



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE		H	N	C	7	1	S	E	0	1	3
2 NGR		N	C	7	9	5	1	1	3	3	7
3 OUAL		CE									
6 SITE NAME											
CAISTEAL NA COLLIE											
10 GENERIC TYPE											
BROCH											
14 PERIOD/DATE						15 DATING METHOD					
IA						TYP					
18 SHAPE											
19 THREAT AND DATE											

4 DISTRICT		SUTHERLAND		5 PARISH		CLYNE	
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS		9 REGIONAL STATUS			
		SCHEDULED					
11 CONCORDANCE		12 FORM		13 DIMENSIONS			
os NC 71 SE 13		STANDING STRUCTURE					
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION				18 SHAPE	
		MUTILATED					
20 LAND USE				21 GEOLOGY			
HEATH							
22 SOILS				23 VEGETATION			
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF		26 ASPECT		27 ALTITUDE	
		ROCKY KNOLL ABOVE RIVER BANK		360 DEG.		84m OD	

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)

29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)

- Ordnance Survey: 1969: 6" map.
- R.C.A.H.M.S.: 1911: Sutherland Inventory: H.M.S.O.: pp7-9, No. 25, plan & illust.
- Feacham, R.: 1963: Prehistoric Scotland: : : p173.
- Ordnance Survey: 1872: Object Name Book: :26: p 68.
- HBM (SDD) : 198 : List of Scheduled Monuments.
- ANDERSON, J.: 1883: SCOTLAND IN PAGAN TIMES-THE IRON AGE: : pp 184-5, 194-5.

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	
		A.M.: 3.4.1985.		Am: 24.6.1985	

52 TEXT

'See attached photocopies for text.'

'NC 795 133. Caisteal Na Collie, broch on E bank of Blackwater. ' (5)

6. 'Caisteal na Coille (2, 4-1911+1872) or Castle Cole (2, 3-1911+1963).'

(NC 79571337) Caisteal na Coille (NAT) Broch (NR)

n.

The remains of a small broch, Caisteal na Coille (2,4) or Castle Cole (2,3), situated in a strong position on a rocky eminence on the left bank of the Black Water, and further defended by outworks. It measures 21' in diameter within a wall 13' thick with an entrance, 2' 8" to 3' 6" wide, in the ESE. Mural chambers were identifiable in the NE and south in 1909, but in neither case was an entrance visible. A guard-chamber was also visible to the north of the entrance passage leading off between two sets of door-checks. The broch wall stood to a maximum height of 10', on the east, but only the foundation remained in the SW.

Feachem mentions at least seven aumbry-like recesses, comparable with those at Torwood broch (NS 88 SW 1).

An outwork wall defends the broch on the north and east of the summit and RCAHM mention a similar outer wall, missing for part of its length along the top of a rocky outcrop on the east with small portions being visible on the north and SE.

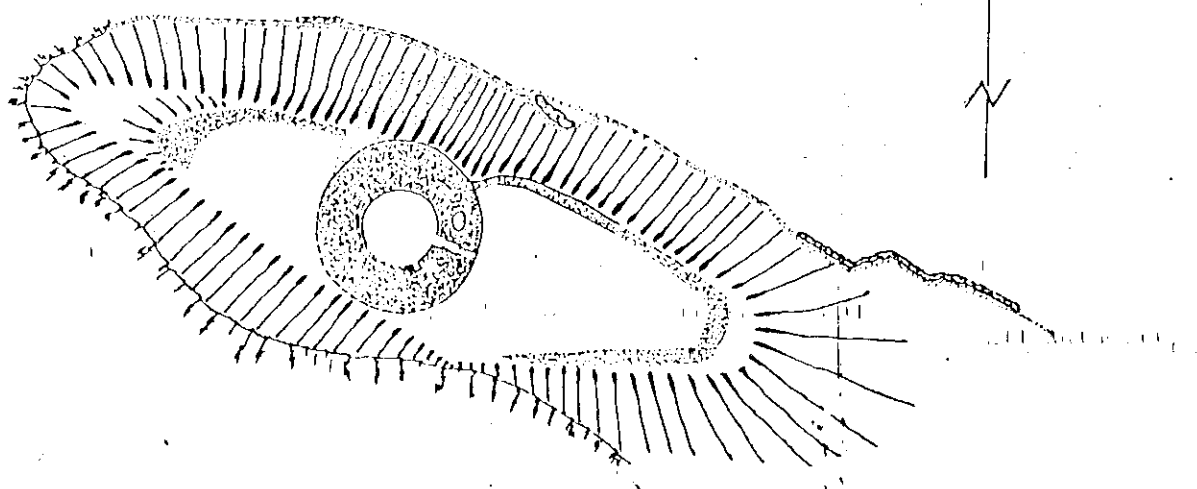
2. RCAHM 1911 7-9 No 25 Plan and Illust Visited 1909

5. Prehistoric Scotland 1963 173 (R Feachem)

The broch is generally as described, still well enough preserved for details to be discernible, eg the guard chamber, now completely exposed from the top; traces of the outer wall of a mural gallery in the NE; the passage still lintelled to the first doorcheck, beyond which it is choked with debris; and the aumbry-like recesses, still visible at various heights in the wall. Six of them in the north half, average 0.3m to 0.5m across by 0.2m in height and depth. The seventh would appear to be at ground level in the SSE and substantially larger. There is no sign of the south mural chamber noted by RCAHM. The wall encircling the summit appears to be a contemporary outwork, though a part abutting the broch on the NE has been renovated. The crude outer wall may be much later, possibly built to keep livestock from the sheer face of the eminence on which the broch stands.

OS F1 JM 20 2 76

OS F1 RDL 23 4 64



Scale - 1:425

0 10 20 30
Metres

Drawn by J. MacLellan 20-2-76

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 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 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.

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.

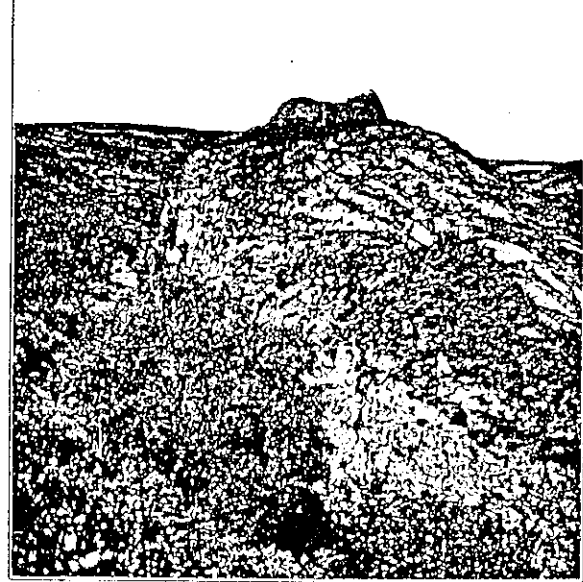


PLATE I.—Broch, Castle Cole (No. 25).

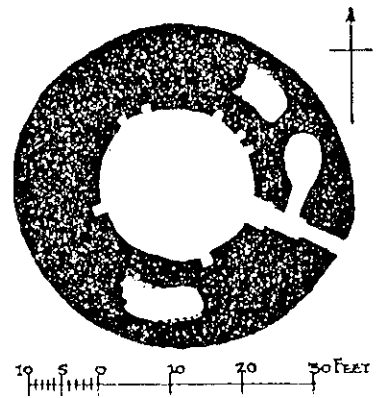
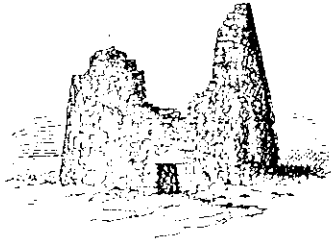


FIG. 1.—Broch, Castle Cole (No. 25).

HNC 71 SE 013

R.C.A.H.M.S., PP 7-9, No. 25, plan & ill.



"George Low in 1774 says that Castle Cole (fig. 169) was then 15' in height."

Fig. 169.—Broch known as Cole's Castle, Sutherlandshire. (From a Sketch by Dr. Arthur Mitchel.)

We have already seen that many of these towers were pp 194-5.

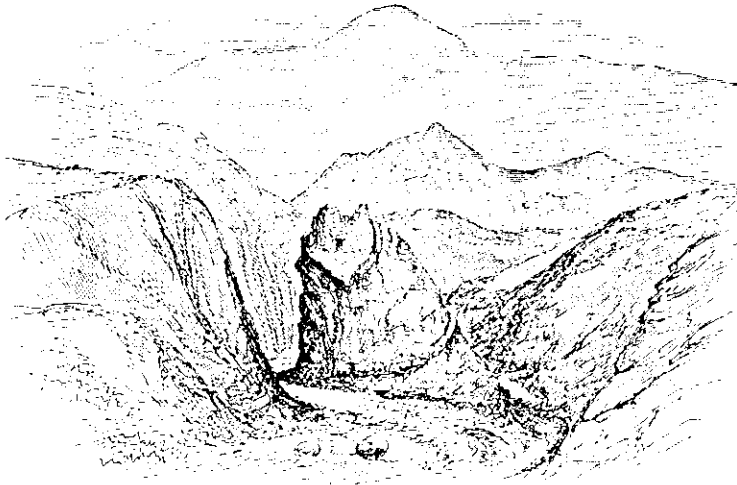


Fig. 178.— Broch known as Cole's Castle, in Sutherlandshire. (From a sketch by Dr. Arthur Mitchell.)

built in positions that were naturally strong. One of the most remarkable of these is the Broch of Cole's Castle in Strathbrora, Sutherlandshire (Fig. 178), which has been already referred to. It is situated on the top of an isolated eminence, precipitous on one side, and defended on the side which is less precipitous by a double fortification of dry-stone walling.