The official launch ceremony was on 30th November 2002

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

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

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 an award from the Scottish Arts Council to realise the installation on site.

The 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 car: Parking opposite site in metered bays.
By foot: 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 the Stones of Scotland project. Thanks to Caronnet Press for their kind permission to use the poem by Hugh MacDiarmid.

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

This 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 of Scotland’.

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.

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The Stones of Scotland

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

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The Stones of Scotland

**INCANTATION**

Navel stone of Caledon
marker of millennium
eye of seer,  thu'd tongue,
world of curios - stand upon
this footprint made for everyone.

As pebble cast into a pool
sends ripple upon ripple
so this sacred stone will tell,
bear witness, fair or fell,
to our truth and principle.

Once as chiefs stood on Dunadd
our land and loyalty they bled,
Our corn, our cattle and our
whoso worked with hand or
gold - Somerled.

Now we forward step once more
reclaiming those who walked
before:
builder, maker, engineer,
doctor, printer, traveler,
lad and balladander.

A step for Scotland carved in
stone,
parliament without a throne
a country each of us can own
a wisdom, knowing as we are
known,
upright, going forth and coming home.
Who among us now work
for light that penetrates the dark
for freedom climbing like the lark
for the democratic spark
whose the tread that fits this mark?

Hugh MacDiarmid (1892 - 1978)
(Engraved on slab of Corennie granite sponsored by Fyfe Glenrock of Aberdeen)

"I think of the Stones of Scotland as a
symbolic gathering and outlook place. The stones may
represent the 32 points of the compass. A place to inspire
people to meet for discussion from all over the country
and from all over the world. A less formal meeting point
than the Parliament building, looking beyond Scotland in the
hope of a more peaceful future. The search for the 32
stones became a series of creative journeys and a series of
interesting encounters."

Lesley-May Miller

Wyllie has always striven to communicate with
audiences by taking art out of the gallery and into the
community. Here we see the
S tones of S cotland i
ntended as a meeting place
with a variety of uses - a
contemplative retreat, yes, but perhaps also a touri-
stop, the subject of a school
trip, or a speaker's forum.
THE STONES OF SCOTLAND
32 STONES - ONE FROM EACH OF THE 32 SCOTTISH REGIONAL COUNCILS
Regent 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 Scotland's geology.

Sedimentary Rocks: classic 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, fresh 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 rivers.

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

Western Isles

Sea shore boulder, near Carloway, Lewis. This sea-shore boulder, near Carloway, Lewis. This sea-shore boulder is of hard banded pink and grey Lewisian gneiss, a high-grade metamorphic rock, among the oldest rock in Britain, about 300 million years old.

Argyll and Bute

Monumental block of pink granite quarried from Tarmore Quarry, Ross of Mull. The granite intrusion covers 10 km, 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.

Birling

Boulder of metamorphic rock collected from Tarmund. Banded quartzite and mica schist, formed by alteration of sandstones and mudstones. Tarmund was famous for a ‘gold rush’ in the 1890s/1890s.

West Dunbartonshire

Basalt: or andesite igneous rock, probably intrusive. Brownish grey weathered surface, but fresh dark grey crystalline rock on sides. Patches of white salt crystals.

East Dunbartonshire

Grey basalt lava, with obvious large white feldspar crystals much iron weathering, some white quartz veining.

Inverclyde

Dark grey basalt with large black pyroxene crystals seen on upper surface, an intrusive rock. Inner faces is split along red-purple iron-ore veins.

Renfrewshire

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

East Renfrewshire

Rectangular building block of coarse sandstone, finely-bedded with iron-rich layers. Dressed with moss, filled test 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 quartz 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 bedded with red and orange beds set vertically. Brown iron patches occur. Used extensively in buildings such as the now demolished Hamilton Palace.

North Ayrshire

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

East Ayrshire

Dressed red sandstone block with vertical quarry marks on inside face. Probably Mauchline desert sandstone of Rennian 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 lamination. Top surface is dark bedding plane with burrows, very like the Callanish Rings in centre of sculpture.

Highland

Marble and grey granite. Greyish white Skye Marble 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.

Moaly Sandstone from Claishach Quarry on Moray coast, famous for fossil footprints of Permian reptiles (now protected site). In the part-dressed block, the golden brown 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.

Aberdeenshire

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 Bader Cinnichie.

City of Aberdeen

Polished cut block of grey crystalline granite with white and pink feldspar, clear quartz and black pyroxene. Some 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 gneis, metamorphosed coarse sandstone, with vertical banding 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

Rift 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 spots. Fresh surface on top shows dark-grey fine-grained crystalline rock with a few phenocrysts (large crystals).

Clackmannan

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

Falkirk

Brown weathered block of coarse-grained dolerite with pink veins of microgranite. Small, long crystals (laths) can be seen. This very hard intrusive igneous rock forms thick hard ridges in the area which caused problems for railway engineers.

City of Edinburgh

Craigleith Sandstone, a pale yellowish fine-grained micaceous sandstone, banded, with ripple marks and brown and black carbonaceous plant remains.

East Lothian

Pink medium-grained igneous rock from Traprain Quarry, more like rock from North Berwick Law than Traprain Law, though may be from edge of Traprain intrusion.

Midlothian

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

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 discoloured 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 iron joint with gold-like veins. Creetown Granite was much used for building and can be seen in the pillars of the George IV Bridge, Edinburgh.

Gingerbread House

National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh

Mousa, Shetland

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