



## Case information

<b>Case ID</b>	300017771
<b>File Reference</b>	HGH/B/DD/48
<b>Name of Site</b>	Bruce's Stone, Loch Trool

<b>Local Authority</b>	Dumfries and Galloway Council		
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NX 41586 80345		
<b>Designation No. (if any)</b>	N/A		
<b>Designation Type</b>	Listed Building	<b>Current Category of Listing</b>	N/A
<b>Case Type</b>	Designation		

<b>Received</b>	03/02/2016
<b>Decision Date</b>	11/07/2016

## 1. Decision

In our current state of knowledge, Bruce's Stone is considered to meet the criteria for listing at category C. The monument has been designated (listed).

<b>Previous Statutory Address</b>	N/A
<b>New Statutory Address</b>	Bruce's Stone, Loch Trool

## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

### 2.1 Designation Background

Bruce's Stone was listed at category C on 17/12/1979. It was delisted on 13/06/2007 as part of a review of structures owned by Forestry Commission Scotland.

### 2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

### 3. Assessment

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#### 3.1 Assessment information

Bruce's Stone was visited on 27/04/2016 and photographs were taken.

#### 3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The monument was found to meet the criteria for listing.

An assessment against the listing criteria was carried out. See **Annex A**.

*The designation criteria are published in the Historic Environment Scotland policy statement June 2016, Annex 2, pp. 51-53.*

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/historic-environment-scotland-policy-statement/>

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# **ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Listing Criteria\***

## **Bruce’s Stone, Loch Trool**

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### **1. Description**

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A commemorative monument, dated 1929, consisting of a large, single piece of Loch Doon granite set on a base of smaller granite stones which are cemented together. It is situated on an elevated and prominent position on the north side of Loch Trool, overlooking the loch. A polished area on the north face of the large boulder is inscribed: ‘In loyal remembrance of Robert the Bruce, King of Scots, whose victory in this glen over an English force in March 1307, opened the campaign of independence which he brought to a decisive close at Bannockburn on 24 June 1314.’ The south face is inscribed ‘Unveiled 5 June 1929’.

### **2. Assessment Against the Listing Criteria** (HES Policy Statement, 2016) Annex 2, pp. 51-52

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Criteria for determining whether a building is of ‘special architectural or historic interest’ for listing under the terms of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 [[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents)]

*To be listed, a building need not meet all the listing criteria. The criteria provide a framework within which judgement is exercised in reaching individual decisions.*

#### **2.1 Age and Rarity**

This granite monument was erected on 5 June 1929 to commemorate the victory of Robert the Bruce at the Battle of Glen Trool in 1307 and was paid for by public subscription. 1929 was the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bruce’s death and the erection of this memorial was one of a number of events in the country at the time to mark the occasion. A report in the *Galloway Gazette* of 15 June 1929 notes that a crowd of over 300 spectators attended the ceremony, including the historian Sir Herbert Maxwell and Professor Robert Rait, the Historiographer Royal for Scotland and Professor of Scottish History and Literature at Glasgow University from 1913-1929. The newspaper also reports that a leaden casket containing ancient and modern coins was placed beneath the large boulder.

A report in the Dundee Evening Telegraph of 15 May 1929 records a number of events that were organised around the country for the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bruce’s death, including commemorations at Cardross Castle in Dumbarton, where Bruce died, and at the Borestone, at the field of Bannockburn, near Stirling. A bronze statue of Bruce in a niche at the gatehouse of Edinburgh Castle was also unveiled as part of these commemorations.

The Battle of Glen Trool, considered more of a skirmish by some historians, took place around March/April 1307 and was an early victory for Robert the Bruce in his fight for Scottish independence from the English and Edward I in the campaign known as the First Wars of Independence. The inscription on the stone states that the battle at Glen Trool opened the campaign and that it terminated with the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. The wars did not finally end, however, until the signing of the Edinburgh-Northampton Treaty in 1328, which recognised Scotland as an independent kingdom.

In 1306, Robert the Bruce crowned himself King of Scotland and a number of battles and skirmishes followed between Bruce and his supporters and those who opposed his claim, including Edward I of England. Following defeats in 1306 at Methven (Perthshire) and Dail Righ (Ayrshire), Bruce went into hiding, possibly to the Western Isles. He returned to the mainland in 1307 to fight for his claim and he eventually established a camp at Glen Trool. Bruce used guerrilla type warfare tactics at this point, hiding himself in the hills and making it hard for the English troops to know his exact whereabouts. They were aware of his presence in the area, however, as a previous skirmish at Moss Raploch, now on the east side of Clatteringshaws Loch, had ended with victory for Bruce. A large erratic boulder at the site (currently owned by the National Trust of Scotland) is also named Bruce's Stone and is traditionally thought to be where he rested after the battle.

At Glen Trool, Bruce gained advantage over the English troops, who were led by the Earl of Pembroke, by taking higher ground. Popular tradition tells that Bruce ambushed the English soldiers by throwing boulders down on them. Taken by surprise, the English troops fled. Bruce's Stone is positioned to overlook the most likely site of the battle.

The anniversary of Robert the Bruce's death saw a number of monuments erected to commemorate his significance in Scottish history. An equestrian statue in Stirling, one of the most significant monuments to Bruce, came slightly later for the 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn. It is listed at category A (LB49860). Bruce's Stone can also be placed in the wider context of the period.

The 1920s was a significant period in memorialisation and commemoration following the huge impact of the First World War. The Scottish National War memorial was opened in 1927, and by this date thousands of memorials to Scotland's fallen, varying in scale and architectural ambition, had been erected in every community across the country.

While the design of the Bruce's Stone monument is informal, its concept -- built up of large stones found in the area -- directly reflects how the battle may have been fought with boulders (see below). Its setting and location also add significantly to its special interest (see below). Moreover, Bruce's Stone can also be considered an important marker of the contemporary growing interest in Scottish nationalism and national identity, as it was erected shortly after the Scottish National Party was founded in 1928.

## **2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest**

### ***Interior***

N/A

### ***Plan form***

See below for comments on the design of the monument.

### ***Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality***

The monument is made of erratic Loch Doon granite. This granite originates from the Loch Doon area of Ayrshire and information from The British Geological Survey on SCRAN notes that erratic boulders of Loch Doon granite can be found in a wide surrounding area as they were moved by glacial activity. It is likely, therefore, that the boulders used for this monument were found locally. There were a number of granite quarries in Dumfries and Galloway, particularly in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The local firm, Galloway Granite, was established in 1928 by a Mackenzie family who were stone masons. The report of the unveiling of the stone in the Galloway Gazette of 15 June, 1929 notes that the sculptor for the stone was a Mr Mackenzie.

The design of the monument, using small boulders as a base and a large boulder on top, is a direct reference to the tradition that Bruce won the battle by sending boulders down onto the English troops. The monument sits on a natural rocky pavement and the use of local stone can be interpreted as conscious design decision to link the monument, and therefore Bruce, to the Galloway Hills.

Whilst the choice of materials is an important feature of the monument, the overall design is not exceptional in architectural terms. Other monuments to Bruce, for example the equestrian statue at Bannockburn (listed at category A) have more detailed architectural elements.

### ***Setting***

The monument is situated on an elevated and remote spot on the north side of Loch Trool, with far-reaching views to the east and west along the loch. It is situated in an unaltered, prominent and spectacular setting across the Loch from the most likely site of the battle and its position is therefore an important part of its interest.

### ***Regional variations***

There are no known regional variations.

## **2.3 Close Historical Associations**

The criteria state that close historical associations with nationally important people, or events whose associations are well-documented, where the physical fabric is also of some quality and interest, can be a significant factor. The fabric should also reflect the person or event. The Bruce's Stone monument was erected to commemorate King Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland from 1306-1329, who secured Scotland's independence from England and was a nationally important figure in the history of Scotland. The fabric and design of the monument is relevant to the battle.

### **3. Working with the Principles of Listing** (HES Policy Statement, 2016) Annex 2, pp. 53

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In choosing buildings within the above broad headings particular attention is paid to:

- a. special value within building types*
- b. contribution to an architecturally or historically interesting group*
- c. the impact of vernacular buildings*
- d. authenticity*

When working with the principles of listing, Bruce's Stone has particular interest under d.

- d. The unaltered state of this monument is part of its interest.

### **4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria\*\***

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Bruce's Stone is a large and distinctive granite monument erected in 1929 to commemorate one of the first victories of Robert the Bruce over the English at the beginning of the Wars of Independence. It is constructed from locally available granite and was designed to reference the battle, which was traditionally thought to be won by Bruce's men throwing boulders on to the English troops. The monument has a spectacular unaltered setting on the north side of Loch Trool and overlooks the probable site of the battle. It can also be read as evidence for the wider 20<sup>th</sup> century Scottish nationalist movement, which was gathering momentum during the 1920s.

In our current state of knowledge it meets the criteria for listing

### **5. Category of Listing**

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Categories of listing are non-statutory and buildings are assigned a category (A, B or C) according to their relative importance following the assessment against the criteria for listing.

Category definitions are found at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/what-is-listing/>

The monument is closely associated with a local battle in both its position and materials. When assessing this monument within its building type, it is considered to be a modest example in architectural terms. The proposed listing recognises its interest as a building of special architectural or historic interest and Category C is considered to be the most appropriate category to reflect its relative interest within its building type.

### **6. Other Information**

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N/A

## 7. References

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Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID 215954

### Printed Sources

Dundee Evening Telegraph, Wednesday 15 May 1929.

Galloway Gazette. 15 June, 1929

Hume, J. R. (2000) *Dumfries and Galloway*, Edinburgh: RIAS. pp178-9.

Lynch, M. (1992) *Scotland, A New history*. London: Pimlico. ,

Scotsman. Friday 06 June 1928.

Western Daily Press, Thursday 06 June 1929

### Online Sources

Galloway Granite <http://www.gallowaygranite.co.uk/> (accessed 13/06/2016)

700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Glen Trool. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fCsWL3S4Bs> (accessed 07/06/2016)

View of the Bruce Stone, SCRAN  
<http://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-147-303-C&> (accessed 07/06/2016)

### Other Information

Further information from local residents, 2016.

Historic Environment Scotland, (2015) Inventory of Historic Battlefields Research Report, Glen Trool (Unpublished)

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\* This assessment is based on our current state of knowledge and has been prepared for the purpose of consultation or to provide a view on the special interest of a building. This assessment is a consultation document and will form the basis of any new or updated listed building record should the structure be listed. The content of this assessment may change to take into account further information received as a result of the consultation process.

\*\* A building may be found to meet the listing criteria but in some circumstances may not be added to the list. See 'What is listing?' at <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/what-is-listing/>