

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD



4 DISTRICT INVERNESS		5 PARISH KIRK HILL		1 SITE CODE H NH 5 4 S E 0 0 9	
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED		2 NGR NH 5 5 1 8 4 3 5 7	
11 CONCORDANCE OS NH54SE9		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE		3 QUAL CE	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION WEATHERED		6 SITE NAME BALBLAIR STONE	
20 LAND USE		21 GEOLOGY		10 GENERIC TYPE SCULPTURED STONE + CUP-MARKS	
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		14 PERIOD/DATE BA + EM	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF		15 DATING METHOD TYP	
26 ASPECT		27 ALTITUDE		18 SHAPE	
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)		29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)		19 THREAT AND DATE	
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 ASS. DOCS.		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 FJ:1.10.1986	
				51 CHECK: DATE HSR 9.10.1986	

52 TEXT

"In the rockery at Moniack Castle is a stone, about 4½ft(1.4m) in height, bearing the outlined figure of a man with a stick or other instrument in his hand, and fourteen cup-marks, on of which has been mistaken for the eye of the figure. The stone stands at the end of the rockery farthest from the entrance gate. 'This stone was brought from a spot where it stood for a time, close to the old parish school of Kilmorack, near Kilmorack Free Church. It was however, removed to this place between fifty and sixty years ago, from a spot 100yds(91m) further W, when the ground was then reclaimed. There is nothing known of the stone, traditional or otherwise, beyond this. (These sitings place the original location in the vicinity of Balblair. Nh 50 45.)"(1) "Balblair Stone, symbol stone, Moniack Castle."(2) "NH 5518 4357 Sculptured Stone."(3) "See continuation card (i) for text and illustration (1)."

11. At the other end of the same rockery at Moniack, there stands a monolith about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height, with the outlined figure of a man, (1.4m)

¹ In a letter to the Rev. Dr. Joass of Golspie, of June 1880.

² The neighbourhood of Dingwall seems unusually rich in cupped stones of various types and of great interest. The list would not seem to be yet exhausted. Mr. Wm. Morrison, of Dingwall Public School, has discovered several cupped stones previously unknown to experts, though known to the old people, especially in Strathgairn, on the south-east of Ben Wyvis. One of these is remarkable, containing some 300 cups, one of them a larger basin. It is known as *Clach Thollach*, the holed stone. I came on a very fine specimen, one of these in a stone-encircled cairn, not far from the old Free Church school of Ferintosh, above the ferry between Dingwall and the Black Isle. I was accompanied on this occasion by Capt. Warrand of Ryefield, who lives not far from the cairn. He told me that the late Dr. Ross of Dingwall, who had a pair of good eyes, had mentioned a stone of the kind as existing in connection with this cairn, which was probably the one we found. I leave it to be figured by Mr. Joass or Mr. Morrison, who, it is to be hoped, will soon compile full memoirs of the stones round Dingwall, which they know so well. This would be of interest and value in connection with the recent revival of the subject, having a stick or other instrument in his hand. This stone was brought from a spot where it stood for a time, close to the old parish school of Kilmorack, near Kilmorack Free church. It was, however, removed to this place between fifty and sixty years ago, from a spot about 100 yards farther west, when the ground was then reclaimed. There is nothing known of the stone, traditional or otherwise, beyond this. It is figured in the *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, vol. ii pl. cxxx., and was brought under Dr. Stuart's notice by Dr. Joass of Golspie, who sent a drawing and rubbing. Some of the

lines on the stone, especially those about the mouth and head, are somewhat difficult to make out, and may give rise to different renderings of the figure. Dr. Joass, however, seems not to have noticed the existence of cup marks on the same surface, one of which he has interpreted as the eye of the figure; at least, these cups do not appear in the drawing in the *Sculptured Stones*. The stone, as deciphered by Mr. Mackellar, of the Knockbain Public School close by, and myself,

is given here on fig. 44. The differences between the two drawings will be noted, especially about the face, neck, and hair. The eye, as mentioned above, seems to be a cup, and is scarcely in the right place to represent an eye; and the existence of hair behind is very doubtful. The outline of the staff is distinct, but the hand is indistinct. At the top of the cap or helmet, there seems to be a groove extending to the hollow or cup No. 6, forming a kind of tassel, it may be. Of the cups, No. 1 and No. 4 are about $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch deep; the rest are between $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep.

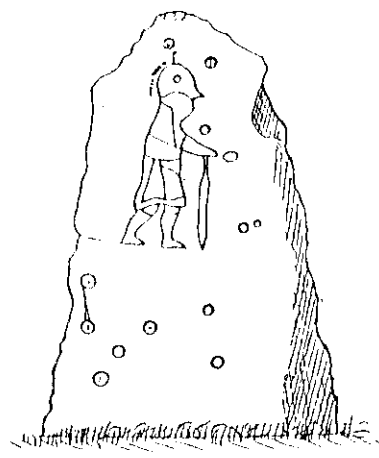
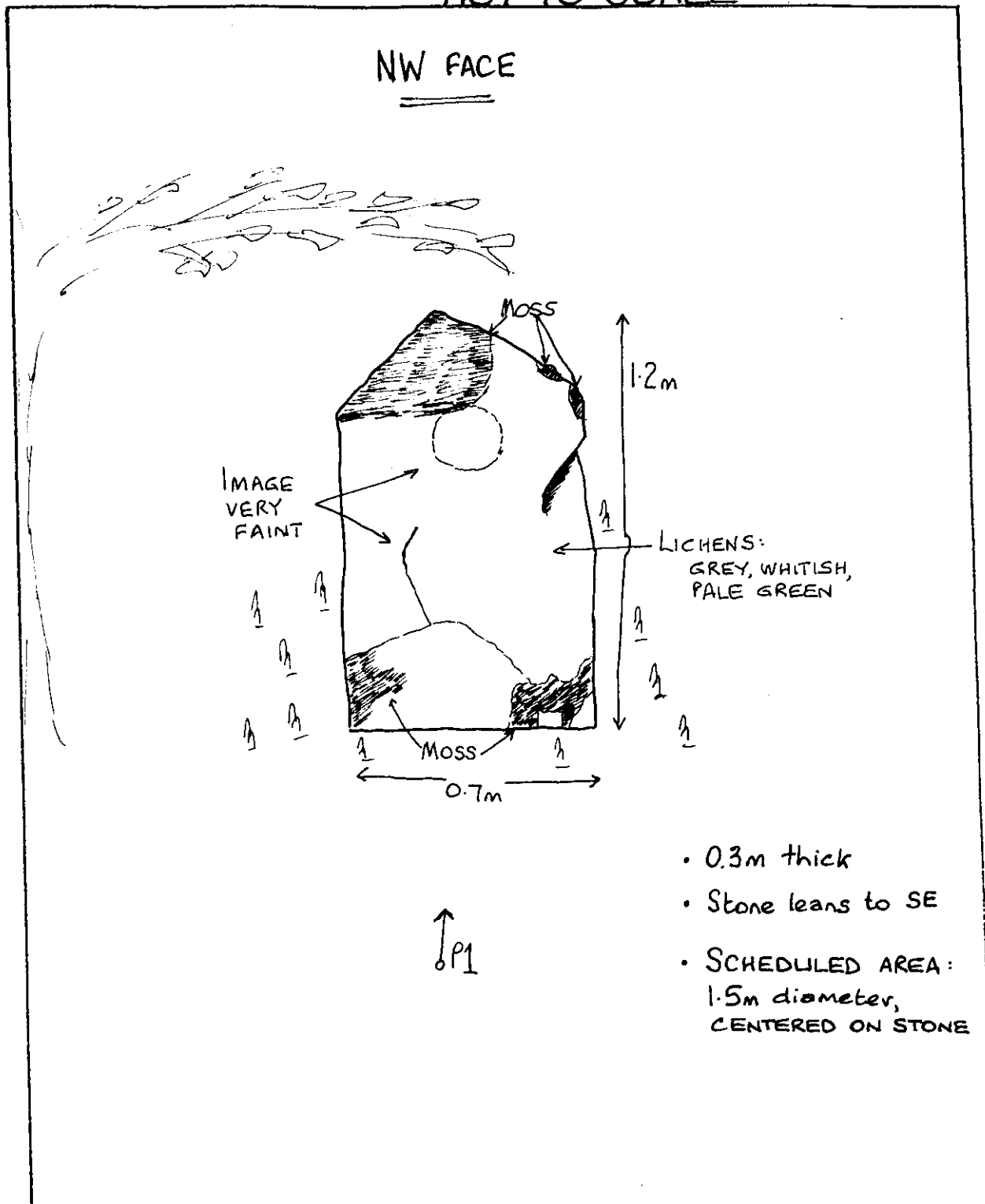


Fig. 44. At Moniack Castle.

Monument BALBLAIR STONE, SYMBOL STONERegion 6-270/HIGHLAND District 3- INVERNESSInitials of Recorder SB Date of Visit 30.10.97 Visit No 3NOT TO SCALENW FACE

Monument CULBURNIE, RING CAIRN and STONE CIRCLERegion 6-270/HIGHLAND District 3- INVERNESSInitials of Recorder SB Date of Visit 29.10.1997 Visit No 3