

## Case information

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Case ID	300009838
File Reference	AMH/5298/2/1
Name of Site	Morayston, ring-ditch 1200m SW of

Local Authority	Highland Council		
National Grid Reference	ND 745 483		
Designation No. (if any)	SM5298		
Designation Type	Scheduled Monument	Current Category of Listing	N/A
Case Type	Amendment		

Received/Start Date	08/04/2014
Decision Date	10/11/2016

## 1. Decision

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The monument was first scheduled in 1992 and the documentation does not conform to current standards. 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 **Morayston, palisaded enclosure 1km SW of**.

## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

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### 2.1 Designation Background

The monument was first scheduled in 1992. There has been no subsequent amendment of the entry in the schedule.

### 2.2 Development Proposals

N/A

## 3. Assessment

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### 3.1 Assessment information

The site was visited on 28/05/2014.

### 3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

An assessment of the cultural significance of the site has been carried out following the criteria set out in the Historic Environment Scotland policy statement. Having assessed cultural significance, the site continues to meet the criteria for national importance as set out in assessed cultural significance. Having considered the purpose and implications of designating, it has been concluded that scheduling is the most appropriate mechanism to protect the site. Please see Annex A of this document for further information of this assessment.

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

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## ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria

### Morayston, palisaded enclosure 1km SW of

#### 1 Description

The monument comprises the buried remains of a palisaded enclosure, which are prehistoric enclosures defined by one or more rows of closely-spaced timbers, probably dating to between 1500BC and 500AD. The monument is visible as a cropmark captured on oblique aerial photographs. There is also a slightly raised area on the ground surface. The monument lies about 45m above OD, just above a gentle slope falling north-northwest and less than 1.5km from the coast.

The enclosure is defined by a very shallow ditch approximately 0.5m wide, representing the bedding trench for a timber palisade. The enclosed area measures approximately 20m in diameter. The slight rise in the land indicates the extent of the enclosure within the ditch. There is no sign of an entrance although the complete circuit is not fully visible on the aerial photographs.

The scheduled area is circular, measuring 50 metres in diameter to include the remains described above and an area around them 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 1992, but the scheduled area was too extensive: the present amendment rectifies this.

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

Characteristic	Assessment
<b>Intrinsic</b>	
Condition in which monument survives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The monument is visible as a cropmark with slight evidence of a low rise visible on the ground surface.</li><li>• The monument has been reduced by ploughing. The site was under a cropping regime in aerial photographs dating to 1976-7, and under grass (2015).</li><li>• There is good potential for the survival of buried archaeological deposits.</li></ul>
Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The monument has relatively high potential to support future archaeological research. The enclosure may surround a small domestic site and there is good potential for structures and archaeological remains to survive both within the interior and immediately adjacent to the enclosure.</li><li>• Surviving deposits can be expected to include ditch fills, house foundations, postholes and gullies.</li><li>• These remains can tell us about the chronology and function of the enclosure. They can tell us how people</li></ul>

	lived, their trade and exchange contacts and their social status.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This monument offers the potential to examine whether occupation phases were continuous or interrupted and the opportunity to examine site development sequence as the palisade may have been a later addition.</li> <li>The palisaded enclosure is likely to date to between 1500 BC and AD 500.</li> </ul>
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The enclosure may have been a domestic site, possibly a large roundhouse or small enclosure.</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>The circular enclosure is a good example of a type of feature found in eastern Inverness-shire and more widely across Scotland.</li> <li>There are at least six other palisaded enclosures in eastern Inverness-shire and this monument is one of the smallest in size. Another enclosure, likely to be of prehistoric date, lies approximately 350m to the northwest and is also visible as a cropmark (Canmore NH74NW 28).</li> <li>Palisaded enclosures across Scotland are generally larger in size adding to the rarity of this monument.</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>The significance of the monument is enhanced because there is potential to compare the enclosure with a range of other enclosures and unenclosed settlements that survive in close proximity in Eastern Inverness-shire. The close proximity of another enclosure in a neighbouring field is of particular interest.</li> <li>The cluster of later prehistoric sites in Eastern Inverness-shire is one of the most important in northeast Scotland. It has rich potential to support study of the character of domestic prehistoric settlement. Other significant prehistoric remains, including ring cairns, hut circles and enclosures. A ring cairn has also been excavated only 900m to the west northwest of this monument (Thawley 1976) with radiocarbon dates calibrated to around 1000BC.</li> </ul>
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The monument lies on gently sloping farmland, occupying soils that would have been easily cultivated in antiquity. The coast lies about 1.5km to the northwest and the coast about 1km to the E.</li> <li>The land gently rising to the south southwest gives the site an interesting immediate setting, the site is not located on the highest ground possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Associative</b>	
Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
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>
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### 3 Purpose and implications of scheduling

The monument survives as buried deposits below the ploughsoil. Designation as a scheduled monument is the most appropriate mechanism to secure the preservation of the monument, and ensure the recognition of its national importance.

### 4 Assessment of national importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to knowledge and understanding of the later prehistoric domestic landscape. There is high potential for preservation of buried deposits within and around the ditch that can help us understand the chronology, development and function of such monuments. The palisaded enclosure is a rare example of its type as most are larger in size. It forms part of a cluster of later prehistoric sites in eastern Inverness-shire that is one of the most important in northeast Scotland. Understanding of the distribution and character of later prehistoric enclosures and settlements would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

### 5 References

Historic Environment Scotland <https://canmore.org.uk/site/14217/newton>  
CANMORE ID 14217 (accessed on 28/06/2016) and aerial photographs DPP16625 (2013) and IN2652, IN3101-3 (1976-7).

The Highland Council Historic Environment Record MHG 2934 (accessed on 28/06/2016).

RCAHMS, 1979, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The archaeological sites and monuments of North-east Inverness, Inverness District, Highland Region, 22, No. 164.

Thawley, J E, 1976, 'Newton of Petty, Clava cairn', Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 1976, p.36.