

The Pictish and Early Medieval Carved Stones

Class I stones from Burghead:

1. Symbol stone with bull

ELGNM: 1871.4 (Burghead 3)

2. Cast of symbol stone with bull

Original in the British Museum.

ELGNM: 1892.1 (Burghead 5)

3. Symbol stone with bull

ELGNM: 1886.1 (Burghead 6)

From Kinneddar (Drainie Parish)

Kirkyard and Manse, near Lossiemouth:

4. Middle portion of an upright cross slab with key pattern

ELGNM: 1855.1.11 (Drainie 11)

5. The Psalmist David rending the jaws of a lion

There are parallels with a shrine in St Andrew's. Note the carving of David's clothing and his bare hands, the back feet of the rescued lamb by David's left shoulder and the lion's ribs and tail.

ELGNM: 1855.1.14 (Drainie 16)

6. Class II cross-slab

Class II cross-slab with circular re-entrants, key-pattern motif and a central roundel with Maltese-type cross. Pictish symbols in flanking panels: mirror, comb and torc.

ELGNM: 2009.11 (formerly L1994.61) Donated by Gordonstoun School (Drainie 32)

7. End slab of a shrine, with key pattern, in four pieces.

ELGNM: 1939.6 (Drainie 18)

8. Top part of a cross-slab with beading round the edge but no interior decoration.

ELGNM: 1855.1.2 (Drainie 17)

9. Cross-shaft fragment, sculptured on three faces

Cross-shaft fragment, sculptured on three faces, including interlace, key-pattern and plait work.

ELGNM: 1855.1.8 (Drainie 10)

10. Cross-slab fragment with key pattern

ELGNM: 1855.1.5 (Drainie 7)

11. Cross-slab fragment with heavy key pattern

ELGNM: 1978.125 (Drainie 21)

12. Ringed cross-slab fragment with key pattern

The joining ring is a feature of Celtic crosses and suggests an influence from the west.

ELGNM: 1855.1.7 (Drainie 4)

13. Cross-slab fragments with key pattern

ELGNM: 1978.153 and 1978.155 (Drainie 25 and 27)

14. Broken cross-slab

A broken cross-slab, the cross having a square centre, narrow arms and expanded square terminals, decorated with key patterns and a figure-of-eight knot interlaced with a circle.

ELGNM: 1978.160 (Drainie 15)

15. Unfinished cross slab

From this fragment it is deduced that Kinneddar was the site of a carving workshop and possibly therefore a monastery as at Portmahomack across the Moray Firth.

ELGNM: 1960.14 (Drainie 19)

16. Slab with horseman and probable infantry

ELGNM: 1855.1.13 (Drainie 13)

17. Cross-slab fragment with spirals and knobs

ELGNM: 1978.152 (Drainie 24)

18. Cross-slab fragment with spirals and zig-zag stem

ELGNM: 1855.1.10 (Drainie 2)

19. Cross-slab fragment

Cross-slab fragment, decorated with key pattern on sides, and additional knobs on front face.

ELGNM: 1978.149 (Drainie 22)

20. Cross-slab fragment with interlace, in two pieces

ELGNM: 1978.154 and 1978.156 (Drainie 26 and 28)

21. Slab fragment with warrior with shield and spear

ELGNM: 1978.1855.1.6 (Drainie 8 - possibly fits Drainie 3 and 3A)

22. Slab fragment

Slab fragment, showing the lower part of a horse and a foot of the rider.

ELGNM: 1855.1.4 (Drainie 3 and 3A – possibly fits Drainie 8)

23. Possible cross-arm fragment with key pattern and spiral

ELGNM: 1978.158 (Drainie 30)

Class I Pictish Stone, from Dandaleith

(near Craigellachie, by the River Spey):

24. The Dandaleith Stone

Whereas the stones from near the Moray coast are carved in the more easily worked Permian and Triassic sandstones, this stone is of granite, which is considerably harder. You can read more about the stone on the panel to its right.

It has been difficult to light the face with the eagle, and crescent & V-rod because of the step in the rock in way of the crescent. Natural light may have worked better, wherever the stone was displayed by the Picts, which may well have been other than the find spot. What was the original orientation of the stone and was there any significance in the different uses of the smoother red face and the greyer, more uneven face?

ELGNM: 2014.26

Stones in the Museum but not included in this display:

People and Place Gallery:

P&P 1 'Men of Vision / By Public Subscription'

ELGNM: 1978.124 (Burghead 9)

P&P 3 'The Medieval Church'

ELGNM: 1855.1.3, 1855.1.1, 1978.123 (Drainie 5, 6, and 20)

In stores (not on display):

ELGNM: 1855.1.2, 1855.1.9, 1987.150, 1978.157, 1978.162

(Drainie 9, 12, 23, 29, 31)