

## Appendix J - National significance

In paragraphs 19 and 27 we refer to Scottish Historic Environment Policy No. 2 – *Scheduling: protecting Scotland's nationally important monuments*. It contains an annex which defines criteria used to determine 'national importance' in terms of the intrinsic, contextual and associative characteristics of a monument. These are:

	Ref.	Characteristic	Assessment of Significance
Intrinsic characteristics	a.	Condition	High
	b.	Archaeological interest	Very high
	c.	Development sequence	Very high
	d.	Function	High
Contextual characteristics	e.	Rarity or representativeness	Very high
	f.	Relationship to other monuments	Very high
	g.	Relationship to wider setting	High
Associative characteristics	h.	Historical, cultural and social influences	High
	i.	Aesthetic attributes	Very High
	j.	Significance to national consciousness	Moderate *
	k.	Associations with people or events	Moderate

**Intrinsic characteristics** – The monument survives in very good condition, and includes decorative fixtures and fittings, and evidence for wall treatments, and other examples of original fabric. The archaeological potential of the monument is substantial, both in terms of the building and of the buried remains. Only limited archaeological investigation has so far been undertaken within the area of the original tower house, and it is likely that buried remains survive beneath the courtyard, within the upstanding buildings and the surrounding grounds. This has the potential to inform our understanding of the construction, occupation, adaptation and abandonment of the castle as a principal dwelling. Historical and archaeological evidence indicates that there are at least seven identifiable periods of construction. Abandonment as a principal residence in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century has resulted in the survival of elements likely to have been lost had the building been further adapted, and this enhances the potential of the house to inform our understanding of the economic, social and cultural history of Scotland across centuries.

**Contextual characteristics** – The monument illustrates an approach to lairdly domestic architecture that is not known to survive with quite this combination of elements elsewhere in Scotland. It mimics, on a domestic scale, major royal works and is unique in its complexity of surviving elements, allowing sequences of rooms to be observed in their historic inter-relationships. The monument sits within a designed landscape which dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and is included on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. While there was extensive replanting of the estate by Lorimer in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, elements of the earlier phases survive. It is strongly identified with the Mure family, and individual members are

intrinsically linked with the monument. For example, in the 14<sup>th</sup> century Elizabeth Mure was the first wife of King Robert II and the mother of Robert III, thus elevating the family to one of the most important in the west of Scotland at this time.

**Associative characteristics** – During the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, the architectural development of Rowallan is closely linked with political and cultural events across Scotland, through identified family members. The talents of the Mure family in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries epitomise the polymath culture of their age, and are perhaps best represented by a pair of music books known as the Rowallan lute-book and William Mure of Rowallan's cantus part-book. The former is almost certainly the oldest surviving manuscript in Scotland to be entirely devoted to instrumental music.

**National importance** – The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to make a significant addition to the understanding of the past, in particular the development of tower house as a lairdly residence culminating in a fine example of Scottish Renaissance architecture. In addition evidence for prehistoric remains indicates occupation over several millennia. Its very good preservation, combined with the survival of buried archaeological remains and historical records directly related to the monument's construction and occupation enhances this potential. The loss of this example would impede any future ability to understand such architectural development in Scotland and its relationship to the development of Scottish society. The monument also has a place in the national consciousness, given the interest in the historical, cultural and political developments of the Renaissance period.