

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# FIELD MONUMENTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE										
H	N	H	7	5	N	W	0	0	5	A
2 NGR										
N	H	7	4	4	7	5	9	4	7	3 QUAL.
6 SITE NAME										
CAIRD'S CAVE										

4 DISTRICT ROSS & CROMARTY			5 PARISH ROSEMARKIE		
7 AREA STATUS SSEI		8 SITE STATUS		9 REGIONAL STATUS	
11 CONCORDANCE OS NH 75 NW 5		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE = EARTHWORK		13 DIMENSIONS	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS KITCHEN MIDDEN IN FRONT OF CAVE CLOSE TO THIS REMAINS OF BUILDING			17 CONDITION INCOMPLETE		
20 LAND USE SCREE			21 GEOLOGY		
22 SOILS			23 VEGETATION		
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE			25 RELIEF BASE OF STEEPLY SLOPING CLIFF		26 ASPECT SSE
					27 ALTITUDE 10 = 20m O.D.

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1959: 6" (PROV.) MAP 2. WOODHAM, A. A.: 1954-6: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: VOL. 88: pp85+93 3. : 1931: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: VOL. 65: p412 4. STEVENSON, R. B. K.: 1955: PROCEEDINGS OF THE PREHISTORIC SOCIETY: VOL. 21: p286 5. MCKAY, A.: 19 : PRESS & JOURNAL 6. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1977: 1/10,000 MAP 7. SOC. ANT. SCOT: 1979: ARCH. SITES & MONS. OF THE BLACK ISLE: RCAHMS: p23: No. 162 (OVER)	
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 FJ: 11.2.1987
		51 CHECK: DATE GS: 27.2.87.

52 TEXT

"NH 74485947 Caird's Cave (LB)" (1)  
 "Caird's Cave is a rock shelter which was inhabited as late as the opening years of the present century." (2) (3)  
 "Caird's Cave, situated at the base of a cliff about 20ft (6.21m) O.D. and approx. 14.0m from the shore line, is 9.2m deep, and about 4.0m high and 10.0m wide at the entrance, which is partially blocked by a rock fall. Large midden deposits containing shells and some animal bones lie in front of the cave, and close to these are the remains of an irregularly-shaped building 4.0m x 3.0m and 1.0m high."  
 (OSFI: NKB: 16.3.1966)

29. 8.

:1912-1918:TRANS.INV.SCI.SOC. & FIELD CLUB:VOL.8:pp42-3

52. "NH 7447 5947 Caird's Cave" (6)

"See continuation card (i) for newspaper report (5)"

# North search on for 'cave man'

ONE OF the world's top archaeologists is appealing to try to solve the riddle of a Black Isle cave.

But he must find out who the local person was who excavated the cave over 70 years ago before he can raise it as a topic at next year's world archaeological congress at Southampton.

The source of the interest is Caird's Cave, on the shore a-mile-and-a-half north-east of Rosemarkie.

It was, it is believed, excavated in 1911 or 1912 and brought up rich pictish remains. These included craft work of high quality such as a carved antler and carved amber.

"It's a site of considerable importance and the exact location was never revealed at the time," said Mr Bob Gourlay, Highland Region's archaeologist.

"Now some old, faded photographs of that excavation have turned up in Inverness museum — and they could hold clues as to the identity of the person, who is understood to have been local, who carried out that original work."

Professor Leslie Alcock, head of archaeology at Glasgow University, is a firm believer in the great value of Caird's Cave and wants to prepare a paper on it for the world congress.

But before international attention can be focused on the Black Isle Discovery, the professor is anxious to find out more about that original dig.

"It could be crucially important," said Mr Gourlay. "Now that we've found these photographs, it suggests that there may be others lying about somewhere in the area. Anyone with any information at all about the cave should get in touch with us."

The cave was lived in right up to the turn of the century by a family of tinkers called Caird, who gave it their name.

(5)

162 Caird's Cave, Rosemarkie

NH 744 594

NH 75 NW 5

This cave is situated by the shore of the Moray Firth 1.7km NNE of Rosemarkie. It measures about 4m in height by 10m in width at the entrance and extends for a distance of 9m; a shell-mound and what are probably the remains of an animal-pen of no great age lie in front of it. In 1912 excavations produced numerous artefacts of stone, antler and bone (NMAS HM 234-77), including a post-Roman ball-head pin inset with amber.

June 1979

*Transactions of the Inverness Scientific Society and Field Club*, viii (1912-18), 42-3; *PSAS*, lxx (1930-1), 412; Stevenson 1955, 286; Woodham 1956, 85, 93, no. 56.

(7)

an account of the opening of the cave at Rosemarkie, in which Dr Maclean took an active part, was given, and numerous bone implements, including needles and pins, were exhibited. Dr Maclean was of opinion that the people who inhabited this cave must have been very primitive and cannibalistic. Associated with human remains in the cave were bones of the red deer, elk, and other animals. There were very few fish bones or bones of smaller animals. Evidently the inhabitants of the cave lived chiefly on shell-fish, found on the rocks on the immediate shore. The numerous specimens of implements on the table were examined with great interest by the members present. Dr Hunter occupied the chair.

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# ARTEFACTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE  
H N H 7 5 N W 0 0 5 B

2 NGR  
N H 7 4 4 7 5 9 4 7 3 QUAL  
C E

6 SITE NAME  
C A I R D ' S C A V E

7 GENERIC TYPE  
PIN, BONE + STONE OBJECTS +  
BONE OBJECTS + HORN OBJECT, DEER

11 PERIOD/DATE  
EM (PIC) = MO 12 DATING METHOD  
TYP

15 EXCAVATOR AND DATE  
MACLEAN: 1912

16 EXCAVATION RECORD NO.

4 DISTRICT  
ROSS & CROMARTY

5 PARISH  
ROSEMARKIE

8 CONCORDANCE  
os NH 75 NW 5  
NMR

9 MUSEUM/LOCATION OF FIND(S)  
RMS (QUEEN ST.)

10 ACCESSION NO.  
HM 234-77

13 FIND CIRCUMSTANCES  
EXCAVATION OF HNH 75 NW 005(A)

14 CONDITION

17 LAND USE  
SCREE

18 GEOLOGY

19 SOILS

20 VEGETATION

21 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE

22 RELIEF  
BASE OF STEEPLY SLOPING CLIFF

23 ASPECT  
SSE

24 ALTITUDE  
10 = 20m O.D.

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION/DIMENSIONS  
FIVE AMBER SETTINGS (ONLY 3 NOW REMAIN) IN HEAD OF PIN (SEE ILLUSTRATION, "FIG.4"  
ON CONTINUATION CARD.)

26 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)  
1. WOODHAM, A.A: 1954-6: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: VOL. 88: pp85 + 93  
2. DONATIONS, PURCHASES: 1931: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: VOL. 65: p412  
3. STEVENSON, R.B.K: 1955: PROCEEDINGS OF THE PREHISTORIC SOCIETY: VOL. 21: p286  
4. MCKAY, A: 19 : PRESS & JOURNAL  
5. SOC. ANT. SCOT: 1979: ARCH. SITES & MONS. OF THE BLACK ISLE: BCAHMS: p23: No. 162

27 GROUND PLAN NO.

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30 HR. AP. NO.

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45 RECORDER: DATE  
FJ: 11.2.1987

46 CHECK: DATE  
GS: 27.2.87

47 TEXT

"Implements of bone, stone and deer horn were recovered including a bone pin inset with amber and of post Roman date (3)"  
"Finds in the Nat. Mus. Ants. Scot."  
"Acc. No. HM 237"  
"See continuation card (i) for text & illustration."

By Mrs M'LEAN, Maryborough, Dingwall.

The archaeological collections formed by her late husband, Dr William M'Lean.

Collection of Objects of Stone, Bone, and Deer-horn from the Caird's Cave at Rosemarkie, Ross-shire, excavated by Dr M'Lean, assisted by Colonel Hall, Fortrose. Amongst the objects found is a unique Pin of Bone measuring  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in length; the head had been decorated with five small settings of amber, but only three now remain (fig. 4).



Fig. 4. Bone Pin with Amber Mounts (1).

Collection of Flint Implements from the neighbourhood of Dingwall and from the Black Isle, Ross-shire. The most of them were found within four miles of Fortrose.

(3)

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(5)