



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE														
H			N			C			1			0		
2 NGR			1			1			6			0		
N			C			1			6			0		
6 SITE NAME			D			U			N			C		
D			U			N			C			A		
10 GENERIC TYPE														
FORT, PROMONTORY														
14 PERIOD/DATE						15 DATING METHOD								
I/A						TYP								
18 SHAPE														
RECTANGULAR														
19 THREAT AND DATE														

4 DISTRICT				5 PARISH			
ROSS AND CROMARTY				LOCHBROOM			
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS		9 REGIONAL STATUS			
		SCHEDULED					
11 CONCORDANCE		12 FORM		13 DIMENSIONS			
OS NC 10 SW 1		STANDING STRUCTURE		43.0m x 13.0m			
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION					
		INCOMPLETE					
20 LAND USE				21 GEOLOGY			
HEATH							
22 SOILS				23 VEGETATION			
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE				25 RELIEF			
				PROMONTORY			
26 ASPECT				27 ALTITUDE			
W				8m=15m OD			

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	
1. 1971 : ORDNANCE SURVEY : : 1 : 10 000 MAP 2. CALDER C ; STEER K : 1948-9 : : PROC.SOC.ANT.SCOT.:VOL 83: p74-5 (PLAN) 3. 1967 : ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF SCOTLAND : D.O.E.: : p40 4. HBM (SDD) : 1985 : LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS 5. FEACHEM, R:1963:PREHISTORIC SCOTLAND: : :p49 6. NISBET, H C:1975:A GEOGRAPHICAL APPROACH TO VITRIFIED FORTS:SCIENCE &ACHAEOLOGY:15; 7. CLOSE-BROOKS:1986:EXPLORING SCOTLANDS HERITAGE THE HIGHLANDS:1986	
30 GROUND PLAN NO.	31 GROUND PHOTO NO.
32 SLIDES NO.	33 HR. AP NO.
34 NMR. AP. NO.	35 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE
36 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION	
37 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY	
38 SAMPLES	
39 PALYNOLOGY	
40 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.	
41 SMALL FINDS	42 MUSEUM/LOCATION
43 OTHER	
44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER	
45 ATTITUDE OF OWNER	
46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT	
47 ATTITUDE OF TENANT	
48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS	
49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE	
50 RECORDER: DATE	
51 CHECK: DATE	
DY 20.12.84	
HAR 3.1.1984	

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	
		DY 20.12.84	
		51 CHECK: DATE	
		HAR 3.1.1984	

52 TEXT

The fort of Dun Canna is situated on a promontory, the cliffs along the sides rising to 40' above high water mark. The promontory is connected to the mainland, on which there is an annexe, by a neck of land 37' wide. The fort is roughly rectangular and measures 40' x 30' within a single massive dry-stone wall of which the debris varies from 10 to 18" thick. The NW side has almost completely disappeared and the entrance was presumably at a gap 6' wide in the NE end. There are no signs of any structures in the interior. The annexe, of irregular shape measures 14' x 9.5', within a single massive dry-stone wall that in part at least was 12" thick. In this area the debris of the wall is 40" thick and rises to a height of 12' above the interior. A narrow gap in the NE corner, opposite the foundations of a late cottage, is obviously intrusive, and the original entrance is situated in a re-entrant angle of the wall in the N side at the head of an easy approach. In the exposed wall

(over)

52. face, on the S side of the entrance, there is a rebate resembling the check of a door. There may have been a wall between the annexe and the neck of land, with a narrow gap for entrance, but the N side of the neck was defended by a wall while the S side may have been similarly defended. The interior of the annexe is featureless

(OSFI: ES:14.3.1974.)

"Dun Canna" - A fort generally as described and planned by Calder and Steer. The westerly enclosure measures 43.0m by 13.0m within a partly overgrown wall reduced by quarrying and slip on the NW to a thin scatter of debris. Elsewhere, although no facing stones are visible, the the spread of rubble would suggest a wall thickness of between 3.0m and 5.0m. The entrance planned by Calder and Steer is suspect. Here the tumbled wall is overgrown by a band of turf and there is no hollow through it as one might expect. The entrance, however, is not evident elsewhere. The annexe wall also has almost been destroyed by slip and quarrying on the NW. Elsewhere the massive band of rubble (up to 10.0m wide) suggests a wall of greater proportions than that of the westerly enclosure, but, although it may have been higher, it seems to have been of the same thickness. The outer and inner faces are frequently visible in the rubble (the inner face to a height of 1.2m) giving a wall thickness in the NE of 2.8m, increasing to 4.3m half-way along the E side and then decreasing again to 3.5m at the SE corner. This increase in thickness is due to the wall crossing a hollow where its extra height would demand a more solid base. There is no trace of the rebate in the S side of the entrance seen by Calder and Steer. The better state of preservation of the annexe wall compared to the wall of the W enclosure suggests it may be later.
published survey (1:10,000) revised.

(OSFI:JM:10.7.74)

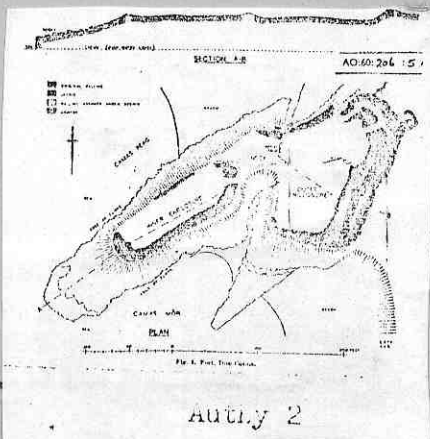
'This fort stands on the shore a mile N. of the mouth of the River Kanaird, looking W. over the bay towards the Summer Isles. The main defence is a massive wall, heavily vitrified, which amply defends a narrow promontory. The attenuated W. extremity of the latter is occupied by a separate also heavily vitrified, wall encloses an area measuring about 140ft. in length by 40ft. in width. It is certainly possible that the latter is a separate and later work than the former, though difficult to prove!

(5)

'Notwithstanding Feachem, 1963, this fort is not vitrified in any part. The 'rickle' appearance of the walls, however, does suggest that they might have been timber-laced.'

(6)

"NC 112 008 DUN CANNA, FORT" (4)



III. FORT, DUN CANNA (fig. 1, 3).

The fort of Dun Canna, 4 miles north of Ullapool (6-inch O.S. map, VII; National Grid Ref. 29/112008), occupies a strong position on a rocky promontory which juts out into the sea between Camas Mor and Camas Beag. On three sides the promontory is girt with cliffs which rise abruptly on the north-west and south-east to a height of 40 feet above the high-water mark, while the neck of land connecting it with the mainland on the fourth or north-east side is reduced to a width of 37 feet by a narrow steep-sided gully opening into Camas Mor. Both Camas Mor and Camas Beag possess gently inclined shingle beaches on which boats may be safely hauled up under the lee of the promontory.

The fort (fig. 4) comprises an inner enclosure, or citadel, which occupies the whole of the level summit of the promontory, and a large outer enclosure or annexe to the east. On plan the citadel is roughly rectangular with rounded angles, and measures 140 feet in length by 30 feet in width within a single massive dry-stone wall now heavily denuded and overgrown by vegetation. At the south-west end one course of the outer face of the wall is traceable for a distance of 20 feet, but elsewhere no facings can be seen, so that its width is uncertain. Except on the north-west side, where it has almost entirely disappeared, the debris varies from 10 to 18 feet thick. A gap, 6 feet 6 inches wide, at the north-east end, presumably marks the position of the original entrance. The interior is thickly carpeted with bracken- and peat-mould and contains no sign of structures. The annexe, which is of irregular shape, measures internally 140 feet from north-north-east to south-south-west by 95 feet from east-south-east to west-north-west, excluding the neck that connects it to the citadel. Like the latter it has been surrounded by a single dry-stone wall, whose substantial character may be gauged from the fact that on the east side the debris is no less than 40 feet thick at the base and up to 12 feet high above the interior. On first inspection only a few facing-stones were visible, but by clearing away the loose surface stones we succeeded in tracing the upper courses of both faces as shown on the plan, revealing a wall thickness of 12-14 feet. A narrow gap through the debris in the curving north-east corner of the wall, opposite the foundations of a late cottage, is obviously intrusive; and the original entrance to the fort is situated in a re-entrant angle on the north side, at the head of an easy approach up the side of the cliff. In the exposed wall face, on the south side of the entrance, there is a rebate, three courses high and 3-4 inches deep, resembling the check of a door. On the west side of the annexe the wall may have returned southwards from the north-west corner along the edge of a rock face at right angles to and a few feet higher

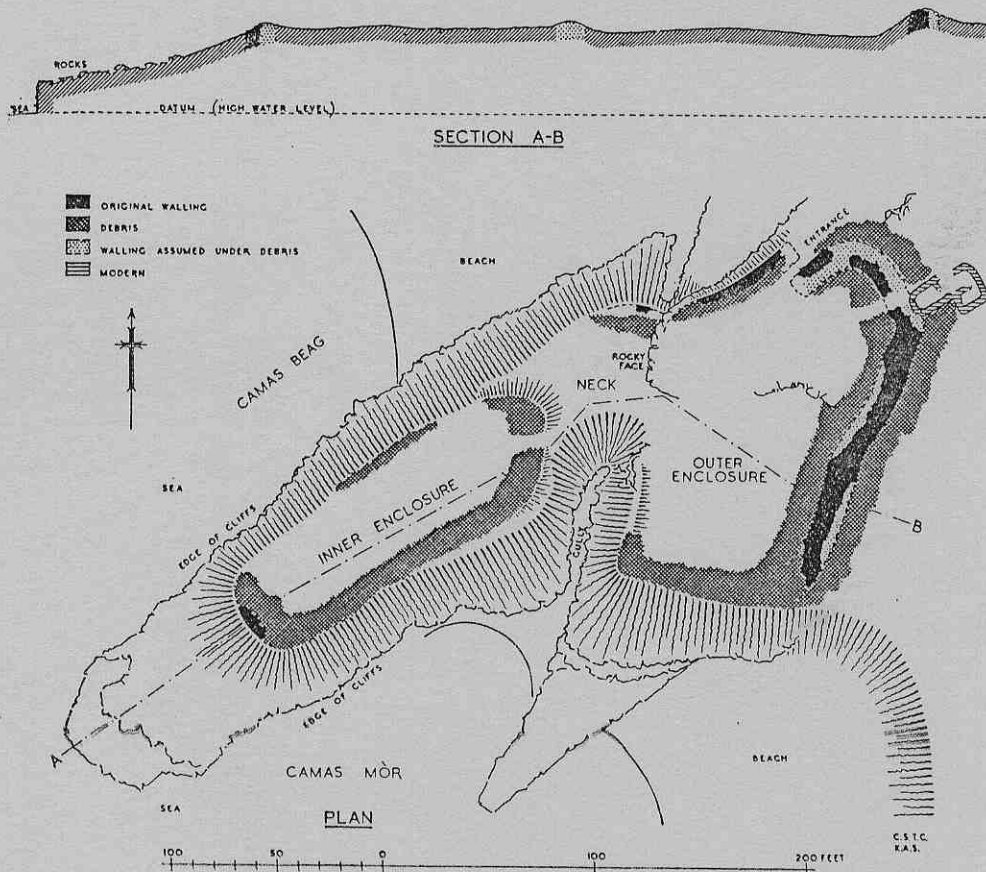


Fig. 4. Fort, Dun Canna.

than the neck, leaving only a narrow entrance leading to the citadel. The north side of the neck was, however, defended by a wall, a fragment of which can still be seen abutting the base of the transverse rocky face, while the south side may have been similarly protected. The interior of the annexe, which falls unevenly from north-east to south-west, is featureless.