

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE										
H	N	D	0	7	S	W	0	0	4	A
2 NGR										
N	D	0	2	4	8	7	0	1	2	CE
3 QUAL										

4 DISTRICT CAITHNESS		5 PARISH REAY		6 SITE NAME CROSS SKIRK BAY	
7 AREA STATUS	8 SITE STATUS	9 REGIONAL STATUS		10 GENERIC TYPE BROCH + SOUTERRAIN + DWELLING, STALLED (?) + BURIAL CISTS,	
11 CONCORDANCE OS ND 07 SW 4		12 FORM SITE OF		13 DIMENSIONS	
14 PERIOD/DATE IA = EM		15 DATING METHOD TYP + ASS		16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS BROCH, SOUTERRAIN (?), DWELLING (STALLED ?)	
17 CONDITION DESTROYED		18 SHAPE		19 THREAT AND DATE	
20 LAND USE ENCLOSED PASTURE		21 GEOLOGY		22 SOILS	
23 VEGETATION		26 ASPECT 360°		27 ALTITUDE 10 = 15m OD	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF GENTLY SLOPING HEADLAND		28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	

1. FAIRHURST, H & TAYLOR, D: 1966-1972: FULL: SCIENTIFIC

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

1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1975: 1/10,000 MAP
2. RCAHMS: 1911: CAITHNESS INVENTORY: HMSO: p93, No. 347, P 109, No. 405
3. DRYDEN, Sir H: 1887: SOC. ANT. SCOT. MANUSCRIPTS: No. 21
4. ALLEN, J.R: 1903: EARLY CHRISTIAN MONUMENTS OF SCOTLAND: VOL. 3: p30 + illustration
5. STUART, J: 1856: SCULPTURED STONES OF SCOTLAND: VOL. 1: p11 + illustration
6. FAIRHURST, H & TAYLOR, D.B. & MORRISON, A: 1966: DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND: CBA (SCOT): pp19-20 /cont...

30 GROUND PLAN NO.	31 GROUND PHOTO NO. <i>Misc 101022</i>
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: 7.8.1985	51 CHECK: DATE DY 14.8.1985

52 TEXT

"A multiperiod promontory site with broch plus post broch settlement. Comprising a possible souterrain and possible dwelling, stalled (wheel house?), with burials (two long cisted, and one crouched, inhumations). The area was defended in its later occupation stages by an outwork of ditch and wall. Finds date the settlement from the late Iron Age into the Pictish and possibly post-Pictish periods. The site is now destroyed and a cairn marks the spot."

(HAR: 9.8.1985)

"See continuation cards for text and for map, see HND 07 SW 001". (12)

Photographs

BOX 10.

* "...LONG + BURIAL, INHUMATIONS, CROUCHED."

- 29.
7. FAIRHURST, H: 1969: DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND: CBA (SCOT): p16
 8. FAIRHURST, H. & TAYLOR, D.B: 1970: DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND: CBA (SCOT): pp19-20
 9. " " : 1971: " " : " : p53
 10. " " : 1972: " " : " : p54
 11. MACKIE, E.W: 1975: SCOTLAND - AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL GUIDE: : p229
 12. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1906: 25" MAP.
 13. FAIRHURST, H: 1984: EXCAVATIONS AT CROSSKIRK BROCH: SOC ANT SCOT MONOGRAPH SER NO 3
 14. RCAHMS: 1985: PICTISH SYMBOL STONES, A HANDLIST: HMSO: Pp 10-14

(ND 0248 7012) Broch (NR) (remains of)

(1)

The broch at Crosskirk Bay, Reay, has an internal diameter of approximately 30 to 32 ft and a wall 14 to 15 ft thick. It has been broken into from the S, where there appears to have been an entrance to the left of which the sides of a chamber are visible in the wall. At the edge of the cliff, some 20 ft of wall about 4 to 5 ft high is exposed. On the landward side about 10 ft from the broch are the remains of an outer bank or wall, now some 8 ft wide at the base.

(2) (3)

A rectangular symbol stone, 2 ft 3 ins high and 2 ft 2 ins wide, a facsimile of which is at Thurso Castle, is said to have been found at this broch and to have been given to the King of Denmark by Sir George Sinclair.

(4) (5)

This broch survives as a grass-covered circular enclosure, 1.1m maximum height internally. Traces of the outer wall face, 1.5m maximum height, are exposed in the SW, and in the N where the cliff edge has eroded. There the thickness of the wall is 5.5m. There is no evidence of the original entrance but it may have been in the S where the feature has been mutilated by excavation. Around the E periphery of the broch there is a shallow depression, and on the SW side a bank, 0.5m maximum height, may have formed part of the outer defences.

(OSFI:NKB:28.10
1964)

No further information could be found regarding the symbol stone found here.

Resurveyed at 1:2500.

This broch was excavated by Dr H Fairhurst and Mr D Taylor between 1966 and 1972. The wall survived to a maximum height of about 2.0m internally, and contained a rock-cut well. A rock-cut ditch encircled the tower, and the area between ditch and broch was fully occupied by secondary domestic structures. At the conclusion of the excavation the broch was bulldozed over the edge of the cliff, and nothing remains of it or the outworks apart from some walling in the cliff face. A modern cairn marks the site. A full excavation report is pending.

The remains of this broch, unsafe through coastal erosion, were excavated by Fairhurst and Taylor from 1966 to 1972 on behalf of D.O.E., before being demolished, earthed over and seeded with grass. The excavation revealed evidence of a secondary settlement within an outwork on the east, and an extension of the entrance passage eastwards, part of which was converted, in the last stages of occupation, into a souterrain. The outwork commenced in the east in front of the broch entrance, as a wall 15' thick with an earth core. Further to the west where bedrock came near the surface, the outwork continued as a terrace-like feature with a 'cell-like' structure behind. In front was a ditch, largely natural, which was 3m deep. In the extreme west a fence of flag-stones seems to have completed the defences. One of the final episodes in the occupation of the site was a burial in the centre of a roughly circular dwelling. The body had been placed in a sitting position and was unaccompanied by grave-goods. As well as native pottery, bonework, querns, etc., finds included 2nd century Samian and a fragment of possibly Roman glass, now in NMAS. Evidence of occupation as late as the 8th century was

(OSFI:NKB:13.8.1981)

(6-12)

found during the excavations.

(13)

347. *Broch, Crosskirk*.—At the edge of the rocks about 30 yards to the N. of the ruined church of St Mary's; Lybster (No. 338), are the remains of a large broch. The structure has been broken into to a small extent on the S., from which direction the entrance appears to have been. The interior diameter is not accurately ascertainable without excavation, but has been approximately 30' to 32'. The thickness of the wall is 14' to 15'. The top of the mound covering the wall is some 6' above the ground level on the exterior and 5' on the interior. On the left of the position of the entrance the sides of a chamber are visible in the wall. On the exterior, at the edge of the cliff, for a distance of some 20', a portion of wall, about 4' to 5' in height, is exposed. On the landward side, about 10' from the broch, are the remains of an outer bank or wall now some 8' wide at base.

(2)

(6-12) (D & E)

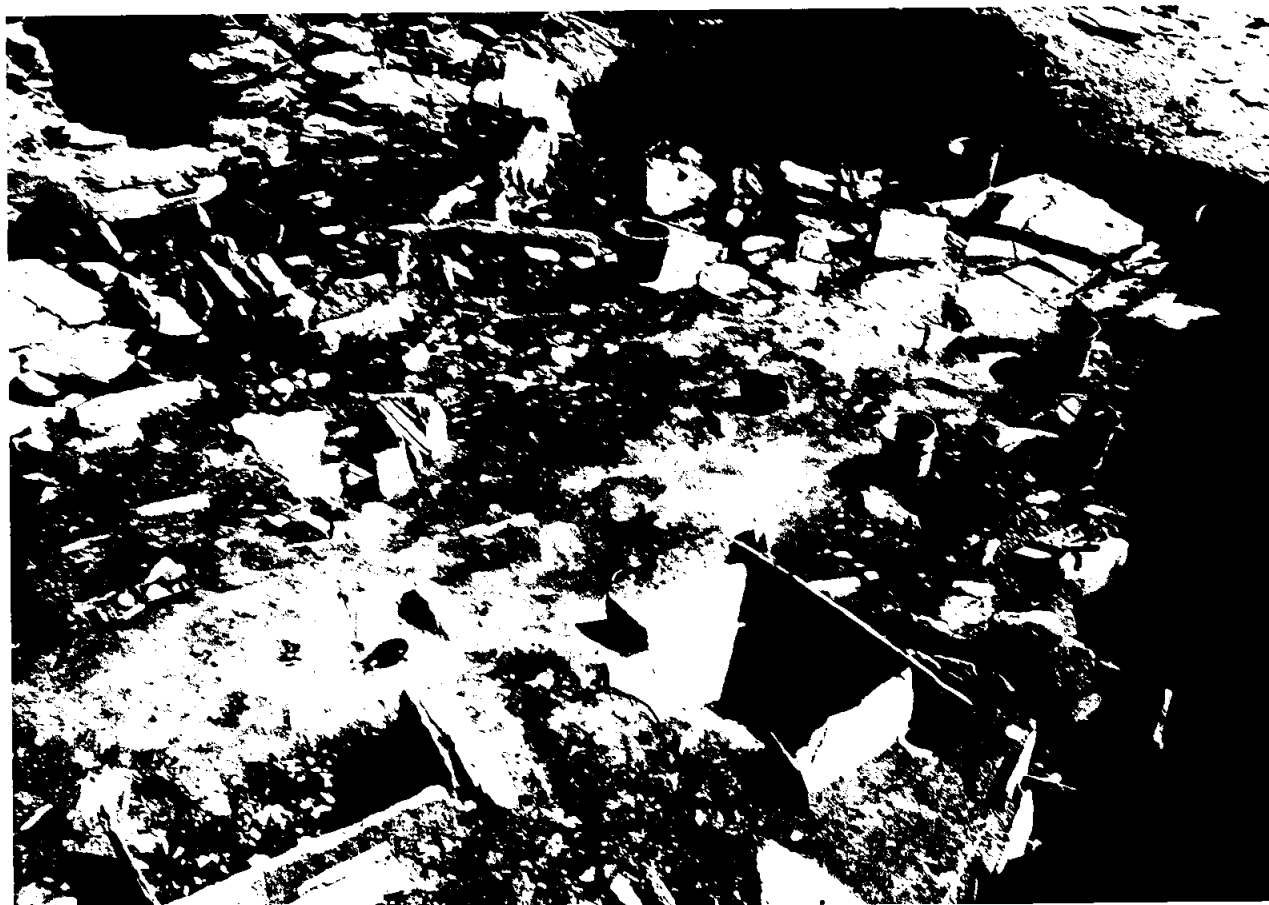
Excavation of the interior of the broch was completed and a rock-cut cleft for a well was discovered under the last few feet of paving slabs to be lifted. No post holes occurred at the primary floor level. The wall cell near the stair was fully excavated but the guard cell at the entrance was so far collapsed that it had to be shored up latterly and the masonry was too dangerous to clear completely. During the initial stages of reducing the highly unstable broch walling to a cairn, as requested by the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, it was possible to examine the method of construction; a great earthen core was exposed, so that the interior and exterior masonry represented no more than revetments. Outside, an elongated passage from the entrance was traced for no less than 22m. It proved to be a late feature, overlying the walling of demolished structure not yet fully excavated. In the last stage of all, a souterrain appears to have been constructed by narrowing and roofing the passage. Near the outer end, a clay-cored wall was encountered, suggestive of an outwork pre-dating the passage. The remains of a second enclosing wall around the broch appear to run beneath the chapel of St. Mary's immediately to the south. Two burials were found inserted to the west of the elongated passage, both in roughly constructed long cists, but they were not orientated E-W and the period is uncertain.

ND 025701. Headland 9km W of Thurso. The final season of this series lasted from the 3rd to the 21st of July. Previous reports appeared in *Discovery and Excavation* for 1966, 1969, 1970 and 1971. Attention was concentrated on the settlement outside the broch on the eastern side where the foundations were found to extend to the cliff some 20m distant.

An outwork, unsuspected until last year, was traced across the headland, passing between the broch and the cemetery wall of St. Mary's Chapel. It commenced in the east in front of the broch entrance as a wall 15' 0" thick with an earth core; a walled entrance was provided with checks and bar hole. Further to the west, where bedrock came near the surface, the outwork continued as a terrace-like feature with a "cell-like" structure behind. In front was a ditch, largely natural, which was 3.0m deep below the turf and existing top of the wall face. In the extreme west a fence of flagstones seems to have completed the defences away from the broch entrance.

The buildings making up the settlement were contained within the outwork and formed a complex of earth and slab floors at various levels, drystone walling and flagstones on end and underlying drains. These provided an intricate problem of interpretation in detail but had clearly extended over a considerable period after the construction of the broch and outwork. At a relatively late stage, a passage was driven through the earlier settlement buildings and ran through the entrance in the outwork at a high level. This passage had involved the use of masses of flagstones which also made up a carefully laid filling of the old depression in front of the outwork. These numerous slabs seemed to indicate the dismantling of the old broch tower. One of the last episodes in the post-broch phase was a burial in the centre of a late roughly circular dwelling; the body had been placed in a sitting position facing NNE; there were no grave goods. Finds of pottery, bone-work, querns, etc., continued to be numerous and another fragment of Samian occurred in overturned material which cannot be primary.

The whole site was filled in, levelled, covered with top soil when possible and seeded, to await further erosion from the cliff face where undercutting made preservation of the broch site out of the question.



HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



ARTEFACTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

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

4 DISTRICT
CAITHNESS

5 PARISH
REAY

8 CONCORDANCE
OSND 07 SW 4
NMR

9 MUSEUM/LOCATION OF FIND(S)
NMAS.

10 ACCESSION NO.

7 GENERIC TYPE
POTTERY, + GLASS + PINS BRONZE
+ SPIRAL FINGER - RINGS BRONZE
+ QUERNS.

11 PERIOD/DATE
IA = EM (PIC).

12 DATING METHOD
TYP

13 FIND CIRCUMSTANCES
EXCAVATION

14 CONDITION

15 EXCAVATOR AND DATE
FAIRHURST & TAYLOR: 1966-1972.

16 EXCAVATION RECORD NO.

17 LAND USE
ENCLOSED PASTURE

18 GEOLOGY

19 SOILS

20 VEGETATION

21 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE

22 RELIEF
GENTLY SLOPING HEADLAND

23 ASPECT
360°

24 ALTITUDE
10=15m OD

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION/DIMENSIONS
POTTERY, SHERDS: ROMAN SAMIAN:BLACK UNGLAZED: 'NATIVE' UNDECORATED GLASS, ROMAN SPIRAL FINGER-RINGS, BRONZE. (3). STONE POT LID + WHETSTONE. (5)
RING-HEAD PINS (3).
COMBS, WEAVING (4).
PAINTED PEBBLE QUERNS, SADDLE AND ROTARY.

26 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR:DATE:TITLE:JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER:VOLUME:DETAIL)
1. FAIRHURST, H. & TAYLOR D.B.:1966:DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND:CBA (SCOT) 19-20
2. FAIRHURST H. & TAYLOR D.B.:1969: " " : p 16.
3. FAIRHURST H. & TAYLOR D.B.:1970: " " : p 19-20.
4. FAIRHURST H. & TAYLOR D.B.:1971: " " : p 53.
5. FAIRHURST H. & TAYLOR D.B.:1972: " " : p54. P 16.

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
HAR: 9.8.1985.

46 CHECK: DATE
DY 14.8.1985

47 TEXT
"See HND 07 SW 004 A for text of (1)-(5)."
"ND 025 701 Stone pot lid and whetstone found among abandoned rubble from destroyed broch. Lid with Caithness Field Club, whetstone with finder. (5)

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ARTEFACTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

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

4 DISTRICT	5 PARISH
CAITHNESS	REAY

7 GENERIC TYPE
SCULPTURED STONE, PICTISH (CLASS I).

8 CONCORDANCE	9 MUSEUM/LOCATION OF FIND(S)	10 ACCESSION NO.
OS ND 07 SW 4	UNLOCATED	
NMR	(POSSIBLY IN DENMARK).	

11 PERIOD/DATE	12 DATING METHOD
EM (PIC)	TYP

13 FIND CIRCUMSTANCES	14 CONDITION
FROM POST BROCH SETTLEMENT	
HND 07 SW 004 A	

15 EXCAVATOR AND DATE

16 EXCAVATION RECORD NO.

17 LAND USE	18 GEOLOGY
ENCLOSED PASTURE	

19 SOILS	20 VEGETATION

21 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE	22 RELIEF	23 ASPECT	24 ALTITUDE
	GENTLY SLOPING HEADLAND	360°	10=15m OD

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION/DIMENSIONS
 RECTANGULAR, 0.8m x 0.75m, 'CRESCENT' and 'V' ROD + 'HORSESHOE' SYMBOLS.

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

1. ALLEN J.R.:1903:EARLY CHRISTIAN MONUMENTS OF SCOTLAND:VOL 3:p30.
2. STUART J.:1856:SCULPTURED STONES OF SCOTLAND:VOL I:p11.
3. RCAHMS: 1911: CAITHNESS INVENTORY: HMSO: P109: No.405
4. FAIRHUST, H:1984: EXCAVATIONS AT CROSSKIRK BROCH: SOC ANT SCOT MONOGRAPH SER NO 3
5. RCAHMS: 1985: PICTISH SYMBOL STONES, A HANDLIST: HMSO: Pp 10-14

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

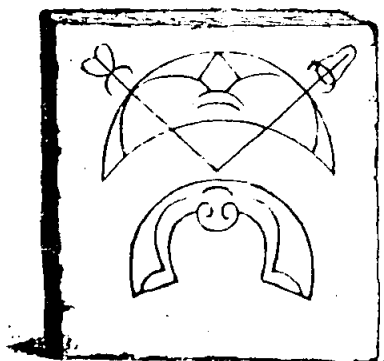
43 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS

44 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE	45 RECORDER: DATE	46 CHECK: DATE
	HAR: 9.8.1985.	DY 14.8.1985

47 TEXT

"Sculptured Stone found in Broch, Lybster.- A sculptured stone, said to have been found in the broch (HND 07 SW 007) near the old Chapel of St. Mary's, Lybster, in Reay, is described and illustrated in 'The Sculptured Stones of Scotland' and in 'The Early Christian Monuments of Scotland'. It is of Caithness sandstone, rectangular in form, 0.8m in height by 0.75m in width, and is sculptured on one face with incised lines, thus: 'At the top, the crescent and V-shaped scepter symbol, and below it the horse-shoe or arch symbol, both ornamented with curved lines. The stone is said to have been presented to the King of Denmark by Sir George Sinclair, the proprietor, but it has not been traced."

" A Facsimile is in Thurso Castle" (OSFI:DT:8.9.1964).



Thurso Castle.—This castle, which is the residence of Sir Tollemache Sinclair, Bart., is situated 1 mile N.E. of Thurso railway station on the sea-shore close to the mouth of the Thurso River on the E. side (Inch Ordnance Map, Sheet 113).

(1)

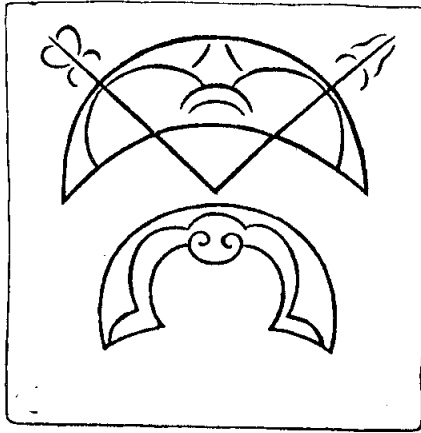


Fig. 27.—Slab sculptured with incised symbols, from Thurso, now at Copenhagen. Copied from Stuart's *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, vol. i. pl. 30. Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$ linear.

The symbol stone is said to have been found in a Piet's house or broch, just outside the enclosure of the burying-ground attached to the ancient church of St Mary at Lybster in Reay, 6 miles W. of Thurso. Dr Stuart states that it was presented by Sir George Sinclair to the King of Denmark, but nothing is known of it at the Museum in Copenhagen.

It is a rectangular slab of Caithness sandstone 2 feet 3 inches high by 2 feet 2 inches wide, sculptured on one face with incised lines thus—

Front (fig. 27).—At the top, the crescent and V-shaped sceptre symbol, and below it the horse-shoe or arch symbol, both ornamented with curved lines. The arch symbol

has a convex projection in the middle of the under side, a rather unusual feature.

(Described and illustrated in Stuart's *Sculptured Stones*, vol. i. pl. 30.)