

## HIGHLAND KIRKYARDS: Ross and Cromarty Pilot Project



1. Name of Kirkyard: Brahan Castle, Angel Statue  
(From HER)

2. National Grid Reference: NH 5140 5442

3. Civil Parish: Urray

4. Description: Situated within the Brahan Estate, this site consists of a dog cemetery and the Seaforth Burial Enclosure.

The dog cemetery is surrounded by thick bushes on all sides. It consists of three rows of small, uniform, upright gravestones, two at right angles to each other, with the third a few metres away. There are two other stones which do not form part of these rows. All of the gravestones mark dog burials from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Most record the names and dates of the dogs. A stone notable for its inscription reads: 'In memory of Cruiser. For 15 years the faithful friend and companion of Colonel Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth. He accompanied the 9<sup>th</sup> Lancers throughout the Afghan Campaigns 1878-79-80, including the march from Kabul to Kandahar. Born 1878, Died 1893.'

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5. Setting: The site is surrounded by a wooded area with trees on all sides and is perched atop a small hill. It is found on the Brahan Castle Estate and there are many walking paths which run through the woods in this area. The bushes and trees which enclose the site create a very special, restive atmosphere.

### 6. Designations and Significance:

The Seaforth burial enclosure and the dog cemetery are listed as architectural elements of the designed landscape of Brahan Estate on Historic Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. The dog cemetery is unusual and the Angel statue is quite striking.

Scheduled Ancient Monument

Listed Building

### 7. Elements:

Boundary Walls: The hilltop site as a whole is only enclosed by vegetation.

Burial Enclosures: The Seaforth burial enclosure is surrounded by ornate, rusted iron railings with delicate scroll detailing. The entrance gate is at the far side of the burial enclosure, indicating that the original approach may have been from this side. Made from rusted iron, the gate is topped by a symbol of a crown.

Vegetation surrounds the burial enclosure, but does not overwhelm it, indeed it adds to the tranquil atmosphere. Inside is a large, impressive statue of an angel marking the burial place of the last Lord Seaforth. The statue is surrounded by a low stone wall which is missing sections and has loose stones. There is also an unidentified large rock within the burial enclosure. Outside the enclosure some small patches of large pebbles in the ground which look almost like cobbles.

### 8. Ownership of Kirkyard: Brahan Estate

Highland Council

Private

Other

9. Risk: The site is in well tended woodland and although vegetation surrounds the site, it is not causing any damage. The Angel statue is need of some maintenance around the base

Or  No

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### 10. Ancillary Issues:

**ACCESS:** The estate is open for public use with many walking paths criss-crossing the area, and a caravan park nearby. There are parking areas and roads which run close to the site. However, the site itself is not on a road but is accessed by walking through the woods and up a hill along walking paths so is not readily accessible to wheel chairs.

**INTERPRETATION:** There is some information available at the estate office within the estate grounds, but there is nothing at the site.