Case information

Case ID	300009819
File Reference	AMH/4241/2/1 Pt 2
Name of Site	Darngaber Castle, motte

Local Authority	South Lanarkshire
National Grid Reference	NS 72949 500791
Designation No. (if any)	SM4241
Case Type	Amendment

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

1. Decision

The monument was first scheduled in 1980 and the documentation does not conform to current standards. The assessment against the scheduling criteria (Scottish Historic Environment Policy, Annex 1) demonstrates that the monument continues to be of national importance. The decision is to amend the entry in the Schedule as **Darngaber Castle, 570m ENE of Crookedstone**.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument was first scheduled in 1980

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals affecting the site.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The site was considered for amendment as part of the West 2014, Schedule Enhancement Project and the site was visted on 15/05/2014.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

An assessment of the cultural significance of the site has been carried out following the criteria set out in Scottish Historic Environment Policy (Annex 1 paras 3-6). Having assessed cultural significance, the site continues to meet the criteria for national importance as set out in Scottish Historic Environment Policy (Annex 1 para 10). Having considered the purpose and implications of designating, it has been concluded that scheduling is the most appropriate mechanism to protect the site. Please see Annex A of this document for further information of this assessment.

3.3 Other considerations

N/A

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria
Darngaber Castle, 570m ENE of Crookedstone

1 Description

The monument comprises a motte, the earthwork remains of an earth and timber castle, dating to the medieval period, probably around 12th or 13th century AD. The monument is visible as a roughly circular, steep-sided flat-topped mound, approximately 35m in diameter. The motte is located in woodland to the south of a tributary of the River Clyde, at around 150m above sea level.

The motte stands on an enhanced natural knoll and the remains of a possible outer rampart are visible around the northwest. The level surface on top of the mound is up to 20m across; a hollow in the centre may indicate some disturbance in antiquity. Spreads of stones are visible on the banks, especially on the northern slope.

The scheduled area is a clipped circle on plan, 60m in diameter, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction and use is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The monument was first scheduled in 1980, but the documentation does not current meet standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

2 **Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria** (Scottish Historic Environment Policy, 2011 pp71-73)

2.1 Intrinsic Characteristics

The monument survives as a substantial, steep-sided earthwork mound. An inner rampart encircles the motte with a possible entrance in the southwest and an outer rampart on the northwest side. The monument is obscured by mature trees and other vegetation, and there are signs of quarrying in antiquity. However, the motte survives in relatively good condition and there is good potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains including artefacts and environmental evidence, building remains and occupation material, which can enhance our understanding of the construction and use of earth and timber castles. The presence of stone spreads on the mound may indicate a development from timber to stone building. Mottes are the remains of early castles, introduced into Scotland around the 12th century AD and this example may have had an additional, symbolic role, marking the wealth, power and territory of its builders and owners with a deliberately visible and prominent position in the landscape.

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2.2 Contextual Characteristics

There are over 300 mottes recorded in Scotland and this example is one of a significant cluster found between the Clyde and the Solway Firth in Southwest Scotland. There are other notable clusters along the Northeast coast and elsewhere in the Highlands. These monuments are associated with the establishment of lordships and territories from the 12th century onwards and this one is part of a wider local group surviving along the Clyde valley in the areas now occupied by Hamilton and East Kilbride – for example, Cot Castle to the south (Canmore ID 45600). Mottes such as this are integral to our understanding of the nature of the medieval landscape. Although views from the site are currently obscured by mature woodland and vegetation, it would have been a prominent site in the landscape when viewed from the north.

2.3 Associative Characteristics

N/A

3 Purpose and implications of scheduling

Designation as a scheduled monument is the most appropriate mechanism to secure the preservation of the monument, and ensure the recognition of its national importance.

4 Assessment of national importance

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 the dating, construction and function of early earth and timber castles introduced across Scotland in the 12th century AD. The motte is substantially intact and there is significant potential for the survival of buried structures and archaeological deposits which can help us to understand the construction and use of early castles and changes in the way land was owned and managed in medieval Lanarkshire. The monument's importance is enhanced as it is one of a cluster of similar sites on the west side of the River Clyde. The loss of this monument would diminish our ability to appreciate and understand settlement and land tenure in medieval Lanarkshire and Scotland more generally.

5 References

Historic Environment Scotland http://www.canmore.org.uk reference number CANMORE ID 45737 (accessed on 07/03/2016).

West of Scotland Archaeology Service record number: WOSAS PIN 9852.

McNeill G B and MacQueen H L, 1996, Atlas of Scottish history to 1707. Edinburgh.

Stell, G. 1985, Provisional list of mottes in Scotland', in Simpson, G G and Webster, B, 'Charter evidence and the distribution of mottes in Scotland', *in Stringer, K J*, *Essays on the Nobility of Medieval Scotland*.

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