Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018618

Scheduled Monument	Antonine Wall, NE corner of Balmuildy Road to Cawder House access		
Index no	SM7548	**Grid ref**	NS 60300 72200

Date application validated	24 October 2016
Summary of proposed works	Geophysical Survey at Cawdor Golf Club

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for archaeological geophysical survey be granted.

2. Background

This monument is a section of the Antonine Wall which runs through the former grounds of Cawder House, now Cawdor Golf Course. The Wall was built in the years following 140 AD. It extended across central Scotland and marked the north western frontier of the Roman Empire. The Wall is recognised as internationally important and forms part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site.

The linear defences consisted of a rampart, ditch, berm (area between rampart and ditch) and an upcast mound to the north of the ditch. Little remains of the Wall above ground in the golf course and there is thought to be a pronounced 'kink' in the Wall's line in this area.

The proposed geophysical survey is intended to provide further information on sub-surface remains related to the Wall which form part of a long running, established research campaign undertaken by the applicant's client. The application has been supported by a Research Design and further information has been provided during the application process.

3. Proposals

- Magnetometry Survey

The proposed survey area covers an approximately 60m gap between traces of the Antonine ditch that are apparent on the surface. The survey would be undertaken over a single day.

The proposed survey is designed to investigage a supposed 'kink' in the line of the Wall. This is intended to clarify the line of the Wall between visible traces and where there is currently uncertainty.

Measurements would be taken using a Bartington Grad601 dual sensor gradiometer, taking readings at 0.25m intervals along 0.5m traverses over an area of roughly 60 x 40m. The survey area would be divided into 20 x 20m grids laid out using measured offsets from tapes. The grid would be located using digital survey.

The data would be processed and plotted using appropriate software. The location would be plotted on GIS. The data would be presented in a Data Structure Report that would be submitted to HES and the local HER. The project would be logged on the OASIS database and the archive deposited in the National Record of the Historic Environment as per their requirements.

4. Representations received

No representations have been 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 3 Section 42: Restrictions on use of metal detectors.

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.

b) Assessment

The survey would not alter the fabric of the monument or change it in any other way. The survey may clarify the line of the Wall where there is current uncertainty as part of a long running, established research campaign in the Wall's alignment. The results would be be made publicly available through reporting and archiving. Making the results publicly available would contribute positively to our understanding of the monument and our appreciation of its value.

The general methodology for the site works is appropriate. It would be undertaken by a suitably experienced archaeologist and allows for appropriate reporting and archiving.

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

The proposed work is not likely to have any significant impacts on Protected Species and Places.

d) Conclusion

The work would not have any adverse impact on the monument. It may enhance our understanding of its value. The proposed work is not inconsistent with the policy statement paragraphs 3.14 and 3.16.

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	Simon Stronach	**Date**	31 October 2016
Approved by	John Raven	**Date**	01 November 2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

1) Research Design for geophysical survey at Cawder Golf Club, Cadder, East Dunbartonshire
2) Email from applicant to HES (28 October 2016)