

HIGHLAND KIRKYARDS: Ross and Cromarty Pilot Proforma



1. Name of Kirkyard: Tigh an Quay, Tanera More
(From HER)

2. National Grid Reference: NB 9894 0748

3. Civil Parish: Lochbroom

4. Description: Burial ground situated on an island off the west coast of Scotland, not in current use. The site is found on Tanera More, the largest of the Summer Isles, and the only one currently inhabited. The burial ground appears to be triangular in shape, although there are no walls to mark the boundary. The ground underneath is particularly uneven and appears raised, but the ground all around the site is at different levels and also bumpy. There is no redundant, or in use church structure, although it may once have been the site of a chapel as the island previously had a larger population. Most of the stones lie flat on the ground with only a few smaller stones poking up out of the ground. Lizzie, (daughter of the owners Bill and Jean Wilder), said that previous owners had turned some of the slabs over to protect the inscriptions. There were certainly not many visible inscriptions on the stones. Two Highland cows graze the area to keep the grass from overwhelming the stones.

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5. Setting: Rural, and isolated, located on Tanera More, one of the Summer Isles. The site lies next to a bay on the east side of the island in a small valley. There is a stone wall enclosing two cottages and an old ruined herring industry building to the south. Rocky hills, marshy land and ferns surround the site., with a small stream to the west. There is one tree in the burial ground. The surroundings are beautiful and tranquil.

6. Designations and Significance:

As in other parts of Scotland, this burial ground is a symbol of the lost community which once inhabited the island.

The island is closely associated with Frank Fraser Darling, a naturalist who spent years on Tanera More, basing himself near the graveyard site, and who rebuilt the nearby pier in the bay.

Scheduled Ancient Monument

Listed Building

7. Elements:

Boundary Walls: Two sides of the site are lined with dry stone walls, although they seem to be garden and field boundaries rather than graveyard boundary walls as the west side has no wall. The site is roughly triangular in shape. Although there is no wall on the west side of the site, there is a discernible edge to the site due to land height and stones on the ground, which may have once had a wall.

Burial Enclosures: There is one rusted iron burial enclosure, overgrown with ferns, is noteworthy as the only structure of any kind in the burial ground, apart from this there are only individual gravestones. Some railings are missing at the front. And the gate is hanging off. There is a flat slab inside the enclosure, D Matheson d. 1st Dec 1866, aged 69 Years.

Other Built Elements: There were only three other slabs with partly readable inscriptions within the burial ground. One had date of 1861, another 1872, and the third had no evident date.

8. Ownership of Kirkyard: Jean and Bill Wilder own the island.

Highland Council

Private

Other

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<p>9. Risk: The highland cows roam free over the burial ground, but there are only two of them, and they help keep the vegetation short. There is a risk that as this site is so out of the way, that it is being neglected and is not fully understood.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">On <input type="checkbox"/> BAK?</p>
<p>10. Ancillary Issues:</p> <p>ACCESS: Due to the island nature of the site, a boat must be taken which means climbing on and off ladders and piers. There is no road or track to the site, access is through a garden or over rough ground. In another bay on the island there is a small café and toilet facilities, but these are reached by a hike over hills as there are only footpaths on the island. There are a few holiday cottages to rent.</p> <p>INTERPRETATION: There is no on site interpretation. The café has a couple of Fraser Darling books for general information, although not specific to the burial ground.</p>