

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# FIELD MONUMENTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE									
H	N	H	6	6	N	W	0	2	1
2 NGR									
N	H	6	0	7	6	6	9	7	0
3 QUAL									
CE									
6 SITE NAME									
F	Y	R	I	S	H	M	O	N	U
M	O	N	U	M	E	N	T		
10 GENERIC TYPE									
POLLY									
14 PERIOD/DATE					15 DATING METHOD				
c1783 AD					DPS				
18 SHAPE									
19 THREAT AND DATE									

4 DISTRICT		5 PARISH	
ROSS & CROMARTY		ALNESS	
7 AREA STATUS	8 SITE STATUS	9 REGIONAL STATUS	
11 CONCORDANCE OS NMR	12 FORM	13 DIMENSIONS	
	STANDING STRUCTURES		
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION	
		RUINED	

20 LAND USE	21 GEOLOGY		
HEATH			
22 SOILS	23 VEGETATION		
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE	25 RELIEF	26 ASPECT	27 ALTITUDE
	STEEPLY SLOPING LOW RIDGE	SSW	440=448m OD

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)

29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)

- ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1977: 1/10,000 MAP
- CLOSE-BROOKS, J: 1986: EXPLORING SCOTLAND'S HERITAGE, THE HIGHLANDS: HMSO: pp79+113 (ILLUST)

30 GROUND PLAN NO.	31 GROUND PHOTO NO.
	84/7/3/31436
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
	RMM: 16.12.1986	CS: 15.1.1986

52 TEXT

"NH 6076 6970 'Monument'."(1)

"See over for text and illustration (2)."

- 33 **Fyrish Monument, Ross and Cromarty**   
*AD 1783.*  
 NH 607697. Near Alness. From A 836 take minor road W to Boath; after 1.5 km carpark in wood on left. Signposted footpath (a walk of about 1 hour).

A pleasant walk leading uphill through trees onto open moorland with magnificent views over the Cromarty Firth from beside the monument on the top of Cnoc Fyrish (453 m OD). This simulated ruin consists of nine massive circular columns built of mortared rubble, the centre four columns being linked by pointed arches, above which the wall finishes in curious stumpy battlements. The outer four columns are offset and incomplete, while a smaller and shorter column blocks the centre arch. The monument is set on the edge of the hill and can be seen from many miles away, looking like tiny teeth on top of the hill.

This unusual monument was erected by General Sir Hector Munro of Novar around 1783 as a relief work in a time of famine, and is believed by long-standing tradition to be a copy of the gates of the fortress of

Negapatam on the Coromandel coast of India. 'There are . . . some odd edifices on the summits which he is said to have designed as imitations of the hillforts in India' wrote the poet Southey in 1819. Sir Hector served in the army in India with distinction for many years. During the war between the British and Haidar Ali, the British attacked the Dutch settlement of Negapatam, then garrisoned by some thousands of Indian troops. It fell on the 11th November 1781 to a combined force of soldiers commanded by Major-General Sir Hector Munro and a naval detachment under Sir Edward Hughes, an event which destroyed Dutch power in the area, while the British captured much needed supplies of currency, artillery and horses. While the monument seems not to represent any specific structure, it is loosely based on Indian architecture, particularly in the shape of its three arches, and it is entirely plausible that Sir Hector designed and built it to commemorate his great victory.

Sir Hector also repaired the chapterhouse of Fortrose Cathedral (no. 54) and as MP for the Inverness group of burghs helped to build the Town Steeple (no. 1).

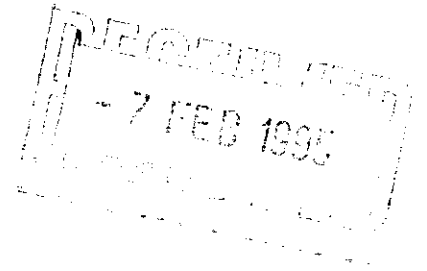


Heritage

NM66NW0021

ROSS SHIRE TOWN

FEB 200 FEBRUARY 1995



## Vandals deface famous Easter Ross monument

A B-LISTED Easter Ross landmark, built over 200 years ago as relief work at a time of famine, has been defaced by graffiti.

The monument on 1,400-foot Cnoc Fyrish above Evanton, believed to be a copy of the gates of the fortress of Negapatam in India, is a prime attraction with thousands of visitors all year round.

Vandals have sprayed names on the elegant sandstone edifice with aerosol paint, which is notoriously difficult to remove.

The proprietor of Novar Estates, Mr Ronald Munro-Ferguson, now faces the task — and the cost — of cleaning up the mess as the monument is on his land.

"I'm horrified," he said yesterday (Wednesday) when the matter was brought to his attention.

"It's an awful shame, but one of these things

one has to put up with these days.

"The people who did this probably went up the track by motor cycle rather than walked up. I would not expect walkers to be so irresponsible.

"But I assure you the paint will be removed. Some stones had become dislodged from the monument as well, so we'll try to attend to both matters together."

Although buildings are centrally listed by the Scottish Office, resources are not as a rule provided to maintain them. That responsibility falls on the owner.

### Damage

The archaeologist for Highland Region, Bob Gourlay, described the damage as "reprehensible".

However he added, "I'm not sure what we can do about it except express our displeasure. Aerosols

can be very difficult to get off and this may be something that a community council could become involved with."

A spokeswoman for Historic Scotland in Edinburgh, which lists buildings according to their significance, said repairs to a monument are the owner's responsibility.

"We and the planning authority have vested powers to enforce owners to carry out repairs. Where graffiti falls into that, I'm not quite sure."

Fyrish monument was built in 1783 at the instigation of General Sir Hector Munro of Novar, on a site that can be seen for miles around.

Sir Hector served with the British Army in India for many years and may have built the monument to commemorate his victory against the Dutch settlement at Negapatam in 1781.