

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE	H	N	H	6	4	S	W	0	0	2
2 NGR	NH	6	4	3	7	4	3	1	5	3 QUAL. CE
6 SITE NAME	TORVEAN									

4 DISTRICT INVERNESS	5 PARISH INVERNESS & BONA	6 SITE NAME TORVEAN	7 AREA STATUS SSSI	8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED	9 REGIONAL STATUS	10 GENERIC TYPE FORT, SUMMIT	11 CONCORDANCE OS NH64SW2	12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE = EARTHWORK	13 DIMENSIONS c30.0m x c14.0m	14 PERIOD/DATE BA = IA	15 DATING METHOD TYP
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION INCOMPLETE		18 SHAPE OVAL		19 THREAT AND DATE		20 LAND USE WOODLAND = SCRUB		21 GEOLOGY	
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF SUMMIT OF RIDGE		26 ASPECT 360°		27 ALTITUDE 80=85m OD	

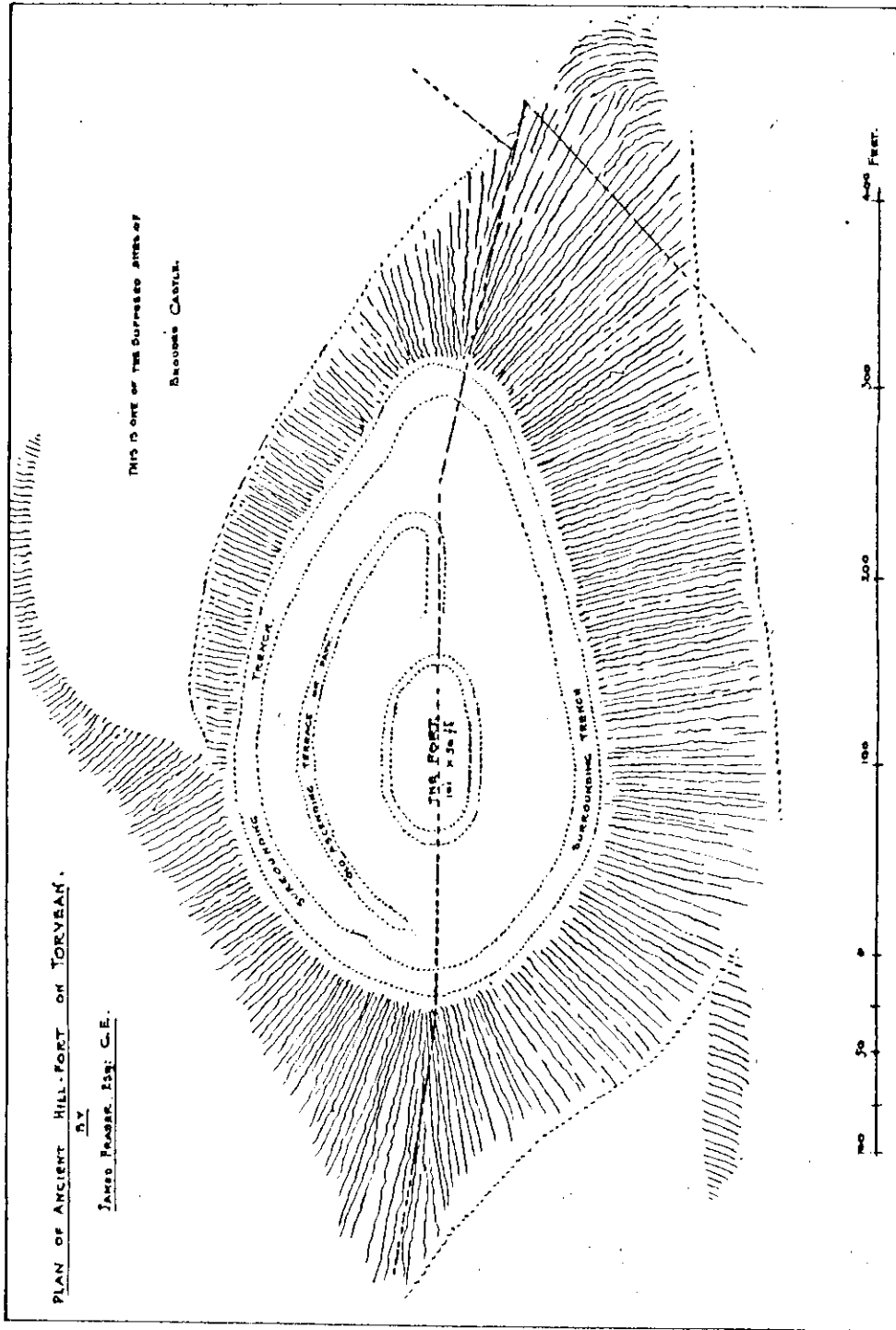
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1964: 25" MAP 2. : 1912-8: TRANS. INVERNESS SCI. SOC. & FIELD CLUB: VOL. 8: p377 3. AITKEN: 1875-80: TRANS. INVERNESS SCI. SOC. & FIELD CLUB: VOL. 1: p264 (PLAN) 4. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1973: 1/10,000 MAP 5. HBM(SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS 6. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: 1979: THE ARCH. SITES & MONS. OF NE INVERNESS: RCAHMS: p16, No. 99	
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: 27.10.1986	51 CHECK: DATE 20.4.1986
--------------------------	--	--------------------------------------	-----------------------------

52 TEXT

"NH 644 431, Torvean, Motte 270m N of Torvean Croft."(5)
 "See continuation card for text and plan (3).



(3)

(NH 6437 4315) Motte

A fort stands on the top of a hill on the ridge of Torvean. It is of oval form, 100' long by 50' wide, protected by a surrounding ditch forming an irregular oval 340' long by 200' wide, at a considerably lower level on the slopes of the hill. On the N side is another trench, intermediate between the outer ditch and the top, which has a gradual ascent towards the E end where access to the top is easiest. There appeared to be no trace of stone building in connection with this structure.

Not a motte but an Iron Age fort, generally as planned by Aitken, occupying an overgrown, steep-sided glacial ridge oriented ENE-WSW. The outer line of defence consists of a ditch cut into the slope with the material piled on its outer lip to form a rampart. In the N, where best preserved, the ditch averages c. 3.0m in width and c. 0.8m in depth with the rampart averaging c. 4.0m in width; both are reduced to a terrace along the S slopes of the ridge. About 9.0m inside the ditch on the N is a terrace, averaging c. 1.5m in width, which may represent an unfinished line of defence. There is now no trace of its change of direction in the E as planned by Aitken.

The entrance was probably in the ENE at the easiest approach along the spine of the ridge. Here the defence terminates on the NW side of the spine, and on the SE side it is destroyed for a length of 20.0m. Any further details are obscured by a modern wall which runs along the spine and bisects the fort.

The level summit, measuring about 30.0m x 14.0m, is featureless.

Surveyed at 1:2500. (a)

(This feature was also described as a fort in 1960 by F I; the name "Motte" appears to have been misapplied)

(1)(4)

(2)

(OSFI:WDJ:1.4.1960)

(OSFI:RL:19.2.1970)