Scheduled Monument Consent:
Report on Handling

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018532

Scheduled Monument	Perdieus Mount, motte, Dunfermline		
Index no	SM867	**Grid ref**	NT 00000 0

Date application validated	15 August 2016
Summary of proposed works	Cutting down of trees

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for the removal of three trees be granted.

2. Background

The monument comprises the remains of a motte, likely to date to the 12th or 13th century AD. The monument is visible as a substantial earthen mound, which stands up to 4.5m high and retains its field characteristics to a significant degree, with little sign of later disturbance. There are indications that the motte was accessed from the NE side originally. The monument is located in a built-up area of Dunfermline, in a low-lying field near to Lady Mill Toll.

There is documentary evidence from at least the 16th century for the name, 'Perdieus Mount'. The lands of 'Perdew' (1526), 'Perdewis' (1557-85) and 'Perdeweis' (1610) were described as lying on the S side of lower Dunfermline, on both sides of the Lyne Burn.

This application is for the removal of three large trees in the garden of a domestic dwelling to allow light into the property.

Pre application discussions between the applicant and Senior Heritage Management Officer Deirdre Cameron took place outlining the methodology for removal of the trees and the application accords with these discussions.

3. Proposals

Consented works - The felling and removal of three trees to ground level and the planting of shrubs.

The proposals comprise:

- Sectional felling of 3 x trees by lowering and removal of branches
- Removal of trunks to ground level
- Planting of shallow rooted shrubs around stumps and grass areas of garden

4. Representations received

No third party representations were received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

The application should be considered with the following legislative and policy considerations in mind:

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Part 1 Section 2 - Control of works affecting an ancient monument.

Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement June 2016

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.

3.16. 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.

3.20. 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; 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 sectional felling and removal of three trees to ground level and the planting of shrubs .

The operation to fell and remove the three trees has been designed so that felling is sectional, and the stumps will be cut to ground level. The physical impact of these works on the monument will be minimal; the methodology for removal is such that the operation to remove the trees and the planting of shallow rooted shrubs/grasses will not cause additional damage or result in additional intervention to archaeological deposits.

It is therefore to the benefit of the long term preservation of the monument that the felling is undertaken, 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 predicted. Although bats are present in the general area, the trees that are the subject of this application do not appear to be suitable habitats for bat roosts. The removal of the trees should therefore not have an impact on bats in the area.

d) Conclusion

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 felling of three trees on the monument Perdieus Mount, which is situated in the garden of a dweling, is the minimum necessary to conserve what is culturally significant in this scheduled monument. The works are being done to elements of the monument in such a way that their impact on the cultural significance of the monument is minor, and as such the application is compliant with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 of the policy statement.

The application meets paragraph 3.20 which demonstrates/sets out that the works are carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned.

From the information provided with this application further conditions as outlined in paragraph 3.22 to ensure the works are undertaken in an appropriate manner are not required.

6. Recommended decision

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

No conditions have been attached to this decision.

8. Approval

Case officer	Hazel Johnson	**Date**	06 October 2016
Approved by	George Findlater	**Date**	12 October 2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Site Plan - Ref FFE43548