

c/o Niall Braidwood
Groves-Raines Architects Ltd
Lamb's House
11 Waters Close
Edinburgh
EH6 6RB

30th November 2011

Dear Niall,

Inveravon Pictish Stones – Final Conservation Report

Following on from our recently completed conservation works and re-siting of the Inveravon Pictish Stones, please find enclosed our Final Conservation Report.

I do hope all concerned were happy with the works and that the stones continue to be enjoyed in their new setting. If you require any further information, or have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With regards

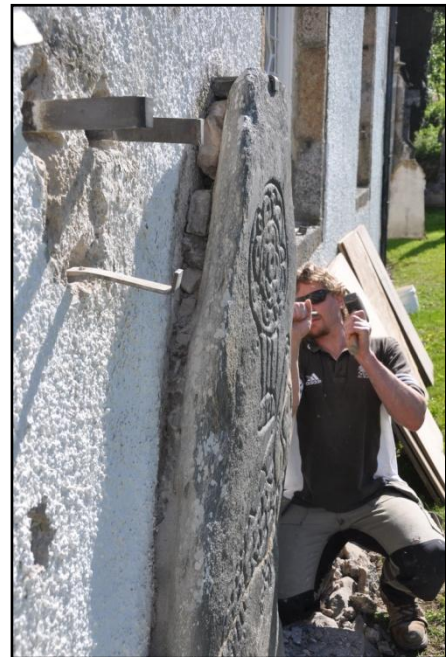
Iain Fox
for Graciela Ainsworth Sculpture Conservation

Inveravon Pictish Stones – Final Conservation Report:

Removal of Stones from South Wall of Inveravon Church, June 2011:



Initial photographic records were taken and the cement joints between the stones and the harled church wall carefully cut away with chisels. The concrete pads below the stones were investigated and cut away in the same manner. Two of the three larger stones were found to have been cut flat at the bottom for ease of display, having had their lower pointed base areas removed at a previous time, with only one stone, Inveravon Stone No.04, remaining intact; its pointed base being sunk into and hidden by the concrete base pad.



The stones were supported whilst their fixings were bent clear to allow safe removal of the stones; the fixings then being removed from the church wall by use of drills. The stones were individually crated for transport to our Edinburgh workshops.

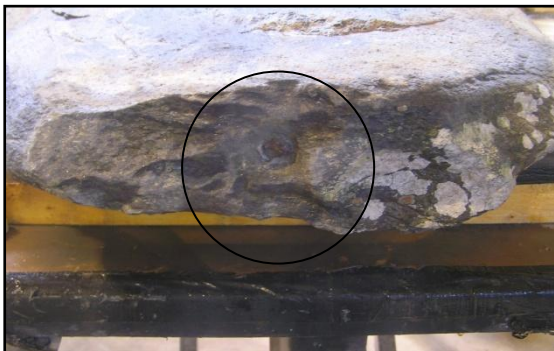
Workshop Conservation Treatment:

The remnants of concrete and cement were carefully removed from the stones with tungsten chisels and scalpels, with loose dirt and debris removed with non-metallic stencil brushes.



Stone No.03 had remnants of its previous repairs removed and the individual components of the stone along with the break joins cleaned.

Further cleaning on all four stones was completed with wooden tools and stencil brushes followed by steam cleaning with a dental grade steam cleaner. The steam cleaning was found to bring out more definition in the carvings.



There was one previous fixing found in the top of Stone No.03; this being ferrous was removed with careful use of a core drill and the hole re-used during our siting of the stones.

Workshop Conservation Treatment:



As the cleaning works progress,
the carvings become more
visible.



Workshop Conservation Treatment:

Following the removal of cement, environmental growth and general dirt and debris, all stone were cleaned with a dental grade steam cleaner. Salt tests were then completed to all stones. Although there was visible salt staining/ remnants of cement slurry in localised areas around the edges of where the cement had previously been, this was removed by the steam cleaning and our subsequent salt tests in various differing areas of all the stones showed very little to no salts present in our poultices, indicating that there were no salt issues remaining.



Fine fills to the fissures:

Once the stone surfaces were cleaned, the fine fissures were more visible, and they were carefully filled with Paraloid B72 in Acetone, and different coloured schist kindly sourced by Jonathan Swale from SNH that we ground down by hand.

The fills were completed to deter any future insect infestation, accumulation of dust and to protect the vulnerable edges of the laminations.

These fills were completed in particular to the backs and sides. The front fills to the large Pictish stone No 3 were the main fills carried out to the front of the stones

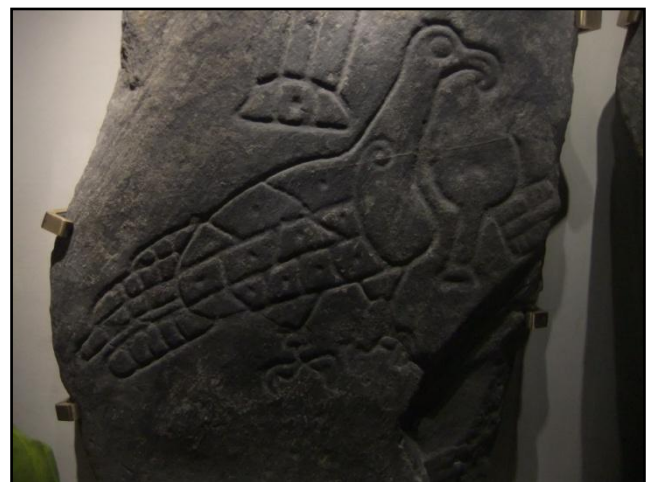


During conservation



Pictish Stone no 3:

Before



After Installation

Pictish Stone no 4 Before

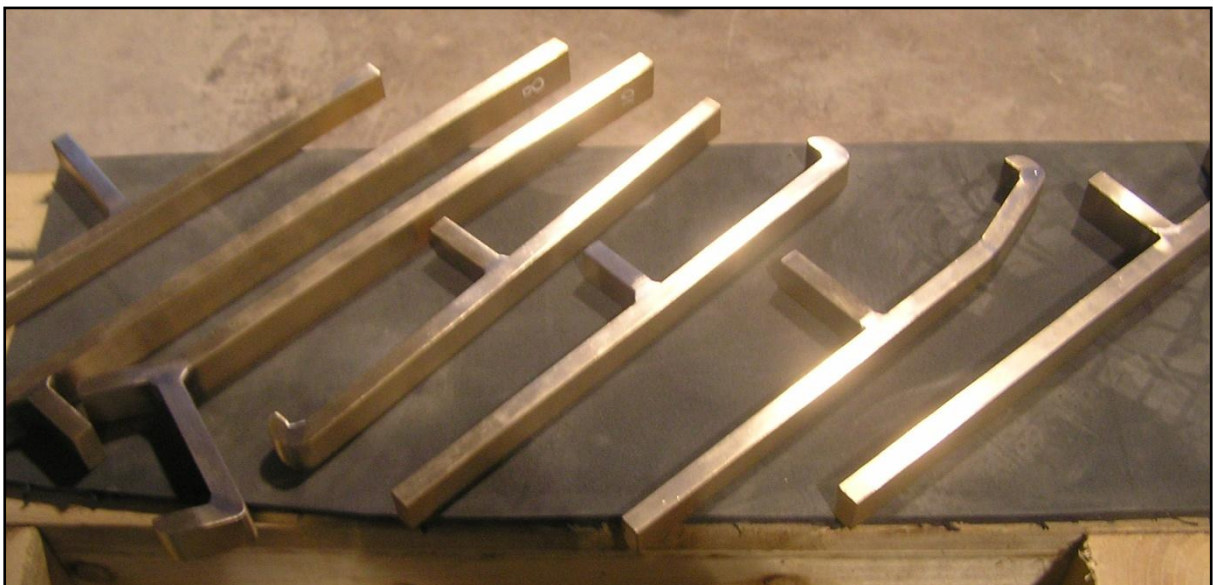


In workshop



Resin Base Pads and Bronze Fixings:

Before returning the stones to site, resin base pads were made to safely support the stones along with bespoke bronze fixings. A dry run of the resin pads and bespoke bronze fixings designed with Niall Braidwood, was completed in our workshops.

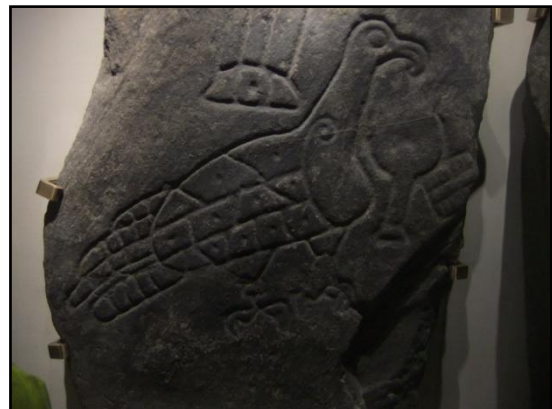


Re-Siting of the Stones in North Porch of Inveravon Church, November 2011:

The physical challenges of re-siting the heavy stones within the confined space of the North Porch were overcome by use of a counter balanced crane combined with eye bolts and chain blocks. Final positioning was agreed on site with the clients and the stones secured into the wall of the church with their phosphor bronze bracket fixings.



The component parts of Stone No.03 were secured together with polyester resin and fills completed using Paroloid B72 in acetone solution mixed with crushed schist stone, as described above.



Re-Siting of the Stones in North Porch of Inveravon Church, November 2011:

