

Case information

Case ID	300009583		
File Reference	AMH/1448/2/1		
Name of Site	The Hillock, broch		
Local Authority	Orkney		
National Grid Reference	HY 36111 14138		
Designation No. (if any)	SM1448		
Designation Type	Scheduled monument	Current Category of Listing	N/A
Case Type	Amendment		
Received/Start Date	01/04/2013		
Decision Date	26/11/2015		

1. Decision

Amend: Update to entry in the Schedule

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument was scheduled in 1938.

No previous amendments to the scheduling have taken place.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The monument was assessed for amendment as part of the S13 Orkney scheduling project and visited on 15 May 2013.

This assessment took into account a report (Mullan 2005) of archaeological investigations in advance of development which were carried out in the field to the west of the broch. These investigations confirmed the presence of extensive and complex archaeological remains connected with the broch, lying outside the existing scheduled area.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The monument was assessed for scheduling against the criteria for determining national importance and found to meet the criteria (see **Annex A**).

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

The monument continues to meet the scheduling criteria.

Designation as a scheduled monument remains an appropriate mechanism to secure the preservation of the monument.

The existing 1938 legal documents are not adequate to support definition of the extent of the scheduled area.

The existing scheduled area is not large enough to include all the known and potential archaeological remains.

There is a significant benefit in amending the existing scheduled monument designation. It will provide an updated legal document and map, allowing the monument to be defined accurately on the ground and shown on modern mapping. It will also ensure that an adequate area is designated.

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*

SM1448 The Hillock Broch, Finstown

1. Description

The monument is the remains of a large broch mound and its outworks dating probably to the Iron Age (between around 600 BC and AD 400). It survives as an elongated turf-covered mound with earthworks to its immediate N and S and buried remains to its N and W. The broch is located at the mouth of The Ouse, on the W shore of the Bay of Firth in Mainland Orkney. The monument was first scheduled in 1938, but the documentation did not meet modern standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The mound measures approximately 80m by 25m and stands to around 4m high, with parts of the internal broch structure visible on its summit. The mound has been truncated on its W side by the insertion of the A966, on its E and N sides by coastal erosion and on its S side by modern development. It has been investigated and recorded several times since 1927 when the roadworks took place. More recently, between 2004-2008, geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation was undertaken in the area to the W of the broch. This has confirmed the presence of complex archaeological remains in this area, which recall the wider settlement remains and outworks seen at other Orkney broch sites. The presence of an encircling ditch was revealed to the S of the broch and the ditch is likely to continue around the W and N sides. The broch was adapted as a defensive position during the Second World War and the remains of a concrete pillbox are visible on top of the mound.

The scheduled area comprises two irregular shapes 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 scheduling excludes the above-ground remains of all modern boundary features to allow for their maintenance.

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	The broch survives as a substantial turf-covered elongated mound, measuring approximately 80m by 25m and standing

	up to c 4m high. Although obscured by turf cover and some later disturbance, some of the internal broch structure is discernible on the mound in places. • To the W, part of the broch and its outworks have been truncated by the construction of the A966 trunk road. However, geophysical survey and development-led small-scale excavations in the field to the W of the road have revealed the presence of rock-cut ditches and other features and deposits which are highly likely to be associated with the broch. • The broch mound was used as a defensive position during the Second World War and the remains of a concrete pillbox and other adaptations are visible. • At the top and centre of the mound, various cells and related passageways have been recorded, but some may post-date the original use of the broch, and some may result from its re-use in the Second World War. • The eastern part of the scheduled monument has been consolidated with an overburden of soil to reduce the effects of coastal erosion. • Despite some modern intrusions and alterations, and the effects of coastal erosion, a substantial proportion of the broch and associated remains survives.
Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument	• Previous archaeological investigations and records indicate the presence and survival of significant archaeological remains in and around the broch. For example, massive walls with intramural cells or stairs, approximately 10m in total width, were observed when the modern road was inserted. More recently, the presence of a rock-cut ditch and other remains were observed and recorded in the cliff section. There is also considerable evidence of further archaeological remains in the field W of the road. In short, a variety of deposits, features and structures, artefacts and midden material, have all been revealed during the course of various archaeological activities. • In areas of the broch mound and its vicinity that have not been impacted by later land-use, it is highly likely that further significant archaeological structures and deposits survive. • Surviving features are likely to include the foundations of the broch tower, intramural cells and stairs, hearths, tanks, wells and floors, all of which will contain occupation debris, artefacts and ecofacts that can tell us about how people lived, their trade and exchange contacts and their social status. • The extent of important archaeological evidence will not be confined to the broch itself – excavations elsewhere have uncovered rich assemblages of material in the area around the broch tower, as has also been demonstrated here in the land to the immediate S and W of the mound. There is confirmed potential for the presence of outworks (rock-cut ditch or ditches and banks around the broch), an associated broch village, and/or evidence for post-broch use of the site, including, possibly, later settlement. • The monument's potential is amply demonstrated by excavations at the Howe of Howe on Mainland, where a similar site was found to preserve rich buried deposits.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either	• Brochs in Orkney are typically thought to date from the mid first millennium BC through to the early part of the first millennium

long or short may provide insights of importance)	AD. There are few precise scientific dates for brochs in Orkney, which has traditionally been based on typological studies of artefacts recovered from broch sites. • Very few brochs have been completely excavated, but a notable exception is Howe in Orkney (Ballin Smith 1994). Howe displayed a complex development sequence. The broch was constructed on top of an earlier substantial stone-built roundhouse with a souterrain, which in turn had been built on top of a Maeshowe type chambered cairn. The broch at Howe also continued to be a focal point after the broch itself was abandoned and later Iron Age buildings were constructed around and on top of the broch and its outworks. • This particular example can be expected to contain a similar complex development sequence, with potential for post-broch use of the site. Furthermore, this prominent location was re-used during the Second World War – which adds to the interest and chronology of the site.
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	• Broch towers are primarily seen as a specific specialised development of complex Atlantic roundhouses. They were large complex structures that could have accommodated either an extended family or a small community. While there would have been a social hierarchy within this community, the construction of these elaborate towers is often understood in terms of elite settlement. If this was the case, then the high number of brochs found in Orkney (c 150) would indicate that they functioned as elite residences on a local scale, similar to later lairds' houses rather than local royal centres (Armit 2003; Ritchie 1988).
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	• Brochs are a widespread class of monument across northern Scotland with notable concentrations in Orkney, Shetland and Highland Scotland. • There are over 150 recorded examples of brochs and broch mounds across Orkney. How many of these are true broch towers as opposed to stone-built complex roundhouses is currently unknown, but given the size of many of the broch mounds, it is likely that a high proportion of them are examples of the iconic broch towers such as those found at Mid Howe and the Broch of Gurness. • The impressive size and form of the broch mound at Finstown, and the results of recent geophysical work and small-scale investigations, confirm that this is a major broch site containing important archaeological remains.
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)	• This is one of a network of similar sites (including Burness broch c 3km to the NE (SM 1253) and Ingashowe broch c 3.2km to the ESE (SM 1450)), occupying key locations and vantage points along the coast of the E Mainland. • The close proximity of these substantial broch towers to each other has the potential to inform our understanding of Iron Age social hierarchy, changing settlement patterns and systems of inheritance. It has been argued that the close proximity of some brochs indicates partible inheritance – where the estate is split equally between progeny (Armit 2003; 2005). • There is high potential for comparative study on a local and national scale to better understand the function of such monuments and the significance of their placing within the

	landscape.
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	- Many broch towers are deliberately sited to be focal points in the landscape and they often reference or are intervisible with other broch towers. This example occupies a highly strategic position on a small peninsula, where the River Ouse enters the Bay of Firth, and forms a partial causeway across the small estuary. - The broch is located just above the Mean High Water Spring mark, with wide views to the E and W. - Its position within the landscape is undoubtedly significant and merits further analysis. It could further our understanding of the positioning of broch towers in relation to each other and in the landscape, and of the significance of these monuments to the societies that built and used them.
Associative	
Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa	Brochs developed out of the Atlantic tradition of complex stone-built roundhouses, but the broch tower can be seen as the pinnacle of this architectural tradition. It is a highly recognisable form of Iron Age architecture particular to Scotland, especially northern Scotland.
Aesthetic attributes of the monument	The circular broch towers have become iconic landscape markers today.
Significance in the national consciousness or to people who use or have used the monument, or descendants of such people	The monument is recorded on 1st and 2nd edition OS maps.
Associations the monument has with historical, traditional or artistic characters or events	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	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 of Iron Age society in Orkney and the function, use and development of brochs. This is an impressive and well-preserved example of a large broch mound, which has the potential to reveal a complex development sequence. It offers considerable potential to study the origin, development and reuse of brochs and their relationships to other sites in the contemporary landscape. The monument's importance is enhanced by its association with the other brochs spaced regularly along the coastline of the NE Mainland in Orkney, and its association with the wider Iron Age landscape and settlement more generally. The loss of the monument would significantly diminish our ability to appreciate and understand the origins, development and reuse of brochs in Orkney. It would also impede our ability to understand the placing and function of brochs within the landscape and to reconstruct and understand the Iron Age landscape.
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	
Its place in the national consciousness [a factor that may be considered in support of other factors]	

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