

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE		H	N	D	2	3	N	W	0	0	2
2 NGR	N D 2 4 8 1 3 6		1 0 C E		3 QUAL						
6 SITE NAME L Y B S T E R C H U R C H											
10 GENERIC TYPE CROSS, INSCRIBED STONE.											
14 PERIOD/DATE EM						15 DATING METHOD TYP					
18 SHAPE											
19 THREAT AND DATE											

4 DISTRICT CAITHNESS		5 PARISH LATHERON	
7 AREA STATUS		9 REGIONAL STATUS	
8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED *		13 DIMENSIONS 0.6 x 0.9m.	
11 CONCORDANCE OS ND 23 NW 2 NMR		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION	
20 LAND USE CEMETERY			
21 GEOLOGY			
22 SOILS			
23 VEGETATION			
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF GENTLE HILLSLOPE	
26 ASPECT SW		27 ALTITUDE 70m OD	

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	
1. RCAHMS:1911:CAITHNESS INVENTORY:HMSO: :p82 No 297. 2. MACFARLANE W.:1907:MACFARLANE'S GEOGRAPHICAL COLLECTION:SCOT.HIST.SOC.:VOL I:p166. 3. DAVIDSON G.:1840:NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT: : :p105. 4. BATEY C.:1982:CAITHNESS COASTAL SURVEY: : :No 243. 5. HMB(S.D.D.):1985:LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS:	
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 MC: 16.9.1985	51 CHECK: DATE A.P.L. 10.1985

52 TEXT

"(ND 2479 3564) This cross-inscribed stone is now in Lybster Congregational Churchyard, 13 ft E of the NW corner. It was moved, for its preservation, at the instigation of the Rev. Robert Wilson on 23rd October 1935. In April 1964 the clerk of the Congregational Board confirmed that the stone was under a shelter in the churchyard. He said that it was believed to have been dug up near the Well of the Brethren (ND 2424 3494) when Lybster Harbour was being built several years before 1840.(3)"

"A cross-inscribed stone, as described and illustrated by the RCAHM. See Illustration card." (OSFI:NKB:11.5.1967).

"ND 2481 3610. This stone was moved from Lybster Congregational Church to the Central Church, Lybster in 1972-3." (4).

"The stone is under a shelter in the position noted by Miss Batey."
(OSFI:JM:24.3.1983.) "See continuation card for text of (I)."

297. *Sculptured Stone, Lybster*.—Lying on the grassy slope between the two ranges of cottages that run N. and S. to the NE. of the harbour of Lybster, and some 40 yards S. of the northmost cottages, is a block of yellow sandstone (fig. 17). In form it is roughly triangular, (I).

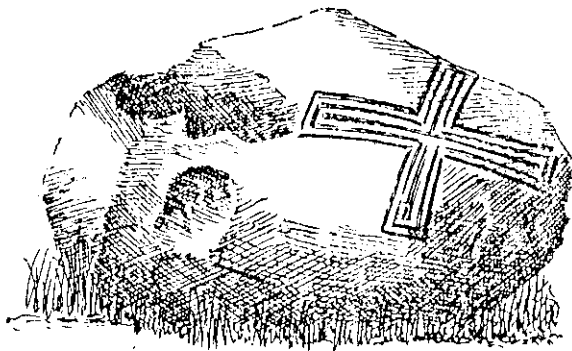


FIG. 17.—Sculptured Stone, Lybster (No. 297).

measuring some 2' 2" × 3'. A large basin-shaped depression, which appears to be natural, runs in from the left edge, and another large hole has been worn by weather near the lower end of the stone. Cut across the right-hand corner is an equal-limbed Celtic cross measuring 1' 8" in width. The arms expand outwards from 5½" to 7" and their extreme length is 8¾". Set within this cross is another with arms 6¾" in length and 1¾" in width.

This stone is referred to in the description of the parish of Latheron (*circa* 1726), published in Macfarlane's *Geographical Collections*, as follows: "On the face of a brae above the inlett of this burn (Risgil) there is a stone to which, as the natives tell, many frequented in the time of superstition. It's hollow where they sate and on the back there is the figure of a cross tripled cutt out. ther are some hollow places on both sides as if designed for both the elbows."

See Macfarlane's *Geog. Coll.*, i. p. 166.

O.S.M., CAITH., xxxiv. (unnoted). Visited, 19th July 1910.

8. * Lybster Church, cross incised stone:ND 248356. (5)
The schedule notes the original grid reference of the stone rather than its new position at ND 2481 3610.
(SMR:SEM:17.9.1985).