

## HIGHLAND KIRKYARDS: Ross and Cromarty Pilot Proforma



1. Name of Kirkyard: St Duthac's Collegiate Church, Castle Brae, Tain  
(From HER)

2. National Grid Reference: NH 7802 8219

3. Civil Parish: Tain

4. Description: Late medieval, roofed, redundant church maintained as an exhibition space and visitor attraction within very old burial ground in the town centre of Tain.. In addition, an older roofless ruined chapel, (subsequently used as a burial enclosure), lies within the kirkyard.

This is an extremely important historic site in both the story of the development of Tain, as well as within Scottish history, with its associations with Scottish Kings. This importance is recognised by the visitor information, museum and exhibitions already on site, and many visitors were there on the day of the site visit.

The burial ground lies predominantly to the south of the roofed church and has been in use for centuries, including Viking stones found in the graveyard, possibly up to 1000 years old.



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**Boundary Walls:** Stone walls run around the boundary of the site. The south wall is high, and contains a gate in the west end. The east wall is a low stone wall, topped with green railings and also houses an entrance gate. The railings are broken in places. At the north end of the east wall it becomes lower and retaining. The north wall lies at the bottom of the sloped site.

**Railings, Gates and Gateways:** In the south wall the 'Pilgrimage Gate', black iron gate erected by subscription in memory of William Ross, d.1880. Tall, pointed gatepiers with arched lettering, 'The Pilgrimage', spanning the width above the gate. Immediately to the east, a matching pedestrian gate. In the east wall Gothic gatepiers with green painted iron gate.

**Burial Enclosures:** Stone burial enclosure with crenellated top, built against the west wall. Doorway in east wall with rusted iron gate. Window opening above. Inside, multiple memorials to the Murray family spanning the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the stonework is loose at the wallhead. There is a large Yew tree planted immediately in front of the east wall.

**Wall Monuments:** Built into the south wall, large pedimented classical wall memorial, surrounded by iron railings. The pink marble wall memorial plaque is dedicated to Donald Ross, 1842 and his sister.

**Other Built Elements:** There is a museum building in the south-east corner of the site and a tourist information/Pilgrimage building housing the Tain through Time exhibition in the south-west corner of the site. The Castle Brae Museum building, 1884/85, A. Maitland and Sons, was the former Caretakers Lodge for the collegiate church and was category B-listed, 29 October 1982, HB 41844.

### 8. Ownership of Kirkyard:

Highland Council

Private

Other

**9. Risk:** The collegiate church is in a good condition. The older chapel however, is in a dangerous state and is not being maintained. Vegetation grows inside and one of the walls has danger signs on it. The graveyard is well maintained, but many stones are broken

On  No

