

## Pictish stones from Lindores and Westfield Farm, Fife

J N Graham Ritchie\* and P R Ritchie†

In 1970 a new symbol was noted on the stone from Lindores, Fife, when it was moved from a roadside position to the Old Mort House inside the entrance to Abdie Churchyard (NGR NO 259163), and it was recorded at that time by the second writer and by Mr Tom Borthwick, Scottish Development Department (Ancient Monuments Branch) who prepared the drawing (fig 1); the stone was found to be much larger than expected, measuring 1.67 m by 0.55 m and 0.37 m thick, and was decorated not only with the triple disc symbol and the crescent-and-V-rod symbol noted by Romilly Allan (Allan & Anderson 1903, vol 3, 343-4, fig 357), but also with a mirror symbol on the side. The mirror handle is formed by two double discs with a joining bar. The illustration (fig 1) also shows the sundial and benchmark that have been added to the principal face at a more recent date.

In 1971 two stones with Pictish decoration were noticed by Mr N Durie when part of the steading at Westfield Farm, Falkland, was being demolished (NGR NO 238073). Mr Durie's father, factor of Falkland Estates, notified the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, and following the identification of the stones by Mr R B K Stevenson, they were placed in the museum at Falkland Palace (*Discovery & Excavation in Scotland 1971*, 21). The stones were photographed by Mr G B Quick, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland in 1976; the photographs and descriptions prepared at that time by the first writer are presented here in order to draw attention to these unusual stones.

Both stones are of yellow sandstone and both have been deliberately cut down to form rectangular blocks. Stone 1 (pl 39a) measuring 0.75 m by 0.42 m and 0.8 m in thickness, is decorated with a 'mirror case' (the 'mirror' 200 mm across and the handle 90 mm long) and a fragmentary double-disc symbol (400 mm long). Both incision and pecking have been employed, the former for the most important lines. There are two modern square depressions to take a clamp or building-tackle, each 25 mm square and 30 mm deep. The second stone (pl 39b) measures 0.5 m by 0.4 m and 0.2 m in thickness; it is decorated with two concentric arcs and a 'notched rectangle' symbol (the latter 370 mm long). There is a modern square depression in one corner (25 mm square and 40 mm deep).

There is no reason to believe that the building-stone was brought from any distance, and the stones from Westfield Farm may thus be added to the small number of Class 1 Pictish symbol

\* Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, 54 Melville Street, Edinburgh  
† 35 Castle Avenue, Edinburgh

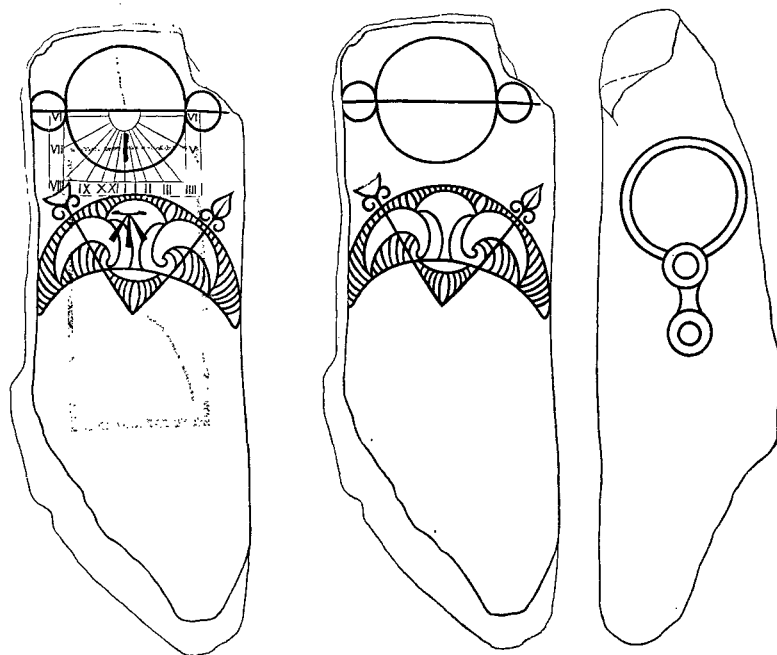


FIG 1 Lindores, Fife: Pictish symbol stone (scale 1:20)

stones from Fife. Henderson has noted the similarity of the notched rectangle symbol on the second stone to the symbol on the silver chain from Whitecleugh, Lanarkshire, and has stressed the association of Pictish silverwork with Fife, even if the number of surviving stones in the county is small (1979, 27).

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Commission is indebted to Falkland Estates for permission to photograph the stones and to publish this note. The writers are grateful to Mr G B Quick for the photographs, to Mr T Borthwick for the drawing, and to Mr A MacLaren and Mr J B Stevenson for assistance during the preparation of this note. Mr I MacIvor, Scottish Development Department (Ancient Monuments Branch), has kindly allowed mention of the work undertaken at Lindores in 1970.

*Copyright* Pl 39 Crown Copyright, Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments, Scotland; fig 1 Crown Copyright, Scottish Development Department (Ancient Monuments Branch).

#### REFERENCES

- Allan, J R & Anderson, J 1903 *The Early Christian Monuments of Scotland*. Edinburgh.  
 Henderson, I M 1979 'The silver chain from Whitecleugh, Shieldholm, Crawfordjohn, Lanarkshire', *Trans Dumfriesshire Galloway Natur Hist Antiq Soc*, 3 ser, 54 (1979), 20-8.

b



a



Westfield Farm, Falkland, Fife: Pictish symbol stones