

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT CAITHNESS		5 PARISH HALKIRK		1 SITE CODE H N D 1 6 S W 0 0 5	
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED		2 NGR N D 1 3 7 8 6 0 1 1	
11 CONCORDANCE OSND 16 SW 5 NMR		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE		3 QUAL CE	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION ROOFLESS BUILDING		6 SITE NAME B R A A L C A S T L E	
20 LAND USE GARDEN		21 GEOLOGY		10 GENERIC TYPE CASTLE	
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		14 PERIOD/DATE 14th century	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF LEVEL GROUND		15 DATING METHOD DOC	
26 ASPECT		27 ALTITUDE 20=30m OD		18 SHAPE	
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)		19 THREAT AND DATE		29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	
30 GROUND PLAN NO.		31 GROUND PHOTO NO.		1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1970: 6" MAP	
32 SLIDES NO.		33 HR. AP. NO.		2. RCAHMS: 1911: CAITHNESS INVENTORY: HMSO: pp30-31, No. 95	
34 NMR. AP. NO.		35 OTHER AP. NO. : SOURCE		3. MACGIBBON, D. & ROSS, T: 1892: CASTELLATED & DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE OF SCOTLAND: Vol. 3; p137 (PLAN)	
36 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION		37 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY		4. HBM(SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	
38 SAMPLES		39 PALYNOLOGY		40 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.	
41 SMALL FINDS		42 MUSEUM/LOCATION		44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER	
43 OTHER		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 FAM: 18.3.1986		51 CHECK: DATE MWC: 25.3.1986		52 TEXT	

"The central position of the W wall top has been reduced by 1.0m in height by workmen on behalf of the Sinclair Family Trust. Work has stopped pending negotiations between HBM and the Owners. (See correspondence and slides, 1985)." (RBG:HRA:18.3.1986)

"Braal Castle, a roofless shell as described by (3), and now in danger of collapse." (OSFI:NKB:15.2.1982)

"See continuation card for text of (2)."

TD 136 601 Braal Castle (4)

95. *Braal Castle*.—The ruins of Braal Castle are situated in rear of the present mansion, on the N. bank of the Thurso River and about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.E. of Halkirk. The tower is a rectangular rubble-built structure, measuring externally some 35' x 37', and existing to the level of the top of the second storey. The battlements and distinctive features of the roof have, however, all disappeared. The walls are from 8' to 10' in thickness. The entrance door is on the first floor level through the SW. angle, and just within it the staircase rises to the right in the thickness of the wall. The basement, which measures interiorly 20' 9" x 18', has not been vaulted; has had no external door; and has been lighted by two narrow vertical loop-holes. On the first floor are deep broad window recesses in the N. and W. walls (see pl. XII). They are arched, and furnished with stone seats, and measure 6' in width, 6' 3" in depth, and 8' 2" in height. In the E. wall are a fireplace and *garde-robe*, and there is a closet in the SW. angle. The floors have all fallen. The corbels of the first floor exist along one half of the S. wall and are exceedingly broad, forming a pavement 3' to 4' across. The castle probably dates from the 14th century. In 1375 or 1376 King Robert II. granted to his son David Stewart, created in 1371 Earl Palatine of Stratherne, the Castle of Brathwell and all the lands thereof, inherited by Alexander of Ard in right of his mother Matilda of Stratherne, and resigned by him. In 1452, King James II. granted the lands of Brathwele to Admiral Sir George Crechtoun of Carnis, on the resignation of Sir James Crechtoun of Frenkraucht and his wife. In 1547 the castle was in the possession of George, Earl of Caithness, who, along with several others, had a remission from Queen Mary for taking the Castle of Ackergill and for forcibly confining Alexander Keith, the Captain, and John Skarlet, his servitor, in the place of Girnigo, Brawl, and other places.

The modern house adjoining the ruin was erected in 1856 on the vaults of an earlier mansion whose construction had not proceeded further.

See *Cast. and Dom. Arch.*, iii. p. 137 (plan); Cordiner's *Antiquities*, p. 82; *Origines*, ii., pt. ii. p. 759; *New Stat. Acc. Suth., etc.*, xv. p. 70.

O.S.M., CAITH., xi.

Visited, 7th September 1910.



PLATE XII.—Window-recess in Braal Castle (No. 95).