

Planning & Environment Services
Development Management
Ashwood House
Sun Street
Stranraer
DG9 7JJ

23rd March 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Design Statement for proposed iron age round house for The Whithorn Trust

The iron age round house is based on last summers archaeological dig at Black Loch, Monreith when remains of a round house were discovered. This has led to the dimensions and materials specified (noted on drawings) being based on these discoveries. In fact the hearth recovered will be re-used. A reed roof with wattle & daub walls will provide a very authentic finish. As the site is in a sensitive area the existing ground levels will be retained and in fact a membrane laid to differentiate the new works from the existing ground. A spoil heap from a previous dig has been approved to be re-sited to allow the ground levels to be build up on site, using materials from the site itself. Scheduled monument consent will also be applied for.

The engineer and I have worked closely to ensure the structure can work without penetrating the ground. Therefore a raft foundation will allow the timbers to slot into pockets and be held in place securely, the modern materials can then be covered by earth to produce a natural finish as would have been. I have also met twice with Building Standards to ensure the design will met the regulations but not affect the authenticity of the iron age design, the building warrant drawings are currently being developed.

The site was selected due to it's close location to the dig field adjacent (west of) but is low lying and the natural topography lends itself to allow the round house to blend into it's surroundings, especially when the trees and bushes on site will be retained. Access will be through the dig field and already has an opening and paths formed that are level and easily accessed by all.

The access road to the north will allow easy access to construction traffic without disturbing the neighbours or visitors. The roundhouse will aid visitors to learn about the iron age and workshops will be carried out during the build phase and once completed. Local school children were already involved last summer and will be involved again. Access will be safe and easy for all.

The round house will provide an educational/performance facility and be part of the established tours of the site starting from the Whithorn Trust building on George Street,

where toilet facilities, cafe, gifts, tickets and information can be obtained.

I hope this design statement is satisfactory for your requirements. Regular meetings and email correspondence have been ongoing all year long with Historic Environment Scotland, Planning, Building Standards, AOC archaeologists, and the council archaeologist who have all been extremely supportive in this exciting project.

Yours faithfully

Hazel Smith