Designation Report of Handling

Case information

Case ID	300033522
Name of Site	Taigh-tughaidh Àird Heisgeir, Àird Heisgeir, Uibhist a Tuath / Ardheisker Thatched Cottage, Ardheisker, Isle of North Uist
Postcode (if any)	HS6 5DU

Local Authority	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
National Grid Reference	NF 76461 67316
Designation Type	Listed Building
Designation No. and category of listing (if any)	LB17585 Category A
Case Type	Amendment

Received/Start Date	2017 [Thatched Buildings Listing Review]
Decision Date	16/03/2021

1. Decision

Previous Statutory Listing Address	Ardheisker Thatched Cottage at East (Tenant Formerly D. MacLeod)	**Previous category of listing**	A
New Statutory Listing Address	Taigh-tughaidh Àird Heisgeir, Àird Heisgeir, Uibhist a Tuath / Ardheisker Thatched Cottage, Ardheisker, Isle of North Uist	**New category of listing**	A

An assessment using the selection guidance shows that the building continues to meet the criteria of special architectural or historic interest. The decision is to update the statutory listing address and listed building record.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

This building was listed at category A on 05/10/1971.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The statutory listing address of the building was considered for amendment as part of the Thatched Buildings Listing Review, started in 2017.

A Survey of Thatched Buildings in Scotland, published in 2016 by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), found there were only around 200 buildings of this type remaining, most of which are found in small rural communities. Thatched buildings are often traditionally built, showing distinctive local and regional building methods and materials. Those that survive are important in helping us understand these traditional skills and an earlier way of life. A listing review has been undertaken to provide up to date assessments of the special interest of these buildings. See Scotland's Thatched Buildings Introductory Designations Report 2018 for more information on the project.

The building has not been visited. The present assessment is desk-based, using available information and has included reference to photographs taken in 2014-16 by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) for their *Survey of Thatched Buildings in Scotland.*

3.2 Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

Ardheisker Thatched Cottage was found to continue to meet the criteria for listing.

This Hebridean-type cottage was built before 1878. These vernacular buildings, once prolific across Na h-Eileanan Siar, are now extremely rare. The building continues to show regional traditional building methods and materials and retains a significant proportion of its historic fabric, vernacular form and character. Notable features include the thick rubble walls with curved angles and the proportions of the building, with an extra bay at the south, indicates it may have been a house and byre.

The building was known to have had a marram thatched roof, however by 2015 none of the thatching material was seen. It still retains its timber roof structure showing the traditional rounded shape of the roof. The present condition of the surviving fabric is not a factor when deciding whether it is of special architectural or historic interest. In this case enough of the historic fabric and form survives to show that it is characteristic of 19th century Na h-Eileanan Siar vernacular building traditions.

The building's level of importance is appropriately recognised at category A. Buildings listed at category A are defined as 'buildings of special architectural or historic interest which are outstanding examples of a particular period, style or type.

The listing criteria and selection guidance and category definitions for listed buildings are published in Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (2019), Annex 2, pp. 11-13, https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy.

4. Consultation

4.1 Consultation information

Consultation period: 17/02/2021 to 10/03/2021.

We have consulted with the owner and the planning authority.

The consultation report of handling is published on our portal for comment from interested parties.

4.2 Consultation summary

There were no comments following consultation.

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