

Case information

Case ID	300009807		
File Reference	AMH/3318/2/1		
Name of Site	Barochan Hill, Roman fort		
Local Authority	Renfrewshire		
National Grid Reference	NS 41377 69044		
Designation No. (if any)	SM3318		
Designation Type	Scheduled monument	Current Category of Listing	N/A
Case Type	Amendment		
Received/Start Date	01/01/2014		
Decision Date	29/01/2016		

1. Decision

Amend: Update to entry in the Schedule

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument was scheduled in 1973.

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 in 2009 as part of the Large Roman Monuments project, but the proposal did not progress due to access issues.

The monument was assessed again as part of the S15 West 2014 scheduling project and visited on 12 May 2014.

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 scheduled area does not adequately cover archaeological remains identified in aerial photographs and by survey and excavation, specifically a fort annex at the east end of the fort.

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

Elizabeth McCrone

Head of Designations
Heritage Management
Historic Environment Scotland

Contact	Andrew Fulton, Senior Designations Officer; andrew.fulton@gov.scot ; 0131 668 8711
----------------	---

ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*

SM 3318 Barochan Hill, Roman fort 440m NNW of Barochan House.

1. Description

The monument comprises the remains of a Roman fort dating to the late 1st century AD, with an associated annexe. The monument survives mainly as buried features visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The monument occupies the summit of Barochan Hill, at a height of approximately 70m above sea level, with views towards the River Clyde around 4km to the N. The monument was first scheduled in 1973, but an inadequate area was included to protect all of the archaeological remains: the present amendment rectifies this.

The rectangular fort measures approximately 168m from E- W by 96m transversely, enclosing an area of around 1.4 hectares. The fort is orientated WSW-ENE with the main entrance on the W side. Part of a bank is still visible on the NW side. Attached to the E side of the fort is a near square annexe with sides measuring approximately 65m, enclosing an area of 0.4 hectares. Limited archaeological investigations have revealed the remains of buildings, ditches and ramparts and have recovered a significant assemblage of artefacts. The evidence indicates that the fort was built around AD 79-80 and occupied probably for little more than a decade.

The scheduled area is an irregular polygon on plan to include the remains described above and an area around them in which evidence for the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduled area specifically excludes the above-ground elements of all 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The monument comprises a Roman fort and annexe, which survive as buried archaeological remains visible as cropmarks captured on aerial photographs.• The fort is approximately 168m E-W by 96m N-S enclosing an area of around 1.4 hectares, with the main gate facing to the W. The annexe lies immediately to the E and is roughly square with sides measuring 65m, enclosing an area of 0.4 hectares.• Three episodes of archaeological excavation have revealed

	<p>the remains of entrances and defences, internal buildings and a diverse range of artefacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During World War Two, an observation / searchlight position was established at the W side of the fort. The low earthwork and brick-building remains of this are visible today.
Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excavations and fieldwalking in the early 1970s and in 1984-85 (Keppie and Newell 1998) confirmed the presence of substantial remains, including the footings of buildings, a rampart, a defensive ditch on the N side and a palisade trench at the SE angle, and recovered a significant artefact assemblage including pottery, a tile kiln, and glass beads. There is high archaeological potential for similar survival of features and artefacts across the rest of the site, which can enhance our understanding of the construction and use of the fort. • The high archaeological potential of the monument can also enhance our understanding of the fort's position in the network of Roman sites in Scotland and its role in Roman military campaigning.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dating of several recovered artefacts and the fort structure itself suggest the monument was built in AD 80 or shortly thereafter – very early in the history of Roman occupation in Scotland. It is attributed to the late Flavian period of Roman activity in Scotland and was probably one of the forts built by governor Agricola, or his immediate successor. • The chronological relationship between the fort and annexe is unknown. Researchers believe that the fort was occupied only until AD 86 or thereabouts, but that during this time, there were two phases of building. • There is evidence of pre- and post-Roman activity on the same site. The recovery of Mesolithic / Neolithic flint flakes indicates the possibility of early prehistoric activity; and the site may also have been re-used during the 16th/17th centuries. The summit and W side of the monument was used as a strategic look-out point during World War Two.
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fort occupies a commanding position and was used to accommodate the Roman army and their provisions during military campaigning in this part of Scotland. • Prehistoric artefacts indicate that the site may also have been settled or used in early prehistory. • The site was reused most recently for a look-out post during the Second World War.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barochan fort is one of over 60 known Roman forts in Scotland. Scotland's Roman forts are a key archaeological resource in the study of the Roman empire and its reach into northern Europe. • The fort at Barochan lies towards the western end of a line of Flavian/Antonine fortifications across the Forth-Clyde isthmus, which were erected to support military campaigning in Scotland in the first century AD. Others include the forts at Cadder, Mollins, Castlecary, Camelon, Mumrills and Elginhaugh (Hanson and Maxwell 1983, 39).
Relationship of the monument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of other Agricolan forts defending the Forth-

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)	<p>Clyde line which were built around the same time are Mollins and Elginhaugh. The fort at Barochan overlooks and may have been replaced by a later Antonine fort at Bishopton (NS4172), which lies c 3km to the N on the shores of the Clyde Estuary (Keppie and Newell 1998, 71).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a probable Iron Age hillfort on Barochan Hill (Keppie and Newell 1998,41), around 1km to the W (Canmore ID 43114).
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fort occupies a commanding position on undulating land on the summit of Barochan Hill at a height of approximately 70m above sea level, with views towards the River Clyde around 4km to the N. This commanding location led to it also being used as an observation point in World War Two.
Associative	
Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regular layout of the monument closely reflects conventional Roman military practice in establishing forts.
Aesthetic attributes of the monument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a
Significance in the national consciousness or to people who use or have used the monument, or descendants of such people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Roman occupation of Britain continues to have an important place in the national consciousness.
Associations the monument has with historical, traditional or artistic characters or events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The camp is likely to be associated with the campaigns of governor Agricola, whose life was recorded in the writings of the Roman historian Tacitus around AD 98.

Assessment of national importance

Criteria	Assessment
Its inherent capability or potential to make a significant addition to the understanding or appreciation of the past	<p>This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the Roman military advance into Scotland and the form and function of Roman forts. Excavations have confirmed that Barochan is a well-preserved example of a Flavian period Roman fort, probably associated with the campaigns of governor Agricola. Limited archaeological excavations have demonstrated the presence of important buried structures and artefacts, which can enhance our understanding of the construction and use of this fort. The fort occupied a strategically significant location on the S bank of the Clyde and was an important component of a network of Roman forts built between the Forth and Clyde: these formed an effective boundary controlling access and movement across central Scotland. The loss of Barochan Hill Roman fort would significantly impede our ability to understand the campaigns of the Roman army in Scotland during the 1st century AD.</p>
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	

References

RCAHMS records the monument as NS46NW 17.

WOSAS record the monument as WOSAS PIN 7662.

Breeze, D 1982, *The Northern Frontiers of Roman Britain*. London

Frere, S S, 1986, 'Roman Britain in 1985. I. Sites explored', *Britannia* 17, 371

Frere, S S, 1987, 'Roman Britain in 1986. I. Sites explored', *Britannia* 18, 311-13

Hanson, W S and Maxwell, G S, 1983, *Rome's north west frontier: The Antonine Wall*, Edinburgh, 39-40

Keppie, L J F and Newall, F, 1984, 'Barochan Hill (Houston p)', *DES*, 34

Keppie, L J F and Newall, F, 1985, 'Barochan hill (Houston p)', *DES*, 49

Keppie, L J F and Newall, F, 1998, 'Excavations at the Roman fort of Barochan Hill, Renfrewshire, 1972 and 1984-1986', *Glas Arch Jour* 20, 41-76

Keppie, L J F and Robb, M J, 1993, 'Barochan Hill (Houston parish): Roman fort', *DES*, 91

Newall, F and Hallifax-Crawford, A 1972, 'Barochan hill', *DES*, 35-6

Rivet, A L F and Smith, C, 1979, 'The place-names of Roman Britain', *Batsford Studies in Archaeology*, 125, 126, 140, 211, 319, 343. London

Robertson, A S 1970, 'Roman finds from non-Roman sites in Scotland', *Britannia* 1, 224

Robertson, A S 1976, 'Agricola's campaigns in Scotland, and their aftermath', *Scot Arch Forum* 7, 5

Robertson, A S 1984, 'Roman coins found in Scotland, 1971-1982', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 113, 409

Scott, J G 1976, 'The Roman occupation of South-West Scotland from the recall of Agricola to the withdrawal under Trajan', *Glas Arch Jour* 4, 30, 31

Wilson, D R 1973, 'Roman Britain in 1972. I. Sites explored', *Britannia* 4, 275
