

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD



1 SITE CODE	H	N	H	7	7	N	W	0	2	1
2 NGR	N	H	7	2	1	8	7	6	7	9
3 QUAL	CE									
6 SITE NAME	SCOTSBURN WOOD*									
10 GENERIC TYPE	BURIAL CAIRN, RECTANGULAR, CHAMBERED (OCH)									
14 PERIOD/DATE	NE = BA					15 DATING METHOD TYP				
16 SHAPE										
19 THREAT AND DATE										

4 DISTRICT	ROSS & CROMARTY		5 PARISH	LOGIE EASTER	
7 AREA STATUS	8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED		9 REGIONAL STATUS		
11 CONCORDANCE OS NH77NW5 NMR	12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE		13 DIMENSIONS c18.40m		
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS			17 CONDITION MUTILATED		
20 LAND USE AFFORESTATION			21 GEOLOGY		
22 SOILS			23 VEGETATION		
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE			25 RELIEF HILL TERRACE		26 ASPECT S
					27 ALTITUDE 175=183m OD

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)

29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)

1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1907: 6" MAP
2. WATSON, WJ: 1904: PLACE NAMES OF ROSS & CROMARTY: :p60 + Lxxxlii
3. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1873: OBJECT NAME BOOK: 25: 24
4. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1975: 1/10,000 MAP
5. HENSHALL, AS: 1972: CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND: EDINBURGH U.P: VOL. 2: p569 + PLAN
6. HBM(SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS
7. SOC. ANT. SCOT: 1979: ARCH. SITES & MONS. OF EASTER ROSS: RCAHMS: p9, No. 23

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

43 OTHER

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
GS: 31.10.198651 CHECK: DATE
FS 20

52 TEXT

"NH 721 767, Scotsburn wood, Chambered cairn, 550m NNE of Scotsburn House." (6)

"See continuation card for text and plan, & supplemented text on the six cairns in this area."

6. " * Full name is 'Scotsburn Wood West'."(5)

E: (NH 7218 7679) Cairn

(1)

ROS 48
SCOTSHURN WOOD
WEST
(O.-C., rectangular)
Parish Logie Easter
Location 1/2 m. w of Scotsburn
Wood East
Map reference NH 721767
Sheet L1V NW; NH 77 NW
Plan by A.S.H. and J.C.W.
Visited 5.7.67

Description. The cairn is within the Forestry Commission plantation, at a little under 600 ft OD. The cairn material had been almost completely removed before the remains were ploughed through and planted. The diameter seems to have been about 60 ft.

Most of the large stones which formed the chamber walls survive. The entrance has been from the ESE. A pair of split slabs, about 10 ft within the apparent edge of the cairn, form the portals leading into a short passage. They project 1 ft 4 in., and are set 2 ft apart, slightly askew so that their inner ends point up the passage. The stone on the N side of the passage remains. The passage, 4 ft 6 in. long, is divided from the chamber by a second pair of transverse stones. These stones, set 2 ft 4 in. apart, are of similar height, now exposed for 1 ft 5 in. and 1 ft 9 in., the passage stone being very slightly lower. The N transverse stone is a considerable boulder, up to 1 ft 10 in. thick.

The chamber was about 15 ft long, divided into two compartments by a pair of low but massive divisional stones, exposed for 4 and 8 in. The lintel which had rested on these stones has fallen to the w, the present flat E edge having been the lower surface. The lintel measures 7 ft 11 in. long, 2 ft 5 in. deep (former width), and 2 ft wide (former thickness). One stone remains on the S side of the outer compartment.

The inner compartment is defined by three stones. That on the N side is about 2 ft 6 in. taller than the divisional stones, but the S side stone is considerably lower than the N slab, and the w end, which slopes down, is hidden at present. The back-slab is 6 ft 7 in. in total height, 3 ft wide, and 1 ft 6 in. thick. It has recently fallen forwards, and three vertical faces of its socket were quite fresh at the time of our visit. The section suggests that the stone was set about 1 ft into the subsoil. At the present ground level a horizontal slab is visible, set with a straight edge to abut the back-slab. Over most of the chamber there is about 2 ft of debris, but in the inner compartment a deep hole, going below ground level, has been dug and has caused the fall of the back-slab.

Under the back-slab a slab lies displaced, probably fallen from the upper surface of the S side slab. The fallen slab measures 3 ft long, 2 ft wide and 9 in. thick.

The inner compartment is 6 ft 6 in. wide, and the outer compartment was presumably of a similar size. The back-slab was not nearly wide enough to fill the w end of the chamber and support the side slabs directly.

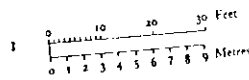
(5)

Scotsburn Wood West, ROS 48



(5)

"NH 7218 7679. Chambered Cairn (remains of)."(4)



Cairn "D" (NH 7260 7687) lies in the Forestry plantation, 550' above sea level on a S-facing hillside. It has been c. 50' in diameter and the remains are 3' to 4' high. (168m)
(15.4m)(0.9m)
(1.2m)

Many of the orthostats of a chamber or passage can be identified, their tops, generally, level with the remains of the cairn. The entrance has been from the WNW c. 13' within the present edge of the cairn. The passage is 10'6" long and the chamber entrance 1'9" wide, The chamber, c. 14'6" long, has two compartments divided by a pair of transverse slabs with an entry between them. (4.1m)
(3.4m)(0.5m)
(4.5m)

Cairn "E" (NH 7218 7679) is in the Forestry plantation a little under 600' above sea level. The cairn material had been almost completely removed before the remains were ploughed through and planted. The diameter seems to have been c. 60'. (18.4m)

Most of the large stones which formed the chamber walls survive. The entrance was from the ESE. A pair of split slabs c. 10' within the apparent edge of the cairn form the entrance to a short passage 4'6" long which is divided from the chamber by a pair of transverse stones set 2'4" apart. (3.0m)
(1.4m)

The chamber was c. 15' long, divided into two compartments by a pair of low massive stones. The lintel which had rested on these stones has fallen to the W. One stone remains on the S side of the outer compartment. The inner compartment, 6'6" wide, is defined by three stones, the back-slab having recently fallen forward. (0.6m)
(4.7m)
(2.0m)

(FROM HENSHALL, VOL. 2. APPLIES TO SITES 020 AND 021)

Cairn A: Not located.

Cairn B: No trace.

Cairn C: 15.5m in diameter and 1.2m high, truncated in the S by a forestry road. The centre has been partially removed but there is no trace of a chamber.

"D", sub-circular, measuring c. 15.5m NW-SE by c. 14.0m transversely, and 1.2m high. The dug-out centre shows one or two slabs of an Orkney-Cromarty chamber, entered from the SE, which is mainly obscured by debris.

"E" has probably measured about 15.0m in diameter, but most of the cairn has been removed, leaving exposed the orthostats of an Orkney-Cromarty chamber entered from the SE. Projecting NW from each end of the back slab are two more slabs on edge which appear to be the remains of a secondary chamber.

Cairn F: no trace. (OSFI: A A:14.3.1973.)

Re-surveyed at 1:2500.

- A: (NH 7304 7644) Cairn HNH 77 NW 005
 B: (NH 7300 7649) Cairn HNH 77 NW 018
 C: (NH 7282 7673) Cairn H NH 77 NW 019
 D: (NH 7260 7687) Cairn HNH 77 NW 020
 E: (NH 7218 7679) Cairn HNH 77 NW 021
 F: (NH 7220 7669) Site of Cairn HNH 77 NW 022 (1)

Càrn nam Marbh (Dead Men's Cairn): This cairn and those in Scotsburn Wood are almost certain to mark the site of a battle. Neighbouring names are: "Lochan a' Chlaidheimh" - Sword Lochlet, and Bearnas a' Chlaidheimh" - Sword Cleft. (2)

. . . traditionally said to indicate an ancient battle between some Scottish forces and the Danes. (3)

In the area centred NH 7261 7667 on the S-facing slopes of Beirn an Lochain are, or have been, six cairns in the positions given. All are in an area that has been fairly recently reafforested.

Cairn A is a heather-covered mound 11.0m in diameter with a maximum height of 2.0m on the W. It has been ploughed and planted with young firs but this has at least served to show the stony content of the mound.

There are no remains of cairn B.

Cairn C is 13.0m N-S and has a fairly level top now of bare stone. The perimeter is covered (heather) except on the S side where the cairn is now skirted by a forestry road. The greatest height of the cairn is 1.0m.

Cairn D is 14.0m in diameter and has a maximum height of 1.2m. It consists of bare stone and just W of its centre a large slab stands on edge which together with a few other large stones nearby may form or have formed part of a chamber or cist. Any such feature is at present, however, obscured by the abundance of smaller rubble.

Cairn E has been much mutilated by ploughing and tree planting. It appears to have been 16.0m in diameter and is now generally level with the ground. In the centre of the cairn, four large slabs, one of which has fallen, form the NW end of a chamber 5.5m long and 3.0m wide, aligned NW-SE. The largest of these stones is set across the chamber, dividing it into two compartments. A passage 0.8m wide and 2.0m long can be discerned at the SE end marked by four stones, two set on each side.

There are no remains of cairn F.

No further information concerning the battle tradition.

(OSFI: RDL: 17.5.1963.)