Case information

Case ID	300009830
File Reference	AMJ/8078/1/1
Name of Site	Corbiehall Farm, enclosure 570m NNE of

Local Authority	South Lanarkshire		
National Grid Reference	NS 92911 44936		
Designation No. (if any)	SM13610		
Designation Type	Scheduled monument	**Current Category of Listing**	N/A
Case Type	Designation		

Received/Start Date	16/05/2014
Decision Date	15/02/2016

1. Decision

Designate: Add monument to the Schedule

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

This site was first considered for scheduling in 2005, as part of a review of the wider Roman complex at Corbiehall and Ravenstruther, but the proposal was put on hold due to the (then) public consultation on the South Lanarkshire Local Plan.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals affecting this case.

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3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The site was considered for designation as part of the West 2014 Schedule Enhancement Project.

The site was visited on 16/05/2014.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The designation criteria are found in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), pp. 71-85. http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep-dec2011.pdf

An assessment was carried out against the scheduling criteria (see **Annex A**).

The monument was found to meet the criteria for scheduling.

3.3 Other considerations

This cropmark site has been variously interpreted as an enclosure, a possible henge or a ring-ditch.

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*
Corbiehall Farm, enclosure 570m NNE of

1. Description

The monument is a penannular enclosure dating to the prehistoric period, sometime between 3000 BC and AD 400. It is visible as a cropmark captured on oblique aerial photographs and survives as buried remains below the ploughsoil. The monument lies on gently sloping ground at around 205m above sea level, just over a kilometre north of the River Clyde.

The enclosure measures around 20m east to west by 15m north to south, within a single ditch approximately 4m wide. It has a broad entrance, 7m wide, on the east side. The function and date of the enclosure are uncertain. In form it resembles a type of ceremonial monument known as a henge, which might suggest it is Neolithic in date. Alternatively, it could be a domestic settlement of the later prehistoric period.

The scheduled area is a circle on plan, measuring 40m in diameter, 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.

2. Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria (SHEP, 2011) pp71-73**

* 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 monument is visible as cropmarks captured on oblique aerial photographs and survives as buried deposits below the ploughsoil. • Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland aerial photographs (1989) show the enclosure measures c 28m in total diameter. It is defined by a ditch up to 4m wide enclosing an area c 20m east to west by 15m north to south. A break in the eastern circuit is approximately 7m wide. • The footprint appears intact. Investigation of similar sites has revealed the sometimes excellent survival of plough-truncated features, including remains which do not show up on the aerial photographs. • The monument was under a cropping regime when recorded in aerial photographs (in 1989) and is currently (2014) also under a cropping regime.

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Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument	• The function and date of the enclosure are uncertain; it is potentially an enclosure, ring-ditch or possible henge. The wide break in the eastern circuit probably indicates an entrance or causewayed feature, controlling access to and from the interior. • Scientific investigation would likely give us more information about the date, function and exact classification of this monument. Hengiform monuments are relatively rare. Later prehistoric monuments are more common, but this one would be of particular interest because of its proximity to the complex of Roman camps and fort at Castledykes, just over 300m to the south and southwest with which it may be broadly contemporary if it is a settlement. • Whatever its function, the interior and the area immediately around the enclosure are likely to contain important archaeological information about the date, construction and use of the site. • The ditch fills are likely to contain archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence for land use and vegetation when the enclosure was in use and how this changed over time.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	• Henge monuments are generally considered to be Neolithic in date, while other types of enclosure or ring ditches may indicate Bronze Age or Iron Age settlement. • Scientific investigation of the site may reveal its development sequence, its date and duration of use, and when and why it was abandoned.
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	• The monument may have been a henge or henge-type monument with a ritual / ceremonial function; or it may be the remains of a later prehistoric domestic and farming settlement.
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	• The monument appears to be a good example of a prehistoric enclosure within a substantial ditch, but its precise classification is uncertain. If a henge or henge-type monument, it would be relatively rare and could cast light on possible local variations in this monument. • Only some 300m to the south and southwest is an extensive complex of Roman camps and the Roman fort at Castledykes (Scheduled Monuments 1139 and 3825). This is probably coincidental, given that the location is in a fertile area close to the River Clyde; but if the enclosure represents an Iron Age domestic settlement, then it may be broadly contemporary with the Roman advance, which would add to its interest.
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)	• Other less well-defined cropmark sites in the near vicinity, to the northwest and southwest of this enclosure. • This monument is part of a distribution of cropmark sites lying close to the River Clyde, southwest of the Pentland Hills and on generally low-lying ground. Together, these provide a key source of evidence for social and economic change in southern Scotland during prehistory.
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider	• The monument lies at 205m above sea level, on relatively flat ground just over 1km north of the River Clyde.

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landscape and setting	• Prehistoric sites are usually carefully positioned to take advantage of natural features, route-ways, views and natural resources. In this case there are long-distance views from the entrance of the monument towards the east.
Associative	
Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa	• N/A
Aesthetic attributes of the monument	• N/A
Significance in the national consciousness or to people who use or have used the monument, or descendants of such people	• N/A
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	The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to the understanding of prehistoric enclosures in Scotland. It is likely that important archaeological features and deposits survive within the ditches, the interior and inside and outside the entrance, which would show the chronology, development and function of the enclosure. Its form suggests it had either a ceremonial or domestic function – as a henge or settlement. The monument would also have formed an important element of the contemporary prehistoric landscape close to the River Clyde, a location also favoured by the Romans who built a significant military complex nearby at Castledykes.
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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References

Historic Environment Scotland http://www.canmore.org.uk reference number CANMORE ID 4771 (accessed on 29 June 2015).

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