Case information

Case ID	300016712
File Reference	AMH/487/2/1
Name of Site	Stone Lud, cairn & standing stone 225m WSW of Upper Bowertower

Local Authority	Highland Council		
National Grid Reference	ND 221 617		
Designation No. (if any)	SM487		
Designation Type	Scheduled monument	**Current Category of Listing**	N/A
Case Type	Amendment		

Received/Start Date	27/04/2015
Decision Date	10/05/2016

1. Decision

The monument was first scheduled in 1938 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 amend the entry in the Schedule as **Stone Lud, standing stone, recumbent stone and cairn 240m WSW of Ludstone Cottage.**

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument was scheduled in 1938 and no previous amendments to the scheduling have taken place.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

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3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The monument was assessed for amendment as part of the S18 Highland project and visited on 22 April 2015.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The monument was assessed for scheduling against the criteria for determining national importance and found to meet the criteria (see **Annex A**).

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

Designation as a scheduled monument remains an appropriate mechanism to secure the preservation of the monument. The existing documents from 1938 do not support accurate definition of the scheduled area or capture the full archaeological potential of the monument.

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*

SM 487 Stone Lud, standing stone, recumbent stone and cairn 240m WSW of Ludstone Cottage

1. Description

The monument comprises a standing stone known as ‘Stone Lud’, a recumbent stone located 30m to the southeast, and a cairn about 10m to the northwest. The remains date to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age (around 3500- 2500 BC). The recumbent stone lies in a shallow hollow, its upper surface on about the same level as the surrounding turf. The cairn is visible as a low, turf-covered mound with a flat top. The site lies 70m above sea level, on a very gentle northwest-facing slope, with long views particularly to the west and northwest.

Stone Lud stands approximately 2.6m high and is 1.1m wide and 0.5m thick at the base. The second stone, which appears to be a fallen standing stone, measures about 2m long by 1.5m transversely. One end is rounded while the other was obscured by turf in 2015. The cairn is approximately circular in plan, 9m in diameter, and stands about 0.3m high. A low, discontinuous bank around the recumbent stone may derive from past excavation to reveal its form.

The scheduled area comprises two parts: a circular area to the northwest measuring 26m in diameter including Stone Lud and the cairn and a circular area to the southeast measuring 10m in diameter to include the recumbent stone. The scheduled area includes the remains described above and areas 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 scheduling specifically excludes the above ground elements of a stone dyke. The monument was first scheduled in 1938, but the documentation did not meet current standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

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

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Intrinsic	
Condition in which monument survives	• Stone Lud is a large and impressive standing stone that survives in good condition. There is a crack along the natural bedding plane of the rock. • The second stone appears to be a fallen standing stone. Both the area around this stone and the cairn northwest of Stone Lud may have been subject to some early excavation. • The monument is in a relatively good, stable condition.
Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument	• Stone Lud appears to stand upright in its original location, which allows us to consider the original form and function of the monument within its primary context in the landscape. • Investigation of comparable stones indicates high potential for buried evidence relating to the standing stone's erection, including the nature of the socket and packing stones. There is also high potential for burials and associated grave goods in the immediate vicinity. Such deposits can inform our understanding of how and why the standing stone was erected, the nature of any ceremonial or other activities carried out in its vicinity, and the character of the local environment at the time of the stone's erection and use. • Similar deposits may lie in the vicinity of the second stone, and beneath and around the cairn.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	• Standing stones are typically thought to date to the Bronze Age, around the second millennium BC; there are few scientific dates available for standing stones in Scotland, due to lack of previous scientific investigation. Small round cairns typically derive from a similar period. • The presence of two stones and a cairn suggests the area may have been used and/or re-used as a focal point and a place of ceremony or burial over many generations. Further scientific investigation into the site would allow us to better understand the date of erection and development sequence here.
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	• Little is known about the precise purpose of standing stones, though it is clear that they were sometimes closely associated with burials. It is likely that they originally functioned as ritual or ceremonial monuments, though they may also have acted as territorial or astronomical markers. • The standing stone may have continued to have a function in more recent times; for example, it may

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	have served as a boundary marker in medieval or later times. • This standing stone has the potential to enhance our understanding of the function of standing stones in the later Neolithic and Bronze Age, and to provide important information about the contemporary landscape, climate and vegetation.
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	• Standing stones are a widespread class of monument across Scotland with notable concentrations in Dumfries and Galloway, the Western and Northern Isles, Perthshire, Aberdeenshire and Caithness. • This is a particularly interesting example because of its close spatial association with a second stone and with a round cairn.
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)	• There are seven other standing stones, or sites of standing stones, within 10km of Stone Lud. Four lie to the south or southeast, in the valley occupied by Loch Watten and the Wick River; three lie to the northwest. Only the stone at North Bilbster (Canmore ID 8760) is of comparable size to Stone Lud, but the other examples provide useful context and some may be surviving elements of stone circles. • There is good potential for comparative study on a local as well as national scale to enhance our understanding of the function of such monuments and the significance of their placing within the landscape.
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	• Many standing stones and cairns seem to have been positioned as deliberate focal points in the landscape and they often reference, or are inter-visible with, other broadly contemporary monuments. This monument seems to have been deliberately placed close to the crest of a low ridge, giving long views to the west and northwest • Its position within the landscape is undoubtedly significant and merits further analysis. It could further our understanding of the positioning of standing stones and other ritual monuments in relation to each other and in the landscape, and of the significance of these monuments to the societies that built and used them.
Associative	
Historical, cultural and social influences that	• The monument has the potential to enhance our understanding of social and ceremonial activities,

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have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa	and the beliefs of the prehistoric people that erected standing stones and built cairns.
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	• Stone Lud has traditionally been associated with Liot, Earl of Orkney, mortally wounded in battle with the Scots between 943 and 945. The OS 1st edition map bears the annotation 'Supposed burial place of Liot, Earl of Orkney'. However, researchers suggest there is little evidence for this association.

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 the potential to enhance our understanding of prehistoric ritual, ceremonial and funerary activities, and to provide information about the beliefs of the people who erected and used standing stones and cairns. The standing stone is an impressive field monument that appears to be in its original position, allowing interpretation of the monument in its original landscape context. It has additional importance because of the presence of a second stone and a cairn, suggesting complex use of the site over a period of time. The standing stone is an important part of the local landscape, and it is likely to have been a focal point from the time of its erection and use onwards. The loss of this example would diminish our ability to understand the nature of prehistoric belief and ritual in Caithness and the placement and function of standing stones and cairns 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	

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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 8852 (accessed on 28/04/2016).

The Highland Council Historic Environment Record references are MHG42066 and MHG 2353 (accessed on 28/04/2016).

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