

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT CAITHNESS		5 PARISH HALKIRK		1 SITE CODE H N D 0 6 S E 0 0 7	
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS		2 NGR N D 0 6 7 2 6 4 1 2 C E	
11 CONCORDANCE OS ND 06 SE 7 NMR		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURES		3 QUAL	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		9 REGIONAL STATUS		6 SITE NAME S T / T R O S T A N ' S / C H A P E L	
20 LAND USE CEMETERY = ROUGH PASTURE		17 CONDITION INCOMPLETE		10 GENERIC TYPE GRAVEYARD + FONT + CHAPEL, (ALLEGED).	
22 SOILS		21 GEOLOGY		14 PERIOD/DATE EM = MO	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		23 VEGETATION		15 DATING METHOD DOC	
25 RELIEF GENTLE HILLSLOPE		26 ASPECT NE=E=SSE		18 SHAPE	
27 ALTITUDE 45=55m OD		28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)		19 THREAT AND DATE	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)					
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1907: 6" MAP. 2. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1876: 6" MAP. 3. BEATON REV. D.: 1909: ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF CAITHNESS: :p58. 4. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1872: OBJECT NAME BOOK: 5. AULD REV. A.: 1868: MINISTERS & MEN IN THE FAR NORTH: MENZIES p.2 6. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1975: 1/10,000. 7. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1906: 25" MAP.					
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	
				SEM: 29.8.1985.	
				51 CHECK: DATE	
				DH: 18 9 1985	

52 TEXT
 "A: St. Trostan's Chapel (site of), B: Priest Hillock, C: Baptismal Font."
 "See continuation card for text and map of (4)."

- (ND 0661 6412) St Trostan's Chapel (NR) (Supposed Site of) (1).
 (ND 0672 6410) Priest Hillock (NR) (2).
 (ND 0663 6410) Baptismal Font (NR)

At Westfield there are the ruins of the old chapel of Trostan or Drostan, evidently a Celtic foundation, and the burial ground, which is still in use. (3).

The baptismal font is reputed never to run dry.

St Trostan's Chapel is supposed to have stood in the graveyard - some say on the Priest Hillock. (4).

St Trostan's was a pre-Reformation chapel. (5).

In the graveyard centred at ND 066 641 no trace of St Trostan's Chapel could be found, and Priest Hillock at ND 0672 6412 appears to be a circular feature probably pre-dating the chapel. At ND 0662 6410, set in the face of the S wall of the graveyard, is a baptismal font, suggesting that the chapel was in or near the graveyard rather than on Priest Hillock. Priest Hillock measures 20.0 m from N to S by 25.0 m transversely and 2.0 m high; it is constructed of stone with an almost circular cell containing traces of walling in the top, measuring 6.0 m in diameter.

Priest Hillock surveyed at 1:2500.

(OSFI:RD:21.10.1964).

- (ND 0661 6412) St Drostan's Chapel (NR) (site of) (6).
 (ND 0672 6412) Priest Hillock (NR)

The most likely site for St Trostan's Chapel (name verified by the farmer at Westfield) is in the graveyard published on the O S map, where the font still remains (see illustration). The graveyard is still in occasional use; the earliest decipherable stone is dated 1741.

Priest Hillock (name verified) does not resemble the remains of a chapel. It is an amorphous turf-covered mound about 18.0m E-W by 16.0m and 1.8m high. It is

mutilated by (1) plough-lines at the base, (2) the dumping of spoil from the nearby drain, and (3) by a deep cutting into the N segment revealing a content of slabs, indicating that the mound is wholly or in part artificial, but its date and purpose are uncertain. Superimposed upon the summit is a perfectly circular mound of stones 5.9m in diameter and 0.5m average height, bounded by a well-defined but discontinuous line of horizontally-laid slabs protruding not more than 0.1m through the turf. Its shape, size and content suggest a cairn but its superimposition on an existing mound precludes precise assessment.

(OSFI:NKB:17.9.1981).

Published survey (1:2500) revised.

CAITHNESS, SHEET 11.5.

HND 06 SE 007

120
10.992

121
11.895

122
14.611

124
3.422

125
12.775

Westfield Farm

Westfield Lodge

Loch Liurary

Supposed Site of
St. Crostan's
Chapel

Grace Yard
149
428

7

Baptismal font

b
Priest Nillock

148
15.339

F.P.

Well

Well

Well

