

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE									
ND 16 SE 005									
2 NGR									
ND 16556245									
3 QUAL									
CE									
6 SITE NAME									
SINCLAIR'S SITHEAN*									
10 GENERIC TYPE									
BURIAL CAIRN, LONG, CHAMBERED, CISTED									
14 PERIOD/DATE					15 DATING METHOD				
NE=BA					TYP				
18 SHAPE									
19 THREAT AND DATE									

4 DISTRICT		5 PARISH	
CAITHNESS		BOWER	
7 AREA STATUS		9 REGIONAL STATUS	
		SCHEDULED	
11 CONCORDANCE OS		12 FORM	
ND16SE5		STANDING STRUCTURE	
NMR		13 DIMENSIONS	
		c 52.0m LONG	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION	
		INCOMPLETE (ROBBED+MUTILATED)	
20 LAND USE		21 GEOLOGY	
HEATH			
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF	
		LEVEL GROUND	
		26 ASPECT	
		360°	
		27 ALTITUDE	
		90=100m OD	

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1907: 6" MAP	
2. HENSHALL, AS: 1963: CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND: VOL. 1: p288-9	
3. RCAHMS: 1911: CAITHNESS INVENTORY: HMSO: p4: no 10	
4. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1872: OBJECT NAME BOOK: 1: 14	
5. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1970: 6" MAP	
6. HBM(SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	
7. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1970: 1/10,000 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	
		HSR: 19.3.1985	
		51 CHECK: DATE	
		FB 27.3.1986	

52 TEXT

"ND 1655 6245. Sinclair's Sithean."(1) "The ONB states that the cairn was opened 'many years ago' when human remains were discovered. The RCAHM, quoting the Ground Officer at Stemster, states that a short cist was found, just below the surface at the ESE end, about 1880. The cist contained an unburnt interment."

"Sinclair's Sithean: a long cairn, as described and planned by Miss Henshall." (OSFI:RD:10.11.1965)

"ND 1655 6245. Sinclair's Sithean."(5) "No change to the previous reports." (OSFI:JM:28.10.1981)

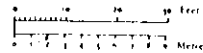
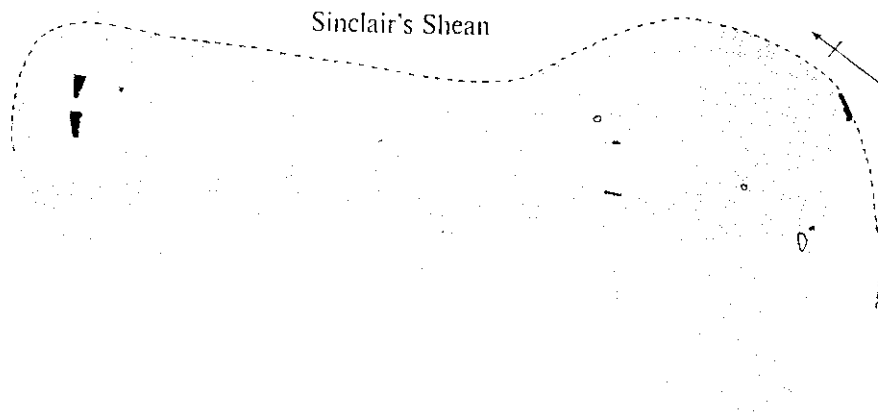
"See continuation card for further text."

50 SINCLAIR'S SHEAN
 (long)
 In the parish of
 BOWER
 Location $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. SE of
 THURSO
 Map reference
 ND/165624
 Sheet X11; ND 16 SE
 Inventory number 10
 Reference R. C. A. M. Inv. 4¹
 Plan by C. A. G. and A. S. H.
 (fig. 49)
 Visited 12.5.57

Description. The cairn is in moorland, but quite near to cultivated land, at over 300ft. OD. The main axis lies SE-NW; the cairn measures 168 ft. long, 75 ft. across the SE end and 44 ft. across the NW end. The cairn expands sharply towards the SE end and also seems to expand slightly at the other end. The site is turf-covered and partly overgrown with gorse. It has been considerably robbed in places leaving the surface very uneven, but it still stands up to 7 ft. high at the SE end and about 3 ft. 6 in. high at the NW end. The cairn is not composed of thin slabs but of irregular stones and there is a fair covering of earth. On the cairn edge at the E corner there is a large stone 4 ft. 6 in. long. Its presence in this position suggests that the cairn never had horns.

Various large stones lie about the SE end but only one, 12 ft. from the end and almost on the centre line of the cairn, appears to be earth-fast. Fifty feet from the SE end and about the centre of the cairn there protrudes an upright slab aligned along the main axis, and 9 ft. nearer the NE edge is another parallel stone, both exposed for a height of 1 ft. At the NW end of the cairn, 10 ft. within the edge, are two large stones set on their long sides at right angles to the main axis, 2 ft. 3 in. and 2 ft. 6 in. high and 2 ft. 3 in. apart. Six feet behind the E stone the tip of another parallel stone can just be seen.

In about 1880 'a short cist containing an unburnt interment was discovered just below the surface at the ESE end'.¹



(2)