

DOWSING INVESTIGATION OF THE HILTON OF CADBOLL SITE  
CARRIED OUT ON 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 1996, by D. L. BATES of FYVIE,  
and Mrs JANE DURHAM of SCOTSBURN.

AIM:- To discover, without disturbing the site, the exact location of the Plinth and missing base-portion of the Hilton of Cadboll Stone, and any additional information about the site and its environs.

Method:- Dowsing techniques are ideally suited to this type of sensitive investigation where excavation is not possible until a later stage.

- 1) I, (D. BATES) was familiarised with all available information on the history of the Hilton of Cadboll site, and the stone in particular.
- 2) With reference to the 1:2500 O/S Map and a 1:1773 scale aerial photograph - a 1:500 scale map was prepared, for the purpose of remote dowsing; and recording findings on-site. Walls and mounds are represented by hatching to give an approximation of their relative relief.

Results:- \* Map-dowsing for the original location of the stone indicated that it stood in the immediate vicinity of the West gable of the Chapel -

- \* Dowsing on photographs of the Stone; indicated a carving date of 736 AD
- \* Dowsing on-site - for the location of the fallen Stone before it was removed to Invergordon, indicated a position marked X -
- \* Dowsing for the location of the Plinth, indicated repeatedly and unequivocally, the position delineated by a rectangle on the map (Two small wooden laths were pushed horizontally into the turf, to mark the ends of this rectangle).
- \* The missing portion of the stone is thought to be still mounted in the plinth at this location.
- \* Other-dowsing on-site - suggests the existence of human remains in two mounds; one to the North of the enclosure, named "North mound", and the other is the extreme Western corner of the site. (Not represented on the map but referred to as West mound. The West mound may also contain artefacts, and my impression is that it may be the grave of a prominent person, as it occupies a commanding geographically central location in relation to the whole bay area.
- \* Some features were dated by dowsing - giving 724 AD for the West mound; 736 AD for the walls and enclosure; 746 AD for the North mound; and 844 AD for the Chapel.

\* Other interesting shapes are revealed on the aerial photograph, particularly - a distinct circular form beside the cable grid at the entrance to the site.

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HILTON of CARROLL - 1:500 (approx)  
D.C. BATES 11-12-96

North mound

Extended sand mound

(rabbit burrows)

apex fence line

CHAPEL

slightly elevated sandy area (rabbits)

West mound

incised base

wall

