

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE									
H	N	M	6	8	S	W	0	0	1

2 NGR		3 QUAL									
N	M	6	1	2	4	8	3	5	1	C	E

6 SITE NAME													
E	I	L	E	A	N	M	U	R	R	A	C	H	*

10 GENERIC TYPE									
NIL ANTIQUITY (ALLEGED FORT)									

14 PERIOD/DATE					15 DATING METHOD				
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18 SHAPE									
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19 THREAT AND DATE									
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20 LAND USE									
HEATH									

21 GEOLOGY									
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22 SOILS									
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23 VEGETATION									
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24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE					25 RELIEF					26 ASPECT					27 ALTITUDE				
					ISLAND SUMMIT					360°					5' = 10m O.D.				

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)									
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29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)									
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1. McHARDY, A. B.: 1906: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT: VOL. 40: p148
2. CHILDE, V. G.: 1946: SCOTLAND BEFORE THE SCOTS: : p135, No. 33
3. COTTON, M. A.: 1954: ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNAL: 111: p75
4. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1973: 1/10,000 MAP

30 GROUND PLAN NO.					31 GROUND PHOTO NO.				
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32 SLIDES NO.					33 HR. AP. NO.				
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34 NMR. AP. NO.					35 OTHER AP. NO. : SOURCE				
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36 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION									
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37 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY					38 SAMPLES				
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39 PALYNOLOGY					40 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.				
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41 SMALL FINDS								42 MUSEUM/LOCATION			
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43 OTHER									
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44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER										45 ATTITUDE OF OWNER				
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46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT										47 ATTITUDE OF TENANT				
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48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS									
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49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE						50 RECORDER: DATE			51 CHECK: DATE		
I						AFM: 26.8.1986			SS: 1.9.1986		

52 TEXT									
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"Both Childe and Cotton report this as a vitrified fort. No plan or description of it has been traced. (3)

"There is no trace of any vitrification or structure on Eilean Port nam Muirach, a conical islet with an uneven summit measuring c.16.0m by c. 10.0m." (OSFI:NKB:1.6.1970)

"On the NE slopes are masses of small stones which look like tumble from a wall, when seen from a distance, but are in fact natural."

"NM 6124 8351, Eilean Port Nam Murrach" (4)

"See continuation card for text (1) (5)."

6. " * Full name is 'Eilean Port Nam Murrach'."

At the mouth of Loch Ailort, on a small island, stands the double fort of Eilean nan Gobhar. This island is close to the shore on the south. These two forts are in view of each other; but, if they were to some extent to be used for sentinels, it is evident that they could give little notice of a fleet from the north, as the north side of the sound is covered by the projecting headland which ends in Rhu Arisaig. But, on making close inquiry, I found that there were vitrified remains on an island near the north-west angle of the sound called Eilean na Ghoil. There is on this island a fine example of the raised beaches so common on the west coast. On the top are remains of a fort with sporadic vitrification, and on the low beach other traces of vitrification. The places in both cases are more or less triangular. From this point the forts at Ard Ghaungail and Eilean nan Gobhar are visible, but there is a very limited sea-view to the north. Further inquiry was made, and an islet called Eilean Port na Muirach was ultimately found with vitrification on the top, whence a fine open view was got of the sea from Ardnamurchan to the Sound of Sleat. Thus, then, there could have been telegraphic communication by smoke or fire to the valleys at the mouths of the Lochs nan Uamh and Ailort of a ship rounding Ardnamurchan Head from the south, or coming down the Sound of Sleat from the north. Now, while on no system of defence would it have been reasonable to isolate a small garrison on Eilean na Ghoil, and while in the case of Eilean Port na Muirach there was no space for a fort or garrison, these islands provided a perfect system for warning the inhabitants of the valleys round the Sound of Arisaig and its eastern lochs of the approach of an enemy, and this, I suggest, was their purpose.

(1)