

Appendix D
(Added 7th January 2007)

A copy of the main report was forwarded by e-mail to the following on Friday 4th January 2007:

RCAHMS

Society of Antiquites of Scotland.

Aberdeenshire Council

Historic Scotland

Alex.Salmond.Local MSP

ANESFHS

Marischal Museum

Evening Express

And also to:

ElectricScotland website

Clan Forbes website

The first reply was an e-mail from Gavin Bell MI Index Coordinator at ANESFHS 5th January 2007.

Gavin brought it to my attention that he did not think Aberdeenshire Council were responsible for the site and that it may be a private burial ground. He stated that the name St Meddan's was in his opinion being incorrectly applied by Aberdeenshire Council to the church in the village of Fintry and that the actual St Meddan's in this report was being referred to as 'Cothal' by Aberdeenshire Council. He also stated that five symbol stones were recorded in a book by a local minister written in 1901. Gavin also expressed his concern about my comments regarding the condition of the cemetery and any possible restoration and wrote *"that was not my response to the kirkyard, which struck me as picturesque in its decay, and a fitting reminder of*

the transience of all life". He also provided the following link to the Historic Scotland website which deals with conservation rather than restoration.

http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/carved_stones_guidance.pdf

From Gavin's message my first question was "*Where are the other two symbol stones?*" "

My second question was "*If Aberdeenshire Council are not the owners then who is?*" I then thought to myself this may explain why Aberdeenshire Council have not done any work on the site; it was not their responsibility.

The second reply was a phone call from Richard Leith at Aberdeenshire Council.

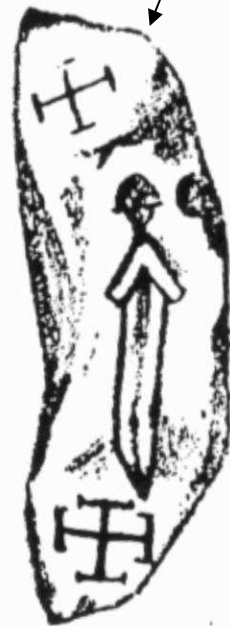
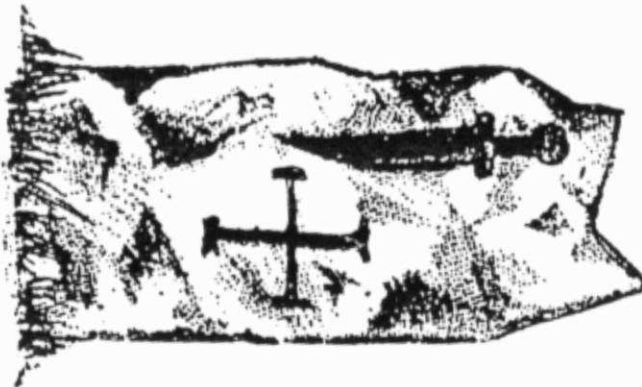
Richard phoned on Monday 7th January 2007 and confirmed that St Medden's was not in the care of Aberdeenshire Council and that he would find out who the current owner was. I spoke to Richard about the five symbol stones mentioned by Gavin Bell and that I had only seen three in the cemetery.

Richard phoned back later in the day and said that he had spoken to Lady Jane Forbes who was the current owner and that she had inherited the site about 6 year ago, he also stated that he had spoken to her and that she would consider passing the care of St Medden's to Aberdeenshire Council. Richard also advised that the other two stones were in the south east of England but could be returned if Aberdeenshire Council arranged for them to be picked up. Richard also photocopied some pages from the Minister's book mentioned by Gavin Bell written in 1901 and included the following page showing the five symbol stones. The book also confirmed that this church was dedicated to St Modan the patron saint of Fraserburgh, the bishop and confessor at Philorth and showed a drawing of the sacrament house and communion cup shown below.

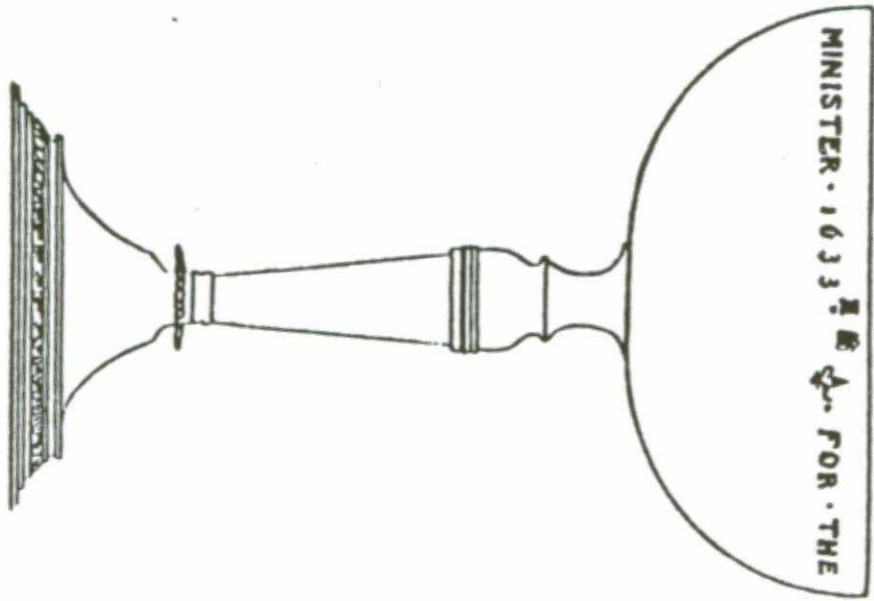
On comparison with the drawings and my photographs it must be noted that the drawings are not completely accurate e.g. the largest stone has a cross in both circles and the stone dated 1593 has other lettering visible, so these should be

formally checked and recorded if not already recorded. The case was given the formal Aberdeenshire Council enquiry reference ACE/139399.

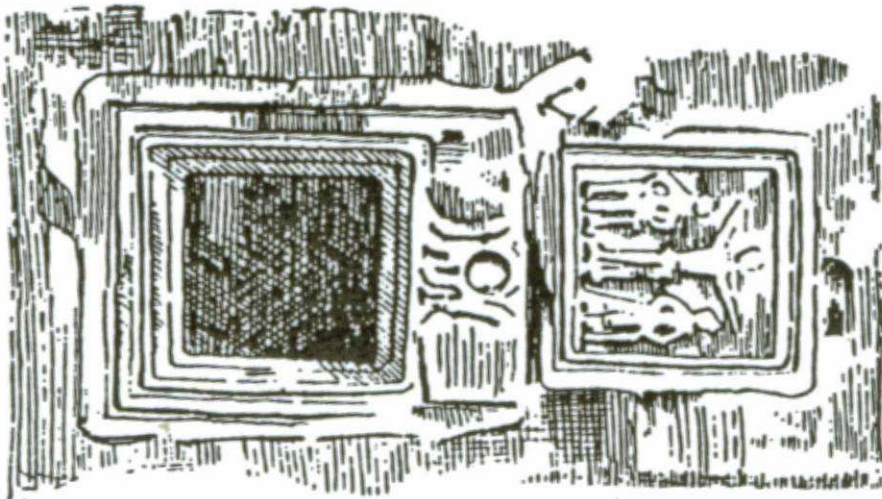
Old Gravestones In St. Medan's Churchyard.



Stones now in SE England.



St. Medan's Cup.



Recess in St. Medan's Church for Communion Cup.