Case information

Case ID	300009837
File Reference	AMH/6017/2/1
Name of Site	Kerrowaird, settlements & funerary remains 200m NE of

Local Authority	Highland Council		
National Grid Reference	NH 764 498		
Designation No. (if any)	SM6017		
Designation Type	Scheduled Monument	**Current Category of Listing**	N/A
Case Type	Amendment		

Received/Start Date	28/05/2014
Decision Date	06/05/2016

1. Decision

The monument was first scheduled in 1991. The assessment against the scheduling criteria (Scottish Historic Environment Policy, Annex 1) demonstrates that the monument continues to be of national importance but too large an area is designated. The decision is to update the entry in the Schedule reducing the extent of the scheduled area. The monument will be designated as **Kerrowaird, barrows 270m NE of**.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

Monument first scheduled in 1991; no subsequent amendment.

2.2 Development Proposals

N/A

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3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The site was visited on 28/05/2014.

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 found in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), pp. 71-85. http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep-dec2011.pdf

3.3 Other considerations

NA

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*

Kerrowaird, barrows 270m NE of

1. Description

The monument is a group of later prehistoric or early historic barrows dating to between 500 BC and AD 800. The remains lie buried beneath the ploughsoil and are visible as cropmarks captured on oblique aerial photographs. The monument lies on a slight ridge south of the Moray Firth at around 25m OD.

One square and one circular barrow are clearly visible as cropmarks. The square barrow is approximately 14m in diameter surrounded by ditches approximately 1m wide while the circular barrow is smaller, only 8m in diameter. Dark internal features indicate at least one pit towards the centre of the barrows. The square barrow appears to have breaks at the corners of the ditches. Other less distinct cropmarks in the vicinity may represent the remains of further barrows or graves.

The scheduled area is square on plan, measuring 60m northeast-southwest by 60m transversely, as shown in red on the accompanying map. It includes 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. The monument was first scheduled in 1991, but the documentation does 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
Intrinsic	
Condition in which monument survives	• The monument comprises the remains of a barrow cemetery. • It is visible on aerial photographs and survives as buried deposits below the ploughsoil. Analogy with other similar sites in Inverness-shire suggests that the barrows will mark the locations of inhumation burials with the potential to contain archaeological deposits surviving in good condition.
Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument	• The monument contains round and square barrows of varied size. This variety gives the monument high potential to support future archaeological research. • Surviving deposits can be expected to include the fills of the barrow ditches, which may preserve some slumped barrow material, central burial pits and human burials. • These remains can tell us about the development of burial

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	practices in the later prehistoric and early historic periods. Materials associated with the burials may support investigation of funerary practices and there is potential to study social status as reflected by differences in burial.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	• The variety in the size and shape of the barrows suggest a long development sequence, though it is possible that they were created over a relatively short time interval. • In the absence of absolute dating for this site, we can compare the site with other similar sites which have been excavated, these typically produce evidence for dating the sites between 500 BC and AD 800.
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	• The barrows reflect the funerary practices of the late prehistoric and early historic periods, and offer potential to research their function in displaying social status.
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	• Given the presence of both square and round barrows, this monument is a rare example of later prehistoric or early historic barrow cemetery. • It should be regarded as a good, representative example of a type of cemetery that clusters in Inverness-shire. Aerial photography show well-defined barrows with clear central burial pits.
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)	• The importance of the monument is enhanced because it is part of a cluster of barrow cemeteries located around the Moray Firth. A second nationally important cluster of round and square barrows lies 5.5km to the southwest adjacent to Allanfearn (Canmore ID 14211). • The concentration of barrow cemeteries in the Moray Firth area is unusual and can be compared with groupings of barrow cemeteries in Angus and East Yorkshire.
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	• The monument lies on a slight ridge south of the Moray Firth at around 25m OD, and there is a concentration of settlement and funerary remains in the vicinity. .
Associative	
Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa	• The form of the barrows reflect cultural and social influences that determined how it was appropriate to commemorate the dead.
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	The monument is important because of its potential to add to our understanding of burial beneath round and square barrows. Its

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addition to the understanding or appreciation of the past	importance is enhanced by its position within a regional cluster of barrow cemeteries. The cropmarks suggest two distinct barrow forms are present, giving potential to understand how funerary practices might change according to social status or over time. Given the rarity of square barrow cemeteries, our understanding of late prehistoric and early historic funerary practice would be diminished if this monument were lost or damaged.
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 14174 (accessed on 05/05/2016).

Local Authority HER/SMR Reference: MHG2925

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