Method statement for removal of trees from scheduled monument site

The majority of the trees within the site area will be felled and processed using a mechanised tree harvester (John Deere 1270E or equivalent), the resulting cut timber lengths will then be extracted using a timber forwarder (John Deere 1510E or equivalent) out to the forest road to the east.

The presence of an overhead power line through the coupe will complicate matters in that we are unable to fell trees in close proximity to it while the line is live. An application has been made to Scottish Power for a shutdown to allow us to work this part of the coupe, they will either grant this or – where a shutdown is not possible due to network constraints – they will fell the trees in proximity of the line themselves. As such the working of the coupe is very reliant on the timing of this. Once the powerline area has been dealt with we will be able to cross underneath it to work the western edge of the site.

The scheduled area that conflicts with the area to be felled is a small strip approximately 10 metres wide at most and 280 metres long. The extent of this area (plus a buffer of an extra 5 metres or so to be safe) will be marked off with a taped line in the trees. Machinery will be excluded from entering this taped off area. The trees that lie within it will be felled by hand up and out towards machinery sitting out with the taped area. The height of the trees (approx. 25-30 metres) will mean that the harvester will then be able to grab the tops of the stems and pull the trees up for processing on the main site and away from the scheduled area. In the event that a tree is unable to be felled up and out of the taped off area due to length, landform, or the nature of the tree preventing this directional fell (i.e. lean) then it will be felled within the taped off area and then extracted by a winch up to the main site where it can be processed by the harvester. The final resort if this was not possible would be for a tree to be felled within the taped area and then cut into lengths by hand and left to waste. This is unlikely however and I would stress that all efforts possible to remove the trees will be made.

The area should be relatively clean of debris once the trees are removed, however there is likely to be some left such as branches and tops that break off in the normal process of operations.