

Badenoch & Strathspey Graveyard Survey

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Abstract

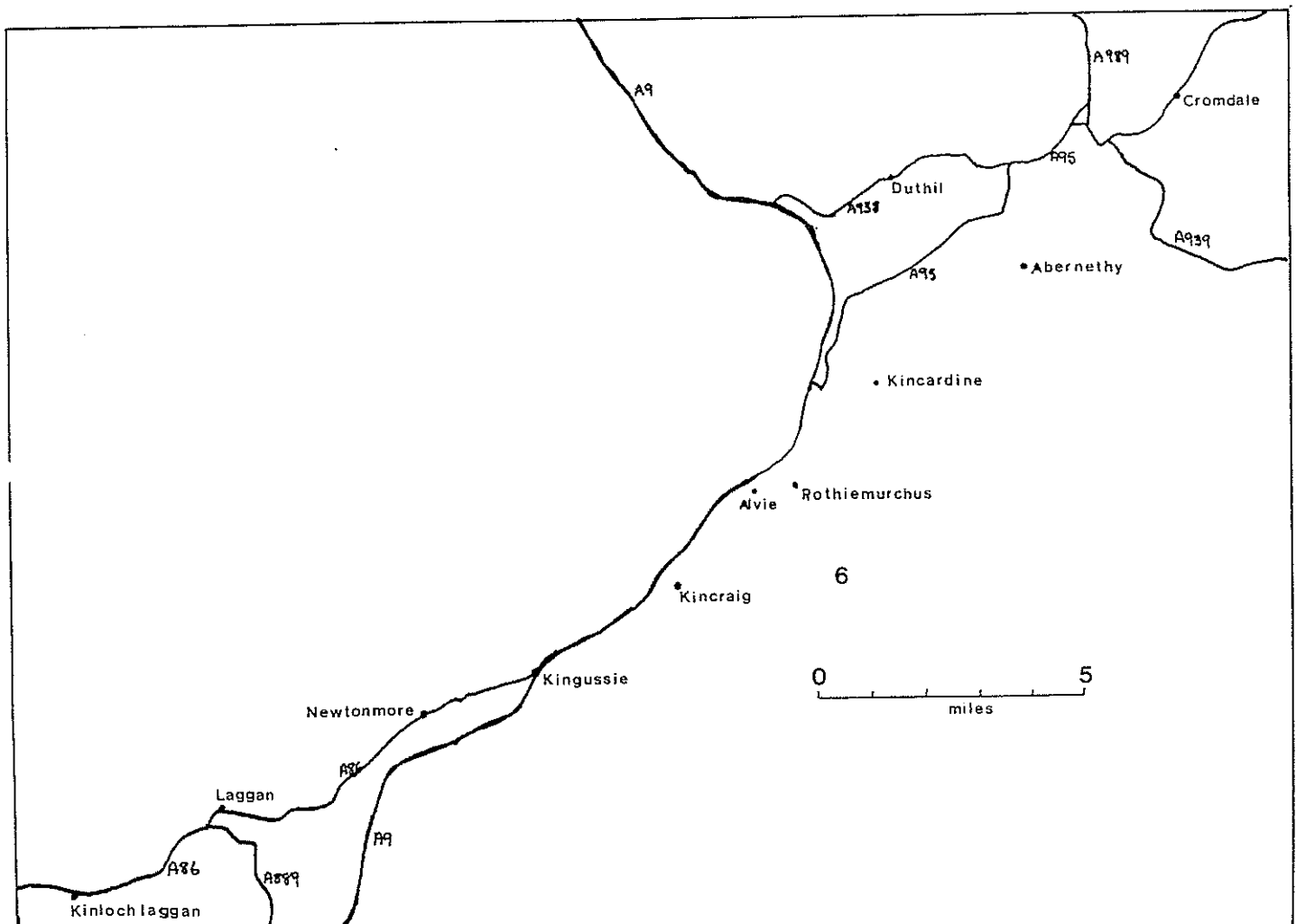
This report summarises the survey of the cemeteries and burial grounds in the Badenoch & Stathspey area. It reports past work and a gazetteer of sites.

Acknowledgments

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- Staff of the National Monuments Record, Edinburgh.
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Location of Principal Sites



Introduction

The number of graveyards in the Badenoch & Strathspey area is 26 in number ranging from individual memorials to small and large cemeteries, both urban and rural, with a diversity of memorials contained in them all. They are managed both privately and by local government. Some are no longer used as places of internment.

The need for a fuller understanding of the graveyards of the Badenoch & Strathspey area, has become more apparent due to reforms in local government and the response by the Council for Scottish Archaeology in its involvement with the Carved Stones Committee to look partially at the management of post-medieval gravestones throughout Scotland. On a historical and genealogical basis, the dearth of pre- 1855 burial records make research more important. Alike to this is the need of the archaeologist to record the stone itself : to what it is made of, its size, its type, any decorations and carvings, and a photograph of each stone.

This survey gives a indication to the date and range of stones, their management, past studies and future implications, if any. It is hoped to be an indication to a fuller survey of each site in the future.

Date and Variety of Monuments

For the greater part of the majority of graveyards in the Badenoch & Strathspey area, memorials of the late 19th and the 20th centuries predominate the number of stones contained therein, though memorials of earlier periods are to be found.

Earlier than the 17th century there is a complete dearth of stones to be found. Late 18th or early 19th century stones of an effigy type, ie. decorated with skull and crossbones, hour glasses, spades, etc are quite rare. By the middle of the 19th century there is the beginnings of a variety of styles of headstone, also the introduction of a wide variety of memorials including obelisks, pedestal stones with urns, and rusticated monuments. At the end of the 19th century there is a heavier use of polished granites (both pink and grey) replacing the use of pink and yellow sandstone, while the rare use of slate is also to be seen.

The early 20th century sees a continuation of those types of memorials of the late 19th, while towards the modern period there is a reversion to a plain headstone of polished stone but with inlaid gold or silver lettering. Also there are those stones and memorials to persons killed in both world wars, especially the stones by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Site Management

The majority of sites within the Badenoch & Strathspey area are managed by Highland Council, formerly Badenoch & Strathspey District Council, local government reform taking place in April 1996. A few are managed privately.

The condition of most Highland Council managed sites is relatively good with the grass being mown and the boundary walls kept in good repair. Whilst the Highland Council holds the responsibility of management to most sites, the care of the memorials contained in them belongs to the legal heirs, stones that may be 200 years old have problems of no records of who 'owns' them. There is no policy document to state what actions to various questions and problems of management which may arise or to what response may be made in the future.

Past Work on Recording

In recent years the attention to the recording of memorials has solely been to record the monumental inscription. This has been purposely for genealogical information and has been mainly concerned with stones with inscriptions of a pre-1855 date, after this civil registration of deaths was introduced. Though work has been carried out for other reasons.

Andrew Jervise (Jervise, 1879) noted inscriptions from Advie (NJ 141 352) and Cromdale (NJ 066 289) as part of his published study of monumental inscriptions from the north-east of Scotland in the mid 19th century. He noted stone type and the full inscription of a number of stones at each site, also giving site history and a description of the site upon his visit. Further notes he made, including the site of Abernethy (NJ 006 218) is to be found in a manuscript of notes and newspaper cuttings held in the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh. (Jervise, nd)

Work by Alexander MacPherson in the late 19th century (MacPherson, 1893) noted 46 inscriptions from Kingussie, St. Columba's (NN 757 007) noting type and full inscription and gave associated genealogical notes on family.

In a similar style Alan MacPherson (Macpherson, 1968) noted 17 inscriptions from Cluny (NN 642 942) noting type and full inscription and giving genealogical notes on family. He only concentrated on stones with the surname MacPherson as the work was done for the Clan MacPherson Association.

The study of churchyards near the River Spey by the Scottish Genealogy Society (Mitchell, 1976) included some sites in the Badenoch and Strathspey area. The method promoted by the Society is to summarise the inscription. Therefore the following inscription from Laggan Parish Church (NN 615 943) of :

In memory of Mrs Louisa Campbell who was buried here in June 1797. And of her husband the Rev Robert MacPherson who died and was buried in Perth in May 1791 aged 61 years.

was reduced to the following - rev Robt McPh 5 1791 61, w Louisa Campbell 6 1797.

Placename details and epitaphs were dropped giving little or no indication of whether those interred are from the local community or if the placename is just the place of death, also who erected the stone, if included in the inscription, was also sometimes omitted.

This method has its limitations, it does not give details to the type of monument, its size, material used, its condition or a photograph. A recording form which includes all these details and more, has been devised by the Council for British Archaeology (see over) (Jones, 1984) but at present no site in the Badenoch & Strathspey area has been fully recorded using this form or anything similar.

Other Records

Death records exist for only two parishes in Badenoch & Strathspey and are not complete. Those that exist are as follows :

- Alvie 1837 - 1845 (3 entries only);
- Kingussie 1783 - 1854 (blank 2/1784, 2/1808, 5/1809-10/1846 (25 entries only)

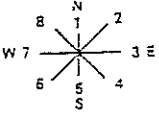
Future Implications and Summary

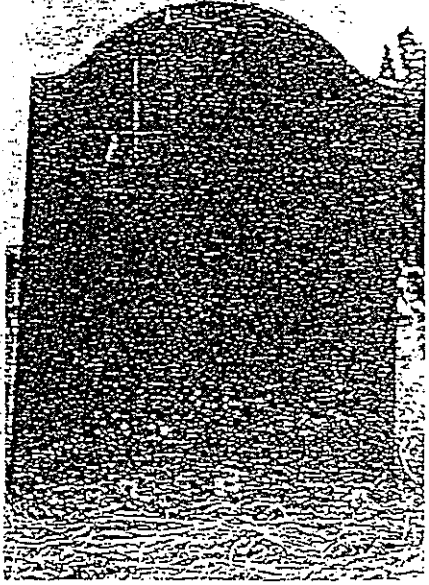
At present it is doubtful that any vast changes will arise to effect the cemeteries managed by Highland Council. Although it may be that the duties of maintenance could be put out to tender to private companies, one problem thereby arising could be the difficulties of damaged monuments and their care. Privately managed sites may need constant monitoring or encouraging the owner or a local group to get involved in an 'adopt a monument scheme'.

It is highly unlikely that any cemeteries in the Badenoch & Strathspey area no longer in use would be 'cleared' as part of any development work. The interest by varied parties both locally and nationally that surely would instigate some kind of protection, if not a programme of recording is not without doubt.

Also as churches go out of use and go into private ownership. The problems of who may be responsible for the monuments around them and to whether the same attention would be paid by the Council to care and management is also to be questioned. But as above, it is sure that a active response would be made.

The need for a full detailed survey to each cemetery site either as part of a research motivated project or as part of any planning application, either by the Council or by a private individual, becomes more apparent especially as the above points are looked at in any detail.

GRAVE MEMORIAL RECORDING FORM	
CEMETERY or GRAVEYARD	KIRK DEIGHTON
DEDICATION or DENOMINATION	ALL SAINTS
1 NAT. GRID REF.	S1E131915105
2 DATE of RECORD	0141015179
3 NAME of RECORDER or GROUP	M. JENKINSON
4 MEMORIAL No. and LETTER	010101514
5 No. of COMPONENTS	011
6 ASSOCIATED FORM LETTERS	
7 Memorial type: 1. flat 2. head 3. tomb 4. foot 5. other	2
8 MATERIAL and GEOLOGY	SANDSTONE
9 STONE MASON or UNDERTAKER	
10 Which faces are inscribed? - compass points	0101017
11 No. of people commemorated	01012
12 TECHNIQUE of INSCRIPTION	INCISED
13 Condition of monument: 1. sound, in situ 2. sound displaced 3 leaning or falling apart 4. collapsed 5. overgrown	1
14 Condition of inscription: 1. mint 2. clear but worn 3. mainly decipherable 4. traces 5. illegible or destroyed	2
15 DIMENSIONS	Height 113917
16 (in mms.)	Width 0914
17	Thickness 010912
18 PHOTOGRAPH NEGATIVE No.	0101313
19 ORIENTATION	 which way stone faces

PHOTOGRAPH	INSCRIPTION
	<p>SACRED to the memory of, ABRAHAM RHODES of Kirk Deighton, who Died January 22nd 1829, Aged 52 Years.</p> <p>Also of Martha's relict of the stone who died Nov. 24th 1842; Aged 63 Years.</p> <p>Keep the Souls whom now we leave, Bid them to each other cleave, Bid them walk on life's rough sea, Bid them come by faith to thee.</p>
REMARKS	
<p>Faces path to South porch; apparently in situ but just possibly repositioned. Second half of inscription [i.e. from 'Also of Martha' onwards] cut by a different hand. Some spalling on eastern face.</p>	

References

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Jervise, A. (1879) Epitaphs & Inscriptions from Burial Grounds & Old Buildings in the North East of Scotland. Volume 2. David Douglas. Edinburgh.

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MacPherson, A, G. (1968) Headstones in the graveyard at Cluny. The Scottish Genealogist 15, 73 - 80.

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Gazetteer of Sites

Photographs taken as part of this survey have been deposited with the National Monuments Record, Edinburgh.

Abernethy Parish Church

Parish : Abernethy and Kincardine

Grid Ref : NJ 006 218

Church of 1762 altered in 1872-4. Rectangular in plan of faced ashlar granite with adjoining aisle, 6 bay windows, crow-stepped gables, circular bellcote to west and slate roof. Inside number of 19th century plaques. Rubble built wall around churchyard.

Mixture of headstones, pedestal, crosses, obelisk, tablestone, slab, rusticated and Commonwealth War Grave dating from late 18th century to present day. Most in a good condition though some heavy with lichen. Later extension to north and east. Still in use. Rough stone font by pathway.

Advie

Parish : Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie

Grid Ref : NJ 141 352

No sign of remains of church which was to be seen in the mid 19th century.

Mixture of headstones, obelisks and pedestals dating from early 19th century to modern day. Majority in good condition. Later modern extension.

Alvie, Parish Church

Parish : Alvie

Grid Ref : NH 864 093

Church built in 1768 and rebuilt in 1833, 1880 & 1952. Church rectangular in plan of tooled granite, rectangular bellcote to west, 4 round-headed windows and slate roof. Inside is a number of mural plaques and memorial to ministers of Alvie since 1567.

Rubble built wall surrounding churchyard.

Mixture of headstones, pedestal, obelisk, tablestone, slab, relief, crosses and Commonwealth War Grave dating from mid 19th century to present day.

Majority in fair condition, some very heavy with lichen. Extension to east. Still in use.

Alvie, St.Drostan's Chapel

Parish : Alvie

Grid Ref : NH-823-045 NH 82270 00633

Rubble built rectangle of probably the 16th century (Gifford, 1992, 89).

Converted into mausoleum in 18th century by Captain George MacKintosh, late of the 60th Regiment of Foot who died 1780. Commemorated by a marble tablet, another (noted by Gifford to be fallen) was decorated with crossed sword and scabbard. Not visited as part of survey due to unaccessability.

Balavil Burial Ground

Parish : Alvie

Grid Ref : NH 787 020

Dominated by obelisk of James MacPherson of c.1796. Enclosed by circular wall with cast-iron railings. Gravestones are mainly to MacPherson family of nearby Balavil House. Not visited as part of survey due to unaccessability.

Carrbridge Cemetery

Parish : Duthil & Rothiemurchus

Grid Ref : NH 903 227

Mixture of headstones dating from very late 19th century (c.1897) to present day. Stones in very good condition. 2 extensions to original cemetery.

Cluny Castle Burial Ground

Parish : Laggan

Grid Ref : NN 642 942

Burial ground including stones of MacPherson of Cluny. Consisting of a rough circular enclosure of coped rubble.

Mixture of headstones, crosses, relief, slab, and tablestone dating from mid 19th to early 20th century. Majority in good condition.

Cromdale

Parish : Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie

Grid Ref : NJ 0666 2897

Medieval church dedicated to St.Ma-Luac & St.Bridget. Present church built in 1809 (Gifford gives 1812) on earlier site, altered in 1892-3. Rectangular of pointed granite, rectangular windows in gable with round-arched windows in the side walls. Birdcage bellcote to west and slate roof. Above doorway to south a reused armorial panel with initials WG and BG with date of 1602.

Mixture of headstones, pedestal, effigy, slab and tablestones dating from 18th century to modern day. Later extension to south. Majority in good condition.

Duthil

Parish : Duthil & Rothiemurchus

Grid Ref : NH 9352 2430

Church built in 1826 on earlier foundation with alterations in 1893 and 1912. 4 mullion windows to north and south, with doorways in each gable (east now blocked). Bellcote to west gable and slate roof. Church out of use.

Rectangular graveyard with rubble built wall dominated by Seafield

Mausoleum of 1837 and replica of 1884. Both of granite ashlar with doorways at north and south. Memorials from inside of church transferred to Carrbridge Church.

Mixture of headstones, pedestal, relief and tablestones dating from late 18th century to early 20th century. A few family plots. Majority of stones in a good condition, though some are heavy with lichen.

Glentruim House Burial Ground

Parish : Laggan

Grid Ref : NN 679 953

Built c.1847 for Major Evan MacPherson (died 22-1-1847) who had built Glentruim

House. Rectangular enclosure of coped rubble. Not visited as part of survey due to unaccessability(on private ground).

Grantown-on-Spey Cemetery

Parish : Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie

Grid Ref : NJ 027 267

Mixture of headstones, plaques of early 20th century to present day. All in very good condition. Still in use.

Insh

Parish : Kingussie and Insh

Grid Ref : NH 835 053

Parish church of St. Adamnan built late 18th century with alterations in 1828 and 1963. Rectangular with 3 roundheaded windows in south, bellcote to west and slate roof. Inside church is bronze bell of c.900. Rubble built wall around churchyard.

Mixture of headstones, tablestones, slabs, cross, plaque, obelisk and Commonwealth War Grave dating from early 19th century to present day. Most in good condition.

Kincardine

Parish : Abernethy and Kincardine

Grid Ref : NH 938 155

Church built c.1780 incorporating medieval fragments and rebuilt in 1897. Possibly dedicated to St.Tomhaldaidh. Chrurch is rectangular in plan, 4 bay windows to south, bellcote to west gable with slate roof. Inside is mural war memorial 1914-18.

Rubble built wall around church. Number of stones of slate.

Mixture of headstones, crosses, tablestone, plot marker, bookplate, slab and Commonwealth War Grave dating from late 18th century to present day. Some in poor condition. Rough stone font by doorway.

Kingussie, Cladh Padhair

Parish : Kingussie and Insh

Grid Ref : NN 690 970

Small neglected cemetery, majority in a very poor condition being fallen or broken.

Mixture of headstones and slabs dating from early 19th to early 20th centuries.

Kingussie, Mill Road, nan Colum Chille

Parish : Kingussie and Insh

Grid Ref : NN 757 008

Known as MacPherson Graveyard. Mixture of headstones, slab, cross, relief, tablestone and Commonwealth War Grave. Some in poor condition being either fallen or broken. Some rough hewn stones. Dating from mid 18th to early 20th century.

Kingussie, High Street

Parish : Kingussie and Insh

Grid Ref : NH 758 006

Rubble walled burial ground off High Street of site of church of 1624. Entrance with pair of early-mid 18th century gate piers. In 1974 part of the site was incorporated into a nearby children's playground.

Mixture of headstones, tablestones, and plot markers. Many are rough hewn stones dating from late 18th to early 20th century. Majority are in a poor condition, being fallen or at an angle or very heavy with lichen.

Kingussie, High Street, St.Columba's

Parish : Kingussie and Insh

Grid Ref : NH 760 007

Present church built in 1824 with later additions on site of church of 1792. Rectangular in plan, with Y-tracery windows, slate roof, bellcote to west gable with porches at east and west ends. Rubble walled graveyard with gatepiers at entrance to High Street. Within churchyard is white marble monument of Lucy McEwen Haslam who died 1904 with niche with marble statue of the Madonna and child. Mixture of headstones, rusticated, crosses, pedestal, bookplate, relief, obelisk, and Commonwealth War Graves. Number of enclosures. Dating from early 19th century to present day. Majority in good condition.

Kingussie Cemetery

Parish : Kingussie and Insh

Grid Ref : NH 772 012

Mixture of headstones, pedestal, rusticated, crosses, plaque and Commonwealth War Graves from early 20th century to present day. All in very good condition. Extension to west. Still in use.

Kinloch Laggan

Parish : Laggan

Grid Ref : NN 535 896

Ruins of small rectangular church of St. Kenneth within drystone wall enclosed churchyard. Church is very heavily covered with ivy. Enclosure within, with tomb recess.

Mixture of headstones, plaques, crosses, slabs, rusticated, plaques and Commonwealth War Grave. Some rough hewn stones. Dating from early 19th

century to present day. Majority in fair condition. Some heavy with lichen.

Kinrara, Duke of Gordon's Monument

Parish : Alvie

Grid Ref : NH 877 088

Granite column erected in 1840 by subscription to 5th Duke who died in 1836.

Marble plaque of coat of arms and inscription. Surrounded by cast-iron railing enclosure. Not visited as part of survey due to inaccessibility.

Kinrara, Waterloo Cairn

Parish : Alvie

Grid Ref : NH 872 086

Granite rubble cairn erected in 1815 by The Marquis of Huntly in memory of Sir Robert Macara of the 42nd Highlanders & Colonel John Cameron of the 92nd Regiment or Gordon Highlanders and their countrymen who fell at the battle of Waterloo June 1815. Niche with inscribed bronze panel. Not visited as part of survey due to inaccessibility.

Laggan Parish Church

Parish : Laggan

Grid Ref : NN 615 943

Church built in 1785 and altered in 1842. Rectangular of rubble with tooled granite dressings. 3 round-headed windows to south pair of lancets to east & west with birdcage belcote to west; slate roof. Churchyard enclosed with coped rubble wall with some cast-iron railings to gate entrance.

Mixture of headstones, tablestones, obelisk, pedestal, crosses, relief, rusticated and Commonwealth War Grave. Dating from late 18th century to present day. Some in good condition, some broken tablestones. Some heavy with lichen.

Laggantygown Cemetery

Parish : Duthil & Rothiemurchus

Grid Ref : NH 910 173

Modern cemetery laid out early 1970's. Headstone and plaques. All in very good condition.

Newtonmore, Cladh Brighde or Banchor cemetery

Parish : Kingussie and Insh

Grid Ref : NN 705 988

Mixture of headstones, obelisk, plaque, rusticated, crosses and Commonwealth War Grave dating from mid 19th century to present day. Modern extension to east. Majority in good condition. Still in use.

Rothiemurchus, Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist

Parish : Duthil & Rothiemurchus

Grid Ref : NH 900 111

Church built in 1929-30, though foundation stone was laid in 1913, replacing church of 1904 of corrugated iron construction. Plaque inside church records that building is dedicated to the memory of John Peter Grant of Rothiemurchus 1860-1927. Rectangular in plan with small vestry at north-west. 4 Y-tracery windows, with entrance to west.

Mixture of headstones, crosses, rusticated and coped slabs all in good condition all late 20th century. Still in use.

Rothiemurchus, Old Parish Church

Parish : Duthil & Rothiemurchus

Grid Ref : NH 885 092

Church built in 1827-30 by Thomas Telford and Joseph Mitchell incorporating earlier foundation. Not built as a 'Parliamentary Church' to which they are better known for. Rubble built with birdcage bellcote and porch to west, and 4 rectangular windows. Now ruinous. Within churchyard is burial enclosure of the Grant's of Rothiemurchus of low wall with cast-iron railings with brass relief memorials.

Mixture of headstones, pedestal, tablestone, rusticated and cast-iron dating from 18th century to present day. Some stones in poor condition, being heavy with lichen. Still in use?