



Case information

Case ID	300018095
File Reference	AMH/4921/16
Name of Site	Mavisbank, (New Saughton Hall), house, doocot policies & earthwork

Local Authority	Midlothian		
National Grid Reference	NT 288 649		
Designation No. (if any)	SM4921		
Designation Type	Scheduled Monument	Current Category of Listing	N/A
Case Type	Removal		

Received/Start Date	29/06/2016
Decision Date	10/10/2016

1. Decision

Remove: Remove monument from the schedule as the site is more appropriately designated as an A-listed building and as an Inventory Garden & Designed Landscape.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

Mavisbank, (New Saughton Hall), house, doocot, policies & earthwork is scheduled monument SM4921. The current entry in the Schedule is dated 9 January 1991.

Mavisbank House, (formerly New Saughtonhall), including service wing, terraces, retaining walls, and steps is also a category A listed building (LB7404) and was listed on 22/01/1971. It is in Lasswade Parish.

Mavisbank House, Doocot is also a category A listed building (LB7386) and was listed on 14/09/1979. It is in Lasswade Parish.

Mavisbank is also an Inventory Garden & Designed Landscape (GDL00275) and was designated on 1 July 1987 and amended on 1 July 2012.

2.2 Development Proposals

Not checked as part of this project.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The monument was proposed for review on 29 June 2016 and was considered in the context of Historic Environment Scotland's dual designation project. The dual designation project is a nationwide project to review structures which are both listed as buildings of special architectural or historic interest and scheduled as monuments of national importance. Where appropriate the 'dual designation' of structures is being removed and they are being listed or scheduled depending on their individual circumstances. Removing dual designations will help to provide clarity for the future management of sites.

The monument consists of the house (which since 1973 has been roofless and fire damaged) and policies of Mavisbank. The house was built between 1724 and 1739 for Sir John Clerk, with the design by William Adam. Clerk conceived the house as the focus of a designed landscape which included a ferme ornee with a pate d'oie or 'goosefoot' of allees and vistas, a wilderness, a canal, a 'Roman Station' and walled gardens with gazebo. Later modifications included the creation of a landscape park with parkland, specimen trees and informal lochan. The 'Roman Station' is a large circular earthwork which appears to have been a pre-existing archaeological feature, perhaps the remains of a prehistoric fort or the motte of medieval timber castle. Clerk, a keen antiquarian, records that he made a deliberate decision to site Mavisbank House here 'for the sake of the round hill above it', believing it to be a 'Roman Station', thus fulfilling his vision to bring the Roman villa ideal to the lowlands of Scotland.

As an 18th century house and designed landscape, the site is more appropriately managed as an A-listed building and an Inventory Garden & Designed Landscape rather than as a scheduled monument. These designations will continue to recognise the national importance of the different aspects of the site but within an appropriate regulatory framework. This approach is consistent with the designation of other roofless 18th and 19th century country houses such as old Penicuik House (LB14634) and Largo House (LB8966) and recognises that the re-use for such buildings may be an option conserve their significance, although this will not always be possible.

It is recognised that the landscape has a strong archaeological component particularly in relation to the 'Roman Station', the earthwork to the south west of the house, the existence of which was central to the layout of the house and its policies. This was an existing archaeological feature before Clerk developed the house and its grounds, but it appears to have been significantly altered as part of the creation of the landscape. As a consequence its outstanding significance is as part of Clerk's landscape concept, rather than as a possible fort or motte and therefore its

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importance is appropriately recognised through its inclusion in the Inventory of gardens and designed landscapes. Should further information about the importance of the earthwork come to light in the future we can reassess its designation, if necessary.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

An assessment against the Scheduling criteria was not carried out as the importance of the structure will continue to be recognised through its designation as a listed building and a Garden and Designed Landscape.

The designation criteria are published in the Historic Environment Scotland policy statement June 2016, Annex 1 (Scheduling), pp. 48-50, Annex 2 (Listing), pp. 51-53, Annex 5 (Gardens & Designed Landscapes), pp. 58-60

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

3.3 Other considerations

As part of the Dual Designation project, we have reviewed the structures at this site and concluded that listing is the most appropriate mechanism to recognise the interest of this structure as a building of national importance.

Elizabeth McCrone

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