

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT		5 PARISH		1 SITE CODE		2 NGR		3 QUAL	
ROSS & CROMARTY		KILMUIR EASTER		H N H 6 7 N E 0 0 3		N H 6 9 7 7 7 5 1 3 CE			
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS		9 REGIONAL STATUS		6 SITE NAME			
		SCHEDULED				K I N R I V E W O O D *			
11 CONCORDANCE		12 FORM		13 DIMENSIONS		10 GENERIC TYPE			
OS NH67NE3		STANDING STRUCTURE		26.0m x 23.0m		BURIAL CAIRN, ROUND, CHAMBERED, CISTED (OCH)			
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION		14 PERIOD/DATE		15 DATING METHOD			
		ROBBED				NE = BA		TYP	
20 LAND USE		21 GEOLOGY		18 SHAPE		19 THREAT AND DATE			
WOODLAND				CIRCULAR					
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF		26 ASPECT	
						MODERATE HILLSLOPE		SSE	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF		26 ASPECT		27 ALTITUDE			
		MODERATE HILLSLOPE		SSE		152=168m OD			
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)									
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)									
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1907: 6" MAP 2. HENSHALL, AS: 1963: CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND: EDIN. U.P.: VOL. 1: p350, No. 25 3. DAVIDSON, JM: 1948 : PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: VOL. 80: pp30-1 4. CHILDE, VG: 1943-4: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: VOL. 78: p31 5. (EXCURSION): 1895-9: TRANS. INVER. SCI. SOC. & FIELD CLUB: VOL. 5: p363 6. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1969: 1/10,000 MAP 7. HBM(SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS									
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	
						PS: 10.10.1986		ES 5/11/1986	
52 TEXT									

"See continuation card for text."

6. " * Also known as 'King's Head Cairn.' "

29. 8. HENSHELL, AS: 1972: CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND: EDIN. U. P.: VOL. 2: p563, No. 25
9. SOC. ANT. SCOT: 1979: ARCH. SITES & MONS. OF EASTER ROSS: RCAHMS; p8, No. 11

350

CHAMBERED TOMBS OF SCOTLAND

25 KING'S HEAD
CAIRN

(O.-C., polygonal, round)

In the parish of

KILMUIR EASTER

Location above the N shore

of the

CROMARTY FIRTH

4 m. N of

INVERGORDON

Map reference

NH/697751

Sheet LIV; NH 67 NE

References

P. S. A. S. LXXX (1945-46)

30-31;

ibid. LXXVIII (1943-44) 31;T. I. S. S. V (1895-99) 363¹

Plan by A. S. H. and J. C. W.

(fig. 81)

Visited 14.7.56

Description. The cairn, on the gentle SE slope of Kinrive Hill at about 550ft. OD, is in a wood just above the present limit of the cultivated land. The cairn itself was almost entirely removed about 1887¹ but its edge is quite distinct showing a diameter of about 90ft. E-W and 75ft. N-S.

The chamber is constructed of large slabs and stands clear and almost intact, with its interior choked with debris, and surmounted by a birch tree whose roots envelope the structure. The chamber is orientated E-W, the entrance at the E end marked by an upright slab 1ft. 6in. high, and another fallen stone to the S, probably a pair of portal stones. The passage is much destroyed but has been 7ft. long, for here another pair of transversely set slabs, 1ft. 6in. and 2ft. high and 3ft. 6in. apart, form the portals into the chamber. The total length of the chamber is 22ft. and it is divided by projecting stones into two compartments. The outer, measuring 11ft. in length and 9ft. in width, retains inside the entrance a pair of stones, 2ft. 3in. and 2ft. 9in. high, and a taller stone 5ft. high completes the S wall. A slightly displaced lintel rests on the divisional stones (2ft. 3in. and 1ft. 6in. high) across the entrance to the inner compartment. This is 9ft. long and has three stones remaining, the southern 3ft. 3in. high, the northern 3ft. 9in. high, and the tallest stone of the whole group, 6ft. 3in. high, at the W end but not placed centrally on the main axis. Numerous small slabs lie in and around the chamber, probably from the collapsed roof.

Seven feet NW of the back of the chamber is a cist with four side stones, measuring 3 by 4ft. and at least 3ft. 6in. deep.

(23.0)

(0.42m)

(2.13m)

(1.1m)

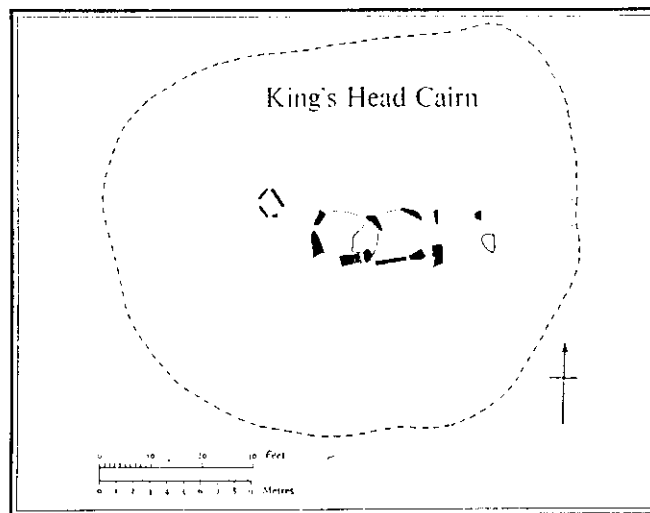
(6.8m)

(3.3m) (2.7m)

(0.8m) (6.8m)

ROSS-SHIRE

FIG. 81



(2)

ROS 25
KING'S HEAD CAIRN
Reference T.G.S.I. xii (1885-6)
335-6¹

This account¹ gives some further information about the cairn. The chamber was intact when it was first discovered about 1850. One compartment was entered at that time. 'It was 9 or 10 ft long, over 5 ft wide, had side walls of large flagstones, 5 ft high, the roof formed of flagstones corbelling inwards and finishing with large flags closing in both sides at a height of about 8 ft from the floor.' On the floor was a layer of black earth.

The chamber was then used as a store for illicit whisky. The cairn was robbed from about 1870 for buildings, and the rest of the chamber was exposed.

(8)

This is known locally as "The King's Head Cairn," which has given its name to the hill on which the three cairns noted are situated, Kinrive (Gael. *Canna-na-Rìgh*)—the head of the King.

The cairn is completely demolished, the outer perimeter alone being now discernible by a ring of stones overgrown by grass and bracken. All portable stones have been removed, the site of the cairn being left somewhat saucer-shaped.

The central chambers have in some measure resisted the wreckers, some few uprights being still standing while others are prostrate. Two uprights are particularly massive, one to the west standing 7 feet high, 4 feet 6 inches wide, and 2 feet thick, the other to the south being 6 feet 6 inches high, 6 feet wide, and 18 inches thick. A large displaced capstone measuring 7 feet by 4 feet by 2 feet is still supported by fallen stones. The tangle of wreckage is so confused that it is difficult to determine the general framework. A small outlying cist 4 feet 4 inches by 3 feet 6 inches is probably the most recognisable feature. The chambered remains are crowned by a large and gnarled birch tree, the roots of which envelop the superstructure.

The demolition appears to be less recently done than the thirty years stated. The period of sixty years was mentioned locally, and from the tree growth surmounting the remains this might even be an underestimate. A human skull was said to have been found during the destruction of the cairn. This skull is now said locally to have been "the head of the King."

"Nearby HNH 67 NE 002 + 005, there stood a round cairn of 66ft(c20.0m) diameter, but about twelve years ago it was removed for building purposes, all except the central chamber, whose massive stones may still be seen." (5)

"NH 697 752 Cairn." (1)

"NH 6976 7513, Chambered Cairn." (6)

"As described above, this cairn is situated in a dense birch wood."(OSFI:12.5.1963)