Case information

Case ID	300009766
File Reference	AMH/716/2/1
Name of Site	Cochno, cup & ring marked stone, Auchnacraig

Local Authority	West Dunbartonshire		
National Grid Reference	NS 50447 73886		
Designation No. (if any)	SM716		
Designation Type	Scheduled Monument	**Current Category of Listing**	N/A
Case Type	Amendment		

Received/Start Date	15/05/2014
Decision Date	28/04/2016

1. Decision

The monument was first scheduled in 1937 but an inadequate area was included to protect all of the archaeological remains. 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 **Cochno, cup and ring marked stone 115m SW of Silver Firs.**

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument was first scheduled in 1937 but an inadequate area was protected. The present rescheduling rectifies this.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals affecting this monument.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

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The site was considered for amendment as part of the West 2014 project and it was visited on 15 May 2014.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

An assessment against the Scheduling criteria was carried out (see **Annex A**).

The monument was found to meet the criteria for scheduling.

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

NIL

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*
SM716 Cochno, cup and ring marked stone 115m SW of Silver Firs

1. Description

The monument is a rock outcrop containing carved pre-historic abstract motifs or rock art, likely to be up to 5000 years old. The monument is located on a gentle southern facing slope at about 135m above sea-level which overlooks the River Clyde to the south.

The outcrop measures 13m east-west by 8m transversely. Approximately 90 cup and ring marks have been recorded with individual examples measuring up to 90cm in diameter. Between one and seven rings surround individual cups. Approximately 110 cup motifs, up to 8cm deep, have also been recorded. Several of these motifs are laid out so as to form a group pattern. Further unusual carved marks are visible on the rock face and these include a pair of four-toed footprints and a ringed cross. The outcrop has been covered in the past with turf to assist its preservation.

The scheduled area is polygonal 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 runs up to, but excludes, the post-and-wire fence and the stone wall surrounding the monument 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 monument is a rock outcrop measuring 13m east-west by 8m transversely, ornamented with approximately 90 sets of cup-and-rings (up to 90cm in diameter). • This is a significant assemblage of large, individual and rare motifs visible on this outcrop including a pair of four-toed footprints and a ringed cross. • In the early 1950's the carvings were painted, photographed and then covered with soil. The turf has not been removed since and the carvings are likely to survive intact in this buried environment.
Archaeological, scientific,	• Excavations at similar rock art sites such as

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technological or other interest or research potential of the monument	Torbhlaren in Argyll have uncovered structural remains and artefactual evidence in the surrounding area. Such evidence helps us understand the function and cultural significance of such sites. • This panel can enhance our understanding of the carving process and techniques, the relationship between individual motifs and the overall designs, and the meaning and symbolism of the various motifs and designs.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	• This group of carvings is likely to originate in the early prehistoric period, between about 3500 BC and 1800 BC. • The panel has an unusually large assemblage of carvings suggesting a greater concentration of activity, perhaps taking place over a significant time frame.
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	
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	• The panel is unusually in the number of carvings it exhibits and the dense concentration of individual motifs. • There is a significant variation present in the form of cup and ring carvings. • There are several unusual and possibly unique carvings represented in the outcrop.
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 example comes from a class of monument which is limited in its distribution in Scotland. • There is a local cluster of more than 15 carved panels to the North of Faifley (CANMORE Refs 44517, 23, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 44, 46, 49, 69, 116634, 116635, 11637, 116638).
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	• The landscape position of these monuments adds to their cultural significance. Researchers have suggested that territorial marking, waymarking and a rudimentary form of mapping may have influenced the position and character of these carvings, relative to the wider landscape. In this case the boulder occupies a commanding position overlooking the River Clyde 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	• The monument has high aesthetic value as a

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monument	decorated rock panel.
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 our understanding of the past, in particular, prehistoric rock art studies in Scotland. The monument contains one of the largest and most diverse concentrations of commonly known and unusual carved motifs in Scotland. The monument has the potential to enhance our understanding of the placing, meaning and function of such decorated panels. Due to the diverse concentration of carvings and the unusual nature of some of the motifs, the loss of the monument would significantly affect our understanding of prehistoric rock art within Scotland, and the potential for future study and interpretation.
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 44535 (accessed on 27/04/2016).

Local Authority HER Reference is WOSAS PIN 9022.

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Harvey, J 1889 'Notes on some undescribed cup-marked rocks at Duntocher, Dumbartonshire', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot, 23*, 130-5

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Morris, R W B 1981 The Prehistoric Rock Art of Southern Scotland BAR 86, 124

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