Planning Decisions Team Scottish Government

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Our ref: AMH/13346/1/1 Our Case ID: 201602120

14 September 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
The Scheduled Monument Consent (Notification of Applications) Direction 2015
Re-location of additional gravestones to Gun Munro Mausoleum at Kirkmichael
Statutory Designation: Cullicudden, church and burial ground
Designation Reference: M13346

A scheduled monument consent application was received by us on 20 July for the re-location of additional gravestones to Gun Munro Mausoleum at Kirkmichael which affects the scheduled monument *Cullicudden, church and burial ground*.

We are minded to grant scheduled monument consent for the works contained in the application. In accordance with paragraph 2 of the above Direction, we are notifying Scottish Ministers of our intention. Our reasons which are set out in our Report on Handling are summarised as follows:

- The proposed works comprise the relocation of five gravestones from one scheduled monument (Cullicudden church and burial ground) into another scheduled monument (St Michael's Church, Kirkton). Given that this would prevent the graveslabs from further deterioration, they accord with Section 3.14 of the Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (2016).
- The works also meet Section 3.20 of the Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (2016). This is because the application has been informed by conservation and archaeological reports, thereby demonstrating that the works have been carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned.
- In addition, the applicant has demonstrated compliance with the Sections 4.3.4, 4.35 and 4.39 of the Scottish Executive Carved Stones Policy (2005). Although the stones would be relocated from their original context, they would still be within the same parish, thereby enabling the local community to continue their relationship with the stones, and would also be made them available to the wider public. Furthermore, the stones would be fully recorded in advance and with full



archaeological provision, and once in place in their new location their curatorial needs would be satisfied.

 In conclusion, the works would have an impact on the cultural significance of the Cullicudden Church. However, this is considered to be minimal, and mitigated to a degree by the installation of information slabs. This negative impact is far outweighed by the positive benefit of ensuring the future preservation of these important graveslabs. Hence, the proposal is concluded to be broadly consistent with relevant policy.

All the information and details relevant to the application can be found on the decisions portal on our website using reference number 201602120. The link to the portal is: http://portal.historicenvironment.scot.

If you require any further assistance meantime, please contact Nicola Hall.

Yours sincerely,

Historic Environment Scotland