

HIGHLAND KIRKYARDS: Ross and Cromarty Pilot Proforma



1. Name of Kirkyard: Graveyard, Inverlael
(From HER)

2. National Grid Reference: NH 1864 8543

3. Civil Parish: Gairloch

4. Description: Mackenzie mausoleum located beside the River Lael in the Inverlael valley. There are no other memorials, buildings or even boundary walls. HER says that a graveyard was depicted here on the OS 1st edition map.

5. Setting: Rural. The mausoleum sits on a raised bit of ground, a possible sign of an earlier burial ground. Immediately to the south is the River Lael. Over fields to the west are the main road and then the southern end of Loch Broom. To the north are the ruins of the settlement of Inverlael, so if there was previously a burial ground here it may have been connected with this settlement.

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6. Designations and Significance: The mausoleum is dedicated to the Mackenzies of Coul, an important land owning family.

Scheduled Ancient Monument

Listed Building

7. Elements:

Mausolea: A square harled stone burial enclosure with exposed quoins. The wall is coped and the interior is rendered apart from a stone wall monument left exposed on the rear wall which is difficult to read. One tree grows inside the structure but is not growing into the walls. The stonework around the exterior of the doorway has also been left exposed, including an inscribed lintel: The Sepulchre of Sir Colin Mackenzie of Coul, Barronett Clerk of the Pipe in the Echequer of Scotland who died the 29 Octr 1740 in the 67 year of his age. The stones on either side of the door are nicely detailed.

There are no other built elements on the site although there are some stones which may have been part of a wall at some point, although as they follow the course of the river, they may just be part of the bank.

8. Ownership of Kirkyard:

Highland Council

Private

Other

9. Risk: The structure does not seem to be cared for and is situated in an out of the way site

On Bank? No

10. Ancillary Issues: ACCESS: There is a walkers' car park just off the main road and then a walk along a track. However, the burial enclosure is on the other side of the river from the track and there seems no easy way to reach it without clambering through fields, rough ground and over fences.

INTERPRETATION: On the track leading from the car park there is a sign explaining some of the built features in the landscape, including the Telford bridge on the main road and the ruined settlement, however no mention is made of the burial enclosure.