



Area: Kincardine and Mearns

Parish : Fetteresso

Kirkyard : St. Ciaran's Kirk.

N.G.R. : NO 852 856

S.A.M. : Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Listing Category : Kirk, Yard and Walls

Cat. B.

Boundary wall and gate piers : The boundary walls, gates and piers are in good condition though the gates are very stiff and would benefit from being oiled.

The Old Kirk : The old kirk is situated on a small hill that was once allegedly the site of the 6th - century Chapel of St. Ciaran. The chapel was replaced by one built in the 13th - century of which the N.W. doorway and portions of the N. adjoining wall are said to belong. The main body of the present kirk dates from the second half of the 17th - century.

The entire S. elevation is covered in ivy which must be removed because of its detrimental effects on mortared joints and the structural stability of the stonework.

Internally this elevation can be seen to have contained a number of window and door openings; a thorough analysis of which would provide an insight into the functioning of the kirk. The N.W. gable of the kirk is crowned by a bellcote, dated 1737, though the bell is no longer present. This entire gable, as with the rest of the kirk, requires to be re-pointed throughout to ensure structural stability.

The N. projections of the kirk appear to be pulling away from the main body of the kirk and require a structural survey prior to remedial

work being carried out to ensure their stability. Internally the kirk contains a superb white marble tombstone to the memory of Rbt. Wllm. Duff of Fetteresso, dated 1834, and features a finely carved armorial panel in a good pediment. The memorial is in reasonably good condition.

Tombstones : There are approximately 71 recumbent tombstones, of which 12 are significantly decorated. There are many hundreds of upright tombstones of which a high proportion are stylish Victorian tombstones.

There are a large number of sycamore saplings growing throughout the yard that must be removed soon as they pose a threat to the upright stones between which they grow.

Conservation Digest : Urgent details.

The entire kirk must be stripped of all ivy to allow for a full assessment of structural stability prior to the building being re-pointed. One of the lintels on the S. wall is cracked and must be replaced.

All the saplings must be removed from the yard.

Interpretative Potential : Medium.

The very long kirk is of very high architectural value possessing several fine details. The kirk is located in the visually picturesque hamlet of Fetteresso.

Access issues : The kirk is located on top of a hill about the foot of which is built the hamlet of Fetteresso. No parking for cars.

Date of visit : 06/08/98.

