HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

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Planning Decisions Team
Scottish Government

By email to: planning.decisions@gov.scot

Our ref: AMH/9440/1/1
Our Case ID: 201602377

24 August 2016

Dear Sirs

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
The Scheduled Monument Consent (Notification of Applications) Direction 2015
Archaeological excavation
Statutory Designation: Moredun Top, fort
Designation Reference: M9440

A scheduled monument consent application was received by us on 05 August for an archaeological excavation which affects the scheduled monument known as *Moredun Top, fort.*

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.

The application, comprising the excavation of Moredun Top hillfort as part of the TLP 'Hillforts of the Tay Project', will result in the intended destruction of a small part of the monument. It cannot be seen as the minimum works necessary to conserve what is culturally significant of the monument. Consequently, the application does not meet paragraph 3.16 of the policy statement and therefore the application must be assessed against paragraph 3.19 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 required. Therefore, a number of conditions have been recommended, specifically to allow: 1) when significant and/or complex archaeological deposits are being excavated that the ratio between skill supervisors and volunteers never exceeds 1:3; 2) That after the topsoil and overburden is removed from trench A and C, approval is sought before further excavation; 3) If significant archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits are located, the analysis of which is likely to over-extend the resources of the project, they must not be disturbed without further consultation and the prior written agreement of Historic Environment Scotland; 4) that the Data Structure Report will be submitted to Historic Environment Scotland; and 5) that the Post Excavation Research Design will be submitted to Historic Environment Scotland for approval.

All the information and details relevant to the application can be found on the decisions portal on our website using reference number **201602377**. The link to the portal is: http://portal.historicenvironment.scot.

If you require any further assistance meantime, please contact James Bruhn.

Yours faithfully

Historic Environment Scotland