



## Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018745		
Scheduled Monument	Arbroath Abbey and associated buildings, including the Abbot's House		
Index no	SM90018	Grid ref	NO 64300 41300
Date application validated	23 November 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Installation of seven Feno and two brass pin, permanent survey markers.		

## 1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for installation of permanent ground markers be granted.

## 2. Background

The monument comprises the remains of Arbroath Abbey and associated buildings. It is a Property in Care and includes the remains of an abbey founded in 1178. Parts of the church and other buildings remain standing. The scheduling excludes the upper 10cm of modern paths and tracks.

The monument is of national importance because it was one of the most ambitious monastic complexes to be founded in Scotland, and because of the high value of its architectural remains and archaeological potential, which together have the power to provide information about a wide range of aspects of medieval society.

The monument requires maintenance in order to counter erosion from weathering and visitors. The application concerns placing permanent survey markers at several points in the site in order to facilitate ongoing management. The application is from Historic Environment Scotland Conservation Directorate.

## 3. Proposals

Installation of permanent ground markers for survey.

Permanent ground markers would be installed at 9 locations in the scheduled area.



Two types of marker would be used as appropriate to the location:

- 'Feno' markers, which are 350mm long and 19mm diameter steel pins with a resin head
- Brass survey marker, which are 30mm long 6mm diameter with a domed head.

The Feno markers would be set in hand dug pockets measuring 125 x 125 x 125 mm. Turf would be cut in one piece to be re-used over the marker. Prior to insertion the ground would be tested for solid objects by probing with survey arrows. If resistance was encountered the marker would be re-positioned. The marker would be pushed into the ground so the head was flush with the pocket base. Depending on location and presence of features to facilitate the finding of the marker in future, the head of the marker would be concreted in and covered with a concrete or slate cap placed flush with surrounding turf. The removed turf would be thinned and placed over to camouflage the location.

The brass markers would be set into pre-drilled holes and set flush to the surrounding surface.

All locations have been chosen to avoid obvious conflict with archaeology. This assessment has been informed by advice provided by Cultural Resources Team who have confirmed they are content with the proposals.

## 4. Representations received

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No representations have been received.

## 5. Report

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### a) Policy considerations

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

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Part 1 Section 2: Control of works affecting scheduled monuments.

Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement June 2016

3.14. A monument is included in the schedule to secure the long-term legal protection of the monument in the national interest, in situ and as far as possible in the state it has

come down to us. Scheduled monuments have an intrinsic value as monuments, not related to any concept of active use. It is the value of the monument to the nation's heritage, in terms set out in the section on Scheduling in Chapter 2 of this policy statement that is the primary consideration in determining applications for scheduled monument consent.

3.15. Monuments are subject to decay and the threat of destruction, from natural and human causes. Conservation work is normally needed to prolong the life of a monument, but there is a risk that this can be so invasive that it irreversibly modifies the monument's character and affects the special interest or features that made the monument important in the first place.

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.

## **b) Assessment**

The permanent survey markers would be used to facilitate survey that is essential to the monument's management. They would remove the need to place temporary survey pegs or markers in the monument for every survey. Over time they would therefore reduce the overall amount of ground penetration at the monument and ensure the accuracy of surveys.

They would involve some hand excavation of pockets but this is restricted to 125mm so is likely to be restricted to the upper turf and topsoil and is not likely to extend into sub-surface archaeological deposits. The markers would be located in areas where there is no conflict with upstanding remains; probing would be used to ensure there are no structures just below the surface. The pins and markers would be inserted into underlying soft deposits to a maximum depth of 350mm, which may extend into sensitive archaeological deposits. However, the maximum width of the shafts is 19mm and this is not likely to have a substantive effect on deposits.

The brass markers would be flush with surrounding surfaces and the Feno markers would be disguised by a flush capping of turf, slate or concrete depending on location. While visible to those wishing to locate the markers these would not be readily visible to visitors to the monument.

The locations have been chosen to avoid areas where there is likely to be disturbance to sub-surface archaeological remains. In particular, the choice of location has been informed by advice provided by the HES Cultural Resources Team who are content that the proposed methodology should mitigate any impacts.



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

No impact on Protected Species and Places is considered likely – see PP&S assessment.

## d) Conclusion

The work would facilitate ongoing management and conservation of the monument. It would remove the need to place survey markers in the monument during each individual survey. The markers would be placed in a way that minimises or avoids impacts on archaeological remains

The works are being done to the monument in such a way that they will have minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument and hence they are not inconsistent with paragraphs 3.14, 3.15 and 3.16 of the policy statement.

## 6. Recommended decision

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

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

## 7. Conditions

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No conditions have been attached to this decision.

## 8. Approval

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<b>Case officer</b>	Simon Stronach	<b>Date</b>	11 January 2017
<b>Approved by</b>	John Raven	<b>Date</b>	12 January 2017

## Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Dwg 373/018/345 Arbroath Abbey SMC application for permanent survey markers
- Email from HES CRT (12 January 2017)