Case information

Case ID	300009920
File Reference	AMH/3036/2/1
Name of Site	Old Caberston, scooped settlements 270m E of

Local Authority	Scottish Borders		
National Grid Reference	NT 37177 37758		
Designation No. (if any)	SM3036		
Designation Type	Scheduled monument	**Current Category of Listing**	N/A
Case Type	Amendment		

Received/Start Date	01/07/2014
Decision Date	10/03/2016

1. Decision

The monument was first scheduled in 1971 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 **Old Caberston, scooped settlement 310m E of**.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument was scheduled in 1971. There are no documents for this scheduled monument. No previous amendments to the scheduling have taken place.

2.2 Development Proposals

There is a proposal to construct a forestry track to the south of the monument (Planning Reference: 15/01335/AGN). The proposal does not impact on the scheduled area.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The monument was assessed for amendment as part of the S17 East 2014 scheduling project and visited on 23 September 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

Designation as a scheduled monument remains an appropriate mechanism to secure the preservation of the monument. However, following a review of the available archaeological evidence, only the site represented by the east polygon of the present scheduling should be retained in the amended designation. Remains at the west polygon, and those noted in the RCAHMS Canmore record as sites “A” and “C” are now unclear and of uncertain origin.

In this case there is a significant benefit in amending the existing scheduled monument designation, as there are no documents. The amendment will provide a legal document and map to current standards, allowing the monument to be defined accurately on the ground and ensuring that an appropriate area is designated.

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*

SM3036 Old Caberston, scooped settlement 310m E of

1. Description

The monument comprises the remains of a prehistoric scooped settlement from the late first millennium BC or early centuries AD. It is visible as a scarp enclosing a sunken oval area terraced into a south-facing hillside on the lower slopes of Early Knowe. It lies about 170m above sea level and overlooks the River Tweed, 300m to the southeast.

The interior of the enclosure measures about 38m west southwest/east northeast by 18m transversely and cuts into the slope on the north side. The enclosing wall is now represented by scarp, but an entrance 3m wide is visible to the southeast. Four house platforms were recorded in 1961, towards the north of the interior. Of these, one is clearly visible at the north northeast corner and is around 5.5m in diameter. A low scarp extends across the settlement interior from northwest to southeast, dividing it into two courts.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan, 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 monument was scheduled in 1971, but the documentation did not meet current standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

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 monument is visible as a platform cut into the natural slope, surrounded by a scarp. • Internal features survive as earthworks, suggesting that archaeological remains will survive in good condition. • The interior appears relatively undisturbed apart from bracken growth and overall the monument survives in a good condition.
Archaeological, scientific,	• The monument survives reasonably well and

technological or other interest or research potential of the monument	retains the key features of its original form. • Potential exists for preservation of a buried soil beneath the scarps/bank, providing evidence of the environment within which Iron Age people built the settlement. • Inside the enclosure good potential exists for the preservation of archaeological evidence relating to the construction and occupation of the site and the daily lives of the people who occupied it. In particular, this type of site is likely to include evidence of roundhouses and domestic structures and internal yards for animals. Evidence of timber and stone structures has been found in other similar sites. There may also be areas where evidence of the contemporary agricultural regime survives. Buried artefacts and ecofacts have the potential to add to our understanding of the economy of the prehistoric period.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	• There is good potential to develop a better understanding of the chronology of the site, including its date of origin, development sequence and abandonment. • Four house platforms were identified in 1961. It is possible that they represent a development sequence from a smaller number of structures.
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	• The settlement was probably the home of a family or small community.
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	• Scooped settlements are not rare in the Scottish Borders. However, this is a good example of its type, with at least four house platforms recorded in the interior, as well as a scarp dividing the settlement into two courts.
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)	• The construction of scooped settlements, including size, form, features and their placing in the landscape are all important in understanding this type of monument. By comparing this monument to others of its type we can learn more about the dating, function, design and development of prehistoric scooped settlements in the Scottish Borders and more widely throughout Scotland.

	• The monument complements other types of prehistoric settlement sites identified close by in the Tweed Valley. Together they provide a fuller picture of prehistoric landscape and society in the region over time. • The hillside around the settlement contains possible traces of cultivation terraces, but there are very well-preserved terraces 1.5km to the west beyond Walkerburn (SM 2391). There are also other prehistoric settlements 2.5km to the west (SM 2937) and 3.5km to the northwest (SM 2861).
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	• The settlement occupies a prominent setting in the landscape, looking over and along the Tweed Valley with the entrance facing out towards the river. • Comparing and contrasting this settlement to other nearby examples can enable an understanding of how such sites are positioned within the landscape, as well as provide enhanced contexts for the understanding of Iron Age economy, structure of society and the expansion of prehistoric settlement in the area.
Associative	
Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa	• The form of scooped settlements in later prehistory almost certainly reflects social and cultural influences: they are the product of a discrete time period, suggesting they are not the result of purely practical considerations.
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	This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to the understanding of Iron-Age domestic settlement. This settlement retains good field characteristics, with several features visible as earthworks, and the interior appears little disturbed. Domestic remains and artefacts from such settlements have the potential to tell us about wider society at this time, how people lived, where they came from and who they had contacts with. Archaeological deposits may also provide information about the nature of the contemporary environment and its use by prehistoric farmers. Spatial analysis of this and other sites in the region can inform our understanding of patterns of landholding and the expansion of settlement. The loss of this site would affect our ability to appreciate and understand the prehistoric landscape and its inhabitants within the Tweed Valley.
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]	

References

Historic Environment Scotland http://www.canmore.org.uk reference number CANMORE ID 53121 (accessed on 16/11/2009).