



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE H N D 2 5 N E 0 0 7		2 NGR N D 2 9 2 8 5 6 3 2		3 QUAL CE	
4 DISTRICT CAITHNESS		5 PARISH WICK		6 SITE NAME K I R K O ' M O S S *	
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED		9 REGIONAL STATUS	
11 CONCORDANCE OSND 25 NE 7		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURES		13 DIMENSIONS -	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION INCOMPLETE		10 GENERIC TYPE CHAPEL + DEPOPULATION	
20 LAND USE ROUGH PASTURE = HEATH		21 GEOLOGY		14 PERIOD/DATE EM = LM	
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		15 DATING METHOD TYP	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF UNDULATING MOORLAND		26 ASPECT 360°	
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)		27 ALTITUDE 10 = 15m OD		18 SHAPE	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)		30 GROUND PLAN NO.		31 GROUND PHOTO NO.	
32 SLIDES NO.		33 HR. AP. NO.		34 NMR. AP. NO.	
35 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION		36 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE		37 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY	
38 PALYNOLOGY		39 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.		40 SAMPLES	
41 SMALL FINDS		42 MUSEUM/LOCATION		43 OTHER	
44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER		45 ATTITUDE OF OWNER		46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT	
47 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE		48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS		49 ATTITUDE OF TENANT	
50 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE		50 RECORDER: DATE GS: 14.8.1985		51 CHECK: DATE 4.5.15.10.1985	

2 TEXT

"ND 2928 5632. Kirk o' Moss." (1)

"See continuation card for text and illustrations."

ND 2928 5632 Moss of Hillinster, Kirk O' Moss(7)

6. Full name 'Kirk o' Moss, Moss of Killimster.' "

site of the chapel known as St Dubhac's or St Budoch's Kirk. The area is a green ridge elevated about 8' - 10' above its surroundings, and about 400' long by 120' broad. On the highest point and towards the SSE end of this ridge is the site of the supposed church, lying E-W; the plan cannot be ascertained but it appears to be a rectangle, 30' by 17'.

To the S of this has been a rectangular enclosure, such as might have been a graveyard or garden, at the SSE side of which are several small rectangular foundations in the turf.

About 60' NW of the site of the supposed church is another enclosure formed by a stone wall; within the enclosure is the ruin of a small rectangular building. Both building and wall are possibly later than the remainder.

There are two or three low mounds of indeterminate character, but of some 25' diameter, at the extreme NW end of the ridge; whilst about 250 yds W of the Kirk Stones, on the left bank of Kilmator Burn is a small green mound 22' - 23' diameter and 3' high with slight depressions several feet long and broad on top, called locally "Brigid's swine house".

Though plough ridges are visible on the adjacent moorland, it must be long since there was any cultivation near the spot.

It is related in MacFarlane that in former times the people of Mirelandorn habitually visited this site before sunrise on Christmas to leave an offering of bread, cheese, and a silver coin.

Possibly a small Early Christian site with a history continuing into later medieval times.

It is situated on a piece of ground 12 acres in extent, formerly cultivated and approached by a causeway through bog, of which traces were still distinctly visible. (b)

A low bank runs along part of the W end of the ridge and links up with possibly modern banks in bog.

Scheduled under "Secular Buildings"

Kirk o' Moss, possibly an Early Christian site, although there is no conclusive ground evidence, consists of the ill-defined turf-covered foundations of at least 4 sub-rectangular buildings, three sub-rectangular enclosures, and about eight irregular mounds, in an isolated position on a slight rise on the S edge of a drained marsh, probably formerly a loch. (See enlargement.)

The building on a low knoll, stated by R C A H M and MacDonald to be possibly a church, measures about 13.0m NE-SW by 4.0m transversely, with an internal division c. 5.5m from its SW end. An annexe c. 3.0m square is attached to the SE wall. Some stones show through the turf and a few lie loose in the SW compartment. The NE compartment is built on a NE slope. To the SE are traces of a sub-rectangular enclosure measuring c. 18.0m NE-SW by 13.0m transversely in which lie the faint remains of an indeterminate structure. The SE side of enclosure is formed by the NW wall of a building measuring c. 10.5m NE-SW by 4.0m transversely, with two internal dividing walls. Immediately SE of this are traces of what may be a similar building. To the NW of the "church" is another stone-walled enclosure, roughly rectangular with curved walls, measuring c. 15.0m NE-SW by 13.0m transversely within a wall, best defined in the SW and SE, about 1.0m thick. Within it, and built against its NW side is a ruinous building visible as a roughly rectangular hollow measuring c. 7.0m E-W by c. 5.0m transversely, with a few stones scattered inside and around it. No definite foundation stones are evident. The R C A H M note both the enclosure and the building as possibly secondary structures, but there is no evidence for this opinion.

To the NW of this building are four heavily turf-covered irregular mounds showing some stone content, measuring between 5.0m and 10.0m in diameter and averaging 0.6m in height. Two similar mounds occur at distances of 50m and 70m SW of the "church", and the mound once known as "Brigid's swine house", 220m to the W, is of the same appearance. This mound occurs within a dry area (? a field) cut off from the peat bog in the SE by an ill-defined turf bank some 200m long running SW from the SW corner of a turf-banked sub-rectangular enclosure c. 40.0m by 20.0m just W of the "church", and ending on the edge of the drained marsh which bounds the "field" elsewhere. Half way along the bank and impinging on it is another low mound c. 5.0m in diameter with several loose stones on its surface. All these mounds may be the stances for shieling bothies, and are common in Gaithness.

Running NW from the N edge of the marsh is a similar turf bank which is lost in peat cuttings in the NW. This seems to bound the NE edge of a similar field in which traces of strip cultivation are visible.

There is no trace of the causeway across the marsh described by the H S A, although a grassy mound c. 15.0m in diameter, which is probably largely natural, about 85m N of the "church" could be a suitable starting place for one.

Divorced survey at 1:10,000; enlargement at 1:25,000.

(ND 2920 2602) Kirk o' Moss (HR)

The remains at Kirk o' Moss are as described by the previous field investigator. Some of the mounds are clearly the remnants of shieling-like structures.

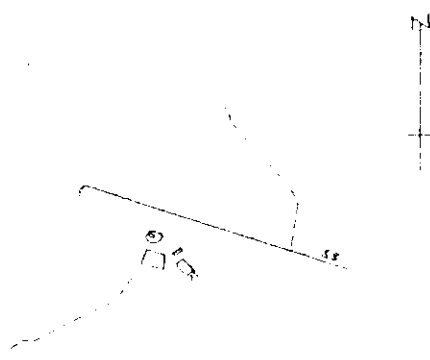
(2) (3)

(4) (5)

(OSFI:AA:20.3.1972)

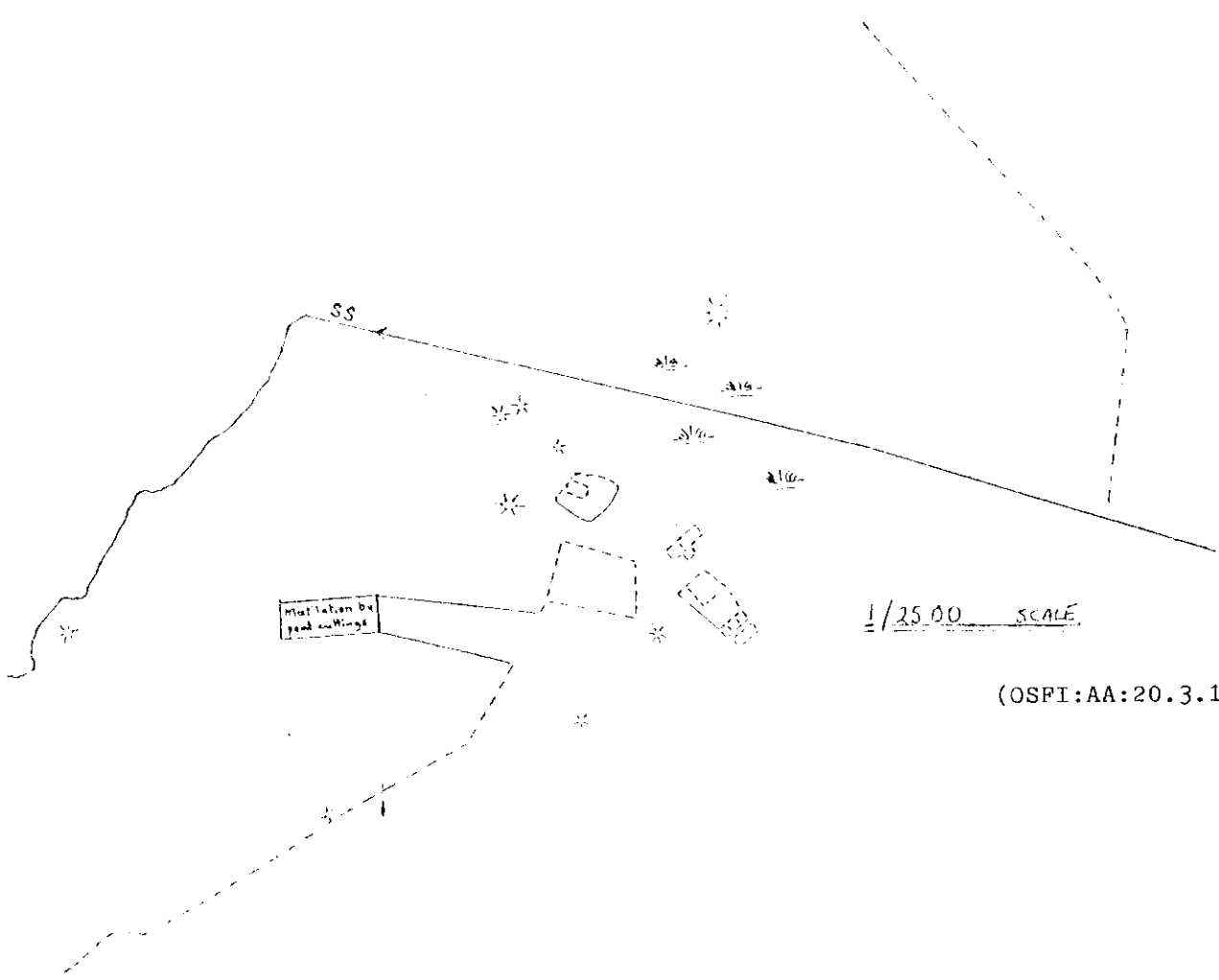
(6)

(OSFI:JB:18.3.1982)

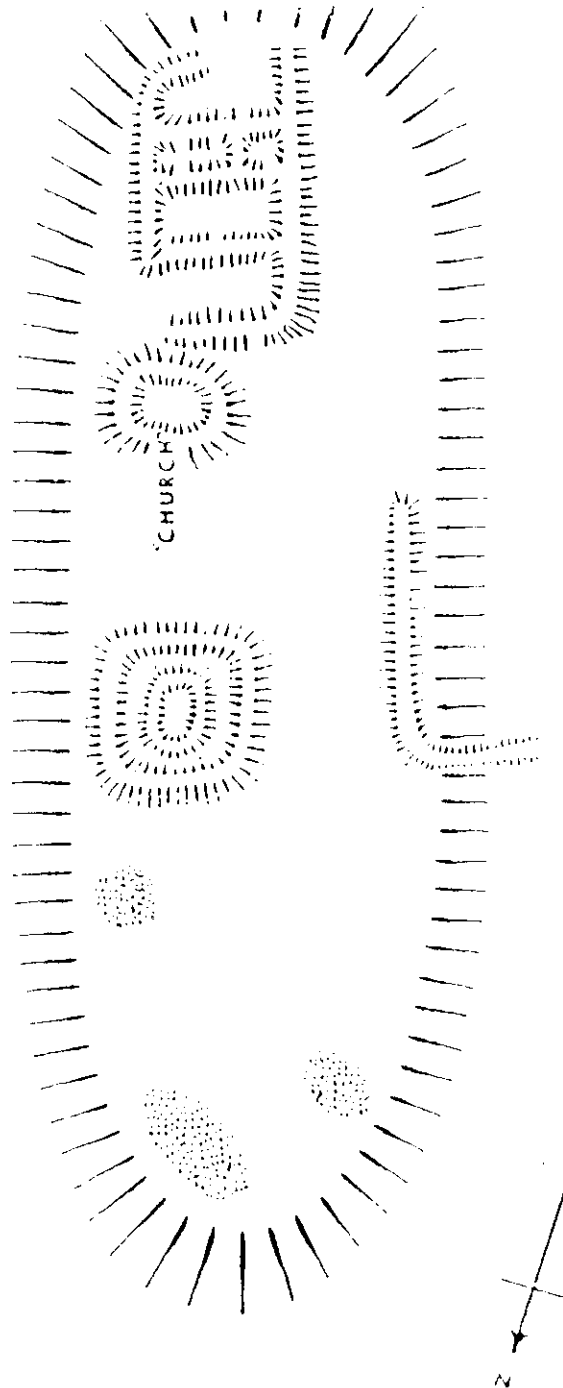


1/10000 Survey AA 20.3.72

(OSFI:AA:20.3.1972)



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(4)

