The Stones of Scotland
A sculpture to celebrate the creative spirit in Scotland at the start of a new millennium

Scottish Natural Heritage

site is in Regent Road Park, Edinburgh overlooking the new stone to represent their area in a central sculpture. The chosen

A new creative journey was planned visiting each of the 32 Counties and collected work to create the ‘Spires for Hibernia’

This project grew out of a previous journey in Ireland with Stuart Rogers of the Paul Hogarth Company

...this work is a reminder to a new...”

Stones of Scotland are in Regent Road Park on the south side of Regent Road facing to Arthur’s Seat and the Scottish Parliament.

By bus: Numerous bus services to Princes Street and London Road.
By coach: Coach parking in metered bays alongside entrance.
By car: Parking opposite site in metered bays.
By foot: From east end of Princes Street about 800 m. From east end of London Road about 300 m.

The artists would like to thank persons and organisations too numerous to name here for their help and encouragement with this project. Thanks to Caroet Press for their kind permission to use the poem by Hugh MacDiarmid.

In 1998 Kenny Munro received an award from the Scottish Arts Council which enabled the three artists to undertake a feasibility study for the Stones of Scotland project. George Wyllie received a Creative Scotland Award in 2000 from the Scottish Arts Council to realise the installation on site.

George Wyllie MBE

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The Castle

Stones of Scotland

Princes Street

The Stones of Scotland

To find the Stones of Scotland

Edinburgh

North Bridge

Holyrood Palace

High Street (Royal Mile)

Leith W

Stones of Scotland

Stones of Scotland

Scottish Parliament

Stones of Scotland

Regent Road

Waverley Station

The Castle

Stones of Scotland

Princes Street

Regent Road

Calton Hill

London Road

Arthur’s Seat

Regent Road, Edinburgh

Borders RIGS

Lothian and RIGS

Regional Important Geological Site

Regent Road, Edinburgh

Footsteps in time

Geological diversity

By George Wyllie MBE, Kenny Munro, Lesley-May Miller with Stuart Rogers of the Paul Hogarth Company

The project grew out of a previous journey in Ireland undertaken by George Wyllie and Kenny Munro when they visited the 32 Counties and collected work to create the ‘Spires for Hibernia’

A new creative journey was planned visiting each of the 32 regions of Scotland, involving local communities in finding a stone to represent their area in a central sculpture. The chosen site is in Regent Road Park, Edinburgh overlooking the new Scottish Parliament.

The official launch ceremony was on 30th November 2002

Stones of Scotland are part of a World Heritage Site and was generously gifted by the City of Edinburgh Council.

Produced by Lothian and Borders RIGS © 2006 Designed by: Derek Munn Photographs from British Geological Survey collection, Kenny Munro, Raymond Lintern Coordinator: Dr Elspeth Urquhart Funding by Scottish Natural Heritage.
THE STONES OF SCOTLAND
32 STONES - ONE FROM EACH OF THE 32 SCOTTISH REGIONAL COUNCILS

Regent Road Park, Edinburgh

Descriptions of the geology of each chosen stone and a map showing the diversity of Scotland’s geology and the location of Scotland’s 32 councils. Although not chosen as an A-Z of Scottish rocks, the stones are a good and useful representative sample of Scottish geology.

Sedimentary Rocks: clastic rocks formed from sediments laid down in water or on land, e.g. sand to sandstone.

Igneous Rocks: crystalline rocks formed from molten magma, either as extrusive lavas and ash, e.g. basalt, or underground intrusions, e.g. granite or basalt.

Metamorphic Rocks: rocks altered by natural heat and pressure at great depth, e.g. slate, schist, gneiss or marble.

The Stones of Scotland are of various sources: quarried blocks which are angular, fresher and sometimes cut rock, building stones which may be dressed (cut to shape) and tooled (with incised marks), weathered blocks from the land surface, or rounded boulders from the sea.

Weathering: Some stones were collected with weathered, encrustated surfaces, other stones had fresh hand-worked surfaces. Over time the Stones are becoming weathered and overgrown, and the geology of the Stones less clear.

Western Isles Sea shore boulder, near Carloway, Lewis. This sea-rounded boulder is of hard banded pink and grey Lewisian gneiss, a high-grade metamorphic rock, among the oldest rock in Britain, about 2700 million years old.

Argyll and Bute Monumental block of pink granite quarried from Tormore Quarry, Ross of Mull. The granite intrusion covers 70 km², and is of late Caledonian age, 400 million years old. The crystals are mostly large pink feldspars, with clear quartz and black pyroxene. The granite was globally popular as a building stone, as in Iona Abbey, the pillars of the Albert Memorial and New York Docks.

Stirling Boulder of metamorphic rock collected from Tyndrum. Banded quartzite and mica schist, formed by alteration of sandstones and mudstones. Tyndrum was famous for a ‘gold rush’ in the 1800s/1980s.

West Dunbartonshire Basalt orandesite igneous rock, probably intrusive. Brownish grey weathered surface, but fresh dark grey crystalline rock on sides. Patches of whitish crystals.

East Dunbartonshire Grey basalt lava, with obvious large white feldspar crystals; much iron weathering, some white quartz vein. Inverclyde Dark grey basalt with large black pyroxene crystals seen on upper surface, an intrusive rock. Inner face is split along red-purple iron-ore veins.

Renfrewshire Block of brecciated lava, probably Carboniferous, consisting of lava fragments welded together. Small holes (vesicles) were formed by escaping gases in the lava.

East Renfrewshire Rectangular building block of coarse sandstone, finely-beded, with iron-rich layers. Dressed with moss-filled tool marks on top surface.

City of Glasgow Grey medium-grained Carboniferous sandstone flagstone with bedding seen on side; typical of sandstones widely used in Glasgow buildings.

North Lanarkshire This angular quarried block is medium-grained dolerite, an intrusive rock, with crystals showing in one good clean face.

South Lanarkshire Red medium sandstone of Carboniferous age. It is finely-beded, with red and orange beds set vertically. Brown iron oxides are used extensively in buildings such as the now demolished Hamilton Palace.

North Ayrshire Boulder of two parts, the lower part Dalradian gneit with vertical lineations, the upper part a whitish quartz vein cutting the gneit. Dalradian is Cambrian metamorphic rock.

East Ayrshire Dressed red sandstone block with vertical quarry marks on inside face. Probably M’achuline desert sandstone of Permian age, seen in many old buildings throughout the west of Scotland.

South Ayrshire Dark grey medium-grained dolerite block. Surface all weathered, only well seen in broken corner. Gap is split along natural joint.

Shetland Grey, fissile sandstone, flagstone, long-used as building material as in Broch of Mousa.

Orkney Cut flagstone of fine-grained sandstone, pinkish brown with fine grey laminations. Top surface is dark bedding plane with burrows, very like the Cellaniffness Flags in centre of sculpture.

Highland Harle and grey granite. Greyish white Skye Harle reputedly used in great buildings, such as Iona Abbey, the Vatican, and the Palace of Versailles. The grey granite has crystals of pale pink feldspar, some clear quartz and black pyroxene.

Moray Sandstone from Clashach Quarry on Moray coast, famous for fossil footprints of Permian reptiles (now protected site). In the part-dressed block, the golden stone is due to iron-staining, darker along bedding planes and joints, as on outer face. This building stone is widely used for prestige buildings such as the Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Aberdeen Grey granite boulder with a very weathered surface, but large white feldspar crystals visible. Granite forms a distinctive landscape of rounded hills as around the collection locality at East Corriehow.

City of Aberdeen Polished cut block of grey crystalline granite with white and pink feldspar, clear quartz and black pyroxene. Such quarrying of granite began in the mid 1700s, with extensive use of granite as a building material in Aberdeen, e.g. Marischal College of the University of Aberdeen, hence it being known as ‘the granite city’.

Angus Dalradian grit, metamorphosed coarse sandstone, with vertical bedding visible through black growth and moss. The prominent quartz grains make the stone feel rough to the touch.

Perth and Kinross Typical dark grey slate from this region showing bedding and cleavage formed in low-grade metamorphism. Slate for roofs was split along the cleavage.

City of Dundee Fine sandstone building block, dressed and tooled, from local demolished building. The grey to pinkish, medium to coarse-grained, micaceous sandstone is possibly Lower Devonian in age. The stone has no fresh surface, and moss is growing in tooling.

Fife Andesite block from the surface has weathered brown and green with brown iron oxides. Fresh surface on top shows dark grey fine-grained crystalline rock with a few phenocrysts (larger crystals).

Clackmannan Dark grey andesite lava block, with some brown iron staining along jointed surface. The fresh rock is dark grey and crystalline.

Midlothian White sandstone with fossil tree root, Stigmaria, on front. Back shows typical sandstone soil, with varying colours, brown iron patches, and fine black carbonaceous roots.

West Lothian Chosen because of the association with the locally famous Gingerbread House. A partly dressed building block, with tool marks on top; white, fine to medium-grained sandstone, though no fresh surfaces.

Scottish Borders White to pink unbedded fine to medium-grained sandstone, becoming obscured by black mould and moss.

Dumfries & Galloway Worked block of Creetown granite. Crystals seen on clean side - white feldspar, clear quartz, black pyroxene. Top surface is irony joint with gold-like pyrite. Creetown Granite was much used for building and can be seen in the pillars of the George IV Bridge, Edinburgh.