

HIGHLANDS KIRKYARDS: Ross and Cromarty Pilot Proforma



1. Name of Kirkyard: Marybank Church, graveyard
(From HER)

2. National Grid Reference: NH 7498 7611

3. Civil Parish: Logie Easter

4. Description: Ruined church within graveyard sited in the middle of fields now used for cattle.

This site should be viewed, along with three other ecclesiastical sites in the parish, as part of a continuous story, all four sites being at one time the Logie Easter Parish Church. This site is the first in the chronological list of the four sites, becoming disused in 1767 when Church, Marybank replaced it. This site was then replaced by Former Parish Church and Burial Ground, Logie Easter, and in turn the current Logie Easter Parish Church replaced the third site. The fourth site in the list, the Logie Easter Parish Church was not surveyed for this project as it is a church in use without a graveyard, but should be considered when formulating interpretation strategies.

The graveyard surrounding the ruined church is rather sparse in gravestones but does still have some visible flat slabs, presumably with more hidden under the grass.

HIGHLANDS KIRKYARDS: Ross and Cromarty Pilot Proforma

5. Setting: Rural farmland. The site is actually in the middle of a field used for grazing cattle. It sits in a valley on the north bank of the Strathroy river, invisible from the access track to the north because the field climbs steeply, hiding the church in the valley below. This gives the site a very definite sense of place, nestled in this hollow, compared to many other church sites which sit on hills in prominent positions. The 1873 Name book call this a post-reformation church on the site of a pre-reformation chapel (HER) and possibly the site was chosen as the river was the transport route and the site would have been more visible from there.

6. Designations and Significance: This site was designated as a Scheduled ancient monument in December 1975, confirming its national importance to Scotland.

This site is very important as one of a succession of Logie Easter Parish Churches. Unusually, four sites still exist which have housed the parish churches over time. The sites are: (chronologically and as named on the HER)

1. Marybank Church and Burial Ground – ruined church and historic burial ground
2. Church, Marybank – ruined church, no burial ground
3. Former Parish Church and Burial Ground, Logie Easter – church demolished and burial ground still in use
4. Logie Easter Parish Church – church in use, no burial ground

These four sites, if interpreted properly and associated together could help explain a lot about why churches become redundant over time, about architectural styles and tastes at varying periods, about the needs of the community and its lairds, and much more.

Scheduled Ancient Monument

Listed Building

7. Elements:

Redundant Kirk/Chapel: The west and north gable still stand in what was a T-plan church. The north gable still has partial walls attached to the east and west, whilst the west gable stands alone. Otherwise the walls do not stand, but there are rubble strewn turf covered low banks which may indicate the line of the former walls. The walls are of rubble construction. The north gable has two window openings one directly above the other

Boundary Walls: The boundary wall forms a rounded rectangle skirting close to the north gable, with the remainder of the site stretching to the south. The dry stone walls are very low and act as retaining walls as the ground inside the walls is higher than the surrounding land. Turf covers the tops of the walls, and in many parts also grows over the side of the low wall.

HIGHLANDS KIRKYARDS: Ross and Cromarty Pilot Proforma

8. Ownership of Kirkyard: A local informed me that the Balnagown Estate owns the land, but that the fields are leased to a K. Bremner.

Highland Council

Private

9. Risk: As this field is used to graze cattle, the beasts are an obvious risk to the structure as well as to anyone visiting the site. However, this also means that the vegetation growth is minimal apart from grass. There is only one tree on site, with a few small bushes around the edges. The walls do not appear to be under threat of imminent collapse but could deteriorate further if not consolidated.

On No

10. Ancillary Issues:

ACCESS: The site is in the middle of a field so that there are no pathways or facilities. The closest track lies at the north end of the field and lead to farm buildings. There is no car park. There are cattle to negotiate!

INTERPRETATION: There is no interpretation on site.