Scheduled Monument Consent:
Report on Handling

Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018543

Scheduled Monument	Kilry, standing stone 100m NNE of Kilry School		
Index no	SM124	**Grid ref**	NO 24300 54400

Date application validated	30 August 2016
Summary of proposed works	Felling of trees

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that consent be granted.

2. Background

Kilry standing stone is a substantial single standing stone, approximately 2.3m high and measuring around 3m in circumference. Standing stones are usually ritual sites dating from the later Neolithic period into the Bronze Age (c. 3000-1500BC). They are enigmatic monuments which often have a long history of use over millennia, attracting associations and activities long after their original purpose was lost. Burials, ritual deposits and remains of other structures and activities can all be found in the areas immediately surrounding standing stones.

The applicants have engaged in pre-application discussions with HES: the scheme outlined in the current application reflects these discussions.

HES was also consulted in March 2013 by the Forestry Commission as part of the assessment process for a felling licence application. Our response highlighted the need for scheduled monument consent for any felling within the scheduled area protecting the standing stone.

3. Proposals

Felling and removal of trees within the scheduled area.

The scheduled area will be marked out on the ground to ensure no heavy plant machinery is taken onto the monument. Trees will be felled using harvesting machinery sited outwith the scheduled area. Felled timber will be removed from the monument and processed elsewhere.

4. Representations received

None

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

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

Ancient Monument 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.

3.17. 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.

3.20. 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.

b) Assessment

The proposed works will result in the removal of at least 8 larch trees from the monument. The methods to be used during the forestry works should result in no ground disturbance to the monument. The removal of the trees will not have an adverse impact on the cultural significance of the monument: arguably, the works will enhance the cultural significance of the site, removing trees which are a potential source of damage to the stone and any surrounding archaeological deposits. The clearance of trees from the immediate vicinity of the standing stone should also improve the setting of the site, allowing for better appreciation and experience of the monument.

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

None

d) Conclusion

The works described in this application represent alterations to the monument and as such require scheduled monument consent under part 1:2:2 (b) of the Act.

I am content that the works described in the application should result in no physical disturbance to upstanding or buried elements of the monument. As such, I am content that the works will have a minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument in accordance with sections 3.16 and 3.18 of the Policy.

The scheme of works has been devised in consultation with HES and the Forestry Commission to minimise any potential risk of impact to the monument. I am content that this consultation shows that the scheme has been carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned in accordance with section 3.20 of the Policy.

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	Deirdre Cameron	**Date**	14 October 2016
Approved by	George Findlater	**Date**	14 October 2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

1) Location Map
2) Felling Exclusion Map
3) Replanting Design Map