

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE									
H	N	D	1	3	S	E	0	1	9

4 DISTRICT CAITHNESS				5 PARISH LATHERON			
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED AMENDED 11.1.83		9 REGIONAL STATUS		10 GENERIC TYPE BROCH + OUTWORKS	
11 CONCORDANCE OS ND 13 SE 19 NMR		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURES		13 DIMENSIONS MOUND, 24.0m DIAM		14 PERIOD/DATE IA	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS				17 CONDITION INCOMPLETE (DENUDED)			
20 LAND USE ENCLOSED PASTURE				21 GEOLOGY			
22 SOILS				23 VEGETATION			
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE				25 RELIEF MODERATE HILLSLOPE		26 ASPECT WSW	
						27 ALTITUDE 120 = 130m OD	

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)
1. : PARTIAL

29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1979: 1/10 000 MAP
2. RCAHMS: 1911: CAITHNESS INVENTORY: HMSO: pp52-53: No. 197
3. HBM(SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS:
4. SWANSON, C.B.: 1985: T.S. UNPUBLISHED
5. G. U. SURVEY: 1986: DB20/4

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
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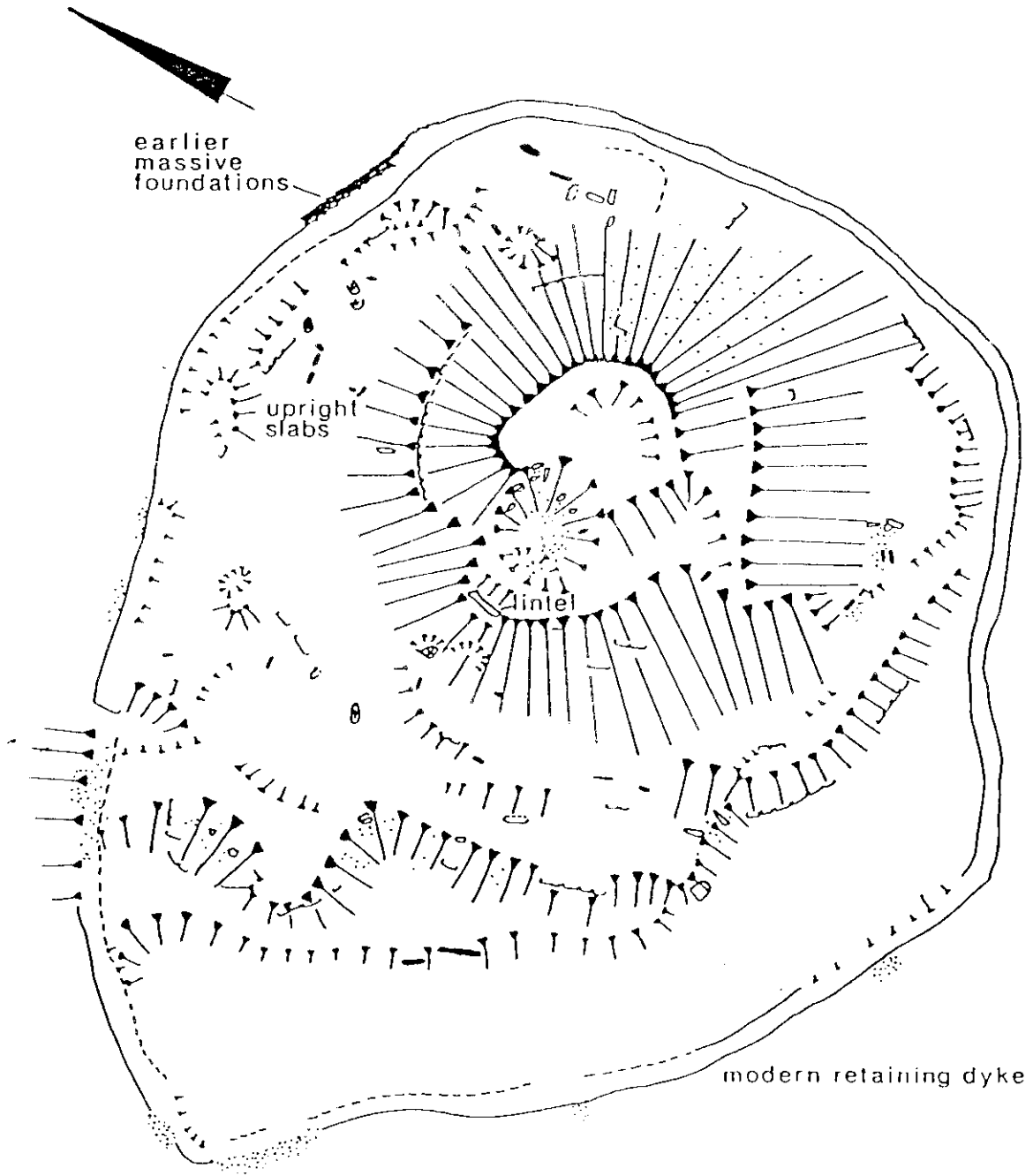
46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT	47 ATTITUDE OF TENANT
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48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS

49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE	50 RECORDER: DATE FAM: 4.2.1986	51 CHECK: DATE R.M.M. 14/2/1986
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52 TEXT
 "ND 1558 3461. Broch (remains of)." (1)
 "Close by the croft of Minera is a grass-covered mound from which many large stones protrude showing the ruins of a broch. The wall-face at base, formed of large stones, is exposed in places, indicating a diam. over all of 70ft (21.4m). The present elevation is 11 or 12ft (3.4m or 3.7m). There has been a little excavation of the mound on the W at some remote period." (2)
 "The remains of a broch, as described by the RCAHMS." (OSFI:NKB:25.3.1968)
 "The remains of this broch are mainly visible as a turf-covered, stony mound approx. 24.0m in diam. and something over 3.0m high. Near the foot of the mound in the NW the outer face of the broch shows to three courses;
 a broken depression running to the centre of the mound from the W, and with a massive/cont. PTO.

The remains of the Minera complex must rank as one of the best preserved broch sites in Caithness, containing substantial structural remains and a largely untouched stratigraphy.



CS.WS 11.4.85

0 10m

This broch appears as a very large, grass covered, mound, with numerous stones protruding through the turf, located in a field now given over to improved pasture. The mound measures overall 55m E/W by 45m N/S. It is surrounded by an irregular stone dyke which acts as a retaining wall on the S, W and N arcs. In the N the dyke appears to be founded on a battered face of massive slabs, which may be an original feature of the site.

The extensive mound contains a complex of remains. To the E a higher mound within the large mound survives about 3-4m above the rest of the complex and about 5m above the ground surface. It appears to cover the broch structure. The outer face of the broch can be traced on the N arc of this higher mound for a distance of about 11m in two separate arcs of walling, exposed one to two courses high. The face is located about half way up the very steep, grass covered and rubble strewn slopes obscuring the remainder of the broch structure. The entrance to the broch would appear to be in the W where a large lintel is exposed behind which there is a robbing hole. Apart from this robbing the mound over the broch has been only slightly quarried, indicating a substantial undisturbed stratigraphy. The inner face of the broch can be expected to have survived within the mound to a height of 4-5m. On the E of the higher mound containing the broch, about 1.5m below the summit and opposite the presumed site of the entrance, an apparent coursed setting of stones at right angles to the line of the outer face may indicate an intramural feature such as a gallery or stair well. The feature is too indistinct to be certain of its identification.

Surrounding the higher mound containing the broch structure there is a large lower mound lying mainly to the NW, W and SW. It exhibits numerous upright slabs and isolated lengths of face which make no distinct patterns but which indicate the presence of buildings outside the broch, as at Tiantulloch (DW 1) and other sites in the Caithness Plain. An outer wall bounding the external buildings is suggested by two particular features - the massive foundations under the modern dyke in the N of the site; and the break of slope containing occasional lengths of exposed face in the SE, S and W of the site. There has been some quarrying of the line of this face in the W, but otherwise the complex around the broch seems to be largely untouched, preserved to a height of 1-1.5m above the surrounding field surface. Outside the suggested line of an outer wall in the SW another break of slope and two uprights indicate further remains which would seem to extend for another 10m to the modern retaining dyke.