

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE	H	N	C	8	6	S	W	0	0	2
2 NGR	N	C	8	3	3	1	6	4	6	8
3 QUAL	CE									

4 DISTRICT SUTHERLAND		5 PARISH FARR		6 SITE NAME S T R A T H Y	
7 AREA STATUS	8 SITE STATUS	9 REGIONAL STATUS		10 GENERIC TYPE HUT CIRCLE+ENCLOSURE	
11 CONCORDANCE OS NC 86 SW 2 NMR	12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURES	13 DIMENSIONS 'A' 8.2m INT. DIAM		14 PERIOD/DATE BATTLE	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION INCOMPLETE		15 DATING METHOD BA=IA TYP	
20 LAND USE ROUGH PASTURE		21 GEOLOGY		18 SHAPE	
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		19 THREAT AND DATE	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF STEEP HILLSLOPE		26 ASPECT E	
				27 ALTITUDE 15 = 61m OD	

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1908: 6" MAP 2. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1962: 6" MAP 3. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1974: 25" MAP 4. GORDON, Sir Robert: 1813: GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF THE EARLDOM OF SUTHERLAND UNTIL 1613: p207 5. RCAHMS: 1911: SUTHERLAND INVENTORY: HMSO: pp78-80, No. 230 + ILLUSTRATION 6. FAIRHURST, H. & TAYLOR, D.B.: 1974 : PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: Vol. 103: p66	
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 GS: 18.6.1985	51 CHECK: DATE SEM: 3.7.1985
--	------------------------------------	---------------------------------

52 TEXT "See attached photocopies for text + illustrations."

(NC 834646) Tumuli (NR)

(1)

Supposed Site of Conflict between the Clans Gunn and Sinclair.

(NC 83326468 and NC 83446474)

(2)

(Two) Enclosures (NR) 'A' and 'B' respectively

(NC 83316468) Settlement and Field System (NR)

(3)

In 1594 James Sinclair of Murkle was sent by his brother the Earl of Caithness against the Clan Gunn in Strathy, Strathnaver where he killed seven of them including their chief.

(4)

On an E-facing slope south of Strathy Church is a hut circle. Some 30 yards NW of it is a structure formed

of two or three conjoined circles, entirely heather overgrown, and nearby and further to the north are several small mounds. In the hut interior is a central mound outlined with large stones, and on the south side of the interior a wall curving from the mound to the side forms the back of an enclosure; abutting outside in the south is another enclosure apparently entered from the main circle.

(5)

Newly located north-east of the hut circle, at NC 83446474, are possible remains of an enclosure.

(OSFI:WDJ:27.4.1960.)

The alleged enclosure at NC 83446474 is a natural formation. The hut circle and its accompanying features are generally as described. The conjoined circles are slight hollows overgrown with peat showing no sign of structure.

Mounds of field clearance nearby may account for the tradition of a battle here.

This is a hut circle of Kilphedir Type II (a) accompanied by a small field system. The hut is set into the slope and measures about 8.2m. diameter inside a

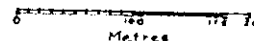
(OSFI:AA:9.11.1972.)



wall 1.0m. high at best with a varying width 1.2 to 1.8m. increasing to 2.7m. in the east side of an entrance from the SE; the last has door jambs halfway along its length. The wall has an appreciable inner face of coursed stone and boulder slab, but outside only a few actual facing stones are discernible. The central mound, about 4.0m. diameter by 0.8m. high, is speculative but is apparently loose, content could well be debris from the hut wall and may indicate a spoil heap of sorts; however a sepulchral inference cannot be discarded. (See HNC 76 SE 004 + HNC 86 SE 006). Some structure has occupied the south quarter of the hut interior denoted by an arc of inner facing stones crossing from the west side and slightly cut into the mound periphery and by general disturbance in and around the interior of the south side of the entrance. The footings of a small bipartite enclosure abut on south exterior of the hut; an entrance is not apparent. The field system extends over two hectares and is marked by stone clearance heaps and lynchets; two cultivation plots, 30.0 by 15.0m. and 15.0 by 8.0m. are noted.



Scale 1:625



Planned J MacRae 6-7-77

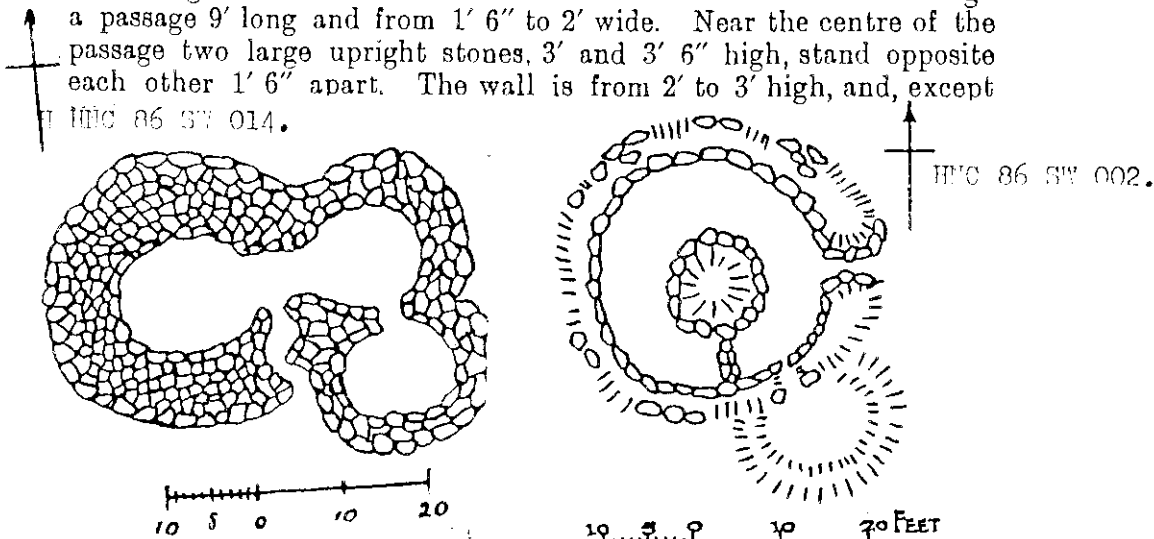
(6)

(OSFI:JM:6.7.1977.)

230. *Dail a' Bhaite*.—About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Strathy Church, on the slope of the hillside, and some 100' above the level of the river, is a group of hut circles and small mounds.

At the extreme S. end of the group, opposite the most southerly of the Strathy crofts across the valley, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. back from the river, is a hut circle of three compartments, two in line E. and W., and the third alongside that at the E. The most westerly one measures interiorly 16' \times 12'; that to the E. of it 14' \times 10', and that to the S. 14' \times 9'. The entrance from the outside has been by a curving passage near the centre of the S. side. The thickness of the enclosing wall seems to have been about 9' around the W. compartment and 5' round the others. There is much stone from the walls lying in the interior, and the inner faces of the walls have been lined with flat-sided boulders set on end (fig. 26).

Some 100 yards to the northward, at the same elevation as the last, are the remains of a hut circle, in the construction of which much large stone has been used. The entrance is from the E. through a passage 9' long and from 1' 6" to 2' wide. Near the centre of the passage two large upright stones, 3' and 3' 6" high, stand opposite each other 1' 6" apart. The wall is from 2' to 3' high, and, except



at the entrance, about 4' thick. The interior diameter from N. to S. is 27' and from E. to W. 25'. In the interior, 4' 8" from the entrance, and 8' from the back wall, is a mound measuring 13' \times 10' in diameter, outlined with large stones some 3' in height, and having a depth of a foot or two of humus on the top. On the S. side of the interior a wall curving from the centre mound to the side forms the back of an enclosure 15' long by 7' wide. Many large stones lie scattered over the rest of the interior, obscuring any other details. Abutting on the outer wall to the S. is another enclosure, measuring interiorly about 13' \times 9', and apparently entered from the main circle. The thickness of the wall is not very apparent (fig. 27).

Some 30 yards NW. are the remains of a small construction, formed of two or three conjoined circles, entirely overgrown with heather, and near by and further to the N., several small mounds of from 18' to 20' in diameter