

## Case information

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<b>Case ID</b>	300009895
<b>File Reference</b>	AMH/862/2/1
<b>Name of Site</b>	Gallows Knowe, cairn 315m SSE of Dun House

<b>Local Authority</b>	Angus		
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NO 67078 59539		
<b>Designation No. (if any)</b>	SM862		
<b>Designation Type</b>	Scheduled Monument	<b>Current Category of Listing</b>	N/A
<b>Case Type</b>	Amendment		

<b>Received/Start Date</b>	01/07/2014
<b>Decision Date</b>	26/11/2015

## 1. Decision

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Amend: to update the entry in the Schedule.

## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

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### 2.1 Designation Background

The monument was first scheduled in 1970 and has not been amended previously.

### 2.2 Development Proposals

N/A

## 3. Assessment

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### 3.1 Assessment information

The site was visited on 25/09/2014 as part of the East area 2014 project.

### 3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

An assessment against the scheduling criteria was carried out 01/07/2015 (see **Annex A**).

The monument was found to meet the criteria for scheduling.

*The designation criteria are found in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), pp. 71-85. <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep-dec2011.pdf>*

### 3.3 Other considerations

The monument has been scheduled since 1970 and continues to meet the scheduling criteria.

Designation as a scheduled monument remains an appropriate mechanism to secure the preservation of the monument.

The existing legal documents are not adequate to support precise definition of the extent of the scheduled area.

There is a significant benefit in amending the existing scheduled monument designation. It will provide an updated legal document and map, allowing the monument to be defined accurately on the ground. It will also ensure that an adequate area is designated.

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### Elizabeth McCrone

Head of Designations  
Heritage Management  
Historic Environment Scotland

<b>Contact</b>	Richard Heawood, Senior Designations Officer <a href="mailto:richard.heawood@scotland.gsi.gov.uk">richard.heawood@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</a> Tel: 0131 668 8624.
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# ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria\*

## SM 862 Gallows Knowe, cairn 340m S of House of Dun

### 1. Description

The monument is a burial cairn dating probably to the Bronze Age (between about 2500 BC and 800 BC). It is visible as a large, grass-covered mound. The cairn is situated on a low rise 25m above sea level, overlooking the Montrose Basin which lies about 800m to the SE.

The upstanding burial cairn measures around 26m in diameter. The top of the mound has a level surface measuring some 12m in diameter. The cairn stands about 1.6m high from most viewpoints, but appears higher when seen from the E. Water-worn cobbles are visible in places beneath the turf.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 46m 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 above-ground elements of the post-and-wire fence surrounding the cairn are specifically excluded from the scheduling to allow for their maintenance. The monument was first scheduled in 1970, but the present amendment provides documents to modern standards.

### 2. Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria (SHEP 2011, 71-73)\*\*

\* 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 is mainly grass-covered and survives in a relatively stable condition, despite some animal burrows and localised patches of erosion on the N side. The shape of the mound may have been modified by ploughing at the edges in the past, and it now appears sub-circular rather than circular.</li> </ul>
Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This large and well-preserved artificial mound is interpreted as a prehistoric burial cairn, which appears to retain much of its original form. There is no record of earlier investigations, indicating that it may retain high archaeological potential.</li> <li>Rounded water-worn cobbles are visible in small exposures on the N side, suggesting the mound is primarily stone-built. A long granite slab resembling a lintel is visible on top of the mound (2.2m long x 22mm wide x 22mm thick): this may have been displaced from burial structures within the cairn or may indicate some secondary deposition of stone.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lack of evidence for significant disturbance suggests that important archaeological information is likely to survive within and beneath the mound.</li> <li>• Excavation of similar mounds in Angus has recovered human bone and prehistoric pottery (eg at Maryton Law: Dalland, M and Carter, 1998). There is high potential for this mound also to contain human burials in the form of cremations or inhumations. There is also potential for the survival of associated artefacts or grave goods, such as tools, jewellery or pottery.</li> <li>• This monument has the potential to enhance understanding of burial practices and religious beliefs, the construction and use of burial monuments, and about society and the environment in general during the period when it was built and in use.</li> </ul>
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cairns such as this are typically Bronze Age in origin, dating most commonly to between about 2000 BC and 800 BC. It is also possible that the site has earlier origins as a place of ritual or burial.</li> <li>• Bronze Age cairns often show evidence for an initial primary burial or phase of use, and were then re-used for later, secondary burials. By analogy, therefore, there is good potential for an extended development sequence here.</li> </ul>
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As well as being used for burial and related activities, the mound is likely to have had a prominent place within the territory of a social group and may have been a focal point in the landscape, possibly reinforcing social/ancestral ties to the land.</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>• Burial cairns are relatively common in Angus, with at least 92 recorded examples. However, this is a large and well-preserved mound, with sight lines to another prominent burial cairn on the opposite side of the Montrose Basin (Maryton Law: SM 2873).</li> <li>• Burial cairns vary in form, size and location. This is a good example of a larger mound in a coastal location.</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 monument is positioned with a direct line of sight to another, larger cairn at Maryton Law, which occupies a hilltop location on the N side of the Montrose Basin. Excavation at Maryton Law produced human remains and prehistoric pottery.</li> <li>• There are also known funerary monuments on the N side of the basin, close to this mound, which can enhance understanding of its function, context and importance to prehistoric people. These include small barrows near Arrat's Mill, 2km WSW (SM 6363) and a larger barrow near Gilrivie, 1.5km to the ENE (SM 6097).</li> <li>• There is also extensive evidence for prehistoric settlement on the N side of the Montrose Basin and in the valley of the South Esk. For example, two ring ditches (SM 6121) interpreted as house sites lie 300m to the E of this mound, and an unenclosed settlement (SM 6095) lies 1km to the E.</li> <li>• There is good potential to study Gallows Knowe alongside these other sites to enhance our understanding of the significance and meaning of their placing within the landscape, and their relationships with each other and with settlement and society.</li> </ul>

Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The mound has a similar setting to many other burial cairns in Angus. It is sited on a natural rise, giving it prominence, in a position offering extensive views out over the surrounding landscape.</li> <li>It commands extensive views, particularly to the S over the Montrose Basin, and has a picturesque setting.</li> <li>The mound lies within the designed landscape surrounding the House of Dun. However, it does not obviously fit with the alignment of features or structures associated with the house and its landscape, and there is no indication that it may itself be a landscape feature of the 18th or 19th centuries.</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>Burial cairns are the product of a variety of cultural and social as well as religious influences, which affected their form, characteristics and location.</li> </ul>
Aesthetic attributes of the monument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This monument is a tangible reminder of the past in a picturesque setting.</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>The monument is recorded on 1st and 2nd Edition OS maps.</li> <li>Though wrongly classified as a motte in the past, the cairn on this prominent knoll has captured the interest of historians and antiquarians since at least the 19th century. It is described by Warden (1880-5) and in the Old Statistical Account as having particularly beautiful views from the top of the hill.</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	The monument has inherent potential to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the past, particularly the design and construction of burial monuments, and the nature of belief systems and burial practices during the Bronze Age in Angus. Ritual and funerary monuments are a major source of evidence for human activity during the Bronze Age in Scotland and are particularly important for enhancing our understanding of Bronze Age society, its organisation, economy, religion and demography. This mound retains good field characteristics and appears little disturbed, allowing us to interpret its original form and function. It retains high potential for buried archaeological remains including burials, artefacts and palaeo-environmental evidence. Burial monuments such as this are an important component of the wider prehistoric landscape of land-use, settlement and ritual. This example is particularly interesting as it has a relatively open aspect within the landscape, with views across the Montrose Basin. The loss of the monument would diminish our future ability to appreciate and understand funerary practice and approaches to death and burial in prehistoric times, and the placing of such monuments within the landscape.
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

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Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland:  
<http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/canmore.html> CANMORE ID 35682.

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