

## Case information

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<b>Reference/Case ID</b>	201507261		
<b>Scheduled Monument</b>	Kingswells, consumption dykes 415m N and 685m NNE of Home Farm		
<b>Index no</b>	M108	<b>Grid Ref</b>	NJ858068 385800.0000 806800.0000
<b>Date of Application</b>	17 February 2016	<b>Application Received</b>	17 February 2016
<b>Summary of proposed works</b>	Removal of vegetation and consolidation of masonry		

### 1. Summary recommendation

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This report recommends that approval for the removal of vegetation and consolidation of masonry be granted with conditions.

### 2. Background

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The monument comprises two separate clearance or consumption dykes dating to the mid-19th century AD. The dykes are visible as six upstanding, deliberately truncated drystone wall sections; the W group is surrounded by cultivated land, woodland and amenity paths; the E group survives among amenity parkland, residential boundaries and scrub woodland. It is the E group that is the subject of this application.

Recent assessment of the monument by the landowner has identified areas of localised collapse, exacerbated by both tree and scrub growth and also by vandalism and pedestrian access to the top of the dyke. This application proposes to consolidate the dyke thereby lessening the further loss of historic fabric. Previous consolidation works were undertaken in 1999.

HES Heritage Management Directorate has undertaken pre-application discussions with the applicant, and this application accords with the outcome of those discussions.

### **3. Proposals**

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Consented works – Removal of vegetation and consolidation of masonry

The proposals comprise:

- Cutting back of trees and scrub growing on or immediately adjacent to the dyke, and the poisoning of the stumps.
- Consolidation of the dyke using stone that has fallen from the dyke, following the existing build pattern and utilising hidden mortar in selective locations that are vulnerable to collapse.

### **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 the removal of vegetation and consolidation of masonry on the two eastern portions of the scheduled monument.

The physical impact of these works on the monument and its cultural significance will be comparatively minor, but there will be useful benefits to the long term preservation of the monument.

The removal of trees and scrub growing on or immediately adjacent to the footings of the dyke will prevent their root systems from causing further disturbance of the masonry. The trees will be cut as close to their base as possible, the stumps poisoned, and the arising removed from the scheduled area for disposal.

The consolidation of the dyke will ensure that stone fallen from the dyke will be retained within the monument, and that the character of the dyke will be retained; the form of consumption dykes adds to their interest, and in particular the paved way on top of the dyke and steps ascending from the terminals to the wall head are notable in this example. The use of hidden mortar to stabilise consolidated stonework in more vulnerable areas is a departure from the drystone construction of the dyke, but is considered acceptable as the mortar will only be used in selective areas and will

be hidden, and it will hopefully prolong the longevity of the proposed consolidation works.

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

No impact on Protected Species and Places considered likely – see PP&S assessment.

**d) Conclusion**

The proposed works will be of benefit to the long term preservation of the monument as they comprise best practice conservation work that aims to retain as much historic fabric in situ as possible whilst still rendering the monument safe to access and visit. Whilst the use of hidden mortar is not necessarily in keeping with the drystone build of the dyke, it shouldn't have a knock-on impact on the preservation of the remainder of the monument and should prolong the longevity of the consolidation works in areas that are more vulnerable to damage than others. 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 also being done to elements of the monument in such a way that their impact on the cultural significance of the monument is minor, and as such the application is compliant with SHEP 3.18.

The works build upon previous consolidation and they are designed in such a way as to be reversible (where relevant), are well planned with identified funding, and as such the application is compliant with SHEP 3.20.

All works should be recorded photographically, so as to add to the public record of the monument, so this will need to be conditioned. This will enable the application to be compliant with SHEP 3.22.

Condition 1 is to ensure that an adequate visual record of the works is added to the public record within a reasonable timescale.

**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 condition detailed below.**

## 7. Conditions

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1. A series of annotated photographic records taken before, during, and after the works to show general views of the masonry consolidation and vegetation removal should be submitted to Historic Environment Scotland within 4 weeks of completing the works on site.

*Reason: to provide an accurate record of the site before, during, and after the various works have been completed.*

## 8. Approval

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<b>Officer</b>	<b>Oliver Lewis</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>11/04/2016</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>George Findlater</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>12/04/2016</b>

### Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Dyker's short method statement – ACC001
- Quotation – ACC002
- Aerial photo of land to which the area of land relates – ACC003
- Annotated photos showing condition of dyke – ACC004
- Dyker's standard method statement and risk assessment for drystone walling – ACC005