

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE H N M 4 6 S E C O 2		2 NGR N M 4 7 3 3 6 3 1 3 C E		3 QUAL	
4 DISTRICT LOCHABER		5 PARISH ARDNAMURCHAN		6 SITE NAME C A I S T A L D U B H *	
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED		9 REGIONAL STATUS	
11 CONCORDANCE OS NM 46 SE 2		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE		13 DIMENSIONS 5.5m x 4.6m	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION RUINED		10 GENERIC TYPE CASTLE, TOWERHOUSE	
20 LAND USE BACKSHORE		21 GEOLOGY		14 PERIOD/DATE LM(16th-17thc.)	
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		15 DATING METHOD TYP	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF SUMMIT OF SMALL ROCKY KNOLL		26 ASPECT SE	
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)		27 ALTITUDE 0 = 10m O.D.		18 SHAPE	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)		30 GROUND PLAN NO.		31 GROUND PHOTO NO.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1974: 1/10,000 MAP ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1902: 6" MAP DONALDSON, M.E.M.: 1920: WANDERINGS IN THE W HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS: p400 RCAHMS: 1980: ARGYLL INVENTORY: VOL. 3: p190: NO. 336 PLAN ILLUSTR: NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: 1845: p147 		32 SLIDES NO.		33 HR. AP. NO.	
36 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION		34 NMR. AP. NO.		35 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE	
37 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY		38 SAMPLES		42 MUSEUM/LOCATION	
39 PALYNOLOGY		40 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.		43 OTHER	
41 SMALL FINDS		44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER		45 ATTITUDE OF OWNER	
43 OTHER		46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT		47 ATTITUDE OF TENANT	
48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS		49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE		50 RECORDER: DATE AFM: 18.8.1986	
52 TEXT				51 CHECK: DATE SM: 20.8.1986	

"NM 4733 6313. Caisteal Dubh nan Ciar (NAT)" (1)
 "Caisteal Dubh nan Ciar (NR)" (2)

"Caisteal Dubh nan Ciar (name confirmed locally) is of uncertain purpose, but it is probably a fisherman's hut or store of no great age, as the adjacent gully is entirely suited as a boat noost." (OSFI:NKB:5.6.1970)

"See over card for text and plan of (4)"

6. " * 'Caistal Dubh Nan Cliar' NM 4733 6313."

336. Caistal Dubh nan Cliar, Kilchoan. This building (Pl. 49b) occupies the summit of a small rocky knoll immediately above the NW foreshore of Kilchoan Bay. The structure is now extremely ruinous and its original form is uncertain, but it probably comprised a small two-storeyed tower of irregular plan (Fig. 215) measuring about 5.5 m from NW to SE by 4.6 m transversely. Beneath the SW portion of the tower a chamber has been formed by enclosing an overhanging lip of rock with a wall of masonry on three sides. This chamber measures about 3.1 m by 2.2 m and the roof,

(4)

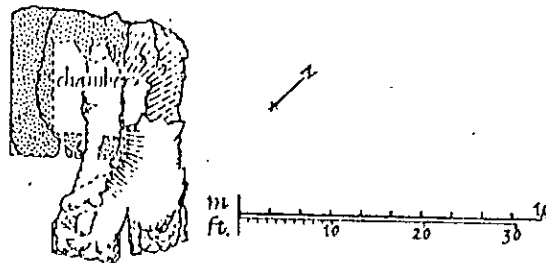


Fig. 215. Caistal Dubh nan Cliar, Kilchoan (No. 336); plan

which comprises slab-lintels supported on corbel-courses, rises to a height of about 1.8 m. In the SE wall there are the remains of a rebated entrance-doorway, which appears to have been secured by a draw-bar. All the masonry is of random rubble bound together by coarse lime-mortar.

The age of this building is uncertain, but it may tentatively be ascribed to the 16th or 17th century. It seems too small to have been a permanent residence, and it is possible that it served as an outpost of Mingary Castle (No. 345), securing the anchorage in Kilchoan Bay. In 1838 it was described as 'the remains of a very small tower, dignified by the name of "Castial due nan Cliar", the black Castle of the Minstrels'.³