

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# FIELD MONUMENTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE									
H	N	G	7	2	N	E	0	0	1
2 NGR									
N	G	7	5	8	0	2	6	3	4
3 QUAL									
CE									

4 DISTRICT SKYE & LOCHALSH		5 PARISH STRATH		6 SITE NAME CAISTEAL MAOL*	
7 AREA STATUS	8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED	9 REGIONAL STATUS		10 GENERIC TYPE CASTLE	
11 CONCORDANCE os NG 72 NE 1	12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE	13 DIMENSIONS c14.0m x c10.5m		14 PERIOD/DATE 15th Cent.	15 DATING METHOD TYP + DOC
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION RUINED		18 SHAPE RECTANGULAR	
20 LAND USE ROUGH PASTURE		21 GEOLOGY		19 THREAT AND DATE	
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE	
25 RELIEF PROMONTORY		26 ASPECT NW = NNW = N		27 ALTITUDE 8 = 15m OD	

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1904: 6" MAP 2. RCAHMS: 1928: SKYE INVENTORY: HMSO: pp207-8; No.648 3. MACGIBBON & ROSS: 1889: CASTELLATED & DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE OF SCOTLAND: :3: pp172-3 4. 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	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 MWC: 31.1.1986	51 CHECK: DATE MWC 31.01.1986

52 TEXT  
 "NG 7580 2634. Caisteal Maol (in ruins)." (1)  
 "A strong keep of the MacDonalids, built on a detached mass of rock near Kyleakin, and commanding the narrow strait between the mainland and Skye. It was originally 30'6" (9.42m) long by 17' (5.30m) wide internally with walls 9' (2.74m) in thickness, but only those on the N-E and S-W angles remain. The site is surrounded on three sides by the sea, and on the fourth is cut off from a neck of land which rises about 20' (6.21m) above the tide. The walls are built close to the edge of the rock, and the portions remaining are still of some height (25' to 40', (10.8 to 12.3m)) and contain windows about 2' (0.6m) square, with wide square recesses internally arched over. There are no signs of vaulting or rests for beams, but the tower has been at least three storeys in height. From the style, it probably belongs to the fifteenth century."  
 Information supplied by J.W. Burns Esq., Kilmahew. (3)

(2)

648. Caisteal Maol.—Situated less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile due east of Kyleakin, and on the western shore of Loch Akin, Castle Maol, a stronghold of the Mackinnons of Skye, occupies the summit of a rocky promontory about 50 feet above sea-level. (Fig. 290.)

The north and west sides of the height fall steeply to the water's edge, while the south and east sides drop precipitously over the rocks to a low-lying neck which isolates it from the mainland. The approach from all directions is difficult, but a pathway suggests itself as coming up the easiest natural slope at the north-west corner from the sea and seems to be governed by a cleft in the rock about 5 feet wide and 25 feet away from the castle.

The structure appears to be of 15th-century date and is rectangular on plan, measuring 46 feet 6 inches by 34 feet 8 inches externally with its major axis lying almost north-east and south-west. Only the northern and southern corners and the south-eastern wall remain, being 8 to 9

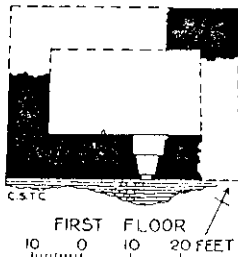


FIG. 291.—Caisteal Maol (No. 648)

feet thick. They reach a height of 35 to 40 feet outside and have contained three floors, with possibly a fourth within the roof.

Debris completely fills the basement, but a corbel, projecting from the south wall at a level of 3 feet below the step of the first floor window, indicates a bearer support for the floor. Evidently there have been no vaulted ceilings.

The walls are of basalt rubble and are faced externally and internally with squared rubble built to courses of varying heights. Many of the facing stones are equal in breadth and height and many polygonal in form. The lime is made from coral. At base of the south wall there is a batter, which varies from 1 foot 2 inches to 8 feet on the splayed face, according to the irregular contour of the rock. No windows appear in the basement.

On the first floor, at the eastern end of the south wall, a window 2 feet by 2 feet is formed with square rybats. It has double sconsons, arched and opening to a width of 6 feet 9 inches in the interior. The rear arch is composed of thin stones on edge with a wedge-shaped keystone. Opposite on the north wall there seems to have been a similar window. No trace of door or stairway or other voids is seen.

A row of joist holes shows the second floor to have been about 10 feet higher than the first, and there is indication of a window over the one on this floor. Approximately another 10 feet above is a ledge, suggesting the third floor level, and the wall extends to a height of 4 or 5 feet above this.

HISTORICAL NOTE.—Dean Monro (1549) mentions "the castill of Dunnakynne, pertaining to Mackynnoun," which is clearly this place. It is marked on Blaeu's (*i. e.* Pont's) map under this name. In 1616 and 1627 Lauchlan Mackinnon of "Strathordill" had charters of these lands as a barony with the privilege of a ferry boat on the water of Kyleakin.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.M.S., s.a., Nos. 1514, 1183.

Skye xli. 25 June 1921.

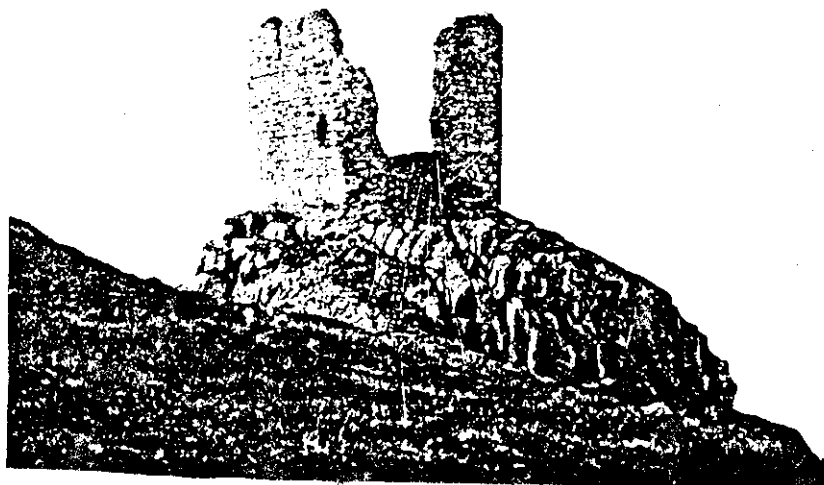


FIG. 290.—Caisteal Maol (No. 648).

(2)

