

Abertay Historical Society Fieldwork Division

Worked Stone Record

Stones from St Mary's Church in Balgay Park

The Stones from St Mary's Tower in Balgay Park

The Rose Window was originally part of the medieval St Mary's Tower, also known as The Old Steeple, in Dundee City Centre.

- There was a church on site by end of 12th century. The land given by the Earl of Huntingdon to Abbey of Lindores in Fife
- Various towers were built on the site, One built in 1350 was destroyed in 1385. Lindores Abbey was impoverished by warfare. The people of Dundee wanted their own church and finally, in 1432, the Burgh of Dundee agreed to look after the fabric of the parish church in return for income from rents the abbot gave back to them. The Tower has been looked after by the City of Dundee ever since.
- A considerable amount of wealth was poured into the building and its altars by Dundee's merchants. The Rose window probably dates from after 1460 when stonemasons were recruited from the Continent
- Most dramatic image of the window is from Charles Phillips' painting of Governor Lumsden's last stand before being smoked out in 1651 by Cromwell's General Monk who overwhelmed the soldiers and citizenry of the town before making off with much of the Burgh's wealth
- In 1841 a devastating fire left only the tower and nave standing

Why is the Rose Window in Balgay Park?

1872 urgent repairs and restoration work to the church were carried out by the Victorian architect Sir George Gilbert Scott. The stonework of the west window was moved to Balgay Park as it was too fragile to re-use.

The location of the stones in Balgay Park is indicated by figure 2 in the attached plan. Balgay Hill Recreation Grounds and Cemetery officially opened 20 September 1871 – gifted by the Cox Brothers

The Window is maintained as a flower bed by the Friends of Balgay Park. The pansies and violas appear in an 1879 newspaper account of the plantings in the park. It is also an Adopted Monument and Archaeology Scotland is assisting the Friends and Abertay Historical Society to keep a photographic record of the stones to measure and mitigate any deterioration.

The stones were first surveyed by SUAT in 2002 as described in TAFAC Vol 11, 2005. https://www.tafac.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/V11_CoxPerry_p100-102.pdf

A condition report was undertaken by Harp Archaeology with Archaeology Scotland and Friends of Balgay in 2011

Abertay Historical Society Field Division and Friends of Balgay recorded the stones in 2016 and undertook a condition check in 2021. The attached record sheets are from the 2021 condition.

Plan of investigated site in Balgay Park



Date: 25/09/21	Stone #: BP 2-1 SUAT cross reference # 1 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 3,4	
<div></div> <div></div>		
Damage : 2021 Condition check: moss, delamination, crack		

Date: 25/09/21	Stone #: BP 2-2 SUAT cross reference # 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 5-8,10	



Damage: Delamination top surface, moss

Date: 25/09/21	Stone #: BP 2-2 SUAT cross reference # 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 5-8,10	



Damage: Delamination top surface, moss

Date: 25/09/21	Stone #: BP 2-2 SUAT cross reference # 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 5-8,10	



Damage: Delamination top surface, moss

Date: 25/09/21	Stone #: BP 2-2 SUAT cross reference # 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 5-8,10	
<div> </div> <div> </div> <div> </div>		
Damage: Delamination top surface, moss		

Date: 29/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-4 SUAT cross reference # 4 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 18-26	
<div> </div> <div> </div> <div> </div>		
<p> Damage: Strike marks –tool marks, possible chisel marks Moss Abraided cuts Wear,closest to #3, west abutting Recommendations: Do not use metal tools for gardening </p>		

Date: 29/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-4 SUAT cross reference # 4 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 18-26	
<div> </div> <div> </div>		
<p> Damage: Strike marks –tool marks, possible chisel marks Moss Abraided cuts Wear, closest to #3, west abutting Recommendations: Do not use metal tools for gardening </p>		

Date: 29/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-4 SUAT cross reference # 4 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 18-26	
<div>  <p>A photograph of a large, light-colored rock with a white label '4' and a 5cm scale bar. The rock is situated in a garden bed with yellow flowers and green foliage in the background.</p> </div> <div>  <p>A photograph of a large, light-colored rock with a white label '4' and a 5cm scale bar. The rock is situated in a garden bed with yellow flowers and green foliage in the background.</p> </div>		
<p>Damage: Strike marks –tool marks, possible chisel marks Moss Abraided cuts Wear,closest to #3, west abutting Recommendations: Do not use metal tools for gardening</p>		

Date: 29/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-4 SUAT cross reference # 4 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 18-26	





Damage: Strike marks –tool marks, possible chisel marks

Moss

Abraded cuts

Wear, closest to #3, west abutting

Recommendations: Do not use metal tools for gardening

Date: 29/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-4 SUAT cross reference # 4 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 18-26	
<div>  </div> <div>  </div>		
<p>Damage: Strike marks –tool marks, possible chisel marks Moss Abraided cuts Wear,closest to #3, west abutting</p> <p>Recommendations: Do not use metal tools for gardening</p>		

Date: 29/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-4 SUAT cross reference # 4 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 18-26	



Damage: Strike marks –tool marks, possible chisel marks

Moss

Abraided cuts

Wear, closest to #3, west abutting

Recommendations: Do not use metal tools for gardening

Date: 29/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-4 SUAT cross reference # 4 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 18-26	



Damage: Strike marks – tool marks, possible chisel marks

Moss

Abraided cuts

Wear, closest to #3, west abutting

Recommendations: Do not use metal tools for gardening

Date: 29/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-4 SUAT cross reference # 4 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 18-26	



Damage: Strike marks –tool marks, possible chisel marks

Moss

Abraided cuts

Wear, closest to #3, west abutting

Recommendations: Do not use metal tools for gardening

Date: 29/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-5 SUAT cross reference # 5 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 27-32	

Damage: Moss, delamination
 Damage as inclusion has come out?

Date: 29/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-6 SUAT cross reference # 6 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 33-41	



Damage: Moss, spalling in interior, delamination.
Tool marks (historic)
Tool marks (recent)

Date: 29/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-6	Recorded by:
	SUAT cross reference # 6 Location 2	CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 33-41	



Damage: Moss, spalling in interior, delamination.

Tool marks (historic)

Tool marks (recent)

Date: 29/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-6 SUAT cross reference # 6 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 33-41	



Damage: Moss, spalling in interior, delamination.
 Tool marks (historic)
 Tool marks (recent)

Date: 29/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-6 SUAT cross reference # 6 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 33-41	



Damage: Moss, spalling in interior, delamination.
Tool marks (historic)
Tool marks (recent)

Date: 29/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-6 SUAT cross reference # 6 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 33-41	

Damage: Moss, spalling in interior, delamination.
 Tool marks (historic)
 Tool marks (recent)

Date: 29/09/21	Stone #: BP 2-7 SUAT cross reference # 7 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo #43-47	



Damage:

Delamination

Crack (from frost) measured: 57 cm

Photo # 47 detail of crack

Loose stone has possibly moved

Date: 29/09/21	Stone #: BP 2-8 SUAT cross reference # 8 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 48-50	



2021 Water damage -historic

Date: 29/09/21	Stone #: BP 2-7 SUAT cross reference # 7 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 43-47	

Damage:
Delamination
Crack (from frost) measured: 57 cm
Photo # 47 detail of crack
Loose stone has possibly moved

Date: 29/09/21	Stone #: BP 2-9 SUAT cross reference # 9 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 51-54	



Damage: 29/09/21 Crack: branching crack : 30 cm long
Smoothing
Water wear (surface loss)

Date: 29/09/21	Stone #: BP 2-10 SUAT cross reference # 10 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 55-58	
<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;">     </div>		
Damage: Abraded tool marks Delamination Smoothing Water damage on joints		

Date: 25/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-11 SUAT cross reference # 11 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 59, 60	



Comments: Stone not present 25/09/2021
Photographs show gap.

Date: 25/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-12 SUAT cross reference # 12 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 61-65	



Damage:

25/09/2021

Hard lichen –scraped off?

Moss

Shelf-piece missing. Overlain by lichen. New growth

Earth in recesses

Recommendations: More earth – build up to line of recesses

Date: 25/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2-13 SUAT cross reference # 13 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo # 66-67	
<div>A photograph of a large, flat, grey stone lying on the ground. A white and black checkered scale bar is placed horizontally to the left of the stone. A white label with the number '13' in black is placed on the stone. The stone is surrounded by green grass and some low-lying plants.</div> <div>A photograph of the same stone from a different angle. The checkered scale bar is now placed diagonally above the stone. The white label with the number '13' is still on the stone. The background shows more of the ground and some plants.</div>		
Damage: Tool marks Surface loss		

Date: 29/09/21	Stone #: BP 2-14 SUAT cross reference # 14 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photo #68	



Comments:

Small stone, earthfast. Abraded
Recent scrapes (strimmer?)

Date: 25/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2 SUAT cross reference # 15 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 69-76	



Comments:

Historic water damage

Delamination

Recent damage – possibly from a strimmer?

Possible mason's mark on end of one stone

Recommendations: Avoid using metal tools, strimmer around stones

Moira Greig to be consulted re: mason's marks

Date: 25/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2 SUAT cross reference # 15 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 69-76	



Comments:

Historic water damage

Delamination

Recent damage – possibly from a strimmer?

Possible mason's mark on end of one stone

Recommendations: Avoid using metal tools, strimmer around stones

Moira Greig to be consulted re: mason's marks

Date: 25/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2 SUAT cross reference # 15 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 69-76	
Description <div>  </div> <div>  </div>		
Comments: Historic water damage Delamination Recent damage – possibly from a strimmer? Possible mason's mark on end of one stone Recommendations: Avoid using metal tools, strimmer around stones Moira Greig to be consulted re: mason's marks		

Date: 25/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2 SUAT cross reference # 15 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 69-76	
Description <div>  </div> <div>  </div>		
Comments: Historic water damage Delamination Recent damage – possibly from a strimmer? Possible mason's mark on end of one stone Recommendations: Avoid using metal tools, strimmer around stones Moira Greig to be consulted re: mason's marks		

Date: 25/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2 SUAT cross reference # 15 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 69-76	



Historic water damage

Delamination

Recent damage – possibly from a strimmer?

Possible mason's mark on end of one stone

Recommendations: Avoid using metal tools, strimmer around stones

Moira Greig to be consulted re: mason's marks



Date: 25/09/2021	Stone #: BP 2 SUAT cross reference # 15 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 69-76	



Comments:

Historic water damage

Delamination

Recent damage – possibly from a strimmer?

Possible mason's mark on end of one stone

Recommendations: Avoid using metal tools, strimmer around stones

Moira Greig to be consulted re: mason's marks

Date: 20/11/2021	Stone #: BP 2 16 SUAT cross reference # 16 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 77,78	



Damage:
West end eroded

Date: 20/11/2021	Stone #: BP 2 16 SUAT cross reference # 16 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 77,78	



Damage:
West end eroded

Date: 20/11/2021	Stone #: BP 2-17 SUAT cross reference # 17 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 79-81	
<div> </div> <div> </div> <div> </div>		
Comments: Fixing hole on sill/lintel base of stone. 10 mm		

Date: 20/11/2021	Stone #: BP 2-18 SUAT cross reference # 18 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photo# 82	
		
Damage Moss/lichen Tool marks - no longer plants in break		

Date: 20/11/2021	Stone #: BP 2-19 SUAT cross reference # 19 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 83-89	



Damage: Moss on overhang

Delamination (historic)

Toolmarks (recent)

Crack with moss growing in 160 cm

Recommendations: Use non-metal tools while gardening

Date: 20/11/2021	Stone #: BP 2-19 SUAT cross reference # 19 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 83-89	

Damage: Moss on overhang
 Delamination (historic)
 Toolmarks (recent)
 Crack with moss growing in 160 cm

Recommendations: Use non-metal tools while gardening


Date: 20/11/2021	Stone #: BP 2-20 SUAT cross reference # 20 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 90-92	
<div> </div> <div> </div> <div> </div>		
Damage: Moss Inclusions Historic delamination Chip or possible damage associated with removal		


Date: 20/11/21	Stone #: BP 2-21 SUAT cross reference # 21 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 93-95	
<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>		
Damage: Delamination Moss Lichen Weak on end		

Date: 20/11/21	Stone #: BP 2-22 SUAT cross reference # 22 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 97-98	



Damage: Possible shifting
 Historic tool marks
 Some delamination
 Break on one end

Date: 20/11/2021	Stone #: BP 2-17 SUAT cross reference # 17 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 79-81	
		
Comments: Fixing hole on sill/lintel base of stone. 10 mm		

Date: 20/11/2021	Stone #: BP 2-18 SUAT cross reference # 18 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photo# 82	
		
Damage Moss/lichen Tool marks -no longer plants in break		

Date: 20/11/2021	Stone #: BP 2-19 SUAT cross reference # 19 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 83-89	



Damage: Moss on overhang
 Delamination (historic)
 Toolmarks (recent)
 Crack with moss growing in 160 cm
Recommendations: Use non-metal
 tools while gardening

Date: 20/11/2021	Stone #: BP 2-20 SUAT cross reference # 20 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 90-92	



Damage: Moss
Inclusions
Historic delamination
Chip or possible damage associated with removal

Date: 20/11/21	Stone #: BP 2-21 SUAT cross reference # 21 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 93-95	
<div>  </div> <div>  </div> <div>  </div>		
<p> Damage: Delamination Moss Lichen Weak on end </p>		

Date: 20/11/21	Stone #: BP 2-23 SUAT cross reference # 23 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 99-100	



Damage: Lichen
Some loss
Some delamination
Erosion
Abrasion
Peck mark
Possibly not original surface on end

Date: 20/11/21	Stone #: BP 2-24 SUAT cross reference # 24 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 102-103	







Damage:
Delamination


Date: 20/11/2021	Stone #: BP 2-25 SUAT cross reference # 25 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 104-106	



Damage:

Crack-Horizontal crack 100 mm. West side of stone. Full length of stone. Crack down to base level and continues below soil. Block 100 x 100 separate.

Date: 20/11/2021	Stone #: BP 2-26 SUAT cross reference # 26 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 107-110	
<div></div>		
Damage: Delamination on ends		

Date: 20/11/2021	Stone #: BP 2-27 SUAT cross reference # 27 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photo# 111	
		
Damage: Abraded Peck marks-from lead removal? Recent scrapes		

Date: 20/11/21	Stone #: BP 2-28 SUAT cross reference # 28 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 112-113	



Damage:
Delamination
Break on end
Tool marks

Date: 20/11/2021	Stone #: BP 2-29 SUAT cross reference # 29 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 114-116	



Damage:
Delamination
Peeling
Tool marks from lead removal

Date: 20/11/21	Stone #: BP 2-30 SUAT cross reference # 30 Location 2	Recorded by: CS CD LT
Site: Balgay Park	Photos# 117-118	
		
Damage: Delamination Small separate stone Abraded both ends		