

## EXTRACT FROM ENGLISH HERITAGE'S RECORD OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

MONUMENT: Stone alignment, 900m south-west of Holystone Grange

PARISH: HARBOTTLE

DISTRICT: ALNWICK

COUNTY: NORTHUMBERLAND

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 20954

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): NT95740010

### DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The monument is a stone alignment, known locally as The Five Kings, situated on south-east sloping moorland, beneath a craggy outcrop. The alignment includes four substantial stones situated in a slight arc from south-west to north-east. The stones are located 4m, 7m and 6m apart and are 2m, 1.3m, 1.6m and 2.2m high. A fifth stone which completed the alignment was situated 7m beyond the fourth but was removed earlier this century; the site of this stone is also included in the scheduling. Local tradition says that the five stones represent five brothers who owned adjacent areas of land.

### ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Stone alignments or stone rows consist of upright stones set in a single line, or in two or more parallel lines, up to several hundred metres in length. They are often sited close to prehistoric burial monuments, such as small cairns and cists, and to ritual monuments, such as stone circles, and are therefore considered to have had an important ceremonial function. Stone alignments were being constructed and used from the Late Neolithic period to the Middle Bronze Age (c.2500-1000 BC) and provide rare evidence of ceremonial and ritual practices during these periods. Due to their rarity and longevity as a monument type, all examples that are not extensively damaged will be considered worthy of protection.

The stone alignment near Holystone Grange is very well preserved and is a fine example of a prehistoric stone monument. It is the only surviving example in the county and will contribute to any study of prehistoric settlement and activity in Northumberland.

### SCHEDULING HISTORY

Monument included in the Schedule on 26th November 1932 as:

COUNTY/NUMBER: Northumberland 45

NAME: The "Five Kings" (standing stones) one furlong south-east of summit of Dues Hill, Holystone

The reference of this monument is now:

NATIONAL MONUMENT NUMBER: 20954

NAME: Stone alignment, 900m south-west of Holystone Grange

SCHEDULING REVISED ON 27th January 1994