

Case information

Case ID	300016817		
File Reference	AMJ/9305/1/1		
Name of Site	Millburn, Strath Halladale, barrows 340m NNE of		
Local Authority	Highland Council		
National Grid Reference	NC 8909 5586		
Designation No. (if any)	SM13622		
Designation Type	Scheduled Monument	Current Category of Listing	N/A
Case Type	Designation		
Received/Start Date	24/04/2015		
Decision Date	04/05/2016		

1. Decision

The assessment against the scheduling criteria (Scottish Historic Environment Policy, Annex 1) demonstrates that the monument is of national importance. The decision is to add the monument to the schedule of nationally important monuments as **Millburn, Strath Halladale, barrows 340m NNE of**.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument is currently undesignated but recorded in the Highland Council HER.

2.2 Development Proposals

N/A

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The site was visited on 24/04/2015.

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

N/A

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*

Millburn, Strath Halladale, barrows 340m NNE of

1. Description

The monument is a prehistoric burial monument probably dating to the Bronze Age, around 2000-800 BC. It survives as a prominent, circular, grass-covered mound, built mainly of earth but with some stone visible in its sides, with a smaller secondary barrow to the east. The monument is situated on raising ground to the east of the Halladale River, at around 40m above sea level.

The main burial monument appears to be a bowl barrow with an external ditch and bank. The central mound, which probably contains one or more burials, is approximately 6.5m in diameter and stands 0.5m high. It is surrounded by a ditch, approximately 1.6m wide, and an external bank approximately 2m wide and standing up to 0.5m high. The ditch and bank are well-defined but the bank has been disturbed by later activity around its south east arc. Immediately to the east there is a low mound which is approximately 5m in diameter and stands 0.5m high, and is likely to be a second barrow.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, 30m in diameter. 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, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The monument comprises a Bronze Age barrow, probably a rare bowl barrow type with a surrounding ditch and external bank and a smaller secondary barrow to the east.• This example survives as a prominent grass-covered mound constructed of stone and earth, with a secondary mound to the east• The bank is well-defined on all sides, but, around

	<p>the south-eastern arc, the form of the monument has been disturbed by later activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The barrow retains its original form to a marked degree. The central mound and the ditch are clearly visible, as is the external bank for most of its circuit. Overall, the monument is stable and in very good condition.
<p>Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowl barrows are a relatively rare form of burial monument, particularly in Scotland. As a consequence, the value of its cultural significance is high. As a rare example of its class in Highland, and indeed Scotland, this monument has significant potential to add to our understanding of differing traditions and forms of burial monument and the reasons for the variations in type. • The monument is likely to contain one or more burials or cremations. Given the good level of preservation here, there is high potential for the survival of human remains, associated grave goods (for example, pottery or steatite vessels, personal artefacts), and environmental or palaeobotanical remains. Such archaeological deposits can help us to better understand beliefs surrounding death and burial in the Bronze Age, as well as funerary rites and practices, trade and contacts, social organisation and the climate and local vegetation and land-use at the time of burial. • The presence of two barrows, the smaller of which is probably a secondary burial, indicates that there is good potential for the survival of further 'satellite' burials, and related archaeological evidence for funerary pyres or other funerary activity in the area surrounding the barrow.
<p>Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthen barrows are a characteristic form of Bronze Age burial monument in Scotland. There is currently little scientific dating evidence for these sites, and so a date range broadly between 2000 and 800 BC BC is suggested. • It has been suggested that burial sites such as this were in use over a long period of time and their form may have been modified and altered at different stages of use, but there is no evidence from ground surface indications that this monument was altered. Scientific investigation of the site would be necessary to clarify the development sequence and chronology of this

	<p>burial monument.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second smaller barrow may pre or post-date the larger bowl barrow, indicating a development sequence which would allow us to better understand the context of this rare barrow type.
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The barrow at Millburn would have primarily had a funerary function and was used as a place of burial for one or more individuals. • Researchers have suggested, partly due to their rarity, that large, bowl-shaped or 'bell' barrows represent high status burials, perhaps for individuals of an elite class.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This monument is important as a well-preserved and upstanding example of a monument type rare in Scotland. Bowl barrows with external ditches and banks are more generally found in central southern England, where they form part of rich and complex ritual and funerary landscapes. • There are very few examples of similar barrows in the north of Scotland. One comparable example in Highland is the barrow at Corriemulzie Lodge (Canmore ID 12272), which is in a remote situation in an area where there are no other known prehistoric monuments. The barrow at Wasbister in Orkney also has similarities (schedule monument reference SM7700; Canmore ID 1718).
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"> • Whilst the barrow is broadly contemporary with numerous other Bronze Age burial sites across the Highlands, this particular type of barrow is rare. Its form is similar to only a small number of other examples outside central southern England, which are classed as 'Wessex' barrows. • The site is also unusual for its apparently remote location. There are very few prehistoric monuments in the close vicinity of this barrow. Some 500m to the SE is a group of roundhouses and clearance cairns (scheduled monument reference SM1876). • Ritual and funerary monuments provide most of our information about society in the Bronze Age; there are comparatively few domestic sites. Burial monuments such as this are therefore an important source of information about past society, its organisation and religious beliefs.
Relationship of the monument and its parts	Barrows were an integral part of the Bronze Age funerary landscape – they were often located on

with its wider landscape and setting	marginal land, on the boundary between heath and agricultural areas. This example is situated on low lying land not far from the Halladale River.
Associative	
Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The more typical association of this monument type with the ritual and funerary landscapes of central southern England suggests that there may have been cultural or social influences or connections between communities in northern Scotland and central southern England during the Bronze Age; this is supported by the results of research and excavations in Orkney and around Stonehenge.
Aesthetic attributes of the monument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
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"> N/A
Associations the monument has with historical, traditional or artistic characters or events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 prehistoric burial mound with an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, particularly the design and construction of burial monuments, the nature of burial practices, and their significance in Bronze Age and later society. The Millburn barrows are of particular importance in that one appears to be a well-preserved, rare type of burial monument – a bowl barrow with distinctive field characteristics. This type of barrow is more commonly associated with pre-historic ritual and funerary landscapes in central southern England and may indicate social influences or cultural connections between communities in northern Scotland and central southern England. The monument has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the form, function and distribution of Bronze Age burial monuments. Such monuments are important for our understanding of the form and nature of the prehistoric landscapes of the Highlands. Due to the rare nature of this type of burial monument in Scotland, its loss would
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	very significantly diminish our ability to understand Bronze Age burial practices and society more widely.
Its place in the national consciousness [a factor that may be considered in support of other factors]	

References

The Highland Council Historic Environment Record reference: MHG24911 (<http://her.highland.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MHG24911>). Accessed 12/10/15.
