Case information

Case ID	300009801
File Reference	AMH/2911/2/1
Name of Site	Gallangad Burn, long cairn 709m NE of junction with Knockupple Burn.

Local Authority	West Dunbartonshire
National Grid Reference	NS 45840 80721
Designation No. (if any)	SM2911
Case Type	Amendment

Received/Start Date	23/05/2015
Decision Date	10/11/2016

1. Decision

The monument was first scheduled in 1970 but an inadequate area was included to protect all of the archaeological remains. 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 **Knockupple, long cairn 1460m N of**.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument was first scheduled in 1970; no subsequent amendments.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The site was considered for amendment as part of the West 2014 project and was visited on 23 May 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/

3.3 Other considerations

N/A

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria
Knockupple, long cairn 1460m N of

1 Description

The monument is a chambered long cairn dating to the Neolithic period, and probably built and in use between 3800 BC and 2500 BC. It survives as a turf covered stone mound which is roughly trapezoidal in plan. The monument is located on a gentle east facing slope at about 225m above sea level.

The cairn measures about 13m in length by around 7m in width at the east end, narrowing to about 1.5m at the west end. There is a façade at the monument's eastern end defined by four large boulders in a slightly concave arrangement forming a forecourt area. Behind the façade are two side slabs which would have formed part of a chamber, while a kerb of stones run in a straight line across the southwest corner of the cairn. To the south of the chambered cairn is a roughly oval slab which may have formed part of the monument.

The scheduled area is oval on plan to include 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 monument was first scheduled in 1970, but the documentation does not meet current standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

2 Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria (Historic Environment Scotland policy statement June 2016, Annex 1, pp. 48-50.)

2.1 Intrinsic Characteristics

The monument is a chambered long cairn, surviving as a roughly trapezoidal stone mound. Although the cairn has been disturbed and material removed, elements of the overlying cairn structure, and individual boulders forming the façade and internal structure survive in situ. The overall plan of the cairn and elements of its construction can be understood, and there is good potential for the survival of buried deposits, including structural elements of the cairn, human burials, artefacts, surfaces, evidence from related activity at the cairn, especially in the forecourt area, and environmental remains such as pollen and charcoal. The archaeological deposits have the potential to provide information about the date of the monument, ritual and funerary practices, and the structure of Neolithic society, while any artefacts and ecofacts would enhance our understanding of the economy and environment when the monument was in use.

Evidence from the excavation of similar monuments has revealed a rich material assemblage, especially in the forecourt area. At Crarae, Mid Argyll (scheduled monument reference SM2310; Canmore ID 40024) archaeological investigation

uncovered a deposit of 2500 marine shells in a pit and at Cairnholy, Dumfries and Galloway (scheduled monument reference SM90050; Canmore ID 63716) there was evidence for six hearths and a deposition of broken pottery. Such finds and deposits can help us understand more of the ritual and funerary events that took place at such monuments and the beliefs associated with these monuments.

Dating evidence demonstrates that long cairns were constructed and in use between around 3800 and 2500 BC. They were used for communal burial and ritual, and may also have functioned as a space for communal and social activity. Excavations elsewhere have revealed complex development sequences, and the monuments were often redesigned and extended. At Knockupple, it is likely that several phases of use and construction are represented; the presence of a transverse line of stones across the cairn and a possible kerb at its southwest end suggest such phasing. Before the cairn was finally sealed, several episodes of burial are likely to have taken place. The long cairn may therefore have been in use for several generations. Scientific study of the cairn's form and construction techniques compared with other long cairns would enhance our understanding of the development sequence of this site and of long cairns in general.

2.2 Contextual Characteristics

This monument is a Clyde-type long cairn, a form of cairn characterised by a trapezoidal or rectangular mound with a burial chamber divided into at least two compartments, and crescent-shaped forecourt framed by a façade of upright stones. Although this type is relatively common in the southern part of the Western seaboard, there are only six examples recorded in Dunbartonshire and adjoining Stirlingshire. Knockupple is of particular interest because, despite the relative rarity of Clyde cairns in this region, it is part of a cluster of three such monuments. Lang cairn (scheduled monument reference SM2329; Canmore ID 43444) is situated approximately 770m to the north-northeast and Stockie Muir (scheduled monument reference SM2281; Canmore ID 43453) is about 2km to the east-northeast. There is therefore potential to study the cairn alongside these other sites to help us understand the significance and meaning of the placing of such monuments in the landscape, and add to our understanding of social organisation, land division and land-use during the Neolithic.

Chambered long cairns are often placed in conspicuous locations within the landscape, overlooking or inter-visible with other ritual monuments. This example is situated on a gentle east facing slope of a natural spur. Without the modern forestry, the cairn would overlook the Gallangad Burn and possibly would have been intervisible with Lang cairn.

2.3 Associative Characteristics

N/A

3 Purpose and implications of scheduling

The field investigation concluded the site is in a stable condition and has few management issues apart from some vegetation growth. Designation as a scheduled monument is therefore the most appropriate mechanism to secure the preservation of the monument, and ensure the recognition of its national importance.

4 Assessment of national importance

This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular the design and construction of burial monuments, and the nature of burial practices during the Neolithic period in the west of Scotland. Although the long cairn has been disturbed in the past, the monument can be still understood. The outline of the cairn can be traced and some of the façade stones and chamber side slabs remain upstanding. There is high potential for the survival of important buried remains including human remains, ritual deposits and residues/charcoal in and around the cairn, especially the forecourt area. The monument's importance is enhanced by its proximity to two further chambered cairns in the immediate area. The loss of the monument would diminish our ability to appreciate and understand the meaning and importance of death, burial and ritual in the Neolithic and the placing of cairns within the landscape.

5 References

Historic Environment Scotland http://www.canmore.org.uk reference number CANMORE ID 43454 (accessed on 28/04/2016).

The West of Scotland Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record Reference is WOSAS PIN 7970 (accessed on 28/04/2016).

Henshall, A S 1972 The chambered tombs of Scotland, vol.2. Edinburgh.

RCAHMS 1978 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The archaeological sites and monuments of Dumbarton District, Clydebank District, Bearsden and Milngavie District, Strathclyde Region, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 3. Edinburgh.