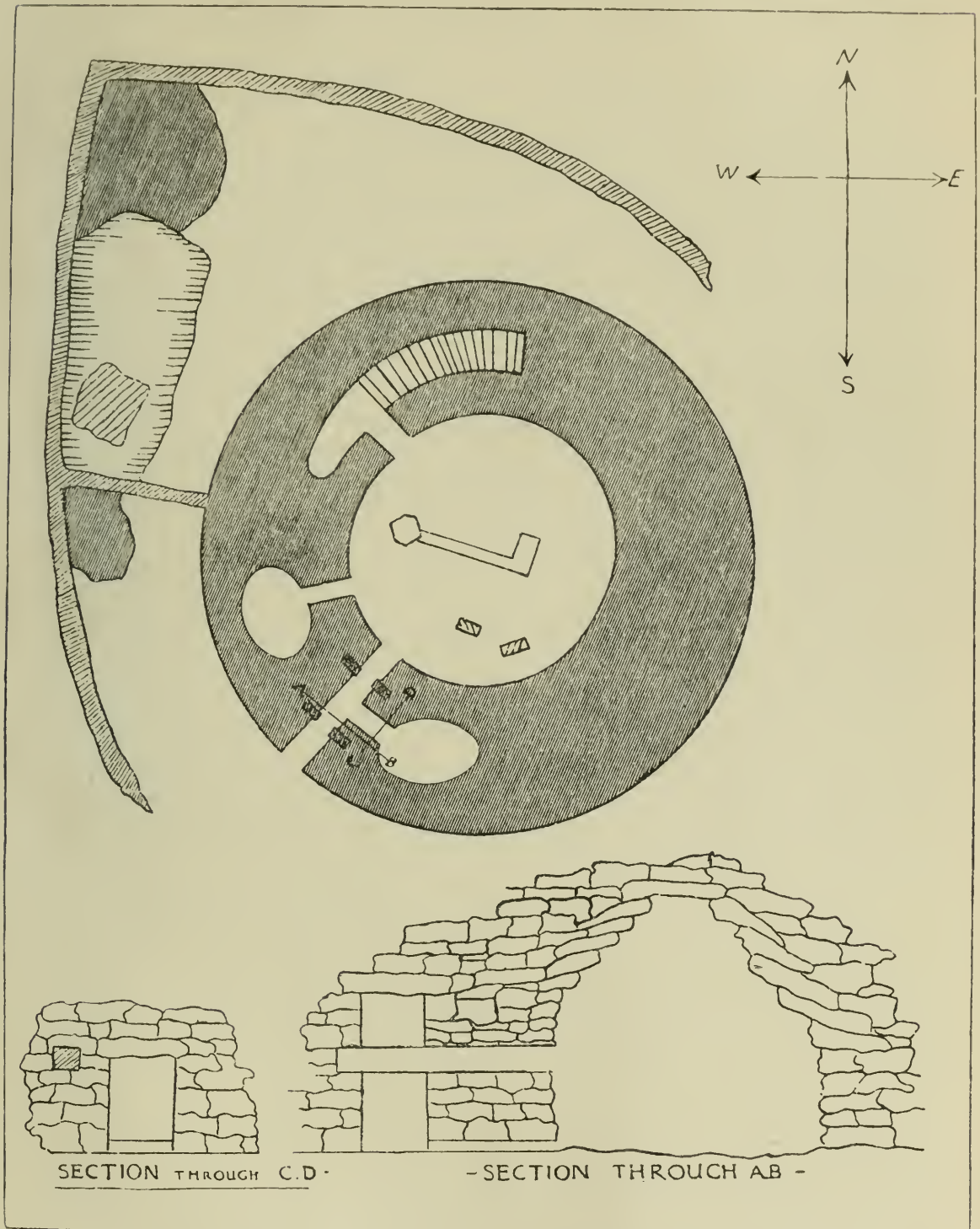


FIG. 12.—Broch, Ousedale Burn (No. 204); Ground-plan and Sections.
Scale of Plan, $\frac{1}{240}$; of Section, $\frac{1}{30}$.

the natural bed and lined with flags. A drain ran round the interior with an exit towards the burn. There was no trace of a well, but a built drain was discovered leading from the outside to a series of tanks formed of flags on the floor level. The outer face of the wall is

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now greatly reduced and shows an elevation of only about 4' 9". The inner face, however, remains to a height of 14' and is at no point lower than 9'.

During the course of the excavation there was found within the guard chamber, on the right of the entrance, a fire-place 2' square covered with a flag, containing ashes and charcoal, and, in the opening above the entrance to the stair, a human skeleton lying head downwards, covered with small stones and a little earth. There were considerable remains of secondary occupations observed in the interior above a floor 2' in thickness, formed of a fine puddled clay which seemed to be original. The relics recovered comprised a granite mortar, several remains of rotary querns, a number of pounding stones, three discs of micaceous schist 8" in diameter, perforated in the centre with holes 2" in diameter, whorls of sandstone and of steatite, two oval pebbles of quartzite with short oblique grooves on their flatter faces (objects now generally recognised as the Early Iron Age equivalents of the flint and steel of later times), a large quantity of fragments of coarse hand-made pottery, a number of whetstones, a part of a wooden dish or scoop with an everted rim, and a piece of a large ring of coarse jet. The relics are preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

See *Antiquaries*, xxvi. p. 351 (illus.)

O.S.M., CAITH., xlv.

Visited, 23rd July 1910.

205. *Broch, Berriedale*.—High above the Berriedale Water on its N. bank, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of Berriedale Church, are the ruins of a broch. The structure is much dilapidated and reduced to the lowest courses of masonry on the exterior. In one or two places the outer face of the wall formed of very large stones is exposed. The diameter over all is 54' and the elevation to the top of the conical mound surmounting the ruins 7' to 8'. The position is flanked on the W. by the side of a deep glen and in front by the high steep bank of the Berriedale valley.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii. ("Cairn").

Visited, 23rd July 1910.

206. *Broch, Upper Borgue*.—Immediately in rear of the farm of Upper Borgue are the ruins of a large broch considerably overgrown with vegetation. The entrance from ESE. has been partially opened up. It is 3' in width and appears to be in a very perfect state, but is being used as a place for depositing the kitchen refuse of the neighbouring farm. On the W. a portion of the outer face of the wall has been exposed for a distance of some 40' and a height of 5'. The diameter over all is 63', and across the hollow depression on the top about 30'. The elevation from the base of the building is 12' to 14'. The broch has been built on a natural hillock, and from S. round to NW. it has been defended by a wall some 21' distant from its base.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii.

Visited, 23rd July 1910.

207. *Broch, "Burg Ruadh," Berriedale Water*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of the Berriedale Water, at the head of a small lateral valley some 2 m. NW. of Borgue, are the ruins of "Burg Ruadh." The broch wall on the exterior is in great measure exposed, and on the N., where best

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preserved, it is visible for a height of 7', and is concealed at its base by some 4' of ruin. The diameter over all is 54'. The position of the entrance is not evident and the thickness of the wall unobtainable without excavation. At various points openings into the galleries or chambers are visible. The greatest elevation is some 14'. Towards the S. are indications of outbuildings.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii.

Visited, 23rd July 1910.

208. *Broch, Achow*.—At Achow, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of the main road from Lybster to Helmsdale, and about 1 m. W. of Lybster, are the remains of a broch beneath a grassy mound. The area covering the ruins of the tower has a diameter of about 60' and an elevation of about 8'. A slight mound encircles the broch at a short distance from its base, and beyond this towards the W. are indications of outbuildings.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii. ("Mound").

Visited, 26th July 1910.

209. *Broch, Smerral*.—About 1 m. N. by W. of Latheronwheel House, and about 130 yards E. of the road that leads up the glen of the Latheronwheel Burn, is a broch. It is overgrown with grass except at one or two places where the base of the wall is visible. The diameter over all is some 63' and the highest elevation about 12'. Towards the SE. there appear to be remains of outbuildings. The ruin seems to have been pillaged at one time for stones to a small extent.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. ("Mound").

Visited, 26th July 1910.

210. *Broch, do*.—Some 200 yards N. of the last-mentioned broch (No. 209), on the N. end of a rocky ridge, are the remains of numerous constructions. Near the centre there seems to have been a broch with a diameter over all of some 66', but it is much dilapidated and the outline is not very evident. Its elevation is about 5'. On the N. and S., and especially on the E., are surface indications of numerous outbuildings.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii.

Visited, 26th July 1910.

211. *Broch, Latheronwheel*.—About $\frac{1}{3}$ m. W. of Latheronwheel House, at the upper side of a field adjoining the moorland, rises a green mound the centre of which contains the ruins of a broch. Over all the tower measures some 66' in diameter and 6' to 8' in height, while a depression on the summit indicating the extent of the court measures 27' in diameter. On the N. and W. sides are still visible the remains of an encircling wall about 12' out from the apparent base of the broch crowning the scarp of the mound which is about 6' in height.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. ("Mound").

Visited, 26th July 1910.

212. *Broch, Burn of Latheronwheel*.—Perched on the edge of the high W. bank of the glen of the Burn of Latheronwheel, about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. below the road bridge, are the ruins of a broch. They are almost entirely covered with vegetation, except on the S., where the wall is exposed to a height of 2' or 3' and for a distance of some 10'. At

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the same place there is visible a portion of what appears to be an outer casing wall. The diameter of the structure over all is some 53' and the elevation of the mound about 10'. It is stated that during the course of some excavation of this broch many years ago as many as forty human skulls were found. There is not, however, any contemporaneous record of this.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. ("Mound").

Visited, 27th July 1910.

213. *Broch, Balantrath, Dunbeath Strath.*—Situated on a rock on the left bank of the Dunbeath Water, just opposite the debouchement of the Achorn Burn, and at the base of a high wooded bank, are the ruins of a broch. As far as ascertainable the diameter over all has been some 60'. The greatest elevation, which is on the side distant from the river, is 9' or 10'. On this side a trench appears to have been cut, isolating the portion of the rock on which the broch stands from the bank in rear of it.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii.

Visited, 28th July 1910.

214. *Broch, Achorn, Dunbeath.*—In the highest of the cultivated fields about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. WSW. of Balcraggy Lodge is a grassy mound containing the ruins of a broch. The outline of the broch is not recognisable, but the diameter of the mound is 70' and its greatest elevation 11'. Much of the ruin has apparently been removed.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii.

Visited, 28th July 1910.

215. *Broch, Dunbeath.*—Situated at the eastern point of the watershed between the Dunbeath Water and the Burn of Houstry are the remains of the broch of Dunbeath. The broch, which was excavated many years ago by Mr Thomson Sinclair, younger of Dunbeath, and briefly described by Dr Joseph Anderson in *Archæologia Scotica*, is now enclosed within a walled enclosure, and the trees which have grown up around it as well as in the interior court, are not beneficial for its preservation. The entrance is from the SE. through a passage 14' in length and 3' 6" in width at its outer extremity. At 3' 10" inwards the passage expands to 4', checks being thus formed on either side for a door, and 5' 6" beyond on the right hand side a slab set edgewise to the passage wall appears to mark the position of a second door. Between these door checks on the right has been the entrance to a guard chamber now broken down. The back wall of the chamber is, however, still standing at 14' in from the side of the passage. The dimensions of this chamber when excavated are said to have been: length 12' 6", width 6' 6", and height to the highest part of the converging sides 13'. A small portion of the roofing remains at the back 6' above the floor level. The interior diameter of the broch is 27'. The entrance to and position of the stair are not now recognisable. Slightly to the N. of a point directly opposite the main entrance is an entrance 2' 4" wide, 2' 4" long, and now 3' 3" high, giving access to an oblong and almost rectangular chamber, measuring 8' in length, 6' in greatest width, and 10' 2" in height from the present floor level to the slab which forms the apex of the roof. In the S. wall 3' 5" above the floor level is a small ambry 1' 5" in height, 1' 2" in breadth, and 1' in depth; in the N. wall at the same

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level is another measuring 1' 6" \times 1' 8" \times 9"; and in the wall opposite the entrance a third exactly 10" square. For the full length of the N. wall at the level of the base of the ambry runs a shelf 10" in breadth, now partially broken off. This chamber is entire except for a slight break in the wall in the angle to the right of the entrance.

The greatest height of wall visible in the interior is 13', and, except for about one-third of the circumference to the left of the main entrance, there is an average elevation of from 10' to 12' all round. The thickness of the wall as shown by the length of the entrance passage is 14'. At a height of about 6' 4" above the present floor level in the interior there is a scarcement about 1' in width. The greatest height of wall visible on the exterior is 9'.

There was found on excavation on the S. side of the interior a pit-like structure resembling a well 4' or 5' in diameter.

The relics recovered consisted of deer horns; a section of an antler about an inch long chipped and ground at both ends; bones of the ox, of a large dog, or, possibly, of a wolf, of sheep, and swine. There were also numbers of fish bones and shells of edible molluscs; a piece of freestone thickly covered with indentations that looked as if they had been produced by rubbing or grinding some kind of metal instrument edgewise upon it; several nodules of iron ore mixed with the animal remains, as also an iron "spear-head" 5" in length. Close to the wall and on the clay bottom was discovered a quantity of burnt grain, viz. bere and oats.

See *Archæologia Scotica*, v., pt. i. p. 144; *Mem. Anthropol. Soc. Lond.*, iii. p. 238.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. Visited, 28th July 1910.

216. *Broch, Knockinnon*.—On the W. side of the high road to Wick, and about 1 m. N. of Dunbeath, a grassy mound marks the ruins of a broch. It is conical and has a diameter at base of 67' and an elevation of 12' to 13'. On the N. side, some 12' distant from the supposed base of the tower, is a portion of an encircling wall or bank some 6' in elevation on the inner side and 10' on the outer face.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. ("Mound").
Visited, 28th July 1910.

217. *Broch, Upper Latheron*.—A short distance to the W. of the high road near the farm of Upper Latheron, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. S. of the road bridge at Latheronwheel, on the top of a rock, are the remains of a broch overgrown with grass. The diameter of the structure is not accurately ascertainable without excavation but it seems to be about 57'. The elevation is about 7'. A small portion of wall is exposed on the NE. Along the rock towards the E. there appear to be the remains of outbuildings.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. ("Mound").
Visited, 28th July 1910.

218. *Broch, "Appnag Tulloch," Forse*.—On the summit of an out-cropping rock rising from a meadow about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. due N. of Forse House are the ruins of a broch known as the "Appnag Tulloch." Except where exposed by some recent excavation, the ruins are entirely overgrown with grass. The entrance to the broch has been

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from the W. and the inner end of the passage, 3' 1" in width, has been exposed for a short distance. The diameter of the broch over all has been some 60' and the thickness of the wall from 12' to 13'. The greatest elevation of the mound containing the ruins is about 8'. Towards the E. at the edge of the rock are the remains of an outer breastwork which has strengthened the position on the easy gradient at this end of the rocky ridge. On the W., in front of the entrance, inequalities on the surface indicate the existence of outbuildings, and to the NW. two or three large slabs set on end protrude from 1' to 2½' above the ground.

The two standing-stones indicated on the O.S. map as situated here are not now visible.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii.

Visited, 29th July 1910.

219. *Broch, Rumster*.—About 1¼ m. N. of Forse House, and some 200 yards W. by S. of Rumster Farm, a grassy hillock rises from the side of a field containing the ruins of a broch. In one or two places the wall face is exposed. The diameter over all is 52' and the greatest elevation 9'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii.

Visited, 29th July 1910.

220. *Broch, Golsary*.—Some 80 yards SW. of the croft of Golsary rises a conical grassy mound containing the ruins of a broch. The tower has been built upon a rock rising by a gradual slope from the S. to a height of some 12' above the surrounding level. On the E. a small burn flows by its base. The outer face of the wall is in several places visible. The diameter over all is 56' and the greatest elevation 11' or 12'. Along the slope of the ridge towards the S. are surface indications of outbuildings. On the N., at a distance of from 18' to 20' from the base of the broch, a rampart or wall runs across the ridge some 3' 6" high on the inner side. In front of this breastwork a trench, flat at bottom, 27' in width, and 9' in depth below the top of the rampart and 7' below the crest of the counterscarp, runs from side to side.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii.

Visited, 29th July 1910.

221. *Broch, "Usshilly Tulloch," Forse*.—About ⅓ m. W. by N. of Forse House, on a low outcropping rock overgrown with grass, are the remains of a broch bearing the name of "Usshilly Tulloch." Many large stones lie exposed over the surface. The face of the wall is not well defined, but the diameter over all appears to be about 64'. The elevation is from 6' to 8'. The ruin at some remote time has been dug into on the E. There are surface indications of considerable outbuildings on all sides except the N.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii.

Visited, 29th July 1910.

222. *Broch, "Greysteil Castle," Loch Rangag*.—Situated on a low spit of land projecting into Loch Rangag on its eastern shore, about ¼ m. from the N. end, are the ruins of a broch known as "Greysteil Castle." Contrary to the usual condition the ruins are not overgrown with vegetation. The base of the wall on the exterior is visible at several points and indicates a diameter over all of about 69'. The thickness of the wall has been from 14' to 15'. The entrance has been from the landward side, but the passage is ruined beyond recognition. On the

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right of it has been a guard chamber the back wall of which is visible. On the N. a chamber has been exposed, some 11' in length by 5' in width. The greatest elevation of the ruin is about 12'. Across the neck of the spit, at some 26' from the base of the broch, a wall has been built 8' in thickness, curving from shore to shore concentrically with the broch. Through the centre of this wall a passage 6' in width, walled on either side, leads to the entrance.

The author of the "Description of the Parish of Lathron," in Macfarlane's *Geographical Collections*, refers to this broch as having "ane avenue to it, where the red curren grows and bears fruit."

See Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 169.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxviii.

Visited, 30th July 1910.

223. *Fort, "An Dun," Borgue.*—Situated on the coast near Borgue is a remarkable peninsular rock, connected to the mainland by a natural bridge at a much lower level than either, and about 6' wide at the top. The peninsula is a hog-backed ridge lying parallel to the coast line, and sloping steeply to precipitous cliffs on either side, but with a longer slope to seaward, and rising in elevation towards its southern end. Only at the highest point is there any level ground, and there only an area of about 20' square. Along the ridge facing the bridge is exposed a section of a wall, and there are slight indications of its continuance to southward.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii.

Visited, 22nd March 1911.

224. *Fortified Enclosure, Langwell.*—On the top of the S. bank of the Langwell Water, some 260 yards to the SSE. of the road bridge below Cnoc Bad Fhasgaidh, and about 100 yards below the moor road, is a circular enclosure whose walls have evidently been spoiled to build an adjacent cottage and fold, now in ruins. The interior, which is slightly below the surrounding level, measures 32' in diameter. The wall, which appears to have been faced on either side with large stones, is about 11' in thickness, some 4' in elevation above the ground level of the interior, and 3' above that on the outside. The entrance has been from the S.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii. ("Picts' Houses").

Visited, 21st July 1910.

HUT CIRCLES, ETC.

225. *Hut Circles, Warehouse Hill.*—On the lowest spur of Warehouse Hill, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. N. of Warehouse farm and just at the head of the glen that runs N. from the house, is a group of three hut circles. The uppermost circle has an interior diameter of some 18', a bank some 8' in thickness but now of low elevation, and the entrance from the S. In the interior the ruins seem to imply some structure the character of which is not now apparent. To the SE. lie two or three small stony mounds seemingly artificial.

About 100 yards to the SE. is the second circle, the interior diameter of which is 23', and the entrance from the SSE. It has been formed with a stone wall 7' in thickness and still in places 2' in height: there are no definite signs of subdivision in the interior. Some 13' across the wall to the W. is a small circular enclosure built

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of stone abutting on the outer wall, with an interior diameter of some 7'. Beyond it on its W. side has been apparently another, with a diameter of 8'. The entrance to these outer circles is also from the SSE. Some 8' out from the entrance to the main circle, and directly in front of it, are the ruins of another small stone-built structure of indefinite plan. To the E. is a round stony mound with a diameter of some 12'.

Some 50 yards SE. of the last are the indistinct remains of the third circle; it is overgrown with vegetation and not measurable. Some 40' to the NW. of it is a mound measuring about 17' in diameter and 3' in height, while to the S. of the circle lies another small mound with a diameter of some 6'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. (unnoted). Visited, 13th July 1910.

226. *Hut Circle, Camster*.—On the top of a high bank above the road to the N. of the Easan Burn which crosses beneath a road bridge $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Camster Lodge, is a hut circle. The interior has been dug out to a slight depth and has a diameter of some 12'. The bank, which is of peat, is overgrown with heather, and the position of the entrance is not evident.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. Visited, 14th July 1910.

227. *Hut Circles, Newlands of Houstry*.—At the top of the cultivated land immediately to the E. of the broch at Minera (No. 197), partially within the field and partially on the moor above the dyke, is a prominent hut circle. It is situated on the slope of the hill and the interior has been dug out to make a level floor, so that while the elevation of the top of the bank on the upper side of the circle is about 6', that on the lower is 2'. The bank, which measures 10' to 12' in thickness, is stony and well defined. The interior diameter is 32'. The position of the entrance is not apparent.

Some 150 yards SSE. of the last circle is another, the bank of which is of turf and stone, and several large blocks appear to be *in situ* on the outer and inner faces. The thickness of the bank is from 7' to 8', and the interior diameter of the circle 32'. The position of the entrance is not evident.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii. ("Tumulus"). Visited, 18th July 1910.

228. *Hut Circle, Camster Lodge*.—Above the bank on the W. of the Camster Road, and just to the N. of the plantation of Camster Lodge, is a hut circle. It is circular in form, entering from the S., with an interior diameter of 26', and is enclosed by a bank of turf now of low elevation some 8' in width.

To the S. within the wood, occupying slight hillocks, are the ruins of other constructions which have probably been shieling bothies.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. ("Tumuli"). Visited, 19th July 1910.

229. *Hut Circle, The Wag, Langwell*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SSE. of Wag and some 80 yards below the road is a hut circle. Originally it appears to have been a turf-built, pear-shaped construction, measuring some 25' \times 36' interiorly, and having its entrance from SSE., but in a secondary occupation the interior has been reduced to a circular form by a wall built across from side to side in a curve, having its convex face towards the original entrance. The bank of the original

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structure, so far as utilised, has been faced on the interior with stone, and an entrance has been broken through from the W. by S. The diameter of the secondary circle is 18'. Some 40 yards to the NE. is a small mound with a diameter of about 12' and an elevation of $2\frac{1}{2}'$.

O.S.M., CAITH., xli. (unnoted). Visited, 20th July 1910.

230. *Hut Circles, do.*—About 100 yards below the road from Langwell to Wag, and just opposite the seventh milestone, is a turf enclosure occupying the summit of a small elevation. It is slightly pear-shaped, with an interior diameter of $26' \times 28'$. The entrance is from the S. and is some 3' in width. The enclosing bank, which is faced with stone, is some 7' to 8' in thickness. The level of the interior is slightly below that of the surrounding ground.

Some 30' to the E. are the indefinite remains of another hut circle of rather smaller dimensions entering from the S.

O.S.M., CAITH., xli. (unnoted). Visited, 20th July 1910.

231. *Hut Circles and Mounds, Berriedale.*—Some 200 yards N. of the broch above the Allt an Duin and near the cairn (No. 269) are the distinct remains of a large hut circle.

Some 25 yards NE. lies another, measuring interiorly some $37' \times 42'$, and having its entrance from the SE. about 6' wide, while the remains of a third, ill-defined, are visible some 30 yards to the S.

In the vicinity are one or two small mounds, while scattered along the slope of the hill below, for a distance of several hundred yards, are a number of other mounds of from 12' to 18' in diameter and 2' to 2' 6" in height.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii. ("Cairns"). Visited, 21st July 1910.

232. *Hut Circle, Braemore.*—On a haugh below Con na Craige, and some 80 yards N. of the Berriedale Water, is a circular depression measuring interiorly some $28' \times 32'$, and some 3' 6" in depth below the surrounding level, with an entrance from ESE. It appears to have been faced with stone, and to have been divided into two compartments. The width of the entrance is indefinite.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii. (unnoted). Visited, 22nd July 1910.

233. *Hut Circle, Breac-leathad, Braemore.*—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NW. of Braemore Lodge are a number of hut circles mostly lying about 80 yards above the road. The most westerly above the road measures interiorly some $32' \times 35'$ and is entered from ESE. There is much stone lying in the interior but no remains of any definite structure. The enclosing bank, which is formed of turf and stone, is much worn down. Almost contiguous lies another circle, with an interior diameter of 25' to 26', and its entrance from the same direction. The bank, which is faced with stone, is about 5' in thickness. A few feet to the W. of the entrance to the first circle is a low stony mound with a diameter of about 10'.

Some 80 yards E. of the last is another hut circle measuring interiorly $25' \times 27'$ and entering from the SE. The bank is about 5' in thickness, and is faced on the interior with upright stones. The width of the entrance is indefinite.

Some 300 yards NW. of Braemore Lodge is another hut circle.

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It has an enclosing bank formed of turf and stone some 5' 6" in thickness, and measures interiorly 31' × 34'. The entrance has been from the SE. and appears to have been about 5' in width.

Some 40' to the S. of it is another with a bank of turf some 5' 6" in thickness, faced in the interior with stones set on end. The interior diameter is 34' × 36' and the entrance is from the SE.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii. (unnoted). Visited, 22nd July 1910.

234. *Hut Circles, Braemore.*—Some 100 yards back from the S. bank of the Berriedale Water, and about the same distance to the E. of the deer fence eastward of Achnalaid, are the remains of a pear-shaped enclosure, in the wall of which very large slabs have been used sunk deeply endwise into the ground. It has an interior diameter of 27' × 35' and has been entered from the N. The wall seems to have been about 5' 6" in thickness, and to have been formed of turf or some perishable material between an outer and inner facing of large stones which alone remain. On the right of what appears to have been the entrance and within the interior is a small circular chamber with an interior diameter of some 5'. The details of the construction are, however, difficult to expiscate.

On a slight elevation some 80' to the E. of the last is another similar construction, the wall face of which is formed of large slabs set on edge protruding about 2' from the ground. It has an interior diameter of some 30'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii. Visited, 22nd July 1910.

Hut Circles, Achnaclyth, Dunbeath Strath.

235. Some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. SSE. of the shepherd's house at Achnaclyth, on the slope of the hill and about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. of the Dunbeath Water, is a hut circle. The wall or bank surrounding it is overgrown, but a facing of stones set on end around the exterior is here and there visible. The interior diameter is some 30' and the thickness of the bank about 7'. The entrance is from the E., and its breadth is indefinite.

Some 40 yards S. of the last is another hut circle, with interior dimensions of 23' × 25' and an entrance from the E. 2' in width. The wall, which is 6' thick, has been faced on the exterior with large flat stones from 2' to 3' in length and 1' in thickness laid almost contiguously.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii. ("Pict's House").

Visited, 29th July 1910.

236. About $\frac{3}{4}$ m. SSW. of Achnaclyth are the remains of other hut circles much worn away, the walls of which have been faced on the exterior with stone. The best defined of the group has an interior measurement of 31' × 35' and a bank 9' wide at base entirely overgrown. A slight mound near the centre of the interior and a few stones protruding from it suggest the existence of an inner structure.

237. About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. due S. of Achnaclyth are two hut circles some 80' distant from each other. The one has interior measurements 21' × 25' and is entered from the E., while the other is too much worn away for detailed description. (O.S. "Picts' Houses.")

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii.

Visited, 27th July 1910.

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238. *Mounds, Bridge of Rhemullen, Dunbeath*.—On both sides of the road which leads from Dunbeath to Achnaclyth, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. above where the Houstry Burn flows into the Water of Dunbeath, are some eight or nine stony mounds varying in diameter from 15' to 26', and the highest having an elevation of about 4'. They are situated for the most part on the lower side of the road. There are no distinct remains of hut circles among them.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. (unnoted).

Visited, 28th July 1910.

239. *Hut Circle, Balcraggy*.—On a stretch of moorland between the top of the S. bank of the Dunbeath Water and the road to Braemore, $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SSE. of Balcraggy Lodge and about 100 yards from the road, is a hut circle. It is circular, with an interior diameter of some 28', entered from the E., and surrounded with a bank of turf and stone much broken down. An old stone wall has at one time run along the N. side of it, and from the inner face of the bank stones appear to have been lifted.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii. ("Pict's House").

Visited, 28th July 1910.

240. *Hut Circle, Forse*.—About 100 yards SSE. of the galleried structure (No. 263), in the line of an ancient wall built with very large stones, is a small circular enclosure open towards the SE., with an interior diameter of 10'. The wall is connected with it at either side.

241. *Mounds, Forse*.—On the top of the cliffs to the S. of the mouth of the Forse burn and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Forse, are a number of low stony mounds of some 14' to 18' in diameter. Their true character is uncertain.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. ("Tumuli").

Visited, 29th July 1910.

242. *Mounds, Acharaskill*.—On a green haugh on the left bank of the Allt Reidhe Mhoir, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the W. of Acharaskill, are some half dozen small stony mounds each with a diameter of about 16'. The haugh appears to have been under cultivation, and while some of the mounds may be the ruins of bothies, others are possibly merely heaps of stones gathered off the cultivated land.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxviii. ("Cairns"). Visited, 30th July 1910.

Hut Circles, Forse.

243. Towards the S. end of the enclosed moorland that lies to the W. and SW. of Forse House, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SW. of the house, is a group of hut circles. One situated some 50 yards W. of the wall enclosing a decayed plantation has a diameter over all of 35', and the wall which surrounds it, though overgrown and not very clearly defined, appears to be about 6' 6" in thickness. The entrance has been from the E., and one portal stone just protrudes through the turf.

244. Some 200 yards to the NW. of the last are three hut circles situated in close proximity to one another. The centre one, which

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occupies a slightly higher elevation than the others, has an interior diameter of 26'. The bank, which is much dilapidated, is stony and has probably been built. The entrance is from the SE. but is of indefinite width. In front of this circle is a circular enclosure, with a diameter of about 40 yards, demarcated by a line of huge slabs and boulders. The circle to the S. is too dilapidated for accurate definition. In the centre of it is a circular hollow some 8' in diameter and 2' 6" in depth, apparently built at the back. The third circle lies to the E. of the first and almost contiguous. It has an interior diameter of 19' and is entered from the SE. by a passage 2' 9" in width. The thickness of the wall is indefinite.

245. About 100 yards W. of the last is another hut circle much ruined and with many displaced stones lying in the interior. The interior diameter has been some 24', the thickness of the wall 6', and the entrance from the SE. Some 30' to the NE., and connected by a line of large boulders, is another small circle formed in the arc of a large circular enclosure defined by boulders and slabs set upright. In connection with these circles are various curving lines of great slabs and boulders, set on end, forming the boundaries of enclosures.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii.

Visited, 20th September 1910.

EARTH-HOUSES.

246. *Earth-house, Langwell.*—Some 200 yards W. of the head gamekeeper's house at Langwell, within the wood, and close to the park railings, is an earth-house. Access is gained to it by a hole broken through the roof towards its inner end, the portion towards the entrance being unopened. At the aperture it is 5' 3" in width. It extends inwards for a distance of 10' 6", expands to 6' at greatest width, and measures at highest 4' 7" above the debris that covers the floor. The sides are built of boulders, the end is rounded, and the roof formed of flagstones. One of these flags crossing the gallery at its broadest part measures over 6' 2" in length, and 4' 2" in width. Near the opening an upright stone set in the floor 2' out from the N. wall forms a pillar for support of the flag above it.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii. ("Pict's House"). Visited, 20th July 1910.

247. *Earth-house, Brae na h-Eaglais.*—At Strathy, some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. up the Long Burn, above its junction with the Langwell Water and to the W. of it, has been exposed a portion of an earth-house. It is situated among the foundations of what appear to have been a crofter settlement, and its relation to any early structure is not now recognisable. Entrance is gained with difficulty from the SE. end through an aperture below a lintel, the gallery at this extremity being almost choked with soil and ruins. Within, the passage is 3' wide and 3' 10" in greatest height above the present floor level. It extends for a distance of 17' curving slightly to the left, where it is blocked with debris, and a small opening on the surface probably indicates that the roof has fallen. The sides are built with boulders, and the roof is formed of flags laid across from wall to wall.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii. ("Pict's House"). Visited, 20th July 1910.



PLATE XIX.—Galleried Dwelling, Wagmore Rigg (No. 248).



PLATE XX.—Galleried Dwelling, Langwell : previous to excavation (No. 250).

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GALLERIED DWELLINGS.

248. *Galleried Dwelling, Wagmore Rigg*.—At the eastern end of Wagmore Rigg, in Langwell deer forest, some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. W. of the houses at Wag, and occupying the summit of a slight elevation, are the ruins of a circular galleried structure (pl. XIX.), consisting of two conjoined circles lying N. and S. of each other with separate entrances. The southmost circle is enclosed by a wall built of large stones, now some 2' in height and 4' 4" in thickness, which on the outside appears to have been banked up with soil. The entrance is from E. by S. through a passage 6' in length, 2' 6" in width at the exterior and 3' 10" at the inner end. At 4' from the outside a rebate of some 9" on either side forms checks for a door, faced with thin slabs set edgewise into the side walls. The width of the passage immediately outside the checks is 2' 3". Interiorly the circle has a diameter of 29'. At 3' inwards from the face of the wall occur, at intervals of from 6' to 8', upright stones, standing to a height of some 3' above present ground level, and measuring about 1' 6" in breadth by 8" in thickness or thereby, set edge on to the centre of the circle. Reaching from the wall to these upright pillars have been placed large slabs some 6' in length, 2' 3" at greatest breadth, and some 7" in thickness. Some of these are pointed and others rectangular at the inner end. Three of these slabs still remain *in situ*, and many others lie displaced within the enclosure. The diameter of the area between opposite pillars is some 17'. The other or northmost circle has been similar but of less diameter, measuring across the interior some 19' to 20'. From it the slabs have in great measure been removed, but sufficient remain to show that the plan has been the same. The diameter between opposite pillars is about 13'. The entrance has also been from E. by S., but its details are not now obtainable. In front of the entrance are foundations of other structures probably secondary.

O.S.M., CAITH., xli.

Visited, 20th July 1910.

249. *Galleried Dwellings, Morven*.—Near the base of Morven, on its eastern flank, and to the E. of the prominence known as Morven Seat, situated on slightly rising ground in boggy surroundings, are the ruins of two constructions of the same character as that last described. A large sheep fold, however, stands near, and to its construction is no doubt due the state of dilapidation into which they have fallen. Much of the outer walls have been removed. They have been constructed on the same principle but not on the same plan. The upper of the two measures 86' in greatest length by 46' in breadth, and appears to have been either oval or pear-shaped, with a gallery along the NW. a small part of which remains standing.

The second ruin lies some 40' S. by E. of the other. At the upper end is a circular enclosure with an interior diameter of 21'. The pillar stones some 3' in from the inner face remain *in situ*, but most of the covering slabs have been removed. Projecting from the outer side of the circle towards the ESE. for a distance of some 54', of which the interior measures 48' and the wall 6', is an oblong structure. Parallel with the N. wall of this and 4' within it, is another wall some 3' 6" in thickness, between which and the wall

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on the S. runs a gallery some 12' wide. The row of pillar stones along either side of this gallery still remains *in situ*, but the flags which rested on them lie dislodged. Both ruins are in a very confused state and the plans impossible to determine without excavation.

O.S.M., CAITH., xli. ("Pict's House").

Visited, 20th July 1910.

250. *Galleried Dwelling, Langwell.* — On the S. side of the Langwell Water, some 200 yards NW. from the ruins of "Burg Langwell" (No. 201), and at the upper end of the birch wood on the W. side of the ravine which dips down to the river, are the remains of a galleried structure (fig. 13, pl. XX.). It is formed with two distinct enclosures. On the N. is a circular area, measuring interiorly some 27', enclosed by a wall about 6' in thickness and entered from the outside at the NW. In the thickness of the wall on the W. side is a curved recess, some 6' in length by 2' in breadth. Bounding the entrance on the left is a cairn-like mound formed of large stones considerably intermixed with soil, and probably formed from the excavated material of the second enclosure, measuring 20' in diameter and some 3' 6" in elevation. Adjoining the above enclosure, on the E., is an oblong structure whose outer wall curves round at the N. to meet the cairn on its side opposite the entrance to the circle. It measures interiorly some 48' in length by from 13' to 14' in breadth, and has been divided into two divisions at 28' from the SW. end by a wall through which there is a doorway 3' wide. In the inner division so formed have been three upright stone pillars along each side—one of which has fallen—5' to 6' in height, 6' apart, and varying from 2' 3" to 4' 7" in distance from the side walls. These have supported the outer ends of massive slabs, of which one only now remains *in situ*, stretching from the top of the wall, and measuring 6' 9" in length, from 1' 4" to 3' 9" in breadth, and 11" in thickness. This structure has been partially excavated. The floor at the back or inner end was found to lie some 4' to 5' below the surrounding level, while at the opposite end, in the direction of the slope of the ground, it was sunk about 2'. There were found on excavation the upper portion of a rotary quern, also a saddle quern *in situ* on the floor with the rubbing stone which had been used upon it. One small piece of iron greatly corroded also came from the floor level, but no pottery was discovered.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii. ("Pict's House").

Visited, 22nd March 1911.

251. *Galleried Dwelling, Braemore.*—At Achinavish croft, about 1 m. down the Berriedale Water from Braemore Lodge, and some 80 yards back from the N. bank of the river, are the remains of what has probably been a galleried structure. A number of upright stones remain, which appear to have formed the supporting pillars of a gallery in a circular construction, whose diameter over all is some 37' × 44'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii.

Visited, 22nd July 1910.

252. *Galleried Dwelling, do.*—Near Braemore, on a low hillock about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. E. of the deer fence to the E. of Achnalaid, and on the S. side

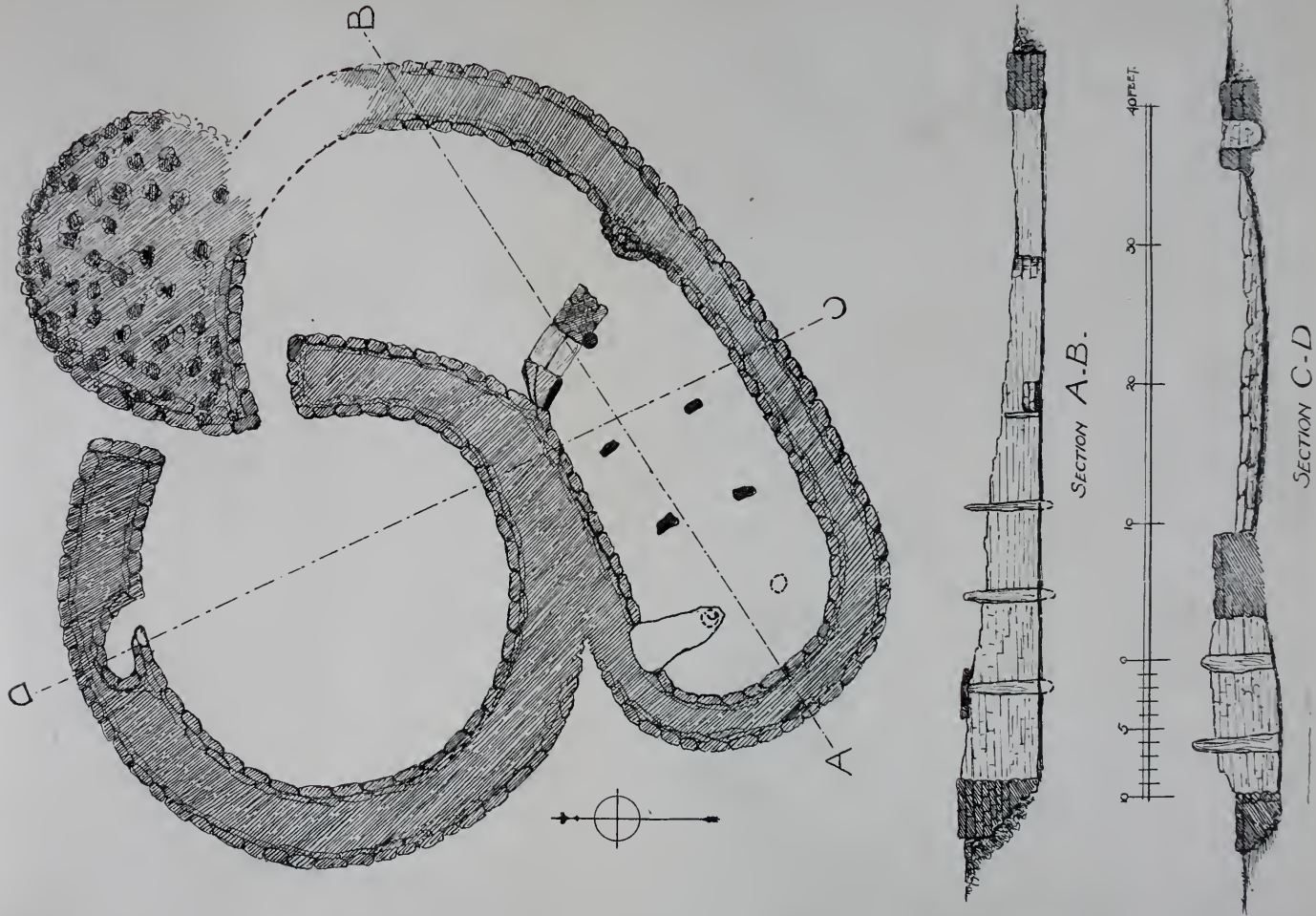
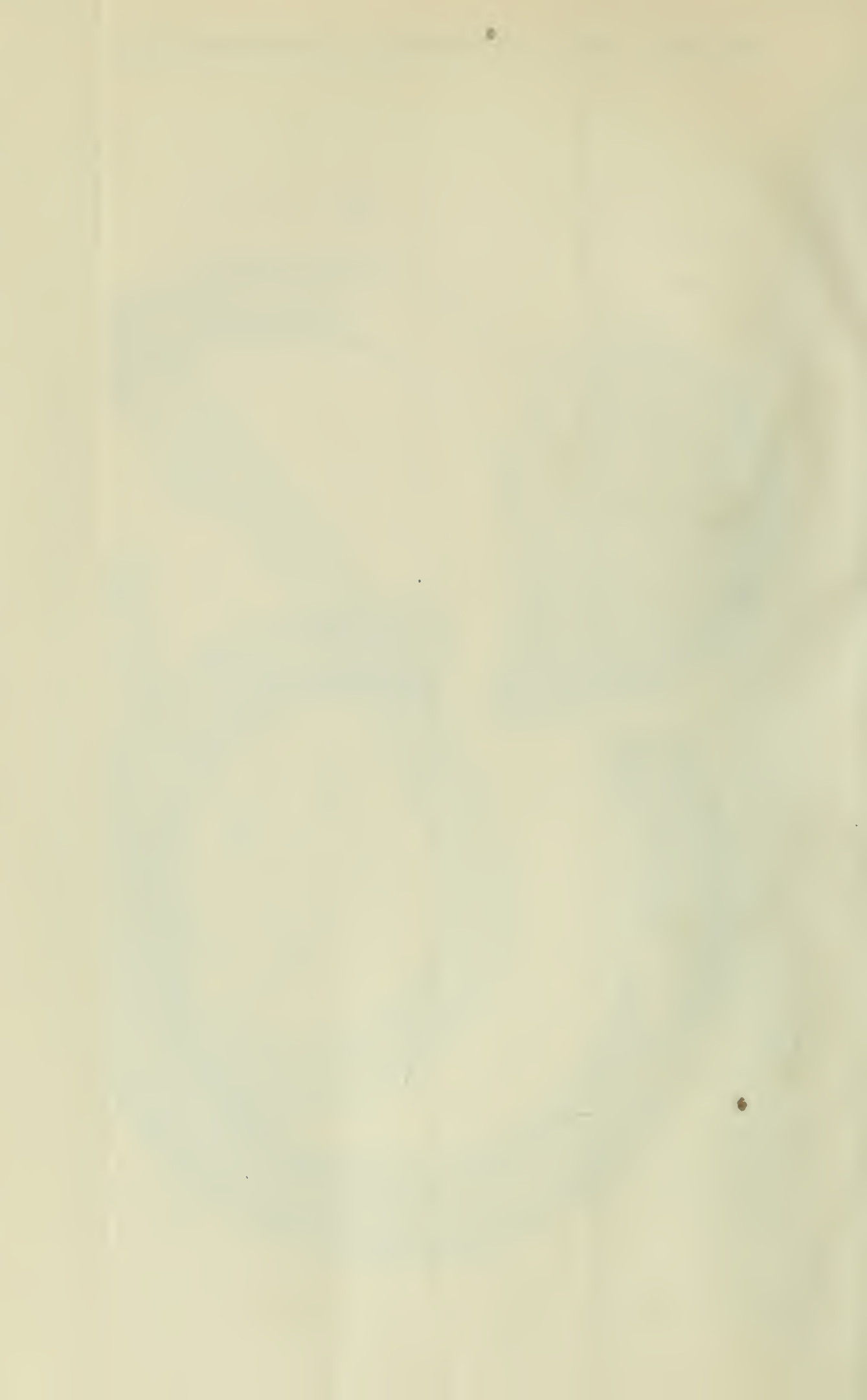


Fig. 13. GALLERYED DWELLING, LANGWELL (No. 259) : GROUND PLAN AND SECTIONS.



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of the Berriedale Water, are the remains of a galleried structure. In plan it is a circular enclosure measuring interiorly 23' × 26', with a wall some 6' in thickness, and an entrance from the E., having towards the NE. an oblong projection 34' in length and 16' in breadth, interior measurements. Along both sides of this wing have been galleries, the pillars of which have been placed at about 4' distant from the side walls and from 3' 6" to 5' 6" apart in each row, leaving a space of 5' 6" in width between the rows on either side. As in the corresponding structure at Langwell (No. 250), this wing appears to have been separated from the main enclosure by a partition wall through which was a doorway. Around the wall of the circle there seems also to have been a gallery, two pillars of which remain *in situ*. The height of the pillars is some 2' 6" above present ground level. The details of the entrance to the main enclosure are indefinite.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii.

Visited, 22nd July 1910.

253. *Galleried Dwelling, do.*—In the same situation and somewhat nearer to the river than the last are the remains of another construction of the same kind but of different plan. It appears to have consisted of two circular or sub-oval enclosures, the one opening out of the back of the other and having their longest axes in alignment. The largest circle measures interiorly some 25' × 26' and is entered from the SSE. through a passage 9' in length and 3' 6" in width. Through the wall at the back, an opening some 3' 10" in width gave access to the smaller circle which measured interiorly 17' × 19'. Around the larger circle one or two pillars remain *in situ*, and several large slabs lie prone in the interior. In the smaller circle, though no pillars remain, a number of large stones lie near the base of the wall. The wall of the whole construction at the highest is about 1' 6" in height. In the wall of the smaller circle on the E. side is a small circular chamber with a diameter of about 5'. To the NW. are the indefinite remains of what may have been another chamber, while in the immediate vicinity are various indeterminate foundations.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii.

Visited, 22nd July 1910.

254. *Galleried Dwelling, do.*—On the N. bank of the Berriedale Water, some 300 yards E. of Achinavish and about 100 yards back from the river, are the ruins of a similar galleried structure. The main enclosure has been circular, with a diameter of 26', having to the W. of it another compartment now of indefinite plan. In both of these the upright pillars are here and there visible and a number of large slabs lie overturned in the interior.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii.

Visited, 22nd July 1910.

255. *Galleried Dwelling, Dail a' Chairn.*—Situated on the right bank of the Berriedale Water, about 3 m. above Braemore Lodge and not many yards back from the stream, are the remains of a large galleried construction. It is now much ruined and the large covering slabs have been for the most part removed, but many of the pillars which supported them in the interior are still standing. The structure has been circular, with an interior diameter of about 55'

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and walls 5' in thickness. The entrance has been from the SE. through a passage some 4' wide. In the interior are the remains of a circle of pillars placed some 5' to 6' distant from each other, and 5' within the inner face of the wall. Only eight pillars now remain in the circle. On the W. some 5' further in towards the centre are other two, and occupying a corresponding position relative to the circle above mentioned on the NE. is another. These possibly indicate the previous existence of an inner circle. Only one of the slabs which covered the gallery remains *in situ*.*

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxvii.

256. *Galleried Dwelling, "Wag Mor," Dunbeath Strath.*—On the E. side of the Raffin burn, about $2\frac{1}{4}$ m. above its junction with the Dunbeath Water at Achnaclyth, on a grassy slope beside a sheep stell, are the ruins of two or three galleried structures. The place is known as "Wag Mor," and is within the Dunbeath deer forest. The structures are much ruined and their plans indistinct. That best preserved appears to have been an oblong building measuring some 47' in length interiorly, divided by a cross wall at 20' from the inner end. Its width seems to have been about 6' at the entrance at the outer end, and to have expanded to 8' or 9' at the opposite extremity. The walls have been built of large flat slabs and the structures have been of the galleried type.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxii. ("Picts' Houses").

Visited, 27th July 1910.

257. *Galleried Dwelling, "The Wag," Achnaclyth, Dunbeath Strath.*—About $\frac{3}{4}$ m. SE. of Achnaclyth on the low ground by the side of the Wag burn, and adjoining a large sheep-fold, are the remains of three or more galleried houses bearing the name of "The Wag." They all appear to have been oblong on plan, with rounded ends. The best preserved (pl. XXI.), which lies E. and W., measures some 34' in length and 15' in breadth. The entrance appears to have been through the S. wall at 23' from the W. end. The thickness of the wall has been about 6' 6". The pillars, several of which remain *in situ*, have been placed at from 3' to 3' 9" from the side walls, and at distances of 4' 9" and 6' from each other in the rows. The space in the centre between the rows of pillars measures 5' 8" across. Only two of the covering stones remain in position, one on each side. That on the N. is 6' in length and 2' 8" in breadth, that on the S. 5' 9" long and 2' 6" in breadth. They are both about 8" in thickness. The greatest height of wall remaining exposed is 3', and the highest pillar measures 2' 8" above ground. The width of the entrance is not evident. Outside, as also at the E. end, there are indefinite remains of building. The walls, as usual in these structures, are built of large flat stones carefully laid.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii. ("Picts' Houses").

Visited, 27th July 1910.

258. *Galleried Dwelling, Achnaclyth, do.*—On the N. bank of the Dunbeath Water, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. below Achnaclyth and some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. to

* Owing to the state of the weather an inspection of these remains was not effected, but details have been supplied by Donald Mackay, Esq., Braemore.



PLATE XXI.—Galleried Dwelling, "The Wag," Achnaclyth (No. 257).



PLATE XXII.—Galleried Dwelling, "Cor Tulloch," Housty (No. 262).

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the E. of the galleried dwelling (No. 257), on the low haugh by the river, are the remains of two galleried structures. That nearest to the stream has been L-shaped on plan. The longer arm lying NW. and SE. measures 32' in length by 18' in width, while the other projection measures some 20' in length by 13' in width. The wall, which is built of large stones carefully laid, is 8' in thickness, and visible in places to a height of 2'. The pillars have been placed as usual about 3' from the side walls. There has been an entrance into the longer arm at its SE. end, 2' 8" in width, and also probably into the shorter chamber near its junction with the other in the re-entering angle, but at this point the outline of the ruin is indefinite. There is an indication of a cross wall between the two chambers. Only one covering slab remains *in situ*, and it appears to form part of the last-mentioned entrance.

The adjacent structure is much ruined, but appears to have consisted of two circular enclosures NW. and SE. of each other, of different size, with a third abutting on the N. The circle towards the SE. has had an interior diameter of about 22'. They all contain the usual evidence of galleries.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii. ("Picts' Houses").

Visited, 27th July 1910.

259. *Galleried Dwellings, Achorn, Dunbeath.*—On the left bank of the Achorn burn, about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. W. of Balcraggy Lodge, are the foundations of what appear to have been a number of connected circular galleried buildings. There seems to have been at least four large circular enclosures with diameters of from 30' to 40'. The outer walls, built of large blocks, have been about 7' in thickness. No actual pillars or covering slabs of galleries are visible, but the character of the building is similar to that of the galleried structures found in this region. In several places, protruding through the turf, are rectangular settings of flagstones similar to those found in connection with the brochs.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii. (unnoted). Visited, 28th July 1910.

260. *Galleried Dwelling, Ballentink.*—On a low mound about 120 yards to the W. of the foundations (No. 304), are the indefinite and scanty remains of some structure which, judging from the upright pillars remaining, has probably been a galleried dwelling.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. (unnoted).

Visited, 28th July 1910.

261. *Galleried Dwelling (supposed), Ballentink.*—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NW of the Bridge of Rhemullen at Ballentink, and within the cultivated land, is a grassy knoll on whose uneven surface are apparent the foundations of numerous compartments of a complex structure. The protruding stones and slabs suggest that it has been of the galleried type, but its plan is quite indefinite. On the W., at the edge of the hillock, there is exposed a small portion of wall about 4' in height which suggests a broch, but there are no other indications of such a structure, and it is possibly the outer wall of a galleried dwelling.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. ("Mound").

Visited, 28th July 1910.

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262. *Galleried Dwelling, "Cor Tulloch," Houstry.*—On the croft of Cars, some 300 yards S. of Mullbuie, is a remarkable construction named on the O.S. map "Cor Tulloch" (pl. XXII.). It has been a large galleried dwelling, but without careful excavation its exact plan is difficult to expiscate. It appears to have been a somewhat pear-shaped enclosure with its longest axis NW. and SE. Its longest diameter is 86' and the diameter across 73'. On the S, however, the outline is indefinite, and there seems to be a slight outer expansion in that direction. The whole interior is overgrown with coarse grass, and large stones confusedly tumbled about increase the difficulty of definition. The outer wall of the construction has been some 5' 6" in thickness, faced with large stones, and is still some 18" in height. Running along the inner periphery on the N. side are the remains of a galleried apartment some 42' in length and 15' in breadth. From the top of the walls forming this apartment there have been laid horizontally large pointed slabs some 6' in length, 3' in greatest breadth, and 1' in thickness, whose pointed ends rest on upright stones sunk in the ground, but now at most only some 18" above it. The passage way between the ends of the slabs roofing the galleries measures about 3' in width. Laid transversely across the space between two of the slabs on the N. side of the gallery at its SE. end, is another large slab some 5' square, and the features of the ruin suggest that the rest of the gallery was similarly roofed. At the SE. end, four of the large roofing slabs remain in position, in two pairs opposite to each other; and to the NW., although the slabs have fallen, the upright pillars for the most part remain *in situ*. They are not placed at regular distances from each other along the sides of the central passage, but vary from 4' 6" to 7' apart. Some 12' beyond the termination of the galleries towards the NW. this apartment ends, and beyond there appear to be the foundations of one or two small rectangular chambers against the outer wall. A similar gallery seems to have been carried around the SE. and S. sides as is evidenced by the existence of the pillar stones, though the covering slabs have all fallen. Some 12' inwards towards the centre of the construction from the SE. end of the N. gallery, and at a less distance from the remains of the gallery towards the S., are signs of an inner circular wall enclosing an area with a diameter of some 27'. Rising from this foundation at the NW. are two high pointed stones 4' to 5' in height above ground; one quadrangular in section some 14" in width, and the other a flat pointed slab; while a third similar stone rises from what may be the base of an inner wall surrounding a circular enclosure with a diameter of some 16'. The vegetation and ruins render the details of the interior structure very obscure. There is an entrance to the main enclosure at the NW. 7' wide between the termination of the wall on the N. and the wall passing round from the SW., which latter is carried beyond this entrance for a distance of some 20'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii.

Visited, 18th July 1910.

263. *Galleried Dwelling, Forse.*—On the lower slope of the hill about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. by S. of Forse House are the ruins of a very large galleried

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construction. In the present state of dilapidation into which it has fallen the plan is difficult to determine, but it appears to have consisted of four oblong enclosures in two pairs, conjoined at one end and slightly divergent, with another chamber thrust in between them. (The whole galleries measure across from E. to W. about 120'.) The southmost pair are built with their longest axes NW. and SE. entering from the latter direction, and the northmost pair, slightly divergent, have their longest axes WSW. and ENE. entering from the latter direction. The chamber occupying the angle between the two pairs is too ruined to define, but in form it seems to have been circular. The southmost pair each measure interiorly 48' in length and 15' in width near the centre, slightly expanding towards the inner end. The ends are, as usual, rounded. At 28' from the SE. extremities they are connected by a passage through the dividing wall 3' 7" wide and 7' in length. The northmost pair of enclosures are 54' or 55' in length respectively, interior measurement, the southmost of the two expanding from 11' to 13' 6" in width, and the northmost being 18' wide at the back. The walls are well built of large stones and are from 7' to 8' in thickness, and in places 2' to 3' in height. In the southmost of the four enclosures one pillar with its supported slab still remains *in situ* and numerous other pillars remain erect. They are from 2' 4" to 2' 9" distant from the face of the wall, and the highest pillar is 3' 8" above present ground level. The entrance into the second enclosure from the S. is well defined and is 3' 3" in width. The confusion caused by the large displaced slabs and blocks of stones in the interior of the enclosures is very great. A segmental wall passes from the NW. end of the southmost enclosure round by N. towards the entrance of the innermost of the most northerly pair of enclosures, while a similar wall runs from that entrance on the opposite side to junction with the outer wall of the most southerly enclosure at its SE. end.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii. ("Mound"). Visited, 29th July 1910.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

264. *Chambered Cairn (remains of), Knockinnon.*—Near the edge of the high bank which slopes sharply towards the cliff, some 200 yards SE. of Knockinnon Castle, are the scanty remains of what has probably been a chambered cairn. At the back stands erect a large flat-sided stone, 4' 8" in height, 2' 6" in breadth, and 1' 3" in thickness, and some 3' in rear of it the head of another similar slab protrudes about 1' 2" above ground. Only a partial outline of the construction remains.

265. *Chambered Cairn, Houstry.*—On the right bank of the burn of Houstry, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. WNW. of Cuag and about 150 yards back from the burn, are the remains of a chambered cairn. Its diameter is some 50'. At 17' in from the S. side, the top of two large erect slabs 2' 8" apart are visible above the ruins, and some 4' 6" beyond these the head of another protrudes. Though the cairn is considerably dilapidated there is no evidence that the chamber has been cleared out.

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266. *Chambered Cairn (remains of), Achnagoul.*—At the lower end of an enclosed park adjacent to a croft between the road and the Houstry burn at Achnagoul, are six large upright slabs which have formed parts of the chamber of a cairn. The chamber has been entered from the S. and appears to have been bipartite. Two large slabs 2' apart mark the entrance to the outer compartment, while some 5' in rear of them another pair have formed the portal stones at the entrance to the inner compartment. A single slab at the back indicates the length of the latter as some 7', and one slab on the W. side signifies that the width was about 8'. The cairn, except for these slabs, has been entirely removed, and much of it lies heaped up outside the field.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. (unnoted).

Visited, 18th July 1910.

267. *Chambered Cairn, Langwell.*—On the top of the S. bank of the Langwell Water, and by the edge of a burn which flows into that river near the road bridge $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. above Langwell House, are the remains of a chambered cairn. Much of the stone which formed the cairn has been removed and the chambers for the most part demolished. The outline is not very definite, but it appears to have measured in diameter some 78' from E. to W. by 63' from N. to S. In line of the main axis there appears to have been two separate chambers. Some 18' in from the E. edge are two upright stones 2' 8" apart, that on the N. broken off at the ground level, while that alongside stands to a height of 2' 8". At 4' 8" in rear of them are another similar pair 2' 4" apart, apparently marking the entrance to an inner chamber, the sides and back of which have been removed. At 10' inwards from what appears to have been the outer edge of the cairn on the W. stands a large slab some 3' 2" in breadth and 2' in height, set at right angles to the direction of the passage. To the E. or rear of it, distant 11' 6", a pair of slabs protrude from the ruins 2' 8" apart, and directly in rear of them a large slab 5' in breadth is visible for a height of some 14", marking the back of this chamber. The side walls are not now visible.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii. ("Picts' Houses").

Visited, 21st July 1910.

268. *Cairn, Langwell.*—Situated about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SW. of Langwell House, in the wood and some 40 yards S. of the avenue, is a large cairn. It measures some 60' in diameter and 5' in elevation. A number of small trees are growing over it, and there is no sign of its having been excavated.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii. (unnoted).

Visited, 21st July 1910.

269. *Cairn (supposed), Berriedale.*—On the moorland high above the right bank of the Berriedale Water, and about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. N. of the junction of the Allt an Duin with that stream, is a stony mound from which large stones protrude, and which is possibly a cairn. It has a diameter of some 40' and an elevation of 5' to 6'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii. ("Pict's House"). Visited, 21st July 1910.

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270. *Cairn, Allt Ard achaidh, Berriedale*.—Perched on the top of the S. bank of the Allt Ard achaidh, near its junction with the Berriedale Water, is a cairn measuring 38' in diameter and 5' in elevation.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii. ("Picts' Houses").

Visited, 21st July 1910.

271. *Chambered Cairn (remains of), Allt na Buidhe*.—On the right bank of the Allt na Buidhe, about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. above the road bridge at Borgue, are the scanty remains of a chambered cairn. The stones have been almost entirely removed. Three large upright slabs remain, marking the position of the chamber, but its plan is unascertainable. The entrance appears to have been from the SSE.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii. ("Pict's House").

Visited, 23rd July 1910.

272. *Cairn, Dunbeath*.—Some 200 yards E. of the gamekeeper's house at Balantrath, on the road from Dunbeath to Leodebest, is a small cairn overgrown with heather. It measures about 33' in diameter and 2' in elevation. To the SE. of it lie one or two small stony mounds.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii. (unnoted). Visited, 28th July 1910.

273. *Chambered Cairn (horned, long), "Carn Liath," Leodebest*.—Situated on the moor some 300 yards E. by S. of the shepherd's house at Leodebest, are the remains of a horned long cairn known as "Carn Liath." The cairn is much dilapidated and the chamber ruined, but there is no evidence of its having been excavated. It lies with its major axis WSW. and ENE., rising in elevation and expanding in width towards the latter direction. At the WSW. extremity it is 28' in breadth and now of trifling elevation, while at the opposite end it measures about 40' in breadth and 5' in elevation. The extreme length, including the horns, is 165'. The apparent width between the ends of the horns at the WSW. is 40' and at the ENE. 60'. The ruined state of the cairn, however, renders these measurements only approximate. In the centre of the concavity at the ENE. end stand two slabs about 3' 10" in height above the ruin, 2' 6" to 3' in width, and 1' 4" apart, which probably mark the outer end of the entrance passage. The exact projection of the horns is not in the existing state of the ruin observable, but the length from these portal stones to the outer extremity on the N. is 35', and at the opposite end the distance from the centre point of the end of the cairn to the approximate end of the horns is 23'. No part of the chamber is at present recognisable.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii. ("Pict's House").

Visited, 28th July 1910.

274. *Chambered Cairn, Leodebest*.—Some 30 yards to the NW. of the horned long cairn (No. 273) are the dilapidated remains of a circular cairn from which many cart-loads of stone have been removed. One or two large upright stones, evidently *in situ*, proclaim its chambered character, but the plan of the chamber is not apparent. The diameter is 44' and the elevation now trifling.

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275. *Cairn (remains of), Leodebest.*—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of Leodebest, on the N. side of the road and some 20' back from it, are three upright stones about 2' above ground set parallel, face to face, 2' 2" and 2' 8" apart respectively. In rear of the most north easterly is visible another large stone set at right angles and measuring some 3' in breadth. A slight elevation of the ground may indicate the site of a cairn near the centre of which these stones are set.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii. (unnoted). Visited, 28th July 1910.

276. *Chambered Cairn and Standing-Stone, Cnoc na Maranaich.*—On the summit of Cnoc na Maranaich, the most conspicuous hill at the lower end of the Dunbeath Strath, are the remains of a large cairn with a standing-stone adjacent (pl. XXIII.). The centre of the cairn has been broken into, and two or three large slabs lying displaced suggest a chambered character. The diameter over all is about 60', and the greatest elevation about 7'. Some 20' to the E., facing due N. and S., is a standing-stone. It is a slab of whinstone, pointed to the upper end, 8' 4" high, 3' 4" wide at base, and 11" thick.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii. ("Pict's House," "Standing-Stone").

Visited, 28th July 1910.

277. *Chambered Cairn (remains of), Latheronwheel.*—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SE. of Latheronwheel House, and situated by the side of an old feal dyke some 100 yards to the E. of the road between Dunbeath and Lybster, are the remains of a chambered cairn. The chamber has been entered from the NE., and the remains of two compartments are recognisable by the division stones. The first pair are 2' 6" apart, and are from 2' 6" to 3' in breadth; the second pair, set parallel to and 4' in rear of the former, are 2' apart. At 5' in rear of the latter pair a slab 4' 6" in breadth appears to mark the back of the chamber. None of these slabs protrude for more than 18" above the debris. Close in front of the back slab a large stone 3' 9" in height, 2' 6" in width, stands upright, but does not seem to be a part of the original structure. The sides of the chamber are not recognisable. The cairn appears to have been round, but its diameter is not now ascertainable without excavation.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii.

Visited, 28th July 1910.

278. *Chambered Cairn, Achkinloch.*—Some 40 to 50 yards SSE. of the SE. end of the setting of standing-stones at Achkinloch, Loch Stemster (No. 293), are the ruins of a chambered cairn. The cairn is greatly dilapidated and much stone has been removed from it. Near the centre two large slabs stand upright, facing E. and W., 7' to 8' apart, indicating the position of the chamber, the plan of which is not, however, evident. The diameter has been about 75'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxviii. ("Brough"). Visited, 30th July 1910.

279. *Stone Circle, Guidebest.*—At Guidebest, close by the left bank of the Burn of Latheronwheel, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. above the road bridge at Latheronwheel, are the remains of a large stone circle (fig. 14) of which seven stones now remain upright and one fallen, though one of the former is broken over at 1' 6" above ground, and another is a mere stump, while five stones are probably wanting. The site of the



PLATE XXIII.—Cairn and Standing-Stone, Cnoc na Maranaich (No. 276).



PLATE XXIV.—Dove-cot, Forse House (No. 281).

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circle is on a flat area some 15' above the burn, which has eaten away the bank till it is very close to the SW. stone. The stones have been

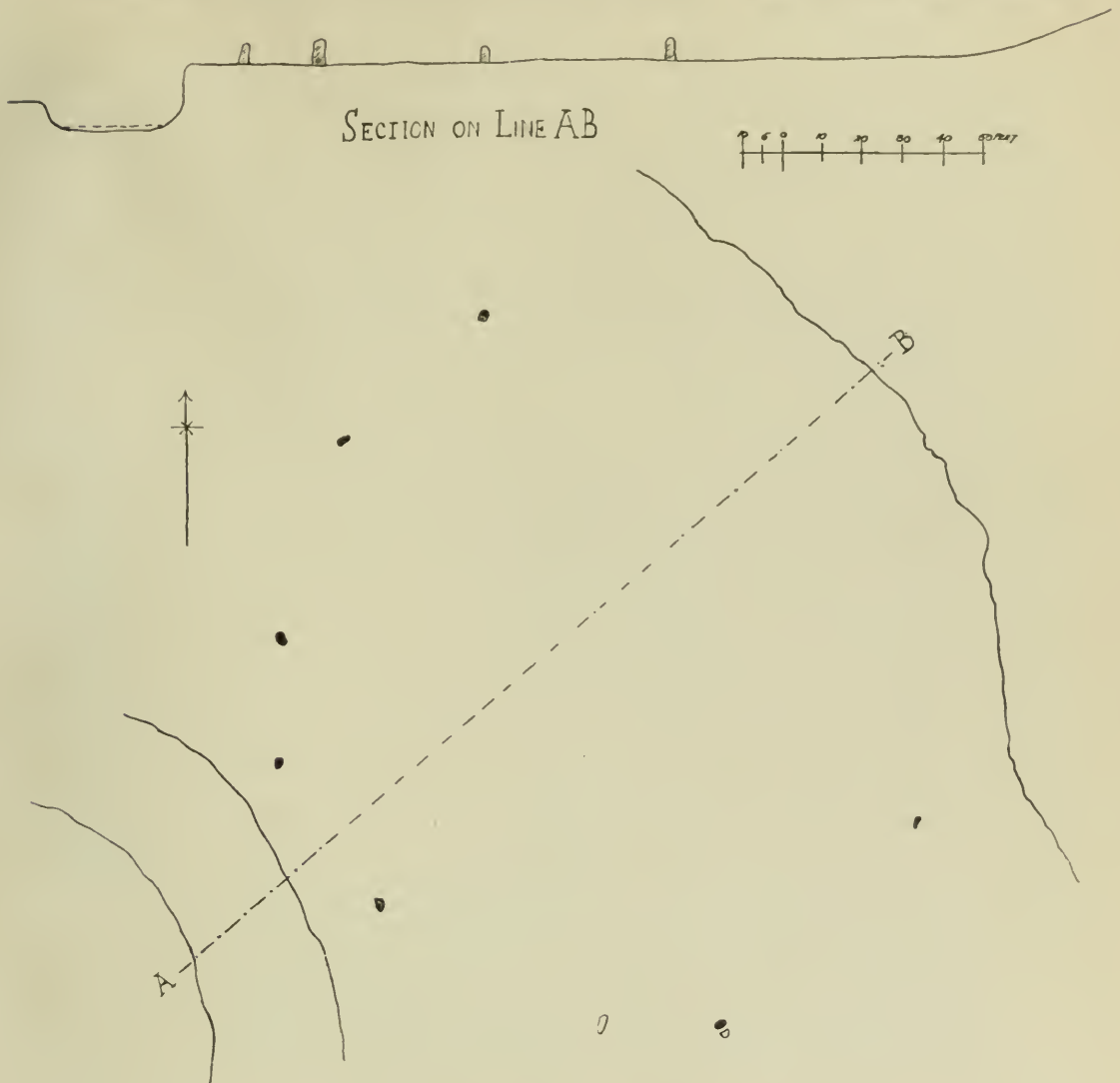


FIG. 14.—Stone Circle, Guidebest (No. 279); Ground-plan.

set with their faces in the line of the circumference, and vary from 2' 9" to 4' 9" in height, from 1' 11" to 3' in breadth, and from 1' 2" to 2' in thickness. The circle has had a diameter of about 190'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii.

Visited, 26th July 1910.

MISCELLANEOUS.

280. *Construction (remains), Moss of Whilk.*—Situated at the NW. end of the Moss of Whilk, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. by S. of Warehouse, and just where the hills begin to rise northwards of the Moss, is a grassy hillock. In elevation it is low, and scattered over its surface or protruding from it, showing no trace of arrangement, are numerous large quarried stones. The mound does not seem high enough to cover the ruins of a broch, and the removal of the stones from such an inaccessible spot is not likely to have occurred. If a broch has ever stood here it seems to have been entirely cast down. The

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surface is very uneven and does not suggest a cairn. The diameter is 63'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. ("Brough"). Visited, 13th July 1910.

281. *Dove-cot, Forse House*.—Standing in the park to the W. of Forse House is an old dove-cot (pl. XXIV.) with a lean-to roof and crow-stepped gables. It has two divisions with separate doors, and openings in the roof for the pigeons. The back wall is some 24' to 26' in height. There are three narrow ledges for the birds to rest on passing along the back wall, two on the sides, where they are stepped, and one on the front. The gables are surmounted with spherical finials, and from the centre of the top of the back wall rises a thistle supporting a weather vane. The length of the building is 28' 8" and its breadth 16'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii.

Visited, 29th July 1910.

282. *Mounds, Forse*.—To the S. and SE. of the galleried structure (No. 263) are several mounds and constructions noted on the O.S. map. Two of these in the vicinity of the burn are conical mounds, composed of small angular fragments of stone about the size of road metal. Dr Joseph Anderson has described certain small cairns presenting a similar appearance. They measured from 20' to 30' in diameter and 2' to 4' in height, and were composed of stones thoroughly burned, the interstices between them being filled with a black unctuous mould. Two of these opened near the brochs of Brounaban and Yarhouse (Yarrows) respectively yielded no clue to their purpose. Similar cairns are known in Ireland, where they are called in Cork "Folach Fia," in Tipperary "Deer Roasts," and in Ulster "Giant's Cinders." Before, however, the artificial origin of these particular mounds can be ascertained they would require to be excavated.

See *Antiquaries*, ix. p. 295.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii.

Visited, 29th July 1910.

283. *Bell-Tower, Latheron*.—Conspicuously situated on the shoulder of the hill, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of Latheron parish church, is a detached belfry (pl. XXV.). It is a rectangular tower 7' square rising to a height of 22' to 24' and finished with a pyramidal stone roof. There are oblong openings, measuring some 4' x 2', below the roof for the emission of the sound. The bell was removed from the belfry about 1825. The building, which probably dates from the end of the 17th century, is in need of repair.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii.

Visited, 26th July 1910.

Standing-Stones, Hill of Rangag.

284. At the N. end of the Hill of Rangag, some 30 yards E. of the road, and about $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. of Achavannich, is a standing-stone (pl. XXVI.). It is quadrangular in section, stands to a height of 9' 5" above ground, and measures some 2' 9" in thickness. It seems to face E. and is slightly tilted towards the W. On its S. face near the W. edge, and about 3' above ground, are some raised markings which have the appearance of sculpture, but are probably due to natural causes.

285. Some 160' W. by S. of it by the roadside, there lies across the ditch on the opposite side of the road another large stone which fell



PLATE XXV.—Bell-Tower, Latheron (No. 283).

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PLATE XXVII.—Standing-Stone, Hill of
Rangag (No. 286).

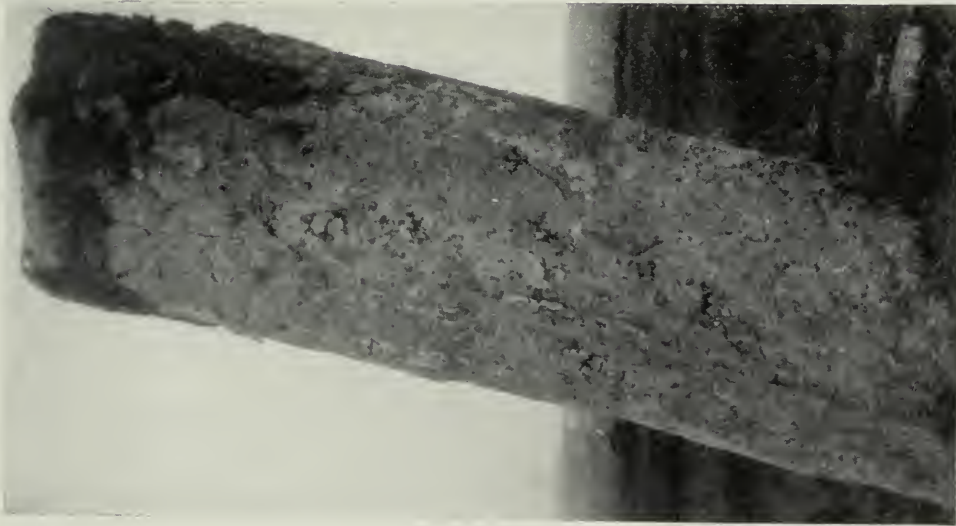


PLATE XXVI.—Standing-Stone, Hill of
Rangag (No. 284).



PLATE XXIX. — Standing-Stone,
Borgue (No. 290).

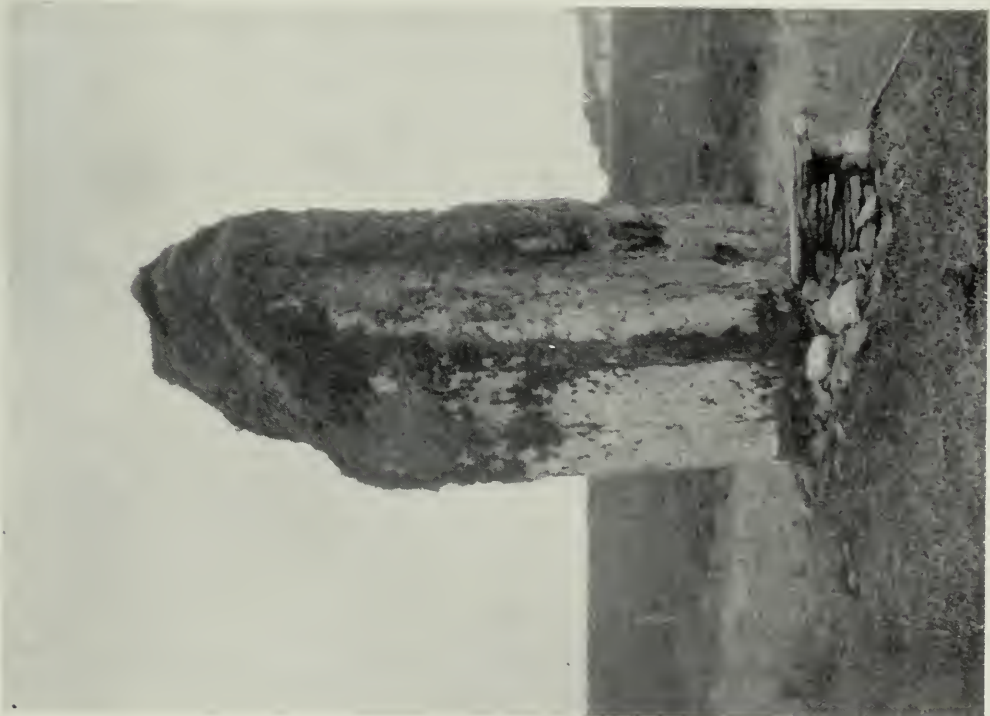


PLATE XXVIII. — Standing-Stone, Latheron (No. 288).

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some fifty years ago. It is also quadrangular, and measures $2\frac{1}{2}'$ in breadth, $1' 5''$ in thickness, and $9'$ in length.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxviii. Visited, 15th July 1910.

286. Situated at the N. end of the Hill of Rangag, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. ENE. of the standing-stone (No. 284), is another (pl. XXVII.). It stands $5' 6''$ in height above ground, is roughly quadrangular in section, measuring $2' 6'' \times 1' 8''$, and is pointed upwards. It faces WNW. and ESE. On the SE. angle, some $17''$ from the top, a rounded disc-like protuberance some $4''$ in diameter has been formed by the hollowing of the surface above and on one side, and by a shallow groove across the edge beneath it.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxviii. Visited, 15th July 1910.

287. *Standing-Stone, Forse*.—In the corner of an enclosed wood, some 200 yards ENE. of the gamekeeper's house at Forse, is a standing-stone. It is rectangular in section, measuring $2' \times 1' 2''$ and $5' 8''$ in height above ground. In direction it faces NNW. and SSE.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii. Visited 20th September 1910.

288. *Standing-Stone, Latheron*.—About 100 yards to the N. of the Post Office at Latheron, on the croft of Buldoo, is a massive standing-stone (pl. XXVIII.) rising $12' 8''$ above ground, quadrangular in section, and measuring at base $12' 2''$ in circumference and at $7'$ up $14' 2''$. It is pointed towards the upper end and appears to be bedded in the rock which is visible on the surface quite near.

289. *Standing-Stone, do*.—About 100 yards to the NW. of the last another large upright block stands to a height of $7'$ above ground. It faces NNW. and SSE. and measures across its respective faces $4' 3''$ and $4' 10''$ and is some $2' 10''$ in thickness. It is not pointed. From top to bottom it has been badly split.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. Visited, 26th July 1910.

290. *Standing-Stone, Borgue*.—Out on the moor at Borgue at its northerly end, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the W. of the main road to Wick, is a high standing-stone (pl. XXIX.). It is a slab rising $12' 8''$ above ground, pointed to its upper extremity, $5' 6''$ broad at greatest breadth, $3' 5''$ broad at base, and $1' 8''$ in thickness. It faces W. by N. and E. by S.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii. Visited, 23rd July 1910.

291. *Standing-Stone, Houstry School*.—Situated on the moor some 50 yards SE. of Houstry School is a tall standing-stone. It is a slab $8'$ in height, $2' 5''$ in breadth, and $1' 5''$ in thickness. It is pointed to the upper extremity and faces E. and W.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii. Visited, 18th July 1910.

292. *Stone Rows, Hill o' Many Stanes, Mid Clyth*.—To the NW. of Mid Clyth railway station, on a low hill, stands one of the most remarkable monuments in Caithness. Along the southern slope of the hill are ranged twenty-two rows of stones running approximately parallel from N. to S. but slightly diverging towards their southern extremities. At the N. end the monument measures $118'$ across and at the S. end $188'$. The longest row is about $153'$ in length and appears to have been formed of twenty-two stones placed from $5' 6''$ to $7' 6''$ apart. The stones are, as a rule, thin slabs set with their faces looking

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across the rows. The largest stones are about 3' high, 3' wide, and 15" to 18" thick. There are now standing about 192 stones, while a number lie pulled out and others are broken over. They have all been firmly wedged in at the base with smaller stones. Counting from the E. the rows now contain the following number of erect stones:—

1st row,	7 stones.	12th row,	11 stones.
2nd "	6 "	13th "	12 "
3rd "	12 "	14th "	10 "
4th "	8 "	15th "	15 "
5th "	6 "	16th "	10 "
6th "	4 "	17th "	10 "
7th "	6 "	18th "	7 "
8th "	7 "	19th "	8 "
9th "	7 "	20th "	14 "
10th "	9 "	21st "	5 "
11th "	9 "	22nd "	9 "

To the E. of the eastmost row one or two stones protruding suggest that the monument may originally have extended further in that direction.

A plan of this monument made by Sir Henry Dryden in 1871 is preserved in the library of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. On it the number of stones indicated, erect and fallen, is about 250.

See Cordiner's *Antiquities*, p. 84; Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 131 (plan).

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiv.

Visited, 16th July 1910.

293. *Standing-Stones (setting of), Achkinloch.*—At the SW. corner of Loch Stemster, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SW. of Achkinloch, is a remarkable setting of standing-stones (pl. XXX.). In form the monument is an irregular oval, broader at one end than the other, and like a horseshoe, having the setting discontinued across one end and that the narrow one. The main axis is N. and S. with the open end towards the latter direction. The total length is 226', the width in the middle from side to side, interior measurement, 110', and at the open extremity 85'. The stones are placed with their broad faces at right angles to the direction of the setting, and are on an average from 4' to 5' in height, the highest stone—that at the SW. termination—measuring 6' 4" in height. In breadth they vary from 3' to 5', and in thickness from 8" to 20". They have been placed at distances of 8' or 9' from each other. There are a number of gaps, and presuming that the intervals were regular and that the stones from these gaps have been removed, the number of stones originally forming the monument would be fifty-four. There now remain *in situ* thirty-four, of which two are mere stumps, and there lie prostrate other three. Abutting against a high stone at the NE. of the monument, and on the outside, is a cist-like construction formed of four slabs set in the ground and measuring 5' \times 3' 9" interiorly. There is no evidence of an interment having been found in it.

This monument was surveyed by Sir Henry Dryden in 1871, and his plan was reproduced by Dr Joseph Anderson in his work referred to below.

See Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 132 (plan).

O.S.M., CAITH., xxviii.

Visited, 30th July 1910.

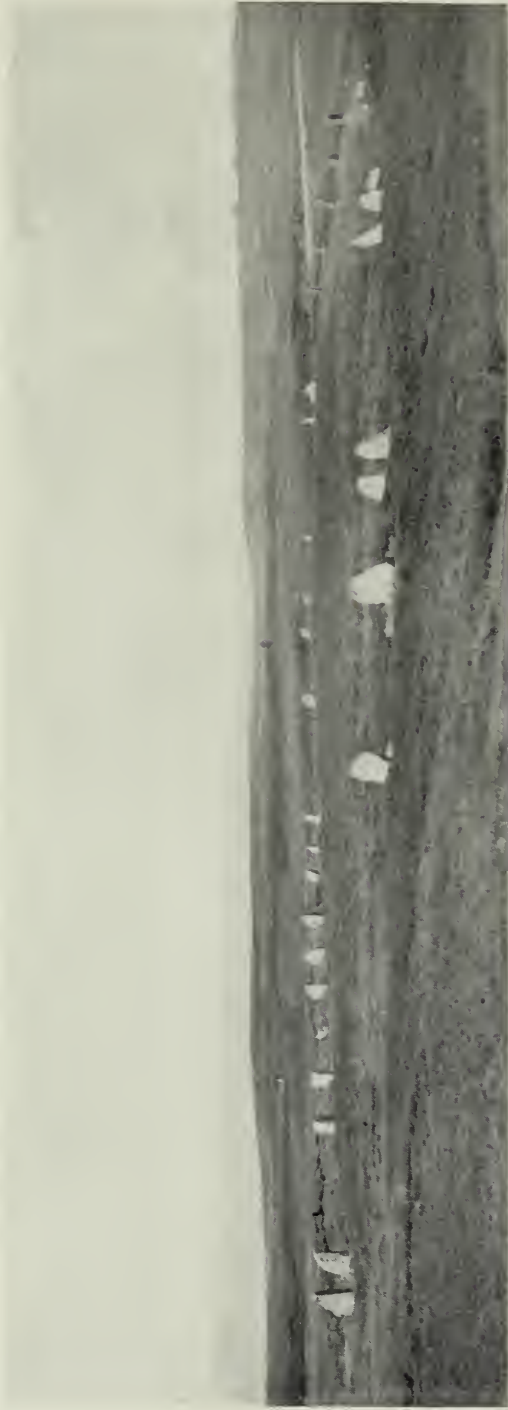


PLATE XXX.—Standing-Stones (Setting of), Achkinloch (No. 293)

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294. *Standing-Stones, Forse*.—Between a rocky scarp and swampy ground at the upper or N. end of the Mill Dam, to the NW. of Forse House, are three standing-stones and the base of a fourth. They are rectangular slabs placed at irregular intervals of 18' 9", 25', and 53' from each other, and seemingly disturbed from their original positions. It is doubtful if they have formed part of a stone circle. The unbroken stones measure from 3' 6" to 4' 9" in height, from 2' 7" to 3' in width, and they have an average thickness of 13".

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiii. ("Stone Circle").

Visited, 29th July 1910.

295. *Cross Slab, Mid Clyth*.—Near the centre of Mid Clyth graveyard stands a tall grey slab (fig. 15) measuring 6' 6" in height, 1' 9" in breadth, and 6" in thickness. It faces SW. and NE. On the SW. face near the centre is incised a Celtic cross 1' 3" in length and 1' 4" in breadth along the arms. The upper arm



FIG. 15.—Cross Slab, Mid Clyth Graveyard (No. 295).

terminates in two diverging spirals and the lateral arms in circular discs 3" in diameter. The stem of the cross is about $\frac{3}{4}$ " broad.

See *Antiquaries*, x. p. 630 (illus.); *Early Christ. Mon.*, pt. iii. p. 36.

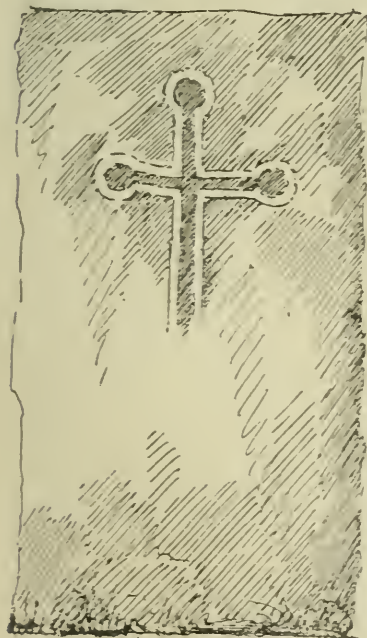


FIG. 16.—Cross Slab, Roadside Farm, Mid Clyth (No. 296).

296. *Cross Slab, Roadside Farm, Mid Clyth*.—At the farm of Roadside, Mid Clyth, occupied by Mr George Sinclair, is a cross-bearing slab (fig 16). It was found many years ago built into a stone dyke, and has been used as a cover on the top of the wall around the well containing the machinery of the horse mill at the back of the house. On its upper face is rudely carved, or picked out, a small cross. The slab measures 3' 5" in length by 1' 11" in breadth, and 5" in thickness. The cross is 1' 5" in extreme length and 1' 2" in breadth across the centre. The arms are 6" long and terminate in round discs $2\frac{1}{2}$ " in

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diameter; and the lateral arms are slightly inclined upwards. The stem is 9" long.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiv.

Visited, 16th July 1910.

297. *Sculptured Stone, Lybster*.—Lying on the grassy slope between the two ranges of cottages that run N. and S. to the NE. of the harbour of Lybster, and some 40 yards S. of the northmost cottages, is a block of yellow sandstone (fig. 17). In form it is roughly triangular,

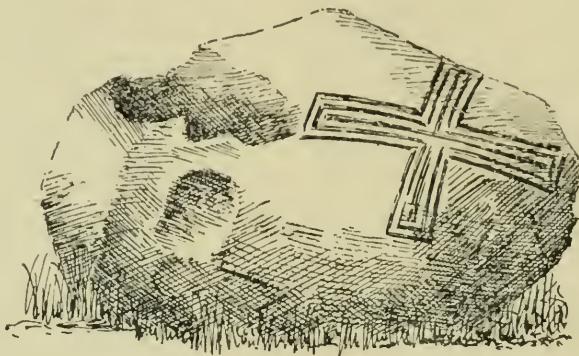


FIG. 17.—Sculptured Stone, Lybster (No. 297).

measuring some 2' 2" × 3'. A large basin-shaped depression, which appears to be natural, runs in from the left edge, and another large hole has been worn by weather near the lower end of the stone. Cut across the right-hand corner is an equal-limbed Celtic cross measuring 1' 8" in width. The arms expand outwards from 5½" to 7" and their extreme length is 8¾". Set within this cross is another with arms 6¾" in length and 1¾" in width.

This stone is referred to in the description of the parish of Latheron (*circa* 1726), published in Macfarlane's *Geographical Collections*, as follows: "On the face of a brae above the inlett of this burn (Risgil) there is a stone to which, as the natives tell, many frequented in the time of superstition. It's hollow where they sate and on the back there is the figure of a cross tripled cutt out. ther are some hollow places on both sides as if designed for both the elbows."

See Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 166.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiv. (unnoted).

Visited, 19th July 1910.

298. *Cross Slab (portion of), Latheron*.—Built into the W. wall of the old barn by the roadside, about ¼ m. S. of Latheron Post Office, is a stone incised with a portion of a Celtic cross. Its position is 13' from the N. end of the wall and 3' 9" above the ground. The stone is 2' 3" in length by 1' 1" in breadth. The upper arm of the cross and the greater parts of the side arms are gone. The stem remains for a length of 1' 7", and increases in width from 6" at the intersection to 8½" at its present termination. The angles at the points of intersection are filled with circular discs 2" in diameter.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. (unnoted).

Visited, 26th July 1910.

299. *Sculptured Stone with Ogham inscription*.—Built into the wall, in the interior of the old barn mentioned in the previous paragraph, was found a few years ago a sculptured stone bearing

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an Ogham inscription. It is a rectangular slab of Caithness sandstone, and measures 3' in extreme height, 1' 5" in breadth, and about 4" in thickness. The top and bottom are broken away, the fracture at the top passing obliquely across the stone. The inscription runs the whole length of the stone on the left-hand side, but is probably incomplete owing to the fracture. What remains shows eighteen complete characters and possibly part of a nineteenth. The sculpturing, which is partly in relief and partly incised, and occupies the whole face of the stone, consists of the double rectangular figure in relief, the upper and wider rectangle filled with double spiral ornament arranged in C-shaped scrolls placed back to back, the lower and narrower filled with an interlaced pattern; and below, incised (1) a bird, (2) a fish, and (3) two horsemen (partly broken away).

The stone was discovered in 1903 by Mr. John Nicolson, Nybster, who brought it to Sir Francis Tress Barry, and the latter presented it to the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh, where it now is. It is fully described and illustrated in an article by Dr Joseph Anderson in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries* quoted below.

See *Antiquaries*, xxxviii. p. 534 (illus.).

300. *Constructions (remains), Burn of Houstry*.—About 1½ m. to the NW. of Mullbuie, near the side of a burn, are the ruins of shieling bothies on the top of round green hillocks. The largest of these hillocks, measuring some 50' × 62' in diameter, lying with its longest axis E. and W., appears to have been the site of some earlier construction. It has an elevation of some 5'. All over the surface protrude large stones, many of them set upon end. The remains are quite indefinite, but resemble the ruins (No. 280) covering the hillock in the Moss of Whilk.

A short distance to the E. is an area measuring about 140' × 100', surrounded by a single line of large blocks of stone not forming a wall nor in their present position acting as a fence to keep animals outside or inside the enclosure.

Further N. and some 2½ m. NNW. of Mullbuie, at the S. end of Loch a Cheracher flow, and to the E. of the source of the Allt Badain Ghuirm, is visible the base of a turf bank along the edge of the flow, forming a segment of a circle, with a chord of some 200 yards. The surface on both sides, but especially on the concave face, is boggy. The base of the bank is now some 12' wide and its elevation trifling. Its purpose has probably been to prevent cattle wandering into the flow.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxii. (unnoted). Visited, 18th July 1910.

301. *Construction (remains of), Langwell*.—On the S. side of the road up the Langwell Water from Langwell to Wag, and some 200 yards W. of the wall which divides the woodlands from the moor beyond the garden, are the very confused remains of a construction. Much stone has been removed from it, and its original character is not apparent. It is known as "Langwell Tulloch."

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii. ("Pict's House").

Visited, 21st July 1910.

302. *Shielings (ruins of), Easan Burn*.—On the top of the S. bank of the Easan Burn, above the road bridge, and about ½ m. N. of Camster

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Lodge, are the very indefinite remains of a number of constructions situated on a green knoll. They appear to have been small oblong buildings with two or three chambers. One more definite than the rest measures interiorly some 16' × 7'.

On a green hillock on the right bank of the same burn, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SSE. of the road bridge, are the ruins of a similar structure. The corners have been rounded; the walls are about 2' thick and now low, and there have been two apartments. These appear to be the ruins of shielings.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. ("Tunulus"). Visited, 14th July 1910.

303. *Do. (do.), Dunbeath Strath.*—About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. by E. of Achnaclyth towards Cnocan Con na Craige is a spot marked "Picts' Houses" on the O.S. map. Here, near the source of a small burn, are some half-dozen green mounds, on the top of which the foundations of small oblong houses, evidently sheiling bothies, are visible; while westwards a mile or so by the banks of the Raffin Burn are the remains of another similar settlement.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxii. Visited, 29th July 1910.

304. *Constructions, Ballentink.*—At Ballentink, about 200 yards SSW. of the road bridge of Rhemullen across the Burn of Houstry, on a grassy hillock, the foundations are visible, beneath the turf, of several circular enclosures built with large stones. Towards the SE. an entrance passage has been partially exposed, with a width of 2' 7", passing beneath a large lintel and suggesting the entrance to a broch. The dimensions and outline, however, of such a structure are not evident. It is possible that the circular enclosures are secondary constructions superimposed on the ruin.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. ("Mound").

Visited, 28th July 1910.

SITES.

305. *Clyth Castle (Gunn's Castle), Buail' na Creige.*—On the summit of a peninsular rock running parallel to the cliff face on the mainland, and only approachable from the shore at the W. end, up a steep glacis of rock, are the foundations of a small rectangular keep. Formidable as the position has been rendered by nature, it has been further strengthened by the building of a wall across the upper side of a shelf of rock by which access might have been gained to the summit from the SW. The keep has measured over all some 37' × 23', and has had walls some 3' in thickness. Immediately outside the building, at the NE. angle, is a circular depression some 9' in diameter and 2' to 3' in depth, which probably indicates the position of the well. This keep was one of the strongholds of the Clan Gunn.

See *The Gunns*, p. 190.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiv.

Visited, 16th July 1910.

306. *Halberry Castle.*—On the top of Halberry Head, at Mid Clyth, are the foundations of Halberry Castle. The promontory is formed by a deep inlet or geo separating it from the land on the westward side, while the open sea dashes against the base of the cliffs

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on the E. The neck which links the promontory to the land is traversed by a trench cut through the rock some 25' in width. In rear of this has stood the keep, the foundations of which alone are visible. It has been a rectangular structure, measuring over all some 44' x 28'. The castle is said to have belonged to the Crouner Gunn in the 15th century.

See *The Gunns*, p. 190.

O.S.M. CAITH., xxxiv.

Visited, 16th July 1910.

307. *Knockinnon Castle*.—On the top of a prominent rock (Cnoc Hearsa), which rises on the W. side of the high road about 1½ m. N. of Dunbeath, are the mere foundations of this castle. In plan it consisted of a small rectangular keep in the centre, with numerous out-buildings. There appears to be no historical reference to it, and it is doubted if the castle was ever completed. In the "Geographical Description of the Parish of Lathron" (*circa*, 1726), given in Macfarlane's *Geographical Collections*, there is a statement in the following terms which evidently refers to it: "About 3 furlongs to the S. of the house of Lathronwheel, upon a rising ground, there stands the beginning of a great fabrick; it is certain that it came never a much greater length than what is now seen of it. I could get no certain account who he was that began this great design."

See *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, iv. p. 298 (plan); Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 163.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii.

Visited, 28th July 1910.

308. *Berriedale Castle*.—On a tongue of rock projecting across the mouth of the Berriedale River are the remains of Berriedale Castle. The promontory on which the castle stood has been cut off from the high ground in rear of it by a deep ditch across the neck. There has been a double row of buildings along the promontory separated by a narrow courtyard, the whole enclosed within a wall of enceinte still partly traceable. The remains are very scanty.

Berriedale belonged in the 14th century to Rannald or Reginald Cheyne, thereafter passing, through marriage, to the Sutherlands, and subsequently to the Oliphants by the marriage of William Oliphant with Christina Sutherland. In 1526 Andrew Oliphant sold the property, along with his other possessions in Caithness, as he was unable to enjoy them in peace, to his uncle Laurence, Lord Oliphant, and in 1606 his successor sold Berriedale, etc., to the Earl of Caithness.

See *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, iv. p. 297 (plan); Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 165; *Origines*, ii. pt. ii. p. 764; *Reg. Mag. Sig.* 18th June 1606.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii.

Visited, 23rd July 1910.

309. *Chapel and Graveyard, Ballachly, Stemster*.—Situated in the midst of cultivated fields, some 300 yards WNW. of Ballachly, is a graveyard enclosed and apparently still used. The rank growth of grass and weeds quite obscures any old tombstones there may be. This is said to be the site of a chapel.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxviii.

Visited, 15th July 1910.

310. *Chapel and Graveyard, Brae na h-Eaglais, Langwell Water*.—At the junction of the Long Burn with the Langwell Water, on the top

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of the bank above the road to the W. of the former stream, is the site of a chapel and graveyard. Slight surface indications alone remain.

O.S.M., CAITH., xlii.

Visited, 20th July 1910.

311. *Chapel, Braemore*.—Immediately to the W. of Braemore Lodge is an old graveyard still in use, and within it is the site of a chapel. The ruins are said to have been pulled down about the middle of last century.

Wells are indicated on the O.S. map to the N. and S. of the site.

See Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 166; *Eccles. Hist. Caith.*, p. 65.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii.

Visited, 22nd July 1910.

312. *Chapel, Ballachly, Dunbeath*.—At Ballachly, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the N.W. of Dunbeath, is the site of a chapel. From the haugh land near the river there rises a ridge some 80 to 100 yards in length, and at right angles to it there runs towards the river a wall 5' thick and still some 8' to 10' high. Along the level to the base of the ridge at the W. are the ruins of a similar massive wall. Bishop Forbes records that he was told on his visit to Caithness in 1762 that here "had been a small monastery called of old the Chapel or Church of Peace."

See Forbes' *Journals*, p. 191; Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 164.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii.

Visited, 28th July 1910.

313. "*Carn Fhionn*," *Braemore*.—This structure, which is said to have been a broch, has been completely removed.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxviii. ("Pict's House").

Visited, 22nd July 1910.

The O.S. maps indicate sites as under:—

314. *Pict's House, Carn Liath, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. E. of Corriechoich*

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxvii.

315. *Do. — $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Langwell House.*

" " xlii.

316. *Cairn, Ramsraigs.*

" " "

PARISH OF OLRIG.

ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

317. *Church of St Trothan's*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Orlig House are the ruins of the parish church of Orlig known as St Trothan's. The structure is roofless and the gables and walls, entirely overgrown with ivy, are levelled to a height of about 10' all round. The church has measured 49' x 26' over all. It presents no features of interest, and is said to have been erected in 1633.

Font.—Standing on the left side of the gate giving access to the churchyard is an old font. It is a cylindrical block of sandstone, 1' 8" in height and 1' 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter, hollowed out at both ends. The basin is in shape an inverted cone 10" in depth and 5" in diameter at the top. A plain roll-moulding encircles the block at the base, and rising from this to within 6" of the top of the font are five equidistant vertical roll-mouldings.

See *Origines*, ii., pt. ii. p. 787; Muir's *Eccles. Notes*, p. 109.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi.

Visited, 31st August 1910.

PARISH OF OLRIG.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

318. *Broch, Thurdistoft*.—In the middle of a cultivated field about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. by W. of the farm of Thurdistoft, to the E. of Castletown, are the remains of a broch. The outer face of the wall is exposed almost all round to a height of from 2' to 3', but the exact position of the entrance is obscured by vegetation. The diameter over all is 66' and the greatest elevation about 6'. There is no indication that the interior has been excavated.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi. ("Mound"). Visited, 18th August 1910.

319. *Broch, Murkle*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SSE. of West Murkle farm buildings is a grassy hillock on the top of which are the remains of a broch. The lower slope, which is steeply scarped, has an elevation of about 8', and between its upper edge and the higher portion of the hillock containing the broch is a level area measuring some 28' to 30' in width. The upper mound has a diameter of about 60' and an elevation of about 8'. No part of the structure is visible. The hillock has to some extent been ploughed down and broken into on the E. side.

The O.S. map indicates that human remains and querns were found here.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi. ("Cairn"). Visited, 23rd August 1910.

320. *Broch, Castlehill, Castletown*.—At the edge of a field just above the shore road, a short distance to the W. of Castlehill quarries, Castletown, is a grassy mound which contains the ruins of a broch. It has been pillaged to some extent from the S. side. The remaining portion has a diameter of about 54' and an elevation of 7'.

On the top of this mound there was discovered in 1786 an unburnt burial beneath a flat stone and quite near the surface. With the skeleton were two oval bowl-shaped brooches of brass, gilded and surrounded by thin plaited silver cord. The convex surface is ornamented with four figures with horses' heads in high relief and with chased work characteristic of the Norse Viking period. With the brooches were also a bracelet of coarse jet, and a bone pin 4" in length.

With the exception of one of the brooches, which is in the Museum of Old Northern Antiquities at Copenhagen, the relics are preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

See Anderson, *The Iron Age*, p. 43.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi. Visited, 23rd August 1910.

321. *Broch, Sibmister*.—Immediately to the N. of Sibmister farm is a high grassy hillock on the top of which there are evidently the remains of a broch. The scarp of the hillock, which is steep, rises to a height of about 18' on the W. and somewhat less on the other side, and towards the top of it the face of a revetment is exposed. The broch, which has an elevation of about 6', has been situated some 20' to 30' back from the top of the scarp. The outline of the ruin is very indefinite, but the diameter appears to be about 56'. The top of the hillock over all measures some 110' in diameter.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi. ("Cairn of Sibmister").

Visited, 31st August 1910.

322. *Broch (supposed), Odrig Glebe*.—About 180 yards SW. of the Manse of Odrig, in the cultivated land of the glebe, is a stony mound

PARISH OF OLRIG.

which probably contains a broch. The mound is under cultivation and no sign of structure is visible. The diameter over all is some 96' and the elevation about 6'.

323. *Broch (supposed), Odrig House*.—In the park to the E. of Odrig House, and close beside the pond, is a large grassy mound. It has been much spread through being at one time under cultivation, and now has a diameter of about 120' with an elevation of about 7'. It is probably a broch, but no part of the structure is visible.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi.

Visited, 31st August 1910.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

324. *Chambered Cairn (long), Cooper's Hill*.—On the top of a ridge known as Cooper's Hill, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SE. of the cottages at Lochside, are the remains of a long cairn lying with its major axis NW. and SE. The prominent end of the cairn has been towards the SE. The extreme length along the mesial line is 220', but the construction has been dilapidated and spread owing to the cultivation of the land to such an extent that other dimensions are now indefinite.

O.S.M., CAITH., xii. (unnoted). Visited, 19th September 1910.

325. *Cairn, "Trothanmas Hillock," Netherside*.—Some 200 yards S. by W. of Hayfield farm, beside the steading of Netherside, is a grassy hillock. It measures some 70' in diameter and 5' in elevation. About fifty years ago a stone cist was accidentally discovered in it and was immediately covered up again without any detailed observations being made.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi.

Visited, 31st August 1910.

326. *Cairn, "Ring Hillock," Hill of Whitefield*.—At the edge of a grass park on the W. side of the road, some 300 yards N. of Birkle Hill quarry, and on the estate of Odrig, is a small cairn. It measures some 38' in diameter and some 5' 6" in elevation, and does not appear to have been excavated.

O.S.M., CAITH., xii. ("Mound").

Visited, 31st August 1910.

MISCELLANEOUS.

327. *Mound, "Methow Hillock"*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NE. of West Murkle farm, and about 100 yards back from the edge of the cliffs, is a large grassy mound known as the "Methow Hillock." It has an elevation of 10' or 11' and a diameter of 120', but it has been under cultivation and ploughed down to some extent. Beyond being artificial its character is indefinite.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi.

Visited, 20th August 1910.

328. *Mound, East Murkle*.—Some 200 yards NW. of East Murkle farm, in the middle of a field, is a low stony mound overgrown with grass. It has long been under cultivation and its dimensions and character are quite indefinite.

It is stated on the O.S. map that at this spot were found a stone cist, querns, and human remains.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi. ("Cairn").

Visited, 23rd August 1910.

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329. *Mound, "Clindrag Tulloch," Hill of Clindrag.*—On the top of the Hill of Clindrag towards its E. end is a small grass-covered mound across the top of which runs a stone wall. It has a diameter of some 40' and an elevation of 4'. Possibly it is a cairn, but there is no surface indication of its character.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi.

Visited, 31st August 1910.

330. *Mounds.*—On the hill of Odrig is a natural mound known as the "Gallow Hill"; and near Hillielay another natural hillock, bearing the name of "Sysa," is associated with the fairy lore of the district.

O.S.M., CAITH., xii.

Visited, 31st August 1910.

SITES.

The O.S. maps indicate sites as under:—

331. <i>St Coomb's Kirk, Links of Old Tain.</i>	O.S.M., CAITH., vi.
332. <i>Chapel, Durran.</i>	" " xii.
333. <i>Nunnery, S. of Murkle Bay.</i>	" " vi.
334. <i>"Cairn of Hattel," ½ m. NW. of Castlehill.</i>	" " "
335. <i>Sculptured Stone, Castlehill.</i>	" " "
336. <i>Standing-Stone, ¼ m. N. of Mains of Murkle.</i>	" " "
337. <i>Kitchen Midden, Shelley Hill, Castletown.</i>	" " "

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ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

338. *St Mary's Chapel, Lybster.*—Situated on the W. side of Crosskirk Bay, at a short distance back from the edge of the rocks, is the ruined chapel of St Mary's. It consists of a nave and chancel both roofless, and the latter a reconstruction on the old foundations used as a burial-place, separated from the nave by a solid wall pierced in the centre by a doorway. The nave measures 17' 10" from E. to W. by 10' 11" from N. to S. interiorly. The walls, which are built of the whinstone of the district in irregular courses from 3" to 10" deep, are about 4' in thickness in the nave and 2' 6" in the chancel. In the nave the N. wall, which is still about its original height, is 8' in elevation above the ground level. The S. wall is partly broken but has still a height of from 6' to 7'. The W. wall stands to a height of 11' 8" and the E. to about 15'. In the W. end is an entrance, now closed up, 2' 3" wide at bottom, 1' 9" wide at the top, and 3' 11" high. There is no trace of a window. The entrance to the chancel is 2' 9" wide at the bottom, 2' 1" at the top, and about the same height as the doorway. The chancel measures 11' 3" from E. to W. by 10' 9" from N. to S. The W. wall of the nave, on the exterior, is in rather a ruinous state and the upper part considerably broken down.

This chapel is much the oldest ecclesiastical structure remaining in Caithness, and may possibly date from the 12th century. Plans and elevations of it, prepared by Sir Henry Dryden in 1871, are preserved in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in Edinburgh, and are here reproduced (fig. 18). In the "Description of the Parish of Reay" contained in Macfarlane's *Geographical Collec-*

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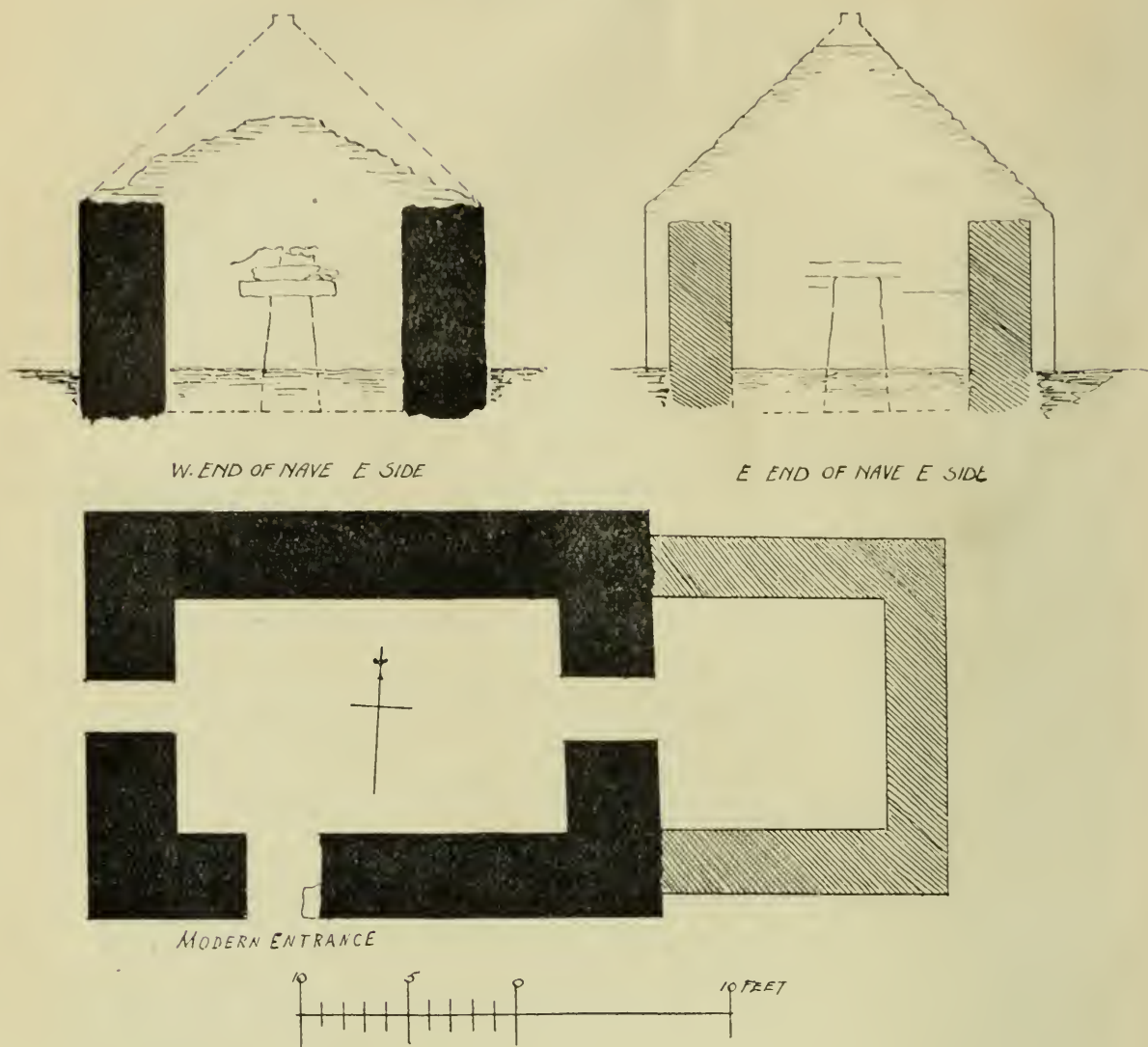


FIG. 18.—St Mary's Chapel, Lybster (No. 338); Plan and Sections.

tions and dated June 1726, this chapel is said to have been dedicated to St Peter.

There is said to be in its vicinity a spring known as St Mary's well.

See *Eccles. Arch.*, i. p. 162; Muir's *Eccles. Notes*, p. 107; Anderson, *Scot. in Early Christ. Times*, p. 62; Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 185; *Orkneyinga Saga* (Anderson), pp. xcvi.—xcviii.; *Eccles. Hist. Caith.*, p. 39.

O.S.M., CAITH., iv.

Visited, 25th August 1910.

339. *Reay Church*.—In the NE. corner of the churchyard of Reay are the reconstructed remains of part of the old church, measuring interiorly 16' 2" × 11' 8". Towards the S. end is a tablet bearing two conjoined shields. Dexter, On a chevron between three bears' heads coupé, a buck's head erased between two hands holding daggers, all proper; Sinister, Quarterly, 1st and 4th, the Sinclair galley; 2nd and 3rd a lion rampant; dividing the quarters a cross engrailed. Beneath, the remains of an inscription to the effect that the aisle or a part of it belongs to Angus Mackay of Bighouse. On the end wall to



PLATE XXXI.—Sculptured Stone,
Reay (No. 340).

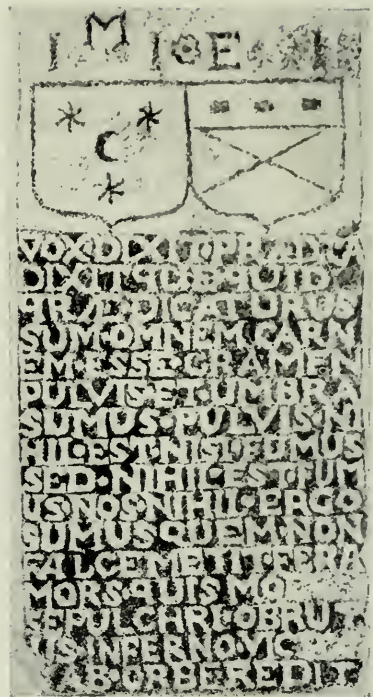


PLATE XXXII.—Sepulchral Monu-
ment, Reay (No. 341), from a
rubbing.

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the right of the entrance is another panel bearing at the top the initials D^MM and MM; in the centre, a shield charged with an eagle's head erased, dividing the date 1691 and the motto TIME DEUM. On the lower part is an inscription narrating that the fourth part of this "ile" belongs to Mr David Munro and Margaret Munro.

340. *Sculptured Stone, Reay.*—Set into the W. wall of the remains of the old church, towards its N. end, is a rectangular slab of grey sandstone (pl. XXXI.) 6' 4" in length, 2' 3½" in width at the top, 1' 11" in width at the bottom, and 3½" thick. It is sculptured in relief on one face thus:—In the centre of the slab a cross with square ends to the arms, round hollows in the angles, and a ring connecting them together; a short shaft and a rectangular base the whole width of the stone. The ornament on the cross is arranged in five different divisions, the central boss being a separate panel surrounded by a border, and the other divisions being marked by a change in the pattern. The ornament on the left and right arms and on the base is a key pattern, on the shaft circular knot work; on the top arm the pattern is defaced by a modern inscription—ROBERT M^CKAY 17 . The stone, till recently, stood in the old burial-ground over an eighteenth-century grave.

See *Early Christ. Mon.*, pt. iii. p. 36 (illus.).

Sepulchral Monuments.

Lying in the churchyard of Reay are a number of old tombstones bearing heraldic and other devices of interest.

341. At the W. end of the graveyard is a slab (pl. XXXII.) measuring superficially 3' 10" × 1' 11". At the head of the stone are two heraldic shields beneath the initials I^MI and EI respectively, carved in relief. The shields bear arms. Dexter, three stars with a crescent at fess point for Innes; Sinister, a saltire and chief—the latter charged with three cushions for Johnstone.

Beneath the shields runs the following Latin inscription in incised lettering, viz:—

VOX DIXIT PRÆDICA
DIXIT QUE QUID
PRÆ DICATURUS
SUM OMNEM CARN
EM ESSE GRAMEN
PULVIS ET UMBRA
SUMUS PULVIS NI
HIL EST NISI FUMUS
SED NIHIL EST FUM-
US NOS NIHIL ERGO
SUMUS QUEM NON
FALCE METIT FERA
MORS QUIS MO
SEPULCHRI OBRUT
US INFERNO VICT . .
. . AB ORBE REDIT.

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342. To the E. of this stone lies another slab, measuring 5' 5" in length by 2' 5" in breadth at the upper end, and tapering slightly to the foot. In the centre an oval compartment contains the monogram of Magnus Gun, while around the edge of the stone and across the top runs the following inscription:—

HEIR LYES THE CORPS OF MAGNUS GUN ANE HONEST
MAN HUSBAND TO HELLEN TAYLOR WHO DEPARTED
THE OF MA . . . , 1705.

On the lower part of the stone are a skull and cross-bones, spade and shovel, and other emblems of mortality.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 16th September 1910.

CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURE.

343. *Dounreay Castle*.—At the W. end of the farm buildings at Lower Dounreay are the remains of Dounreay Castle. It is a structure on an L plan, the main block measuring 39' 6" × 23' 8", and the wing 14' 4" × 18' 6", with walls some 3' 6" in thickness. It consisted of two storeys and a basement. The entrance door occupies the usual position in the re-entering angle on the ground floor. On the left of the doorway a square staircase under a vaulted roof leads to a landing on the first floor, whence a newel stair in the thickness of the wall leads upwards. The floors have all fallen. On the first floor has been a hall and private room. There have been small cupboards and *garde-rob*es in the walls, and the window recesses have been fitted with seats. The mouldings around the fire-places consist of a bead and hollow. The erection of this castle probably dates from the latter half of the 16th century.

The lands of Dounreay were acquired by William Sinclair of Dunbeath from Adam, Bishop of Orkney, in 1562 and 1564. Sir Robert Gordon avers that the acquisition was by the Earl of Caithness, and that Sinclair, in whose custody between 1563 and 1565 the Earl had deposited his writs on his going to Flanders, suppressed them and obtained a fresh grant in his own favour. Subsequently Sinclair was much harassed by the Earl, who laid siege to the castle. In 1726 it is described as "one of the Earl of Caithness's lodgeings." It was occupied during the latter half of the 19th century, but is now unroofed and rapidly falling into ruins.

See Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 184; Gordon's *Earldom of Sutherland*, p. 148.

O.S.M., CAITH., iv.

Visited, 25th August 1910.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

344. *Broch, "Tulloch of Stemster" Stemster*.—Some 200 yards SSE. of the farm-house of Stemster is a grassy knoll on which are the remains of a broch. The situation is a slight hollow at the top of a long slope up from the left bank of the Forss water, and the broch is, in consequence, not seen from the valley below. The sides of the mound are steeply scarped to a height of about 8', and at the base, on the NNW., a built face is exposed, showing that the mound has

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probably been revetted. The broch has been situated at one side of the knoll, leaving a space some 30' in width in front of it. The elevation of the mound containing the ruins is about 5' and its diameter 70'. No part of the structure is visible. Over the top are a number of circular hollows, from 2' to 3' in depth, and varying from 10' to 15' in diameter, which appear to be the remains of secondary constructions. The edge of the knoll has been surmounted by a parapet.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 17th August 1910.

345. *Broch, Stemster*.—At the edge of a field, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Stemster Farm, is a conical grassy mound which appears to contain the ruins of a broch. One half of it has been under cultivation and at no point is any part of the structure exposed. The mound has an elevation of about 11' and a diameter over all of 108'.

O.S.M., CAITH., iv.

Visited, 17th August 1910.

346. *Broch, "Tulloch of Lybster," Hill of Lybster*.—On the W. side of the farm road leading from Lybster to Crosskirk, and about half-way between the the two places, are the ruins of a broch. The tower has been surrounded by a rampart and ditch, the former some 23' distant from its base and faced with stone on the inner side. The land around is under cultivation, but these defences are still visible on the S. and SW. The broch itself has been cleared out and a wide gap made through the wall on the SE. and NW. The interior diameter has been about 32' 6" and the thickness of the wall 14' 6". Small portions of the inner face of the wall are exposed at various points, and also of the exterior face, but the structure is much ruined. Against the outer wall towards the E. are slight remains of secondary buildings.

O.S.M., CAITH., iv.

Visited, 25th August 1910.

347. *Broch, Crosskirk*.—At the edge of the rocks about 30 yards to the N. of the ruined church of St Mary's, Lybster (No. 338), are the remains of a large broch. The structure has been broken into to a small extent on the S., from which direction the entrance appears to have been. The interior diameter is not accurately ascertainable without excavation, but has been approximately 30' to 32'. The thickness of the wall is 14' to 15'. The top of the mound covering the wall is some 6' above the ground level on the exterior and 5' on the interior. On the left of the position of the entrance the sides of a chamber are visible in the wall. On the exterior, at the edge of the cliff, for a distance of some 20', a portion of wall, about 4' to 5' in height, is exposed. On the landward side, about 10' from the broch, are the remains of an outer bank or wall now some 8' wide at base.

The symbol stone (No. 405), said to have been found in this broch, is illustrated in *The Early Christian Monuments of Scotland*, pt. iii. p. 30.

O.S.M., CAITH., iv.

Visited, 25th August 1910.

348. *Broch, "Green Tullochs," Borrowston Mains*.—At the edge of the cliffs which descend in broken terraces of rock to the water's

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edge some 600 or 700 yards NNW. of the farm of Borrowston Mains are the ruins of a broch. The walls seem to have gradually settled down and disintegrated, so that the ruin is now in appearance a penannular ring of slaty fragments some 12' high broadening to the base, but with the interior comparatively free from debris. The ring is incomplete by reason that on the NE. a narrow gully has eaten its way so far into the rock as to have entirely undermined the broch wall in that direction, and brought about its fall. Nor is the destruction of the wall the only evidence of erosion, for 35' out from the inner end of the geo is exposed on the surface the ragged section of a bank of earth and stone, which originally formed a defence to the seaward of the broch some 22' distant from its base. The entrance has been apparently through the portion of the wall which has fallen on the NE. The thickness of the wall is some 14' to 15' and the diameter of the interior about 43'. At several places the outer and inner faces of the wall are visible beneath the debris. The tower appears to have been surrounded at 2' 7" from its base by a wall, visible at the edge of the geo, 4' 9" in thickness. Some 22' from the tower are the remains of the encircling bank, a section of which is visible on the side of the geo, and which appears to have been surmounted by a wall, a small portion of which, displaced, is visible on the E. In front of this rampart is a ditch some 18' in width, and now, at most, about 4' in depth, with a low mound along the top of the counterscarp.

The O.S. map indicates that a stone cist containing human remains was found near the spot in 1871.

O.S.M., CAITH., iv. ("Broughs").

Visited, 16th September 1910.

349. *Broch, "Knock Urray," Lower Dounreay.*—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Dounreay farm-house is a grassy mound on the top of which are the ruins of a broch. It is situated partially in two fields, the dyke passing across the centre. The diameter over all is some 87' and of the area containing the broch about 54'. The greatest elevation is about 10'. Ruins are visible on the E. side but no wall face appears. There are traces of a surrounding ditch.

350. *Broch, "Achbuiligan Tulloch," Upper Dounreay.*—In a field about 100 yards NE. of Loch Achbuiligan and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. WSW. of Upper Dounreay, is a grassy mound containing the ruins of a broch situated towards its SW. end. The area covered by the broch measures approximately 60' and the depression marking the interior about 27', but no wall faces are exposed. On the SW. the slope is steep and has an elevation of 13', while from the opposite direction the ground rises gradually. On the N. the ruin has been pillaged to some extent.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 25th August 1910.

351. *Broch, Achunabust.*—About 100 yards NW. of Achunabust farm-house is a grassy hillock containing the ruins of a broch. The outline of the tower is visible at one or two points and indicates a diameter over all of about 53'. On the W. a chamber has been exposed by the falling in of the roof. The greatest height

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of the mound covering the broch is 6'. Towards the W. there appear to have been numerous out-buildings.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 8th September 1910.

352. *Broch, Creag Leathan, Achvarasdai*.—On the haunch of Creag Leathan, facing the N., and some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. S. of Achvarasdai Lodge, are the remains of a construction most probably a broch. The stones have been in great measure removed from it, and all details obliterated. The original diameter has been about 66'.

O.S.M., CAITH., x. ("Mound"). Visited, 8th September 1910.

353. *Broch, Achvarasdai Lodge*.—Situated in a small park immediately to the N. of Achvarasdai Lodge, is a broch which has been excavated. The entrance is from ESE. through the wall 13' in thickness. At 4' inwards are checks for a door formed by a rebate of the passage wall, and on the left behind this a rebuilt portion of wall appears to indicate the entrance to a guard chamber. The width of the entrance passage is 2' 9" at the outer end, 2' 6" at the inner end, and 3' 7" behind the door checks. The height of the passage walls is 5' 4" and the covering slabs are all removed. The interior diameter of the broch is 33'. From the inner end of the entrance passage on the right at 19' 6" distant, measured direct, is an entrance 2' wide giving access to a chamber in part reconstructed, from which has apparently risen the stair. In the interior the average height of the broch wall, which has been in places built up, is 5' 3", while on the exterior it has not been exposed. There are indications of considerable outbuildings which have not been excavated. A rotary quern and a mortar of large size, the bottom of which has been broken out, lie in the interior; and there are preserved at Achvarasdai Lodge two narrow oblong sharpening stones, rectangular in section, of a fine-grained, dark coloured stone.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 16th September 1910.

354. *Fort, "Buaille Oscar," Ben Freiceadain*.—On the summit of Ben Freiceadain, at an elevation of some 750' above sea-level, is a stone-built fort. It occupies the whole of the summit, which measures some 850' x 500' (O.S. measurement), and is oval in outline. Commencing where the slope of the hill is less steep on the W., a stone wall some 5' in thickness has been built along the edge of a natural terrace, which stretches on an average for a distance of some 20' out from the base of the outcropping rock which forms the side of the actual summit. This wall is carried round the N. end of the hill on the upper slope and terminates on the NE. Thence, round by the S. to the point of its commencement, the scarp of outcropping rock and the natural declivity of the hill are so steep as to render an artificial defence unnecessary. From WNW. there has been an entrance some 5' broad through the wall, which at this point has been increased in width to some 15'. On the left or N. side of the entrance in the interior a large slab, 3' in height, 3' 6" in breadth, and 5' in thickness, stands against the face of the wall in the same manner as the slabs at the entrance to the fort of Garrywhin (No. 528).

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On the summit towards the N. end are the remains of a chambered cairn (No. 361).

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii.

Visited, 9th August 1910.

355. *Fort, Cnoc an Ratha, Shurrery*.—Occupying the N. end of an eminence that rises from the moor of Brawlbin, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. SSE. of

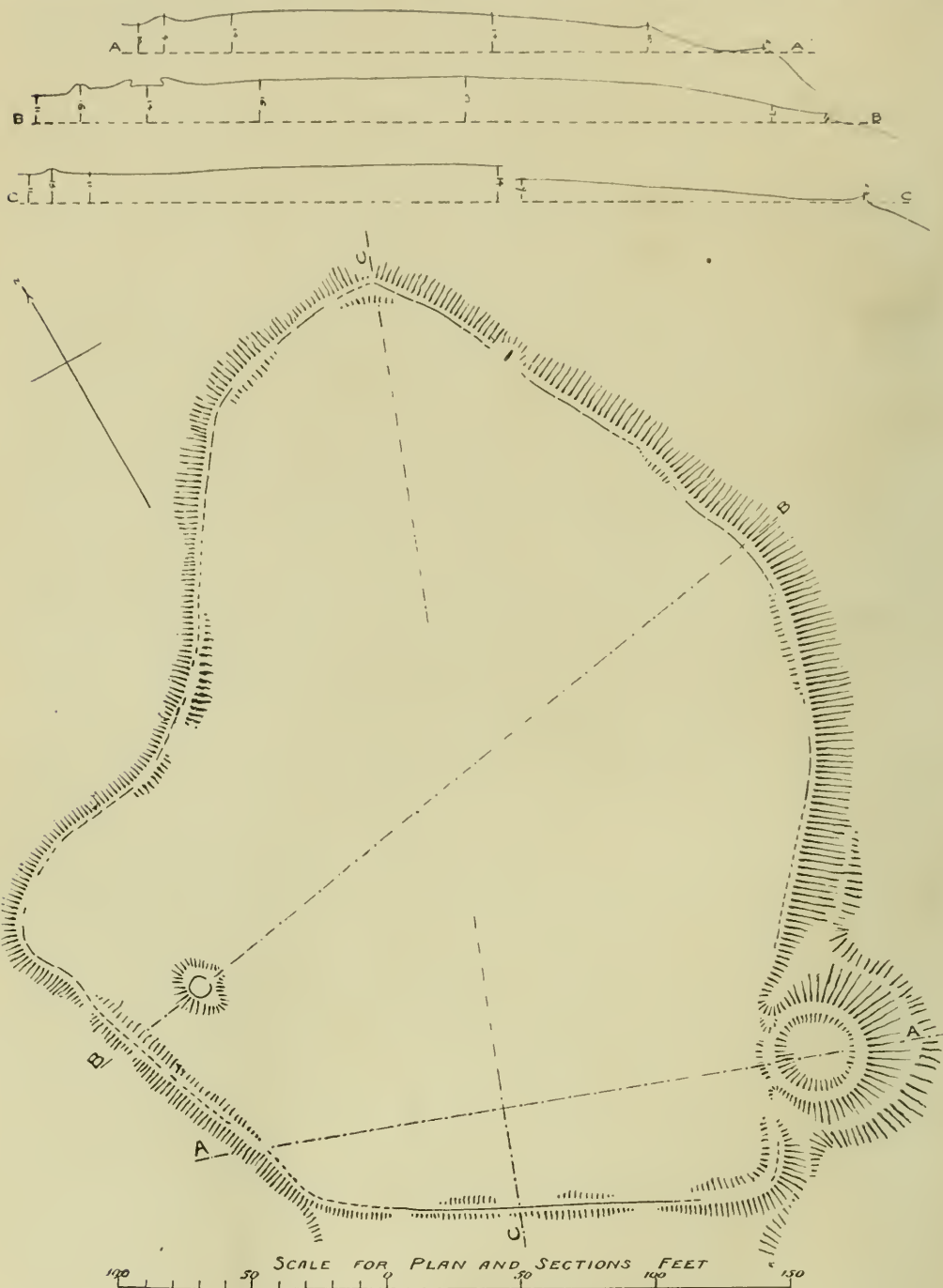


FIG. 19.—Fort, Cnoc an Ratha, Shurrery (No. 355); Ground-plan.

Shurrery church, is a prehistoric fort (fig. 19). It is an irregular oval in form, following the contour of the hill, except on the SW. where a straight base crosses the ridge from side to side. It is surrounded by a stone wall some 6' to 7' in thickness, and about 2' in height on

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the external face. Interiorly it measures some 340' from N. to S. by 300' at the widest part from E. to W., and contains 1.458 acre (O.S. measurement). An angle in the wall on the W. side suggests the position of an entrance, and a large slab protruding across the wall at the NE. may indicate the situation of another. The principal entrance, however, appears to have been from the SE. immediately to the S. of a large circular enclosure, which abuts on the outer wall towards the S. end of the E. side. This entrance appears to have been 4' in width. The circular enclosure referred to is entered from the E. and measures interiorly 27' × 32'. It is surrounded by a stone wall, now ruined, some 7' 6" in thickness. The interior of this enclosure has been excavated to a depth of several feet at the back so as to bring the floor to the level of the entrance on the lower slope of the hill. Within the interior of the fort at the SW. angle, some 15' back from the wall, are the remains of another small enclosure, with a diameter over all of some 25'. It has been entered from the SE. In the interior the wall is visible for a height of about 1' 6", and suggests a "bee-hive" structure. There appear to be two small chambers to the right and left of the end of the entrance passage about 5' in diameter, but the plan is not clear. At the S. end of the low ridge on which the fort stands are the indefinite remains of a small structure, apparently circular.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvi.

Visited, 11th August 1910.

HUT CIRCLES.

356. *Hut Circle, Brawlbin*.—About $\frac{3}{4}$ m. NNW. of Dorrery Lodge, and immediately to the E. of the march fence, is a stone-built circular construction of indefinite character. Its diameter over all is 45'. The entrance seems to have been from the S. directly through a wall about 9' in thickness, thereafter by a passage 2' in width passing round to the E. The central part of the construction, with a diameter of some 13', appears to be built. In it and in the outer wall there have been small round chambers faced with large slabs. The whole construction is in a dilapidated state and the details of its plan very obscure.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. ("Torr Phadruig").

Visited, 9th August 1910.

357. *Hut Circle, do.*—About 1 m. NNW. of Dorrery Lodge, at the base of the eastern slope of Ben Freiceadain, is a well-preserved hut circle (fig. 20). The enclosing wall is largely overgrown with vegetation, but on the outside towards the S. it is exposed in places to a height of 2'. The thickness of the main wall of the circle is 6', increasing to 9' on either side of the entrance. It is entered from the ESE. through a passage in the thickness of the wall 9' in length, 5' in width at the outer end and 2' 3" at the interior. At 4' from the inner end two upright stones *in situ* have evidently formed jambs constricting the width of the passage to 1' 6". Interiorly the circle, which is of pear-shaped form, measures 27' × 31'. The interior is divided into two by a wall some 2' 6" in breadth, forming an arc having its concave outline facing the entrance at 17' distant from it. There seems to have been an entrance to the back enclosure near the centre of the cross

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wall. Against the dividing wall, and in the front compartment on the left of the entrance to the back, has been a small circular enclosure

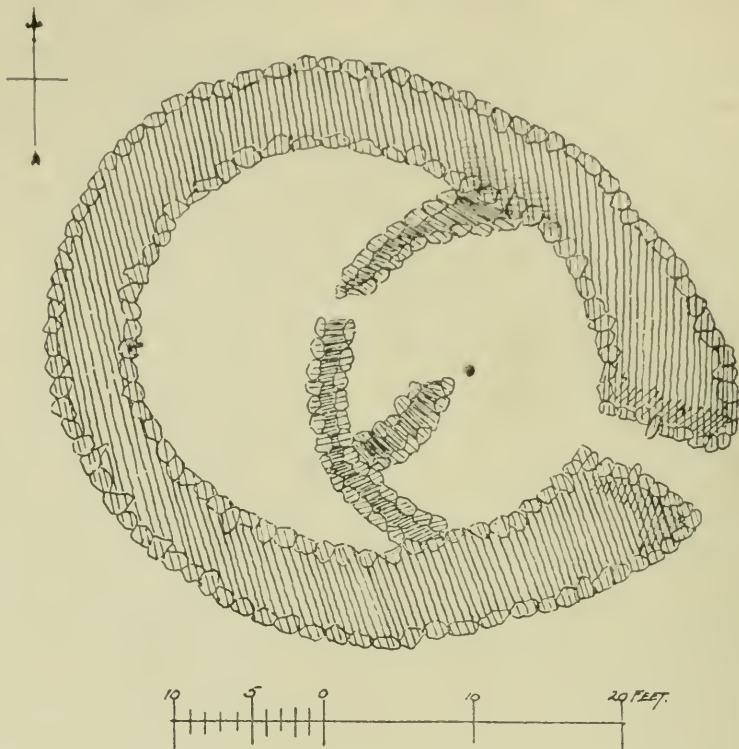


FIG. 20.—Hut Circle, Brawlbin (No. 357); Ground-plan.

measuring interiorly some $5' \times 4'$. The level of the back division is rather higher than that of the front. The main wall in the interior at highest has an elevation of nearly $4'$. Against the external face of the wall on the E. side of the entrance are indications of a small outer construction.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii.

Visited, 9th August 1910.

358. *Hut Circle, Shurrery*.—On the E. side of the road, some 200 yards N. of the N. end of Loch Shurrery, is a circular construction surrounded by a stone wall some $6'$ in thickness. The entrance appears to have been from the SE. The interior diameter is about $26'$. Opening out of the main enclosure towards the W. and NW. have been small circular enclosures of indefinite diameter. The whole structure is much overgrown.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvi.

Visited, 11th August 1910.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

359. *Chambered Cairn, "Torr Beag," Brawlbin*.—About 1 m. NW. of Dorrery Lodge is a large cairn which has been broken into at no distant date. The chamber is in part wrecked, but does not appear to have been cleared out. The diameter over all is $52'$ and the elevation about $8'$.

To the N. and E. of the cairn lie several small circular stony mounds with diameters of from $12'$ to $16'$ and elevations of $1\frac{1}{2}'$ to $2'$.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii.

Visited, 9th August 1910.



PLATE XXXIII.--Cairn, Shurrery (No. 362).

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360. *Cairn, Lambsdale Leans*.—On the E. bank of the Torran Water, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. above its influx into Loch Shurrery, is a cairn overgrown with grass. It is slightly oblong on plan, lying with its longest axis E. and W., and rises in height towards the latter direction. In diameter it measures 55' from E. to W. by 41' from N. to S. Its elevation at the E. end is trifling and at the W. 6' or thereby. It has not been excavated.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvi. ("Mound"). Visited, 9th August 1910.

361. *Chambered Cairn, Ben Freiceadain*.—On the summit of Ben Freiceadain, towards the N. end of the interior of the fort (No. 354), is a cairn which has been dug into. The diameter over all is 50' and the elevation 6'. One or two large slabs protruding near the centre indicate a chambered character.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. ("Mound"). Visited, 9th August 1910.

362. *Chambered Cairn, Shurrery*.—Between the church at Shurrery and the house of Mr William Farquhar, which stands in rear of it, is a large cairn (pl. XXXIII.). From E. to W. it measures some 90' and from N. to S. now about the same, but the building of the church and the operations on the croft have probably curtailed its dimensions in the latter direction. Its elevation is from 6' to 7'. Along the E. side towards the N. end four large slabs stand exposed, edge on against the cairn, with their faces parallel, and one other which has occupied a similar position lies on its side, while continuing the direction of the row towards the S. other three slabs are visible merely protruding from the surface. The slabs measure from 4' to 5' in height above ground, 3' to 4' in breadth, and about 10" in thickness. If the fallen stone was re-erected they would each stand from 4' to 5' apart. On the W. side of the cairn two slabs similarly set, placed at 14' and 18' distant from members of the row opposite, appear to belong to a parallel row.

This cairn is apparently of a plan not hitherto revealed by excavation, but it probably resembles in its complex character some of the cairns of Orkney.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvi. Visited, 11th August 1910.

363. *Chambered Cairn, Shurrery*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SE. of the church are the inconsiderable remains of a large circular cairn with a diameter of about 100', which has been recently demolished for road metal. In the interior are still remaining a number of large upright slabs set on their edges. The positions of these slabs indicate that there has been a chamber of complex character, or possibly two parallel chambers, entering from the SE. The back slab of the most southerly is some 49' in from the edge of the cairn in that direction and 45' from the edge at the opposite side. Some 7' 6" to the NE., and nearly in alignment, is another slab 7' in length, which appears to have formed the back of a second chamber, one wall of which is just apparent 5' 9" in length, built at right angles to it. A number of the slabs have been removed and the whole cairn so much destroyed that its plan is no longer apparent.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvi. Visited, 13th September 1910.

364. *Chambered Cairn, "Shean Mor," Brawlbin*.—About 1 m. SW. of the farm of Mains of Brawlbin, on the moor is a green mound

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(pl. XXXIV.). In diameter it measures over all 50' and in elevation about 6'. On the top is a slight circular depression some 12' to 13' in diameter. Facing ENE., some 16' in from the outer edge, an entrance is exposed 3' 6" in width passing beneath a lintel 8' 4" in length, 2' 10" in breadth, and 9" in thickness. Immediately in rear of this lintel is a second, similar in length and breadth but 1' 9" in thickness. The sides of the passage supporting these massive blocks of stone are built and are exposed for a length of 6' 6". The entrance is filled to a height of 1' 7" from the lintels. The uncovered upper sides of the lintels are almost level with the top of the mound and there is no indication of the cairn having risen above them. The inner side of the back lintel is 28' distant from the edge of the mound at the back. In rear of the back lintel two upright flags, set edgewise to the wall of the passage, are visible. This appears to be a chambered cairn and the height and width of the entrance passage are very remarkable. There is no indication of excavation.

Some 60' to the N. are the indefinite remains of another construction, of slight elevation and entirely overgrown with turf. From the surface here and there protrude the heads of thin slabs set on end, but without excavation the plan and character of the construction cannot be determined.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii.

Visited, 11th August 1910.

365. *Chambered Cairn (horned, long), Brawlbin.*—On the moor of Brawlbin, about 100 yards NW. of Loch a' Mhuilinn, are the remains of a horned long cairn. It lies with its longest axis NNE. and SSW., rising and expanding in the former direction. The body of the cairn, except the high portion at the NNE. end, which probably contains the chamber, has been removed for the sake of its stones, a mere line along each side being left. At the SSW. end the existence of the horns is apparent, but as they are entirely overgrown, their exact dimensions are not accurately obtainable without excavation. The distance between what appears to be their outer points is 45', and the length thence to the centre of that end of the cairn is 28'. At the NNE. end the horns are not evident. The total length of the cairn is some 200', its breadth at the NNE. end 54' and across the body at the SSW. end 30'. The elevation at the former end is about 10'. A slight circular depression, about 8' in diameter at the high end, probably indicates the position of the chamber. On the W. side, towards the S. end, the outer constructional wall is still quite evident. Some 60' from the SSE. end a large upright slab, standing at right angles to the main axis, possibly indicates the site of a chamber.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. (unnoted). Visited, 11th August 1910.

366. *Cairns, Hill of Shebster.*—On the S. end of the Hill of Shebster, to the E. of the church, and some 200 yards N. of the road, is the site of a cairn. Material has been removed from it quite recently.

Some 40 yards to the E. of it is a small, low cairn or mound with a diameter of about 16'. In the centre there is exposed a cist lying E. and W., measuring 4' 3" in length to the W. end of the side slabs,

100



PLATE XXXIV.—Cairn, "Shean Mor," Brawlbin (No. 364).



PLATE XXXV.—Horned, long Cairn, Cnoc Freiceadain (No. 370).

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and 1' 8" in breadth. The slab at the W. end has been removed, as also the covering slab.

On the slope of the hill to the S. are the remains of other two or three stony mounds.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 15th August 1910.

367. *Chambered Cairn, Hill of Shebster*.—Occupying a conspicuous position on the summit of the Hill of Shebster, some 400' above sea-level, are the remains of a large chambered cairn. The diameter of the cairn has been between 80' and 90', and a number of thin slabs protruding from the debris, indicate the position and extent of the chamber. The highest of these slabs is only some 2' 6" above the present level, and the others merely protrude from the surface. The chamber appears to have been 23' in length, and to have been divided into four compartments by large divisional stones and entered by a passage from ESE., along the direction of the main axis of the chamber. At 30' in from the WNW. edge of the cairn is the top of a slab set on end, 4' in length, which apparently marks the back of the chamber. A little excavation would no doubt furnish the complete plan.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 15th August 1910.

368. *Cairn, Achiebraeskiall*.—On the slope of the hill to the E. of Shebster Hill, and by the side of a peat road leading from the Yellow Moss to Achrearnie, is a grassy hillock which appears to be a cairn. It has a diameter of 81' and an elevation of from 6' to 8'. There is no sign of its having been excavated.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 15th August 1910.

369. *Chambered Cairn (horned, long), "Na Tri Shean," Cnoc Freiceadain*.—On the top of Cnoc Freiceadain, the summit to the N. of the Hill of Shebster, is a horned long cairn, one of the finest examples of this class of cairn in the county, and apparently unexcavated. Being overgrown with turf, the exact configuration and measurements of the horns are not obtainable, but their existence is quite evident. The cairn lies with its longest axis WNW. and ESE., and has an extreme length from tip to tip of the horns of 255'. The main body measures from 37' to 40' in breadth and 4' to 5' in elevation. It expands and rises towards both ends, but to the greatest extent towards the ENE. In that direction it commences to expand some 70' from the end and attains to a breadth of 60' and a height of 10'. The horns at this end appear to be about 28' in length, and to terminate obtusely. The distance between their outer extremities is some 73', and from the centre of the concave outline of the cairn 38' or 39'. Towards the WNW. the expansion and increase of elevation begin about 40' from the end, and attain to 56' in breadth and 7' in height. The general appearance at this end is that of a second circular cairn set on the low extremity of a long one. In rear of it is a slight trench across the body of the cairn. The horns seem to be shorter than at the opposite end, and to measure about 15' in length. The distance between their outer extremities is about 60', and thence to the centre of the concavity of the cairn 33'. The facing wall is visible on the S. side towards the ESE. end. A certain

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amount of quarrying has been done at both ends, and at no distant date, but there is no evidence of the excavation of the chamber or chambers.

O.S.M., CAITH., x. ("Supposed Broughs").

Visited, 15th August 1910.

370. *Chambered Cairn (horned, long), Cnoc Freiceadain.*—About 100 yards N. of the E. end of the long cairn (No. 369) is another cairn (pl. XXXV.) of similar type, stretching along the crest of the hill as it begins to slope towards the NNE. It lies NNE. and SSW. and rises in height and increases in breadth towards the latter direction. The horns at that extremity are not apparent on the surface, but at the NNE. end they are both visible, where that on the E. side has been exposed to some extent by the removal of the turf. The total length, irrespective of the horns at the SSW. end, is some 240'. The cairn begins to expand at about 60' from the SSW. end, and attains to a width of 53' and an elevation of 8'. Immediately in rear of the expanded head, which rises almost like a separate cairn, is a slight depression or trench across the body, which, however, is probably secondary. The breadth of the body of the cairn is about 35' and its elevation 4'. All along its length are small pits from which stones have been quarried. The width of the terminal portion towards the NNE. is 37' and its elevation about 4', but it has originally been higher, as three large slabs set on end protrude for about 1' 6" through the turf indicating the existence of a chamber. The length of the horns is about 20'; the distance between their outer extremities 46'; and thence to the centre of the concavity at that end of the cairn 29'. The SSW. end shows no signs of excavation, and the whole cairn is overgrown with turf.

The O.S. map indicates "standing-stones" beside these cairns, but none were observed except those protruding from the denuded chamber at the NNW. end of the second cairn.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 16th August 1910.

371. *Cairn, Achreamie.*—In an enclosed area of moorland, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Achreamie school, are the remains of a small round cairn. It has a diameter of about 35' and an elevation of about 3'. Much of it has been removed, but neither cist nor chamber has been exposed.

O.S.M., CAITH., x. ("Mound").

Visited, 16th August 1910.

372. *Chambered Cairn (horned, round), Upper Dounreay.*—On the W. end of a slight ridge about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of Upper Dounreay are the remains of a horned round cairn. The heads of three large slabs protrude from the centre, indicating the position of the chamber, otherwise the whole cairn is overgrown with grass. The diameter of the body of the cairn has been about 42'. The main axis of the chamber has been WNW. and ESE., but there is no sign of the direction of the entrance passage. The horns have been some 22' in length and 17' in breadth at base, while the distance between their extremities towards the WNW. has been 40'. At 13' from the outer end of the S. horn, laid at right angles to its direction, has been a cist. One end and one side, consisting of single slabs, remain, showing a length

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of 3' 9" and a width of 1' 8". The upper edge of the slabs is level with the present surface, and they are exposed for a height of some 8".

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 16th August 1910.

373. *Chambered Cairn, Loch Calder*.—On the W. side of Loch Calder, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. from the S. end of the loch, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NNW. of Carriside, is a chambered cairn. The diameter over all is 70' and the greatest elevation is 6'. The entrance has been from the ESE., and some 18' from the outer edge in that direction two thin slabs, 2' 9" apart, protrude from the turf with which the cairn is overgrown, while in front of them lies a stone which has evidently formed a lintel. In rear of these stones several other parallel slabs protrude, indicating the divisions of the chamber and of the back. The slab occupying the latter position is 5' broad. None of the slabs extend above ground for a greater height than 1' 7". No parts of the walls of the chamber are visible. A large amount of stone has evidently at some time been removed from the cairn on the SE.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii.

Visited, 22nd August 1910.

374. *Chambered Cairn (horned, round), "Cnoc na h-Uiseig," Lower Dounreay*.—About 1 m. NE. of Lower Dounreay, and $\frac{1}{4}$ m. back from the shore, is a green hillock which appears to be a horned round cairn. It measures some 6' to 8' in elevation. Across the centre, between the horns, the diameter is 58', and along the horns 70'. A large stone near the centre of the concavity on the SE. probably marks the position of the entrance. On the E. side of the NE. horn a portion of the facing wall of thin slabs is visible. The outlines of the horns are not sufficiently definite for measurement. The cairn does not seem to have been excavated.

O.S.M., CAITH., iv.

Visited, 25th August 1910.

375. *Cairn, Knock Stanger, Sandside*.—On the left bank of the burn that flows into Sandside Bay, about 100 yards above its mouth, is a high sandy mound on the summit of which there appears to be a cairn. The whole is overgrown with bents, but the diameter of the cairn seems to be about 55' and its elevation 11' or 12'. It does not appear to have been excavated.

O.S.M., CAITH., ix. ("Pict's House").

Visited, 29th August 1910.

376. *Chambered Cairn, Brawlbin*.—On the moorland to the SW. of Shinnery, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NE. of the cairn on the summit of Beinn Freiceadain, is a small round chambered cairn. It has been dilapidated to a considerable extent, and several large upright slabs stand exposed about the centre. The diameter is some 35' and the elevation is now inconsiderable.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. (unnoted). Visited, 13th September 1910.

377. *Chambered Cairn, do.*—On the moor about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. to the E. of the horned long cairn near Loch a' Mhuilinn (No. 365), and to the W. of the crofts at Brawlbin, are the remains of a small cairn. It is so dilapidated, and has been pillaged to such an extent for stones, that its dimensions are no longer obtainable. A single large upright slab protruding through the turf indicates its chambered character.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. (unnoted). Visited, 13th September 1910.

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378. *Cairn, Borrowston Mains*.—Some 100 yards to the SW. of the broch at Borrowston Mains (No. 348), near the edge of the cliff which fringes the shore, is a cairn with a diameter of some 80' and an elevation of 10' to 11'. It is grass-covered, except towards the W. where exposure to the elements has prevented the growth of vegetation. On the summit at the W. side, 1' below the surface, a short cist is exposed lying with its longer axis ESE. and WNW. It is covered by a slab measuring 2' 7" in length, 1' 8" in breadth, and 1" in thickness. The cist itself is 2' 1" long by 1' broad and 1' 3" deep, and is paved with four small flags. When cleared out there were found near the centre of the floor about a dozen whelk shells, but no remains of any interment nor any fragments of pottery. This cairn and the adjacent broch are noted on the O.S. map as ("Green Tullochs (Broughs)").

O.S.M., CAITH., iv.

Visited, 16th September 1910.

379. *Cairn, West Shebster*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SW. of the cairn-like mound (No. 387) is a heap of small stones rising from the centre of the foundation of a larger construction which has possibly been a cairn. The original diameter has been about 54'.

O.S.M., CAITH., x. ("Cairn").

Visited, 8th September 1910.

380. "*Grey Cairn,*" *West Shebster*.—Some 300 yards to the E. of the last are the scanty remains of a cairn which has been almost entirely demolished.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 8th September 1910.

381. *Stone Circle (remains of), Shurrery*.—About 120 yards S. of the church at Shurrery are two pointed stones set on end, the east-most measuring 3' 6" in breadth at base, 2' 2" in height and 1' in thickness, and the other 3' 2" in breadth, 2' in height and also 1' in thickness. They stand 11' 4" apart at slightly divergent angles, and appear to have formed part of a stone circle. The ground in front, where the rest of the circle would have stood, has been dug for peats. Both stones stand with their faces in line of the presumed circumference.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvi. (unnoted).

Visited, 11th August 1910.

382. *Stone Cists, Shurrery*.—On the NE. side of the road from Shurrery to Brawlbin, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SE. of Shurrery church, at the W. end of a low natural ridge, are the remains of three small cist-like compartments formed of flags set on end. The best preserved is near the centre of the ridge. The flags of which it is formed stand 1' 2" above the ground level on the outside, but in the interior are exposed to a height of 2' 9". One side slab and the two end slabs remain. The length of the side slab is 3' 8" and the breadth of the end slabs 2' and 2' 8" respectively. The main axis lies NNW. and SSE. Some 10' to the NW. and the same distance to the SE. are the remains of similar cist-like constructions. There is no sign of the existence of a cairn or mound.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvi. and xvii.

Visited, 11th August 1910.

MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTIONS.

383. *Mound, Reay*.—On the top of the hillock which rises to the S. of the Drill Hall at Reay are the remains of a circular construction

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with a diameter of about 50'. Its character is not obvious, and it may possibly be the remains of a demolished cairn.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 16th September 1910.

384. *Mound, "Torr na Craoibhe," Broubster.*—At the back of the shepherd's house at Bridge of Broubster, is a large flat-topped grassy mound of artificial character. It measures over all about 130' in diameter and 6' to 8' in elevation. Around the sides the foundations of old cottages are visible but there is nothing to indicate the nature of the original construction.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 8th September 1910.

385. *Mound, East Shebster.*—At East Shebster, on the E. side of the Moss, is a grass-covered mound of irregular contour, which presents the appearance of a large cairn much pillaged for stones. It is oval on plan, measuring some 86' × 78'. The highest portion near the centre is 4' 6" in height. There are no indications of its character.

O.S.M., CAITH., x. ("Cairn").

Visited, 8th September 1910.

386. *Mound, West Shebster.*—On the N. side of West Shebster Hill, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of the road from Shebster to Shurrery, is a grassy hillock which is stony and is possibly a cairn. It has a diameter of about 60' and an elevation of 4' 6". The outline, to some extent, seems to be marked by stones set on end, protruding a few inches from the turf.

O.S.M., CAITH., x. ("Cairn").

Visited, 8th September 1910.

387. *Mound, do.*—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. to the W. of the last is a cairn-like mound with a diameter of about 41' and elevation of about 3'. The surface is very uneven, and appears to have been overlaid with stones gathered from the surrounding land which has at one time been under cultivation. The true character of the mound is indeterminate.

O.S.M., CAITH., x. ("Cairn").

Visited, 8th September 1910.

388. *Constructions, Brawlbin.*—On the low side of the road from Shurrery to Brawlbin, about 1 m. SE. of the church at the former place, are the sites of two constructions presumably prehistoric. Being entirely overgrown with a deep sward their character is not evident. The construction nearest the road bears the name of "Shean Buidhe."

O.S.M., CAITH., xvii. ("Cairns").

Visited, 11th August 1910.

389. *Constructions, "Tulach Gorm," Shurrery.*—On the W. side of the road, about 600 yards N. of the N. end of Loch Shurrery, are the remains of a large, oval, many chambered construction. Over all it measures 88' from E. to W. by 56' from N. to S. Numerous large pointed stones protrude irregularly through the turf. At the E. side the outline of an oblong compartment some 23' in length by 10' in breadth is apparent, the wall of which at one end, built of very large stones, still stands to a height of about 3'. The outlines of foundations visible on the turf seem to indicate a number of small oblong compartments with probably a circular one in the centre, but without excavation the plan cannot be definitely determined.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvi.

Visited, 11th August 1910.

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390. *Construction, Shurrery*.—On the left bank of the Forse Water, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. down from Loch Shurrery, is a mound covered with the indefinite ruins of some primitive construction. It has been much quarried for stones and the plan is no longer evident. It has not the general appearance of a broch, though the small piece of wall visible on the S. resembles in its building the wall of such a structure. There appears to have been a main central circular area with a diameter of 24', entered from the W., with various chambers opening off it. To the N. are the ruins of several small detached buildings.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvi. ("Mound"). Visited, 11th August 1910.

391. *Construction, "Tota an Dranndain," Torr a' Bathaich, Shurrery*.—Some 200 yards ENE. of the shepherd's house at Torr a' Bathaich, across the water from Creagan a' Bheannaich (No. 409), and just outside the wall of an enclosed park, are the ruins of a large circular construction in the building of which stones of great size have been employed. It has been circular, with a diameter over all of 53'. The entrance has been from the NW., measuring 2' in width at its outer extremity, and the passage wall is evident on the right for a distance of 10'. On the left side it is less well preserved. On that side there appears to be an entrance to a chamber. The inner face of the wall is not visible. While in some respects the ruin resembles a broch, a number of large flat slabs lying exposed over the surface and certain other features suggest that possibly it is not one. The elevation is some 4' to 5' at most.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvi.

Visited, 11th August 1910.

392. *Construction, Shurrery*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. down the Forse Water from Tigh a' Bheannaich, on the same side of the river, are the indefinite remains of a large circular construction. A number of large slabs set upright protrude irregularly over the surface, but there are no indications of either the character or plan of construction. It appears to have belonged to the same class as some of the other remains in the district.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvi. ("Carn Liath").

Visited, 11th August 1910.

393. *Construction, Hill of Shebster*.—At the SE. end of the Hill of Shebster, and about 100 yards N. of the upper end of the W. wall of the cultivated and enclosed parks at Shebster, are the ruins of a circular construction. Over all it has a diameter of some 58' and an elevation of 4'. Being entirely overgrown with thick turf its character is obscured. There is no indication of its having been a broch, and it more resembles the indefinite constructions found near Shurrery.

O.S.M., CAITH., x. ("Cairn").

Visited, 15th August 1910.

394. *Construction, do.*—Some 80 yards to the westward of the last are the foundations of an oval or circular construction with a diameter of about 40'. There are a number of small circular depressions of some 5' or thereby in diameter in the interior, but the whole is overgrown with thick turf and the plan and character quite obscured.

O.S.M., CAITH., x. (unnoted).

Visited, 15th August 1910.

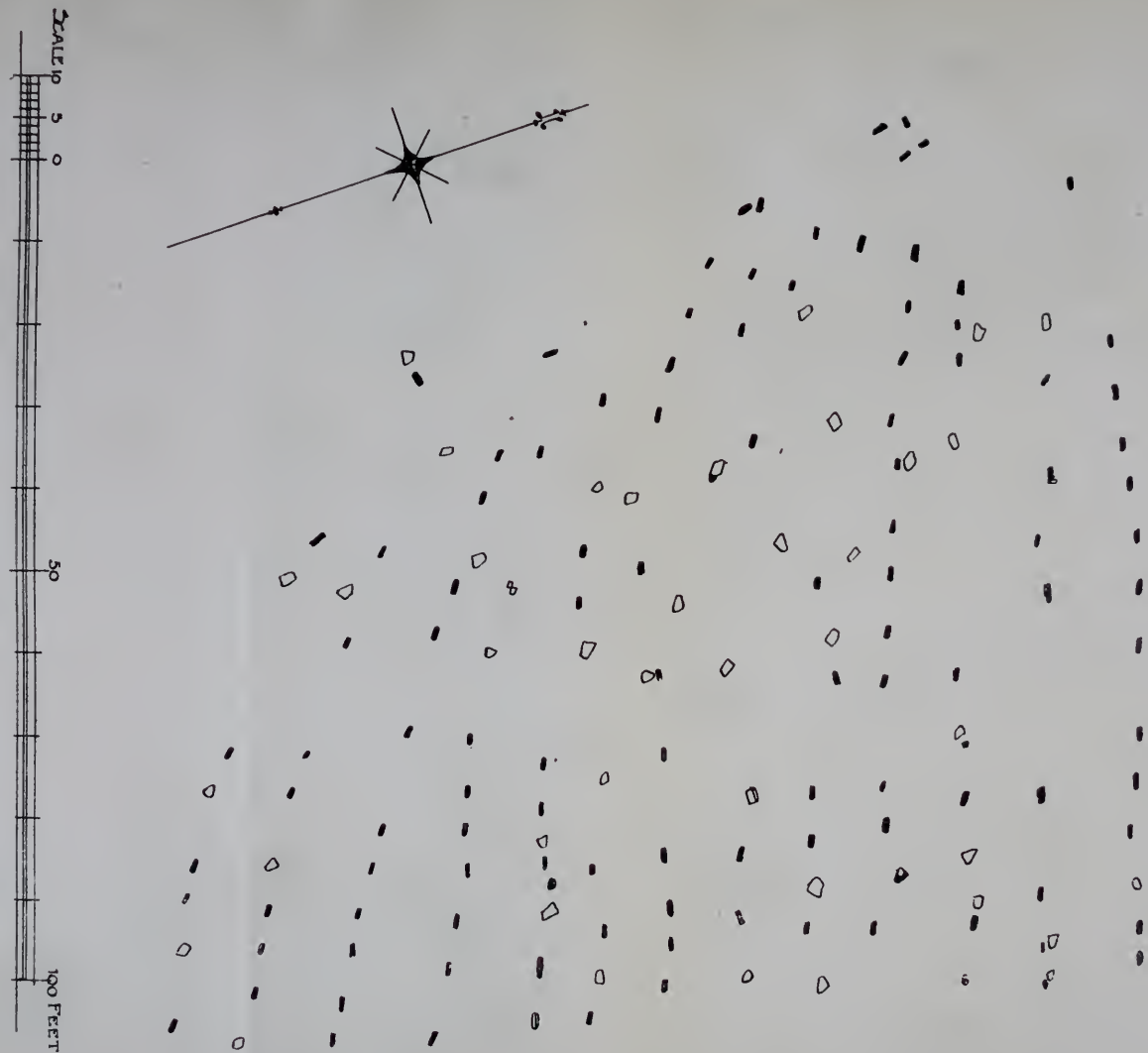
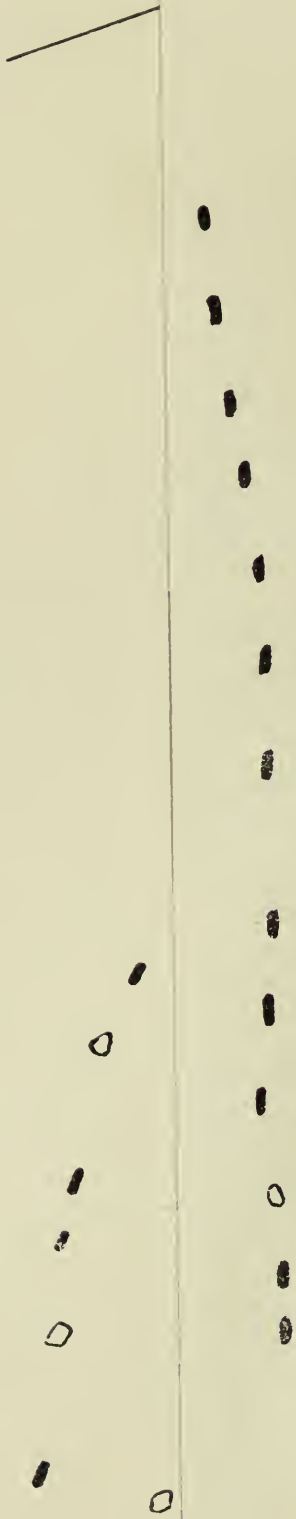


FIG. 21. STONE ROWS, UPPER DOONREAY (No. 397): GROUND PLAN.



Fig. 21. STONE ROWS, UPPER DOUNREAV (No. 397): GROUND PLAN.



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395. *Enclosure, "Garadh an Ratha," Broubster.*—On the W. side of the road, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of the Bridge of Broubster, is a pear-shaped enclosure. All around are the ruins of old crofts, and the character of the construction is uncertain.

O.S.M., CAITH., x. ("Cairn"). Visited, 8th September 1910.

396. *Mound, "Torr an t-Sniomha."*—In the Leans of Achreagan, on the E. side of the road to Shurrery, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. N. of Broubster Bridge is a grassy cairn-like mound known as "Torr an t-Sniomha." It has a diameter of about 50' and an elevation of about 6'. It has been much dug into from the S. There are no slabs visible to indicate its character, but possibly it has been a kiln.

O.S.M., CAITH., x. Visited, 8th September 1910.

397. *Stone Rows, Upper Dounreay.*—In a hollow at the N. end of Cnoc Freiceadain, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. E. of Upper Dounreay, is a setting of stone rows (fig. 21). The rows, of which there appear to have been thirteen, lie in a general direction WNW. and ESE., radiating from the former direction, the expansion being principally directed towards the S. side of the monument. The stones are of the usual character—thin slabs protruding to about $1\frac{1}{2}'$ above ground, set with their faces across the rows. A number of the stones lie displaced and many are sunk beneath the surface. They stand some 4' to 5' apart, and the rows are 6' to 8' distant from each other near the contracted end and from 6' to 11' at their other termination. The number of stones remaining *in situ* appears to be about 115. The width across the rows at the narrow end of the monument has been some 44', and at the broad end about 115', while the length of the rows is about 100'. The largest stones are at the outer terminations of the rows. Four stones, from 1' to 1' 2" in length and the same in height above ground, placed so that they form a somewhat irregular square of 4' at the WNW., probably marks the original point from which the rows have radiated at the edge of the hollow. The stones are firmly wedged into the ground in the same manner as the other stones of the monument. Within the square there is no sign of a cist, nor does the soil appear to have been disturbed. Some two-thirds of the distance towards its broader extremity, the monument has been cut through by a road, and possibly a similar cause has destroyed the rows between the small square setting and their present commencement.*

On the top of a bank to the W. of the stone rows there are

* The following passage seems to be descriptive of a similar setting of stone rows at Borlum. It came under notice after the inspection of the monuments in the county had been completed, and inquiries made locally have failed to lead to the identification of the monument:—

"On a ridge of the Borlum Hills, and within sight of Achinabest, is a quantity of upright stones about 6' apart and in straight rows as if of an ancient burying-ground. The peculiarity is that there are two groups at a distance of 100 yards from each other, the largest of which would represent, from the number of stones in it, the burial of ninety persons at least, the lesser group lower down the ridge counting about fifty. Above both groups, against a long wall-like rock, there is a large enclosure with apparently a fortified gate, which has the character of an entrenchment or place of safety." (*The Gunns*, p. 55.)

PARISH OF REAY.

remains of two constructions which may have been small hut circles or mounds, but their character is now indefinite.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 16th August 1910.

398. *Standing-Stone, Shurrery*.—Some 300 yards SSE. of the church at Shurrery is a standing-stone. It is a broad angular slab, pointed upwards, measuring 3' 6" in height, 4' in breadth at the centre, 2' 8" in breadth at the base, and 1' 4" in thickness. It faces NE. and SW. At 147' to the NE. of it, a pointed stone set on end protrudes some 2' from the peat in which it is firmly set.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvi.

Visited, 11th August 1910.

399. *Standing-Stone, Upper Dounreay*.—In a grass park $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of Upper Dounreay, and about 200 yards W. of the horned round cairn (No. 372), is a large standing-stone. It is a slab of sandstone, slightly pointed at the upper end, 6' 7" in height above ground, 4' 2" in breadth, and 1' in thickness. It faces ESE. and WNW.

400. *Standing-Stone, do.*—Some 300 yards ESE. of the farm-house of Upper Dounreay is a large columnar boulder in the middle of a corn field. It is roughly quadrangular, measuring 6' in length by 2' 4" or thereby across each face, and is now tilted considerably towards the W.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 16th August 1910.

401. *Standing-Stones, Broubster Village*.—On the moor to the eastwards of the ruined croft of Aultan, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. E. of Broubster Village, are two standing-stones about 120 yards distant from each other. The southmost stone measures 3' 10" in height, 2' in breadth, and 8" in thickness. It faces ENE. and WSW., and is pointed towards the upper end. The second stone stands to the northwards and faces N. and S. It measures 4' 6" in height, 2' 1" in breadth, 1' 1" in thickness at base decreasing to 7" upwards. There are no stones visible as parts of a setting anywhere between these two monoliths.

402. *Standing-Stones, Aultan, Broubster*.—About 100 yards SW. of the ruined croft of Aultan, and $\frac{1}{2}$ m. ENE. of Broubster Village, is a standing-stone, measuring 4' in height above ground, 2' 4" in breadth, and 10" in thickness. It faces E. and W., and is pointed towards the upper end. In its immediate vicinity are several other slabs, apparently set on end, protruding to a less degree above ground. They are, however, irregularly placed, and it is doubtful if they have formed part of a prehistoric setting of stones. The adjacent ground has been under cultivation.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 22nd August 1910.

403. *Standing-Stone, "Clach Clais an Tuire," Achvarasdal Burn*.—Situated on slightly elevated ground to the E. of the Achvarasdal Burn, just where it issues from the pass between Creag Mhor and Creag Bheag, is a standing-stone known as "Clach Clais an Tuire" (pl. XXXVIII.). It is a quadrangular block measuring 6' 2" in height above ground, 3' 6" in greatest breadth, 2' 11" in breadth at base, and 2' in thickness. It faces E. and W.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 8th September 1910.

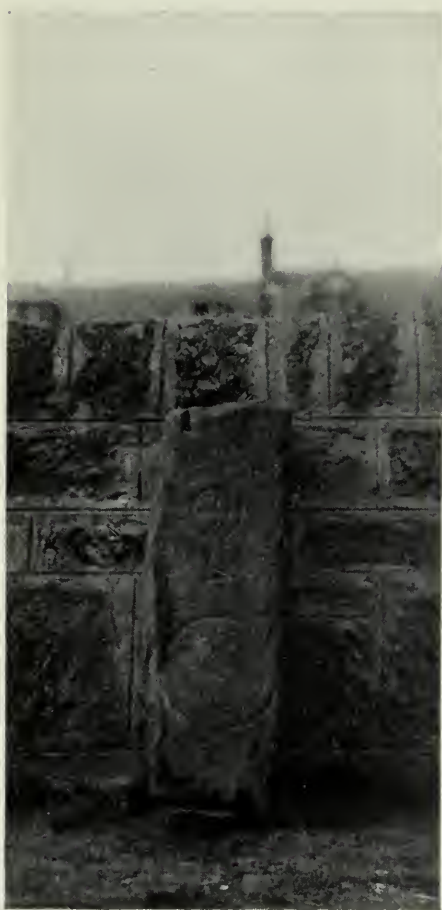


PLATE XXXVI.—Sculptured Stone,
Sandside (No. 406).

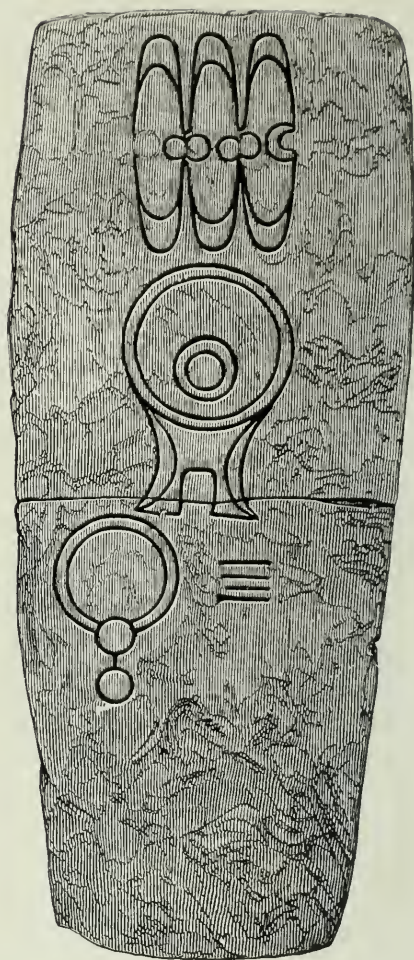


PLATE XXXVII.—Sculptured
Stone, Sandside (No. 407).

PARISH OF REAY.

404. *Standing-Stones, Achvarasdal Lodge*.—Some 60 yards to the NE. of the kitchen-garden at Achvarasdal Lodge lies a large fallen monolith, measuring 11' 10" in length, and square in section, with a diameter of 2' 6"; while some 60' to the S. of it lies another similar stone, 11' 6" in length, also rectangular in section, with a diameter of 2' 5" at base and less at the opposite end. Both stones lie pointing in the same direction, viz., E. and W., and have evidently at one time been standing-stones.

O.S.M., CAITH., x. (unnoted). Visited, 16th September 1910.

405. *Sculptured Stone found in Broch, Lybster*.—A sculptured stone, said to have been found in the broch (No. 347) near the old Chapel of St Mary's, Lybster, in Reay, is described and illustrated in the *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, and in *The Early Christian Monuments of Scotland*. It is of Caithness sandstone, rectangular in form, 2' 3" in height by 2' 2" in width, and is sculptured on one face with incised lines, thus:—At the top, the crescent and V-shaped sceptre symbol, and below it the horse-shoe or arch symbol, both ornamented with curved lines. The stone is said to have been presented to the King of Denmark by Sir George Sinclair, the proprietor, but it has not been traced.

See *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, i. p. 11, pl. xxx.; *Early Christ. Mon.*, pt. iii. p. 30 (illus.).

O.S.M., CAITH., iv.

406. *Sculptured Stone, Sandside*.—At Sandside House there is a stone incised with symbols (pl. XXXVI.), which was found built into a stone dyke near Shurrery, not far from Tigh a' Bheannaich, which was evidently the site of a chapel or religious foundation. It is a rectangular block of sandstone, 2' 5" in length, 9" in breadth, and 8" in thickness. On the face of the stone is incised a small stemmed circle or orb, 4" in diameter, containing an equal-armed cross. The stem is 3½" in length, 1" in breadth where it joins the circle, and 1½" at base. Beneath, and occupying the breadth of the stone, is a plain circle with a diameter of 8".

407. *Sculptured Stone, do.*—Placed against a wall at the E. side of Sandside House, and set within a wooden frame, is another sculptured slab (pl. XXXVII.). It was found about fifty years ago, near the site of an ancient settlement on the sand links by the sea shore at Sandside, and was subsequently used to cover a mill-lade where a road crossed, in which position it remained until September 1889, when it attracted the notice of Mr Pilkington, the proprietor of Sandside, during some repairs to the mill-lade, and who removed it for preservation to Sandside House. It is a rectangular slab of the hard sandstone of the district, 4' 8½" long by 1' 11½" wide by 3½" thick, sculptured on one face with incised lines, thus:—

Front.—At the top, a symbol (unnoticed previous to the discovery of this stone), consisting of a horizontal row of three flattened ovals, joined together in the middle by pairs of small circles, and having a double outline at the tops and bottoms of the ovals; below this, the mirror-case symbol; and at the bottom, the mirror-and-comb symbol.

See *Early Christ. Mon.*, pt. iii. p. 29.

O.S.M., CAITH., ix.

Visited, 29th August 1910.

PARISH OF REAY.

408. *Market Cross, Reay*.—On the S. of the road in the hamlet of Reay there stands a rude cross (pl. XXXIX.), the upper arm of which is wanting. In height it measures 4' 3" above ground, and in width across the arms 1' 11". The shaft, which is cylindrical, measures 2' 9½" in circumference. The arms are 9" in breadth at the intersection and diminish to 6" at their extremities. This is said to be the Market Cross removed from Old Reay situated nearer the sea.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 29th August 1910.

SITES.

409. *Chapel and Graveyard, "Creagan a' Bheannaich"*.—At the croft of Tigh a' Bheannaich, Shurrery, about 100 yards back from the river, is a low stony mound from which a number of large stones protrude through the turf. It is said to be the site of a graveyard, and the name of the neighbouring croft suggests the site of a primitive oratory or church.

O.S.M., CAITH., xvi.

Visited, 11th August 1910.

410. *Chapel, Isauld*.—Among the sand dunes to the NE. of the Isauld Burn, some 300 or 400 yards back from its mouth, are the foundations of a structure which may be those of a chapel. The remains are very slight.

O.S.M., CAITH., x.

Visited, 16th September 1910.

The O.S. maps indicate sites as under:—

411. <i>Chapel near Craighton.</i>	O.S.M., CAITH., iv.
412. <i>Do. ½ m. N. of Reay Church.</i>	„ „ x.
413. <i>"North Cairn," Lower Downreay.</i>	„ „ iv.
414. <i>"Peas Cairn," Do.</i>	„ „ „
415. <i>Cairn near Bridge of Broubster.</i>	„ „ x.
416. <i>Tumulus near Do.</i>	„ „ „
417. <i>Standing-Stones about ½ m. E. of Upper Downreay.</i>	„ „ „

PARISH OF THURSO.

ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

418. *St Peter's Church, Thurso*.—Situated in the old part of the town of Thurso, and adjacent to the river, are the ruins of St Peter's Church (figs. 22, 23, and 24). It is cruciform on plan, without aisles, measuring externally some 79' from E. to W. by 82' from N. to S. across the transepts. A plan made upwards of twenty years ago by the Rev. Alexander Millar of the Free Church, Buckie, and here reproduced (fig. 22), discloses at the E. end a low vaulted apsidal cell about 19' long by 10' wide, placed in the centre line of the choir and nave, which are about 23' wide. This cell is square on the outside, and its walls measure from 3' 6" to 4' in thickness. It is lighted by two small slits about 12" wide, one in the centre and the other in the N. side, which pass straight through the wall without any check for glass. On the S. face there is an opening which may have been a door. Unfortunately the opening from the nave has been built up and access is now unobtainable. Adjoining this cell-like structure on the S. side



PLATE XXXVIII.—Standing-Stone, “Clach Clais an Tuire,” Achvarasdal Burn (No. 403).



PLATE XXXIX.—Market Cross, Reay (No. 408).

PARISH OF THURSO.

there is a curiously planned staircase tower, placed at an acute angle to the wall, so that it does not range with any limb of the cross. It measures about 14' square over the walls; tapers very much as it rises, and has in the centre of its S. and E. faces a rounded buttress of unusual form, finished with a sloping offset 12' or so above the ground.

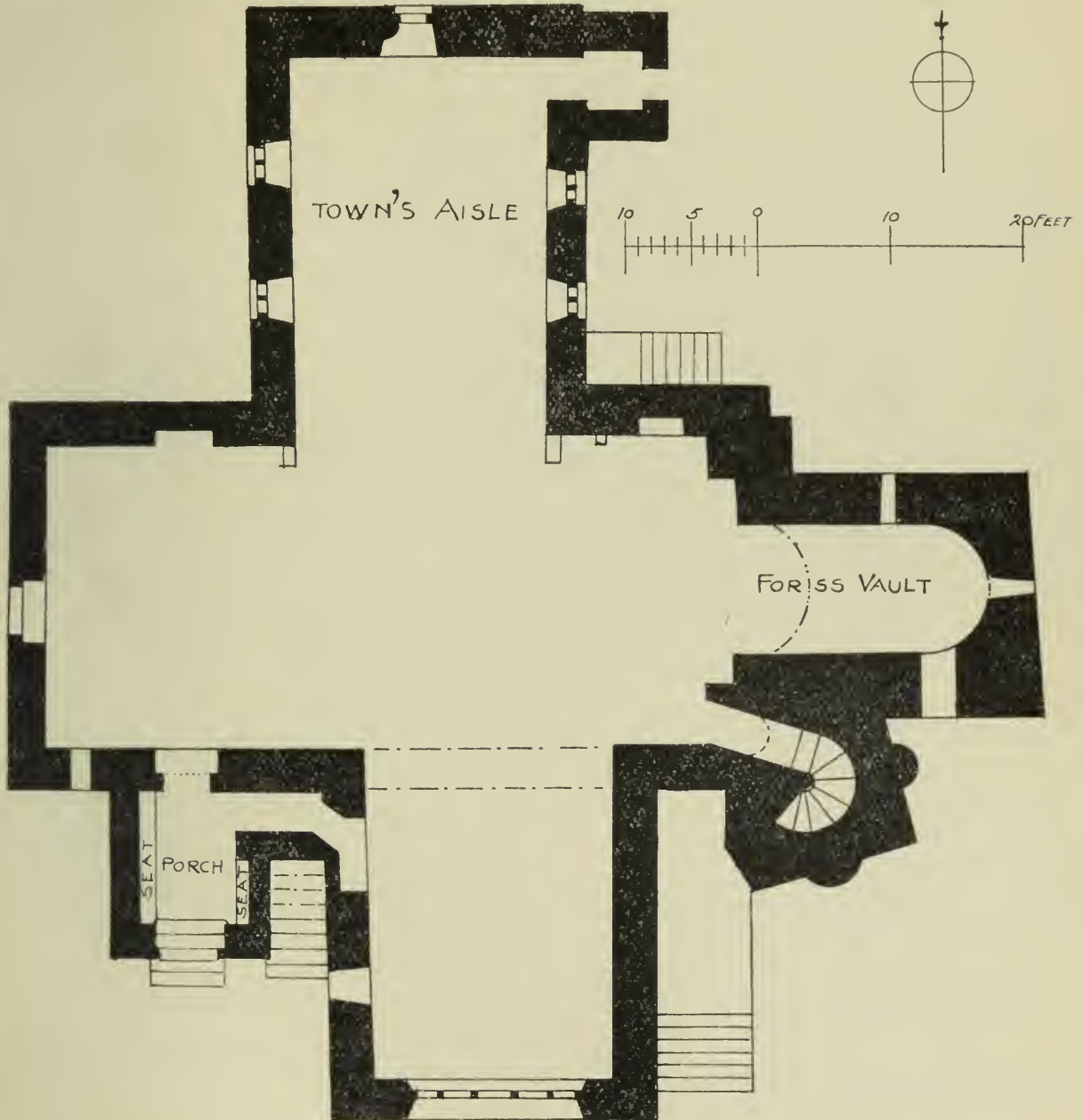


FIG. 22.—St Peter's Church, Thurso (No. 418); Ground-plan.

A vaulted passage 8' long leads from the church in a slanting direction to the wheel stair.

The N. and S. transepts are not in alignment with each other. The S. transept, about 19' wide, is spanned by an arch on the inside so as to continue the wall of the nave and choir after a manner found in churches dating from about the period of the Reformation. It is not unlikely that the N. transept was similarly treated. In the gables of the transepts and nave are large pointed windows, filled with

PARISH OF THURSO.

plain intersecting tracery. The porch at the re-entering angle of the nave and S. transept is a large one with stone seats, giving access to the transept by a curious zig-zag entrance, not unlike the entrance to a well-defended castle, which may be due to an alteration. There

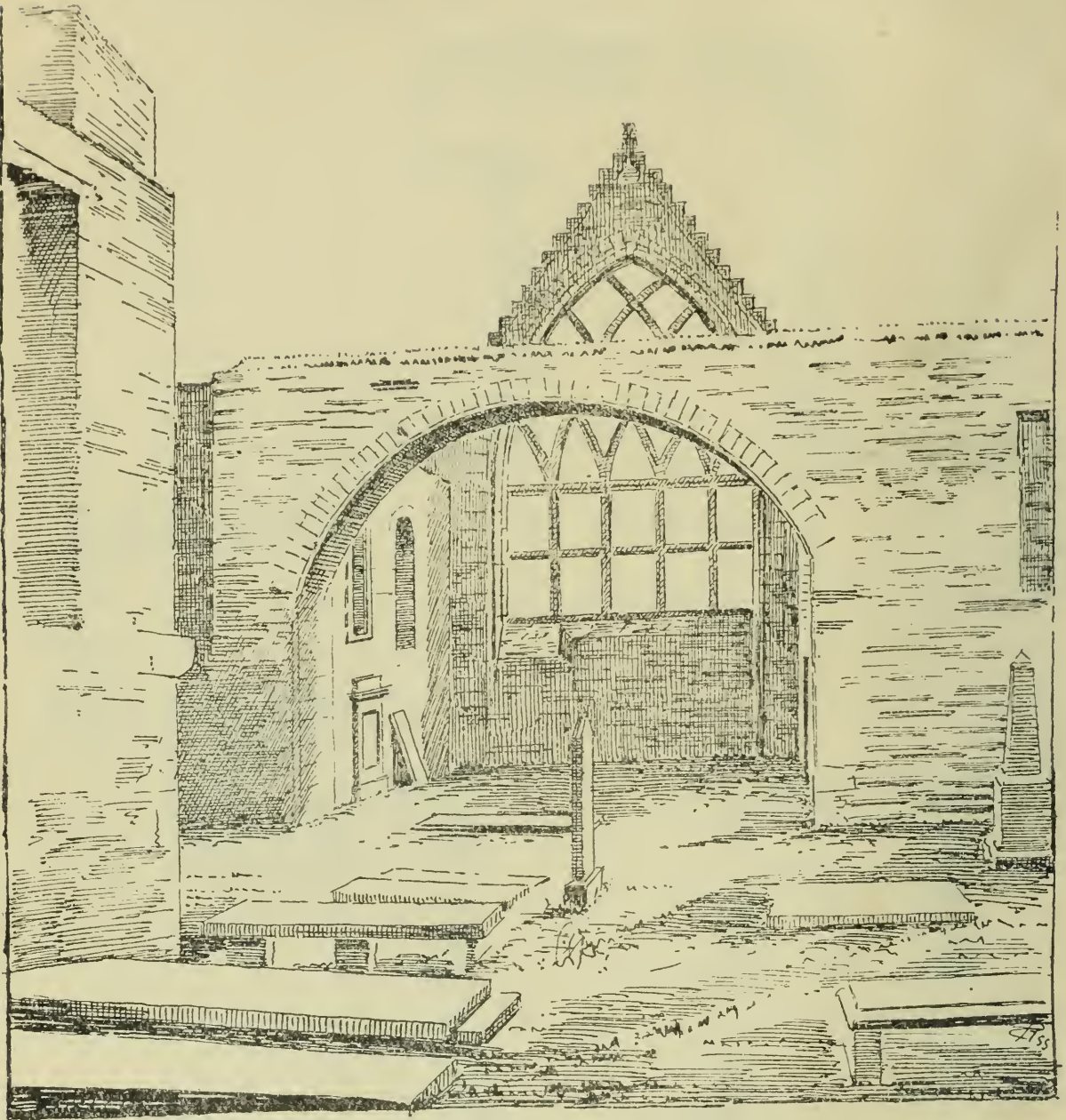


FIG. 23.—St Peter's Church, Thurso : interior looking S. (No. 418)

is another porch in the N. transept. The masonry of the church throughout is all of one class of local stone laid in thin courses, except in the lower part of the S. wall of the cell, where some courses can be seen, above the heaped up rubbish, of a distinctly different character from the rest of the building.

Considered in its entirety it seems unlikely that the erection of this church belongs all to one period, and that it was originally planned as we now see it, with its transepts out of alignment with each other, with the cell at the E. end, and the eccentrically placed

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tower. One is forced to conclude from the plan that it has been evolved during a long period to meet the requirements of different ages.

The apsidal cell, square on the outside, has more affinity to a structure of the 12th century, such as St Margaret's Chapel in Edinburgh Castle, than to a building of the 16th or 17th century, to which period the nave and transepts belong. The dedication of the



FIG. 24.—St Peter's Church, Thurso: S. window from the exterior (No. 418).

church to St Peter suggests an early date. It is stated that Gilbert Murray, Bishop of Caithness (*d.* 1245), founded a church in Thurso, which was a prebend of the Bishop of that See.

The church and the churchyard are in a neglected condition. The walls of the church are practically entire, but the structure is now quite roofless and is rapidly falling into ruins. It was occupied as the Parish Church down to 1832, and early in the 18th century part of it appears to have been used as a court-house and prison.

See *Cast and Dom. Arch.*, v. p. 188 (plans and illus.); *The Ancient Church of Scotland* (Walcott), p. 131; Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 170.

O.S.M., CAITH., v.

Visited, 8th August 1910.

Sepulchral Monuments.

419. In the W. wall of the burying ground is a tablet carved in high relief with the date 1357 and the letters T W and G C. The character of the lettering, however, as well as of the numerals, belongs to a much later period, probably to the 16th century.

420. Lying in the nave beside the E. wall is a flat inscribed slab, in part obliterated. It bears to be the tomb of Adam Davidson, Burgess of Inverness, indweller in Thurso, "quha departed in June 1587 being 66," and of his spouse Katherine Sinclair "quha departed

PARISH OF THURSO.

May 1597 being 70." In the centre of the slab is a shield bearing impaled arms,—the dexter obliterated; sinister, a cross engrailed. Surmounting the shield has been the motto VIVAT POST FUNERA VIRTUS.

421. On the W. side of the S. transept, close to the S. window, a slab much effaced, built into the wall, marks the burial-place of James Sinclair of Borlum, his wife Elizabeth Innes, and his eldest son.

The inscriptions on both the above tombs are given at length in Henderson's *Caithness Family History*, pp. 303 and 255.

422. *Chapel, Brims*.—About 140 yards N. of the tower of Brims are the remains of a mortuary chapel or mausoleum. It measures over all 28' × 24', with walls 3' in thickness. The entrance is from the E. end by a square-headed doorway, with a bead-and-hollow moulding on jambs and lintel. The interior is vaulted, and is lighted by a small square aperture in the W. wall. It is a structure of late date.

O.S.M., CAITH., iv.

Visited, 8th August 1910.

423. *Chapel, Thurso*.—Along the Victoria Walk, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Thurso, are the remains of a chapel. The gables have been reduced to the level of the side walls, the doors and windows built up, and the interior used as a burial-place. It measures over all 44' 3" × 19' 8". In the S. wall have been two round-headed windows with continuous bead-and-hollow mouldings, measuring 2' × 3' 8", and a larger window has occupied the centre of the E. gable. The building probably dates from the 17th century.

O.S.M., CAITH., v.

Visited, 21st September 1910.

CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

424. *Brims Castle*.—This castle is situated on the top of the rocks on the W. side of the Brims Burn where it flows into the sea, and is now occupied as part of a farm-house. The keep is a small rectangular building, measuring over all 23' × 17' 6", with a tower 10' 6" square, containing a newel stair projecting northwards at the NE. angle. The entrance doorway is in this tower at the first floor level where the stair to the second floor and attic floor begins. The thickness of the walls of the keep at the basement is 4' 6". The keep or main building is two storeys in height and contains a single room on each floor. It is finished with a span roof and crow-stepped gables. At the point of junction of the stair tower with the main building on the E. is a small rounded turret supported on continuous mouldings, finished with an upper ornamented band of chequers and overlooking the position of the original entrance. The usual narrow staircase in the thickness of the wall at the SE. angle has connected the basement with the hall above, and a hatchway existed in the hall floor, measuring about 3' 6" × 2' 6", through the vaulted basement.

To the northward of the tower is a small courtyard with buildings on the N. side, and a probable kitchen of later date than the keep, about 14' 6" × 8' 8", filling up the space between the tower and the keep, while a later two-storeyed building has been erected to the E. Giving access to this courtyard from the W. is a round-arched gate-

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way with continuous mouldings, much worn away on the jambs and arch. The tower probably dates from the latter half of the 16th century, from which date it was in possession of Sinclairs, cadets of the Dunbeath family.

O.S.M., CAITH., iv.

Visited, 8th August 1910.

425. *Old House, Bank Street, Thurso.*—At the head of Bank Street, Thurso, stands a particularly interesting example of a late 17th century

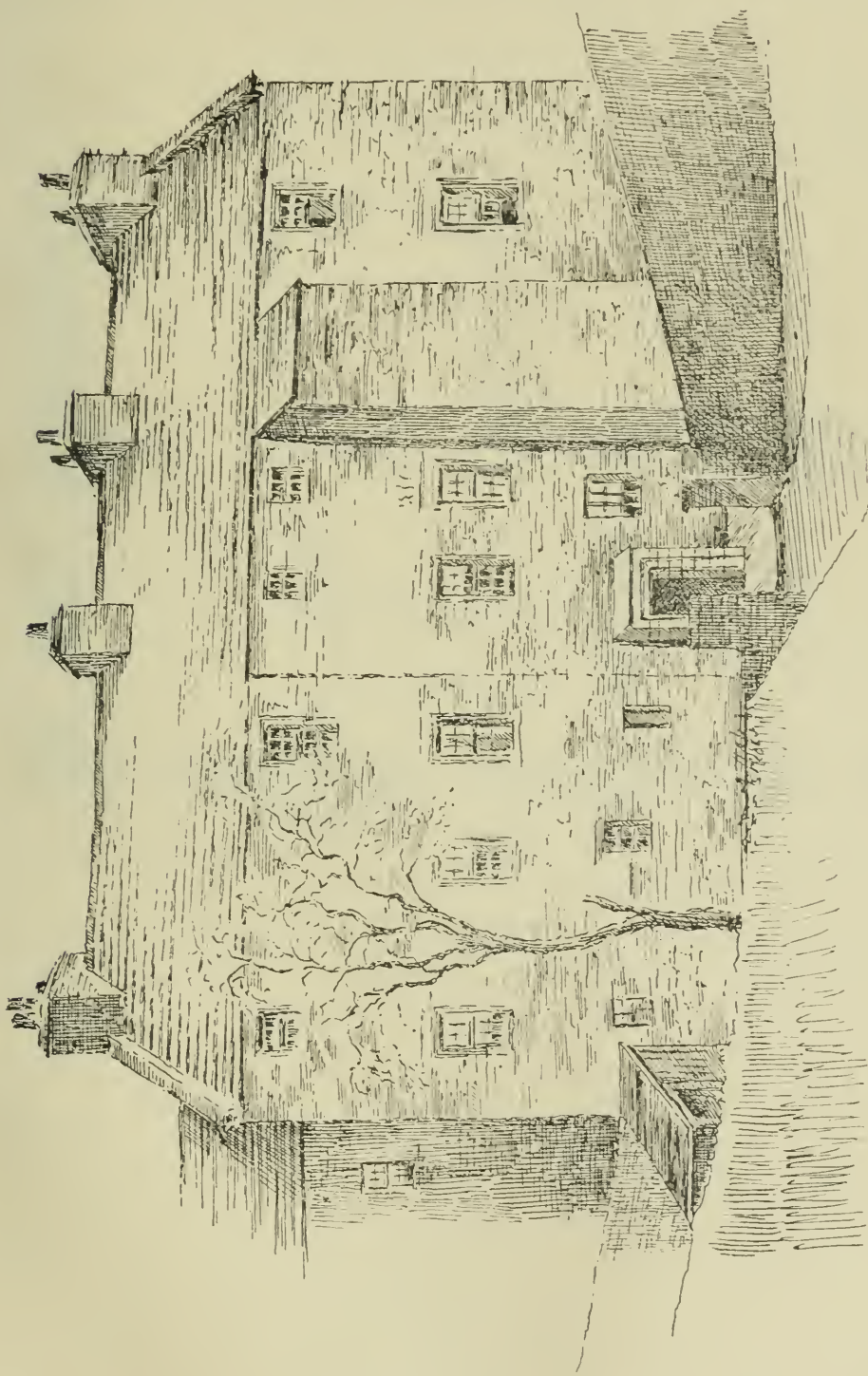


FIG. 25.—Old House, Bank Street, Thurso (No. 425).

town mansion of moderate size (fig. 25). It is now rather closely surrounded by buildings and is approached from the street on the E. side,

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while to the N. there is a small garden belonging to it. The house is of the L plan, measuring about 70' long by 26' 6" wide, the wing on the S. side measuring 15' x 35'. The thickness of the walls of the house is 3'. There is a slight projecting porch on the N. side, neatly moulded and wrought, leading to a fine scale and platt stair serving the three upper floors, the solid newel of which, so characteristic of the 17th century, has an opening opposite the staircase window to light the far off flight of steps. There is now no immediate communication between the rooms on the ground floor and those above. All the floors are arranged on a very similar plan, with five moderately sized rooms on each (see fig. 26). The house has been carefully planned and finished, all the interior doors in the thick walls having neatly moulded architraves wrought in stone, and there are mouldings round

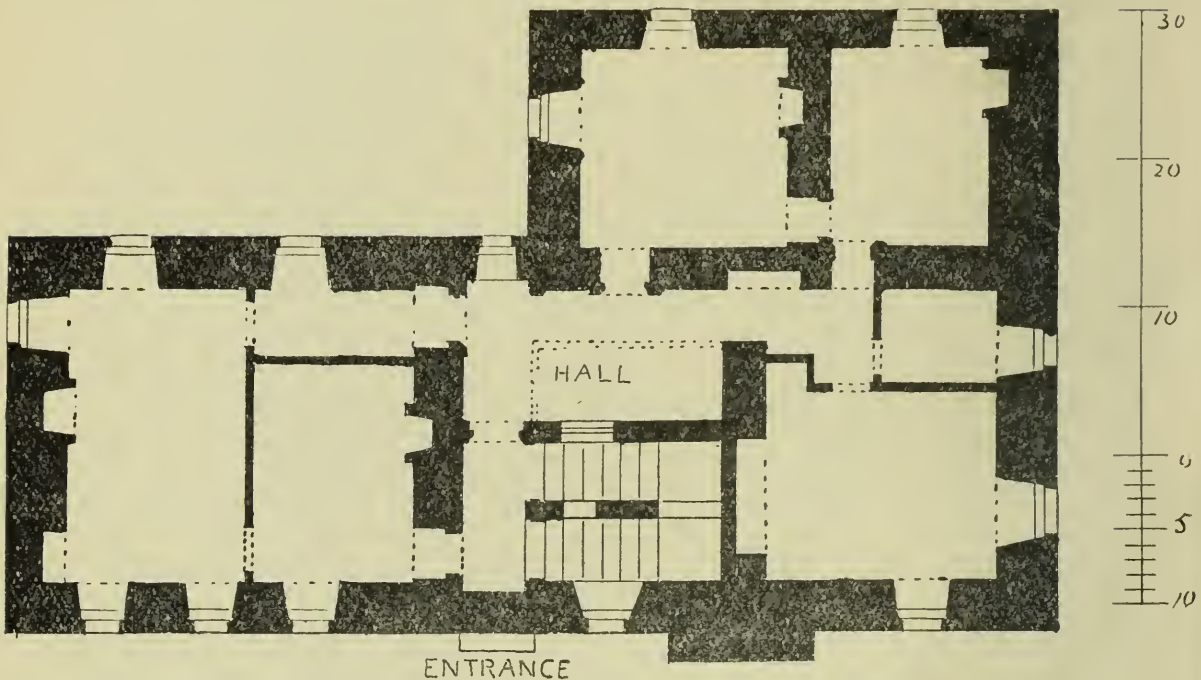


FIG. 26.—Old House, Bank Street, Thurso (No. 425); Ground-plan.

the windows on the outside. On the first floor there was undoubtedly a hall alongside the stair, now occupied by a closet and narrow passage, which would give a dignity to the house it does not now possess.

In the W. room on the N. side there is a large fireplace about 3' in height. The lintel (fig. 27) is of one stone, about 9' in length, and 1' 9¼" in depth, with flat mouldings returned at the ends to form the jambs. In the centre is a monogram formed of the letters D.M.C. and surrounded by a wreath of foliage. To the left of the wreath is an ornate shield bearing arms:—a shake fork couped, with a star in chief; and to the right a similar shield bearing arms—three stars, and at fess point a besant (now from mutilation resembling a crescent): in dexter chief, another star for difference—the arms of Murray of Clairden to whom the house formerly belonged. At the right end are the figures 16 and at the left 79. Along the top runs the legend SEMPER FOCUS BONUS EST.



PLATE XL.—Old House, Shore Street, Thurso (No. 426).

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The monogram and arms indicate that the house was the property of David Murray of Clairden, who married Janet, daughter of John

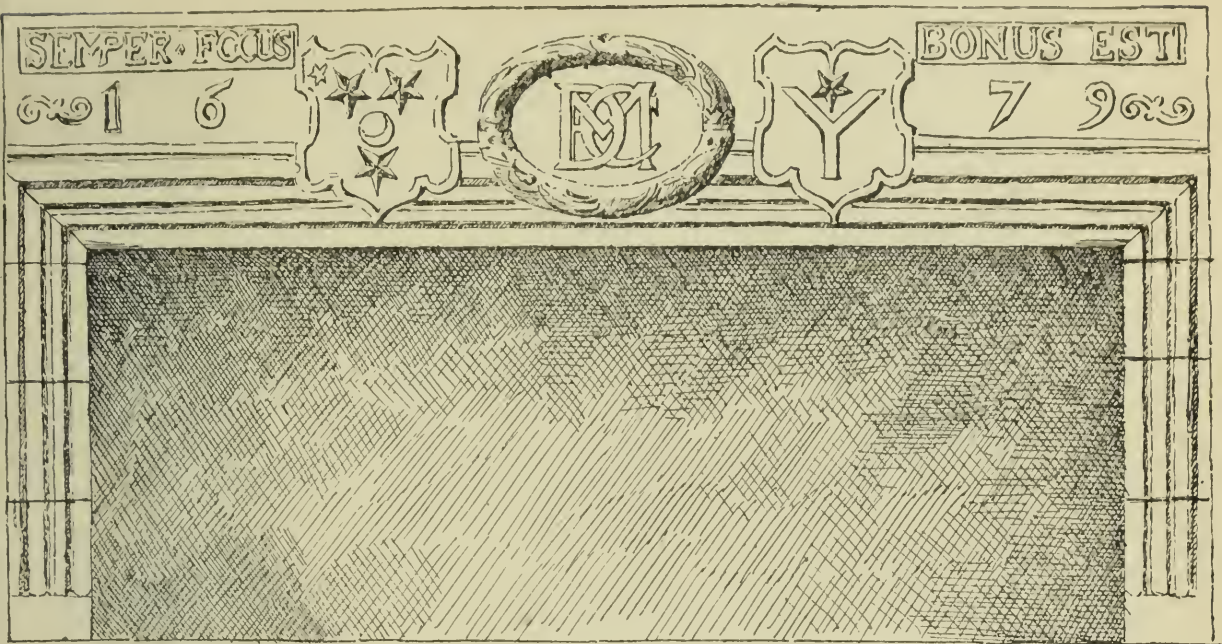


FIG. 27.—Carved Mantelpiece in Old House, Bank Street, Thurso (No. 425).

Cunningham of Brownhill and Geise. He was a person of considerable note, and died in 1686.

On the front wall adjoining the fireplace there is a solidly built flat buttress extending from the ground to the eaves; this seems to be intended to compensate the vacancy made in the wall by the large fireplace and its flue, as in bulk the buttress about equals the space of the fireplace.

See *Caithness Family History*, p. 197.

O.S.M., CAITH., v.

Visited, 18th September 1910.

426. *Old House, Shore Street, Thurso.*—On the N. side of Shore Street, Thurso, is an old 17th-century dwelling of picturesque appearance (pl. XL.). It is a two-storeyed building 57' in length, with a circular turret 6' 6" in diameter, standing out in the centre of the frontage, containing the stair that communicates with the houses on the upper floor. On the skew-put of the W. gable at the S. side are the initials D.W.K.R. and the date 1686.

O.S.M., CAITH., v.

Visited, 21st September 1910.

427. *Carved Mantelpiece in Old House, Davidson's Entry, Thurso.*—At the end of the alley which runs W. from Davidson's Entry is an old house with its back to Bank Street. Architecturally it presents no feature of interest, but in a room on the first floor is a fine old carved mantelpiece of stone (fig. 28), dating probably from the end of the 17th or early 18th century. It is 4' in length by 1' 1" in depth. Along the top runs an egg enrichment. In the centre of the panel beneath is a shield bearing arms:—a cross engrailed in the first canton: an eagle head erased contourné; in the second the initials G^MM; and in

PARISH OF THURSO.

the third and fourth respectively the initials I. and S. On either side of the shield is a lion passant; while a thistle and a rose com-

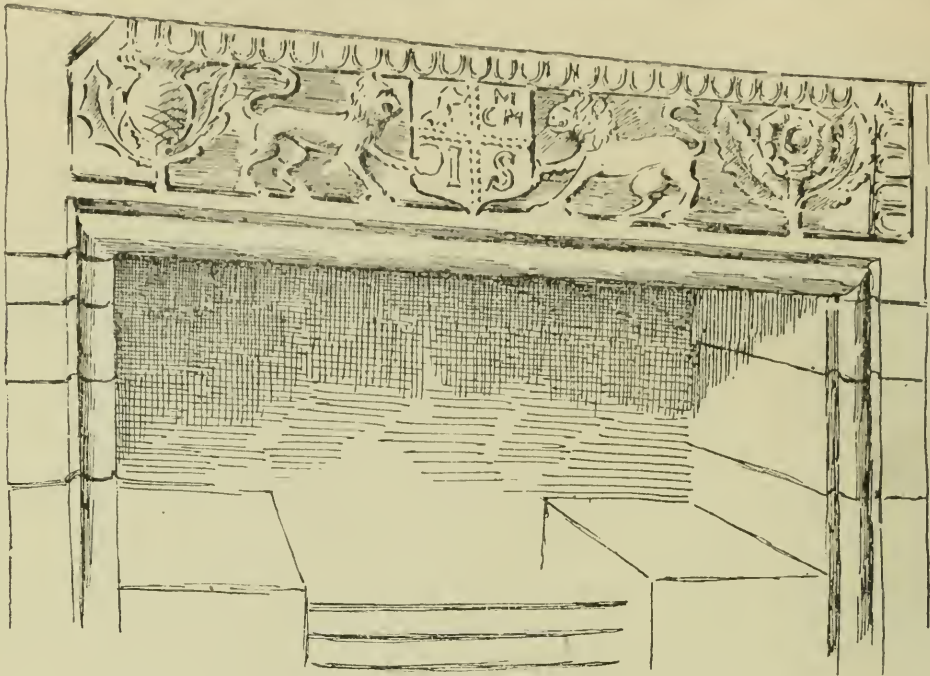


FIG. 28.—Carved Mantelpiece in Old House, Davidson's Entry, Thurso (No. 427).

plete the ornamentation at the respective ends of the panel. The carving is bold and spirited.

O.S.M., CAITH., v.

Visited, 21st September 1910.

428. *Old House, Thurso*.—To the N.W. of St Peter's Church is an ancient building used as a granary. It has been entirely renewed inside. On a corbel at the SW. angle are the initials WS.KP., and on one of the upper quoins at the opposite side of the gable the date June 1627.

O.S.M., CAITH., v.

Visited, 21st September 1910.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

429. *Broch, Scrabster*.—In a grass park on the N. side of the road from Thurso to Reay and about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. W. of Scrabster House, is a grassy mound containing a broch. The mound is encircled by a ditch 32' in width and 8' to 9' in depth, with a bank, formed of the upcast, crowning the counterscarp. From the top of the scarp rises a parapet wall or rampart, now some 3' in height. The ruin, situated some 20' back from the parapet above the ditch, is entirely overgrown with grass, and measures some 73' in diameter and 4' to 5' in elevation. The depression which marks the extent of the interior measures 32' in diameter.

O.S.M., CAITH., v.

Visited, 8th August 1910.

430. *Broch, Geise*.—At the edge of a field beside the Burn of Geise, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. by S. of Geise, is a mound overgrown with grass. It appears to have been a broch, but it has been quarried into at some time and the greater part of the structure has been removed,

PARISH OF THURSO.

so that there is now no definite indication of its character. This is possibly the "Pict's House" referred to by Bishop Pococke in 1760.

See Pococke's *Tours*, p. 133.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi.

Visited, 13th August 1910.

431. *Broch*, "Bell Mount," *Scrabster*.—On the top of an eminence in a grass park about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NW. of Scrabster House, are the remains of a broch now of slight elevation and overgrown with turf. The diameter seems to be about 54', but no part of the structure is visible.

O.S.M., CAITH., v.

Visited, 13th August 1910.

432. *Broch*, "Thing's Va" *Scrabster*.—At the edge of the moorland towards the S. end of Scrabster Hill is situated the broch of "Thing's Va," which has been partially excavated. It has stood on a mound cut off from the higher level to the N. by a ditch some 30' in width, 8' in depth below the top of the scarp, and about 4' below the top of the bank above the counterscarp. The broch has occupied the centre of the mound some 18' to 20' back from the edge of the ditch. The entrance-passage has been from the SE., and appears to have been 15' in length and 3' 6" in width at the outer end. At 3' 10" inwards on either side the passage expands to 4' 3", forming checks for a door, faced with slabs set edgewise into the wall, constricting the passage-way between them to 2' 10". On the right of the passage behind the door checks there has evidently been the entrance to a guard chamber, the inner edge of which is visible, but neither passage nor chamber are cleared of debris. At 8' inwards from the first door checks are another pair of slabs, opposite to each other, set edgewise into the walls. Beyond this the left wall is concealed by a secondary wall curving round to the right into the interior of the broch, which has not been cleared out. The left wall of the passage exists to a height of about 4', and the right to about 3', and it is roofless throughout. The inner face of the main wall of the broch is exposed at several points, indicating an interior diameter of about 30'. The exterior is not laid bare. In addition to the secondary wall at the end of the passage another is visible some 9' to the left of it in the interior. The diameter of the mound across the top of the broch is about 110'.

The name given to this broch is a corruption of the old Norse term "Thing-völlr," meaning the site of the "thing" or local assembly, or court of laws.

433. *Broch*, *Scrabster*.—Some 60 yards E. of Thing's Va broch is a low grassy mound, with a diameter over all of about 70' and an elevation of about 6', which has to some extent been quarried into from the N. side. It has the appearance of a broch.

O.S.M., CAITH., v.

Visited, 17th August 1910.

434. *Broch*, "Brimside Tulloch," *Lythemore*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. NNW. of Lythemore, at the upper end of a field which lies between the Forss Water and the road from Milton to Forss, are the ruins of a broch. The outer face of the wall is at several places exposed, indicating a diameter over all of some 58'. The greatest elevation is 4' to 5'. A considerable amount of stone is exposed on the surface,

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but the broch does not appear to have been excavated. The situation is on an outcrop of rock with a burn flowing by the foot of it on the S.

O.S.M., CAITH., iv.

Visited, 17th August 1910.

435. *Broch, Hoy*.—In the centre of the steading of Hoy farm are the remains of a broch. The close proximity of the farm-house has necessitated the demolition of the tower on one side, and elsewhere the facing stones have been in large measure removed. The diameter of the mound as it remains is some 45', and its elevation 13' to 14'. A section of the wall exposed shows it to have been 15' in thickness. About 1' below the surface on the top of the mound at the S. edge are protruding the remains of a human skeleton. The body has been laid extended E. and W.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi.

Visited, 7th September 1910.

436. *Broch, Ha' of Duran*.—Some 300 yards WNW. of Ha' of Duran, at the edge of a burn, is a grassy mound which evidently marks the site of a broch. No part of the tower is visible, and the ruin is probably covered with the foundations of secondary buildings. The elevation of the mound is inconsiderable.

O.S.M., CAITH., xii.

Visited, 9th September 1910.

437. *Broch, "Tulloch of Shalmstry," Weydale*.—Situated on the E. side of the road from Thurso to Georgemas, and some 300 yards SE. of Shalmstry farm, is a green mound containing the ruins of a broch. The outer face of the wall is exposed towards the S.E., and the diameter over all appears to have been some 72'. The elevation is about 7'. The entrance passage, which has been from the E., has been cleared out at its outer termination and there measures 2' 10" in width.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi.

Visited, 7th September 1910.

438. *Fort, Holborn Head*.—Across the landward end of the east-most promontory of the headland are the ruins of a broad defensive wall built of the shaley slabs that outcrop in profusion all around. In several places the outer face of the wall is exposed for a height of from 2' to 3', but for the most part it is covered with debris, or in ruins. The actual thickness of the wall is doubtful, but it appears to have been 7' or 8'. In front of this defence the neck of the promontory is cut into from either side by deep narrow chasms into which the waves break, reducing the passage-way to about 60 yards. The entrance through the wall has been opposite this passage.

O.S.M., CAITH., v.

Visited, 13th August 1910.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

439. *Chambered Cairn (horned, long), "Gallow Hill," Sordale Hill*.—Near the SW. end of Sordale Hill, on the top of the slope which rises above the road from Thurso to Georgemas, is a horned long cairn. It occupies a conspicuous position visible on the sky line from afar off on the W. The cairn is overgrown with grass and heather, and the horns are obscured with the exception of that on the E. side of the SSE. extremity. The longest axis lies NNW. and SSE., and the

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cairn rises and expands towards the latter direction. The extreme length is some 240', the breadth at the NNW. 42', and the elevation about 5'. At the SSE. the breadth is 82' and the elevation about 10'. The main part of the cairn measures some 44' in breadth and 7' to 8' at its greatest elevation. The expanded portion at the end is about 90' in length. The one horn which is apparent appears to be about 25' long. There has been a considerable amount of dilapidation in rear of the expanded end and towards the NNW. extremity, which appears to have risen slightly in elevation.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi.

Visited, 7th September 1910.

440. *Chambered Cairn, Sordale Hill.*—Some 25 yards to the S. of the last are the remains of a round chambered cairn. Its diameter at the present time is some 34' and its elevation about 3'; but as the field in which it is situated has long been under cultivation, its dimensions have probably been considerably reduced. The entrance to the chamber has been from the WSW. At 21' inwards from the present edge a slab protrudes, which has evidently formed the back of the chamber. It is exposed for a height of 2' 8" above ground and measures 4' 5" in breadth and 1' 2" in thickness. Some 3' 7" in front of it the heads of two slabs in line and 2' 6" apart are visible, dividing the chamber. Though the chamber is ruined, there is no evidence of its having been excavated.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi. ("Mound"). Visited, 7th September 1910.

441. *Chambered Cairn (horned, long), Sordale Hill.*—On the W. side of Sordale Hill, some 400 yards N. of the long cairn (No. 439), is another. It lies N. and S. and expands and rises slightly towards the latter direction. It has an extreme length of 135'. At the N. end it measures some 34' in breadth and 3' in elevation, and at the S. 53' in breadth and 7' in elevation. Near the centre of its length it is some 40' broad and 4' 6" high. At the S. end both horns are apparent for a distance of some 20' from the cairn, but have been reduced by ploughing. At the N. end the horn on the E. side only is visible, and it extends for a distance of 18' from the cairn. Some 43' along the cairn, from the centre of the N. end, a slab 3' 6" broad, set on end in the direction of the main axis of the cairn, protrudes for a few inches and possibly marks the position of a chamber. The cairn is entirely overgrown with grass, and, though it has been considerably dilapidated, there is no indication of its having been excavated.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi. ("Mound"). Visited, 7th September 1910.

442. *Chambered Cairn, "Unoc na Ciste," Sordale Hill.*—On the top of Sordale Hill, and on the line of the boundary between the parishes of Bower and Thurso, is a chambered cairn. In diameter it measures 63' from N. to S. by 56' from E. to W., and in elevation about 8'. The chamber was partially excavated about fifteen years ago without any record being published, and is now in a ruined state. It entered by a passage from the SSE., is said to have been circular, and to have yielded no relics. A large erect slab, evidently forming the back of the chamber, is visible 20' inwards from the edge. Some three years previous to the excavation there was discovered, beneath

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a large slab at the side of the passage, a flat-bottomed urn, measuring some 4½" in height, decorated in bands of chevron ornament, separated by horizontal lines. This vessel passed into the possession of Sir Francis Tress Barry, and is now in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.* The base of the cairn is marked by a setting of large boulders from 2' to 4' in length, placed on edge at irregular intervals.

O.S.M., CAITH., xii.

Visited, 7th September 1910.

MISCELLANEOUS.

443. *Font, Thurso*.—In rear of the houses in Miller's Lane, Thurso, lies an old octagonal block of freestone with a deep circular basin on the top. It measures 1' 4" in height, 2' 1" in diameter over all, and 1' 7" across the basin. The depth of the basin is 1'. There are no traces of ornament on it. This is said to be the font of St Peter's Church.

444. *Sculptured Stone, Thurso Castle*.—This sculptured symbol stone, known as "The Ulbster Stone" (pl. XLI.), at one time stood in the old burial-ground at Ulbster, from whence it was removed to its present position on the summit of a high conical mound by the side of the avenue, and some 150 yards distant from the front of Thurso Castle. The stone, which is fully illustrated and described in *The Early Christian Monuments of Scotland*, is of old red sandstone, approximately rectangular; measures 5' in height by 3' in width at the top, and 2' 6" at the bottom, and is 7½" thick. Sculptured partly in relief and partly with incised lines on both faces are the following details: *Front*—In the centre a cross with a head, having equal arms terminating in square ends, cusped hollows in the angles between the arms; a narrow shaft, and a rectangular base. In the background of the cross, and on each side of the arms, are animals, one apparently intended for a cow. On the left of the shaft two men kneeling with a cauldron (?) between them; and below, a serpent. On the right of the shaft the flower symbol; and below, a horse and colt. The cross in the centre of the slab is entirely covered with ornament, arranged in ten separate panels filled in with the key pattern, interlaced work, and four-cord plait. *Back*—In the centre a plain Latin cross with four equal arms; at the top the elephant, fish, crescent, and V-shaped rod symbols, and a beast with the tail curved over its back. Below, the step, hippo-campus, and double disc symbols (the latter without the Z-shaped rod), two crescents, and a small circle.

It is greatly to be regretted that the cross on one face has been mutilated by a modern inscription, "The Ulbster Stone," cut in Gothic letters across it. Owing to the exposed situation in which the stone at present stands, the sculpture has suffered considerably and is likely to disappear.

See *Early Christ. Mon.*, pt. iii. p. 33 (illus.).

O.S.M., CAITH., v.

Visited, 6th August 1910.

445. *Sculptured Stone, Thurso Museum*.—In the museum at Thurso lies in pieces a remarkably fine sculptured stone, taken from the

* Information supplied by Mr A. Murray, Land Steward, Stemster.



PLATE XLI.—Sculptured Stone (back), from Ulbster (No. 444).

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chapel at Skinnet. It is a rectangular slab of sandstone 7' 6" in length, 2' 2" in width, and 7" in thickness, and is sculptured partly in relief and partly with incised lines on four faces, thus: *Front*—A cross in relief in the centre of the slab, having four equal arms with expanded ends and small round hollows in the angles; a long, narrow shaft, and a rectangular base. In the background, round the head of the cross, four circular bosses or medallions; on each side of the shaft a serpentine creature, and below the base a pair of stepping horses, evidently yoked together. The ornamentation consists of spiral work, interlaced work, plait work, and loops. *Back*—A cross in the centre of the slab, having a head with square ends and rectangular hollows between the arms: a long, narrow shaft, and a rectangular base, the outline being formed by a band, making a loop at each corner. Though much defaced, the cross had apparently been filled in with interlaced and spiral work. Below the cross is the triple oval symbol similar to that on the Sandside and Keiss stones (Nos. 407 and 577), and at the bottom of all, the crescent and V-shaped sceptre symbol, both symbols being decorated with spiral work in relief. *Right side*—Divided into three panels, one containing an eight-cord plait, another interlaced work almost obliterated, and the third being defaced. *Left side*—Defaced.

This stone was discovered by Mr T. S. Muir in 1861, and the circumstances of its discovery and the state in which it then was, are narrated in his *Ecclesiological Notes* quoted below. It was subsequently removed to Thurso Museum.

See Muir's *Eccles. Notes*, p. 105 (illus.): *Early Christ. Mon.*, pt. iii. p. 30 (illus.).

446. *Cross (rune-inscribed), Thurso Museum.*—In the museum at Thurso is a cross roughly hewn out of a slab of Caithness flagstone bearing on its shaft an inscription in Scandinavian runes (fig. 29). It was found when some old buildings were taken down near the E. end of St Peter's Church, Thurso, in 1896. At a depth of some 5' from ordinary level were found in the course of excavation two cists containing human skeletons. On the top of the larger cist, which contained the remains of an adult buried in a contracted position, lay the cross slab. Its whole length is 2' 9". The shaft measures 2' 1½" in length by 6¼" in breadth at the lower end, tapering slightly to 5¾" at the intersection of the arms. The cross head measures 8" across, the projection of the arms being less than 2", and their vertical width at the ends 4¾". The summit is partially broken away, so that it only rises 1½" above

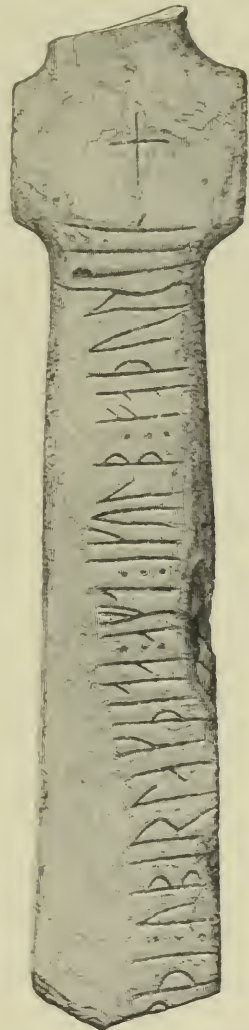


FIG. 29. — Cross (rune-inscribed) found near St Peter's Church, Thurso (No. 446). Scale, ½ linear.

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the arms and shows a breadth of $4\frac{3}{4}$ ". The thickness of the slab throughout is $1\frac{1}{2}$ ".

The inscription, which is somewhat irregularly cut along one side of the obverse in letters varying from 3" to 4" in height, reads from the base upwards (the lower part of the shaft containing its commencement is wanting), and has been interpreted

—(GE)RTHI UBIRLAK THITA AFT IKULB FOTHUR SIN
—made overlay this after Ingulf father his

See *Antiquaries*, xxxi. p. 293 (illus.); *Early Christ. Mon.*, pt. iii. p. 36 (illus.).

O.S.M., CAITH., v.

Visited, 21st September 1910.

447. *Mound*, "Torran Dubh."—About 1 m. SE. of Mains of Brims, on the E. side of the farm road, and some 150 yards SE. of the neighbouring farm-steading, is a grassy mound which is probably a cairn. Its longest axis is NW. and SE. and it measures some 93' × 47'. The elevation of it is about 5'. It is overgrown with vegetation and has been under cultivation.

O.S.M., CAITH., iv. ("Brough").

Visited, 8th August 1910.

448. *Mound*, "Rossy Hillock," *Murkle*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NW. of West Murkle farm-house, at the corner of a field, is a mound which bears the name of "Rossy Hillock." It probably covers the ruins of a broch, but it has been long under cultivation and its dimensions are now quite indefinite.

O.S.M., CAITH., v. ("Cairn").

Visited, 20th August 1910.

SITES.

449. *Bishop's Castle or Scrabster Castle, Thurso*.—On a low promontory rock rising from the shore about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the NW. of Thurso, are the fragmentary ruins of the Castle of the Bishops of Caithness. The ruins of a wall at the edge of the rock and the foundations of one or two buildings which have surrounded the courtyard are all that remains. A small triangular-headed window enriched with dog-tooth ornament, taken from the ruins, is built into an outbuilding at Scrabster House.

The earliest record of the castle seems to be under date 1328, when Sir Robert of Peblis' chamberlain claimed in his account the sum of £3, 2s. 4d. as paid for keeping the castle of Scraboster during the vacancy of the See. In 1455 William, Bishop of Caithness, granted to his brother Gilbert Mudy, the keeping of the castle of Scrabestoun and of the surrounding lands confirmed by James III. in 1478. About the year 1544, during the banishment of the bishop and the temporary appointment of Alexander Gordon to the bishopric, the castle was seized by the Earl of Caithness. In 1557 Bishop Robert, on the narrative of numerous benefits received from John, Earl of Sutherland, appointed that nobleman and his heirs hereditary constables of the Castle of Scrabster, "situated among the wild and uncivilised Scots, and in a wintry region." In 1726 it was described as being wholly in ruins.

An old roadway cut in the face of the bank between the ruins

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of the Bishop's Castle and the burn at Scrabster House is known as the Bishop's Walk.

See *Origines*, ii., pt. ii. pp. 611 and 754; Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.* i. p. 172; Forbes' *Journals*, p. 198.

O.S.M., CAITH., v.

Visited, 13th August 1910.

450. *Construction, Ushat Head*.—At the edge of the bank above the rocks about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of Mains of Brims, there are exposed the remains of what appears to be an early structure. The plan is indefinite, but the surface mounds suggest an oblong building with rounded ends.

O.S.M., CAITH., iv. (unnoted).

Visited, 8th August 1910.

451. *Fortified Site, West Murkle*.—Just opposite the termination of the farm road which leads past West Murkle farm is a small promontory across the landward end of which is a wall or rampart measuring some 8' to 10' in thickness, 8' in height from the landward side, and 6' to seaward. The end and sides of the promontory are much eroded and there is no trace of the structure, if any, which formerly existed in rear of the defence.

O.S.M., CAITH., vi. ("Brough").

Visited, 20th August 1910.

452. *Cairn, Hopefield*.—Of the cairn at Hopefield indicated on the the O.S. map there is now hardly a trace, as a road has been cut through the middle of it.

O.S.M., CAITH., v.

Visited, 17th August 1910.

453. *Mound, "Cnoc an Taillir"*.—The O.S. map indicates a small mound bearing the name of "Cnoc an Taillir," on the N. end of Sordale Hill, in an angle of the moorland adjoining the cultivated land, about $\frac{1}{3}$ m. NW. of the cairn "Cnoc na Ciste" (No. 442), near the summit of the hill.

O.S.M., CAITH., xii.

454. *Wall (remains), Brims*.—About $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. E. of Mains of Brims is a long promontory rock lying parallel with the shore cliffs and separated from them by a deep and narrow geo. Running along the edge of the rocks above this geo are the remains of a wall, but on the promontory in rear of it there is no sign of any structure visible.

O.S.M., CAITH., v. ("Brough").

Visited, 8th August 1910.

455. *Broch, Oust*.—In the stackyard of the steading at Oust are two small excavations which have probably been the well and cellar of a broch. The westmost of the two, which appears to have been a cellar or store, is roughly rectangular, about 5' square, having the lower part cut out of the solid rock and finished above with a converging roof covered with slabs. The greatest height is 5' 4" above the present floor level. It is reached by a steep flight of fourteen steps cut out of the rock, measuring 6" in breadth of tread. The stairway is 2' wide. The vertical height from the present floor level to the level of the top step is 8' 6" and to the ground 11' 3". Some 5' distant is the other excavation, entered from the opposite direction. It is a mere shaft, measuring about 2' square, down one side of which are seven steps or shelves formed of thin flags built into the wall,

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directly one above the other, with a clear space between. The shaft at the bottom curves slightly to the right, and measures 4' × 2'. The lower portion is entirely cut out of the rock. The depth from the level of the original building to the lowest exposed floor level is 9' 2".

O.S.M., CAITH., xi. ("Broughs"). Visited, 17th August 1910.

The O.S. maps indicate sites as under—:

456. <i>Castle of Haimer, Haimer.</i>	O.S.M., CAITH., v.
457. <i>Ormelie Castle, Thurso.</i>	" " "
458. <i>Bishop's Bridge, near Thurso Castle.</i>	" " "

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ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

459. *Chapel (in ruins), Old Hall of Dunn.*—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. by W. of Old Hall farm-house, within a graveyard, are the ruins of an old church. It measures interiorly 48' × 18', has its entrance door in the E. end, and two elliptical arched windows in the S. wall. It appears to be a building of late date. Beneath the W. half of the church is a burial vault which may belong to an earlier structure.

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii.

Visited, 25th May 1910.

460. *Chapel (remains of), The Clow.*—At a spot known as The Clow, where the Scouthal Burn makes a sharp turn towards the E. from its northward course at the upper end of the Scouthal wood, are the fragmentary remains of a chapel. It appears to have consisted of a chancel and nave, the former measuring interiorly 14' × 10', and the latter 26' or 27' × 16'. The walls have been some 4' in thickness. A faced opening through the E. wall of the chancel near the N. side seems to indicate an entrance, while a depression in the mound covering the S. wall of the nave near its W. end probably marks the doorway into that portion of the church. The base of the wall separating the two areas has been some 4' 6" in thickness. The walls appear to have been built without mortar. The wall of the nave in places on the interior is visible for some 3' in height, otherwise it is overgrown with turf. To the W. of the ruin is an old enclosure and several foundations of old rectangular buildings around it. It is stated to have been ruinous in 1726, when it was used as the burial-place only of strangers and unbaptised children.

See Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 180.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiii.

Visited, 27th May 1910.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

461. *Broch, Old Hall of Dunn.*—Some 200 yards S. of Old Hall is a grass-covered stony mound, probably covering the ruins of a broch. A few flat stones are visible on the surface, but there is no accurate indication either of the extent of the ruin or of its character. The mound at highest has an elevation of some 4'. The situation of the mound is on the top of a high bank above a burn, and for a distance of some 30' there remains a low segmental rampart along

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the edge of this bank. The diameter across the centre of the mound from the top of the rampart is 58'.

462. *Broch, "Cairn of Dunn," Old Hall of Dunn.*—Across a glen from the last mentioned broch, and some 350 yards SE. of Old Hall, is another round stony mound, probably a broch. It is situated in a cultivated field, commanding an extensive prospect, and has been frequently ploughed over. The surface is strewn with fragments of slaty stone, but no structure is visible. The diameter of the mound is about 100', and its elevation some 3'.

463. *Broch, Old Hall of Dunn.*—Some 500 yards N. of Old Hall, on the N. side of the public road near the edge of a cultivated field, is a large grass-covered mound which probably contains the remains of a broch. No part of the structure is visible, but a circular depression on the summit near the N. end may indicate the interior court. The surface of the field is lowest on the W., and from that direction the mound has an elevation of about 11'. From the N. the greatest height is some 8'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii.

Visited, 25th May 1910.

464. *Broch, Green Hill, Wester Watten.*—A grass-covered knoll immediately to the W. of Wester Watten House conceals the remains of a broch. The only part of the structure visible is the entrance passage facing the S., which has been partially cleared out. The total length of passage wall exposed is 31' on the left, and 29' on the right. The inner end is not exposed, but where last visible the left wall is curving to the right. At 8' in from the exterior on the left side and 8' 6" on the right, are door checks formed by slabs. No bar holes appear behind them. The passage outside the checks measures 2' 6" in width, and immediately in rear of them 5'. It thereafter again contracts, and at 14' from the outside, where the first lintel is met, it is 2' 8". At 18' 6" from the outside on the right is the entrance to a guard chamber. The entrance is 2' 6" wide, and the chamber and passage to it are almost filled with debris. At 4' inwards in the main passage from the inner side of the entrance to the guard chamber is another door check, projecting 6" into the passage, but the corresponding check on the opposite wall is not exposed. The lintels cover the passage for a distance of 7' 6". The diameter of the mound along the line of the passage is some 92', and at right angles to that direction 86'; its elevation is from 9' to 10'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii.

Visited, 25th May 1910.

465. *Broch (supposed), Banks of Watten.*—On the moor about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. WSW. of Banks of Watten at the W. end of a low ridge is a grassy mound. The number of flattish stones exposed over its surface suggest that it covers the ruins of a broch. The outline of the remains apart from the natural level of the ridge is so indefinite that dimensions are unobtainable.

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii. ("Cairn of Achoy").

Visited, 27th May 1910.

466. *Broch, "Bail a' Chairn," Acharole.*—About 2 m. up the Burn of Acharole from Watten and near Acharole are the conspicuous remains of a broch. From the moorland there rises a grassy hillock

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(pl. XLII.) on the sides and summit of which much shaley stone has been exposed. The mound is somewhat oval on plan, with its longest axis E. and W. At an elevation of some 8' or 9' on the N. and S. sides, and gradually diminishing to 2' or 3' at the E. and W. ends, is a terrace, or glacis, some 12' to 14' in width. Along the outer edge of this terrace on the N. are visible the remains of a wall or stony rampart now some 8' to 10' broad at base. The upper portion of the hillock, which contains the ruins of the broch, measures in diameter from E. to W. about 108' and from N. to S. about 78'. Its elevation from the level of the terrace at the E. and W. ends is some 14', and from the N. and S. about 9' 6". The lower part of the hillock as well as the upper is to some extent artificial.

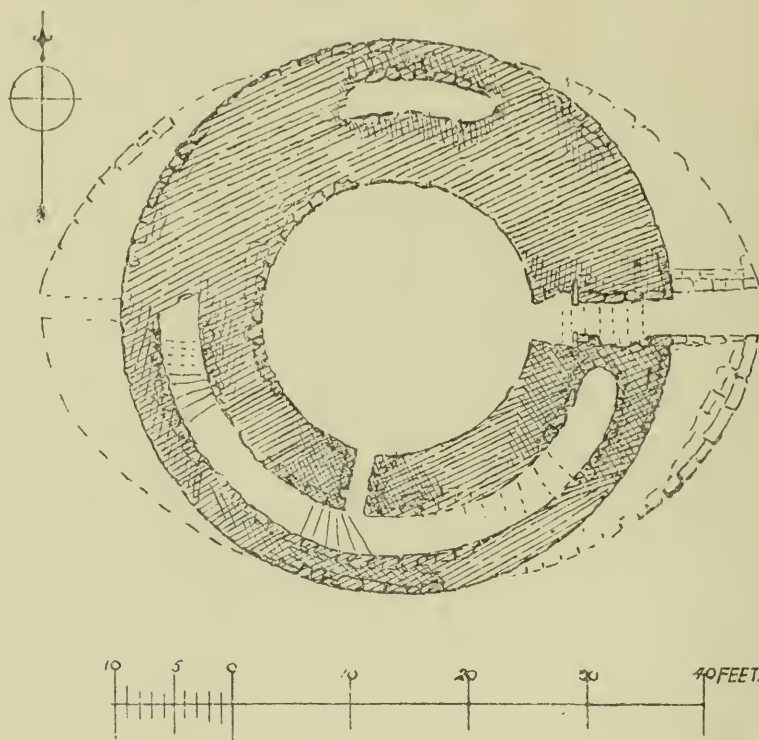


FIG. 30.—Broch, "Bail a' Chairn," Acharole (No. 466); Ground-plan.

This broch was almost completely excavated in 1904 by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry. A plan made during the course of the excavation is here reproduced. The entrance to the broch was on the E. side. Outside the main building it passed through what appeared to be an outer casing wall for a distance of some 22', and was provided with a door at 5', and probably also with another at 14', from the outside. On the right-hand side, some 5' in from the outer door, was a guard chamber. The width of this portion of the entrance was at its outer end 2', and where it joined the main wall about 4'. The passage through the main wall was some 14' in length and some 3' in width at its commencement. At 11' inwards from the outer face was a rebate for a door, beyond which the passage expanded to about 4' in width. The covering slabs remained *in situ* over the greater part of the main passage, which measured some 5' 6" in height. The interior diameter of the broch was about 30'. At 25', measured direct, from the inner end of the entrance passage

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PLATE XLII.—Broch, "Baill a' Chairn," Acharole (No. 466).



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on the left, was an entrance 2' above floor level, measuring some 2' in width, 4' 6" in height, and 5' in length, leading to the stair, which rose to the right and was visible for a distance of some 25', with a width of about 3'. At the foot of the stair was a long chamber some 33' in length, finished with a rounded end. The entrance to the stair and part of the guard chamber still retained their roofs of flagstones. Some 5' to the E. of the entrance to the stair was a small built aperture about 1½' wide by 4' in height, placed high in the wall, giving light to the long chamber within. Between it and the stair entrance was a small recess or ambry, while another recess of larger dimensions was situated some 8' above the ground, about 9' to the left of the main entrance. Measured direct, some 15' from the right of the inner end of the entrance was a passage some 2' wide and 5' long leading to another stair, also rising to the right. In the interior court to the left of the entrance was a rectangular setting of flags erected against the wall, and from the floor other three flags projected respectively on either side and across the front of the doorway, the latter some 3' back from it. The greatest height of wall exposed in the interior was 10'. The broch was filled in by order of the proprietor before its excavation was completed.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiii.

Visited, 27th May 1910.

467. *Broch, "Carn a' Chladda," Scouthal.*—On the W. side of the road to Acharole, from Watten, about ½ m. beyond Scouthal, is a grassy hillock. The character of the stones disclosed about its surface points to its being a broch. It measures some 70' in diameter and some 10' in elevation.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiii.

Visited, 27th May 1910.

468. *Broch, Watten.*—In a grass park on the edge of a bank above the Strath Burn, and about ¼ m. S. by W. of Watten village, are the remains of a broch beneath a grass-covered knoll. The base of the building is exposed at one or two places showing that the diameter over all was 64'. On the SE. for a distance of about 8' a small portion of wall is exposed to a height of some 2', evidently the inner wall face of a chamber. The mound is about 8' high.

On the S. several very large boulders in line project a foot or two above the turf at a distance of 22' from the base of the broch, indicating the remains of an outer wall.

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii. ("Mound").

Visited, 27th May 1910.

469. *Broch, Cogle, or Coghill.*—The remains of this broch are situated in the stackyard to the E. of Coghill farm-house, and are now only recognisable as a low mound with an elevation of some 2' overgrown with vegetation. The ruin was excavated by Dr Anstruther Davidson in 1905, and a number of relics were found in it. These consist of bones, shells, deer-horn, remains of three vessels of unornamented pottery, numerous stone pounders, rubbing stones, thin discs of shale, and a fine bone pin, etc. Querns are represented by remains of the saddle variety only. The relics are preserved at the school-house at Gersa and in the farm-house.

A plan made at the time of the excavation by Mr John Nicolson, Nybster, and here reproduced (fig. 31), shows the following

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particulars:—The broch was entered from the W. by a passage going direct through the wall some 17' in length. For 13' inwards it maintained a uniform width of about 2' 6". At that point a rebate formed checks for a door and the passage expanded to 4', contracting again slightly at its inner extremity. Behind the door check on the left of the passage was found *in situ* a hollowed stone in which the pivot of the door had worked. The interior court measured some 29' in diameter. On the left, 19' 6" distant, measured direct from the inner end of the entrance passage, an opening in the wall some 3' wide led to the staircase at 6' in from the inner face of the wall. The stair, as usual, rose to the right. At the foot of it was a chamber

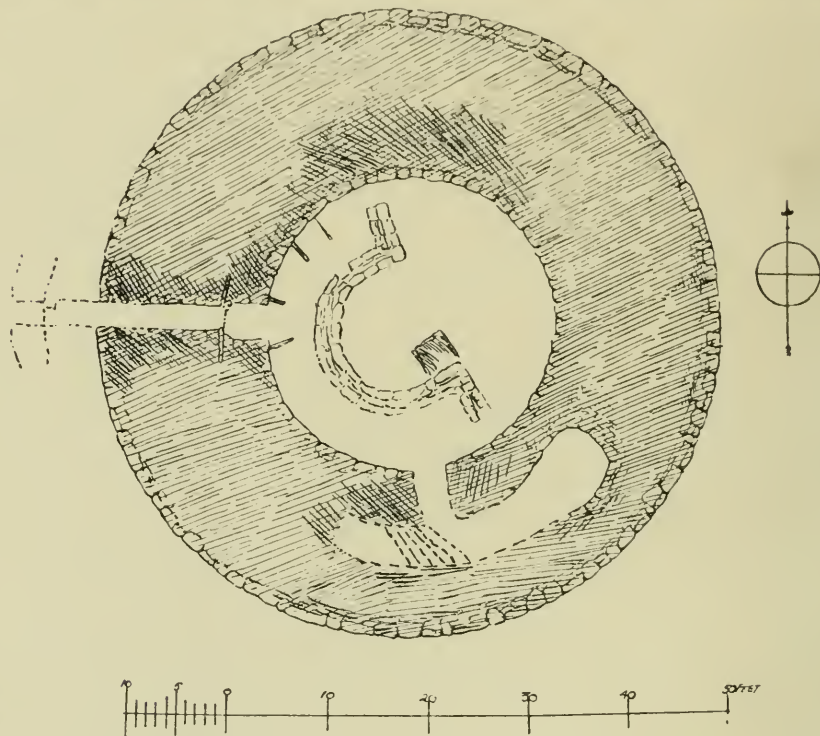


FIG 31.—Broch, Coghill (Cogle) (No. 469); Ground-plan.

some 16' 6" in length, 4' wide at its commencement, expanding inwards to a width of 7'. Across the interior of the broch was built at about 5' out from the inner end of the entrance passage, a semi-circular wall having its convex face towards the entrance. This wall was some 2' 6" in thickness and stood to a height of 3'. At either end it projected outward at right angles for a distance of some 4'. Against it at the S. end within the semicircle was a hearth, marked off by stones, some 3' square. On either side of the main entrance in the interior, a single flagstone some 6" in height projected from the wall, and some 7' to the left was another pair of stones, 2' high, similarly placed and 3' apart. To the outside of the main entrance to the broch there were indications of an outer casing wall through which the passage led.

O.S.M., CAITH., xix. (unnoted).

Visited, 30th May 1910.

470. *Broch, Scottag.*—Close to the road to the SE. of Scottag farm-house is a low mound overgrown with grass and surmounted with a modern cairn. Its elevation of some 5' above the level of

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the field appears to have been considerably reduced by the removal of stones. The flat stones exposed about its surface show it to be the remains of a broch. The O.S. map records that a stone cist containing human remains and bronze ornaments was found here in 1870.

O.S.M., CAITH., xix. ("Cairn"). Visited, 30th May 1910.

471. *Broch, "Grey Cairn," Lynegar.*—In a grass field about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SSE. of Lynegar House, and some 100 yards N. of Loch Watten, is a grassy mound which has been under cultivation. The diameter of the mound is some 79', and its greatest elevation about 5'. From the character of the stones exposed there is no doubt that this is a broch.

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii. ("Mound"). Visited, 1st June 1910.

472. *Broch, Gearsay.*—Situated in an arable field some 250 yards E. of Gersay farm, is a grass-covered mound surmounted by a small modern cairn of flat stones. There are no stones visible on the surface to indicate the character of the mound, but from those of which the cairn is built it is presumably a broch. The extent is quite indefinite: the greatest elevation some 6'. From the E. side a considerable amount of the mound has been removed.

O.S.M., CAITH., xix. ("Gearsay Cairn").

Visited, 1st June 1910.

473. *Broch, Achingale.*—On the top of the right bank of the Strath Burn, just below the farm of Achingale, are the remains of a mound, which was opened in 1841 and found to contain the ruins of a broch. Only a small segment now exists: the rest has been removed. The O.S. map notes the finding of a deer-horn comb and a stone cist containing human remains.

See *Antiquaries*, ix. p. 183.

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii.

Visited, 4th June 1910.

474. *Broch, Spital.*—To the ENE. of Spital quarries, and some 250 yards E. of Spital farm, in the centre of an arable field, is a grassy mound evidently covering the ruins of a broch. It measures some 80' in diameter, and some 6' to 7' in elevation. The top shows a depression about 34' in diameter and 4' to 5' in depth (O.S. "Mound").

475. *Broch, Knockglass.*—About 150 yards to the ENE. of Knockglass farm-house, rising from an arable field, is a conical grass-covered mound containing the ruins of a broch. It measures in diameter some 120' from E. to W. and some 95' from N. to S., and in elevation some 12' to 13'. It has been broken into for a short distance on the NE. (O.S. "Mound").

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii.

Visited, 16th June 1910.

HUT CIRCLES.

476. *Hut Circles, Flex Hill.*—At the N. end of Flex Hill, some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. S. of Strath farm-house, close to the wire fence which runs westward across the moor from the Camster Road, is a group of hut circles. The furthest up the slope of the hill, about 100 yards distant from

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the road, is circular, measuring some 20' in diameter interiorly. The bank is now quite low, and its breadth too indefinite for measurement. The floor has been dug out, so that its level is 3' below that of the natural level on the upper side and 1½' to 2' on the lower. The position of the entrance is not evident.

The second circle, which is situated some 80' W. of the first, has an interior diameter of from 18' to 20', and an entrance seemingly from the SW. The bank appears to be some 8' to 10' in thickness, but it is not accurately measurable. The interior has also been dug out, but not so deeply as in the circle last described.

Some 20' to the NW. of the second lies a third circle. The interior diameter is about 21', and the entrance from the SW. The bank measures in thickness about 11', and around the lower side it is still a foot or two in height. The interior has also been dug out, and its level is from 2' 6" to 3' below that of the hill slope on the upper side.

Some 30 yards N. of the last is yet another, which has been partially destroyed by the formation of a sheep drain across the lower end of it. The diameter of the interior is some 9' across and 11' towards the entrance, which has been from the SW. The entrance appears to have been very wide. The section exposed by the cutting of the drain shows that the bank is formed of earth or peat and small stones.

Some yards to the N. of the hut circles adjacent to the wire fence, and some 50 yards NNE. of the remains of a large cairn (No. 489), is another hut circle. The bank is entirely overgrown and much spread, and measures some 12' in breadth at base. The entrance has been from WSW., now of indefinite width, and the interior diameter some 24'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiv. ("Cairns"). Visited, 30th June 1910.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

477. "*Toddy Hillock*," *Aukengill Bridge*.—In a field some 300 yards SE. of Aukengill Bridge is a low oval cairn lying with its longest axis E. and W. and measuring some 22' × 17'. Its greatest elevation is only 1½'. Being largely overgrown with turf little is visible, and it is probably only a fragment of the original construction. It bears the name of "Toddy Hillock."

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii.

Visited, 1st June 1910.

478. *Chambered Cairn*, "*Oslie Cairn*," *Lynegar*.—Some 350 yards S. by W. of Lynegar House, and about 100 yards N. of the shore of Loch Watten, is a grass-covered hillock which seems to be a chambered cairn. On the summit, just protruding through the soil is the edge of a large slab lying NNW. and SSE., measuring about 6' 5" in length and 9" or 10" in thickness, while parallel to its ENE. face at either end and 2' to 3' distant are two shorter slabs about 1' 9" in length. The outline of the mound is very indefinite, but the diameter appears to be from 50' to 60'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii. ("Brough").

Visited, 1st June 1910.

479. *Cairn (supposed)*, *Lynegar*.—In a grass park on the N. side of the road to Wick, and some 500 yards ENE. of Lynegar House, is

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a grass-covered mound with a diameter of 93' from N. to S. and 99' from E. to W., with an elevation of from 5' to 6'. There are no definite indications on the surface of the character of the construction, but such stones as are visible are suggestive rather of a cairn than of a broch.

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii. ("Mound"). Visited, 1st June 1910.

480. *Cairn, Scouthal*.—On the summit of a ridge running parallel on the W. with the Scouthal Burn, at the NE. extremity of Scouthal wood, and some 400 yards SW. of the shepherd's cottage, is a grass-covered cairn. In diameter it measures some 30' to 32', and in elevation 3' 6" to 4'. It was opened by Sir Francis Tress Barry, but no cist or sign of interment was found.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiii. Visited, 27th May 1910.

481. *Cairns (supposed), The Craigan, Strath*.—On the top of a high bank on the E. of the Strath Burn, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SW. of Strath, is a heap of stones which appears to be a cairn much dilapidated, and now with an elevation of only from 1' to 2'. It lies with its longest axis N. and S., is about 70' in length and 16' in width. There is no sign of either chamber or cist.

A few feet to the W. of it at its N. end is a small circular cairn of about 9' diameter and 1' elevation.

Some 80' to the S. on a level terrace at a bend in the burn is another long heap of stones similar to that above noticed. It lies with its longest axis E. and W. and measures some 40' \times 16'. The elevation of this construction is also trifling. There is no sign of either chamber or cist.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiv. Visited, 4th June 1910.

482. *Cairn (supposed), "Gallow Hillock," Backlass*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the S. of Houstry of Dunn farm buildings, on an enclosed track of waste land, is a mound which bears the name of the "Gallow Hillock." It is entirely overgrown with turf, but the boulders which protrude from it suggest that it is possibly a cairn. It is some 85' in length, lying with its main axis SE. and NW. At the SE. end it measures 21' across, and, gradually expanding, measures at the NW. 42'. Its greatest elevation is about 3'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii. Visited, 25th May 1910.

483. *Stone Circle, Old Hall of Dunn*.—On the S. end of a low ridge, about 100 yards N. of Old Hall farm-house, is a single standing-stone 4' 4" high above ground, 3' 3" in breadth, and 1' 5" in thickness. It faces N. and S. This is said to have formed part of a stone circle.

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii. Visited, 25th May 1910.

484. *Stone Circle (remains of), Acharole*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of the broch of "Bail a' Chairn" (No. 466) is a standing-stone. It is a large boulder, oblong in transverse section, some 4' 10" in height, 13' in circumference, and 4' in longest diameter. At 21' 3" to the W. of it lies displaced another block, measuring 6' in length, 2' 8" in breadth, and 1' 9" in depth. Both stones have probably been members of a stone circle.

In a mound near by, opened for gravel in August 1904, there was

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found a cist containing an unburnt burial and an urn, which is preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh. The urn is a fine example of the low-brimmed variety of the "beaker" or "drinking cup" type, measuring $7\frac{3}{4}$ " in height by $5\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter across the mouth, and 3" in diameter at the base. Its thickness is not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ " throughout, and its ornamentation is linear in character.

See *Antiquaries*, xxxix. p. 418 (illus.).

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiii. ("Standing-Stone").

Visited, 27th May 1910.

MISCELLANEOUS.

485. *Standing-Stone, Watten*.—In a field to the W. of Greystones, some 40 yards N. of the high road, is a single standing-stone. It is a pointed boulder 4' 9" in height above ground, roughly quadrangular, measuring 3' x 2' 2". Another stone is recorded as having stood adjacent to it.

See *Antiquaries*, ix. p. 183.

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii.

Visited, 9th June 1910.

486. *Standing-Stone, Halsary*.—Some $2\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. of Mybster Inn, and about 100 yards E. of the road to Lybster, is a large grey schistose slab, now split vertically into three portions, and facing N. by W. and S. by E. It measures 4' 7" in height, 3' 6" in breadth near the upper end, and 2' 9" at base. It has been about 1' 5" in thickness.

487. *Standing-Stone, do.*—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. of the last the O.S. map marks another standing-stone. On the spot are two stones, either or neither of which may be a standing-stone. That nearest the road is a round pillar measuring about 1' 6" in diameter, and protruding about 1' above ground, and visible for other 10" below the ground level. The second stone is lying almost horizontally some 35' to the E. It is 3' 10" in length, 2' 11" in breadth, and 4" in thickness.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiii.

Visited, 16th June 1910.

488. *Mound, Watten*.—On a piece of moorland about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. by W. of Watten manse, is a grassy mound which has been evidently removed to a considerable extent. Near the centre is a partial circle of boulders some 14" to 18" in length, and protruding to about the same extent above the turf. The diameter of the interior is 12', and there appears to have been an entrance from the S. The character of this construction is not obvious.

O.S.M., CAITH., xviii. (unnoted).

Visited, 1st June 1910.

SITES.

489. *Cairn, "Carn Liath," Flex Hill*.—At the N. end of Flex Hill, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. S. of Strath farm-house, and some 100 yards E. of the road, is the site of a large cairn which has measured some 66' in diameter.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiv.

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The O.S. map indicates sites as under.—

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 490. <i>St Catherine's Monastery, near Watten</i>
<i>Manse.</i> | O.S.M., CAITH., xix. |
| 491. <i>St Catherine's Nunnery, near Watten</i>
<i>Manse.</i> | " " |
| 492. <i>Cairn, Bylbster.</i> | " " |

The O.S. map records that a stone cist containing an urn, human remains, and a bronze ornament, was found at this cairn.

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ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES.

493. *Sinclair Aisle, Wick.*—This is an uninteresting fragment of the old church of St Fergus, with unseemly modern crenellations along the wall heads, situated in the graveyard adjoining the parish church. It is said to have been built by George, fourth Earl of Caithness, who died in 1583. *The New Statistical Account* states "that there is in the aisle a stone commemorating John, Master of Caithness, who was cruelly done to death in the dungeon of Girnigoe in 1576." This slab was not observed.

Recumbent Effigy.—Within lies the recumbent ecclesiastical effigy long known in Wick as a statue of St Fergus the patron saint, which, after reposing in the town jail and subsequently doing duty as a statue set upright in a garden plot by the Town Buildings, has finally here found a resting-place. The figure dates from the end of the 15th or early part of the 16th century. It is represented as habited in a long, loose, cassock-like garment with narrow loose sleeves. The head is tonsured, and round it the hair is fairly long. The hands are clasped in prayer. On the breast lies a cross with notched ends to the arms; and small round bosses, evidently representing jewels, are shown on the arms of the cross and on a lozenge-shaped addition at the intersection. The face has been re-dressed. The feet rest on a couchant or dormant lion. The extreme length of the effigy is 5' 1". It is referred to in the description of the parish, dated 1726, published in Macfarlane's *Geographical Collections*, as follows:—"There is the E. end of it (the church of St Fergus) on the N. side under a little pend, a hewn stone with a man at full length on it, which is said to be his (St Fergus') effigies engraven on stone."

Sepulchral Monuments.

Against the E wall is placed erect a memorial slab 5' 9" long by 2' 7" broad, having in the centre a heraldic shield bearing impaled arms, viz.:—Dexter, A cross engrailed: Sinister, Three boars' heads coupéd between initials M. I. S. and I. C. Around and across the slab runs the following inscription:—

HEIR LYIS ANE HONORABIL WOMAN JEAN CHISHOLM
SPOUS TO M. JOHNE SINCLAIR OF ULBSTER WHA
DEPARTED YIS LYIF THE 23 NOVEMBER 1614.

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Beneath the shield is inscribed—

DECIPIMUR VOTIS ET TEMPORE FALLIMUR ET MORS
DERIDET CURAS ANXIA VITA NIHIL

with a skull and single bone surmounted with the "Memento Mori" legend. This John Sinclair and his wife are evidently the couple commemorated on the heraldic stone above the mantelpiece of the farm-house at Ulbster.

Adjoining is a similar memorial slab, now, however, illegible, to another member of the Ulbster family.

See Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 158; *Antiquaries*, xlv. p. 369 (illus.); *New Stat. Acct. Suth., etc.*, xv. p. 142.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxv.

Visited, 12th July 1910.

CASTELLATED AND DOMESTIC STRUCTURES.

494. *Ackergill Tower*.—Northwards from Wick some $2\frac{1}{2}$ m., and within a mile of the wild, sea-environed site of Girnigoe Castle, stands the tower of Ackergill (pl. XLIII.). In perfect contrast to Girnigoe, it is situated on level ground which slopes gently towards the sea. The tower, which is still inhabited, was, some sixty years ago, altered by the enlargement of windows and doors, and the renewal of the cope house and battlements on the top storey, and it has also been added to. It is a square building measuring about $48' \times 34'$, and is five storeys high. The present entrance is in the centre of the N.W. side, through a wall originally 9' thick, giving access to a vaulted basement 9' high and probably used as a kitchen. The original stair to the first floor has been removed. The hall on the first floor measures $28' \times 18'$, and is 23' high to the roof, which is also vaulted, and from it a stair leads to a gallery midway in the height of the hall. Entering from the hall at the N. corner, diagonally opposite to the top of the stair from the ground floor, a wheel-stair leads to the upper floors. These floors are divided into two rooms, and in the thickness of their NW. and SE. walls there are arched passages and closets of from 4' to 5' in width. From the third floor upwards in the N. angle the wheel-stair is continued leading to the upper floor and battlements. In the entrance-hall is a built well 25' deep and still containing water. The tower, having no strength in its situation, was doubtless surrounded by walls and ditches, but all traces of these have long since disappeared. SW. of the tower there are two dove-cots of 18th-century date with lean-to roofs. The actual date of the erection of the tower is unknown, but it was probably at the close of the 15th or commencement of the 16th century. The property on which it was situated belonged to the Keiths of Inverugie, who acquired it by the marriage of John Keith with Marion, one of the two daughters and heiresses of Rannald or Reginald Cheyne, in 1354.

The earliest mention of the tower occurs in a Notarial Instrument in August 1510, in which Gilbert Mowat of Brabister Myir is mentioned as captain of the house of Akergill.¹ On 30th June 1538 William, Earl Marshall, and Margaret Keith his spouse, received a Crown Charter of the lands and tower of Akergill, following on the



PLATE XLIII.—Ackergill Tower (No. 494).

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resignation of Elizabeth Keith, sister of Margaret, and with her co-heiress of William Keith of Inverugie.²

Queen Mary, in 1547, granted a remission to George, Earl of Caithness, and numerous dependants for treasonably taking and holding the castle, and for taking Alexander Keith the captain and John Skarlet his servitor, and detaining them against their will in the place of Girnigoe, in Brawall, and in other places.³

In 1592-93 a complaint was made to the Privy Council by George, Earl Marshall, and Lord Atree his uncle, that Mr Robert Keith, the Earl's brother, had taken his house of Akergill with the intention of molesting the neighbourhood, with the result that Keith was pronounced a rebel.⁴ The Earl Marshall evidently did not make the tower a residence. In 1598 the Earl again laid a complaint before the Lords that John Keith in Subster and his two sons, with other persons, came by night "and ledderit the walls of his place of Akirgill," and entered and spoiled the castle, wounded his servants, and "now keeps the place."⁵

In the expedition of Sir Robert Gordon in 1623 against George, Earl of Caithness, the tower, which had been strengthened and provisioned by the Earl, was at once surrendered.⁶ Gordon of Straloch, writing between 1608 and 1661, mentions the tower as having passed into possession of the Earls of Caithness, and as being neglected owing to its proximity to Castles Sinclair and Girnigoe.⁷ The Cromwellian troops are said to have garrisoned it in 1651.⁸

In 1726 it is referred to as a strong house yet in repair, with a new house lately built between it and the sea, "both now belonging to the family of Hempriggs,"⁹ and by the representatives of this family it is still possessed.

Bishop Forbes visited the tower in 1762 and has left a description of it.¹⁰ He mentions that the vaulted chamber on the ground floor was then used as a kitchen, and that Sir William Dunbar had cut out some large windows, and was "doing up the tower in a very pretty and elegant manner."

Daniell gives an illustration of it as it appeared in 1821.¹¹

See ¹ *Laing Charters*, No. 275 p. 70; ² *Reg. Mag. Sig.*; ³ *Reg. Sec. Sig., Origines*, ii., pt. ii. p. 778; ⁴ *Reg. Privy Council*, v. p. 45; ⁵ *ibid.*, p. 455; ⁶ Gordon's *Earldom of Sutherland*, p. 379; ⁷ Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, ii. p. 452; ⁸ *ibid.*, i. p. 159; ⁹ Calder's *Caithness*, p. 179; ¹⁰ Forbes' *Journals*, p. 210; ¹¹ Daniell's *Voyage*, v. (illus.); see also *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, iii. p. 250 (plans and illus.); *Old Lore Miscellany, etc.*, vol. iv., pt. i., January 1911.

O.S.M., CAITH., xx.

Visited, 7th June 1910.

495. *Castle of Old Wick, or "Old Man of Wick."*—A little over 1 m S. of the town of Wick, on the top of the cliffs, stands the Castle of Old Wick (pl. XLIV.). It occupies a remarkable situation near the landward end of a narrow promontory which projects for about 100 yards to seaward, flanked by deep inlets or geos, up which the sea surges, on either side. The top of the rock stands some 100' above the sea level. The keep, which still remains to a height of some 25' to 30', is a rectangular block of masonry measuring interiorly some 24' × 16' 3", and having walls about 7' in thickness. It has consisted

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of three storeys and a basement, none of which have been vaulted. The doorway has been in the E. end of the NE. wall facing to seaward, and probably on the first floor level, where now is a gap in the wall some 13' wide. There is no sign whatever of there ever having been a stair in the thickness of the wall, though Cordiner, writing in 1776, mentions the existence of narrow stairs of communication thus situated between the upper and lower apartments. On the first floor is a small chamber in the SE. wall near the entrance. On the SE. wall on each floor has been a window, and on the second floor a single aperture overlooks the approach from landward. In the S. corner the wall is badly rent from top to bottom and much bulged.

At the landward end of the promontory, some 30 yards from the keep, there are visible the remains of a low rampart placed across it, while in-rear of it, on either side of the approach, are the foundations of a small rectangular building.

At 60' onwards a trench some 30' in width and 10' in depth has been cut through the rock from side to side immediately adjoining the keep. The approach over this has probably been by a drawbridge on to the area, some 20' in width, which exists between the NW. wall of the castle and the edge of the cliff. Towards the outer end of the promontory, for a distance of 174', there are foundations of buildings on either side with a roadway down the centre, leaving a space measuring some 70' x 47' unbuilt on at the seaward extremity.

The castle is one of the oldest in Caithness, and probably dates from the 14th century. The first known possessor of the lands of Old Wick was Rannald or Reginald Cheyne, who is supposed to have died about the year 1350. He left two daughters, one of whom was married to Nicolas Sutherland and thus took the property into that family. In the latter half of the 15th century Christian, granddaughter and heiress of Sir Alexander Sutherland of Duffus, was married to William, second son of the first Lord Oliphant. The son of this marriage, George Oliphant, received a charter of the lands of "Beredaill, Aldwick," etc., dated 12th August 1497.¹ He seems to have died young, and eventually Andrew, the third son, succeeded. Being unable peaceably to enjoy his property or to reside on it, he sold his Caithness estates to Lawrence, Lord Oliphant, in 1526.² In the feud which at this period existed between the Sutherlands and Sinclairs, Lord Oliphant was involved as kinsman to the former and was participant in various encounters with his powerful neighbours from Girnigoe. In 1569, following on a brawl in the town of Wick, Lord Oliphant was besieged in the castle by John, Master of Caithness, for eight days, until in default "of viveris, speciallie watter," he was compelled to surrender. The whole account of the proceedings on this occasion is picturesquely stated in a complaint to the Privy Council.

In 1644 George, Earl of Caithness, Lord Sinclair of Berriedaill, was served heir male to his father John, Master of Berriedaill, in the earldom of Caithness, including the lands of "Aldwick," etc. The castle subsequently passed into the possession of Lord Glenorchy, who sold it to Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs, with whose representatives it still remains.

See ¹ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*; ² *ibid.*, see also *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, iii.



PLATE XLIV. — Castle of Old Wick (No. 495).



PLATE XLV.—Lintel and Armorial Tablet from Hempriggs House, now at Ackergill Tower (No. 496).



PLATE XLVI.—Carved Stones from Castle Sinclair, now at Ackergill Tower (No. 497).

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p. 134 (plans and illus.); Cordiner's *Antiquities*, p. 80 (illus.); Calder's *Caithness*, pp. 36 and 319; *Origines*, ii., pt. ii. pp. 773-775; *The Oliphants in Scotland*, li.-lviii.; Daniell's *Voyage v.* (illus.); *New. Stat. Acct. Suth., etc.*, xv. p. 139.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxv.

Visited, 24th May 1910.

496. *Hempriggs House*.—This house, which lies some $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the S. of Wick, is said to have been erected in 1692. The original roof was blown off in a gale in 1807, and it has been so altered and modernised that it now presents no features of interest. The lintel from the front door is preserved at Ackergill, and bears the legend: CERI MANI MEMENTO MANE. There, also, is the armorial tablet which was inserted above it (pl. XLV.). The coat may be blazoned thus: A shield bearing impaled arms, viz.—Dexter, quarterly: 1st and 4th, a lion rampant for Dunbar; 2nd and 3rd, three cushions within a double tressure for Randolph; on an inescutcheon the badge of a baronet of Nova Scotia. Sinister, quarterly: 1st and 4th, the Sinclair galley; 2nd and 3rd, a lion rampant; dividing the quarters, a cross engrailed; supporters, a lion and a savage holding a club in his exterior hand; above, a knight's helmet, with a sword and key saltire-wise for crest. Beneath the shield, in cursive letters, the date 17-05 and between, the initials B.D. I.S. The lintel of the dining-room fireplace, also at Ackergill, bears the date 1692 and the intertwined monogram of William Dunbar and his wife—W. D. I. S.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxv.

Visited, 13th June 1910.

497. *Girnigoe Castle and Castle Sinclair*.—These castles (figs. 32 and 33, and pls. XLVII. and XLVIII.) are situated about $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Wick. A narrow, rocky peninsula, rising from 40' to 60', with perpendicular sides, projects for 400' seaward. On the N. side towards the E. is the ocean; and on the S. a deep, narrow inlet of the sea, about 80' in width, cuts it off from the adjoining cliffs. Across the landward end of the promontory a trench has been cut partly through the rock from cliff to cliff, about 20' in width; and although now largely filled with debris, it is still about 14' in depth. At about $\frac{1}{3}$ of its length the promontory has been again cut through the solid rock by an irregular trench about 14' in width and depth. Between these two trenches is the outer ward of Girnigoe with the gatehouse, and the later built Castle Sinclair, while the earlier keep of Girnigoe rears itself aloft from the further edge of the second trench.

All traces of the bridge which led to the gatehouse over the first trench are gone. Through the gatehouse an arched passage about 25' in length gives access to the outer ward, and near its centre are the grooves for a portcullis, the slot by which it passed through the roof being now built up by the secondary structure. On the left, behind the position of the portcullis, a narrow, round-arched passage gives access to a guard-room. About twenty-five years ago, when a plan of the whole site was made, the main entrance passage was 44' long, nearly twice what it is now. This shows how rapid is the deterioration of the building.

Along the S. side the outer ward was protected by a strong wall which extended across the second trench to the Castle of Girnigoe, protection on the N. towards the sea being unnecessary. A postern

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through this wall at the base opens from the geo into the trench,

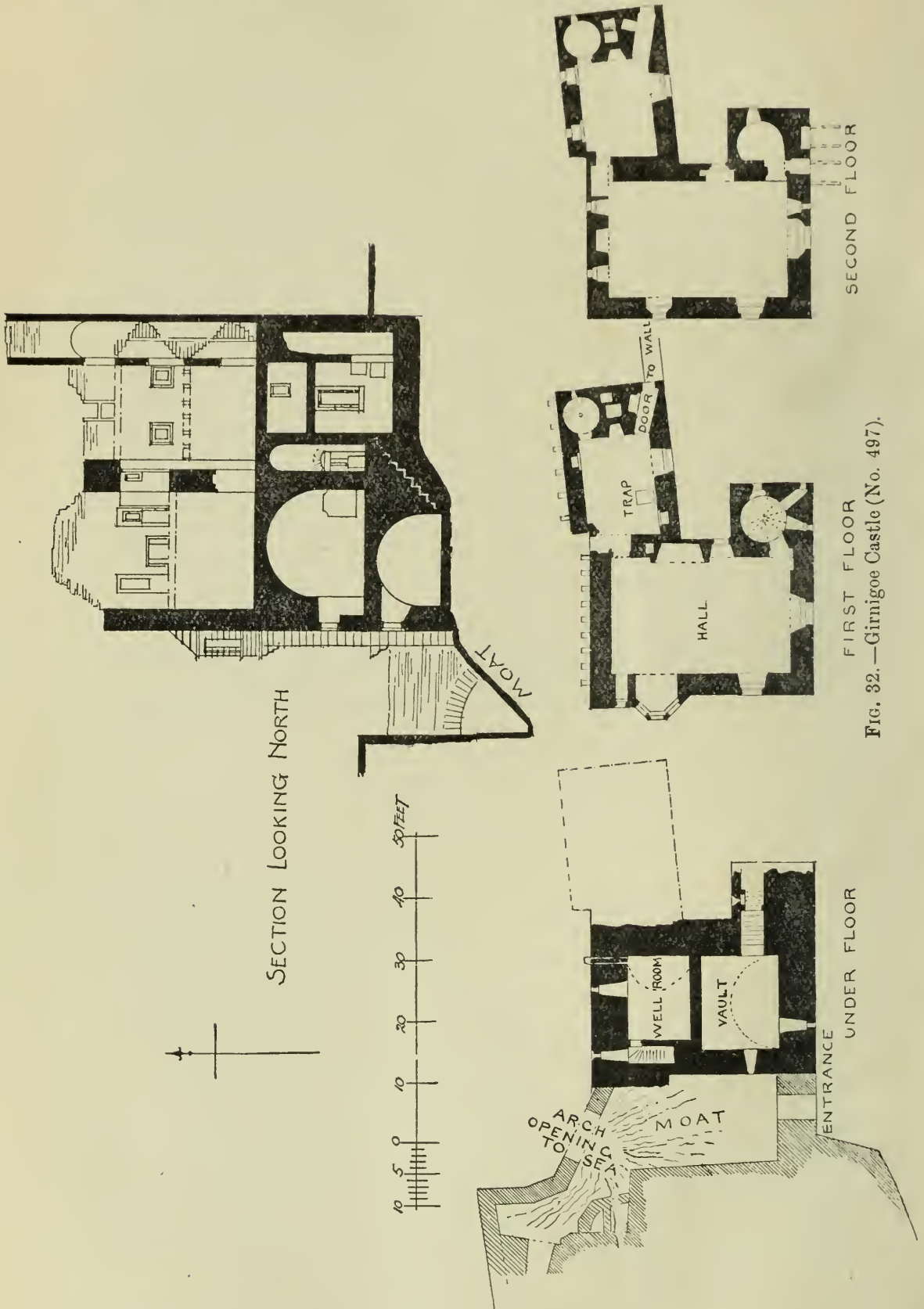


Fig. 32.—Girmigoe Castle (No. 497).

by which access is gained on the northward side to a narrow, strongly defended path cut through the rock, winding in a zigzag fashion at

[To face p. 140.]

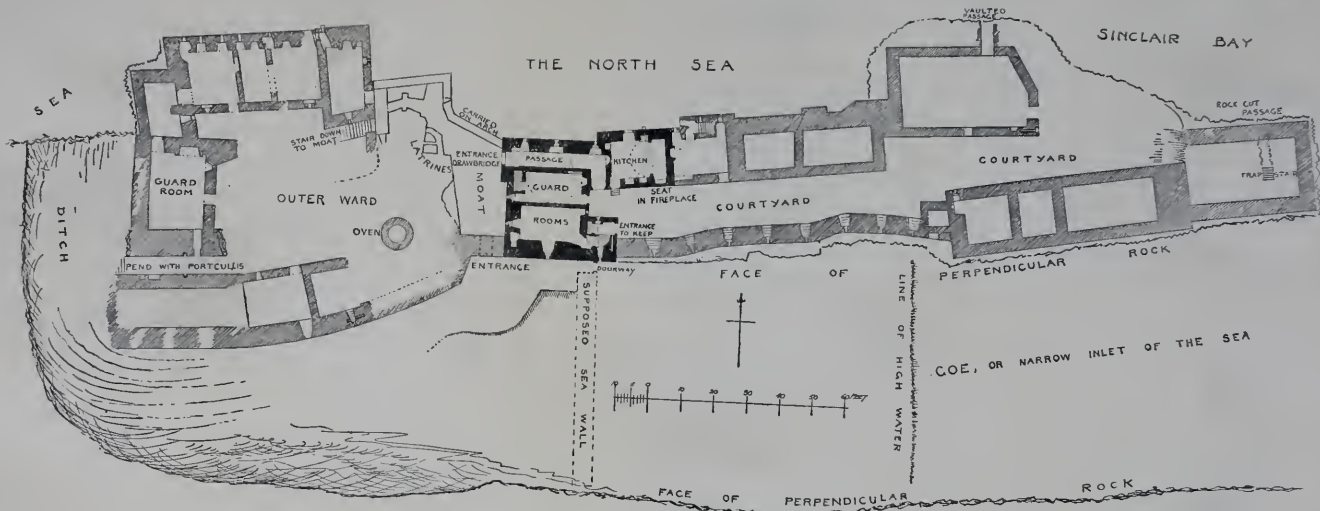


FIG. 33.—Girnige Castle (No. 497).



PLATE XLVII.—Girnigoe Castle : View from the SW. (No. 497).

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the N. side to steps which lead up through an arched gateway to the outer ward. The floor of this trench slopes most dangerously towards the wall bounding its N. end, through which there is a wide arch opening out to the sea many feet below, so that an enemy attempting to rush this trench by the postern ran great risk of being precipitated into the sea. So great is the slope of the trench floor towards the sea that one could not safely walk along it unless planks were provided. Many of these arrangements are now obliterated by masses of fallen masonry, but the plan already referred to and here reproduced (fig. 33) shows them as they recently existed.

While the castle was thus almost unassailable from the land, it was still exposed to attack from the sea by an enemy landing and making his way up the geo, and either gaining the gatehouse by the outer trench or else effecting an entrance within the defences through the postern at the second trench. To prevent this a strong wall was built across the geo, to seaward of the postern and above the reach of the waves, and the rybats of a doorway through this wall still exist at a height of 10' or 12' above the ground.

The keep of Girnigoe, rising from the second trench, occupies the full breadth of the peninsula with a frontage of 36' and a depth of 28' from front to back. Two wings project from the rear of the main block; the S. one, which contained the staircase, now gone, is part of the original building, while the N. wing containing the kitchen has possibly been an addition. The principal entrance was by a draw-bridge across the N. end of the trench, where the corbels for supporting the bridge still exist at the side of the doorway in the front wall. From this doorway an arched passage led to the interior, flanked on the right by a guard-room entered from the seaward end. There is another guard-room alongside this, entered from the S. wing. A separate stair from each guard-room, partly cut out of the rock, leads down: the first to a well-room below the passage and the first guard-room, and the second to a dungeon. The latter stair is guarded by two doors, the first one having a bar hole. Inside this door a loop-hole commands the end of the entrance passage, and another from the guard-room commands the seaward approach. The well-room floor is now covered with stones and boulders which have been carried in, but the drain for keeping the floor dry can still be seen projecting towards the sea. These two places are vaulted in contrary directions, and the whole of the entrance floor is also vaulted.

The hall occupies the whole of the first floor and measures 30' long by 19' broad and 13' high. It is lighted on all sides except the N., across which was a bretasche. The window over the main entrance was a quaint oriel supported on corbelling, with mullions and transomes, and a sloping stone roof, at the apex of which there was a carved stone with the crest of the Earl of Caithness—a demi-bear issuing out of a coronet. This oriel has, within the last few years, fallen and disappeared. On the opposite wall of the chamber is the fireplace, with a doorway alongside leading to a retiring-room in the N. wing. A trap in the arched floor of this room leads down to a concealed chamber 7' high, resting on the kitchen vault. The existence of this chamber could never be suspected from the outside. The

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bretasche extended along the N. side for 47', and the corbels for its floor and roof, as well as portions of its joists, exist at a great height, overhanging the sea. A door from the retiring-room leads outwards to the S. wall of the buildings extending eastwards. In the E. gable of this room, which is about 9' thick, there is a wheel staircase leading to the upper floors. In the S. wing on the upper floor there was another bretasche overhanging the high door in the sea wall crossing the geo.

A range of narrow buildings extends for about 65' eastwards from the N. wing, and contains three chambers, the one adjoining the keep having a fireplace and a stair to an upper floor; these buildings occupy one half of the width of the peninsula, leaving a passage 15' wide between them and the S. curtain. Beyond this range of buildings the peninsula widens to about 73' and narrows again towards the end. At the wide part there are various offices with a courtyard between. From a large store on the N. side a vaulted passage about 11' long opened out to the sea. At the extreme end of the rock, and some 15' below the general level, there is an oblong apartment measuring about 35' × 19'; in the floor there is a hatchway giving access to steps which lead down to a passage about 17' long, cut out of the rock, and opening out to the sea on the N. side by an arched doorway. This and the other passage just mentioned were probably used for victualling the castle from the sea.

As was the case at many other castles, the limited accommodation of the earlier keep was found insufficient by the lords of a later time, and a new building—Castle Sinclair—was built in the outer ward about the year 1606, there being no room for further extension on the Girnigoe ward. This new castle being more accessible and nearer the land, has suffered more from spoilation, and is now in a complete state of ruin. It contained on the N. side of the ward some five or six apartments, and was in part three storeys high. Along the S. curtain were the offices with a bakery, the round oven of which, though entire a few years ago, is now ruined by the falling in of its arched roof. Castle Sinclair had considerable architectural pretensions, as is shown by some finely carved corbels for supporting angle turrets and windows.

The plan and details of Girnigoe indicate for it a date towards the end of the 15th century. In 1455 William Sinclair, Earl of Orkney, obtained from King James II. a grant of the earldom of Caithness. On 7th December 1476 he resigned the lands of this earldom in favour of William Sinclair, the son by his second marriage with Marjory Sutherland, daughter of Alexander Sutherland of Dunbeath.¹ This Earl appears to have resided much in the county.

Girnigoe figures largely in Caithness history in the turbulent times of the 16th and early 17th centuries. Within its dungeon in 1571 George, the fourth Earl, imprisoned his son John, the Master, on suspicion of plotting his death. Here the Master "was keiped in miserable captivitie for the space of seaven yeirs, and died at last in prissone of famine and vermine as a disasterous subject of a cruell fortune."²

Castle Sinclair was erected in the year 1606 or 1607, and was



PLATE XLVIII.—Girnigoe Castle and Castle Sinclair :
View from the E. (No. 497).



PLATE XLIX.—Supporters of Arms from Castle Sinclair,
now at Ackergill Tower (No. 497).

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apparently deserted along with Girnigoe about the year 1679. At that date George Sinclair of Keiss being forced to remove from his castle of Keiss during his quarrel with Campbell of Glenorchy regarding the earldom, is said to have attacked and demolished the houses of Castle Sinclair and Girnigoe.³ The Rev. John Brand, who visited the castles in 1700, describes them as in ruins, and states that over the lintel of a window in Castle Sinclair he observed the date 1607.⁴ Bishop Pococke, in his tour in 1760, likewise visited them, and has left drawings of both castles. He mentions that the arms of King Charles II. are to be seen on Castle Sinclair, and these are evidently shown in his drawing in the gable above the entrance.⁵ The supporters of these arms (Dexter, a lion guardant, crowned, gorged and chained, holding a flag charged with St George's cross, and above his head a rose; and, Sinister: a unicorn, crowned, gorged and chained, holding a similar flag, with a thistle above his head) are preserved at Ackergill Tower. The crown ensigned with a cross and with the motto *IN DEFENCE*, also there, is part of the same achievement (pl. XLIX.). The arms were observed by Bishop Forbes in 1762, who remarks that the gilding on them "still remains."⁶

Cordiner supplies an illustration of both castles as they were in 1776,⁷ and Daniell gives views of them drawn in 1821.⁸ In the Appendix to Horne's *County of Caithness* there is reproduced "The Inventour of bedding, tapestrie and hagbuts of found delyverit by William Calder at Castle Sinclair the third day of — 1624, to James Calder, porter." The carved stones shown in pl. XLVI. are also from these castles.

The ruins are now part of the estate of Ackergill.

See ¹ *Reg. Mag. Sig., Scots Peerage*, ii. p. 332; ² Gordon's *Earldom of Sutherland*, p. 163; ³ *Douglas Peerage*, i. p. 298; Calder's *Caithness*, p. 190; ⁴ Brand's *Description of Orkney, etc.*, p. 155; ⁵ Pococke's *Tours*, p. 162; ⁶ Forbes' *Journals*, p. 212; ⁷ Cordiner's *Antiquities*, pl. xvii.; ⁸ Daniell's *Voyage*, iv. and v. (illus.); ⁹ Horne's *Caithness, App.* p. 457. See also *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, ii. p. 306 (plans and illus.).

O.S.M., CAITH., XX.

Visited, 4th July 1910.

498. *Keiss Castle*.—On the N. side of Sinclair Bay, near the modern house of Keiss, and on a projecting rock above the shore, stand the ruins of Keiss Castle (fig. 34, pl. L.). The NE. angle, which contained the entrance, is gone, as also the upper floors. In plan the castle is oblong, measuring 27' 3" × 23' 6" over the walls, having two projecting towers, one to seaward at the SE. angle, and the other, which has contained the staircase, to the W. at the NW. angle; the N. face of the latter being flat and in line with the N. wall of the castle. The basement is vaulted, and the walls 3' 3" in thickness. The castle is lofty, with four storeys and an attic. The corbel mouldings which support a small turret, carrying the stair from the second floor to the roof projecting from the N. wall, are relieved with a chequer ornament, and similar enrichment is seen on the frame of a window on the upper storey facing SW. The details are those pertaining to the end of the 16th or beginning of the 17th century. A shield charged with the Sinclair arms, but of late date, removed from the castle, is built into the wall above the front door of Barrock House in Bower Parish.

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The castle appears originally to have belonged to the Earl of Caithness, whom Sir Robert Gordon mentions in 1623 as lately having had his residence there.¹ It passed to a younger branch of the family, a member of which, George Sinclair of Keiss, succeeded to the earldom

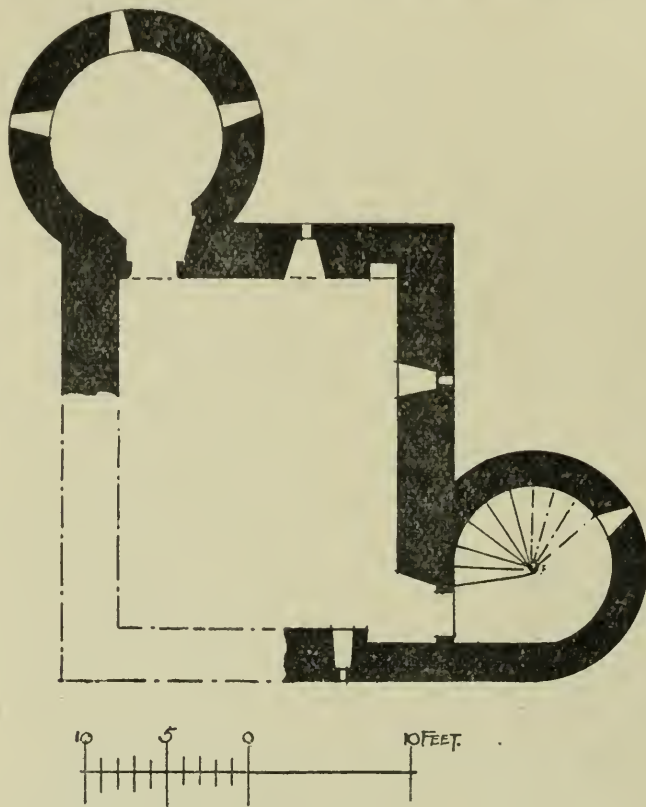


FIG. 34.—Keiss Castle (No. 498) ; Ground-plan.

in 1681 after strenuous opposition to Lord Glenorchy, who had irregularly obtained the title.² The property was thereafter acquired by the Sinclairs of Dunbeath through a transaction with Lord Breadalbane, and sold again by the representative of that family in the middle of the 18th century.³ The Rev. John Brand, who visited Caithness in 1700, states that it was then ruinous,⁴ while in 1726 it is mentioned as being in repair, and as having "at the side of it a convenient house lately built."⁵

See ¹Gordon's *Earldom of Sutherland*, p. 379 ; ²*Scots Peerage*, ii. p. 203 ; ³*Caithness Family History*, p. 90 ; ⁴Brand's *Description of Orkney, etc.*, p. 156 ; ⁵Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 159. See also *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, ii. p. 267 (plan and illus.) ; Daniell's *Voyage*, v. (illus.).

O.S.M., CAITH., xiv.

Visited, 14th June 1910.

DEFENSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS.

499. *Broch, Cairn Hill, Old Stirkoke*.—A green mound at the edge of the bank some 100 yards E. of Haster Burn, and about 250 yards W. of Old Stirkoke farm-house, covers the remains of a broch. About two-thirds of the mound have been removed from the N. side, and no wall face is anywhere visible. The original diameter has been from 80' to 90'. The broch was cut into by a farmer previous



PLATE L.—Keiss Castle (No. 498).

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to 1871 for the sake of the stone, and the details observed during the operations were noted by Dr Anderson in an article in *Archæologia Scotica*. The wall measured about 13' in thickness and the interior area some 30' in diameter. A square drain ran underneath the floor. One long oval-ended chamber 11' long and 4' wide was observed in the thickness of the wall. Near the centre of the circular internal area was a cist-like fireplace, formed of four slabs, with a slab at the bottom. It was slightly wider at one end than the other, and measured 4½' in length, 2½' in breadth in the middle, and 1' 8" in depth. It was almost completely filled with ashes. The objects recovered were: a bone bodkin, a polished bone needle, the half of a polished disc of mica schist with garnets in it, 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 an iron sword with a very broad double-edged blade, most of which are preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

See Anderson, *The Iron Age*, p. 232; *Archæologia Scotica*, v., pt. i. p. 142.

500. *Broch, Tannach*.—In the middle of an arable field some 300 yards N. of Tannach farm-house, and some 50 yards E. of the road from Stirkoke to Thrumster, is a stony mound which has been ploughed over, measuring some 77' in diameter and 5' to 6' in elevation above the surrounding level. It evidently contains the remains of a broch.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiv.

Visited, 23rd May 1910.

501. *Broch, Gansclet*.—In rear and partly beneath the house of Henry Taylor at Gansclet somewhat less than ¼ m. WSW. of the standing-stone (No. 566), is an artificial mound overgrown with turf, from which a number of flat stones protrude. It measures some 70' in diameter and 5' in height, and evidently contains the ruin of a broch.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. (unnoted).

Visited, 23rd May 1910.

502. *Broch, Thrumster*.—Within a small paddock to the S. of the avenue leading to Thrumster House from the E. and on a slight elevation, are the remains of a broch. The structure has been cleared out, and a portion of the wall towards the S. removed, the ruins of a summer-house occupying the site. The interior diameter is 36', the width of the wall at base about 15', and at 3' 6" elevation 13' 6" to 14'. The greatest height remaining exteriorly and interiorly is 3' 6". The entrance appears to have been from the S. The left or W. wall of the passage seems to remain; the other side has been removed. Some 18' along the inner circumference from the interior end of the passage wall there appears to be a built up entrance about 3' 6" wide. The top of the wall is covered with turf, and no remains of chambers are visible. When the broch was excavated a skeleton was found buried in a cist of slabs in the mould heaped up against the outside of the fabric. A long-handled weaving comb, presented to the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh, in 1783 by Mr Innes of Thrumster, is believed also to have been found.

See *Archæologia Scotica*, v., pt. i. p. 187; *New Stat. Acct. Suth., etc.*, xv. p. 137.

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503. *Broch, Thrumster Little*.—In the corner of a field, about 80 yards S. of Thrumster Little farm-house, are the remains of a broch. The whole of the outer circumference is visible and shows a diameter over all of 56' 6". The foundation stones are of great size. The inner face is only cleared for some 20' to the left of the end of the entrance passage, and is exposed for a height of about 3' 6". The entrance has been from the ENE. through a passage some 13' in length and 3' 3" wide at the outer end. At 5' 6" inwards are door jambs projecting from either side, narrowing the passage to 2' 6", while inwards from them the passage expands to 3' 10", which width it seems to maintain for the rest of its course. The passage is roofless and ruined, and the existence of a guard chamber is unascertainable without excavation. At 8' round the inner circumference to the left of the entrance is an opening about 1' 6" square, which appears to have been a shaft for light above the entrance to a chamber visible through a small aperture in the roof some 4' behind the face of the wall on the interior. The greatest height of wall visible on the exterior is about 4'. For the most part the ruin is beneath a grassy mound, the highest point of which is about 9' above the level of the field and some 3' above the highest elevation of wall visible in the interior. Presuming the thickness of the wall to be the same all round, the interior diameter must be about 30' 6".

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 23rd May 1910.

504. *Broch, Hempriggs*.—In a small plantation to the S. of the lodge at the entrance to Hempriggs House are the remains of a broch. A grassy mound some 10' in height, partially removed on the E., covers the ruins. The outline of the broch is in places exposed and shows that the diameter has been about 56' over all. No other details are obtainable.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxv.

Visited, 23rd May 1910.

505. *Broch, Hill of Stemster*.—On the Hill of Stemster, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the W. of Wick and some 300 yards SSE. of Stemster farm-house, at the upper end of a cultivated field, is a grassy mound which has at one time been ploughed over, but is now fenced off as uncultivable. A number of flat stones lying about the surface suggest that it covers the ruins of a broch. The mound, which is much spread, has a diameter of about 110' and an elevation of 3' to 4'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiv. ("Site of Cairn").

Visited, 24th May 1910.

506. *Broch, "Cairn of Humster"*.—About $1\frac{3}{4}$ m. S. of Wick, and some 300 yards N. of Northfield farm-house, is a grassy mound fenced off from the adjoining arable land and surmounted by a cairn of the flat stones evidently gathered off it. It appears to be the site of a broch, though no sign of the structure is visible. The mound, which has at one time been ploughed over, has a diameter of some 96' and an elevation of about 5'. On the W. there are signs of a surrounding ditch some 40' in width.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxv.

Visited, 24th May 1910.

507. *Broch, Kilmster*.—Situated on arable land from which it is railed off, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SE. of Skitten croft at Kilmster, is a broch. The

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green hillock which conceals its ruins was, in part, excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry in 1904, and about one half of the inner face of the wall on either side of the entrance has been exposed. The broch is much ruined, and the shaley stones of which it is built are rapidly disintegrating. The entrance has been from the W. by N. through a passage some 15' in length, and 3' in width at the outside. At 3' 7" inwards is a rebate for a door formed by the widening of the passage to 3' 5", and a sill projects for a height of 4" across the floor. At 1' 10" in rear of the door checks on the right side is the entrance

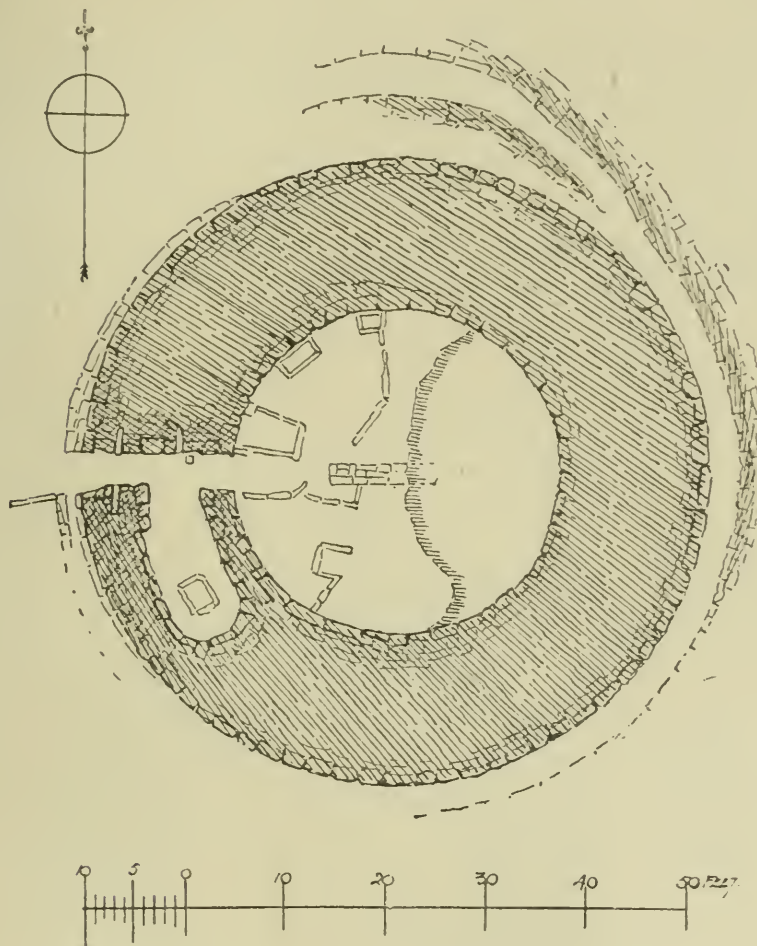


FIG. 35.—Broch, Kilmster (No. 507); Ground-plan.

to a guard chamber which has measured some 15' in length, and 6' 6" at greatest width, of which the inner or left side of the wall adjacent to the passage is now gone. The diameter of the interior of the broch has been some 33'. The greatest height of wall visible in the interior is 5', and the thickness of the wall at this level is 14' 6". The greatest height of wall visible in the passage is 4' 4". The passage roof and also that of the guard chamber are wanting. Within the interior, to the left of the entrance, is an enclosure formed of upright slabs, the one side of which is in line with the left wall of the passage. It is 6' in length, 4' 6" in breadth against the wall of the broch, and 3' 3" at the opposite end. A similar enclosure seems to have existed on the opposite side of the entrance, and a

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number of displaced slabs round to the left in the interior imply the existence of others. Immediately opposite the entrance in the interior, and some 10' inwards, a portion of building is exposed: the side in line with the right wall of the main passage visible for 2' 4" of its length, and the return facing the entrance uncovered for a shorter distance. At 12' to the left of the entrance on the face of the wall in the interior, 3' 9" above present ground level, is a recess some 6" square at the outside, extending inwards for 1' 3" and diminishing in size. There is no sign of a scarcement. On excavation it was found that a clay rampart, at highest 10' in height, encircled the broch revetted on the inner side with a stone wall some 3' distant from the tower. This wall remains visible towards the N. and appears to curve inwards from the NW. In front of the rampart was a ditch some 50' wide. A plan made by Mr John Nicolson, Nybster, at the time of the excavation is here reproduced (fig. 35).

O.S.M., CAITH., xix.

Visited, 3rd June 1910.

508. *Broch*, "Norwall Broch," *South Kilmster*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SE. from South Kilmster farm is a grassy mound which has been excavated

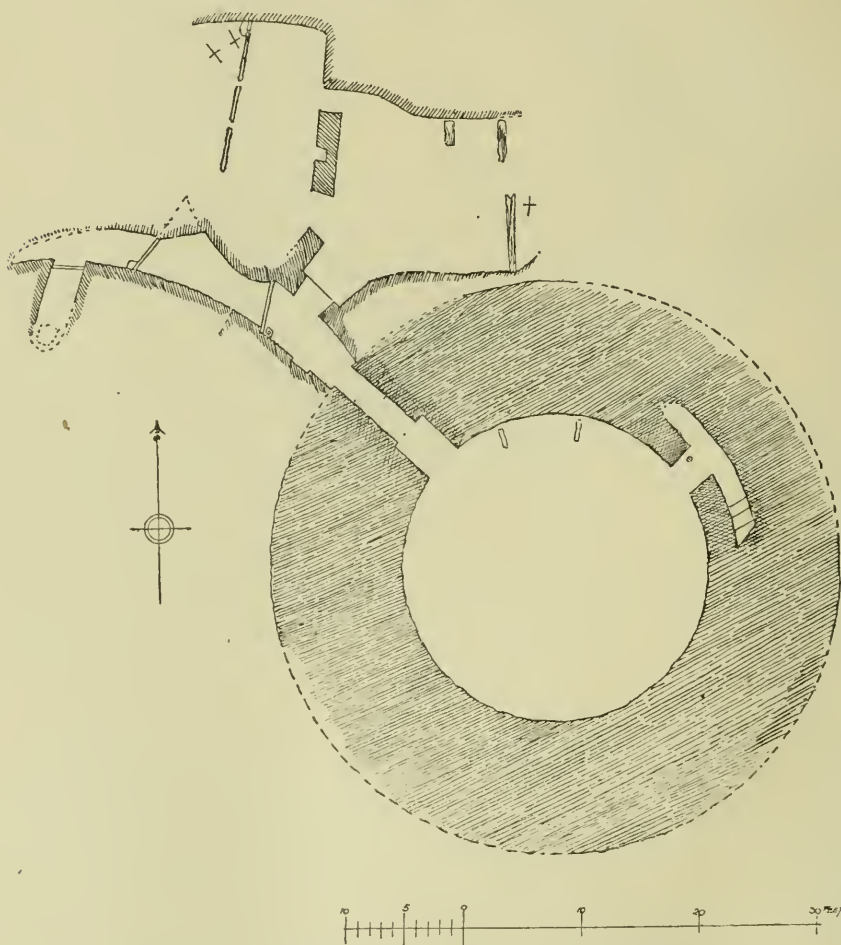


FIG. 36.—"Norwall Broch" (No. 508); Ground-plan.

to some extent and in which the ruins of a broch are partially exposed. About one half of the inner periphery of the structure has been cleared on either side of the entrance. The entrance has been from the W. along an outer passage curving from the S. still visible for

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15' in length outside the broch. On the right of this outer passage 3' 6" distant from the broch is a check for a door faced with a thin slab, and on the same side immediately adjoining the broch is an entrance to a passage, or chamber, 2' 6" wide. Outside the check this outer passage is 2' 10" wide: within it is 4' wide. The passage through the wall of the broch is 13' 6" in length, and some 3' 6" wide at the inner end. Some 9' inwards have been checks for a door. The passage is only partially cleared and is much ruined. The diameter of the interior of the broch has been 26'. The greatest height of wall visible in the interior is 3' 8", but the base is covered with debris. The external face where exposed is quite insignificant in elevation. Outside the broch, to the N. of the entrance passage, the remains of considerable out-buildings have been laid bare. A plan of the broch, made by Mr John Nicolson, Nybster, at the date of excavation, is here reproduced (fig. 36).

O.S.M., CAITH., xix.

Visited, 3rd June 1910.

509. *Broch, Yarrows, Loch of Yarrows*.—Situated at the S. end of the Loch of Yarrows is the broch of Yarrows (or Yarhouse), which was excavated by Dr Joseph Anderson in 1866-67, and from whose description the following particulars are derived:—

The appearance before excavation was that of a conical grass-covered mound 18' to 20' in height, standing on a low, flat triangular projection of the shore of the loch cut off from the land by a ditch varying from 25' to 30' wide. Remains of five human skeletons were found embedded in the earth and stones of the mound, but not deep enough to have any determinable relation with the structure of the broch below, and near one of these was recovered a flat circular brooch of brass inscribed with a talismanic inscription common to the brooches of the 13th and 14th centuries.

When excavated, the broch consisted of a circular wall 12' to 13' thick, enclosing a central area 30' in diameter. The height of the wall remaining was about 15'. The doorway, which passed straight through the wall, was about 6' high and 2½' wide, slightly narrower at top than at bottom, and well built with long flat slabs, some of which were 8' in length. There were no guard chambers or bar holes, and the checks for the door were quite on the inner side of the wall. Opening from the interior area to the left of the doorway was the entrance to the stair, which also gave access to an oblong chamber at the stair foot. The stair itself was 3' wide, and sixteen steps up there was a landing with a light-hole or window looking into the interior of the broch. Above the entrance to the stair there were also three windows placed vertically over each other. In the thickness of the wall opposite the doorway was an oblong chamber roofed in the usual manner by overlapping stones. The broch had an interior wall of inferior masonry built against the main wall, and partially bonded into it at the door openings. This inner wall was 2½' thick and rose to a height of 8' where the wall head formed a level scarcement all round the interior: and there were also partition walls running half way across the area from both

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sides of the doorway. These were partly built and partly formed of long slabs set on end, and they rose to about the same height as the scarcement. The partitions and the inner wall forming the scarcement were founded on an accumulation of rubbish largely mixed with ashes and food refuse

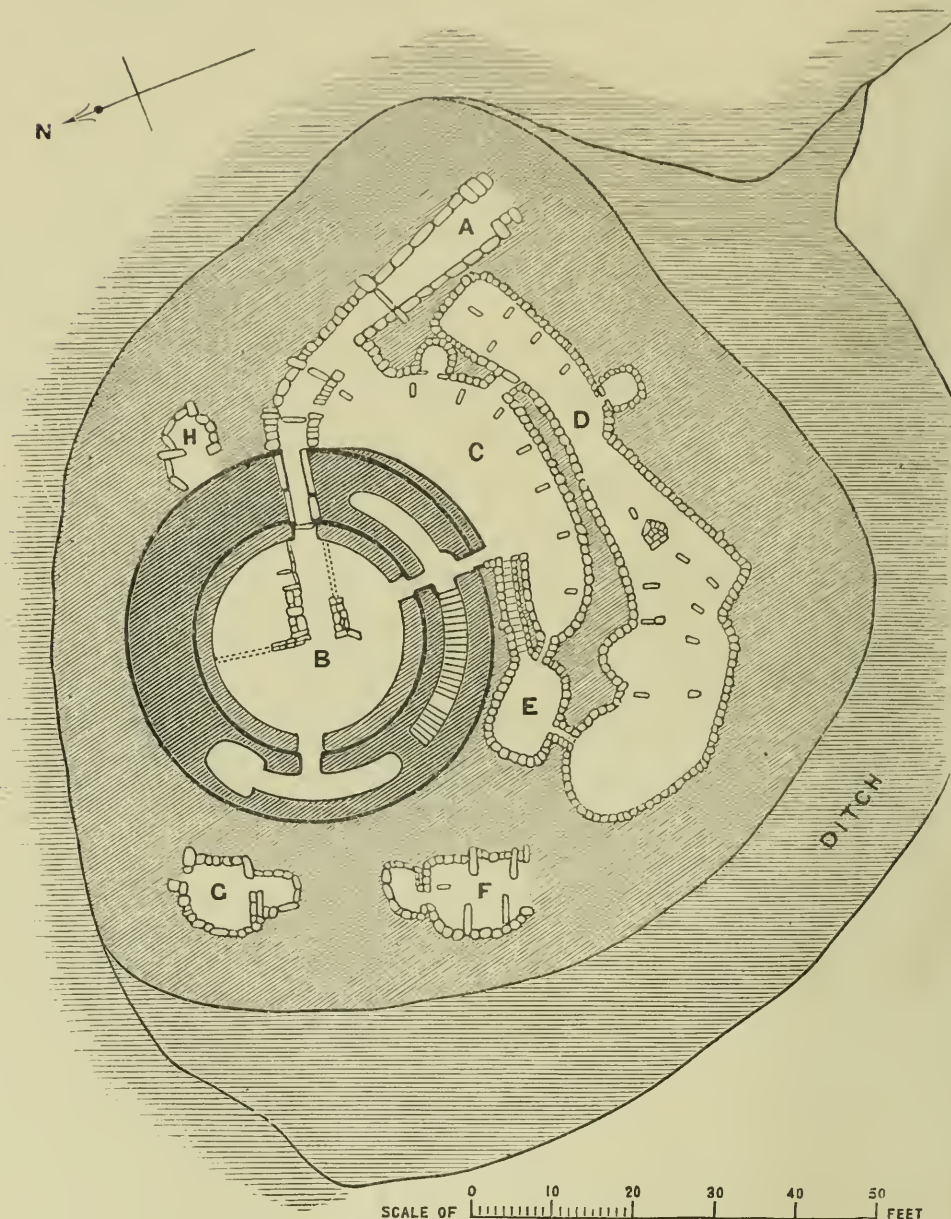


FIG. 37.—Broch, Yarrows (No. 509).

which covered the original floor of the broch to the depth of 12" to 14". They were therefore clearly secondary constructions made to adapt the broch to the purposes of a secondary occupation. Outside the broch were two long irregularly shaped enclosures (C and D on plan), and several smaller cells. The outer enclosure was 100' in length and varied in width from 6' to 20'; the inner enclosure was 70' in length and about 12' in width, and each had a little cell provided with door checks opening off them. In some places their walls remained entire

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to the height of 10' without showing any sign of overlapping for a roof. Both of these large enclosures had irregular rows of long slabs set on end in their floors. A long covered way (A) leading to the entrance of the broch traversed the NE. end of these enclosures. It varied in width from 3' at the door of the broch to about 5' at the outer end, and had checks for doors at four different places in its length. The secondary character of all these exterior constructions was obvious from the fact that underneath their foundations there was a considerable depth of stones overlying the original soil, and mingled with ashes and food refuse. It was also evident that various occupations of the interior of the broch had taken place from time to time when the original floor had become covered with rubbish to a considerable depth. Partition walls were met with at three different levels, dividing the internal area on three different plans, the last being a partial partition utilising only one side of the area, at a time when the original floor had become covered with 8' of stones and rubbish.

The relics recovered consisted of grain rubbers and stones hollowed like mortars, stone pestles, pounders or hammer stones, whetstones, circular discs of slaty sandstone, stone balls, a small rounded pebble of quartz with a hole through it, and a number of spindle whorls, a ring and armlet of bronze, and a few fragments of iron knives, besides pottery. The animal remains included those of the reindeer and the red-deer.

The relics are preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

The broch is now in a rather dilapidated condition, and the stone of which it is built, especially on the inner face of the wall, is disintegrating rapidly. The greatest height of the main wall visible in the interior is 11', and the greatest height of the lining 6'. The width of the passage is 2' 8". There is no guard chamber, and the door checks occur at 11' from the outside near the inner end of the passage. Three consecutive lintels remain over the passage for 4' 6" of its length. The entrance to the stair is blocked, and only one of the windows is complete above it. The chamber at the foot of the stair is still entire, and is 3' 8" wide at greatest width, and 6' 2" high. The walls slightly converge upwards and support a roof of flags. The steps of the stair are almost entirely hidden with soil and vegetation. The chamber entering from the interior opposite the main entrance is still intact for some 9' 4" at its S. end, and measures 4' across at greatest width, and 6' 4" in height above the present floor level. A large portion of the facing wall has recently fallen away on the N. side, while the walls which crossed the court are now hardly recognisable. The walls of the outbuildings are still in good condition. A plan made by Sir Henry Dryden at the date of excavation is here reproduced (fig. 37).

See *Mem. Anthropol. Soc. Lond.*, iii. p. 228; Anderson, *The Iron Age*, p. 223 (plan and illus.); *Archæologia Scotica*, v., pt. i. p. 131 (plan and illus.).

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. ("Cairns of Yarrows (Brough)").

Visited, 6th June 1910.

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510. *Broch, Borrowston*.—In the corner of an arable field some 200 yards S. of Borrowston cottage is a grass-covered mound containing the remains of a broch. The mound over all measures some 114' in diameter and has an elevation of about 10'. The upper portion, which is circular, with a diameter of 42' and a height of 3', probably indicates the position of the main structure. Some 6' above the natural level at the W. end of the mound is a well-marked terrace in form of a crescent some 20' in greatest breadth from the base of the more elevated portion. There are no signs of any excavation having taken place.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 8th June 1910.

511. *Broch, Brounaban*.—To the W. of the Lybster railway, near Thrumster, some 200 yards N. of Brounaban croft, at the edge of a cultivated field, are the remains of a broch which has been excavated. The inner face of the wall has been rebuilt to an even level of some 5' all round, and the interior is used as a garden. The main entrance has been from the E. through a passage some 14' in length, the outer end of which has been removed. There has been no guard chamber, nor do any signs of door checks remain. Some 6' N. of the right wall of the entrance passage is the back wall of a chamber about 14' in length and 4' 3" at greatest breadth, the entrance to which from the inner court has been built up. Some 21' from the inner end of the entrance passage on the right, measured direct, has been the entrance to a stair 3' 6" wide, the steps of which are still visible, rising to the right and having a chamber at the foot of it some 13' in length by 3' 9" in greatest width. At 18' from the inner end of the passage on the left, measured direct, has been the entrance to another stair, also 3' 6" wide, rising to the right and having a chamber at the foot of it some 17' in length, but now only 2' in width. Opposite the entrance to this stair from the interior there appears to have been another entrance from the exterior, now ruined, but the E. wall of which is still distinct. Slightly to the S. of a point opposite the main entrance of the broch has been the entrance to another chamber, now built up, exposed for 17' of its length, and measuring 3' 4" in width. The outer face of the broch has not been laid bare. During excavation there were found at the foot of one of the stairs the remains of a human skeleton, and close by the side of the door, a long cist consisting partly of flags and partly built, containing another skeleton, much decayed. The interior area was paved, and there was a good square drain underneath the pavement round what had been a hollow fireplace near the centre.

See *Archæologia Scotica*, v., pt. i. p. 142.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 8th June 1910.

512. *Hill Fort, Yarrows*.—On the plateau which forms the top of the hill above the cliffs, some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. SW. of the most southerly point of the Loch of Yarrows, and a short distance to the NW. of the highest of the cairns of Warehouse (No. 551), are the remains of fortifications. Towards the S. end, stretching E. and W. for a distance of about 120', are the ruins of a wall overgrown for the most part with peat and turf, and in front of it on the E. half is a ditch some 15' wide, the bottom of which is some 6' below the level of the top of the scarp. Through

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this wall, towards the W. end, is apparently an entrance some 6' wide, but the sides of which are now indefinite. The wall does not show in any way surmounting the natural escarpment of rock, but elsewhere it is in places recognisable. In front of the defences at the S. end is a glacis some 60' wide, extending to the edge of the plateau which is low in this direction.

O.S. M., CAITH., xxix. (unnoted). Visited, 8th June 1910.

513. *Broch*, "Wester Broch" or "Castle Linglas."—Situated at the S. end of Keiss Links, just within the fringe of sandhills that border the

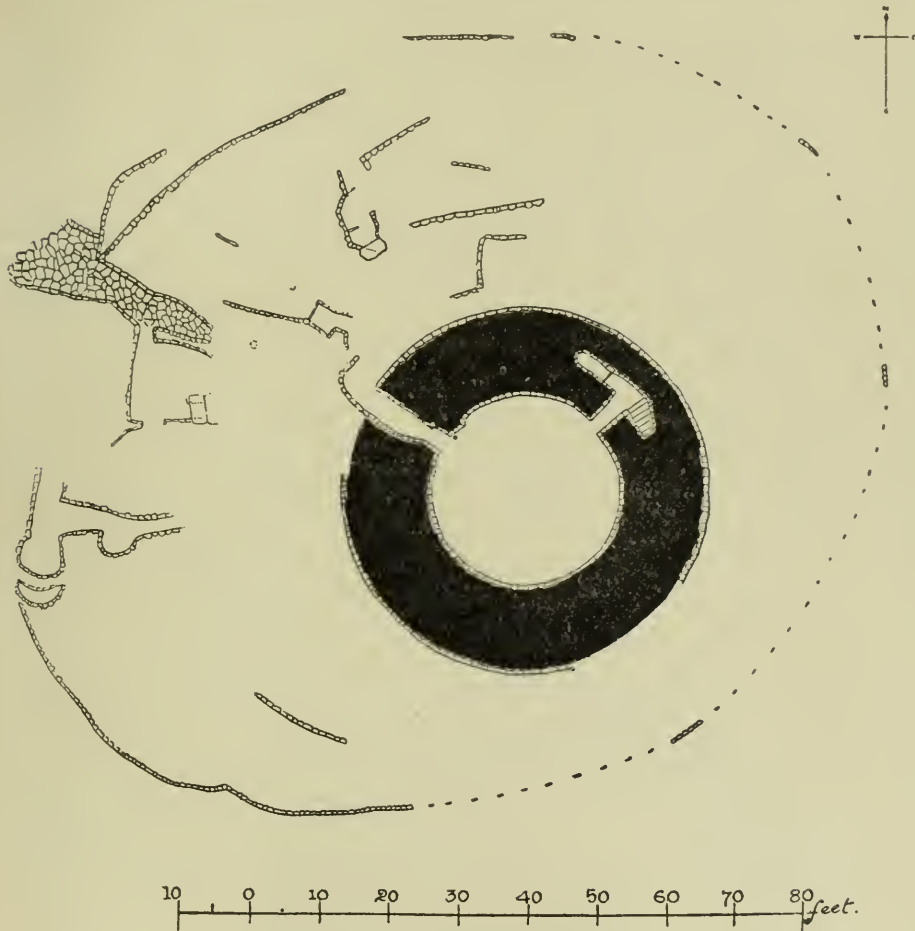


FIG. 38.—"Wester Broch," Keiss (No. 513); Ground-plan.

shore, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of the water of Wester, is the "Wester broch" (fig. 38), which was excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry. It is entered from the WNW. through a passage, now for the greater part built up, 13' in length, $3\frac{1}{2}$ ' wide at the exterior end, and 2' 7" at the interior. Where the passage narrows at 9' from the outer end are door checks. The interior diameter is 27'. At 22' to the left, measured direct from the inner extremity of the entrance and at a height of 3' above the floor level, is the entrance to the stair $2\frac{1}{2}$ ' wide, rising to the right. At the foot of the stair is a chamber, not now visible, $9\frac{1}{2}$ ' in length, 3' in width, and roofed at the end. At 30' to 40' from the base of the broch are the remains of a wall of circumvallation visible for a considerable distance on the NW. and SW. sides, and believed to encircle it. Between this wall and the

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broch on the front or entrance side are the remains of eight or nine small cells or outbuildings. The greatest height of wall in the interior is about 5' 6", and of that exposed on the exterior about 2', while the thickness of the wall varies from 13' to 14'. The objects found on excavation included whetstones, circular discs of slaty stone, the upper stone of a rotary quern and several saddle querns, a large long-handled bone comb, and five quartzite pebbles of ovoid shape, painted on their surfaces with spots in a blackish or blackish-brown pigment. In the sand on the top of the wall of the broch were found four cists containing skeletons laid out at full length.

See *Antiquaries*, xxxv. p. 119 (plan); *ibid.*, xliii. p. 13.

O.S.M., CAITH., xix. ("Castles Linglas").

Visited, 11th June 1910.

514. *Broch, Bilbster*.—On a low-lying meadow, some 80 yards back from the left bank of the Wick River and some 300 yards NW. of the road bridge to the N. of Bilbster House, is a grassy hillock. It has been under cultivation, and has now an elevation of only 3' or 4', but its artificial character is obvious. The diameter over all is some 94'. There is a hollow or depression on the top about 38' in diameter. The level of the field all around the hillock is low.

O.S.M., CAITH., xix. (unnoted).

Visited, 13th June 1910.

515. *Broch, "Keiss Broch"*.—Immediately to the N. of the harbour

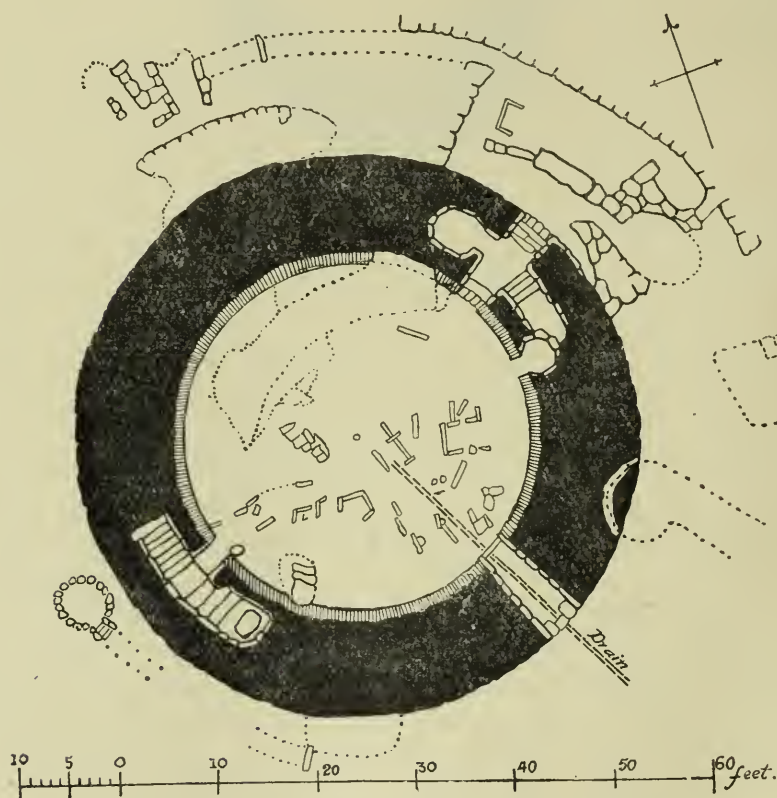


FIG. 39.—"Keiss Broch" (No. 515); Ground-plan.

of Keiss, on a beach terrace now overgrown with grass, is the "Keiss broch" or "Harbour mound" (fig. 39 and pl. LI.), which was excavated



PLATE LI.—“Keiss Broch”; Blocked Entrance from outside (No. 515).

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by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry. The entrance has been from the seaward direction, and, though both sides of the passage are gone, there are remains of the floor of a guard chamber on the right. A well-made drain passes under the flags of the entrance. The interior diameter is 38', and the thickness of the wall about 12'. Against the lower part of the inner face is a lining wall or scarcement 1' 3" thick and still remaining to a height of about 5' on the N., thus reducing the interior diameter to some 35' 6" at floor level. The general average height of wall remaining in the interior is about 5', and the greatest height, which is towards the N., is 8'. At 24' round the inner circumference to the left of the entrance is the entrance, 2' 10" wide, to a stair in the thickness of the wall at a height of 3' 6" above the general floor level. The stair is 2' 8" wide, but most of the steps are now concealed by the debris. From the level of the entrance to the stair, five steps were discovered on excavation leading down to a water hole, but they are not now visible. The water hole evidently communicated with a well in the interior, irregularly circular, about 4½' in diameter and 6' in depth. Four steps led down to it, and the top was covered by slabs laid level with the floor. On the opposite side of the broch there has been another stairway with a chamber at the foot of the stair, now built up. This stair rose to the right and was 3' 4" wide. The entrance to it had been at one time part of a main entrance through the exterior part of the wall, but had subsequently been built up and the scarcement built in front of it. On the outside lies a large triangular block of stone which may have formed the lintel of this doorway. The greatest height of wall remaining on the exterior is 5' 6". In the interior are the remains of various small enclosures formed of flags set on end. Immediately outside the closed entrance on the NE. are the remains of an outer wall, and at 16' back from the broch the face of a wall, concentric with the main structure, has been exposed for a distance of some 24' and is visible passing onwards round the building towards the S. The interspace in front of the closed entrance is paved.

Among the relics found on excavation were two fragments of Roman Samian ware; portions of bowls of 2nd-century type, on one of which is an undraped figure of Venus (Déchelette No. 173); two pieces of white ware, covered with a black slip and decorated with a scroll ornament in white, Romano-British manufacture of the 2nd century; a few pieces of coarse unglazed pottery, decorated with an impressed chevrony pattern; a small crucible, $\frac{7}{8}$ " in depth, with a portion of melted bronze adhering to the bottom; a long-handled bone comb 5½" in length; a lamp of sandstone measuring 5¼" × 4¼"; a rudely shaped cup of sandstone measuring 4½" × 4½" in length and breadth and 2" in depth; saddle querns and portions of rotary querns; antlers of the red-deer of great size, and bones of the Great Auk. In an earlier excavation a portion of the horn of a reindeer was discovered. The relics are preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

See *Antiquaries*, xxxv. p. 122 (plan and illus.); *ibid.* vii. p. 42 (illus.); *ibid.* viii. p. 192 (illus.).

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516. *Broch, "Broch at the White Gate," Keiss.*—On the same terrace as the broch (No. 515), at a distance of less than $\frac{1}{4}$ m. northward, and a few yards distant from the shore, from which it is separated by a narrow strip of greensward, is another broch (fig. 40 and pl. LII.) which has also been excavated and is referred to in the account of the excavation as the "broch at the White Gate." It is entered from the seaward direction by a passage straight through the wall some 13' in length, 2' 6" wide at the exterior, and 3' 6" wide at the interior opening. At 3' 8" inward from the exterior is a rebate for a door, and at a distance of 5' 6" further in are a pair of checks projecting 8" on either side. The interior diameter is 26'. At a distance of 12' round the inner circumference from the end of the passage to the left, a break in the wall probably marked the entrance to the stairway; and almost

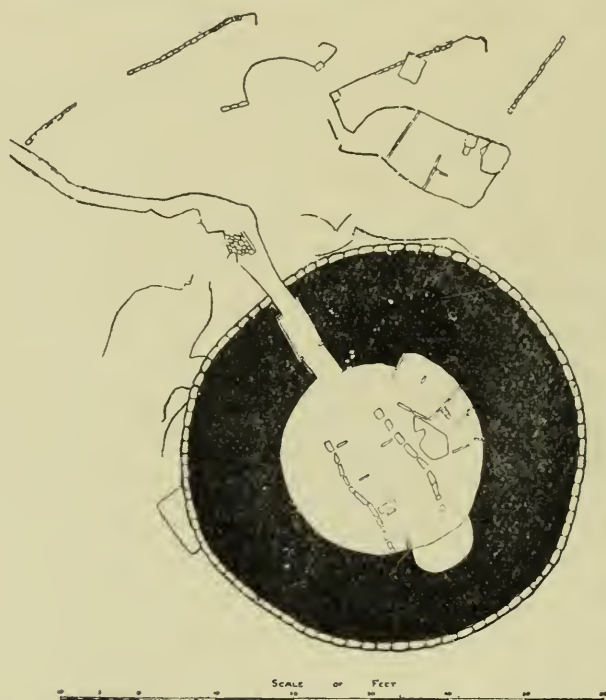


FIG. 40.—"Broch at the White Gate," Keiss (No. 516); Ground-plan.

opposite the main entrance, 2' above the floor level, a secondary chamber about 7' in diameter has been partly formed upon the wall. Two secondary partitions, one formed of flags set on end and some distance apart, and the other of slabs laid on edge along the floor, crossed the area of the broch from the entrance to the back. These partitions are 8' apart, and midway between them, nearly in the centre of the interior, is a cist-like cavity or fireplace some $2\frac{1}{2}'$ square. At short distances on one side are erect slabs set edgewise to the main wall. In the NE. side of the interior face of the main wall there is a recess or ambry 2' square at a height of about $3\frac{1}{2}'$ from the floor. The wall of the broch only remains visible to a height of about 3'. The entrance passage is prolonged outwards through a series of secondary buildings containing four irregularly shaped chambers.

In a rectangular enclosure of upright slabs against the inner face of the wall of the broch, to the left of the entrance, were found the fragments of a large jar of coarse unglazed pottery which, when



PLATE LII.—“Broch at the White Gate,” Keiss: Entrance Passage from Interior (No. 516).



PLATE LIII.—“Road Broch,” Keiss: North Stair in Wail (No. 517).

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reconstructed, measured 17" in height by 17½" in diameter at the mouth, tapering to 7" in diameter at the base. It is now in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh. The only other objects found were a few grain rubbers and portions of rotary querns.

See *Antiquaries*, xxxv. p. 127 (plan and illus.).

O.S.M., CAITH., xiv.

Visited, 14th June 1910.

517. *Broch*, "Road Broch," *Kirk Tofts, Keiss*.—Situated in a field at Keiss, close to the public road to John o' Groat's, and on the W. side



FIG. 41.—"Road Broch," Keiss (No. 517); Ground-plan.

of it, is the broch excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry and known as the "Road Broch" (fig. 41). The broch and associated out-buildings occupy a large area enclosed within a massive encircling wall and having a diameter of 144'. The broch itself is entered from the NE. through an entrance 2' 6" wide at the outside, going straight through the wall for a distance of 15' 9". At a distance of 7' inwards from the outside there are checks for a door formed of slabs 4' 7" in height set edgewise in the passage walls, beyond which the passage increases in width to 3' 2". On the right side, and 2½' behind the checks is the entrance to a guard chamber 2' wide and 3' high. The chamber itself is ruined and is no longer accessible. No part of the roof remains on the passage. The interior area of the broch measures

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34' in diameter, and there is no scarcement. The wall has a total thickness varying from 13' 9" to 15' 9", but the original wall appears to have been only about 12' thick, and a casing wall varying from about 2' to 3' 9" in thickness has been added on the exterior. At 20' round the inner circumference from the left of the main entrance is the entrance to the stair, now built up, and on the W. side of which the wall is in a very ruinous condition. There is a chamber at the foot of the stair to the left, 12' in length by 5' in width. The stair ascends to the right 4' within the wall and is 4' wide. The steps, of which twelve were disclosed on excavation, are now obscured by debris. Nearly opposite to the main entrance in the interior is a chamber in the wall, the entrance to which is now partly built up (pl. LIV.). It was entered through a rectangular aperture cut in a large slab which formed the front. The size of this chamber was found to be 4' 6" in length by 3' 9" in width and 4' 7" in height. At a distance of 24' round the inner circumference to the right of the main entrance is the entrance to another stair also ascending to the right. This stairway is 3' 6" wide, and on excavation eleven steps were exposed (pl. LIII.). At the foot of the stair was a chamber, now filled in, extending for 30' along the centre of the wall and measuring 4' 6" in width at floor level. There has been at one time an entrance from the exterior through the wall at the foot of the second stair 3' 9" wide. In the centre of the interior is an underground chamber with steps down to it and covered with slabs. It is 5' long by 3' wide and 5' 6" deep, and partly cut out of the rock on one side. There are also two tank-like constructions formed of slabs set on edge in the floor, one of which measures 3' in length by 2' 4" in width and 1' 6" in depth, and the other 3' 2" in length by 2' 9" in width and 1' 6" in depth (pl. LIV.). The interior court is subdivided into four sections by secondary partitions of slabs set on edge. The greatest height of wall visible in the interior is about 7'. In front of the main entrance on the exterior there has been added a circular court with a diameter of about 33', the wall of which is partially founded on the lower courses of the addition to the thickness of the wall of the broch and partially on an accumulation of debris 2½' high. Between the broch and the outer enclosing wall are several outbuildings.

Among the relics recovered on excavation were some pieces of coarse unornamented pottery; a portion of an armlet of shale; a long-handled comb with five prongs at the toothed end; a small bronze ring; a flattish circular disc of sandstone 1½" in diameter and ⅝" in thickness, having slightly incised markings suggestive of an attempted inscription on both of its flat sides, and on one side the figure of a bird; three quartzite pebbles of ovoid shape painted on their surfaces with spots in a blackish or blackish-brown pigment; a lamp of stone; a stone cup with a side handle; saddle and rotary querns; two moulds for ingots 4" and 5" in length respectively; and two socket stones for the pivots of doors. Among the food refuse were bones of the ox, sheep or goat, and swine, portions of red-deer horns, charred grain, and what is believed to be a single canine tooth of a bear.

See *Antiquaries*, xxxv. p. 131 (plan and illus.).



PLATE LIV.—“Road Broch,” Keiss: Interior, showing Recess in Wall and Water Tank in Floor (No. 517).

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518. *Broch, Nybster*.—The broch of Nybster (fig. 42) is situated on the top of a high cliff promontory about 60 yards in length and 40 yards in width at the landward end, narrowing to seaward. It has been cut off from the land by a ditch some 20' wide dug out across

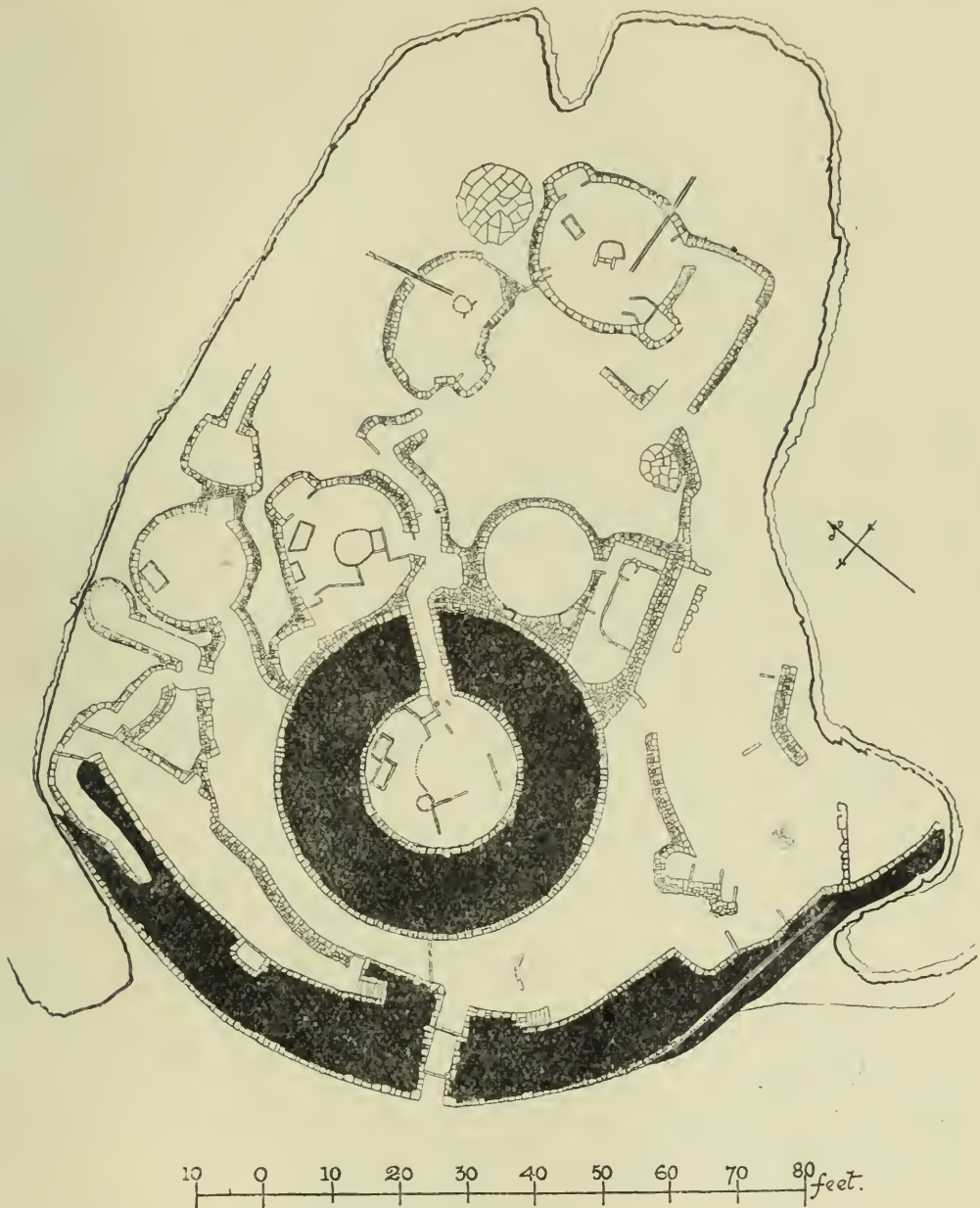


FIG. 42.—Broch, Nybster (No. 518); Ground-plan.

the landward end. The broch was excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry. Immediately within the ditch a well-built wall about 10' in thickness, increasing to about 15' in the middle, also crosses the promontory in a segment of a circle with its convex side towards the land. Near the middle of the convexity (where the wall is thickest) is the entrance passage 15' in length through the thickness of the wall 3' 6" in width at the outer end, widening to 4' at a distance of 4½' inwards, where there are checks for a door. On the inner side of this forework, to the S. of the entrance, part of the

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thickening of the wall ends in a stairway, of which five steps remain from the level of the interior area to the present level of the top of the wall. A similar arrangement of steps to the N. of the entrance gives access to the present top of the wall from the floor of the long chamber immediately behind the northern half of the wall. Immediately in rear of this entrance through the forework stands the broch, which, however, is entered from the opposite or seaward side and is in that direction enclosed by a congeries of outbuildings, oblong, circular, and irregular in form, scattered over nearly the whole area of the promontory. The entrance to the broch is through a passage 14' in length, about 3' in width for the first 10', where there are checks for a door, and widening a few inches on either side for the remainder of its length. The stone in which the pivot of the door worked is still *in situ*. There is no guard chamber. The interior area measures 23' in diameter. There is no stair, but at 14' 6" from the inner end of the passage to the left on the inner face of the wall a filling or rebuilding with smaller stone, commencing 2' above the floor level and extending for a distance of 5', is distinctly visible. The greatest height of wall remaining is 5' 3". In the floor of the interior area towards the N. side there are two cist-like constructions formed of four slabs set on edge which have been supposed to be fireplaces. One measures 4' x 2' and 2' 5" deep; the other 3' 3" x 2' 8" and 1' 4" deep. Almost opposite the entrance towards the back is a small pit or well, squarish, about 1' 3" in diameter, but now only 1' 2" in depth. The original covering stone remains, and to keep it in position a notch has been cut in one side which fits over a pointed stone set firmly in the floor alongside. A drain, lintelled over, passes out under the entrance passage. The outbuildings are well built.

The relics found in the course of the excavations included a long-handled bone comb, a bronze pin with a fixed annular head set on a short right-angled projection from the stalk, several portions of rotary quern stones and saddle querns, an upper stone of a quern of the former type ornamented with radial grooves and flutings, but without a central perforation, and a large object made from a cetacean bone, with indications of friction, and having a number of small triangular-shaped indentations made with a tool on its surface. The more important of these relics are now preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

See *Antiquaries*, xxxv. p. 139 (plan and illus.).

O.S.M., CAITH., xiv.

Visited, 24th June 1910.

519. *Broch, Thuster*.—In the corner of a cultivated field, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Thuster farm is a low circular mound, much ploughed down, which appears to cover the ruins of a broch. It has a diameter of about 130' and an elevation of from 4' to 5'. There is much slaty stone lying about the surface. A stone cup with a side handle found in the vicinity passed into the possession of the late Sir Francis Tress Barry.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiv. (unnoted).

Visited, 25th June 1910.

520. *Broch, "Hillhead Broch,"* or "*The Pup,*" *Broadhaven*.—Situated about 200 yards E. of Hillhead farm, at Broadhaven near

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Wick, are the remains of a broch excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry in 1903. In its present condition the interior is largely filled with debris, beneath which the wall face is hidden. On the exterior towards the W. the wall is visible for a height of about 2'. A plan made when the broch was excavated is here reproduced (fig. 43), and shows the following particulars: Outside the broch to the E., some 30' distant from the entrance, two converging passages, some 8' apart and 3' in width, walled on either side and furnished with door checks, led inwards for a distance of 17' or thereby when they converged. Beyond the point of convergence was a rebate for a door, the passage expanding to about 5' in width. Some 7' 6" onwards an outer casing wall 5' 6" in thickness was passed through, with door checks some 2' in from the outer edge of it. Within these checks on

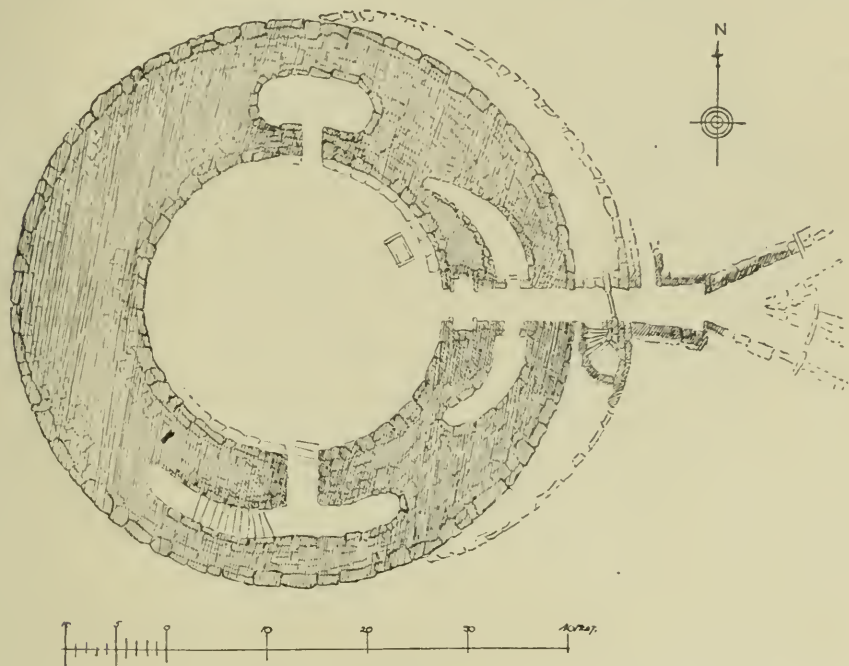


FIG. 43.—Broch, Hillhead, Broadhaven (No. 520); Ground-plan.

the left was an entrance, 2' wide, to a flight of six steps leading down to a well about 8' in depth. Where the main wall of the broch was entered, the passage was 3' 3" wide, and its length thence to the interior was 13'. At 5' 6" inward to the right and left were doorways 1' 5" and 1' 8" in width and 4' 6" in height respectively, leading into guard chambers roofed with converging stones, that on the right of indefinite length, and that on the left 12' long. Some 3' inwards from these doorways the passage expanded to a width of 5' for a distance of 2', forming a recess on either side and checks for a door, contracting again to 3' at the inner extremity. The diameter of the interior court was 30', but had been reduced by some 2' to 3' by a facing wall, portions of which still remained. At 18' to the left of the entrance, measured direct across the interior, was the access to the stair through a doorway 6' 6" in height, and by a passage covered with a horizontal roof 3' in width and some 5' in length. The stair rose to the right and at the foot of it was a chamber. On the opposite side of the court, some 17' from the entrance, a passage 2'

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wide and 3' long led into a chamber of indefinite length, covered at the E. end by a roof of converging stones. The average height of the main wall in the interior was about 9'.

In this broch was found the top of a human skull through which were three small perforations placed so as to form, roughly, an equilateral triangle. It is preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxv.

Visited, 27th June 1910.

521. *Broch, "Cairn of Elsay," Staxigoe.*—At the landward end of a spur of low rock that projects into the sea to the ESE. of the farm

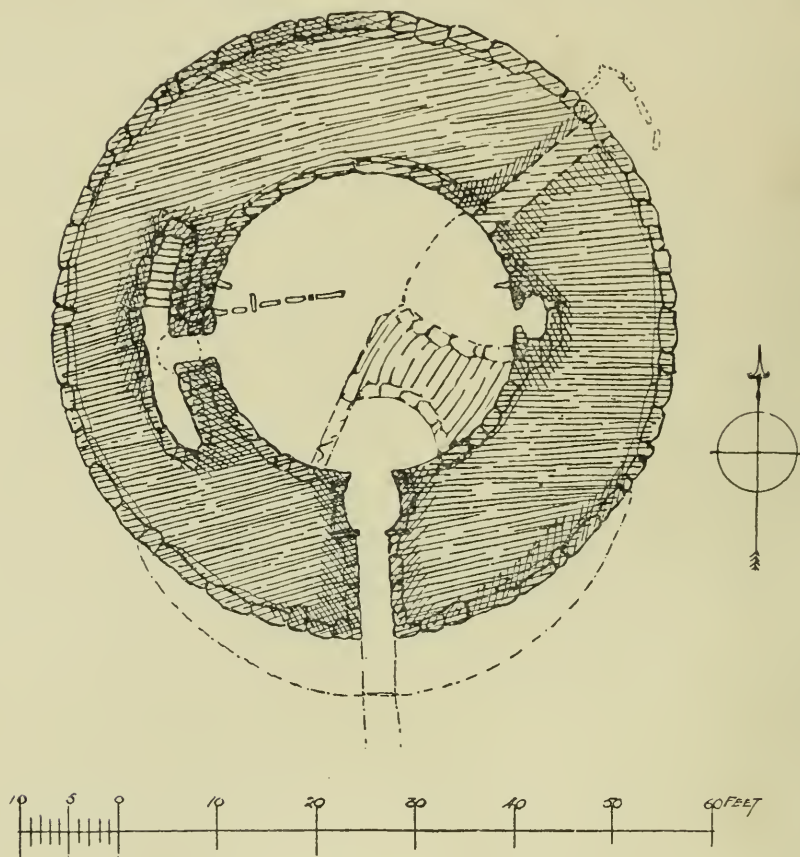


FIG. 44.—Broch, "Cairn of Elsay," Staxigoe (No. 521); Ground-plan.

of Elsay, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. of Staxigoe, is situated a broch which was excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry, a plan of which, made at the time, is here reproduced (fig. 44). The entrance is from the S. or seaward end of the rocks, through a passage 17' in length and 3' wide for 11', where it expands to 4', forming a rebate for a door. Inward from this point it slightly narrows, and at the inner end it is 3' 6" in width. In rear of the checks on either side are square holes for the bar. The bottom of the passage is not now clear of debris, but the height of wall exposed is 3' 4". One lintel remains in position, but broken, above the door checks. The interior diameter is 29'. Some 19' round to the left of the inner end of the passage has been the entrance to the stair, 2' 4" wide. The wall on the left has fallen. The stairway rising to the right is 3' 7" wide at the foot, and 2' 3" at the highest remaining point, 12' distant. The foot of the

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stair is concealed by ruins, but beneath its position is exposed a small circular chamber measuring as far down as exposed some 3' in diameter and covered with a roof of converging stones. At the foot of the stair stretching towards the main entrance has been a chamber, the inner wall of which is visible for a short distance. Some 15' round to the right of the main entrance, close to the wall, another small bee-hive-roofed chamber is exposed, also some 3' in diameter. Across the interior area of the broch some 12' from the back, and with a concave outline towards it, rises a secondary wall whose highest point is some 8' or 9' above floor level. For one half of its periphery, and that towards the N., the wall of the broch is better preserved than that of any hitherto visited, having an elevation of 9'. At the only point where the wall face on the exterior is completely exposed it measures 5' 6" in height. Any outbuildings which may exist around the broch have not been uncovered. The plan shows an outer casing wall some 5' 6" in thickness through which the entrance passes, but which is not now apparent.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxv.

Visited, 27th June 1910.

522. *Broch, Camster*.—Some 300 yards E. of Camster farm, which is situated on the high moorland between the villages of Watten and Latheron, and some 6 m. S. of the former, is a broch. Overlooking a track of marshy ground to the E. of the Camster burn is a rocky escarpment, from the edge of which rises to a height of some 12' a round rock, cut off from the rising slope on the E. and W. by a trench some 30' wide. The sides of the rock are steeply scarped on the W. to a height of about 12' and to a somewhat less extent on the E., while to the Southward the rocky face from the base of the prominence falls away for some 12' to 15' more. Below the counterscarp, which is visible only on the E. and W. flanks, the depth of the trench is some 3' to 4'. From the top of the scarp towards the base of the broch the usual terrace, some 20' in width, appears to intervene. This is very apparent on the E. and W., but on the N. the surface is much disturbed, and in this direction has probably been the entrance and outbuildings. Two segments of what appear to be the circular wall of the broch project for some 3' to 4' from the surface, indicating a diameter over all of some 78' and an interior diameter of about 34'; but as the whole mound is covered with thick turf, and no wall face visible, these measurements can only be held to be approximate.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 30th June 1910.

523. *Broch, Ulbster*.—At the end of a cottage some 100 yards S. of Ulbster school and near the high road is a mound which probably covers the remains of a broch; it has been much quarried. The diameter over all is 66', and that of a circular depression in the centre, which seems to mark the interior court, is 21'. The elevation of the mound is from 4' to 5'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 6th July 1910.

524. *Broch, Watenan*.—Near the N. end of Loch Watenan, and about 180 yards to the N. of Watenan farm, rises a grassy mound on which are the ruins of a broch. The broch is almost entirely overgrown with vegetation, but the outer face of

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the wall being in one or two places laid bare shows that the diameter over all is some 63'. On the E. a chamber has been exposed owing to the collapse of a portion of the roof, and its entrance passage from the interior is clear of debris. The chamber at present floor level is 8' 9" in length, 5' 8" in breadth, and has been about 6' in height. The entrance into it is at the N. end and is by a passage 4' long and 2' wide. The thickness of the broch wall at this point is 12'. The interior of the broch is entirely filled with debris and overgrown. The elevation of the structure is about 8'. Betwixt the base of the broch and the edge of the mound on the E. is a considerable area over which are signs of buildings. On the SE. a small isolated mound some 5' in height is cut off from the main hillock by a trench about 28' in width, and signs of a similar trench are visible on the N. with a slight elevation beyond it. On the E. the ground falls sharply away; on the W. it is under cultivation.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 11th July 1910.

525. *Broch, Toftgun*.—Situated about $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. to the W. of the Hill of Yarrows is the deserted settlement of Toftgun, $\frac{1}{4}$ m. to the S. of which a low grassy mound evidently marks the site of a broch. The structure appears to have been almost entirely removed—probably to build the wall of a neighbouring enclosure, and its dimensions are now unobtainable. A number of large slabs set on end protruding from the turf towards the S. seem to indicate the existence of out-buildings.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 13th July 1910.

526. *Fort, Loch Watenan*.—At the extreme N. end of the ridge of rock that runs parallel to Loch Watenan on its W. side is a small fort. On the crest of the ridge, a circular area with a diameter of some 27' is enclosed by a wall some 12' in thickness, now entirely covered by peat and vegetation. Its greatest elevation above the interior is 3' to 4'. The entrance to this area is not quite apparent, but it was probably from the SE. It is further defended by a stony rampart or wall from 12' to 18' in thickness, forming an oval around it 30' distant at the N. end and about 14' at the S., close on the W. flank, and some 20' distant on the E. From the E. end of the N. front a bank or wall apparently connects the two lines of circumvallation. At the N. extremity the outer wall presents a scarp about 10' in height, with a shallow ditch some 10' in width at the base of it. On the S. this wall is less prominent, and its outer and inner faces being exposed show it had a thickness of 12'; the ditch is visible at this end also. The sides of the ridge are steep. The dimensions of this fort are analogous to those of a broch, but there is a complete absence of the debris which would be found around such a structure.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 11th July 1910.

527. *Defensive Enclosure, Watenan*.—At the upper end of a slight elevation some 200 yards WNW. of Watenan farm is a circular enclosure with an interior diameter of some 58', an entrance from the S., and a bank from 15' to 20' in thickness. The position of the outer entrance is indicated by two upright slabs set 3' 5" apart. It



PLATE IV.—Gateway of Garrywhin Fort (No. 528).

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opens on a small outer court in rear of which, at 13' distant from the main entrance, is an inner circle with a diameter of some 32' and divided by a bank 8' or 9' in thickness crossing the interior from the W. side. Being overgrown with vegetation the plan of the construction is difficult to expiscate. Along the edge of the elevated ground on the NE. runs an old bank, but its defensive character is doubtful.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. ("Fort"). Visited, 11th July 1910.

528. *Fort, Garrywhin*.—Occupying the entire summit of a broad-backed ridge that rises from the N. end of Broughwhin Loch is the large stone-built fort of Garrywhin. The direction of the ridge is N. and S. The fort is in shape an elongated oval measuring some 600' in length by 189' in width. The wall which surrounds it has been some 6' in thickness, measured on the W. where both faces are exposed, and still exists in parts for a height of about 2'. Three huge slabs standing erect at the N. end mark the principal entrance (pl. LV.), two on one side of the passage and one on the other. These slabs are set at right angles to the direction of the passage, and probably faced the wall. The outer limit of the entrance is marked by two slabs, one on either side, 7' 5" apart. The slab on the right, or W. side, measures 5' 7" in height, 5' in greatest breadth, and 8" in thickness, while that opposite is 5' in height, 3' 5" in breadth, and 1' in thickness. The inner slab on the W. is gone, but that on the left or E. side of the passage stands 12' 10" back from that in front, measures 5' in height, 4' 2" in breadth, and 8" in thickness. The distance between the slabs probably indicates that the thickness of the wall at the front was double that at the sides, where the steep slopes of the ridge gave additional security from attack. At the S. end overlooking the loch has been another entrance, marked by a break in the wall and one weathered upright slab some 2' in height on the W. side. Outside this, and on the W. of it, are evidently the ruins of some out-buildings, now of indefinite plan. On the W. side towards the S. end a break in the wall may indicate a narrow port from which access was gained to a well in the bottom of the glen below. Halfway along the E. wall, at the end of a natural terrace sloping upwards from the S., a disturbance of the continuity of the wall may indicate a fourth entrance, or possibly the site of two chambers, as has been elsewhere suggested.

See Anderson, *The Iron Age*, p. 273.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. Visited, 13th July 1910.

529. *Fortified Enclosure, Kilmster*.—Situated immediately to the E. of the most north-westerly of the Kilmster crofts, at the edge of a cultivated field, are the remains of a defensive construction. A slight elevation rising from the moorland has been encircled with a single rampart of earth and stone, having a ditch outside it. The enclosure is oval, measuring interiorly some 230' from SE. to NW. by about 200' from NE. to SW. The rampart, which is now of low elevation, measures some 18' in breadth at base, while the ditch is about 12' wide and at present level some 3' deep below the top of the rampart. A break through the circumvallation towards the SE. has probably been the entrance. The greater part of the area is under cultivation,

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but a small portion on the SE. is still on the moorland. Many worked flints and chips of the same material have been found on the site.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. (unnoted). Visited, 11th June 1910.

HUT CIRCLES, ETC.

530. *Hut Circle, Loch of Yarrows*.—On a slight knoll sheltered by surrounding hills, some 300 yards SSW. of the most southerly point of the Loch of Yarrows, and some 500 yards SSE. of South Yarrows, is a hut circle. It is oval in plan, measuring interiorly some 17' × 21', and has been entered from the S. The interior has been dug out, and the floor is somewhat below the level of the surrounding ground. The bank, whose elevation is some 2', is about 7' in thickness, and has been lined on the interior with large slabs set on end. Immediately to the left of the entrance in the interior is a recess in the bank, lined with stones measuring 3' in diameter either way. A smaller circle, with an approximate interior diameter of 7', is placed contiguous to the larger circle on its W. side, and seems to have been entered from the SSW. by a passage some 7' in length. Within the interior of it, against the E. wall, are two slabs set on edge, placed at right angles to each other, 2' long and 1' 8" high by 3" thick. Some 31' to the N. of these constructions are the ruins of another small oval enclosure measuring interiorly some 6' by 7'. The entrance appears to have been from the W. The floor is at slightly lower level than the natural level outside. The face of the bank appears to have been lined with stones. From the front of this construction is visible the outline of a bank or wall curving round towards the W. side of the large hut circle above described.

531. *Hut Circle, do.*—Some 150 yards SSE. of the last is another well-defined hut circle. It is oval in plan, and measures interiorly some 23' × 26'. The entrance is from the E., and seems to have been about 2' 6" wide. The enclosing bank or wall has been built with stones and peat, and is in places 2' to 3' in height. The building has been exposed in one or two places, otherwise it is overgrown with turf and heather. Joined to the hut circle on one side at the SW. is a semicircular or horseshoe-shaped enclosure, measuring some 17' across the opening by 13' in depth. Some 40' to the W. are the remains of a small mound or cairn which has been excavated. It measures some 20' in diameter.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. (unnoted). Visited, 8th June 1910.

532. *Hut Circle, Ackergill*.—Situated in a sandy hollow, about 1 m. NW. of Ackergill Tower, and some 50 to 60 yards above high-water mark, is a hut circle (pl. LVI.). It measures interiorly in diameter about 12' from N. to S. by 10' 6" from E. to W., and the entrance, which is from the SE., is some 3' wide. The walls, now about 1' 6" in height, are built of stone laid on the sandy soil, and the floor, except opposite the entrance, is neatly paved with flags. The interior has been in part dug out at the back. There is a small recess in the wall on the left of the doorway, and another outside and to the right of the entrance. The sand in the latter, when excavated, was much dis-



PLATE LVJ.—Hut Circle, Ackerhill (No. 532).



PLATE LVII.—Entrance to Hut Circle, Hill of Yarrows (No. 533).



PLATE LVIII.—Horned Long Cairn, Camster (No. 563).

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coloured for a depth of nearly 2' or more, and contained fragments of charcoal. To the N. of the circle is a large kitchen midden. The hut circle was excavated by Mr J. E. Cree in July 1910, and two implements of iron, resembling punches, were found on the floor.

See *Antiquaries*, xlv. p. 181.

O.S.M., CAITH., xix. (unnoted).

Visited, 11th June 1910.

533. *Hut Circle and Mounds, Hill of Yarrows*.—About $\frac{1}{3}$ m. W. by S. of the broch of Yarrows (No. 509), on a slight elevation in the moorland, is a hut circle. It is almost circular, measuring interiorly 20' \times 21'. The bank, which is formed of earth and stone, measures some 6' to 8' on base, but is spread out for the most part to several feet more. In height it measures from 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' to 2'. The entrance (pl. LVII.) from the E., 2' 4" wide, is marked by the existence of portal stones on either side, 2' 9" and 1' 8" in length, and 1' 4" and 1' 8" high respectively above present ground level. The interior is overgrown with heather.

To the N. of the circle, some 30' from the entrance, is a mound lying E. and W., measuring some 17' in length, 13' in breadth, and 2' 6" in height. To the W. of it, nearer the circle, there appears to be another of lesser dimensions.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. ("Tumulus").

Visited, 6th June 1910.

534. *Hut Circles and Mounds, Ulbster*.—On either side of the road that leads from Borrowston to the Mains of Ulbster, round the base of Ulbster Hill on the N., is a group of hut circles and mounds. They are scattered over a distance of some 400 yards, and lie to the SSE. of the Ormiegill chambered cairn (No. 556). The mounds number about a score. They measure from 15' to 20' in diameter and 2' to 3' in elevation. Some were excavated by Dr Joseph Anderson in 1865, but no evidence of a sepulchral character was revealed.

On the E. side of the road, near the upper end of the group, is a hut circle, the bank of which is much broken down. Interiorly it has measured some 18' \times 22', and has been surrounded by a bank or wall 4' to 5' in thickness. The entrance has been from the SSE., and two large stones, placed with their broad faces parallel, still mark its position. These stones are about 1' 10" apart, 1' 2" high, and 1' 4" in length. A single stone laid between them forms a sill.

Some 40 yards S. are the indistinct remains of another circle which has been partially destroyed by the road, and some 200 yards further on there is visible the partial outline of another which has had a diameter of some 24'.

See *Mem. Anthropol. Soc. Lond.*, ii. p. 245.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 17th June 1910.

535. *Hut Circle, Upper Achairn*.—Near the source of the Achairn Burn, about 1 m. E. of the Camster road, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SW. of the shepherd's deserted cottage at Upper Achairn, are the remains of a hut circle. Its site is a bright green spot among the heather. The outline of the bank is marked by occasional stones protruding from the turf, and the interior diameter is about 27'. The whole is very indistinct and the entrance is not apparent. Some 30' to the N.

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another green spot seems to have been the site of a structure, but there are no definite remains visible.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiv. ("Tumulus"). Visited, 30th June 1910.

536. *Hut Circles, Camster*.—On the W. side of the Camster road, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. by S. of Camster, on the end of a grassy spur which projects into the flat land by the burn, is a group of hut circles. Near the end of the spur is a circle with an interior diameter of about 16' enclosed by a bank some 9' to 10' thick, and having an entrance from the SE. Some 20' SW. of it are the indefinite remains of another, oval or oblong in shape, measuring interiorly some 10' \times 16'. The entrance, which is from the SW., appears to be very wide; the outline is, however, very indistinct.

About 100' to the NE. of the first is another small circle, with a diameter of some 10', having an entrance from the SE. Its bank is much worn down.

Some 20' to the SE. is another, oval in form, measuring interiorly some 14' \times 24'. The entrance has been from the W., and the bank on either side of it is carried down the hill in front for a distance of some 22' with an intervening space of some 11'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. (unnoted). Visited, 30th June 1910.

537. *Hut Circles, Watenan*.—Some 100' SW. of the defensive enclosure (No. 527), lying some 200 yards to the WNW. of Watenan farm, are the remains of a large hut circle. The bank at the NW. has been worn away, but the construction appears to have been oval, measuring some 30' in length, and to have been cut in two by a bank laid segmentally from side to side, with a concave outline towards the entrance, and enclosing an area, circular in form, with a diameter of 19'. The entrance has been from the SSE.; the thickness of the bank is 7'.

Some 15' to the NE. lies a smaller circle with a diameter of 14' and a bank 7' to 8' in thickness. The entrance seems to have been from the S.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. (unnoted). Visited, 11th July 1910.

538. *Hut Circle (supposed) and Cists, Watenan*.—On the S. end of a ridge a little more than $\frac{1}{4}$ m. WSW. of Watenan farm are the remains of a construction which was excavated by Dr Joseph Anderson in 1866. It was believed to be a cairn, but the plan suggests, notwithstanding the presence of human remains, that it may have been a small hut circle or the ruins of a bee-hive hut. Previous to excavation it presented the appearance of a small cairn, 3' high in the centre and 18' in diameter, and was entirely covered by about a foot of peat which had grown over it. Beneath, the stones were found laid on their flat sides and sloping outwards from the centre. It has been built of stone, with a wall some 3' to 4' in thickness, and has been circular, having an interior diameter of 13' to 14'. From the N. an inner wall, part of an interior circle, runs segmentally for a distance of 9', beyond which it is broken down. This wall, which is 2' 6" in thickness, is some 1' 5" in height and at its termination 1' 10" distant from the inner face of the outer wall. At the end of it there was discovered on excavation a flat stone

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about 2' in length by 9" in breadth, whereon lay the remains of a human skeleton. On the undisturbed soil beneath the ruins, the excavators found some small fragments of pottery and wood charcoal.

At about 28' distant from the circle, in a westerly direction, is

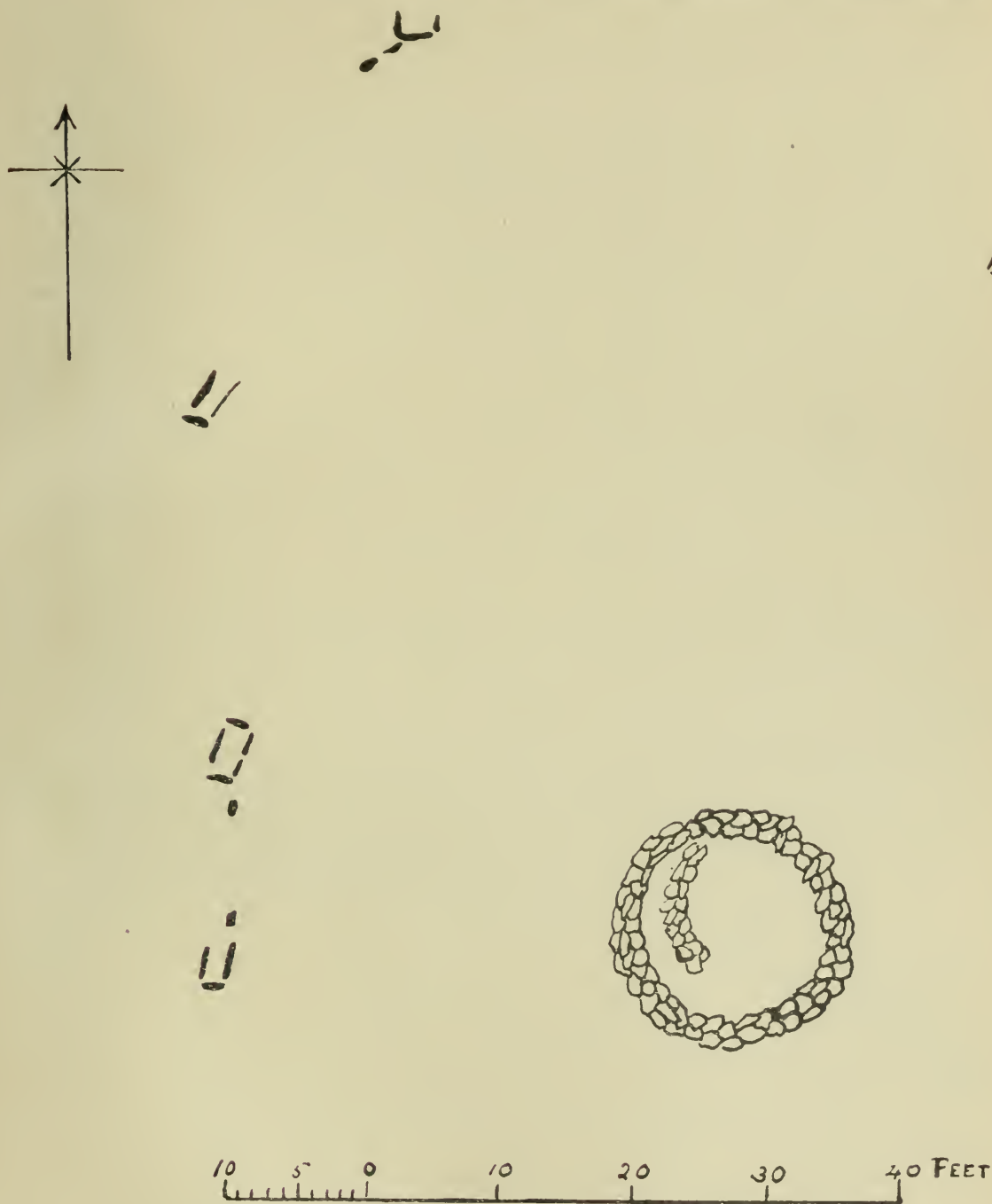


FIG. 45.—Hut Circle (supposed) and Cists, Watenan (No. 538); Ground-plan.

exposed a cist, the top of which is almost at ground level; it lies N. and S. and appears to have measured some 3' x 2'. Some 10' N. of it is another, measuring 3' 6" x 2', lying in the same direction. A few small stones lie adjacent as if they had formed a small stony mound on the top. At 23' N. is another cist, 4' x 1' 6", lying NNE. and SSW., with similar stones beside it, while 28' to the NNE. is another,

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measuring 3' × 1' 6", lying E. and W. The cists appear to be set in the line of an ellipse around the circle. At one or two places between them thin slabs protrude, set on end, similar to those in the stone rows. They were excavated previous to 1865, but no record seems to have been kept of their contents.

A ground plan of the circle and cists is here reproduced (fig. 45). See *Mem. Anthropol. Soc. Lond.*, iii. p. 240.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 11th July 1910.

539. *Hut Circle and Mound, Broughwhin*.—Between Garrywhin fort (No. 528) and the loch of Broughwhin, and about 80' N. of the edge of the latter, are the ruins of a stone-built hut circle. It appears to have been circular, with an interior diameter of 14' and an entrance from the SSE. The wall has been some 4' in thickness. Against the outer wall on the N. there are signs of a small oval chamber, and in the interior is a suggestion of an inner circle such as has been observed elsewhere, but the debris and overgrowth of heather obscure the details.

In front of the circle, and some 30' to the SW., is a low mound with a diameter of about 11'.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. (unnoted).

Visited, 13th July 1910.

SEPULCHRAL CONSTRUCTIONS.

540. *Chambered Cairn (supposed), Hempriggs*.—About 1½ m. S. of the Castle of Old Wick (No. 495), and ½ m. ESE. of Hempriggs House, in rear of a deserted cottage, is a low grassy mound. It has a diameter of some 50' and an elevation of from 3' to 4'. Near the centre two large slabs, almost at right angles to each other, protrude through the turf. The largest, lying nearly N. and S., is 3' 4" in width, 6" to 8" in thickness, and is exposed for a height of 2'. The true character of the mound is not obvious, but the slabs suggest that it may be the remains of a chambered cairn. It is stony all over beneath the turf.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxv. ("Mound").

Visited, 24th May 1910.

541. *Chambered Cairn, Bilbster*.—About 1¼ m. above Bilbster House, on the right or S. bank of the Wick River, on the W. end of a low ridge, are the remains of a chambered cairn. It has been excavated at some remote period, and, as much of the stone has been removed, the details of the chamber are not fully ascertainable. Two large slabs 10' apart face each other at the E. and W. near the centre of the cairn, and a third slab stands almost at right angles to the E. slab adjoining the N. end of it. The slabs measure about 3' 5", 3' 6", and 3' 8" in breadth respectively, and 5" to 6" in thickness. The diameter of the cairn from N. to S. has been about 70', and from E. to W. 62', but as it is overgrown with grass the outline is indefinite. The entrance appears to have been from the SE. Near the circumference two slabs, 2' and 2' 8" in breadth, stand in line 1' 10" apart, and in rear of one of them are two other similar stones set parallel, each 4' apart. The third stone from the circumference is 18' 6" distant from the S. end of the E. slab of the chamber. If these stones have been in its walls, the entrance passage must have approached the existing, or partially existing, chamber obliquely. The remains of

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the chamber are, however, too fragmentary for the accurate definition of its original form.

O.S.M., CAITH., xix.

Visited, 26th May 1910.

542. *Cairns, Loch of Yarrows*.—At the N. end of the Loch of Yarrows, and immediately to the E. of North Yarrows, is the site of a cairn which has been excavated and removed, and immediately adjoining it there appears to be a second cairn overgrown with turf. The latter does not seem to have been excavated. From E. to W. it has a diameter of some 40', and from N. to S. of 50', but the edge is indefinite. Its elevation is about 5'. The excavated cairn is the "Carn Righ," opened by Dr Joseph Anderson, who found the chamber completely destroyed.

See Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 258.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. ("Cairn Reain").

Visited, 6th June 1910.

Chambered Cairns (horned, long), Yarrows.

On the top of a ridge, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. to the SW. of the broch of Yarrows (No. 509), are the remains of two horned long cairns some 300 yards apart, which were excavated by Dr Joseph Anderson in 1865-66, and have been fully described by him (*op. cit. infra*), and from his description the following particulars are derived:—

543. This cairn (fig. 46), which was the larger, measured 240' in length. The breadth of the base at the E. end was 66', and

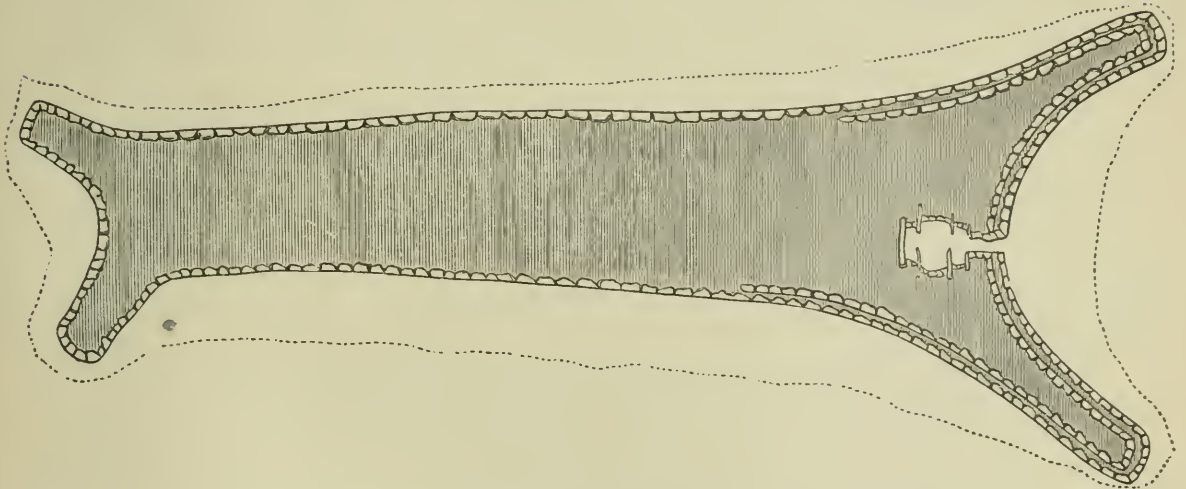


FIG. 46.—Horned, long Cairn, Yarrows (No. 543); Ground-plan.

at the W. end 36', but the horns expanded so as to make the line across their tips at the E. end 92', and at the W. end 53'. The extreme height of the cairn at the E. end did not exceed 12', sloping gradually to less than 5' at the W. end. In the E. or high end of the cairn there was disclosed a chamber with a passage leading into it from the middle of the projecting concavity between the horns. Two flat stones set on end, about $2\frac{1}{2}'$ high, formed the door jambs on the outside of the entrance. The passage, well built, and about 2' wide, ran inwards for 10', and at its further end, where it opened into the chamber, two

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stones similar to those at the outside entrance but much higher, were set in the wall of the chamber, forming between their edges a doorway 1' 6" wide. Only one of the covering stones was found on the passage, close to the entrance to the chamber. The height, which seemed to have increased gradually from the exterior entrance inwards, was at the inner end about 4'. The chamber was very small, measuring only some 12' in length from front to back, and 6' from side to side. The side walls were still entire to a height of 7'. At this height there appeared to be a convergence to form a rudely vaulted roof, like the roofs of the bee-hive huts, the chambers in brochs, and other constructions of dry-built stones. The walls were not straight, but had a distinct curvature. The chamber was tripartite, divided into three sections by two pairs of divisional stones projecting from the side walls, opposite to each other, leaving a passage of about 2' wide between them. The first, or outer compartment, measured 4' 7" across, increasing to 6' at the first pair of divisional stones; the second, or middle compartment, was a little over 6' across, and 5' 4" in length between the pairs of divisional stones; and a third, or inner compartment, measured 4' 8" × 2' 4". The first and second compartments were included under the arched roof, but the third compartment was covered by a flat roof formed of a large block of stone.

On the floor of the chamber lay a few unburnt bones of small animals; such animals, however, as might have frequented the chamber for shelter. The floor itself was formed of a dark clay, firmly compacted, in which a rough paving of small flattish stones appeared to have been partially though irregularly laid. The surface of the clay was hard, and had the appearance of a well trodden floor, but this may have been caused by the pressure of many tons of loose material for a great length of time on an originally soft floor of ashes and earth, occasionally moistened by rains. The substance of the floor was a compacted mass of about 5" thick of earthy clay, plentifully intermixed with ashes and charcoal of wood and calcined bones, in a condition of extreme comminution. No single fragment of bone was discovered exceeding an inch in length, but there were portions of teeth, jawbones, and phalanges which were unmistakably human in character. About a dozen chips of flint—mere chips and mostly small—and two fragments of pottery, of a well-made, hard baked, thin black paste and unornamented, were all the manufactured relics that were obtained.

The best defined of the two projecting horns in front of the chamber, which was entirely covered with turf and heather, and was about 4' high at its junction with the cairn, was also excavated, and that along its entire length. It was structureless in the upper part only, the lower part showing a well built double wall measuring 54' along the curvature from the entrance of the chamber to the tip of the horn. At the tip

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of the horn the stones used in the construction of this double walling consisted of large flags and smaller stones in alternate courses; but along the side both walls were continuously built with small flattish stones. Both the walls thus forming the outline of the inner curve of the horn were faced only to the exterior, the second or inner wall appearing close behind the first, and thus showing that the first or outer wall was built up against it. The whole structure was found to be entire in the lower part, the double wall appearing like two steps of a stair all round the outline of the horns. Tracing it backwards along the body of the cairn its lower courses were uncovered throughout their entire length on both sides and round the curvature of the posterior horns. They were constructed in the same manner throughout, and the smaller end of the cairn differed in no respect from the larger end, except in the absence of a passage and chamber. Of its external elevation portions were remaining to the height of 4', although along the greater part of its outline the foundation courses only were left in position.

The cairn is now almost unrecognisable. The walls of the passage have been partially rebuilt, and the first chamber has been so reduced by building that its sides are now flush with the passage walls. One side of the centre chamber has been built up so as to contain a chimney, while the ends of the inner chamber have been altered and at the S. side reconstructed. The building visible in the three excavations along the cairn is, in two cases at least, probably modern. The antiquity of a building exposed in the central excavation made by Sir Francis Tress Barry is doubtful.

See *Mem. Anthropol. Soc. Lond.*, ii. p. 235; Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 230.

544. The second and smaller cairn (fig. 47), which stood on the crest of the hill, closely resembled the other. In length it

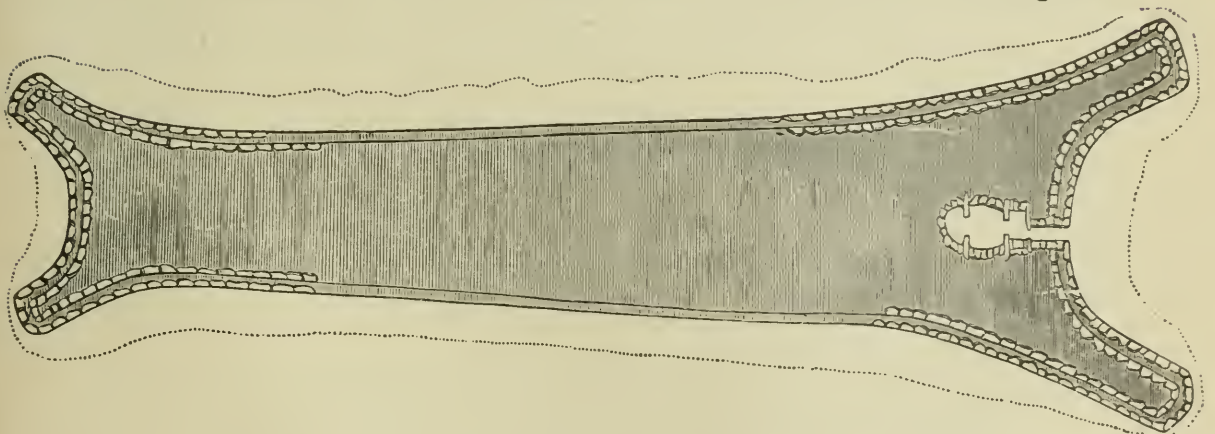


FIG. 47.—Horned, long Cairn, Yarrows (No. 544); Ground-plan.

measured 190', and across the body of the cairn 45' at greatest breadth, and 25' at the least breadth at the smaller end. Its main axis was E and W., with the higher and wider end facing E. The horns at the wide end of the cairn projected about 30' and were from 10' to 12' wide at the tips. A double wall,

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faced only to the exterior, extended round the original outline of the cairn and defined its external form. This double wall retained 5' of its height in the centre of the frontal semicircle at the wide end of the cairn. At this end, as in the previous example, was the entrance to the chamber—the passage leading into it being 9' long by 2' wide. None of the roofing stones remained. The chamber, as in the other cairn, was tripartite, but slightly larger, and it differed also in the form of the third compartment, which ended with a semicircle, and seemed to have been included under the same arched roof with the other two compartments. The divisional stones were lower than those in the other cairn, the first pair being only 5½' in height, and the second pair 4'. The first compartment measured 5' 6" in width by 4' 10" in length; the second was 7' 9" in width at the inner side of the dividing stones, widening somewhat in the centre, and contracting to 7' at the next pair of dividing stones; and the semicircular compartment at the back was 6' 8" in width at the front by 5' in length from front to back. On the floor of the first compartment was a cist formed of slabs set on edge and covered by two smaller slabs. It measured about 4' 4" in length, 1' 8" in width, and 9" in depth to the level of the floor. In the dark earthy clay which filled the interior was a whitish layer of softened bones in a condition of extreme decay. In the E. end of the cist were fragments of an urn ornamented with parallel bands of impressions of a twisted cord, and a necklace of small discoidal beads of lignite. Human bones, burnt, when found embedded in the floor, and unburnt, when on its surface, also the unburnt bones of animals, were found in all the compartments of the chamber.

The cairn is now demolished beyond recognition, the only portion recognisable being the short horns at the W. end.

See *Mem. Anthrop. Soc. Lond.*, ii. p. 238; *ibid.*, iii. p. 266; Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 237.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 6th June 1910.

545. *Chambered Cairn, "M'Col's Castle," Loch of Yarrows.*—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SE. of the S. end of the Loch of Yarrows is a dilapidated chambered cairn which has been excavated. The chamber is in a ruined condition. It lies with its main axis E. and W. At the W. end is a compartment measuring 7' 4" in length at present floor level by 7' in width. A large slab some 6' 3" broad has formed the back wall, and the sides have been built. Two division stones 1' 10" apart, projecting 2' 10" from either side, separate the inner from the outer compartment. The latter, entirely built and somewhat oval in form, seems to have extended for a distance of 15' from the division stones, and may possibly have been subdivided. Its breadth has been approximately 7', but the face of the S. wall is not exposed. The diameter of the cairn along the direction of the chamber has been 55', and across it 49'.

See *Antiquaries*, vii. pp. 294 and 502.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 8th June 1910.

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546. *Cairn, Loch of Yarrow*.—Some 64' to the SE. of the standing-stones (No. 567) are the remains of an excavated cairn with a diameter of 40', in which the O.S. map records the finding of a stone cist containing human remains.

547. *Cairn, do.*—Some 300 yards W. of the cairn known as "M'Cole's Castle" (No. 545) are the remains of a small cairn measuring some 27' in diameter, long ago destroyed, which contained a central cist. (Unnoted.)

548. *Cairn, do.*—Some 25 yards W. of the last has been another cairn, also excavated. It measures some 34' in diameter. Two slabs exposed near the centre seem to be parts of a cist. (Unnoted.)

549. *Cairn, do.*—About 130 yards W. by S. of the last are the remains of another cairn. It also has been opened, and originally contained a central cist. (Unnoted.)

See *Antiquaries*, vii., p. 502.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 8th June 1910.

Chambered Cairns, "Cairns of Warehouse."

550. Situated high up on the face of Warehouse Hill, some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. S. of South Yarrow, is the most northerly of a group of cairns, which were excavated by Mr A. H. Rhind of Sibster about the year 1853. It is chambered and has a diameter of some 45'. The chamber has been tripartite, with a total length of about 12'. The entrance has been from the E. by N. through a passage some 15' in length by 2' in width. The outer compartment is oval in plan, measuring some 4' from front to back by 5' 4" across. The slabs dividing it from the middle compartment stand 3' 6" above present level, project some 3' from either side, and are 1' 6" apart. The middle compartment measures 4' 8" from front to back by 5' 4" across. The back compartment is separated from the last by low division stones about 2' high and some 2' 7" apart. It measures 2' 2" from front to back and 4' 8" in breadth. The back of the chamber is formed of one large slab, and the sides throughout are built. The whole is much ruined, and no constructional wall is visible on the exterior. It has an elevation of about 6'.

551. On the highest point of the hill, at an elevation of some 616', and about 300 yards S. of the last mentioned cairn, is another, which has also been excavated. It is now a complete ruin. This cairn contained a megalithic cist unfortunately broken up in the opening. It is said to have been at least 8' in length, 4' in height, and 3' in breadth. Within it was found the skull and bones of a skeleton lying on a quantity of sea-shingle.

552. About 100 yards to the E. of the last, at an elevation of some 600', is another chambered cairn. It has now two chambers, which have been under separate roofs, and is entered by a passage from the NE. 12' 6" in length. The roof of the passage and of the first chamber remains entire, both formed of flags. The passage is some 3' in breadth, and is divided into sections about 4' in length by upright supports projecting from the built sides facing each other 2' 2" apart. The first chamber is rectangular on plan, and measures 4' 8" in the direction of the passage by 5' 7" across, and is, from present floor

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level, about 3' in height. A wall 1' 8" high, probably secondary, has been built between the portal stones at its outer end. The entrance to the second chamber is through portal stones 2' 2" apart. This chamber is approximately circular, with a diameter of 8' 8", and is entirely built. The height of its wall is still some 5'. The diameter of the cairn is about 55'. Lying towards the SE. of the cairn is a large quadrangular block measuring 9' 8" in length and 1' 5" × 11" in horizontal section.

This is evidently the cairn described by Dr Joseph Anderson in *Scotland in Pagan Times—The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 254, and there illustrated by a ground-plan. What is now a single circular chamber at the back was at the date of his description divided, and had a single large slab forming the back wall. The division stones and back slab are not now visible. In the central chamber Mr Rhind found the remains of at least three urns "of coarse thick pottery" and fragments of burnt bone. In the outer chamber remains of an unburnt burial were found. The relics do not appear to have been preserved.

553. Some 300 yards ENE. of the last are the remains of another chambered cairn, excavated, and now ruined. The chamber has been some 15' in total length; the length of the entrance passage some 17', and the diameter of the cairn 54' along the direction of the chamber, by 43' across it.

554. Some 30' to the NE. of the last are the remains of yet another cairn which has been excavated, but which does not appear to have been chambered. It has had a diameter of 26'.

See Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, pp. 253–257 (plans); *The Ulster Journal of Archæology*, ii. p. 100 (plans); *Mem. Anthropol. Soc. Lond.*, ii. p. 232.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 8th June 1910.

555. *Cairn, "Fairy Hillock," Wick.*—From the marshy ground on the right bank of the Wick River, about 1¼ m. above Wick, there rises a natural hillock known as the "Fairy Hillock." Its general direction is E. and W., and on the W. and highest end there has been a small cairn some 30' in diameter. It has been excavated, and one large slab, measuring superficially some 4' 6" by 3', lies exposed in the interior.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiv.

Visited, 13th June 1910.

556. *Chambered Cairn, Ormiegill, Hill of Ulbster.*—To the N. of the Hill of Ulbster, a little over ½ m. N. by W. of Ulbster Mains, and close beside the road leading from Borrowston thereto, is the horned chambered cairn of Ormiegill (fig. 48). It was excavated by Dr Joseph Anderson in 1865, and from his description the following particulars are derived:—

The cairn measured 66' in length, with an extreme width of nearly the same extent. From the E. end horns expanded till they were nearly 50' apart and 30' in length, and from the W. till they were 37' apart and also 30' in length; those at the E. being 8' broad at the tips, and those at the W. 9' broad. A double wall of construction, faced only to the outside, defined the whole exterior outline of the structure, and a circular

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wall 80' in circumference surrounded the chamber. The passage opened from the middle of the concavity between the horns at the E. end. It was 10' long and 2' wide, and seemed to have been lintelled over. The chamber was tripartite. The first compartment measured 3' x 4' 10", the second 8' x 6½', and the third about 5' x 2' 3". A quantity of bones of human beings and animals lay mingled on the floor, among which were

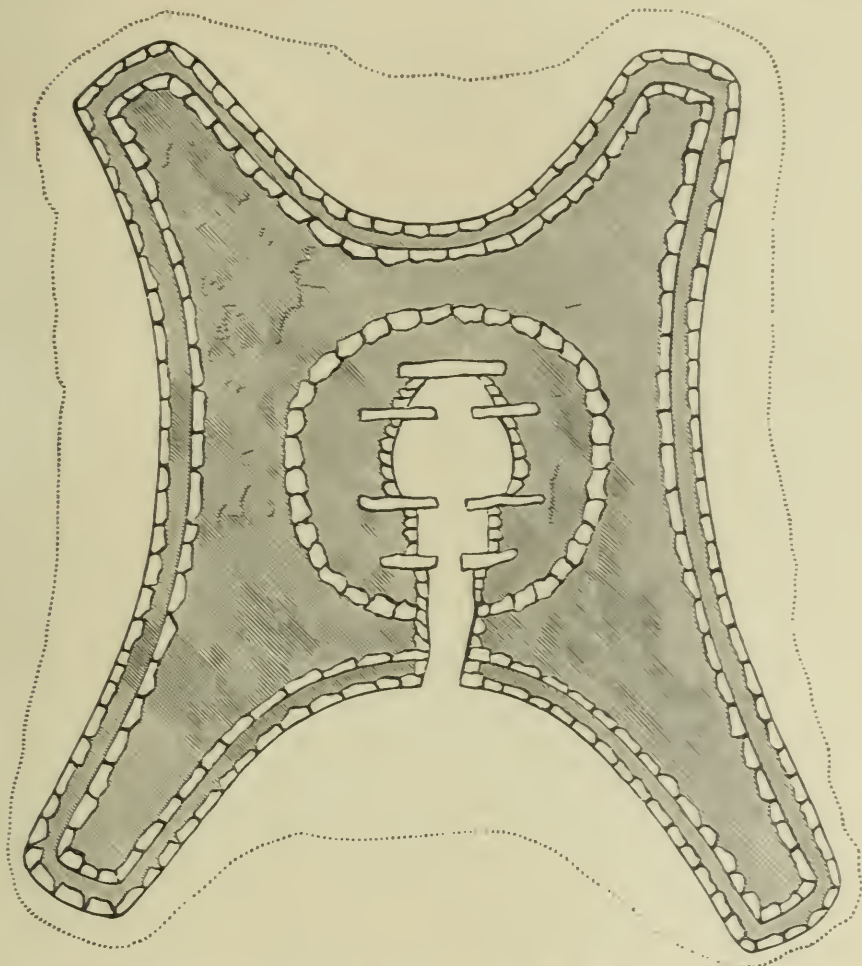


FIG. 48.—Horned, round Cairn, Ormiegill (No. 556); Ground-plan.

recognised about thirty fragments of skulls, believed to be those of different individuals. The bones were irregularly burned, some being merely charred. The relics found consisted of fragments of pottery—portions of round-bottomed vessels of thin, dark-coloured, hard, smooth paste, without ornament,—a great quantity of chips and flakes of flint, a finely polished hammer of grey granite 4" in length, pierced with a hole for a handle, a flint arrow-head of triangular form, a flint knife, several flakes of flint serrated on one side, and a number of scrapers.

These relics are preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

The cairn is now in an almost complete state of dilapidation. The partition stones between the chambers still remain erect, and on

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the S. side of the central compartment a small portion of the original walling is visible.

See Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 244 (plans and illus.); *Mem. Anthropol. Soc. Lond.*, ii. p. 241; *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 487; *ibid.*, ix. p. 245.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 17th June 1910.

557. *Cairn, Noss Head*.—Some 200 yards SSW. of the lighthouse on Noss Head, is a small cairn with a diameter of some 13', which has been excavated. In the centre a large slab is exposed which has probably formed one side of a cist, and another similar slab some 5' 9" in length lies displaced near it.

O.S.M., CAITH., xx.

Visited, 4th July 1910.

558. *Cairn and Stone Rows, Garrywhin*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of Watenan farm, at the upper end of a low ridge, is an excavated cairn which appears to have been some 18' in diameter. In the centre a cist is exposed lying E. and W., measuring 5' in length, 2' 6" in width, and formed of single slabs. The covering stone lies beside it displaced. This cairn was excavated by Dr Joseph Anderson in 1865, and within the cist were found "fragments of an urn of twisted string ornamentation," and among them two human molars. From the clay bottom were recovered two oval-shaped pieces of chipped flint now in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

Radiating down the slope from this cairn, from NNE. to SSW., are the remains of a series of rows of low standing-stones, seven or eight in number, now very incomplete. The stones are placed with their broad faces looking across the rows. The farthest stone from the cairn is 194' distant. The width across the rows at the outer extremity is about 114', and near the cairn 48'. The stones appear to be from 8' to 10' apart. In all there are thirty-seven stones remaining erect and some three or four lie displaced. Counting from the E., and presuming that there have been eight rows, the stones remain as follows:—

1st row	10 stones	5th row	1 stone
2nd "	3 "	6th "	8 "
3rd "	4 "	7th "	5 "
4th "	1 "	8th "	5 "

A survey of this setting made by Sir Henry Dryden in 1871 is preserved in the library of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. It shows six rows containing forty-six stones. The plan made from this survey is reproduced in *Scotland in Pagan Times—The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 127.

See Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 126; *Mem. Anthropol. Soc. Lond.*, ii. p. 251.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 11th July 1910.

559. *Chambered Cairn, Broughwhin or Garrywhin*.—This cairn (fig. 49), locally known as the "Cairn of Get," stands at the end of the ridge between the N. end of Groat's Loch and Broughwhin, and has been excavated and described by Dr Joseph Anderson. In extreme length to the points of the horns, when excavated, it measured about

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80', in extreme breadth some 60', the horns projecting about 20' in front and about 15' behind, and the direction of the chamber is N. and S. The passage was 11' in length, 2½' in height and width at the entrance, but widening about 6" further in. The chamber was bipartite, the first compartment measuring about 6' × 4½', and the second 11' × 10'. Its walls began to converge about 5' above the floor. There was a double wall defining the outline of the external form and a circular wall surrounding the chamber. The roof had

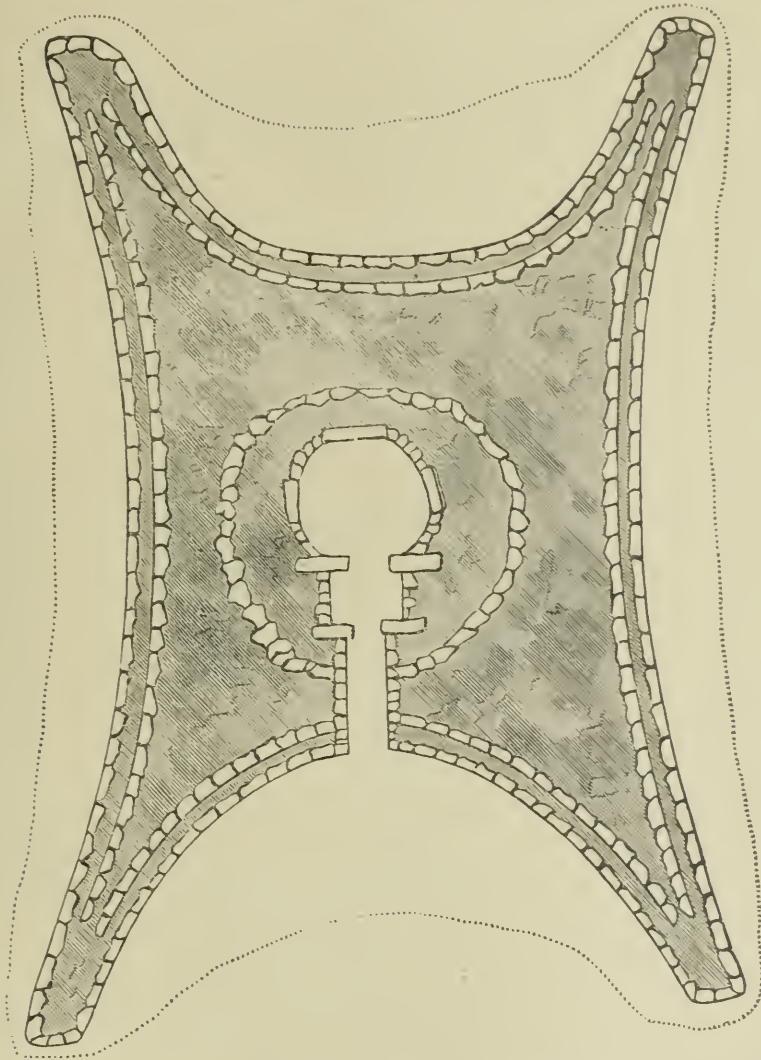


FIG. 49.—“Cairn of Get” (horned, round Cairn), Garrywhin (No. 559); Ground-plan.

collapsed and the chamber was filled with ruins. The floor was a compacted mass of ashes and bones, fully 1' 6" thick. On the surface of the floor, in the first compartment, were remains of at least four unburnt skeletons, the skulls lying close to the wall on the right of the entrance. In the mass of ashes the number of human and animal bones was very great, but mostly more or less burnt and fragmentary. The animals represented were the horse, ox, dog, deer, swine, and probably the sheep or goat; and among the human bones were those of very young children as well as adults. Flint chips and flakes were plentifully intermixed throughout the mass, and fragments of pottery of blackish colour, some of which retained

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indications of their having been portions of round-bottomed vessels, thin, hard-baked, well-made, and mostly unornamented, were equally abundant. The only class of ornament found on the pottery was that produced by the impress of a finger-nail. There were also found three finely made leaf-shaped arrow-heads of flint, one of which is preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh. A report on one of the skulls found was made by Dr C. Carter Blake, D.Sc., F.G.S., etc., and is contained in the *Memoirs of the Anthropological Society of London*, iii. p. 243. The skull was of great size and weight and showed a cephalic index of 76.

The passage is now entirely broken down, and the sides of the chamber in great measure fallen, filling the interior with debris. The sides of the chambers as far as visible are built, the only very large upright slabs being the division stones. The slabs noted by Dr Anderson in the sides of the back chamber are not now apparent above the debris.

See *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 500; *ibid.*, ix. p. 246; Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 248; *Mem. Anthropol. Soc. Lond.*, iii. p. 216.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 11th July 1910.

Cairn and Stone Rows, Broughwhin.

560. At the S. end of the ridge that lies between Groat's Loch and Broughwhin is a cairn, which has been excavated, with a diameter of about 18'. In the centre a cist has been exposed lying E. and W., measuring 3' 9" in length, 2' 4" in width, and 1' 8" in depth.

From the cairn four rows of stones have radiated in directions approximately N.E. to S.W.; only some six or seven stones remain. The furthest distant from the cairn is 110' away. The stones are thin slabs, set with their broad faces looking across the rows, projecting not more than 2' above ground.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. (unnoted).

Visited, 11th July 1910.

561. On the top of a low ridge, some 80 yards E. of the N. end of Broughwhin Loch, are the remains of a cairn, much dilapidated and overgrown with heather. Running from it towards the S. has been a setting of stones, placed as usual with their broad faces looking across the rows. The number of rows is not now ascertainable. Only two or three stones remain upright while a number of others lie uprooted.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 13th July 1910.

562. "*Cairn Hanach*," or "*Kenny's Cairn*," *Warehouse Hill*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. of the S. end of Broughwhin, some $\frac{3}{4}$ m. N. of Bruan, is a chambered cairn (fig. 50) which was excavated by Dr Joseph Anderson in 1865-66, from whose description the following details are derived:—

It measured externally about 40' in diameter and 14' in height. A passage led into the chamber from the S. 10' long, with an external aperture 3' high and 2' 9" wide, gradually enlarging to 4' in height and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' in width at the inner end, where a pair of portal stones narrowed it again to 3'. The chamber was bipartite, there being, however, a small recess

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under a separate roof, on the W. side of the inner compartment. The first compartment measured 4' from front to back by 8' across. Access was gained to the inner compartment between two divisional slabs, $3\frac{1}{2}'$ apart, which did not rise to the roof. A great slab occupied the centre of the back wall, and another slab was in each of the side walls. The extreme height of wall remaining in the inner compartment was 9'. The recess in the W. wall measured $4' \times 3'$ in breadth and depth by $3\frac{1}{2}'$ in height. The back was formed of a single stone, as also was the roof and the floor. On raising the latter another flag was found, beneath which was a layer of clay, 4" in depth, plentifully intermixed with charcoal ashes and burnt bones. Beneath this deposit was yet a third flagstone lying on the undisturbed soil of the hill. The whole floor of the main

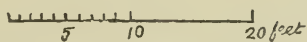
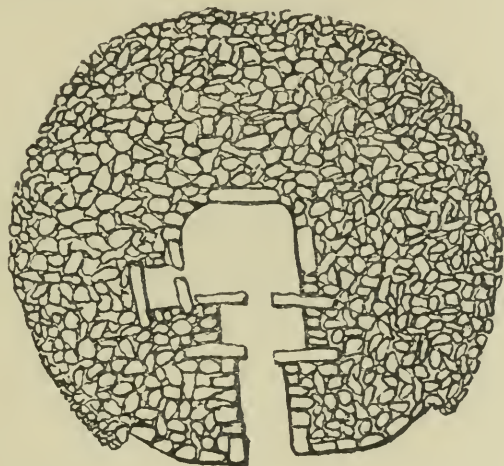


FIG. 50.—“Cairn Hanach,” Warehouse Hill (No. 562); Ground-plan.

compartment and of the passage, more than halfway outwards, consisted of an accumulation of ashes and broken and burnt bones, about a foot in depth, closely impacted. The remains found in it consisted of human and animal bones, the latter, those of the horse, ox, red-deer, swine, sheep or goat, and the dog or fox. Flint chips were not so numerous as in the neighbouring cairns, but the quantity of pottery was extraordinarily large. Several hundreds of fragments were recovered. These were of seven varieties, differing in ornamentation, shape, and degree of fineness. The most common pattern was that having the single or double impression of a thumb-nail. The twisted thong-pattern, and one made of rows of scorings with the sharp end of a pointed instrument, were also found. In the passage were found an oblong stone, about $4\frac{1}{2}''$ long by $1\frac{1}{2}''$ thick, having its sides smoothed and its ends rubbed flat, and a flat piece of bone, 3" long, with a smooth chisel-like edge.

The chamber is now largely filled with ruins, and there is recent building inside it. The covering slabs remain on a part of the passage, but some of the division stones have been removed on the W. side;

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a lintel still covers the front of the recess on the W. side of the inner chamber.

See Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 258 (plan); *Mem. Anthropol. Soc. Lond.*, iii. p. 225.

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Visited, 13th July 1910.

“*Grey Cairns of Camster*,” *Camster*.

Situated about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Camster Lodge, on the W. side of the road from Lybster to Watten, are two remarkable cairns.

563. *Chambered Cairn (horned, long)*.—The most northerly is a horned long cairn, lying NNE. and SSW. (fig. 51 and pl. LVIII.). Its extreme length is 195'; its breadth at the wider end, which looks to the NNE., is 64', and at the narrow or SSW. end 32'. The horns

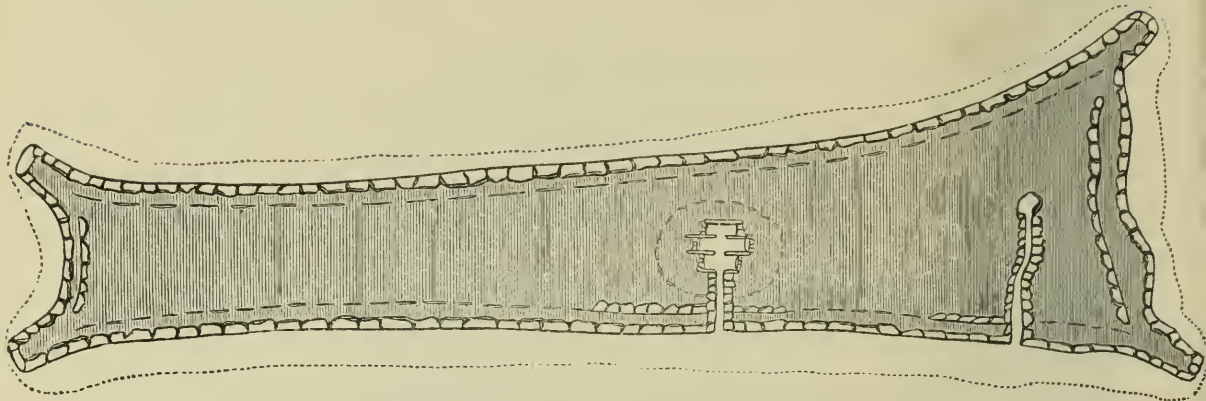


FIG. 51.—Horned, long Cairn, Camster (No. 563); Ground plan.

are short but well defined. It was excavated by Dr Joseph Anderson in 1865–66, and from his description the following particulars are for the most part taken:—

On the E. side of the cairn was a passage leading into a small chamber directly under the apex of the cairn. This passage was little more than about 2' high at the entrance, and about the same in width. It went nearly straight inwards for about 17', when it turned a little to the right, and entered the chamber by an irregularly arched doorway. The chamber was a small cell, the lower part of its side walls composed of five slabs set on edge. These slabs were irregular in shape and unequal in height, and the space above them was levelled up and built upon with smaller stones. The walls thus carried up were gradually brought to an approximately circular form, and converged to a bee-hive roof, covered in by a single stone of about 9" square, at a height of about 6' from the floor. The floor was formed of two large flagstones, which roughly fitted the interior space. The chamber contained no trace of any sepulchral deposit. Its principal interest was that its constructional features were complete from floor to roof. At 50' along the E. side of the cairn was an opening of another passage, $10\frac{1}{2}$ ' in length, leading into a tripartite chamber. This passage was remarkable for its unusual height and width, and also because it was rudely arched across with overlapping

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stones for a few feet at the outer end, while further in it was lintelled over with stones laid flat from side to side. The lintelled portion was 4' high and $2\frac{1}{2}$ ' wide, and where the roof of the passage merged into that of the first compartment of the chamber, the lintels rose successively like the under side of a stair from front to back of the roof of the compartment. The walls of the chamber remained entire to a height of 5' to 6', and at that height showed signs of convergence all round. The first pair of divisional stones were 6' to 7' in height, the second pair only 5'. It seemed as if the second and third compartments had been covered by one bee-hive roof, the first being lintelled over as has already been described. The main part of the back was occupied by one large slab. The floor of the chamber was a compacted layer of clay and ashes, of varying thickness, intermixed with quantities of burnt bones, human and animal. In the loose soil which lay on the surface of this compacted mass there were found a few fragments of skulls and other bones of the human skeleton, unburnt, and mingled with splintered bones of the horse, ox, deer, and swine. No fragments of pottery, nor chips nor implements of flint were found.

Beyond the exploration of the two chambers no further examination of the cairn was made by Dr Anderson, and it is possible, therefore, that additional chambers still exist in it.

The entrance to the small chamber in the head is still open, and the passage clear of debris for 16' inwards, but the chamber itself appears to be now filled up. The entrance to the second chamber is blocked, but the chamber is still remarkably perfect. Only on the S. has a small portion of the wall fallen. The elevation of the cairn is some 8' or 9' at the N. end, and 5' to 6' at the S. The constructional wall around the exterior is still visible at the N. end.

See *Mem. Anthropol. Soc. Lond.*, iii. p. 221; Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 240 (plan and illus.).

564. *Chambered Cairn*.—This cairn, which is situated about 200 yards to the SSE. of the horned long cairn (No. 563), stands on a small eminence. It is circular, with a diameter of about 66', and rises to a height of 12'. It also was excavated by Dr Joseph Anderson, and from his description of it the following details are taken:—

The entrance passage to the chamber from the ESE. was over 20' in length, closely roofed with enormous flags, and packed full of stones from end to end. At the exterior opening it was only $2\frac{1}{2}$ ' high by 2' wide, increasing in height and width inwards, until at the entrance to the first compartment of the chamber it was about $3\frac{1}{2}$ ' high and $2\frac{1}{2}$ ' wide. It was buttressed at intervals on both sides by stones standing edge-wise in its walls, which helped to support the massive roofing slabs, as well as to strengthen the dry-built walling. The chamber, which was found to be tripartite, consisted in reality of two chambers under separate roofs, the larger of which was subdivided by low division stones. The first compart-

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ment formed a sort of ante-chamber to the bee-hive shaped chamber beyond, and was roofed with two large slabs. The side walls were compactly built, and measured 3' 7" and 3' 10" in length respectively, and 3½' in height. The entrance from this compartment to the vaulted chamber beyond was only 1' 3" wide and 3' high. The divisional stones which flanked it, built into the walls, were 7' high, and set at a considerable angle to the side walls, in order to fall in with the oval form of the cell-like inner chamber. The divisional stones of this inner chamber occurred at 4' 10" and 4' 5" from the entrance to it, rose to a height of 4' above the floor, and were 3' apart. The compartment in rear of them measured 3' × 4' 2". The greatest height to the roof was 10', the walls bulging out slightly in the middle and contracting upwards from a height of 7' above the floor. Access was gained to the chamber through an existing hole in the roof formed by the removal of one of the covering slabs.

On excavation there were found embedded in the layer of burnt bones and ashes which formed the floor of the chamber to a depth of 9" to 12", besides human and animal remains, many fragments of pottery—chiefly portions of round-bottomed vessels, of a very thin, hard-baked paste—and a small finely formed flint knife. There were also found on the surface of the floor an iron single-edged knife or dagger blade about 4" in length, and a number of bones, both human and animal, and in the passage two human skulls; these, however, not necessarily connected with the original use of the structure.

The passage is now entirely blocked up. The chamber is intact except for the aperture in the ESE. side of the roof through which the interior is visible: the height of the roof is 8' above the present floor level. The walls are entirely built except for one large slab occupying the centre of the back wall.

This is the finest example of an excavated chambered cairn in the county, if not in Scotland. The interior is practically free from debris, and, except for the opening in the roof, its walls are intact.

The flint knife and fragments of pottery found on excavation are preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

See *Mem. Anthropol. Soc. Lond.*, ii. p. 245; Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 249 (plan and illus.); *Antiquaries*, vi. p. 449 (illus., plan and sec.); *ibid.*, ix. p. 246.

O.S.M., CAITH. xxix.

Visited, 14th July 1910.

565. *Cairn, Camster*.—About 140 yards to the WSW. of the large round cairn (No. 564) are the dilapidated remains of a small cairn. It has had a diameter over all of some 27', and is now only about 2' in height. In the centre has been exposed a cist measuring some 5' or 6' in diameter, which is said to have contained the remains of an unburnt skeleton.

See Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 130.

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Visited, 14th July 1910.



PLATE LIX.—Standing-Stones, Loch of Yarrows (No. 567).



PLATE LX.—Cup-marked Stones, Nybster (No. 576).

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MISCELLANEOUS.

566. *Standing-Stone, Gansclet*.—About 250 yards WNW. of the schoolhouse at Gansclet, in an arable field, is a large slab 7' 4" in length, 4" in thickness, 3' 7" in breadth at base, and 2' in breadth at the upper end. It is supported by three or four smaller slabs driven into the ground on either face and rests on another protruding 1' 6" above ground. It faces E. and W. The large slab, with the base on which it rests, is said to have formed a single standing-stone and to have been broken by a blow from a hammer some sixty years ago. It was re-erected at the time by order of the proprietor.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 23rd May 1910.

567. *Standing-Stones, Loch of Yarrows*.—On the top of a ridge, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of the S. end of the Loch of Yarrows, are two prominent standing-stones (pl. LIX.). They stand along the mesial line of a low artificial mound of recent erection. The stones are some 18' 6" apart. The highest stone is towards the N. and measures some 8' 4" in height above ground, while the other stone measures 6' 5". In horizontal section they are both quadrangular, measuring 1' 7" \times 11" and 1' 6" \times 10". The stones are placed in line N. 18° W. and S. 18° E. The N. stone faces ENE. and WSW., while the S. stone is set facing almost due N. and S.

About forty years ago the ground in the vicinity of these stones was trenched, and the mound and encircling depression resulted from this work. No sign of an interment was found.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 8th June 1910.

568. *Standing-Stone, North Bilbster*.—In a grass park about 150 yards W. of North Bilbster farm buildings, on a slope which reaches from the higher ground to the haugh by the Wick River, is a granitic boulder, evidently ice-borne, standing to a height of 8' 6" above ground. Its greatest girth some 3' above the ground is 17' 8", and its thickness about 4' 8". It has been pointed towards the upper extremity, possibly by human agency.

O.S.M., CAITH., xix.

Visited, 26th May 1910.

569. *Stone Basin, Stirkoke*.—In the centre of the flower garden at Stirkoke House there stands a rudely shaped circular block of sandstone, having a deep basin hollowed out of it. The height of the block is 1' 4", its circumference at top 6' 3", and at base 5'. The diameter is 2' over all across the basin, and 1' 6" within it. There is no sign of ornament and the edge of the basin is rounded. This stone is said to have been found in the Haster ford of the Wick River, near the ruins of the ancient church of St Mary, and to have been removed by a blacksmith to his smithy in the neighbourhood, where, filled with water, it was used for cooling irons in. From the smithy it was transferred to its present site. Though the interior has been carefully smoothed the shaping of the exterior has been very rudely accomplished.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiv.

Visited, 31st May 1910.

570. *Stone Rows, Battle Moss, Loch of Yarrows*.—Some 200 yards down the E. shore of the Loch of Yarrows from the burn of Thrumster,

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which flows in at the N.E. corner, on a strip of moorland lying between the cultivated land and the loch, is a setting of parallel rows of stones. The rows run almost due N. and S. and, with slight irregularities in line, are parallel. There are eight rows in all, six of which are fairly complete for a distance of about 138'. Of one row near the centre of the monument only a very few stones remain, while the row indicated on the O.S. map and on a plan made by Sir Henry Dryden in 1871 and preserved in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, as being nearly double the length of the others, viz., 384', is now within the area of ploughed land and almost eradicated. Broken fragments, which probably represent the stones, lie on the adjacent heather. The most northerly stone of this row now visible is 304' distant from the commencement of the row. The distance between the rows varies from 5' to 7' 8", and the stones are set in the rows from 5' to 6' 6" apart. As in other similar monuments the stones are placed with their broad faces looking across the rows. They are slabs of freestone from 3" to 4" in thickness, and protrude from a few inches to about a foot above the ground. Except where the cultivated land has encroached none of the stones seem to have been recently disturbed.

See Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 130 (illus.).

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. ("Standing-stones").

Visited, 6th June 1910.

571. *Stone Rows, Watenan*.—On a low ridge running N. and S., some 300 yards WSW. of Watenan farm, are the remains of several rows of stones which appear to have radiated from the N. in a southerly direction. No cairn is now visible in connection with them. The stones have been much disturbed, but there appear to have been four rows about 9' apart, the stones in which are seemingly about 5' distant from each other. The greatest length from the most northerly to the most southerly stone is 94', and the greatest breadth across the rows 36'. In the most complete row, that on the E., some five or six stones remain. The stones are thin slabs set with their broad faces looking across the rows, projecting from a few inches to about a couple of feet above ground, and seldom more than 2' in breadth—usually less.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. (unnoted).

Visited, 11th July 1910.

572. *Stone Rows, Broughwhin*.—On the low lying ground to the S. of Broughwhin, and between "Cairn Hanach" (No. 562), and the fence of the enclosed park to the W. of Groat's Loch, are the remains of another setting of stone rows. Two rows are very evident, running approximately from SSE. to NNW. and radiating from a single stone at the S. end, 1' 6" above ground, 1' 3" broad, and 1' thick. In the W. or outer row are ten stones *in situ* and one prostrate: in the E. row three *in situ* and one prostrate omitting the stone at the head from the second row. The length of the W. row is 111', and of the E. row 80', the rows at the end of the latter being 10' apart. The stones, which are set facing across the rows, are of the usual character but appear to have been placed closer to each other, several in the W. row being only some 4' 6" apart. Some 20' beyond the end of the W.

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row is a single stone set with its broad face across the row which may or may not be part of the monument.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. (unnoted). Visited, 13th July 1910.

573. *Stone Rows, Camster*.—Situated 350' SSE. of the cairn (No. 565), in which a cist has been exposed, and about 250 yards S. of the large circular cairn (No. 564), is a setting of stone rows. The monument appears to be in a very complete state, though the majority of the stones are now buried beneath several inches of peat. A small amount of excavation would probably disclose them all. There are six rows, running approximately N. and S. and radiating slightly in the latter direction. At the N. end they measure some 32' across and at the S. end 42'. The greatest length is 88'. The stones in the rows are of the usual class—thin slabs facing across the rows, and set from 5' 6" to 7' apart. Counting from the W. the following numbers of stones were located in each row:—

1st row,	11 stones.	4th row,	4 stones.
2nd „	9 „	5th „	3 „
3rd „	5 „	6th „	2 „

A plan of this setting, prepared from a survey made by Sir Henry Dryden in 1871, is preserved in the library of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. It indicates 38 stones erect and above ground, and the existence of other 34 beneath the surface.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. (unnoted). Visited, 14th July 1910.

574. *Standing-Stones, Camster*.—On the E. side of the road from Watten to Lybster, slightly to the N. of the point where a track branches off to Camster, are two standing-stones. That nearest the road is some 30' distant from it. It is a low stone standing 2' 10" above ground, measuring 3' 9" in breadth and 10" in thickness, and faces NNE. and SSW. Some 170' to the N. of it is another similar slab, 2' 8" high, 3' 5" broad, and 10" thick, facing NNW. and SSE. This latter stone does not seem to be very deeply set.

It is not certain that these stones form, or are part of, a pre-historic monument.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. (unnoted). Visited, 30th June 1910.

575. *Standing-Stone, Ulbster School*.—Just outside the wall of the playground adjoining Ulbster school, at its NW. angle, is a large standing-stone. It is a block of blue Caithness flag, 6' 6" in height above ground, 3' in breadth at base, 2' 8" at apex, and 1' 4" in thickness, facing NNW. and SSE.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. Visited, 6th July 1910

576. *Cup-marked Stones, Nybster*.—In front of Mr John Nicolson's house at Nybster are three cup-marked stones (pl. LX.) which he has brought from various places:—

(1.) An oval block of freestone from the "Sand" broch, Freswick, (No. 34) measures 1' 9" in length by 1' 3" in breadth and 6" in thickness. Irregularly disposed over its surface are nine cup-marks—the largest has a diameter of 3" and a depth of $1\frac{1}{4}$ "; the smallest a diameter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " : the diameter of the other marks average some $2\frac{1}{2}$ ".

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(2.) A large, irregularly shaped block of red sandstone, found thrown out from the ruins of Gills broch, Canisbay (No. 53), by a man quarrying it for stones. Its length is 2' 6" and its breadth 1' 3". At the upper end of the stone is one large oblong hollow, 7½" long by 5" wide by 2" deep. Beneath it are ten other circular marks, the largest of which, near the base on the left, measures 3" × 1¼", while the others, which are less distinct, vary in diameter from ¾" to 2".

(3.) This stone, which is an oblong flag measuring 1' 7" by 1' 4", was found in a field near Nybster. The original surface has flaked off the stone, removing several of the cup-marks; five, however, still remain visible. They are placed near together, and measure from 1¼" to 2½" in diameter. They are said to have been originally connected in pairs by shallow grooves, which are still, in the case of two pairs, faintly visible.

O.S.M., CAITH., xiv.

Visited, 5th July 1910.

577. *Construction, Keiss Links*.—On the summit of a sandy hillock, about 100 yards N. of the "Wester broch," are apparent the ruins of a structure which, when excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry, showed the remains of foundations of an oblong, rectangular, dry-built structure partially paved with slabs. One of these slabs was an incised symbol-stone bearing two symbols, a disc or mirror-like symbol and a triple oval symbol. This stone is now in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

See *Early Christ. Mon.*, pt. iii. p. 27; *Antiquaries*, xxix. p. 272.

O.S.M., CAITH., xix.

Visited, 11th June 1910.

578. *Mound, Nybster*.—Some 300 yards S. of the school at Nybster, close beside the road on the W. side, is a low mound, which was excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry. It was found to contain a circular building with a diameter of about 6', having a semicircular recess with a radius of about 3' opening out of it at the back. There was an entrance from the NE., about 2' wide, between two large stones laid on edge. The whole structure is said to have shown evidence of having been affected by fire. The wall was about 2' 6" in thickness, and existing to a height of about 3'. In the interior there was found a thin flat sandstone slab, measuring about 17" in length, 7½" in breadth, and 2" in thickness, perforated at one end with a hole drilled from both sides. There was also discovered a human jaw partially consumed by fire, and two other human bones. The structure was filled up after examination.

O.S.M., CAITH., xiv. (unnoted).

Visited, 30th August 1910.

579. *Mound, Quintfall*.—In the cultivated ground to the S. of the Moss of Quintfall, and about ¼ m. N. of Quintfall farm-house, is a mound overgrown with grass, measuring some 42' in diameter and about 6' in elevation. A trench was dug through it by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry, almost to the ground level, but no relics or interment were found.

O.S.M., CAITH., xiii.

Visited, 18th August 1910.

580. *Cairn, Ulbster*.—Near the base of the slope to the NE. of the cairn of Ormiegill, on what has been an old lake margin, is a large

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accumulation of stones like a cairn of crescentic shape. It measures nearly 100 yards in length. One end of it, which seemed to terminate in a circular cairn, was dug into by Dr Joseph Anderson in 1865. He found the stones disposed at the end in a regular line, forming a kind of entrance-way, but discovered no trace of a chamber. No further excavation was attempted, and the character of the construction is still unascertained.

See *Mem. Anthropol. Soc. Lond.*, ii. p. 245.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 17th June 1910.

581. "*Kirk Stones*," *Stroupster*.—About 1 m. SSW. of Stroupster there rises out of the moorland a green mound some 50 yards in length by about 30 yards in breadth. The remains of various buildings on this site bear the name of the "*Kirk Stones*." The buildings are of early type, but none of them suggest an ecclesiastical edifice. In all there are the remains of four structures, in which large flat slabs have been freely used to face the inner sides of the walls. On the most conspicuous building, near the centre of the mound, some excavation was made by Mr Samuel Laing and also by Sir Francis Tress Barry. It has been a rectangular building, with a wall some 4' 6" in thickness, enclosing an area nearly 11' square. This has been entered by a passage from the WSW., near the centre of one wall, 13' in length, 2' wide at the inner end, and slightly wider at the exterior. At the inner end, on the right, is a square pillar, which may have formed one side of a doorway, with a lower block behind it, and on the opposite side a similar stone lies along the side of the passage, some 3' 3" in length, corresponding in length with the two on the opposite side. Outside these the passage is 3' 6" in width. Against the back or ENE. wall, in the interior, are set three slabs edge-on to the wall, the end slabs 2' and 3' distant from either side and 1' 5" and 3' 4" apart from the centre stone. Two of them are about 2' in height, and one 1' 6", and they project outwards from 2' 3" to 3'. The thickness of the walls on either side of the passage is indeterminate, but at 6' 7" to the left the face of a wall, running parallel for a distance of 16', has been exposed. The whole group appears to have been enclosed within a wall. A burn, called the *Kirk Burn*, flows along the N. side. On the adjacent moorland, where the heather has been recently burned, ridges caused by cultivation are clearly defined.

On excavation Mr Laing reported the finding of a row of boulders forming a bench or bed along the wall on each side. Of that there is now no trace. He obtained, *inter alia*, some fragments of wheel-made pottery, one of the pieces having a coarse blue glaze on it.

See *Antiquaries*, vii. p. 50 (illus. and plan); *Prehistoric Remains of Caithness*, p. 36 (illus. and plan).

O.S.M., CAITH., xiii.

Visited, 24th June 1910.

582. *Font*, *U.F. Manse*, *Pultneytown*, *Wick*.—In the garden of the U.F. manse at Pultneytown is a font, octagonal in shape externally, and measuring some 2' 3" in diameter over all, by 1' 2" in height. Each face, 7" wide, bears a pointed shield, while a

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half-round vertical moulding, 3" across, separates them at the angles. The shields do not appear to have been charged. The basin, which is circular, measures 1' 5" in diameter and 10" in depth. The edge, for a depth of 4" round one half, has gone, and on the opposite side a similar portion is detached. The font is supposed to have come from the old chapel of St Fergus at Wick. In 1840 it was found by the parish minister of Wick in the glebe farm-yard, where it was being used as a trough and for sharpening knives on. He purchased it from the heritors, and from his widow it passed to the present possessors.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxv.

Visited, 22nd June 1910.

583. *Heraldic Stone, Ulbster Mains*.—Within the farm-house of Ulbster Mains is an old fireplace, in the centre of which is a carved panel bearing the following arms: Quarterly, 1st and 4th, the Sinclair galley; 2nd and 3rd, a lion rampant; dividing the quarters, a cross engrailed. On the 4th quarter, in addition, are the letters *r^{ms}*. Adjoining is a small rectangular compartment charged with three boars heads erased above the letters *i c*.

These are evidently the arms of John Sinclair of Ulbster and Jean Chisholm his wife, the latter commemorated on a grave-slab in the Sinclair aisle at Wick. She died 23rd November 1614.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 6th July 1910.

584. *Mounds, Shorelands*.—On the right-hand side of the road leading from Shorelands farm to the shore, and some yards to the NE. of the farm, are two mounds, apparently artificial, both under cultivation. Judging from the stones which have been exposed, that nearest the road has probably been a broch.

O.S.M., CAITH., xx.

Visited, 2nd July 1910.

585. *Mound, Papigoe, Wick*.—In rear of a cottage on the W. side of the road, towards the N. end of Papigoe, is a large circular mound which may possibly conceal a broch. It measures about 110' in diameter, and has an elevation of from 5' to 6'. It is somewhat stony on the surface, but a sample of the soil recently upturned appears to be clay, which suggests a natural character.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxv.

Visited, 27th June 1910.

586. *Mound, Ulbster*.—Some 300 yards ENE. of Ulbster School is a grassy knoll the character of which is not evident. It measures in diameter 110' from N. to S. by 95' from E. to W. Its highest elevation is about 8', and there is no depression on the summit.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 6th July 1910.

587. *Sculptured Stone, Links of Keiss Bay*.—A stone bearing two symbols and part of an Ogham inscription, was found on the links towards the S. side of Keiss Bay in August 1896 and is now preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh. It is a portion of a slab of Caithness slate measuring about 4' in length, 2' in breadth, and nearly 3" in thickness, sculptured with incised lines on one face as follows:—

1. The fish, of which only the lower portion remains.
2. The rectangular symbol divided longitudinally by a band of two parallel lines $\frac{3}{4}$ " apart, enclosing a row of contiguous

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curves rising from the lower line which also curves in terminal spirals below. The upper half of the rectangle is filled with spiral scroll-work.

To the left of these figures in a slanting direction to the break in the stone is a line of eight letters of an Ogham inscription reading from the bottom upwards,—

NEHTETRI.

See *Antiquaries*, xxxi. p. 296; *Early Christ. Mon.*, pt. iii. p. 28 (illus.).

SITES.

588. *Broch, Kettleburn*.—About 1 m. to the NW. of the town of Wick, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. from the N. bank of the river, is the site of the broch of Kettleburn, which was removed by agricultural operations in 1853. At that time the ruins were excavated by Mr A. H. Rhind of Sibster, and his description of them and of the interesting finds they yielded are recorded in the *Archæological Journal* quoted below. The diameter of the mound on which the broch stood was some 120', but only fragments of the broch remained. It had been surrounded by a boundary wall 3' in thickness by 3' in height, and in the interior were a built well reached by steps, and a drain. The relics recovered included a pair of bronze tweezers of late Celtic design, $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{3}{4}''$, a bone comb $5\frac{1}{2}''$ in length, stone balls and discs, whetstones, portions of quern stones, many fragments of coarse, unornamented pottery, and implements of iron. There were also found human remains and those of the *Bos longifrons*, deer, whale, and seal. The relics are preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh, and form the first collection made from the systematic excavation of a broch.

See *Archæological Journal*, x. p. 212 (illus.); *Mem. Anthropol. Soc. Lond.*, ii. p. 227; Anderson, *The Iron Age*, p. 209 (illus.); *Antiquaries*, i. p. 264 (illus.).

O.S.M., CAITH. xxv.

589. *Cairn, Brounaban*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. NNW. of Brounaban, on a slight heather-covered elevation between two grass fields, is the site of a long cairn. The cairn has been almost entirely removed, but a low ridge appears to mark its outline. It seems to have been about 170' in length, lying with its main axis E. and W., and to have been 50' broad at the E. end and some 33' at the W. There are no indications of horns.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. (unnoted). Visited, 17th June 1910.

590. *Cairn, Ackergill*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. SW. of Ackergill Tower are the scanty remains of a large cairn. It no longer shows any feature of interest or importance, so thoroughly has it been demolished.

O.S.M., CAITH., xx. Visited, 7th June 1910.

591. *Kiln, "Thorny Hillock," Barrock Mill*.—Some 60 yards SSE. of Barrock Mill is a grassy mound, with a diameter of some 43' and an elevation of about 4', which was excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry and found to have been a kiln.

O.S.M., CAITH., xiii. Visited, 4th July 1910.

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592. *Kirk o' Moss, Moss of Kilmster*.—From the heathery surface of the Moss of Kilmster, about 1 m. to the W. of the loch of that name, there rises a green ridge with an elevation of some 8' to 10', and stretching NNW. and SSE. for a distance of some 400', with an average width of about 120'. It is remote from human habitation and difficult of access, except along the bank of the burn or "canal," as it is locally called, from the E. Towards the SSE. end, on the highest point, are foundations of a building, lying E. and W., built of large blocks of freestone, and said to be those of a church. So disturbed and overgrown are these foundations that the plan, without excavation, is not ascertainable, but they appear to be those of a building measuring over all some 30' in length by 17' in breadth. To the S. of this site has been a square enclosure, such as might be a garden or graveyard, and at the SSE. side of it are the foundations marked on the turf of several small rectangular structures. Some 60' NNW. of the site of the supposed church is another enclosure surrounded by a stone wall, now much overgrown, and containing the ruins of a small rectangular building in its midst. This building and the wall of the enclosure around it are possibly of later date than the others.

This is apparently the site of the chapel mentioned as St Dudoch's (St Duthac's) Kirk in the "Description of the Parish of Wick in Caithness," 1726, printed in Macfarlane's *Geographical Collections*, where it is related that in former times the neighbouring inhabitants of Mirelandorn were in the habit of visiting the site before sunrise on Christmas and leaving there an offering of bread and cheese and a silver coin.

At the extreme NNW. end of the ridge are two or three low mounds of some 25' diameter, of indeterminable character.

About 250 yards W. of the kirk stones, on the left bank of the burn of Kilmster, is a small green mound some 22' to 23' in diameter, and 3' in elevation, with slight depressions several feet in length and breadth on the top. This is known locally as "Brigend's swine house." Though plough ridges are visible on the adjacent moorland, it must be long since there was any cultivation near the spot.

See Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 160.

O.S.M., CAITH., xix.

Visited, 2nd June 1910.

593. *St Cuthbert's Church or Chapel of Haster*.—Some 200 yards ESE. of Upper Haster farm-house, at the lower end of a cultivated field, and about 100 yards W. of the Achairn Burn, are the foundations of a chapel known as St Cuthbert's Church. It appears to have been a chancelled building, and to have measured interiorly 40' × 14'. The chancel wall has crossed the interior apparently about 13' from the E. end. As the wall faces are not exposed, these measurements may not be absolutely accurate. The church is called by Macfarlane in his *Geographical Collections*, the "Chappel of Haulster," but he gives no particulars regarding it beyond the statement that "the common people bury ther dead about it."

See Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, p. 160.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiv.

Visited, 23rd May 1910.

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594. *St Mary's Chapel, Sibster*.—The site of this chapel lies about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Sibster House; the foundations being traceable on the low ground near the Wick River. None of the building remains visible. The chapel appears to have measured interiorly some $40' \times 20'$. In 1726 it was described as "ane old chapple called Marykirk, which the commons did superstitiously frequent on the first Sabbath after the new moon."

See Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 160.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxiv.

Visited, 26th May 1910.

595. *St Tear's Chapel, Shorelands*.—About $\frac{1}{4}$ m. N. by E. of Shorelands farm, and 30 yards back from the edge of the cliff by the shore, are clearly discernible the foundations of the Chapel of St Tear. Within a bank which has probably marked the outer faces of the walls, the stones of which have been removed, the measurement is $40' \times 23'$.

Bishop Forbes, who visited the chapel in 1762, records that he "came to the Ruines of a very singular [little] Chapel of stone and mortar, without any Lime, and without Windows either in the East or West Gable, all the windows being in the South Wall. It is called the Chapel of St Tear, and the country people to this very day assemble here in (the) morning of the Feast of the Holy Innocents and say their prayers, bringing their Offerings along with them, some Bread, others Bread and Cheese, others Money, etc., and putting these into the Holes of the Walls. In the afternoon they get Music—a Piper or a Fiddler and Dance on the Green where the Chapel stands. The roof is off, but the walls are almost all entire. One of the late presbyterian preachers of Wick thought to have abolished this old practice, and for that end appointed a Diet of catechising in that corner of the Parish upon the day of the Holy Innocents, but not one attended him; all went, as usual, to St Tear's Chapel. I saw the Font-stone for Baptism lying on the Green at the East End of the Chapel."

The chapel is associated with a clan feud in the 15th century when a party of the Clan Gunn were attacked within its walls by the Keiths and a terrible conflict ensued. It is said that a meeting for effecting a reconciliation, to be attended by twelve "horse" on each side, had been arranged between the rival families to take place at the chapel. When the Gunns were within its walls the Keiths arrived, but had outraged the agreement by bringing two men on each horse. With this superior force they attacked the Gunns and killed most of them, but not without considerable loss on their own side.

The dedication of this chapel is a source of much speculation. It is given as St Tear's, St Tayre, St Tay, or St Ere, and is said to refer to the Holy Innocents. It is possibly a dedication transferred in Roman Catholic times from an earlier Celtic dedication to St Airerain or Ereran, whose day is given in the Irish missal preserved at Drummond Castle as 29th December, one day after that of the Holy Innocents.

See *Origines*, ii. pt. ii., p. 772; Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 159; Forbes's *Journals*, p. 211; Mackinlay's *Ancient Church Dedications*,

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pp. 310 and 396; Gordon's *Earldom of Sutherland*, p. 92; *Chronicles of the Frasers (Wardlaw MS.)*, p. 113.

O.S.M., CAITH., xx.

Visited, 4th July 1910.

596. *St Martin's Chapel (Site), and Mausoleum, Ulbster.*—The site of St Martin's Chapel in an old graveyard to the S. of Mains of Ulbster is occupied by a mausoleum of the Sinclairs of Ulbster. This structure (pl. LXI.), measuring some 22' square across the walls, has a roof of an ogee outline carried to a point which is surmounted by a cone bearing a weather vane pierced with initials, I.M.S. (the central letter now imperfect), probably for Mr John Sinclair, and the date 1700. A flight of nine broad steps leads up to the door of the mausoleum. Let into the E. wall is a panel bearing an inscription now much effaced, but which when complete read:—

THOU WHO DESIRES ANE HUMBLING
SIGHT TO SEE COME IN BEHOLD
WHAT THOU ERE LONG MUST BE.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix.

Visited, 6th July 1910.

The O.S. map indicates a site as under:—

597. *Chapel (supposed) at burial ground near Thrümster House.*

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PLATE LXI.—Mausoleum, Ulbster (No. 596).

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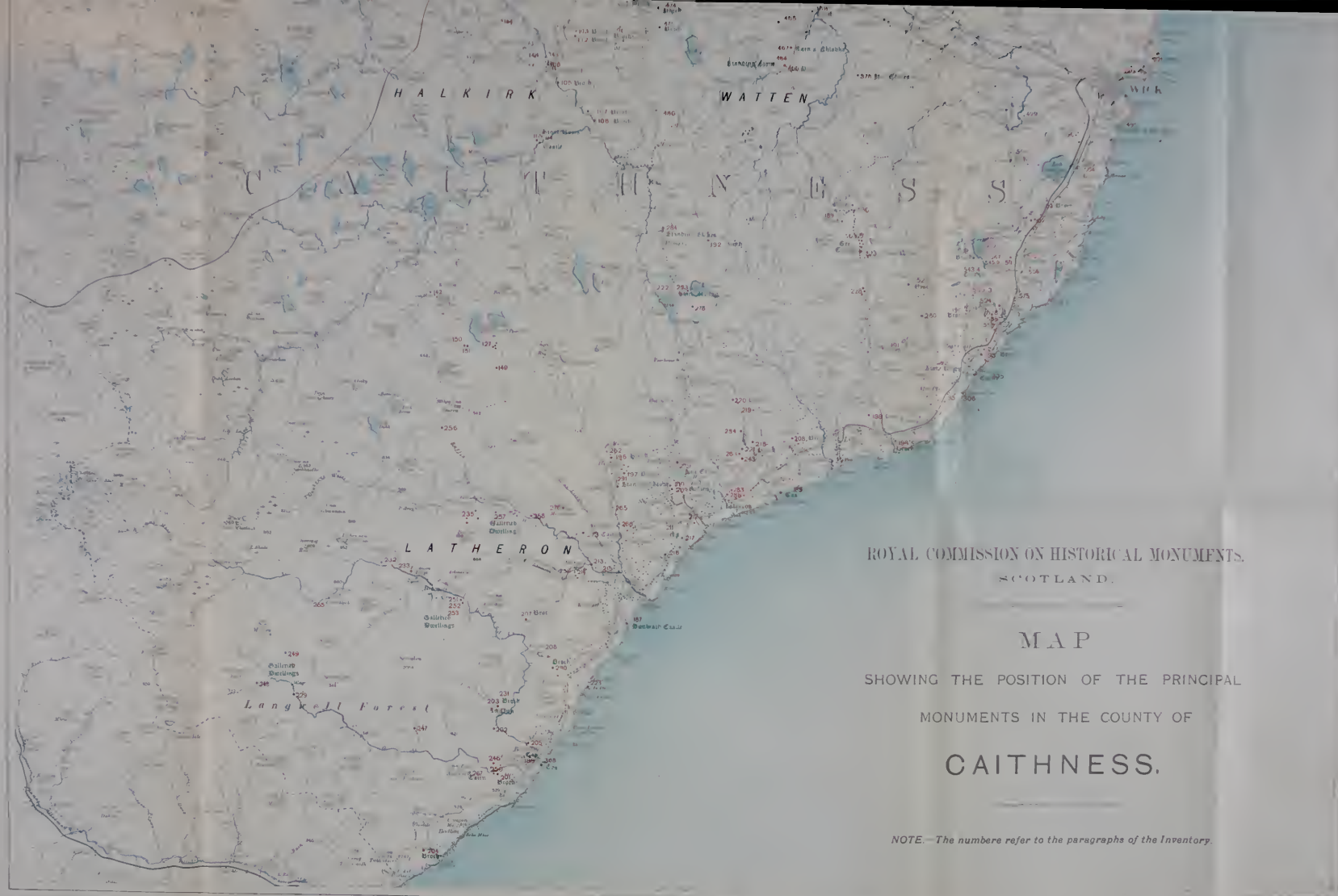
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MAP

SHOWING THE POSITION OF THE PRINCIPAL
MONUMENTS IN THE COUNTY OF
CAITHNESS.

NOTE.—The numbers refer to the paragraphs of the Inventory.

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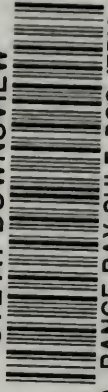
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