

SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sithean Mor, Long cairn 160m NW of Loch a'Mhuilinn



**Forest Enterprise
Dornoch Forest District
Hilton of Embo
Dornoch IV25 3PW
01862 810359**



SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Name of Monument: **Sithean Mor, Long cairn 160m NW of Loch a'Mhuilinn**

Scheduled Ancient Monument Number: **0482**

Local Authority Area: **Highland**

Local Authority Sites and Monuments Record Number: **ND 05 NE 5**

OS Grid Reference: **ND05895703**

Forest Enterprise District: **Dornoch**

Forest Enterprise Compartment: **4143**

Plan Period: **1/11/99-31/10/2004**

Plan prepared by: **M D Canham, Chief Ranger,
Forest Enterprise
Tower Road
Smithton
Inverness
IV1 2NL**

Contents

Description

Management

Liaison

Monitoring

Appendix 1 Scheduling Certificate

Appendix 2 Forest Enterprise stock map

Appendix 3 Site access map

Appendix 4 Historic Scotland's last Monument Warden report

Appendix 5 Historic Scotland's last Monument Warden site sketch

~~Appendix 6 Aerial & Other Photographs~~

Appendix 7 Other Information

Description of Monument

The monument comprises a horned long cairn of prehistoric date situated in a cleared area within a forestry plantation.

The monument consists of a horned long cairn which lies along a slight ridge, with its axis from NNE-SSW. The total length, excluding the horns, is about 62m. The NE end consists of a steep-sided mound about 22m in diameter and about 2m high. The low cairn extending to the SW is about 12m wide. The height of this cairn increases from 0.8m at the base of the high mound to 1.2m at the SW end. Down the centre of the cairn is a series of irregular hollows. A number of upright slabs are set transversely to the axis. There are traces of a horn on the SW end, but this has been disturbed by forestry ploughing. A stone-built cist is situated in the forecourt area to the SW of the cairn. This is undisturbed and measures about 0.5m NNE-SSW by 0.52m NNW-SSE. The cap-stone has been removed, probably during forestry ploughing in this area.

Long cairns of this type date to the Neolithic, and were used as tombs. They usually contained several burials, and appear to have been a local variation of a more widespread tradition of long barrow construction. Some show long sequences of construction and reuse.

The plantation is now a minimum of 10m back from the monument.

Forest Enterprise's Objectives

- i To ensure that the monument and its surrounding area are kept free of trees and scrub, thereby preserving both the archaeological remains and their setting.
- ii To maintain and improve access to the monument, and to enhance its setting in the wider landscape.

Management

Issues requiring attention:

Although the plantation trees have been cleared from the scheduled area and just beyond the scheduled area, this distance requires to be increased to a minimum of 20 m at the next opportunity ie thinning or clearfell.

An access path needs to be made from the forest edge to the site and the whole route from the county road waymarked.

Work proposals

a Harvesting operations

No harvesting operations are planned during the term of this management plan. If any woody regeneration/colonisation is found within the scheduled area during routine inspections then the following conditions will be applied:-

All trees and shrubs shall be cut off at ground level, the stumps or roots being left in the ground and not grubbed out. Trees should be cut by hand or by the use of a hand held power saw. These measures will enable the trees to be felled in such a way as to cause no damage to the remains of the monument or the ground surface within the scheduled area.

Where necessary stumps should be treated with the appropriate chemical according to the statutory "Code of practice for safe use of pesticides on farms and holdings" (HMSO 1990) prepared by MAFF, HSC and DoE.

Any brash resulting from these operations shall be removed well away from the area of the scheduled ancient monument. Cut timber shall be removed from the site by cutting into easily transportable pieces, rather than by dragging, in case this causes damage to underlying archaeology. If brash is to be burned, this operation shall be carried out well away from the scheduled area.

If appropriate a harvester may be used to fell and lift trees from the scheduled area that are within its reach as the machine itself must be placed in a position out with the scheduled area. Care must be taken not to disturb the ground surface within the scheduled area during these operations.

No vehicles shall enter the scheduled area.

b Site clearance

The scheduled area and an area 20m beyond the edge of the scheduled area will be kept tree free. Any natural regeneration of trees, scrub, or bracken will be assessed at yearly intervals and controlled using hand held scrub cutters and herbicides where appropriate. No vehicles will be allowed in the scheduled area.

c Public access

Public access will be improved by provision of way-marking and maintenance of a clear track to the site. (Appendix 3)

This route and way marking will be inspected on a yearly basis in September each year.

d On site access

Good site access will be maintained by the removal of any scrub from the site on a regular basis. The condition of on site access routes will be checked on a yearly basis in September each year.

e Interpretation

It is not intended to provide Interpretation panels at this site, but a small map and information leaflet is to be produced which details the SAMs on Forest Enterprise land. Details of sites in the local area will be available from the Forest Enterprise Dornoch District office on request.

Interpretation panels, information boards and way markers, when provided will be erected out with the scheduled area.

f Tree planting

No tree planting will take place within the scheduled area or within 20m beyond the edge of the scheduled area.

g Site maintenance

The site is to be checked on a yearly basis to identify any site maintenance required. No work other than those specified in the management agreement conditions of this plan, shall be carried out in the scheduled area without the prior approval of Historic Scotland.

h Access/signs maintenance

Access paths and way markers will be inspected on a yearly basis and any maintenance required recorded and carried out.

Management Agreement Conditions

The Occupier undertakes:

1. To monitor and control all scrub, tree and bracken regeneration in the Scheduled Area to prevent colonisation.
2. Not to plant trees within 20 metres of the Scheduled Area.
3. Not to cut any drains, ditches or dykes across, or within 20 metres of, the Scheduled Area.
4. Not to use the Scheduled Area as a dump for any material.
5. Not to use wheeled or tracked vehicles within the Scheduled Area.
6. Not to park any farm or forestry machinery on the Scheduled Area, nor to use the area for storing any materials.
7. Not to construct any building works or access tracks within 10 metres of the Scheduled Area.
8. Not to afford any person access to the Scheduled Area for the purpose of using a metal detector unless that person can produce the written consent of Scottish Ministers.
9. To permit any authorised representative of Scottish Ministers access to the Scheduled Area without prior notice.
10. To allow public access at all reasonable times to the Scheduled Area. An access route will be way-marked as shown on the attached map extract (Appendix 3). This route will be checked annually to ensure it provides adequate guidance and access.
11. To report any objects such as pottery, flint or bone, or archaeological features, which are found within the Scheduled Area. Such objects should be left undisturbed and reported to the Council Archaeologist, Historic Scotland or your local museum.

Liaison

Formal consultation every 5 years with Historic Scotland to review the management strategy of the monument prior to the preparation of the subsequent Management Plan. Meetings will be held with local Historic Scotland staff as required.

Monitoring

Monitoring of the site will be carried out on a yearly basis in September each year as described in work proposals (g)

Check due (Date)	Date Checked	Action required	Date work completed and checked by
9/2000			
9/2001			
9/2002			
9/2003			
9/2004			

This is an agreement under Section 17 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Only works which are carried out in Fulfilment of the Occupier's obligations and which are specifically identified in this agreement are deemed to have been granted Scheduled Monument Consent under the Ancient Monuments Class Consents Order (Scotland) 1996. The Occupier must apply for Scottish Ministers consent prior to undertaking any further works affecting the Area.

Signed on behalf of Forest Enterprise by G. Mason Forest District Manager

Dated 18 JANUARY 2000

Signed on behalf of Scottish Ministers ~~for Scotland~~ by D.M. Wilson

Dated 7 February 2000

Appendix 1 Scheduling Certificate

THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979
AMENDED ENTRY IN THE SCHEDULE OF MONUMENTS

The entry in the Schedule of monuments appearing to the Secretary of State for Scotland to be of national importance compiled and maintained by him under Section 1(1) of the above Act in respect of the monument known as Sithean Mor, long cairn 160m NW of Loch a'Mhuilinn, dated 4 December and recorded in the Division of the General Register of Sasines for the County of Caithness on 15 December both in the year 1933 is hereby in accordance with the provisions of section 1(5) of the above Act amended to describe the area of the scheduled monument as measuring 95m SSW-NNE by 35m ESE-WNW, to include the long cairn, the cist and an area around in which traces of activities associated with the construction and use of the long cairn and cist may survive as shown delineated in red on the plan annexed and executed as relative hereto.

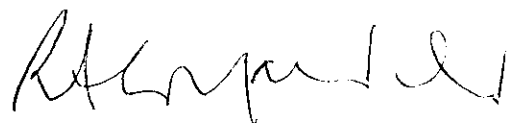
Given under the Seal of the Secretary of State for Scotland



Assistant Secretary
Date 5 July 1993

Historic Scotland
20 Brandon Street
Edinburgh
EH3 5RA

Register on behalf of the Secretary of State for Scotland in the Register of the County of Caithness.



Solicitor, Edinburgh, Agent

 REGISTERS OF SCOTLAND
GENERAL REGISTER OF SASINES
COUNTY OF CAITHNESS

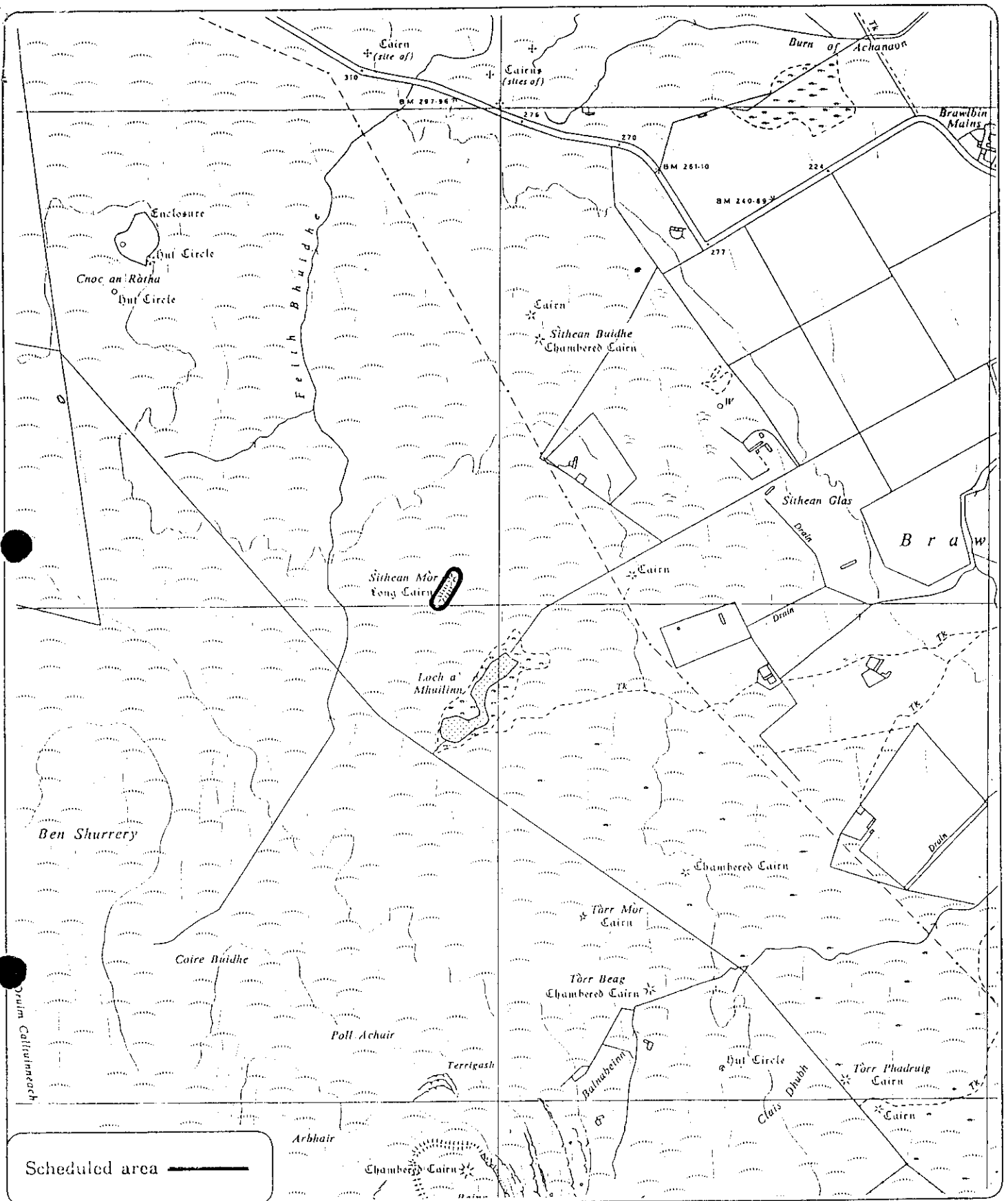
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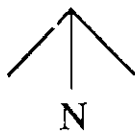
3 DEC 1993





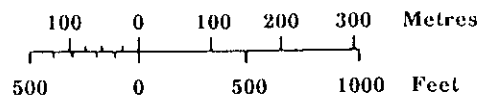
Sithean Mòr, long cairn 160m
NW of Loch a' Mhuilinn

Reay Parish



Sheet : ND O5 NE

Scale : 1/10,560



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IN THE MATTER OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS ACTS, 1913 and 1931.

To George Gunn, Esq., Ormlie Lodge, Thurso, Caithness.

the owner of the Monument known as "Sithean Mor" (remains of chambered cairn) situated approximately 180 yards north-west of the northmost point of Loch a'Mhuilinn, 370 yards south-west of Clachbiorach and 520 yards west-north-west of Balabing

being the subjects indicated in red colour on the annexed plan and being part of the property known as Brawlbin Farm

situated in the Parish of Reay and County of Caithness

In accordance with the provisions of Section 6 of the Ancient Monuments Act, 1931, the Commissioners of His Majesty's Works and Public Buildings hereby give you notice that it is their intention to include the Monument above specified in a list of monuments to be published by them under Section 12 of the Ancient Monuments Consolidation and Amendment Act 1913.

Dated this 4th day of December 1933.

By Order of the Commissioners.

Patrick Duff
Secretary.

I *Eustace Dockroy Phillips* (Officer in Secretariat) in the Office of the Commissioners of H.M. Works and Public Buildings duly authorised by them in that behalf hereby certify that the notice of which the foregoing is a duplicate together with a copy of the plan annexed and signed as relative hereto was served on the before named George Gunn, Esq.

by posting on the 4th day of December 1933 between the hours of 5 o'clock and 6 o'clock ^{after} noon at the *General* Post Office, London, a copy of the same to him

in a registered letter addressed as follows:-

George Gunn Esq.,
Ormlie Lodge, Thurso, Caithness...
E.D. Phillips

Register on behalf of the within named Commissioners of His Majesty's Works and Public Buildings in the Register of the *County* of *Caithness*

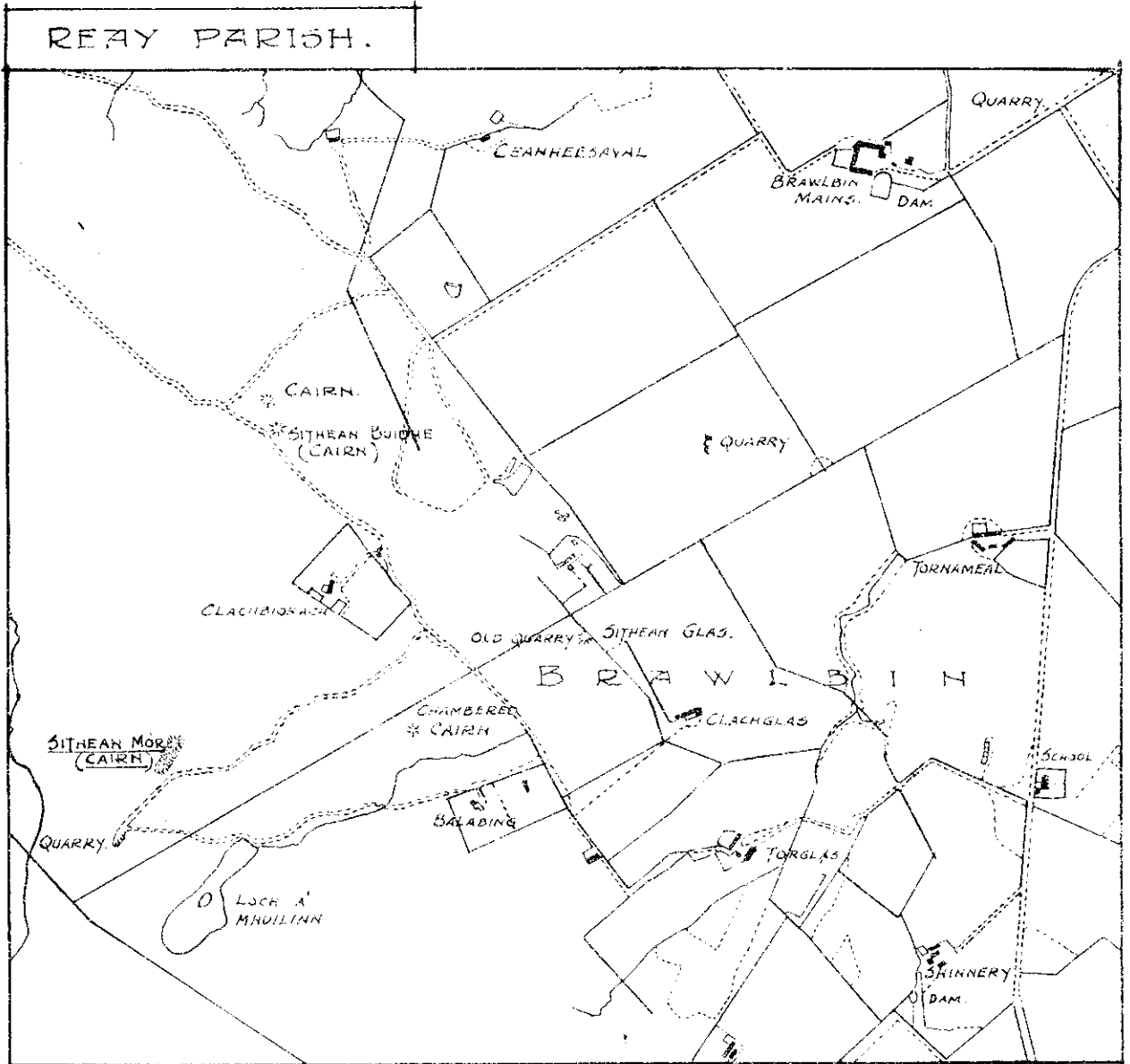
REGISTERS and RECORDS of SCOTLAND
GENERAL REGISTER OF SASINES
County of Caithness.

BOOK 209 FOLIO 143
PRESENTED & REGISTERED. 15 December 1933

W.S. Edinburgh

W.S. EDINBURGH, Agent.

George Mabel Debut



This is the plan referred to in my Certificate of Service of
 Notice affecting "Sithean Mor"
 dated 11th Dec 193 and is signed as
 relative thereto.

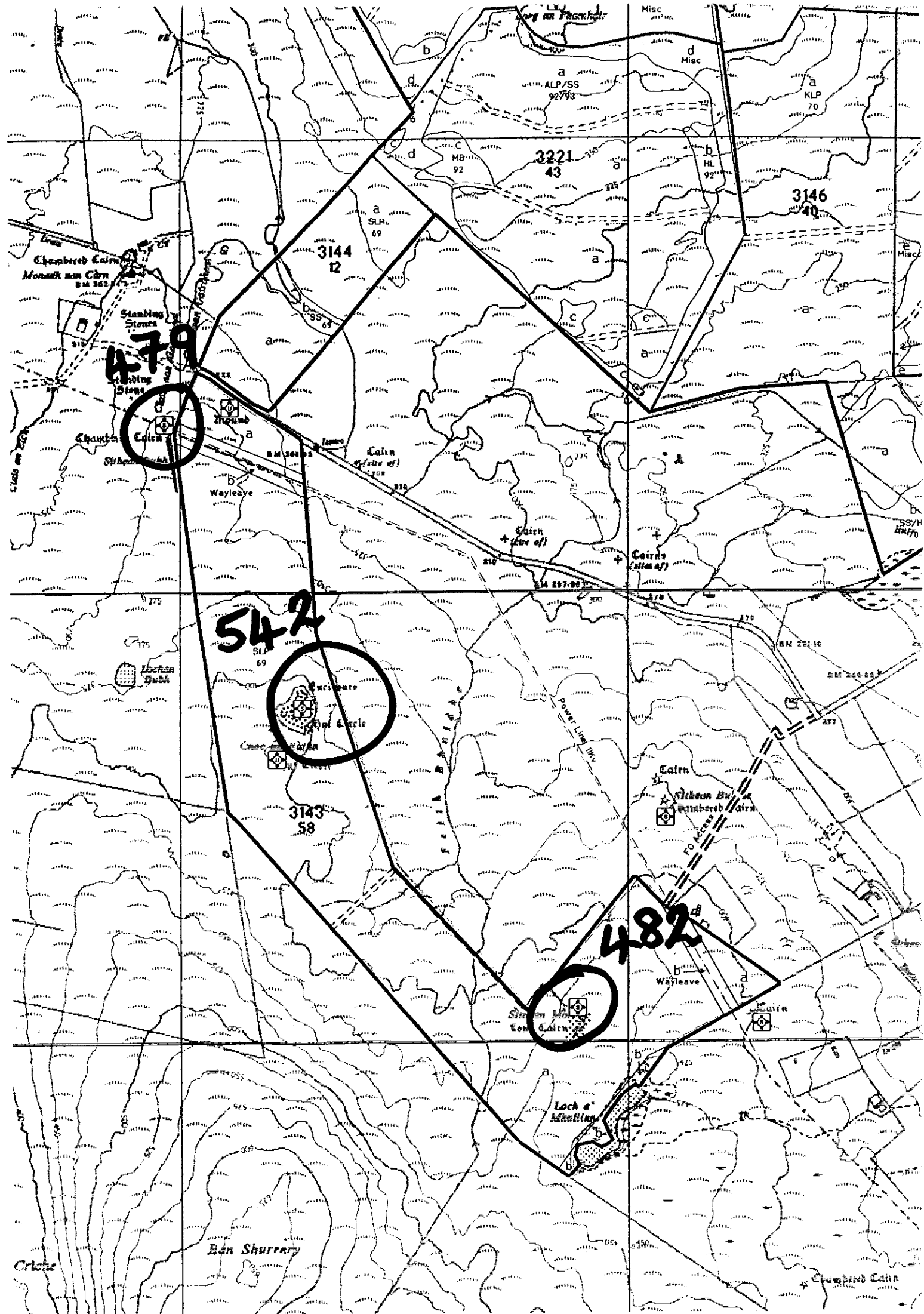


E. S. P. [Signature]
 Captain of the [unclear]

P. [Signature]
 [unclear]

Appendix 2 Forest Enterprise stock map

Appendix 3 Site access map



Appendix 4 Historic Scotland's last Monument Warden report

Visit summary report

Index number: 482 SGR: ND058570 Date originally scheduled: 04-Dec-1993
Date last scheduled: 05-Jul-1999
Location: Site: Slihean Moching cairn (Site NW of Lach a' Mhuilinn)
Date: 13-Jun-1999 County: HIGHLAND
Inspector: Mrs A Coombs
Condition: 3 Risk: 2 IIS Priority: 3.61 Opportunity for positive management: 5
Damage? IVM visit required? Interest in a IIS grant? Field made? X Slides taken? X
Map site seen? Review scheduled? Proportion complete: 100%

Description and assessment of management of an inventory

8-JUN-1999, AC

The site lies to the NW of Lach a' Mhuilinn within the Forest Enterprise plantation. The monument is a long cairn, has been partially ploughed, planted and cleared in the past. The cairn appears to consist of sections, a 'cist' at the SW end, a long horned cairn in the middle with a round cairn attached at the NE end. The 'cist' is difficult to define as such as there are a number of disturbed stones in the area and it looks rather as if the forestry ploughing has disturbed a paved area in front of the cairn. The SW end of the long cairn appears to be defined by an edge of stones forming a curve indicating the shape of the horns. The one to the N has almost disappeared and the one to the S is a small mound of stones. The main body of the long cairn appears to have been robbed at some point in the past and there are a number of depressions along its length. The circular mound at the end is the least disturbed part of the monument although the ploughing runs to the edge of the cairn. There is a slight depression on the top and the side stone on the site is in a stable condition with no further damage since the clearing of the trees. The cairn is covered with grass and heather. The site will be subject to a Forest Enterprise Management Plan and the trees which have been taken back to the edge of the scheduled area will be taken back a further 20m. At the time of the removal of these trees care will be needed to ensure that machinery does not go onto the scheduled area.

6 DEC 93

Since the previous visit trees have been removed from an area around the cairn. The plantation is now a minimum of 11m back from the monument. During the removal of the trees a small cist, 0.2m x 0.2m x 0.3m deep was discovered. This lies 7m from the SW end of the long cairn. There was no sign of the capping stone, though the deep ploughing of the area has unearthed a considerable amount of stone. The removal of the trees from the SW end of the monument has made the cist horns to be found much more visible.

Otherwise: No change in report: Site OK

8-FEB-91

This grass covered monument is made up of a round cairn, 1.8m x 1.5m x 3m high, with a long cairn, 8.5m x 1m x 2m high attached to it. The cairn as a whole lies on a SW to NE plane.

There are depressions on both the round and long cairn where it would appear that stone has been removed. There is little visible stone on the monument.

Visit summary report

The sample is for assessment of management requirements.

There are also two trees on the monument and two adjacent to it. These trees should be removed and the vegetation which intrudes on the scheduled area cleared to give a tree free zone of at least 5m around the monument. It is for this reason that I have suggested a management agreement.

Location: [redacted] including

100m-1999 AC

The site was rescheduled in 1993. The scheduled area is 95m SSW-NNE by 35m ESE-WNW and is adequate.

100m-1999 AC

The site was visited and no action taken.

100m-1999 AC

The site was visited with a representative of Forest Enterprise and will be subject to a Management Agreement.

Appendix 5 Historic Scotland's last Monument Warden site sketch

HBM WARDEN SKETCH SHEET

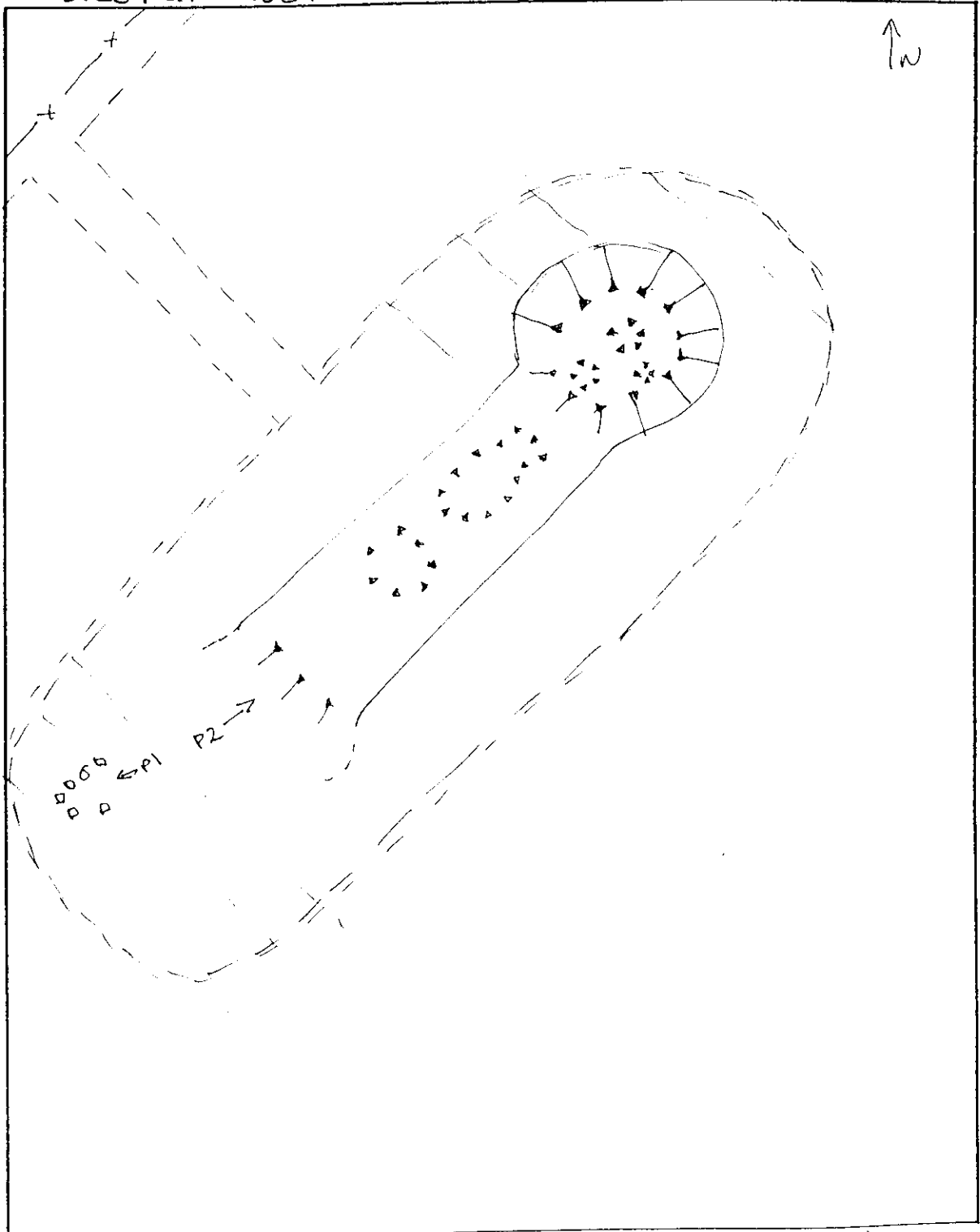
Index No 482

Monument SITHUAN MOR, long cairn '160m NW of hocha'
Mhuilinn

Region HIGHLAND District CAITHNESS

Initials of Recorder A.C. Date of Visit 15-6-99 Visit No 03.

SKETCH NOT TO SCALE.



Scheduled Area 95m SW-NNE x 35m ESE-WNW
through trees previously felled (marked)

Appendix 6 Aerial & other photographs

Appendix 7 Other information

4. MERCER, R.J.

CAT 6 Brawlbin Long (Mon. No. FOR 397, Fig. 5).

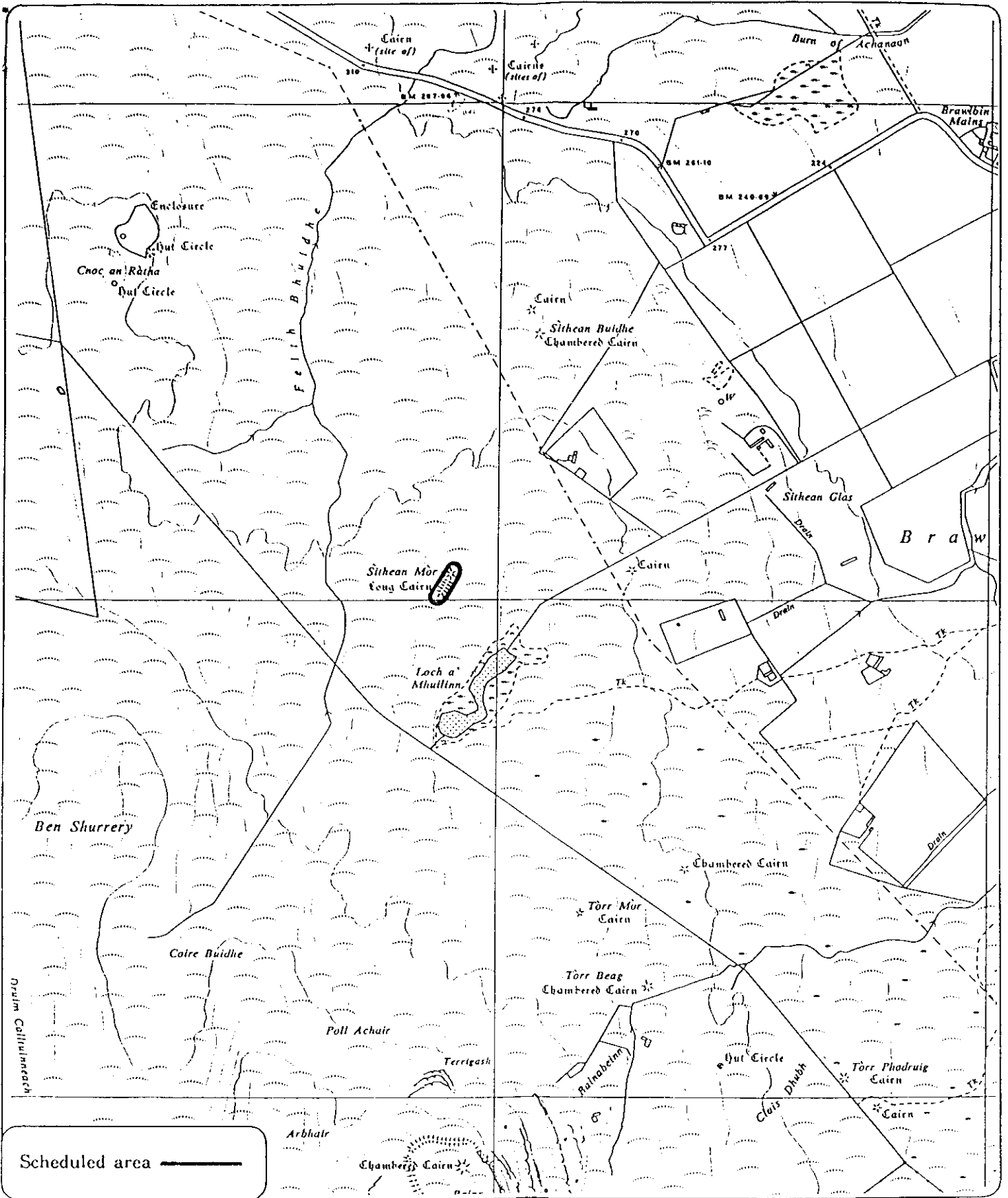
This site lies on a crest on open moorland. Very sadly the site is now contained within a forestry plantation which apparently was not the case in 1956 at the time of Miss Henshall's visit. This plantation has unfortunately quite severely damaged this important monument and while it was clearly the intention of forestry managers in the area to respect the cairn, it would appear that, due to a lack of archaeological supervision, the definition by the forester of the edge of the cairn has been somewhat haphazard. As a result some 12m of the 'tail end' of the long cairn including the horn arrangement observed there by Henshall in 1956 have been very severely damaged if not destroyed. Elsewhere, particularly on the NW and E flanks of the cairn, forestry ploughing has approached the cairn far, far too closely, riding right up onto its flanks doing considerable damage. This monument is, or was, one of the most impressive of its class in Northern Scotland and one of the most important prehistoric monuments in the area. It is a scheduled ancient monument. It is nothing short of tragic that in the latter half of the twentieth century a monument of this calibre, protected by the Secretary of State, could have been seriously damaged by an agent of Central Government. The damage, of course, can in no way be made good - and is total and irreversible. The writer would, however, recommend most strongly that upon clear felling of this area of the forest, and prior to replanting, the cairn, or what is left of it, should be returned to a substantial area of open ground - the cairn being set within a *cordon sanitaire* of moorland at least 20m in width and perhaps could even suggest that a path be set out so that members of the public might visit this remarkable site without the physical and navigational hazards of making their way through the plantation.

The cairn is oriented NE-SW with a cairn that would appear to be more oval than round at its NE end. The axis of this oval cairn would appear at the present day to lie somewhat to the east of the main axis of the cumulative cairn. The oval cairn would appear to have been the victim of disturbance both at its summit and on its S & SW flank. A sharp and clearly defined gully separates the long cairn from the oval cairn, a feature recurrent on a number of similar sites - it was encountered by Corcoran at Tulach an t'Sionnaich and is apparent from detailed survey at Cnoc Freiceadain (CAT 18 Mon. No. FOR 90 Fig. 2) - where it was noted by Corcoran - and at Tulach Buaile Assery (CAT 59, Mon. No. FOR 371, Fig. 4). This feature renders difficult the clear perception of any specific priority relationship between both elements of the cairn in terms of field survey and indeed, as Corcoran tells us (Corcoran 1963, 12), during excavation.

Running away to the SW now sadly curtailed lie the remains of the long cairn. The cairn would appear to be a simple one with roughly parallel sides (with revetment walling visible at the SW extremity of the cairn) although there might be some suggestion of quadri-lobate form in cairn outline as recorded in Fig. 5 - suggesting that even this ostensibly simple element could be cumulative in some measure. The precise form of the SW end of the cairn was, of course, not available for record in 1982. Miss Henshall also notes "The (long) cairn has been robbed down the centre" and Curle visiting the site on 11/8/1910 noted also "The body of the cairn ... has been removed for the sake of its stones". The writer is not entirely happy with this explanation and Curle does not make it clear whether his note is based upon his own general supposition or upon any independent evidence. The phenomenon is a recurrent one occurring in very similar form in Cnoc Freiceadain (CAT 18, Mon. No. FOR 90 Fig. 2) and in Tulach Buaile Assery (CAT 59, Mon. No. FOR 371, Fig. 4) in all instances in isolated positions where there is no recent objective for such robbing present and where stone is not anyway in short supply. Two possibilities occur to the writer which can only be tested by excavation:

(1) That this robbing is to be associated with later construction on site, i.e. the round mound is later than the long cairn. Even for this suggestion however the process would appear to be too orderly.

(2) That the activity is of an altogether different and, at present, unknown kind, but one remarkable for its carefully ordered nature.



Scheduled area

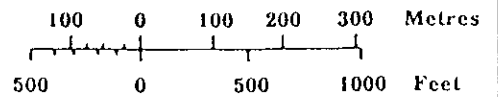
Sithean Mor, long cairn 160m
NW of Loch a'Mhuilinn

Reay Parish



Sheet : ND O5 NE

Scale : 1/10,560



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RECORD OF SCHEDULED OR OTHER ANCIENT MONUMENTS

..... Dornoch Forest District

1. Forest (sub) Compartment Nos: 6 Fig Grid Ref No: ND 058570
Lybster 3143a

2. Name of Monument as per DOE's Description if Unnamed
eg Tumulus/Camp

DOE reference no (if any): Date of scheduling as AM:

3. General Description (eg 2 concentric walls/ditches @ 100 m x 50 m):
Sithean Mor, Long Cairn 160 m NW of Loch a' Mhuilinn, Brawlbin

4. Approximate area if measurable:

0.05 ha

5. Land Use

i. Classification, as per sub compartment record (planted or open space
within:- species P year; to be planted; LGBL: Scrub, agriculture,
misc - specify):

Open space within SLP P69

ii. If leased for grazing, give appropriate date and Estate File No.

6. Assessment of (i) Vulnerability and (ii) Other Relevant Factors

Nil

Nil

7. Desirable management as agreed with DOE Inspectors; eg clearing of scrub or
crop; maintenance of grazing; acceptance/reduction of recreation pressures.

(i) Note: Likely effect of existing crop and working thereof; risks arising
from open area within a crop (scrub growth).

(ii) Note: Presence of rights of way, liability to vandalism, present
recreational/educational use.

8. Record of periodic remainders to DFO/Forester i/c/Land Agent.

9. Record of inspection by DFO/Forester i/c/Land Agent or other qualified archaeologist.

Inspected by G A Watson H/F 22/2/85

10. Record of any permission for excavations etc.