Case information

Reference/Case ID	201504217

Scheduled Monument	Badyo, hut circles 1475m SW of		
Index no	M4716	**Grid Ref**	NN971604 297100.0000 760400.0000

Date of Application	02 October 2015	**Application Received**	07 October 2015
Summary of proposed works	Felling of commercial conifers		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for the felling of commercial conifers be granted without conditions.

2. Background

The monument comprises the remains of two circular houses (hut circles) of the Bronze Age set on a natural SW facing terrace. The western house is single walled and measures 15m in diameter. The eastern house is a double walled "Dalrulzian" type with an internal diameter of 9m.

The monument survives predominantly within a clearing in a commercial conifer crop, although some parts at the periphery of the monument are under the conifer crop. This surrounding crop is being felled for commercial reasons; the opportunity is being taken to also remove that part of the crop which lies within the scheduled area, and to subsequently not restock. This will benefit the long term preservation of the monument.

HS/HES visited the monument in 2012 to discuss the proposed felling with the forester responsible for the wood at that time. HS/HES has since undertaken pre-application discussions with the applicant regarding the approach to works, and this application accords with the outcome of these discussions.

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3. Proposals

Consented works – felling of commercial conifers

The proposals comprise:

- Felling of a small number of larch on the E and NW sides of the monument, either by harvester sitting outwith the monument and reaching in or by hand.
- Cut trees will be lifted outwith the monument by harvester for subsequent processing.

4. Representations received

No representation were received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

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

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

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

Part 1 Section 2 (3) – authorises works where Scottish Ministers or Historic Environment Scotland Have granted consent (scheduled monument consent) for the execution of the works where the works are executed in accordance with the terms of the consent and of any conditions attached to the consent.

The Scottish Historic Environment Policy

3.14. Scottish Ministers include a monument 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 SHEP, that is the primary consideration in determining applications for scheduled monument 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.

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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.

b) Assessment

The works involve the felling of a small number of larch at the periphery of the monument. The physical impact of these works on the preservation of the monument will be minimal; the operation to remove the trees has been designed so that heavy machinery is kept outwith the monument and instead the harvester will lean in to grab, fell, and then lift the cut trees for processing outwith the scheduled area. The boundary of the scheduled area will be marked off beforehand using GPS data. Cut stumps will be left in situ. HES will be notified upon completion of works.

The existing growth of the trees within the scheduled area is likely to have already disturbed buried archaeological deposits that might be present; removing the trees now will prevent further disturbance as the trees grow bigger. Not removing the trees now, but felling the adjacent crop outwith the scheduled area could leave the trees vulnerable to windthrow, which would result in wholesale upheaval of any buried archaeological deposits.

It is therefore to the benefit of the long term preservation of the monument that the trees are removed now, and I consider that the prescribed methodology will not have an impact on the monument.

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

None.

d) Conclusion

The proposed works will be of benefit to the long term preservation of the monument. They will result in the removal of trees that will likely have been causing damage to archaeological deposits, and the methodology for removal is such that the operation to remove the trees will not cause additional damage or result in additional intervention to archaeological deposits.

The works can therefore be considered as the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument, and thus compliant with SHEP 3.16.

The works are also being undertaken at the periphery of the scheduled area away from the upstanding remains of the two hut circles, and as such the potential for impact on areas of the monument of greater cultural significance is low, thus making the application compliant with SHEP 3.18.

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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 required.

8. Approval

Officer	**Oliver Lewis**	**Date**	**23/11/2015**
Approved by	**George Findlater**	**Date**	**23/11/2015**

Annex A – list of supporting documents

Schedule Of Monuments Map
Historic Scotland Aerial site location
Location of works Map

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