Case information

Case ID	300009814
File Reference	AMH/3504/2/1
Name of Site	Cnoc Mhic Eoghainn, motte 170m WSW of Ballimore

Local Authority	Argyll & Bute		
National Grid Reference	NR 92196 83277		
Designation No. (if any)	SM 3504		
Designation Type	Scheduled Monument	**Current Category of Listing**	
Case Type	Amendment		

Received/Start Date	01/10/2013
Decision Date	02/03/2016

1. Decision

Amend: Update to entry in the Schedule

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument was first scheduled in 1974. There has been no subsequent amendment.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals affecting this monument.

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3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

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

The site was visited on 22/05/2014.

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

The top of the mound is occupied by two 19th-century stone-built burial enclosures, formerly used by the Campbells. There is no evidence that they continue in use.

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*
Cnoc Mhic Eoghainn, motte 170m WSW of Ballimore

1. Description

The monument comprises the remains of a motte dating probably to the 12th or 13th century. It is visible as a substantial oval flat-topped mound with the remains of a surrounding ditch around its east, south and west sides. The monument is situated about 30m east of the shore of Loch Fyne at approximately 10m above sea level. The monument was first scheduled in 1974, but the documentation did not meet current standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The steep-sided motte, formed by enhancing a natural mound, stands up to 9m high above the surrounding ditch. Its oval summit area measures around 24m northeast-southwest by 15m transversely and is reached by a causeway 4m wide over the ditch and a path up the west flank. A projecting low scarp or ditch on the northwest side encloses a small area beyond the mound. Two rectangular 19th-century burial enclosures occupy the summit of the mound, which was probably modified to accommodate them. A plaque in the northeast enclosure records that this was 'formerly the burying place of the family of Campbell of Otter 1855'. The motte has been incorporated into the wooded policies of the designed landscape of Ballimore house.

The scheduled area is a circle on plan, 90m 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. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground remains of the two walled enclosures and memorial stones 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 motte survives as a substantial mound with an oval flat-topped summit area. The summit accommodates two 19th-century walled enclosures containing carved memorial stones and a vault. Parts of a surrounding ditch, now largely infilled, are visible on the east, south and west sides. On the northwest side, a ditch or a low scarp extends from the base of the mound to create a small enclosure which is obscured by dense vegetation. A causeway and terraced path lead over the ditch and up the west flank of

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	the mound. The path may have re-used the original access to the summit to reach the burial enclosures. • The site lies within the wooded policies of the designed landscape of Ballimore House and is mainly covered with trees and dense vegetation. The local land-use is deciduous woodland with dense undergrowth in places, including rhododendrons. • The mound itself is substantially intact, despite the later works on the summit to accommodate the burial enclosures and the effects of tree roots.
Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument	• There is high potential for the survival of important archaeological deposits and features on and around the mound that can enhance our understanding of the date, construction and function of the site. • The infilled ditches may also contain palaeoenvironmental evidence for land-use, vegetation and climate when the motte was in use, and how this changed over time.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	• Mottes were introduced in Scotland in the 12th century and were associated with the establishment of Anglo-Norman lordships during and after the reign of King David I. Many remained in use until at least the 14th century. • A timber castle probably surmounted the motte originally. These were often the precursor to the construction of a stone castle, but there is no evidence of such a development here. • Archaeological investigation would increase knowledge of the character, date and duration of occupation at the site. • There may have been an earlier fort on the site
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	• The motte was a medieval fortified settlement. • The role of mottes was symbolic as well as functional. They represent the consolidation of power and authority – marking and protecting the lands of emerging lordships and the route-ways through those lands.
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	• There are around 300 mottes in Scotland dating probably from the 12th or 13th centuries. • There are examples of mottes in the Lothians, Fife and north of the Tay, but the many are clustered in areas on the periphery of the realm in the 12-13th centuries, and which posed problems for the king, such as Galloway and Moray. This motte is one of an outlying group in Cowal, which enhances its potential to broaden our understanding of the nature and chronology of similar sites in medieval Scotland.
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 motte is one of eight similar sites in Cowal, which has a small but higher number of mottes than other parts of Argyll. However, the Cowal mottes are atypical of Scottish mottes in general, with several taking the form of rectangular earthen platforms in relatively low-lying settings. Cnoc Mhic Eoghainn is the most conventional motte in the area and it may be significant that it is traditionally associated with a family of Highland origin. • Most eminences in the area were surmounted by forts, duns and/or castles in antiquity, for example, Caisteal Mhic Eoghainn (McEwan's Castle), a stone-built dun some 3.7km to the south southwest, and Barr an Taolain (SM 3547), another fort or dun c 1.85km to the south. The motte therefore contributes to the wider picture of the

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	development and use of defended settlement sites in the area over an extended period of time.
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	• The monument is located 30m from the upper east shore of Loch Fyne. • Although now in woodland, it would have had extensive views northwards and westwards across to Knapdale and mid Argyll.
Associative	
Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa	• Mottes appeared in Scotland in the early 1100s during the reign of King David I (1124–53), with the introduction of Norman feudalism.
Aesthetic attributes of the monument	• The motte occupies a picturesque location within the grounds of Ballimore House. Originally a large and imposing mound, it has been obscured by woodland and vegetation since it was incorporated into the Ballimore designed landscape.
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	• The site and its environs have strong historical links with both the McEwan and Campbell clans. The proximity of the so-called 'Castle McEwan' and the place-name 'Mhic Eoghainn' indicate this association. • The site's association with the Campbells is amply demonstrated by the memorials erected within the two 19th-century walled enclosures on the summit of the motte.

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 it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular the dating, construction and functions of a medieval stronghold. Despite the later re-use of the summit, the monument survives to marked degree. Comparison with other excavated examples suggests it is likely to preserve important archaeological features and deposits, such as the remains of buildings and other structures, including potentially the footings of a timber castle, as well as occupation debris and palaeoenvironmental evidence. The ditch fills in particular may preserve important evidence for the contemporary land-use and how this changed over time. Its proximity to other prehistoric and medieval fortified sites, and its association with the McEwan and Campbell clans, increase its archaeological and historical interest. The loss of this motte would diminish our ability to appreciate and understand medieval strongholds, settlement and land tenure, both in this part of Argyll and more widely across Scotland.
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	

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consciousness [a factor that may be considered in support of other factors]	

References

Historic Environment Scotland http://www.canmore.org.uk reference number CANMORE ID 39967 (accessed on 15/4/2014).

West of Scotland Archaeology Service database record reference: WOSAS PIN 4552.

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