

PRESS INFORMATION

CONSERVING THE STONES

The museum project gave Historic Scotland the opportunity to take the St Vigean Stones to its specialist centre in Edinburgh for recording and conservation work. Part of the process involved the use of the latest laser technology, for both treatment and to create exceptionally accurate records of some of the carvings.

Stephen Gordon, Historic Scotland senior conservator, said: “The improvements to the museum gave us an excellent opportunity to bring the stones to Edinburgh where we have the specialist staff and equipment to undertake some thorough recording, conservation treatment and preparation of new mounts.

“This has included using special laser techniques that are superb for removing dirt, or other unwanted materials, without affecting the stones themselves.

“Earlier efforts at conservation, dating back to the 1960s, carried out using the best techniques of the time have now reached the end of their life.

“This project gives us the opportunity to remove these earlier repairs and use more modern and appropriate treatments and mounting methods.

“These works are painstaking but ultimately very satisfying.”

Moving the stones to and from the conservation centre at South Gyle was a major project in itself.

Some had been set in cement, which had to be very carefully removed.

And while some are very large, weighing up to half a tonne, they are also extremely fragile and had to be handled with the upmost care.

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