

Case information

Case ID	300009996
File Reference	AMH/674/2/1
Name of Site	Ward Law, fort and Roman camp

Local Authority	Dumfries and Galloway
National Grid Reference	NY 02457 66692
Designation No. (if any)	SM 674
Case Type	Amendment

Received/Start Date	24/08/2010
Decision Date	16/03/2016

1. Decision

The monument was first scheduled in 1961 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 **Ward Law, fort and Roman camp**.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The Roman camp was first scheduled in January 1961, together with a prehistoric enclosure located some 430m to the southwest. The camp was flagged up as a candidate for scheduling amendment in 2010 as part of the Large Roman Monuments project. At the same time, consideration was given to extending the scheduled area to include the adjacent hillfort on Ward Law, which is physically connected to the camp by a Roman ditch system, indicating that the fort may still have been in use or was re-used in the Roman period. For this reason, it was decided to schedule the Roman camp and the hillfort together, and to schedule the prehistoric enclosure to the SW separately (see case no 300009475).

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals affecting this monument.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The site was considered for amendment as part of the Large Roman Monuments project in 2010. It was visited on 01/09/2010 and discussed with the owners / occupiers at that time.

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 was found to continue 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.

Assessment suggests the Roman camp is a good representation of this monument type and continues to meet the criteria for scheduling as a monument of national importance. The hillfort also meets the scheduling criteria in its own right as an upstanding hillfort in Dumfries and Galloway. It is being scheduled with the camp as the two sites lie in very close proximity and there may well be a temporal and functional association between them.

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

A letter will need to be sent to the owners / occupiers explaining and apologising for the length of time this proposal has taken to complete.

Elizabeth McCrone

Head of Designations
Heritage Management
Historic Environment Scotland

Contact	Andrew Fulton. Senior Designations Officer. Tel.: 0131 668 8600 andrew.fulton@hes.scot
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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*

Ward Law, fort and Roman camp

1. Description

The monument comprises a hillfort probably dating to the Iron Age (between 800 BC and AD 500) and an adjacent Roman temporary camp sited some 50m to its north. The hillfort is visible as two or more defensive circuits of banks and ditches enclosing the hill summit. The camp is visible as cropmarks recorded on aerial photographs and survives as buried deposits and features. The fort and camp are physically connected by a ditch system. Both the fort and the camp are located on Ward Law at about 96m above sea level, with commanding views in all directions, especially over the narrowing Solway Firth.

The hillfort is enclosed by at least two circuits of parallel banks and ditches, which enclose the hill summit. The camp was recorded as an earthwork in 1772, but is now only visible as a cropmark. The camp is rectangular in form and originally measured 225m from west southwest to east northeast by 170m transversely. There are several entrances to the camp, with that on the north northwest side protected by an unusual arrangement of four external banks and accompanying ditches (known as tituli). Excavations in 1939 and 1949-50 revealed that the camp is bounded by a rock-cut ditch up to 4.5m wide and 2.4m deep. A cobbled road and causeway led through a gate in the centre of the east side and across the ditch. Aerial observation in 1976 revealed that the Roman camp is physically linked to the fort by a ditch system running from close to its south southeast corner to join the northwest circuit of the hillfort defences. This ditch system is pierced by a Roman-type entrance, suggesting that it is a Roman work.

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 scheduled area specifically excludes the above-ground elements of all post-and-wire fences, drystone walls and public benches. The monument was first scheduled in 1961, but the scheduling did not include all of the archaeological remains: 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The monument comprises two main features: a

monument survives	<p>reasonably well-preserved hillfort with multiple banks and ditches visible on the summit of Ward Law, though the defences are eroded and partly wooded; and a Roman camp immediately to the north which survives as buried remains below the plough soil and is visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roman camp and its entrance and ditch systems are evidenced by oblique aerial photographs.
Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial excavations in 1939 and in 1949-50 have demonstrated that the Roman camp offers good potential to support future archaeological research. There is high potential for buried evidence for Roman occupation and activities in the interior. Further study could clarify the date of construction and occupation of the camp, and to clarify which of the various Roman campaigns in Scotland the camp relates to. . • Excavations of similar sites elsewhere in Scotland strongly suggest that Roman camp interiors have good potential for the survival of remains relating to the organisation of the camp and the lives of the soldiers who occupied the site, including rubbish pits, bread ovens and latrine pits. • The ditches were discovered to be rock-cut in excavations in the mid-20th century. Further study of the ditches may inform our understanding of the resources required to construct the camp, its duration of use, and the high importance placed on site location in this process. • The hillfort also has high potential to preserve important evidence of its date of construction, and period of use and any re-use, as well as the nature of its defences and settlement, and the daily lives of its inhabitants. • There is also good potential for the site as a whole to enhance our understanding of the relationship between natives and incomers and/or of the re-use of an Iron Age fort by the Roman army.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there is the potential for a multi-phase use and re-use of the Roman camp (as was found by excavation at the Deers Den Roman Camp near Kintore), it is more likely that the Ward Law camp relates to a single Roman campaign. As such it has the potential to inform our understanding of a very specific chronological period and series of

	<p>historic events. Given the known presence of substantial rock-cut ditches and the uniform 'shape, which suggests that this site is more likely to be a Roman fort than a temporary camp, it is possible that this site was either occupied longer than most Roman temporary camps or was intended to be a more permanent work. As such, the camp at Ward Law could be an important site for furthering our understanding and classification of Roman camps and forts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hillfort is likely to be earlier in date than the Roman camp and could have been in use for an extended period in the Iron Age. It is not known whether it was still occupied by native inhabitants when the Romans arrived or whether it had been abandoned before the Roman invasion. If the former, this site is potentially very important for enhancing our understanding of the relationship between natives and incomers. If the latter, it has much to tell us about the nature of re-use of a significant Iron Age site by the incoming Roman army.
<p>Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The original function of the hillfort was as a defended settlement, forming part of a pastoral economy. Given the size of the fort, it may have housed several families or a small community and their livestock. • The Roman camp was used as temporary accommodation for troops on campaign, but there are indications (the scale of the rock-cut ditch, the presence of elaborate tituli on the NNW side, and of an unusual ditch system physically connecting the camp ditch to the hillfort defences) that it may have been in use, or was intended for use, for longer than most temporary camps. • It has been suggested that the summit of the hillfort was re-used during the Roman occupation of the camp to house a watchtower or signal station (Truckell 1950).
Contextual	
<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roman camps are relatively rare in the Roman Empire as a whole: the largest concentration of such camps is found in Scotland. • This camp has a unique set of entrance defences consisting of four external ditches (tituli) on its north northwest side. • The hillfort has high potential to enhance and broaden our understanding of the development of

	settlement and the nature of settlement patterns in the southwest of Scotland during the Iron Age.
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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are numerous earlier and broadly contemporary monuments in the landscape surrounding the camp and hillfort. Some 320m to the southwest is a rectilinear enclosure of Iron Age date (SM13335); 1.5km to the southwest is the Roman fortlet of Lantonside; and 1km to the south is the later medieval castle of Caerlaverock, which attests to the continued strategic importance of this area.
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This hillfort and Roman camp occupy the summit of Ward Law, a vantage point that would have given commanding views in all directions, including over the narrowing Solway Firth to the south.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The camp was first recorded as an upstanding earthwork in 1772 by Thomas Pennant during his Tour of Scotland (1776).

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 our knowledge and understanding of later prehistoric settlement in Scotland, specifically Iron Age and Roman defensive sites. In addition to the visible remains of the banks and ditches, the hillfort has high potential to preserve important buried deposits, features and structures relating to its construction and use, which could enhance our understanding of Iron Age settlement, society and
Its retention of the structural, decorative or field characteristics of its kind to a marked degree	

<p>Its contribution, or the contribution of its class, to today's landscape and/or the historic landscape</p>	<p>economy, as well as the relationship between natives and incomers. The monument is also of national importance because it has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the construction, use and internal layout of Roman temporary camps. There is good potential for the survival of buried features and deposits, both within the camp interior and in the fills of the ditch. Such deposits could include dateable organic remains and artefactual evidence relating to the occupation of the camp. Within the camp, there is high potential for the survival of occupation evidence, such as rubbish pits and bread ovens, which can help inform our understanding of the date of use of the camp, its layout and organisation, and the daily lives of Roman soldiers while in the field. Organic evidence from the fill of the ditches around the camp could also provide information about the local environment at the time of the camp's construction. Spatial analysis of camps and Roman roads can inform our understanding of Roman military strategy and offer insights into the effects of the Roman occupation on the contemporary Iron Age landscape and its inhabitants. The loss of the monument would diminish our understanding of the construction and use of temporary camps by the Roman army, our knowledge of Roman military structure, economy and social practice, and the relationship between Iron Age defended settlements and Roman military sites.</p>
<p>The quality and extent of any documentation or association that adds to the understanding of the monument or its context</p>	
<p>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</p>	
<p>Its place in the national consciousness [a factor that may be considered in support of other factors]</p>	

References

Historic Environment Scotland <http://www.canmore.org.uk> reference number CANMORE ID 66098 and 66099 (accessed on 07/03/2016).

The Dumfries and Galloway Council Historic Environment Record reference is MDG6530 (accessed on 07/03/2016).References

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St Joseph, J K 1952, 'Three Nithsdale sites', in Clarke, J (ed) *The Roman occupation of south-western Scotland*, Glasgow, 117-20.

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