

Loch nan Carraigean Clava-type Ring Cairn, NH92SE0007

Access Audit Site 112

Parish of Duthil & Rothiemurchus

Owner: Andrew Norval, Seafield Estates Office, York Place, Cullen, Buckie, AB56 4UW

Local contact: Community Council - Jean Stevenson (01479 831695)

Description

A visually stimulating site – it has everything, a well preserved archaeological site in a stunningly beautiful landscape – even the Scot's Pine tree growing out of the centre adds a certain individual touch. The cairn is large and mostly intact, though of the presumed surrounding ring of standing stones only two survive (both fallen). One of the Clava-type cairns, which are clustered around Inverness and the Nairn and Spey valleys.

Pros

Great site, scenically superb (views to Cairngorms), best preserved Clava-type cairn in Strathspey

Cons

Landowner objection to any development that aims to increase visitor accessibility, due to potential conflicts with the current land-use regime.

Proposals

December 1999 the Boat of Garten community council's footpath committee reported that they had been in touch with Andrew Norval at the Seafield Estates Office, and that after some persuading he had agreed that they could include this cairn in a circular walk originating from Boat of Garten. The local contact for the footpath committee is Jean Stevenson, (01479 831695). They were originally suggesting an interpretation panel at the cairn, but I suggested that a panel might be intrusive at this particularly scenic location, and that the monument might be better presented on a leaflet, to which they agreed. My policy at present is to support this project as far as possible, and I have sent all of the available information in the SMR archive to Jean Stevenson. This is an example of a community led project succeeding with the landowner after an "official" proposal for the same site was rejected.

Costs

There shouldn't be any costs to this project, other than input of time by the community archaeologist.

Bibliography

Burl, A. The stone circles of the British Isles, 1976

Cash, C.G. Stone circles at Grenish, Aviemore, and Delfour, Strathspey PSAS Vol.40 1906 pp245-54

Henshall, A.S. The chambered tombs of Scotland, Vol.1 1963

Oram, R. Moray & Badenoch: A Historical Guide p.12

Thom, A. Megalithic sites in Britain 1967