

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# FIELD MONUMENTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE	H	N	H	7	9	N	W	0	0	7	A
2 NGR	NH 74119945 CE										
3 QUAL											

4 DISTRICT SUTHERLAND	5 PARISH DORNOCH	6 SITE NAME CAIRN LIATH
7 AREA STATUS	8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED	9 REGIONAL STATUS
11 CONCORDANCE OS NH 79 NW 7 NMR	12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURES	13 DIMENSIONS c19.0m DIAM
10 GENERIC TYPE BURIAL CAIRN, CHAMBERED	14 PERIOD/DATE NE	15 DATING METHOD TYP
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS	17 CONDITION ROBBED	18 SHAPE CIRCULAR
		19 THREAT AND DATE
20 LAND USE HEATH = AFFORESTATION	21 GEOLOGY	22 SOILS
	23 VEGETATION	24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE
	25 RELIEF SHOULDER OF HILL	26 ASPECT N = E = SW
		27 ALTITUDE 160m = 168m OD

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)

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

1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1907: 6" MAP
2. HENSHALL, A.S.: 1963: CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND: EUP: VOL. 1: p332, No. 58, plan
3. RCAHMS: 1911: SUTHERLAND INVENTORY: HMSO: : p47, No. 134
4. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1873: OBJECT NAME BOOK: : 9: p118

**5. 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 AM: 4.6.1985	51 CHECK: DATE STAR: 17.6.1985
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52 TEXT "See over for text."

"NH 741 994. Carn Liath, cairn and chambered cairn 1200m WNW of Torboll."(5)

134. *Chambered Cairn, Torboll*.—On the summit of the hill, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. NW. of Torboll, is a large cairn known as "Carn Liath," which

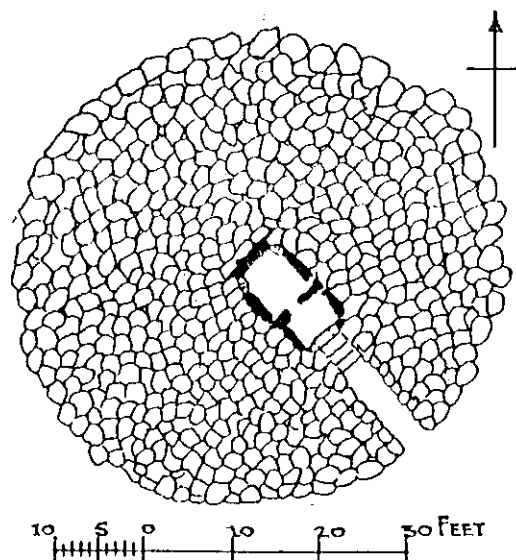


FIG. 18.—Chambered Cairn, Torboll (No. 134).

has been excavated and the chamber and passage cleared out. It is circular, with a diameter of about 60'. The chamber is entered by a passage from the SE., 14' 6" in length and about 2' 4" in width. Access is between two slabs, 1' 6" apart, covered by a lintel 3' long and 7" deep and 2' 6" above the floor level. The chamber is bipartite, divided by two slabs some 3" to 5" thick and some 2' 6" high and 2' 4" apart. The outer compartment is roughly rectangular, 4' 7" in length by 4' 3" in width. The inner one is polygonal, but not very markedly so, measuring 6' 2" in length by 5' 4" in width. The largest slab, which is on the NE., is 4' 5" long, and the greatest height in the interior to the top of the highest slab is 3' 6". The spaces between the slabs are filled with horizontal building. From the similarity of the curved surface at the upper extremities of the end slab and of that on the NE., they appear to be portions of the same boulder which has been split. The slabs are thinner than usual. At 7' in from the outer end of the passage are two upright stones opposite each other, 2' 2" high and 2' 5" apart (fig. 18).

(3)

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# ARTEFACTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT SUTHERLAND		5 PARISH DORNOCH		1 SITE CODE H N H 7 9 N W 0 0 7 B	
8 CONCORDANCE os NH 79 NW 7 NMR + NH 79 NE 37		9 MUSEUM/LOCATION OF FIND(S) DUNROBIN MUSEUM		10 ACCESSION NO. X 56	
13 FIND CIRCUMSTANCES EXCAVATION FROM CAIRN HNH 79 NW 007A		14 CONDITION		15 EXCAVATOR AND DATE	
17 LAND USE HEATH = AFFORESTATION		18 GEOLOGY		16 EXCAVATION RECORD NO.	
19 SOILS		20 VEGETATION		21 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE	
22 RELIEF SHOULDER OF HILL		23 ASPECT N = E = SW		24 ALTITUDE 160m = 168m OD	
25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION/DIMENSIONS					
26 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)					
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1873: OBJECT NAME BOOK: : 9: p118					
2. HENSHALL, A.S.: 1966: T.S. CATALOGUE OF DUNROBIN MUSEUM.					
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 AM: 4.6.1985	46 CHECK: DATE HAR: 17.6.1985

47 TEXT

"In 1860 when collecting stones from the cairn (HNH 79 NW 007A) a large stone cup with perforated handle was found in the cairn and is now deposited in the museum at Dunrobin Castle."  
(1)

"In Dunrobin Museum is a steatite bowl from Torboll (Acc.No.X 56) which may be the 'large stone cup with perforated handle' noted in the O.N.B., but the date of accession is unknown. It measures 6.7ins (170mm) in diameter and 3.4ins (86mm) high." (OSFI:NKB:15.10.1980)

"Steatite bowl, hemispherical but base worn flat with hole in centre, vertical projecting handle tapering towards base and perforated horizontally; diam. 6.7", height 3.4". From Torboll."  
(2)

CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND

58 TORBOLL  
 {CARN LIATH}  
 (O.-C., polygonal, round)  
 In the parish of  
 DORNOCH  
 Location on the S side of  
 STRATH FLEET  
 5½ m. W of  
 GOLSPIE  
 Map reference  
 NH741994  
 Sheet CIV SE; NH 79 NW  
 Inventory number 134  
 Reference  
 R.C.A.M. Inv. 47-48<sup>1</sup>  
 Plan by C.A.G. and A.S.H.  
 (fig. 71)  
 Visited 5.5.57

*Description.* The cairn is on the top of the hill at over 550ft. OD in an extensive area of knolly moorland, and has wide views in all directions except to the NW. The steep-sided cairn is of bare stones and has a diameter of 60ft.

(2)

The passage runs from the SE side and, according to Curle,<sup>1</sup> has been about 14ft. 6in. long. The line of the outer half is now seen as a hollow running through the cairn material but there is no sign of any walling. Seven feet from the chamber there is a pair of upright stones, 2ft. high and 2ft. 5in. apart. Behind them the passage narrows slightly. The S wall is entirely of dry walling, but most of the N wall is formed by a long slab with three courses of walling above. Two lintels remain across the inner end of the passage, 2ft. 6in. above the present floor level. The entrance into the chamber is between two projecting portal stones only 1ft. 6in. apart, 2ft. 3in. and 2ft. 6in. high. These slabs do not directly carry the lintel but each has a flat slab above it, that on the S projecting over the passage to help to support the lintel which is rather short.

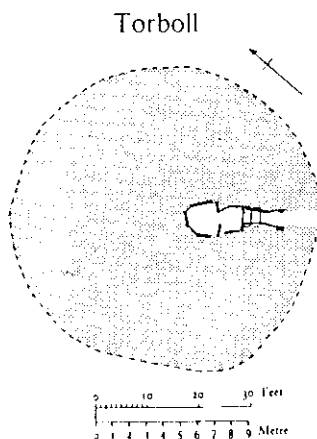
The chamber is complete except for the corbelled roof. The outer compartment is 4ft. 6in. long and 4ft. 3in. wide. On each side there is an upright slab, about the same height as the portal stones, but the wall has been carried up higher by dry building, three courses of which remain above each stone. Similar walling also completes the N side between the side slab and the transverse stone to the W which it completely masks.

The two stones which divide the chamber are slightly taller, that on the S being 3ft. high, and they are set 2ft. 4in. apart. The inner compartment is 6ft. 2in. long by 5ft. 4in. wide. The three upright stones in the walls are somewhat taller than the rest, the N slab being 2ft. 9in. high, the end-stone 2ft. 6in. high and the S slab 3ft. high. There is dry walling between them, and one or two courses remain above them. The end-stone is unusual in having a narrow base and a concave face so that the top edge is slightly curving into the chamber, the line being followed by the two oversailing courses of flat stones above.

The constructional stones are all thinner than usual, some only 3 to 5in. thick; they are rectangular in section with flat faces. The floor of the chamber is covered with debris and the walls must stand considerably higher than is apparent at present.

*Finds. Lost.*

The 6in. OS map records 'stone cup with perforated handle found here A.D. 1860'. Presumably unconnected with the use of the tomb. Not illustrated.



(NH 7411 9945) Càrn Liath (NR) (Chambered Cairn) (NR)  
 Stone Cup with perforated handle  
 found A.D. 1860 (NAT)

(1)

Torboll (Càrn Liath): A round chambered cairn. The steep-sided cairn is of bare stones and has a diameter of 60 ft. The line of the outer half of the passage is seen as a hollow running through the cairn material. The chamber is complete except for the roof.

In 1860 when collecting stones from this cairn a large stone cup with perforated handle was found in this cairn and is now deposited in the museum at Dunrobin Castle.

(3)

A large chambered cairn, generally as described above. It measures about 19.0 m in diameter and has an average height of about 2.3 m. The passage and chamber are well-defined.

(OSFI:WDJ:7.4.1964)

Càrn Liath, a chambered cairn, as described and planned by Miss Henshall, now preserved in a clearing in a forestry plantation.

(OSFI:NKB:15.10.1980)

In Dunrobin Museum is a steatite bowl from Torboll (Acc No: X 56) which may be the 'large stone cup with perforated handle' noted in the O N B, but the date of accession is not known. It measures 6.7 ins in diameter and 3.4 ins high.

(see HNH 79 NW 007 B)