Case information

Case ID	300017529
File Reference	AMH/4977/2/1
Name of Site	Rough Hill, motte.

Local Authority	South Lanarkshire
National Grid Reference	NS 6078 5536
Designation No. (if any)	SM4977
Case Type	Amendment

Received/Start Date	22/10/2015
Decision Date	07/10/2016

1. Decision

The monument was first scheduled in 1975 and subsequently scheduled monument consent was granted for redevelopment of part of the site. This amendment updates the legal documentation according to current standards removing those areas that have been developed from the scheduled area. The assessment against the criteria demonstrates that the monument continues to be of national importance. The decision is to update the entry in the Schedule as **Rough Hill, Motte**.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument was first scheduled in 1975.

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 West 2014 project. The site was not visited as it was deemed possible to carry out the amendment using maps and photographs.

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
Rough Hill, motte.

1 Description

The monument is a motte, the earthwork mound of a castle likely to date from the 12th or 13th centuries AD. It is visible as a substantial flat topped sub-oval mound and curving section of ditch. The traces of the ditch survive around the base of the mound to the south and west, while the remains of a rectangular building are visible on the summit of the mound. The monument is located in mature woodland at the west side of East Kilbride at about 130m above sea level.

The motte is situated at the confluence of the Kittoch Water and a tributary stream and takes advantage of steep natural ground on its north and east sides. The mound is mostly artificial and stands to around three metres in height and measures about 50m east-west by 35m transversely at the base, decreasing to around 40m by 22m at the summit. The remains of a structure, surviving as a building platform, robber-trenches and a number of undressed stones, is visible on the summit. Traces of a low ditch survive around the south and west sides where the ground is flatter requiring additional defences.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan and includes 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 scheduling specifically excludes the above-ground elements of all modern boundary features.

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

2.1 Intrinsic Characteristics.

The monument is a motte, a substantial earthwork mound likely to contain the archaeological remains of a timber or possibly stone castle. It is visible as a substantial artificial mound and section of ditch. The earthwork appears to survive close to its original profile and extent. The remains of a structure on the summit of the mound may represent the remains of a later tower which references suggests may have been vaulted. The mound and ditch of the motte are in a stable condition and there is good potential for the survival of archaeological deposits, artefacts and ecofacts within, beneath and around the motte, and in the base of the ditch. The buried archaeological deposits have the potential to provide information about the date and character of the site, while any artefacts and ecofacts would enhance understanding of the economy, diet and social status of the occupants, as well as

provide information about contemporary landuse and environment. Scientific study of the form and construction of the monument and the remains of any structures would enhance our understanding of the character, structure and development sequence of this site and add to our knowledge of early castle architecture.

Timber castles were built in Scotland in the 12th and 13th centuries and some continued in use into the 14th and 15th centuries. The evidence of a vaulted tower on the summit of Rough Hill indicates that the site had an extended development sequence, potentially with a period on abandonment and then reuse. Scientific study of the monument would allow us to develop a better understanding of the chronology of the site, including its date of origin, the nature of any structures and later re-use. The summit of the site has the potential to contain traces of other features related to the occupation of the site and these too have the potential to inform our knowledge of the daily lives of the occupants of this site.

2.2 Contextual Characteristics

There are around 300 fortified earthworks in Scotland dating from the 12th and 13th centuries. Many timber castles were associated with the establishment of Anglo-Norman lordships during and after the reign of King David I. They played a role in the consolidation of royal power and the development of centralised authority. This example is of particular significance, not only because of its diagnostic form and good preservation, but because it is located close to similar sites. Only 150m to its north, on the opposite bank of the Kittock Water, is Castle Hill, motte (scheduled monument reference SM5263; Canmore ID 44901) and around 2.2km kilometres east-northeast is Laigh Mains (scheduled monument reference SM2994; Canmore ID 44915). The proximity of these monuments can give important insights into the distribution and chronology of medieval fortified earthworks in the region and add to our understanding of social organisation, patterns of land tenure and land-use. More widely, Rough Hill is part of a larger regional group of mottes and medieval fortified earthworks around the Clyde Valley. The monument, therefore, has the potential to broaden our understanding of the nature of medieval lordship and crown control, landownership and the organisation of territories in this area. It has the potential to broaden our understanding of the nature and chronology of medieval fortified earthworks and their place within the landscape of the west of Scotland.

Mottes are typically sited in defensible locations, close to water courses. Rough Hill is located on a low promontory between the Kittoch Water to the north and a tributary stream on the east, with a curving ditch protecting the south and west. The position of the monument in the landscape can enhance our understanding of the status of the site, communications and relationships with other territories, and the nature of land ownership and control during the medieval period.

2.3 Associative Characteristics

3 Purpose and implications of scheduling

The site is in a stable condition and well preserved. It has few management issues apart from some vegetation growth. Designation as a scheduled monument is therefore the most appropriate mechanism to secure the preservation of the monument, and ensure the recognition of its national importance.

4 Assessment of national importance

The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular the date, construction and function of medieval castles. The monument retains its field characteristics and is a well-preserved example of its class, with little sign of disturbance. The slight remains on the summit of the mound appear to be those of a tower, indicating that this castle site had a complex development sequence. The monument's significance is enhanced by its close proximity to similar, contemporary sites, in particular to another early castle site on Castle Hill, only 150m to the north. Together these sites can enhance our knowledge of the distribution and chronology of medieval fortified earthworks in the region. The loss or damage of the monument would diminish our ability to appreciate and understand the character and development of medieval castles, settlement and land tenure in medieval Scotland.

5 References

Historic Environment Scotland http://www.canmore.org.uk reference number CANMORE ID 44902 (accessed on 16/06/2016).

The West of Scotland Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record reference is 9254 (accessed on 16/06/2016).

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Ure, D. (1793) The history of Rutherglen and East Kilbride. Glasgow.