

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

FIELD MONUMENTS



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE		H N C		9 6 S E		0 0 1 A	
2 NGR		N C 9 6 7		6 4 8		3 QUAL C E	
4 DISTRICT CAITHNESS		5 PARISH REAY		6 SITE NAME REAY/PARISH CHURCH			
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS SDD: LISTED A.		9 REGIONAL STATUS		10 GENERIC TYPE CHURCH	
11 CONCORDANCE OSNC 96 SE (MI)		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE		13 DIMENSIONS		14 PERIOD/DATE 1739	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION COMPLETE		18 SHAPE T-PLAN		15 DATING METHOD DOC	
20 LAND USE LAND BUILT UPON		21 GEOLOGY		19 THREAT AND DATE			
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		26 ASPECT 360°			
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF LEVEL GROUND		27 ALTITUDE 15=23m OD			
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)							
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)							
1. BSAI.LIST:7.3.1984:CAITHNESS.							
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 GS: 23.7.1985	
						51 CHECK: DATE GS: 30.7.1985	
52 TEXT							

" NC 967 648: Reay Parish Church and enclosure wall are listed category A. buildings.
Built in 1739 on the T-Plan with a bell tower at the E end." (1).



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE H N C 9 6 S E 0 0 1 B	
2 NGR N C 9 6 7 3 6 4 8 2 CE	
3 QUAL	
6 SITE NAME R E A Y / P A R I S H / C H U R C H	
7 GENERIC TYPE SCULPTURED STONE, PICTISH (CROSS SHAFT ?)	
11 PERIOD/DATE EM (PIC)	
12 DATING METHOD TYP	
15 EXCAVATOR AND DATE	
16 EXCAVATION RECORD NO.	
4 DISTRICT CAITHNESS	
5 PARISH REAY	
8 CONCORDANCE OS NC 96 SE 1	
9 MUSEUM/LOCATION OF FIND(S) NMA	
10 ACCESSION NO. IB 267	
13 FIND CIRCUMSTANCES FOUND BUILT INTO THE S. WALL OF REAY PARISH CHURCH	
14 CONDITION INCOMPLETE	
17 LAND USE LAND BUILT UPON	
18 GEOLOGY	
19 SOILS	
20 VEGETATION	
21 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE	
22 RELIEF LEVEL GROUND	
23 ASPECT 360°	
24 ALTITUDE 15=23m OD	
25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION/DIMENSIONS 88.9 cms high and 22.9cms wide lower part of shaft missing. Square, sculptured sandstone pillar.	
26 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL) 1. STEVENSON R.B.K.: 1952 :PROC SOC ANT SCOT.:VOL84:p218 + ILLUST. 2. NMA ACCESSION CARD INDEX.	
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 GS: 22.7.1985	
46 CHECK: DATE GS: 22.7.1985	
47 TEXT "See attached photocopies for text and illust. of (1)" "(NC 9673 6482) A Pictish sculptured stone, a square sandstone pillar 35ins (88.9cms) high and about 9 ins (22.9cms) wide, and not likely to be later than the 8th century, was found in 1947, built into the S wall of Reay Parish Church, and was donated to the NMA (Acc No: IB 267). The lower part of the shaft is missing. It may be part of a cross-shaft, or a completely new type of monument, a squared pillar-stone." (1) (2). "See illustration and also NC 96 SE 003."	

7. PICTISH SCULPTURE FROM REAY.

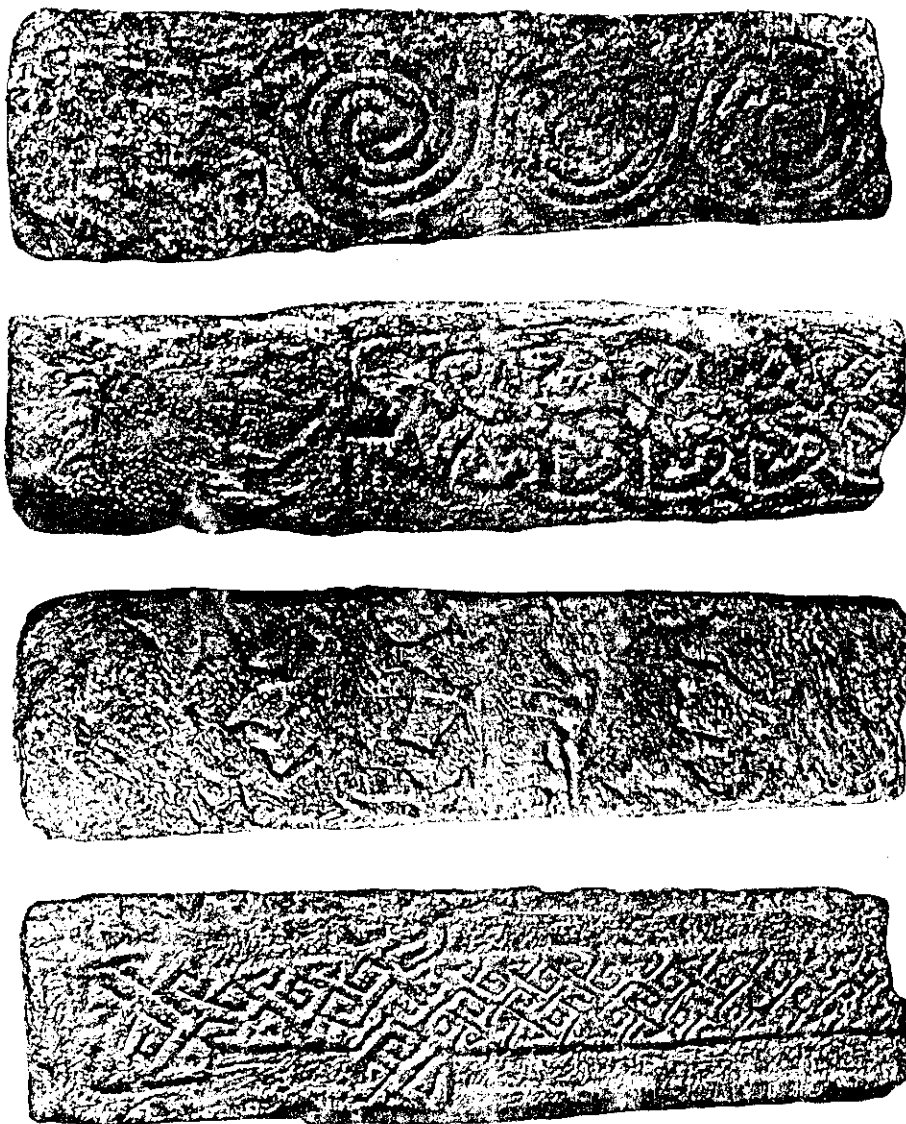
In 1947, when the south wall of Reay Parish Church, Caithness, was being stripped of old plaster, a sculptured stone was found built into it. After consultation with the Ministry of Works, the Kirk Session have added this most interesting stone to the National Museum.

It consists of a square pillar of reddish sandstone 35½ inches high, the bottom broken, however. Each side is about 9 inches wide. The decoration, as can be seen in Plate XXV, is flat relief, executed by hammering or "pocking." On the *front* there is a cross with a square expansion at the top, covered with a diagonal key-pattern. On the *right* side there are successively from top to bottom a more than hemispherical blank boss, a hound (snapping at the stag round the corner), a standing cow wearing a bell, a kneeling cow, a horse trotting in the opposite direction from the other animals, and lastly a plain surface. The cows have crudely incised joint spirals with long stems. On the *left* side is a stout running spiral that had formed four roundels, of which one has been chiselled off. The top of the pillar has also been chiselled, and there is a dowel hole sunk in the back, all no doubt done at some relatively recent time.

Though roughly executed and in rather a decadent Pictish animal style, the Reay stone is unlikely to be much later than the eighth century. The fine relief from Tapil, Shetland, found in 1943,¹ also presumably datable to before the Viking occupation, shows a free-standing cross probably very early in the Iona-Scottish series. The Reay pillar might thus be part of the shaft of a cross, though one has not been found before in the north. On the other hand, a cross is prominent in part of the sculptural design, and we may have a new type of monument, a squared pillar-stone.

ROBERT B. K. STEVENSON, Keeper of the Museum.

See illustrations over page.



Pictish Sculpture from Reay. (Slightly over 4.) (See Note 1.)