Case information

Reference/Case ID	201508070

Scheduled Monument	Little Clyde, Roman camp		
Index no	M2745	**Grid Ref**	NS994159 299400.0000 615900.0000

Date of Application	23 March 2016	**Application Received**	23 March 2016
Summary of proposed works	Harvesting of conifers		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval without conditions.

2. Background

The monument is a temporary Roman military camp that survives as an upstanding earthwork on the line of the Roman road between Annandale and the Upper Clyde. It measures 434m from east to west by 288m and enclosed 12.5ha. The defensive rampart survives to a height of up to 0.7m and is 3m wide. The outer ditch is visible in places up to 0.3m in depth and 2.1m in width.

The monument is nationally important because it is a rare upstanding example of a Roman temporary camp that has potential to include sub-surface archaeological remains that would inform our understanding of Roman military operations in Scotland.

A small part of the west of the scheduled area has been planted with conifers and it is proposed to harvest these. Following submission of the application there has been a site meeting with HES HM and the applicant to agree on an appropriate method of work. The agreed method has been set out in a supplementary email from the applicant (20 April 2016).

The part of the scheduled monument affected by the work is understood to contain the camp ditch. However, because of ploughing at the time of planting, there are no surface traces of the ditch within the existing plantation. Sub-surface archaeological remains of the ditch are expected to survive.

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The work is being proposed to clear an area around an overhead power line and two underground gas/ethylene pipes. The proposals do not include for re-stocking.

3. Proposals

The conifers would be harvested using a mechanical harvester and forwarder. The work would be subject to the following controls:

- Machinery would travel on brash mats to avoid damage to the underlying ground surface.
- No brash mats would be laid closer than 8m to the boundary fence between the plantation and open ground within the monument, where upstanding features are apparent.
- The boundary of the scheduled monument and the 8m exclusion zone noted above would be marked out by the applicant prior to work commencing.
- No machinery would access open ground in the scheduled area.
- After completion of harvesting, brash, timber and debris would be removed from the scheduled area as far as practicable (including tops/branches and the brash mats themselves).
- The root plates of any wind-blown trees in the scheduled area would be pushed back into place.

4. Representations received

No representations were received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

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

Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979

- Part 1 Section 2 - Control of works affecting an ancient monument.

The Scottish Historic Environment Policy

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.

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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.

3.17. 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 proposals would remove conifers currently growing in the scheduled area. There are no upstanding remains within the planted area. The conifers would be harvested by machines working on brash mats. This should prevent any damage to sub-surface archaeological remains. The machines would be excluded from a zone extending up to 8m from open ground in the scheduled area, where upstanding remains are present. This should ensure machinery does not leave the existing plantation and inadvertently damage upstanding features elsewhere in the scheduled monument. After harvesting timber and brash would be removed from the scheduled monument as far as practicable and the root plates of wind blown trees 'righted'.

It is concluded that there should be no physical effect on areas of the monument outside the planted area. There should be minimal ground disturbance within the planted area and hence no impact on sub-surface archaeological remains. Following the works the currently planted parts of the monument would be cleared of mature conifers, brash and timber. The root plates of wind blown trees would be righted.

The works should have no adverse effect on the cultural significance of the monument. The harvesting of mature conifers from the edge of the monument would be beneficial as it would remove the risk of trees being blown over by wind, which can cause damage to archaeological features. It would also provide more open

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space around the upstanding features within the monument, which would be likely to improve the monument's setting.

The proposals have been designed to take into account the need to avoid damage to the cultural significance of the scheduled monument and appear to have been properly planned.

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

The application site does not lie in a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area. National Biodiversity Network GIS data sets indicate no evidence for Protected Species in the relevant 100m grid squares.

d) Conclusion

It is concluded that the proposed work would conserve the cultural significance of the monument and so is consistent with SHEP 3.16 and 3.18.

There are no proposals for replanting so removal of the trees in the scheduled area would enhance the long term preservation of the monument and hence the proposal accords with SHEP 3.14 and can be assessed as justified in accordance with SHEP 3.17.

The work has been carefully considered and properly planned in accord 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.

7. Conditions

Granted without conditions.

8. Approval

Officer	**Simon Stronach**	**Date**	**21/04/2016**
Approved by	**John Raven**	**Date**	**22/04/2016**

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Annex A – list of supporting documents

Map of planned works (Map 1)
Email from Forest Enterprise Scotland 20 April 2016 setting out supplementary actions to accompany SMC application.

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