

Case information

Case ID	300016966		
File Reference	AMJ/9290/1/1		
Name of Site	Hunter's Craig (or Eagle Rock)		
Local Authority	Edinburgh		
National Grid Reference	NT 18445 77435		
Designation No. (if any)	SM90124		
Designation Type	Scheduled monument	Current Category of Listing	N/A
Case Type	Amendment		
Received/Start Date	01/09/2014		
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 is in the care of Scottish Ministers.

The monument was scheduled in 1921.

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 S17 East 2014 scheduling project and visited on 25 September 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 1921 legal documents are not adequate to support definition of the extent of the scheduled area.

Aerial photography indicates that the location of the rock is to the N of the scheduled area as currently mapped.

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. It will also ensure that an adequate area is designated. This will encompass the carving, and, for support and preservation purposes, the rock outcrop on which it lies.

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*

SM13612 Hunter's Craig or Eagle Rock, rock carving, Dalmeny

1. Description

The monument is a carving on a natural rock outcrop, dating probably to the Roman occupation of parts of Scotland (between about AD 71 and 213). Within a niche in the outcrop's near vertical E face, the rock has been carved to show an upright figure in relief, now much worn. The rock carving is located on the foreshore of the Forth Estuary, about 3m above sea level, facing ESE along a narrow beach towards the point where the River Almond flows into the Forth. The Roman Fort at Cramond is 800m to the SE.

The niche that frames the carving is about 0.85m high, 0.73m wide and 0.25m deep, and the figure stands out about 110mm in relief. Because the carving is very worn, precise characterisation and identification of the figure is difficult. The figure has traditionally been identified as an eagle, but modern researchers view the carving as a Genius (the spirit of a person or place). It is suggested that the figure probably has a cornucopia (horn of plenty) in the crook of the left arm, and a patera (bowl) in the right hand, over an altar. It may be wearing a mural crown, though this is not clear. Below is a rectangular panel that may have been intended to bear an inscription. Although the carving is worn, its overall character and position close to Cramond Roman Fort and the Forth river crossing make its attribution to the Roman period convincing.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling includes the immediate rock outcrop on which the carving lies. The monument was first scheduled in 1921; the present amendment provides documents to modern standards.

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	The carving within the niche is very worn, but its condition appears relatively stable. Wood's account of 1794 indicates that the carving was already worn at the close of the 18th

	century (cited in RCAHMS 1929 <i>Tenth Report with Inventory of Monuments and Constructions in the Counties of Midlothian and West Lothian</i>, Edinburgh, 208 No 330).
Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument	- Although the carved figure has become worn, it retains significant interest. Its intrinsic characteristics combined with its context allow researchers to assert that it is the remains of an important Roman carving. - In 1794, Wood noted a resemblance to the figure of an eagle, but the consensus among modern researchers is that the figure almost certainly represents a Genius. The definitive statement on the carving is still that provided by Keppie and Arnold in 1984 (Keppie, L J F and Arnold, B J, 1984 <i>Corpus Signorum Imperii Romani. Corpus of Sculpture of the Roman World, Great Britain</i> vol 1 Fascicule 4, Oxford University Press. No 65). - Nevertheless, a variety of views have been expressed, including the suggestion that this should be regarded as the figure of Mercury, patron and protector of travellers, particularly those travelling on water (Allason-Jones, L, 1984 'A lead shrine from Wallsend' in <i>Britannia</i>, 15, 231-2). - The interest and form of the carving remains sufficient that it can inform knowledge of the use, positioning, iconography and meaning of Roman sculpture in the British Isles. - It can also enhance understanding of the significance of the landscape of the S shore of the Forth in the Roman period. If a enius, the figure potentially represented the spirit of the river, harbour, or some other aspect of the place.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	- The carving may be the product of a single phase of work. There is no indication of associated archaeological deposits, but these would probably be deeply buried beneath the beach if present. - The figure probably dates from the 2nd to 3rd century AD. Cramond was a Severan supply base, and an origin in the Severan period is possible: historical sources suggest a pontoon bridge was created at this time to cross the Forth, potentially very close to this carving. However, an earlier origin in the Antonine period is also possible.
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	- The carving is sited in order to look over, and be seen from, the S shore of the Firth of Forth. It may have been intended to safeguard travellers crossing the Forth at this point. - The function of the carving may also be associated with the nearby presence of the Roman fort at Cramond.
Contextual	
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	This type of Roman carving on rock is very rare or unknown in Scotland, and very rare more widely in the British Isles. Although worn, this example therefore remains highly important.
Relationship of the monument to other monuments of the same or related classes or period, or to features or monuments in the vicinity.	- The monument needs to be viewed in the context of its proximity to the Roman fort at Cramond, 800m to the SE. - It also lies close to the potential site of a Roman pontoon bridge across the Forth, suggested by historical sources.

(Particularly important for monuments forming part of a widespread but varied class)	- Locally, it can be studied in the context of other Roman stone carving, such as the Cramond Lionness (Canmore ID 183719). - Important comparators further afield can aid understanding of the carving and add to the significance of the monument. The closest comparator may be a stone relief sculpture at Risingham in Northumberland ('Robin of Risingham' – a male figure holding a bow and possibly standing beside an altar, probably a hunter deity – National Heritage List for England No 1012133, NY9085). - Other comparators include a figure with shield and spear aloft at Yardhope, also in Northumberland (NT9200), and a figure of Minerva, with owl, spear and shield, in a niche in a quarry face at Chester (SJ4066).
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	The placing of the carving on the S shore of the Forth, close to a river crossing and major Roman fort, is an essential component of the monument's significance.
Associative	
Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa	The form of the figure is influenced by the Roman practice of carving or erecting stone sculpture, for example to commemorate important people, gods or events.
Aesthetic attributes of the monument	Although the stone itself is worn, its striking position above the Forth means that it still embodies a strong historical atmosphere and can act as a trigger for appreciation of the past.
Significance in the national consciousness or to people who use or have used the monument, or descendants of such people	The Romans retain a significant place in the national consciousness.
Associations the monument has with historical, traditional or artistic characters or events	The stone is probably associated with use of the Roman fort at Cramond, and with Roman crossings of the Forth.

Assessment of national importance

Criteria	Assessment
Its inherent capability or potential to make a significant addition to the understanding or appreciation of the past	The monument has significant potential to enhance our understanding and appreciation of the Roman presence on the S shore of the Forth. It has particular potential to expand our understanding of how the Romans interacted with the Forth Estuary and its landscape, and commemorated spirits, gods or events. This type of Roman carving on rock is very rare or unknown in Scotland, and very rare more widely in the British Isles. It remains a striking piece of visible evidence for Roman activity here and complements the significant Roman remains at Cramond. It would have been an important part of the historic landscape, particularly because of its position close to a crossing point of the Forth. Our understanding of Roman activities and occupation in Scotland, and the distribution, character and meaning of Roman rock carving, would be significantly diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.
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

The monument is recorded by RCAHMS as NT17NE 11. The record contains a bibliography of sources that describe the monument.

Keppie, L J F and Arnold, B J, 1984 Corpus Signorum Imperii Romani. Corpus of Sculpture of the Roman World, Great Britain vol 1 Fascicle 4, Oxford University Press. No 65.