

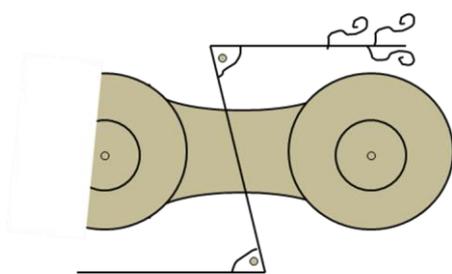
Pictish Symbol Stones – Case Study Tullich

Features – one Class 1 Stone is housed by the doorway to the current church with fifteen Cross Stones (specifically Class 3). Several church sites have dedications to Saints. However, Tullich is rare as its Saint, Nathalan (seemingly a native of Deeside), is very likely to have been the founder of the original church here.

Located a few hundred yards from the River Dee, a Celtic chapel was established by St Nathalan (Nachalan or Nachlan or Neachtan) who became the bishop of Tullich and died in 678. Having been found in the old church, it is assumed that the Pictish Symbol Stone is more or less in its original location. The church has been held by the Knights Templar then the Hospitallers who built a fort round the church in thirteenth century. An interesting “mysteries” theme links from the time of Pictish-Mithraism to the Knights Templar around the twelfth century to the present day – a currently active Freemasons’ Lodge chartered in 1815 is named the Lodge of St Nathalan of Tullich-in-Mar.

Considering the Stone would most likely have been alone in an open landscape with a surrounding backdrop of hills and mountains (including Lochnagar at over 1,000 metres height in the south west) it is not difficult to imagine someone looking up to the top of the Stone to the Z-Rod & Double Disc then to the sky and heavens beyond.

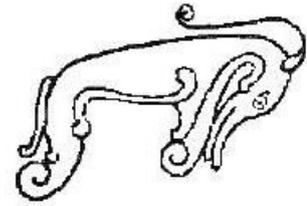
Very similar to Eassie, Dyce (1), Clatt, Keith Hall, Kintore Castle Hill (1), Logie Elphinstone (2), Picardy, Aberlemno Roadside (1) and Cossans. Some of



the “flame” carving is missing on the upper rod (the torch held by Cautes signifying morning and the spring equinox) but it reasonably can be assumed there would have been flame carving on the lower rod (Cautopates’ torch signifying evening and the autumn equinox). As usual for this Symbol set, the connecting rod alludes to

Mithras connecting together the day, the months between equinoxes and time itself. In the discs the central dot is Earth, the inner ring the Planets and the outer ring the Celestial Sphere.

In the middle of this Stone is the unmistakable Pictish Beast with the “lappet” and dolphin-like snout still visible. Style-wise this example is quite unexceptional being one of the two thirds that face to the right and following the standard pattern. The rationale concluding this is a sea-goat – Capricorn – is on the webpage “Mithraic Symbols – Identified and Decoded” at www.pictish-mithraism.com .



As mentioned before the Mirror is not a mirror but a Symbol within the Mysteries of Mithras so, typically, has been obscured so requires to be decoded. Two general patterns have emerged which refer to the carving style – “ring” and “solid”. There is some commonality amongst examples but unlike the Pictish Beast no standard. Of the style at Tullich there are six other examples at Clatt, Daviot, Keith Hall, Glamis Manse, Aberlemno and Park House which comprise the Double Disc part of the Z-Rod & Double Disc design with the larger circle being the Zodiac.

