

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201506918		
Scheduled Monument	Holyrood Park		
Index no	M13032	Grid Ref	NT275741 327500.0000 674100.0000
Date of Application	02 February 2016	Application Received	03 February 2016
Summary of proposed works	Felling of 5 elm trees		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends consent be granted without conditions.

2. Background

Holyrood Park is a large multi-phase site, incorporating remains from the Bronze Age (and possibly earlier) to the present day. Its formal enclosure in 1541 as a royal park has led to the unusually good preservation of earlier remains in a peri-urban context while the post-medieval use of the site is also of importance and lends significantly to its character.

Dutch elm disease has been a significant problem in the UK since the 1970s and is still spreading northwards. Diseased elms have been felled before in the Park to prevent the spread of the disease to other areas and Historic Environment Scotland works co-operatively with SNH and City of Edinburgh Council to ensure that the condition of trees is monitored and dealt with in an appropriate and timeous fashion.

3. Proposals

Consented Works: Felling of 5 elm trees.

Proposed Works: The 5 trees to be felled have been identified as suffering from Dutch elm disease. Trunks will be cut 10cm above ground level, debarked and left to rot in situ. All timber and brash resulting from the works will be removed from site.

4. Representations received

Representations/no representations were received...

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

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

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979: Part 1 2 Control of works affecting scheduled monuments.

(1) If any person executes or causes or permits to be executed any works to which this section applies he shall be guilty of an offence unless the works are authorised under this Part of the Act.

(2) This section applies to any of the following works, that is to say –

- (a) any works resulting in the demolition or destruction of or any damage to a scheduled monument;
- (b) any works for the purpose of removing or repairing a scheduled monument or any part of it or of making any alterations or additions thereto;
- (c) any flooding or tipping operations on land in, on or under which there is a scheduled monument.

SHEP

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.

3.16. 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.

3.17. As each monument will require treatment specific to its individual nature, characteristics, significance and needs, any proposed change to it must be fully and explicitly justified.

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 works will result in the removal of 5 mature trees from the Park. The techniques to be used are designed to minimise the physical impact of the felling on the surrounding area and to ensure that the diseased timber does not remain as a source of infection.

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

SNH content with works for SSSI interests.

d) Conclusion

The works should have a negligible impact on the cultural significance of the monument, while acting to preserve the natural heritage interest of the Park and adjacent. I am therefore content that the application complies with SHEP 3.16.

The felling scheme is based on sound scientific analysis and advice and has been designed to avoid adverse impacts on the surrounding area, including the risk of spreading the disease further. I therefore consider the works comply with SHEP 3.20.

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

None

8. Approval

Officer	Deirdre Cameron	Date	2/03/2016
Approved by	George Findlater	Date	2/03/2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- **Tree Felling Required due to Dutch Elm Disease (2015-40-(90)-001**