

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE										
	H	N	H	6	3	N	W	0	1	5
2 NGR										
N	H	6	4	9	3	3	8	3	0	3 QUAL
6 SITE NAME										
C	A	R	N		G	L	A	S		

4 DISTRICT INVERNESS			5 PARISH INVERNESS & BONA			10 GENERIC TYPE BURIAL CAIRN, CHAMBERED, OCH			
7 AREA STATUS	8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED		9 REGIONAL STATUS			14 PERIOD/DATE NE		15 DATING METHOD TYP	
11 CONCORDANCE OS NH 63 NW 14 NMR	12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURES		13 DIMENSIONS OVERALL LENGTH c127.0m			18 SHAPE LINEAR			
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS 3 CAIRNS IN ALIGNMENT INCORPORATED IN LONG CAIRN			17 CONDITION INCOMPLETE			19 THREAT AND DATE			
20 LAND USE HEATH			21 GEOLOGY			26 ASPECT E=ESE		27 ALTITUDE 205 - 210m OD	
22 SOILS			23 VEGETATION						
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE			25 RELIEF UNDULATING GENTLE SLOPE						

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)

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

1. HENSHALL.A.S.:1963:CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND:E.U.P.:1:No 31:p376-7,plan fig 95
2. CHILDE.V.G.:1943-4: :PROC.SOC.ANT.SCOT:78:p36-7 plan
3. :1895-9: :TRANS.INVERNESS SC.SOC.& FIELD CLUB:5:p178
4. H B M (SDD):1985:LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS.

30 GROUND PLAN NO.		31 GROUND PHOTO NO. 84/02/2/32	
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 AM 6.12.84	51 CHECK: DATE HAR 12.12.84
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52 TEXT

' These three cairns of the Orkney-Cromarty type built on end along a small narrow ridge, one of a number which runs north to south across the area...
Cairn Glas; These appear on the ground as one unit, each separated by a short space of turf - covered debris. The cairns vary in height from c.3.5m. on the south; c1.2m centrally; to 2.0m on the north. Overall the mass measures 116m. N-S.
published 25" survey revised.
(OSFI:JLD:21.3.62)'

" NH 649 383. Cairn Glas, 3 chamberd cairns, Essich." (4)

HENSHALL, A.S.

1963

CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND

vol. 1

pp 376-7

31 ESSICH MOOR

[CARN GLAS]

(O.-C., rectangular, long)

In the parish of

INVERNESS AND BONA

Location 4½ m. SSW of

INVERNESS

Map reference

NH/649381

Sheet XX NW; NH 63 NW

References

P.S.A.S. LXXVIII (1943-44)

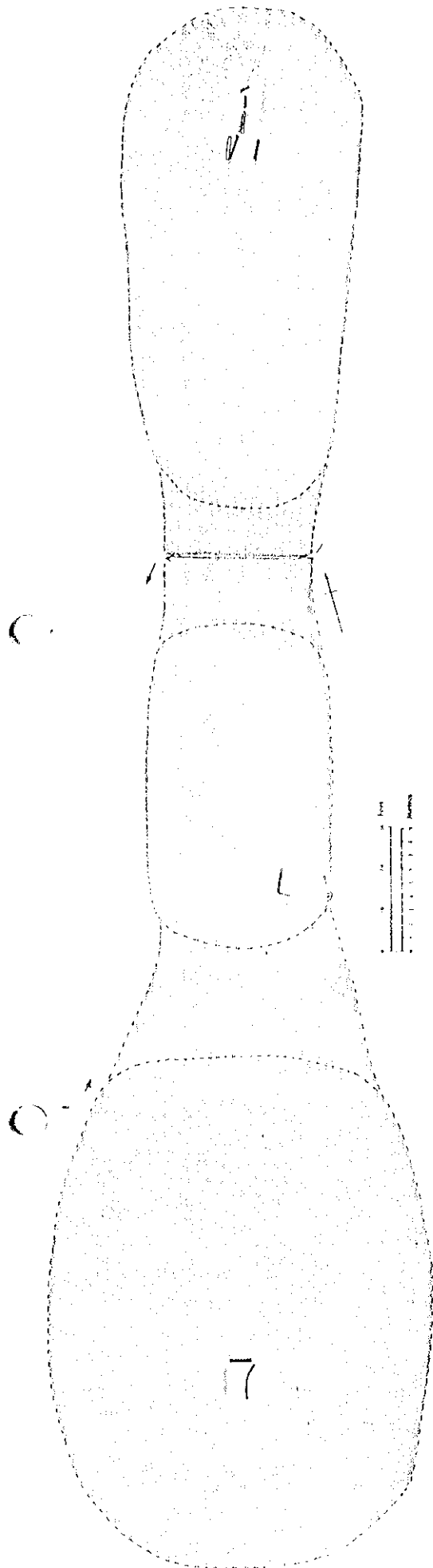
36-37 1;

T.I.S.S. V (1895-99) 178

Plan after CHILDE, 1 N

chamber by A.S.H. (fig. 95)

Visited 11.4.57



Description. The three cairns are situated in the area of flat moorland at a little over 650ft. OD between the Allt Mor and Ness valleys. They are built on end along a small narrow ridge, one of a number which run N-S across the area. There are extensive views especially to the N across the Firth and Black Isle. The main parts of the cairns are of naked small angular stones but the edges are overgrown and indistinct. The areas between the cairns are turf-covered but there is a low neck of cairn material below the turf connecting the cairns proper. In plan the cairns are more or less parallel sided with rounded ends. The N cairn measures 120ft. N-S and 57ft. across the chamber. Thirty feet to the S lies the centre cairn measuring 76ft. N-S by 47ft. E-W. About 30ft. further S lies the last cairn, 124ft. long by 94ft. wide. The positioning of the chambers and the intermediate necks of cairn material suggest the cairns were regarded as a whole; the overall length is 380ft. On the other hand, at the S end of the centre cairn there are a few earthfast stones which suggest there may have been a peristalith of spaced stones encircling the individual cairns. Due mainly to the formation of the ridge on which it stands the structure appears to rise at either end, the S end being the highest point, and there seems in fact to be more cairn material here.

In each of the cairns there is exposed part of a chamber. These all appear to be similar, rectangular in form and constructed of large flat slabs set on edge. The chamber of the N cairn has been partially cleared out, the cairn material now being flush with the tops of the side slabs. The chamber is placed centrally towards the N end of the cairn, though the inner portion is set slightly askew to its main axis. There was formerly part of an end-stone to be seen. The innermost pair of side slabs are set 4ft. 9in. apart, and the larger is 6ft. long. The W side is continued by two more stones, one of which has evidently slipped slightly from its original position. At the outer end of these, and 17ft. from the end-stone, there is exposed a stone 2ft. 6in. higher than the side slabs and set nearly transversely to them, presumably a portal stone. The side stones have flat upper edges; the innermost stone is slightly taller. Here it can be seen that the chamber is at least 2ft. 9in. deep. A stone lying on edge outside the innermost W side slab is almost certainly a displaced capstone.

There are signs that there may have been another chamber or a cist in this cairn, for at least 15ft. from the W edge and about 28ft. from the S end is a cluster of displaced boulders and slabs.

At the SE corner of the central cairn there is exposed part of another chamber, consisting of an end-stone and S side stone. The chamber has apparently been 5ft. 6in. wide. Ten to 11ft. in front of the end stone is a small stone which appears to be part of a portal, its S partner lying fallen forwards 1ft. 7in. to the S.

The chamber of the S cairn is aligned along the main axis of the cairn but some distance from its S edge. The inner part of the chamber has been opened

and the cairn material is now flush with the top of the side stones. There are exposed a large end-stone, 5ft. wide, 1ft. 6in. thick and over 5ft. 6in. high, and the E side of the chamber for a length of 6ft. This side was built of two slabs, the inner one shorter with the height made up by a section of walling of small slightly oversailing slabs. This inner side slab and the end-stone are no longer to be seen. Seven feet in front of the back-slab is a large stone, 2ft. 6in. long by 6in. thick, now resting at an angle and

ESSICH MOOR

- (24) Essich Moor (Inverness and Bona Par., Inverness, xx). At the northern end of the easternmost of several parallel ridges that run N.-S. across the marshy plateau that separates the Allt Mor from the Ness valley, about 700 feet above O.D., are three cairns of naked broken stone in line that now look like a single huge cairn 380 feet long (Pl. II, 1). The northernmost, 120 feet N.-S. by 57 feet across the

chamber by 6 feet high, contains near its N. end part of a cist 6 feet N.-S. by $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide framed by a pair of slabs on edge, preceded by a passage $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, of which only two slabs of the W. side wall, not quite in line with the corresponding wall of the cist, are exposed. The wall terminates in a pillar, presumably a portal stone.

- (25) Essich Moor (*ibid.*). Separated from No. 24 only by a tract 30 feet across N.-S. that is rather lower, narrower, and less stony, is a second mass of broken stones some 76 feet N.-S. by 47 feet E.-W. No central structure is exposed, but at the S.E. corner are the headstone and one side stone of a megalithic cist that must have been at least $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep.

- (26) Essich Moor (*ibid.*). Due S. of the last-mentioned cairn, and separated from it by a similar lower and less stony belt, is a third accumulation of naked stones 124 feet N.-S. by 94 feet E.-W. by perhaps 8 feet high (but the natural surface of the ridge is also higher at this end). On the main axis of the cairn but rather S. of the centre are exposed a headstone (5 feet wide by $1\frac{1}{2}$ thick by over $5\frac{1}{2}$ high) and the east side of a cist or chamber. The side wall is represented by two slabs on edge together with a neatly built wall of oversailing slabs behind and above the northernmost upright (Pl. II, 2); the total length exposed is about 6 feet, but there are superficial indications of a collapsed passage running on southward.

The general character of the foregoing monument or monuments was correctly recognized by the late James D. McCulloch in his small pamphlet *Essich and its Traditions* (Munro, Aberdeen); cf. also *Trans. Invern. Sci. Soc.*, v. (1897), p. 178.

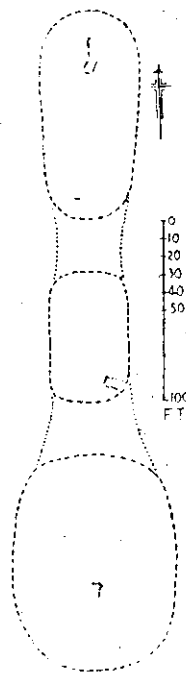


FIG. 7. Cairns on Essich Moor, Nos. 24-6.