

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# FIELD MONUMENTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE	H	N	H	5	6	S	E	0	0	3
2 NGR	N	H	5	7	6	4	6	1	4	8
3 QUAL	CE									

4 DISTRICT	ROSS & CROMARTY		5 PARISH	KILTEARN		6 SITE NAME	C I L L E B H R E A *				
7 AREA STATUS	8 SITE STATUS		9 REGIONAL STATUS		10 GENERIC TYPE						
	SCHEDULED				CHAPEL + GRAVEYARD						
11 CONCORDANCE	12 FORM		13 DIMENSIONS		14 PERIOD/DATE						
OS NH56SE3	STANDING STRUCTURES		CHAPEL - 10.8m x 4.1m		EM/c. 1198 AD						
NMR					15 DATING METHOD						
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS			17 CONDITION		18 SHAPE						
			INCOMPLETE		19 THREAT AND DATE						

20 LAND USE	BACKSHORE		21 GEOLOGY								
22 SOILS			23 VEGETATION								
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE	25 RELIEF		26 ASPECT		27 ALTITUDE						
	ABOVE BEACH		SE		2=10m OD						

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)										
1. WOODHAM, DR. AA: 1966: PARTIAL: SCIENTIFIC										

29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)										
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1938: 6" MAP										
2. WATSON, WJ: 1904: PLACE NAMES OF ROSS & CROMARTY: NORTHERN COUNTIES: p86										
3. MACRAE, M: 1923: DINGWALLS THOUSAND YEARS: : p289.										
4. WATSON, WJ: 1926: THE HISTORY OF THE CELTIC PLACE NAMES OF SCOT.: W. BLACKWOOD & SONS: pp312, 338										
5. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1971: 1/10,000 MAP										
6. HBM(SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS.										
7. SOC. ANT. SCOT: 1979: ARCH. SITES & MONS. OF, EASTER ROSS: p7. No. 124										

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
STONE FONT & PART OF COMMUNION TABLE										
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
							SM: 6.10.1986	HSR: 15.10.1986

52 TEXT										
"See continuation card for text."										
NH 576 614										
See Associated Documents										

6. " \* Chapel also known as 'St Mary's Chapel', & 'St Brigs Chapel', Graveyard known as 'Cladh Mo-Bhrigh'."

BOX 29. 8. GOURLAY, R.; MUSGROVE, P.; HARDEN, G.: 1985 DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND:  
CBA(SCOT): P.23

9. Assoc. docs.

HNH 565003

(NH 57646148) Cille Bhrea  
Chapel (Ruin)

(1)

This was the parish church of Lemlair until that parish was united with Kiltearn after the Reformation.

(2)

The parish includes in its western part the old parish of Lumlair; Lemnelar 1227, Lymnolar and Lumlar 1548; G. Luim na làr; luim, locative of lòm, a bare surface; làr is most probably genitive plural of làir, mare; làr, the ground, not being suitable in respect of meaning and gender. Names from the various words for 'horse'—each, capull, marc—are very common, arising from the old practice of keeping the horses on a pasture by themselves; cf. Glenmark, Glenmarkie, Ardicaple, Kincaple, Caplich, Dalneich. The church of Lumlair, according to the Old Statistical Account dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and in modern times known as St Mary's Chapel, stood at Lumlair near the sea-shore. The site referred to is close by the roadside, about two and a-half miles east of Dingwall. The foundations of the chapel are still visible, with an ancient and now disused burying-ground, called Cladh ma-Bhrì (Kilmabryd, Blaeu). This burying-ground is doubtless called after the saint to whom the chapel was dedicated, and who, moreover, from the above well-known modern Gaelic form of the name, could not have been Mary. Blaeu's Kilmabryd suggests Bridget, but her name in Gaelic is always Brìd, never Brì. The only name that satisfies the phonetics is Brìg, later Brìgh. There were at least two Irish female saints so called.

Its original dedication was to Brìg, one of the holy maidens of the Brigit who died in 525. It was latterly known as St. Mary's Chapel, probably a mis-translation of the original name.

(3)

The foundations are still visible in the churchyard, which is known as 'Cladh Mo-Bhrìgh'

(4)

*Cladh Mo-Bhrìgh*, the churchyard of the old church of Lemlair by the seaside near Waterloo, east of Dingwall, commemorates one of the saints named *Brìg*, *Brìgh*, explained as 'uigorosa uel uirtuosa,' 'vigorous or full of virtue.'<sup>2</sup> Brìg, daughter of Amalgad, of Achad Aeda and Brìg, daughter of Fergus, of Cell Brìgi, were among the holy maidens who were subject to Brigit (LL 353 b; Lism. Lives, p. 336). Other saints of the same name are mentioned in Gorman and in the note to Oengus' *Féilire*, Jan. 31.

OVER..

The remains of the Chapel measure 10.8 m EW by 4.4 m transversely with grass-covered walls 0.6 m high and 0.7 m thick. The SE corner has been destroyed by erosion. A few grave-slabs (OSFI:NKB:30.6.1965) can be seen within the chapel and immediately to the N of it, but the graveyard is unenclosed and derelict. The Name St. Brigh's Chapel is still known locally.

Re-surveyed at 1/2500.

This chapel was partially excavated by Dr Woodham, in 1966. Finds include a stone font and part of the communion table, which are still in the chapel, and several skeletons. According to Woodham the dedication is to St Brigh, and the present remains date from about 1198 when the chapel was consecrated. There is no trace of graves in the unenclosed graveyard around the chapel, though human bones protrude from the eroding cliff face near the chapel. Woodham states that the last burial was about "100 years ago"

(OSFI:NKB:20.12.1974)

DR AA WOODHAM  
CLAVA, CUNNINGHILL RD  
INVERNESS

Published survey (25") correct

"NH 5765 6149 Chapel (remains of)."

(5)

"Excavator - Dr AA Woodham, Clava, Cunninghill Rd, Inverness (1971)."

"Coastal erosion is resulting in the erosion of part of the medieval churchyard at Cille Bhrea. The arm of a decorated, possibly free-standing cross was found amongst the eroded material at the foot of the cliff. Human bones and iron coffin nails were also recovered from the eroding cliff face. The material has been displayed in Inverness Museum." (8)