Case information

Case ID	300009952
File Reference	AMH/9524/2/1
Name of Site	Mill-Lands of Dalcapon, Enclosure 360m SSE of

Local Authority	Perth and Kinross Council		
National Grid Reference	NN 97091 54452		
Designation No. (if any)	SM9524		
Designation Type	Scheduled monument	**Category of Listing**	N/A
Case Type	Amendment		

Received/Start Date	26/02/2014
Decision Date	02/03/2016

1. Decision

The monument was first scheduled in 2001 and the documentation does not conform to current standards. The assessment against the scheduling criteria (Scottish Historic Environment Policy, Annex 1) demonstrates that the monument continues to be of national importance. The decision is to amend the entry in the Schedule as **Mill-Lands of Dalcapon, enclosure 290m SSE of**

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

Monument first scheduled in 2001; no subsequent amendment.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

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3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information
The site was visited on 09 June 2014.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The assessment against the scheduling criteria has determined that the monument meets the criteria of national importance. A description of the monument and full assessment are in the Annex to this report.

The designation criteria are published in Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), Annex 1, pp. 71-85. http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep-dec2011.pdf

3.3 Other considerations

The existing scheduled area is not in the correct area to include all the known and potential archaeological remains.

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria

Proposed name of site	**Mill-Lands of Dalcapon, enclosure 290m SSE of**

1. Description

The monument comprises the remains of a circular enclosure, interpreted as a henge; a ritual and ceremonial site likely to date to the Neolithic period (sometime between 3800 BC to 2500 BC). The monument survives as buried archaeological features which are visible on oblique aerial photographs. The monument is located on fairly flat, low-lying arable land to the west of the River Tummel, at 90m above sea level.

The enclosure measures about 20m in diameter with a substantial ditch approximately 3m wide with a break in the south southwest side which is probably an entrance. A variety of other smaller features within the interior are visible on oblique aerial photographs and may represent pits or burials.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, 50m 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 2001, but the documentation does not meet current standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria (SHEP 2011, Annex 1, 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
Intrinsic	
Condition in which monument survives	• The monument comprises the buried remains of a circular enclosure and associated archaeological features and deposits. • It is visible as a cropmark on oblique aerial photographs. This cropmark evidence strongly suggests the monument at is a type 1 henge; a prehistoric ceremonial site of Neolithic date. • The monument is under arable agriculture.

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	Nonetheless, the cropmarks indicate that it's highly likely that buried features and deposits will be present within the ditches circuit and in the immediate vicinity.
Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument	• The cropmark evidence indicates the survival of a very substantial, infilled circular-ditched enclosure, with an entrance in the south southwest and other features visible in the interior. Evidence from excavation at other henges suggests that these are likely to be pits or burials. • It is highly likely there are additional archaeological features and deposits not visible in the aerial photographs, possibly including pits, burials and stone settings. • The site may also preserve palaeoenvironmental information which can enhance understanding of the vegetation and land cover when the enclosure was built and in use. • These remains are likely to yield information about the way in which the monument was built, used, adapted and abandoned.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	• On present indications, the monument appears to be a single-phase construction, but it is likely to have been in use for a lengthy period and further investigation could demonstrate a more complex development sequence.
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	• Excavations at similar sites suggest that as a henge, the monument is likely to have been used primarily for ceremonial and ritual purposes over a period of time. There may also have been periods of abandonment or reuse of the monument.
Contextual	
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	• This is one of approximately 100 henges or possible henges identified in Scotland, though not all have been confirmed. It is therefore a relatively rare type of ceremonial and ritual monument which adds to its cultural significance. • Henges in Scotland vary considerably in size and scale. The largest include the Ring of Brodgar in Orkney and Westfield in Angus, at around 100m in diameter, while the smallest is Wormy Hillock in Aberdeenshire at only 6m diameter. At 20m in diameter the henge at the Mill-Lands of Dalcapon is one of the smaller examples which adds to its rarity.
Relationship of the monument to other monuments of the same or related classes or	• This general area is rich in prehistoric monuments of various types and dates. A number of other broadly contemporary monuments are present in the vicinity of the henge, including the stone circle at Tynreich

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period, or to features or monuments in the vicinity. (Particularly important for monuments forming part of a widespread but varied class)	1.1km to the south (Canmore ID 26313).
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	• The henge is located on low-lying ground along the east side of the River Tummel, a natural routeway to the northwest through Strath Tummel.
Associative	
Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa	N/A
Aesthetic attributes of the monument	N/A
Significance in the national consciousness or to people who use or have used the monument, or descendants of such people	N/A
Associations the monument has with historical, traditional or artistic characters or events	N/A

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 is of national importance as a relatively rare type of early prehistoric monument with the potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of ritual structures and the nature of ceremony and belief in Neolithic Scotland. The monument appears to be well preserved below the plough soil, and important archaeological features and deposits are expected to survive. In particular, the fills of the ditch and other features are likely to preserve important information about the date, design and construction of the henge, its duration of use, and the nature of the activities which took place here. The site may also preserve palaeoenvironmental information which can enhance our understanding of the climate, vegetation and land cover when the enclosure was built and in use. Due to its rarity, if this monument was to be lost or damaged, our
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	

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association that adds to the understanding of the monument or its context	understanding of the distribution, character and significance of henges would be diminished.
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 26337(accessed on 10/7/2015).

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

The Perth and Kinross Council Historic Environment Record reference is MPK1673.

Harding, A F and Lee, G E 1987, Henge monuments and related sites of Great Britain: air photographic evidence and catalogue, *Brit Archaeol Rep 175.*

RCAHMS 1994, *South-east Perth: an archaeological landscape*, Edinburgh, 39, fig A.

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