

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE		H N G 9 7 S W 0 0 5	
2 NGR		N G 9 3 4 7 2 6 LO	
3 QUAL		LO	
4 DISTRICT		ROSS & CROMARTY	
5 PARISH		GAIRLOCH	
6 SITE NAME		P O R T A N A O I L	
7 AREA STATUS		SSSI	
8 SITE STATUS		DOCUMENTS ONLY	
9 REGIONAL STATUS		INDUSTRIAL WORKING, MINE, GOLD	
10 CONCORDANCE		OS NG 97 SW 5	
11 FORM		DOCUMENTS ONLY	
12 DIMENSIONS		NOT LOCATED LO A 120	
13 PERIOD/DATE		LM	
14 DATING METHOD		DOC	
15 SHAPE		THREAT AND DATE	
16 LAND USE		WOODLAND	
17 GEOLOGY		KNOLL ON STEEP HILLSLOPE	
18 SOILS		ASPECT SW	
19 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		ALTITUDE 0 = 30m OD	
20 RELIEF		21 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	
22 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)		23 GROUND PLAN NO.	
24 DIXON, J.H: 1886: GAIRLOCH, p344		25 GROUND PHOTO NO.	
25 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		26 SLIDES NO.	
26 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		27 HR. AP. NO.	
27 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		28 NM. AP. NO.	
28 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		29 OTHER AP. NO. : SOURCE	
29 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		30 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION	
30 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		31 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY	
31 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		32 SAMPLES	
32 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		33 PALYNOLOGY	
33 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		34 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.	
34 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		35 SMALL FINDS	
35 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		36 MUSEUM/LOCATION	
36 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		37 OTHER	
37 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		38 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER	
38 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		39 ATTITUDE OF OWNER	
39 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		40 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT	
40 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		41 ATTITUDE OF TENANT	
41 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		42 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS	
42 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		43 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE	
43 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		44 RECORDER: DATE	
44 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		45 CHECK: DATE	
45 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		46 AS: 21.10.1985	
46 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		47 MC: 29.10.1985	
47 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		48 TEXT	
48 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		49 "See over card for text of (1)."	
49 : : NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : APPENDIX E		50 "The wooded knoll is centred on NG 934726; no cave was found." (OSFI:EGC:2.10.1964)	

On a wooded knoll opposite Isle Maree is an artificial cave, called Uamh an Oir, or "the cave of gold," about forty yards from the margin of the loch. It is an old excavation, made by searchers for the precious metal, which is said to have been found there but in unremunerative quantity. Dr Cochran-Patrick, in his "Early Records relating to Mining in Scotland," gives many interesting facts on the subject of gold mining. Gilbert de Moravia is said to have discovered gold at Durness in Sutherland in 1245. The Scottish Parliament granted to the Crown in 1424 all the gold mines in Scotland. Gold mines were commenced on Crawford Moor during the reign of James IV., about 1511. During the minority of James VI. Cornelius de Vois, a Dutchman, obtained in 1567 a license from the Regent Murray to work gold and silver for nineteen years in any part of Scotland. Cornelius de Vois had several partners who held shares in the adventure. The gold is said to have been found by them principally in the glens and valleys. This "cave of gold" may have been made by them. Many later attempts were made to find gold as well as silver. There is nothing whatever to shew when the search which resulted in the formation of the "cave of gold" took place. According to the New Statistical Account (Appendix E), this excavation was made by some one seeking a vein of silver, and several old people now living say the same, but the name "cave of gold" seems to connect it with the more precious metal.