

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE		H	N	C	5	1	S	E	0	0	2
2 NGR		N	C	5	9	1	1	1	0	3	5
3 QUAL											
6 SITE NAME		ALTBRECK									
10 GENERIC TYPE		BROCH									
14 PERIOD/DATE		IA					15 DATING METHOD				
							TYP				
18 SHAPE		CIRCULAR									
19 THREAT AND DATE											

4 DISTRICT		SUTHERLAND		5 PARISH		LAIRG	
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS		9 REGIONAL STATUS			
		SCHEDULED					
11 CONCORDANCE		12 FORM		13 DIMENSIONS			
OS NC 51 SE 2		STANDING STRUCTURE		9.5m INT.DIAM.			
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION					
		INCOMPLETE					
20 LAND USE				21 GEOLOGY			
AFFORESTATION							
22 SOILS				23 VEGETATION			
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF		26 ASPECT		27 ALTITUDE	
		KNOLL ON MODERATE SLOPING RIDGE		ENE=SE=SW		168m OD	

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY:1970:1:10,000 MAP 2. RCAHMS:1911:SUTHERLAND INVENTORY:HMSO:pp136-38 No395. 3. HBM(SDD):1985:LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	
30 GROUND PLAN NO.	31 GROUND PHOTO NO.
	92/06/2/23-25
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			
ACCESS FROM FOREST TRACK LEADING ESE FROM A836 NORTH OF DALCHORK BRIDGE, FROM HERE A (over).			
49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE		50 RECORDER: DATE	51 CHECK: DATE
		HAR: 25.2.1985	HAR: 7.3.1985

52 TEXT

' (NC 59111035) Broch (NR) (1).'

'The dilapidated remains of a broch situated on a knoll which appears to have been artificially levelled to take it. A hollow-way through the NE scarp may have formed an approach. The broch has measured 9.5m in diameter within a wall 3.9m thick with an entrance 0.9m wide in the SE. There is a gourd-chamber on each side of the entrance passage and four other mural chambers, one of which, to the west of the entrance appeared, in 1909, to be the staircase gallery. The chambers and entrance are still visible but are almost filled with collapsed walling. The outer wall-face stands to a maximum height of 1.2m. Debris fills the interior to a depth of about 2m. Abutting the broch on the NW is the foundation of a D-shaped enclosure built of broch material. To the east of the broch is the foundation of a large oval scooped enclosure 18m by 10m. Both enclosures are probably associated with the depopulation area of Altbreck (over). (OSFI:EGC:26.6.1963).

52. 'The broch is as described. It is in a clearing surrounded by afforestation and thick vegetation.'
(OSFI:JB:23.8.1976).

'NC 591 103 Altbreck, broch N of Lairg.'" (3)

48. GRASSY TRACK LEADS THROUGH A GAP IN AFFORESTATION NORTHWARDS TO THE BROCH.

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 Dainnork, 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,

(2)

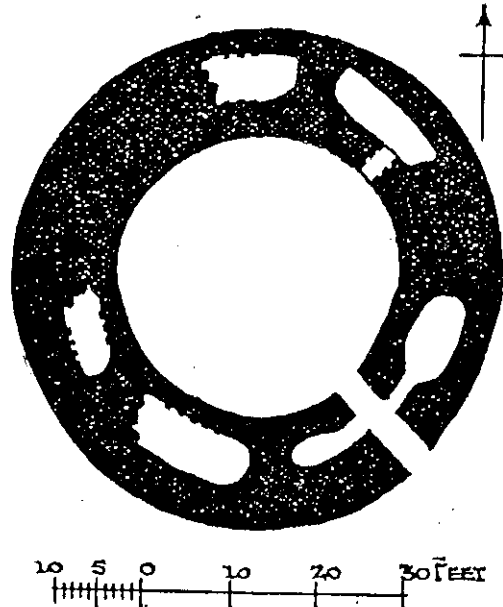


FIG. 56. — Broch, Allt Breac (No. 395).

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 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 outworks are not distinguishable from the remains of folds, etc., around the broch (fig. 56).

