

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# FIELD MONUMENTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT <b>CAITHNESS</b>		5 PARISH <b>WICK</b>		1 SITE CODE H N D 3 4 S W 0 2 2		2 NGR N D 3 1 3 0 4 4 0 5		3 QUAL CE	
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS <b>SCHEDULED</b>		9 REGIONAL STATUS		6 SITE NAME <b>LOCH OF YARROWS</b>			
11 CONCORDANCE OS <b>ND 34 SW 22</b> NMR		12 FORM <b>STANDING STRUCTURES</b>		13 DIMENSIONS -		10 GENERIC TYPE <b>STANDING STONES, ALIGNMENTS</b>			
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION <b>INCOMPLETE</b>		14 PERIOD/DATE		15 DATING METHOD <b>BA TYP</b>		18 SHAPE	
20 LAND USE <b>ROUGH = ENCLOSED PASTURE</b>		21 GEOLOGY		26 ASPECT <b>360°</b>		27 ALTITUDE <b>90 = 100m OD</b>		19 THREAT AND DATE	
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF <b>LEVEL GROUND</b>		28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)									
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY:1960:6" MAP 2. RCAHMS:1911:CAITHNESS INVENTORY:HMSO: :p183-86,No.570 3. ANDERSON,J:1886:SCOTLAND IN PAGAN TIMES - BRONZE AND STONE AGES:EDINBURGH:p130 4. HMB (SDD):1985:LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS: 5. MERCER,R.J:1983:A FIELD SURVEY IN N.SCOTLAND:EDIN.UP:Vol.3:WAR 6 6. DRYDEN, Sir H:1871:M/S PLAN, LIBRARY OF SOC.ANT.SCOT (EDIN) 7. ORDNANCE SURVEY:1976:1/10 000 MAP									
30 GROUND PLAN NO.					31 GROUND PHOTO NO.				
32 SLIDES NO.					33 HR. AP. NO.				
34 NMR. AP. NO. <b>B49726-8</b>					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 <b>MC:9.10.1985</b>		51 CHECK: DATE <b>AM:29.10.1985</b>	

### 52 TEXT

"ND 3130 4405. Standing stones." (1)

"Eight stone rows, six of which are almost complete for a distance of about 138ft (c42.4m). The row shown on the OS map as 384ft (c117m) long has been almost completely eradicated by cultivation although the remaining fragments are scattered over a distance of 304ft (c92.2m). The rows are aligned almost due N and S and are generally parallel, 5 to 7ft8ins (1.52m -c2.33m) apart. The stones, slabs about 3ins (7.62cms) thick, face across the rows and are up to 1ft (0.305m) high. Scheduled." (2) (3) (4)

"Mainly as described by the Commission. Only one stone remains of the most easterly row and the longest row measures c40.0m." "Loch of Yarrows Stone Rows on NE (OSFI:RL:26.4.1967)

"ND 3130 4405: Stone rows." Side of Thrumster ND 313 440".(4) (7)

"See continuation cards for text of (2) (3) (5)."

29. 8. MYATT, L.J.: 1984: CAITHNESS FIELD CLUB BULLETIN: : VOL. 3. NO. 4: PP191-2+195 (MAP)
9. GUNN, G.: 1912: TRANS. INV. SCI. SOC. & FIELD CLUB: VOL. 7: p350

570. *Stone Rows, Battle Moss, Loch of Yarrows*.—Some 200 yards down the E. shore of the Loch of Yarrows from the burn of Thrumster, which flows in at the NE. corner, on a strip of moorland lying between the cultivated land and the loch, is a setting of parallel rows of stones. The rows run almost due N. and S. and, with slight irregularities in line, are parallel. There are eight rows in all, six of which are fairly complete for a distance of about 138'. Of one row near the centre of the monument only a very few stones remain, while the row indicated on the O.S. map and on a plan made by Sir Henry Dryden in 1871 and preserved in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, as being nearly double the length of the others, viz., 384', is now within the area of ploughed land and almost eradicated. Broken fragments, which probably represent the stones, lie on the adjacent heather. The most northerly stone of this row now visible is 304' distant from the commencement of the row. The distance between the rows varies from 5' to 7' 8", and the stones are set in the rows from 5' to 6' 6" apart. As in other similar monuments the stones are placed with their broad faces looking across the rows. They are slabs of freestone from 3" to 4" in thickness, and protrude from a few inches to about a foot above the ground. Except where the cultivated land has encroached none of the stones seem to have been recently disturbed.

See Anderson, *The Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 130 (illus.).

O.S.M., CAITH., xxix. ("Standing-stones").

Visited, 6th June 1910.

(2)

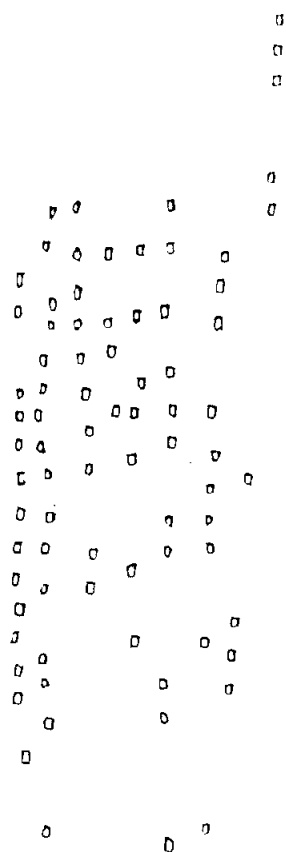


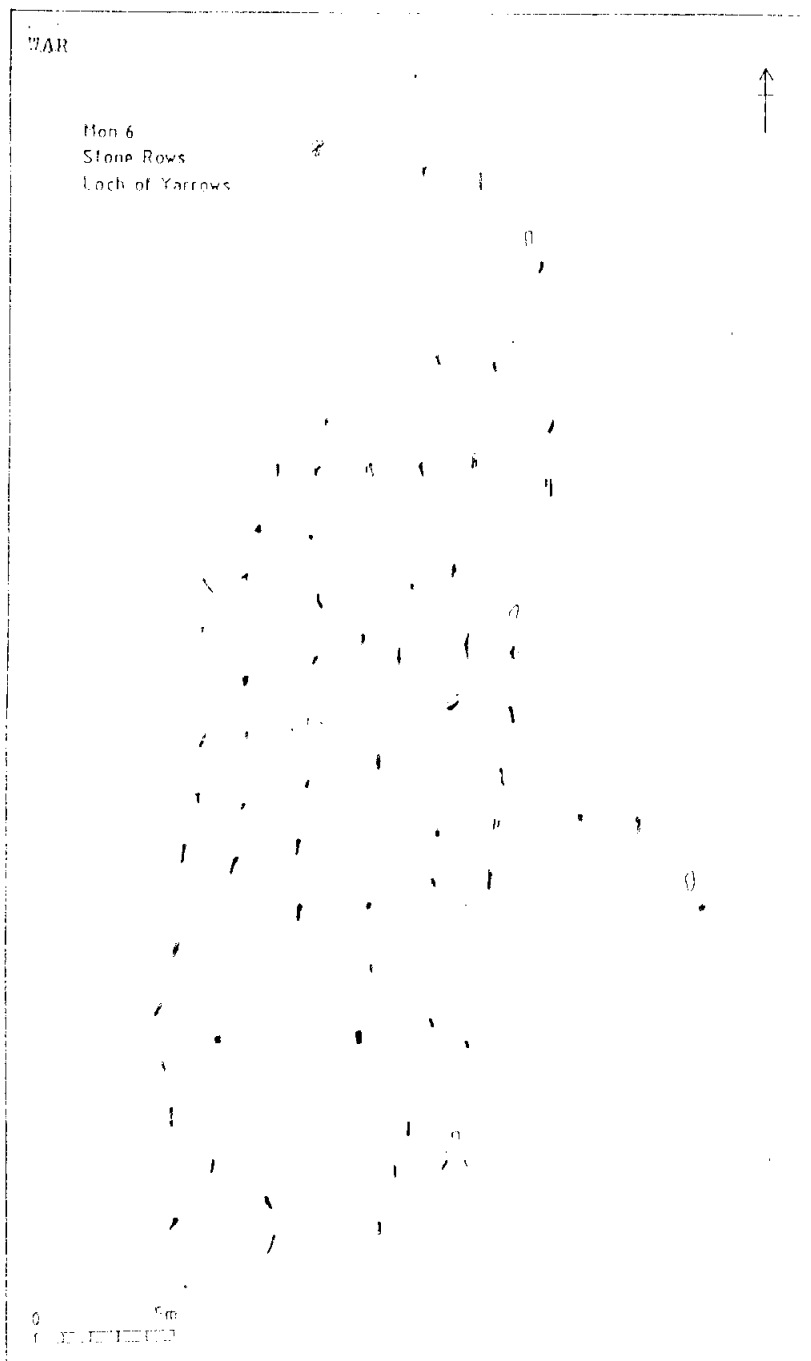
Fig. 135.—Stone-setting of eight parallel rows at Yarhouse, Caithness.

On the east side of the Loch of Yarhouse, in a place locally known as the Battle Moss, on the estate of Thrumster, there is a group of lines of standing stones (Fig. 135), consisting of eight rows of irregular length. The lines run nearly north and south; the stones are somewhat irregularly placed, and there are now many gaps in the rows. The extreme length is 384 feet, one of the lines extending to more than double the length of the others.<sup>1</sup> The second longest line is about 170 feet in length, and the remaining six about 130 feet. The largest stones of which this group is composed do not exceed 2½ feet in height, by 2½ feet in breadth, and 15 inches in thickness. They are for the most part firmly fixed in the soil, and often wedged at the bases by

(3)

smaller stones packed in on either side. There is now no appearance of a cairn or cist in connection with the group, and excavation at different parts of the lines failed to yield any evidence of associated interments.

<sup>1</sup> This is the line to the right of the group, which extends much further to the north than is shown on the plan.



6. Stone rows. Cover an area of 43m x 20m. Eight roughly parallel rows of standing stones, with the rows 1m - 2m apart. The two rows furthest to the E are badly disturbed and have few stones remaining. The rows consist of slabs, up to 0.70m long, set on edge, the needle-shaped uprights up to 0.50m high. Orientation: N-S. Elevation: 100m OD. ND 313440.  
O.S. Card ND 34 SW 22.

Anderson, J. (1886) Scotland in Pagan Times - Bronze and Stone Ages, 130, Fig. 135. RCAHMS (1911) Caithness, 185-6, No. 570. (Fig. 25)