

BOX 29. 8. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1873: 6" map.

9. HBM (SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS.

BOX 52. "The only surviving evidence of the site of a pre-Reformation chapel (HNC 74 NW 031) is a cross-incised pillar, 2' 4" (0.71m) high and 1' 2" (0.35m) broad, which is now known as 'Clach an t-Sagairt Ruidhe', 'the Red Stone of the Priest' or 'The Stone of the Red Priest'. It is said to have stood in the N angle of the burial ground of the church of Skail. 'The Red Priest' was one of the names given to St. Maelrubha." (5)

"The stone font was removed with all the other material from the church, but halfway between the church and the embankment it was thrown out of the cart, as the driver did not want to see it become part of an embankment. It still lies on the grassy bank on which it was placed that day.

"The hollow for holding the water is oblong, and gently slopes from either end to the centre, where it becomes about 3" (76.20mm) deep. The longest diameter of the stone is slightly over 2' (0.61m), and it should weigh about 2cwts (). The stone is of ~~rough~~ grey striped granite." (7)

"Neither of the alleged positions of the grave stone seems typical of such a monument, especially as the cross is on the N face, so the suggestion that it is a girth-cross seems feasible. 'The Red Priest's Stone' is 0.7m high and 0.3m square, with a roughly incised, almost equal-armed cross with a rounded head, on its north face. A slab, now embedded in the ground, bears no inscription, but may be a grave slab. The font was not located and local enquires proved negative." (OSFI: JLD: 6.5.1960)

"The Red Priest's Stone (name verified locally) and the graveyard are as described by the previous investigator. The names 'Clach an t-Sagairt Ruidhe' and 'the Red Stone of the Priest' are not known locally. No further information regarding the font was encountered." (OSFI: GB: 21.7.1977.)