



Case information

Case ID	300016735
File Reference	AMH/518/2/1
Name of Site	An Dun, broch 360m NE of Dun Burn outflow, Berriedale.

Local Authority	Highland Council		
National Grid Reference	ND 1050 2502		
Designation No. (if any)	SM518		
Designation Type	Scheduled Monument	Current Category of Listing	N/A
Case Type	Amendment		

Received/Start Date	29/04/2015
Decision Date	07/10/2016

1. Decision

The monument was first scheduled in 1939, but an inadequate area was included to protect the full extent of archaeological remains. 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 An Dun, broch, Berriedale.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

Monument first scheduled in 1939; no subsequent amendment.

2.2 Development Proposals

N/A

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The site was visited on 29/04/2015.

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

NA

Elizabeth McCrone

Head of Designations
Heritage Management
Historic Environment Scotland

Contact	Kyle Armstrong, Designations Officer Kyle.armstrong@scotland.gsi.gov.uk Tel: 0131 668 8740.
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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*

An Dun, broch, Berriedale

1. Description

The monument is a broch, a complex stone-built substantial roundhouse, dating from the Iron Age (between 600BC and AD 400). The broch is visible as a substantial stoney mound, with surviving walling and associated banks and ditches, on a hillock on the west side of Berriedale at around 135m above sea level.

The broch measures 14m in diameter with the internal diameter approximately 7.5m, and it sits on a hillock rising 5m above the surrounding hillside. Traces of an entrance lie on the west of the broch with the remains of a possible intramural cell directly to the east of the entrance. The broch wall stands up to almost 1m in height with sections of inner and outer faces visible. The broch and hillock are encircled by a ditch almost 5m wide and 1.8m deep with evidence for up to three other ditches to the northeast. The monument is located in a prominent position on the hillside moor with extensive views over Berriedale Water. Further prehistoric remains, including hut circles and associated field systems, can be identified in close proximity to the broch.

The scheduled area, centred on the monument, is circular on plan with a diameter of 100m 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 1939, but the documentation did 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The monument is well preserved example of a broch which is visible as a stoney mound with associated outer-works.• The area of ground immediately to the north and northwest of the broch has very little upstanding

	<p>evidence of related structures or outerworks but evidence of such is highly likely to remain below the surface. The ground has not been ploughed in recent times indicating agricultural disturbance will be minimised with relatively shallow ploughing. It is common for outerworks to continue around the entire broch perimeter when sited on such a relatively open area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall the site survives in very good condition with no record of an excavation at the site. • The level of preservation of the broch together with the remains of outer-works are an important part of the monument's intrinsic characteristics.
<p>Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the monument</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The broch itself appears relatively undisturbed with features such as an entrance and possible intramural cell visible. The monument therefore has very high potential to support future archaeological research. • Surviving features are likely to include; intramural cells and stairs, hearths, water tanks and possibly a well. In addition, there may be later structures within or around the abandoned broch tower or an possibly an earlier structure under the broch. This example also shows evidence of outworks comprising a bank and ditch surrounding the broch tower, and possibly a further three ditches to the northeast • By analogy with a number of excavated brochs, this broch and any associated structures will certainly contain deposits rich in occupation debris, artefacts and palaeoenvironmental evidence that can tell us about how people lived, their trade and exchange contacts, and their social status, as well as provide information about broch architecture and construction methods. • The monument may be associated with the nearby hut circles and field systems within 200-300m to the north and east.
<p>Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochs in Caithness are typically thought to date from the mid first millennium BC through to the early part of the first millennium AD. There are few precise scientific dates for brochs in Caithness and their dating has traditionally been based on typological studies of artefacts recovered from broch sites.

Assessment of national importance

www.historicenvironment.scot

Historic Environment Scotland, Longmore House,
Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

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VAT Number: **GB 221 8680 15**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The presence of outer-works around the broch at An Dun indicate that this site may have had a complex development sequence. • The broch may have been the site of an earlier dun, a small enclosed site with defensive elements, with the defences being re-used and altered. Clickimin Broch (SM90077) provides a comparative example with the site being a 3rd C BC fort and re-used and modified as a broch some 300-400 years later. • Scientific excavation of the site would allow us to develop a better understanding of the chronology of the site, including its date of origin, state of completeness and any possible development sequence.
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broch towers are primarily seen as a specific specialised development of complex Atlantic roundhouses. They were large complex structures that could have accommodated either an extended family or a small community. While there would have been a social hierarchy within this community, the construction of these elaborate towers is often understood in terms of elite settlement. Other interpretations have stressed their likely role as fortified or defensive sites, possibly serving a community across a wider area. Brochs are complex structures likely to have had numerous purposes and a complex role in prehistoric society.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are at least eight confirmed and possible brochs within a 5km radius of the monument including Borgue Langwell (SM 524) and Upper Borgue (SM 596). This monument is important as an upstanding and well-preserved example. • Brochs are found across Scotland, with a focus on the north and west including the islands, and this monument is part of a larger prehistoric landscape with numerous features such as hut circles and field systems nearby. • There may have been links between neighbouring brochs or they may indicate community catchments. This broch has the potential to enhance and broaden our understanding of prehistoric society and community. •
Criteria	Assessment

<p>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)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are numerous broadly contemporary monuments in the landscape surrounding the monument including hut circles, enclosure and field system located 800m to the north (SM3476). The close proximity of undesignated hut circles and field systems, is also notable. There is potential to study these sites together to understand their functions within the local communities and possible chronological development in the area. • The monument is within a small group of brochs in the Berriedale and Langwell area. There is high potential for comparative study on a local and national scale to better understand the function of such monuments, their interrelationship and the significance of their placing within the landscape, in particular in relation to our understanding of Iron Age social hierarchy, changing settlement patterns and systems of inheritance.
<p>Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The broch sits on the west side of Berriedale Water. It sits between the Dun Burn and the Berriedale Water. There are open views across the adjacent landscape and beyond to the surrounding hills. The focus appears to be the valley and river below.
Associative	
<p>Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochs developed out of the Atlantic tradition of complex stone-built roundhouses, but the broch tower is seen as the pinnacle of this architectural tradition. It is a highly recognisable form of Iron Age architecture which is particular to Scotland, especially northern Scotland.
<p>Aesthetic attributes of the monument</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
<p>Significance in the national consciousness or to people who use or have used the monument, or descendants of such people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .N/A
<p>Associations the monument has with historical, traditional or artistic characters or events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

Its inherent capability or potential to make a significant addition to the understanding or appreciation of the past	This monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of the past, in particular of Iron Age society in Caithness and the function, use and development of brochs. It is a well-preserved example with visible architectural features including the entrance, an intramural cell and wall faces. The outer-works of the broch are impressive with a substantial ditch and further likely works to the northeast. There are a number of potentially contemporary sites within the vicinity of An Dun. The loss of the monument would diminish our future ability to appreciate and understand the development, use and re-use of brochs, and the nature of Iron Age society, economy and social hierarchy in Caithness and further afield.
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 8068 (accessed on 01/09/16).

Highland Council HER Reference: MHG 1098.
