

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE H N H 5 4 S E 0 0 1 A

2 NGR NH 5 5 9 0 4 3 6 9 3 QUAL CE

4 DISTRICT: INVERNESS 5 PARISH: KIRKHILL

6 SITE NAME: R E E L I G *

7 AREA STATUS: 8 SITE STATUS: 9 REGIONAL STATUS:

10 GENERIC TYPE: BURIAL CAIRN, CISTED ?

11 CONCORDANCE: osNH54SE1 12 FORM: STANDING STRUCTURE 13 DIMENSIONS:

14 PERIOD/DATE: NE = BA 15 DATING METHOD: TYP

16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS: 17 CONDITION: MUTILATED

18 SHAPE: 19 THREAT AND DATE:

20 LAND USE: GARDEN 21 GEOLOGY:

22 SOILS: 23 VEGETATION:

24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE: 25 RELIEF: GENTLE HILLSLOPE

26 ASPECT: N 27 ALTITUDE: 25=35m OD

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY):

29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL):

1. HENSHALL, AS: 1963: CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND: EDINBURGH U.P.: VOL. 1: p384
2. : 1875-80: TRANS. INV. SCI. SOC. & FIELD CLUB: VOL. 9: p199
3. : 1918-25: TRANS. INV. SCI. SOC. & FIELD CLUB: VOL. 1: p168
4. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1978: 1/10,000 MAP
5. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: 1979: SITES & MONS. OF NE INVERNESS: RCAHMS: p9, No. 22

30 GROUND PLAN NO.: 31 GROUND PHOTO NO.:

32 SLIDES NO.: 33 HR. AP. NO.:

34 NMR. AP. NO.: 35 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE:

36 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION:

37 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY: 38 SAMPLES:

39 PALYNOLOGY: 40 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.:

41 SMALL FINDS: 42 MUSEUM/LOCATION:

43 OTHER:

44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER: 45 ATTITUDE OF OWNER:

46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT: 47 ATTITUDE OF TENANT:

48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS:

49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE: 50 RECORDER: DATE: 51 CHECK: DATE:

FJ: 1.10.1986 HSR. 9.10.1986

52 TEXT:

"See continuation card (i) for text (1)(2)(3)(4) and plan (1)."

46 REELIG, 'THE
GIANT'S GRAVE'
[EASTER MONIACK]
(? o.-c., rectangular)
In the parish of
KIRKHILL
Location $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. SE of
BEAULY
Map reference
NH/558436
Sheet XI NW; NH 54 SE
References
T.I.S.S. I (1875-80) 168;
ibid. IX (1918-25) 199¹
Plan by A.S.H. (fig. 98)
Visited 2.5.57

(i)

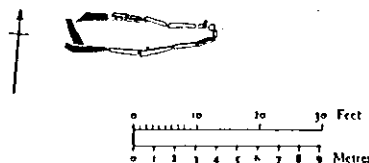
HNH 54 SE 001A

Description. The site lies at the s edge of the agricultural land which borders the s side of the Beaully Firth, just before the steep rise of the hilly hinterland, in the gardens of Reelig House. A large cairn was destroyed at the end of the eighteenth century¹ in the course of laying out the grounds. At present there remains an elongated enclosure orientated E-W, formed of stones set on their edges. This is known to have been constructed at that time to represent a 'Viking's Grave'. The stones are graduated in size, 2 ft. 9 in. high at the w (0.8m) end to 10 in. high at the E end. The three slabs which form the w end (254mm) are massive irregular blocks which may well be in their original positions. They suggest the inner (or w) end of the type of square-ended chamber which is found in Easter Ross. The side-stones are set 3 ft. 8 in. apart and (1.1m) the end-stone is placed askew, inside the s stone and outside the end of the N stone.

Finds

Artifacts. (*ill. p. 255*). Believed to have come from this site, now at Reelig House. A large barbed-and-tanged arrowhead of buff flint with pink flecks.

Reelig



(1)

THE GIANT'S GRAVE.

After inspecting several objects of interest in the house, including some family portraits, among which was a fine portrait of Edward Satchwell Fraser, by Raeburn, the party proceeded to the gardens, where an hour was pleasantly spent. What is called the "The Giant's Grave" was closely examined and keenly discussed by Dr Ross, Mr James Fraser, C.E., and Mr Wallace. It was pronounced to be an undoubted prehistoric burial-place, but of unusual size. It lies east and west, and measures 23 feet 3 inches (7.2m) in length, and measures 6 feet 3 inches (1.9m) at its widest point. It is enclosed in the usual way by upright slabs of gneiss, one of them 8 feet long, another 5 feet, and another 4 feet (2.4m) (1.5m) (1.3m) 4 inches. At one time it was covered by a large heap of stones which were removed about the year 1780, when a flint arrow-head was found, and some other things, which, owing to the superstitious fears of the people had to be replaced, and it is believed that they are still there. It was suggested on Saturday that the name "Reelick" was derived from this burial-place.

A walk around the richly-wooded grounds, under the guidance of Mr Johnstone, gardener, completed a very happy and instructive excursion.

Before leaving, the company, on the call of Mr John Cook, gave three hearty cheers for Mrs Fraser. Inverness was reached about 9 p.m. (2)

Relick, Reelig, Relic, Religg, Rillig, Rillige, and Reelick. The last is that which is now in use. Etymologically the word signifies a place of interment, and in the grounds behind the house there are remains of an old cairn, no doubt a family cromlech, most of the stones of which have been applied to the purposes of building dykes, &c. The process of demolition was stopped by the father or grandfather of Mrs Fraser of Reelick, and the large stones that remained were ranged together in a grave-like form, but in the form of the grave of a giant five-and-twenty feet in (3) length.

"NH 5590 4369 Giant's Grave, Burial Chamber."

(4)

"This feature is as described above and the barbed-and-tanged arrowhead is still at Reelig House."

(OSFI:RD:21.12.1964)

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



ARTEFACTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE											
H	N	H	5	4	S	E	0	0	1	B	

2 NGR		3 QUAL									
N	H	5	5	9	0	4	3	6	9	CE	

6 SITE NAME											
R	E	E	L	I	G						*

4 DISTRICT	INVERNESS
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5 PARISH	KIRKHILL
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7 GENERIC TYPE	ARROWHEAD, FLINT, BARBED-AND-TANGED
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8 CONCORDANCE	osNH54SE1
NMR	

9 MUSEUM/LOCATION OF FIND(S)	REELIG HOUSE(1964)
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10 ACCESSION NO.	
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11 PERIOD/DATE	BA
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12 DATING METHOD	TYP
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13 FIND CIRCUMSTANCES	STRAY FIND (CAIRN REMOVAL)
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14 CONDITION	WELL PRESERVED
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15 EXCAVATOR AND DATE	
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16 EXCAVATION RECORD NO.	
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17 LAND USE	
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18 GEOLOGY	
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19 SOILS	
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20 VEGETATION	
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21 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE	
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22 RELIEF	
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23 ASPECT	
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24 ALTITUDE	
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25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION/DIMENSIONS	
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26 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	1. HENSHALL, AS: 1963: CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND: EDINBURGH U.P.: VOL. 1: p384 2. : 1918-25: TRANS. INV. SCI. SCO. & FIELD CLUB: VOL. 9: p199
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27 GROUND PLAN NO.	
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28 GROUND PHOTO NO.	
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29 SLIDES NO.	
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30 HR. AP. NO.	
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31 NMR. AP. NO.	
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32 OTHER AP. NO. : SOURCE	
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33 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION	
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34 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY	
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35 SAMPLES	
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36 PALYNOLOGY	
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37 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.	
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38 OTHER	
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39 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER	
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40 ATTITUDE OF OWNER	
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41 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT	
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42 ATTITUDE OF TENANT	
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43 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS	
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44 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE	
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45 RECORDER: DATE	FJ: 1.10.1986
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46 CHECK: DATE	HsR, 9.10.1986
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47 TEXT	
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"See continuation card (i) for text (1)(2)(OSFI:RD) and illustration (1)."

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(2)

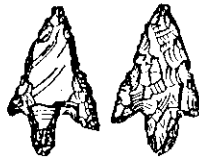
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