

## Case information

---

Case ID	300016775
File Reference	AMH/1827/2/1
Name of Site	Achnagarron, hut circles N of

Local Authority	Highland Council		
National Grid Reference	NC 73400 05100		
Designation No. (if any)	SM1827		
Designation Type	Scheduled Monument	Current Category of Listing	N/A
Case Type	Amendment		

Received/Start Date	30/04/2015
Decision Date	15/06/2016

## 1. Decision

---

The monument was first scheduled in 1935, but an inadequate area was included to protect the full extent of archaeological remains. The assessment against criteria demonstrates that the monument continues to be of national importance. The decision is to update the entry in the Schedule as **Achnagarron, settlement 380m WNW of Glenelg**.

## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

---

### 2.1 Designation Background

The monument was first scheduled in 1935; no subsequent amendment.

### 2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals affecting this decision.

## 3. Assessment

---

### 3.1 Assessment information

The site was considered for amendment as part of the S18 Highland scheduling project and visited on 30/04/2015

### 3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

An assessment against the Scheduling criteria has been carried out (see Annex A). The monument was found to meet the criteria for scheduling.

The designation criteria are published in the Historic Environment Scotland policy statement June 2016, Annex 1, pp. 48-50.

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

### 3.3 Other considerations

N/A

---

#### Elizabeth McCrone

Head of Designations  
Heritage Management  
Historic Environment Scotland

<b>Contact</b>	Dr Kirsty Millican, Designations Officer kirsty.millican@hes.scot, 0131 668 8764
----------------	---

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

### Achnagarron, settlement 380m WNW of Glenelg

## 1. Description

The monument consists of the remains of roundhouses (hut circles) and elements of an associated field system, probably dating to the Bronze Age (between 2500 and 800 BC). It is visible as the heather covered upstanding remains of four, possibly five, roundhouses, a scattering of cairns, and the remains of field banks. The monument lies around 160m above sea level, in a prominent position on a low hill with good views in all directions.

Four roundhouses can be clearly identified, and a possible fifth may be located to the northwest. These measure between 8m and 13m in diameter within stony banks up to 0.6m in height and 3m in width. Two have been terraced into the slope. The terminals of two of the roundhouses have been expanded and a secondary roundhouse inserted into the interior of one. There is a scatter of small cairns, measuring up to 5m in diameter and 0.5m in height, within which the fragmentary remains of field banks are visible.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan, to include the remains described above and an area around 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 monument was first scheduled in 1935, but the documentation does not meet current standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

## 2. Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria (Historic Environment Scotland policy statement June 2016, Annex 1, pp. 48-50.)

\* 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
<b>Intrinsic</b>	
Condition in which monument survives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The monument consists of well-preserved examples of later prehistoric roundhouses, together with elements of an associated field system.</li><li>The monument is well preserved for a monument of this type and is in a stable condition.</li></ul>
Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Given the relatively undisturbed nature of the monument, there is good potential for the survival of archaeological deposits, including occupation and abandonment debris, artefacts and environmental remains such as charcoal and pollen within, beneath and around the hut circles, field banks and clearance cairns.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At Achmagarron several different house types are represented. Comparative study of the form and structure of the roundhouses has the potential to provide information about the design, construction and development of later prehistoric domestic structures.</li> <li>The monument has potential to add to our understanding of settlement, landuse and environment during later prehistory and provide information about the structure of contemporary society and economy.</li> </ul>
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Such roundhouses and field systems are likely Bronze Age in date. There is no clear consensus whether such settlements represent long-term occupation, though some similar settlements elsewhere demonstrate episodic occupation.</li> <li>At Achmagarron the insertion of a secondary structure in the interior of a roundhouse and the presence of several different house types may suggest an extended period of occupation.</li> <li>Scientific study of the form and construction of the roundhouses and the nature and form of the cairns and field banks would enhance our understanding of the development sequence of this site and Bronze Age settlements in general.</li> </ul>
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The monument represents a domestic settlement with associated cultivation.</li> </ul>
<b>Contextual</b>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roundhouses are found throughout Scotland, but these are of particular interest because of their good condition, likely early date, structural diversity and association with field banks and clearance cairns.</li> <li>This monument is part of a larger cluster of prehistoric sites with numerous features such as roundhouses and cairnfields nearby, and has the potential to enhance and broaden our understanding of prehistoric society and community.</li> </ul>
Relationship of the monument to other monuments of the same or related classes or period, or to features or monuments in the vicinity. (Particularly important for monuments forming part of a widespread but varied class)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are numerous broadly contemporary monuments in the surrounding landscape, including roundhouses and cairns around 280m northwest (Canmore ID 5906) and 365m southeast (scheduled monument reference SM1762, Canmore ID 6000), standing stones and cairns 190m south southwest ( scheduled monument reference SM1762, Canmore ID 5972) and a burnt mound around 290m southwest (Canmore ID 122549). There is potential to study these sites together to understand their functions within the local communities, possible chronological development and settlement hierarchy in the area.</li> </ul>
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The roundhouses and field system lie around 160m above sea level in a prominent position on a low hill with good views in all directions. The southern-most hut circle occupies the summit of the hill.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative</b>	
Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>

the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa	
Aesthetic attributes of the monument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
Significance in the national consciousness or to people who use or have used the monument, or descendants of such people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
Associations the monument has with historical, traditional or artistic characters or events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>

### Assessment of national importance

Criteria	Assessment
Its inherent capability or potential to make a significant addition to the understanding or appreciation of the past	<p>This monument is of national importance because it can make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of Bronze Age society and agriculture in north Scotland. It is a good example of a later prehistoric settlement and field system that retains its field characteristics and demonstrates a range of different house forms. As a well-preserved example it can significantly expand understanding of prehistoric domestic buildings, agriculture and economy. The monument's importance is enhanced by its association with the wider landscape of later prehistoric settlement. The loss or damage of the monument would diminish our ability to appreciate and understand the character of Bronze Age settlements, as well as society and economy during this period.</p>
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

Historic Environment Scotland <http://www.canmore.org.uk> reference number CANMORE ID 5916 (accessed on 03/05/2016)

The Highland Council HER references are MHG11264 and MHG40468 (accessed on 03/05/2016)

Barber, J W and Crone, B A 2001 The duration of structures, settlements and sites: some evidence from Scotland *in* Raftery, B and Hickey, J (eds) *Recent Developments in Wetland Research*, Seandálaíocht: Mon 2, Dept Archaeol, UCD, and WARP (Wetland Archaeol Res Proj) Occasional Paper 14: Dublin., 69-86.