

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201505420		
Scheduled Monument	Castledykes, Roman camps to W, N & E of Roman fort		
Index no	M3825	Grid Ref	NS923446 292300.0000 644700.0000
Date of Application	18 November 2015	Application Received	23 November 2015
Summary of proposed works	Formation of vehicular access track and hard standing area		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that consent be granted with conditions.

2. Background

This monument comprises a group of Roman temporary camps visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The camps lie to the west, north and east of the Castledykes Roman fort. The application area lies within the circuit of one of the larger camps, extending northwards from a point about 5m from the camp's south-west ditch.

Historic Scotland met with the applicant and a planning officer on 23 April 2015 and discussed the applicant's aspiration to create a gravelled access route to a proposed new shed, which might be constructed in a shelter belt to the west of the scheduled area. On 24 April 2014, Historic Scotland wrote to the applicant stating that in principle, it is likely that SMC would be granted for a surface gravel track leading to the proposed new shed.

On 31 July Historic Scotland responded to a consultation from South Lanarkshire Council regarding a planning application for erection of an agricultural shed and formation of associated vehicular access and track and hardstanding area. The response noted that it is likely that SMC for the works would be granted but indicated that Historic Scotland's comments could not be finalised pending receipt of details of the depth and extent of the ground works required, and details of the archaeological mitigation strategy. On 11 August Historic Scotland emailed South Lanarkshire Council stating the additional information on preliminary ground works had been

received; Historic Scotland is likely to request laying of a geotextile membrane before the track is created and requests the council obtains a WSI for archaeological monitoring from the applicant.

On 26 October planning permission for the development was granted with conditions, one of which required implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a WSI.

3. Proposals

Consented works

Formation of vehicular access track and hard standing area; spreading of a small mound of soil located on the south boundary

Description of works

Formation of a vehicular access track and hard standing area to provide access to a new agricultural shed, which is to be constructed immediately outside the scheduled area to the west. In addition, a mound of spoil that lies close to a gate on the south boundary of the application area will be spread on the adjacent field and the area seeded with grass.

4. Representations received

No representations have been received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

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

AMAAA 1979, Part 1 Section 2:
Control of works affecting an ancient monument.

The Scottish Historic Environment Policy (2011):

3.4. Scheduled monument consent is required for any works that would demolish, destroy, damage, remove, repair, alter or add to the monument or to carry out any flooding or tipping on the monument. It is a criminal offence to carry out any of these works without consent.

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.

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 proposals would involve removal of topsoil from a very small percentage of the scheduled area, followed by the laying of self-draining hardcore. The application area is presently used as improved grassland but it has been ploughed several times in the past and it is probable that the field will be ploughed again in the future. It is not expected that disturbance occurring as part of the proposed development would exceed the previous ploughing depth, and the presence of an access track would prevent future ploughing of this part of the field. Additionally, a small mound of spoil is to be spread in the field and seeded with grass. This spoil is understood to derive from excavation to the west of the scheduled area. Spreading of the soil will have no detrimental effect on the monument and will marginally increase the depth of overburden protecting potential buried archaeological remains.

The proposed works are very unlikely to have an appreciable impact on the cultural significance of the monument if an appropriate method is followed during laying of the hardcore (see Conclusion below). The field has been ploughed in the past and any surviving remains of the monument in this area would exist as buried archaeological remains sealed below the plough soil. The application site lies close to the south-west bank and ditch of the Roman camp and surviving features relating to the camp's defences are likely to be robust and not vulnerable to disturbance by the works proposed.

Archaeological monitoring is a condition of the applicant's planning consent, and would allow for recording in the unlikely event that archaeological remains are encountered during the groundworks.

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

The application site does not lie close to any SSSI, SPA or SAC designation. National Biodiversity Network GIS data sets indicate no evidence for Protected Species in the relevant 100m grid squares.

d) Conclusion

The proposals involve excavation within the plough zone that overlies potential archaeological remains of the Roman camp. Documents submitted to South Lanarkshire Council indicate it is envisaged that hardcore 150mm deep will be laid, suggesting there will not be an impact on the cultural significance of the monument. Nevertheless, no written description of how the access track and hardstanding area will be formed has been submitted with this application for SMC; to safeguard the monument a condition should be applied to any consent requiring that works should not commence until a method statement for excavation and laying of hardcore has been submitted for the consideration and written approval of Historic Environment Scotland.

Although construction activities are not expected to impact on archaeological remains, there is a risk that hardcore is subsequently pressed into underlying deposits. It is recommended that the method statement for laying hardcore should require use of a geotextile membrane below the hardcore. Geotextile membranes are widely used for filtration and separation in road constructions, to prevent migration and mingling of materials, yet allowing free movement of water. If a geotextile is not laid, there is a risk that elements of the hardcore may be pressed down into archaeological remains below during use of the hardstanding.

Although it is unlikely that in situ archaeological deposits would be disturbed during the laying of hardcore, it is appropriate that archaeological monitoring be put in place to allow for the recording of any archaeological remains should they be encountered, and to allow the recovery of artefacts within the topsoil. Any consent should therefore require that works should not commence until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation that has been agreed with Historic Environment Scotland.

If these safeguards are put in place, the proposed works should cause negligible impact on the cultural significance of the monument, which accords with SHEP para 3.18. The proposals would be carefully considered, sensitively designed and properly planned and should accord with SHEP para 3.20. Given that the proposals should have negligible impact on the cultural significance of the monument, there is no conflict with policy at SHEP para 3.16, which notes that interventions should normally be the minimum consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument.

6. Recommended decision

Subject to compliance with the schedule of conditions, 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, subject to the conditions detailed below.**

7. Conditions

1. Work shall not start on site until a method statement for excavation and laying of hardcore has been submitted to and approved in writing by Historic Environment Scotland. Any subsequent changes to the works detailed within the method statement must also be approved in writing by Historic Environment Scotland.

Reason: to ensure that the monument is not damaged by works or materials required to form the access track and hardstanding area.

2. Work shall not start on site until the applicant has commissioned a programme of archaeological monitoring in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by Historic Environment Scotland. This scheme shall be fully implemented during all excavation works.

Reason: to ensure that archaeological information relating to the affected areas of the monument is recovered and recorded to a satisfactory standard.

8. Approval

Officer	Richard Heawood	Date	12/01/2016
Approved by	George Findlater	Date	14/01/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

Proposed agricultural building, Drawing 1
Site plan, Drawing 2