

## HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



## FIELD MONUMENTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE																					
H		N		D		3		5		N		W		0		0		3		A	
2 NGR		H		N		D		3		5		N		W		0		0		3	
N		D		3		2		3		4		5		6		5		5		CE	
3 QUAL																					
6 SITE NAME																					
K I L M S T E R B R O C H																					

4 DISTRICT				5 PARISH				6 SITE NAME			
CAITHNESS				WICK				K I L M S T E R B R O C H			
7 AREA STATUS				8 SITE STATUS				9 REGIONAL STATUS			
				SCHEDULED							
11 CONCORDANCE				12 FORM				13 DIMENSIONS			
OS ND35NW3				SITE OF				c19.2m EXTERNAL DIAMETER			
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS				17 CONDITION				18 SHAPE			
				DESTROYED				BROCH			
14 PERIOD/DATE				15 DATING METHOD				19 THREAT AND DATE			
A				TYP							

20 LAND USE				21 GEOLOGY											
ENCLOSED LAND															
22 SOILS				23 VEGETATION											
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE				25 RELIEF				26 ASPECT				27 ALTITUDE			
				LEVEL GROUND				360°				25=30m OD			

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)			
1. TRESS BARRY, F:1901:PARTIAL:UNSCIENTIFIC			
2. CALDER, CST:5.1940:FULL:SCIENTIFIC			
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)			
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY:1907:6" MAP			
2. ORDNANCE SURVEY:1974:1/10,000 MAP			
3. CALDER, CST:1950 :PROC.SOC.ANT.SCOT.:VOL.82:pp124-5			
4. (DONATIONS):1908-9:PROC.SOC.ANT.SCOT.:VOL.43:p18			
5. RCAHMS:1911:CAITHNESS INVENTORY:HMSO:p146,No.507			
6. ORDNANCE SURVEY:1906:25" MAP			
7. 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	
BONE NEEDLE(HD 431)+BONE BOVER(HD 432)+POT(GA 908)		RMS(QUEEN ST)	
43 OTHER			
Ass. Decs.			

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				51 CHECK: DATE			
				MWC:9.4.1986				PB:13.5.1986			

52 TEXT			
"See continuation cards for text, illustration (5), map (6) and folder for excavation report (3)."			

"ND 323 565 NORTH KILLIMSTER, BROCH 1050M NNW OF" (7)

(ND 3234 5655) Brough (1)  
 Broch (site of) (2)

In 1940 this broch was destroyed to allow the construction of an aerodrome. Prior to this it had appeared as a grass-covered knoll about 150 ft in diameter and 9 ft high. It had been partially excavated in 1904 by Sir Francis Tréss Barry, when only the W half of the tower was exposed. A second excavation was carried out by Calder in 1940, immediately preceding destruction.

The broch had consisted of a round tower, encircled by a strong defensive rampart, with a wide, shallow ditch outside. Originally circular in shape, the tower had been built with walls some 15 ft thick and an average external diameter of 62 ft 6 ins. The entrance had been on the W with a guard chamber built into the thickness of the wall off the S side of the passage. From the inner wall face thirteen compartments were arranged radially around the inside of the tower, the divisions consisting of thin stone slabs set on edge. Structurally it would appear that these compartments were later than the broch and possibly early improvements.

Sherds of some twenty vessels were discovered, some of them resembling pottery from the lower levels at Traprain Law. In 1904 a bone needle was also found on this site. Other relics found during the 1940 excavation include a saddle quern, several grain rubbers, dishes, knocking stones, pivot stones, anvils, tether stones, pot lids, pounders and smoothing stones, a pestle and a whorl. Also parts of circular querns of post-Roman date. Fragments of human remains found indicated an individual of rather small stature.

Finds from the 1904 excavation in the N M A S include a bone needle (HD 431), a bone borer (HD 432), a pot (GA 908) and possibly two whorls, one of sandstone and one of steatite, donated to the N M A S in 1908. (3)(4)(5)

There are no remains of the broch to be seen. (OSFI:RDL:22.4.1963)  
 Published survey (1:2500) revised.

There is no trace of this broch. (OSFI:JM:14.7.1982)  
 "ND 3234 56 55 Brough." (6)

*RECOMMENDED FOR DE-SCHEDULING, 6/5/1988 (HRA:RAG:6.5.1988).*

507. *Broch, Kilmster*.—Situated on arable land from which it is railed off, 800 m. SE. of Skitten croft at Kilmster, is a broch. The green hillock which conceals its ruins was, in part, excavated by the late Sir Francis Tress Barry in 1904, and about one half of the inner face of the wall on either side of the entrance has been exposed. The broch is much ruined, and the shaley stones of which it is built are rapidly disintegrating. The entrance has been from the W. by N. through a passage some 4.7 m in length, and 0.7 m in width at the outside. At 1.03 m inwards is a rebate for a door formed by the widening of the passage to 1.03 m and a sill projects for a height of 0.4 m across the floor. At 0.55 m in rear of the door checks on the right side is the entrance

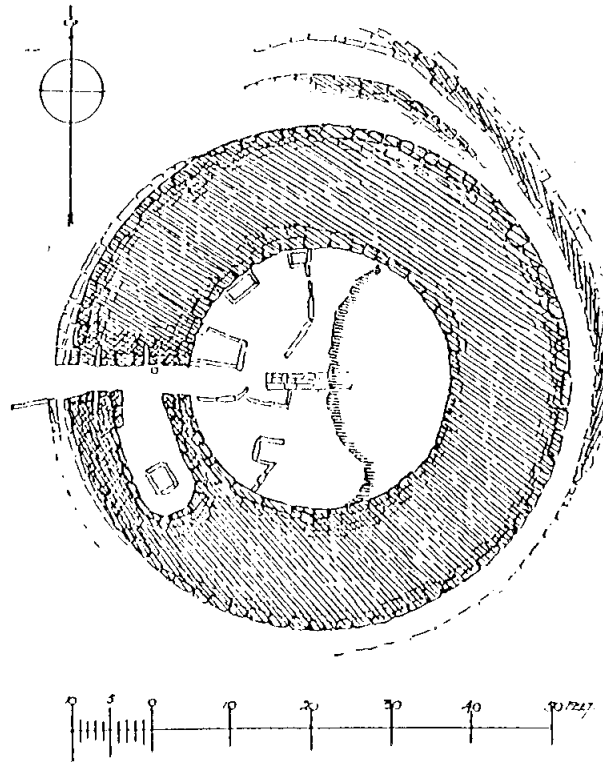


FIG. 35.—Broch, Kilmster (No. 507); Ground-plan.

to a guard chamber which has measured some 4.7 m in length, and 1.48 m at greatest width, of which the inner or left side of the wall adjacent to the passage is now gone. The diameter of the interior of the broch has been some 10.2 m. The greatest height of wall visible in the interior is 1.5 m and the thickness of the wall at this level is 4.53 m. The greatest height of wall visible in the passage is 1.3 m. The passage roof and also that of the guard chamber are wanting. Within the interior, to the left of the entrance, is an enclosure formed of upright slabs, the one side of which is in line with the left wall of the passage. It is 1.43 m in length, 1.36 m in breadth against the wall of the broch, and 1.0 m at the opposite end. A similar enclosure seems to have existed on the opposite side of the entrance, and a number of displaced slabs round to the left in the interior imply the existence of others. Immediately opposite the entrance in the interior, and some 3.0 m inwards, a portion of building is exposed: the side in line with the right wall of the main passage visible for 0.7 m of its length, and the return facing the entrance uncovered for a shorter distance. At 3.7 m to the left of the entrance on the face of the wall in the interior, 1.06 m above present ground level, is a recess some 0.15 m square at the outside, extending inwards for 0.36 m and diminishing in size. There is no sign of a scarcement. On excavation it was found that a clay rampart, at highest 3.0 m in height, encircled the broch revetted on the inner side with a stone wall some 0.4 m distant from the tower. This wall remains visible towards the N. and appears to curve inwards from the NW. In front of the rampart was a ditch some 15.4 m wide. A plan made by Mr John Nicolson, Nybster, at the time of the excavation is here reproduced (fig. 35).

O.S.M., CAITH., xix.

Visited, 3rd June 1910.

