



Illustration of the intended “Caithness Broch”, a full-on reconstruction of one of the two-thousand year old housing structures that once abounded in Iron Age Scotland.

Something Magical is afoot in Scotland these days.....

And you can help!

Right up there with the other two most enduring mysteries of Scotland (those being *what happened to “Charley’s Gold”*; and what were the Neolithic carved stone ‘balls’ found across northern Scotland, the Hebrides, Orkney, Northern Ireland, and Shetland used for?) are the “Broch’s” that once dotted the Scottish landscape.

Made of laid stone (no mortar used), these massive towers often reached estimated heights of between 13 and 17 metres and were often more than 20 metres across at their bases. Some included several smaller structures clustered around their bases that have been interpreted by the archaeologists as having been individual housing and storage units that comprised a sort of small “village” that may have been home to as many as thirty families. (like the *Broch of Gurness* on Orkney). Many also had an excavated ditch that encircled the outside of the outer wall with parapets.

The entire structure virtually screams, “*DEFENSE*”. And yet, at not one single site has there ever been any sort of evidence found of strife or warfare. No human remains showing signs of death by conflict. No artifactual weapons, shields, projectile points (what archaeologists call those pointy things that once were affixed to shafts and either thrown as *spears* or shot as *arrows*) or other signs that the place was ever attacked by an outside force or internal enemy. It’s a mystery that intrigues on a lot of levels.

Today, a dedicated group of folks based out of offices in Thurso, Caithness, are seeing to build a full-sized replica of one of these Iron Age masterpieces of Scottish engineering to become an educational and destination visitors center for the public at large and researchers into ancient Scotland.



Cut-away illustration of the proposed "Caithness Broc." by Bob Marshall.

And you can help them to do that.

Please visit the website at www.thebrochproject.co.uk for more detailed information, progress reports; and, to view their videos and interactive illustrations. I think you will find it fascinating and something well worth considering for a possible donation.

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Broch Ambassador – North America

