



## Case information

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<b>Case ID</b>	300016717
<b>File Reference</b>	AMH/2436/2/1
<b>Name of Site</b>	Kinrive Wood, long cairns

<b>Local Authority</b>	Highland Council
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NH 6993 7538
<b>Designation No. (if any)</b>	SM2436
<b>Case Type</b>	Amendment

<b>Received/Start Date</b>	05/05/2015
<b>Decision Date</b>	16/09/2016

## 1. Decision

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The monument was first scheduled in 1964 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 update the entry in the Schedule as **Kinrive West and Kinrive East, long cairns 150m NNW and 175m N of Mid Kinrive.**

## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

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### 2.1 Designation Background

The monument was first scheduled in 1964. There have been no subsequent amendments.

### 2.2 Development Proposals

N/A.

## 3. Assessment

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### 3.1 Assessment information

The site was considered for amendment as part of the North 2015 Scheduling Enhancement Project. The site was visited on 05/05/2015.

### 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 published in the Historic Environment Scotland policy statement June 2016, Annex 1, pp. 48-50.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/historic-environment-scotland-policy-statement/10>). Having considered the purpose and implications of designating, it has been concluded that scheduling is the most appropriate mechanism to protect the site. Please see Annex A of this document for further information of this assessment.

### 3.3 Other considerations

N/A

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## ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria

### Kinrive West and Kinrive East, long cairns 150m NNW and 175m N of Mid Kinrive.

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#### 1 Description

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The monument comprises a pair of long cairns thought to date from the Late Neolithic to Bronze Age (the fourth and third millennia BC). The cairns, of Orkney-Cromarty type, are located on open hillside and lie around 160m above sea level.

The western cairn is roughly an elongated oval on plan and measures approximately 63m in length and 18m in width at the northeast end and 13m in width at the southwest end. The cairn is visible as a substantial mound of exposed stones with a maximum height of 3.5m. Along the central length of the cairn, several depressions may indicate the presence of chambers. The northeast end of the cairn has been overlaid by a more recent field dyke, however, evidence at the east end suggests this terminus of the cairn was straight edged or even concave – a feature of other similar long cairns. Only 50m east of the western cairn, lies another long cairn. The eastern cairn, roughly oval on plan and visible as a mound of exposed stones, measures approximately 13.5m in length and 7.5m in width. The cairn is up to 1m in height with no visible sign of a chamber, however, long cairns can be chamber-less. The monument is surrounded by previously cultivated land, now rough pasture, on a gradual southeast-facing slope which runs to the coast and estuary some 6km southeast. The site has distant open views over the coastal plain and across the Cromarty Firth to the Black Isle beyond.

The scheduled area consists of two separate, irregular areas, each centred on a cairn. The scheduled area 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. The post and wire fence, track and information board are excluded from the scheduling. The monument was first scheduled in 1964, but the documentation did not meet current standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

#### 2 Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria (Scottish Historic Environment Policy, 2011 pp71-73)

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##### 2.1 Intrinsic Characteristics

The monument is a pair of long cairns visible as substantial mounds of exposed stones. The original function of the monument was as a burial or funerary site but it may also have had other ceremonial or ritual uses for the local community.

Overall the cairns survive in good condition. There is no record of an excavation at the site, however, it was noted in 1902 by the Inverness Scientific Society and Field Club that human bones had previously been found at the site. The western cairn is well preserved with possible evidence of central chambers running down the length of the cairn. The eastern cairn is less well preserved but still clearly visible and a notable feature in the landscape. There is no visible evidence of a chamber.

The cairns retain much of their structural integrity in their plan form, in the surviving stratigraphy and in their architectural elements. The evidence for a straight or concave northeast end or façade to the western long cairn is a notable feature. These elements can help us understand more about ritual and funerary practice, the architecture of prehistoric burial and the construction, use and abandonment of these monuments. There is still good potential for the survival of other archaeological deposits, including burial remains, artefacts such as pottery, and environmental remains such as charcoal or pollen, within, beneath and around the intact elements of the monument. These elements can help us understand more about ritual and funerary practice, and the significance of materials, technology and craft in a burial context.

The cairns probably date from the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age (the fourth and third millennia BC). Further study could allow us to develop a better understanding of the chronology of the site, including its date of origin, state of completeness and any possible development sequence. The exploration of possible chambers within the cairns could reveal further evidence of their use and potential development. The monument is also important for the potential of exploring the relationship between the two cairns and their extremely close proximity to each other, with a view to discovering if the cairns are exactly contemporary or if there is a development sequence between them.

## 2.2 Contextual Characteristics

There are eighteen confirmed and possible burial cairns, including four chambered cairns, within a 5km radius of the monument. This monument is important as an upstanding and well-preserved example. There may have been links between neighbouring burial cairns or they may indicate community catchments. This cairn has the potential to enhance and broaden our understanding of prehistoric burial practices.

There are numerous broadly contemporary monuments in the landscape surrounding the monument including King's Head Cairn (Canmore ID 13725) only 320m southwest and Kinrive hut circle (Canmore ID 13728) only 150m north. There is potential to study such sites together to understand their functions within the local communities and chronological development in the area. The monument is within a small group of cairns in the Kinrive and Scotsburn Woods area and offers potential to study burial and ritual practices and draw comparisons with evidence from other cairns around the locality and more widely in Ross and Cromarty.

The cairn sits on the north side of the Cromarty Firth, overlooking the coastal plain, around 6km from the coast. The site has open views down the hillside, across the

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adjacent landscape and over the Firth and south to the Black Isle. The two long cairns are clearly intervisible due to their close proximity.

### 2.3 Associative Characteristics

N/A.

## 3 Purpose and implications of scheduling

Designation as a scheduled monument remains the most appropriate mechanism to secure the preservation of the monument, and ensure the recognition of its national importance.

The field investigation concluded the site is in a stable condition and very well preserved. There are no immediate threats to the preservation of the monument.

## 4 Assessment of national importance

The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to our knowledge and understanding of the past, particularly the design and construction of burial monuments, and the nature of belief systems and burial practices during the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age in Ross and Cromarty. The cairns have good field characteristics, allowing us to interpret their form, function and position in the landscape and have potential for the presence of buried archaeological remains, including burials, artefacts and palaeoenvironmental evidence. Architectural features such as the possible horned façade on the northeast end of the western cairn and the possible line of chambers within the same cairn are noteworthy. There are numerous other cairns in the vicinity of the monument, which together can contribute to our understanding of the prehistoric landscape. This is important for enhancing our understanding of Late Neolithic and Bronze Age society, its organisation, economy, religion and demography. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our future ability to appreciate and understand funerary practice, death and burial in prehistoric times, and the placing of such monuments within the landscape.

## 5 References

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Historic Environment Scotland <http://www.canmore.org.uk> reference number CANMORE ID 13721 and 13727 (accessed on 31/05/2016).

Childe, V G. (1944). 'An unrecognised group of chambered cairns', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, vol. 78. Pages: 28-31.

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