

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE										
H	N	C	8	0	S	W	0	2	4	A
2 NGR										
N	C	8	4	9	4	0	0	5	7	3 QUAL
6 SITE NAME										
D	A	I	R	Y	P	A	R	K		

4 DISTRICT SUTHERLAND		5 PARISH GOLSPIE		9 REGIONAL STATUS		10 GENERIC TYPE BURIAL CISTS, LONG + BURIALS, INHUMATION	
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS		11 CONCORDANCE OS NC 80 SW 24 NMR		12 FORM SITE OF	
13 DIMENSIONS a) 2.5m x 1.1m b) -		14 PERIOD/DATE EM		15 DATING METHOD TYP		16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS	
17 CONDITION DESTROYED		18 SHAPE		19 THREAT AND DATE		20 LAND USE ENCLOSED PASTURE = WOODLAND	
21 GEOLOGY		22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE	
25 RELIEF RAISED BEACH		26 ASPECT SE		27 ALTITUDE 0m = 8m OD		28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	

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

- ROSS, Dr. J. J.: 1855: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: : VOL. 1: 297-9.
- ALLEN, J. R.: 1903: EARLY CHRISTIAN MONUMENTS OF SCOTLAND: 42.
- RCAHMS: 1911: SUTHERLAND INVENTORY: HMSO: p101, No. 296.
- GREIG, S.: 1940: VIKING ANTIQUITIES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND: : p17.
- KENWORTHY, J.: 1981 : PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: : VOL. 110, p343-4.
- : 1892: N.M.A.S. CATALOGUE: : 194, 276.
- HENSHALL, A. S.: 1966: TS CATALOGUE OF DUNROBIN MUSEUM: : :

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 DY: 9.5.1985		51 CHECK: DATE	
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52 TEXT
 "NC 8494 0057: A long cist, partly covered by a Class I symbol stone and containing the skeletons of two adult males, one, of a man 6ft tall, being larger, later and much better preserved than the other, was found by workmen levelling the E part of the field below Castle Dairy (NC 8475 0050), 'six paces west from the new wall of Meg's Garden'. (5) A report of the find was sent to the Duke of Sutherland on 17th May 1854 and it was examined by Dr. Ross on 24th May. (Letter, G. Gunn to Duke of Sutherland, 17th May 1854: MS 606.6 in Aberdeen Univ. Library). It was paved, 8ft long NE-SW and the top and sides were each composed of three slabs. One of the cover slabs, of red sandstone, measured 3ft 8ins by 1ft 11ins by 5ins thick, and bore, incised, the fish, the 'tuning-fork' and the mirror and comb symbols. The skeletal remains were

(OVER)

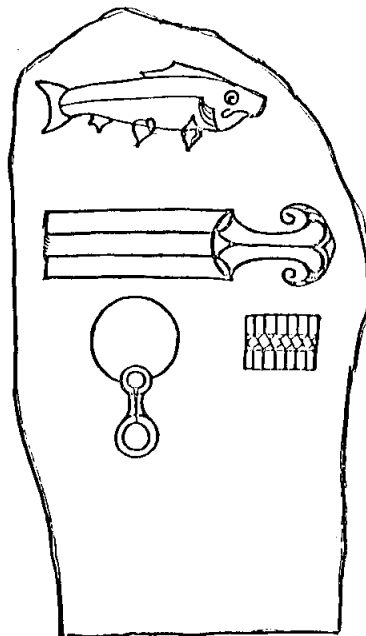
NOTICES OF TWO ANCIENT GRAVES RECENTLY OPENED IN THE VICINITY OF DUNROBIN CASTLE, SUTHERLANDSHIRE. BY DR J. J. ROSS. COMMUNICATED BY JOHN STUART, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

HNC 80 3W 024A

Mr John Stuart read to the Meeting the following report regarding two ancient graves recently opened in the neighbourhood of Dunrobin Castle, which had been drawn up by Dr J. J. Ross of Golspie, for the Duke of Sutherland. This Report had been sent to Mr Stuart by the Duke, thinking that it would be of some interest for the work on Sculptured Stones on which he was engaged; and, with his Grace's permission, he now submitted it to the Society.

(1)

"On Thursday, May 24, I accompanied Mr Gunn to examine an old grave which had been recently opened, in the progress of the improvements now going on to the west of the new garden at Dunrobin. We found the grave just in the state in which it had been left by the workmen after clearing it out. It is about 8 feet long, the direction of its length being about from S.W. to N.E. It is built in at the sides with three flat pieces of sandstone, and regularly paved in the bottom with similar pieces; below this paving is the sand, mixed with round shingly stones, such as found on the neighbouring sea-beach. The grave had been covered on the top by three flat slabs of stone: two towards the foot, common pieces of sandstone like those encircling the sides, and one larger and thicker towards the head, and having the emblems shown in the accompanying woodcut cut on its upper surface. This sketch is an exact copy from the stone, quite correct as to the design and relative situation of the figures, and, I think, nearly so as to the proportionate size which they bear to one another, and to the surface of the stone. The stone itself is irregular in shape, and quite devoid of any sculpture on its edges.



"The bones which had been removed from this grave were put into a box at the time, which was now submitted to me for examination. They consist of portions of two separate skeletons, both of adult men; of one in particular the bones are above the average size, with the prominences and tuberosities for the insertion of muscles highly developed. I particularly remarked the size of those forming the ankle and arch of the foot. The bones of this larger body are hard, white, and not at all in bad preservation. Those of the other are darker in colour, and very much decayed, mouldering away under pressure of the fingers like the rotten bark of an old tree. It would seem as if two people had been interred in the same grave, with a very considerable interval of time between. There were only portions of one skull, and these so much broken and decayed, as to give but a very imperfect indication of the type of the cranium. Such as they are, however, I have preserved them, as well as the bones of one arm and forearm of each subject, in case any future investigation may be required; and also the teeth, which are much smoothed and worn down by attrition.

52.

"In this grave, along with the bones, was also found a cylindrical piece of metal [iron] hollowed in the interior, very much corroded and oxidised, evidently the handle of some instrument.

"A very long period of time must have elapsed since the persons, of whose bodies these bones formed a part, were interred; but how long cannot, as far as I know, be ascertained from the bones themselves.

OVER/

The long cist graves and symbol stone found at Dunrobin in 1854

J B Kenworthy, Department of Archaeology, St Salvator's College, University of St Andrews

When a new symbol stone was found in the Dairy Park at Dunrobin in 1977, the exact find spot of the symbol stone discovered covering a long cist in 1854 was of immediate interest. Surprisingly, examination of the records left this in doubt. Ross (1854, 297) had actually seen the grave, and a second long cist was opened in his presence.

I accompanied Mr Gunn to examine an old grave which had recently been opened, in the progress of the improvements now going on to the west of the new garden at Dunrobin. (5)

Allen (1903, 42) states that 'the symbol stone was found in 1854 on the 50' contour line, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile E of Dunrobin Castle'. The Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey could not resolve this contradiction, so the precise location remained uncertain. Dr Close-Brooks mentioned this problem and it occurred to me that the solution lay in relevant letters in the letter books of the Spalding Club, held in Aberdeen University Library. I am grateful to Mr Colin McLaren, University Archivist, for his help and for permission to publish these letters.

In the sixth volume of the letter books there are four letters about the find and a memorandum by A H Rhind, of which the first two letters are here transcribed:

Aberdeen University Library MS 606.6 (Letter Book of the Spalding Club No 6, no numbers)

Duke of Sutherland to John Stuart

London May 31, 1854

Sir

I have thought that the accompanying letters and report and drawing, relating to an old grave from Mr Gunn, and from Dr Ross of Golspie who was requested to examine the grave and the skeleton found in it, to ascertain if any opinion could be formed regarding the length of time since they were laid, may be interesting to you, and for the Spalding Club.

The field in which they were found is between a long range of rising ground, now planted pleasure ground and the Sea - Flower and Kitchen garden occupy a considerable part of the level ground -- and the grave was found near the garden.

Dear Sir

very truly yours
Sutherland.

George Gunn to Duke of Sutherland.

Rhives May 17, 1854.

My Lord Duke,

When levelling the east part of the field below the Castle Dairy, the workmen discovered 6 paces west from the new wall of Meg's Garden, a grave containing a human skeleton - the bones true and regular as when the body was placed - they measured six feet - the teeth perfect and white as if they had not been a year in the ground - a red sandstone covered the Grave, worked with much the same figures, as are on other stones that were found in the vicinity, but better preserved than any of them and

I have made the accompanying full length tracing, to make it more clear than I can describe them. I have ordered the stone to be placed where it was before on a level with the surface of the ground.

I have the honour to be

Your Grace's
faithful and obedient Servant
George Gunn.

The third letter (a copy) is also from George Gunn to the Duke. It refers to the transmission of Ross's report and confirms that the workmen had found other graves, which they did not disturb, near the two long cists. The fourth letter is from Dr J J Ross to John Stuart after his paper had been communicated to the Society of Antiquaries. He refers to the two skeletons from the first cist; he is sure the cranial bones belong to one individual but is less certain about the facial bones.

Rhind's 'Memorandum of reasons for believing that the Crania discovered in the graves near Dunrobin are Scandinavian' (12 July 1854), while of some historical interest, adds nothing further to the above.

These letters, then, leave no doubt as to the location of the 1854 find. This was south-west of Dunrobin Castle, outside the present walled kitchen garden (whose name 'Meg's Garden' derives from Meg's Burn, which flows through it) at c NGR NC 849005.

That we are almost certainly dealing with the SW and not the NW wall of the garden is suggested by the first part of the second letter. It may be inferred further that the grave was not found near one of the corners of the garden, since this would otherwise have been used as a point of location. The precise location of the grave along the wall cannot, however, be determined. The general area of the finds (fig 1) is now under permanent grass.

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



ARTEFACTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE													
			H	N	C	8	0	S	W	0	2	4	C

2 NGR												
N	C	8	4	9	4	0	0	5	7	3 QUAL		
6 SITE NAME										CE		

6 SITE NAME
D A I R Y P A R K

7 GENERIC TYPE
SPEARHEAD, IRON + BURIAL GOODS

4 DISTRICT
SUTHERLAND

5 PARISH
GOLSPIE

8 CONCORDANCE
os NC 80 SW 24

9 MUSEUM/LOCATION OF FIND(S)
N.M.A.S.

10 ACCESSION NO.
ET26, IL209

11 PERIOD/DATE

12 DATING METHOD

13 FIND CIRCUMSTANCES
EXCAVATION FROM BURIAL CIST
HNC 80 SW 0124A (A)

14 CONDITION

15 EXCAVATOR AND DATE

16 EXCAVATION RECORD NO.

17 LAND USE
GARDEN

18 GEOLOGY

19 SOILS

20 VEGETATION

21 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE

22 RELIEF
GENTLE HILLSLOPE

23 ASPECT
SE

24 ALTITUDE
0m = 8m OD

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION/DIMENSIONS

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

- ROSS, Dr. J. J.: 1854: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: : VOL 1: 297-9
- ALLEN, J. R.: 1903: EARLY CHRISTIAN MONUMENTS OF SCOTLAND: 42
- RCAHMS: 1911: SUTHERLAND INVENTORY: HMSO: p101, No. 296
- GREIG, S.: 1940: VIKING ANTIQUITIES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND: : p17
- KENWORTHY, J.: 1978-79: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: : VOL 110, p343-4
- : 1892: N.M.A.S. CATALOGUE: : 194, 276
- HENSHALL, A. S.: 1966: TS CATALOGUE OF DUNROBIN MUSEUM: : :

27 GROUND PLAN NO.

28 GROUND PHOTO NO.

29 SLIDES NO.

30 HR. AP. NO.

31 NMR. AP. NO.

32 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE

33 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION

34 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

35 SAMPLES

36 PALYNOLOGY

37 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.

38 OTHER

39 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER

40 ATTITUDE OF OWNER

41 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT

42 ATTITUDE OF TENANT

43 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS

44 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE

45 RECORDER: DATE
Dy: 9.5.1985

46 CHECK: DATE
Am: 21.5.1985

47 TEXT
"The skeletal remains from Cist (A) were accompanied by what has been identified as part of the socket of an iron spearhead, possibly Viking."
(OSFI:ES:25.3.83)

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



ARTEFACTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE														
H			N			C			80SW024B					
2 NGR			3 QUAL			N			C			84940057CE		
6 SITE NAME														
DAIRY PARK														

4 DISTRICT					5 PARISH				
SUTHERLAND					GOLSPIE				

8 CONCORDANCE		9 MUSEUM/LOCATION OF FIND(S)			10 ACCESSION NO.		
OS NC 80 SW 24 NMR		DUNROBIN MUSEUM			1854.1		

7 GENERIC TYPE												
SCULPTURED STONE, (PICTISH (CLASS I))												
11 PERIOD/DATE						12 DATING METHOD						
EM (PIC)						TYP						

13 FIND CIRCUMSTANCES					14 CONDITION				
EXCAVATION FROM BURIAL CIST HNC 80 SW 024A (A)									

15 EXCAVATOR AND DATE												
16 EXCAVATION RECORD NO.												

17 LAND USE					18 GEOLOGY				
ENCLOSED PASTURE = WOODLAND									

19 SOILS					20 VEGETATION				

21 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE					22 RELIEF					23 ASPECT		24 ALTITUDE	
					GENTLE HILLSLOPE					SE		0m = 8m OD	

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION/DIMENSIONS												

26 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)												
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5. KENWORTHY, J.: 1981 ; PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: : VOL 110, p343-4												
6. : 1892: N.M.A.S. CATALOGUE: : 194, 276												
7. HENSHALL, A.S.: 1966: TS CATALOGUE OF DUNROBIN MUSEUM: : :												

27 GROUND PLAN NO.					28 GROUND PHOTO NO.							
29 SLIDES NO.					30 HR. AP. NO.							
31 NMR. AP. NO.					32 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE							
33 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION												
34 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY					35 SAMPLES							
36 PALYNOLOGY					37 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.							
38 OTHER												

39 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER										40 ATTITUDE OF OWNER		

41 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT										42 ATTITUDE OF TENANT		

43 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS												

44 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE						45 RECORDER: DATE			46 CHECK: DATE		
						DY 9.5.1985			Am 21.5.1985		

47 TEXT
 "Burial cist (A) included a cover slab of red sandstone, 3'8" (1.1m) x 1'11" (57cm) x 5" (12cm), and bore, incised, the fish, the 'tuning-fork' and the mirror and comb symbols."
 (OSPI:ES:25.3.83)

*26.

8. GORDON, C.A.:1964-1966:PROC.SOC.ANT.SCOT.:VOL 98:p 219 (Plate 31,1)
9. CLOSE-BROOKS, J.:1980:PROC.SOC.ANT.SCOT.:VOL 110:pp328-45
10. RCAHMS:1985:PICTISH SYMBOL STONES, A HANDLIST:HMSO:pp10-14



(8.)

i. Salmon carving from Dunrobin, Sutherland

*47.

'The omission of the adipose fin from the Dunrobin salmon is a mistake caused by the artist having carried on the line of the back behind the dorsal fin at one operation, after which the addition of the adipose fin would have been a botch. It is possible, alternatively, that a pike is represented here; it seems rather too round for a pike.' (9)

"A stone found in 1854 formed the capstone of a cist; the location (to the SW of the castle not to the E as was formerly thought) is discussed in Close-Brooks 1980, 343-4" (10)

52.

“Having learned that the workmen, in the course of their operations, had come on other stones about the same spot, which might indicate the existence of other graves, Mr Gunn caused a search to be made, which soon resulted in the discovery of one, which was forthwith carefully opened in our presence. It lay a few yards to the west of the first, and its direction was nearly the same, from S.W. to N.E. The construction of the grave was also the same, enclosed at the sides and ends, paved at the bottom, and covered in at top by flat, thin sandstone slabs; but in this case there was no sculpture nor marks of any kind on any of the stones. The stones were not accurately jointed to one another. There was no appearance of anything like mortar or regular building; they were merely placed in the sand on edge, in irregular contact with one another. On removing those forming the roof or covering of the grave, a complete skeleton at once came into view, lying among the sand which had fallen in at the interstices between the stones at the top and sides. The feet were towards the N.E., the face of course looking towards this point also. The skeleton lay at full length, with the right leg crossed over the left at the ankle, the arms extended along the trunk, and the hands bent inwards, so as to lie one on each side of the pubis, in the fold of the groins. This skeleton was also that of a male; the bones dark, and so much decayed, so as to require very careful handling to prevent their crumbling to pieces. I removed the skull with the greatest caution; but notwithstanding all my care, a portion of one temple gave way. This, however, is of no consequence, as the skull is perfect enough for any information to be derived from it as to the form, size, and type of cranium of the person to whom it belonged. This skull I have of course preserved. It is perhaps a little narrow at the lower part of the forehead; but on the whole, is a well-shaped, well-sized head, with a good facial angle.

“This latter skeleton is about the same size as the smaller of the two found in the first-opened grave. It is evidently that of a man well advanced in life, as shown by the change of direction in the neck of the thigh-bone, which forms almost a right angle with the shaft of the bone.

“There was no vestige of anything like a coffin, or other covering of the body, and nothing was found in this grave except the bones forming the skeleton.”

Mr Stuart also exhibited the bones and other remains found in those graves, which were presented by the Duke of Sutherland to the Museum of the Society. Mr Stuart remarked, that the Sculptured Stone was one of a class which frequently appeared as Erect Pillars along the north-eastern coast of Scotland; and it was most probable that in the present case it had been diverted from its original purpose, to form along with other slabs a cover to the Cist.

From the locality, which was one often frequented and sometimes possessed by the Norsemen, there seemed a likelihood that the present Cist was a Scandinavian one.

(1)

52. "accompanied by what has been identified as part of the socket of an iron spearhead, possibly Viking." (4)

"During Ross's visit, the workmen uncovered another long cist of similar construction and orientation, which contained the intact extended skeleton of a male of advanced years, lying with the feet to the NE. The remains were of the same size and condition as that of the primary burial in the first cist. There were neither grave-goods nor sculptures!" (1), (2), (3), (6), (7)

"The Duke of Sutherland presented the contents of the cists to the NMAS (Acc.Nos:ET26 and IL209), and the symbol stone is in Dunrobin Museum (Acc.No.1854.1). These cists, together with that recorded on HNC 80 SW 016, indicate the possible existence of a pre-Norse long cist cemetery comparable to Ackergill (HND 35 SW 012), with a later, possibly Viking, burial inserted into one of the cists. (Previous to the publication of Authy 5, these cists were sited to NC 858 010 from Allen's locating them to 'the 50ft contour, half a mile east of Dunrobin Castle'."

(OSR:ES:25-3-1983)