

Case information

Case ID	300009818
File Reference	AMH/4226/2/1
Name of Site	Crooked Stone, standing stone 400m SE of North Crooked Stone

Local Authority	South Lanarkshire		
National Grid Reference	NS 72386 50047		
Designation No. (if any)	SM4226		
Designation Type	Scheduled monument	Current Category of Listing	N/A
Case Type	Amendment		

Received/Start Date	28/02/2014
Decision Date	26/11/2015

1. Decision

Amend: Update to entry in the Schedule

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument was scheduled in 1979.

No previous amendments to the scheduling have taken place.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The monument was assessed for amendment as part of the S15 West 2014 scheduling project and visited on 22 May 2014.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The monument was assessed for scheduling against the criteria for determining national importance and found to meet the criteria (see **Annex A**).

The designation criteria are found in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), pp. 71-85. <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep-dec2011.pdf>

3.3 Other considerations

The monument continues to meet the scheduling criteria.

Designation as a scheduled monument remains an appropriate mechanism to secure the preservation of the monument.

The existing 1979 legal documents are not adequate to support definition of the extent of the scheduled area. There is a significant benefit in amending the existing scheduled monument designation. It will provide an updated legal document and map, allowing the monument to be defined accurately on the ground and shown on modern mapping.

Elizabeth McCrone

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*

SM4226 Crooked Stone, standing stone 225m N of Crookedstone

1. Description

The monument is a standing stone of unknown date: either prehistoric (late third or second millennium BC) or medieval (c AD 600-1400). It stands approximately 1.8m high and is roughly 0.35m square in cross-section at the base, tapering to 0.3m wide by 0.2m thick at the top. The stone is situated on undulating arable land to the S of the Powforth Burn, a tributary of the Avon Water and River Clyde. It stands about 170m above sea level with extensive views to the E and NE. The monument was first scheduled in 1979, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The stone appears to be in its original location. It was set upright from a leaning position in the early 1800s (hence the name Crooked Stone on antiquarian maps), and now leans slightly to the NW. It is of slender, regular proportions and appears to have been dressed originally, though now weathered, which suggests it may be a medieval cross-shaft, rather than a prehistoric standing stone. There is possible evidence of carving in the form of a curving linear incised groove on the W face of the stone, which may be deliberate. The date '1889' has been inscribed on the E face, but is not original. Several small boulders at its base are likely to signify more recent field clearance.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, 10m in diameter, centred on the stone. The scheduled area includes the stone described above and an area around it in which evidence for the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

2. Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria (SHEP 2011, 71-73**)

* This assessment is based on our current state of knowledge. It will form the basis of any new or updated scheduled monument record.

** A monument may be found to meet the scheduling criteria but in some circumstances may not be added to the Schedule. The purpose and implications of scheduling are issues that require to be taken into account when assessing monuments for scheduling. Scheduling may not be the only, or the most appropriate, mechanism to secure the future of all sites, even those that may otherwise meet the criteria.

Cultural significance

Characteristic	Assessment
Intrinsic	
Condition in which monument survives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The monument is a single stone standing around 1.8m high. It is slender, dressed and uniform in shape, measuring 0.35m on all sides at the base, tapering to 0.3m wide by 0.2m thick at the top. The top may have been broken off in antiquity.Records indicate the stone was set upright in the early 1800s after formerly leaning at a considerable angle –

	<p>hence the name, Crooked Stone. Today the stone leans slightly to the NW.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a few discernible markings on the stone. A vertical groove runs two thirds of the way up from the base of the stone, before forming a curved incision, but this may be an erosional scar. The date '1889' has been carved towards the top of the E face: this is 19th-century graffiti and does not date the stone itself. • The stone is weathered and there are signs of mild delamination on its S face, but it is otherwise in a stable condition. • Several large stones placed at the base of the S face may be packing stones, but more likely originate from field clearance.
<p>Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This stone is either a prehistoric standing stone, in which case there is good potential for the presence of cremation burials and urns beneath or around it (as evidenced by excavations elsewhere across Scotland, as at Carlinwell, Angus); or, given its regularity of shape, slender proportions and the fact that it appears dressed, it may be an early medieval or later cross-shaft. • Other than being set upright, the stone appears to be in its original location and undisturbed, which means there is good potential for the survival of archaeological evidence for the original form and function of the monument within its primary context. In addition, there is potential to use modern techniques to investigate the markings on the stone to enhance our understanding of their significance and elucidate any later history of re-use of the stone.
<p>Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCAHMS (1978) identify Crooked Stone as a prehistoric standing stone. There are few precise dates for standing stones, but they are thought to date to the early third or second millennium BC. • WoSAS have suggested that place-name evidence (such as High Cross Knowe, 2.5km to the SW) and the uniform shape of the stone indicate that it may originally have been a cross-shaft of early medieval or later date. The carved date, '1889', confirms that this stone continued to be of significance to local people during the 19th century. • Excavation of the socket and/or the area around the base of the stone would help establish the date of its erection and history of use.
<p>Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As stated above, the date and function of this stone are uncertain. It is either a prehistoric standing stone or an early medieval or later cross-shaft. • Little is known about the precise purpose of prehistoric standing stones, though it is likely that they originally functioned as ritual or ceremonial monuments. They may also have acted as territorial or astronomical markers of some sort. • Early cartographic evidence provides place-name evidence (such as Highcross and High Cross Knowe) which may lend weight to the interpretation of this stone as a freestanding early medieval or later cross-shaft. Crooked Stone may have served as a boundary or religious way marker in medieval or later times, marking the route from

	<p>the valley of the River Clyde to the chapel at Chapelton.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This standing stone has the potential to enhance our understanding of the function of standing stones in the prehistoric and/or medieval periods, and how they were valued in later times.
Contextual	
<p>Present rarity or representativeness of all or any part of the monument, assessed against knowledge of the archaeology of Scotland and of the region in which the monument occurs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prehistoric standing stones are a widespread class of monument across Scotland with notable concentrations in Dumfries and Galloway, the Western and Northern Isles, Perthshire, Aberdeenshire and Caithness. Eight of ten known standing stones listed in the RCAHMS inventory for Lanarkshire (1978) – all formerly located on the higher E and W flanks of the Clyde river – were no longer surviving at the time of the RCAHMS visits in 1974 (the only other surviving example is at Elvanfoot), which would make this standing stone a very rare survival in a regional context. • RCAHMS records nine crosses in South Lanarkshire, and around 400 examples across Scotland.
<p>Relationship of the monument to other monuments of the same or related classes or period, or to features or monuments in the vicinity. (Particularly important for monuments forming part of a widespread but varied class)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no recorded prehistoric sites in the immediate surroundings. • If this is an early medieval cross-shaft, it may have stood on a route from the valley of the River Clyde to a religious centre or centres nearby. There may be associations with a marker which stood formerly on a routeway from the River Clyde to Chapelton (around 4km to the WSW) at Shawton (NS64NE1) and similar sites adjacent to the River Clyde, such as Crossford (Canmore ID 46556): the latter is recorded in the 19th century as a route marker erected at a ford over the River Clyde marking the route between the Abbey of Lesmahagow (NS83NW 1) and the town of Lanark. • There is good potential for comparative study of this monument in its wider landscape setting within the Clyde valley, to enhance our understanding of its function and significance within the landscape.
<p>Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prehistoric standing stones and carved stone crosses were often positioned to be focal points in the landscape and they often reference, or are inter-visible with, other broadly contemporary monuments. • This monument occupies a site commanding extensive views to the E and NE, on undulating arable land to the S of the Powforth Burn, a tributary of the Avon Water and River Clyde. This position within the landscape is undoubtedly significant and merits further analysis. It may well have formed part of a wider local group of similar monuments which mark key locations along the Clyde Valley, although it is not readily inter-visible with other examples: the closest is 4.7km to the WSW at Shawton, N of Chapelton.
Associative	
<p>Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stone may display the slender proportions of a carved cross-shaft. Later markings offer some potential to inform our knowledge about the value attributed to such monuments in more recent times, perhaps showing some continuity of function in marking a route-way or territory.
<p>Aesthetic attributes of the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stone is a clearly visible feature in the landscape.

monument	
Significance in the national consciousness or to people who use or have used the monument, or descendants of such people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The stone is clearly marked and named as 'Crooked Stone' on 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. This name has been adopted for the farm nearby, showing that the monument has been highly valued by local people over recent centuries.
Associations the monument has with historical, traditional or artistic characters or events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A

Assessment of national importance

Criteria	Assessment
Its inherent capability or potential to make a significant addition to the understanding or appreciation of the past	<p>This monument is of national importance because it can make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, particularly the erection and use of carved stones. Crooked Stone retains its character to a significant degree and is recorded on historic maps as a landscape feature of significance. Despite the uncertainty about its date and origins, this stone survives in its original landscape context and is likely to have been a focal point from the time of its erection onwards. There is high potential for the survival of archaeological evidence which could elucidate its origins, function and history of use. Many recorded standing stones and crosses which may have marked route-ways from the Clyde valley have not survived. This example is therefore rare in the Lanarkshire context and its loss would significantly impede our ability to understand the placing and function of standing stones and/or crosses within the Clyde valley.</p>
Its retention of the structural, decorative or field characteristics of its kind to a marked degree	
Its contribution, or the contribution of its class, to today's landscape and/or the historic landscape	
The quality and extent of any documentation or association that adds to the understanding of the monument or its context	
The diminution of the potential of a particular class or classes of monument to contribute to an understanding of the past, should the monument be lost or damaged	
Its place in the national consciousness [a factor that may be considered in support of other factors]	

References

RCAHMS records the monument as NS75SW 6. WOSAS record the monument as WOSAS PIN 9853.

New Statistical Account, 1834-1845, The new statistical account of Scotland by the ministers of the respective parishes under the superintendence of a committee of the society for the benefit of the sons and daughters of the clergy, 271. Edinburgh.

RCAHMS, 1978, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Lanarkshire: an inventory of the prehistoric and Roman monuments, 80, no 177.

RCAHMS, 1988, *Argyll: an inventory of the monuments, vol 6: Mid-Argyll and Cowal, prehistoric and early historic monuments*, Edinburgh.

Scott, J G, 1969, 'Inventory of Clyde cairns', in Powell, T G E et al, *Megalithic enquiries in the west of Britain*, Appendix C, Liverpool.

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