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# Lamington Stone

Report on a stone fragment found in Lamington Church cemetery.

Preliminary report by Tam Ward of Biggar Archaeology.

## Lamington stone

This preliminary report is by Tam Ward of Biggar Archaeology.

Report on a stone fragment found in Lamington Church cemetery, South Lanarkshire (NS 9782 3095 / NS 93 SE) by Peter Ryder.



Plate 1. Lamington Church.

The stone is part of a rectangular column of fairly coarse grained beige coloured sandstone (Probably of carboniferous in origin).

The total dimensions are 340mm tall by 260mm by 220mm, the latter two dimensions being the extant size of the socketed end on the piece. The original finished size at this point may have been c 280mm by 235mm. The rectangular shaft is 220mm by 175mm in section. It has roll moulded corners c 40mm in diameter, probably originally rounded but now for the most part irregular in shape.

The two widest faces are carved while the other two sides appear plain.

Face 1.

Plate 2.

A floret (145mm in diameter) with originally eight equally spaced pear-shaped petals, expanding to 40mm wide by 50mm long and a 50mm central boss, occupies the full face between the columns of the corner moulding. Six raised areas of about 25mm square form an arc around the floret on its complete side. Between this and the frieze of the socketed end, is a rectangular area formed by a groove cut on three sides, this measures 70mm by 50mm (centred on the grooves) a central separate groove is placed within and parallel with the sides.

This is bounded on each side by a border of four raised areas similar to those around the floret.

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Face 2.

Plate 3.

A motif of what may be a burning bush, a flaming torch or perhaps a tree base with roots, appears to point to the socketed end of the stone. This design has a 30mm wide shaft or stem extending to the missing part of the column. On each side of the shaft there appears to be similar bordering of raised squares, as found on Face 1.

The top right hand of face 2 has the best-preserved part of the frieze around the socket. This projects 30mm from the sides of the shaft faces and is composed of a half round mould (30mm), then a similar 20mm band followed by what appears to be another border of raised squares, similar to those on each face. A final band may be a rim.

The rectangular socket measures 155mm by 100mm and although all sides are missing for the most part, the base is complete and is covered in pointed tool marks. The shape of the socket base is slightly irregular. Similarly, the frieze edge on Face 2 is carelessly carved out of level by about 25mm.

The stone has some smoothed edges on fractured surfaces, indicating it was broken in antiquity, however, some fractures are fresh and there are also scuff or chip marks probably caused by grass cutting machinery in the cemetery.

The finder reckons the stone is part of a circa 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century cross shaft although Stuart Jeffries of WOSAS suspects it to be Roman in origin.

The writer has no opinion as to the age or purpose of the stone.

Lamington is the 12<sup>th</sup> century settlement of one Lambin, who is on record as such. The 18<sup>th</sup> century church has a Romanesque doorway of c 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century date. In the adjoining field to the south and west there are the crop mark sites of a Roman fortlet and a temporary camp, these are given by RCAHMS in their Lanarkshire Inventory as No 335.

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The stone is currently held at Biggar Museum.