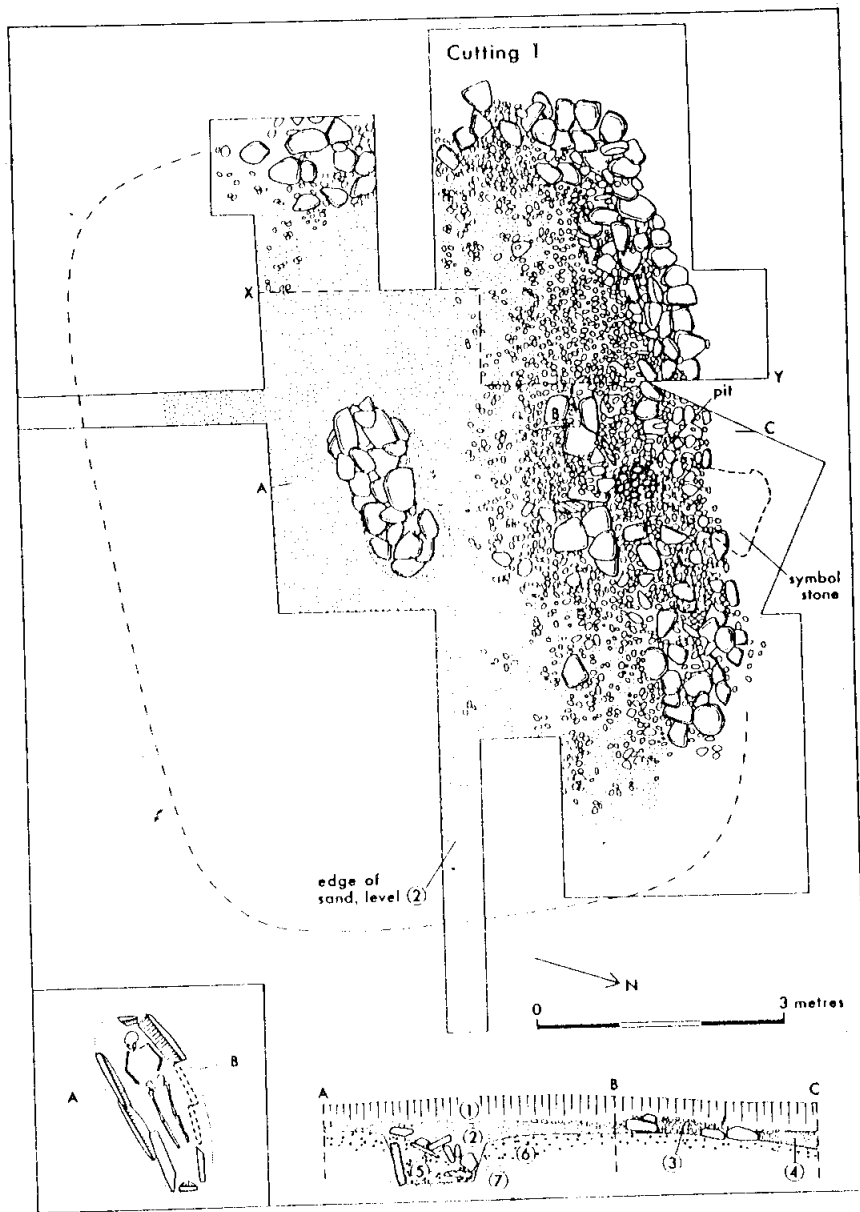


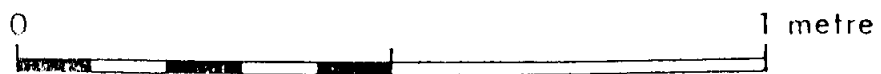
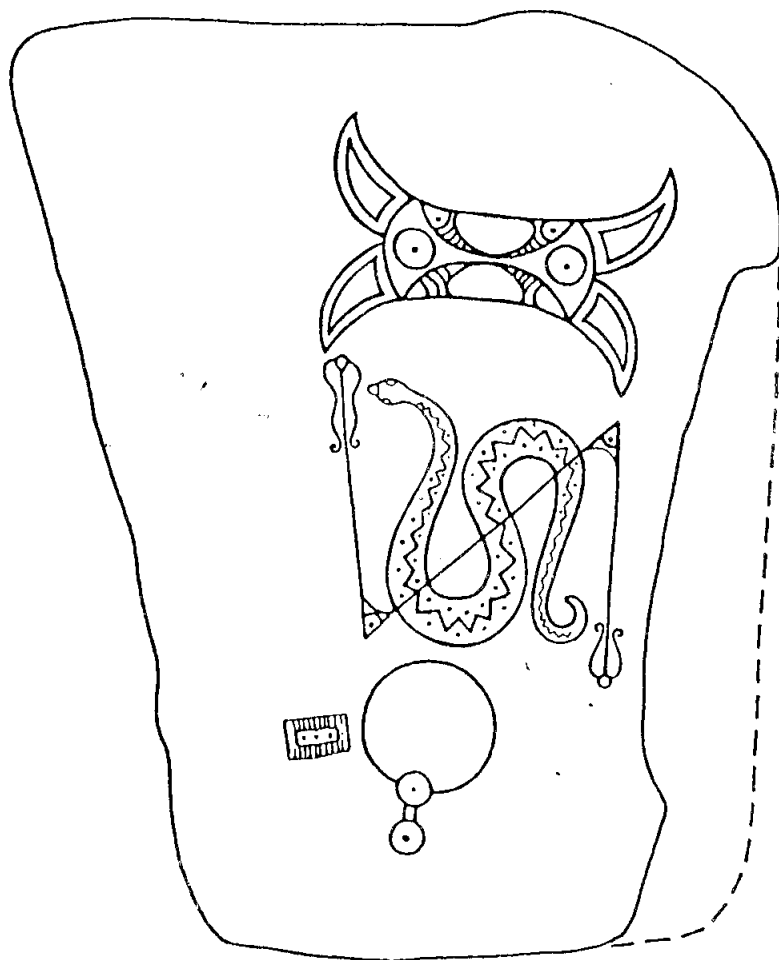
(3.)



In 1977 a Pictish symbol stone was ploughed up in a field near Dunrobin Castle, in Sutherland. It had on it a double disc symbol, a snake and Z-rod, and a mirror and comb; all apparently well drawn and so probably early in the series of symbol stones. This slab is now in Dunrobin Castle Museum. Another symbol stone, found nearby in 1854, had been re-used as one capstone of a long cist, so a short rescue excavation was undertaken (Close-Brooks 1980).

The symbol stone had been found in a newly ploughed field close to the edge of the sea, and near a track which, for geographical reasons, was the main and indeed only road to Caithness until the 19th century AD, so the stone may once have stood near a Pictish road on the same line.

Excavation revealed the remains of a long, low, rectangular cairn, about 9.50 m long and 7 m wide, aligned parallel to the shore (fig 9). Two sides of the cairn had been robbed away in the past, and the top severely damaged by the deep tractor ploughing that revealed the symbol stone. In the centre of the cairn was a cist grave dug into the natural gravel, its capstones partially collapsed inwards, containing the extended inhumation of an adult female. The cairn, so far as it survived, was built of a layer of clean yellow sand covered by pebbles, with a very crude kerb made of boulders and slabs, some pitched obliquely. No socket for the symbol stone could be found, but it surely stood upright on the cairn originally. As a low, kerbed mound over an extended burial in a cist this monument compares well with the others in this group, though it differs in its larger size (the long cairn at Ackergill was only about 6 metres long) and in its very crude kerb. C14 dates from the skeleton suggest the burial took place in the 6th 7th or 8th centuries AD.



52. "by a kerb of laid boulders on the N and W, and presumably originally also on the S and E, though no trace survived on these sides. The cairn is estimated to have measured about 9.5m by 7m by 0.5 to 0.6m high. There was no trace of a ditch. Carbon-14 dating of the skeletal material gave  $660 \pm 50$ AD and  $625 \pm 50$ AD (uncalibrated), dates consistent with that of the Class I symbol stone which may have at one time marked the site.

It is an unworked slab of sea-smoothed, pink sandstone, 1.2m long, 1.5m wide and 0.15m thick, with the incised symbols on one face only. They consist of a double crescent, a serpent and Z-rod and a comb and mirror. The stone, which is presumed to have stood erect over the cairn although no socket was identified, is now in Dunrobin Castle Museum.

Ackergill (HND 35 SW 012) offers the closest parallel for the cairn and long cist, while other instances occur of the association of symbol stones and burial cairns. Two other Class I symbol stones associated with cists have been found near Dairy Park (HNC 80 SW 009 and 024), but in each case the use of the symbol stone was secondary." (OSRILES: 25.1.1983)

DUNROBIN, SUTHERLAND (CLOSE-BROOKS 1980)

Burial in long cist under rectangular cairn. Both determinations from the same skeleton

GU 1039                     $1335 \pm 40$  bp

GU 1039B                    $1135 \pm 100$  bp



# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# ARTEFACTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

|             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |        |  |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------|--|
| 1 SITE CODE |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |        |  |
|             | H | N | C | 8 | 0 | S | W | 0 | 1 | 6 | B      |  |
| 2 NGR       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 QUAL |  |
| N           | C | 8 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 9 | C | E      |  |
| 6 SITE NAME |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |        |  |
| D           | A | I | R | Y |   |   | P | A | R | K |        |  |

|  |  |   |                     |  |  |   |  |                            |  |                        |                         |  |  |
|--|--|---|---------------------|--|--|---|--|----------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| 4 DISTRICT<br>SUTHERLAND   |  |   | 5 PARISH<br>GOLSPIE |  |  | 7 GENERIC TYPE<br>SCULPTURED STONE, PICTISH<br>(CLASS I). |  |                            |  |                        |                         |  |  |
| 8 CONCORDANCE<br>OS NC 80 SW 16<br>NMR                                   |  | 9 MUSEUM/LOCATION OF FIND(S)<br>DUNROBIN CASTLE MUSEUM. |                     |  | 10 ACCESSION NO.                       |   |  | 11 PERIOD/DATE<br>EM (PIC) |  |                        | 12 DATING METHOD<br>TYP |  |  |
| 13 FIND CIRCUMSTANCES<br>EXCAVATION WITH CIST BURIAL,<br>HNC 80 SW 016A. |  |   |                     |  | 14 CONDITION                           |   |  | 15 EXCAVATOR AND DATE      |  |                        |                         |  |  |
| 17 LAND USE<br>ENCLOSED PASTURE  |  |   |                     |  |  | 18 GEOLOGY  |  |                            |  |                        |                         |  |  |
| 19 SOILS   |  |   |                     |  |  | 20 VEGETATION   |  |                            |  |                        |                         |  |  |
| 21 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE  |  |   |                     |  | 22 RELIEF<br>GENTLE HILLSLOPE TO SHORE |   |  | 23 ASPECT<br>SE            |  | 24 ALTITUDE<br>0=8m OD |                         |  |  |

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION/DIMENSIONS  
It is an unworked slab of sea-smoothed, pink sandstone, 1.2m long, 1.5m wide and 0.15m thick with the incised symbols on one face only. They consist of a double crescent, a serpent and Z-rod and a comb and mirror.

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

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2. CLOSE-BROOKS J.:1977:DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND:CBA(SCOT):p37.
3. CLOSE-BROOKS J.:IN.FRIELL&WATSON EDS.:1984:PICTISH STUDIES:BAR:VOL125:p99-102
4. JACKSON A.:1984:SYMBOL STONES OF SCOTLAND:ORKNEY PRESS:TABLE 2A:p 30.
5. RCAHMS:1985:PICTISH SYMBOL STONES,A HANDLIST:HMSO:pp10-14

|                         |  |  |  |  |  |                                    |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 27 GROUND PLAN NO.      |  |  |  |  |  | 28 GROUND PHOTO NO.                |  |  |  |  |  |
| 29 SLIDES NO.           |  |  |  |  |  | 30 HR. AP. NO.                     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 31 NMR. AP. NO.         |  |  |  |  |  | 32 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE           |  |  |  |  |  |
| 33 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION |  |  |  |  |  |                                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| 34 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY   |  |  |  |  |  | 35 SAMPLES                         |  |  |  |  |  |
| 36 PALYNOLOGY           |  |  |  |  |  | 37 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 38 OTHER                |  |  |  |  |  |                                    |  |  |  |  |  |

|                            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                      |  |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|----------------------|--|
| 39 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 40 ATTITUDE OF OWNER |  |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|----------------------|--|

|                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                       |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| 41 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 42 ATTITUDE OF TENANT |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------------|--|

|                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 43 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                                   |  |                |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|--|--|
| 44 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 45 RECORDER: DATE<br>DY: 9.5.1985 |  | 46 CHECK: DATE |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|--|--|

47 TEXT  
"The stone, which is presumed to have stood erect over the cairn although no socket was identified, is now in Dunrobin Castle Museum." (I) (2).  
"See attached photocopies for text of (2) & (3)."



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

|  |  |                                       |  |   |  |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 4 DISTRICT<br><b>SUTHERLAND</b>                  |  | 5 PARISH<br><b>GOLSPIE</b>            |  | 1 SITE CODE<br>H N C 8 0 S W 0 1 6 A                            |  |
| 7 AREA STATUS                                    |  | 8 SITE STATUS                         |  | 2 NGR<br>N C 8 4 7 0 0 0 3 9                                    |  |
| 11 CONCORDANCE<br>os NC 80 SW 16                 |  | 12 FORM<br>SITE OF                    |  | 3 QUAL<br>CE  |  |
| 16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS                      |  | 17 CONDITION<br>DESTROYED (EXCAVATED) |  | 6 SITE NAME<br>DAIRY PARK                                       |  |
| 20 LAND USE<br>ENCLOSED PASTURE                  |  | 21 GEOLOGY                            |  | 10 GENERIC TYPE<br>CAIRN, CISTED (LONG) + BURIAL.<br>INHUMATION |  |
| 22 SOILS   |  | 23 VEGETATION                         |  | 14 PERIOD/DATE<br>7th Cent. A.D.                                |  |
| 24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE                            |  | 25 RELIEF<br>RAISED BEACH             |  | 15 DATING METHOD<br>C14   |  |
| 26 ASPECT<br>SE                                  |  | 27 ALTITUDE<br>0m = 8m OD             |  | 18 SHAPE<br>RECTANGULAR   |  |
| 28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY) |  | 19 THREAT AND DATE                    |  |   |  |

1. CLOSE-BROOKS, J.:1979:TOTAL:SCIENTIFIC.

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

1. CLOSE-BROOKS, J.: 1981 : PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: : VOL.110:p328-345+ plans.
2. CLOSE-BROOKS, J.: 1977: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND: C.B.A.(SCOTLAND): p37.
3. CLOSE-BROOKS, J.(IN. FRIELL & WATSON, EDS): 1984: PICTISH STUDIES: B.A.R.: VOL 125:p99-102.

30 GROUND PLAN NO.

31 GROUND PHOTO NO.

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  
DY: 9.5.1985

51 CHECK: DATE  
Am: 21.5.1985

52 TEXT  
 (NC 8470 0039) A symbol stone was found during ploughing in the Dairy Park on 23rd February 1977 by Messrs David Low and Graham Park. Subsequent excavation by Dr. Close-Brooks established that the stone overlay a low, rectangular cairn, covering a long-cisted extended inhumation of an adult female, lying ENE-WSW and unaccompanied by grave-goods" (1), (2) "The cist, unpaved, was set in a pit dug into the gravel subsoil, and measured about 2.3m long by 1.0m wide by 0.6m deep. It was composed of sandstone slabs and there is some question as to how it was covered as none of the capstones were of any great size and they had partially collapsed into the grave. The cist had been completely covered by a layer of clean, yellow sand lying on the natural gravel and overlaid in turn by a thin covering of pebbles, bounded (OVER)