Class 2 Stones - Physical Locations

Many of the Pictish Symbol Stones are currently outdoors and in very visible locations. Some have been moved away from their original positions but are nearby - often free-standing, sometimes built into a wall of a building, placed in a shelter or taken indoors for physical protection (for example into a church). Others can be seen still in their original, more open locations such as fields or in a raised or open area. Those in museums and public buildings give added exposure to a wide range of people to enjoy, wonder and study.

These pages record the places where Class 2 Symbol Stones carved with whole, partially broken or fragments of Celtic, Pictish-Mithraic and Christian objects were found and where they are now; some are still in their original location.

This PDF should be read in conjunction with the Pictish Symbol Stones webpage Class 2 Stones - Physical Locations.

Aspects of Physical Locations for Class 2 Stones have prompted grouping of the Stones as follows:

- Church interior / foundations / wall
- Churchyard / graveyard
- Church or chapel nearby
- Manse
- In a field
- In foundations of buildings
- In a raised or open area

Some notes on the listings
Each entry below is marked up with its RCAHMS¹ site number.

Proximity to water can have several purposes including access for travel or moving materials, refreshment or spiritualistic purposes. Water is variously used, dependent on belief set, for baptism (partial or immersive), ritual washing, purification, connecting with others, creating relationships etc. Those Stones that are located by or near water have the name of the river etc. included. Maybe courses were different 1300+ years ago!

Association with any Saint is included in the entry - detailed in the Saints & Stones PDF.

The “Class” categorisation used in the listings is based on that formulated by Allen and Anderson² with the addition of my references to specific beliefs so that:

- Class 1 are the initial, or early, incised Stones with either or both Celtic and Pictish-Mithraic Symbols and no Christian crosses,
- Class 2 (as explored in these pages) are in the “transition” between Pictish-Mithraic and Christian beliefs with both Symbol and Cross carvings and
- Class 3 are not “Symbol Stones” as such having clearly Christian carvings only. There are no clearly Class 3 Stones in these listings.
Types of carvings

- Geometric shapes of symbols have, in general, been decoded in the context of Pictish-Mithraism - a belief, it is suggested, was developed from Roman Mithraism.
- Christianity is always represented by Crosses and sometimes with depictions of biblical stories.
- Animals, birds and fish are considered to represent, in the main, Celtic attributes or religious beliefs. What is included, and why, is in Celtic Carvings.
- Additionally, some Stones have commemorations of battle victories and hunting scenes.
- A later use has been for applying Ogham text.

Belief combinations

Class 2 Stones have combinations of Celtic, Pictish-Mithraic and Christian beliefs - they are explored in the Belief Combinations - Investigations section of this website.

When any two, or more, beliefs are represented on a Symbol Stone they are considered to be in a “Shared Space”. Two kinds of Shared Space were discovered during the Investigations; entries in these listings are marked up as appropriate:

- Where there are symbols from two, or more, beliefs that have similar or identical meanings there is correlation between them - these have been labelled "Complementary" beliefs.
- If the meanings of the carvings are related so that they, at minimum, do not clash but are perhaps not sufficiently strongly linked to be correlated or harmonised then they are labelled as "Implied Acceptance".

The listings - by location

Entries below indicate the location (original and current as well if moved from original) of all the Class 2 Stones and, based on the Investigations, whether the belief combinations of carved objects are:

- Celtic and Christian,
- Pictish-Mithraic and Christian or
- Celtic, Pictish-Mithraic and Christian.
Pre-Christian religions or beliefs have often been referred to as pagan with the suggestion that the arrival of Christianity replaced such followings. However, the fact that Symbol Stones with a range of Pre-Christian iconography have been found under, inside and built into walls of churches tends to suggest superstition, acceptance or reverence towards what had come before. Because very few of these Stones have been defaced, where there are instances of two (or more) beliefs with their respective carved objects on the same surface it can be concluded that the shared space was used successfully.

**Elgin** NJ26SW 2 - originally unearthed in 1823 near St Giles Kirk, Elgin and moved to nave of the ruins of Elgin Cathedral - Class 2, Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary).

**Fordoun** NO77NW 3.2 – used as paving in old church / under base of pulpit of 1788 church, now in vestibule - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance) + scenes and Ogham. Saint association - St Palladius. By Luther Water (aka River Luther).

**Kingoldrum** NO35NW 3 – found in 1840 during demolition of earlier church, now in NMS³ - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary) + person and other objects. Saint association - St Medan. By Cromie Burn.

**Kirriemuir** NO35SE 20 – two Stones discovered in foundations of former kirk during its demolition in 1787, now in Meffan Museum, Forfar - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (“1” complementary; “2” implied acceptance) + people.

**Monifieth** NO43SE 25 – four Stones (Class 2 and 3) found in foundation of former church were incorporated into the new church subsequently presented to NMS³. Two Class 2 - one Celtic, Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary) the other Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary). Saint association - St Regulus (St Rule).

**Rosemarkie** NH75NW 7 – found in floor of old church, now in Groam House Museum - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary) with bosses on cross + undecoded animals.

**St Vigeans** NO64SW 3 – several slabs and fragments from old church site with “belief” carvings and variously with people, scenes and undecoded objects. St Vigeans 1 and 2 - Class 2 - Celtic, Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary); St Vigeans 3 - partial Z-Rod & Crescent on a fragment but not included in Investigations; St Vigeans 4 - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary); St Vigeans 6 - Class 2 - sufficient carving on reverse to suggest from a Cross slab - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance). These Stones, fragments and more are in St Vigeans Sculptured Stones Museum. Saint association - St Vigean. By Brothock Water.

**Tealing** NO43NW 9 - a fragment was built into the south wall of Tealing church. By 1911 removed inside the church and in 1969 transferred to McManus Museum, Dundee. Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary), fish monster is undecoded and serpent not considered to be Celtic. Saint association - St Boniface.
Perhaps their being relatively portable prompted and enabled relocation to an adjacent church, incorporation into a wall, transfer to a museum, into a shelter etc. Of these Stones only Poolewe seems to have remained in its original location.

**Brodie**, “Rodney’s Stone” NH95NE 3 – from Dyke old church graveyard (NGR NH 9842 5766) - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance) plus undecoded objects and Ogham. When at its original location at Dyke (NGR NH 9842 5766) old church graveyard – Muckle Burn.

**Dyce** NJ81NE 8 – two Stones had been built into kirkyard dyke at St Fergus Church. Dyce 1 is Class 1 - Pictish-Mithraic only. Dyce 2 - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary) and Ogham. Both are now in a shelter by the old church. Saint association - St Fergus. This location is referred to as Aberdeen City in the RCAHMS\(^1\) publication.

**Formaston**, Aboyne NJ50SW 1 – found in churchyard shortly prior to 1887, now in Victory Hall, Aboyne - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance) and Ogham.

**Golspie (Class 2)** NC80SW 13 - specifically named (Class 2) to avoid confusion with another Stone known as Golspie (Class 1). Although there are conflicting traditions about its original location, it was found in 1776 in the graveyard where it had been used as a recumbent gravestone and is now in Dunrobin Museum - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic, Celtic and Christian (complementary). Near Golspie Burn and North Sea just north of the Dornoch Firth.

**Hilton of Cadboll** NH87NE 7 – originally near the ruins of a chapel (Our Lady) within other earthworks, now in NMS\(^3\) with a replica on site - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary) and hunting scene.

**Inchbrayock** NO75NW 2 – slab found in burial ground of St Braoch’s church in 1849, now in Montrose Museum - more Class 3 only than Class 2 - Christian cross & biblical story and hunting scene. Its name suggests the church was dedicated to St Braoch.

**Logierait** NN95SE 4 – discovered in kirkyard around 1878, “1” now stands close beside the church; “2” is within the parish church; Logierait 1 - Class 2 Christian and Pictish-Mithraic (implied acceptance); Logierait 2 - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary). By River Tay and near River Tummel.

**Logie Wester, Conon Bridge** - found in 2019 at the burial ground of an early Christian church site, now on display in a window of Dingwall Museum - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance). Near River Conon.

**Meigle** NO24SE 25. Note from Meigle Museum website “stones contained in the museum were all found near Meigle, mostly in the neighbouring churchyard or used in the construction of the old church”. Meigle 1 & 5 - Class 2 - Celtic, Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary); Meigle 3, 4, 6 & 7 - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance). Near River Isla.
Nigg NH87SW 1 – stood in Nigg churchyard, now inside church - Class 2 - Celtic, Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary).

Rossie Priory NO23SE 4 - found in the old burial ground of Rossie before 1867, now in a private mortuary chapel in what was Rossie Church - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary). Close to Rossie Burn.

St Madoes NO12SE 15 found in kirkyard, now in Perth Museum - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary) plus hooded horsemen and undecoded beasts. Near Cairnie Pow (into Tay at Inchyra).

St Vigeans NO64SW 3 – several slabs and fragments from old church site, now in St Vigeans Museum. Note: see entries above under “Church Interior…..” and in “Churchyard…..”.

Strathmartine Kirkyard NO33NE 7 – fragments of Stones from parish church, “3” is in McManus Museum, Dundee and “4” in NMS3; Strathmartine 3, 4, 5 & 6 - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance). Current location of “5” is unknown.

Ulstber ND34SW 28.01 - dug up in burial ground of St Martin’s chapel in 1770. Now in Thurso Heritage Museum - Class 2 - Celtic, Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary).

CHURCH OR CHAPEL NEARBY
Listed here as these Stones do not fall within the church interior/foundations/wall feature.

Aberlemno Church NO55NW 26 - standing at the church - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance). Near River South Esk.

Deer Abbey NJ94NE 5 - first recorded around 1850 standing close to Deer Abbey supposedly built into the foundation of a nearby lodge later in that century. Currently there is no trace of it but seemingly had Pictish-Mithraic objects and a Christian Cross - not included in “Shared Space” Investigations exercise. Saint association - St Drostan (was appointed abbot of Deer Abbey by St Columba).

Dunfallandy NN95NW 29 – original location apparently either in ruins of a chapel 1 mile SW of Killiecrankie or near the chapel at Dunfallandy - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary) plus people/scene and undecoded objects. Currently near the River Tummel - original location either on the west bank of the River Garry or near the chapel at Dunfallandy.

Eassie NO34NE 4 – found in bank of burn by old parish church in late 18th C, now in enclosure in the shell of Eassie Old Parish Church - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary) plus People/Scene and undecoded objects.

Kinneddar 2 NJ16NE 44 - found in 1965 in a pile of stones from the 17th century church at Drainie but may have come from an earlier church site at Kinneddar - now in Elgin Museum - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary). Note sometimes spelt Kineddar.
Migvie NJ40NW 2 – dug up at site of old church, erected nearby - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary) plus people/scene and undecoded object. Dedicated to St Finnan.

Pabbay, Barra NL68NW 2 – found in the graveyard of the church on Pabbay in the remains of dry stone walls supposedly of a chapel, now amongst broken stones; Cross added to Stone (estimated as circa 6th century) - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance).

Scoonie NO30SE 15 – found in old parish churchyard, now in NMS³ - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance) plus hunting scene and Ogham.

Skinnet Chapel, Halkirk ND164SW 2 – was built into St Thomas Chapel (ruin), now in Thurso Heritage Museum - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary) plus undecoded object.

Tarbat NH98SW 15 – this fragment, found in the churchyard, was part of a Stone until broken up around 1800 for gravestones, now in NMS³ - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance) plus hunting scene and undecoded objects.


**MANSE**

An original location for any of these Stones is not clear but each has been found either in a manse garden or built into a garden wall. With manses having a church connection perhaps they came from an associated church - maybe not a current one but a predecessor.


Birse NO59NE 18.02 – near site of medieval church, built into garden wall of former manse - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance).

Glamis Manse (aka Glamis Manse 1) NO34NE 2 - stands in the front garden of Glamis manse which may have been part of the churchyard - Class 2 - Celtic, Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary). Near Glamis Burn.

Not all Stones have been found in what might be called “ecclesiastical” settings. In fact 18 are not linked to a formal belief location. With a selection of objects across all three beliefs covered by Investigations in this website maybe more is to be found about these places that might make their locations significant.
IN A FIELD

**Balluderon** NO33NE 2 - lower part of a fragmentary Cross-slab - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance). Also known as St Martin’s Stone.

**Gask** NN91NE 26 - stood in a field between Gask House and Gask Church and moved to the grounds of Moncrieffe House - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance).

**Monymusk** NJ71NW 12 – found in a field by the River Don, now in Monymusk church - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance). Near River Don.

IN FOUNDATIONS OF BUILDINGS

**Gellyburn, Murthly** NO03NE 1 - had been built into a Gellyburn village house wall and found during building works in 1949, now in Perth Museum - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary). Near River Tay.

**Woodwrae** NO55NW 6 – found in the kitchen floor when the foundations of the castle were cleared following its demolition in 1819, taken to Abbotsford then given to NMS around 1924 - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary). Near River South Esk.

It is likely that there is specific relevance to a Stone being in a raised or open area (or both) maybe with clear sight to a specific location or geographic feature; for example the Picardy Stone has a wide view, not least to Bennachie (the site of an old fort).

IN A RAISED OR OPEN AREA

**Aberlemno Roadside 1, 2 & 3** NO55NW 8 (Crosstoun) - in an open area by the roadside; “1” is Class 1 - Celtic and Pictish-Mithraic; “2” is Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary); “3” has indistinct markings not discernible as Symbols. Near River South Esk.

**Cossans,** so-called “St Orland’s Stone” NO45SW 4 – isolated in low lying fields - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary). Near Dean Water (south), Loch of Forfar (north east) and several burns.

**Fowlis Wester** NN92SW 5 - alleged originally to have been at a site at Bal na Croik at the mouth of the Sma’ Glen and River Almond therefore in an open area, now in the parish church with a replica in the village square - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary).

**Glamis, Hunter’s Hill** (aka Glamis 1) NO34NE 17 - in situ on the north slope of Hunter’s Hill near Glamis Village - initially Class 1 upcycled to Class 2 - Celtic, Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary).
Glenferness NH94SW 10 – moved clear of flooding by a bend in the River Findhorn - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary) plus hunting scene and figures. By a bend in River Findhorn.

Largo NO40SW 2 - two pieces were found on the Largo Estate, one fragment discovered during quarrying on the north side of Norrie’s Law, the other reused as a drain cover in 1839. Fragments were cemented together in the 1800s and since about 1933 the Stone has been at Largo Parish Church - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary).

Maiden Stone NJ24SW 1 - may have stood by an old track way by a mound and was moved a few yards westwards when the current road was constructed - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary).

Raasay NG53NW 3 - found when the road from the pier to Raasay House was made (prior to 1824), stands in a Forestry plantation near Raasay House - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (implied acceptance). Near Sound of Raasay.

St Vigeans NO64SW 3 – on a glacial mound - 1x stone Class 1 - Pictish-Mithraic only, 4x stones Class 2 Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (3x stones complementary, 1x stone implied acceptance). By Brothock Water.

Shandwick NH87SE 4 - on the hillside above Shandwick village now protected by a glazed shelter - Class 2 - Pictish-Mithraic and Christian (complementary) plus hunting scene and many complex carvings.

Included here for completeness - there are two Class 2 Stones that do not have the Pictish-Mithraic and Christian object carvings but Celtic and Christian ones:-

Latheron ND13SE 27 - found in the wall of an old byre and now in NMS³ - Class 2 - Celtic and Christian (implied acceptance).

Mortlach 1 (Dufftown) NJ33NW 12 – the so-called “Battle Stone” stands in the lower graveyard extension on the haughdale below the church - Class 2 - Celtic and Christian (implied acceptance). Dullan Water runs behind the graveyard.

Note 1 - The Pictish Symbol Stones of Scotland published by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) in 2008.

Note 2 - Early Christian Monuments of Scotland by Allen and Anderson first published in 1903.

Note 3 - NMS = National Museums of Scotland