



*A Description of an Ancient Obelisk, in Berwickshire;**With an Engraving*.**By Roger Robertson, Esq; of Ladykirk.*

AS this monument of antiquity has not yet been described by any author, it appears proper that some account of it should be placed in the collection of the Society.

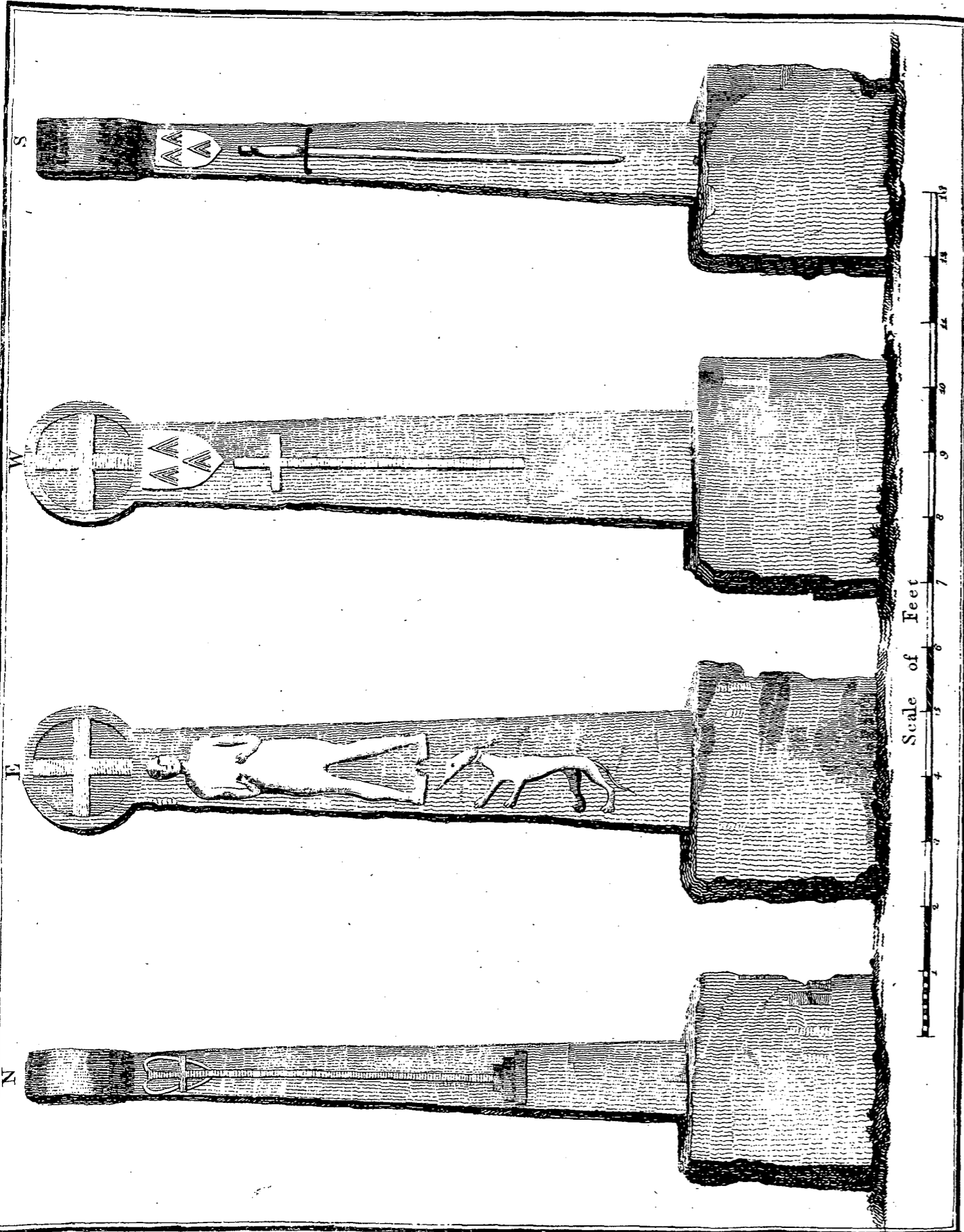
This Obelisk stands near a village called Deadrig, in the parish of Eccles and county of Berwick, about half a mile westward from the turnpike road, between Greenlaw and Coldstream.

It is of one piece of stone inserted into a base. The whole height, about 14 feet 10 inches. The shaft, and round top, of one entire stone. Base, three feet 10 inches high, three feet two inches long, and two feet eight and a half inches broad.

It has two broad and two narrow sides; and tapers from the bottom, where it is one foot nine inches over, to one foot two inches at the top. The diameter of the flat circular ornament on the top, being one foot 10 inches. On both sides of the circle at the top, there is engraved a plain cross. On the east side, a rude figure of a man four feet three and a half inches in length, attended by a greyhound two feet 11 inches long.

On

* This was surreptitiously published some time ago in a periodical publication, but wretchedly executed.



On the opposite or west side, a shield bearing three cheverons, and below, a St. John's cross, five feet 2 inches high.

The south and north sides are about a third part narrower than the east and west.

On the south side, the same shield is repeated, and beneath is a two handed sword, five feet nine inches long. The handle nine inches.

North side, a cross Calvary. The top of it inclosed in an ornament resembling a shield. The cross is five feet seven inches high.

The shape, size, and figure of the Obelisk, resembles the carved pillar in Flintshire, described in Cambden's Britannia, p. 694. and 697. which he esteems to be a Danish monument, and not unlike one given and described by Pennant, in his Voyage to the Western Isles, p. 236.

The mixture of the Heathen emblem of the dog *, with the Christian sign of the cross, give room to conjecture, that it has been erected when even Heathen customs had not been entirely forgotten. But the shield bearing three cheverons proves, that it has been set up when the science of heraldry had been pretty far advanced in Scotland, and after the first croisade, *anno* 1096, when our nobility and gentry first assumed coats armorial. The bearing is of one of the surname of Soules.

A family of this name flourished in Scotland, and were employed
in

* The accompaniment of a greyhound is very common in monuments of a very late date, and by no means requires being referred to Pagan customs.

in the highest offices of the state, for a long time, till Sir William, the head of the family, was tried, forfeited, and condemned by sentence of Parliament, to perpetual imprisonment, for a conspiracy against Robert Bruce, *anno* 1320*.

The repetition of so many crosses probably shews, that the person whose monument this is, had been at the holy war. The first time that any number of the Scots went to these wars, was to the second croisade, *anno* 1144, and likely *Soules* among others. And we know that, much about this time, the nunnery of Eccles, situated about a quarter of a mile distant from this Obelisk, was founded *anno* 1154.

It is very probable, therefore, that this monument was erected after the 1154.

The sword on the south side exhibits a true representation of the ancient two handed sword; and is of the precise dimensions of that one given to the Society by Mr Wight, and mentioned in the minutes of the Society, *May* 1781, donation 44.

The delineation of this sword, is a proof that this monument has been erected while these two handed swords were in use, and resembles the swords represented upon the great seals of Scotland, and the seals of the great Barons; especially those from 1124, to the time of David Bruce, in 1329.

I therefore offer a conjecture, that this Obelisk is the monument of the father of Sir John de Soules, Lieutenant or Viceroy to John Baliol.

* See Nisbet, Fordun, and Index to Anderson's Diplomata, &c.

Baliol*. But I submit this to the inquiry of the ingenious antiquary.

The vulgar tradition says, that a Governour of Hume Castle was killed on the spot, in a skirmish. Hume Castle is about two miles distant from it.