

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE										
H	N	G	8	1	N	W	0	0	6	A
2 NGR		3 QUAL								
N	G	8	3	3	8	1	7	2	3	CE

4 DISTRICT SKYE & LOCHALSH			5 PARISH GLENELG (NORTH)			6 SITE NAME DUN TRODDAN *			
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS GUARDIANSHIP		9 REGIONAL STATUS		10 GENERIC TYPE BROCH			
11 CONCORDANCE OS NG 81 NW 6 NMR		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE		13 DIMENSIONS 8.91m INT. DIAM.		14 PERIOD/DATE IA		15 DATING METHOD TYP	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS			17 CONDITION ROBBED			18 SHAPE CIRCULAR		19 THREAT AND DATE	
20 LAND USE ROUGH PASTURE				21 GEOLOGY					
22 SOILS				23 VEGETATION					
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE			25 RELIEF STEEP HILLSLOPE		26 ASPECT SW		27 ALTITUDE 38 = 52m OD		

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	
1. CURLE, A.O.: 1920: FULL: SCIENTIFIC	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1902: 6"	
2. CURLE, A.O.: 1921: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: Vol. 55: pp83-94	
3. YOUNG, A.: 1964: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: 95: p187	
4. FEACHEM, R.W.: 1963: PREHISTORIC SCOTLAND: p165	
5. (ACCESSIONS): 1923: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: Vol. 57: p297	
6. HBM (SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	
7. GORDON, Alexander: 1720: INTERARIUM SEPTENTRIONALE	
30 GROUND PLAN NO.	31 GROUND PHOTO NO. 8717224-25 871732-11
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 ALM: 25.1.1986	51 CHECK: DATE MWC 7.2.1986

52 TEXT

"NG 8338 1723. Dun." (1)

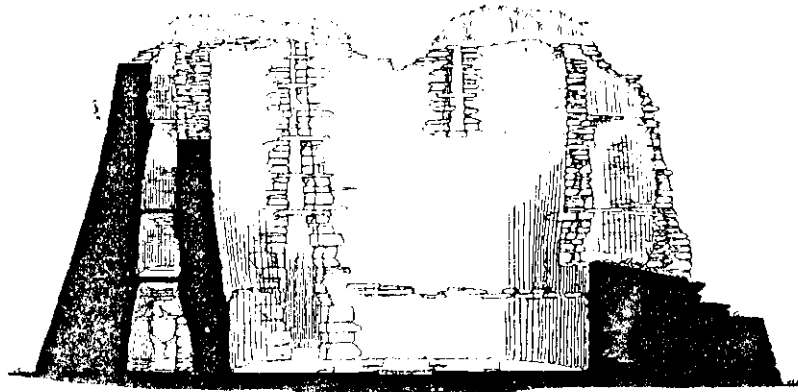
"See continuation cards for text of (2)."

"As described and planned by Curle, under Guardianship." (OSFI:RL:4.10.1966)

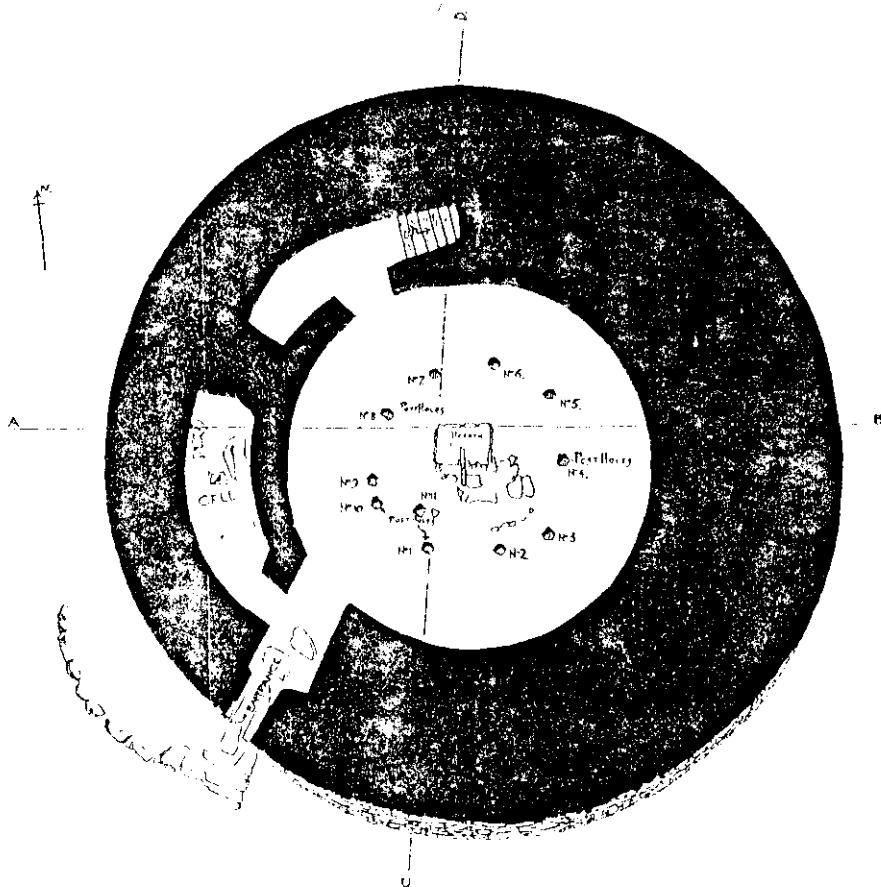
"NG 834 172, GLENELG BROCH" (6)

6. " * Also known as 'Gleneig Broch'."

29. 8. ANDERSON, J: 1886: SCOTLAND IN PAGAN TIMES: VOL 1: p 180-82
9. GRAHAM, A: 1946-48: PROC SOC ANT SCOT: VOL 80: P80
10. CLOSE BROOKS, J: 1986: EXPLORING SCOTLAND'S HERITAGE, THE HIGHLANDS: HMSO: p146-7



Post Holed



The surviving fragment of Dun Troddan shows two galleries intact and a third partially preserved. In its present state it is about 25 feet in height.² In 1720, however, when Gordon saw it,³ four galleries were intact; and as the additional gallery and a half may probably have added some 8 feet or 9 feet to to-day's figure, we arrive at 33 feet to 34 feet as the true height at that date. Gordon does, in fact, give the height as 33 feet, but it is clear from his allusion to four internal doors leading into a gallery, as well as from his figure for the thickness of the wall at what seemed to him to be ground level, that in his time the ground inside the tower stood 6 feet above the true level of the court; and when the necessary correction is made the resulting total height of 38 feet is seen to be impossibly great, as the fourth gallery and the missing part of the third could never, between them, have accounted for a height of 14 feet. Nor is there, in fact, anything at all impossible in the idea that Gordon should have exaggerated this measurement by as much as 6 feet, seeing that he was most unlikely to have been properly equipped for measuring a building, and that the base of a ruined fifth gallery—unnoticed and consequently unmentioned—might possibly have added a foot or two to the total. The discrepancy consequently need not be regarded as important, and we are left with the inference that in 1720 Dun Troddan, with a height of 34 feet, was already reduced from its original height by an unknown but possibly quite considerable amount. That Gordon saw the inner and outer walls actually merging into one at an original wall-head seems quite improbable.¹

(9)

On the question of the vanished portion the six feet of debris collected in the court can perhaps throw some light. Theoretically this represents a volume of some 3700 cubic feet of piled stones, and on the purely arbitrary assumptions (*a*) that laid masonry would occupy half the space of random debris, (*b*) that the debris inside the tower represented the ruins of the inner wall alone, the outer wall being supposed to have fallen outwards, this volume would provide for an additional height of something under 7 feet. An unknown amount of stone-robbing must also no doubt be assumed. It would thus appear allowable to carry the tower up to an original height of over 40 feet, though it is impossible on the available evidence to say that it went no higher than this; and if the proportion of height to basal diameter was the same here as at Mousa, a height of some 60 feet might well have to be allowed for.

To Gordon's record Pennant adds little of value: the fourth gallery had disappeared by 1772, and he does not give any figure for the height of the third. His total height to the top of the third gallery is 24 feet 5 inches; and if this figure is corrected for the depth of the debris in the court, it accords fairly well with the conclusions reached above. His engraving² cannot be relied on, as he shows a high-level scarcement crossing a part of the wall-face which is still preserved and where no scarcement exists.

in the small valley of Glenbeg, which runs (8)
nearly parallel with Glenelg, in the west of Inverness-shire,
there are two such structures. One is situated on the edge
of the meadow which lies in the bottom of the valley. It is
greatly destroyed; more than half the circle of the wall is
gone, and part of the height of the portion that remains is
wanting. The internal diameter of the tower, at the level of
the rubbish which encumbers the floor, is $33\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and the
thickness of the wall 11 feet. The doorway (Fig. 163), which

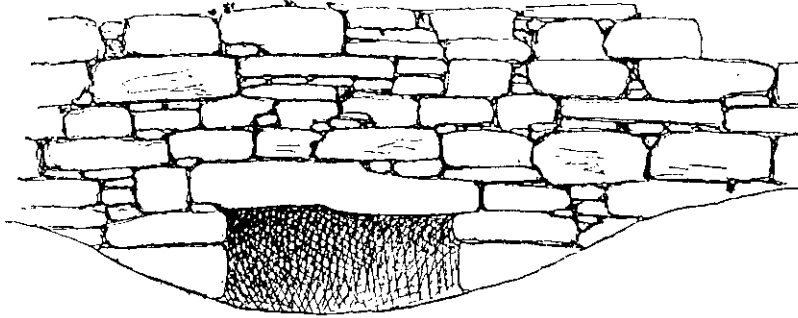
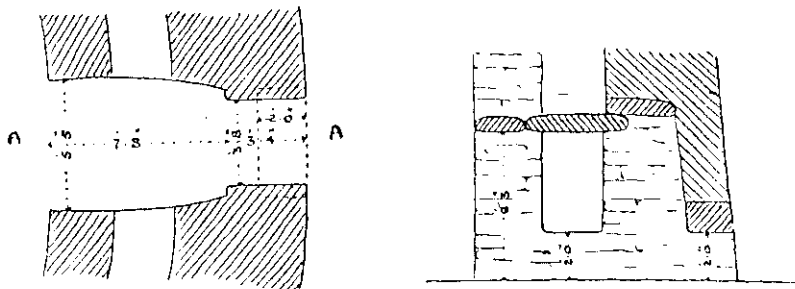


Fig. 163.—View of external aperture of doorway of Broch in Glenbeg. (From a Drawing by J. Romilly Allen.)



Figs. 164, 165.—Ground plan and section of elevation of doorway and passages through the wall of Broch in Glenbeg. (Drawn by J. Romilly Allen.)

is the only opening to the outside, is 3 feet 5 inches wide at the head, the lower part concealed with rubbish. About 4 feet inside the outer plane of the wall there is a rebate for a door (Fig. 164), with checks in the shape of large slabs set edgewise in the wall. Within these checks the passage widens to 5 feet, and the roof rises as shown in the section, Fig. 165. On the south side of the passage there is a guard-chamber opening from it, and constructed in the thickness of the wall. Three galleries and part of a fourth remain, but the stair is gone. The galleries are lighted by vertical ranges of windows looking to the interior. The greatest height of wall remaining is not over 30 feet, but 7 feet of its height were taken by the contractor for the Bernera Barracks in 1722. It must therefore, before that time, have been nearly as high as Mousa now is.

At the distance of less than a mile up the valley on the

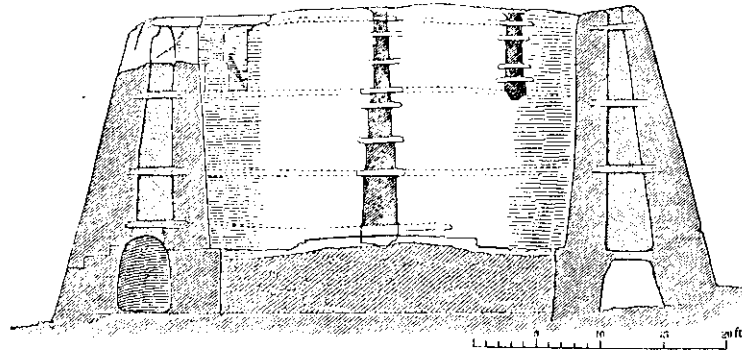


Fig. 166.—Section of the elevation of Broch in Glenbeg, near Glenelg. (From Plan by Sir H. Dryden.)

same side, and placed on a considerable eminence, is another ruined structure of the same kind (Fig. 166), but more dilapidated. No part of the height now exceeds 25 feet. The diameter of the tower internally has been about 30 feet, and the wall is 12 feet thick. Traces of chambers on the ground floor are visible, but choked with rubbish. The door and stairs are gone. Three galleries remain in part. The first is 6 feet high and 4 feet wide, the second 6 feet high and 3½ feet wide, the third inaccessible and somewhat smaller.

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



ARTEFACTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT SKYE & LOCHALSH		5 PARISH GLENELG (NORTH)		1 SITE CODE H N G 8 1 N W 0 0 6 B	
6 CONCORDANCE os NG 81 NW 6 NMR		9 MUSEUM/LOCATION OF FIND(S) RMS (QUEEN STREET)		10 ACCESSION NO. -	
13 FIND CIRCUMSTANCES EXCAVATION		14 CONDITION		7 GENERIC TYPE QUERN, ROTARY + WHORLS, SPINDLE, STONE + BEAD, GLASS	
17 LAND USE		18 GEOLOGY		11 PERIOD/DATE IA	
19 SOILS		20 VEGETATION		12 DATING METHOD TYP	
21 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		22 RELIEF		15 EXCAVATOR AND DATE CURLE, A.O.: 1920	
23 ASPECT		24 ALTITUDE		16 EXCAVATION RECORD NO.	
25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION/DIMENSIONS					
26 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)					
1. CURLE, A.O.: 1921: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: VOL. 95: pp92, 187 2. (ACCESSIONS): 1923: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: 57: p297 3. (DONATIONS): 1923: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: 101: p293: No. 18					
27 GROUND PLAN NO.			28 GROUND PHOTO NO.		
29 SLIDES NO.			30 HR. AP. NO.		
31 NMR. AP. NO.			32 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE		
33 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION					
34 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY			35 SAMPLES		
36 PALYNOLOGY			37 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.		
38 OTHER					
39 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER					40 ATTITUDE OF OWNER
41 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT					42 ATTITUDE OF TENANT
43 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS					
44 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE				45 RECORDER: DATE ALM: 23.1.1986	46 CHECK: DATE MWC 7.2.1986
47 TEXT					

"The relics which this broch has yielded are singularly few. They include seven stone whorls, 2 perforated discs of schist, 4 1/8" (123.82mm) and 7 1/8" (196.85mm) in diam., respectively, the stone pounder mentioned above, a small waterworn pebble, worn at the edges by use as a polisher a curved object shaped out of whalebone 6 1/8" (174.6mm) in length along the outer curve, a small yellow discoid bead of vitreous paste 11/32" (8.73mm) in diam. and a large number of ovoid pebbles. There was not a trace of pottery." (1)

"An upper rotary quern stone was found at this site, also seven stone spindle whorls and a flat bead of yellow vitreous paste." (2)

"Two quern stones from 'one of the Glenelg brochs' donated by the D.O.E. in 1968-9." (3)

THE BROCH OF DUN TRODDAN, GLEANN BEAG, GLENELG,
INVERNESS-SHIRE. By ALEXANDER O. CURLE, F.S.A. Scot.

There can be few if any more beautiful valleys in the West Highlands of Scotland than that of Gleann Beag. It is not a broad glen, and the restricted meadowland on its floor, through which a little river meanders, could never have maintained a large population. The steep sides as they rise to the higher level of the moorland are clothed with a natural growth of hazel and alder, the haunt of numerous buzzards, which soaring upward fill the air with their harsh laughter-like cries. The rocky summit of Beinn a' Chapuill towers upwards in the background on the south, and the head of the glen melts away into a medley of lonely hills to the eastward. The point where it opens on to the shore of the Bay of Glenelg is about one mile to the southward of the Kirktown of that name. Some two miles up the glen, where it narrows, and between the base of the northern slope and the river, is situated Dun Telve, or the Lower Broch, the excavation of which by His Majesty's Office of Works I described in a communication to the Society in 1916. A quarter of a mile farther up, on the same side of the glen but on a shelf some 40 feet or thereby above the low ground, is situated Dun Troddan, or the Upper Broch (fig. 1). Between the two brochs there lie a few acres of cultivated meadowland which the widening of the glen at this point has allowed for. And while the lower broch seems placed so as to defend the access to this haughland from the lower end, Dun Troddan might serve a like purpose from the other direction. As mentioned in my description of Dun Telve, both these brochs were visited by Alexander Gordon about the year 1720, and he has left us a description of them in his *Itinerarium Septentrionale*, illustrated with a sectional view of Dun Telve, and a front elevation of