

# Scheduled Monument Clearance: Report on Handling



HISTORIC  
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## Case information

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<b>Reference/Case ID</b>	201600205		
<b>Scheduled Monument</b>	Craig Phadrig, fort		
<b>Index no</b>	M2892	<b>Grid Ref</b>	NH640452 264000.0000 845300.0000
<b>Date of Application</b>	15 April 2016	<b>Application Received</b>	15 April 2016
<b>Summary of proposed works</b>	Installation of an interpretation panel.		

### 1. Summary recommendation

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This report recommends approval for the installation of an interpretation panel.

### 2. Background

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The monument comprises an oval vitrified fort forming a flat crown to the afforested hill of Craig Phadrig. The defences comprise an inner, heavily vitrified wall spread to a thickness of about 10m, which encloses an area measuring approximately 75m by 25m. An outer wall, also heavily vitrified, encloses the inner citadel and is terraced onto the slopes below. There is a protective outwork outside the E arc of the outer wall. It is defined by a reduced turf-covered stony bank, which springs from the E corner of the wall and runs N to rejoin it, opposite the entrance through the inner wall. There is an entrance gap near its S end. There is no trace of any structure within the fort, which has been extensively excavated. The fort is located on a prominent position overlooking the River Ness to the east, the Beaully Firth to the north and its opening into the Moray Firth to the northeast

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in February 2015 by AOC on behalf of the applicant following winter storms which caused two trees to blow over and expose a section of the inner rampart of the fort. These works comprised the excavation and recording of this damaged area prior to consolidation and reinstatement.

There was no pre-application discussion about the proposed interpretation panel.

### 3. Proposals

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The proposals comprise the installation of a new interpretation panel to aid orientation for visitors. It would be located adjacent to recreational path and mounted on two timber posts (190mm x 90mm in thickness), dug into ground by spade to a depth of approximately 600mm and spaced 1090mm apart.

#### **4. Representations received**

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No 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 Monument and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)

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

##### Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (2016)

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 (see Note 3.2). A consent under section 42 of the 1979 Act is also required to use a metal detector within a scheduled monument (see Note 3.3). 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. (Annex 1 sets out guidance as to how cultural significance and national importance should be determined.)

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 comprise the installation of a new interpretation panel to aid orientation for visitors. It would be located adjacent to recreational path and mounted on two timber posts (190mm x 90mm in thickness), dug into ground by spade to a depth of c. 600mm and spaced 1090mm apart. In light of this, there will be an impact on the historic fabric of the monument from the proposed panel as it involves some ground disturbance.

However, this impact is not considered to be significant as its location next to a path outwith the hillfort, on a steep woodland slope with only brown homogenous woodland soils present, means that the likelihood of encountering any archaeological deposits is unlikely. The proposed ground disturbance required for the installation of the panel also involves a relatively small footprint.

Due to its scale and location, the proposed panel would also not adversely effect the character of the monument.

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

None.

**d) Conclusion**

In conclusion, the proposed works do not conflict with the Policy Statement, paragraph 3.16: works that are the minimum level of intervention consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in the monument. The works have also been carefully considered in order to mitigate any impacts, and are therefore equally compliant with the Policy Statement, paragraph 3.20.

However as no intention to supply Historic Environment Scotland with a photographic record is included with the application, an appropriate condition has been recommended.

**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 therefore recommend consent is **granted, subject to the conditions detailed below**

**7. Conditions**

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1. Two weeks after the completion of works on site, the applicant will provide photographs of the completed works to Historic Environment Scotland.

*Reason: To ensure that an accurate record of works to the monument is maintained.*

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**8. Approval**

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<b>Officer</b>	<b>Nicola Hall</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>07/06/2016</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>John Raven</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>08/06/2016</b>

**Annex A – list of supporting documents**

Interpretation panel and location plan (RCAHMS 2013)