

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# FIELD MONUMENTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE									
H	N	C	0	1	S	E	0	0	2
2 NGR									
N	C	0	7	7	0	1	3	4	9
3 QUAL									
CE									
6 SITE NAME									
C	R	E	A	G	D	A	I	L	
10 GENERIC TYPE									
HUT CIRCLE									
14 PERIOD/DATE					15 DATING METHOD				
RA=1A					TYP				
18 SHAPE									
CIRCULAR									
19 THREAT AND DATE									

4 DISTRICT		5 PARISH	
ROSS & CROMARTY		LOCHBROOM	
7 AREA STATUS	8 SITE STATUS	9 REGIONAL STATUS	
SSSI	STANDING STRUCTURE	c. 12.6m Diam	
11 CONCORDANCE	12 FORM	13 DIMENSIONS	
OS NC 01 SE 2			
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS	17 CONDITION		
ENTRANCE IN WEST	RUINED		

20 LAND USE		21 GEOLOGY	
HEATH			
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION	

24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF		26 ASPECT		27 ALTITUDE	
		STEEP CRAGGY HILLSLOPE		W		8-30m OD	

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	
30 GROUND PLAN NO.	31 GROUND PHOTO NO.
	O.S.A.C./62/26/4
32 SLIDES NO.	33 HR. AR. NO.
34 NMR. AP. NO.	35 OTHER AR. NO.: SOURCE
36 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION	
37 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY	38 SAMPLES
39 PALYNOLOGY	40 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.
41 SMALL FINDS	42 MUSEUM/LOCATION
43 OTHER	

44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER		45 ATTITUDE OF OWNER	

46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT		47 ATTITUDE OF TENANT	

48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS			

49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE		50 RECORDER: DATE		51 CHECK: DATE	
		AR:19.12.1984		SEM:19.12.1984	

52 TEXT

'At NC 0770 1349 is a circular stone-walled hut measuring 11.3m in diameter within a wall averaging 1.3m thick. The inner face of contiguous stones on edge is well-preserved in places, and the outer face, though less well built, is evident here and there. A featureless gap in the W represents the entrance.  
'Surveyed at 1:10 000.'  
(OSFI:AA:7.8.74)  
(a. OSFI:FRH:30.5.62)

'At NC 0749 1348, on a platform surmounting a rocky knoll, is a circle of stones 11.0m

(over)

in diameter set on edge, the tallest being 0.7m high. At first sight this appears to be a cairn retaining circle, but the main scatter of loose stones is outside the circle and there are traces to the south and north-west of an outer wall. A break on the west side may have been an entrance. The slopes of the platform appear to have been artificially built up on the North and West. (G.P. AO/62/26/4 from the North). Probably a large hut circle although the situation is rather exposed and the entrance faces the prevailing wind.

'(See type site, NC 00 NW 9 for other large hut circles in this area).'  
(OSFI:F.R. Harper:30.5.62)

'Two descriptions NC 0770 1349 and NC 0749 1348 may refer to same site.'  
(AR:19.12.84)

## CREAG DAIL "HUT CIRCLE"

The circle is built on a hillock which slopes away on all sides, quite steeply to the W, SW and S, less so to the N and NE. Only two or three courses are visible above ground level. To the E it gives the impression of having been artificially built up, but this may be no more than the result of the tumbling of boulders from the outer wall. If the entrance was through the "featureless gap in the W" the approach to it was very steep, and unusual for a hut circle in being located on its W side. The plan shows possible entrances on both the N and the E sides, but these too have steep approaches. This suggests that the structure may possibly have been a fortified roundhouse rather than a simple circular dwelling, or at least that the site was deliberately chosen to be defensible against all but a major assault. The view from the site commands the whole of the valley below to the point where the R. Pollaidh reaches the sea, so it may have been designed to serve as look-out station and guard house combined with living quarters. Its position would also enable it to signal by line of sight direct to the Cnoc na Dail dun, but there is of course no evidence that the two sites were contemporary.