



## Case information

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<b>Case ID</b>	300017901		
<b>File Reference</b>	HGH/B/GE/101		
<b>Name of Site</b>	North Mill, Scalan, Braes of Glenlivet		
<b>Local Authority</b>	Moray Council		
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NJ 24595 19510		
<b>Designation No. (if any)</b>	LB8484		
<b>Designation Type</b>	Listed Building	<b>Current Category of Listing</b>	B
<b>Case Type</b>	Amendment		
<b>Received/Start Date</b>	29/02/2016		
<b>Decision Date</b>	27/09/2016		

## 1. Decision

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In our current state of knowledge, the North Mill at Scalan continues to meet the criteria for listing. The statutory listing address and the listed building record has been amended. The category of listing has changed from B to A.

<b>Previous Statutory Address</b>	Braes Of Glenlivet, Scalan, North Steading With Stable And Mill Wheel
<b>Amended Statutory Address</b>	North Mill with stable, water wheel and threshing machine, Scalan, Braes of Glenlivet

## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

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### 2.1 Designation Background

The north mill was listed at category B on the 22/02/1972. The listed building (non-statutory information) was revised in 1987. The building is in the Cairngorms National Park.

### 2.2 Development Proposals

Grant funding has been applied for to carry out general repairs to the walls, roof, structural and other joinery and the restoration of the threshing machinery to working order. Proposals also include minor changes to the fabric for visitor access. This project is one of the projects of the Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape Partnership, an HLF-funded scheme. Phase 1 development funding has been granted.

### 3. Assessment

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#### 3.1 Assessment information

Scalan was visited on 11/05/2016 and the exterior and interior of the north mill was seen at this visit.

#### 3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The building was found to meet the criteria for listing.

An assessment against the listing criteria was carried out. See **Annex A**.

*The designation criteria are published in the Historic Environment Scotland policy statement June 2016, Annex 2, pp. 51-53.*

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/historic-environment-scotland-policy-statement/>

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## **ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Listing Criteria\***

### **North Mill with stable, water wheel and threshing machine, Scalan, Braes of Glenlivet**

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#### **1. Description**

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A late 19<sup>th</sup> century, 2 storey, L-plan mill, with a largely complete late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century threshing machine. The building is constructed in rubble with harl pointing and has a roof of Tomintoul slates. The 2-bay east wing is a stable. A timber water wheel is housed in a lean-to structure at the centre of the west elevation. The south gable has a wide square headed opening with a pair of timber doors. The north gable has a pair of square headed cart bays with a loft entrance above. The entrance on the left is partially blocked and has a door. The corners of the east gable have fragments of projecting stones known as ‘tusker stones’.

The interior was seen in 2016. There is a largely complete late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century timber threshing machine in the west part of the building, which is connected to the mill wheel. The machine is encased in a timber chassis and there is extensive graffiti dating from about 1874 on all of the timberwork. There are timber stalls with some troughs to the stable.

#### **2. Assessment Against the Listing Criteria** (HES Policy Statement, 2016) Annex 2, pp. 51-52

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Criteria for determining whether a building is of ‘special architectural or historic interest’ for listing under the terms of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 [[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents)]

*To be listed, a building need not meet all the listing criteria. The criteria provide a framework within which judgement is exercised in reaching individual decisions.*

##### **2.1 Age and Rarity**

The precise date of the North Mill building is not known but it is likely that it was constructed in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The previous listed building record, written in 1972, dates the North and South Mill buildings at Scalan to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, but possibly incorporating earlier fabric. However these two buildings are not on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map (surveyed 1869). On this map the Seminary is shown with a number of small outbuildings to the north and south and a pair of rectangular-plan buildings on the opposite side of the Crombie water (a stream about 70m to the west of the seminary). The North Mill itself is first shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map (surveyed 1900).

There is extensive historic graffiti on the interior timberwork of the building and the earliest graffiti date is 1874. This suggests that the mill was constructed between 1869 (date of the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map) and 1874.

Addison in their 2015 report '*Scalan North Mill and Threshing Machine: Notes on Significances*' believe that the threshing machine at Scalan could date to between 1776 (when Meikle invented his threshing machine) to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and the mill building itself was built later. "The equipment at Scalan lacks the sophistication of grain elevators and double/triple grain cleaning processes as shown on threshing machine drawings from 1840 onwards and this to us suggests the early origins of the mill." The report continues: "Although the angle of the iron skutchers on the beater drum is of a kind known to have been introduced around 1830, they could well be from subsequent modifications of an earlier machine. The equipment at Scalan North Mill follows exactly from drawings of Meikle's threshing mill with adjustable iron roller/grain grippers, wooden drum beater, wooden shaker and wooden fanner all powered from the waterwheel and the very efficient iron drive wheels."

From 1716 to 1799 there was a Roman Catholic Seminary at Scalan. Roman Catholicism was outlawed following the Scottish Reformation in 1560 and its practice was theoretically punishable by deportation. Scalan is located in the Braes of Glenlivet, which were sufficiently isolated and remote in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to shelter Catholics. The Seminary was built in 1767 (listed at category A, LB8453). Farming at the Seminary was key to their survival during the period of persecution and constant harassment of Roman Catholics. Roy's map of 1747-55 depicts rig and furrow cultivation patterns around Scalan, indicating that farming did take place. Addison refers to the seminary records that suggest that meal was imported to Scalan, but believe that it was possible that some of the later threshing was done here and the early threshing machine was already in use for their survival and for sharing essential cereal foods with the community.

Scalan was closed by the Catholic Church in 1799 when the repeal of the Penal Laws made it feasible to set up a larger and more visible seminary. The seminary was transferred to Aquhorthies near Inverurie in 1799 and then to Blairs College near Aberdeen in 1829. Addison note that it is recorded that the Holy Fathers took their farming skills with them to both locations.

After the priests moved in 1799 the seminary became a farmhouse and it is likely that the farm and mill buildings developed at this site following this date. In the Ordnance Survey Name Book of 1867-69, Scalan is described as "A commodious dwelling house, with some cottar houses offices, garden, and farm attached - the property of the Duke of Richmond. This place was some seventy years ago, a popish Seminary but is now converted into a farm steading."

Andrew Meikle's threshing machine revolutionised farming, marking the beginning of an industrial phase in agriculture which peaked in large scale technological development by 1830. It caused a fundamental change in farm design, because it reduced the need for large threshing barns and the layout of farm buildings became more formal with steadings typically arranged around a courtyard. Glendining et al in their book '*Buildings of the Land*' state that in Morayshire the informal arrangement of farms survived into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and by 1811 threshing machines were only found in 15% of farms in most parishes.

Farm buildings are not a rare building type and can be found across Scotland, however those that survive with early farming machinery largely intact are very rare. In 2016 there are around 10 late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> mills with steadings which are listed that are described as having threshing machinery largely intact. Most of these are listed at category B. South Balluderon Farm has a circa 1800 mill building with an early example of a threshing machine. The farm buildings are listed at category A (LB17458) as a rare example of an unaltered 19th century steading. Glendinning et al note that the threshing machine at Badenyon is an early example. The steading is listed at category C (LB13714), however the description does not refer to the machine. The oldest known surviving threshing machine is that from the Breck of Rendall Mill previously found at Evie on the Orkney Islands. Dating from circa 1803 it is now on display at the National Museum of Rural Life in East Kilbride.

The threshing machine at Scalan is extremely rare as it is one of the oldest surviving and complete threshing machines in Scotland. Whilst the mill building is later in date it is significant because it has been designed specifically to accommodate this early threshing machine and has not been significantly altered since the date of its construction. The building and the threshing machine are an important surviving examples of the industrialisation of farming practices in Scotland.

## **2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest**

### ***Interior***

The interior of the threshing barn is dominated by the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century timber threshing machine which was specifically incorporated into the design of the later building. The machine is constructed in wood and follows the designs and details developed by Andrew Meikle around 1786. The machine has been encased in a timber chassis with access points to feed in the crop and take out the separated chaff, grain and straw. There are removals panels with round peep holes to allow access to the machinery for repair. The threshing machine itself is an extremely rare largely intact survival of its type and it is significant it remains in situ.

There is extensive historic graffiti on the interior timberwork of the building. The graffiti ranges from names and dates, to pictures of animals and comments on the harvest and it is of historical interest as it evidences the social history of the building and farm.

### ***Plan form***

The plan form of the building has been arranged to accommodate the early threshing machine and the threshing process. The south entrance is at a higher level as the threshing machine sits in a pit and at a height so that its gearing matches the waterwheel. There are areas for the separation of corn, chaff and straw. The threshing machine is positioned in the east part of the building, adjacent to the waterwheel. The waterwheel needed to be close to the Crombie Water for water to be supplied to the mill lade, so this is likely to have determined the approximate north/south orientation of the mill.

The projecting 'tusker stones' to the east gable indicate that this wing has been shortened and therefore the plan form of the mill has changed at some point in its history.

### ***Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality***

Addison in their report assert that the mill appears to have been designed and built specially to accommodate the threshing machine and integrated with the threshing process: "The upper part of the thresher is contained in a cased timber chassis supported on large timber beams built into the masonry walls in an integrated way. The upper threshing floor joists are dovetailed into the principals in the traditional way and the entire assembly is an elegantly thought out with some visual embellishments."

The waterwheel is a breastshot 'start and awe' waterwheel and for its late 19<sup>th</sup> century date it is remarkably complete with many of the timber paddles still extant. The term 'start' refers to the piece of wood secured in the rim and projecting from it, onto which the 'awe' or the wooden float or paddle was attached at a 40 -45 degree angle. The launder fed the water directly onto the floats or paddles at the mid-point of the wheel, moving the waterwheel in a clockwise direction. The starts supporting the floats or paddles are longer on the North Mill compared to the south mill. This suggests that more power was needed to operate the threshing machine in this building than in the South Mill.

### ***Setting***

The North Mill is part of a small group of farm buildings, informally arranged, which are set in a remote highland, upper moorland valley in the Braes of Glenlivet, a setting which has not changed since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Together these building evidence the historical, social and agricultural development of Scalán from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### ***Regional variations***

The materials used in the construction of the mill buildings are local to Scalán including limestone and use of Tomintoul slates.

Following the introduction of the threshing machine in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the layout of agricultural buildings became more formal. The informal arrangement of the farm buildings at Scalán is, however, typical of pre-industrialised 19<sup>th</sup> century farm steadings in Morayshire that remained the norm longer into the 19<sup>th</sup> century than in other parts of Scotland.

The New Statistical Account refers to limestone being quarried and used for agricultural purposes and 'lime kilns are seen on almost every farm to provide peat fuel' (p.127). A lime kiln at Scalán is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map. It is likely that this locally sourced stone may also have been used in the construction and repair of buildings, because the remote location of Scalán would mean it would have been difficult and expensive to transport stone for these buildings.

## **2.3 Close Historical Associations**

Scalan is an important ecclesiastical site in Scotland and is renowned for its critical role in helping to preserve Roman Catholic faith and worship in Scotland during the 18th century. Roman Catholicism was outlawed following the Scottish Reformation in 1560 and its practice was theoretically punishable by deportation.

Scalan is located in the Braes of Glenlivet, which were sufficiently isolated and remote in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to shelter Catholics. Founded by Bishop James Gordon, the seminary at Scalan was in operation from 1716 to 1799 and trained around 100 Catholic priests. It also served as an administrative centre for the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland.

### **3. Working with the Principles of Listing** (HES Policy Statement, 2016) Annex 2, pp. 53

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In choosing buildings within the above broad headings particular attention is paid to:

- a. special value within building types*
- b. contribution to an architecturally or historically interesting group*
- c. the impact of a grouping of buildings*
- d. authenticity*

When working with the principles of listing the North Mill at Scalan has particular interest under a, c and d.

- a. The threshing machine in this mill is extremely rare as one of the oldest surviving and complete threshing machines in Scotland that remains in situ. Whilst the mill building is later in date it has been designed specifically to accommodate this early threshing machine.
- c. It is an important component of this remote group of buildings, which together evidence the historical and social development of Scalan from the 18th century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- d. With the exception of some alterations to the east gable, the mill building appears to be relatively unaltered externally and internally. The threshing machine, including its gearing is also largely complete, which is very rare for a machine of this date.

### **4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria\*\***

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The North Mill and its threshing machine are extremely rare as one of the oldest surviving in situ threshing machines in Scotland. Whilst the mill building is later in date the building has been designed specifically to accommodate this early and complete threshing machine and it is largely unaltered. The building and its threshing machine are important surviving examples of the industrialisation of farming practices in Scotland. The North Mill at Scalan is also an important component of a remote group of buildings that together with the Former Roman Catholic Seminary (LB8453) and the South Mill (LB8454) evidence the historical, social and agricultural development of Scalan from the 18th century to the early 20<sup>th</sup>

century. Scalan has historical significance because of the critical role it played in preserving the Catholic faith in Scotland during the 18<sup>th</sup> century as well as its agricultural interest.

In our current state of knowledge it continues to meet the criteria for listing.

## 5. Category of Listing

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Categories of listing are non-statutory and buildings are assigned a category (A, B or C) according to their relative importance following the assessment against the criteria for listing.

Category definitions are found at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/what-is-listing/>

Category A is for buildings of national or international importance, either architectural or historic; or fine, little-altered examples of some particular period, style or building type. The survival of this very early threshing machine in its original geographical location is very rare. Scalan is of outstanding historical significance because of the critical role it played in preserving the Catholic faith in Scotland during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The interest of the mill, with its machinery is considered to be of national importance and therefore category A is the most appropriate category of listing.

## 6. Other Information

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N/A

## 7. References

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Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID 170726.

### Maps

Roy, W. (1747-52) Military Survey of Scotland.

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1869, published 1872) Banff Sheet XLI.10 (Combined). 25 inches to a mile. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1900, published 1901) Banffshire 041.10 (includes: Inveravon). 25 inches to a mile. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

### Printed Sources

Addison Conservation and Design (2015) *Scalan Mill and Threshing Machine: Notes on Significance*. Unpublished.

Glendinning, M. and Wade Martins, S. (2008) *Buildings of the Land: Scotland's Farms 1750-2000*. Edinburgh: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. p.48 and 51.

Ordnance Survey (1867-1869) Banffshire Ordnance Survey Name Books. Vol 17. p.245.

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\* This assessment is based on our current state of knowledge and has been prepared for the purpose of consultation or to provide a view on the special interest of a building. This assessment is a consultation document and will form the basis of any new or updated listed building record should the structure be listed. The content of this assessment may change to take into account further information received as a result of the consultation process.

\*\* A building may be found to meet the listing criteria but in some circumstances may not be added to the list. See 'When might Historic Environment Scotland list a building' at <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/what-is-listing/>