

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT SKYE & LOCHALSH		5 PARISH BRACADALE		1 SITE CODE H N G 3 1 N E 0 0 2 A			
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED		2 NGR N G 3 9 3 4 1 6 3 6			
11 CONCORDANCE OS NG 31 NE 2		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE		3 QUAL CE			
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION INCOMPLETE		6 SITE NAME R U B H A N D U N A I N			
20 LAND USE ROUGH PASTURE		21 GEOLOGY		10 GENERIC TYPE BURIAL CAIRN, ROUND, CHAMBERED (OCH)			
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		14 PERIOD/DATE NE = BA			
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF SPUR ON MODERATE HILLSLOPE		15 DATING METHOD TYP			
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY) 1. SCOTT, W.L.: 1931-2:		26 ASPECT SE = S = SW		18 SHAPE			
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL) 1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1965: 6" MAP 2. HENSHALL, A.S.: 1972: CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND: EDIN. U.P.: Vol. 2: pp485-8, plan 3. SCOTT, W.L.: 1931: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: : 66: pp183-213, plans, illus. 4. SCOTT, W.L.: 1933: " " " " : 68: pp194-9, plan, illus. 5. CLARKE, D.L.: 1970: BEAKER POTTERY OF G.B. & I: CAMBRIDGE U.P.: 2: p518 6. HBM(SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS		27 ALTITUDE 8 = 15m OD		19 THREAT AND DATE			
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 FRAGMENTS			
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 AM: 12.11.1985			
51 CHECK: DATE Am: 18.11.1985		52 TEXT "NG 3934 1636. Chambered cairn." "A Hebridean type round cairn with a polygonal chamber with antechamber and short passage, excavated by Scott in 1931-2 and left open." "The cairn, of large rounded stones, has a diameter of 62' (18.67m) to 66' (19.99m) and now stands 11' (3.36m) in max. height. The S side has been heavily robbed, the peristalith and facade on this side being almost entirely destroyed. Where undisturbed, the cairn is covered with turf and heather." "The peristalith, revealed in a number of cuttings, consists of orthostats set 3' to 4' (0.91 - 1.21m) apart and linked with walling. The cairn material extends some 9' (2.74m) beyond the peristalith." "The forecourt is V-shaped in plan and measures about 24' (7.44m) across by 10' (3.00) deep./ cont. over..."					

(1)
(2)
(3) (4)
(5)

SKY 7

RUDH' ANDUNAIN

(Hebridean group, round cairn)

Parish Bracadale

Location at the end of a peninsula
in the SW part of the island

Map reference NG 393163

Sheet XLIX NW; NG 31 NE

Inventory number 491

References P.S.A.S. LXXVI (1931-2)

183-99¹; LXXVIII (1933-4) 191-9²,201 f.n.³; R.C.A.M. Inv. 147Plan after Scott^{1,2}Excavation Scott, 1931¹, 1932²

Visited 7.4.65

Description. The cairn lies in a remote position, near the tip of a peninsula which is almost cut off on the landward side by the sheer Cuillin Hills rising to 3,000 ft. The peninsula is now mainly uneven moor and bog, but an area in a small valley near the cairn is capable of cultivation, and there are evidences of occupation at various periods up to the middle of the last century. The cairn is sited just above a brackish lochan, at 30 ft OD, on the crest of a hollow which runs across the promontory. There was evidence that there had been only a slight growth of peat before the cairn was built.³ The following description is mainly taken from the excavation reports. The excavations have been left open. (Pls. 32-34.)

The cairn now stands 11 ft high at the highest point, which is N of the centre of the cairn. The S half has been much robbed and the peristalith and façade on this side have been almost entirely destroyed. Where undisturbed the cairn is covered with turf and heather.

(19.0-20.2m) The peristalith, revealed in a number of cuttings, edges a circular cairn with diameters of 62 to 66 ft. The orthostats are apparently set 3 to 4 ft apart, and are linked by dry-walling. The largest exposed orthostat is 3 ft 9 in. long by 2 ft 8 in. high. The dry-walling is of split rectangular-section stones, frequently with one stone stretching the whole width of the panel. The cairn material extends some 9 ft outside the peristalith. On ground level immediately outside it, and below the cairn material, were found blocks of stone similar to those used for the walling. In the opinion of the excavator these stones had not fallen from the peristalith, and he interpreted them as unused building material. The cairn itself consists of large rounded stones, presumably from the nearby beach, and particularly at the base of the cairn they are very large weighing two or three hundredweight.

(7.4m) The forecourt, facing a little S of E, is v-shaped in plan, measuring about 24 ft across by about 10 ft deep. Like the peristalith, the forecourt façade is constructed of orthostats with panels of dry-walling between, but the orthostats have mostly been pushed out of position by the pressure of the cairn material behind. The stones in the centre forming the portal are relatively low, carrying the outermost passage lintel. A large stone 3 ft 3 in. long was found resting in front of, and at a lower level than, the lintel; this stone may have rested originally on the top of the lintel thus increasing the height of the façade over the entrance. The other façade stones decrease in height from the stones on either side of the portal. The stone to the N of the portal is 6 ft high and 3 ft 2 in. wide at the maximum which is half way up. The other two stones on the N side are 5 ft and 3 ft 6 in. high and are set 3 ft apart. The stone to the S of the entrance, found fallen and broken, had been about 6 ft 6 in. high and 3 ft 10 in. wide. The other stones completing the S side of the façade are no longer in place but their positions were traced and some of the walling between them remained. The best preserved section of walling, between the S portal stone and the next façade stone, stands over 3 ft high in seven courses.

(1.8m) (0.96m) Five feet in front of the entrance to the passage there are two slabs lying almost at right angles to the main axis. The larger slab is 4 ft 9 in. long by 1 ft 3 in. wide, and is of uneven thickness but it has been wedged to make its upper surface horizontal. The smaller slab, lying against the E side of the other, has its upper surface at almost the same level. A hollow, measuring (1.95m) (101.66 m) by 5 in. across and 4 in. deep, was found in the original peaty floor of the forecourt about 1 ft SE of these stones. In the forecourt two strata were noted, the lower of black soil about 1 ft deep, the other of brown soil, though judging by the photographs¹ there was also a quantity of stone in the upper levels. The only traces of burning in the forecourt were a very little charcoal and a few particles of redness in the peat floor. A number of blocks and large pebbles of quartz were found, and also near the surface of the mound behind the façade.

(0.37m) (0.3m) The entrance in the middle of the façade is 1 ft 8 in. wide, and was probably over 2 ft 6 in. high, but the lintel over the portal stones has slipped forwards and downwards. The chamber and passage are built of orthostats, of gabbro, basalt or dolerite, which stand on the solid rock floor, with panels of dry-walling between. Most of the courses of the dry-walling consist of single slabs stretching the whole width of the panel.

(2)

The passage is rather irregular in plan, only 3 ft 3 in. long and 3 ft 3 in. wide at the maximum. (0.98m)

The s portal stone is set at an angle to the axis of the chamber (its short outer face being roughly in line with the façade) and the s wall is dry-walling connecting the back of this stone to the portal of the ante-chamber. This arrangement forms a recess. The N wall of the passage consists of an upright stone with only a narrow section of walling at the inner end.

(1.28m) Two pairs of portal stones, both set at an angle to the main axis, form entries into the ante-chamber and chamber. The walls of the ante-chamber are dry masonry, 4 ft 3 in. long and diverging slightly to a width of 3 ft 9 in. (1.13m) at the inner end. The stones used for the upper parts of the wall are larger and slope gently down into the cairn material behind.

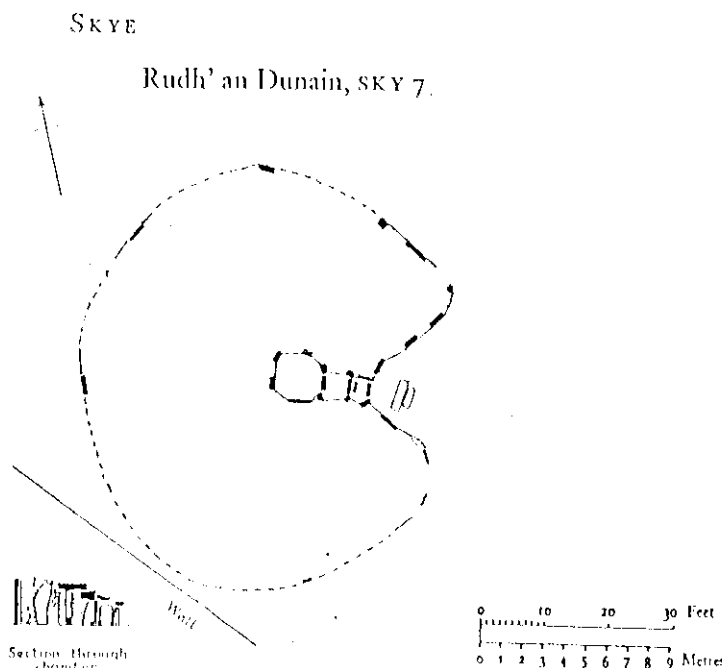
(1.16m) The passage and ante-chamber are still roofed by four lintels. The outermost, already mentioned, is displaced, but was over 2 ft 6 in. above floor level. The next two, over the passage and half the ante-chamber, join fairly neatly, 3 ft 10 in. above floor level. The innermost lintel is 5 ft 4 in. above the floor. It overlaps the neighbouring lintel but is raised above it by intervening stones. It rests directly on the N portal stone of the chamber, but on an intervening stone over the s portal stone. The lintels are of fine-grained basalt which splits along a plane surface. (0.66m) (1.6m)

(152.4mm) Transverse stones, resting on the rock floor, form a sill between the portal stones at the entrances to the passage, ante-chamber and chamber. A fourth stone lies across the passage 6 in. in front of the entry to the ante-chamber. These stones are 9 in. to 1 ft 3 in. high. (228.6mm) (581.0mm)

(0.5m) The entry into the chamber is 1 ft 8 in. wide and 3 ft 11 in. high over the sill-stone. The chamber is polygonal in plan, roughly 7 ft 3 in. in diameter. Besides the portal stones there are four tall orthostats, 6 to 7 ft high, but except for the stone on the s side which is 3 ft 6 in. wide, they are narrow stones only 1 ft 5 in. to 2 ft wide. Between the orthostats there is walling of thin stones. The uppermost remaining one or two courses, however, are of large slabs up to 11 in. thick, laid with their longer axes running back from the chamber and mostly tilted slightly down away from the chamber. One course of these stones remains over the lintel at the chamber entrance and over the tops of the orthostats. At the back of the chamber there is a notable slab of this type 4 ft 8 in. wide and 8 in. thick. Although the excavator thought that the roof had been lintelled at the height of the existing wall head, it seems more likely that there were another few courses of large corbel stones bearing a capstone. A large broken slab, measuring 5 ft by 2 ft 6 in., built under the nearby wall, might well be part of a capstone. (1.18m)

The upper part of the chamber was found filled with stones and earth. From 1 ft to 3 ft above the floor was a layer of brown earth mixed with stones. The lowest 1 ft was black earth. The passage was filled to the roof, and the ante-chamber to within 1 ft of the roof.

(2) Henshall, A.S.



52./ "Five feet in front of the entrance, there are two slabs lying at right angles to the main axis, the larger being wedged up to give a horizontal surface. Finds, most of which are in the NMAS, included an N.4 beaker (EO 382), and from beneath an orthostat of the chamber, a possibly human foundation deposit." (6) (OSFI:ES:18.5.1972)

"See attached photocopies for texts of (2) (3) and (4)."