



Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300018528		
Scheduled Monument	High Drummore Mote, motte		
Index no	SM2019	Grid ref	NX 12900 35900
Date application validated	09 November 2016		
Summary of proposed works	Electricity pole replacement		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for electricity pole replacement be granted.

2. Background

The monument consists of a motte, a mound which was the site of a medieval timber castle. The motte stands about 2m above the field to the west and the summit appears to have been about 13m in diameter. From either side of the mound, a rampart runs down slope to the east and forms an enclosure about 20m across. The rampart reaches to about 8m wide at base and 2m high externally. The area scheduled encloses the motte and outer enclosure, and an area around them in which evidence relating to their construction and use may survive.

This monument is of national importance because it is a well preserved motte and bailey that shows the relationship between the two elements clearly. Related remains have the potential to inform our understanding about early castles in Dumfries and Galloway and about the medieval period in general.

An existing overhead electricity line crosses the monument and a pole has been positioned on one of the defensive banks of the enclosure; a very sensitive location. Preliminary discussions have been undertaken with HES Casework and have considered the possibility of moving the pole outside the scheduled monument, or to a less sensitive location. This has been concluded to be unfeasible for logistical reasons and further discussions have addressed what measures would need to be adopted to ensure replacement of the pole did not disturb any sensitive remains. These discussions have included a review of a draft Written Scheme of Investigation. The application has been amended to take HES comments into account.



3. Proposals

- Archaeological hand excavation
- Removal of an existing electricity pole and stays
- Replacement of the pole and stays

The works proposed are part of essential refurbishments to the supporting infrastructure (wooden pole and stays) of an existing powerline. This is required in order to maintain resilience and health and safety standards.

Relocation of the pole outside of the scheduled monument, or to a less sensitive area of the monument, is not possible because of logistical reasons related to nearby residential properties.

It is not known what the extent of disturbance associated with the pole's original erection is. Because of its location on a possible medieval earthwork, initial archaeological survey would be conducted to determine the exact extent of the previously disturbed ground.

Shallow, hand-excavated linear slots from the pole and stays outwards would be undertaken in order to define the edges of the previous disturbance. Once clearly determined the boundary of the disturbed ground would be recorded and marked with pegs.

A summary of the evaluation's findings would be submitted to Historic Environment Scotland and would include a proposal of how the replacement works would use this information to avoid damaging any archaeology during replacement works. SPIE would also be sent details of the extent of previously disturbed ground to ensure they are informed of the need to keep works within these areas prior to the outage. Excavations required to remove and replace the existing pole would be undertaken only in the area of previously disturbed ground. The replacement works would not be undertaken until HES had given written approval to the supplied information and proposed method.

The archaeologist would be on site at the start of removal and replacement operations to advise on the presence/absence of any upstanding features in the vicinity of the works and, where appropriate, would mark these with canes and tape. The archaeologist would also advise on associated plant movements and provide guidance on routes of access and working areas to ensure there was no damage to upstanding remains when the archaeologist was not on site. The archaeologist would also provide advice to the relevant main contract staff on avoiding inadvertent damage to sub-surface remains through rutting.



Works would be confined to an area determined by the findings from the initial archaeological survey, but shall not exceed 2.1m long x 2.1m wide x 2.1m deep maximum for the pole, and 2.1m long x 2.1m wide x 1.8m deep maximum for the stays, including ground anchors. The two stays are close together (approximately 0.5m) and therefore excavation holes would partially overlap, minimising disturbance. The existing pole, would be lifted vertically by mechanical excavator.

To minimise potential ground disturbance machine excavation would be with a low pressure ground digger. Once works had finished, the ground would be reinstated to it's current state (slope, height, etc.), and any canes and markers used to mark archaeological features would be removed.

No date has been set for the proposed removal and replacement works, however works are likely to take place before the end of the 2016. HES would be notified at the earliest opportunity when works are due to take place, or of any change to the time-table. Works are likely to take place over the course of one working day.

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 1 Section 2: Control of works affecting scheduled monuments.

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 involve the removal and replacement of electricity infrastructure. This is required to maintain electricity supply to current health and safety standards.

The proposed works would be preceded by archaeological evaluation to establish the extents of previous disturbance around the pole and stays. The results would be used to inform subsequent removal and replacement works to ensure that excavations related to them are restricted to previously disturbed ground. The results of the evaluation and a consideration of how the replacement works would avoid damaging archaeological remains would be supplied to HES Casework and no further work would be undertaken until HES issues written approval for replacement works to proceed.

With such controls in place the replacement works should have no physical impact on sensitive archaeological deposits. On completion of replacement works the ground would be reinstated to its current form. Consequently, it is concluded that the proposed work would not affect the cultural significance of the monument.

The application has been accompanied by a detailed WSI that sets out a well-considered, appropriate and careful methodology for preliminary survey, reporting and monitoring during removal and replacement works. The WSI sets out a suitable method and timetable for reporting and process for designing post-excavation analyses and reporting. The project team are highly experienced and have an established track record of successful delivery of similar archaeological projects. Accordingly, the specified method of the work reflects all professional expectations and no conditions are considered necessary.



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

No impact on Protected Species and Places considered likely – see PP&S assessment.

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 proposed works are being done to elements of the monument in such a way that they will have no impact on the cultural significance of the monument. The negative visual impact caused by the existing poles will remain, meaning a continuance of the status quo, but there should be no direct impact upon archaeological deposits. There will be no material change to the monument; the proposals do not, therefore, conflict with paragraphs 3.16 and 3.18 of the policy statement.

The works are necessary in order to maintain a safe electricity supply and have been justified in accordance with paragraph 3.17 of the policy statement.

The application meets paragraph 3.20 because it has demonstrated that the works have been carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed and properly planned.

Consequently, no conditions are considered necessary.

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

Scheduled Monument Consent: Report on Handling



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Case officer	Simon Stronach	Date	21 November 2016
Approved by	John Raven	Date	22 November 2016

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- High Drummore Mote (SM 2019) Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief
- Connicks Method of Working
- Email from Connicks to HES Casework 21 November 2016