

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

# FIELD MONUMENTS



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE	H N D 2 3 S W 0 0 4
2 NGR	N D 2 0 2 1 3 3 2 9 CE
3 QUAL	
6 SITE NAME	L A T H E R O N *
10 GENERIC TYPE	CHURCH + GRAVEYARD + BURIAL VAULT, MAUSOLEUM
14 PERIOD/DATE	18th Century
15 DATING METHOD	DOC
16 SHAPE	
19 THREAT AND DATE	

4 DISTRICT	CAITHNESS	5 PARISH	LATHERON
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS	SCHEDULED + 'B' LISTED
9 REGIONAL STATUS		12 FORM	STANDING STRUCTURE
11 CONCORDANCE	OS ND 23 SW 4	13 DIMENSIONS	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION	INCOMPLETE

20 LAND USE	CEMETERY	21 GEOLOGY	
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF	MODERATE HILLSLOPE
		26 ASPECT	SE = S = SW
		27 ALTITUDE	70 = 80m OD

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ORDNANCE SURVEY:1907:6" MAP</li> <li>2. ORDNANCE SURVEY:1959:6" MAP (PROV)</li> <li>3. :1855:ORIGINES PAROCHIALES SCOTIAE:2pt2,p763</li> <li>4. ORDNANCE SURVEY:1871:OBJECT NAME BOOK: :6:254</li> <li>5. RCAHMS:1911:CAITHNESS INVENTORY:HMSO:p48,No.184</li> <li>6. HAY,G:1957:ARCHITECTURE OF SCOTTISH POST-REFORMATION CHURCHES: :173</li> <li>7. BATEY,C:1982:CAITHNESS COASTAL SURVEY:DURHAM U.P (Paper 3):p89, No.253 (cont.over/..</li> </ol>
30 GROUND PLAN NO.	31 GROUND PHOTO NO. 841712122
32 SLIDES NO.	33 HR. AP. NO.
34 NMR. AP. NO.	35 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE M2/784/21A
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

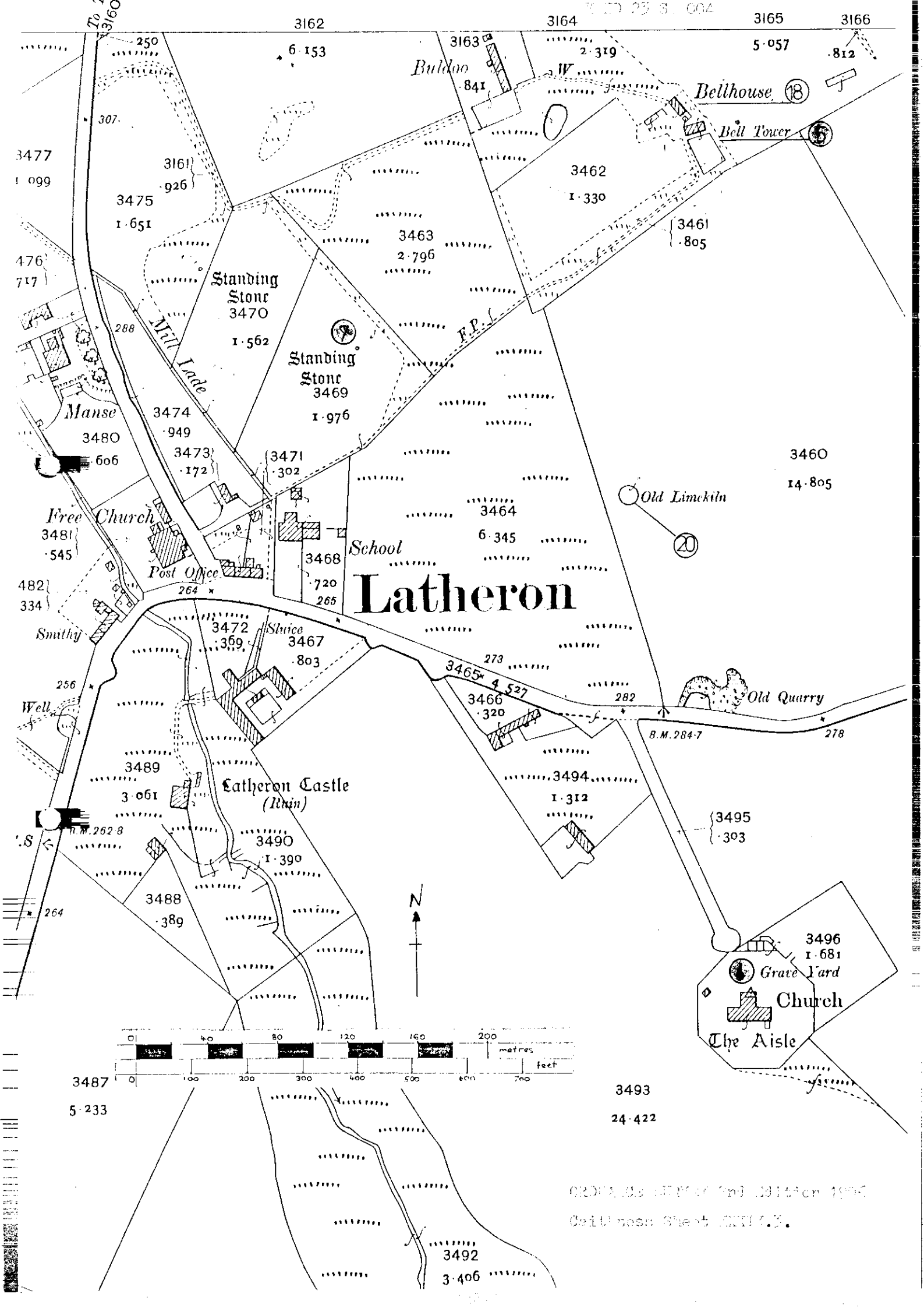
48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS	
49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE	50 RECORDER: DATE DY:28.8.1985
	51 CHECK: DATE 45.10.1985

52 TEXT

"See continuation card for text and map."  
 "ND 202 333. Latheron Old Church and the aisle." (8)

6. \* Full name 'Latheron Old Church + The Aisle'. "

29. 8. HMB (SDD):1985:LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS  
9. HMB (SDD):1985:BSAHI LIST, CAITHNESS  
10. ORDNANCE SURVEY:1906:25" MAP



3162

3164

3165

3166

6.153

3163

2.319

5.057

.812

Bulldo

Bellhouse (18)

Bell Tower

3477  
1.099

3161  
.926

3475  
1.651

3462  
1.330

3463  
2.796

3461  
.805

476  
717

Standing Stone  
3470

Mill Lane

Standing Stone  
3469

F.P.

1.562

1.976

Manse

3474  
.949

3480  
606

3473  
.172

3471  
.302

3460

14.805

Free Church

3481  
.545

Post Office

School

3468

.720  
265

# Latheron

3464

6.345

Old Limekiln

(20)

482  
334

Smithy

3472  
.369

Shice

3467  
.803

3465  
4.527

3466  
.320

Old Quarry

B.M. 284.7

278

Well

256

3489

3.061

Latheron Castle  
(Ruin)

3490

1.390

3494

1.312

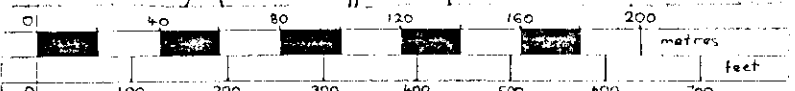
3495  
.303

S

B.M. 262.8

3488

.389



3487

5.233

3496  
1.681

Grave Yard

Church

The Aisle

3493

24.422

ORDNANCE SURVEY AND BRITISH ARMY  
Geographical Names Committee

3492

3.406

- (ND 2022 3329) The Aisle (NR) (1)  
 Church (NAT) (2)

An 18th century parish church, and a fragment of its predecessor, apparently occupying the site of a 13th century church. (3)

Latheron was one of the churches reserved to the bishop in a charter of 1223 x 45, and in 1515 the vicar of Latheron is on record but intermediate references appear to be lacking. A new church was built about 1734, part of its predecessor being retained in the rear to serve as a burial place of the Sinclairs of Dunbeath. Known as 'The Aisle', this fragment presents no features of architectural interest, although a 17th century monument with an effaced Latin inscription is built into the wall. No stones of interest are visible in the churchyard.

A belfry was added to the church in 1822 in which the bell from the 17th century bell tower (ND 23 SW 5) was installed. (4) (5) (6)

A burial aisle as described, about 4 m square, attached to the S side of Latheron Old Church. (OSFI:RL:6.3.1968)

Built into the S wall of 'The Aisle' is a piece of worked sandstone resembling a window head. (7)

(Latheron Church, Burial Aisle, and Graveyard are all listed - Category B.)

184. *Latheron Church Burial Aisle*.—In rear of Latheron church is a burial aisle of the Sinclairs of Dunbeath, probably a fragment of an earlier edifice but presenting no features of architectural interest. Built into the wall is a 17th-century monument bearing a much effaced inscription in Latin. A translation of this inscription is given as follows in Henderson's *Caithness Family History*:—

"John Sinclair of Dunbeath, crowned knight, erected this monument to his dearly beloved ones namely, to his wife, Christian Muat, daughter of Magnus, Lord of Bollquholly, who died prematurely in the bloom of life, and to his daughter, etc.

Their Epitaph.

This monument covers ladies turned into ashes, whose names were Gemma and Christian; the one was cut off in early life, the other in old age. Their mother was the second wife of the Knight of Dunbeath. There might have been a more abundant list of the innumerable praises of both had this small monument admitted. Learn hence, O Mortal, that the divinities who spin the fatal threads of life, spare neither young nor old."

There are no stones of any interest visible in the churchyard. (5)

See *Caithness Family History*, p. 84 (note).

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxix. and xliii. Visited, 26th July 1910.

Calthness

Latheron Parish Church.

SRO

Repair of the Parish Church.

Letter from Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs.

It complains that the Heritors have demanded £24 (Scots) from him.

GD 214/722/1/1

165

Calthness

Latheron Church

SRO

New aisle and gallery in Latheron Church. Estimate of wright and mason work (copy).

1815

GD 136/706/2

Proposed new aisle in the church at Latheron. An arch in the North wall is to be examined and measured in order to decide if an aisle and gallery may be added.

1815

LATHERON CHURCH

Calthness

ARCHITECT:- Alexander Ross.

PLANS:

<sup>24 May 1815</sup>  
George Hay, 82 Priestfield Rd, Edinburgh, has recorded the above to some extent

Photographs etc:-  
NMRS

- 4 prints

