

91. *St Thomas' Chapel, Skinnel*.—Situated about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the NE. of Skinnel farm, and about 4 m. S. of Thurso, are the ruins of the Chapel of St Thomas. In pre-Reformation times this was the church of a parish subsequently united to the parish of St Fergus of Halkirk. The S. and W. walls vary in height from 3' to 7'; the N. wall is reduced to 2' or 3', as is also the greater part of the E. wall. In plan the building has been of the chancelled type, measuring interiorly 59' 6" in length, whereof the nave measured 38' x 16' and the chancel about 21' x 13', the diminution of the width being caused by an intake of the N. wall only. The walls, which have been built with clay for mortar, are 3' 6" in thickness. The entrance to the nave has been through the S. wall at 12' from the SW. corner and has been 3' in width, while an entrance to the chancel near its W. end has also been through the S. wall. In the S. wall of the nave have been two small oblong windows 1' 9" in height by 7" in width, passing straight through the wall for 1' 2" and immediately widening thereafter to 3'. A similar window has existed in the S. wall of the chancel.

92. At the British Linen Bank House, Thurso, there is a rough ovoid stone measuring 1' 6" x 1' 3", with a hollow basin 8" x 9" in diameter and 7" in depth, which was brought from the chapel and may have been a holy water stoup of rude workmanship.

See *Origines*, ii., pl. ii. p. 756; *Stat. Acct.*, xix. p. 47.

Sculptured Stones.

93. Standing some 6' out from the S. wall of the chapel and

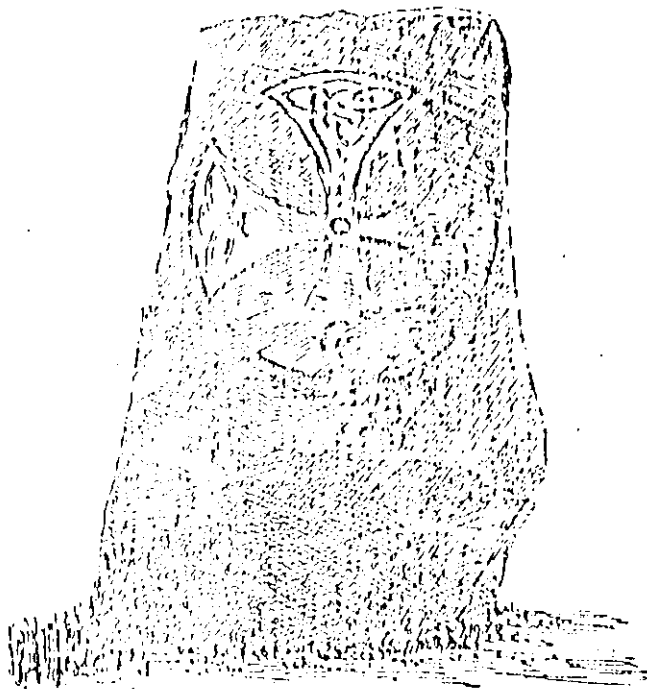


FIG. 8.—Celtic Cross, Skinnel (No. 93).

W. face are the remains of an equal-armed Celtic cross, with a central boss 2½" in diameter from which the arms radiate. Only the upper arm remains at all perfect, the rest of the cross being almost effaced owing to the flaking of the surface of the stone. This arm expands upwards, and is 1' in length and 1' 3½" broad at its outer end where it is convex in outline. It is surrounded by a single moulding, and contains a triquetra knot of interlaced ornament. At the point of intersection it is 2" in width.

Another sculptured stone taken from the wall of this chapel, in which it had been used as building material, lies in the museum at Thurso, and is afterwards described (see No. 445).

29./ 8. ORDNANCE SURVEY:1970:1/10 000 MAP

9. HMB (SDD):1986:LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

EARLY CHRISTIAN MONUMENTS OF SCOTLAND.

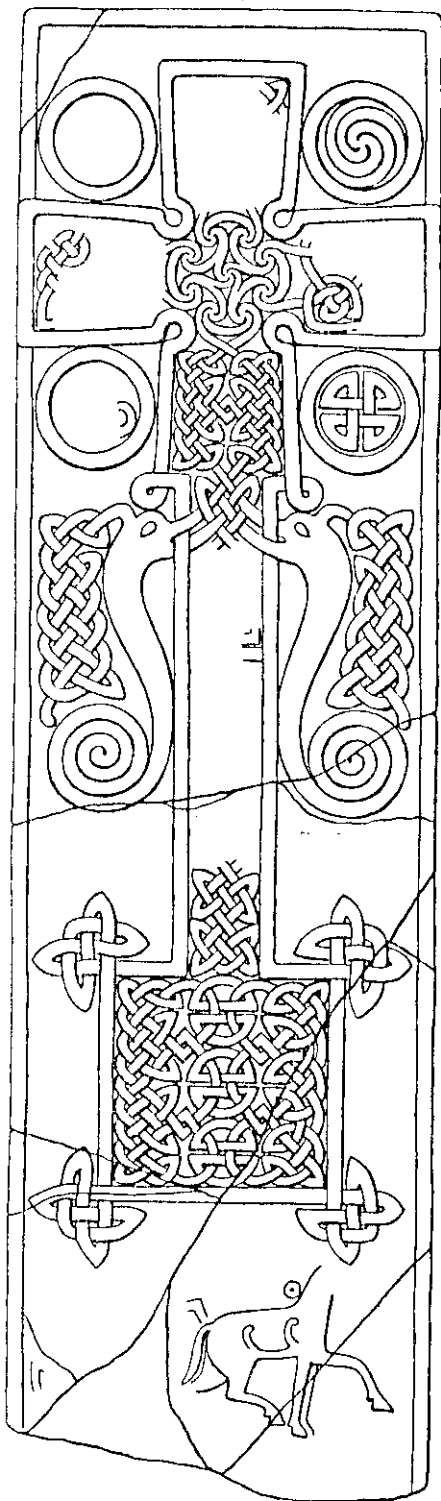


Fig. 20. — Front.



Fig. 29b. — Right side.

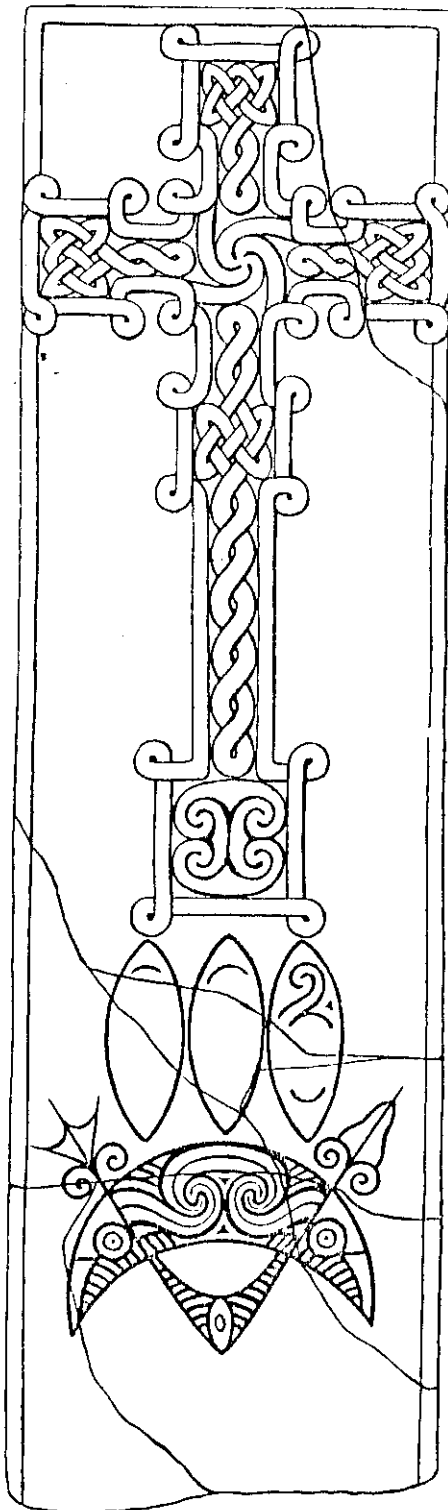


Fig. 29A. — Back.

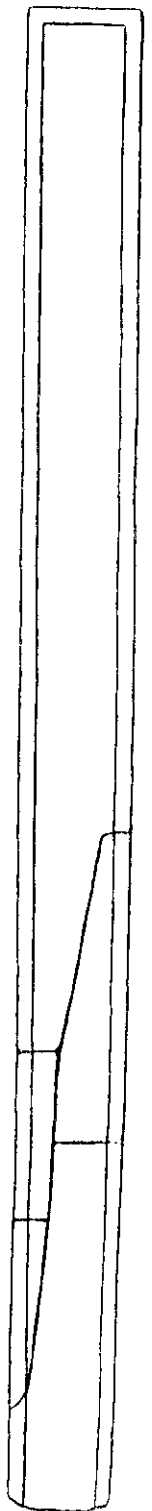
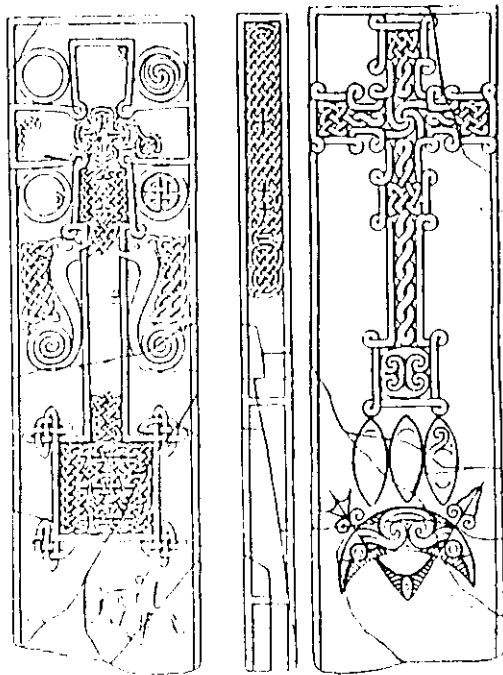


Fig. 29c. — Left side.

Upright cross-slab with sculpture partly incised and partly in relief, from Skinnel, now in the Thurso Museum.
Diagram showing ornament. Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$ linear.



(2)