Case information

Case ID	300009770
File Reference	AMH/1734/2/1
Name of Site	Meikle Reive, fort

Local Authority	East Dunbartonshire		
National Grid Reference	NS 6392 7893		
Designation No. (if any)	SM1734		
Designation Type	Scheduled Monument	**Current Category of Listing**	N/A
Case Type	Amendment		

Received/Start Date	14/05/2014
Decision Date	19/09/2016

1. Decision

The monument was first scheduled in 1959 and the documentation does not conform to current standards. The assessment against criteria demonstrates that the monument continues to be of national importance. The decision is to update the entry in the Schedule as **Meikle Reive, fort**.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument was first scheduled in 1959. There has been no subsequent amendment to the entry in the Schedule.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals affecting this assessment.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The site was assessed as part of the S15 West scheduling project and visited on 14/05/2014.

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*
Meikle Reive, fort

1. Description

The monument is the remains of a hillfort dating to the Iron Age (between about 800 BC and 500 AD). It is visible as a roughly oval enclosure defined by a turf-covered stone rampart. To the north there are a series of ramparts and ditches protecting the approach to the fort. The monument is situated on a knoll on the south face of the Campsie Fells at about 220m above sea level and has extensive views along the Kelvin Valley.

The enclosure measures approximately 47m east-west by 45m transversely within a turf-covered stone rampart pierced by entrances on the east and west sides. No internal features are visible. To the east of the east entrance is a slight depression that may have been a well associated with the fort. A neck of land which forms a natural approach to the fort from north is protected by a series of ramparts and ditches standing up to 3-4m in height. A modern cairn stands on the northeast arc of the enclosing rampart.

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 first scheduled in 1959, but the documentation does not meet current standards: the present amendment 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

Characteristic	Assessment
Intrinsic	
Condition in which monument survives	• The fort is in good condition with well-defined and substantial ramparts and ditches surviving to a height of 3-4m, as well as enclosing walls and entrances. There is some bracken growth and small-scale excavations were carried out by Fairhurst (1956). • The enclosing wall recorded by Fairhurst (1956) as measuring about 3.6m in thickness has since spread and appears slightly wider.
Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest	• There is high potential for the survival of structures and well-preserved archaeological remains that can enhance our understanding of the date, construction, function and

or research potential of the monument	development of the site, as evidenced by Fairhurst's excavations in the 1950s. • Investigation of the site could also provide insights into the daily domestic life of the inhabitants and their society, economy and trading contacts.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	• The monument probably dates to the Iron Age (between about 800 BC and 500 AD), though sites such as this may have been established as early as the late Bronze Age and some remained in use into the early medieval period. • Modern scientific excavation would allow us to develop a better understanding of the chronology of the site, including dates of construction and abandonment, and the sequence of its development. Scientific excavation would help to enhance our knowledge about the character of occupation at the site and the relationship between the ramparts and later internal structures.
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	• The monument was primarily a defended settlement site. A range of domestic settlement activities will be represented here.
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	• Forts are fairly well represented within central Scotland with the majority situated within the valleys of the Kelvin and Carron. This is a well-preserved example of this monument type and one of the few in this area situated on the fringes of the Campsie Fells. • This example's use of natural topography is of particular interest. The steep sides of the knoll have been used to provide defence and a neck of land which forms a natural approach to the fort is defended by a series of well-preserved ramparts and ditches. • This monument has the potential to broaden our understanding of defensive settlement in Scotland.
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 monument is one of a number of defensive sites situated along the strategically important River Kelvin, which date from the Iron Age and into the medieval period.
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	• The monument is situated on a knoll on the south face of the Campsie Fells at about 220m above sea level and has a wide prospect along the Kelvin Valley.
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	• 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	The monument is of national importance because of its potential to make a significant addition to our knowledge and understanding of Iron Age settlement, society, economy and domestic life. The monument preserves key structural features of a hillfort to a significant degree in the form of substantial and well-defined ramparts and ditches. Excavations have confirmed that the site has good potential for preservation of important buried deposits, features and structures relating to its construction and use. The monument can therefore expand our understanding of later prehistoric settlement, particularly the design and development of defensive settlement across the central belt of Scotland. The site is significant for its demonstration of the effective exploitation and enhancement of natural topography for defence. Our understanding of the date, distribution and character of later prehistoric settlements in central Scotland would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.
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 45194 (accessed on 25/05/2016)

Fairhurst, H 1955 'Meikle Reive hill fort', Discovery Excav Scot, 31-32

RCAHMS 1963 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Stirlingshire: an inventory of the ancient monuments, 2v Edinburgh, 78-9, No. 78

RCAHMS 1982 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The archaeological sites and monuments of Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District and Strathkelvin District, Strathclyde Region, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 2. Revision Edinburgh, 16, No. 26