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Our ref: AMH/69/1/1
Our Case ID: 201601960

08 August 2016

Dear Sirs

**Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
The Scheduled Monument Consent (Notification of Applications) Direction 2015
Final season of evaluation excavation at Rhynie as part of the Northern Picts
project
Statutory Designation: Craw Stane, symbol stone and enclosure 575m E of Mains
of Rhynie
Designation Reference: M69**

A scheduled monument consent application was received by us on 18 July for Final season of evaluation excavation at Rhynie as part of the Northern Picts project which affects the scheduled monument Craw Stane, symbol stone and enclosure 575m E of Mains of Rhynie.

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:

“As a research excavation, the application should be viewed as works as set out in both Part 1 Section 2 of the AMAA Act 1979 and paragraph 3.4 of the policy statement, and the use of metal detecting equipment as set out in Part 3 Section 42 of the AMAA Act 1979.

The application, comprising the excavation of a cropmark enclosure surrounding the Craw Stane at Rhynie which forms part of a wider Northern Picts Project, is considered more than the minimum necessary to conserve what is culturally significant in this scheduled monument, and as such is not justified under paragraph 3.16 of the policy statement.

However, the application is considered compliant with paragraphs 3.19 and 3.20 of the policy statement as it demonstrates that there is a public benefit of national importance that outweighs the impact on the cultural significance of the monument, and that the works are carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned.



From the information provided with this application, and based on pre-application discussions with the applicant, further conditions as outlined in paragraph 3.22 to ensure the works are undertaken in an appropriate manner are not required.”

All the information and details relevant to the application can be found on the decisions portal on our website using reference number **201601960**. The link to the portal is: <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot>

If you require any further assistance meantime, please contact Oliver Lewis.

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland