

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE									
H	N	D	1	6	N	W	0	1	5
2 NGR		3 QUAL							
N	D	1	3	5	4	6	9	2	3
6 SITE NAME									
H A R O L D ' S T O W E R									
10 GENERIC TYPE									
CHAPEL + BURIAL VAULT, MAUSOLEUM									
14 PERIOD/DATE					15 DATING METHOD				
EM = MO					TYP				
18 SHAPE									
19 THREAT AND DATE									

4 DISTRICT		5 PARISH	
CAITHNESS		THURSO	
7 AREA STATUS	8 SITE STATUS	9 REGIONAL STATUS	
11 CONCORDANCE	12 FORM	13 DIMENSIONS	
OSND16 NW 15	STANDING STRUCTURE		
NMR			
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION	
BURIAL VAULT BUILT ON		RUINED BUILDING	

20 LAND USE	21 GEOLOGY		
ENCLOSED PASTURE = ROUGH PASTURE			
22 SOILS	23 VEGETATION		
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE	25 RELIEF	26 ASPECT	27 ALTITUDE
	LEVEL GROUND	360°	30 = 40m OD

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)

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

1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1971: 6" MAP
2. BEATON, Rev. D: 1909: ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF CAITHNESS: : : pp43-44
3. TORFAEUS (trans. POPE, A): 1886: ANCIENT HISTORY OF ORKNEY, CAITHNESS & THE NORTH, 1636-76 : : p168
4. CAMPBELL, W: 1902: THORS TOWN & JOHN O' GROATS: : p34
5. : 1855: ORIGINES PAROCHIALES SCOTIAE: 2part2: 748

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	51 CHECK: DATE
	HAR: 25.2.1986	GS: 17.3.86

52 TEXT

"ND 1354 6923. Harold's Tower. Mausoleum." (1)

"There was a chapel at the Hill of Clairdon on the site of which Harold's Tower was built by Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster before 1780 to mark the spot where Earl Harold (the younger) is supposed to have been killed and buried at the Battle of Clardon Hill in 1196 (HND 16 NW 014). The enclosure is called 'Kirkua' from the temple built over Earl Harold's grave and vestiges of the chapel were visible until George Sinclair of Ulbster (father of Sir John) enclosed the ground." (2) (3) (4)

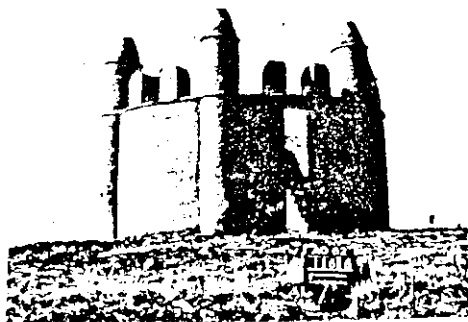
"The chapel at Thurso East is apparently the chapel that is mentioned in 'Orkneyinga Saga' (1780) and 'Torfaeus' and existing when the former was written." (5)

"No trace of a chapel exists at this site. The mausoleum has a plaque on the SW side bearing/..

52./ the words 'The burial place of the Sinclairs of Ulbster'. (see illus.)"

(OSFI:EGC:18.4.1962)

"Harold's Tower, a mausoleum, is generally as described by OSFI:EGC, but the steps at the entrance have been removed, the burial vault has been broken into and the coffins are displaced. The mausoleum is within an embanked enclosure, 35.0m across, presumably that built by Sir Robert Sinclair. There is not trace of a chapel." (OSFI:JM:1.10.1981)



(Photo:OSFI:EGC:18.4.1962)