Case information

Case ID	300009771
File Reference	AMH/1749/2/1
Name of Site	Craigmaddie Castle

Local Authority	East Dunbartonshire
National Grid Reference	NS 57512 76583
Designation No. (if any)	SM1749 and LB5727 (Dual Designation)
Case Type	Amendment

Received/Start Date	12/05/2014
Decision Date	28/10/2016

1. Decision

The monument was first scheduled in 1960 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 **Craigmaddie House, fort and castle 140m E of**.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument was first scheduled in 1960. There has been no previous amendment to the entry.

Craigmaddie Castle is also a listed building (listed building ref LB 5727).

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals affecting this monument.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The site was visited on 12/05/2014.

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

Craigmaddie Castle is also a listed building. As part of a complex archaeological site, the castle is more appropriately scheduled than listed, and therefore the castle is to be removed from the list. Craigmaddie Castle's importance will continue to be recognised through its continued designation as a scheduled monument.

Elizabeth McCrone
Head of Designations
Heritage Management
Historic Environment Scotland

Contact	Kyle Armstrong, Designations Officer Kyle.armstrong@hes.scot Tel: 0131 668 8740.

ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria
Craigmaddie House, fort and castle 140m E of.

1 Description

The monument is the remains of Craigmaddie Castle, a 15th century tower house located within the ramparts of a fort, which is probably of Iron Age date. The monument is situated on a ridge of high ground at about 150m above sea level.

The tower is constructed of coursed rubble. It is rectangular on plan measuring 8.6m northwest-southeast by 7.5m transversely and surviving to first floor height. It is located within a D-shaped enclosure measuring internally 41m east-west by 33m transversely. The enclosure is defined by two turf covered ramparts apart from the southwest arc which is protected by a steep rocky slope.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan to include the remains described above and an area around in which evidence for 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 post-and-wire fences and top 300mm of all modern paths and steps to allow for maintenance. The monument was last scheduled in 1960 but the documentation does not meet current standards; the present scheduling rectifies this.

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 the remains of a small, late medieval tower house sited within a series of earth and stone ramparts probably date to the Iron Age. Although tower house only survives to first floor height, what remains is in reasonable condition. The best preserved sections include the northwest gable which stands to a height 3m; the southeast gable which stands a little higher and which retains an internal recess; and the northeast corner which at first floor level preserves the lower treads of a newel stair. Each floor would have contained a single chamber, with the first floor accessed by a timber forestair. The basement survives to full height and is barrel vaulted with a small internally splayed window-slit in each end wall.

In constructing the fort, the natural topography of the site was carefully exploited; the steep rocky slopes to the south and southwest meant that ramparts were only required around the north, east and west quadrants where the approach to the higher ground on which the fort is located is more gentle. The ramparts are well-preserved although a later track bisects the outer rampart in the northeast quadrant

and then occupies the ground between the ramparts. There is no sign of previous excavations. There is therefore high potential for the survival of archaeological evidence such as the remains of internal structures or occupation debris, artefacts and palaeoenvironmental evidence within the ditch of surrounding ramparts. Such information that can enhance our understanding of the date, construction, function and development of the site and could provide insights into the daily domestic life of the inhabitants and their society and economy.

The form of the ramparts suggest that they date to the Iron Age. However, the siting of the late medieval tower house within prehistoric defences is unusual. The Statistical Account of 1795 attributes the 'old ruinous tower' to Galbraiths of Baldernock who received grants of land from the Earls of Lennox in the 13th century. While the tower is too late to be attributed to the Galbraiths, it is possible that the earlier Iron Age defences were reused in the 13th century as the site of a timber castle. The site therefore has a potentially complex development sequence which would help us understand the development of castles in Scotland, particularly where pre-historic defences have influenced the siting of later castles.

2.2 Contextual Characteristics

Found across Scotland, tower houses appear in a variety of forms during the later medieval period. Craigmaddie Castle is an example of a small 15th century fortified dwelling which although only standing to first floor is without major alteration and restorations. The barrel vaulted basement is well preserved and the monument retains some architectural features such as the stair rising from the first floor, a hatch from the cellar and a recess on the first floor which is grooved in the middle for a shelf.

The re-use of earlier defences greatly enhances the significance of this monument. There are a small number of later stone-built castles which are located within what appears to be earlier Iron Age fortifications. These include Auchindoun in Moray (scheduled monument reference SM9002, Canmore ID 16797), Dunnideer in Aberdeenshire (scheduled monument reference SM94, Canmore ID 18128) and Dundonald in Ayrshire (scheduled monument reference SM90112, Canmore ID 41970).

There are other broadly contemporary medieval fortified sites in the vicinity of Craigmaddie Castle. In particular, there are number of mottes situated to the west, along the lower slopes of the Campsie Fells and Kilsyth Hills including Balcastle motte (scheduled monument reference SM2584, Canmore ID 45883), Craigstone Wood, Castle Hill, motte E of (scheduled monument reference SM2572, Canmore ID 45884) and Maiden Castle (scheduled monument reference SM1750, Canmore ID 45177). Around 2.5km to the west northwest is Mugdock Castle (scheduled monument reference SM2805, Canmore 44471) which is contemporary with the later tower at Craigmaddie.

2.3 Associative Characteristics

N/A.

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3 Purpose and implications of scheduling

Although the tower is fragmentary, the monument is in reasonable condition. Scheduling continues to be seen as the most appropriate mechanism to secure the longer term future of this monument.

4 Assessment of national importance

The monument is of national importance as it has an inherent potential to make a significant contribution to our understanding of Iron Age forts and the development of medieval domestic fortified dwellings. There is significant potential for the survival of important archaeological remains which can enhance our understanding of the date, construction, function and development of the monument. In addition, the tower retains some interesting features such a recess and a barrel vaulted ground floor. The outer defences have a significant potential to inform our understanding of Iron Age defensive sites and how such sites were reuse in the medieval period. The monument's significance is enhanced due to its close proximity to other broadly contemporary fortified sites such as mottes, stone-built castles and later tower houses. The loss of the monument would diminish our ability to understand the form, character and chronology of Iron Age forts and medieval defensive sites in Scotland.

5 References

Historic Environment Scotland http://www.canmore.org.uk reference number CANMORE ID 44422, 44425 (accessed on 06/05/2014).

OSA (1791-9) The statistical account of Scotland, drawn up from the communications of the ministers of the different parishes, in Sinclair, J (Sir) Edinburgh, Vol. 15, page 279.

RCAHMS (1963) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Stirlingshire: an inventory of the ancient monuments, 2v Edinburgh Vol. 1, 79, No. 79 plan.

Talbot, E J (1975) 'Early Scottish castles of earth and timber - recent field-work and excavation', Scottish Archaeological Forum 6, 50, 56