

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



ARTEFACTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE									
		H	N	D	1	6	N	W	O
									1
									3

2 NGR		3 QUAL	
N	D	1	2
5	5	6	8
7	9	CE	

6 SITE NAME									
T	H	E							
U	L	B	S	T	E	R	/	S	T
O	N	E							

7 GENERIC TYPE									
SCULPTURED STONE, PICTISH									
CLASS II									

8 CONCORDANCE					9 MUSEUM/LOCATION OF FIND(S)					10 ACCESSION NO.				
OS ND 16 NW 13					THURSO LIBRARY AND					ARC.64				
NMR					MUSEUM									

11 PERIOD/DATE					12 DATING METHOD				
EM (PIC)					TYP				

13 FIND CIRCUMSTANCES										14 CONDITION									

15 EXCAVATOR AND DATE										16 EXCAVATION RECORD NO.									

17 LAND USE					18 GEOLOGY				
WOODLAND									

19 SOILS					20 VEGETATION				

21 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE					22 RELIEF					23 ASPECT					24 ALTITUDE				
					LEVEL GROUND					NNW					8 = 15m OD				

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION/DIMENSIONS																			

26 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)																			
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1907: 6" MAP																			
2. RCAHMS: 1911: CAITHNESS INVENTORY: HMSO: p122, No. 444																			
3. ALLEN, J.R.: 1903: EARLY CHRISTIAN MONUMENTS OF SCOTLAND: : : pt. 3: pp33-5																			
4. RCAHMS: 1985: PICTISH SYMBOL STONES; a handlist: HMSO: pp10-14																			
5. HENDERSON I: 1978: ANGLO SAXON AND VIKING AGE SCULPTURE AND ITS CONTEXT: BAR BRITISH SERIES, 52, 47-73.																			

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					46 CHECK: DATE				
															RMM: 25.2.1986					HMR: 17.3.1986				

47 TEXT																			

"See continuation cards for text."

(ND 1255 6879) Standing Stone (Sculptured) (NAT) (1)

This symbol stone once stood in the ancient burial ground attached to the ruined church of St Martin at Ulbster (see HND34 SW028) and was subsequently placed over a grave there which assisted in the defacement of the front side; at some other unknown date it was removed and placed upright on an artificial mound in the grounds of Thurso Castle where its exposed position (especially the front face turned to the Castle and the sea) has led to further defacement of the sculpture; the front has also been mutilated in the upper third with the modern inscription in Gothic letters 'The Ulbster Stone' by which name it is also known.

It is a sandstone slab, 5 ft high by 7½ ins thick and is 3 ft wide at the top but 2 ft 6 ins at the bottom. It is sculptured on the two main faces partly in relief and partly with incised lines. This monument has more symbols than any other.

Between 1910, when the RCAHM saw it in the grounds of Thurso Castle, and 1956 it has been removed to an unknown site

(2) (3)

This stone now stands in the entrance doorway of Thurso Museum. The large artificial mound in the grounds of Thurso Castle on which it stood is a result of landscape gardening (information supplied by Hon.R.M.Sinclair, Thurso East).

(OSFI:EGC:18.4.1962)

This stone is now inside the Thurso Library and Museum building (Acc No: ARC 64).

(OSFI:JM:16.2.1982)

Sculptured partly in relief and partly with incised lines on both faces are the following details: *Front*—In the centre a cross with a head, having equal arms terminating in square ends, cusped hollows in the angles between the arms; a narrow shaft, and a rectangular base. In the background of the cross, and on each side of the arms, are animals, one apparently intended for a cow. On the left of the shaft two men kneeling with a cauldron (?) between them; and below, a serpent. On the right of the shaft the flower symbol; and below, a horse and colt. The cross in the centre of the slab is entirely covered with ornament, arranged in ten separate panels filled in with the key pattern, interlaced work, and four-cord plait. *Back*—In the centre a plain Latin cross with four equal arms; at the top the elephant, fish, crescent, and V-shaped rod symbols, and a beast with the tail curved over its back. Below, the step, hippo-campus, and double disc symbols (the latter without the Z-shaped rod), two crescents, and a small circle.

(2)

Ancient and Historical Monuments—Caithness.

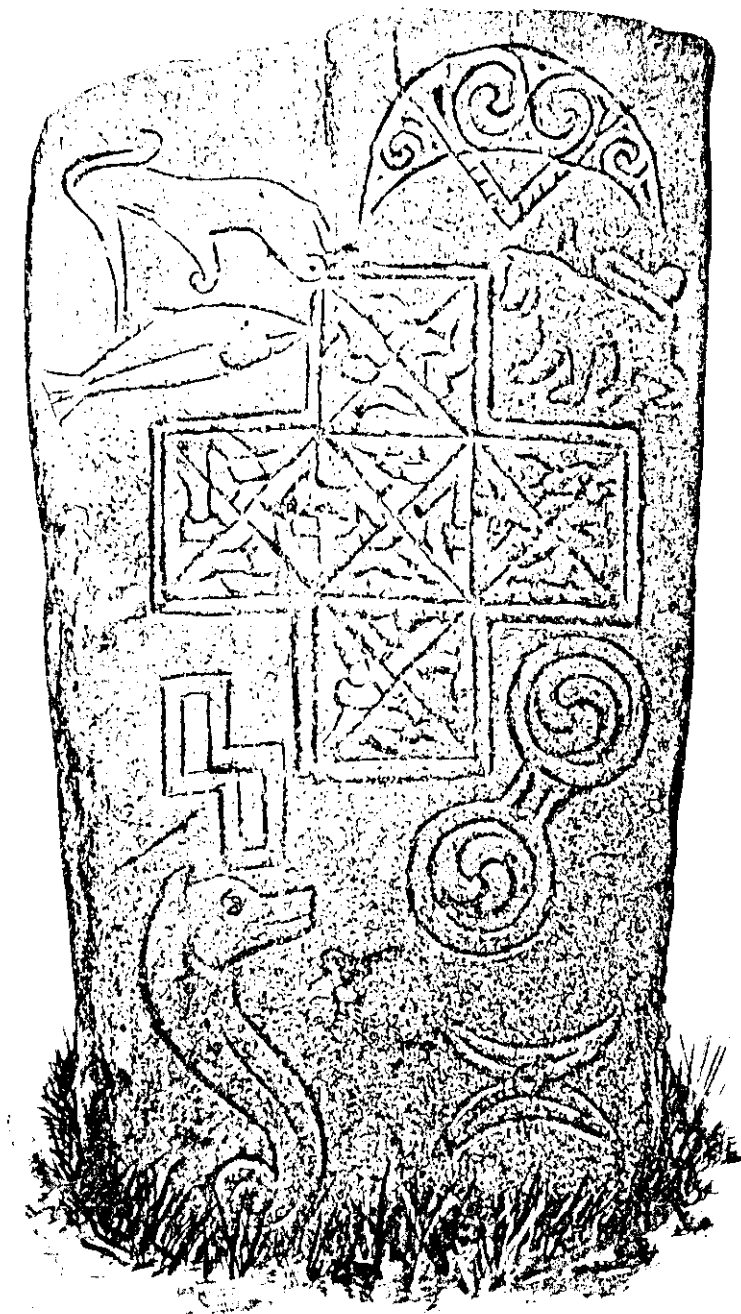


PLATE XLI.—Sculptured Stone (back), from Ulbster (No. 44).