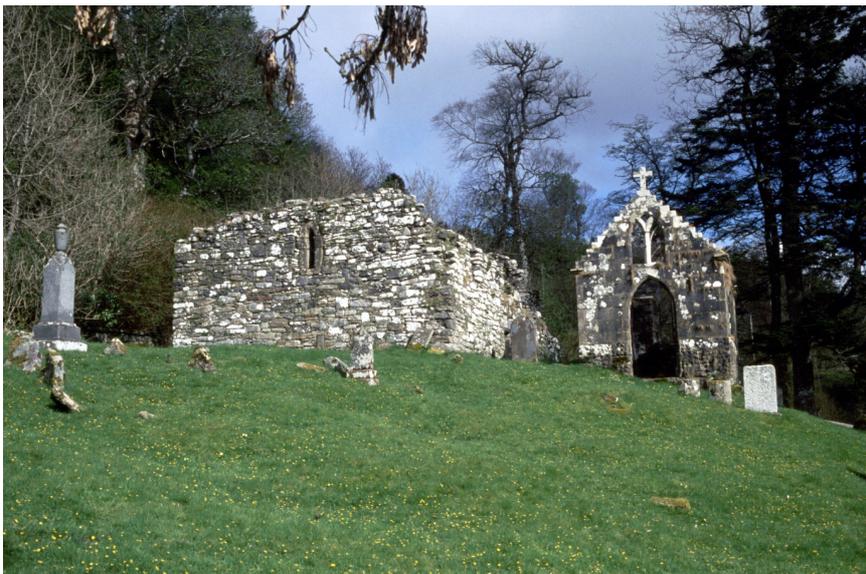


An Archaeological Survey of St Moluag's Chapel,

Pictish Stones and Monuments  
of  
The Isle of Raasay  
Portree Parish, Highland Council.



The Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists

Edited by J.S. Wood & J. Macdonald.

Occasional Paper No. 82.

2005

**The Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists (ACFA)** was formed in 1987. The membership comprises holders of the University of Glasgow's Certificate in Field Archaeology, awarded by the Department of Adult and Continuing Education. The original three-year part time course taught adult students the basic principles of archaeological field survey and the importance of recording our cultural heritage of all periods.

The present Certificate in Field Archaeology is a two-year modular course which aims to introduce students to the fundamentals of archaeological field survey and British, especially Scottish archaeology.

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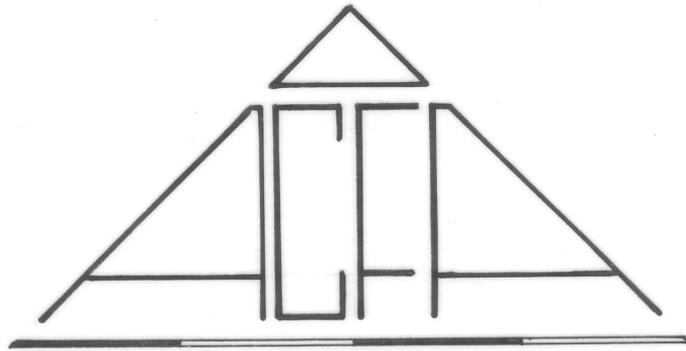
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**Frontice Piece** – View of the main buildings at Kilmoluag from the west.

**All drawings prepared by J.S. Wood**



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**Abstract:** The surveys of St Moluag's Chapel, Grave Yard, Carved Stones and the War Memorial at Suisinish form part of ACFA's continuing interest in the physical remains of human activity on the Island of Raasay.

## **Introduction.**

The 2005 survey is a continuation of our 1995, 96, 97, 98, 99, 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2004 surveys of the physical remains of human activity on the Island of Raasay.

In 1995 the townships of Oskaig and Holoman were surveyed plus the surrounding area. In 1996 the townships of Balachuirn, Balmeanach, Inver and Brae and their surrounding areas were surveyed. In 1997 the survey covered the townships of Glame, Manish More, Brochel and Doire Domhain and the surrounding areas. In 1998 the twin Townships of North and South Screapadal plus the surrounding areas, including the forest between Brochel and Screapadal, were surveyed. In 1999 we surveyed the township of Manish Beg and the surrounding area. In 2000 the survey was of the townships of Arnish and Torran and their surrounding areas. 2002 took the survey to part of North Fearn plus an area to the north of Fladda and to Umachan. In 2003 the survey was of the remainder of North Fearn together with Umachan. In 2004 the survey was of Hallaig, An Leac and the surrounding areas.

This year we surveyed Suisinish, South Fearn and the areas surrounding them along with St Moluag's Chapel and Graveyard. The Raasay War Memorial at Suisinish was also recorded and the various carved stones on the island were noted.

The report of the survey of St. Moluag's Chapel, Graveyard, Carved Stones and the War Memorial now follows.

The Survey of Suisinish, South Fearn and their surrounding areas appears as a separate ACFA Paper, Number 80.

The Survey and Inventory of the Graveyard at Kilmoluag also appears as an ACFA Paper, Number 81.

## **Acknowledgements.**

The Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists has been systematically surveying the Island of Raasay since 1995 with members returning year after year, at their own expense, to face the rigours of weather and topography. Their enthusiasm and dedication to the task is applauded. Those who contributed to the contents of this paper are especially thanked.

They are:- Eleanor Smart, Anne Macdonald, Anne Wood, Jim Anderson, Steve Clancy and Donald Mckay. Steve Clancy is further mentioned for his photographic work which was of inestimable help.

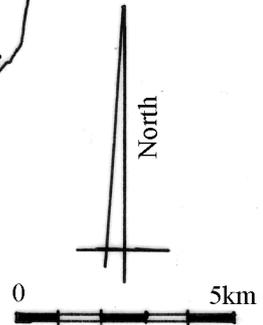
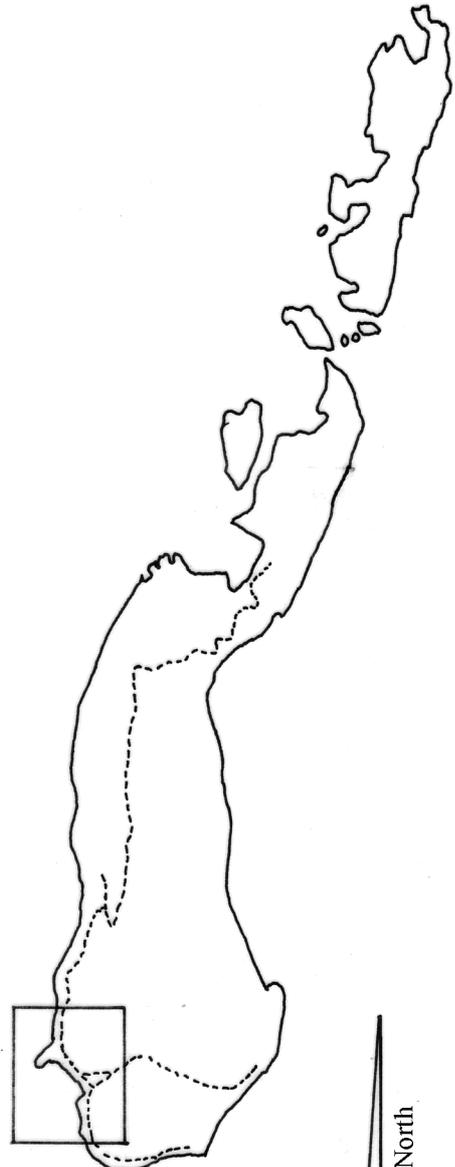
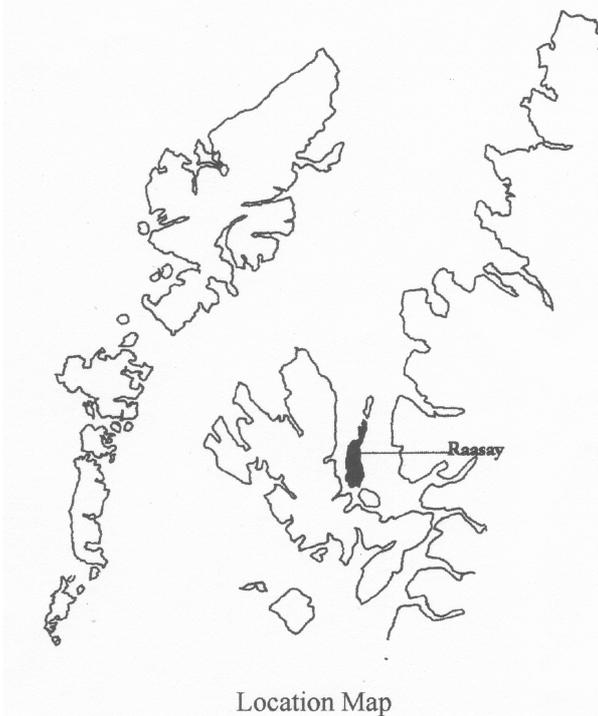
The support of Urras Dualchas Ratharsaidh (Raasay Heritage Trust) and of Rebecca Mackay is declared for their invaluable help with historical notes and for the photographs from the Trust's archive and permission to reproduce them here.

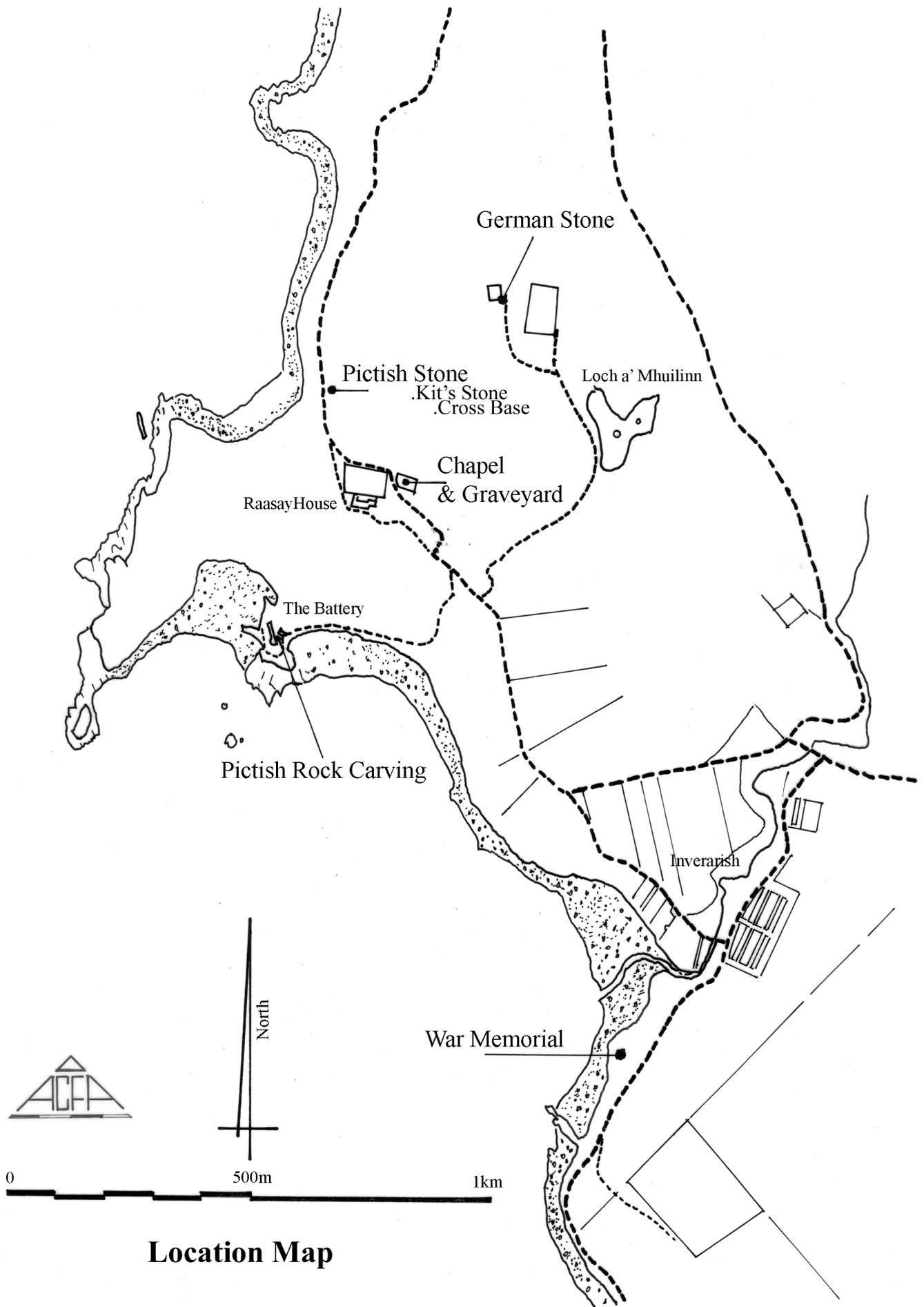
The continuing support, encouragement and friendship of Lionel Masters, who started it all, is acknowledged.

Finally, we are deeply grateful for the help received from the Glasgow Archaeological Society and from the Council for British Archaeology's Challenge Fund. Without the generous grants from those bodies it would not have been possible to publish this Paper or the other Raasay Papers.

**J.S.Wood. & J. Macdonald**  
**Directors.**

# Isle of Raasay





**Location Map**



## St. Moluag's Chapel.



**St Moluag's Chapel and the MacLeod Memorial. Circa 1900**

### **Kilmoluag.**

### **Background.**

The chapel and site at Kilmoluag is named for St. Moluag, one of the great missionary saints from Bangor in Ulster, whose most notable foundation was the monastery of Lismore, on an island in the Firth of Lorne. His life has been reconstructed by the Rev. A.B. Scott on the evidence of church dedications, the Irish Annals, the Iona Chronicles and other material. Sharpe, in his "A Study of Island History", advises that the evidence of the Annals is valuable but inadequate and that Scott elaborated from less trustworthy sources.

Scott proposes that Moluag lived from around 520 until 592AD and made two great missionary journeys. The first took him around the western isles, including Raasay, where he is alleged to have landed in 569AD. The second journey took him by way of the Great Glen to the Moray Firth area and perhaps on into Aberdeenshire. Sharpe asserts that much of this must be regarded as no more than pious fantasy.

Although any mission by St. Moluag to Raasay can only be speculation, Sharpe is of the opinion that some such occasion is the most likely explanation for the cross near the old landing-place and for the persistence of the appellation. He tells us also that the church, first attested in 1501, may well be mediaeval and that if it could be shown to be earlier, then one might conjecture that the church on Raasay was in fact founded by a monk from Lismore or direct from Bangor. He goes on to conjecture more

remotely that St.Maelrubha came to Applecross from Bangor in 672AD on the strength of information received from Bangor monks on Raasay.

Donald Munro travelled through the Western Isles of Scotland in 1549 and he confirms the situation on Raasay by writing “ with twa castillis, to wit, the castell of Kilmaluok and the castell of Brevkdill; with twa fair orcheartis at the saidis twa castellis; with ane paroche kirk callit Kilmaluok.”.

About 1695, Martin Martin when writing does not mention the church when he notes the crosses and pyramids, “several of them are built of stone and lime” while “about the village, which is adorned with a little tower, and lesser houses, and an orchard with several sorts of berries, pot herbs, etc”. He also tells us that “The inhabitants are all Protestants” but does not say if the church is in use or already ruined.

There are three buildings in the enclosure of the burial ground at Kilmoluag. The largest is the roofless ruin of the parish church. The smaller building lying parallel and immediately alongside the south wall of the church is the Lady Chapel, the mausoleum of Mary Julia Hastings Macleod who died in childhood, following an accident, in 1839. She was the only child of John Macleod, 12<sup>th</sup> and last chief of the Macleods of Raasay, who emigrated to Tasmania in 1846.

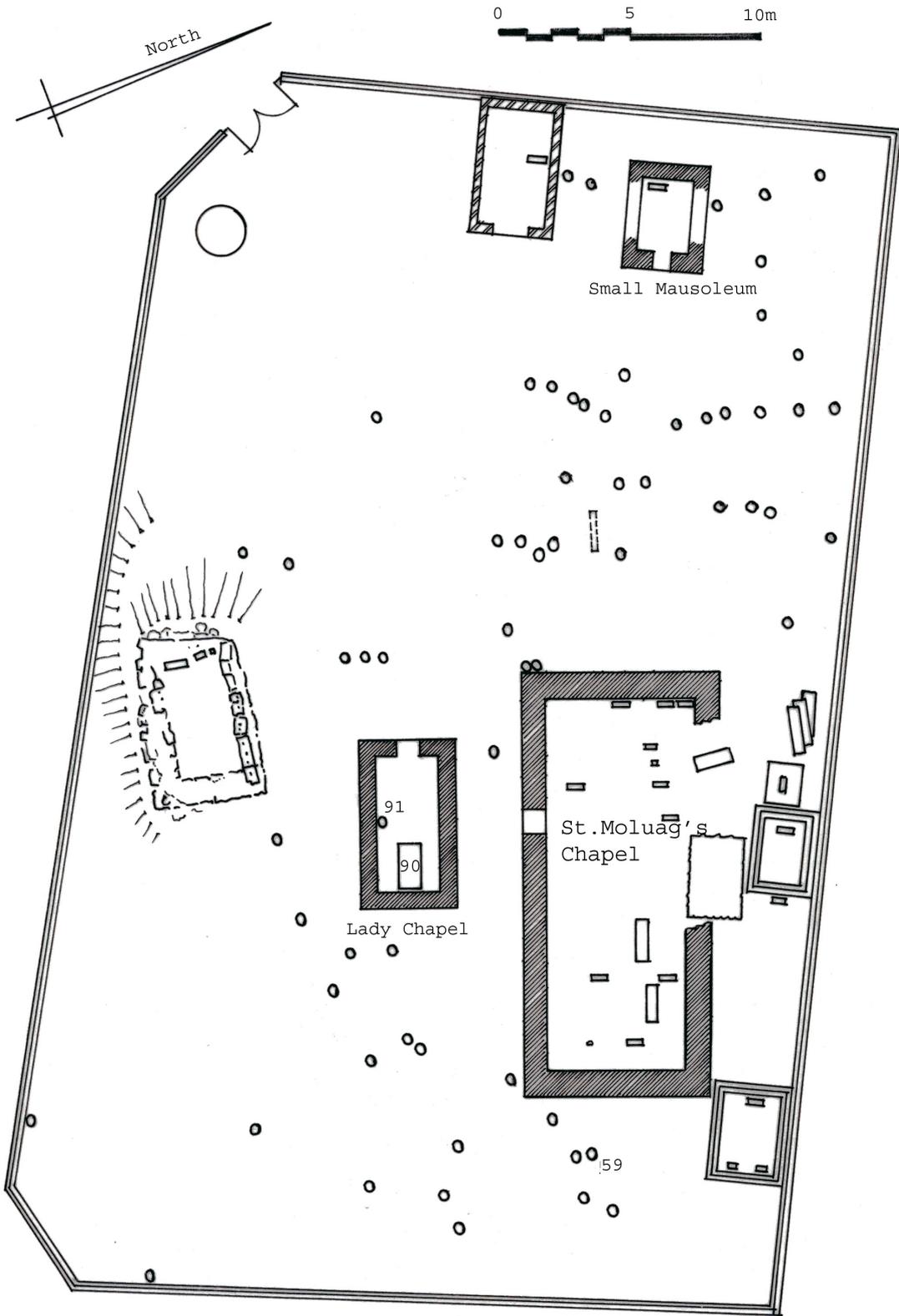
The third structure, at the western side of the enclosure, may be the remains of an earlier chapel, perhaps even of the 11<sup>th</sup> century according to Sharpe. He then more realistically points out that the bevelling of the door lintel would be against this early date and that this building too may be a more recent mausoleum. The authors suggest it is typical of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Sharpe indicates that dilapidation is proceeding apace. Much of the west gable of the church has collapsed since the photograph in Robert Malloy’s book “The Isle of Raasay” was taken in 1958, so that the upper window and gable is now lost.



**Church yard from the southeast.**

# Kilmoluag Graveyard



## **Saint Moluag's Chapel.**

## **Description.**

The remains of the chapel are situated at the northern and elevated side of the graveyard enclosure at a height of 30m OD and some 60m northeast from Raasay House. The roofless building is 16m long from east to west but has a width that varies from 7.43m at the west end to 6.75m at the eastern side. Internally the space is 14.10m long with a width of some 5.50m, the wall thickness being about 0.90m. The north wall is mostly non-existent, only a short length remaining at the east end. Both end walls remain with narrow lancet type window openings in each but the gables are now gone. The south wall is continuous with evidence of periodic alteration. Three windows and a 0.90m wide doorway occur in it. The door opening, 1.10m wide on the inside, is located 5.20m from the southwest corner. Above the lintel of the door is blocking suggestive of a door having existed at the higher level. The original ground level about and within the building has been much altered so that the present ground has risen by at least 1.0m, possibly as much as 1.20m. On the interior of the south wall is an arched aumbry, probably a piscina, partly buried with barely 0.60m of the top of the stone arch now showing. Other sources (RCAHMS Inventory) suggest this feature is a shrine, perhaps to the saint.

The west wall now stands to a height of 3.85m on the interior and somewhat less on the exterior. A scarcement occurs at a height of 3.30m on the interior just above the pointed arched window. The window opening is 1.0m high with a width of 0.22m and the outer edges are chamfered. The opening is intaken to a width of 0.90m and the opening is 1.20m high. At the top of the window aperture the pointed arched opening is carved from a single stone block. Behind this, as the span increases towards the interior, the opening is lintelled by flat stone slabs with the ends built into the reveals. All other openings in this wall have either been built up or the section of the wall containing them has fallen off.

At ground level is a single vertically placed stone with an edge chamfer that matches the window jambs above. Surrounding this is an area with grey cement mortaring. Sharpe, writing in 1977, tells us that the "west gable has now collapsed since the photograph in Mr Malloy's book was taken, so that the upper of two windows is now lost". In a note Malloy admits the photograph of the Chapel was taken in 1958, "before the window opening was closed in to prevent further collapsing of the wall". It is not clear which window is being referred to for closure but a collapse occurred not long afterwards. A further photograph from the Raasay Heritage Trust (Urras Dualchas Ratharsaidh) Collection dating from between 1880 and 1910 gives a similar view of the west end in fine detail. This plate shows two windows above each other and a substantial hole at ground level. This could well have been a third window from which the dressed jambs have been looted exposing the full width of the reveals to view. Above the upper window there is a possible small niche. It is worthy of note that this early photograph shows many more low grave markers than are apparent today.

At first glance the eastern wall appears to be the same but substantial differences show upon closer examination. The wall stands to a similar height with a single narrow window but the ground on the exterior is much higher at 1.10m below the sill as opposed to the 2m it is on the interior. The window opening on the exterior side is 0.25m wide and 1.05m high, with a semi-circular head cut from a single, now badly

eroded, stone. The moulding on the exterior, also much eroded, is a right-angled recessed check. The reveals on the interior are angled to give a width of 1.15m and a full height of 1.55m with a sloping sill. The angle of the reveal is maintained from side to side around the curvature at the head by expertly set corbelling stones. Adjacent to this window are remnants of two similar windows in the south wall with vestigial elements in the remaining fragment of the north wall.

At the eastern end of the south wall are the remains of these two windows, round headed with corbelled and splayed reveals internally. A fine drawing by B.M Thompson of the more complete window is reproduced below (page 18). These are 1.0m high by 0.22m wide but no detail is to be found at the outer edges of the jambs. The openings splay inwards to an opening 1.55m high by 1.05m wide. Between these is the arched aumbry already mentioned which shows 1.80m wide at the present ground level. The two south windows are likely to have been echoed in the opposite northern wall where vestigial remains of window apertures occur. Four socket holes appear in the south wall to the west of the windows and piscina but only one remains in the north wall 2.40m from the west end. The levels of the holes are not the same and a screen between the nave and altar has been suggested by others.

On the west side of the door in the south wall are four joist holes at a slightly different level from the previous. The wall has a blocked up opening immediately above the door, a probable upper door to a “laird’s loft”. Between the door and the west corner is a blocked up window 0.80m wide on the interior wall surface. This window does not have the same characteristics or levels of those at the east end.

Since the opposing north wall has gone no comparisons of floor levels across the building can be made.

**The interiors of the window apertures.**

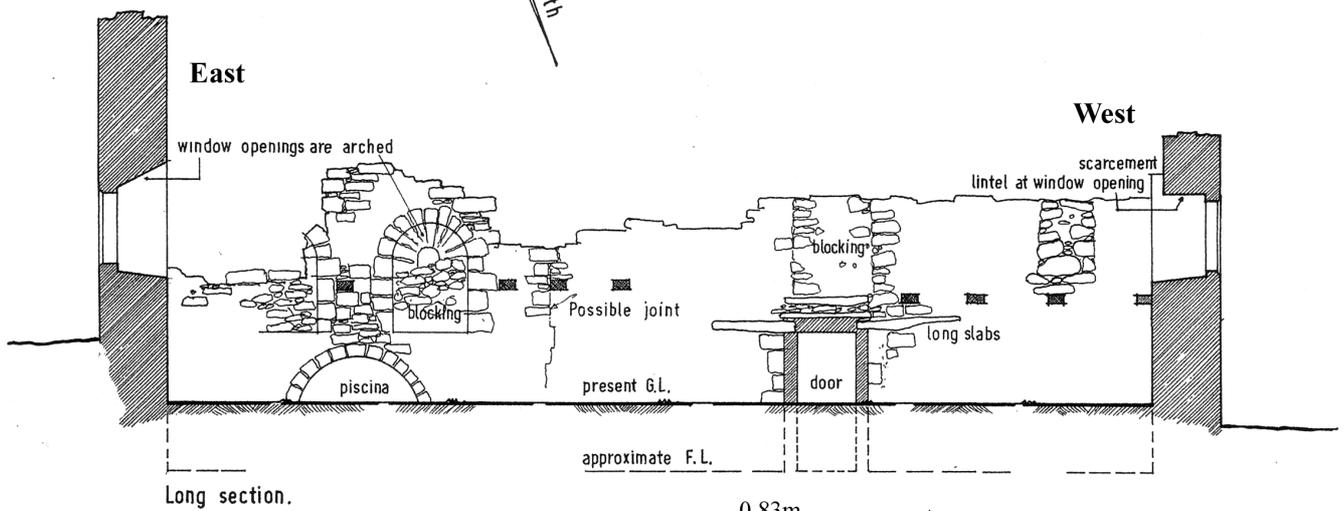
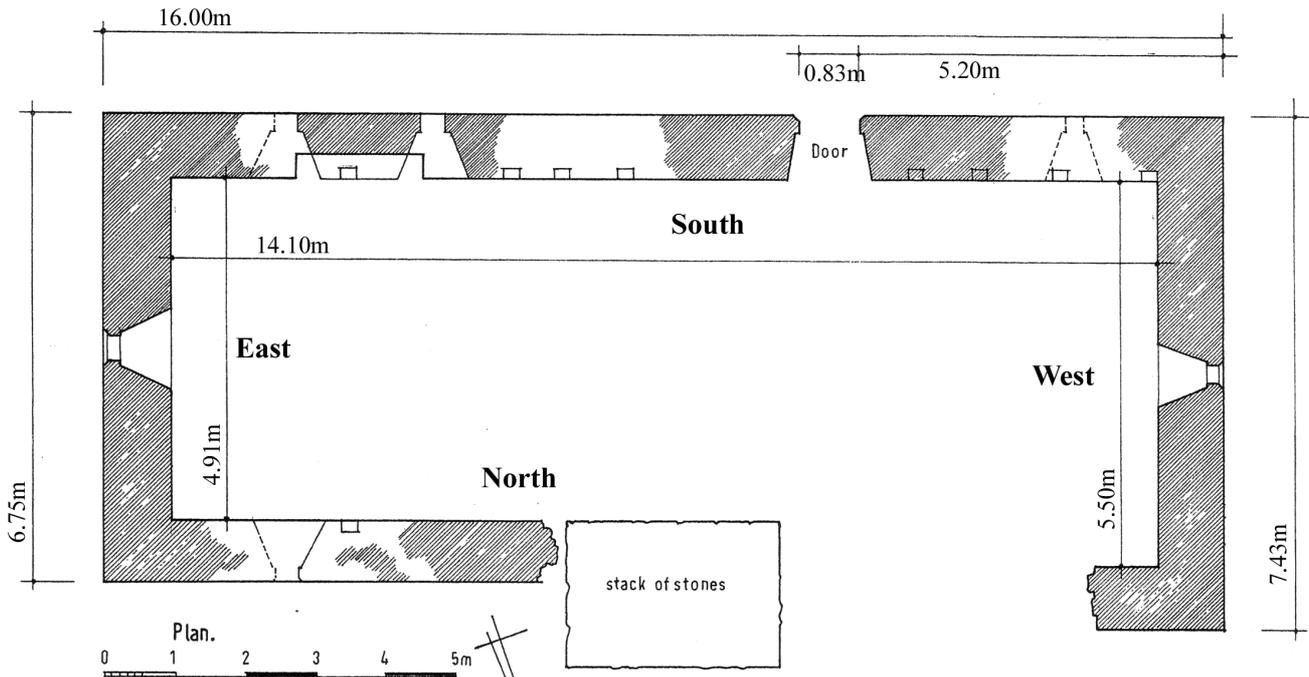


**East Window.**

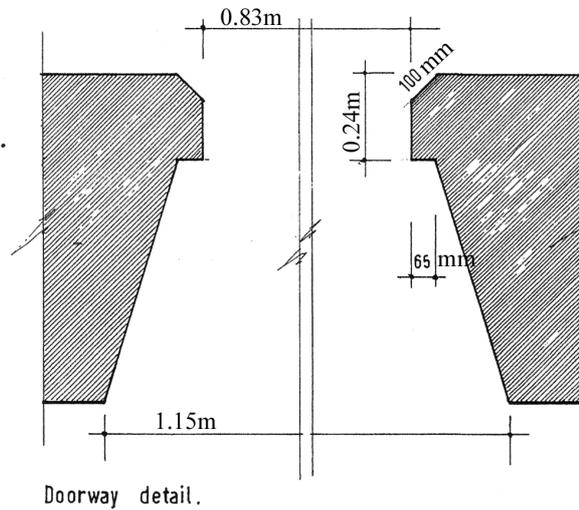


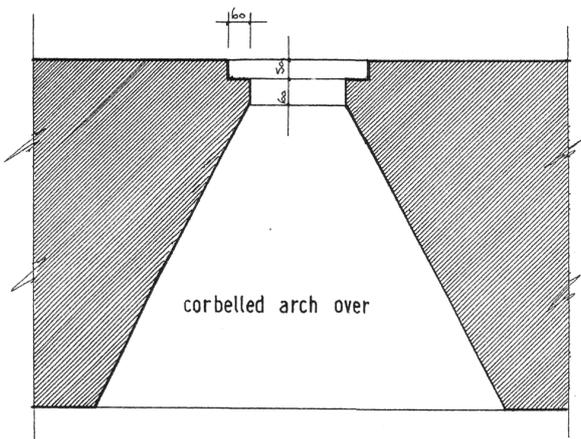
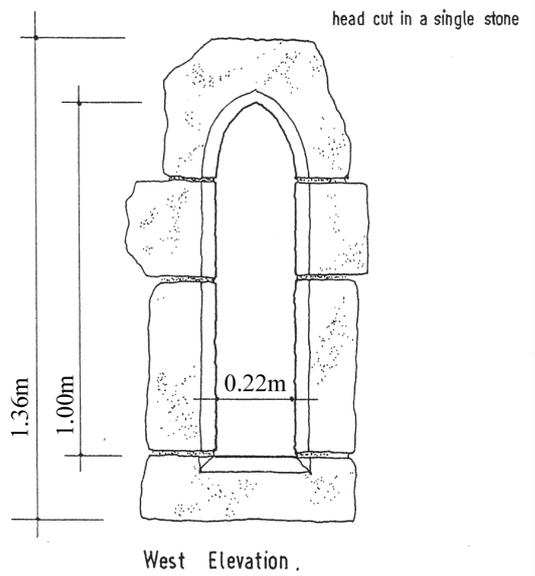
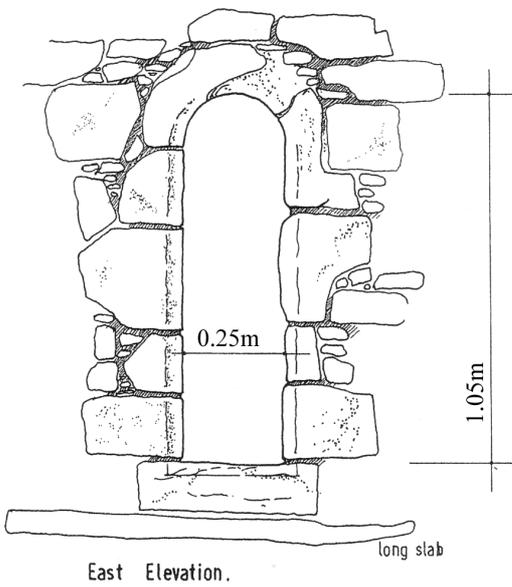
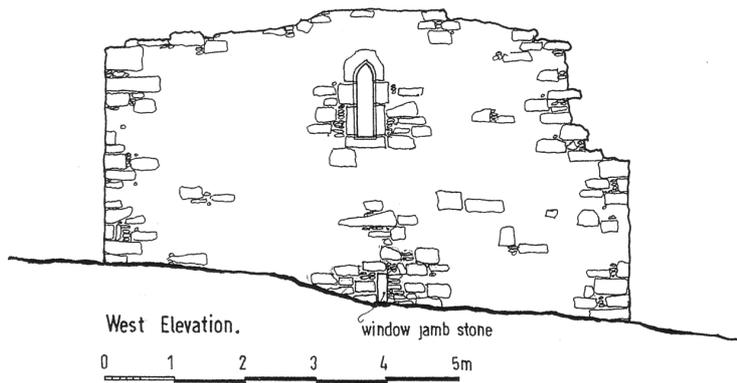
**West window.**

# Saint Moluag's Chapel

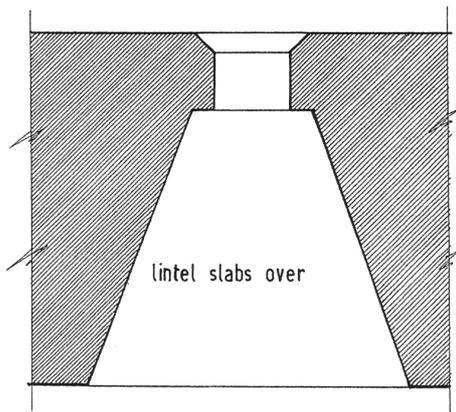


## Remains of St. Moluag's Chapel.





Detail of window in EAST wall.



Detail of window in WEST wall.



Details at St. Moluag's Chapel.

## Significant Stones.

On each side of the interior of the doorway in the south wall are two large Torridonian sandstone slabs supporting each side of the lintel. The stone on the inner right side is a huge slab 1.42m long by 0.13m thick under the lintel and 0.15m thick at its mid length. The stone has a width of 0.51m showing in the doorway under the lintel. On the left side of the doorway is a similar slab this time 1.17m long by 0.16m thick and having a minimum width of 0.30m where it carries the lintel. The existence of these large stones in the wall contrasts markedly with the construction of the wall and apertures of the eastern end and confirms the walls at either end are of a different date.

On the line of the missing north wall is a neatly piled rectangular stack of stones 3.0m long from east to west by 2.10m wide and 2.0m high. This stack is a collection of the fallen stones from the west gable and other loose material. Showing in the south side of the stack, 0.70m above the ground, is a long red sandstone slab like those noted in the wall construction at the doorway. It is 1.56m long by 0.10m thick but of indeterminable width. At the west end of this slab the edge is chipped 0.29m long by 0.10m of splay and might be a tenon end. Two layers above the red slab is a grey stone slab 1.73m long and between 0.10m and 0.12m thick and being 0.35m in width at its west end. Near by are some long grave slabs, stacked near the boundary wall.

The red Torridonian slabs in particular may be significant and may be re-used fragments of cross slabs alluded to in later parts of this paper. These stones should be watched and inspected whenever an opportunity presents.



**Interior of doorway.**



**Long slab in stone stack.**

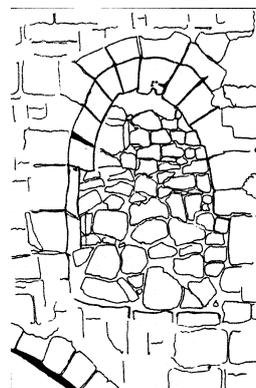
## Discussion.

MacGibbon and Ross (1896 - 97) suggest a thirteenth century date for the building based solely on the narrow lancet shaped windows of the west wall. The strong chamfer to the outer edge of the dressed stones at the door and the west window with the trabeated style of construction are features which argue against this early date. No mention is made by these venerated architectural historians of the more convincing round headed windows and recessed mouldings at the east end of the building which would argue for an early date.

The building appears to have undergone a number of changes. Malcolm Macleod, 9<sup>th</sup> Chief of Raasay, built the first Raasay House about 1720 following his marriage to Mary MacKenzie of Applecross in 1713. It is possible that he rebuilt and extended the chapel at this time and inserted his loft with separate outside access stair. There is sufficient difference in the detailing about the windows and in the dressed stonework internally at the east end to believe that a smaller building was extended substantially. There is the suggestion of a joint in the stonework between the door and the window to the west of the piscina. The west wall with probable door of an older building may have been removed and the building extended by some 8m to 9m. It is this building that Johnson in 1773 reports as “a chapel unroofed and ruinous” and it is speculated that the church suffered the same fate as Raasay House when it was razed by government troops in 1746. Samuel Johnson in 1773 refers to the chapel as “unroofed and ruinous, which has long been used only as a place of burial”. A slab marked MML was lifted from the church interior during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century (see Page 34). It is assumed that this is Malcolm Macleod 9<sup>th</sup> Chief of Raasay who was imprisoned for his part in the 1745-46 Rebellion and is reputed to have met Boswell and Johnson in his latter years.

The original smaller building with narrow round-headed windows and probable west door is more acceptable as a pre-reformation church and could even be attributed with an earlier date than the thirteenth century.

The building most probably is set on a rock outcrop with stone close under the original floor. After the church went out of use as a place of worship and when it became fashionable to inter the dead in old sacred places, Kilmoluag must have proved difficult. The lack of soil depth must have been overcome by importing material to permit interment thus creating the raised ground and floor levels apparent in and about the building today.



Drawing reproduced with the kind permission of B.M. Thompson

### **The Macleod Mausoleum.**

### **The Lady Chapel.**

The building is a roofless shell with only a single fragment of timber window frame remaining in an opening above the doorway. Even this has now fallen since the survey of the building at Easter 2005. The mausoleum is 6.03m long from east to west by 3.60m wide and lies parallel to St Moluag's Chapel only 2.48m to the north. Internally the building is 4.80m long and 2.40m wide. The west front stands 4.70m high from the threshold and has in it a pointed arch doorway 2.55m high and 1.05m wide. Above the doorway is a pointed arch window opening containing a Y shaped stone mullion giving the window three lights. Two similarly shaped windows occur in the south wall and are 1.75m high by 0.75m wide, each ingoing to a width of 1.15m. The sills are 1.05m above the floor level. In the east wall is a single taller window of the same pattern 2.15m high by the same width as those in the south wall but having a higher sill level 1.43m from the floor. Above the window at its apex is a stone block with the carving of a face projecting from it. The walls are red Torridonian ashlar stonework laid in tight courses and are 0.60m thick all round. A moulded string-course 0.12m deep, projecting 0.12m from the wall faces, exists on both the north and south wall heads. The gables at both east and west ends are crow stepped with twelve steps on each side of the apex where there are stone crosses as finials.

Within the mausoleum is a large stone slab laid into the floor. It is dedicated to the memory of Mary Julia Hastings Macleod who died in 1839 following a fall when only two years and seven months old. Between the two windows in the south wall is a boulder some 0.40m high with a small plaque attached to it commemorating the 17<sup>th</sup> Chief of Raasay.

### **The inscriptions are as follows:-**

#### **Number 90 on plan of graveyard**

Sacred  
The memory of  
Mary Julia Hastings Macleod  
Daughter of  
Macleod of Raasay and Mary his wife  
Born 6<sup>th</sup> September 1836  
Died 12<sup>th</sup> April 1839  
Aged two years and seven months

“ Suffer the little children to come unto  
Me and forbid them not,  
For of such is the Kingdom of God for I say  
Unto you that in heaven their angels  
Do always behold the face of my  
Father, which is in heaven”.

**Number 91 on plan of graveyard.**

In Memory of  
Torquil Rodrick Macleod  
Of the Lewes  
17<sup>th</sup> Chief of Raasay  
25.6.1919 – 6.3.2001

**Discussion.**

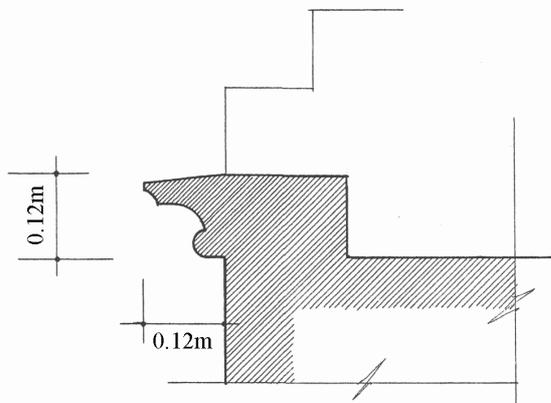
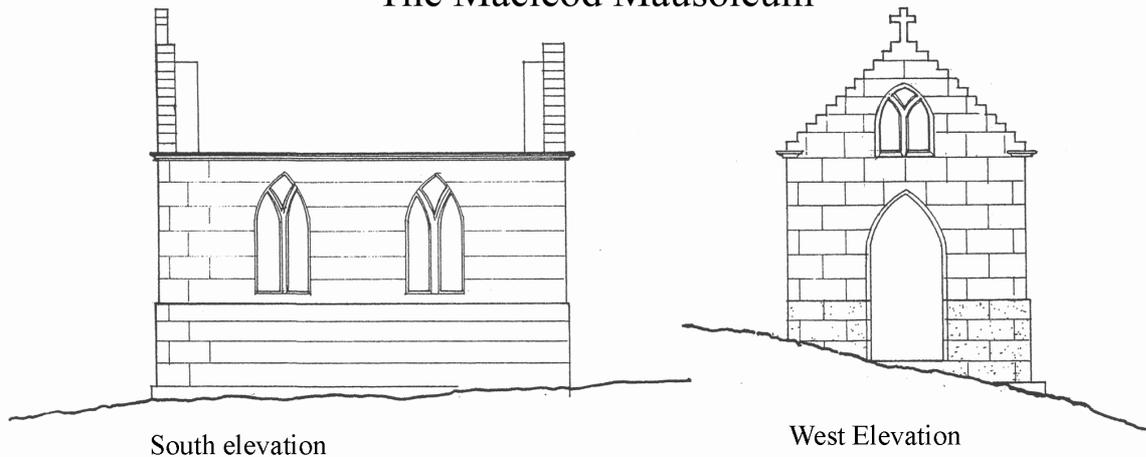
This building is described in the National Monuments Record as a small detached 19<sup>th</sup> century family burial vault of the Macleods of Raasay. Sharpe tells us that it was built in 1839 while Malloy writes that “in 1839 the young daughter of John Macleod, 12<sup>th</sup> Chief died as the result of a fall and was buried in the Lady Chapel on the south side of the ancient church”. Also in Malloy’s book is a caption to a photograph showing the west ends of both the church and the mausoleum that says “the small chapel (on the right of the picture) was erected to the memory of Mary Julia Hastings Macleod who died in 1839”.

There is no doubt that references to the Lady Chapel refer to the Macleod mausoleum and that this is the burial place of the child. The claims, however, to its being built in 1839 give cause for concern. An early Victorian date is architecturally acceptable for the building were it not for a passage by James Boswell when recounting his journey with Dr. Johnson to Raasay in 1773. He wrote, “On the south side of the chapel (St Moluag’s) is a family burial place. Above the door, on the east end of it, is a small bust or image of the Virgin Mary, carved upon a stone which makes part of the wall”. The carving is actually above the window in the east wall facing the door but apart from this detail it is clear that Boswell is describing a building which was thought to have been built sixty-six years later. The Lady Chapel appellation, though largely unknown today, must be a reference to the Virgin Mary and not a dedication to the dead child.

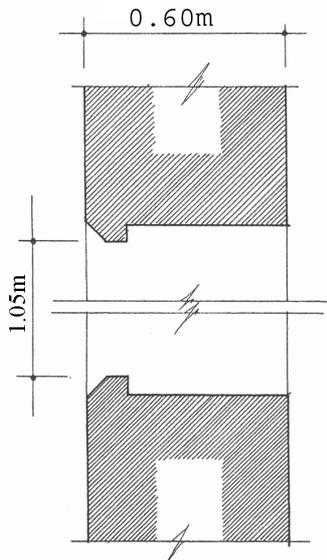
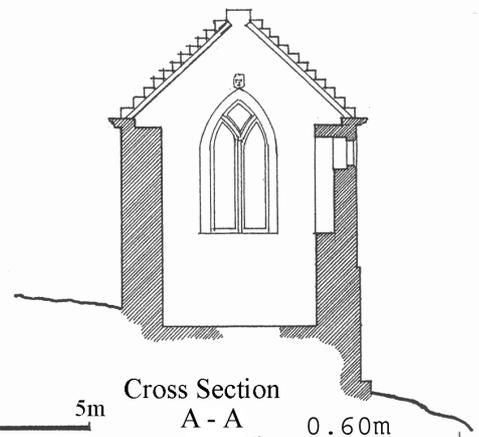


**Head on the keystone above the east window.**

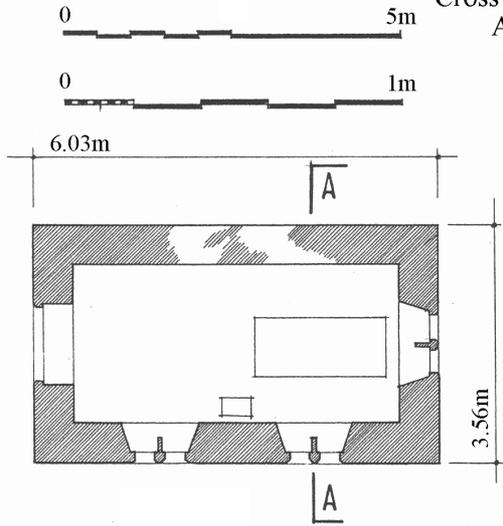
# The Lady Chapel. The Macleod Mausoleum



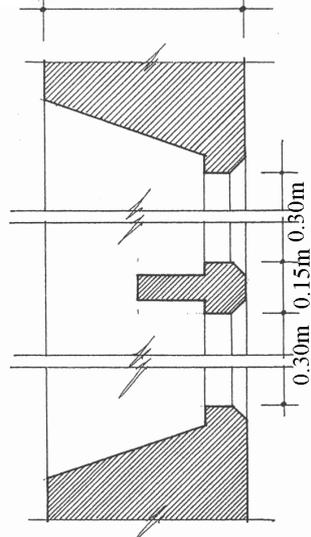
Wall Head Detail



Door Detail



Plan



Window detail

### **Small Building.**

### **Family Mausoleum.**

The third building in the graveyard is in the northwest corner adjoining the west wall of the cemetery. It is a small roofless structure 4m long from east to west and 3m wide. With walls 0.60m thick on all sides it is 3m long by 2m wide internally. A doorway opening 0.70m wide occurs in the east wall and at its largest is only 0.80m high. The doorway is characterised by a 45<sup>0</sup> flat chamfer at the front edges which measures 70mm across. The gables at the east and west ends are reasonably intact standing to a height of 2.40m above the present ground level. The north wall has been reduced to the current ground level on the exterior but is 0.40m high internally. The south wall is probably about its original height and is 1.10m above the interior level. This wall is now topped with coping stones re-used from a wall which had been surmounted with an iron railing. The coping stones are up to 0.90m long by 0.60m wide and 0.15m deep at the centre but chamfered on both sides to 80mm. Holes 25mm square and 30mm deep occur on the centre line at 0.18m centres to receive a 16mm square iron railing post with a leaded plugging. A window opening, now blocked up, occurred in the centre of the south wall and was 0.45m wide by 0.60m high. Within the area of the building is a single memorial stone set close to the west wall and to the south of the centre line. This stone is **Number 4** in the graveyard inventory.

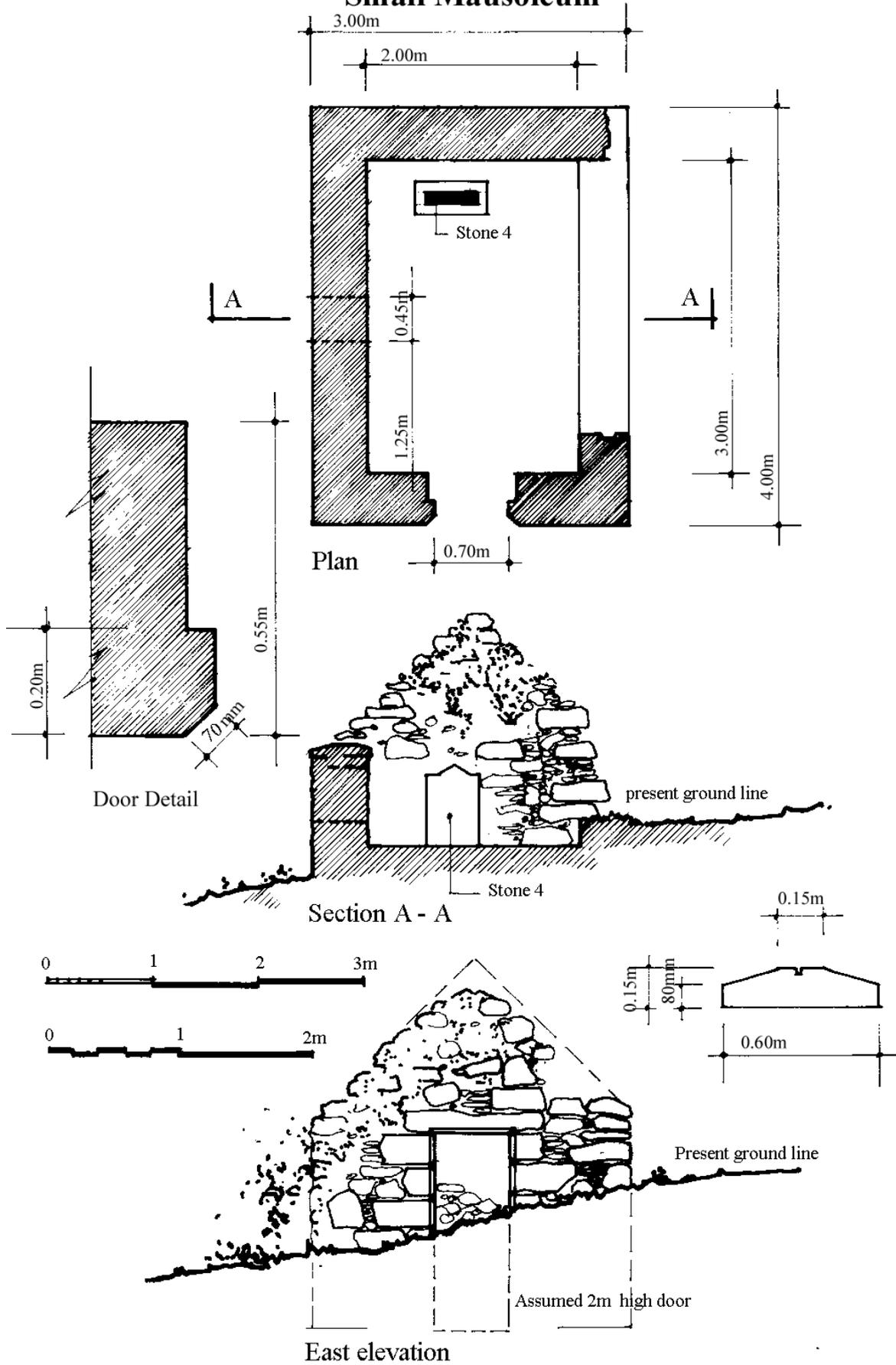
### **Discussion.**

This small building is hard to date. Its most prominent feature is the construction of the east wall with chamfered lintel and jambs to the doorway. This is in all respects the same as the doorway in the south wall of St Moluag's chapel and could readily be contemporary in construction. Johnson writing following his visit in September 1773 notes "Near the house, at Raasay, is a chapel which has long been used only as a place of burial. About the churches, in the islands, are small squares inclosed with stone, which belong to particular families, as repositories for the dead. At Raasay there is one, I think, for the proprietors (Lady Chapel), and one for some collateral house". This building would fit comfortably with an early 18<sup>th</sup> century date of construction.



**Small mausoleum from the northeast.**

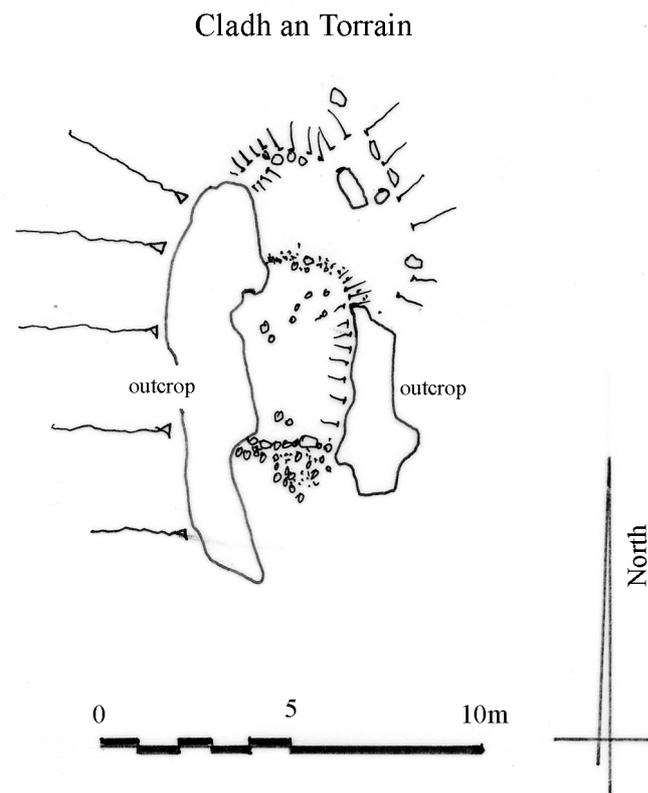
# Small Mausoleum



## Torran Burial Ground.

NG 5951 4886

This feature is situated at an elevation of 30m OD and is named as Cladh an Torran on the ordnance survey maps, the name indicating a burial ground. Local sources tell of children buried there in the mid nineteenth century following an outbreak of cholera. Two large rock outcrops lie to the east and west of a flat area with rough boulder walls at the north and south sides enclosing a space 6m from north to south and 4m from east to west. The western outcrop is 14m long by 2.50m to 3m wide from east to west and it is 1.30m high. The eastern outcrop is 6m long, between 1.50m and 2.50m wide from east to west and is 1m high. An 'apron' at the north end is defined by rough boulders. In the interior some loose stones can be seen and three small vertical stones have an appearance of small grave markers.



## The German Stone.

NG 55033 36999

The large reddish boulder of Torridonian Sandstone, known as the German Stone, rests just outside the southeast corner of the wall enclosing Inverarish Cemetery. Attached to the railing around the cemetery, adjacent to the boulder, is a small faded plastic plaque headed "The German Stone". It is intended that the plaque be replaced. The boulder, in excess of two tonnes, stands 1.50m high by 0.75m thick. It has a broad flattish east facing side but is rounded on the other sides. The flat east facing side has three incised panels let into it. A circular disc at the top is 0.20m in diameter, while lower and side by side are a pair of vertical rectangular panels with half rounded tops. The left panel (southern) is 0.63m high overall and 0.33m wide with the right or northern panel slightly smaller at 0.60m high by 0.30m wide. Each panel has a pair of hooks, centrally one above the other in the disc and side by side at the top of the two vertical panels. These panels are reported to have contained metal plaques.

Inscriptions occur within the vertical panels in simple amateurish carving as follows;-

KAGERER GEO  
geb AD 1893  
gest 17 . 5. 1917  
Runel -

SOSINKA PAUL  
geb AD 1890  
gest 28 . 12 . 1916  
- sanft



Low on the north side of the boulder and in small letters only visible in the right light conditions is a further inscription:-

G Duda  
8 Femmer

The 8 is interpreted as an ampersand (&)..

From excellent work by Lawrence and Pamela Draper we learn that the boulder marked the graves of two German prisoners of war, Kagerer and Sosinka who died during their internment on Raasay. The stone was hauled by hand from the shore near the mine pier, three kilometres, on a specially built bogie to the cemetery in the hills at 70m OD above Raasay House. It was engraved by Corporal G. Duda a stonemason by trade and he was assisted by someone called Femmer.

The Drapers noted that in an Inquiry held in Portree on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1917 mention was made of “a fatal accident in the mine a few weeks ago” and that “the entire work at the mine had a week or two previously been stopped for an afternoon while a German prisoner was buried”. The Drapers continue that Paul Sosinka, who died on the 28<sup>th</sup> December 1916, is the probable victim of the mine accident as Georg Kagerer died after the Inquiry on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1917. The setting up of the stone as a tribute to their comrades is likely to have happened in late 1917.

Recent internet access to the Register of Deaths shows that Sosinka, employed as a miner, died at 0030 hours on the above date, killed by a roof fall in the ironstone mine and that Kagerer, a shoemaker at the prison camp, died of influenza with pulmonary complications. The other implication to be drawn from this is that the mining was probably working twelve hour shifts round the clock.

In a dreadful two weeks between the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1919 a further twelve prisoners, who had survived the war, died in the “Spanish Flu” epidemic and were interred at Inverarish Cemetery.

Between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July 1967, somewhat against the wishes of the islanders the remains of all fourteen POW’s were removed to the German War Cemetery at Cannock Chase in Staffordshire. The metal plaques were removed and the stone marker dumped and abandoned on its side outside the cemetery wall.

In the mid nineteen-eighties the islanders (few of whom could have known the Germans) re-erected the boulder in its present position.



**East facing side of the German Stone with small plaque on railing behind.**

### List of German Prisoners of War who died in internment on Raasay.

Paul Sosinka and Georg Kagerer died during the war, the other twelve men died of influenza after the cessation of hostilities.

Grave Number	Name Rank	Regiment	Date of Death
411	Bruno Schmidtke Musketier	2/57 Inf.Rgt.	20. 02. 1919
414	Fridolin Helmer Pionier	2/13 Pion. Batt.	22. 02. 1919
415	Ludwig Brockly GEFR	9/56 Res. Inf..Rgt	18. 02. 1919
416	Wolfgang Muhr Gemeiner.	5/16 Inf. Rgt.	13. 02. 1919
449	August Ditges Gemeiner	4/57 Inf. Rgt	10. 02. 1919
450	Gabriel Munch Musketier	10/186 Inf. Rgt.	17.02. 1919
451	Franz Nowatzki Gemeiner	2/57 Inf. Rgt.	12. 02. 1919
452	Ernst Knaup Musketier	10/186 Inf. Rgt.	16. 02. 1919
453	Robert Rodelbronn Gemeiner	11/16 Inf. Rgt.	12. 02. 1919
454	Hermann Bramer Musketier	5/16 Res. Inf. Rgt.	08. 02. 1919
455	Emil Berg Freiwilliger	12/56 Inf. Rgt.	09. 02. 1919
456	Sebastian Dinzenhofer Pionier	1 Bayr. Res. Pion. Komp.	12. 02. 1919
457	Georg Kagerer Gemeiner	8/20 Bayr. Inf. Rgt.	17. 05. 1917
458	Paul Sosinka Landsturmmann	2/22 res. Inf Rgt.	28. 12. 1916

## Pictish Stone.

NG 54662 36756

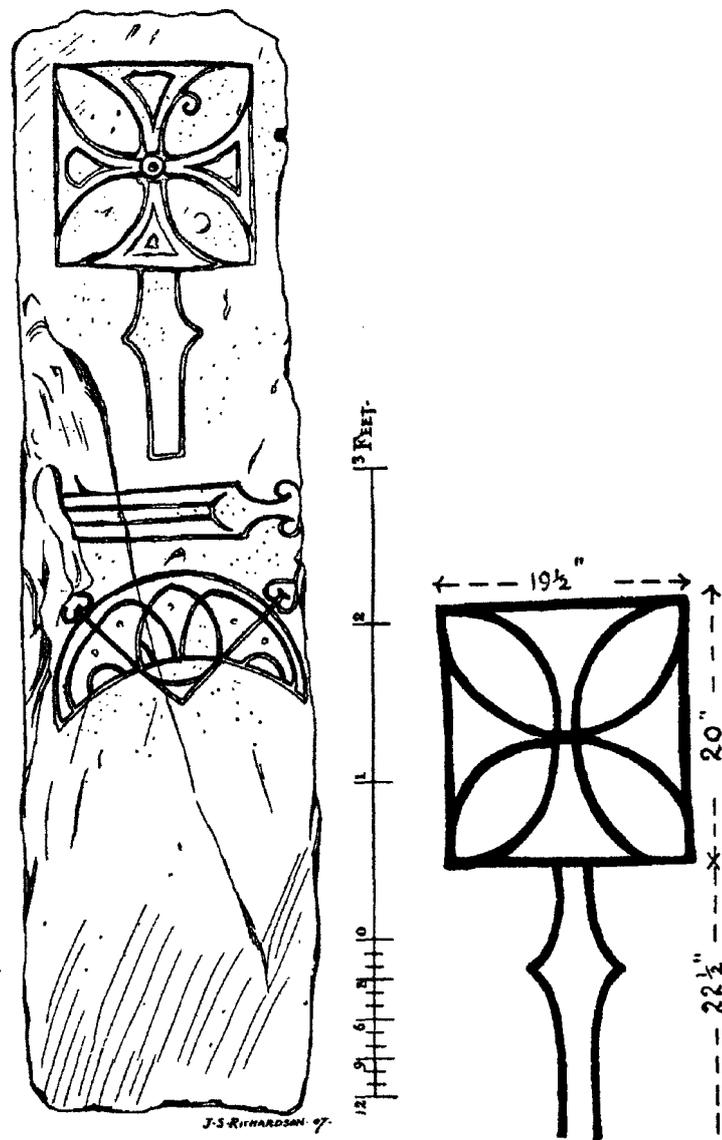
The stone is set in woodland, 4m to the east of the road from Inverarish to Oskaig, some 60m to the north of the western driveway leading to Raasay House. It sits on a low cairn 3.50m in diameter and 0.50m high. The cairn is fronted by a rock outcrop behind which stones have been placed to form the cairn mound. The incised cut stone is set on the mound facing the west and is of roughly dressed grey granite. It measures 1.50m high from the ground, is 0.53m wide and is 0.135m thick. The stone is not now in its original position. It was discovered in 1824, when the road from Raasay House to the old harbour was made, about 100m from the Battery where a rock carving of a similar motif is located.

The carving on the stone is best described as four semi-circles interlocked to produce four equal leaf shapes in the shape of the saltire. This is enclosed in a 0.40m square creating a Maltese cross. The arms of the cross are recessed to emphasis the cross motif. A hook hangs in the upper right 'leaf' from the underside of the top arm of the cross. This is thought to be the vestige of the rho of the chi-rho symbol. There is a shaft below the lower arm of the cross delineated by a pair of lines which curve gently outwards to points and then reverse curve back inwards as they descend the stone. Below the shaft are the V-rod and crescent motifs with the tuning fork symbol.



The Raasay stone is regarded as unusual for its combination, on the same face, of an incised cross of unique style with the other symbols. Arguments have been advanced for a 7<sup>th</sup> century AD date on the basis of the ornamentation of the V-rod and crescent symbols being free of any Northumbrian influence. This only came to the Pictish Church after King Nainton or Nechtan invited the Northumbrian monks into his territory in the early 8<sup>th</sup> century AD.

Mr. J.S. Richardson writing in PSAS in 1907 tells how Mr Fleming, green keeper at North Berwick Golf Links, had shown him two small photographs of a sculptured stone he had taken while the gardener at Raasay House. Mr Richardson made a sketch from the photographs and sent it to Mr Cameron, estate manager on Raasay and requested him to mark on it the dimensions and to make any corrections. He gives the dimensions of the stone as 7ft 1in long (2.16m), 1ft 9ins (0.533m) wide and 5.5ins (0.139m) thick. A copy of Mr. Richardson's drawing is reproduced.



## The Rock Carving at The Battery.

NG 54568 36301

The rock carving at the Battery is incised into the rock face of the natural rocky promontory, known as the Battery, at the old harbour to the west of Raasay House. The carving faces inland towards the northeast and is on a smoothish patch of near vertical rock some 1.70m above the surrounding land. The overall size of the sculpture is 1.80m high and wide. The carved symbols are similar to those on the Pictish Stone described above but slightly larger. The Maltese cross measures 0.50m wide by 0.52m high. Below the cross the staff is depicted with three lines in this case and the entire carving is 1.17m high. The carving is clearly visible under conditions with a bright side light but under direct flat or dull lighting conditions the carving can be difficult to discern. This may have given rise to the reports that the monument has eroded noticeably in the last few decades.

The cross at the Battery is thought to mark the landing place of Saint Moluag. It is inescapable that this is also the safest anchorage and landing place on Raasay and is at the shortest crossing point to the larger land-mass of Skye.

It is argued that the cross at the Battery is probably the earlier carving as it is thought unlikely a cross would be copied on to natural rock from a free standing monument. The cross motif clearly indicates a Christian function which is usually regarded as separate from the meaning of the other symbols. The symbols are considered to be secular in function but must express something which can relate to and be permissible on an ecclesiastical monument. It is thought by Sharpe that since the early church permitted the pre-Christian symbols to appear with a cross it indicated that the function of the stones is secular and not religious. He offers two plausible views – first that the stones are indications of rank or family on a gravestone or cenotaph or secondly that they designated the owner of the land on which the symbol stone stands. He concedes both views are difficult to test as so few stones remain or are in their original position. Though the meaning of the stones and carvings is unknown we have to agree with Sharpe that their beauty and skill of execution can still be appreciated.



Romilly Allan divided symbol stones into two classes. Class 1 were stones with incised cross and symbols while stones bearing symbols together with a relief cross, usually on the reverse face, are class 2. All the Raasay stones are class 1.

### **Cross Bases and Stone Fragments.**

Martin Martin, in his description of the isles written around 1695, notes the presence of other stones on Raasay. He says:-“They preserve the memory of the dead ladies of the place by erecting a little pyramid of stone for each of them, with the lady’s name. The pyramids are by them called crosses: several of them are built of stone or lime and have three steps of gradual ascent to them. There are eight such crosses about the village”.

Dr Johnson on visiting Raasay in 1773 tells a different story:-

“This (about the above) we found not to be true. The stones that stand about the chapel at a small distance, some of which perhaps have crosses cut upon them, are believed to have been not funeral monuments, but the ancient boundaries of the sanctuary or consecrated ground”. Johnson continued “ They mark out the boundaries of the sacred territory within which an asylum was to be had. One of them, which we observed upon our landing made the first point of a semi-circle. There are few of them now remaining”.

Only two of these structures are known today. One stands at the northern end of the rocky outcrop, known as the Battery, to the southwest of Raasay House. The second is at the edge of thick woodland to the north of the chapel. J.J. Galbraith suggests that a third probably existed on a rocky ridge shrouded in trees to the northwest of the Battery. Despite an intensive search of the area no evidence of a base was observed.

The two identified structures are described as cross bases and noted on current maps, but their date is impossible to determine. Since the chapel with which they are associated has been ascribed to the thirteenth century and could be earlier it seems reasonable to assume that the cross bases have a similar dating. The existence of some shaped fragments of red Torridonian sandstone thought to be parts of a broken cross or crosses gives further credence and would fit with a mediaeval date. Such crosses could well have suffered from reformationary zeal.

**Cross Base – The Battery.**

**NG 5454 3638.**



The pyramid of stones is on a rocky eminence known as the Battery to the southwest of Raasay House on the shore of Churchton Bay. On the east side of the outcrop is the insitu Pictish cross carving, with the adjacent pier house and slipway, while on the west is the stone jetty and harbour. The top of the outcrop is flat with an enclosing iron railing and wall at its wider southern end where six cannons

were once mounted. The pyramid is at the narrower northern end and is rectangular in plan. It measures 2.30m from north to south by 2.10m from east to west with a height of 1.80m all grass covered above the stonework. The stonework is highest at the northeast corner, directly over the vertical rock face and has four courses to a height of 1.05m. The southwest corner is three courses high at 0.75m and all slope away to a single course at the south end.

**Forest Cross Base – Torr Iain Ghairbh**

**NG 54797 36746**



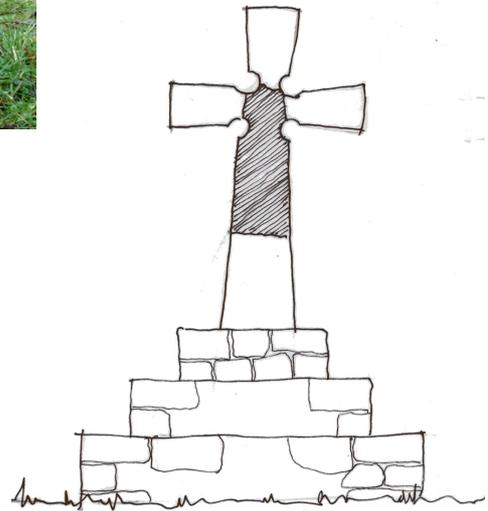
On the right hand side of the footpath, just beyond Kit's Stone (see page 34), at 70m OD is the base for a 'sanctuary marker' or cross base. It is much overgrown but comprises a rectangular base of dressed stone blocks which were measured as 2.20m from north to south by 2.70m from east to west by 0.50m high, behind which is a mound of earth and stones. In 1961 the monument was recorded by the Ordnance Survey when the dimensions were given as 2.50m by 3.20m and 1.20m high. Due to the nature of the vegetation and the time lapse these last dimensions are not disputed though the first above are indicative of the sizes of the remains at the Battery.

## Grave Marker.

Two metres from the east end wall of the chapel is an irregularly shaped red Torridonian sandstone grave marker, listed number 59 on the graveyard inventory plan. It is loose in the ground and leaning towards the south. The stone is 0.60m high, 0.20m wide at the top and 0.30m wide at the ground and is 50mm thick. This stone is very probably a fragment of a broken cross with its top being the centre. The sketch below shows how it may have related to the whole.



**Grave marker. Stone 59.**



**As the fragment might have been**

## Small Stone Fragment with Cross Carving

On display in the Raasay Heritage Museum is a fragment of red Torridonian sandstone found in 1998. It measures 0.24m by 0.22m and is 90mm thick. The smoother face bears an incomplete cross-of-arcs finely incised within a deeper groove 0.26m in original diameter, of which only three short sections remain. The centre has been damaged by a later hole 15mm in diameter and depth. It is clear that the opposed arcs did not meet at the centre and are similar to the Pictish carvings mentioned above.

### **Missing Carved Stone.**

In 1926 a small slab of red sandstone was reported lying at the foot of a grave. It measured 15.5ins. (0.24m) by 6.25ins (0.16m) and was 1.25ins (33mm) thick. It bore in low relief 'on the rounded and somewhat mutilated upper portion' an equal-armed cross with semi-circular armpits and a ring (or glory) linking the outer ends of the arms. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1971 it was noted by the Ordnance Survey surveyors that the stone could not be found.

It is just possible that this stone was 'tidied away' when the material from the collapsed upper portion of the west gable of the chapel was cleared and stacked.

### **Missing Sculptured Stone.**

**NG 5477 3657**

The Ordnance Survey maps of 1877 and 1904 show the position of a sculptured stone near the southeast corner of Raasay House (see map on page 9). The National Monuments Record indicates that a sculptured stone had been found in 1846 and was erected in an upright position near the east end of Raasay House. The rough granite slab is reported to have borne, in relief on one side, what appeared to be one of the stages of the Passion of Christ. The stone is believed to have been removed between 1877 and 1904 but by whom and to where is not known. Subsequent enquiries in 1961, 1971 and currently have all proved fruitless.

### **Fragment of Mediaeval Grave Slab.**

A fragment about 0.60m long and 0.40m wide is preserved in the Raasay Heritage Museum. The stone is a piece of grey mudstone with an intricate vine and leaf pattern. The stone is reported to have been recovered from the graveyard at Kilmoluag.



### **Grave Slabs.**

Within the church of St. Moluag are two prone slabs about 1.50m long and 0.40m wide. One bears a skull and cross bones motif while the other depicts a warrior with his arms folded across his chest.

Three other slabs are stacked near the north wall of the graveyard one of which is reputed to be marked MML (Malcolm Macleod). These slabs were removed from the church's interior for safety following a wall collapse. Malcolm, 9<sup>th</sup> Chief of Raasay is reputed in later life to have met Boswell and Johnson during their tour of the Highlands and Islands in 1773.

**Kit's Monument.**

**Temptation Hill.**

**NG 5475 3675**

This stone is set on a prominent knoll at an elevation of 60m OD adjacent to the pathway on Temptation Hill to the north of Raasay House. It sits on a flat grassy platform from which the outlook to the west over Skye is stunning. Thoughtfully a bench seat has been provided for both recovery and contemplation.

The stone is an inelegant keyhole shaped grey granite slab standing 1.37m high, 0.55m wide at the bottom, 0.32m wide at the neck with a 0.52m diameter head. The slab is 0.13m thick. Within the circular head is carved a vertical cross with a circular boss at the centre. On each of the arms of the cross a Celtic knot is inset.

The stone was erected during the period when the island was owned by Baird & Co. and is reputed to be to the memory of a young lady who had been a frequent visitor to the island that she dearly loved. Local tradition relates that she died in Switzerland in 1917 and that she was a German countess.

The inscription on the shaft of the stone reads:-

In ever loving memory  
of darling Kit  
Aged 19 years.  
“He giveth his beloved sleep”

“Sunrise over the hills of Skye  
Sunrise over the sea.  
There's not a place in all the world  
In which I'd rather be.  
For I call it the earthly paradise  
Because it's like heaven to me  
Raasay”



Between the west wall of the enclosed garden to the north of Raasay House and the north access driveway is a row of seven marker stones. These are 5m to the west of the wall set among grass and trees.

The stones are slightly varied and of differing material but they are all rectangular in plan 0.30m square, tapering only slightly up the shaft and finished with low pyramidal tops and are around 0.45m high.

The stones from north to south have the following inscriptions on their west faces.

CHOW	1899	
RODIL	1885	
PADDY	1881	
JACK	1871	
SHIBIACH	1870	The name here is uncertain. This inscription is unclear.
BILLY	1886	

It is reasonable to assume these are the graves of favoured pets, probably dogs.

## Glossary

<b>Ashlar</b>	When the stones showing on the outside face of a wall are squared.
<b>Dook</b>	A wooden peg driven and fitted into stone or brickwork as a fixing for finishings.
<b>Gable</b>	The portion of a wall contained within the angle of a roof, usually triangular in shape.
<b>Ingo or ingoing</b>	A reveal to a window often splayed to give a wider opening on the inside surface.
<b>Jamb</b>	The side post or lining of a doorway or other aperture.
<b>Mullion</b>	The perpendicular columns which divide the bay or lights of a window
<b>Piscina</b>	A niche near the altar for washing Communion or Mass vessels provided with a drain and usually set into the wall to the south of the altar.
<b>Quoins</b>	Large squared stones at the angles of buildings or apertures.
<b>Rebate; Rybat or Rabet.</b>	The recess in a stone jamb to receive a window or door-frame
<b>Reveal</b>	The two vertical sides of an aperture between the front and the window or door.
<b>Scarcement.</b>	The narrowing of a wall as it rises forming a ledge usually to carry joists.
<b>String Course.</b>	A narrow and slightly projecting course in an elevation.
<b>Trabeated</b>	An adjective describing a structure built on the post and lintel principle.

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- No. 72 Director's Handbook.
- No. 73 Souterrain at The Barns of Airlie, Alyth.
- No. 74 Greenfield Farm, Eaglesham.
- No. 75 East and West Revoch. Eaglesham.
- No. 76 Dalgiridy, Glen Lochay, Killin
- No. 77 Former residents of Upper Glen Lochay, Killin. (Part1)
- No. 78. Wash House at 6 Campbell St., Greenock
- No. 79 Dippen Promontory Fort, Isle of Arran.
- No. 80 Suisnish & South Fearn
- No. 81 Kilmoluag Graveyard Inventory & Raasay War memorial
- No. 82 St. Moluag's Chapel, Pictish Stones & Monuments of Raasay**

