

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

FIELD MONUMENTS



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE	H N D 2 6 N E 0 0 2
2 NGR	N D 2 6 2 9 6 9 7 3 C E
3 QUAL	
6 SITE NAME	E A R L ' S C A I R N
10 GENERIC TYPE	BURIAL CAIRN, CHAMBERED (OCH).
14 PERIOD/DATE	BA
15 DATING METHOD	TYP
18 SHAPE	CIRCULAR
19 THREAT AND DATE	

4 DISTRICT	CAITHNESS	5 PARISH	DUNNET
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS	SCHEDULED
9 REGIONAL STATUS		11 CONCORDANCE	OS ND 26 NE 2
12 FORM	STANDING STRUCTURE	13 DIMENSIONS	c. 20.0m DIAM.
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION	INCOMPLETE (MUTILATED)

20 LAND USE	ARABLE LAND	21 GEOLOGY	
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION	

24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF	SUMMIT OF RIDGE
26 ASPECT	NW=W= SW	27 ALTITUDE	70=75m OD

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)

1. TRESS-BARRY, FRANCIS:PRE 1910:PARTIAL:UNSCIENTIFIC

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

1. ORDNANCE SURVEY:1975:1:10,000
2. HENSHALL A.S.:1963:CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND:I:p 270 No 23 + PLAN.
3. RCAHMS:1911:CAITHNESS INVENTORY:HMSO::p25-6, No 72.
4. HMB (AM):1985:LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS.
5. FEACHEM, RW:1980:A GUIDE TO PREHISTORIC SCOTLAND:B.T.BATSFORD:P 42

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	
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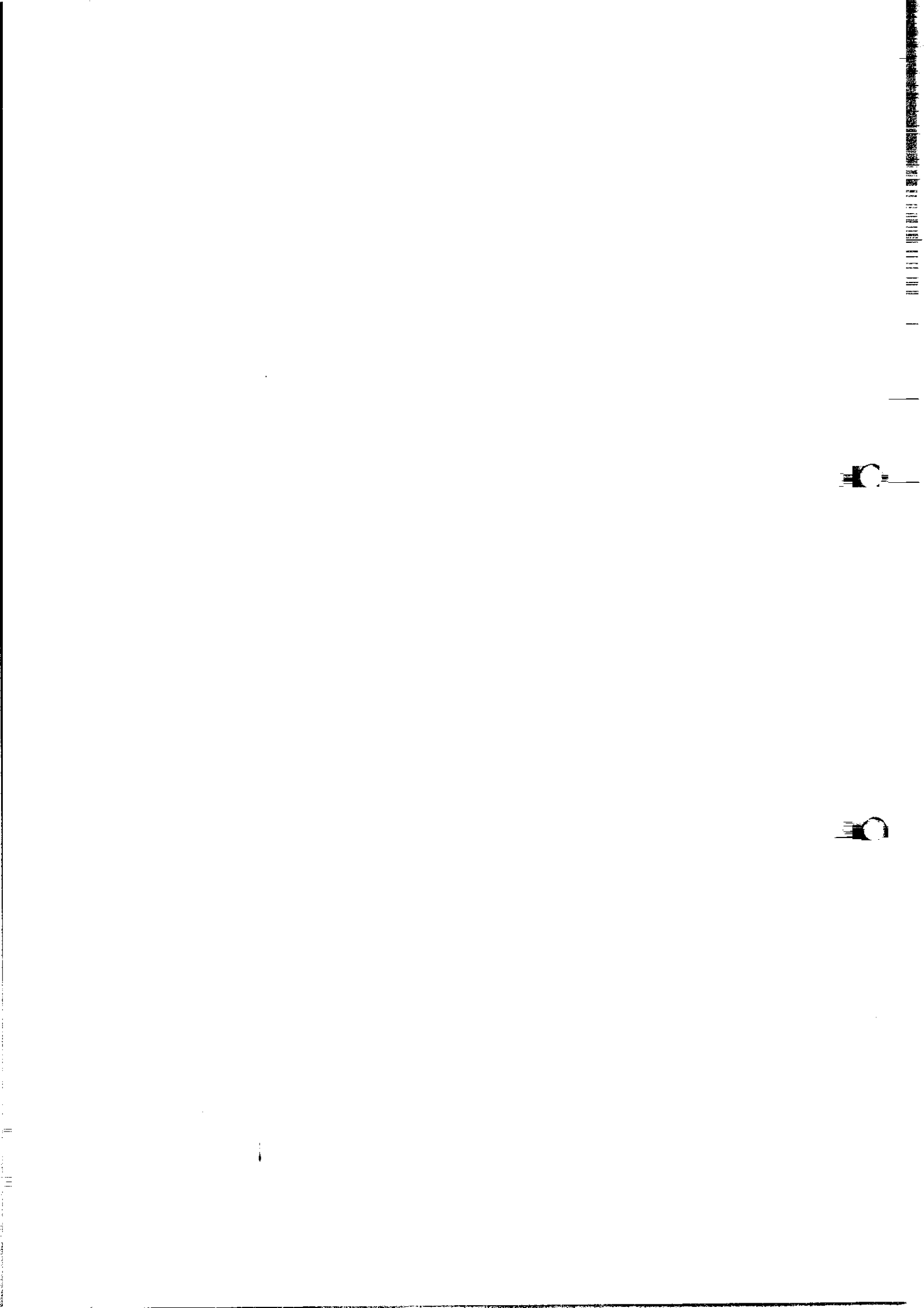
46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT		47 ATTITUDE OF TENANT	
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48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS

49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE	50 RECORDER: DATE SEM: 27.8.1985	51 CHECK: DATE SEM: 27.8.1985
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52 TEXT
"See continuation card for text and plan."

NO 263 697 EARLS CAIRN, CHAMBERED CAIRN OF HOLLANDVALE, INVERCAULDER (4)



(ND 2629 6973) Earl's Cairn (NAT)
Chambered Cairn (NR)

(I).

Earl's Cairn, an Orkney-Cromarty round cairn with Camster type chamber, is now grass-grown and extremely ruined though still 6 ft high on the N side. It is about 40 ft in diameter and the tripartite chamber is entered from the ESE. The cairn was more intact in 1911 and its description then is shown dotted on plan. All that remains now are the two peristalith stones, various boulders lying about and two transverse slabs on the NE side, presumably part of the outer compartment, with a stretch of dry wall between them. Finds, now lost, were two urns of blue clay, highly ornamented but in fragments, and burnt wood and ashes.

(2)(3).

Earl's Cairn has been greatly mutilated by robbing and ploughing. All that now remains of it is a turf-covered mound 10.0 to 14.0 m in diameter by 1.6 m high although the original cairn perimeter can still be traced as a slight stony shelf, 20.0 m in diameter.

Within the mound are three transverse slabs, part of the chamber, and six earthfast stones, obviously part of the chamber, but not in situ.

No trace of the peristalith stones nor the dry-walling could be found.

Resurveyed at 1:2500.

(OSFI:RD:1.3.1965).

Earl's Cairn is prominently positioned in an arable field and is generally as described and illustrated by the previous authorities. Only two transverse stones in situ are evident with a slightly displaced stone between (see plan by Miss Henshall). A few stones of the chamber also survive on the S side. Whether the two stones of the peristalith noted by Miss Henshall are such is uncertain due to the continuous cultivation around the cairn. Boulders have been dumped around the fringe of the cairn.

Published survey (1:2500) correct.

(OSFI:JB:5.5.1982).

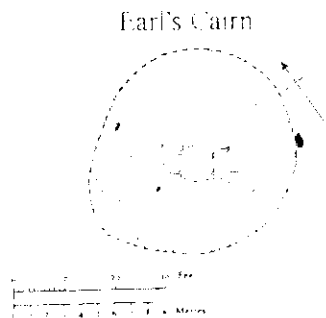
- 23 EARL'S CAIRN,
HOLLANDMAIK
(O.-C., Camster-type, round)
In the parish of
DUNNET
Location 2½ m. SE. of
DUNNET
Map reference
ND:263697
Sheet VII; ND 26 NE
Inventory number 72
Reference R.C.A.M. Inc. 25
Plan by A.S.M. and M.J.S.
with features described by
CURLÉ (dotted in fig. 42)
Excavation TRESS HARRY
before 1910
Visited 17.8.56

Description. The cairn stands in gently undulating cultivated land at a little over 200ft. OD. It is now grass-grown and extremely ruined, though the N side still retains a height of 6ft. The diameter is about 40ft., and two stones of what has been the peristalith remain, as well as various boulders which are lying about. The cairn was more intact at the time of Curle's visit in 1910, and he describes it as: "at the base are several large boulders, irregularly placed and evidently disturbed from their original positions, which appear to indicate that the base was outlined with such stones. The chamber, which is tripartite, is entered from the ESE. At 15ft. 6in. inwards from the outer edge of the cairn two upright slabs mark the entrance to an outer rectangular compartment 2ft. 2in. in length and apparently some 4ft. 10in. in width, but the destruction of one side has rendered the latter dimension indefinite. Between portal stones, one of which only remains, access has been gained to the central compartment, which is approximately circular, measuring 6ft. from back to front and 7ft. across. The wall, for the most part built of thin slabs laid horizontally and corbelled out upwards, exists to a height of 3ft. 4in. In the centre of the back is an opening 2ft. 9in. in width between two upright slabs placed obliquely, giving access to the third compartment, a built semicircular recess 3ft. in depth. Its height has been that of the two upright slabs which are at present 1ft. 10in. above ground level, but the lintel which rested on them is broken and the roof of the recess is, in consequence, in a ruined state."

All that can now be seen of the chamber are two transverse slabs on its NE side with a stretch of dry-walling between them, presumably part of the outer compartment.

Finds

Artifacts. Lost. "Within the chamber were found "two urns of dark blue clay, highly ornamented but in fragments" also "burned wood and ashes".¹



(2).

Dietrich Pannwitz
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1 Fanellan
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IV4 7JP

ND 26 NE002

9 November 2000

Dear Mr Pannwitz

SAM 449, EARL'S CAIRN

I refer to your fax of 6 November, and can confirm that the proposed margin of 20m around the scheduled area at this cairn is acceptable to us. Planting will not require scheduled monument consent provided it respects this area.

From the landscape point of view, it would be desirable if open sight lines can be maintained downhill from the cairn, principally to the W and S. Ideally we would prefer the planting to be held a little further back where it curves round SSE of the cairn, to achieve this, but we can live with what is proposed.

I am copying this to Allison Fox at Highland Council.

Yours sincerely

Dr NOEL FOJUT
Principal Inspector

