

Scheduled Monument Consent: Report on Handling



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201600367		
Scheduled Monument	Dunachton Lodge, symbol stone S of		
Index no	M937	Grid Ref	NH820046 282000.0000 804600.0000
Date of Application	22 April 2016	Application Received	25 April 2016
Summary of proposed works	Movement of stone 20m north into walled garden - RETROSPECTIVE		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval for the movement of the symbol stone 20m north into walled garden.

2. Background

The monument comprises a Pictish Class I symbol stone showing a deer's head on one face. Records from 1870 indicate that in the stone was found serving as a lintel in the old steading at Dunachton Lodge - the stones of which were used in building Dunachton Lodge. It was subsequently erected on the terrace at the south corner of the garden, about 100 yards from the front door of the Lodge.

The stone was previously located within an area of ground where it was subject to rubbing by livestock, and was leaning over. The owner was under the impression that consent had been given by Historic Scotland in 2002 to move the stone to a location within the walled garden where it would be better protected.

This retrospective consent formalises the movement of the stone to its current position. The monument will then be rescheduled so that the legal documentation and current location of the stone are updated to reflect the change.

3. Proposals

The works comprise the retrospective consent for the movement of the stone approximately 20m north from its designated position, prior to the works being carried out, into a walled garden. This involved the removal of the stone from its mounting outside the walled garden, and the fixing of the stone into a new mounting within the walled garden. It has been bedded into the ground with mortar and concrete.

4. Representations received

No representations were received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

The application should be viewed with the following legislative and policy considerations in mind:

Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)

Part 1 Section 2: Control of works affecting an ancient monument.

Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (2016)

3.4. Scheduled monument consent is required for any works that would demolish, destroy, damage, remove, repair, alter or add to the monument or to carry out any flooding or tipping on the monument (see Note 3.2). A consent under section 42 of the 1979 Act is also required to use a metal detector within a scheduled monument (see Note 3.3). It is a criminal offence to carry out any of these works without consent.

3.16 Works on scheduled monuments should therefore normally be the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument. (Annex 1 sets out guidance as to how cultural significance and national importance should be determined.)

3.20 Where change is proposed, it should be carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed, properly planned and executed, and where appropriate in the context of an individual monument, reversible.

Carved Stones: Scottish Executive Policy and Guidance (2005)

4.3.4 There is a presumption in favour of the retention of the physical association of a carved stone with its locality, where this is feasible. The importance of the precise present location to the overall significance of the carved stone and its site therefore requires careful assessment before any decisions are made about moving it.

b) Assessment

The proposed works have had a minimal impact on the fabric and character of the monument. As the stone has been moved previously from its original location, the moving of the stone to a new location has not significantly affected its cultural significance. This is because the physical association of the carved stone with its locality has been maintained, and the moving of the stone should help to conserve it. This is in line with section 4.3.4 of the Carved Stones Operational Policy (2005).

Moving the stone has not caused damage. The stone was removed from its concrete and mortar mounting, and re-bedded with advice from conservation experts about the most suitable lime mortar to use in re-bedding the stone. Therefore, the stone now features in its new location in a mounting very similar to that previously used.

The monument is also better protected than previously. It was leaning over and was being damaged by livestock, whereas now it sits within a walled garden away from the livestock. In addition, the stone has been more securely fixed into the ground, and this should prevent the stone from potentially falling in future.

c) Other material considerations, including impact of the works on Protected Species and Places

None.

d) Conclusion

The works have resulted in a change in the monument's location. However, the previous location made no contribution to the monument's significance and neither does the new one. The works have, however, resulted in a slightly more benign mounting and its new position reduces threats to its condition, posed by livestock.

Consequently, the works have not resulted in a material change to the monument's cultural significance. There is therefore no conflict with section 4.3.4 of the Carved Stones Operational Policy (2005) or the Policy Statement, paragraph 3.16.

6. Recommended decision

The works proposed are considered acceptable in meeting the terms of national policy for scheduled monuments, and also accounting for other material considerations.

I therefore recommend consent is **granted without conditions**.

7. Conditions

None

8. Approval

Officer	Nicola Hall	Date	15/06/2016
Approved by	John Raven	Date	17/06/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

Maps showing location of stone in previous position (A) to current position (B)