



## Case information

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<b>Reference/Case ID</b>	201602176		
<b>Scheduled Monument</b>	Braefoot Point, battery		
<b>Index no</b>	M7775	<b>Grid Ref</b>	NT184837 318400.0000 683700.0000
<b>Date of Application</b>	20 July 2016	<b>Application Received</b>	21 July 2016
<b>Summary of proposed works</b>	Thinning of Trees		

### 1. Summary recommendation

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This report recommends that consent be **granted** without conditions.

### 2. Background

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The monument comprises the well-preserved remains of a WWI battery and associated buildings. The battery was constructed as one of a concentration of gun sites (under a unified command) intended to defend an anchorage for battleships to the W of the Forth Rail Bridge. Together with Downing Point and Hound Point batteries, Braefoot Point Battery (armed in May 1915 with two 9.2-inch guns) formed the middle line of three lines of defences through which an attacker would have to pass before reaching the narrows of the river Forth at the bridge.

The application involves tree felling works around the oil terminal fence, which is required urgently as they pose a potential security threat to the Braefoot Bay Terminal. The trees have been highlighted as a risk in a recent security assessment.

Pre-application discussions took place in February 2016 between HES staff and the applicants regarding the proposals. That meeting confirmed that the works would require scheduled monument consent. The present application accords with the outcome of these discussions.

### 3. Proposals

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**Consented Works:** Thinning of Trees.

Description of works:

- Thinning along the fence line with the Braefoot terminal to remove trees within falling distance of the security fence.
- Selective thinning within the Scheduled Monument area at the southern end of the woods. This is to improve the quality of the remaining trees and also opening up views of the Forth from the Battery.
- All tree felling will be done by hand using chainsaws. Timber will be extracted along the fence line using a forwarder to a central stacking area. The route of the forwarder within the SAM will not damage any upstanding archaeological features.
- The trees will be extracted by winch within the area of the SAM to a fixed location for forwarding out to roadside. Winching will not be across any upstanding archaeological structures, if it is required to happen then suitable protection is put in place to prevent damage to the structures.
- A timetable of works will be presented, a minimum of two weeks prior to works starting, to HES to allow them monitor the felling works.

#### **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:

##### **b) Assessment**

The works involve the thinning or selective felling of trees and their subsequent extraction.

The physical impact of these works on the preservation of the monument will be minimal; the operation to remove the trees has been designed so that all machinery sits outwith the scheduled area with the cut timber then being lifted outwith the scheduled area for processing. No restocking will take place within the scheduled area.

The existing growth of the trees within the scheduled area is likely to have already disturbed any buried archaeological deposits that might be present; removing the trees now will prevent further disturbance as the trees grow bigger, and will reduce the potential for further wholesale upheaval through wind throw.

It is therefore to the benefit of the long term preservation of the monument that the selective felling is undertaken now, and I consider that the prescribed methodology will not have an impact on the monument.

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

None

**d) Conclusion**

The application should be viewed as works as set out in both Part 1 Section 2 of the AMAA Act 1979 and section 3.4 of the HES policy statement.

The proposed works, tree thinning (selective felling), will have no impact upon the cultural significance of Braefoot Point battery. I am content that the thinning of the trees within the scheduled area 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 3.16 of the policy statement. The application contains sufficiently detailed information explaining both the reasoning behind the application and the methodology to be used to be considered to be consistent with 3.17 and 3.18 of the policy statement.

Further, I am content that the application contains sufficiently detailed methodologies and justification that a consent may be granted without the requirement for conditions.

**6. Recommended decision**

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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 without conditions**.

**7. Conditions**

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None

**8. Approval**

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<b>Officer</b>	<b>James Bruhn</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>28/07/2016</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>George Findlater</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>3/8/2016</b>

## **Annex A – list of supporting documents**

- Barns Farm - Braefoot Thinning Constraints map v2.pdf