



Area : Garioch

Parish : Inch

Kirkyard : St. Drostan's Kirk.

N.G.R. : NJ 633 281

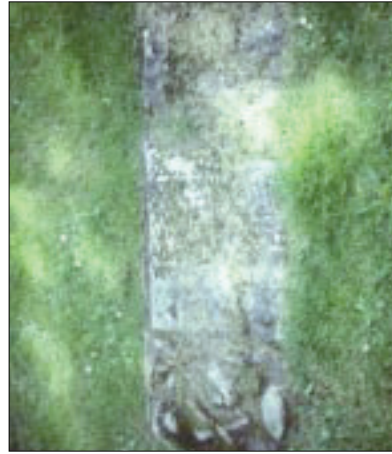
S.A.M. : Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Listing Category : Kirk and Yard Cat. **B.**

Boundary wall and gate piers : The gates and piers appear to be in good order though there are several cracks that need to be monitored on the rear boundary wall. There are numerous coping stones that have been pushed off the rear wall.



The Old Kirk : All that remains of the old kirk of Inch, said to be gifted to the Abbey of Lindores before 1195, is the W. gable complete with a stunning example of a 17th - century pedimented bellcote. One stone lintel of the 1613 bellcote is cracked and weathering badly which will affect the stability of the entire belfry. The doorway opening in the gable has a cracked granite lintel, and four aesthetically unsuitable steel lintels behind, which must be replaced in the fullness of time with stone or good quality sandstone lintels. All the weeds must be removed from the wall before the crack in the r.h.s. of the interior of the gable can be picked out and re-pointed. There is a well-carved skewputt initialled and dated AR / 62 on the S. side of the gable.



Early Features : In front of the gable lies the Radulfus stone, an incised stone probably commemorating Radulfus, Chaplain of the Bishop of Aberdeen between 1172 and 1194. The stone, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, is a simple rectangle incised with an inscription and a cross.

A badly eroded half of a figure statue lies beside the tombstone.

Tombstones : There are approximately 45 recumbent tombstones, 4 of which are decorated to a high degree. There are many hundreds of upright tombstones mostly dating from the early 19th - century none of which are particularly noteworthy.

Conservation Digest : **Urgent details.**

The gable and bellcote need to be checked by a structural engineer soon. All the recumbent stones need to be brushed, indeed two of them are already covered in turf. The cracks in the boundary wall need to be monitored and the cast-iron finials to the Daun memorial need to be reset on top of the monument before they are stolen. One finial appears to be missing and may have been taken or thrown over the boundary wall into the adjacent field.

The "tooth-paste" render on the gable wall returns must be avoided.

Interpretative Potential : **Medium.**

The remnants of the kirk and yard are pleasantly situated in the village of Inch with a number of interesting architectural features, not least of which is the fine belfry.

Access issues : The ruinous kirk is located at the side of the main road into Inch from Inverurie. Cars can be parked the side of the road.

Date of visit : 07/07/98.