

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# ARTEFACTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

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

4 DISTRICT CAITHNESS					5 PARISH THURSO				
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8 CONCORDANCE OS ND 16 NW 13 NMR		9 MUSEUM/LOCATION OF FIND(S) THURSO LIBRARY AND MUSEUM			10 ACCESSION NO. ARC.64			7 GENERIC TYPE SCULPTURED STONE, PICTISH CLASS II		
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13 FIND CIRCUMSTANCES				14 CONDITION				11 PERIOD/DATE EM (PIC)		12 DATING METHOD TYP	
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17 LAND USE WOODLAND				18 GEOLOGY				19 SOILS				20 VEGETATION			
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21 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE				22 RELIEF LEVEL GROUND				23 ASPECT NNW				24 ALTITUDE 8 = 15m OD			
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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.			
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29 SLIDES NO.				30 HR. AP. NO.			
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31 NMR. AP. NO.				32 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE			
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33 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION							
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34 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY				35 SAMPLES			
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36 PALYNOLOGY				37 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.			
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38 OTHER							
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39 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER								40 ATTITUDE OF OWNER			
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41 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT								42 ATTITUDE OF TENANT			
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43 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS							
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44 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE				45 RECORDER: DATE RMM: 25.2.1986				46 CHECK: DATE HMR: 17.3.1986			
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47 TEXT							
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"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.*

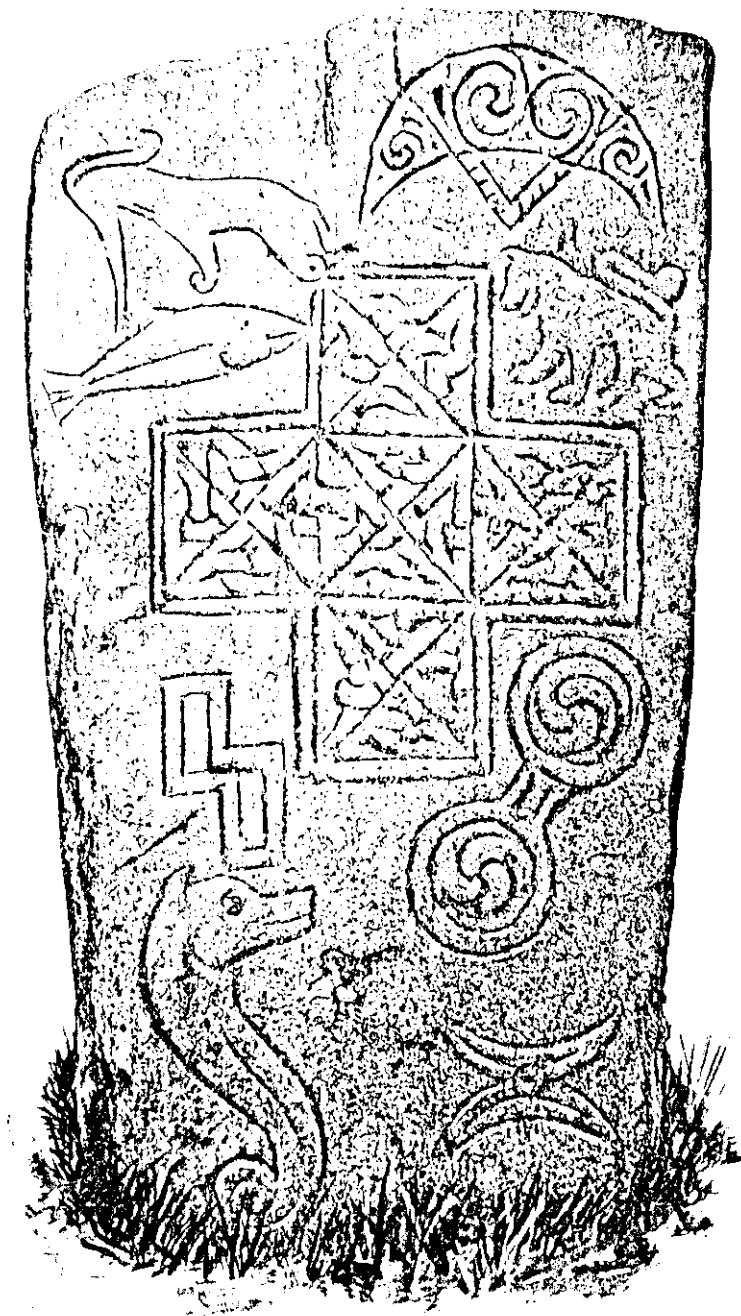


PLATE XLII.—Sculptured Stone (back), from Ulbster (No. 44).