Scheduled Monument Consent:
Report on Handling

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201600030

Scheduled Monument	Chancefield Wood earthworks, SE of Chancefield		
Index no	M11013	**Grid Ref**	NO234079 323400.0000 707900.0000

Date of Application	08 April 2016	**Application Received**	08 April 2016
Summary of proposed works	Archaeological excavation as part of a conservation programme		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends approval of the application.

2. Background

Chancefield Wood earthworks comprises a group of deep linear V-shaped trenches located approximately 1.5km WNW of the village of Falkland. The exact development of the trenches is not known but there is a substantial body of evidence to indicate that they were probably used for large-scale deer management associated with the royal park attached to Falkland Palace.

The works outlined in the application form part of a much wider scheme within the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership Project. As such, they are aimed not only at providing the stated academic research outcomes but on also providing public benefits focussed around volunteering, community building, learning, environmental enhancement, health and well-being.

The applicant has undertaken pre-application discussions with HES staff and researchers active in this area. After submitting the application, the applicant undertook further consultation with external advisers and discussion with HES, and as a result submitted a revised scheme for the excavations, featuring an alternative location for the trench and provision for enhanced post-excavation analysis, on 1 June 2016.

3. Proposals

- Archaeological excavations.

The works comprise the excavation of a trench 2m wide by 12m long across a section of the monument. The depth of the trench will be determined by the depth of

the archaeological deposits encountered. The excavated area will be backfilled on completion of the archaeological recording and the area made good using the original turf which will have been stored and maintained on site.

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:

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.

Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement, June 2016

3.14. A monument is included 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 this policy statement, that is the primary consideration in determining applications for scheduled monument consent.

3.15. Monuments are subject to decay and the threat of destruction, from natural and human causes. Conservation work is normally needed to prolong the life of a monument, but there is a risk that this can be so invasive that it irreversibly modifies the monument's character and affects the special interest or features that made the monument important in the first place.

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.

3.19 Extensive intervention will only be allowed where it is clearly necessary to secure the longer-term preservation of the monument, or where it will clearly generate public benefits of national importance which outweigh the impact on the national cultural significance of the monument. Such public benefits could come from, for example, interventions which make public access to scheduled monuments easier, or assist public understanding, or will produce economic benefits once the works are completed.

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:

a. the use of appropriate assessment methodologies to determine the full impact of any proposed management, use or development;
b. the avoidance of irreversible change particularly wherever its effects cannot be adequately assessed;
c. that where change is necessary, strategies should be adopted to mitigate its impact and limit intervention;
d. that the management and execution of alteration, including remedial work, is sympathetic to the historic character;
e. that appropriate skills and techniques, materials and construction techniques are specified where appropriate;
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;
g. that it is possible, on close inspection, to differentiate new work from old particularly on masonry structures;
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; 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

Overview of works

The work proposed to this monument is an archaeological excavation of sub-surface archaeological features within a single evaluation trench 12m long by 2m wide. The works to which this SMC application relates will be carried out over a two week period.

The trench location has been selected to investigate an area where one of the ditch and bank elements of the monument appears to cut into another. By targeting this section of the monument, the excavators hope to identify evidence for the nature, date and function of the monument and how it was maintained or altered over time. The trench location has also been selected to focus on an area where the surface field characteristics are not as well-preserved as those in nearby sections, thereby minimising the potential impact on the monument further.

The proposals will result in the excavation of a trench with an area of 24m². This represents a sample of less than 0.1% of the total area of the monument (approximately 24600m²). The physical impact of the works on the cultural significance of the monument can, therefore, be considered to be minimal.

The excavation proposal has not just been developed within an academic research framework. The project forms part of the Discover the Ancient Lomonds element of the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership; a programme which aims to reconnect people with the living legacy of the Lomond and Benarty Hills through a range of community based activities, volunteering opportunities and projects.

Methodology

The methodology for the excavation works is laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation which accompanies the application. Excavation of the trench will be done by entirely by hand with 50% excavation/half-sectioning proposed for any features encountered. Soil samples will be taken of relevant features such as ditch fills. If unexpectedly complex archaeology or deposits are encountered, the applicants will seek further advice from Historic Environment Scotland on the best course of action within the context of the consent.

To comply with Policy, the following considerations are pertinent to a research excavation: (1) quality and importance of research agenda; (2) level of expertise

of main contractors; (3) feasibility of implementation; (4) adequate financial support; (5) post excavation strategy; and (6) reinstatement methods.

(1) Quality and importance of research agenda

The research basis behind the proposals is outlined in the Research Design submitted in support of the application.

The project is designed to investigate a series of bank and ditch features located to the west of the village of Falkland. These features are believed to be elements of the medieval deer park associated with Falkland Palace, forming an area where deer could be channelled into the Park. Much of the evidence for deer parks in Scotland is based on field survey, documentary records and analogy with the few excavated examples. This is the case with the features at Chancefield.

Deer Parks were part of the suite of trappings of lordly power used by medieval kings and lords to emphasise their status, cement political and personal relationships and demonstrate their control over people, nature and the landscape. The deer park at Falkland is of particular interest as it is a royal park and as such would have been of the highest status. It is also possible that the park had its origins in the earlier medieval period and could represent a deliberate appropriation of a site of ancient lordship by a later elite.

The project has been designed with the major strategic aims of the national and peer-reviewed Scottish Archaeological Research Framework in mind. Specifically, it meets the strategic theme of “From North Britain to the idea of Scotland: Tribes, Kingdoms, States?” This is explained further in section 4.2 of the Research Design.

The project is also designed to provide a wide and meaningful series of community engagement opportunities and learning projects as part of the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership. Through the volunteering and outreach aspects of the project, the applicants aim to ensure (1) heritage of the Lomond Hills area is better understood, explained and appreciated; (2) heritage skills are developed in the local community and; (3) a sense of community responsibility for the monument is developed. These wider community aims are fully in line with the Scottish Government's Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland, and Historic Environment Scotland's national archaeology strategy.

Therefore, I consider that the research agenda is robust and intends to deliver public benefits of a national level.

(*2) Level of expertise of main contractors.*

The project will be supervised by representatives of OJT Heritage. CVs accompany the application and I am content that the individuals involved are suitably qualified to conduct an excavation of this scale. I am not aware of any

significant delayed projects or issues that would preclude them from consideration or interfere with the proper conclusion of the project.

To meet the wider community aims of the project, the excavation will offer up to ten volunteer places. The number of volunteers on site at any one time will be variable and duties will be tailored to individual skill levels. All technical processes will be led or carried out exclusively by professional staff.

Therefore, I consider that the project team has the necessary level of expertise to work on monument of national importance.

(3) Feasibility of implementation

The approach and methods for the excavation works have been outlined fully in the Written Scheme of Investigation which is drafted in line with relevant industry standard levels. The trench layout and the specific justification for the trench in relation to the project aims set out above is described in the Research Design and WSI.

Taking into account the level of expertise of the main archaeological contractors, I conclude that the method for excavation of the trench within two weeks is feasible, and that the post excavation strategy is realistic and suitably resourced.

(4) Adequate financing support

Details of the financial arrangements for the project are outlined in the Project Financial Description. In this document, OJT Heritage has provided assurance to Historic Environment Scotland, which has been accepted, that sufficient funds are in place to conduct a two-week excavation of this scale and also adequately deal with post excavation analysis, finds conservation and reporting. I am content that OJT Heritage has evaluated risk for unexpected discoveries and that any such issues can be dealt with in the framework of the project and the consent.

(5) Post excavation strategy

An initial post excavation strategy is outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Project Financial Description. The project design meets Historic Environment Scotland's procedure for post excavation reporting and analysis of finds and environmental samples. This includes a clear intention to final reporting of the project in a peer-reviewed academic journal (Tayside and Fife Archaeological Journal) and final deposition of project archive in the National Monuments Record of Scotland.

(6) Reinstatement method.

The reinstatement strategy is laid out in section 6.1 of the Written Scheme of Investigation. I am content that the proposals are of a suitable standard.

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

None

d) Conclusion

The works represent alterations to the monument under Part 1.2.2.b. of the Act and as such, scheduled monument consent is required.

The works involve the excavation of a small trench with a total area of 24m², representing a sample of less than 0.1% of the total area of the monument (approximately 24600m²). Even in the area selected, only a small fraction of the specific features targeted will be affected by the works. This will not, therefore, conflict with the Policy Statement, paragraph 3.16, regarding works which represent a minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument and to therefore accord with. Consequently, the excavations do not also require to be notified to Scottish Ministers.

The detailed description of the works provided in the application complies with the Policy Statement, paragraph 3.20. The relevant requirements listed in the Policy Statement, paragraph 3.22, are addressed or included within the application. No conditions are therefore necessary in this case.

6. Recommended decision

I recommend consent is **granted without conditions.**

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

None

8. Approval

Officer	**Deirdre Cameron**	**Date**	**07/06/2016**
Approved by	**John Raven**	**Date**	**07/06/2016**

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Research Design for Archaeological Excavation at Chancefield Trenches, Falkland Estate, Fife, 2016 (revised version submitted 1 June 2016)
- Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Excavation at Chancefield trenches, Falkland Estate, Fife 2016 (revised version submitted 1 June 2016)
- Project Financial Description for Proposed Excavation at Chancefield Trenches (revised version submitted 1 June 2016)
- Plan of Trenches showing the proposed location of Trench A (revised version submitted 1 June 2016)