Scheduled Monument Consent:
Report on Handling

Case information

Reference/Case ID	201601356

Scheduled Monument	Harehope, cairn 1510m ESE of		
Index no	M2912	**Grid Ref**	NT213435 321300.0000 643500.0000

Date of Application	10 June 2016	**Application Received**	10 June 2016
Summary of proposed works	Installation of an interpretation board.		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that consent be **granted** with conditions.

2. Background

The monument, Harehope Cairn is a prehistoric burial cairn that was substantially excavated in the 1970s by George Jobey. The cairn has at least two phases of construction and is made up of an inner cairn with a diameter of 13m and an outer cairn with a diameter of 19m. The cairn contained multiple inhumation and cremation burials. At the centre of the cairn is a large inhumation burial, with a further four cists and at least seven further cremation burials. The cairn clearly has a complex development sequence and suggest that it was used as place of burial for an extend period of time.

The cairn is located near the Moffat coach road, which is currently used as a walking route. Peeblesshire Archaeological Society would like to clear the monument and provide interpretation for the site in the form of an interpretation board. This is being undertaken as part of the Adopt-a-Monument programme which is run by Archaeology Scotland.

Archaeology Scotland and Peeblesshire Archaeological Society had pre-application discussions, concerning vegetation management and installing an interpretation board, with Heritage Management Directorate in 2013. This application accords with these discussions.

3. Proposals

Consented Works: Installation of an interpretation board.

Description of works:

- Excavation of two holes to support the lectern, each 300mm by 500mm and 600mm deep.
- Installation of the lectern/interpretation board. The board is A1 in size (594mm by 841mm) and is supported by a two legged metal stand. The lectern will be inserted in the two excavated holes and supported by a concrete filler.

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.

(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.

(3) Without prejudice to any other authority to execute works conferred under this Part of the Act, works to which this section applies are authorised under this Part of this Act if –

(a) the Secretary of State has granted written consent (referred to below in this Act as “scheduled monument consent”) for the execution of the works; and

(b) the works are executed in accordance with the terms of the consent and of any conditions attached to the consent.

(4) Scheduled monument consent may be granted unconditionally or subject to conditions (whether with respect to the manner in which or the persons by whom the works or any of the works are to be executed or otherwise).

Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (June 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. It is a criminal offence to carry out any of these works without consent.

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 (see Note 3.10); 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

The works involve the installation of an interpretation board within the scheduled area but outside of the cairn. This work comprises excavating two holes at 300mm by 500mm and 600mm deep to support the lectern. There will be a physical impact on the monument caused by the digging of the two holes within the scheduled area, and the erection of the interpretation board/lectern. However, given the location of these works, outside of the cairn itself, I am content that physical impact on the monument will be minor.

The cairn itself has already been fully excavated and therefore the probable impact of these works on the cultural significance of the monument is low, as deposits of cultural significance are likely to have already have been disturbed.

The methodology statement states that the works will be undertaken by a professional archaeologist and will comply with established industry standards. The application does not include a written scheme of works.

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 location chosen for the interpretation panel is within ground that is out with the cairn and is unlikely to impact on archaeological deposits. I am content that the excavation of the two small pits for the foundation of the interpretation board 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.

The proposed works will have no impact upon the cultural significance of Harehope Cairn. In order to ensure that the works comply with 3.22 of the policy statement, it is necessary to condition a written scheme of investigation for the archaeological recording that will be carried out before the works commence.

6. Recommended decision

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 recommend consent is **granted subject to the condition detailed below.**

7. Conditions

1. Work shall not start on site until the applicant has commissioned a programme of archaeological investigation in accordance with a written scheme of investigations approved, in writing, by Historic Environment Scotland. This scheme shall be fully implemented during the course of the works.

Reason: to ensure that archaeological information relating to the affected areas of the monument is recovered and recorded to a satisfactory standard.

8. Approval

Officer	**James Bruhn**	**Date**	**22/07/2016**
Approved by	**George Findlater**	**Date**	**3/8/2016**

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Works at Harehope 2016, project design and methodology statement.
- Site plan with proposed location of the Interpretation panel.
- Drawing detailing the lectern specifications.