

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT SUTHERLAND		5 PARISH DORNOCH		1 SITE CODE H N H 7 9 S E 0 0 3		2 NGR N H 7 7 1 2 9 2 5 8 C E		3 QUAL			
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS		9 REGIONAL STATUS		6 SITE NAME P R O N C Y C A S T L E					
11 CONCORDANCE Os NH 79 SE 3 NMR		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE		13 DIMENSIONS		10 GENERIC TYPE CASTLE					
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION INCOMPLETE		14 PERIOD/DATE LM		15 DATING METHOD TYP					
20 LAND USE LAND BUILT UPON		21 GEOLOGY		18 SHAPE		19 THREAT AND DATE					
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF KNOLL ON RIDGE		26 ASPECT S		27 ALTITUDE 105=110m OD	
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)											
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)											
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1906: 6" MAP. 2. BENTINCK REV. C.D.: 1926: DORNOCH CATHEDRAL & PARISH: : pp430-2. 3. RCAHMS: 1911: SUTHERLAND INVENTORY: HMSO: : p52 No 152.											
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: 28.5.1985.		51 CHECK: DATE Am: 11.6.1985			
52 TEXT "See over for text."											

(NH 7712 9258) Froncy Castle (NR)
(remains of)

(1).

(2) (3).

The remains of a small stone tower erected on a motte. The motte, scooped from a natural mound varies from 12' to 15' above the ridge to the south from which it has been isolated by a ditch of which distinct traces remain. The surface area of the mound is about 100' in diameter. Round the edge remains of a stone wall crop out at intervals, with traces of buildings on its inner side, and within this is a raised area about 20' broad extending all round the enceinte with occasional traces of walling on the inner side. The entrance to the motte seems to be indicated by a gap about 18' wide in the rampart of the south side with a sunk path leading diagonally up the mound.

The foundations of the tower, rectangular and shell-mortared lie in the centre of the motte and measure about 20' NE-SW by 12', and possibly 5' thick. Several detached portions of massive, grouted masonry lie to the south of the tower. The foundations are now turf-covered.

(OSFI:ES:2.3.1971).

Froncy Castle formed part of the lands granted by Hugo Freskyn to Gilbert de Moravia c 1211. Froncy Castle, the turf-covered foundations of a tower surmounting an earlier motte, as described by Simpson.

(OSFI:AA:24.3.1971).

The summit of the motte is level and near circular measuring c 34.0m in diameter.

The stone wall around it does not appear to conform to the rim, but insufficient is visible to determine its plan. In the SE sector at the base of the mound are traces of an angular corner, and there are indications that the wall continued W from it, on a near straight alignment, up the slope to join an exposed section c. 5.0m long and c. 0.4m high immediately to the E of the alleged entrance. This section is dry built of carefully laid small flat slabs, and may be part of a barmkin contemporary with the tower. Quarrying has destroyed any details of the entrance. It is uncertain what the raised area around the enceinte represents. It varies in width from about 5.0m to about 7.5m, and it is possible that it is merely a result of the quarrying which has mutilated the area around the tower. The walling noted by Simpson on its inner side and the traces of buildings noted by RCAHM are not now evident. The ditch on the S is now scarcely visible and it cannot be ascertained if it ever surrounded the motte which is protected in the E & W by dry valleys.