



## Case information

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<b>Case ID</b>	300010007
<b>File Reference</b>	AMH/3612/2/1
<b>Name of Site</b>	Lewisvale Public Park, Roman works & field system S of

<b>Local Authority</b>	East Lothian		
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NT 3482 7212		
<b>Designation No. (if any)</b>	SM3612		
<b>Designation Type</b>	Scheduled Monument	<b>Current Category of Listing</b>	N/A
<b>Case Type</b>	Amendment		

<b>Received/Start Date</b>	24/04/2008
<b>Decision Date</b>	15/06/2016

## 1. Decision

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The monument was first scheduled in 1975 and the documentation does not conform to current standards and recent research has increased our understanding of the extent of the site. The assessment against criteria demonstrates that the monument continues to be of national importance. The decision is to amend the entry in the Schedule, to exclude the modern houses and include a larger area to cover the full extent of the site, as **Catherine Lodge, Roman settlement & field system 205m NNW to 585m SE of**.

## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

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### 2.1 Designation Background

Monument first scheduled in 1975; no subsequent amendment.

### 2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known current planning applications in the area.

## 3. Assessment

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### 3.1 Assessment information

The site was visited on 28/05/2014.

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### 3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

An assessment against the Scheduling criteria has been carried out (see Annex A). The monument was found to meet the criteria for scheduling.

The designation criteria are published in the Historic Environment Scotland policy statement June 2016, Annex 1, pp. 48-50.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/historic-environment-scotland-policy-statement/>

### 3.3 Other considerations

N/A

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# **ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria\***

## **Catherine Lodge, Roman settlement & field system 205m NNW & 585m SW of**

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### **1. Description**

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The monument comprises the buried remains, identified through aerial photography and excavation, of a Roman settlement including the remains of a possible Mithraeum, a temple dedicated to the Roman god Mithras, together with associated field systems. It forms an element of a much larger complex of remains focused around the mid-2nd century AD Roman fort and associated civilian settlement.

The monument comprises the buried remains of a Roman settlement, including a possible Mithraeum, and associated field systems, numerous pits and what may be part of a Roman aqueduct connected to the bath-house at Inveresk fort. None of these features has any surviving surface traces but instead they survive as buried remains visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. These photographs reveal a series of interconnected square and rectangular fields curving around the crest of a slope. The layout of the fields closely resembles other known Roman settlements and field systems and they relate to the civil settlement attached to the Roman fort at Inveresk. Trial excavations in the 1960s and 1990s located traces of ditches and banks and confirmed the Roman period date. The survival of these remains after intensive cultivation is particularly remarkable and indicates high archaeological potential for the rest of the field system.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan, to include the remains described and an area around them within which related material may be expected to be found, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of the cricket pavilion, all fences, stone and brick walls and domestic gas tanks to allow for their maintenance. The upper 300mm of all paths, tennis courts, paved areas and driveways are similarly excluded to allow for maintenance. The site was first scheduled in 1975, but an inadequate area was included to protect all of the archaeological remains: the present rescheduling rectifies this.

### **2. Assessment against the Scheduling Criteria** (Historic Environment Scotland policy statement June 2016, Annex 1, pp. 48-50.)

\* 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**

**The monument's cultural significance can be expressed as follows:**

#### **Intrinsic characteristics**

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The monument is part of an extensive and particularly well-preserved Roman settlement and field system that dates to the late Iron Age, most likely to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. The monument also includes what is thought to be part of an aqueduct supplying the Roman fort's bathhouse and the likely remains of a Mithraeum, as evidenced from the discovery of the two altars dedicated to the god Mithras found in 2010.

The aerial photographs indicate an extensive area around the Roman fort which is defined by small rectilinear enclosed fields aligned along the Roman road network around the fort. The plots are likely to contain archaeological evidence of Roman timber strip buildings which would have formed a 'ladder' or roadside settlement. Similar settlement patterns around Roman forts have been noted in the northeast of England, such as the Roman settlements at Tofts Field Piercebridge, East Park Sedgefield and Greta Bridge in county Durham. Tofts Field (Historic England List entry Number: 1002365) and Greta Bridge (Historic England List entry Number: 1019074) are both scheduled monuments. While the extent of these features is defined by the aerial photographs, their survival has been verified by partial excavation which has occurred on three separate occasions. In 1963, J K St Joseph conducted a trial excavation to identify a triple-ditched cropmark that had been located through aerial survey of the Inveresk area. In 1989, further work re-examined this feature by excavation and geophysical survey. Although only a limited area was examined, the feature was identified as part of a Roman system of boundaries enclosing or controlling the landscape around the fort. The middle and western ditches were of a typically Roman form, with V-shaped profiles and the rectangular slot at the base that is often referred to as an 'ankle breaker'. Pottery from the fills of these ditches, approximately 2m wide and 1m deep, indicated a Roman date. In 1991, part of the scheduled area was developed for two houses and associated outbuildings. Excavation of the footprints of these houses revealed further evidence of Iron Age or Roman-period enclosures and 15 pits of varying sizes.

The monument possesses excellent potential to provide substantial archaeological evidence relating to the date and use of the settlement and landscape around Inveresk fort, demonstrating the impact of the Roman military garrison and its relationship with the native inhabitants. There is good potential for the recovery of environmental samples from the fills of ditched enclosures and from pits. Such material has the potential to improve our knowledge of the local landscape and the extent of agriculture in the Roman economy during the second century AD.

### **Contextual characteristics**

The Roman occupation of Inveresk dates to the mid-2nd century AD when the Roman army reoccupied southern and central Scotland. The fort (Scheduled Monument reference number: SM 3285) lay within what is now the graveyard of St Michael's Church while a civilian settlement (Scheduled Monument reference numbers: SM 1182, SM 3293, SM 3267) to its east lay in an area now partly overlain by houses of Inveresk village. An extensive settlement and field system extended to the east and south of the fort, while a structure identified as part of a possible timber-built amphitheatre was discovered in 1995 at a site on the northern edge of Lewisvale Park (Neighbour 2002, Canmore ID: 115377). Such settlements, while

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more common in the northeast of England, where they are often associated with Roman forts (Sommer 2006), seem to be a rare occurrence in Scotland. The lack of evidence for such settlements in Scotland might be caused by a bias in their survival or discovery but probably has more to do with the nature and/or duration of the Roman occupation in Scotland. The only two other forts in Scotland with similar extensive field systems or small enclosed plots, rather than larger fort annexes, are the Roman fort of Carriden (Scheduled Monument reference number: SM 12653) near the eastern terminus of the Antonine Wall and the fort at Castledykes (Scheduled Monument reference number: SM 1139). The size and complexity of the civil settlement and field systems at Inveresk indicate that the site was an important economic focal point for Roman Scotland during the second century AD.

From around AD 140 to around 160 Inveresk was part of the hinterland of the Antonine Wall and the fort is interpreted as a supply and transport hub. Several major Roman roads converge nearby. A pair of sizeable temporary camps lie to the south of Inveresk, underlining the fort's role as a transport hub. It is likely that a road ran from Inveresk to Cramond, which was a major Roman supply depot in the late second early third century associated with the campaigns of Septimius Severus, and on to Carriden, the fort at the eastern end of the Antonine Wall.

In 2010, during refurbishment of the cricket pavilion, two altars dedicated to the god Mithras and Sol Invictus (Unconquered Sun) were discovered. They represent the furthest northern dedications to the god in the Roman Empire and one of the earliest dedications so far found in Britain. Such altars are likely to have been associated with a Mithraeum, a temple to Mithras, the remains of which is likely to survive within the vicinity of where the altars were discovered. While Mithraea are found in England, Wales and throughout the rest of the Roman Empire, the altars found at Inveresk are the only substantial evidence for a Mithraeum so far found in Scotland.

Earlier inscriptions found in the area around Inveresk demonstrate that the fort held a special significance to the Roman military and to the civil administration. One inscription records the presence of an imperial procurator at Inveresk. The procurator was the chief financial officer of a Roman province and a high-ranking official in the imperial service. A fragmentary graveslab found in 2008 commemorating a cavalry trooper from the Governor's bodyguard further indicates the presence of high-ranking officials at Inveresk.

### **Associative characteristics**

The Roman remains at Inveresk have played a significant role in the antiquarian interest of Roman Scotland. In 1565 a Roman altar to Apollo Grannus was found in the grounds of Eskgrove. Mary Queen of Scots wrote to the magistrates of Musselburgh that the stone should not be broken down. This early recording of the altar at Inveresk is the first recorded archaeological discovery in Scotland. Given its importance, the inscription recorded on the altar featured in the works of early antiquarians such as Robert Sibbald, William Camden, Janus Gruter, Alexander Gordon and John Horsley, though the altar itself was destroyed as it was seen as an idolatrous relic. This early interest in Inveresk focused almost exclusively on the inscription and, while it was noted that there was most likely a fort under the church,

the evidence was not collated until the mid-19th century. It was the physician, poet and author, David Macbeth Moir, in his 'The Roman Antiquities of Inveresk', that highlighted the importance of the site. The exact location of the fort was not verified until the 20th century, being one of the first discoveries of J K St Joseph when he began working with O S Crawford in the early days of the use of aerial photography in archaeology. Inveresk, and specifically Inveresk House (Listed Building reference number LB10881), is of historical note as it was also the residence of Oliver Cromwell during his Scottish campaign. A mound in the corner of the fort is named after him and is believed locally to have been a cannon emplacement.

### **Purpose and implications of scheduling**

The extent of the aerial photographic evidence combined with the evidence gained from limited excavation, indicate that the scheduled area contains significant and nationally important remains. Their importance is heightened by the discovery of the altars in 2010 which indicate the presence of a Roman temple. Therefore designation as a scheduled monument remains the most appropriate mechanism to secure the preservation of the monument, and ensure the recognition of its national importance.

### **National importance**

The monument is nationally important because it has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the past, in particular the extent of civil settlements attached to Roman forts and Roman cultivation techniques. The monument can add to our understanding of the relationship of the field system with the settlement and the impact of the Roman occupation on the agricultural landscape and native Iron-Age communities. There is potential for the recovery of dateable remains and environmental samples from the fills of field boundary ditches and any surviving settlement. Material of this type can enhance our understanding of the character of the local landscape, providing information about the impact of the Roman occupation on the local economy. The remains of field system represents an important survival in an area that has been regularly cultivated for centuries. The possibility of a surviving Mithraeum, presents a unique opportunity to study the spread of cult religious practice in the Empire, on Roman frontiers and specifically Scotland. The loss of the monument would impede our ability to understand the significance of Roman Inveresk and the Roman occupation of Scotland in the second century AD.

### **References**

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