

## Case information

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| <b>Reference/Case ID</b>         | 201506966   |                             |                                     |
| <b>Scheduled Monument</b>        | Dunkeld Cathedral   |                             |                                     |
| <b>Index no</b>                  | M90119  | <b>Grid Ref</b>             | NO023425 302300.0000<br>742500.0000 |
| <b>Date of Application</b>       | 04 February<br>2016   | <b>Application Received</b> | 09 February<br>2016                 |
| <b>Summary of proposed works</b> | Tree-planting and installation of interpretation within the Cathedral Grove |                             |                                     |

### 1. Summary recommendation

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This report recommends that approval for tree-planting and installation of interpretation within the Cathedral Grove be granted with conditions.

### 2. Background

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The monument consists of the nave, NW tower and S porch of the medieval cathedral of Dunkeld, together with the parkland immediately around it and an area to the N and W where the chanonry is known to have extended. The choir of the cathedral is excluded.

The monument consists of an aisled nave of seven bays, with a three-storeyed elevation, to which a S porch and NW tower were added before 1483.

Immediately around the cathedral is an area of enclosed parkland, while woodland to the W and parkland and farmland to the N covers the site of the chanonry, although the modern field called St Ninian's Croft also includes the site of Dunkeld House, built by Sir William Bruce for the Marquess of Atholl.

The Cathedral Grove also has a wider national significance as part of the Dunkeld House Inventory designed landscape, a site of one of the earliest plantings of European larch in Scotland (1738).

HS/HES visited the monument in 2012/2014 and met with representatives from the wider Estate and the Royal Botanic Gardens to discuss the proposed planting and installation of interpretation panels as part of a wider regeneration of the Cathedral Grove following storm damage. 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.

### **3. Proposals**

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Consented works - Tree-planting and installation of interpretation within the Cathedral Grove.

The proposals comprise:

- Installation of five steel framed interpretation panels on pegs inserted at 450mm depth.
- Planting of 15 trees in 450 x 450 x 450 mm holes on a like for like replacement basis within 2.5 m of the location of historic trees that have since been lost.
- Installation of protective cages around each new tree, involving the driving of four fence posts per tree, at a depth of 450mm, and the placing of a weed suppressing membrane.
- Installation of a single interpretation panel set in a hole at 450 x 450 x 450mm with concrete base

### **4. Representations received**

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No third party representations were received.

### **5. Report**

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#### **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.

Part 1 Section 2 (4) – allows consent to be granted with conditions.

## 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.

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.

3.22. Where consent for the range of works set out in paragraph 3.4 is granted, conditions are normally applied to ensure the works are undertaken in an appropriate manner. Common requirements are:

- f. that an appropriate level of record is made before, during and after any work and deposited in local and national archives, and, where appropriate, published;
- h. that any archaeological excavation or other intrusive investigation should be based upon a detailed research strategy, with adequate resources, using appropriately skilled and experienced archaeologists with a satisfactory record of the completion and publication of projects (see Note 3.10); and,
- i. that the design, planning and execution of works on scheduled monuments are undertaken by people with appropriate professional and craft qualifications, skills and experience.

### **b) Assessment**

The works involve tree-planting and installation of interpretation within the Cathedral Grove. This work comprises fifteen holes at 450 x 450 x 450mm, a single hole at 450 x 450 x 450mm with concrete base, sixty fence posts driven to depth of 450mm, and five spikes driven to a depth of 450mm.

There will be a physical impact on the monument through the digging of a series of holes within the scheduled area, however the physical impact of these works on the monument will be likely be comparatively minor as it is within areas of ground

previously disturbed by the growth of tree roots. The newly planted tree roots will expand but it is considered that they will do so in this previously disturbed ground.

The proposed area for works within the area of the Cathedral Grove has a long arboreal heritage of planting, with a history of trees and root growth on the site. Therefore the probable impact of these works on the cultural significance of the monument is low, as deposits of cultural significance are likely to have already been disturbed. Works in this area, therefore are likely to have less impact than elsewhere within the scheduled area.

The five signs on spikes and sixty fence posts will be hand driven at 450mm and will have a slender profile, entering previously disturbed garden ground.

The existing growth of the trees within the scheduled area is likely to have already disturbed buried archaeological deposits that might be present and the potential for disturbance of previously undisturbed archaeological deposits will be minimal.

Whilst the digging of fifteen holes for the trees and the single hole for the interpretation sign will be in previously disturbed ground, there is no archaeological written scheme of investigation provided and there is the potential for impact on archaeological remains.

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

No protected species and places identified. See assessment.

**d) Conclusion**

The proposed works are a continuation of regeneration work to the Cathedral Grove and will result in the replacement of storm damaged trees and installation of interpretation. The methodology for the planting is such that the operation to replace the trees will most likely not cause additional damage or result in additional intervention to archaeological deposits. Similarly, the location chosen for the interpretation panels and information node is within ground that has been previously disturbed and unlikely to impact on previously undisturbed archaeological deposits.

The works are minimal, and therefore do not conflict with SHEP 3.16.

The works are being undertaken on the western side of the scheduling, in the Cathedral Grove, an area that has historically been planted with trees and away from Dunkeld Cathedral. As such the potential for impact on undisturbed areas of cultural significance is low, thus making the application compliant with SHEP 3.18.

The works are a continuation of previous regeneration work of the cathedral Grove and have been designed to reduce the level of ground disturbance; where disturbance is necessary, the location has been chosen where disturbance has already occurred thus minimising additional impact. The proposed works are well

planned with identified funding. However, as there is no archaeological mitigation, and so to comply with SHEP 3.20 an archaeological written scheme of investigation is recommended. The WSI seeks to cover the excavation of the fifteen holes for the planting of the trees and the installation of the interpretation board.

## 6. Recommended decision

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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

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1. No works associated with the excavation of the fifteen holes for the planting trees and single hole for the interpretation panel shall take place until the applicant has submitted, and had approved in writing by Historic Environment Scotland, a written scheme of investigation (WSI) to cover archaeological works.

*Reason: to ensure that archaeological information is recovered and recorded to a satisfactory standard.*

## 8. Approval

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|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| <b>Officer</b>     | <b>Hazel Johnson</b>    | <b>Date</b> | <b>19/02/2016</b> |
| <b>Approved by</b> | <b>George Findlater</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>19/02/2016</b> |

### Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Technical drawing of 'tree trail' panel supports  
Ref: 20 trail panels.pdf
- Technical drawing of 'information node'  
Ref: 4 node panels.pdf
- Area map, showing the area within the SM zone that this application relates to  
area\_map\_Dunkeld\_SMC.png
- Detailed map, showing more accurately the positions of proposed new trees and signage  
Ref: Cathedral Grove, Dunkeld - Proposed Tree Planting Plan January 2016.pdf