

## Case information

<b>Case ID</b>	300009742 and 300017919
<b>File Reference</b>	AMH/3002/2/1 and HGH/B/TA/128
<b>Name of Site</b>	Nevay Church and burial ground, Kirkinch
<b>Local Authority</b>	Angus Council
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NO 31230 44111
<b>Designation No. (if any)</b>	SM3002 and LB4639
<b>Case Type</b>	Amendment (SM3002) Removal (LB4639)
<b>Project Start Date</b>	01/05/2013
<b>Decision Date</b>	22/02/2017

## 1. Decision

The decision is to remove the dual designation of this site.

<b>Designation name (including reference)</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Action</b>
Nevay Church, Kirkinch SM3002	Scheduled monument	The entry in the Schedule has been amended as <b>Nevay Church, church and burial ground, Kirkinch.</b>
Nevay Old Kirk, Kirkinch LB4639	Listed building	This designation has been removed and the monument remains scheduled (SM3002)

## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

### 2.1 Designation Background

Nevay Church was first scheduled on 26/11/1971 and the scheduling was amended on 28/09/1993.

Nevay Old Kirk was listed at category B on 11/06/1971.

### 2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals affecting the site.

### 3. Assessment

---

#### 3.1 Assessment information

The monument was assessed for amendment as part of the S14 Angus 2013 scheduling project.

This site has also been considered as part of the Dual Designation project. This is a nationwide project to review structures which are both listed as buildings of special architectural or historic interest and scheduled as monuments of national importance. Where appropriate the 'dual designation' of structures is being removed and they are being listed or scheduled depending on their individual circumstances.

The site was visited on 10/10/2013.

#### 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 and it will be removed from the list.

The designation criteria are published in the Historic Environment Scotland policy statement June 2016 - <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/historic-environment-scotland-policy-statement/>

#### 3.3 Other considerations

As part of the Dual Designation project, we have reviewed the structures at this site and concluded that scheduling is the most appropriate mechanism to secure the preservation of this structure as a monument of national importance.

---

### Elizabeth McCrone

Head of Designations  
Heritage Management  
Historic Environment Scotland

<b>Contact</b>	Richard Heawood, Senior Designations Officer, <a href="mailto:richard.heawood@hes.scot">richard.heawood@hes.scot</a> ; 0131 668 8624
----------------	---

# **ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria**

## **SM3002 Nevay Church, church and burial ground, Kirkinch**

---

### **1 Description**

---

The monument comprises the remains of Nevay Church and its burial ground. Most of the standing structure dates to the later 16th century but the church and burial ground are medieval in origin. The church sits on a raised yard which is approximately oval on plan. The monument lies about 60m above sea level on the floor of Strathmore, some 150m east of the Kirkinch Burn.

The church is rectangular, measuring approximately 17m east-west by 6m transversely, and built in coursed rubble mostly of red and grey sandstone. The gables stand to full height and the north and south walls to around 1m and 2m high respectively. A round-headed door and small round-arched window in the west gable may be of medieval date, perhaps relocated to their present positions. Two entrances, both blocked by tombstones, pierce the south wall. The lintel of the westernmost doorway bears the date of 1695 and is blocked by a tombstone dated 1597. Several gravestone and architectural fragments have been re-located within the gravelled interior of the church.

The scheduled area is roughly oval on plan to include the remains described above. The scheduling extends up to but excludes the boundary walls. The scheduling specifically excludes the top 300mm of all paths and grassed areas; all burial lairs where rights of burial still exist; and all memorial stones dating to later than 1850. The monument was last scheduled in 1993, but the scheduling did not include the burial ground: 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 ruins of the church and the burial ground survive in good condition. There is potential to study the construction and form of the chapel, its development sequence and dating, and its chronological relationship with use of the burial ground. It is probable that large numbers of graves remain in situ, with high potential to enhance our knowledge of status and burial practice over an extended period which saw major devotional changes. Soil conditions will influence the extent to which bone survives, but there is the potential that human burials can reveal evidence for health, diet, illness, cause of death, and perhaps the types of activities people undertook during life.

The upstanding remains of the church appear largely of post-Reformation date with evidence for later alterations such as blocked windows and doorways. However, it is probable that the standing building re-uses the footprint and some of the masonry of an earlier medieval church. The form and dimensions are consistent with a medieval church and the round-headed apertures in the west gable resemble medieval features, either in their original positions or re-used in a rebuilt wall. Historical records confirm that there was a church at Nevay in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, but the first church on the site may be earlier than this and an extended development sequence is probable.

The curvilinear graveyard is thought to be early medieval in plan and there are reports of two early Christian stones having been found in the rubble of the church and the graveyard. Moreover, the church stands on a raised area within the boundary walls of the graveyard. To the north, the raised area does not extend to the boundary wall and has a clearly defined edge, which suggests that the church may have appropriated a much earlier monument.

The parishes of Nevay and Eassie were united in 1600 and, in about 1835, a new church was built on a site convenient to both. While in use, the function of the monument was spiritual, serving as the focus for religious life, worship and commemoration of the dead for the parishioners of Nevay.

## 2.2 Contextual Characteristics

This monument is a good example of a parish church and burial ground in Angus that have their origins in the medieval period. The church is a relatively modest structure of coursed rubble located on a raised curvilinear yard. Similar churches in the region are Eassie Old Church (scheduled monument reference SM90125 and CANMORE ID 32078), which probably stands on the footprint of a medieval building, and Church of Logie (scheduled monument reference SM10344 and CANMORE ID 36341), originally a medieval building restored as a mausoleum in 1837; the latter is situated within a raised curvilinear yard. Nevay Church retains some interesting architectural features such as the round-headed door, the arch of which is formed from one carved stone lintel; the carved skewput in the west gable; and a weathered carved head. The monument can be compared with other broadly contemporary churches in Angus to enhance our understanding of the date and development of places of worship within the region and of the organisation of medieval Christianity in east Scotland. There is potential to examine the burials and to study the findings in the context of the medieval settlement pattern in this area. The monument lies about 60m above sea level, overlooking the Kirkinch Burn on the floor of Strathmore.

## 2.3 Associative Characteristics

The form of the church reflects the ideology and liturgy of Christian worship. Researchers suggest the recorded dedication to 'St Nevyth' is a 'ghost' arising from an old form of the place-name 'Nevay'.

### 3 Purpose and implications of scheduling

Designation as a scheduled monument appears appropriate. The exclusions to the designation are to allow routine maintenance of the burial ground to continue. Lairs where burial rights exist are also excluded from the designation.

### 4 Assessment of national importance

This monument is of national importance because of its inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of church sites in Scotland. The upstanding church retains several significant architectural features and may preserve the plan form and some of the fabric of a medieval church. Records of Early Christian carved stone fragments suggest the site was first used for burial around the middle of the first Millennium AD. There is high potential for the presence of well-preserved archaeological remains that can make a significant contribution to our understanding of the date and development of parish churches in the region. Further, it is probable that a number of graves remain in situ, with high potential to enhance our knowledge of status and burial practice, potentially over an extended period which saw major devotional changes. The monument's significance is enhanced by the capacity to compare it with other early church sites in Angus, many of which have similar raised curvilinear yards, and to relate the church to the medieval settlement pattern. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our ability to appreciate and understand the construction and development of early churches in east Scotland and their role in medieval society and in the organisation of Christianity.

### 5 References

---

Historic Environment Scotland: <http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/canmore.html> CANMORE ID 32154 and CANMORE ID 32155 (accessed 25/04/2016).

Angus Sites and Monuments Record:  
<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/master/default.aspx?Authority=Angus> ref NO34SW0001 (accessed 25/04/2016)

A Corpus of Scottish Medieval Parish Churches: <http://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/corpusofscottishchurches/site.php?id=158800> (accessed 25/04/2016)

MacGibbon, D and Ross, T 1896-7 'The ecclesiastical architecture of Scotland from the earliest Christian times to the seventeenth century', 3v, Edinburgh, 3, 560-2.

Macdonald, A D S and Laing, L R 1973 'Early ecclesiastical sites in Scotland: a field survey, part II', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* **102**, 140.

RCAHMS 1984 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. *The archaeological sites and monuments of central Angus, 2 (medieval and later), Angus District, Tayside Region*, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 22, Edinburgh, 11, no 35.

