

Case information

Case ID	300010001		
File Reference	AMH/671/2/1		
Name of Site	Raeburnfoot, Roman camp		
Local Authority	Dumfries & Galloway		
National Grid Reference	NY 25101 99080		
Designation No. (if any)	SM671		
Designation Type	Scheduled Monument.	Current Category of Listing	N/A
Case Type	Amendment		
Received/Start Date	16/11/2009		
Decision Date	10/03/2016		

1. Decision

The decision is to amend the entry in the Schedule as **Raeburnfoot, Roman fort 200m SW of.**

The existing 1961 legal documents are not adequate to support definition of the extent of the scheduled area or to capture the full potential of the monument. Some upstanding remains lie outside the current boundary of the designation.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument was first scheduled in 1924. The designation was last amended in 1961.

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 Large Roman Monuments project and visited on 02/09/2010.

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 against the scheduling criteria was carried out (see **Annex A**) and the monument was found to meet the criteria.

3.3 Other considerations

None.

Elizabeth McCrone

Head of Designations
Heritage Management
Historic Environment Scotland

Contact	James Bruhn, Senior Designations Officer, james.bruhn@hes.scot ; 0131 668 0316
----------------	---

ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*

Raeburnfoot, Roman fort 200m SW of

1. Description

The monument is the remains of a Roman fort and associated enclosure, dating probably to the late 1st -2nd century AD. The fort is visible as a partly upstanding sub-rectangular earthwork, lying entirely within a larger upstanding sub-rectangular enclosure. The monument is located on a valley floor at the confluence of two rivers, the White Esk and the Rae Burn, at around 190m OD, below Lamb Knowe which rises to the NNW. The monument was first scheduled in 1924, and rescheduled in 1961, but the documents did not meet current standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

The well-preserved outer enclosure measures approximately 165m N-S by 110m E-W internally. It comprises an upstanding clay-built rampart, approximately 5.5m wide, with a single outer ditch about 5.4m wide. The fort lies entirely within the enclosure and the two are similar in form and both aligned NNW-SSE. The fort measures approximately 73m N-S by 64m E-W internally, within a 6m-wide turf-built rampart and two outer ditches, each 3m wide. The N and S sides of the fort survive as upstanding features; elsewhere, evidence of the defences will survive as buried remains. The enclosure and the fort are both truncated on the W by erosion of the steep scarp above the River White Esk. The enclosure and fort each have two opposed entrances in their N and S sides, where a road runs through the site. Small-scale excavations took place in the late 19th century and in 1946 and 1959-60. The latter revealed that the fort contained the remains of a number of timber buildings and cobbled streets. The site is believed to date from the Antonine period of Roman campaigns in the S of Scotland. It lies adjacent to a major Roman road and immediately N of a ford across the White Esk.

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 are expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of all post-and-wire fences.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The monument survives in good condition, with substantial upstanding remains of the outer enclosure clearly visible, and part of the fort. • The fort has been reduced by ploughing since its discovery in 1810 (reported in the NSA 1845). • With the exception of the western side, which has suffered from erosion of the steep scarp by the River White Esk, the outer enclosure is almost complete. However, the ramparts of the inner fort have been damaged by agricultural activity and only the N and S sides are visible on the ground surface today.
Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale excavations have taken place here previously – before 1897 and in 1946 and 1959-60, but the site retains high potential for further archaeological research and investigation. • Initially it was thought there were two forts at Raeburnfoot, one inside the other, which may still be a possibility. However, when RCAHMS visited in 1980, the site was re-interpreted as a fort or fortlet within an enclosure or annex. Either way, this is a highly unusual arrangement. • The interest of the site is enhanced by its proximity to a recently identified Roman temporary camp (RCAHMS site no NY29NE 101), lying only some 175m to the N (at its nearest point) (Jones, R and McKeague, P 2009). This measures c 450m by 300m and is aligned differently to the fort: approximately NE-SW. Jones and McKeague (2007) postulate that it is Flavian in date, and, because of its 'Stracathro'-type entrances, potentially the work of a single legion in c AD 71-86. This raises a question about the date of the fort as it would be unusual for a fort and camp so close together to result from entirely different periods of campaigning. There is high potential to examine and ascertain the relationship between these two sites and others in the area, which could significantly expand our understanding of the Roman military campaigns. • The 1959-60 excavation demonstrated that the inner fort was occupied in the 2nd century AD (Antonine period), but this may not have been the earliest occupation (see above). It measures approximately 73m N-S by 64m E-W internally and was defended by a turf-built rampart approximately 6m wide and two ditches each less than 3m wide. The remains of timber buildings (interpreted as barracks) and cobbled streets were discovered in the interior. However, it is not known whether the monument represents a single-phase Roman fort with very unusual defences (the larger enclosure), or is the product of more than one phase of development – two superimposed forts, or a small fort with an annex. Establishing the development sequence, the reasons for such an unusual arrangement, the specific functions of the fort and enclosure, and their relationship to the camp to the N, would all be high priorities for future research. • In some cases elsewhere (for example, at Inveresk,

	<p>Cramond and Carryden), a small settlement (known as a <i>vicus</i>) developed around the fort. It is just conceivable that this occurred here within the larger enclosure. Such settlements have significant potential to enhance our knowledge of the nature of Roman interaction with the local population and the domestic roles of soldiers' families and camp followers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High potential exists for the survival of important evidence relating to Roman military expeditions in southern Scotland. This is likely to include archaeological features and deposits, including organic remains and artefacts, in the ditches and entrances. Occupational evidence is likely to survive in both the fort and enclosure, such as latrine/rubbish pits, bread ovens and other structures, including granaries and barracks, which would provide important evidence for the date and functions of the fort and enclosure, and elucidate their place in the Roman military system in Scotland.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCAHMS suggests there was a single occupation of the fort in the 2nd century AD. However, recent archaeological research suggests that the neighbouring temporary camp directly to the N dates to the late 1st century AD. It is possible that the fort and camp were built in different campaigning periods, but this would be very rare and they are much more likely to be associated, with the camp probably the immediate precursor of the fort. It may be that the small assemblage recovered in 1959 indicating 2nd-century occupation of the fort relates to later occupation rather than the foundation of the site – indicating that the site may be more long-lived than originally thought. • It is unknown if the fort developed as a double enclosed fort, or if it was originally a small fort with the later addition of an enclosure or annex; or if it was originally a larger fort (the enclosure) and subsequently reduced in size. Further archaeological investigation would be needed to ascertain the development sequence.
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fort at Raeburnfoot sits astride the strategically important Roman road that led NE from Dryfesdale. • RCAHMS (1997) suggests that its relative isolation from other forts may indicate that it was a base for out-posted detachments.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raeburnfoot is one of eight Roman forts recorded in SW Scotland. Despite the effects of agricultural activity on the upstanding earthworks, the survival of upstanding remains is rare in Roman camps and forts in Scotland, which adds to the importance of this site. • The overall plan of this site – an inner fort positioned entirely within a broadly contemporary outer enclosure or annex – is highly unusual and adds to the interest and importance of the site.
Relationship of the monument to other monuments of the same or related classes or period, or to features or monuments in the vicinity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roman road running through the monument may have connected it with the fort at Netherby, Cumbria. • The Roman temporary camp directly to the N most likely relates to this fort, although further archaeological investigation would be necessary to confirm this.

(Particularly important for monuments forming part of a widespread but varied class)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A rare Neolithic bank barrow (RCAHMS site no: NY29NE 75) lies immediately N of the fort, and in fact (very oddly) traverses the Roman temporary camp to the N of the fort. • Survey of the hills surrounding Raeburnfoot by RCAHMS located a number of fields bounded by turf-banks extending approximately 800m to the NE of the Roman fort. Many of these fields include ring enclosures.
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site occupies a strategic position at the confluence of the White Esk and the Rae Burn, immediately N of a ford over the White Esk, and adjacent to a major Roman road leading NE. • It lies on the valley floor at c 190m OD in the shadow of Lamb Knowe to the NE whose summit stands 272m high.
Associative	
Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This site will have played an important role in Roman military campaigns in southern Scotland. • The layout of the fort is highly unusual and differs significantly from standard Roman practice: we do not know why.
Aesthetic attributes of the monument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a rare survival of upstanding Roman remains, the site provides a powerful and tangible reminder of the Roman military presence in Scotland.
Significance in the national consciousness or to people who use or have used the monument, or descendants of such people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roman campaigns in Scotland still have a significant place in the national consciousness.
Associations the monument has with historical, traditional or artistic characters or events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fort has been known since 1810 and was reported in NSA 1845. Aerial photographic survey and limited excavations have taken place by prominent archaeologists of their generation: J Barbour in the late 19th century, and St Joseph and Robertson in 1950s/60s.

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 significant potential to contribute to our understanding of the dating, development, function and variations in form of Roman forts and related structures. The fort at Raeburnfoot is particularly important because it is unusually well-preserved, with almost the entire circuit of the outer enclosure visible as an upstanding earthwork. Previous archaeological work at this site and on a Roman camp immediately to the N indicates that the site may have a complex chronology: the site has high potential for further research which would enhance our understanding of the Roman army on campaign. Spatial analysis of Roman forts and camps, and the Roman roads that connected them, can inform our understanding of Roman military strategy and the effects of the Roman presence on local peoples and the Iron Age landscape of Scotland. If this monument was to be lost or damaged, our understanding of Roman forts and related structures and our knowledge of Roman military logistics would be significantly diminished.
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 67274 (accessed on 16/11/2009).

Barbour, J 1898, 'Excavations at Raeburnfoot, Eskdalemuir', *Trans Dumfriesshire Galloway Natur Hist Antiq Soc* 14, 17-27.

Jones, R H and McKeague, P 2009, 'A 'Stracathro'-gated temporary camp at Raeburnfoot, Dumfriesshire, Scotland', *Britannia* 40, 123-136.

RCAHMS 1997, *Eastern Dumfriesshire: An archaeological landscape*. The Stationery Office.

Robertson, A S 1962 'Excavations at Raeburnfoot, Eskdalemuir, 1959-60', *Trans Dumfriesshire Galloway Natur Hist Antiq Soc* 39, 24-49.
