

Case Information

Reference/Case ID		300019020	
Scheduled Monument	Dryburgh Abbey		
Index no	SM90103	Grid ref	NT 59100 31600
Date application validated		18 January 2017	
Summary of proposed works		Geophysical survey	

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval be granted without conditions.

2. Background

Dryburgh Abbey consists of the remains of a Premonstratensian abbey, founded in 1150. While much of the abbey church is now gone, the cloistral buildings are well preserved and the Chapter House contains exceptionally important evidence for painted decoration. In the late 18th and early 19th century the site was remodelled as a romantic ruin within an equally Romantic designed landscape, classed as Outstanding in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. Dryburgh is notable as the burial place of both Sir Walter Scott and Field Marshall Earl Haig.

The scheduled area is scheduled is irregular on plan and measures a maximum of 600m N-S by 490m E-W, occupying the southern tip of a peninsula formed by a bend in the River Tweed.

The monument is of national importance as the well preserved ruins of a large and wealthy monastery with an exceptional survival of painted decoration in its Chapterhouse. While not as rich or influential as other Border Abbeys during the medieval period, Dryburgh came to prominence in its ruined state as an exceptional example of the Romantic landscape ideals promoted by Sir Walter Scott and others. As the burial place of Scott and Earl Haig, the abbey has significant additional historical and cultural interest.

The area around the abbey is likely to contain the traces of further ancillary buildings below the ground. This site therefore has the potential to further our knowledge of the domestic, religious, economic, and political life of southern Scotland in the Middle Ages, and of the reuse of such sites in subsequent centuries to fit new social and cultural models.

The application is for geophysical survey work in an area focussed around the lade to the south and west of the Abbey buildings. The application is accompanied by a location plan showing the location and extent of the proposed survey area, and a supporting document which outlines the background and methodology for the project.

HES Heritage Management Directorate has undertaken pre-application discussions with the applicant regarding the scope and timing of works, and this application accords with the outcome of those discussions.

3. Proposals

Geophysical survey using resistivity, gradiometry and ground penetrating radar.

Consented works

- Gradiometer survey
- Ground penetrating radar survey

It should be noted that Section 42 consent is not required for the resistivity survey element of the project outlined in this application as the equipment used is not considered to constitute a metal detector under the terms of the Act.

Aims

The project is intended to provide information on the potential nature and extent of archaeological deposits within the survey area. This will be used to inform future management of the site, with particular reference to the possibility of staging visitor events.

Timetable

Early February 2017

Personnel

Rose Geophysical Consultants

4. Representations received

No third party representations were received.

5. Report

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 3 Section 42: Restrictions on use of metal detectors applies in this case.

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.

3.18. Scheduled monument consent applications must be considered in terms of the cultural significance of the monument and the impact that the proposals would have upon this cultural significance. The more important particular features of the monument are to its cultural significance, the greater will be the case against interventions which modify these features.

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.

b) Assessment

The proposed works involve the use of geophysical survey equipment on the monument. This is intended to provide information on the nature and extent of archaeological features within the survey area.

The application has been accompanied by a detailed supporting document that sets out a well-considered, appropriate and careful methodology.

The works will have no physical impact on the monument nor would they affect its cultural significance. The results of the proposed works will contribute positively to our understanding of the monument and our appreciation of its value.

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

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

d) Conclusion

The application should be viewed as works involving metal detecting as set out in Part 3 Section 42 of the AMAA Act 1979.

The works would be conducted in a manner that will have no impact on the cultural significance of the monument. They do not, therefore, conflict with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 of the Policy Statement.

The scheme of work outlined in the application has been carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned. I, therefore, consider it to meet paragraph 3.20 of the Policy Statement.

Consequently, no conditions are considered necessary.

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 recommend consent is **granted without conditions**.



7. Conditions

No conditions have been attached to this decision.

8. Approval

Case officer	Deirdre Cameron	Date	26 January 2017
Approved by	Iona Murray	Date	26 January 2017

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Dryburgh Abbey: Geophysical Survey – Section 42 application. Supporting Document (Adrian Cox, 17/1/2017)
- Location plan showing proposed survey area