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Planning Decisions Team
Scottish Government

By email to: planning.decisions@gov.scot

Our ref: AMH/3927/1/1
Our Case ID: 201601340

06 July 2016

Dear Sirs

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
The Scheduled Monument Consent (Notification of Applications) Direction 2015
Archaeological excavation/recording of monument
Statutory Designation: Slochd Measach, Giant's Grave, chambered cairn, Nereabolls
Designation Reference: M3927

A scheduled monument consent application was received by us on 09 June for the archaeological excavation/recording which affects the scheduled monument known as *Slochd Measach, Giant's Grave, chambered cairn, Nereabolls*.

We are minded to grant scheduled monument consent for the works contained in the application. In accordance with paragraph 2 of the above Direction, we are notifying Scottish Ministers of our intention. Our reasons, which are set out in our Report on Handling, are:

- The works would involve a controlled archaeological excavation within a relatively large part of a scheduled monument. The extent of this would be controlled by discussions with Historic Environment Scotland during the excavation process. The excavations are the minimum necessary to achieve the project's objective. The proposed work would leave the majority of the site's archaeological deposits intact. They would not visually alter the monument but would destroy some of its archaeological significance.

- The project is designed to address aims of the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework and could address a research aim that has significance throughout Europe. The project has also been designed to have considerable public benefits focussed on the community that lives on Islay. This would improve an understanding and appreciation of this monument and the historic environment more widely. Both outcomes should be regarded as a considerable public benefit.

- Although the works are to some extent destructive this has been minimised and further intrusion would be controlled by HES. The results have demonstrable

benefits in terms of meeting national research aims and wider public understanding that are consistent with the Policy Statement. The work is therefore justified under paragraphs 3.17 and 3.19 of the Policy Statement. The work has been properly planned and is likely to be executed appropriately, in line with paragraph 3.20 of the Policy Statement.

- The benefits the proposed work would bring are considered to be greater than the negative effects of the removal of some archaeological deposits. The proposal is concluded to be broadly consistent with relevant policy.

All the information and details relevant to the application can be found on the decisions portal on our website using reference number **201601340**. The link to the portal is: http://portal.historicenvironment.scot.

If you require any further assistance meantime, please contact Simon Stronach.

Yours sincerely

SANDRA ARCHER
Historic Environment Scotland