

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201504590		
Scheduled Monument	Newstead Roman Military Complex, 660m WSW of Broomhill Farm		
Index no	M12869	Grid Ref	
Date of Application	20 October 2015	Application Received	21 October 2015
Summary of proposed works	Removal of wooden power line poles and associated fittings.		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that consent be granted with conditions.

2. Background

The monument comprises the buried remains of the Roman military complex at Newstead, which consists of: a series of four overlying forts; seven annexes which occur on all four sides of the forts; at least six camps; one bathhouse; and a possible amphitheatre. The monument consists of at least four phases of construction during two or more periods of occupation, which occurred during the late 1st and mid 2nd century AD. Archaeological excavations have demonstrated that building foundations and significant archaeological deposits survive in situ. The character, extent and general layout of the site is discernible from cropmarks visible on aerial photographs.

The proposed line dismantlement will be carried out within the Roman camps to the south west side of the fort and within the east annexe.

There were no pre-application discussions with the applicant.

3. Proposals

Consented Works: - removal of wooden overhead line poles and associated fittings. The proposed works will involve the removal of wooden poles from the within the scheduled area. The application does not supply detail as to how this will be carried out.

4. Representations received

No representation were received with regard to this application.

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.

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.

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 will involve the removal of ten wooden poles carrying a high voltage electricity overhead line from within the scheduled monument. There are no details of how the works will be carried out.

The survival and high potential for archaeological remains is what is culturally significant for the Newstead Roman fort and camps. The removal of the overhead line from the monument, will not impact upon its cultural significance.

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

There are no other material considerations in this case.

d) Conclusion

The proposed works will result in the removal of a modern wirescape element from within the scheduled monument. The overhead line is entirely constructed from wooden poles which can be cut at the base ensuring that their removal 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 located in archaeological sensitive areas and as such the potential for impact on areas of the monument of greater cultural significance is high. I am content, however, that through the use of a suspensive condition requiring that the poles are cut at ground level, the works may be executed to our satisfaction. Such a condition will minimise any potential impact upon the archaeology thus making the application compliant with SHEP 3.18.

6. Recommended decision

Subject to compliance with the schedule of conditions, the works proposed are considered acceptable in meeting in the terms national policy for scheduled monuments, and also accounting for other material considerations.

I recommend consent is **granted, subject to the conditions detailed below.**

7. Conditions

1. The electricity poles shall be cut off at ground level and the stump left in situ to rot. No disturbance shall be caused to the ground surface or to buried archaeological deposits during this operation.

Reason: to ensure that ground disturbance that might damage archaeological deposits does not occur.

8. Approval

Officer	Rory McDonald	Date	14/12/2015
Approved by	George Findlater	Date	14/12/2015

Annex A – list of supporting documents

1. Newstead, Oakendean: plan showing poles to be removed
2. Newstead, Broomhill Spur: plan showing poles to be removed