

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE												
H	N	D	3	5	N	W	0	0	3	A		
2 NGR										3 QUAL		
N	D	3	2	3	4	5	6	5	5	CE		
6 SITE NAME												
K	I	L	M	S	T	E	R	B	R	O	C	H

4 DISTRICT CAITHNESS			5 PARISH WICK		
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED		9 REGIONAL STATUS	
11 CONCORDANCE OS ND35NW3		12 FORM SITE OF		13 DIMENSIONS c19.2m EXTERNAL DIAMETER	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS			17 CONDITION DESTROYED		
20 LAND USE ENCLOSED LAND				21 GEOLOGY	
22 SOILS				23 VEGETATION	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE			25 RELIEF LEVEL GROUND		26 ASPECT 360°
				27 ALTITUDE 25=30m OD	

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)

- TRESS BARRY, F:1901: PARTIAL: UNSCIENTIFIC
- CALDER, CST: 5.1940: FULL: SCIENTIFIC

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

- ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1907: 6" MAP
- ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1974: 1/10,000 MAP
- CALDER, CST: 1950 : PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: VOL. 82: pp124-5
- (DONATIONS): 1908-9: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: VOL. 43: p18
- RCAHMS: 1911: CAITHNESS INVENTORY: HMSO: p146, No. 507
- ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1906: 25" MAP
- HBM (SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

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
BONE NEEDLE (HD 431) + BONE BOVER (HD 432) + POT (GA 908)

43 OTHER
Ass. Decs.

42 MUSEUM/LOCATION
RMS (QUEEN ST)

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 MWC: 9.4.1986	51 CHECK: DATE PJS: 13.5.1986
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52 TEXT
"See continuation cards for text, illustration (5), map (6) and folder for excavation report (3)."

"ND 323 565 NORTH KILLIMSTER, BROCH 1050M NNW OF" (7)

(ND 3234 5655) Brough (1)
 Broch (site of) (2)

In 1940 this broch was destroyed to allow the construction of an aerodrome. Prior to this it had appeared as a grass-covered knoll about 150 ft in diameter and 9 ft high. It had been partially excavated in 1904 by Sir Francis Tréss Barry, when only the W half of the tower was exposed. A second excavation was carried out by Calder in 1940, immediately preceding destruction.

The broch had consisted of a round tower, encircled by a strong defensive rampart, with a wide, shallow ditch outside. Originally circular in shape, the tower had been built with walls some 15 ft thick and an average external diameter of 62 ft 6 ins. The entrance had been on the W with a guard chamber built into the thickness of the wall off the S side of the passage. From the inner wall face thirteen compartments were arranged radially around the inside of the tower, the divisions consisting of thin stone slabs set on edge. Structurally it would appear that these compartments were later than the broch and possibly early improvements.

Sherds of some twenty vessels were discovered, some of them resembling pottery from the lower levels at Traprain Law. In 1904 a bone needle was also found on this site. Other relics found during the 1940 excavation include a saddle quern, several grain rubbers, dishes, knocking stones, pivot stones, anvils, tether stones, pot lids, pounders and smoothing stones, a pestle and a whorl. Also parts of circular querns of post-Roman date. Fragments of human remains found indicated an individual of rather small stature.

Finds from the 1904 excavation in the N M A S include a bone needle (HD 431), a bone borer (HD 432), a pot (GA 908) and possibly two whorls, one of sandstone and one of steatite, donated to the N M A S in 1908. (3)(4)(5)

There are no remains of the broch to be seen. (OSFI:RDL:22.4.1963)
 Published survey (1:2500) revised.

There is no trace of this broch. (OSFI:JM:14.7.1982)
 "ND 3234 56 55 Brough." (6)

RECOMMENDED FOR DE-SCHEDULING, 6/5/1988 (HRA:RAG:6.5.1988).

507. *Broch, Kilmster*.—Situated on arable land from which it is railed off, 800 m. SE. of Skitten croft at Kilmster, is a broch. The green hillock which conceals its ruins was, in part, excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry in 1904, and about one half of the inner face of the wall on either side of the entrance has been exposed. The broch is much ruined, and the shaley stones of which it is built are rapidly disintegrating. The entrance has been from the W. by N. through a passage some 4.7 m in length, and 0.7 m in width at the outside. At 1.03 m inwards is a rebate for a door formed by the widening of the passage to 1.03 m and a sill projects for a height of 0.1 m across the floor. At 0.55 m in rear of the door checks on the right side is the entrance

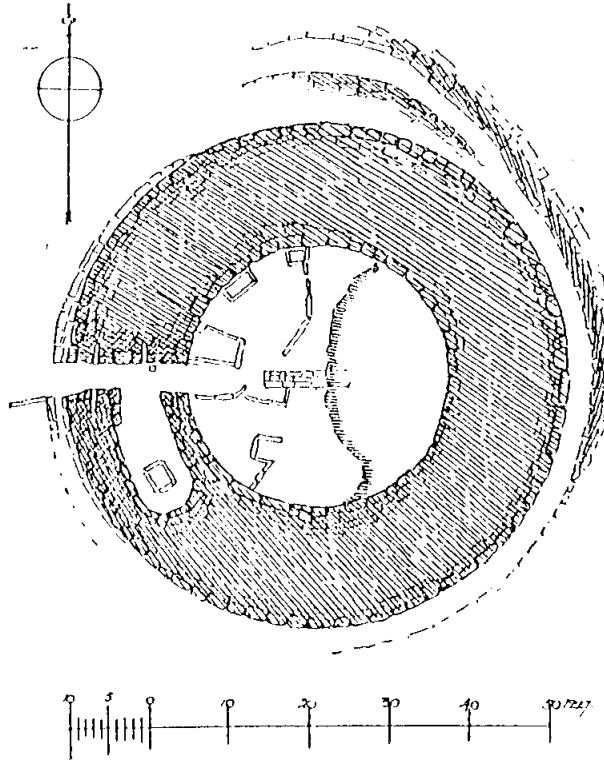


FIG. 35.—Broch, Kilmster (No. 507); Ground-plan.

to a guard chamber which has measured some 4.7 m in length, and 1.48 m at greatest width, of which the inner or left side of the wall adjacent to the passage is now gone. The diameter of the interior of the broch has been some 10.2 m. The greatest height of wall visible in the interior is 1.5 m, and the thickness of the wall at this level is 4.53 m. The greatest height of wall visible in the passage is 1.3 m. The passage roof and also that of the guard chamber are wanting. Within the interior, to the left of the entrance, is an enclosure formed of upright slabs, the one side of which is in line with the left wall of the passage. It is 1.93 m in length, 1.36 m in breadth against the wall of the broch, and 1.0 m at the opposite end. A similar enclosure seems to have existed on the opposite side of the entrance, and a number of displaced slabs round to the left in the interior imply the existence of others. Immediately opposite the entrance in the interior, and some 3.0 m inwards, a portion of building is exposed: the side in line with the right wall of the main passage visible for 0.7 m of its length, and the return facing the entrance uncovered for a shorter distance. At 3.7 m to the left of the entrance on the face of the wall in the interior, 1.06 m above present ground level, is a recess some 0.15 m square at the outside, extending inwards for 0.38 m and diminishing in size. There is no sign of a scarcement. On excavation it was found that a clay rampart, at highest 3.0 m in height, encircled the broch revetted on the inner side with a stone wall some 0.4 m distant from the tower. This wall remains visible towards the N. and appears to curve inwards from the NW. In front of the rampart was a ditch some 15.4 m wide. A plan made by Mr John Nicolson, Nybster, at the time of the excavation is here reproduced (fig. 35).

O.S.M., CAITH., xix.

Visited, 3rd June 1910.

