

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# FIELD MONUMENTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT <b>CAITHNESS</b>		5 PARISH <b>REAY</b>		1 SITE CODE H N D 0 6 S W 0 0 5	
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS <b>SCHEDULED</b>		2 NGR N D 0 1 1 8 6 4 6 2	
11 CONCORDANCE OS ND 06 SW 5		12 FORM <b>STANDING STRUCTURE</b>		13 DIMENSIONS c26.0m DIAM	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION <b>INCOMPLETE</b>		6 SITE NAME <b>H I L L O F S H E B S T E R</b>	
20 LAND USE <b>HEATH</b>		21 GEOLOGY		10 GENERIC TYPE <b>BURIAL CAIRN, CHAMBERED (OCH)</b>	
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		14 PERIOD/DATE <b>NE</b>	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF <b>SUMMIT OF HILL</b>		15 DATING METHOD <b>TYP</b>	
26 ASPECT <b>360°</b>		27 ALTITUDE <b>130 = 135m OD</b>		18 SHAPE <b>CIRCULAR</b>	
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)		19 THREAT AND DATE		29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	
				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1907: 6" MAP</li> <li>HENSHALL, A.S: 1963: CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND: EUP: Vol. 1: pp56, 71, 274 + plan</li> <li>RCAHMS: 1911: CAITHNESS INVENTORY: HMSO: p101, No. 367</li> <li>MERCER, R.J: 1985: FIELD SURVEY IN N. SCOTLAND: EUP: Vol. 3: No. 102</li> <li>HMB(SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS</li> </ol>	
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 <b>GS: 20.8.1985</b>	
51 CHECK: DATE <b>HAR: 4-9-1985</b>		52 TEXT			

"See continuation card for text and illustration."

"Hill of Shebster chambered cairn ND 011646" (5)

(ND 0118 6462) Cairn

(1)

This turf-covered chambered cairn, 1.6 m maximum height and approximately 26.0 m in diameter, has been mutilated by an excavation trench in the NE. The top has been robbed revealing seven stone slabs forming the stalls of a gallery grave and two portal stones are in the SE corner of the cairn.

(OSFI:NKB:13.11.1964)

This chambered cairn is as described by the previous authorities.

(OSFI:JB:11.9.1981)

28 HILL OF SHEBSTER

(O.-C., stalled, round)

In the parish of

REAY

Location 3 1/2 m. E of

REAY

Map reference

ND/011646

Sheet X; ND 06 SW

Inventory number 367

Reference R.C.A.M. Inv. 101

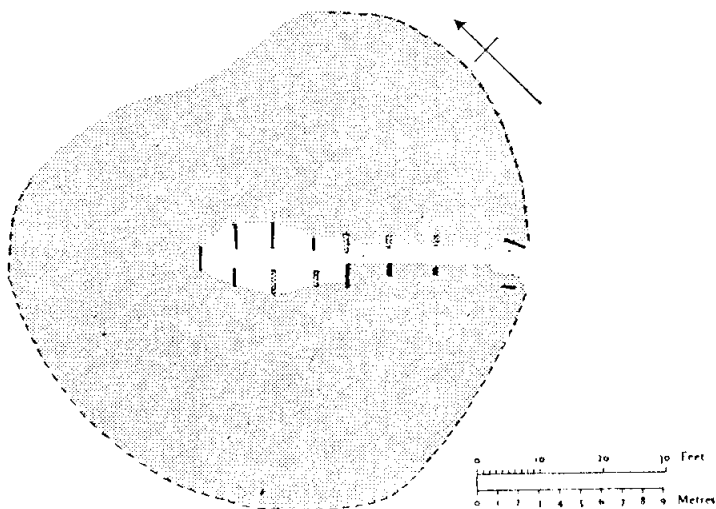
Plan by A.S.H. and J.C.W.

(fig. 44)

Visited 9.7.55

*Description.* The remains of a heavily robbed cairn are on the summit of the hill at over 400ft. OD and only 1/2 mile S of the two long horned cairns on Cnoc Freiceadain. The diameter of this cairn is 80ft. The tops of a number of upright parallel slabs protrude through the turf, and it is evident that a number of others have been removed, or are lower and concealed by the debris. However, it is possible to interpret the plan with some certainty.

The entrance has been from the SE. At the cairn edge on this side there are two low slabs 6ft. apart and aligned more or less along the main axis of the chamber. Two small low slabs 10 and 17ft. to the NW of them are likely to be upright stones set in the passage wall on the SW side, while their partners on the NE side are not visible. The total length of the passage has been about 26ft., for a taller and wider slab at this distance from the cairn edge is probably the SW portal of the chamber entrance. The chamber has been 23ft. long to the back-slab, and has been divided into four compartments by three pairs of transverse slabs. The outer compartment has been 4ft. 6in. long, a divisional stone remaining on the NE side at this distance from the supposed portal stone. The second compartment has been 6ft. long, only the NE divisional stone being visible. The third compartment, which is 5ft. 6in. long, is divided from the innermost compartment by a pair of divisional stones set 3ft. apart and 5ft. in front of the back-slab.

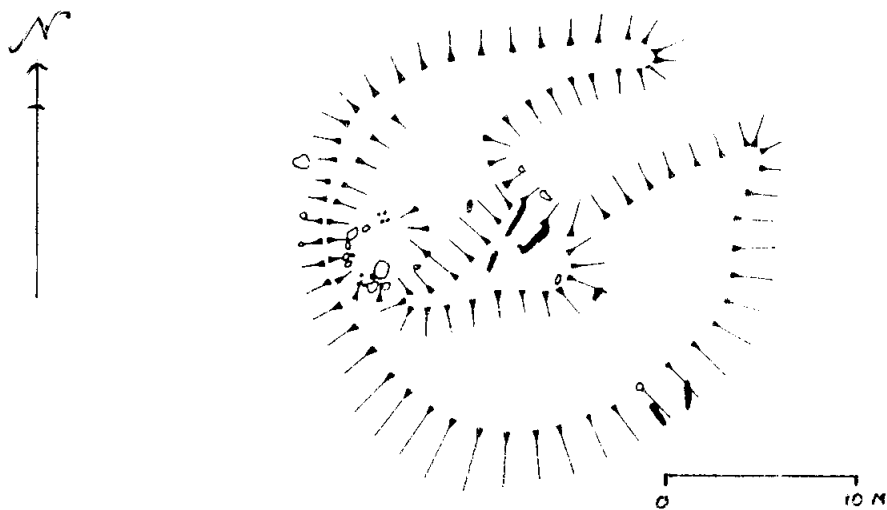


(2)

102. Chambered Cairn. Hill of Shebster. Dimensions: 26m x 24m. Height: 1.50m. Subcircular grass-covered mound with some boulders visible. There are five large thin upright slabs, two of which are set parallel to each other on the S edge of the cairn, with another two similarly associated in the centre of the cairn. Entrance to the SE. Much damage to the cairn on the NE side. Orientation: E-W. ND 012646. O.S. Card ND 06 SW 5.

(4)

Henshall CAT 28, Mon. No. FOR 102, Hill of Shebster (Fig. 14). Henshall records this monument as a round cairn with an Orkney-Cromarty-Hebridean chamber set within it. The two portal slabs of the SE entrance are still visible while five of the eight vertical slabs noted by Henshall were still visible to field inspection in 1982. To judge by the slab length the chamber is approaching 4m in floor width and from back slab (the tip of which is now just visible) to passage entrance 8m in length. The cairn is much ruined particularly in its NE arc where quarrying seems to have made a major indentation and to the SW where further disturbance of a massive nature seems to have taken place.



Mon 102  
Hill of Shebster  
Henshall CAT 28